

**Independent Planning Commission
Submission – Wendy Tuckerman MP
Member for Goulburn**

It suggests that the community will have to rely heavily on the transparency of the proponent, of which there has been little to date, the effectiveness of mitigation measures such as unseen management plans and promises of future actions to address potential impacts all of which are assumed and hypothetical. Why has this information not been provided in the four years this project has been proposed?

While the document highlights the potential and still hypothetical economic and environmental benefits of the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Factory, it also reveals potential flaws, particularly regarding residual social impacts and reliance on future actions to address various serious environmental and human health concerns.

I always thought good planning outcomes would require all information pertaining to the project to be transparent, present and real, not hypothetical or assumed. The community deserves answers and transparency in this process and the information thus far provided falls way short of that expectation. I am extremely disappointed that a planning department has presented a recommendation of approval on the proviso that plans are submitted after the fact. I implore the Independent Planning Panel to bring back the honesty and transparency into the process and return a sense of justice and faith back into the planning process.

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that any approval would need stringent risk mitigation measures. However again my concern is around regulating that mitigation. At what stage is that risk too great.

While the document claims that microplastic risks can be managed, it acknowledges that there are currently no legislative requirements for their complete removal from wastewater or information on how they will be managed.

This raises concerns about the long-term environmental and human health impacts of microplastics generated by the facility.

If you have not yet heard the expert advice regarding microplastics, you will be astounded by the threat they pose particularly surrounding the electrostatic control of plastic particles and the absolute inability to manage their release into the environment.

In recent rain events there was high volume, rapid water flow onto the site.

The Wingecarribee River Flood Study applies to this land. The western end of the site is Category 2 Riparian Land which as stated previously flows into the Sydney Water Catchment.

There is an enormous amount of risk to this project to which the community has no information on how it will be mitigated.

The department has acknowledged that negative social impacts would remain. These include changes to the character of the area, potential effects on residents' sense of place and well-being, and psychological health risks stemming from stress and anxiety. These cannot be explained away with a Social Impact Management Plan, a Community Consultative Committee or Community Engagement Plan.

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I note that in the Department of Planning's recommendation report that the applicant must not receive or process more than 120,000 tonnes per annum of mixed waste plastic, comprising ~~PET bottles, high density polyethylene, polypropylene bottles, ABS, UPVC pipes and low-density polyethylene films~~. I have serious doubts and concerns regarding the monitoring of the feed waste that will be delivered to the location. And based on history of the environmental stewardship of the proponent, serious doubts whether environmental standards will be met.

We are told that there will be 100 truck movements per day – 50 in and 50 out in a 24 hour period, approximately 10 heavy vehicle movements per hour, and 280 light vehicle movements in a 24 hour period.

The Department advises that the development must not result in any vehicles queuing on the public road network; nor heavy vehicles and bins associated with the development are to be parked on local roads or footpaths in the vicinity of the site.

I'm sure the panel are acutely aware that truck banking is common practice and with site plans indicating only 1 area allocated to truck parking, and with only one proposed access road in and out of the facility, the likelihood of truck banking or trucks using other local roads illegally is extremely likely. The impact to residents will be substantial.

The Garvan Institute of Medical Research holds a site nearby, Australian BioResources. That facility is for breeding mice strains for Garvan researchers and partner institutes in Australian medical research. I am informed that mouse embryos have recently been affected by vibrations related to road infrastructure construction, with road noise and vibrations killing the embryos. This is the only one of its kind on the Eastern Seaboard. My discussion with Garvan would suggest

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Today you will see the significant public opposition to the Plasrefine proposal.

I want to touch on some of the key issues of the proposal.

The unsuitability of the site for such a facility, given its proximity to residential areas, community facilities and the Australian Bioresources Facility (ABR) is evident.

The Southern Highlands Innovation Park [SHIP] was funded to the tune of \$270,000 by the New South Wales Government to produce a guide for the planning of infrastructure and investment in the Highlands.

The Plasrefine project on this site has never met the intent of the planning framework. Whilst the draft structure plan of the SHIP identifies heavy industrial uses to the east of the precinct, with opportunities to implement more sustainable resource and waste processes, the proposed Moss Vale plastics recycling facility is located just 200 metres from the nearest home, in a precinct that the plan identified for productivity support, not general or heavy industrial. From day 1 – this was not the right site. No other facility of this nature built in Australia is within a 1 kilometre buffer of residential areas. This is not the right zone this is not the right site.

The proponent has also openly admitted that they have no prior experience when it comes to recycling plastics. A key party to this development is a Beijing-based businessman who owns other companies that have been censured by Beijing's environmental and ecological bureau.