



LYNDA BURKE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215016

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 2576	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/17/2024 2:48:10 PM

I wish to OBJECT to this proposal on the following grounds:

1. Threats to health, safety and the environment, independently verified by EPA and the community.

Emissions: Critical information on filtration systems being used for emissions will not be available until post approval. This is unacceptable. GHD's modelling relies heavily on predictions and unclarified language. Again, unacceptable.

Forever Chemical Pollution: It is impossible to remove POPs from wastewater and the site's water treatment plants. The sewer screening cannot remove POPs. Once in the wastewater, they will eventually enter Sydney Water Catchment. They cannot be removed.

Microplastics: 'Chemical additives in plastics represent an extreme hazard in all current recycling methods'; plastic waste is not inert.' (PEN: International Pollutants Elimination Network: Sweden, 29 June 23)

Resident and Commercial Impacts: Nearby residents and businesses will endure risk of emissions, noise, vibration, light spillage and smells. Odours have not been addressed with any rigour in the amended DA.

Truck Movements: Heavy vehicle traffic will impact the safety of drivers and pedestrians. Trucks queuing at a level crossing will emit noise and diesel fumes. It will be unbearable for residents. The moving of a level crossing will impact badly on new businesses in Red Fields Road. GHD have stated that the damage to our roads from these trucks will be the council's responsibility. Rate payers will have to fund this.

2. Ecological Impacts

A riparian zone traverses the site. Water feeds into Sydney Water Catchment. The local river system supports platypus and water birds.

Southern Highlands Shale Woodland has been designated as a Threatened Ecological Community. Eucalyptus Macarthurii would be removed. They have significance as a bird habitat and for seed generation. Why are these trees suddenly of no value in the amended DA? Offset planting on this site would be very challenging due to the rabbit and kangaroo population.

3. Fire

There are many instances of catastrophic fires in plastics recycling facilities globally. They occur regularly in Australia. They can and are ignited by very small lithium ion batteries. This danger is new and real.

We do not have the local facilities to deal with a fire of such enormity. Residents would need to be evacuated, water would be contaminated and air polluted.

Fire NSW have indicated an assessment screening (SEPP 33) following DA approval. Too late!

The site is in a bushfire zone, as outlined by Tristan Ryall on Day 3 of public hearings.

4. Site:



The site conflicts with WSC's master plan for the Southern Highlands Innovation Park, intended to be for clean, green innovative businesses.

5. Weather:

There are persistent SW winds on this site. On Day 3 of the public hearing, the proponent's representative was unconvincing when attempting to outline how and when the roller doors would operate to manage waste escaping.

The area floods. This will have a detrimental affect on managing toxic waste material.

The Southern Highlands experiences periods of low rainfall and drought. Plasrefine states it will use 18 kilolitres of water per day and will reuse some water and has three tanks. Water demand will be taken from our water supply. It will be directed to 'business' as a priority. Locals will be on restrictions. The wastewater expelled will be contaminated.

Aesthetics:

The proposed factory would be an enormous structure totally out of scale with the surrounding buildings, including residential homes. It could set a precedent for future inappropriate developments in the area.

Compliance:

Many critical details about this facility haven't been determined and are to be part of the 'final design process'. With major concerns for health, safety and the environment, this is not acceptable. If the EPA puts conditions on the EPL, who will monitor compliance? The proponent has [REDACTED]. The community does not trust the proponent to be compliant.

Conclusion:

There is a lack of rigorous, scientific information in the EIS and DA. This makes it impossible for any agencies to determine if this facility meets approval requirements.

The NSW Government has a Constitutional Duty of Care for its citizens. This factory poses huge risks for the local community and beyond.

I support efficient plastics recycling using state of the art technologies on a site that won't cause harm to humans and the environment and run by a company with a demonstrated track record for compliance and safety in Australia.
