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OBJECT

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I wish to join the throng of concerned citizens raising their objections to the construction of the 'Plasrefine Recycling' Plant currently planned for Moss Vale.

Whilst there are any number of difficulties arising from this proposal relating to public amenity for local residents, my major concern centers on the prospective dangers of this facility for the residents of the wider City of Sydney and for the drinking water currently provided by Warragamba Dam.

The proposed facility is to be located in a the catchment area for the dam and in a flood plain where the studies of safety are based on the principle of 1/100 year flood information, data which has proved unreliable in these days of drastic weather events. The area is fire prone and with only the Volunteer Fire Service available for control and I believe the practice for plastic plants once alight is to let them burn out, releasing untold pollutants into the environment.

Sitting on this panel you will no doubt be aware of the burgeoning body of science mounting with regard to nano and micro plastics and the problems these are creating in the oceans, fish industries and now also being documented in human studies. These issues once further understood have the potential to be our next major health problem such as smoking, asbestosis and silicosis have been. Once this genie is out of the bottle there is no going back. The effect will be invasive, dangerous and impossible to redress.

The company successful in attaining the tender to build this plant already has a [REDACTED] This must require further scrutiny.

There are no guarantees that, even with the imposing 22 meter stack proposed, micro particles can be filtered beyond 94% over thousands of tonnes of waste. I would suggest even a 6% increase over an unquantifiable amount of micro plastics in our drinking water is TOTALLY unacceptable. The particles have to go somewhere, they do not disappear once released and they will disperse in a notoriously windy part of the state over watercourses, pastoral land and people's homes. Additionally any amount of toxic chemical waste that leaches into the waterways or water table, given the location, is another issue we should be very concerned about for this development.

That is the crux of the matter really, LOCATION.

We all know we need to recycle plastics, use less etc. nobody argues with that. HOWEVER siting a facility in an inappropriate area where thousands of children go to school within a six kilometer radius and the water of the largest city in the country can be affected seems the to be very height of political short sightedness. This country has the opportunity to be a world leader in the field and create an industry that leads the way forward instead we have a decision that in all probability will lead to future health crisis and it should sit very heavily on the shoulders of those who didn't look into this decision in a timely manner and didn't take their duty of care seriously enough.