



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 217691
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>	
Location: New South Wales 2577		
Attachment: N/A		

Submission date: 11/24/2024 2:51:00 PM

I object strongly to the proposal based on the following:

Environmental Impacts

1. *Air Pollution Risks: Potential environmental impact from emissions released via malfunctioning or failing air filtration systems. Toxic fumes could include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hazardous toxins harmful to ecosystems.*
2. *Water Pollution Risks: The site's proximity (approx. 10m) to riparian zones leading to the Wingecarribee River poses a risk of microplastic contamination. These waters feed into the Warragamba Dam, supplying drinking water to Sydney and Goulburn. Failures in water filtration systems could result in significant environmental harm.*
3. *Biodiversity Loss: Removal of habitats for endangered and vulnerable species such as the microbat (on the EPA red list), southern myotis, large bent-winged bats, and other native wildlife. This includes impacts on birds, insects, frogs, reptiles, koalas, kangaroos, and turtles.*
4. *Platypus Habitat Disruption: Runoff during construction and operation may increase sedimentation and riverbank erosion, threatening downstream platypus populations, already being monitored under a state conservation project.*
5. *Vegetation Removal: Loss of tableland swamp meadows and mountain grey gums, essential for the local ecosystem's health.*
6. *Heavy Vehicle Traffic: Increased vehicle movements contribute to air and noise pollution, dust, and potential importation of weeds, negatively impacting surrounding ecosystems.*
7. *Plastic Recycling Limitations: Recycling plastics only delays the issue of landfill as plastics degrade in quality after 2-3 cycles, with hazardous chemical accumulation posing long-term environmental challenges.*

Danger to Animal Life

8. *Fire Risks: Proximity to the Australian BioResources (ABR) facility, a world-class research institution for medical mice, poses a high threat to the animals in the event of fire. Noise and vibrations could disrupt their breeding cycles, affecting critical medical research.*
9. *Wildlife Fatalities: Increased heavy vehicle traffic poses a risk to wildlife through accidents and road degradation.*
10. *Impact on Endangered Species: Habitat destruction will negatively affect endangered species like the microbat and platypus, along with vulnerable species such as the southern myotis and large bent-winged bats.*
11. *Long-Term Impact on Ecosystems: Pollution and habitat removal will have cascading effects on the broader animal populations dependent on the disrupted ecosystems.*



Human Health and Safety

12. *Proximity to Residential Areas: The facility is just 200m from residential homes, creating a high risk of harm from fire, explosion, and toxic emissions.*
13. *Airborne Toxins: Fires at plastic facilities release toxic chemicals, including dioxins, benzene, hydrogen cyanide, and VOCs, which can cause respiratory illnesses, cancer, and developmental disorders. Vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions are at greater risk.*
14. *School and Childcare Proximity: Several schools and childcare centres within a 2km radius are at potential risk from fire, explosions, or toxic emissions.*
15. *Noise and Vibration: Increased traffic and operations could lead to noise and vibrations, reducing the quality of life for nearby residents and potentially causing stress-related health issues.*
16. *Psychological and Economic Impact: Proximity to large industrial buildings with no buffer zones may lead to property devaluation and stress for residents, affecting mental health.*
17. *Firefighting Challenges: Local fire services are inadequately equipped to manage fires of this magnitude. Previous plastic facility fires have required massive resources and caused prolonged toxic exposure to nearby areas.*
18. *Odor and Airborne Contaminants: Odors and toxins could spread to surrounding areas, carried by winds to towns like Bowral and Berrima.*

Broader Concerns

19. *Incompatibility with Local Character: The facility undermines the area's reputation for viticulture, agritourism, and the preservation of heritage villages like Berrima, harming the local economy and tourism.*
20. *Conflict with SHIP Goals: The facility is unsuitable for the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP), which aims to attract biotech and sustainable industries. Its presence could deter future innovative businesses.*
21. *Policy Contradictions: Allowing this facility contradicts emerging policies like Australia's recent human rights amendment bill that guarantees citizens access to clean and sustainable environments.*
22. *Future Cleanup Costs: In the event of the facility's closure, taxpayers may bear the financial burden of land remediation.*
23. *Ineffective Recycling Solutions: The facility focuses on delaying landfill issues rather than addressing the root cause plastic overproduction and overuse.*

Conclusion

The Moss Vale and wider Southern Highlands Community have spoken up loudly, clearly and strongly about this issue. This proposed site is inappropriate due to its substantial environmental, animal welfare, and human health risks. Alternative solutions focused on reducing plastic waste at the source and promoting sustainable practices should be prioritized. This facility would pose long-term harm to the local environment, economy, and community well-being.
