



LUKE HAWLEY

OBJECT

Submission ID: 214754

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic</i>
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: N/A	

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a plastic re-processing factory in Moss Vale, New South Wales. While I understand the need for industrial development and recycling initiatives, I believe the proposed facility raises serious environmental, health, and safety concerns that must be addressed before any approval is granted.

1. Impact on Local Aboriginal Land and Heritage

This area is rich in cultural significance to the local Aboriginal community, and the proposed development could severely impact culturally important sites and heritage values. The Southern Highlands is part of traditional Aboriginal land, and many areas in and around Moss Vale are likely to contain significant archaeological, spiritual, and cultural sites. The factory's construction and ongoing operations may lead to:

Disturbance or destruction of important Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

A loss of connection to country for local Aboriginal communities who have deep ties to this land.

The long-term effects of industrial pollution could harm areas of cultural significance, leading to irreversible damage to both the land and the community's cultural practices.

Given the cultural importance of the land, any proposed development must be subject to thorough consultation with local Aboriginal communities to ensure that their voices are heard and that the project does not cause irreversible harm to their heritage.

2. Environmental Pollution and Biodiversity Loss

The Southern Highlands is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna, many of which are unique to the region. The introduction of a plastic re-processing facility, especially one that is likely to generate air and water pollutants, poses a serious risk to local biodiversity. I am deeply concerned that the factory's operations could lead to:

The release of harmful microplastics into the environment, contaminating local waterways, soils, and wildlife habitats.

A decline in the health and numbers of native species, some of which may already be threatened or vulnerable.

Increased noise, light, and chemical pollution, disrupting the natural ecosystems that are vital to maintaining the region's biodiversity.

The Southern Highlands is renowned for its natural beauty and ecological significance, and it is crucial that we protect these unique landscapes from degradation caused by industrial activities. The proposed factory, particularly in an area of such ecological importance, could have far-reaching consequences on the health of our local environment for years to come.

3. Traffic and Transport Impacts



The proposal includes 100 large truck movements per day, which will have a profound impact on local infrastructure. This increase in heavy vehicle traffic would lead to:

Traffic congestion and safety risks, especially in a town like Moss Vale, where the road network is not designed to accommodate such high volumes of trucks.

The degradation of local roads, which would require additional maintenance, costing the community.

The potential for accidents and safety hazards, especially near residential areas, schools, and businesses.

4. Health and Safety Risks from Chemical Exposure and Fires

The proposed factory could involve the use of hazardous chemicals in the recycling process, posing significant health risks to local residents and workers. Furthermore, the risk of a chemical fire at an industrial facility that operates 24/7 could have devastating consequences for both human health and the local environment. The release of toxic smoke or chemicals into the air could pose long-term health risks to the community, and the fire's impact could extend far beyond the immediate area.

5. Noise and Air Pollution

A 24-hour operation would generate significant noise pollution, disturbing local residents and wildlife. This constant noise could have detrimental effects on both human wellbeing and animal habitats. Additionally, air pollution from the factory's operations could compromise air quality in the region, putting vulnerable individuals, including children, the elderly, and those with respiratory issues, at increased risk.

6. Community Wellbeing and Local Economy

Moss Vale is a town that prides itself on its environmental quality and community-focused way of life. The introduction of a large industrial facility like this would change the character of the area and could have lasting impacts on property values, local businesses, and tourism. Many residents and visitors are drawn to Moss Vale because of its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere—these could be seriously compromised by the establishment of a heavy industrial site.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I strongly object to the proposed development of a plastic re-processing factory in Moss Vale. The risks to public health, safety, the local environment, and Aboriginal cultural heritage far outweigh any potential benefits of the facility. I urge the relevant authorities to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative locations for industrial development, where these risks can be mitigated, and where the values of the Southern Highlands community—its environment, culture, and quality of life—can be preserved for future generations.

Thank you for considering my submission
