



11 April 2017

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP
Minister for the Environment
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

**Viva Energy Gore Bay Petroleum Products Import and Storage Terminal
Emissions Monitoring under EPA Licence 661
Public health and safety of Greenwich and adjacent communities**

We seek your urgent action to secure variations to the conditions of EPA Licence 661, being the licence that governs the operation of the Viva Energy petroleum products import and storage terminal at Gore Bay. Recent events at the terminal and the reluctance of the EPA to address concerns of residents articulated over the past ten years about the public health impacts of the terminal, particularly as evidenced by steps taken (or, more accurately, not taken) by the EPA in the past six months, have prompted this letter to you.

The Greenwich community has been seeking assurance around the health impacts of emissions from the Viva Energy terminal since 2007. This is understandable, given the close proximity to the terminal of residential areas and the 24/7 operations at this terminal that handles over 40% of Sydney petroleum imports – please refer to the attached photograph.

Extensive discussion of the health impacts of particulates, as highlighted in the 2013 Senate Inquiry on Impacts on health of air quality in Australia, http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2010-13/airquality/report/index and numerous similar reports, has heightened community concern about the terminal operations.

NSW Health has advised that it is unable to provide the community with assurances around the health impacts of the terminal in the absence of data about the nature and level of emissions from the terminal. The recent product spill on 30 December 2016, when the community was exposed for several days to highly offensive emissions and odour, has drawn into sharp focus this disregard for the right of the community members to know what is in the air they breathe. NSW Health had no data to work with to assess the health impacts of the emissions and the community was expected to accept words of assurance that it knew were unsupported by data. This is unacceptable in 2017.

The 2008 Driscoll Report into health impacts of the terminal operations included the unambiguous Recommendation 3

On-going monitoring of exposures

*Shell should ensure that an **appropriate exposure monitoring system is in place at the Terminal on an on-going basis**. This should involve personal monitoring of workers and environmental monitoring of the Terminal and its perimeter (p 47).*

In response to a request from the EPA for input into the 5 yearly review of EPA Licence 661, NSW Health advised as follows on 28 July 2015

Odour and Air Quality

*In view of the close proximity of residential properties adjoining the site **ongoing boundary monitoring** should be required to supplement point source emissions measurements. This ongoing monitoring should occur at consistent locations on the site boundary and measure odour and ambient air levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC).*

Notwithstanding the very explicit recommendations from health experts detailed above and countless letters and emails to your predecessors and the EPA and meetings with EPA personnel since 2012, the EPA has moved no closer to securing ongoing transparent and publicly available information about the nature and volume of emissions coming from the terminal operations. This, at the same time, as we read each day of the range of technologies now available to measure these emissions.

In August 2016 we were lead to believe that the EPA was moving towards implementation of NSW Health's recommendations around boundary monitoring. In December 2016 and, more recently in March this year, the EPA has made changes to the licence for the terminal such that boundary monitoring has gone completely. And this has happened without any explanation to the community living right on the terminal boundary.

We seek an urgent meeting with you to discuss this matter. Copies of the reports, submissions, and correspondence outlined above will be provided, if requested.

Yours faithfully,

GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.



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