



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218543

Organisation: <i>Gumnut Memorial Preschool - Bowral</i>	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2576</i>	
Attachment: <i>N/A</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 5:00:11 PM

We, the management committee from Gumnut Memorial preschool Bowral are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Plasrefine Plastics Recycling Facility at 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale. Our preschool, and many other preschools located in close proximity to the proposed site, serve as a nurturing environment for young children. We have significant concerns regarding the potential impacts of this development on their health, safety, and well-being. Particularly concerning the dispersion of airborne pollutants, and also water contamination.

1. Airborne Contaminants: Plastics recycling facilities are known to emit airborne pollutants, including microplastics. Research indicates that microplastics generated during the recycling process, contribute to environmental pollution. On windy days, these contaminants can travel several kilometers from their source, potentially affecting air quality over a wide area. Children, with their developing respiratory systems, are particularly vulnerable to such pollutants as are the vast number of elderly inhabitants of the Southern Highlands. The children should be permitted to enjoy their learning time outside whilst at Gumnut without any concern for what airborne pollutants they could be ingesting.

2. Water Contamination: The proposed site is within the Sydney drinking water catchment area. Any accidental spillage or runoff containing microplastics or chemicals could contaminate water sources, posing long-term health risks to the wider community. Studies have shown that plastic recycling facilities can release microplastics into water systems, leading to environmental pollution that affect both animal and human populations.

Other key concerns that we have are as follows;

1. Proximity to Natural Habitats: The facility™s location near residential areas and natural habitats raises potential ecological disturbances, affecting local flora and fauna and, by extension, the natural learning environment we provide to our children.

2. Quality of Life: The introduction of a large industrial facility in a predominantly residential and educational area could alter the community™s character and sense of well-being.

3. Educational Environment: Our preschool emphasises outdoor learning and interaction with nature. The presence of the facility could limit outdoor activities due to safety and health concerns, thereby impacting the holistic development of our children.

While we acknowledge the importance of recycling and waste management, the proposed location of the Plasrefine facility is unsuitable due to its proximity to numerous educational institutions, care facilities for the elderly and residential areas. The potential risks to children™s health, safety, and overall development are too significant to overlook. We urge the NSW Independent Planning Commission to consider these concerns and reject the proposal in favour of a more appropriate location that does not compromise the well-being of our community™s youngest members.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Sincerely,



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