

STORAGE OF AMMONIUM NITRATE IN THE HEART OF A HEAVILY POPULATED INDUSTRIAL CITY.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the storage of Ammonium Nitrate in the city of Newcastle. I Practiced Orthopaedic surgery including trauma in Newcastle for 40 years, and for some time held a private pilot licence from Rutherford Aerodrome. I have also flown around Australia in a light aircraft with a friend. I make this introduction because both occupations (flying and operative surgery) are focused on risk management.

I have no doubt that the risk of accidental explosion of the huge ammonium stores in this city is small, but nevertheless real.

But bear this in mind.

## **NEWCASTLE PRESENTS THE SOFTEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE TERRORIST TARGET IN THE WORLD, AND A PRIMARY TARGET IN THE EVENT OF WAR**

A light aircraft through the roof of the storage plant with the necessary accelerants would do the job. Or better two, one for Kooragang and one for Sandgate It would make Beirut look like a Xmas Cracker, and that's only one possible approach for a terrorist plot.

After the relatively small amount of AN exploded in Beirut, there were comments in the press to indicate the potential damage to Newcastle. With just Orica, it was said that Newcastle be destroyed on a radius as far as Charlestown. The Harbour AND its industries-gone, thousands of lives lost and hundreds more maimed and blinded by shock waves, oh, and don't forget the RAAF base. No protection from shock waves, probably sufficient to damage or destroy hangars and aircraft.

I have corresponded with both my Federal and State political representatives who seem powerless to take any action. I have seen replies from Dutton and Littleproud reassuring of the best safety measures in the world against accidental explosion

I have corresponded with Prof Kirsten Rundle (law) Melbourne Uni, who commented on Littleproud's letter.

*"the National Code of Practice for Chemicals of Security Concern". He refers to how relevant businesses / holders of such chemicals are 'encouraged' to be aware of X and Y. My red flag goes up with the word 'encourage'. Even without looking up the Code itself (which I have since done), I knew that this meant that it was a voluntary regulatory scheme."*

Anybody who saw the footage of the explosion in Beirut had a great lesson on the devastating damage cause by of shock waves, that travelled in all directions from the source. As one experienced in trauma these are capeable of blinding or tearing abdominal organs sufficient to cause fatal haemorrhage.

It would seem logical that half-way storge stations be constructed in disused mines, which provide convenient huge holes in the ground, capable of absorbing and rendering harmless the horizontal shock waves

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment, though from passed experience I am not hopeful that anything will come of it. Please put the people's safety above industrial convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

