



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218314

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: 11/25/2024 2:45:49 PM

Dear members of the Independent Planning Commission

I am passionately opposed to the Plasrefine recycling facility proposed in Moss Vale.

My family and I have always visited the Southern Highlands regularly because of the clean fragrant country air, the peace, the incredible natural beauty of the Southern Highlands and the clean, green, healthy country lifestyle. It has been our getaway for decades and I have family members who live in Moss Vale.

The NSWDPHI™s support of the Plasrefine/GHD proposal has been a shock. It shows negligence and a lack of due process by the NSWDPHI and a total disregard for the health, wellbeing and safety of the Southern Highlands community and for Sydney residents.

This proposal should not go ahead:

- 1. NOT THE RIGHT SITE: Too close to everything, homes, schools, Garvan Institute, riparian waterways, Sydney water catchment area. A facility which handles toxic chemicals such as Plasrefine, should be located far away from residents, agriculture, schools, waterways and windy areas and from drinking water catchment areas, such as the Wingecaribbe river*
- 2. PROPOSAL WITH INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION: 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.*
- 4. NO BUFFER ZONE " It is dangerously close to homes, schools, the Garvan institute and waterways.*
- 5. WATER CONTAMINATION & AIRBORNE ILLNESS THREAT associated with microplastics and toxins created during the melting process: Microplastics and nanoplastics are created during Plastics recycling. It is impossible to completely filter or prevent them from escaping due to their small size. It is expected that at least 1% microplastics and nanoplastics will escape into the surrounding area. Current evidence from other recycling facilities is showing that the figure is closer to 6%. That could amount to approximately 7,200 tonnes of microplastics and nano plastics escaping into the surrounding area as Plasrefine plans to recycle 120,000 tonnes of plastic a year. This would blow everywhere - over farms, houses, daycare centres, schools and into the Wingecaribbe 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 are known to be hormone disruptors. Microplastics also bind themselves to forever, toxic chemicals such as PFAs when in water. Many other toxic chemicals are used during the plastic melting process and are known to cause health problems.*

This would be catastrophic and, on this basis alone, the proposal should be refused due to the potential to pollute our precious waterways, air and food sources.

- 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 assault of noise (the constant beeping of reversing trucks, gear changing, roller doors going up and down), lighting, vibrations, emissions and foul smells. This is tortuous. This cannot be overlooked or ignored.

7. **TOXIC SLUDGE:** *Concerns with the transporting of toxic sludge from the retention basins “ what happens if there is a spill, will this toxic sludge find it™s way to the catchment area as it is in a riparian zone?*

8. **FOUL SMELLS:** *Plastic recycling requires high heat which produces putrid smelling VOC™s. Different plastics produce different odours. Residents will be subjected to foul smells which cannot be fully filtered or masked.*

9. **WILDLIFE:** *Precious wildlife such as the 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.*

10. **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.*

10. **DAMAGE TO SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS BUSINESSES, TOURISM & BRANDING:** *Local businesses would be affected by this kind of proposal. The Southern Highlands (SH) brand is built on a 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.*

11. **POTENTIAL LOSS OF JOBS:** *Due to businesses being affected by the Plasrefine facility and a downturn in tourism, etc. many jobs would be effected. Many businesses which would have become part of the SHIP will choose to go elsewhere “ therefore less job prospects for locals.*

12. **QUESTIONABLE PLASREFINE JOB NUMBERS:**

I question the number of jobs Plasrefine promises to provide.

Plasrefine promises to create 140 jobs for the running of the site and 200 construction jobs.

Other facilities which are larger like Brightmark at Parkes, will process 200,000 tonnes of plastic but are quoted to have less full-time staff and employ less people during construction. In ABC™s article æGlobal company to transform Australian recycling with \$260million plant in NSW central West? (dated 4 March 2022), quotes æThe recycling factory is expected to create 125 jobs during construction phase and 100 jobs during the running of the site. Why does a larger facility require less people to run it and build it?

13. **IT IS IN A RIPARIAN ZONE:** *No facility which uses highly toxic chemicals should be located anywhere near riparian zones, marshes, ponds, rivers or water catchment areas due to the risk for water and soil contamination.*

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 would be a catastrophe.

How on earth can the NSWDPHI think this proposal would be good for the Southern Highlands and for Sydney?

There is nothing positive about it.



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

I may not live in the Southern Highlands, but my family and I would be directly affected. The most serious of which would be our health. This proposal would CONTAMINATE the water we drink and bathe in and would contaminate the air we breathe when we visit our family in the Southern Highlands “ this is not acceptable.

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

It™s too late once the catastrophe has happened, you must prevent it!

PLEASE LET COMMON SENSE PREVAIL.

SAVE THE HIGHLANDS AND SAVE SYDNEY™S WATER.

SAY NO TO PLASREFINE. NOT THE RIGHT SITE.
