



AMY BREGONJE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215719

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic</i>
Location: New South Wales 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

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I object to the proposed plastic recycling refinery in Moss Vale on the following grounds:

- 1. Too close to residential areas*
- 2. Too close to the Garvan Institute high risk to human and animal loss in event of fire, noise and vibration may disrupt the breeding cycle of the research mice.*
- 3. Too close to schools*
- 4. Increased heavy vehicle traffic creating noise pollution, air pollution, dust, vibration, potential accidents, potential fatalities of wildlife, potential importation of weeds from other areas, increased degradation of roads.*
- 5. Increased vehicular traffic from worker light vehicles entering and exiting the site creating noise, dust, potential accidents, vibration, etc.*
- 6. Potential environmental impact of air pollution from the 'stacks' (or vents) that may be released from the ventilation system in the event of a malfunction/failure of the current air filtration processes. In the event of a failure of process, these fumes could include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other hazardous toxins that may be harmful to health.*
- 7. Removal of habitat for the microbat recorded by the EPA this bat is on the red list for endangered species.*
- 8. Too close to riparian zones*
- 9. Potential disturbance to platypus habitats during building and operation of site. Run-off may increase water sedimentation and cause riverbank erosion diminishing habitat of local downstream platypus.*
- 10. Other potential biodiversity loss includes removal of tableland swamp meadows, removal of mountain grey gums, removal of habitat for southern myotis and large bent winged bat listed as endangered and vulnerable, respectively. Other direct and indirect impacts due to vegetation removal on birds, insects, frogs, reptiles, koalas and kangaroos, and eastern long necked turtle (chelodina longicollis).*
- 11. Plastic recycling refineries are usually classed as heavy industrial, due to risk of air/water*



pollution in event of failure of safety processes and extremely high fire risk. There have been over 19 devastating fires associated with plastics facilities since 2019 in Australia alone. The question of fire is not if, but when.

12. It should not be placed in an area renowned for its viticulture, agritourism and close to the most preserved Georgian village (Berrima) on mainland Australia. It will be detrimental to the local tourist industry.

13. It should not be in the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) precinct. This future developmental area is earmarked for biotech industries, research, agri-research, light industry and the like, and is set to become a major economic driver for our shire and future employment. It will be detrimental to the long-term plan for the SHIP as it will deter the SHIP from attracting innovative, sustainable businesses (particularly in the Research & Advanced Manufacturing sub-precinct) who will not desire to set up next to a factory with potential huge fire risk, large numbers of heavy vehicles coming & going on the shared roads and potential air/water contamination in the event of failed filtration processes.

14. Our local fire services are very small. Moss Vale station is unmanned and entirely voluntary, with only one fire truck. There are only 4 trucks and 1 hazmat vehicle in the Highlands others are 76km away at Campbelltown (50 mins in no traffic), Goulburn (45 mins in no traffic) or further at Shellharbour.

15. The fires that occur in these facilities are common with temperatures reaching ~1000 degrees centigrade (see information on Hume, ACT fire in December 2022). It is usual for much smaller facilities to require 80+ firefighters, 15 pump trucks and 6 hazmat vehicles and still they are unable to extinguish them, having to let them burn out in their own time meanwhile with toxic plumes billowing for days. In the interim, residents, schools and businesses must evacuate due to the thick black toxic fumes and smoke which is hazardous to health, if not potentially lethal. Fires fuelled by plastic waste may release dioxins, benzene, hydrogen cyanide, cyanide, chlorine, carbon monoxide and VOCs into the environment. Breathing in these fumes has the potential to cause asthma deaths, potential sarcoidosis, cancer, nervous system disorders, genetic impacts, developmental impacts, leukaemia and reproductive disorders down the time-line. This is of particular impact to vulnerable (elderly and very young) and those with respiratory illnesses.

16. Chemicals in plastic are potent environmental pollutants how will these emissions be safely monitored? What will be done if they are found to be over safe limits?



17. *The safe acceptability limit for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water is currently being reviewed in many countries around the world. The NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) is the Australian Government's primary health and medical research funding agency it is critical in influencing policy decisions made by the federal and state governments of Australia. The NHMRC recently released proposed new drinking water guidelines for public consultation, which recommend lower values for PFAS in drinking water across Australia, which the NSW Government has welcomed (NSW Government welcomes NHMRC proposed guidelines on drinking water and PFAS | NSW Government).*

18. *Bad odours throughout neighboring towns*

19. *Psychological impacts and property devaluation the proposed buildings will be the size of Bunnings stores and there is no buffer zone for the nearby residents. This will have a negative impact on their property values and enjoyment of their properties, potentially causing stress and subsequent mental health issues. The plastic recycling refinery in Parkes NSW has a buffer zone of at least 7km.*

20. *Human rights it is a basic human right to have access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Australia was, until recently, the only liberal democracy in the world that did not have a national act to protect its citizens' basic rights.*

21. *When the recycling facility closes, will Plasrefine remediate the land at their cost or do we the taxpayer's have to foot the bill twice, once to set it up and secondly to clean it up?*

22. *Plastics can generally only be recycled 2-3 times, with increasing hazardous chemicals building up with each recycling process. At the end of this 2-3 x cycle, plastics will end up in landfill (so recycling is not a good long-term solution, as it only delays the landfill issue).*
