

January 2020

Results of Botany Industrial Park (BIP) Risk Assessment

What is the BIP?

The BIP is a 73 hectare integrated petrochemical and chemical manufacturing complex located at Banksmeadow, in south-east Sydney. Major industrial uses have been operating at the site since the 1940s.

Four companies currently operate within the site; Orica, Qenos, Huntsman and Ixom.

A residential area sits immediately to the east of the BIP along Denison St, Hillsdale, while industrial and commercial land uses surround the remainder of the site.

Why is a risk assessment required?

In 1998, the site was subdivided which allowed Orica, Qenos and Huntsman to run separate operations.

As part of the approval conditions for the subdivision, the NSW Government required the companies on site to work together to assess the potential cumulative risks of the entire site to the surrounding area.

The companies have now produced a report from their latest risk study, which is known as the quantitative risk assessment (QRA). The QRA looks at the potential impacts of major hazard incidents at the site, such as gas leaks, fires or explosions.

What did the QRA find?

While the operations at the industrial facilities within the BIP have remained mostly the same and the level of risk from the BIP to an individual (referred as individual risk) has not changed, the potential risk of incidents that may affect a significant population (referred to as societal risk) has increased since the previous assessment in 2012.

This increase is primarily the result of growth in the residential and employment population surrounding the BIP in the last five years, as has occurred broadly across Sydney during this time. While at present the societal risk is acceptable, further population growth near the BIP will need to be carefully managed.

What is the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's role?

The Department has a lead role in strategic land-use planning for potentially hazardous facilities in NSW.

Additionally, the Department is responsible for examining the BIP QRA to ensure that its preparation and conclusions are robust and rigorous and in line with government policies.

What does this mean for the surrounding community now and in the future?

It is a requirement to take risk into consideration when assessing certain development involving increased residential uses on the eastern boundary of the BIP.

The results of the latest QRA indicate a need to extend the consideration of risk to other areas adjoining the BIP. Further planning controls may also be required for development involving increases in both the residential and employment population.

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Frequently asked questions

The Department, Council and the BIP operators are now working together to ensure the appropriate controls are developed in a timely and co-ordinated manner. We will continue to update stakeholders and the community as we progress with this work.

Where can I get more information?

The risk assessment summary document has been published on the department's webpage:
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Hazards/Industrial-Hazards>.

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