



ELISA WARNER

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217423

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

Submission date: 11/23/2024 3:06:10 PM

I am deeply concerned about the proposal of the Plasrefine facility in Moss Vale. As a local resident and new mother, I am concerned that the facility will harm my son's long term health along with the health of my other family members, friends, and myself. The potential impact of the facility on surrounding wildlife and waterways would be equally devastating.

The Wingecarribee Shire is a biodiversity hotspot with over 100 threatened species found here, including the largest koala population in southern NSW and one of the only populations that is increasing. Additionally we have iconic species, such as the platypus inhabiting our waterways. The reason that these animals and plants are found here are due to the healthy local environment and available habitat. Plasrefine poses significant risks to these species.

Plasrefine has not adequately provided information about the waste generated, including the particulate matter (eg microplastics) dispersed by the facility into the air and surrounding landscape; its dispersal range and its accumulation over time. The absence of this critical information needs to be provided before a competent decision can be made about the facility and the short and long term environment and health risks that it may pose.

Locally the dominant winds throughout the year come from the south west or north west. The plasrefine facility sits on the border of the residential area of Moss Vale. It's positioning means that when these dominant winds hit, the particulate matter generated by the facility will be dispersed over Moss Vale, into the Wingecarribee River, and it's also possible for it to reach Burradoo/ Bowral.

Further to lack of detail in the provided assessments about the dispersal and accumulation of airborne microplastics generated by plasrefine, there are no local air monitoring stations in the vicinity of plasrefine facility. This will make it near impossible to appropriately assess the how air quality may be impacted by plasrefine. So how can we be sure that they are compliant?

The unknowns of this dispersal and accumulation of microplastics through the air and waterways poses a significant risk to the health of the public, to industries such as farming, and to the local environment.

Prior to making a determination it needs to be asked, where are the projected models and relevant data? Why hasn't it been readily provided? Does Plasrefine know the extent of the possible impact?

Working on caesarstone was once deemed safe, until it wasn't due to loss of life and chronic disease. Now the material is illegal to work with.

Microplastics pose a similar risk. Research into microplastic exposure is still novel. However, It is known that microplastics impair cell function, cause inflammation, contribute to neurotoxicity and can be carcinogenic. Without the information about airborne dispersal and accumulation of microplastics through time, it is not possible to competently assess how the facility may impact the health of the local community and the environment.