



KAREN CONROY

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217891

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

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I object to the location of the Plasrefine facility in Moss Vale. I believe it is not the right site. I object to the location in Moss Vale based on the following points:

- 1. The proximity to residential areas poses a risk to schools and childcare centres; There is a risk of harm to local residents from any malfunction of the factory such as air pollution (volatile organic compounds, hazardous toxins etc.) from the stacks; fire, which is a common occurrence in plastic refinery facilities - (already 19 serious fire events in similar facilities in Australia since 2019) likely to release VOCs, carbon monoxide, chlorine, cyanide, hydrogen cyanide, benzene and dioxides into the atmosphere;*
- 2. Insufficient fire fighting ability in the Southern Highlands to quickly address the above likely disaster. Moss Vale station is unmanned and entirely voluntary, with only one fire truck. There are only 4 trucks and 1 hazmat vehicle in the Highlands others are 76km away at Campbelltown (50 mins in no traffic), Goulburn (45 mins in no traffic) or further at Shellharbour.*
- 3. The facility would be in close proximity to riparian zones posing a high risk of microplastics entering the Sydney water supply via the creeks entering the Wingecarribee River, feeding into Warragamba. The National Health and Medical Research Council has released new drinking water guidelines recommending fewer Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances in our drinking water in Australia; if microplastics enter the Sydney water catchment from this facility the effects will be far reaching across the Sydney population. Uncertain long-term risk of microplastics but certainly theoretical potential for multiple medical health issues.*
- 4. There is potential for the destruction of habitat of several endangered or vulnerable species: microbat, platypus, large bent-winged bat, southern myotis; Bio-diversity loss affecting the above creatures and also koalas, birds, insects, reptiles, and other marsupials, the removal of tableland swamp meadows; removal of mountain grey gums, removal of habitat for southern myotis and large bent winged bat listed as endangered and vulnerable, respectively.*
- 5. There is a high possibility of disturbance to platypus habitats during building and operation of site. Run-off may increase water sedimentation and cause riverbank erosion diminishing habitat of local downstream platypus. A state government grant of \$500,000 to Wingecarribee Shire Council was recently received to monitor and collect data on our platypus population, another endangered species (Southern Highlands Platypus Conservation Project).*
- 6. Location in the Southern Highlands Innovation Park. The Plasrefine facility is entirely incompatible with the research and bio-tech light industries that Wingecarribee Shire is hoping to attract. The Garvan Institute (50 metres from the proposed Plasrefine site) could be very negatively impacted in conducting its highly sensitive medical research projects; The Garvan Institute is a world class state-of-the-art facility for breeding and holding mice critical for medical research into the fields of cancer, mental illness, arthritis, asthma, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and genetic conditions.*
- 7. The large volumes of traffic including heavy goods vehicles will affect local residents and possibly also the sensitive research facilities in the area; High levels of dust, noise, and road damage, and potential accident risk to humans and wildlife*



8. *Potential environmental impact of air pollution from the stacks' (or vents) that may be released from the ventilation system in the event of a malfunction/failure of the current air filtration processes. In the event of a failure of process, these fumes could include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other hazardous toxins that may be harmful to health.*

9. *The facility should not be placed in an area renowned for its viticulture, agritourism and close to the most preserved Georgian village (Berrima) on mainland Australia. It will be detrimental to the local tourist industry.*

10. *It should not be in the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) precinct. This future developmental area is earmarked for biotech industries, research, agri-research, light industry and the like, and is set to become a major economic driver for our shire and future employment. It will be detrimental to the long-term plan for the SHIP as it will deter the SHIP from attracting innovative, sustainable businesses (particularly in the Research & Advanced Manufacturing sub-precinct) who will not desire to set up next to a factory with potentially huge fire risk, large numbers of heavy vehicles coming & going on the shared roads and potential air/water contamination in the event of failed filtration processes.*

12. *Psychological impacts and property devaluation the proposed buildings will be the size of Bunnings stores and there is no buffer zone for the nearby residents. This will have a negative impact on their property values and enjoyment of their properties, potentially causing stress and subsequent mental health issues. The plastic recycling refinery in Parkes NSW has a buffer zone of at least 7km.*
