



NICOLE TAMLYN

OBJECT

Submission ID: 216031

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2579</i>	
Attachment: N/A	

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This submission outlines a series of objections grounded in health and safety risks, environmental impact, economic implications, and broader community well-being. I am a resident of Exeter who works in an office on Berrima Road, approximately 1.2 kms from the proposed site. In addition, I am a concerned parent of a Moss Vale High school student and future students and feel that the proposed development poses significant risk.

The facility's proximity to residential areas, educational institutions, research facilities, and ecologically sensitive zones amplifies the risk of catastrophic consequences in the event of fire, pollution, or system failures. This objection highlights the potential harms, including threats to biodiversity, public health, tourism, and local infrastructure, urging decision-makers to reconsider the approval of this development at the proposed site.

The site is located alarmingly close to riparian zones, with only about 10 meters separating the facility from streams that flow into the Wingecarribee River. Contaminated runoff, potentially carrying microplastics, could impact the river and ultimately Sydney and Goulburn's drinking water supply.

Every individual has the fundamental right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The recent passing of the Human Rights (Healthy Environment) Amendment Bill on October 26, 2023, obligates governments to protect these rights. Constructing this facility raises concerns about the government's commitment to upholding these standards, especially when considering the potential need to shut down operations if issues arise.

Flora and Fauna

The facility's ventilation system poses a potential environmental risk in the event of a malfunction or failure. Hazardous emissions, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other toxic substances, could be released into the air, posing a threat to human health and the surrounding environment.

The construction would destroy a known habitat for the microbat species identified by the EPA, which is listed as endangered.

Platypus habitats may face disruption during both the construction and operation phases of the facility. Runoff could increase water sedimentation and erosion along riverbanks, harming local platypus populations downstream.

The development would lead to the loss of biodiversity, including tableland swamp meadows, mountain grey gums, and habitats for several endangered and vulnerable species such as the southern myotis and large bent-wing bat. Other species affected may include local birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Local Economy

The Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) precinct has been designated for biotech, agri-research, and light industrial development. The addition of a heavy industrial plastics recycling facility with associated risks such as fire hazards, increased heavy vehicle traffic, and potential environmental contamination undermines the area's intended purpose as an innovation and sustainability hub.



The refinery's presence would be detrimental to the area's reputation for viticulture and agritourism and its proximity to Berrima, the most well-preserved Georgian village on mainland Australia, harming the local tourism industry.

Call for action for NSW State Government

It is imperative that the NSW State Government consider case studies of plastics recycling practices around the world and creates legislation and regulations that protect small and large communities from the dangers of microplastics being released into the environment. The government must consider the introduction of exclusion mandatory exclusions Zones, the protection of our drinking water and fragile environments, the health of communities long term as they attempt to reduce our environmental impact and CO2 emissions.

The safe limits for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water are currently under review in many countries. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australia's primary health and medical research agency, has proposed updated guidelines recommending lower PFAS thresholds in drinking water. These guidelines, welcomed by the NSW Government, highlight the need for stringent measures to prevent contamination and ensure public health. Have these been seriously considered Government Departments and Authorities in this review process?

Efforts should focus on reducing plastic waste at its source by eliminating plastic packaging. This requires significant pressure on large supermarket chains, corporations, and government agencies to address the root of the problem, rather than allowing the continued production of millions of plastic items without an effective long-term solution for managing their environmental impact.

In conclusion, I ask that the collective voice of the people who presented at the IPC forums, including our local state and federal MPs (including Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP Member for Goulburn, Ms Judy Hannan MP Member for Wollondilly, and Hon Stephen Jones MP Member for Whitlam), expert stakeholders and the local community be heard. Say no to Plasrefine, it is not the right site.
