

Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Comments sought on chemical manufacturing facility at Kooragang Island

The public is being invited to comment on a proposal to construct and operate a new ammonium nitrate manufacturing plant near Newcastle, which is being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The proponent, Incitec Pivot Limited, is seeking approval for a new facility at Kooragang Island with a production capacity of up to 350,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate per annum.

The proposal includes:

- A manufacturing plant, chemical storage tanks and product storage facilities;
- Associated buildings including control room, laboratory, administration building, workshop and stores; and
- Associated utilities, services and infrastructure including stormwater and wastewater systems.

The environmental impact statement is on public exhibition for an extended period of six weeks from **Wednesday 12 September to Monday 29 October 2012**. Interested members of the public are encouraged to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

The department will also write to around 2,000 residents in nearby suburbs including Stockton, Mayfield East and parts of Tighes Hill and Fern Bay to advise them of the exhibition period.

Submissions received during the public exhibition period, along with the proponent's response to submissions, will be made available on the department's website and carefully considered as part of the department's assessment of the project.

In addition to planning approval, the proposed development would also require the proponent to obtain relevant permits and licences, including an amended or new Environment Protection Licence from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Incitec Pivot has been asked to undertake a rigorous assessment of the potential hazards and risks of the proposed development, and the cumulative impacts of the proposal considering other existing and proposed developments in the surrounding area.

Cumulative impacts will be carefully evaluated during the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's assessment process and independent hazard and air quality experts have been engaged by the department to provide additional advice.

The department, after obtaining advice from other government agencies including the EPA, also required the proponent to address a range of other issues in the environmental impact statement including air quality and odour, noise, soil and water impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, waste, flora and fauna and visual impacts.

The environmental impact statement for the project can be viewed during business hours at:

- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** – Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** – Newcastle office, Price Waterhouse Coopers Centre, Level 2, 26 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle;
- **Newcastle City Council** – Customer Enquiry Centre, Ground floor, 282 King Street, Newcastle; and
- **Nature Conservation Council** – Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown.

All relevant project documents are also publicly available on the department's website, and can be accessed by visiting <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> and following the links to the 'On Exhibition' page.

Submissions can be:

- Lodged online at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> (then search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au;
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6466; or
- Posted to Mining and Industry Projects, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

After the department completes its assessment, the application is likely to be referred to the Planning Assessment Commission to determine.

Media contact: Laurel-Lee Roderick, (02) 9228 6128 or 0429 153 139

NOTE: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is issuing this media release to encourage the community to take part in the planning process. However, it is the role of the proponent (either through its documents published on our website or otherwise) to provide further specific details about the proposal.