



**DAWN SCHUBERT**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 214730

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: Attached overleaf	

Submission date: 11/16/2024 1:10:36 PM

*I am writing to express my strong objection to DPHI's recommendation of approval for the Plasrefine Recycling Facility in Moss Vale. I believe there are significant social impacts already occurring in our community and will continue to occur in the years to come if this proposal were to proceed. The DPHI's assessment fails our community and their mitigation attempts are hugely inadequate.*

*The DPHI Assessment Report on Plasrefine, states in its opening paragraphs regarding the social impact of this development that they 'identified several high negative social impacts' effects on people's sense of place and surroundings, potential impacts on psychological health from stress, anxiety and fear.'*

*I am not a psychologist I do not have qualifications in Social Science, I have a Masters in Education but even more relevant is that I have a concern for our community and the stress and anxiety they are experiencing due to the Plasrefine proposal. I conducted a letterbox drop survey of residents in Beaconsfield Road and it's off shoot streets plus upper Bulwer Road.*

*I used the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7) which is an easy to perform initial screening tool for generalised anxiety disorder and it states "When screening for anxiety disorders, a score of 8 or greater represents a reasonable cut-point for identifying probable cases of generalised anxiety disorder, further diagnostic assessment is warranted to determine the presence and type of anxiety disorder.'*

*On the flip side I asked some general questions.*

â€¢ Would you consider becoming a member of Plasrefines Community Consultative Committee?

â€¢ Can you see any positives to this proposal?

*112 surveys delivered, 34 returned, 30.35% return. I note with interest that Urban Ethos distributed 2000 surveys with 395 responses, 19.75% return.*

*My Results:*

â€¢	Score 0 4	Minimal Anxiety.	3 people	9.37%
â€¢	Score 5 9	Mild Anxiety.	9 people	28.12%%
â€¢	Score 10 14	Moderate Anxiety	6 people	18.75%
â€¢	Score greater than 15:	Severe Anxiety	14 people	43.75%

*2 people did not complete this side of the survey.*

*1 person commented that the anxiety was a result of work pressure and the cost of living.*

*The score of 8 or more according to GAD-7 is a reasonable cut off point for identifying probable cases of generalized anxiety disorder. 23 people fell within this range, that's 71.87% of people surveyed. This level of anxiety is extreme, and the number of people identifying within this range is greater than just sensitive receivers. The level of anxiety in our community is heightened due to the Plasrefine proposal.*



*Side 1 of Survey*

*Map of survey distribution.*

*Survey Questions:*

â€¢ Would you consider becoming a member of Plasrefines Community Consultative Committee? Yes-  
1 No -14 Possibly -2

1 - â€œNot sure what it would achieve'

â€¢ Can you see any positives to this proposal?

Yes 2 â€œbringing the community together' No - 31

1â€œadditional employment but I wouldn't want my children working there'

*DPHI Assessment Report*

*Dr Roberta Ryan was engaged by the DPHI to provide an independent merit review of the SIA. It is noted that this was a desk top review and the community is rather miffed that she did not visit the site or talk to any real people who will be impacted the most by this proposal. Dr Ryan concluded the SIA â€œadequately addresses the social impacts subject to the implementation of the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) and establishment of the Community Consultative Plan (CCP)(page 42)*

*Departments Consideration*

*137. The SIA identified some less tangible social impacts which would remain despite mitigation and management strategies. These include â€œpsychological health risks from stress and anxiety, and fear.*

*62.5% of survey participants identified in the Moderate to Severe Anxiety range and I believe the proposed mitigation strategies will do NOTHING to reduce this stress and anxiety. I have heard and observed in my community individuals having sleepless nights, migranes, heart papulations, visits to hospital. This is real and this will continue if this facility is approved.*

*6.1.4. Conclusion*

*139. The Department also notes the mitigation measures proposed by the applicant in the SIA are extensive and designed to alleviate social impacts as much as possible, including perceived impacts.*

