



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215305

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues
Location: Redacted	
Attachment: N/A	

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18th November 2024

Dear IPC

OBJECTION to Plasrefine Recycling Facility in Moss Vale, NSW

Why are so many people Moss Vale Matters, the Mayor and Wingecarribee Council, local Members of Parliaments, 300 people who asked to speak at the recent Independent Planning Commission's several visits to the area, most people around town saying that the proposed Plasrefine Recycling Facility is In The Wrong Place?

Because IT'S IN THE WRONG PLACE.

The Plasrefine Proposal has all the hallmarks of Being In The Wrong Place because:

This is an Area of Tourism Plasrefine intends to strut across the Investment and Hard Work of local people over the last thirty odd years (since I have been here), who have turned what was a struggling country town with lots of unleased shops, into a very attractive Tourist Area with Local Employment Opportunities, especially for young people as well as good caf  s and restaurants, antique shops, historic accommodation, markets, festivals, and interesting shops, where Sydney and Canberra-siders and international visitors come to enjoy fresh air, some rare history, and ecology, bush walks and a break for the weekend or holidays. The Southern Highlands is home to many attractions including historic Berrima, several National Trust houses, and other houses of historic significance. Not to mention some jaw-dropping vistas and places of natural beauty. It is a Designated Wine Growing Area, with many vineyards and wineries, plus a few Breweries (which rely on pristine water).

We have many equestrian facilities here, the Arts Trail, Writers' Festival events, and the award winning Gumnut Patisserie. I could go on! People of the Southern Highlands Invested in all this. All of which bring Tourists and Employment to our bucolic area and I cannot see how a Plastics Recycling Facility on the doorstep will help preserve the holiday atmosphere.

The proposed Site is Too Close to Residential Areas Plasrefine is ignoring the Local Population who have settled in the many new residential developments occurring around Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands. Mossy is a country town with a rising population (8,600 in 2019; 9,708 today; projected to be over 13,000 by 2041). Residential developments are people's homes and castles, where they relax after a hard day's work, bring up their families and is often their superannuation. They do not want a Hazardous Industry over the back fence. They do not want to worry about the water their children drink being contaminated by a cocktail of toxic chemicals, or the air they breathe bringing on asthma attacks or being found to be cancerous in twenty years' time, like asbestos, coal mining, fracking, composite stone cutting, etc, as has been the case in other hazardous industries, where companies covered up known dangers for profit. Or whether they can sell their house in the future. Plasrefine is taking the Mickey, expecting to site their poisonous plant within metres of residential homes, schools, and the Garvan Institute, a BioResources Facility, conducting (and Plasrefine potentially disrupting) world class research into the very diseases that Plasrefine may give us. Isn't the Parkes Recycling Plant at least 7kms from the town?



The proposed Site is Too Close to New Housing Developments it is Completely Dishonest of the Planning Regulators to encourage residential developments on the outskirts of country towns then subsequently allow hazardous Industries to be sited close by. People buy in good faith. If Plasrefine was already there, with its many potential risks air pollution, water pollution, high fire risk, noise, vibration, truck movements and 24 hour operation would the planning authorities have allowed residential development next door to it? Would you buy a house next to a Plastics Recycling Plant?

And then there is the High Fire Risk in a Highly Combustible Bushfire Prone area. You may remember the East Coast bushfires in 2019/20. Moss Vale and parts of the Southern Highlands were either on fire or left in a 6km to 20km or less corridor between two Mega Fires. That was not fun. Local RFS volunteer teams could do little but tell us to Leave Early. Moss Vale Does NOT have a well-manned fire station, teeming with shiny fire trucks. Neither do Bowral or Mittagong, our nearest towns. If a major fire broke out, areas surrounding the Plasrefine Plant could burn for kilometres long before help arrived from Campbelltown or Goulburn, even if they're not dealing with fires of their own, each a good 40 minutes away and more. Fires in hazardous facilities like Plastic Recycling Plants are common, with 1000C plus temperatures and damned difficult to extinguish. They often require special teams of fire fighters in hazmat and breathing apparatus. We see them on the news in Sydney. Our local fire personnel are not equipped to deal with such fires. And we all get to breathe in an unknowable cocktail of Dioxins, Hydrogen Cyanide, Benzene, Cyanide, Carbon Monoxide and God knows what else as it billows across our town and surrounding areas. In twenty years, when survivors mount a class action, will Plasrefine melt on Friday and reform on Monday or move to the Netherlands to avoid responsibility? It's In The Wrong Place.

There are Too Many Risks. Fire, when, not if; Failure of their Air Filtration Processes, which they won't rush to tell anyone about; Water Pollution; PFAs. Ask the people at Wreck Bay in Jervis Bay how they feel about that. It's In The Wrong Place. But you guys in the IPC's offices and your children will not face those risks. Unless you live down here. People have to breathe air and drink water. Plasrefine does not have to be in this place. It's in the Wrong Place.

And the Environmental Damage. Micro bats, wetlands, riparian zones.

Water Pollution This is fragile sandstone aquifer country, providing some degree of natural water filtration, hence we are in the Sydney Water Catchment Area. Polluting the water around here will poison the water supply for Goulburn, Sydney and ourselves. The risk of Leaching or Accidental Spillage or a Fire are too great. Once the unknowable cocktail above is in the water table, it cannot be removed. Never mind endangered species, the poor old platypus, in the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee Rivers and other Wildlife.

Pollution including Air, Water, Noise, Vibration, Truck Movements of heavy Dog and Cart trucks or Semi-Trailers in an area known for Tourism and Agriculture. Really?

Disclosure Structural Engineering Lecturer (University of Wollongong) Dr Aziz Ahmed has concerns that Plasrefine has yet to disclose their cocktail of synthetic additives used in their process and that these should be reviewed by Sydney Water and the EPA (Environment Protection Authority before any approval can be re-considered.

I have read that Plasrefine have admitted they have

That bodes well!

I have Objections. And I have Questions.

Why do I read that Plasrefine will not consider other locations which have been suggested?

Why are they getting involved with plastics recycling if they have no experience in plastics recycling? Because we do not want to be their Test Site.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

Why don't the local residents come before an outsider business in these applications? What about the Human Rights (Healthy Environment) Amendment Bill 2023 and how that applies to us here in Mossy and the Southern Highlands?

Broken record? These are many of the same reasons that the IPC turned down the Hume Coal and Berrima Rail Link proposal (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171) in 2020. That was In The Wrong Place Too. Why are we here again?

Thank you for listening.
