



GAYE WHITE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218036

Organisation: <i>N/A</i>	Key issues: <i>Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2575</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 9:53:08 AM

see attached

The Planning Department's Contradictory Stance

The Department of Planning has made a perplexing decision regarding the Plasrefine facility, and it's time we called out this blatant hypocrisy.

Not Hazardous, But Treated as Such

On one hand, the Department claims that this plastic recycling plant is not a hazardous industry and can be safely located in a general industrial zone

This classification suggests that the facility poses no significant risk to the surrounding community or environment. However, the Department's own conditions tell a different story:

1. **Fire Safety Measures:** The Department recommends preparing a Fire Safety Study (FSS) in consultation with Fire and Rescue NSW, considering the operational capacity of local fire agencies

This level of fire safety planning is typically reserved for high-risk, hazardous facilities.

2. **Dangerous Goods Storage:** The conditions stipulate that dangerous goods must be stored below the thresholds outlined in the Hazardous and Offensive Development Application Guidelines (Applying SEPP 33)

If this isn't a hazardous industry, why the need for such strict storage requirements?

3. **Water Management:** The Department calls for careful management of wastewater and stormwater, acknowledging the potential for contamination

This concern aligns more closely with hazardous industry protocols than those for general industrial facilities.

4. **Air Quality Controls:** Stringent air quality monitoring and validation are required, including the preparation of an Operational Air Quality Management Plan

These measures are indicative of potential hazardous emissions.

The Elephant in the Room

It's clear that the Planning Department recognises the inherent risks associated with this facility. Their conditions read like a checklist for managing a hazardous industry, yet they're reluctant to officially classify it as such.

Implications for Our Community

This inconsistency has serious consequences for the Southern Highlands:

1. **Inadequate Buffer Zones:** By not classifying Plasrefine as a hazardous industry, we're missing out on crucial buffer zones that would protect our homes, schools, and businesses.
2. **Community Safety:** The lack of proper classification undermines the safety measures our community deserves, especially considering the facility's proximity to residential areas and the Garvan Institute.
3. **Environmental Risks:** Our precious waterways, including Sydney's drinking water catchment, are at risk due to this classification loophole.

A Call for Consistency and Caution

As a community, we ask that the Planning Department reconcile this glaring contradiction. If the Plasrefine facility requires hazardous industry-level safety measures, it should be classified and located accordingly. The Southern Highlands deserves better than this doublespeak. We call on the Independent Planning Commission to recognise the hazardous nature of this proposal and reject its current location. Our community's health, safety, and environment are too important to be compromised by bureaucratic inconsistencies.