*The DPHI like using the word â€œperceived' â€œ these social impacts are real, these are real people!  
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*Recommended Conditions of Consent*

*Social Impact Management Plan*

*B1. (p11) A SIMP must be prepared, and include point (d) measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate the developments negative social impacts, including specific measures to minimise stress- related impacts.*

*According to Professor Ryan (Ethos Urban) any remaining negative impacts will be sorted by implementing this Social Impact Management Plan*

*Mitigation Measure Failure.*



â€¢ If the SIMP is such a detailed plan that will alleviate any remaining stress related impacts SURELY this document should be prepared prior to the project been approved so that the DPHI and the community can assess it accordingly.

â€¢ I noted with interest a SIMP that was prepared for Mangoola Open Cut Mine at Wybong NSW and the detail to alleviate stress around air pollutants was to: - clean water tanks annually and install filters, plus install first flush systems on the roof for a 4 kilometre radius from the mine. This is the level of detail residents in Moss Vale are needing. This was of interest to me as our new home is totally reliant on rain water and I am 480m direct line (nti.com.au) from the Plasrefine site.

â€¢ Plasrefine to date have done nothing to reduce the communities stress / anxiety levels. Plasrefines community consultations have only heightened our anxiety and frustrations over this project.

â€¢ Any future engagement strategies will be extremely difficult. There is no level of trust in Plasrefine in this community.

â€¢ A SIMP is another tick a box exercise that will fail to reduce stress-related impacts.

#### Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Again professor Ryan states that forming this committee will reduce our stress and anxiety. Only 1 person from my survey responded that they would consider joining this committee while 2 people responded possibly.

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â€¢ From my survey over 66% self identified has having moderate to severe anxiety because of the Plasrefine proposal. Many of these people will not be eligible for EAP services because they do not live on the haulage route or adjacent to the proposal.

â€¢ Placing a time limit of up to the first year of operation, is ridiculous, this stress and anxiety will continue well beyond this time limit, as Urban Ethos acknowledge with their residual Impact rating as being High.

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### **My Results:**

- |                          |                  |           |        |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|--------|
| • Score 0 – 4            | Minimal Anxiety. | 3 people  | 9.37%  |
| • Score 5 – 9            | Mild Anxiety.    | 9 people  | 28.12% |
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Hello,

I am working on my submission for the Plasrefine Plastic Factory proposal . I am looking at the level of stress and anxiety this proposal is causing the nearest residents and if Plasrefines mitigation strategies will help.

If you are able, could you please complete this 2 sided survey and drop it back to my mailbox at **62 Beaconsfield Rd by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**. If you would like extra copies, there will be some on the table near my mailbox. Thanks Dawn

### Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7) Share

The Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item (GAD-7) is a easy to perform initial screening tool for generalized anxiety disorder<sup>1</sup>.

Over the <b>last 2 weeks</b> , how often have you been bothered by the following problems?	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
1. Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
2. Not being able to stop or control worrying	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
3. Worrying too much about different things	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
4. Trouble relaxing	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
5. Being so restless that it is hard to sit still	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
6. Becoming easily annoyed or irritable	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
7. Feeling afraid as if something awful might happen	<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3

GAD-7 score obtained by adding score for each question (total points)

