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Caltex's Newport terminal show its biggest new tank would be just 150m from Spotswood homes

Tuesday, 3 September 2013

HOBSONS BAY LEADER
FIONA O'DOHERTY
SEPTEMBER 03, 2013 12:00AM

PLANS for the expansion of Caltex's Newport terminal show its biggest new tank would be just 150m from Spotswood homes. The tank is one of eight new tanks planned, doubling terminal capacity.

If approved, it will contain 44.1 megalitres of diesel.

Caltex has lodged an application with EPA Victoria and Hobsons Bay Council. The site now has 12 tanks.

Greens MP Colleen Hartland said 150m was an inadequate buffer zone to protect residents in the case of an emergency.

"Shell in Newport has raised safety concerns about residential development in such proximity to these major hazard facilities," she said.

"Yet Caltex, also in Newport, seems to have no problem with putting residents within a couple of hundred metres of the same hazards.

"VCAT has also ruled to prevent hazardous facilities being located adjacent to housing in the case of Shell, so I feel confident that if the local residents took this case to VCAT, the outcome would be favourable."

Caltex spokesman Sam Collyer said the recommended buffer distance was 100m, so its location was well within acceptable standards.

He said the proposed upgrade would ensure the fuel needs of

Victorians were met without compromising amenity or safety for neighbours.

The EPA will decide on the application by September 23.

The council has referred plans to the EPA, Melbourne Water and Port of Melbourne Authority before assessing

A public meeting on the plans will be held at 5.30pm, Wednesday, October 2, at 411 Douglas Pde.

See the plans at epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/licences-and-approvals ..."

...

Daniel McKinnon of Australia

POSTED AT 9:17 PM SEPTEMBER 03, 2013

The Government is grossly negligent. They refuse to put in place any proper framework for managing buffers between major hazard facilities and housing. It's a scandal and a disaster waiting to happen.

A major incident will dwarf Black Saturday when it comes to human impact. When the fuel terminal at Buncefield, England, exploded in 2005 the blast measured 2.4 on the Richter scale and was heard in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The Buncefield facility was similar in size to Spotswood. That disaster happened in a

commercial/industrial area at 6am on a Sunday. This stroke of luck meant that there were no deaths. However, a Google search on this disaster is very revealing. From Wikipedia: "Several nearby office blocks were hit so badly that almost every window, front and back, was blown in as the explosion ripped through them. During the working day, these offices would have been full of people, and many deaths may have resulted." This is just not good enough. Governments are scared to upset heavy industry or residential property developers. But the common folk are taking all the risk to their safety, and the impact on their home values. 100 metres is a sick joke.

SW Comment

More hydrocarbons too close to homes. This state needs some laws to protect residents when industry encroaches and industry when residents encroach.

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Planning for the worst -Matthew Guy in the firing line

Sunday, 15 September 2013

Brisbane Times
Bruce Guthrie

“...Matthew Guy has big plans - for the city, the state and, perhaps most of all, himself. And he's wasted no time putting many of them in place. As Planning Minister - with ambitions to be premier - he's reshaping the CBD and has signed off on many new developments, even a new suburb or two. He's a man in a hurry.

Which makes his botched rezoning of a 24-hectare Phillip Island farmlet disturbing on many levels. It wasn't so much a plan that came unstuck, as one that was unhinged from the very beginning.

Two years after his embarrassing flip-flop over the property at Ventnor, Victorian taxpayers last week funded confidential, multimillion-dollar payouts to a local landowner and a developer to make the mess go away.

Trouble is, we don't know how many millions it cost to buy silence. And that's a disgrace. If there were valid reasons to keep the details private, I might begrudgingly accept the secrecy surrounding the settlement. But this was a political decision, pure and simple, to save the reputations of Guy and a bunch of blueblood liberals in the run-up to an election.

As The Age's Royce Millar noted when he broke the story last week: "The deal prevents a courtroom grilling for some of the party's most senior figures, including federal frontbenchers Greg Hunt and Andrew Robb, and former premier Ted Baillieu, on their knowledge of one of the murkiest planning affairs in Victoria's recent history.

Most of all, though, it spared Guy, who rezoned the land against the original advice of his department and its lawyers, the local Bass Coast shire, and two independent planning panels after lobbying by local Liberals and a kitchen-table chat with the owner of the property who stood to make millions if it was rezoned residential.

While Guy denies having anything other than a brief discussion with the owner, the farmland was rezoned soon after. It was a breathtakingly stupid move that could have led to hundreds of units being built in an area with little infrastructure.

All this from a man who's made no secret of his desire to reshape planning across the state. How many other decisions will come back to haunt us in other ways?

Not surprisingly, there was an outcry at Ventnor. So much so that just a fortnight after the rezoning decision, Guy overturned it, reportedly because of pressure from then premier Ted Baillieu and local federal MP Hunt, who publicly took credit for convincing Guy to rethink.

If the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) had retrospective powers, I have no doubt there would have been a push to refer the Ventnor affair. In the absence of such powers, there have been calls for a public inquiry...”

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/comment/planning-for-the-worst-20130824-2sim9.html>

SW Comment

We're certainly not able to have a chat over the kitchen table with Mr Guy about the stupidity of the Woollen Mills decision which involves safety not cows, but it seems some party faithful in Ventnor have better access.

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Aboriginal Heritage Regulations interpreted to say Reclaimed Shipyard land has cultural significance

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

Is it BIZARE or are VCAT and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria just not prepared to be rational and fair minded when it comes to protecting aboriginal cultural heritage..... How can land which was reclaimed in

1880s 50 years after white settlement with NO aboriginal cultural sensitivity be marked by administrators in AAV as sensitive.

AND then VCAT support this morally wrong decision.

In reality land within 200m of Nelson Place which was the original high tide watermark is should be protected by the AH Act. With history around Cecil St and Nelson Place of Aboriginal Ceremonies, Law Making and Punishment being documented Letter of Support from Prof Ian Clark.jpg Professor Clark is lead author of The Yalukit-Willum First Peoples of Hobsons Bay - published by Hobsons Bay Council.

Also it is highly likely that a main campground for the first peoples of the Yalukit-willum of the Boon Wurrung tribe was at Pt Gellibrand probably on the PPWM site where 7 fresh water wells pre 1865 have been located.

But according to VCAT NO significance exists and the evidence of Aboriginal elders not listened to because the Aboriginal Heritage Council has refused to confirm the tribe as a Registered Aboriginal Party. Even the purpose of the Act to protect Aboriginal heritage seems to be overturned.

This is the letter of the Boon Wurrung elder about this wrongly defined matter.

Letter of support CHMP Boon Wurrung Elder.jpg

This case has destroyed the community's faith that VCAT will at least have fair hearings and that legal principals of fairness and justice before the law will prevail.

This is what the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs had to say:
Aboriginal Affairs Minister comments about Pt Gellibrand.jpg

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2013/1648.html>

