



**KAY WOOD**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 207080

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

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*Please see attached*

## Moss Vale Plastic Recycling Facility Submission

By Kay Wood

This is a very complex situation. I am sure all Australians recognise the need to create a solution regarding plastics. I am old enough to recall how excited the world was that plastic was going to save the trees. Well, that has come back to bite us. Will this solution also come back to bite? And if so, who?

I would like to point out at this stage that I am not an alarmist. I come from the Sutherland Shire and lived within close proximity of the nuclear reactor, without any concerns. I am not stupid having attended a selective High School. I have business experience having worked in a number of industries, including a company who manufactured large centrifuges for the mining industry.

Let's look at the positive of this facility first. Jobs for the community. Without further details the most likely jobs being created are truck drivers and those who work on the floor. Not really career building. As I outline the negatives you will also realise that these workers may well be doomed.

As I started out saying, a solution to plastics needs to be found, so what are my objections.

1. Incorrect location. It is totally inappropriate to locate an industry that is, at some level, toxic so close to existing residents and a community. The Plasrefine developers have shown no understanding of the location, no understanding of the community and absolute lack of concern. There will be no way of stopping Microplastics escaping, which will settle on the nearby schools and houses. I will comment later on its location next to waterways. There should be a government proclaimed buffer zone for this type of industry as there are for others which are far less of a threat. The road system is not up to so many heavy vehicles travelling them every day.
2. Empathy displayed by Plasrefine. For their representatives to make ridiculous remarks such as 'Plant some trees' to those already living next to this site, shows the attitude [REDACTED]. There are 2 schools very close to this area which has been designated Light to medium industry – Not heavy and Toxic as Plasreform can not deny that microplastic particles will be released into the atmosphere. Given that the winds in this area swing from westerly to southerly and at times are very strong, these particles will spread far beyond the immediate community and spread into agricultural areas as well.
3. Incorrect and misleading information. Scant detail has been provided and already some of the information put forward by this company is blatantly incorrect. When I worked with the mining manufacturer there was a case where a facility was being built by 4 different companies and they were each only given the details they needed. The result was that a large pipe that ran the length of this building did not meet up. [REDACTED]. This company is not open and have shown they are prepared to mislead the community in order to get what they want. We are told that they wished to operate this plant 24 hours a day but because of its close proximity to residents they are being limited to

certain hours. This calls into question – Will they stick to these hours? If they do – will they make the profit [REDACTED] want? Will they even make enough to be profitable? Will the plant be shut down if it doesn't give a good return on investment? Will the government be left with a Trojan horse? What will happen when they work beyond the agreed hours, which is highly likely given the lack of integrity already displayed. Will they be given a laughable fine? Will that money go to those affected? No – not likely.

4. Between creeks which puts them in a hard place. The facility would have a creek on either side. These creeks support wildlife in the area but more important and alarming these creeks feed into the Warragamba Dam. Yes, Sydney's water supply will be adversely affected.
5. Microplastics. These have already been found in the Blue Mountains proving that companies that build in regional areas think they can do what they like. Recent studies have found these particles in brain samples of humans. Once there, they never disappear. Given that these particles can't be contained within the facility they will infiltrate our air, the Wingecarribee water supply and the Sydney water supply. The particles will also settle on our farming land so enter our cattle and food chain. With around 20 wineries in the area I have no doubt they will be victims of these microplastics. Does this planning commission want to be known as the body that killed our agricultural industries and the ones who condemned a community to failing health? Will Plasreform fund new medical facilities? The downfall of communities in India due to unscrupulous companies is well documented. I would hate Moss Vale to be the subject of such a documentary in the future
6. The future. There has been interest expressed by companies to move to Moss Vale. They will offer real career paths for our youth without endangering the local residents. These companies will not be proceeding if Plasreform are given permission to fill our air with fine, lightweight particles that can be blown in a variety of directions.
7. Property development. There is a lot of interest in developing housing estates on the outskirts of our town. Given the current housing problem these developments are very desirable and vital. They will bring wealth into the township – something that is not likely with Plasreform which will have a detrimental effect on existing income. Developers will back out if Plasreform proceeds as house prices will be affected negatively and make such estates not viable.
8. What is the areas existing income? Tourism. No one will want to come to a town which hosts a Plastic Recycling facility. As already mentioned we will lose the wineries and we will also lose the ambience of the area. What compensation will Plasreform offer? Nothing.
9. Profits. Will it make a profit if it sticks to the agreed hours of operation? What will happen if it doesn't? Will the government add to the huge grant they have already pledged? Will the Labour government claim this as a huge success? Are we trading the health of Moss Vale so Tasmania can sell salmon [REDACTED]? So many questions.
10. Made in Australia. You only have to look at the projects that China have invested in in our wonderful country to know that they make a lot of money and Australians are worse off. Our current electricity debacle is a great example of this. Why is our government pledging millions of dollars to this project so that any profits [REDACTED] [REDACTED]? What happened to *Made In Australia* launched by the Prime Minister?

Please consider that you are asking the people of the Wingecarribee Shire to accept an overseas owner making money whilst the local people are offered nothing. In fact, less than nothing.

Shame on anyone who says yes to this development going ahead in the proposed site. Our forever thanks to those who agree with us and decline the facility being built on the proposed site and that a buffer zone for such industries need to be established.