



INGRID SKIRKA	OBJECT	Submission ID: 218210
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		

Submission date: 11/25/2024 12:45:57 PM

*Objection Submission to*

*Application No SSD-9409987*

*Moss Vale Plastics Recycling and Storage Facility*

*Proposed Location 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale (Part Lot 11 DP 1084421)*

*Applicant Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd*

*Council Area Wingecarribee Shire*

*I have not made a political donation.*

*25th November 2024*

*I am Ingrid Skirka, a resident of the Southern Highlands, I object to the proposal to build a hazardous chemical industry in the area by Plasrefine Recycling and Storage Facility Pty Ltd.*

*Human Rights Violations*

*This is not how Moss Vale and surrounding areas wish to do business, with a foreign entity exempt from reportage, in a challenging market with demand for recycled plastic plummeting, within a global oversupply of industrial plastic chemicals, of hazardous content and high-risk consequence, in this agricultural region of important water catchment and source. The Southern Highlands community is either unaware or becoming increasingly united in defending itself against a contaminant storage facility deliberately creating a fine dust, pervasive and deleterious as asbestos, that will trespass into the surface, atmosphere, water, groundwater and organisms of the Southern Highlands, where random location was chosen without deliberation or measure, using the company [REDACTED] EIS, with a First Nations Elder infantilizing ACHAR process, who did not engage properly with our community.*

*The answer is no to the facility, location, exposure and rights violations that the industry would incur.*

*In regard to human rights violations, I refer to employee based GHD Group™s Modern Slavery Statement 2022 " 2023 pg 6 regarding compliance guidelines;*

*œThe Guidelines include the following language referencing the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which specifically prohibits slavery and servitude: GHD will implement the necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights\* in our project work and will not knowingly participate in projects that violate human rights of impacted stakeholders. \*as outlined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [REDACTED]*

*The GHD statement continues;*

*œGHD in North America created a sustainable procurement specialist role to support the North American procurement function. The specialist role supports the development of vendor governance for sustainable procurement and engages with vendors to improve their sustainability performance, including preventing modern slavery. The specialist will engage with identified high risk vendors in North America with the aim of*



improving their sustainability performance. GHD intends to implement similar roles across our other regions, including Australia and the United Kingdom. [redacted]

[redacted]

I am concerned and highlight to the IPC that within their framework of vendor governance sustainable procurement process, in an effort to attain increased value from vendors, employee owned [redacted] [redacted] which would impact other human rights, such as the UN General Assembly 2022 Declaration that everyone has the right to a healthy environment. This right is essential for the enjoyment of other human rights, such as the right to health, food, water, and sanitation. Where GHD has created for Plasrefine Recycling and Storage Facility an assumptive EIS with no benefit to local stakeholders, the procured vendor [redacted], the Wingecarribee residents would unwittingly, in servitude, bear the costs for chemical manufacturing, road degradation, water usage, contaminated sewerage, flood mitigations, fire explosion mitigations, other catastrophic fire events and be impacted with restrictions such as loss of income, loss of health, loss of sanitation, loss of environment and habitat, soil contamination, greenhouse gas emissions and the depletion of natural resources within the Southern Highlands and the NSW Water Catchment.

I am concerned that within GHD™s own sustainable procurement process their vendor would contaminate the Southern Highlands soil, atmosphere and water supply from the top of the catchment, being the 2,700 sq kms also creating an opportunity for GHD to build water purification systems that, in line with their procurement process, be the intended value add from their vendor Plasrefine.

This is not how the Southern Highlands wishes to do business, nor is it in the best interests of the Wingecarribee Shire residents to engage with [redacted] practices preclude their human rights.

#### Contamination of the Southern Highlands Region

The contaminants of the hazardous facility I shall refer to as Plasrefine would escape via traffic truck movements, waste water, waste sewerage and through the several open doors of the facility, ventilations, toxic off gassing, and that it would not be a non-discharge site because there is no buffer zone, being dangerously close to residents, within a riparian zone, meters from housing, meters from tender age child care facilities with DA approval for an additional tender age child care facility to be built at 37-39 Parkes Road Moss Vale. This is an inappropriate industrial facility, with their employee GHD, desperate to impose their economic gains upon our community.

#### Falsifying Community Engagement by GHD

I was present as an active community member, during the GHD performative community engagement restricted group sessions, where I witnessed the company instruct residents on their intentions.

It was shocking to me as an educator with 35 years of experience teaching primary and secondary school students that [redacted] opened the session stating intentions to bring our children to their contaminated PFAS site and nanoparticle generating facility. A site too dangerous for children, and akin to allowing school student excursions to an asbestos producing factory. There is no NSW Principal who would sign off on the risk matrix that allows students into such a facility as Plasrefine. The levels of risk severity in a 5—5 risk matrix ranked as insignificant, minor, significant, major, and severe. As the environmental exposures to plastic pollutants are now widespread, [redacted] opening with such statements on behalf of GHD is an example of the ignorant and deliberately false manifestation of its hazardous waste site.

[redacted]

[redacted]



[REDACTED]

I have interviewed a former Environmental Law Enforcement Officer, [REDACTED] who is a current environmental and catchment scientist, consultant and science educator, who had been on a local tender panel for the provision of services in water quality and catchment management. This panel had unanimously put [REDACTED], due to their [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Science of PFAS and Petrochemicals is Exponential*

*Our current scientific understanding of the ecotoxicology of the synergies of a wide range of industrial chemicals such as PFAS is continuing to evolve and there is a rising concern and understanding that persistent organic pollutants and plastics are endocrine disruptors in extremely small concentrations once they enter the food chain. These chemicals bioaccumulate and bio magnify at each level as they step up the food chain, with waterways being a main conduit. The Southern Highlands, as an agricultural provider, with The Southern Regional Livestock Exchange SRLX (located less than two kilometres from the proposed SSD-9409987) being one of the top ten cattle saleyards in the state of New South Wales, and within the NSW Water Catchment where the region disproportionately provides more clean water to the Warragamba Dam due to its colossal rains, is no place for the hazardous industry proposed by GHD and SSD-9409987.*

*Not the Right Site Nor Industry*

*If indeed a proposed plastic recycling facility actually has any economic viability, which is doubtful, suburban Moss Vale is not where such a facility should be located. I suggest it should use modern technologies, be zoned in heavy industrial areas, well away from houses, schools and preschools and not within productive farming regions, or important water catchment areas.*

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