



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 214528

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 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/15/2024 7:56:21 PM

As a highlands community member, and parent of an immunocompromised child that attends school (along with her non-immunocompromised sibling) within mere kilometres of the proposed site, I wish to strongly object to the submission to build a plastics recycling facility in Moss Vale. There is overwhelming community outrage over the potential for a facility the size and scale of this facility to be built in an area that is so close to residential area, to schools and to biosecure facilities, as well as the beautiful natural landscapes that Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands offers to its residents. Not to mention the Sydney Water Catchment area.

My submission, like many others, will reference numerous health concerns which cannot and should not be ignored by the State Government. Whilst it is important to recognise that plastics recycling is an important part of efforts to contribute to reduction of single use plastic waste, this is NOT THE RIGHT SITE.

Air Pollution and Respiratory issues can result from the inhalation of toxic emissions from plastics recycling processes, including the shredding, melting and reforming, of plastics. The release of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are known endocrine disrupting chemicals which can cause significant harm to reproductive systems as well as cause respiratory issues, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The suggestion from the applicant that residents can minimise their exposure to these harmful chemicals by limiting the amount of time they spend outside is a tone deaf response to a valid health concern.

Recycled plastics contain other dangerous chemicals in addition to VOC's including phthalates and Bisphenol A (BPA) and other heavy metals. As someone who suffers from an endocrine disorder as a result of exposure to many years of endocrine disrupting chemicals (before we knew this as a cause of infertility, of skin disorders, and other health concerns), I do not want my children or the children in this community to be exposed to vastly higher concentrations of such chemicals. The facility can be relocated to a more remote location where these issues would not be acutely felt by the community. This is NOT THE RIGHT SITE.

Environmental Contamination is a real concern. We are in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Area, the operation of the facility, the volume of trucks that would need to drive in and out every day polluting the atmosphere nearby could lead to contamination of local soil and water sources. Once this happens the impact is significant and can impact local ecosystems and enter the food chain, posing risks to both wildlife and human health. We have seen a similar thing occur in Port Stephens with the PFAS use at RAAF Williamtown. It has devastated the local community and impacted the environment. That situation is too late. This facility has not yet been built. Build it somewhere else where the impact is not as great. This is NOT THE RIGHT SITE.

Proximity to Residential areas and schools. The proposed site is in close proximity to residential areas and several schools, including the one that my children attend. The release of toxic emissions and pollutants poses a direct threat to the health and wellbeing of many children, including vulnerable children. Increased traffic and noise pollution from facility operations can further impact the quality of life for residents, not just nearby but within the entire shire. Prevailing winds could carry this pollution to impact many more residents, schools, and farming communities. The Bureau of Meteorology publish data in respect of prevailing wind patterns in Moss Vale which is relevant for approving authorities to consider.

The size and scale of this building is not in keeping with the local area. Emissions stacks of four storeys amongst farmland and quiet communities is an eyesore.



To say community objection to this project is substantial is a gross understatement. The community is outraged. Wingecarribee shire council has unequivocally rejected the site. Both state members for parliament representing this area have firmly opposed the site. The land use planning is inconsistent with the proposed use of the site. It is not possible for there to be a significant buffer between the facility and the local community, as has been established with other, smaller facilities in other regional areas (Naxos plastic recycling facility in Albury which has "significant separation from residential receivers or sensitive land uses" and being situated almost 2 km of undulating terrain from those nearest impacted.)

Please do not approve this facility. The impact of this construction cannot be undone once it has been done. You must take the community's strong objection, the health and environmental considerations, the positions of the local and state government representatives, and the general broader community outrage that this proposal has even got this far. We are a broad land where significant opportunity exists to create such solutions in regions where the impact is not nearly as significant. There are better sites for this facility. This is NOT THE RIGHT SITE! I urge the NSW Independent Planning Commission to prioritise the wellbeing of the community and the environment by rejecting this proposal.

With regards,

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