



ANDREW AFFLECK

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217291

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: 11/23/2024 8:02:50 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I object to the proposed plastic recycling refinery in Moss Vale on the following grounds:

1. Too close to residential areas being less than 150 metres.
2. Too close to the Garvan Institute, risking the lifesaving work they undertake on these premises.
3. Too close to schools, with 6 schools and 5 childcare centres within a 5 km radius.
4. Environmental impact of air pollution from the stacks and the ventilation system. These toxic fumes would be from the breakdown of plastic therefore contain petrochemicals which are extremely harmful to human health.
5. The long-term health risks for residents, particularly vulnerable populations such as children, cannot be overlooked. The evidence of microplastics being neurotoxic, causing reproductive toxicity, endocrine disruptions and having cardiovascular and carcinogenic impacts are emerging at an alarming rate.
6. The technologies designed to mitigate the risk of toxic emissions escaping recycling plants are unproven. Recent studies claim that recycling plants are major emitters of toxic pollution.
7. Our local fire services are insufficient and ill-equipped to deal with the inevitable fires. Moss Vale station is unmanned and entirely voluntary, with only 1 pump truck. We only have 4 trucks and 1 hazmat in the Highlands, others are 76kms away at Campbelltown or further at Shell Harbour. The fires that occur in these facilities are common and the temperatures reach 1000 degrees centigrade (see information on Hume, ACT, fire in December 2022). It is usual for much smaller facilities to require 80+ firefighters, 15 pump trucks and 6 hazmat vehicles and still they are unable to extinguish them, having to let them burn out in their own time and meanwhile with toxic plumes billowing for days. In the interim residents, schools and businesses must evacuate due to the thick black toxic fumes and smoke which is lethal to health. Fires fueled by plastic waste release dioxins, benzene, hydrogen cyanide, cyanide, chlorine, carbon monoxide and vocs into the environment. Breathing in these fumes has the potential to cause asthma deaths, sarcoidosis, cancer, nervous system disorders, genetic impacts, developmental impacts, leukemia and reproductive disorders.
8. Inadequate buffer zone. The recently approved, purpose built plastic recycling refinery in Parkes, NSW has a buffer zone of at least 7 kms.
9. Increased heavy vehicle traffic creating noise pollution, air pollution, dust, vibration, potential accidents, potential fatalities of wildlife, increased degradation of roads.
10. Increased vehicular traffic of the workers at the refinery creating noise, dust, accidents, vibration.
11. The community's awareness and understanding of the proposal and subsequent ability to mobilize have been compromised due to the WSC being in Administration. With respect to the administrators, they were neither motivated or have the means to represent the community and lead us through this situation. Our newly elected Council would have been more effective.



12. *It should not be in the WSC's S.H.I.P precinct, this future developmental area is reserved for biotech industries, research, agri-research, light industry etc. and is earmarked to become a major economic driver for our shire and future employment. It will be detrimental to the long term plan for the S.H.I.P as it will deter the S.H.I.P from attracting innovative, sustainable businesses who will not desire to set up next to a factory with smoke stacks and large numbers of heavy vehicles coming & going on the shared roads.*
 13. *Plastic recycling refineries are usually classed as heavy industrial, due to high risk of pollution and extremely high fire risk. This should not be placed next to the Garvan Institute, where noise and vibration would disrupt the breeding cycle of the research mice.*
 14. *The plant will cause economic disruption to the existing Moss Vale businesses. And be an economic and social disincentive to prospective businesses.*
 15. *Psychological impacts and property devaluation of the surrounding community members. The proposed buildings will be the size of 3 Bunnings stores (Mittagong) and there is no buffer zone for the nearby residents. This will impact on property values and enjoyment of their properties causing stress and subsequent mental health issues.*
 16. *It should not be placed in an area renowned for its viticulture, agritourism and close to the most preserved Georgian village on mainland Australia. it will be detrimental to our tourist industry.*
 17. *Potential water run-off from hard-stand areas for trucks which may enter the Wingecarribee river, which is part of the Sydney water catchment. Micro and nano particles of plastic may enter the dam servicing greater Sydney. Already we have been told our water is carcinogenic and State Government is conducting research into minimizing this hazard not potentially increasing this risk.*
 18. *Run-off from truck hard stand areas may increase water sedimentation and cause riverbank erosion diminishing habitat of local downstream platypus. A State government grant of \$500,000 to WSC was recently received to monitor and collect data on our platypus population, another endangered species (Southern Highlands Platypus Conservation Project).*
 19. *Removal of habitat for the micro bat recorded by the EPA, this bat is on the red list for endangered species.*
 20. *Other biodiversity loss includes removal of tableland swamp meadows, removal of mountain grey gums, removal of habitat for southern myotis and large bent winged bat listed as endangered and vulnerable, respectively. Other direct and indirect impacts, due to vegetation removal on birds, insects, frogs, reptiles, koalas and kangaroos.*
 21. *Chemicals in plastic are potent environmental pollutants how will these emissions be monitored? Do residents have to live with odours which may be carried by winds as far as Bowral, Burradoo, Berrima and beyond?*
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