



PAUL BERKELOUW

OBJECT

Submission ID: 211958

Organisation: Bendooley Estate Berrima	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/6/2024 11:36:00 AM

*I am writing on behalf of Bendooley Estate, a significant local employer and tourism destination in Berrima, to unequivocally object to the proposed plastics recycling facility in Moss Vale.*

*As the owner of Bendooley Estate, we proudly employ over 150 local people, many of whom have built their lives around working in an industry that values our natural environment and supports local jobs. It is deeply concerning that a foreign company threatens to disrupt our community, potentially shifting employment away from local workers and introducing new risks to our local ecosystems.*

*In addition to employment, Bendooley Estate plays a critical role in fostering tourism in our area. Each year, we host hundreds of weddings, welcoming visitors to a venue renowned for its manicured gardens and breathtaking natural beauty. We have a 300-seat-restaurant, a vineyard, cottage accommodation, a cellar door and an approved masterplan to build substantially more accommodation. But the success and our business model is built around one thing " manicured garden weddings that are visually spectacular. Brides want to get married on our property because it's the closest thing to an English country garden they will find anywhere in Australia. We are lucky enough to have four seasons here to support our beautiful gardens, but the one critical factor that ensures survival of our gardens, and longevity of our business model, is water. Pollution to our water supply would be devastating " not only to Bendooley Estate, but to the reputation of our region as a whole.*

*The success of these events is solely dependent on the beauty of our manicured gardens and the pristine quality of our property. The aesthetics and tranquility of our estate are crucial in attracting couples and tourists, and any degradation to the surrounding environment could seriously jeopardise this aspect of our business.*

*Our Estate is also highly reliant on the integrity of our environment, especially as we are deeply invested in sustainable agricultural and winery operations. The proposed facility raises serious environmental concerns that could adversely impact our winery operations and threaten the long-term sustainability of our business.*

*The risk of microplastics contaminating the Wingecarribee River, and by extension, our water supply, is alarming. Microplastics are known to infiltrate ecosystems in ways that are invisible to the naked eye, making them particularly insidious. These particles, which are inhaled or absorbed through the skin, pose significant risks to our community and visitors. For a region that prides itself on its natural assets and commitment to sustainability, the introduction of a plastics recycling facility of this scale seems not only counterintuitive but potentially damaging to our long-term environmental goals.*

*I urge you to carefully consider the far-reaching consequences of this proposal, particularly the effect it may have on our water systems, local businesses, and our residents' health.*

*The Southern Highlands is a unique and vibrant community that relies on a clean and healthy environment. I implore you to explore alternative locations or reconsider the feasibility of the facility altogether.*

*I trust that you will consider the overwhelming number of community concerns relating to this proposal. There is no one in our community in support of this proposal, and the fear and concern for the health and wellbeing of our residents is absolutely critical. These concerns should be at the forefront in the decision-making process.*