



WADE DEVER

OBJECT

Submission ID: 215199

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

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This submission raises significant concerns regarding the proposed development of the Plasrefine Recycling Facility within the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) precinct, specifically focusing on the proximity to schools and childcare centers, potential risks to human health, environmental impacts, and the detrimental effects on the SHIP's long-term economic vision. These concerns are rooted in public safety, environmental sustainability, and alignment with the strategic economic goals of the region. It is not the right site.

1. Proximity to Sensitive Locations

The proposed development is located within a 2-kilometer radius of multiple schools and childcare centers, which raises significant safety concerns:

Risk to Human Health: The potential for fire, explosion, or failure of water and air filtration systems poses an unacceptable risk to the safety and well-being of children and staff at these institutions.

NSW Legislative Context: Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, developments must account for public health and safety, particularly in areas with vulnerable populations. The proximity of this industrial development to educational and childcare facilities conflicts with these principles.

2. Risks to Riparian Zones and Water Quality

The proposed site is situated approximately 10 meters from streams that feed into the Wingecarribee River, which is part of the Warragamba Dam catchment area—Sydney and Goulburn's primary drinking water source. This presents multiple risks:

Water Run-Off Contamination: Potential run-off containing microplastics or other pollutants may enter these streams, leading to water contamination in the Wingecarribee River and downstream into the Warragamba Dam.

Filtration System Failures: The greatest environmental risk stems from the potential failure of water filtration processes, allowing contaminants to bypass protective measures.

Health Concerns: Although long-term effects of microplastic contamination remain uncertain, research indicates potential links to various health issues, including inflammatory responses and hormonal disruptions.

Riparian Protection: The Water Management Act 2000 (NSW) mandates the protection and sustainable management of water resources, including riparian zones. This development's proximity undermines these legal protections and poses a risk to ecosystem health and water quality.

3. Conflict with SHIP's Vision and Strategic Planning Goals

The Southern Highlands Innovation Park has been designated as a future developmental hub for industries such as biotechnology, agricultural research, and advanced manufacturing. The proposed development is inconsistent with the precinct's vision for sustainable and innovative growth:

Economic Implications: The presence of an industrial facility with significant risk factors, including fire, heavy vehicle traffic, and potential air and water contamination, will deter innovative businesses from establishing themselves in the precinct. This could compromise SHIP's long-term role as an economic driver for the region.



Land Use Conflict: The Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 emphasizes fostering economic growth through innovation and sustainable industries. Allowing this development risks undermining these objectives by introducing incompatible industrial activity into a zone earmarked for cutting-edge, low-impact industries.

4. Safety and Environmental Standards

The potential risks associated with this development must be critically assessed in accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW), which emphasises the need to prevent harm to the environment and ensure public safety. Specific risks include:

Fire Hazards: The risk of fire or explosion presents a major safety concern for nearby schools, childcare centers, and local residents.

Air Quality Impacts: A failure in air filtration processes could result in the release of pollutants harmful to human health and the environment.

Heavy Vehicle Traffic: Increased heavy vehicle movement on shared roads within the precinct poses additional risks, including traffic congestion, accidents, and noise pollution.

Allowing this development in the Southern Highlands Innovation Park would pose unacceptable risks to public health, environmental sustainability, and the region's strategic economic goals. These concerns are grounded in NSW legislative frameworks that prioritize community safety, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

I strongly urge the IPC to reject this proposal and ensure that the SHIP precinct remains true to its vision as a hub for innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. Alternative locations that are better suited for industrial developments of this nature should be explored to safeguard the well-being of the community and the integrity of this strategic precinct.
