



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 217215
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>	
Location: Redacted		
Attachment: N/A		

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*Submission Against the Proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility*

*To: Independent Planning Commission (IPC)*

*Re: Objection to State Significant Development Application SSD-9409987*

*I write to strongly oppose the approval of Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd's proposal for a plastics recycling facility in Moss Vale. Based on the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) State Significant Development (SSD) Assessment Report (October 2024), there are numerous unresolved and unacceptable risks associated with this development, particularly in the areas of environmental protection, public health, and community well-being.*

*While the Department has recommended approval subject to conditions, the mitigations proposed fail to adequately address the scale and complexity of the issues outlined below:*

*1. Environmental and Health Impacts*

*Microplastics and Water Contamination*

*The site is located near two riparian zones that ultimately feed into the Wingecarribee River and Sydney's drinking water supply. Despite assurances of stormwater controls, the potential for microplastic pollution and other harmful chemical leaks into this sensitive ecosystem poses significant risks. The assessment acknowledges gaps in the legislative framework for regulating microplastics, which means existing safeguards may be insufficient to protect water quality at this scale of operation.*

*Fire Risks and Toxic Smoke*

*While fire management plans have been proposed, including water tanks and fire containment systems, these measures cannot eliminate the risk of prolonged fires at a facility that processes up to 120,000 tonnes of plastic waste annually. Toxic smoke from fires could severely impact nearby sensitive facilities like the Australian BioResources (ABR) and residential areas. The ABR facility itself expressed concern about fire risks and their potential to disrupt vital medical research.*

*2. Social Impacts*

*Community Well-being*

*The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) identified several high negative impacts, including changes to the area's character, increased anxiety and stress among residents, and diminished quality of life due to industrialization. The proposed 24/7 operation is particularly concerning for residents, as it brings constant noise, traffic, and air pollution into a previously rural and semi-residential setting.*

*Traffic Congestion and Safety*

*The amended application anticipates 100 daily heavy vehicle movements (50 in and 50 out) along Douglas Road and Collins Road, raising serious concerns about road safety and noise for local residents. While the*



*Department has suggested a traffic management plan, it is unlikely to fully address the disruptions and risks caused by such a substantial increase in heavy vehicle use.*

### *3. Site Suitability and Strategic Context*

#### *Conflict with the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP)*

*The development site lies within the proposed SHIP "Bio-Tech" precinct, which is intended for advanced manufacturing and medical research, not industrial-scale waste management. This project is inconsistent with the vision for the precinct and may deter future investments aligned with SHIP's strategic goals.*

#### *Unresolved Land Use Conflicts*

*The site's proximity to sensitive land uses, including the ABR facility, rural residential properties, and the Wingecarribee River catchment, makes it unsuitable for a high-risk plastics facility. The Department itself noted that some impacts, such as those on the ABR facility, cannot be entirely mitigated.*

### *4. Concerns About the Proponent*

*Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd has no established track record in Australia, raising questions about its capability to responsibly manage a project of this scale. Concerns regarding transparency in its proposed technologies and its association with directors linked to environmental violations abroad further erode confidence in its ability to meet stringent environmental and operational standards.*

#### *Conclusion and Recommendations*

*The Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility presents unacceptable risks to the environment, public health, and the social fabric of the community. While the project may align with NSW's broader waste recovery goals, these benefits do not outweigh the significant and irreversible impacts on the local area.*

*I urge the IPC to:*

*Reject the SSD application for the proposed facility at 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale.*

*Encourage the proponent to explore alternative locations better suited to industrial-scale recycling operations, far from sensitive ecosystems and residential areas.*

*Prioritise community consultation and sustainable development in all future planning decisions for the Southern Highlands region.*

*Thank you for considering this submission. I trust the Commission will act in the best interests of the Moss Vale community and its environment.*

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