



**JEAN MCKERN**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 0

Organisation: <i>N/A</i>	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2577</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/5/2024

*Part one submission*

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Ref: SSD 8409987

Good morning Panel. My name is Jean McKern and my family has lived in the Southern Highlands since 1971 and at [REDACTED], Moss Vale since 1995.

Firstly, I would like to thank the IPC panel for accepting the invitation to visit my home to better understand why Plasrefine's Plastic Waste Reprocessing Factory is so unacceptable on its proposed site.

I also apologise unreservedly for the snake in the grass which you met on leaving the property!! I assure you it is not a pet!!

I would like to present my submission in three separate submissions.

1. Personal
2. Addressing GHD's submission at the IPC Public Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October
3. Addressing the DPHI consent document

## **PART 1**

### **PERSONAL**

#### **WHEN WILL THIS NIGHTMARE STOP?**

**Plasrefine/GHD has stolen four years of my life** with their illogical, ill thought-out State Significant Development Application for a Plastic Waste Recycling Factory (PWRF) on a parcel of land 700m as the crow flies from the Moss Vale town boundary.

The aging process (87) coupled with the stress of having to be an active opponent of the PWRF for such a long period of time has thrown up some worsening health challenges but my brain still screams at me **THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT SITE.**

My previous submissions to DPHI have dealt with the effects to Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands as a whole, because I firmly believe the PWPF will change the fabric of this beautiful area as a destination which welcomes tourists from all over the world.

For my husband who was a commercial pilot, having suffered a litany of loss, health, job, income, self-esteem, following a severe heart attack at the age of 49, finding our little patch of paradise here at the top of the hill with its panoramic views was the calm after many years of storm. [REDACTED] became our sanctuary and continues to be so for me since his death in 2015

The mere thought of a future where the noise and vibration of construction and the 24/7 operation of the PWRF, the 180 lights, the sight of the ugly stack(s) rearing skyward, the blot on the landscape of such a 3.3 hectare building haunts my sleep.

I am trying my best to stay calm and believe in the process but until you have experienced the stress of fighting a fight over many years, hoping for a positive outcome, you cannot really understand what a mental ordeal it is.

You have seen that we are not NIMBYS, nor are we SILVERTAILS as some would like to describe us. We are ordinary people who have chosen to live in the Southern Highlands for its rural lifestyle, clean air, work, etc.

Here at the top of the hill we look after each other. You met two of my neighbours, one of whom feels stress in his life so acutely that he was unable to speak at the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. There is a builder/farmer whose property is a jewel in the landscape due to the hard work he and his family have put in. They have a house cow amongst other cattle, chooks, and a fantastic little orchard. **Toxic fallout from the PWRF, however little uncaptured, will not in the long term improve his property or the fresh cow's milk they now drink or the fruit and meat they eat.**

There are families with small children, large children, new Australians, lifelong residents, all with their own stories of how they came to live in this almost secluded part of Moss Vale with its ever-changing outlook.

The Plasrefine Project is unacceptable on so many fronts.

I was there when Wendy Tuckerman spoke to Nancy and offered to help find Plasrefine a more suitable site.

I was there when Stephen Jones, Assistant Federal Minister of Finance, stood on Vanessa Harcourt's verandah, overlooking the site, and agreed that IT WAS NOT THE RIGHT SITE. Stephen added that Governments do not finance pipedreams and has urged his constituents to attend MVM meetings and become involved.

I was there when Penny Sharpe, now Minister for Climate Change, Energy, the ENVIRONMENT, and Heritage, whilst in opposition, said she did not think the site was suitable. The Minister for Planning, Paul Scully, has not yet, to my knowledge, visited the site.

The Wingecarribee Shire Council does not want the Plasrefine development as it does not fit into its plans for the Southern Highlands Innovation Park. In fact, at the Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October councilors unanimously voted against the Project.

**I never thought I would say this as I am a very positive person, but I hope I have died before the first sod is turned. I simply cannot contemplate policing the Plasrefine Project. GHD told us, in no uncertain terms, that would be the community's responsibility!!!**

The Somerton Plastic Waste Recycling Factory, run on the same modus operandi as the applicant's proposal, has closed down owing 65 creditors \$33 million. Reason: non compliance. (Somerton is on the Hume Highway between Melbourne and Sydney, not down a side road in the picturesque Southern Highlands). **Is this outcome what we can expect down the track and who will pay? THE TAXPAYER? I am very afraid that the NSW Labour Party needs to tick the Plastic Waste Recycling box in order to meet its targets.**

Yours sincerely

Jean McKern