



JOSEPHINE DE GIORGIO

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215468

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| 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 2122 | |
| Attachment: N/A | |

Submission date: 11/18/2024 7:01:48 PM

To the Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed Plasrefine plastics recycling facility in Moss Vale. As someone who regularly visits the Southern Highlands - and has family and friends who live there - I am deeply concerned about the potential impact this project would have on the region's environment, safety, and quality of life.

A major issue is the plant's close proximity to the Wingecarribee River, a critical source that flows into Warragamba Dam, providing drinking water to Sydney. The risk of pollution from runoff containing microplastics or chemical by-products is alarming. While recent assurances now claim that emissions will be controlled by limiting roller door openings to 42 minutes a day (instead of five hours), this seems logistically questionable. It is unclear how such a limit could be maintained in practice, and more importantly, who will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance. Without robust, transparent oversight, these assurances could fall flat, leaving the local community and environment exposed to real dangers.

The site's location on bushfire-prone land further amplifies safety concerns. Fires at facilities handling plastic waste have been known to emit toxic smoke and require extensive emergency response resources. Given the volunteer-based fire services in the area, any significant incident could overwhelm local capabilities and pose risks to residents' health.

There is also a broader issue of how this industrial project will affect the region's character and economy. The Southern Highlands thrives on its reputation for natural beauty and as a destination for tourists and those seeking a peaceful escape. The presence of a heavy industrial facility could tarnish this image, impacting local businesses (many of whom rely so heavily on tourism) and property values. It will irreversibly alter the character of the region for the worse.

For all these reasons, I urge the Independent Planning Commission to reject this proposal. The potential risks and the strain on community resources and oversight make this project entirely unsuited for the Southern Highlands.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Josephine De Giorgio
