



AMELIA HOLLAND

OBJECT

Submission ID: 207531

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| 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 | |

Submission date: 10/24/2024 4:10:25 PM

Re: Submission Opposing the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility Proposal

Introduction

As a mother of two children who will be exposed to harmful pollutants should the proposal proceed, I am writing to express significant concerns regarding the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility. This submission outlines the potential health risks and environmental impacts associated with the facility, supported by peer-reviewed studies and documented evidence.

Health Concerns

1. Air Pollution and Respiratory Issues

o Toxic Emissions: Plastics recycling processes, including shredding, melting, and reforming, release harmful pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dioxins, and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). These pollutants are known to cause respiratory issues, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

o Case Studies: Research conducted in Turkey has shown that workers and residents near recycling facilities suffer from respiratory problems, severe headaches, and other health issues due to exposure to toxic emissions.

o Human Rights Watch Report on Turkey: This report details the health impacts of plastic recycling in Turkey, highlighting serious health problems among workers and residents near recycling facilities.

2. Chemical Exposure

o Hazardous Chemicals: Recycled plastics often contain dangerous chemicals like phthalates, bisphenol A (BPA), and heavy metals. These substances can leach into the environment and pose significant health risks, including endocrine disruption, reproductive harm, and cancer.

o Peer-Reviewed Evidence: Studies have documented the presence of these hazardous chemicals in recycled plastics, highlighting the potential for long-term health impacts.

o The Conversation Article on Recycled Plastics: This article discusses the presence of dangerous chemicals in recycled plastics, making them unsafe for use.

o Human Rights Watch on Plastics and Human Rights: This document examines how plastic production, use, and disposal threaten human rights and why immediate steps are necessary to limit plastics

3. Environmental Contamination

o Soil and Water Pollution: The facility's operations could lead to contamination of local soil and water sources with microplastics and chemical residues. This contamination can affect local ecosystems and enter the food chain, posing risks to both wildlife and human health.

o Global Examples: Similar facilities worldwide have been linked to significant environmental pollution, affecting both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.



Community Impact

1. Proximity to Residential Areas and Schools

o Health Risks to Residents and Children: The proposed site is in close proximity to residential areas and several schools, including Southern Highlands Early Childhood Learning Centre, Moss Vale Primary School, and St Paul's Primary School. The release of toxic emissions and pollutants poses a direct threat to the health and well-being of the local community, particularly vulnerable children.

o Noise and Traffic: Increased traffic and noise pollution from facility operations can further degrade the quality of life for nearby residents.

2. Wind Patterns and Pollution Exposure

o Prevailing Winds: Historical wind pattern data for Moss Vale indicates that prevailing winds often blow from the northwest and southeast. This means that pollutants emitted from the facility could be carried towards residential areas and schools, increasing the exposure risk for children.

o Estimated Exposure: Given the proximity of the facility to schools and residential areas, it is estimated that hundreds of children could be exposed to harmful air pollutants on a daily basis, exacerbating health risks such as asthma and other respiratory conditions.

o Bureau of Meteorology - Wind Patterns in Moss Vale: Provides data on prevailing wind patterns in Moss Vale, which is relevant for assessing pollution dispersion

3. Public Opposition

o Community Concerns: There has been substantial opposition from the local community, citing concerns about health risks, environmental degradation, and the impact on property values.

o Public Meetings: Upcoming public meetings provide a platform for residents to voice their concerns, emphasizing the need for thorough consideration of community input in the decision-making process.

Conclusion

Given the significant health risks and environmental impacts associated with the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility, it is imperative that the proposal be reconsidered. The documented evidence from peer-reviewed studies and real-world examples underscores the potential dangers to public health and the environment. I urge the NSW Independent Planning Commission to prioritize the well-being of the community and the environment by rejecting this proposal.

Regards,

Amelia Holland
