



MARIA MATTHEWS

OBJECT

Submission ID: 214243

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: New South Wales 2576	
Attachment: Attached overleaf	

Submission date: 11/15/2024 12:26:19 PM

I'm a resident of Bowral, Southern Highlands. I'm outraged that the Plasrefine development proposal has now reached the IPC for final approval. I have sat through every presentation of the 3 meetings between local residents, IPC, GHD, DHPI and Plasrefine.

Plastic recycling facilities all over the world are either closing down or are not functioning at full capacity. There has been a shift worldwide to decrease use and production of single use plastic. People are starting to realise how detrimental these recycling facilities are to the environment and our health. It has been proven that plastic pollution causes cancer, infertility, hormonal disorders, respiratory illnesses etc. Plastic recycling shouldn't be classified light industry, it should be categorised as heavy or hazardous industry! Plastic in original form is toxic, and the recycling thereof produces an even more toxic product, which gets used to make a variety of items. Only about 12% of plastic in Australia gets recycled and only a very small percentage of that is suitable for 'recycling'. Do we really need a 120.000 tonne plastic recycling facility in the middle of a beautiful country town?

Plastic recycling plants are considered 'out of date': I quote from the article in the link of an article in The Guardian below.

'Plastic, which is made from oil and gas, is notoriously difficult to recycle. Doing so requires meticulous sorting, since most of the thousands of chemically distinct varieties of plastic cannot be recycled together. That renders an already pricey process even more expensive. Another challenge: the material degrades each time it is reused, meaning it can generally only be reused once or twice. The authors say the evidence demonstrates that oil and petrochemical companies, as well as their trade associations, may have broken laws designed to protect the public from misleading marketing and pollution. The industry's misconduct continues today, the report alleges. Over the past several years, industry lobbying groups have promoted so-called chemical recycling, which breaks plastic polymers down into tiny molecules in order to make new plastics, synthetic fuels and other products. But the process creates pollution and is even more energy intensive than traditional plastic recycling.'
Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/feb/15/recycling-plastics-producers-report>

If this development gets approved, it won't be long before it will be abandoned, leaving us with the mess to be cleaned up.

Given the original licence applicant for the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility, Plasrefine, was

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has already expressed that he can't fund the project and that he will be looking at government funding to realise this development. Tax payer's money allocated to a foreign investor for a development we don't need or approve of!



The NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI) has made a recommendation of approval to the IPC, without doing the required due diligence. In my opinion this is all about meeting Labor government's 'targets' for 2030, and trying to push through approval before the next elections. This has not been a democratic process and the residents of the Southern Highlands, in particular Moss Vale, have been completely disregarded. Because this development is classified SSD, the proponent is not required to comply with standard development regulations. I am particularly concerned about the fire safety risk, but no process has been followed to ensure the safety of nearby residents. There is no buffer between residents and this development, and should this plant catch fire, health and potentially lives of residents will be compromised.

The current recycling plants in Australia are not functioning at maximum capacity, and most of our plastic waste has already been allocated to them. Where will Plasrefine's plastic come from? Will it be imported? I don't believe there's enough plastic waste for them to warrant a 120.000 tonne/annum recycling facility! US company Britemark will be building a plastic recycling facility in Parkes NSW, and will be operational towards the end of 2025. It will be recycling 200.000 tonnes of plastic per annum, almost double the size of the Plasrefine facility.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-04/recycling-plant-parkes-nsw-central-west-/100879006>

More reasons why I object to the Plasrefine development proposal:

-The proposed Plasrefine building, (15 m high plus multiple 2m stacks), is visually not in harmony with this beautiful rural location, and certainly not sympathetic to the sensitive environment.

-An access route has always been a major concern and still is. There is simply no safe way for heavy trucks to approach and leave this facility safely. 100 truck movements and 200+ lighter vehicle movements per day is simply not viable.

-We have heard the traffic concerns from Moss Vale residents. Who will police designated routes, what about truck banking? Our roads are crumbling, who will fix, fund and maintain damaged roads? Trucks to and from the facility will be super spreaders of micro plastics.

