



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 211930

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues
Location: New South Wales 2576	
Attachment: N/A	

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I believe that the proposal to build what will be Australia's largest plastic recycling factory in Moss Vale must be opposed and not go ahead. This is based on my serious concerns regarding the environmental, health and economic impacts that this will have for the local and broader community in NSW.

It is well documented that the byproducts of recycling plastic are toxic. This factory will produce waste products that will evidently end up back in the environment; via waterways that will feed into our local and Sydney water catchments and in the air in the form of many substances including micro plastics. Therefore this location is not at all suitable as it is too close to residential areas and waterways.

As a resident of the Southern Highlands who made the decision to move here from Sydney to raise her children in a 'cleaner' and 'healthier' environment, the construction and operation of such a factory is extremely disappointing and worrying. It is disappointing to think that this beautiful rural region in NSW could be subject to such heavy industry, increased traffic and pollution " when most who have chosen to live here have done so to escape all of these things to live a cleaner and more peaceful life. Does this mean that many of us will have to move again?

I also hold grave concerns about the well being of all Southern Highlands residents, especially our children in this area - in the short and long term. These adverse impacts will be related to health, social and economic impacts of building such a factory in this region.

Microplastics (that we know will be a harmful waste product from this factory) are known (many documented research studies) to exacerbate adverse health conditions such as respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease and the development of some types of cancers. Not to mention all the health impacts that are not yet known since recycling plastic is a relatively new process and technology. The fact that once we 'ingest' microplastic it will be stored in the body's organs, including the brain, is a major concern. How can this be beneficial for anyone living in the Southern Highlands and their health and well being? In addition, we should be considering the future healthcare costs to the government, as more people develop health conditions from living in the presence of this toxic waste.

In the longer term, we need to protect our environment for future generations " what harm will building a toxic factory so close to where people live do to the future of the Southern Highlands?

A key industry and driver of our local visitor economy is tourism. Tourism is also one of NSW's and in fact Australia's biggest industries and employer of thousands of people, both directly and indirectly. One of the reasons that the Southern Highlands has such a strong and growing visitor economy, both domestically and internationally is because it is such a beautiful landscape of green rolling hills, clean air to breathe in, beautiful bushlands to explore and rivers and waterways to enjoy.

In addition, our agribusiness economy is growing and supports our visitor economy offering high quality produce for locals, visitors and the broader community to enjoy and benefit from, such as Sydney restaurants that depend on our high-quality produce or wine growers that export both domestically and internationally to the benefit of our overall economy.

Building this factory in such a pristine environment will have long-term impacts on our small community and dependency on tourism to grow and thrive. No one will want to visit a region poisoned with toxic waste from



Australia's biggest plastic recycling factory or consume produce potentially exposed to such toxins. What will this do to our visitor economy and people's livelihoods? The Southern Highlands have always been a sought-after place to visit or live because of its environment; building Plasrefine will be detrimental to this community now and for years to come, changing this landscape and community forever.

Also very concerning is the way that this development application has been managed by the NSW government, and the apparent lack of respect for the members of the community that will be directly impacted by this decision. The fact that the proponent has been given so much more time to respond as required to amendments in this proposal, and yet the community has consistently been given much less time to respond. In addition, the anomalies in documentation and potential use of AI in drafts and other documents are very concerning, and should surely have legal implications? What is the precedent for using AI in government proposals and assessments?

It is obvious that we need to build more facilities to manage the escalation of plastics that need recycling, and doing this in our own country makes good sense. However, building a factory in such a beautiful, pristine and environmentally sound location, so close to residents does not make any sense. Surely there are many other locations that would be more suitable for such a factory.
