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OBJECT

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Objection to the Proposed Plasrefine Plastic Recycling Refinery in Moss Vale

Dear Commissioners,

I write to formally object to the proposed Plasrefine plastic recycling refinery in Moss Vale. While I acknowledge the pressing need to address plastic waste in New South Wales, this facility's proposed location is entirely unsuitable and will have profound environmental, social, and economic consequences for the Southern Highlands. Approving this development will irreparably harm our region's unique landscape, infrastructure, and community well-being.

First and foremost, the environmental impact of this facility cannot be overstated. The proposed site is situated perilously close to riparian zones that feed directly into the Wingecarribee River, a critical waterway that supplies drinking water to Sydney and Goulburn. Any contamination from microplastics, chemicals, or other pollutants, whether through runoff or filtration failures, risks long-term harm to the water quality of this vital resource. Furthermore, the region's rich biodiversity, including endangered species such as the Southern Highlands platypus and the microbat, faces significant threats from habitat destruction and ecosystem disruption. The removal of vegetation, degradation of riverbanks, and increased sedimentation will compound the environmental toll.

The risks posed by this facility extend far beyond the environment. Moss Vale's infrastructure is ill-equipped to support the significant increase in heavy vehicle traffic that this project would necessitate. The associated noise, dust, and road degradation will disrupt daily life for residents, while the heightened risk of accidents will endanger all road users. The added strain on our volunteer-based fire services is another critical concern. Plastics facilities are notoriously prone to catastrophic fires, often requiring vast resources and specialised equipment to control. The Southern Highlands does not have the emergency response capacity to manage such an event, putting our community's safety at unacceptable risk.

This development also raises serious concerns for the health and well-being of our community. The proximity of the proposed facility to residential areas, schools, and the Australian BioResources facility at the Garvan Institute is deeply troubling. Any failure of air or water filtration systems could result in the release of hazardous toxins, including volatile organic compounds, posing serious health risks to residents, children, and animals. The potential disruption to the Garvan Institute's world-class medical research operations due to noise, vibration, or contamination would have far-reaching consequences for Australia's scientific and medical advancements.

Equally concerning is the long-term impact this facility will have on the character and economic prospects of the Southern Highlands. Our region is renowned for its pristine environment, thriving agritourism, and historic charm, all of which are incompatible with a heavy industrial site. This facility will deter innovative and sustainable businesses from investing in the Southern Highlands Innovation Park, undermining its potential to drive economic growth and create meaningful employment opportunities.

In conclusion, this is not the right site for a plastics recycling refinery. The environmental, infrastructural, and community risks far outweigh any perceived benefits of this development. The Southern Highlands deserves better than to bear the burden of a project that will jeopardise its natural beauty, public safety, and future



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prosperity. I urge the Independent Planning Commission to reject this proposal and to prioritise the preservation of our landscape, the health of our community, and the integrity of our infrastructure.

Thank you for considering my submission. I trust that the commission will act in the best interests of the Southern Highlands and its residents.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Rumsey
