



SARAH CLEAVER

OBJECT

Submission ID: 207347

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

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As a local landowner and mother of small children. I am completely and unequivocally against the proposed site for the plastics recycling facility in Moss Vale. My youngest son attends daycare 750m away from the proposed site... The impact of plastics recycling on children cannot be overstated and the fact is, we probably don't know enough about the long term harmful exposure to children.

My main concerns are related to the below:

- 1. Exposure to Toxic Emissions: Recycling plants that melt or burn plastics release harmful chemicals like dioxins, benzene, and styrene into the air. These chemicals are known to cause respiratory issues, developmental delays, and even cancer. Children are more sensitive to air pollution than adults because their lungs are still developing, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight. In areas near plastic recycling plants, such as in parts of China and India, children have been found to suffer from increased rates of asthma and other respiratory problems due to exposure to these pollutants. Microplastics released into the air and water from recycling plants can enter the food chain, and children can ingest these particles through contaminated water, food, or even while playing outdoors. Over time, microplastic exposure can lead to inflammation and disrupt hormone systems in children, impacting their growth and immune system .*
- 2. Increased neurological and Developmental Issues: The chemicals emitted by plastic recycling processes, such as lead and cadmium, can accumulate in children's bodies and affect brain development. Studies have shown that children exposed to high levels of environmental toxins, including those near recycling plants, have a higher risk of learning disabilities, lower IQ, and behavioral issues. Recycling plants often release toxic by-products into nearby water sources. In communities where children rely on these water supplies for drinking, bathing, or playing, exposure to these contaminants can lead to gastrointestinal issues, skin rashes, and long-term developmental effects. For example, in parts of Southeast Asia where informal plastic recycling occurs, children living nearby have been found with elevated levels of lead and other heavy metals in their bloodstream .*
- 3. Noise, Traffic and Air Pollution: The constant noise and dust from recycling plants can negatively affect children's mental health and cognitive development. Noise pollution is associated with increased stress levels, sleep disturbances, and impaired concentration, all of which can hinder a child's educational performance and emotional well-being. The noise and pollution from large trucks driving straight past where our children play is concerning. Let alone the added danger of these trucks driving past where we are dropping off and collecting our young children.*

We simply cannot let the next generation of local children down. Our family moved to the Southern Highlands from Sydney to enjoy a healthier life, hoping our children can spend their days playing in nature, connecting them to our land. The approval of this plastics recycling plant so close to where we hope our children are safe and connected to the land cannot go ahead.