



**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 218435

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2577</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 4:15:03 PM

*Please see attached submission.*

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Mr Andrew Mills  
Commissioner (Panel Chair)  
Independent Planning Commission  
Level 15  
135 King Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: [ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir,

**Re: Objection Submission – Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility Proposal (Plasrefine)  
Reference No. SSD-9409987**

I strongly object to the proposed plastic recycling refinery (**Plasrefine**).

Like many current residents of Moss Vale, my family and I made the choice to leave a major city and its heavy industry, pollution and poor air quality and move to the green pastures and fresh air of Moss Vale. We have resided here for almost 8 years and this period has been the best time in our lives, due to the wonderful community, clean air, rural aspect and endless green open spaces. It's also been a fantastic place to raise a young family. If you look at our tourism NSW and Destination Southern Highlands websites, Moss Vale is described as "*a town with strong ties to the birthplace of the Highlands and the region's rural centre. It is home to livestock saleyards, farms, markets and a traditional agricultural show...*" and "*Surrounded by rolling farmlands, vineyards and beautiful gardens, Moss Vale is one of NSW's most charming country escapes in the Southern Highlands...*". Moss Vale has come into it's own in recent years and instead of being a stopover on the way to other towns, it has now become an extremely popular tourism destination in its own right, with a focus on agritourism and viticulture.

Why on earth are we still debating a proposal to construct the largest plastic reprocessing factory in Australia in Moss Vale? It simply is not the right site.

During the public meetings it has become clear that one of the key parties to the proposed development has no prior experience in recycling plastics. There are also many questions in relation to this proposal that have been left unanswered. This proposal simply poses too many risks to the people of Moss Vale and the surrounding areas (including the Sydney Water Catchments). The potential for irrevocable short-term and long-term environmental disaster looms large.

In summary, Plasrefine's proposed location:

- is too close to key riparian zones – there is approximately 10 metres on either side of the building that separates Plasrefine and streams that feed into the Wingecarribee River, which then in turn flows into Sydney's Drinking Water Catchments. Additionally, the close proximity to waterways could disturb the platypus habitats during building and operation of the site.
- is too close to many schools and childcare centres that lie within a 2km radius of the proposed site;

- is too close to residential properties (some of which have been in the same families for generations);
- is too close to the Garvan Institute (50 metres away);

If this proposal goes ahead, it will be the only facility of this type in Australia that lies within a 1km buffer zone from a residential area. The plastic recycling refinery in Parkes has a 7km buffer zone. Again, not the right site.

We are extremely concerned about the environmental pollutants and the effects they will have on all living things. The proposed site is also surrounded by numerous national parks and nature reserves, such as Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve (a unique wetland and wildlife sanctuary and home to over 90 species of birds), significant historic sites (such as Berrima). All of these things hold significant importance to our past, present and future and as such they should be protected, not put at risk by the presence of a plastic recycling facility.

In addition to the above, the traffic moving in and out of Moss Vale will increase dramatically, putting a strain on an already choked road system. The roads in the vicinity of the proposed site are all in a state of disrepair. The trucks and vehicles travelling to and from the site will also have to navigate level rail crossings on each journey. Moss Vale is already struggling with significant issues with traffic, road infrastructure and other key services that have been under strain over recent years, since the population has increased and more tourists visit the area. Whilst we welcome new residents and visitors to our town, the addition of Plasrefine will only magnify the issues we already face.

In the event of an emergency, our local fire station is very small, unmanned and staffing is entirely voluntary. We have one fire truck. With a total of four fire trucks and one hazmat vehicle in the Southern Highlands, that leaves the town extremely vulnerable when it comes to safety. The nearest alternative fire stations are at least 45 minutes away (on a good day).

Essentially, this proposal is a blight on our beautiful town. I don't want our tourism websites to read "the home of Australia's largest plastic recycling facility".

I implore you to reject this proposal. It's not the right site.

Yours sincerely,

