



**SAM DONALDSON**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 211736

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

Submission date: 11/5/2024 12:01:02 PM

*I am writing to express my strong objection to Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd constructing and operating a plastics recycling and reprocessing facility at 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale NSW in the Wingecarribee local government area.*

### *IT IS NOT THE RIGHT SITE*

*This facility is too close to a residential area and a significant research centre, the Australian BioResources (ABR) Pty Ltd. It has no buffer zone and is within a critical water catchment zone that supplies drinking water to Sydney. I am deeply concerned that the approval of such a facility poses significant risks to the health, environment, safety, quality of life and economy of our community.*

#### *1. Health Risks:*

*Microplastics, nanoplastics, POPs, PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols, to name a few.*

*Plastics contain more than 13,000 chemicals, with thousands of them known to be hazardous to human health. The emissions from plastic recycling facilities and their harmful chemicals and particulate matter are well documented and pose potential health hazards to our children, elderly and residents with respiratory conditions. NSW Health don't have any comments on this proposal, they should have plenty of comments.*

#### *2. Environmental Impact on the Water Catchment Area:*

*The proposed site is within a crucial water catchment area, which supplies drinking water Sydney. The runoff and waste by-products from a plastics recycling plant will introduce microplastics, chemicals, and other pollutants into the water supply, harming aquatic ecosystems and potentially contaminating our drinking water. Any breach in environmental safeguards could result in long-term damage which would be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.*

#### *3. Impact on Property Values and Quality of Life:*

*The noise, traffic, and industrial activity associated with this type of factory are incompatible with the character of our neighbourhood. Increased heavy vehicle movement will disrupt our community and endanger local pedestrians, especially children. Additionally, the perception of pollution risks has already decreased property values, affecting the investments of many residents who have built their lives here.*



*The proposal does not fit in with \$270,000 Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) Master Plan that the State Government funded.*

#### *4. Economic Impacts:*

*The proposal will be eligible for government grants, I do not consent to my taxes contributing to the proposal in this location.*

*There will be increased costs in road maintenance as a result of the excessive number of trucks on local roads, the ratepayers won't want to bear these costs.*

*Property prices have already been affected as well as residents' retirement funding.*

#### *5. Fire:*

*This site will be 3 times the size of a Bunnings store with an inadequate buffer zone. There have been numerous fires at waste recycling facilities that are difficult to contain. We have 3 fire trucks in the Southern Highlands with any required assistance a minimum of 45 minutes away if available. A major fire at this site is more likely to be left to burn out due to size, access, lack of resources and volume of flammable stock resulting in toxins polluting the air and waterways. Fire and Rescue NSW tell us that any toxic smoke would rise directly upwards yet strangely Moss Vale is well known for the winds that occur. Even if it did rise up, where do the toxins end up?*

#### *6. Inadequate Planning and Alternatives:*

*The Department considers that these benefits can be realised without significant amenity or environmental impacts and therefore, considers the development is in the public interest and could be approved, subject to conditions.*

*It is not in the public interest, far from it.*

*The fact it will require significant mitigation and conditions is a strong indicator of its flaws in the first instance and who will monitor and regulate these conditions. What business/machinery operates 100% perfect 100% of the time? When machinery and/or operators fail the consequences will be devastating.*

*Whilst the proposal is technically permissible, it is risky in such a fragile environment. The Department has not stepped back and applied any common sense whatsoever. The government should be taking a precautionary approach and look at the bigger picture. This is not the right site in the government's fight against the plastic problem.*

*Alternative sites that do not threaten residential areas or natural resources should be investigated by the applicant. Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP "Member for Goulburn offered to assist in the search for a more suitable location that was declined.*



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

*Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust you will consider the concerns of my community and take appropriate action to protect our environment and quality of life.*

---

I am writing to express my strong objection to Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd constructing and operating a plastics recycling and reprocessing facility at 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale NSW in the Wingecarribee local government area.

## IT IS NOT THE RIGHT SITE

This facility is too close to a residential area and a significant research centre, the Australian BioResources (ABR) Pty Ltd. It has no buffer zone and is within a critical water catchment zone that supplies drinking water to Sydney. I am deeply concerned that the approval of such a facility poses significant risks to the health, environment, safety, quality of life and economy of our community.

### 1. Health Risks:

Microplastics, nanoplastics, POPs, PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols, to name a few. Plastics contain more than 13,000 chemicals, with thousands of them known to be hazardous to human health. The emissions from plastic recycling facilities and their harmful chemicals and particulate matter are well documented and pose potential health hazards to our children, elderly and residents with respiratory conditions. NSW Health don't have any comments on this proposal, they should have plenty of comments.

### 2. Environmental Impact on the Water Catchment Area:

The proposed site is within a crucial water catchment area, which supplies drinking water Sydney. The runoff and waste by-products from a plastics recycling plant will introduce microplastics, chemicals, and other pollutants into the water supply, harming aquatic ecosystems and potentially contaminating our drinking water. Any breach in environmental safeguards could result in long-term damage which would be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.

### 3. Impact on Property Values and Quality of Life:

The noise, traffic, and industrial activity associated with this type of factory are incompatible with the character of our neighbourhood. Increased heavy vehicle movement will disrupt our community and endanger local pedestrians, especially children. Additionally, the perception of pollution risks has already decreased property values, affecting the investments of many residents who have built their lives here.

The proposal does not fit in with \$270,000 Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) Master Plan that the State Government funded.

### 4. Economic Impacts:

The proposal will be eligible for government grants, I do not consent to my taxes contributing to the proposal in this location.

There will be increased costs in road maintenance as a result of the excessive number of trucks on local roads, the ratepayers won't want to bear these costs.

Property prices have already been affected as well as residents' retirement funding.

5. Fire:

This site will be 3 times the size of a Bunnings store with an inadequate buffer zone. There have been numerous fires at waste recycling facilities that are difficult to contain. We have 3 fire trucks in the Southern Highlands with any required assistance a minimum of 45 minutes away if available. A major fire at this site is more likely to be left to burn out due to size, access, lack of resources and volume of flammable stock resulting in toxins polluting the air and waterways. Fire and Rescue NSW tell us that any toxic smoke would rise directly upwards yet strangely Moss Vale is well known for the winds that occur. Even if it did rise up, where do the toxins end up?

6. Inadequate Planning and Alternatives:

"The Department considers that these benefits can be realised without significant amenity or environmental impacts and therefore, considers the development is in the public interest and could be approved, subject to conditions."

It is not in the public interest, far from it.

The fact it will require significant mitigation and conditions is a strong indicator of its flaws in the first instance and who will monitor and regulate these conditions. What business/machinery operates 100% perfect 100% of the time? When machinery and/or operators fail the consequences will be devastating.

Whilst the proposal is technically permissible, it is risky in such a fragile environment. The Department has not stepped back and applied any common sense whatsoever. The government should be taking a precautionary approach and look at the bigger picture. This is not the right site in the government's fight against the plastic problem.

Alternative sites that do not threaten residential areas or natural resources should be investigated by the applicant. Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP – Member for Goulburn offered to assist in the search for a more suitable location that was declined.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust you will consider the concerns of my community and take appropriate action to protect our environment and quality of life.