



**ANA RISTESKA**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 213669

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: 11/13/2024 7:35:13 PM

*I acknowledge the Gundungurra and Dharawal people as the traditional custodians of this land we call the Wingecarribee Shire. I pay my respect to Elders both past, present and emerging.*

*My name is Ana Risteska, a YR10 student from both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED], a Harding Miller*

*scholarship recipient and an aspiring environmental engineer. I am a person who was born and grew up within 1 km of the proposed (PLAZ - RE - FINE) Plasrefine site.*

*You probably think, I'm far too young to be here, talking to you about issues, regulations and legislation too complex for my young innocent brain to comprehend. There are far more competent, and informed people here today that will talk about those very things, instead I'll talk to you about what I know and what concerns me, my generation and every following generation that will inhabit this land.*

*It has been fundamentally established that everyone deserves the basic human right to have a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Thankfully, I live in such a place where this is my reality, and I will fight for the ability of myself and future generations to continue to live in such a way. The Plasrefine proposal puts this very basic human right at great risk.*

*Plasrefines purpose is a waste management facility, meaning the very products it will be dealing with contain some of the most highly toxic substances to our ecosystem's health, microplastics and PFAS (forever chemicals). PFAS molecules consist of a chain of strongly linked carbon and fluorine atoms and when PFAS begin to break down, their long chain of compounds first break into smaller fragments. However, the smaller these fragments get, the more persistent they become towards further disintegration, meaning PFAS chemicals and microplastics taking 1000s of years to fully degrade. PFAS, together with microplastics are considered highly mobile, meaning they can easily be transported through an environment, while also accumulating or bioaccumulating within organisms and ecosystems.*

*PFAS and microplastics have been found to negatively impact animal and human*



*development, their hormones, reproductive and immune systems, metabolism, while significantly increasing the risk of many cancers and diseases. PFAS and microplastics also damage plant cell structure, their carbon and nitrogen metabolism, and most importantly their ability to photosynthesis. So why in the world does it sound like a good idea to expose such huge concentrations of such substances to the community of Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands?*

*Plasrefine is set to be built 750 m from a childcare centre, and less than 5 km away from 9 schools, 5 early childhood locations, 12 sport facilities and playgrounds, straight into the bloodstreams of THOUSANDS of young lives. That's where you will find me, my sister, my mates, my basketball team, your kids, your grandkids, your mothers, your fathers, your communities.*

*Unbelievably, Plasrefine advises us and our community, when faced with the risk of exposure to their pollution, which lets face it is inevitable, to, and I quote manage their exposure to air quality impacts, through minimising time spent outdoors. To put that into reality, I won't be able to go outside anymore or open my window, I won't be able to plant food in my garden, I won't do anything outside my home without the constant risk of exposure to chemicals that will kill me. The thought of restricting communities from issues that you had the chance to prevent in the first place is implausible. Suggesting that we limit going outside our homes instead of not building PLasrefine in the first place is a blatant disregard for our health and well-being.*

*Facilities like Plasrefine do need to be established, and while I do not have a proposed alternative to Plasrefines location, that is the job of the people that initiated this very development. Why would such a prosperous haven of nature, the very lifeblood of our community.*

*We as a community will never accept this proposal for the Southern Highlands & we will never abide by a process that seriously threatens to destroy the very nature of our region.*

*This is NOT the right site! Put Plasrefine somewhere else, somewhere it won't poison us.*

*We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. So, please treat it with respect and dignity!*

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