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OBJECT

Submission ID: 215058

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts
Location: New South Wales 2578	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/17/2024 4:59:43 PM

CHEMICAL RECYCLING - Backend Fix or Toxic Technology

The unintended consequence of Plastic Recycling.

There are many points against progressing with the Plasrefine Plant at Moss Vale but I believe that the most important argument is one not properly considered by previous reviews. That is that it's the toxicity of the process that could spell a threat to both the Environment & workers and residents of Moss Vale. Published in journals & research where existing plastic recycling plants are in operation there is considerable contention that this activity endangers public health & creates pollution outcomes.

In the submissions for Plasrefine not being approved to go ahead this valuable information has not been considered.

Washington Post 22/5/23

-Leaching of harmful plastic chemicals during and after poses a significant threat. Recycled Plastics exhibit higher levels of hazardous chemicals such as brominated flame retardant as a legal contaminant . Peer reviewed study suggests 6 to 13 percent of plastic recycled could end up in the air or released into water.

The Guardian 10/04/23

-Exxon Plant Texas. Research shows that chemical recycling is worse than mechanical in terms of greenhouse gases and water use. This process of pyrolysis is often so inefficient that it should not be called recycling at all. Taylor Uekert, US National Energy Authority found recycling a kilo of high density polyester plastic using pyrolysis requires 7 times the amount of energy than to make a kilo of recycled plastic. His research found that the environmental impacts of making plastic with pyrolysis is 10 to 100 times greater than virgin plastic production.

Human Rights Watch. 21/09/22

-Health Impacts of Plastic Recycling in Turkey

This report documents the health impacts on facility workers & residents in Adana & Istanbul. They suffer from severe health issues , respiratory problems, severe headaches and skin ailments. There are elements of under regulation here but there is a potential for this to happen here.

To keep it short I have only listed a few of the many reports that have come about following toxicity issues from plants already in operation around the world. The Department of Planning & Environment has not properly considered that the Process is not compatible with communities and the environment based on existing operations that have failed. Please consider this in regard to Plasrefine. It is ill considered for Moss Vale.