



ELIZABETH JOHNSON

OBJECT

Submission ID: 213094

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	

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Hello, my name is Elizabeth and I live in Moss Vale with my husband and our two early primary school aged children. We moved here from Sydney some 10 years ago in order to enjoy a quiet, rural life where our children could enjoy the beauty of the southern highlands and its surroundings. We enjoy gardening and growing our own produce, bike rides and walks around our local surroundings and being part of the community through the local school and kids sport. All of these activities and the life we enjoy are under threat. A plastic recycling plant is proposed in our local area and whilst we are not against such an operation, the placement of this factory in the southern highlands will have far reaching impacts on us as a family, our health and our home. The proposed area will face issues such as constant smoke in the air, noise pollution, disruption of the landscape with a large eyesore factory and increased trucks on our quiet country roads. However by far the most concerning impact lies in the health impact of residents in the surrounding areas. According to a 2019 article by the Journal of Toxicology and Risk Assessment, plastic contaminants were found in the soil, water and atmosphere surrounding recycling facilities. Given the proposed location's close proximity to riparian environments used by Sydney Water for drinking water this surely cannot be a good idea. Not to mention the effect on the ecosystem which studies show effect the entire food chain from tiny invertebrates such as earthworms right through to prey and predatory mammals all of which are abundant in the Moss Vale area. Furthermore, the immediate and long term health impacts are deeply concerning. Moss Vale is known to be a windy area and the thought of carcinogenic particles contaminating our home and surroundings is distressing to say the least. Moss Vale, its residents and the surrounding schools and township will take on a huge burden should this processing plant go ahead with us who live here paying the ultimate price. Not only do we stand to lose our quiet, picturesque home surrounded by abundant fauna and flora, we will be dealing with the impacts of microplastics for years to come. A research paper published by the American Institute of Health lists the many and varied health impacts that my children could face. Thyroid and other hormone induced issues, fertility complications, increased risk of cancers including breast and prostate as well as facing a higher incidence of type 2 diabetes, ultimately committing them to a health burden that is neither fair nor necessary. With no ties to the community, the worry is that parent company can up and leave as and when they please, with irreversible damage to the local ecosystem in their wake. This is our home, our community, our local environment that shouldn't be sacrificed for potential and controversial benefits of plastic processing. Whilst there are likely environmental benefits to the recycling of plastic, should it really come at the expense of a thriving local ecosystem and population? Just because it CAN go in Moss Vale doesn't mean it should.