



**SHEREE GROOM**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 214218

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: New South Wales 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/15/2024 11:39:23 AM

*Subject: Objection to the Proposed Soft Plastics Refinery in Moss Vale*

*I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of a soft plastics refinery in the Southern Highlands. My objections are rooted in serious environmental, health, and socio-economic concerns that I believe would have lasting detrimental effects on our community and the broader region. Please find below the primary reasons for my opposition:*

*1. Environmental and Health Risks from Toxic Emissions*

*The process of refining soft plastics is known to release complex toxic compounds into the air and water. Exposure to these substances has been linked to various health hazards and environmental degradation. Scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals have without a doubt proven the negative effects of these emissions on humans, animals, and the environment. Given that the Southern Highlands region is known for its clean air and natural beauty, the introduction of these pollutants would compromise the health and well-being of the local community, especially for vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Moreover, thousands of school children, including my own, in the vicinity of the proposed site would be directly exposed to poor air quality, potentially leading to long-term health impacts.*

*2. Excessive Industrial Traffic*

*The proposed plant would introduce approximately 100 truck movements in and out of the Southern Highlands each day. This not only raises concerns about noise pollution and road safety in a traditionally rural area but also contradicts sustainability objectives. The increased use of fossil fuels for transportation will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating climate-related issues.*

*3. Inefficiency and Negative Environmental Impact of Plastic Recycling*

*Research has shown that recycling soft plastics may be less beneficial than landfill disposal due to the energy-intensive nature of the recycling process. The proposed refinery would necessitate continuous use of trucks and other fossil fuel-dependent processes, increasing the carbon footprint significantly. Further, by sustaining the demand for recycled soft plastics, the plant may inadvertently encourage ongoing production of such plastics, perpetuating their negative impact on the environment.*

*4. Risks to Water Quality and Sydney's Drinking Water Supply*

*The Wingecarribee Reservoir flows into Warragamba Dam which supplies drinking water to millions of Sydney residents. Any contamination or leaching of pollutants from the proposed refinery into surrounding soil and water sources could jeopardise the quality of this essential water supply, posing a threat to public health on a much larger scale.*

*5. Impact on Property Values and Local Livelihoods*

*The Southern Highlands is known for its pristine landscapes, rural charm, and community-oriented lifestyle—qualities that attract both residents and visitors. Introducing a large-scale industrial plant into this setting is likely to drive property values down, as few people will choose to live near an industrial area with potential toxic exposure. This shift could also impact the local farming industry, as the presence of toxic*



chemicals in the air, soil, and water may make it impossible for farms in the area to obtain or maintain organic certification. Such a change would harm farmers' livelihoods and reduce the quality and appeal of local agricultural products. Ultimately, these developments threaten the economic stability and attractiveness of the region as a whole.

#### 6. Lack of Environmental Stake in the Community

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the involvement of a [REDACTED] company that may have limited incentives to prioritise the environmental and social well-being of the Southern Highlands. The long-term preservation of this region's unique environment and community cannot be guaranteed if the company lacks a vested interest in sustainable practices and local conservation efforts.

#### Conclusion

In summary, the proposed soft plastics refinery presents numerous environmental, health, and economic risks that clearly outweigh any potential benefits. The Southern Highlands deserves to remain a place of natural beauty, safety, and community well-being—free from industrial pollution. I respectfully urge the State Government to reconsider approving this facility and to explore more sustainable and community-oriented solutions for managing soft plastics.

Furthermore, residents are prepared to take legal action should the State Government move forward with a plan that knowingly exposes us to toxic chemicals, destroys our farming industry and diminishes property values. A class action will be pursued to hold responsible parties accountable for any harm caused to public health and for the potential financial loss imposed on local homeowners.

I am also deeply concerned that State Government officials have thus far approved such a proposal. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The community deserves transparency in all decision-making processes, especially regarding developments that threaten public health and environmental integrity.

Thank you for considering these urgent objections. I trust that the health and safety of our community, the environment, and future generations will be prioritised in your decision-making.

Sincerely, Mrs. Sheree Groom

---