-The proposed site is in a bushfire zone as can be seen on the RFS website when the address 74-76 Beaconsfield road Moss Vale is added to the search bar. (Please refer to image attached). The RFS headquarters signed a letter to say that the site is not in a bushfire zone, which is incorrect. (Please refer to letter attached)

A local senior member of the RFS, queried the letter that was signed off by Alastair Patton on 8 October 2020, but he was ignored. No proper fire risk assessment has been done. Another application has been made to the RFS to clarify this matter.

-Local fire stations do not have the resources to fight large fires, in particular plastic recycling fires. There is one unmanned station in Moss Vale, a total of 6 fire trucks in the SH, and backup stations are an hour away.

A large amount of plastic that is not suitable for recycling and could potentially be carrying Lithium batteries, will be onsite, until it gets removed to be disposed of in landfill. This is a huge fire risk, and this is where most fires start in recycling facilities.

-The recycling plant is a mere 150 metres away from the closest resident, 650m from a childcare centre. It will be impossible to evacuate residents in a 2km radius from the site in a timely and safe manner in case of a fire/explosion. There is no buffer zone between the factory and adjacent properties.

-Plasrefine will be built on land with riparian water. Their chemical waste, PFAS, micro and nanoplastics will leak into the Wingecarribee river, which will undoubtedly endanger our protected Platypus population.

-Flooding may also occur and would certainly carry pollutants from the proposed site to our drinking water catchment area. The toxic pollutants or 'forever chemicals', will be deposited into the Wingecarribee river, which eventually ends up in the Warragamba dam, Sydney's main water resource.



-The Highlands is a high wind area, and smoke from the stacks will be blown all over the highlands, causing environmental pollution and serious health issues. There are multiple school, sports and other outdoor facilities in the area.

-Plasrefine claims this will be an 'enclosed facility', but how is that possible when the roller doors will be open for at least 5 hours per day to allow truck movements in and out of the facility? Strong prevailing Westerly winds, will enter the building through the roller doors. Plastic pollutants will stick to the trucks that exit and will be spread as they leave the facility. There is no way to ensure a foolproof 'enclosed facility'.

-Plasrefine will be located next to the internationally accredited Garvan medical research institute, and noise, emissions and vibration will undoubtedly disturb and affect the mice used for testing in this research centre.

-Plasrefine will not fit in with the proposed SHIP development, which is State endorsed and has already received state funding. It is an innovative development that will provide multiple opportunities for Southern Highlands residents, especially for future generations. If Plasrefine gets approved, it will certainly discourage companies from acquiring land for development and investment in the SHIP. It has already lost a huge investor who has taken his business to Indonesia.

-Plasrefine will be reliant on Wingecarribee Council for water and power supply. How will residents be affected in case of drought and water restrictions? Our local power supply will be put under increased stress by the demand from this proposed facility

-Our Indigenous community has been disrespected and disregarded by Plasrefine. Aboriginal artefacts have been removed by from the site and trucked away and delivered elsewhere, hundreds of kilometres away from Moss Vale

-The social impact of this proposed development on our community has been enormous! We have had this sword hanging over our heads for 4 years. We have respected deadlines, submitted objections, yet here we are!'

