



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 217041

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues
Location: Redacted	
Attachment: N/A	

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I feel strongly opposed to the construction and operation of the Plasrefine plant in Moss Vale as the visual impacts, land use compatibility, traffic, social impacts and safety impacts are totally incompatible and out of character for the Southern Highlands.

Rural Moss Vale and the surrounding areas of the Southern Highlands currently rely strongly upon their visual aesthetics to promote tourism and rural properties for the production of pristine agricultural produce. The proposed recycling development is within close proximity to a medical research facility which requires an isolated and uncontaminated environment for its ongoing research into the future. All of these current land use uses will become untenable should the plastics recycling centre be constructed.

The proposed site adjoins and provides run off to a major water supply source for the Southern Highlands and greater Sydney, the Wingecarribee River. In the past this source has been protected from any development, so to find it now acceptable to build a plastics recycling plant with the propensity for such a high risk of contamination is incomprehensible. Just the tar dust and dirt from the truck traffic alone has the potential to significantly pollute the water way. In addition, the proposed construction is in a natural fire corridor. Fires during the 2019 bushfire period raced through parts of this area and the embers ignited the Wingecarribee Recycling plant green pile. Imagine the damage to the environment should this occur to the proposed plastics recycling plant. Such plants have a long and less than prestigious reputation for catching fire of their own accord. Barely a week passes that some plastics recycling plant somewhere catches on fire requiring the attendance of multiple Hazardous Fire Units. The nearest Hazardous Substance Fire Unit is currently at best well over an hours drive from the proposed recycling facility. The Southern Highlands has limited capacity to deal with any form of fire, let alone one with the dangerous OH and S implications which would come with a plastics fire. Perhaps the Department of Planning and Environment needs to turn its attention to the improved planning of State Significant (essential) Developments such as emergency services and health facilities as the capacity of our emergency services and health facilities would be woefully inadequate should there be a major fire incident. This is not just a case of not in my backyard, this is a largely rural environment with the services designed to support this type of community.

The current agricultural and tourist support services provide some employment for those in the local area however should these cease to exist for example cattle cannot graze due to residual plastics in the soil or grape vines and wines tainted with acrid plastic fumes then such employment would be lost. Few people come in bus loads to tour their plastics recycling plant but they do come to see the Southern Highlands in Spring and Autumn. As for the employment of locals in any section of the recycling plant from construction to processing, this would be highly unlikely. Of greater concern would be the use of imported labour with the specific technical or other narrowly defined skills to work and live onsite. Moss Vale is again a long way from the urban hubs where those skilled in checking the bonafides and the welfare of such

employees operate. Support services and welfare groups in the Southern Highlands are unskilled and ill equipped to support immigrant populations purely because it is not part of their current core business.

Rarely, if ever, have I seen such a poorly conceived and developed proposal even considered, let alone supported as a State Significant Development . My immediate response was why? In time I suspect we will come to understand the why. In the meantime I trust in the process of open and transparent governance, and urge the Department of Planning and Environment to honour their name and refuse the development of



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

Plasrefine in Moss Vale.
