



| NAME REDACTED | OBJECT | Submission ID: 218359 |
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| Organisation: <i>RegenAction Wingecarribee</i> | Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic</i> | |
| Location: <i>New South Wales 2577</i> | | |
| Attachment: <i>N/A</i> | | |

Submission date: 11/25/2024 3:19:55 PM

Ladies and Gentleman of the Commission,

We represent RegenAction.org.au, a community group dedicated to the regeneration of landscapes in Moss Vale and the broader Wingecarribee Shire. Our mission is clear: to promote ecological balance, restore native habitats, and contribute to the reduction of CO2 emissions through responsible land use and community-driven initiatives. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility at this site.

Fresh clean water is precious! We dedicate space programs money to finding sources of it in our solar system. FACT: Of all the water on Earth, only 3% of it is fresh, available drinking water. The rest is either seawater or locked up in ice. And we don't yet know how climate change will affect our weather systems & water supply.

WATER IS THE KEY TO RESTORING DEGRADED LANDSCAPES AND IS ALSO KEY TO THE PROSPERITY OF PLACES LIKE THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS.

The partnership between WATER, soil, plants and the sun underpins all life on Earth. This partnership is where our food comes from. We should be very careful not to disturb this relationship by damaging the natural water courses which spread water across our landscape, recharging the aquifer and supporting our local food production initiatives. These food growing initiatives are an important part of the Southern Highlands economy and livelihoods which are in turn, threatened by microplastics bonding to water and landing as dew on our pastures to be eaten by cattle and sheep. We then consume these microplastics in meat.



Regen Action™s projects so far have centred on regenerating agricultural and urban food-growing systems as well as improving soil/water retention high in the cattle grazing areas in response to the damaging drought and fires of 2019.

Our projects aim to protect and enhance existing natural water systems like springs and chains of ponds with the ultimate aim of transitioning to moister soils for greater local food production and a more resilient shire in the face of climate change impacts.

Through community action, our Shire Council has developed strategic goals & strategies to reduce its carbon footprint “ Zero emissions by 2050. RegenAction works with Council to achieve this with the guidance of the Independent Council for Ecosystem Restoration, a body which is staffed by internationally recognised experts in this field.

The scale and nature of this PlasRefine facility and the site chosen for its construction threatens the ecological balance and hydrological capacity of the surrounding area. How??

i, Through disturbance to soils and natural water flows during extensive building earthworks

ii, Through continuing, unsustainable use of town water (estimated at 46,000+ kilolitres daily)

iii, and through the resulting pollution created in the process of washing dirty plastics prior to the recycling process which are then stored in ponds onsite.

Topographical maps demonstrate that this area has a network of springs and rivulets supporting a ~chain of ponds™ above the site. We earlier saw evidence via a video of overflowing rivulets rushing down the proposed PlasRefine site. The proposed waste-holding dams could be easily breached in episodic flood events, such as happened as recently as 2016, which took the life of one local man and caused flooding of houses and retail stores in Moss Vale and around the shire. The breaching of the proposed sludge dams would likely overflow its polluted slurry of micro plastics & other unknown pollutants (PFAS?) across the rural landscape



below. We know these waste streams will enter natural streams emptying into the Wingecarribee River and into Sydney water storages. The introduction of a large-scale plastics recycling facility is fundamentally incompatible with our community™s vision for the establishment of a thriving environmentally-conscious region. It stands to disturb natural habitats, disrupt water flows, and increase traffic through narrow, rural roads as well as increased traffic within Moss Vale township.

Despite amendments in the revised application, the facility™s plans still fall well short of adequately addressing the true long-term environmental impact on the local landscape. The site selection remains flawed, with key ecological areas and habitats placed at risk with scant information about the actual processes of recycling.

We urge the Commission, with its duty of care to its citizens, to prioritize the long-term health and environmental sustainability of our region over short-term industrial gains. Please reject this proposal.

NOT THE RIGHT SITE! And probably not the right process!

Thank you.

On behalf of RegenAction Wingecarribee Inc
