



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 217594
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>	
Location: Redacted		
Attachment: N/A		

Submission date: 11/24/2024 10:19:30 AM

Dear members of the Independent Planning Commission

I am a deeply concerned citizen who is passionately opposed to the Plasrefine recycling facility proposed in Moss Vale.

My whole family has been coming to the Southern Highlands (SH) for years to escape the pollution, noise, and congestion of Sydney. We came regularly because of the clean fragrant country air, the peace, the incredible natural beauty of the Southern Highlands, and the access to high quality food, vineyards and the clean, green, healthy country lifestyle. It has been our getaway for decades. Now, my mother and sister call it home and I live in Moss Vale three days per week.

I am a designer and have worked in the building industry for two decades and understand all development proposals must have the correct checks and balances in place when submitted for approval. It must not only be respectful to the local community, but look to enhance it.

The Plasrefine/GHD proposal has so many RED FLAGS. Each one, individually, is reason enough to dismiss this proposal. I am truly bewildered and confused as to how it has gotten to this point, where common sense and the consideration for human health and environmental impact has been completely ignored. It shows negligence and a lack of due process by the NSWDPHI - a total disregard for the health, wellbeing and safety of the Southern Highlands community and for Sydney.

Critical reasons why this should not go ahead:

1. **INAPPROPRIATE SITE:** Too close to everything, homes, schools, Garvan Institute, riparian waterways, water catchment areas. It may be zoned heavy industrial but that doesn't mean it should go ahead. The MVEC is over 40 years old and the 'landscape of industry' has changed. Plastics recycling did not exist back then. A facility which handles toxic chemicals such as Plasrefine, should be located far away from residents, agriculture, schools, waterways and windy areas. The SHIP masterplan is the only plan that should be referred to and Plasrefine is not compatible with this.
2. **INCOMPLETE PROPOSAL:** This proposal can ONLY be assessed with an in-depth submission which includes all relevant information. The Plasrefine/GHD proposal lacks the detail and appropriate information with which such a proposal can be properly assessed. Not acceptable.
4. **NO BUFFER ZONE** "no explanation needed" this is not acceptable. Too close to homes, schools, the Garvan institute, waterways.
5. **DOCUMENTED SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUES & WATER CONTAMINATION THREAT** associated with microplastics and toxins created during the melting process: Microplastics and nanoplastics are created during Plastics recycling. These cannot be completely filtered and minimum of 1% (1,200 tonnes) will escape (current evidence is showing that most facilities have documented a much higher 6% escape rate) through the stacks and blow everywhere - over farms, houses and WILL find their way into the Wingecarribee catchment area which supplies water to the Southern Highlands and Sydney. Microplastics are a very serious health concern. They cause respiratory illness, can cause cancer and serious hormonal problems. Microplastics also bind themselves to forever, toxic chemicals such as PFAs when in water. Many toxic chemicals are also released



during the plastic melting process and are known to cause health problems. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE and, on this basis alone, the proposal should be refused due to the potential to pollute our precious waterways.

6. **MENTAL HEALTH:** The NSWDPHI report completely invalidates the effects this development would have on the mental health of the residents.

One cannot expect the residents (and Garvan institute) to deal with the 24/7 assault of noise, lighting, vibrations, emissions and foul smells with no respite. This is tortuous. Additionally, with a semi-trailer arriving every 7.5 minutes, the smell of the diesel, the pollution, the sound of trucks coming and going, changing gears, the incessant 'beep, beep, beep, beeping' of reversing trucks into the garages from morning to night is tortuous. This cannot be overlooked or ignored. This is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

7. **FOUL SMELLS:** Plastic recycling requires high heat which produces putrid smelling VOC's. Different plastics produce different odours Residents will be subjected to smells ranging from rotten eggs to garbage as it is difficult to fully filter or mask these smells. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

8. **WILDLIFE:** Platypus (who live in the Wingecarribee river) will be endangered, Bee health compromised due to the emissions and roadkill will be enormous due to the large volume of semi-trailer truck traffic in rural areas.

9. **DAMAGE TO INFRASTRUCTURE:** Too many trucks. No ability to police the use of residential roads. Road damage due to heavy loads. Road crossing hazards for the SH community. This is not acceptable.

10. **DAMAGE TO SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BUSINESSES, TOURISM & BRANDING:** Local businesses will be affected by this kind of proposal. The Southern Highlands (SH) brand is built on clean, green, healthy country lifestyle. From farm to plate. Pristine waters. Toxin and pollutant free produce. Beautiful wines. Natural medicine and healing businesses. Many Southern Highlands businesses are built on this brand and are reliant upon it. Plasrefine would destroy it and SH businesses. This is not acceptable.

11. **ABORIGINAL ELDER CONSULTATION:** It is unclear whether proper consultation with the Gundagurra and Dharawal people, the traditional custodians of the Wingecarribee Shire, has been conducted. This is not acceptable.

12. **IT IS IN A RIPARIAN ZONE** which drains into the Wingecarribee: Not the right site.

13. **FIRE;** This hazard is real and is a high risk. A fire in this facility could not be contained as the Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong fire stations do not have the equipment or fire trucks capable to extinguish such a fire. The proximity of the facility would endanger neighbouring houses (a mere 200m away) during a fire and would most likely destroy them. The toxic fumes would pollute near and far 'AND THE RUN-OFF WOULD CONTAMINATE THE SYDNEY AND SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS WATER CATCHMENT. This is would be a catastrophe.

It is our basic human right to breath clean air and drink clean water.

PLEASE LET COMMON SENSE PREVAIL and not just focus on state government targets.

YOU CAN'T REVERSE A CATASTROPHE ONCE IT'S HAPPENED, BUT YOU CAN PREVENT ONE.

SAVE THE HIGHLANDS AND SAVE SYDNEY'S WATER. SAY NO TO PLASREFINE. NOT THE RIGHT SITE.

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