



**ALEX GREENWICH**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 218295

Organisation: <i>N/A</i>	Key issues: <i>Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2010</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 2:23:06 PM

*Please see attached letter*

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25 November 2024

Independent Planning Commission  
New South Wales Government

Sent via: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/make-a-submission-forms/moss-vale-plastics-recycling-facility>

Dear Commissioners

### **Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility**

I write to object to the proposed plastics recycling facility in Moss Vale within the Southern Highlands.

While there are local concerns expressed by the community, my submission will focus on health impacts felt across Sydney, including within my electorate, due to drinking water contamination.

The Southern Highlands form part of the Greater Sydney drinking water catchment, which supplies drinking water to 60 percent of the state's population – over five million people. The proposed industrial scale plastics recycling and reprocessing facility will put this vital water supply at risk of contamination of microplastics and forever chemicals.

There is growing evidence that plastic recycling is a significant source of microplastic pollution in the surrounding environment. The recycling processes of shredding or grinding plastic into smaller flakes generates microplastics that end up in wastewater. The facility proposes discharging up to 400 grams of microplastics into the Moss Vale Sewage Treatment Plant every day. Microplastics cannot be effectively filtered out of wastewater and the Wingecarribee Shire Council states that they will make their way into the Sydney Water Drinking Catchment. Airborne microplastics from the plant that end up in the local environment are also likely to contaminate the waterways that feed the catchment.

Microplastics are known to compromise human health through chemical and pathogen contamination including PFAS. Microplastics are increasingly showing up humans in their organs, reproductive systems, bone marrow and breast milk. While the full impacts on human health remain unknown, microplastics are associated with cancers and infertility, and disruptions to hormone, thyroid function and cognition.

Plastic pollution is a looming global crisis. While recycling will be a part of the solution, the dangers of plastic pollution particularly from microplastics, create a need to sensitively locate any plastic recycling facilities to prevent worsening problems. Adjacent to a first order riparian corridor in a drinking water catchment area supplying millions of people is not an appropriate location for such facilities.

***On behalf of the Sydney electorate community, I ask that you reject the proposed development.***

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
**Member for Sydney**

