



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 217253
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues	
Location: New South Wales 2577		
Attachment: N/A		

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This my second submission opposing the Plasrefine plastic recycling proposal discusses some of the serious immediate consequences should it be approved. The myriad long term impacts have been exhaustively dealt with, less so the probable immediate repercussions for those parties who reject the application. The scenarios are troubling in the extreme.

Firstly because the Southern Highlands will not accept this plant on our doorstep and in view of the level of opposition, I anticipate ongoing protests from every strata of our community. Intensity will likely increase. The undertaking of legal proceedings and the appeals process is very likely. Because the wheels of the law turn slowly, the spectre of Plasrefine will continue to loom large. While all legal avenues are pursued with the potential to drag on for years, Moss Vale residents will be condemned to live in an unsettling limbo, unable to fully enjoy life or plan for the future. No other city, municipality or shire in Sydney would tolerate this state of affairs. Mental health issues will spiral and demands for psychological support services will not be met, with devastating consequences. Our region is simply not equipped to face this daunting challenge and it will have a flow on effect.

Legal proceedings will presumably involve our local council. WSC will be distracted from the important day to day management of its responsibilities. Upkeep of infrastructure will suffer through the diversion of council rates. Our roads, already in poor condition, will be left to deteriorate further. Critical flood mitigation works currently on the table will be postponed. Significant redevelopment projects similar to the beautification of the Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve at Bong Bong will be relegated to the back burner, to the detriment of this community. These are just a few examples of what may come.

Moss Vale will start to decline. Our previously vibrant town centre will rapidly lose its charm. The boutique shops, bars and eateries which have recently found a home here will disappear, no longer able to attract the tourist dollars essential to survival in this tough economic climate.

Real estate will also be an obvious first casualty. Young families will leave, reluctantly accepting a loss on their investment. This will have an immediate impact on our demographic. GHD's assertion that Moss Vale is an older demographic is incorrect. Many families with young children moved here after the pandemic and our local schools have full quota enrolment. Might I also draw your attention to the offensive inference from GHD that an older demographic equates with being more expendable! Diplomacy is not its strong suit.

It is clear to Moss Valians that the Minns state Labor government does not care about regional NSW. The fact that the state seat of Goulburn is held by the Liberals has conveniently played into the government's hands. We are hugely disillusioned with the poor performance of the DPHI in this matter and feel particularly betrayed by the Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe, who initially agreed that Moss Vale was not the right site. Her later silence on the issue has only served to generate a deep seated cynicism. Sadly it appears we were effectively lulled into a false sense of security - after all, we had Ms Sharpe's statement that the proposal should be declined and there was little if any progress on the application. Imagine our distress to hear on ABC radio on October 14 that the DPHI had given a recommendation for approval! Shell shocked would not be an exaggeration.

If approval is given, the Minns government will be in very bad odour, quite possibly impacting its re-election in 2027. The word is already spreading further afield, with Sydney media picking up the story. No matter who



wins government in that election, the citizens of NSW will lose out. Again it will be the taxpayer who bears the brunt of the litigation and legal manoeuvres. Most reasonable citizens would prefer to see their taxpayer dollars invested in the basic necessities of housing, education, health and transport, etc rather than lining the pockets of the legal fraternity.

Short sighted policies

In conclusion, the only way to ensure that the aforementioned scenarios do not eventuate is for the IPC to decline Plasrefine's proposal, on the legitimate grounds that it is the wrong location, the wrong company and the wrong technology. I respectfully urge the panel to free the community of this burden and put a stop to the appalling waste of time, money and effort being expended to fight a project which is so clearly unacceptable. Please give Moss Vale back her future.

Thank you.
