



MICHAEL KEAN

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218023

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2577</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 9:36:44 AM

Please see my submission as an attached file.

PLASREFINE OBJECTION

I am writing to OBJECT to the proposed Plasrefine development.

My key objection relates to the constant adjustments being made by GHD / Plasrefine; significant changes in reaction to objections during the most recent 3 public meetings (October 28th, November 1st and November 12th). These changes have been made with the community's sense of GHD & Plasrefine telling the IPC what they want to hear, rather than being considered, commercially viable, possible and most importantly, proven outcomes.

- 1) **ROLLER DOORS:** GHD and Plasrefine recently revised that the doors would be open for just 42 minutes per day, instead of the already proposed and confirmed 5 hours / day. The question needs to be asked as to how this significant change only came to light at such a late stage in the process. And most importantly, where is the proof?

For a development of such significance in scale, surely it could be expected that a visual representation (3D modelling video sequence) to show exactly the type, size, model, make of the proposed doors in operation; also showing the proposed truck movements, time to enter, unload, exit for each truck; also demonstrating the proposed arrival of trucks every 6-7 minutes and how this will be managed in processing (utilising 1-3 of the proposed roller doors) as well as impacts on traffic and truck queuing. Without this proof it simply isn't acceptable nor should be approved based on 'theory'. Even if it is a possibility for the doors to be open for just 42 minutes/day, there is still no proof from GHD and Plasrefine relating to the air pollution concerns of microplastics and other air pollutants escaping from the proposed site. And lastly, has the proprietor been made aware of these proposed doors, their cost and viability and/or if they are even available for purchase?

- 2) **RISK OF A FIRE EVENT:** GHD claims that they can guarantee that via 'contractors' to be used to bail plastics there is no risk of lithium batteries being present in the materials received for processing. This is simply not possible. It's been widely reported that certain types of lithium batteries (batteries in hearing aids as one example) are so small that any visual sorting would make it very difficult to identify and remove these batteries from plastics being bailed. And that certainly there could never be any guarantees, given its human actions ie where individuals dispose of lithium batteries that ultimately dictate where they end up. This all demonstrates yet again that GHD and Plasrefine are just saying anything they feel the IPC needs to hear; without any proof that the possible outcome will mitigate these risks.
- 3) **COMPENSATION:** As referenced in my virtual presentation to the IPC on November 12th, I have a vineyard on our property (54-56 Bulwer Road, Moss Vale) bordering the proponents land and 250 metres from the proposed development site. With the reality that the operation of plastics waste recycling will significantly impact the surrounding environments (air, soil and water); I would like to obtain in writing from Plasrefine that should the development proceed, they agree to compensation during construction and for the first 5 years of

operation, for revenue lost from the inability to produce wine from the effected grapes and/or loss of revenue from the impact of selling wine produced in the Southern Highlands due to the presence of a plastics waste recycling facility in such close proximity. I agree to bare the costs for testing & monitoring the levels of microplastics contained in the grapes annually; as I simply do not trust that GHD & Plasrefine would disclose or report accurately should the results not be favourable to them.

Referring to GHD telling the IPC on the 22nd October that “our social impact teams have spoken with the nearest receivers who started at a point of wanting to know information to now a Facebook frenzy” I can tell you that not at any time since receiving that initial letter and during these past 4 years, have we personally had any contact from GHD or the proponent; not a single phone call, email, letter or an offer to meet. So Commissioners, please note their statement to you simply wasn’t truthful.

Our vineyard is located at the northern end of our property; the end of each row is roughly 10 metres from the boundary fence shared with the proponent.

Having spent literally thousands of hours in the vineyard these last 5 years, I’d like to make the following points:

- It’s always windy. Not all day every day, but certainly every day. And frequently ferocious. And whilst it mainly related to the Westerly wind patterns, there is often wind in all directions.
- I’m forever untangling branches from the trellis wires and vines; the westerlies having blown these branches from dead trees in some cases 20 metres away.
- Rabbit guards on the vines are often found in bushes and neighbouring fence lines having been blown off despite being either stapled or cable-tied on.

The results of these WINDS will see unavoidable large quantities of microplastics carried over a significant portion of the Southern Highlands.

