



**DOUG ZIHRUL**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 217872

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2575</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

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*The fourteen fires at Australian plastic waste facilities since 2019 are proof that Australia is ill prepared to prevent such an occurrence at the proposed site.*

*The Remondis Waste Facility Fire 23.10.2013 took 60 Firefighters four hours to bring under control. That was for an area 40M x 60M*

*The proposal is for a much greater area and could therefore result in a fire of unprecedented size.*

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*The toxicity of smoke from such a fire is a possible worst case outcome, however the everyday emissions from this proposed facility are in themselves deeply troubling not only for the Southern Highlands but for the wider population.*

*According to an article in the Spring 2023 edition of Harvard Medicine (The magazine of the Harvard Medical School Studies in cell culture, 'marine life, and animal models indicate that micro plastics can cause oxidative damage and changes in gene activity' (Harvard Medical School, 2023).*

*The full impact of micro particles, nano particles and associated products including pthalates remain unknown but the potential appears to be very serious. The precautionary principal must be upheld.*

*There is clearly a need to find safe alternatives to plastics in current use.*

*Recycling will only prolong the inevitable problem of safe disposal of plastics,*

*A more appropriate response in my opinion is for Government to legislate to curb the use of plastics deemed unnecessary. Until an evidence based, safe method of disposal is found, plastic waste to continue to be compressed and buried as the most efficient way to reduce the risk of further contamination.*

*We need better knowledge of the risks of plastic harms on public health and the environment.*

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