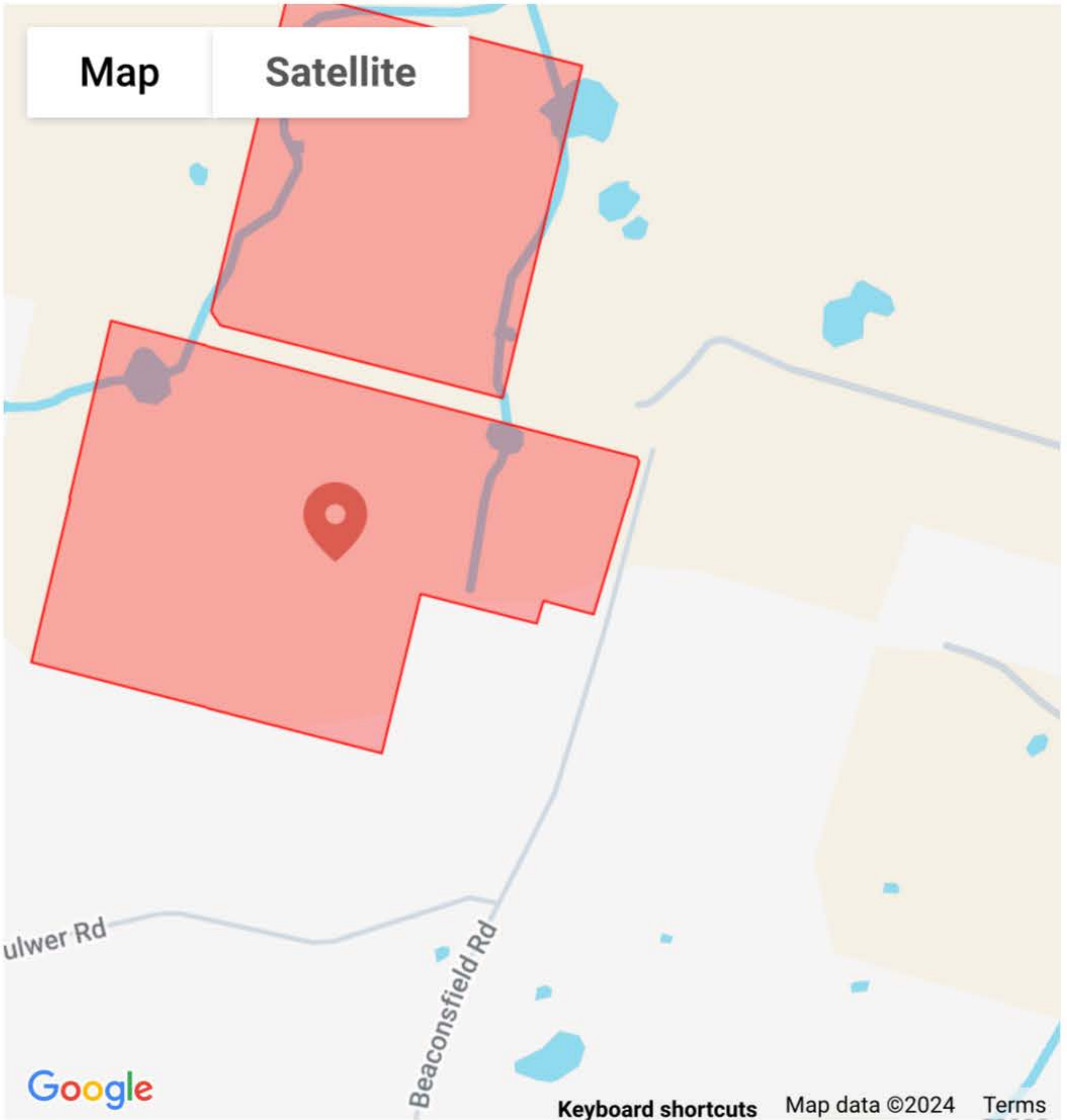
NSW premier Chris Minns has told us to trust the process, but we have lost faith in those who brought us to this point. Our MP Wendy Tuckerman has offered to find an alternative, more suitable location for this development, but Plasrefine and GHD declined her offer. As [REDACTED] commented: 'we like it here'.

We are a resilient community, and we won't give up.

We ask of the IPC to reject the Plasrefine development proposal for this location. It is definitely not the right site.

» You should consider seeking expert advice before commencing any development.

Your Property



Your search result

You have conducted a search of the online bush fire prone land tool for the land in the map above. This search result is valid for the date the search was conducted. If you have any questions about the Bush Fire Prone Land Tool please contact bushfireprone.mapping@rfs.nsw.gov.au



The parcel of land you have selected is within a designated bush fire prone area.

Make sure you have completed the four simple steps to prepare for

