



SUSAN ANSELL

OBJECT

Submission ID: 211738

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)</i>
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: Attached overleaf	

Submission date: 11/5/2024 12:16:12 PM

Hello, I am Susan Ansell

*I grew up in the Southern Highlands. It's always been a real highlight to take my own children, and now grandchildren, back to Moss Vale to visit family and enjoy the fresh air and play in the garden, a garden that actually overlooks the land that is, the now proposed site for Plasrefine. I know this land, watched each tree grow up, wandered the boundaries where the multiple Springs leak in wet weather, known the dam when it is overflowing or dried out and felt that crunch of the grass in the dry, and been on lookout for fire that could simply whip across this land.*

*And it's just NOT THE RIGHT SITE*

*Commissioners, I feel that this will be more of an impassioned plea for the children. I want to speak FOR the children as a mother, grandmother and primary school teacher.*

*So what would they present in class about the Plasrefine project? What would they conclude would be IMPACTFUL on the region?*

*Why so close to Moss Vale they might ask? Why is it going to fall just outside a town boundary? Other facilities in NSW have an effective buffer zone of at least 1.9km. So how impactful could this be on those homes less than 200 metres away and on the several schools that start just over the hill.*

*A deeper dive would follow, with consideration of impacts of this facility on a wider Southern Highland region. What about a fire or worst still an explosive fire. I myself have witnessed for many years the ferocity of those winds that belt through this region. If the Westerly were to blow at her top speeds, the plastics fire would be at our gate and at our feet in moments. Children live on these bordering properties. The winds are frequent, the westerly blows regularly over 30kms/hr and up to 100kms/hr, and more. The many larger plastics factory fires that have occurred internationally typically required 30-40 appliances to gain some control of the fire. Ideas that smoke rises vertically is not what I have witnessed from this vantage point either. More like horizontally, driven or carried on winds coming from every direction, dragging it across the Southern Highlands townships.*

*But onwards we investigate!, our precious water*

*Over the decades I have walked many times across this undulating (not flat!) piece of land. So often it is boggy, almost like a marsh land. Not surprising with it having a Category 2 riparian waterway running through it. How does one construct a 3 hectare set of buildings alongside these waterways without disturbing them significantly. I note that it was difficult enough trying to build a very basic road, the Braddon Road, across this riparian waterway with Springs of water popping up and leakage from the dam. It took forever and is not designed for heavy vehicle movement today.*

*Then the Microplastics. We know that when plastic is re-cycled it releases pollutants and toxins into the environment. And there is still no technology out there that can recover it 100% via filters. It's a big problem. According to the GHD report Residual air would be discharged from a stack (I believe it may be 4 stacks) on the roof, and dispersed to minimise ground impacts. Minimise !, probably not a word that instils confidence.*

*So the students would be now off and running !.if at least 6% of processed plastics end up in our environment !..will this mean a percentage of pollutant is going to be blown on me, onto my backyard, school playground,*



*for me to breathe every day. If a percentage of these forever chemicals will enter the waterways could this contaminate my tap water? Will the vegetables I eat from local growers contain more microplastics from wind and water. When I drink the milk from the cows who have eaten the grass that is now contaminated with nanoplastics that we can't even see with the naked eye, am I absorbing more than I bargained for. When an explosion occurs in the facility are we actually in danger, if what goes up must come down, tell me how it will harm my young growing body!..*

*And here's the kicker!..children, when exposed to the same levels of pollutants as adults, are at risk for more acute health impacts!..due to their rapid development. Tiny little nanoplastics storing in their bodies for years, even in their developing brains. We're truly sorry kids!..we are doing our best to stand for you. We cannot raise a generation of sick kids. It's a crime to know what we know, and not consider a safer site for Plasrefine.*

*On a personal note, retirement to our little family home at the end of Beaconsfield Rd would be an inconceivable choice now (with the health risks) if Plasrefine were approved. I have spoken to many families who have said they would need to leave the Southern Highlands, not willing to face these risks for their children. Talk about Social Impact!! While we understand what is going INTO the facility, we still have no trustworthy source of information as to what will come OUT of it, let alone how to trust the monitoring and reporting processes that would be essential to have established prior.*

*Let's not blot our history books with another human lapse of good judgement*

*Let's aim for Prevention rather than Remediation*

*We need to get this one right*

*This is simply NOT THE RIGHT SITE*

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