



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218241

Organisation: <i>Oxley College</i>	Key issues: <i>Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2576</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 1:25:23 PM

Please see attachment



Oxley
COLLEGE

Submission to NSW Independent Planning Commission: Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility

Oxley College objects to the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility. As an institution deeply committed to environmental stewardship, we believe the risks posed by this proposal to the environment, our community and future generations outweigh its benefits.

Oxley College is an independent, co-educational, non-denominational school in Burradoo. Our campus is approximately 3.5 kilometres from the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility. Our grounds cover 7 hectares, with established trees that were planted when the property was first established, buildings designed to support the natural environment, and landscaping that seamlessly brings the two together.

The natural environment is central to our ethos and our community. Oxley College's commitment as an environmental caretaker is one reason families are drawn to our community. That responsibility goes hand in hand with our values of kindness, courage and wisdom, and our ideals, which include international understanding, democracy, environmental stewardship and leadership.

[REDACTED] write to endorse the [REDACTED] parents and carers, members of staff, and [REDACTED] stakeholders from the [REDACTED]. We write to add our collective voice [REDACTED] who have publicly stated [REDACTED] project, including Member for Whitlam Stephen Jones MP, Member for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman MP, Member for Wollondilly Judy Hannan MP, and the Wingecarribee Shire Councillors in unanimity. Objections from 3 tiers of government across the political spectrum highlight the depth of community concern.

We support Wingecarribee Shire Council's key objections to the proposal, particularly:

- that the location is unsuitable due to its proximity to homes, schools and existing businesses
- that the proposal undermines long-term, consultative planning efforts aimed at strengthening Wingecarribee Shire's economy, particularly in terms of appropriate employment opportunities for our talented young people
- the risk of building this facility adjacent to a riparian zone and agricultural land, despite the lack of evidence on the effects of microplastics on the environment and human health, as well as lack of policy, regulation and legislation in this area
- the increased burden on local roads and other infrastructure.

We have listened carefully to the expertise and experience of well-respected members of the Oxley College community, some of whom have already presented at your meetings and lodged submissions.

To Think
To Dare
To Dream

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Our engaged student body has also expressed their concerns, via discussions in our sustainability groups and our ethics groups. They recognise the urgency of addressing plastic waste but view this proposal as a missed opportunity for sustainable, long-term solutions. These future leaders wish to acknowledge the pressing need to deal with the vast quantities of recyclable plastic that Australians continue to consume. At the same time, many emphasise that they intend to enter professions that will:

- legislate to encourage waste minimisation and avoidance
- pursue research and development to eliminate the need for plastic altogether
- research microplastics and 'forever chemicals', with an aim to prevent and mitigate adverse health effects
- contribute to systemic change that will promote the take-up of closed-loop, carbon-neutral systems
- develop safe, efficient ways to recycle plastics that produce useful, high-quality products.

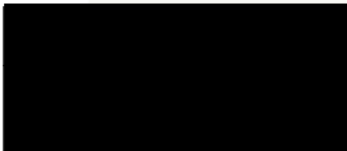
To them, this particular proposal is short-sighted.

Returning to our role as educational leaders, environmental caretakers, business operators and community members, this proposal creates risks to the environment and our community that outweigh the benefits to the state of NSW. At the very least, we wish to see:

- a thorough and independent environmental impact statement
- a thorough and independent social impact statement
- a review based on updated demographic data.

To stay true to our values of understanding, democracy and leadership, we cannot in good faith support the assessment of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. We urge the Independent Planning Commission to reject this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Mr Scott Bedingfield
Head of College



Mrs Jane Crowley
Chair, Board of Governors

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