



PENNY PICCIONE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215517

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: N/A	

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I live in Berrima and 7 years ago I was on the committee of the Battle for Berrima. The Hume Coal mine was subsequently not approved by the IPC. It seems to me that the Plasrefine and Hume Coal proposals pose similar threats to the Southern Highlands and in fact the Sydney drinking water.

Two weeks ago my husband and I participated in the biannual platypus survey. The survey takes place on the Wingecarribee River in Berrima. There were 5 sitings that evening, we were lucky enough to have made one of the sitings. Over the next 3 days we saw a platypus on two separate occasions. We are extremely fortunate in the Southern Highlands to have platypuses living in our river. We have a duty to protect these endangered creatures along with many other endangered species. Berrima is down stream from the Plasrefine Site which is adjacent to two riparian zones which feed into the Wingecarribee. The risk of microplastic and chemicals leaching into the river is too great.

The above situation will then lead to another unacceptable consequence - the polluting of Sydney's drinking water. Millions of Sydneysiders will potentially be affected. Surely such risks are unacceptable. The Southern Highlands is part of the Sydney's catchment area.

The Plasrefine site is within 250 m of homes and 2 km from schools and the centre of Moss Vale. This is another unacceptable risk - the people of Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands have a right to have access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. This right will no longer be assured if Plasrefine is approved. Failure of safety systems, risk of fire etc pose a real threat to our health and environment. A plastic recycling plant should have a buffer zone of at least 10 km from nearest residential area, not 250 m.

There are only 4 fire trucks in the Southern Highlands. I doubt very much they would be sufficient in the event of fire. In fact I don't think our volunteers should have their lives put at risk attending a fire of such magnitude.

200 truck movements daily through residential streets is once again unacceptable. Air pollution, noise pollution, risk of accidents and the damage to our already damaged roads. Residents of New Berrima and Moss Vale should not have to live with trucks driving past their homes all day.

The Plasrefine Proposal should not be approved. It seems that the State Government has ticked the box because they are under pressure to find a solution to plastic recycling. Yes we do need to recycle the plastic we are using but this is not the right site. What we need to do more urgently is to stop using single use plastic altogether.