



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 218276

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Other issues
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 2:00:50 PM

I am wholly in opposition to the Plasrefine plastic recycling proposal for Moss Vale. I am a local resident and my property is located on the other side of the railway line.

In consideration of SSD determinations in NSW, I understand the importance of firstly assessing whether applications meet planning criteria. Parameters are a necessary first step to gauge the viability of projects, however it is only one consideration in this process.

With specific reference to the Plasrefine proposal for Moss Vale, I would make the following points;

1. The planning criteria are in themselves flawed. They contain loopholes which have been manipulated by the consulting firm GHD. Of course this is not in itself illegal, but definitely unethical. This fact alone should have rendered the proposal unsuitable from the outset. Please reference submissions made by Pip Frecklington (for Annie Cannon-Brookes), Barry Anstee and Duncan Wood for specific technical details relating to inconsistencies and omissions in the application.

2. Determinations made solely on the basis of bureaucratic parameters are only one side of the coin and do not adequately reflect individual contexts. This is where the bypassing of local government in the decision making process causes problems. Councils are obviously better equipped than the State Government to make local decisions because of their familiarity with the area. They also better understand the needs and wants of their rate paying residents.

In consideration of something as significant (code for horrific) as a plastics recycling plant, the human impact element must be the determining factor. In our case this is due to the proposed location of the plant. The site at Beaconsfield Rd is located within the town boundaries - this fact alone should have resulted in an early recommendation to be declined. Locating a heavy industrial plant so close to the town centre is foolhardy in the extreme and the impacts will be devastating. (Reference is made to the other 2000 written objections received by the IPC to date.)

The citizens of Wingecarribee Shire have been very let down by the process. At the local level, when the proposal was initially submitted in 2020, our council was in disarray. It was incompetent and worse. It was then brought under administration the following year and the proposal and its implications for the region were overlooked. We were denied effective representation until the recent council elections in September 2024, with only four weeks between election of the new council and the announcement by the DPHI that Plasrefine be recommended for approval. This is hardly fair and it certainly wouldn't pass the pub test.

The Minns Government is very much complicit in this fiasco. The DPHI appears to have been encouraged to toe the party line under the leadership of Ministers Scully and Sharpe, despite the fact that the latter initially stated her opposition to the proposal for Moss Vale. It would be prudent for the Premier to heed the level of opposition to this proposal, if only to safeguard his party's political ambitions. How refreshing it would be to a jaded and exhausted public to hear the Minister for Planning admit that the recommendation for approval was wrong! We would be happy to work together with MP for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman and the Federal Member for Whitlam Stephen Jones, to identify a more suitable site.

Approval with conditions is also an unacceptable determination. We have no confidence in the company, which is only accountable to itself. If approval is given, third parties will no longer be involved and Plasrefine



will do as it pleases. It will presumably hire operators who are on side, making any stipulated conditions irrelevant.

There will also be bad blood between the company and the town, making for an unpleasant atmosphere. The citizens of Moss Vale were marginalised and disrespected through the early part of the process, most obviously by GHD and this will not be forgotten. Promises of collaboration with the community are nothing but lip service and cannot be accepted at face value, given their record.

It is my understanding that the town of Parkes in the Central West region of NSW has indicated interest in the plant. Unlike Moss Vale, it has a dedicated Industrial Estate near the Newell Highway, but critically it is away from built up areas. Could this option be further investigated?

Interestingly I chanced upon a couple last week whose son is an employee at the Albury plastic recycling plant. They explained the Albury plant mostly recycles soft PET plastic eg bottles. When I mentioned the Plasrefine proposal with its site in our township, they were horrified and wondered aloud what the authorities were thinking! Our sentiments exactly.

With submissions closing today and then a final determination to be announced within 50 days, I implore the IPC panel to consider not just the planning criteria but also the specific problems related to the Moss Vale site. Our future is in your hands.

Thank you.