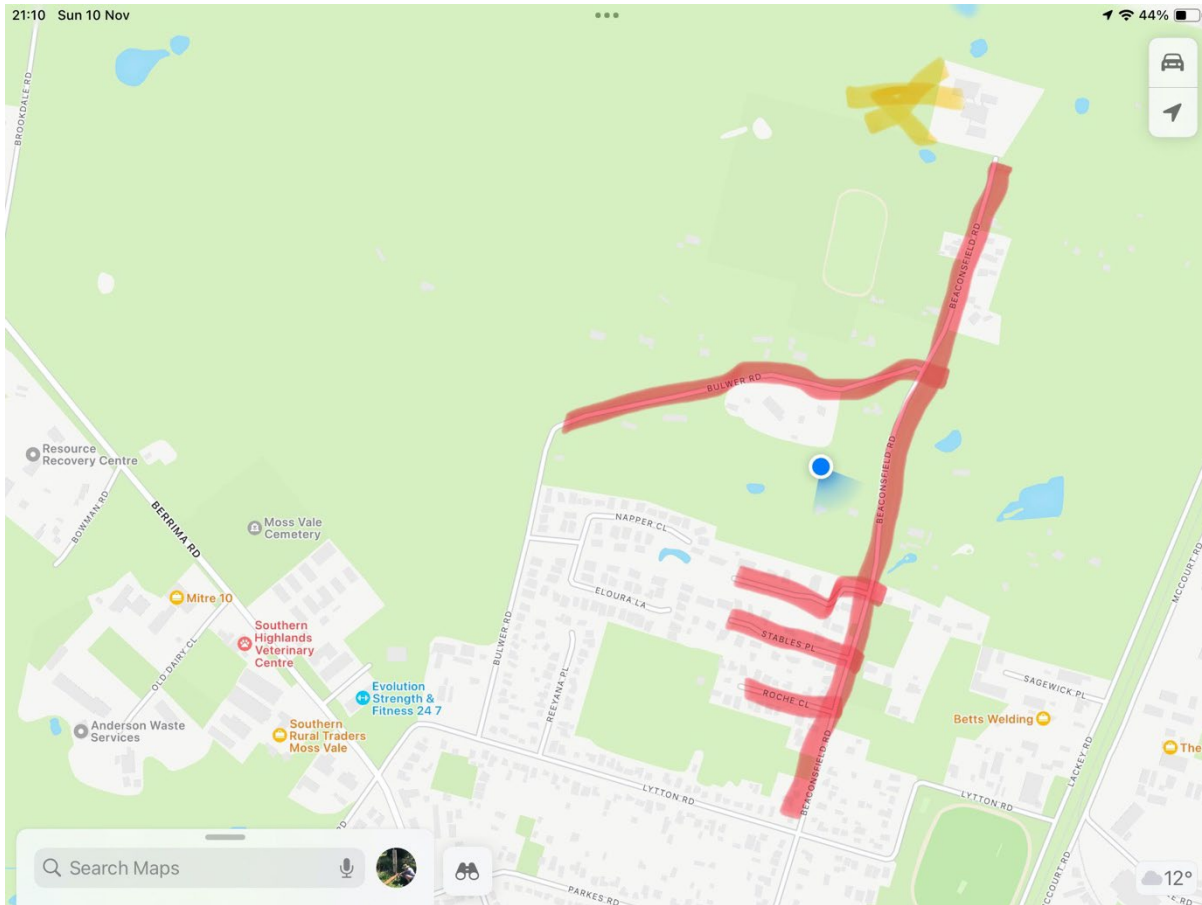
Interpretation:

**When screening for anxiety disorders, a score of 8 or greater represents a reasonable cut-point for identifying probable cases of generalized anxiety disorder;** further diagnostic assessment is warranted to determine the presence and type of anxiety disorder. Using a cut-off of 8 the GAD-7 has a sensitivity of 92% and specificity of 76% for diagnosis generalized anxiety disorder. <sup>2,3</sup>

The following cut-offs correlate with level of anxiety severity:

- Score 0-4: Minimal Anxiety
- Score 5-9: Mild Anxiety
- Score 10-14: Moderate Anxiety
- Score greater than 15: Severe Anxiety

Based on a recent meta-analysis, some experts have recommended considering using a cut-off of 8 in order to optimize sensitivity without compromising specificity<sup>2</sup>.



Map of survey distribution.

Survey Questions:

- Would you consider becoming a member of Plasrefines Community Consultative Committee? Yes- 1      No -14      Possibly -2  
1 - 'Not sure what it would achieve'
- Can you see any positives to this proposal?  
Yes – 2 'bringing the community together' No - 31  
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