



DEBORAH RITCHIE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 212872

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 2576	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 11/10/2024 2:05:33 PM

*I strongly object to the proposed development on the following grounds:*

- 1. Fire risk: Twenty thousand tons of highly flammable plastic waste will be stored at this site. There are no adequate answers around safety protocols, firefighting and air quality impact. The Highlands does not have adequate fire-fighting facilities for rapid containment. The proposed 90m buffer from residences and 50m from a research facility is woefully inadequate. Lives, property and ecosystems will be at risk. The Hume fire in ACT, with just 150 tons of plastic, erupted quickly and burned for days.*
  - 2. Threat to air quality due to microplastics and chemicals: Plastics recycling is a relatively new industry. Research has shown that even state of the art facilities have serious issues around pollution. We have strong westerly winds in The Highlands, which will blow into the unloading docks. Are locals, including children at daycare and school facilities, to stay inside every time we have strong winds, as the proponent suggests? Are locals to refrain from pegging out washing? Enjoying their gardens? Growing food?*
  - 3. Pollution to waterways and Sydney catchment drinking water: The site sits on two riparian zones. It would be very challenging, likely impossible, to protect the catchment from microplastics. Also, it is proposed that tanks will be installed outside for washing the plastic waste. When we have heavy rain and these tanks overflow, how will PFAS chemicals be prevented from washing into the ground water and thus into Sydney drinking water? As mentioned above, existing modern plastics recycling facilities have been found to emit dangerous substances. It is a relatively new industry and fraught with concerns regarding damage to human beings, other animals and the environment.*
  - 4. Roads and traffic issues: The volume of heavy vehicles is unacceptable. Local roads, already problematic, would deteriorate even further. The noise and dust for nearby residents would impact quality of life.*
  - 5. Visual pollution: This proposed facility would dominate the landscape and be a permanent eyesore for residents. The planned buffer zone is inadequate.*
  - 6. Unsuitability for SH Innovation Park: Plasrefine is completely at odds with the concept of the SHIP and will affect future development adversely.*
  - 7. Emotional toll: The Southern Highlands community, especially those living in the Moss Vale township, continue to carry undue stress and trauma at the damage this proposed facility will cause. We are exhausted from defending our beautiful Southern Highlands.*
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