



SUZI BRYANT

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217401

Organisation:	Moss Vale Public School Parents & Citizens Association	Key issues: Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic
Location:	New South Wales 2577	
Attachment:	N/A	

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*This submission is on behalf of the Moss Vale Public School (MVPS) Parents and Citizens Association (P&C). We strongly oppose the proposal to build a plastics recycling plant in Moss Vale due to the severe harms that evidence shows it will inflict on our children and our environment.*

*Our school is a mere 2.5km from the proposed Plasrefine site and is therefore within the Secondary Study Area in the GHD Social Impact Statement (SIS), which covers the area 5km from the site. The town, the school and the children are here now. The plastics recycling plant is not, and never should be. It is incompatible with a healthy, thriving community.*

*Moss Vale is a vibrant, young, growing town, with over 4,000 houses now and another 3,000 in the planning stages. Many of these households are young families. The SIS states: In summary, the study areas are characterised by an ageing population which clearly is not true. What else have they said that is not true?*

*Many of these parents are considering moving away from the area if the project goes ahead “ and for good reason. Microplastics and PFAS are known to impact the hormone development of children and cause hormone-induced cancer. Microplastics and PFAS will be generated in the recycling plant and will escape via the wastewater and into the air - during the documented 150 times the factory doors will be opened each day.*

*Microplastics will also fly off the 100 trucks coming to and from the plant, into the air we and our children breathe. The Sydney Morning Herald recently ran a story about two towns in the USA which have had a spike in teenage cancer and mortality, and both towns are polluted with PFAS and heavy chemicals (<https://www.smh.com.au/world/north-america/toxic-secrets-the-town-that-3m-built-where-kids-are-dying-of-cancer-20180613-p4zl83.html>).*

*This is not a thing we should have to worry about, or even have a discussion about, in Australia. Why would we knowingly expose our children to microplastics and PFAS when the far simpler solution is to not approve a plastics recycling plant right in the heart of Moss Vale?*

*Research shows the closest human habitation to a plastic recycling plant should be 6km (see BBC Assignment Series podcast: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct5mtp>). The proposed plant in Moss Vale will be 90 metres from the nearest residential land. To knowingly build a toxic, heavy industry plastic recycling plant only 2.5km from the local primary school, and within 5km of over 4,000 homes, is highly irresponsible.*

*If there is a fire at the recycling plant, there will not be fire trucks able to fight it. The local station is unmanned and has access to three fire trucks, but they would be woefully insufficient to put out a fire of this size (the size of 4 MCGs), and at the heat it will burn from the plastic and many chemicals onsite.*

*A fire is a real risk. Many plastic recycling plants in Australia have had fires that have been left to burn as they can't be fought. The smoke from such a fire will pollute Moss Vale and the whole of the Southern Highlands, and the children at MVPS will have to breathe in these toxic fumes.*

*The roads that the 100 trucks a day will drive along are the same small residential roads, without footpaths, that our children wait to catch buses, or ride or walk to school on. Having an extra 100 trucks a day is*



*dangerous for our children. If even one child is injured because of this increase in trucks it is one child too many. Asking the trucks to please drive a certain way is naive and unrealistic.*

*Again, the school is only 2.5km from the proposed site. It has been there since 1868 and has historic buildings and beautiful grounds with many established trees. The school cannot be moved. The choice of site for the plastics recycling plant can be.*

*MVPS currently has almost 500 students. Next year we are introducing an Opportunity Class (OC) for academically gifted students, the only OC class offered in the Southern Highlands, which has increased the school's enrolments and led to a number of families moving into the area. There is also a pre-school currently being built on MVPS grounds, which will further increase the number of children on site.*

*The school has numerous extra-curricular activities including a band, the annual musical, sporting events, debating and public speaking and a kitchen garden with chooks and veggies. These all foster a strong community with the children at its heart.*

*We, as a P&C, volunteer our time in the best interests of our kids. Moss Vale Public School, like the town, is successful, expanding and thriving. Allowing this heavy-industry plastics recycling plant to happen right in Moss Vale is definitely not in our children's best interests. We vehemently oppose the proposal and urge you to reject it. There are far too many risks and unknowns. It should never have been approved in the first place.*

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