



JULIA ZEMIRO

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217462

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: New South Wales 2576	
Attachment: N/A	

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I want to acknowledge the First Nations custodians of the lands we are all meeting on and speaking from today.

It's normal to care.

It's human to care and to question.

What happens in our backyard, reflects on what happens in our state or in our country.

It matters.

My name is Julia Zemiro. I've lived in Bowral for 10 years.

I love the Southern Highlands.

I have dear friends who live in Moss Vale and my aunt is in a nursing home in Mittagong.

For the past 20 years I have visited regional towns all over the country touring different shows as a performer. Nature is all around you, there's more space, audiences are wonderful.

And in the last 20 years, it has been extraordinary to see how so many of these regional centres have bloomed but also are at risk from developments that will contaminate the environment and harm the natural surrounds the air and the water. This time, it's on home ground.

It's extraordinary that we are at a point where we have to challenge why it is important that we need to speak up about clean air and clean water. But here we are.

When is enough enough?

When do we speak up?

Everyone has their moment where they wake up to a brutal reality.

In this case it's about the possibility that Australia's second largest plastics refinery will be built on our doorstep.

But it might have been about the 2020 fires.

It might have been the coal seam fracking in the highlands.

I don't mean to conflate this issue with other events ;

But when is enough enough ?

When do i as an individual

Or we as a community decide enough is enough and that we have to speak out, protest,

Really read the fine print!



And demand actual detail in a report ;'.

and understand what is at stake here.

And indeed when do you as human beings sitting on a Commission

Reviewing this ;'decide within yourselves as you assess this report;' when is enough enough?

Plasrefine is set to be built and operated at the end of a residential road in the southern highlands. It's close to homes only 240m away and childcare with no buffer zone.

The risk of fire is enormous, given the chemicals used in plastics reprocessing.

Moss vale does not have a permanent fire brigade, nor the resources or equipment to fight a hazardous materials fire.

With the trauma of devastating natural bushfires in 2020 still strong in our memories,

And worsening climate conditions that will make the possibility of natural fires flare again,

We cannot afford man made fire hazards so close to a residential area.

The site sits across 2 riparian zones/creeks that feed into the wingecaribee river and Sydney's water supply.

We know , you know ;'. There are very real concerns for microplastics and forever chemicals entering waterways and the air.

Our Local roads, already underperforming and under resourced are not equipped to handle trucks operating 11 hours a day 5 days a week.

Even though new access roads can be built to take trucks northwards into the highway , who will police this? Who will check that these trucks don't intend to use more convenient residential roads?

There are plenty of lands south/south west of Sydney that are zoned for general and heavy industry, far away from residences and waterways , with better access roads and better fire management capabilities.

In short this is not the right site.

We need to ask the IPC how they can actually do their job with the report that was presented on Plasrefine.

It has no actual detail on process or exact pollutants that will go into the environment via water / air?

I don't understand how the IPC can analyse this when the report lacks so much detail.

Climate action starts in the community and our community is standing up to the IPC and Planning department to say this development is greenwashing.

It's bringing hazardous industry to our environment that will impact human health.

Can we look at our children and say we did nothing?

Can we look at each other and say we did nothing?

Today as i look at you 3 human beings in front of me

I ask you ;' would you be comfortable with this being built in your back yard?

This is Not the right site.

You have heard the emotion that people are feeling.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

That counts.

It takes courage to speak up. To step up.

And it will take courage from you as a Commission, as human beings, who I am sure would never want this refinery in your backyard, to step up. If you lived here, you would be joining us.

Thank you.
