



ANNA PHILLIPS

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218184

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2577</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 12:12:08 PM

Please see attached submission

Future Drinking Water

- Sydney, Goulburn and the Southern Highlands

I begin this submission with a TRUE FACT that I know many in our community shared which was that Water NSW and Sydney Water would have absolutely with no further questions put a **BIG NO** against any further plans for this proposed Plasrefine. Due 100% to the fact that the proposed site has natural riparian water ways that lead from the Wingecarribee River which is a major water resource for Warragamba Dam – Sydney’s drinking water catchment and the RISK was too HIGH. So why are we here? They state that any concerns can be mitigated totally unbelievable. Where is your duty of care?

The effectiveness of mitigation measures such as unseen management plans and promises of future actions to address potential impacts, all of which are assumed and hypothetical. Why has this information not been provided by GHD in the four years this project has been proposed?

Wingecarribee Shire Council’s submissions reference site-specific expertise stating, and I quote, “The proposed location is fundamentally inappropriate.” The whole point of a State Significant Development is that the State Government accepts responsibility for ensuring boxes are ticked prior to approval recommendation. DPHI needs to refer to and respect the professional advice provided by Wingecarribee Shire Council if it is to ensure its assessment is sound and accurate.

The community consultation with GHD and Plasrefine has been very limited and our engagement has been strategically managed and our voices have often been silenced. The proposed Plasrefine site’s weather conditions and topography have been neglected in the planning process. The proposed site is nestled in a valley that quite often experiences fog until midday, with emissions that will come from trucks, microplastics and exhaust from the factory would become trapped under a blanket of fog and severely affecting the air quality. This would also contribute to the really risk of micro plastics entering the riparian water and environment – air & land.

After heavy rain natural streams flow faster through the valley, these streams then run into the low lying Plasrefine site, the photos below are after heavy rain running through the Plasrefine site into the Wingecarribee River and onto Warrigamaba, Sydney's drinking water catchment. Additionally, gale force winds and westerly winds are common in the valley. It is extremely likely these winds will blow in through Plasrefine's 'fast action rolling doors', with microplastics carried outside and into the watercourse.



Images provided by Vanessa Harcourt

On 20th November 2024 at a council meeting for Wingecarribee Shire it was tabled that the Wingecarribee Shire now leads within NSW having the most numbered 'natural disasters' 15 in last 5 years. Another reason it would be obvious to avoid hazardous polluting industries in the state's most important drinking water catchment area for the Southern Highlands, Sydney & Goulburn.

I refer to this extract especially in regards to enviable micro plastics that will be impossible to contain as much as every GHD report says any concern is minimal.

Cathryn Bensley's IPC meeting notes – reference

'Firstly, what is the microplastic?

There are three examples on the screen here. The powdered form, flake and pellets. Powder is the product that I have experience with. Think table salt but much, much larger in weight and due to its electrostatic properties, it sticks to everything. If you get some in one hand and try and brush it off with the other, now you have it in two hands. Flick your hair off your face and now it's in your hair as well. It goes everywhere.

'The building design, there's some elevations there straight off the documents, show three huge roller doors on the west facing side of the building. These doors are described as fast moving but how fast is that? I couldn't find any detail. So I timed my own garage door. It's a new door, faster than the last one. Seventeen seconds up and twenty seconds down. These proposed doors are three times the height of my door and about 7 metres in width as well, so let's call it 50 seconds up and 60 seconds down. But these doors will also need to stay open for the huge trucks to reverse in, so that could take maybe another two minutes, I don't know, there's no information. Total time around four metres to open and close. Times 50 trucks a day in times 50 trucks a day out. I come to a total of about six and a half hours a day that these doors will be open in the receiving area to face these winds'.

I invite you to consider when these are faced open to 60, 70, even 100 km winds that we so regularly get. Where will these particles go? To the east, Moss Vale weather station, Kelly's Creek catchment, which is catchment for Warragamba, Wingecarribee River and a reservoir in the upper reaches of the Nepean River. So two drinking sources for the largest city in Australia will be polluted along with the water for the Southern Highlands community and Goulburn.

Really how many people in New South Wales do you want to poison? What's not to the east is the particulate monitoring station. The nearest is Bargo to the north and Goulburn to the southwest. It's not going to be looking at the 15 particles that are flying straight out of the plant. Taking into account the strong westerly winds combined with terrible building design, a large escape of microplastics is inevitable. The only conclusion that can be drawn is this is not the right site and this is not the right building design.

I reference my earlier submission regarding the trucks and roller doors – On Tuesday 11th November David Gamble stated at the IPC meeting that the roller doors could ‘probably’ be open up to 5 hours in the day for truck arrivals and departures.

Then on Monday the 18th November it was revised to 42 minutes – REALLY! That’s less than one minute per truck movement.

Again GHD insult our intelligence with this answer.

In Australia we have some of the cleanest and purest drinking water in the world. **THE RISK IS JUST TOO HIGH!**

Just because something can doesn’t mean it should?

