



**JO ANGRI**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 214876

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 2577	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/17/2024 8:27:21 AM

*My name is Jo Angri, and I am 63 years old. I live just 0.7 kilometers from the proposed Plasrefine Soft Plastics Recycling Facility site in Moss Vale, NSW.*

*I am on the Disability Support Pension because of my legs, and my garden is my sanctuary—a place where I find peace, joy, and connection to nature.*

*I object strongly to the Plasrefine development, as it will affect air quality, ambient noise levels, the value of my home, my health and it poses undeniable risks to the environment, local wildlife, the community, and myself.*

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

*The Plasrefine facility's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) outlines the use of mechanical recycling processes such as shredding, granulating, extrusion, and pelletizing. These processes have well-documented risks, as follows:*

**Airborne Emissions:**

*Shredding and granulating release microplastics and dust, while heating plastics during extrusion and pelletizing emits volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hazardous air pollutants. Studies have shown that such emissions pose serious risks to respiratory health, especially for nearby residents. GHD, Plasrefine's consultant, suggests the local community could avoid exposure by staying indoors with windows shut for five hours daily while the facility's roller doors remain open. This is an outrageous proposition. It disregards our right to fresh air and sunlight, both essential for physical and mental health.*

**Noise Pollution:**

*The constant operation of shredders, granulators, and extruders will generate substantial noise, diminishing residents' quality of life and causing stress, particularly in a quiet rural setting like Moss Vale. Prolonged exposure to industrial noise is linked to hearing loss and mental health issues.*

**Traffic and Road Safety:**

*The facility will bring increased heavy vehicle traffic, leading to noise, vibration, and air pollution from diesel emissions. There is also the risk of accidents involving wildlife and pedestrians, further degrading our community's livability.*

**Fire Hazards:**

*Plastic recycling facilities are prone to fires, with temperatures reaching up to 1000°C. Moss Vale's fire services are understaffed, and local resources would be overwhelmed by such an incident. Toxic fumes from burning plastics—dioxins, cyanide, benzene—would pose immediate and long-term health risks to residents and the environment.*

**Environmental Concerns**



*Moss Vale is known for its green spaces and unique biodiversity. The proposed site is dangerously close to two riparian zones, located only 10 meters from streams that feed into the Wingecarribee River and ultimately the Warragamba Dam, Sydney's primary drinking water source.*

#### *Water Contamination:*

*The mechanical recycling process generates wastewater containing microplastics and chemical residues. Any filtration failures could pollute local waterways, harming aquatic life and introducing microplastics into the food chain.*

#### *Wildlife Impacts:*

*The Wingecarribee River is home to platypus, an endangered species, whose habitat is at risk from sedimentation and runoff. Other vulnerable species, including the glossy black cockatoo, microbats, and long-necked turtles, will face habitat loss and disruption. These animals rely on the very green spaces this facility threatens.*

#### **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

*The proposed location lies within the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP), an area intended to attract biotech and sustainable businesses. Allowing an industrial-scale plastic recycling facility in this zone will undermine these goals. Businesses requiring pristine environments, such as the Australian BioResources Facility (ABR) just 50 meters away, could be disrupted by noise, vibration, and fire risks. This facility is crucial for medical research into cancer, mental illness, and other critical health conditions.*

*Additionally, the size and operation of the facility "comparable to three Bunnings Warehouses" will devalue nearby properties. For residents like me, who have invested their life savings into their homes, this is a devastating prospect.*

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE FAILURES**

*Access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment is a basic human right. Recently, Australia passed its first national Human Rights (Healthy Environment) law, obligating governments to address harm and uphold environmental protections. Approving the Plasrefine project would contradict this law, exposing residents to preventable harm.*

*The Wingecarribee Council's history of governance failures adds to the community's mistrust of this development. The Plasrefine development plan was lodged and proceeded under a previous Council body that was dismissed and placed under administration due to significant dysfunction and inappropriate dealings. Residents should not have to bear the consequences of their mismanagement.*

#### **CULTURAL RISKS**

*An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) for the site will only be developed after project approval. This backward approach treats cultural heritage as an afterthought rather than a priority. As a nation, we must do better to preserve and respect Indigenous culture and history.*

#### **CONCLUSION: THIS IS PERSONAL**

*This proposal is not just about compliance "it is deeply personal. My home is my sanctuary. My garden, the wildlife, and the green spaces around me provide vital mental and physical health support. Living with a disability, and not owning a car, my local neighbourhood is the only place I can venture out, therefore my garden and the surrounding natural spaces are my only peace and stability. I should not have to fear foul odors, unsafe air, or the constant noise of heavy machinery and trucks.*



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

*I urge the Independent Planning Commission to consider the real, personal impacts this facility will have on people like me, who will have to live with its consequences daily. This together with the overarching risks to local health, safety, the environment, and cultural heritage far outweigh any potential benefits.*

*Please, reject the Plasrefine proposal in the interest of the land, the community, and future generations.*

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