

To Whom it May Concern

I would like to thank you for this Inquiry. I hope that we can get some good outcomes for communities across Australia who are dealing with poor air quality.

I have lived at Stockton for about 18 years. But I have lived all my life in Newcastle & most of that time has been around the Port.

When BHP was open we dealt with the pollution from it then when they closed Stockton & in fact all of Newcastle's air became much cleaner. Then the coal terminal numbers started to increase. Now we are dealing with black coal dust that gets in everywhere. I actually have a corflute sign against the proposed 4th coal terminal that I need to wash down because there is so much coal dust on it that it is getting hard to see what the sign says. See photo below.

Living in Stockton has meant that I had to deal with the Orica incidents in particular the leaking of the Hexavalent Chromium that went over Stockton. Newcastle people were the last to know about it due to both Orica & the different State Government Departments not doing their job.

The trauma that some people went through from this one incident will I suspect remain with them for a very long time. The owner of the child care centre, who for 3 days after the event had children playing outside & no doubt licking & eating dirt, toys etc was something that I personally will not forget even though I have no children. The Child Care Centre was directly in line but when authorities finally started to check buildings nothing at the Centre was found. We can only hope that this meant it was always clear. We had had significant rain between the time of the leak & when Stockton was checked.

I also work at Stockton Centre which has nearly 450 people with Intellectual Disabilities. Many of these people have poor health in general, many have poor respiratory systems & low immune systems. If the wind direction took the Hexavalent Chromium further north that night then it would have been on Stockton Centre. Stockton Centre many years ago did have an incident when Incitec has an Ammonia leak & that did hit Stockton Centre. Two Domestic needed to go to hospital. Imagine if that Ammonia had of hit some of our clients in particular those with a repressed respiratory system the outcome may have been catastrophic for those individuals

Orica has had a number of incidents & another one was when they had an Ammonia leak. I believe we were very lucky with this incident even though 2 workers at Mayfield had to go to hospital for respiratory distress.

The reason why I state that we were lucky was it happened at 2pm on a work day not 3pm. Again the wind direction meant that it went onto the rail yards & not a primary school which is less than a Km from the railyards. Imagine if the Ammonia had of hit a primary school as the children were leaving. We can't control the wind direction but we can stop these incidents from occurring.

Any industry that can't stop these incidents should be shut down. We in Newcastle can't have anymore industry put in place until we know the full impacts of what we are already living with.



NO 4th
COAL
TERMINAL

SAVE OUR HEALTH
SAVE OUR FARMS
NO NEW MINES



The outcomes I would like are:

- Get rid of self regulation. It doesn't work.
- All new plants or expansion of existing facilities must have a closed loop system to deal with their own pollution. Pollution produced must be remediated on site - no pollution can leave that plant
- Base line, up to date and regular data of cumulative impacts of actual and allowable pollution levels from related industries must be made available to the public.
- Cumulative impacts must be taken into account before any new plants are approved. If the cumulative impact is then deemed too great, no new approvals.
- The community's concerns needs must be taken into account.
- Base line data of cumulative impacts of actual and allowable pollution levels must be made available to the public.
- More monitors need to be established, that can give both the authorities, the companies & the community better understanding of when, how often & what pollution we are being exposed to.