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OBJECT

Submission ID: 218514

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: N/A	

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The proposal to place a heavy, toxic, industry in the middle of the Southern Highlands is completely nonsensical.

The Southern Highlands is now burgeoning with the influx of young families who have moved to the area in recent years to enjoy all that is on offer; clean air, quiet neighbourhoods, outdoor activities, tending vegetable gardens, bushwalking, cycle tracks, rivers swimming and fishing. The demographic of the area has dramatically changed in the last 4 to 5 years. Schools and childcare centres are at capacity. Membership for local sports clubs has grown exponentially. Moss Vale is a small, historic town that is experiencing rapid growth. New housing developments are expanding out into Moss Vale's surrounds, indeed a development application has been approved for a site that is located within 90 meters of the proposed site.

Our roads here are already showing the signs of increased traffic, I am very concerned that the proposed one hundred truck movements a day through local residential areas will decimate our roads. Will Plasrefine pick up the repair bill? This increased traffic will also make our roads unsafe for our community, children riding and walking to school, not to mention the noise pollution. Such a facility would be better placed adjacent to the highway, with direct access, rather than access via neighbourhood roads.

Our local infrastructure is not equipped to accommodate such a large, heavy industrial facility.

Concerning is the issue of water supply to such a facility in times of low rainfall and drought. Concerning too is the ability to treat the waste water that will be generated by such a facility.

Very concerning is the ability to respond in the case of fire at the proposed facility. Our Fire and Rescue Services here in the Southern Highlands are not equipped to confront and control a fire if, indeed when, it might occur at a facility of this nature. The response would inevitably be to let it burn out, toxic gases pluming out across the Highlands for days. Polluting the clean air that so many moved here for; compromising human health, environment (flora and fauna), tourism and thus local business.

Further to the point of environmental impact, this is a heavy, toxic industry that needs to be placed far from sensitive areas. The proposed site for this facility sits within the catchment area for Sydney's water supply. The actual projected rates of pollution from a facility of this nature by forever micro plastics (PFAS etc) has been noted by many. There is already concern about the levels of PFAS in Sydney's drinking water. It seems totally reckless to consider placing a facility of this nature into an otherwise rural, residential, and light industrial/clean bio-industrial precinct. (I refer to The S.H.I.P -Southern Highlands Innovations Park, designed to attract sustainable and innovative industries). It has been raised that the technology of the proposed facility will be antiquated and obsolete by the time it is operational. Science and engineering have moved in leaps and bounds even in the last 5 to 10 years regarding this issue. Once built this facility will then need to be operational for decades to be justifiable, and meanwhile technology will have moved on whilst Moss Vale will be stuck with this polluting, outmoded dinosaur.

The proposed facility is not in line with the vision of the S.H.I.P. The master plan indicates that it is hoped the precinct will provide a unique opportunity become a major employer and economic driver for the shire through attracting sustainable and innovative industries. I see this as an employment opportunity for the future of the children of new families who have recently moved to the area, Plasrefine will discourage the kinds of clean, light industry that the S.H.I.P. had hoped to attract.



I ask also, who will police and oversee the stated intentions of Plasrefine operations? How many hours per day will the roller doors be open; how many trucks per day; hours of operation; contaminants and waste water management. It is evident that the proponent, Plasrefine, modifies its intended practices when questioned with reasonable concerns. This company only recently exists on paper, has a website with no detail; they have no history or expertise in the industry. When asked, why Moss Vale, they originally stated, "because the land was cheap".

This is very much the wrong site and it would seem, not the right company to given this responsibility.

It is evident that little or no consultation with the local community has been under taken. Families who live within 150 meters of the proposed site for this facility were not given and opportunity to object. Child care centres and local schools have not been considered. We have not any local representation, having been without an elected council since 2021. We have had no where to voice our concerns.

There is more than enough evidence regarding health threats posed by the pollutants from such a facility. Similar facilities around the world have a much greater buffer zone, are not placed in drinking water catchment areas; are not placed in area prone to bush fire; are placed in areas that support similar industries, not in pristine, rural environments within metres of homes schools, childcare centres.

This is most definitely NOT a protest against such a facility being in MY backyard, it is a conviction that this is just NOT THE RIGHT SITE.
