



STEPHEN JONES

OBJECT

Submission ID: 0

Organisation: <i>Member for Whitlam</i>	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales</i>	
Attachment: <i>Attached overleaf</i>	

Submission date: 12/2/2024

Hello there,

Please see attached Member for Whitlam Stephen Jones' submission to the Independent Planning Commission on the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility project proposal.



STEPHEN JONES MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WHITLAM

2 December 2024

Dear NSW Independent Planning Commission,

I make this submission in my capacity as the Member for Whitlam - the federal electorate which encompasses the Wingecarribee Shire. I have represented this region in the Commonwealth Parliament since 2010. In that time, I have observed that this community is strong and deeply engaged in social, economic and environmental issues impacting the region and the country.

I support the community members, their representatives and the Council who have joined together in their opposition to this proposal and I ask that the Commission reject it. I wish to emphasise a few points.

Suitability and compatibility with the Draft Master Plan for the area:

In its submission, Wingecarribee Shire Council outlined the process for developing a new Master Plan for the zone, which it refers to as the Southern Highlands Innovation Park. The Councils proposal for this zone is regionally significant. It will create a precinct which will determine the character of employment and capital inflows in the region for decades to come. I support the realisation of the Master Plan and note that it has been developed with substantial funding and input from the NSW Government.

Key features of the proposed plan:

The zone is divided into four distinct precincts which ensure that compatible activities are grouped together. The zones include the following distinct activities:

- Creative Hubs
- Agri-Innovation
- Research Training and Advanced Manufacturing
- Heavy Industry and Construction.

The allocation of activities within the zone is informed by the pre-existing land uses in the zone and the best use / highest value principles.

There are many benefits of this approach, including:

- The reduction of spillover impacts from one land use negatively impacting an adjacent business;
- Economies of scale in public and private infrastructure;
- The development of employment ecosystems for business and regional benefit.





STEPHEN JONES MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WHITLAM

The Master Plan is clear in outlining its intent to locate heavy industry and construction in the north-west sector of the Southern Highlands Innovation Park. Placement of the Plasrefine facility in the south-east sector (earmarked for Research, Training and Advanced Manufacturing), undermines the strategic vision of the park, jeopardises the park's ability to deliver on its intended objectives and exposes the community to a range of risks to be further explored in this submission.

I submit that approving the Plasrefine facility in the proposed site would have negative impacts on existing land users and residents; the value of the land for its future intended use; the Council and ratepayers who will lose the opportunity of the planned intended innovation park while being required to pay of supporting infrastructure of a facility they do not support.

I further submit that these impacts cannot be offset by mitigation or compensation.

Further community concerns:

In addition to the matters raised above, further community concerns have been raised with me directly. I urge the Commission to take note of these matters when forming a view on the application.

I further note that the proponent has not provided a satisfactory response to these issues.

1. Environmental impacts:

The community has raised a range of environmental concerns which have been set out in the submissions of the Wingecarribee Shire Council's submission and the Member for Goulburn, Wendy Tuckerman MP.

The potential environmental impact from the ventilation system in the event of failure of filtration processes also represents a risk for nearby residents and contingencies for an event of this nature has not been sufficiently presented to the community for consultation.

The proximity of the proposed site to the local water catchment is worrying. Micro-plastic and chemical contamination spillover as a result of the plant has the potential to contaminate the nearby Wingecarribee River, which feeds into the Greater Sydney drinking water catchment. They also raise concerns about soil contamination, biodiversity loss. It is relevant, and the Commission should take note, that proponent has not adequately addressed these concerns.

2. Social impacts:

Residents and community members have also raised concern about noise during construction of proposed facility and during operations which occur 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.





STEPHEN JONES MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WHITLAM

No family should have to tolerate construction noise, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from as close as 200 metres away.

It should also be noted that no clear steps have been taken to mitigate or minimise the potential disruption to residents, which also includes:

- Heavy vehicle noise due to increased heavy vehicle movements.
- The proposed site is in close proximity to the BioResources Australia facility, as well as local schools, child care centres and farms.

It is relevant, and the Commission should take note, that proponent has not adequately addressed these concerns.

3. Strain to infrastructure and safety risks:

Members of the community have also expressed safety concerns over increased heavy vehicle and light vehicle movements in and out of the proposed Plasrefine facility. It is estimated there will be up to 100 additional truck movements per day to service the needs of the Plasrefine facility, as well as hundreds of additional light vehicle movements.

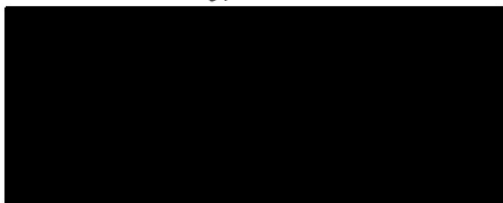
The Commission should take note that the community is convinced there is not adequate road infrastructure in place to cater for this increased road activity.

The Commission should also take note the proposed site at 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale is less than 3 kilometres north-west of the Moss Vale town centre - home to schools, businesses and child care centres. This poses genuine safety concerns that need to be addressed by the proponent.

Final remarks:

I therefore request the Commission reject this proposal due to these significant community concerns outlined above.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Jones MP
Federal Member for Whitlam
Assistant Treasurer
Minister for Financial Services

