



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 210188
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>	
Location: New South Wales 2577		
Attachment: N/A		

Submission date: 10/29/2024 6:28:38 PM

Re: Plasrefine 74-76 Beaconsfield Rd, Moss Vale, not being the right site.

Location: The proposed location for Plasrefine to build is an entirely inappropriate location. It is within close proximity to the Garvan Institute of Medical Research mouse breeding facility Australian BioResources (ABR), 9-11 Lackey Road, Moss Vale.

ABR is a world-class, "state of the art rodent breeding facility that supplies mice to many of vital medical research facilities in Australia.

*"THE ABR FACILITY IN MOSS VALE HAS BEEN BUILT TO ACHIEVE A HIGH QUALITY, SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE ANIMALS WITH MINIMAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND LOW FACILITY OPERATING COSTS"
(<https://abr.org.au/>)*

Exposure to any of the factors (noise, vibrations, odours, and chemical laden air entering ABR) that the plastic recycling facility produces could have long-lasting impacts on the vital research ABR carries out. "The facility provides the capacity to house the numerous genetically modified mice that underpin progress in modern medical research. These mouse colonies are critical for progress in research across all health priority areas such as the following:

“Cancer, Mental illness, Arthritis, Asthma, Heart disease, Diabetes, and Obesity” (<https://abr.org.au/>)

Such an important medical research facility as ABR is needs continuing support of an appropriate surrounding environment free from constant noise, light, and air pollution that Plasrefine would emit. Plasrefine's chosen site is not the right site to be able to coexist next-door to ABR without the major potential of causing harm to ABR's highly sensitive and ultra important research work.

Whilst GHD recently pointed out that the Garvan Institute/ARB has not submitted a formal complaint, it does not mean that they are happy with the fact Plasrefine could be given the go ahead by the IPC. It more than likely is possible that it reflects that the ABR are reliant on government funding, and therefore are not particularly in a position to have a full say.

Further to the inappropriate location, residents homes and land border Plasrefine's poor choice of land to build such a massive, and very potentially hazardous venture.

Fires are a common problem with plastic recycling facilities, and are well documented within Australia, and overseas. The potential of fires to spread to adjoining properties, and other nearby homes and businesses, in a very short time is real! We do not have the capacity to fight such fires in the Southern Highlands as could be very possible from the Plasrefine if it's allowed to proceed. We would be reliant on fire fighting equipment and fire-fighters from Campbelltown, and other areas of SW Sydney, with a minimal time frame of 45 minutes away. This is not acceptable as lives could be lost, both human and animal.

Furthermore, fires generate smoke, embers, and debris (such micro plastics and other particles of plastic in this case) from flames, which in Moss Vale being a windy spot much of the year, has the potential to spread smoke, embers and debris far and wide in the windy Southern Highlands. Leaving potentially not an ideal health outcome for many residents and animals.



The natural environment: The sensitive riparian zone and creek within the boundaries of 74-76 Beaconsfield Rd, Moss Vale, is at high risk of becoming polluted from toxic substances used within the operation of Plasrefine's plastic recycling facility if it's allowed to proceed. There is total potential of exposure to plastic dust, microplastics and plastic pallets in the riparian zone/creek (which is ultimately part of Sydney's drinking water) that have escaped from Plasrefine's buildings as there is minimal evidence that the plant will run using the highest quality methods to halt, or even slow down these byproducts from entering into the riparian zone and creek. There is evidence after evidence in the scientific world that highlights the risks associated with plastic dust, microplastics and plastics pellets to the environment, humans and animals. No such industry as a plastics recycling one should be built on such environmentally sensitive and important land, particularly such a mammoth venture as is proposed by Plasrefine.

Further on to this thread in relation to plastic dust, microplastics, and plastic pellets the Plasrefine land sits within an area that in prevailing winds will blow these debris towards a number of schools, along with the toxic chemicals that will be emitted into the air via chimney stacks. It is still questionable where the chimney stacks would be placed on the building as they currently are not shown in any diagrams of the rooftop. Nevertheless regardless of wherever they are placed on the roof it will undoubtedly be a complete visual blight and a toxic air polluter casting remnants of chemicals throughout the what is now, clean Southern Highlands air.

Moss Vale's roads are not capable of taking the ridiculously high amount of truck movements in which Plasrefine state would occur during operations 24/7. The roads are narrow, and in places more laneway size, than roads built to handle B-doubles, along with all the other traffic that would be associated with Plasrefine's venture if it's allowed to proceed. These roads do not have footpaths, so any foot traffic, which may not be much, but does occur from time to time, has nowhere to go. Same with cyclists.

Whilst GHD have stated that trucks heading to and from Plasrefine would have a specific route to take, this does not mean that trucks will be taken the shortest route to Plasrefine, which included from Wollongong, for example, the use of the Illawarra Hwy and smaller roads through Moss Vale's town centre. GHD did not offer an explanation as to which actual authority, if there's any, would oversee that truck movements are correct in which route they take.

My last point is in relation to the proponent's experience, or more appropriately, their lack thereof.

The proponents of Plasrefine have administered that they have no prior experience in the plastics recycling industry. This alone should ring alarm bells when the proposed Plasrefine business would be the largest in the industry in Australia. How this proposal has been entertained for four years now beggars belief. Particularly in the light that one of the proponents, [REDACTED] the Principal Technical Director of Plasrefine Pty Ltd, has a history of [REDACTED] (SMH article <https://amp.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/a-big-blue-in-a-small-southern-highlands-town-over-a-giant-plastics-plant-20220111-p59nhp.html>).

I also have doubts that [REDACTED] be an appropriate person to hold an Environmental Protection Licence to operate due to [REDACTED].

Thank you very much for the opportunity to lodge my submission and reading it.