Grapes are porous. They will absorb microplastics through their skins, as well as via the affected soil and water they take up through their root systems. It’s hard enough for the wine industry which has forever been at the mercy of the weather Gods...whether that be:

- Bush fires that lead to smoke taint and a whole year’s crop and income wiped out. That was 2021 for the majority of the Southern Highlands vineyards. Noting that my property and the proponents land are within a Bushfire Zone.
- And then Frost, High winds, Heavy rain, Hail, Birds, mildews etc. all present challenges annually.
- The last thing any winemaker should have to think about are the levels of plastic material contained in their wines; or waiting for the imminent plastic fire event.

Nature can be unkind, so why heap more unnecessary and man-made pain on a fragile industry. There’s endless choice for consumers when it comes to purchasing wines; so

when Southern Highlands wines are flagged as having higher levels of microplastics than other regions, are people going to buy them!?! I don't think so. I certainly wouldn't.

With this proposed Plasrefine factory – when, not if, a major Fire event occurs, it will result in vineyards throughout the Southern Highlands blanketed in poisonous smoke and I can't make this point clearer; it will ruin their harvests; it will steal a whole year's income from innocent families; it will ruin their livelihoods. And this is just the wine industry; the same will occur to all primary producers and this isn't even addressing the impact on the general population, the children, the elderly; the long lasting physical and mental health impacts.

Wine Australia notes that “Wine tasting, sampling great regional food and unwinding are essential ingredients to a visit to the Southern Highlands, a favoured country retreat for Sydneysiders.”

The Southern Highlands has over 60 vineyards and nearly 20 cellar doors. Many of these have outdoor lunch services, hold open-air concerts and the like. That's a lot of jobs on the line when people stop turning up. People will be fearful of the air they are breathing in and what they might be exposing their children and loved ones to; but just by nature of there being one of the Southern hemisphere's largest plastics recycling facilities located in the Southern Highlands, who in their right mind would want to put their health at risk by visiting. Or for that matter consume wines or food which have a significant amount of microplastics contained in them.

The development of any large scale Plastics Recycling plant would create local community concern. That's human nature.

But in a world of common sense, you could reasonably expect a site to be chosen that might have 1 or perhaps only a few issues that in working with the community could be resolved or at least managed.

For Plasrefine, the proponent has acquired and proposed a site that, to be frank, has dozens of genuine and terrifying concerns and risks to human & animal life that simply can't be resolved or ignored.

It should now be clear to the IPC that the proponent **COULD** and **SHOULD** find another site:

- a site that isn't so close to residential properties, schools and day care facilities.
- a site that doesn't risk poisoning the drinking water of potentially millions of innocent people and animals.
- a site that isn't located in a high wind area; to avoid unnecessarily and negatively impacting a much larger population, many more water sources, many more communities, their businesses and livelihoods.
- a site that allows children to safely play outside when there is the slightest breeze.

- a site that won't cause potential deaths and significant long term impacts to human & animal health as well as the primary production industries of an entire region when a fire inevitably occurs.
- a site that creates jobs in the local community and positively impacts the economy; without actually taking away many more jobs and ruining countless businesses if in an area that relies so heavily on tourism and weekend visitors.
- a site that doesn't require constant heavy vehicles movements ruining the road infrastructure already in urgent need of repair.
- a site that doesn't locate a facility, that by its nature, will negatively impact human life; directly next to a facility that through its medical research ultimately saves lives. Nor impact the latter facility's ability to effectively conduct its medical research.

If Plasrefine is approved, the intangible damage is impossible to quantify; but it will be HUGE. There are just shy of 10,000 people with a Moss Vale post code alone. We are all going to lose significant value to our properties; that's just a fact.

We bought our little piece of beautiful Moss Vale, with the dream of having our kids experience the kind of upbringing we were both lucky enough to have. Since arriving 8 years ago, Moss Vale has progressed immensely (despite GHD's claims that we're stagnant and ageing)– so many young families like us making the move from Sydney, so many great new cafes, restaurants and outdoor experiences to enjoy as a family. And so much momentum created around the food, wine and destination culture that is what the Southern Highlands is known for. All of this progress will be completely undone if Plasrefine goes ahead.

How many lives need to be affected before common sense prevails.
This is NOT THE RIGHT SITE.

Michael Kean