



**DEBBIE YATES**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 217931

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 6:23:58 AM

*Please see attached pdf document.*

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24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

NSW Independent Planning Commission

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/cases/2024/10/moss-vale-plastics-recycling-facility>

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to thank the Independent Planning Commission for the opportunity to submit my strong objection to the proposed Plastic Recycling Factory at Moss Vale, NSW

I live in Moss Vale and have attended all sessions conducted by the Proponent and their representative, GHD, which were woefully lacking in detail and appeared to be conducted so as merely to be able to tick a box that they had participated in a community consultation process. I have also attended all public meetings held by the IPC, in Bowral and on-line, and so I am aware of the information the IPC has already been presented with and that much of the information/objection is repetitive.

Therefore, my submission to you is highlighting the priority concerns that I have. I would ask that these be taken into account along with the overwhelming evidence, already presented, regarding proximity to residential areas, childcare facilities, township and infrastructure.

### Designated Bush Fire Zone

The most up-to-date information available on the Rural Fire Service website clearly zones 74-76 Beaconsfield Road Moss Vale, the proposed site, as being “A designated bushfire zone”. This can be verified via the following link.

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/planning-for-bush-fire-protection/bush-fire-prone-land/check-bfpl>

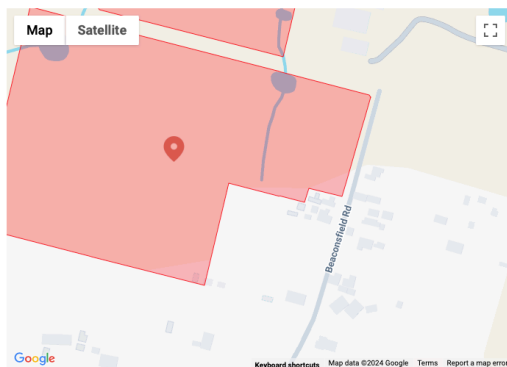
The Commission have already been made aware of the lack of 24/7 firefighting Services in the Southern Highlands and in particular in Moss Vale. The potential for fire at a plastics recycling facility is well documented and being within a designated bushfire zone only further increases the enormous risk to the population and local infrastructure. The map below, from RFS site, is current as of 11.23am 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

#### Check if you're in bush fire prone land

You can check here if your land is in a bush fire prone area.


- › Enter your address including house number, street and suburb or town. Select your address from the drop down options provided.
- › Check the map has correctly located your property. If not drag and drop the red marker on to your property.
- › Click the 'Get Results' button to see if you're in a designated bush fire prone area.
- › You should consider seeking expert advice before commencing any development.

Your Property



#### Your search result

You have conducted a search of the online bush fire prone land tool for the land in the map above. This search result is valid for the date the search was conducted. If you have any questions about the Bush Fire Prone Land Tool please contact [bushfireprone.mapping@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bushfireprone.mapping@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

 The parcel of land you have selected is within a designated bush fire prone area.

## Health Impacts

With regard to known and emerging airborne and water effects and contamination by microplastics the DPHI assessment is completely inadequate. This requires significant further assessment and evidenced based conclusions from the Environmental Protection Authority to inform the process of approval.

At this point no Government agency, nor the proponent, are able to provide evidence that there are no existing or potential health impacts from microplastics. However, there are significant peer reviewed documents which highlight the impacts to human health including, carcinogenic effects, endocrine disruption, decreased fertility to name just a few.

In particular, I would like to draw the attention of the Commission to two documents: Greenpeace: **Forever Toxic**, Published May 2023 and **The potential impacts of micro-and-nano plastics on various organ systems in humans** Ali, Nurshad et al. eBioMedicine, Volume 99, 104901 and published in The Lancet medical journal 2024

I have attached copies of both these documents for your perusal.

As recently as 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the BBC, in their radio documentary program 'Assignment', presented a podcast regarding Plastics Recycling in Malaysia which is Titled "Plastic Recycling's dirty secrets

This program is advertised as including "unfolding research into microplastics and people's health and gains access inside recycling factories to reveal the dirty truth behind the trade."

The podcast can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0k4x4pb>

There is also the issue of contamination of drinking water for both the Southern Highlands and Sydney. I am aware that there have been many submissions and presentations regarding this highly significant problem. Contamination of the drinking water is not a risk but an absolute given – water will be contaminated and this issue surely should be resolved at the site before microplastics enter the water system but it has not been addressed at all by the proponent. I am advised, by Wingecarribee Council, that currently the Moss Vale Sewage Treatment Plant has no specific treatment element to remove microplastics.

## Traffic and Noise Impacts

The Commission has been made aware of the number of truck and employee vehicle movements per day which are significant from both a traffic and noise perspective to the community.

In terms of the actual proposal documentation, it is unacceptable that to-date there has not been any modelling completed or made public, which addresses the changes to the initial proposed road use. Specifically, the proposed road and intersections with Collins Road and Braddon Road nor for the intersection at Douglas Road and Berrima Road have been modelled.

As discussed by speakers at the Public Meeting sessions these roads are accessed from the Hume Highway – the main corridor for all vehicle access to New Berrima, Berrima, Moss Vale and other locations in the Southern Highlands. The increased traffic, particularly heavy truck traffic, poses an increased risk of traffic accidents, traffic congestion, damage to existing road infrastructure and a noise impost on residents.

In conclusion, this proposed plastics recycling factory has significant known risk factors and other risk factors which are emerging but must be taken into consideration. The latest iteration of the Proposal lacks detail and has multiple errors within it. Equally the Environment Impact Statement is lacking in detail and appropriate solutions to identified problems.

Surely it is incumbent on the proponent to provide an accurate and detailed document regarding the proposal and incumbent on Government Departments to pay attention to detail, ensure safety of the community and approve or deny applications when all due diligence, investigations and enforceable mitigation plans for known risks are completed to the highest standard.

Having taken all information into consideration there are clearly very high risks, some not able to be mitigated, in the proposal and there are no social, economic or environmental advantages to the community or land. I ask that the Commission find that this is an unsuitable site and therefore reject the proposal.

Regards

Debbie Yates