



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 211951

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

Submission date: 11/6/2024 11:28:21 AM

I strongly oppose the approval of the Plasrefine plastic recycling facility proposed for Moss Vale in the Southern Highlands.

After attending the public IPC meeting on October 28, 2024, and reviewing the available information, I have serious concerns about the safety, environmental impact, and due diligence of this proposal. I urge the Commission to reject this application based on the following key points:

Lack of Expertise and Credentials

Plasrefine, the company behind this proposal, has no established track record in plastic recycling in Australia. The organisation has only been present in the country since 2019 and has not demonstrated any relevant experience or credentials in operating a facility of this scale and complexity. This lack of expertise raises significant concerns about their ability to safely manage the proposed operations.

Environmental and Health Risks

The proposed facility's proximity to residential areas (just over 200 meters) and its location within the Sydney water catchment area pose unacceptable risks to community health and water quality. The use of undisclosed synthetic additives in the recycling process is particularly concerning, as these chemicals could potentially leach into the environment and water supply. Dr. Ahmed, an expert in the field, has highlighted that Australia lacks adequate standards to manage additives in plastic recycling compared to international best practices.

Inadequate Assessment and Due Diligence

The approval process for this proposal appears to have been rushed and lacking in thorough assessment. The fact that one of the reports submitted to the IPC was reportedly generated by AI and contained outdated information is deeply troubling and suggests a failure in due diligence. This raises serious questions about the integrity of the entire assessment process.

Inconsistency with Local Planning

The proposed site conflicts with Wingecarribee Shire Council's plans for the Southern Highlands Innovation Precinct (SHIP), which aims to develop the area for bio-tech industries. Approving this facility would undermine local strategic planning efforts and potentially hinder more suitable development opportunities.

Traffic and Infrastructure Concerns

The facility's operation would significantly increase heavy vehicle traffic in the area, with up to 380 vehicle movements per day, including 100 semi-trailer movements. This level of industrial traffic is incompatible with the local road infrastructure and would negatively impact the area's rural character.

Potential Impact on Sydney's Water Supply

Given the facility's location within the Sydney water catchment, any contamination from the plant could have far-reaching consequences for the water supply of Australia's largest city. The risks associated with processing 120,000 tonnes of plastic annually in this sensitive area are simply too high.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

In conclusion, I urge the Independent Planning Commission and Government at all levels to prioritise the safety of local communities and the protection of critical water resources over the uncertain benefits of this proposed facility. The numerous concerns raised by experts, local officials, and community members demonstrate that this proposal is inappropriate for the location and poses unacceptable risks. The Commission should reject this application and encourage the exploration of more suitable locations and technologies for addressing NSW's plastic recycling challenges.
