



CORDELIA ISON

OBJECT

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Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Other issues
Location: New South Wales 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in adamant opposition to the proposed plan to build a Plasrefine plant in Moss Vale. I am a young woman who was born and raised in the Southern Highlands and have been involved in the community my entire life. It is this personal and longstanding connection to the Highlands that allows me to comment on the significant harms this proposition poses not only to the community of Moss Vale but also for the Southern Highlands region in its entirety. The impacts of the Plasrefine plant would have irreparable damage on the social and environmental welfare of the Southern Highlands. It is my strong belief that the community's welfare should be the paramount concern to the planning commission. Moss Vale is a town that has an increasingly rare access to safe, open outdoor spaces. Areas such as Church Road playing fields, Lackey Park and Moss Vale Showground are being utilised continuously by the community. School galas, afterschool sports and community events are all reliant on these spaces staying safe. If the Plasrefine plant was built in Moss Vale, its harmful output of microplastics would render these places hazardous and limit the amount of space the community has access to. This is particularly harmful as abundant access to these places is what allowed the Southern Highlands to hold a safer and sustainable lockdown during 2020 and 2021. As someone who grew up using these outdoor spaces regularly, I cherish these places as they allowed me to establish a deeply important connection to my country and my community. The idea of the chance to form those connections being taken away from the younger generation of Southern Highlands children causes me insurmountable sadness. The idea of the beautiful landscape of the Southern Highlands being destroyed by pollution caused by the Plasrefine plant fills me with considerable anger. The Southern Highlands' natural beauty is one that draws in people from across the globe. In spring, tourists arrive in bus loads to attend Tulip Time. In the summer, the natural attractions of Fitzroy Falls, Boxvale Track and Berrima River are visited by travellers and locals alike. There is not a single spot in the Southern Highlands bushland that is not used by people regularly. The Plasrefine plant would not only damage the enjoyment of our land for locals but would also decimate the tourist industry of the Highlands, of which our local retail and hospitality economy rely greatly. I have worked in local cafes and restaurants for 5 years, I have firsthand knowledge on how important environmental tourism is for the business community. The Plasrefine plant would damage the unique beauty of the Southern Highlands by introducing pollutants to the air and waterways, retracting the appeal of our bushwalks, waterfalls and natural waterholes. This would reduce the Southern Highlands' impact as a tourist hotspot. Local businesses recovering from the COVID-19 lockdowns will be unable to reach pre-lockdown profit and the economy of the Southern Highlands would be unable to recover. Even with the plant functioning properly and effectively, there are far too many risks to justify the establishment of the plant - risks for which no evidence of valid mitigation has been provided. The Southern Highlands is part of the dwindling number of communities that still has access to beautiful and open outdoor spaces whilst still being close to Sydney. It is a society brought close together by this access and it has provided younger generations with contact to nature untouched by the harms of climate change. There are no benefits to the Plasrefine plant that could outweigh the horrific and detrimental impacts it will cause. The Southern Highlands has nearly 200 years of communal history linked to the land, history that is threatened by the Plasrefine plant. I urge you to think of the people living in the Southern Highlands and I hope that the decision is against the building of the Plasrefine plant in Moss Vale, Southern Highlands.