



MELANIE ISON

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218340

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

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I have several areas of concern regarding this proposed facility, but all broadly fall under the title of Environmental Management.

As the owner of a small business dedicated to helping people grow their own food, I have never underestimated the importance of clean water and unpolluted soil. As the Sydney Food Bowl continues to be built out, the opportunities for local food systems to thrive in areas close to Sydney are alarmingly limited, and as the lockdowns showed us, local systems are important to all of us.

I have held the role of Steward of Fruits and Vegetables at The Moss Vale Show Pavilion for the past 6 years, and in that time have seen the importance growing food has for a large swathe of our community - this commitment to growing spans generations and is absolutely reliant on access to clean and safe outdoor spaces, the risk that Plasrefine poses to this pursuit is unacceptable.

We, as a region, pride ourselves on our green spaces, high quality food and wine production and the scope to enjoy nature in a range of ways, including bushwalking and swimming. The impacts this facility will have on the natural environment must not be underestimated, The Southern Highlands proximity to Sydney means that its green spaces are an asset to a population outside of our shire.

It is my understanding that the Plasrefine development has been unable to provide a comprehensive set of mitigation strategies that would keep microplastics out of the local environment, even when the plant is running effectively, let alone if there is a malfunction of the operations, once our waterways are contaminated with microplastics it is impossible to reverse the damage.

I am also extremely concerned about the number of truck movements through our community - our roads are simply not equipped to deal with this increase in heavy vehicle traffic. The effect this traffic will have especially on the community of New Berrima is unacceptable.
