



SUZI BRYANT

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217954

Organisation: <i>Chevalier College Parents & Friends</i>	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2576</i>	
Attachment: <i>N/A</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 7:58:33 AM

Submission in Opposition to the Proposed Plastics Recycling Plant in Moss Vale

Chevalier Families for a Safe and Healthy Future

On behalf of Chevalier College Parents & Friends, we strongly oppose the establishment of the Plasrefine plastics recycling plant in Moss Vale. The plant's proximity to our school and wider community poses unacceptable health and safety risks, undermining the well-being of our children and the broader Wingecarribee Shire.

Location Concerns

Chevalier College is located less than 3.5 kilometers from the proposed site, squarely within the Secondary Study Area (SSA) identified in the GHD Social Impact Statement (SIS). This area, encompassing a 5km radius around the site, would face direct impacts from airborne and waterborne pollutants. Alarmingly, the SIS grossly underestimates the demographics and dynamics of this area, dismissing the voices of a young and vibrant community that includes thousands of children. Such negligence invalidates the SIS's conclusions.

Health Hazards: Microplastics and PFAS

Microplastics and PFAS are well-documented hazards to human health, with severe implications for hormone development in children and increased risks of hormone-related cancers. Scientific research has demonstrated that even minimal exposure to these chemicals can have long-term impacts on physical and cognitive development.

Concerns surrounding PFAS have been so high that the Australian Government even created a taskforce to studying the impacts of PFAS's on humans from 2017 - 2022 on the website of this task force - <https://www.pfas.gov.au/about-pfas/affects> - it clearly states the following as a recommendation of the Australian Government

As a precaution, enHealth recommends exposure to PFAS be minimised wherever possible whilst further research is undertaken on the potential health effects. Governments across Australia provide site-specific advice to people living near PFAS investigation areas, on ways to reduce their exposure.

The proposed plant will emit microplastics and PFAS through multiple channels:

Air pollution: Every day, the plant will open its factory doors 150 times, releasing toxic particles into the atmosphere.

Heavy truck traffic: Approximately 100 trucks per day will transport materials, further degrading air quality with exhaust fumes and particulate pollution.

Water contamination: Wastewater from the plant will flow into the Sydney and Wingecarribee water catchments, impacting drinking water supplies and aquatic ecosystems.

Evidence from communities exposed to similar toxins paints a grim picture. For instance, reports from the United States highlight significant spikes in teenage cancer rates in towns contaminated with PFAS and heavy chemicals, as recently covered by the Sydney Morning Herald (<https://www.smh.com.au/world/north->



america/toxic-secrets-the-town-that-3m-built-where-kids-are-dying-of-cancer-20180613-p4zl83.html). Why would we allow such a risk here in Moss Vale?

Fire and Emergency Risks

Plastic recycling facilities are notorious for their high fire risk due to the combustibility of materials and the intensity of chemical fires. Local resources are grossly inadequate to handle a blaze of this magnitude. The Moss Vale fire station is unmanned, and with only three fire trucks available, a fire at this plant could quickly spiral out of control. History shows that fires at similar facilities have resulted in catastrophic air pollution events, with smoke spreading toxic fumes across vast areas. For Chevalier College students and the Southern Highlands community, this risk is unacceptable.

Inappropriate Proximity to Residential Areas and Schools

Best practices highlighted in the BBC Assignment podcast (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct5mtp>) recommend that plastic recycling facilities be located at least 6km from human habitation. Yet, this facility is only 90 meters from the nearest residential property and less than 3.5km from Chevalier College, which educates over 900 students and employs 100 staff. With additional schools and residential neighborhoods even closer, the proposed location blatantly disregards community safety.

Impact on a Thriving Community

Wingecarribee Shire is experiencing significant growth, with over 5,000 new homes planned in Moss Vale and Bowral alone. Many families are drawn to this area for its clean air, low pollution, and pristine environment qualities that a plastics recycling plant will irreparably damage. Children and under 30's who currently make up over 30% of our population, underscoring the importance of preserving a healthy environment for future generations.

The SIA's claim that the area has an ageing population is demonstrably false. Chevalier College's expanding enrolments are a testament to the influx of young families who value quality education in a clean and safe setting.

Chevalier College's Unique Role

Chevalier College is more than a school it is a cornerstone of the community since 1946, with over 100 acres dedicated to education, sports, agriculture, and environmental stewardship. Its achievements in livestock, innovative programs like the four-day school week, and reputation for student well-being attract families not only locally but from far and wide, including Hill Top, Picton and Kangaroo Valley. Allowing a toxic industry to encroach on this thriving hub of education and community life defies logic.

Conclusion

To introduce a hazardous, heavy industrial facility into a region defined by its natural beauty, community health, and educational excellence is short-sighted and irresponsible. It directly jeopardizes the health and future of thousands of children, undermines the safety of drinking water, and tarnishes the quality of life for all residents of the Wingecarribee.

We, the parents and friends of Chevalier College, stand united in opposition to the Plasrefine plastics recycling plant. Such a facility is incompatible with the values, needs, and aspirations of our growing community. We urge decision-makers to prioritize the well-being of our children and families over the interests of heavy industry.

Sincerely,

Chevalier College Parents & Friends



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

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