

**INQUIRY INTO KOORAGANG ISLAND ORICA
CHEMICAL LEAK**

Name: Ms Melissa Rogers-Hyde

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To whom it may concern

Firstly I would like to thank the government for taking the time to undertake this inquiry into the Orica Operations at Botany Industrial Park (BIP) in New South Wales.

My letter, as in most you will probably receive, highlights my extreme and ongoing concerns over the current Orica Operations at (BIP), and primarily, the perpetual burn-off of poisonous gasses/chemicals.

I am a mother of two young children, five and two, moving from Coogee to the area (Collins St, Pagewood), in 2005, and to be completely honest, and, in no way, melodramatic, live every day in fear that one or both of my children, my husband or myself will develop a serious illness as a result of the poisons/toxins in the air from constant Orica Burn-Off. And, when I say constant, I mean 24 hours a day, it is incessant. We hear giant blasts, like a rocket launching each night, terrifying my children each time there is an explosion.

Each time, my son or daughter complains of feeling sick or has a strange pain, which does not seem like a normal childhood complaint, my mind immediately races to the worst possible scenario, and this is always because of my concern over what they are breathing in daily. I rarely let them play in the garden, and NEVER with the hose, as, of which you would probably already aware, our groundwater is completely poison. Orica will subsidise any home over \$3000 towards a water tank should they wish to install a water tank – is this not admitting some sort of liability? However, once again, residents MUST use one of their suppliers. We can't even sleep with our windows open as the burn off is 24 hours a day.

Whilst I, by no stretch, profess to be a chemical expert, nor do I hold a science degree, I do understand, and have realised, from my extensive research into this dire situation that the chemicals/toxins released daily into the atmosphere from Orica are indeed those of the worst nature. Orica produces chemicals from explosives for mining to agricultural chemicals (of which I do have some experience and I am aware that they can kill on contact). To blow through a mountain, a product and the creation must need to be quite extreme. Does the fact that for such a long while no ship would risk taking the poisons in barrels to the overseas dumping ground count for nothing?

My question is, what does all of this say about what is going on here? We have been ignored by our local and federal member/s for such a long time.

All of our complaints to date have fallen on deaf ears. The area is changing daily in demographics, many young families are moving in due to the affordable housing, and, once where there were factories, this land is being replaced not just by one or two homes but by high density housing estates. There are more and more families in the area with more and more young children, schools are having to re-evaluate class sizes. Infrastructure needs to change/improve. The time has come for **ORICA to be completely transparent** and consider what they are doing not only to the environment but possibly to the many young children and families in this rapidly growing area.

I would like to conclude that, surely, we, like all other Australians, should not be denied two of our basic human rights, fresh air and clean ground water, of which both, currently we do not have. Orica, has created a situation, in the areas surrounding where we are living as if we are in a third world country. There needs to be some resolve in this situation. And, I, as a mother could not live with myself, if my decision to move to this area had resulted in a dreadful illness in one or both of my children.

Thankyou again for taking into account my serious concerns.

Melissa Rogers-Hyde