



**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 218438

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| 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: 11/25/2024 4:17:29 PM

*To the Independent Planning Commission,*

*I am writing to submit my objection to the Plasrefine proposal for the Moss Vale Plastic Recycling Facility, and the recommended approval by the DPHI, focusing on the significant fire danger and limited resources available in Moss Vale and the surrounding area. This submission highlights critical safety concerns that have not been adequately addressed in the proposal or its assessment.*

*I am a current NSW Fire and Rescue retained fire fighter stationed at Moss Vale , but I am making a personal submission and am not speaking on behalf of NSWFR.*

*Fire Danger Concerns*

*1. High Fire Risk in Moss Vale*

*1.1 Regional Fire History*

*Moss Vale and its surrounding areas have a history of bushfires, exacerbated by climate change and increasing temperatures. The region's vegetation, combined with periodic drought conditions, creates an environment highly susceptible to fires. The introduction of a large-scale plastic recycling facility poses additional risks, given the flammable nature of plastic materials.*

*1.2 Facility-Specific Risks*

*The proposed facility will handle significant volumes of plastic waste, which can be highly combustible. In the event of a fire, plastics can produce toxic smoke and release harmful pollutants into the air, posing severe health risks to nearby communities.*

*The layout of the facility in respect to access needs to be done before any approval is considered.*

*2. Limited Emergency Response Resources*

*2.1 Local Firefighting Capacity*

*The local firefighting resources in Moss Vale are limited and may not be equipped to handle a catastrophic fire at a facility of this scale. The response capabilities are constrained by personnel, equipment, and access to water supplies necessary for combating large industrial fires, further specialised resources will have to be called in from areas at least 40 minutes away.*

*2.2 Coordination with Regional Services*

*While regional firefighting services can provide additional support, coordination challenges and response times could significantly impact the effectiveness of firefighting efforts during a major incident at the facility, further specialised resources will have to be called in from areas at least 40 minutes away.*

*Implications for Community Safety*

*3. Impact on Local Communities*



### *3.1 Evacuation Challenges*

*In the event of a fire, evacuation routes may become congested or inaccessible due to smoke and debris, complicating efforts to safely evacuate residents from affected areas.*

### *3.2 Health Risks from Smoke and Pollutants*

*The release of toxic smoke from burning plastics could lead to respiratory issues and other health problems for residents, particularly vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly.*

*Given these significant fire safety concerns, I urge the Independent Planning Commission to take the following actions before considering any approval for this development:*

*Conduct a Comprehensive Fire Risk Assessment before any approval is considered*

*Independently evaluate the potential fire hazards associated with the facility.*

*Enhance Local Emergency Response Capabilities*

*The NSW Government if they are prepared to approve this proposal need to invest in strengthening local firefighting resources and infrastructure to ensure adequate preparedness for large industrial fires.*

*Develop Detailed Emergency Response Plans: Collaborate with local authorities to establish clear evacuation procedures and communication strategies for residents.*

*In conclusion, without addressing these critical fire safety issues, approving this facility poses unacceptable risks to both public safety and environmental health in Moss Vale and its surrounding areas and should be refused.*

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