



JOHN BARRETT

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217569

Organisation: <i>Friends of Bowral Inc</i>	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2576</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/24/2024 8:53:27 AM

Please see attached submission

Friends of Bowral Inc.

Secretary: 28 Charlotte St, Burradoo 2576

20th November 2024

To: Independent Planning Commission

Dear Commissioners,

OBJECTION TO PLASREFINE PROJECT, MOSS VALE

The Plasrefine project is not suitable for the Southern Highlands Innovation Precinct (SHIP) for reasons that have been stated in Wingecarribee Shire Council's submissions to the Department of Planning. The process and size of operation on the site is more suited to a heavy industry location than the Innovation Precinct which is focussed on technology and development. The Plasrefine site is designated in the draft Master Plan for the SHIP as the precinct for "Research, Training and Advanced Manufacturing" none of which are present in the Plasrefine proposal. The development of this major heavy industrial project is inappropriately sited in this Zone.

The community consultation conducted by GHD has been confused and misleading. The information on the plastics processing process is incomplete and inconclusive, consequently giving no confidence to the community that the process is safe. There is no evidence that the proponent has any knowledge, experience or capability of operating a similar plastics recycling factory elsewhere in the world, as distinct from waste water treatment with which the proponent has apparently had some practical but controversial experience.

The potential impact and risk of process emissions and noise on nearby residents in Moss Vale, New Berrima and Burradoo is not acceptable, nor is the risk of fire in the facility and its likely spread which has been demonstrated in recent recycling facilities elsewhere. Plasrefine admit that there will be issues with air quality. A recommended condition (p.45) "prepare a series of post commissioning verification reports including contingency measures in case of exceedances of the limits in the EPL" defers the issues of prevention and safety until after the plant becomes operational rather than dealing with it before it is approved. This is by far not good enough.

Process water discharged as trade waste is not an acceptable solution in view of its microplastics content which the Moss Vale Sewage Treatment Plant cannot intercept and hence will be discharged into Sydney's water supply via the Wingecarribee River. The DPHI Assessment comment "include consideration of new technology for the reduction of microplastics in wastewater" demonstrates the shallowness of the Plasrefine proposal by this company that reportedly specialises in wastewater treatment.

The bland statement “in the event of a fire on-site, the building sprinkler system would automatically operate to smother the fire” is not sufficient to allay fears of the impact of fire on the nearby occupants and residents. Reliance on fire trucks from Campbelltown and Wollongong is ludicrously dangerous to nearby residents, businesses and occupancies in view of the toxic fumes that would be emitted from burning plastics and the risk of fire spreading to adjacent and nearby properties, particularly if there are simultaneous high winds. The 2019-20 bushfires demonstrated again that burning embers were carried several kilometres on high and gusty winds.

The traffic plan is flawed. The DPHI assessment says “The Applicant did not revise its traffic model to include a baseline of full development of the SHIP, stating that too many assumptions would be required and this work should be undertaken by Council.” Plasrefine and GHD have passed far too many details off to future reports by others at the Assessment stage of this development for it to be adequately and thoroughly assessed for determination.

For the above and many other reasons, Friends of Bowral Inc objects to the Plasrefine Project and we call on the Independent Planning Commission to REJECT the State Significant Development Application for this project.

Yours sincerely,

FRIENDS OF BOWRAL INC.

John Barrett
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Vice President & Secretary

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