



**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 215644

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| 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 2577 |  |
| Attachment: N/A                |  |

Submission date: 11/19/2024 11:05:51 AM

*I strongly object to the proposed Plasrefine plastic recycling refinery in Moss Vale. As a resident who has moved to Moss Vale just over a year ago from Sydney to live my life in a more peaceful landscape surrounded by beautiful nature and wildlife. This is where I imagine one day raising a family and if the proposed Plasrefine plant were to go ahead, then I fear that I could not with good conscience continue to live here with my family considering the major health and environmental impacts associated with such a large scale refinery releasing dangerous chemicals into the air and waterways.*

*I am not against the concept of plastics recycling when used in combination with plastic use minimisation strategies, however I believe it is clear that this proposed location is not the right site, for many reasons highlighted below.*

**1. Proximity to Residential Areas, Schools and Childcare**

*The proposed refinery is located within approximately 200 meters of residential homes, and several schools and childcare centers are located within a 2-kilometer radius of the site. In the event of a fire, explosion, or malfunction of water and air filtration systems, this would be an unacceptable level of risk for residents and local wildlife.*

**2. Noise, Pollution, and Safety Hazards from Increased Traffic**

*The operation will lead to a rise in heavy vehicle traffic, causing noise pollution, air pollution, dust, and the potential for accidents and fatalities. Worker light vehicle traffic will exacerbate these issues, impacting our roads and the safety of our neighborhoods. Dangerous chemicals and microplastics have the possibility to be carried by trucks and dispersed throughout the surrounding environments. The local road infrastructure is not set up to handle the proposed truck traffic, and ideally the site should be situated closer to main highways so that small towns are not affected and trucks movements can be more efficient.*

**3. Potential Air Pollution and Toxic Emissions**

*The potential failure of the refinery's air filtration system poses a serious risk of releasing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other hazardous toxins into the atmosphere. This pollution could have significant health consequences, including respiratory and neurological conditions, particularly for vulnerable populations like the elderly and young children who make up a large portion of the Southern Highlands. Proponent states that roller doors would need to be open 5 hours a day however most of the risk management is reliant on assumptions that the building is 'fully enclosed'. If the plant cannot operate while doors are open, this is a hugely inefficient proposal.*

**4. Impact to Clean Water Supply**

*Essential riparian zones only about 10 meters from the site, are at risk of pollution that could harm ecosystems feeding into the Wingecarribee River and ultimately Sydney's and Goulburn's drinking water as the Wingecarribee River feeds into Warragamba Dam.*

**5. Irreparable Damage to Our Heritage, and Tourism**



*Our region is known for its lush vineyards, agritourism, and historical gems like Berrima. It's more than just scenic beauty—it's the heart of our community and our local economy. A heavy industrial facility threatens this reputation and could deter tourism, which the local economy of the Southern Highlands is reliant on.*

6. *High Fire Risk and Limited Emergency Response Capacity*

*Plastic recycling facilities are highly susceptible to fires, with historical incidents demonstrating extreme temperatures and the need for extensive firefighting resources. Moss Vale's emergency services are inadequate for such a threat, with limited trucks and personnel. Fires can produce major toxic fumes, posing health risks to nearby residents, and even be carried on the strong winds to other towns.*

7. *Odor and Property Value Concerns*

*Odors from the refinery may affect areas as far as Bowral and Berrima, diminishing the quality of life and enjoyment of properties. Property values will likely plummet, and residents could face stress and mental health challenges as a result. Unlike the Parkes refinery, which has a 7 km buffer zone, the site at Moss Vale offers no such protection.*

8. *Human Health and Environmental Rights*

*We all have a fundamental right to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and live in a community free from toxic threats. With Australia now advancing legal frameworks to ensure these rights, it feels inconceivable to bring such a risk into our midst. How will the government reconcile approving this project with its obligations to protect us?*

9. *Economic Impact on Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP)*

*The Southern Highlands Innovation Park is designated for biotech, agri-research, and light industry. The refinery contradicts SHIP's vision, deterring future sustainable businesses and undermining long-term economic growth. Potential partners will avoid an area with heavy vehicle traffic, fire risk, and potential air and water contamination.*

10. *Remediation and Accountability*

*If the facility closes, will Plasrefine take responsibility for remediating the land, or will taxpayers bear the burden? We need clear commitments to prevent long-term environmental and economic harm, ensuring that our community is not left to pay the price for corporate missteps. If the facility during operation caused long term health risks to the surrounding residents, and biodiversity, then who would be responsible and what action would be taken?*

*The proposed site at Moss Vale is simply not suitable for a plastic recycling refinery. This project threatens our community's safety, our cherished natural environment, and our local economy. We must protect what makes Moss Vale and surrounds special, for ourselves and for future generations. I urge the IPC to reject this proposal to safeguard our way of life and preserve the Southern Highlands' unique character.*

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