



LUCY NIAS

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215488

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

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Whilst I appreciate that we need urgently to address the problem of plastics in our chain of consumption - whether single or multi-use use - I do not think that the proposal at Moss Vale is the solution. There are a number of reasons why this is the case:

- 1. We need to be addressing the plastics problem from the production end not the post-use end. There is no real need for plastics to be part of our consumption cycle to the extent that they are. Wrappings are more a matter of fear and convenience than necessity and can be changed for other compostable substances.*
- 2. We definitely need to recycle the plastic we do use, but this particular choice of location is misguided. It is planned to be sited in a significant waterway that contributes to the drinking water of 10s of millions of people and any outflow (even controlled and monitored) will be toxic.*
- 3. With climate change causing erratic weather patterns and flooding/fires a now common - almost annual - occurrence in our waterways, through our towns and outlying areas, there is no guarantee of control of outflow from a planned facility in this area.*
- 4. The processing will use a huge amount of water which is already currently allocated to existing pastoral and domestic/business users which is as it should be. Although the Southern Highlands is seen from outside as a cool and damp area things fluctuate wildly and water gets very limited in dry seasons. We have recent memory of drought which brought very real hardship to many.*
- 5. The proposed site is extremely close to residential areas including the facilities that furnish suburbs - homes, schools, gardens (where people grow food and live their lives) and will put out heat and particulate air pollution into these places. Anyone down wind of the facility would be rightfully concerned about the hot and toxic exhaust fumes*
- 6. The current list of proposed uses for the recycled plastic beads are seriously unattractive and the demand for objects made of recycled plastic is still fairly limited. It is possible to see ongoing demand for wheelie bins and milk/food containers, but plastic building materials such as decking, weather boards, etc are highly flammable, toxic, non-porous and they off-gas dangerously. Picnic benches/public street furniture made of plastic are hot, sweaty to sit on, off-gasses, ages badly and look awful. Currently the science around plastic recycling has only managed to achieve bulk down-cycling. The current recycling process is toxic and renders next generation plastic items more toxic than first stage plastics.*
- 7. Most raw materials for this facility will be coming from Sydney and further afield and as such will generate huge volumes of traffic. Local roads do not have the capacity for this and the local community does not have the appetite for bigger roads and greater volumes of traffic.*

As a result of the above points, neither the site nor the process proposed at Moss Vale are right. They are going to cause negative social and environmental disruption.