



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 215853
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic</i>	
Location: New South Wales 2576		
Attachment: N/A		

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The case for a mega-plastics recycling facility on Beaconsfield Rd has no regard for the physical safety of local Southern Highlands residents, their many thousands of weekly visitors and Sydney residents. Microplastics, toxic fumes and PFAS are well-known to occur in plastics recycling facilities. The dangers and fire-risks are well-known and documented, both here and abroad.

On top of this, road access from the Hume Highway involves having to travel through nearby villages, with trucks having to navigate already inappropriate roads for that level of daily movement.

There are plenty of alternative locations further south on the Hume that are further away from residents and the associated risks, with direct access to the Hume Highway. For an example of such a site, the Boral Quarries near Marulan.

On top of this, the site is:

Right on top of Sydney's water catchment, putting it at risk of permanent contamination for generations to come.

Similar recycling facilities in the UK were releasing up to 75bn plastic particles per cubic metre into waste water, with the majority the width of a red blood cell, and easily consumed by organisms and humans alike.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/23/recycling-can-release-huge-quantities-of-microplastics-study-finds>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772416623000803>

Near several daycares and schools, putting children at risk of life-threatening diseases.

"Plastic production workers are at increased risk of leukemia, lymphoma, hepatic angiosarcoma, brain cancer, breast cancer, mesothelioma, neurotoxic injury, and decreased fertility. Workers producing plastic textiles die of bladder cancer, lung cancer, mesothelioma, and interstitial lung disease at increased rates. Plastic recycling workers have increased rates of cardiovascular disease, toxic metal poisoning, neuropathy, and lung cancer. Residents of 'fenceline' communities adjacent to plastic production and waste disposal sites experience increased risks of premature birth, low birth weight, asthma, childhood leukemia, cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer."

<https://annalsofglobalhealth.org/articles/10.5334/aogh.4056>

In an extremely windy location, making both airborne particulates and pollutants spread far beyond the immediate "fenceline" location.

This wind presents a catastrophic fire risk in the event of a fire, setting off uncontrollable grass fires and risking nearby residents and facilities.

<https://time.com/6271576/recycling-plant-fire-indiana/>

I implore the committee to spare the approximately 50,000 residents of the Southern Highlands and millions of Sydneysiders of this dangerous and damaging facility and ask the operator to consider alternative locations.



Locations that:

Better suit road or rail access with a direct exit from a major corridor, such as the Hume Highway.

Have a safe distance between the facility and residences, including the impact of air pollutants.

Are not directly on Sydney's water catchment, potentially impacting over 5 million people with toxic pollutants.

Pollutants that would impact, I assume, yourselves, your family and the politicians who approved this.

I am not against plastic recycling. I am against senseless environmental destruction, and I could not think of a worse thought-out location for this facility. I strongly object to this development going ahead in any form in the present location.
