



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215546

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 2579	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/19/2024 1:41:48 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

As a proud resident of Exeter and a master’s graduate in Development Studies and Culture Change, I bring a considered perspective to the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility (SSD-16923343). While I fully support sustainable waste management, this project is ill-suited to the Southern Highlands and risks exacerbating the social, environmental, and infrastructural challenges already facing the area.

It comes as no surprise to me that the majority of support votes for this project come from out of area. You only have to go to the local parks and cafes to hear what the majority of longterm locals feel about this.

Through my academic and professional background, I understand how large-scale industrial projects can disrupt community cohesion and strain infrastructure, particularly in areas undergoing rapid development. In Moss Vale, the pace of recent growth has already created a divide between long-term residents and newer arrivals. This proposal threatens to deepen that division, prioritising industrial expansion over the region’s social and environmental values.

The Southern Highlands thrives on its rural charm, community spirit, and environmental integrity. An industrial plastics facility risks altering the character of Moss Vale, pushing it toward industrialisation and away from its identity as a residential and agricultural hub.

Environmental and Infrastructure Impacts

- *Air and Water Quality Risks: The processes proposed for the facility’s shredding, washing, and pelletising plastics are associated with microplastic pollution, airborne contaminants, and runoff that could harm the region’s waterways, soil, and wildlife.*

- *Traffic and Infrastructure Strain: Processing 82,500 tonnes of plastic annually will generate significant truck traffic, causing noise pollution, increased wear on local roads, and safety concerns for residents. This is an unsustainable burden on an area already grappling with growth fatigue.*

- *Growth Fatigue: The Southern Highlands is reaching point with development that has taken place so fast and furiously over the last 10-20 years in a big way, as infrastructure struggles to keep pace with the demands of a growing population. The addition of an industrial facility will compound these pressures, diminishing the quality of life for residents.*

The Southern Highlands is a region that prides itself on community and cultural heritage. Long-term residents feel increasingly sidelined by decisions that prioritise large-scale developments over local values. This proposal risks deepening the divide between residents, further undermining the social cohesion that defines our area.

While I completely understand and respect recycling facilities are critical for addressing environmental challenges, they must be located in areas already zoned and equipped for heavy industry. Moss Vale and the broader Southern Highlands lack the infrastructure, environmental resilience, and industrial character necessary to support a project of this scale. Those saying it does, most definitely have other incentives holding them to this.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

I love my home in Exeter and care deeply about the future of the Southern Highlands. This proposal is not aligned with the region's character, needs, or community vision. I strongly urge the Department of Planning and Environment to reject the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility and advocate for its relocation to a more appropriate site.

Thank you for reading and considering my objection.

Sincerely,

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