



JENNY KERR

OBJECT

Submission ID: 212904

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Organisation: N/A                     | Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Other issues</i> |
| Location: <i>New South Wales 2577</i> |   |
| Attachment: N/A                       |   |

Submission date: 11/10/2024 5:32:31 PM

*I wish to object to the proposed PlasRefine Recycling Facility in the strongest possible terms. It is clearly the wrong site as evidenced by the following issues which must take priority:*

### *1. Location*

*The factory is located less than 200 metres from local residential properties and poses an immediate threat to these residents in terms of noise and pollution. Similarly, in the nearby area there are residential homes, child care facilities, schools and playing fields which would all be impacted by the air and possibly noise pollution.*

*Plastic is a known toxic fire hazard and many fires have occurred in these types of facilities. It is not a question of 'IF' but 'WHEN' there will be a fire. These toxic compounds will be released into the air affecting nearby residents as well as those in the surrounding community and more.*

*It is also located next to the Garvan Institute, which enables world leading researchers and clinicians to improve human health, whether it is a rare disease or widespread illness. Having such an inappropriate polluting factory in such close proximity to the Institute could have serious effects on the mice breeding programs and pose delays or potentially putting an end to critical medical research projects affecting people worldwide. This is serious.*

*It is also located within the Southern Highlands Innovation Precinct (SHIP). The Wingecarribee Shire Council received State Government money to undertake this project which is designed to cater for light and general industrial development to meet local and regional demands for industrial land. A plastics recycling facility does not integrate with these types of developments and would be an obvious deterrent to businesses setting up in the SHIP. The SHIP gives young people in the area something to aspire to with employment opportunities in new and emerging industries. We do not need a plastics recycling facility to take away these opportunities. I also object to tax payer money being wasted, which it will have been if the recycling facility is allowed to proceed, after all the good work the Wingecarribee Council has undertaken in planning the SHIP.*

### *2. Recycling*

*Plastics recycling facilities are hazardous. It seems that in its enthusiasm to recycle plastics, the State Government is not keeping up with the increasing scientific evidence around the problems caused by recycling plastics. There are a wide variety of chemical compounds in plastics and as they are treated in the recycling process, they can become more toxic. No matter how good the ventilation systems, there will inevitably be a small percentage of these plastics emitted by the factory in the form of micro and nano plastics and PFAS.*

*There is growing evidence that having small fragments of plastic in our blood or body tissue may be harmful. Research is showing that these chemicals can be associated with cardiovascular disease, colon and bowel disorders. PFAS exposure has been linked to impaired immune system response, thyroid disease, higher cholesterol levels, various cancers, metabolic changes, liver damage and kidney disease.*

*We do not want these plastic particles contaminating our bodies, our children's bodies, the environment nor the native and farm animals who share and rely on this environment. Micro, nano and PFAS plastics must be addressed at the source not added as emissions during recycling.*



*Furthermore, there is no baseline measurement of microplastics in the environment evidenced in the proposal, so we cannot ensure the baseline water and air quality is maintained.*

*With these increased health risks, the proposal is creating more issues than it is seeking to rectify by recycling the plastics.*

*Similarly, these micro plastics will be able to enter the water supply starting with the riparian zones located within and nearby the proposed facility. These creeks and streams as well as surrounding catchment areas are at the top of the water catchment and all feed into the Sydney drinking water supply. There does to appear to be any contingency plan for surface water management that would be able to prevent this especially since the catchment area is close by and vast.*

*It should be noted also that the area is a windy area and the wind patterns will facilitate the disbursement of pollutants in the surrounding areas which is creating an extreme level of concern in the community.*

### *3. Fire*

*It is a known fact that plastics facilities are fire risks. In Australia alone, there have been at least 5 fires since 2019 at recycling facilities and at plastics sorting and reprocessing facilities there have been more than 13 fires. with some sites having multiple fires at the facilities such as Cleanaway Perth MRF.*

*The local fire fighting resources are limited and the closest hazmat crews to deal with a plastics facility fire in Moss Vale are located at Campbelltown, Shell Harbour and Oran Park. A 45 minute trip assuming they are ready and available. Community safety is clearly compromised by this proposal.*

*Similarly, what happens if there is a bush fire at the same time? How will resources to fight the plastics fire be allocated?*

*It is very strange that the 'Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Report', October 2024, suggests that Fire and Rescue NSW have advised that any toxic smoke from a prolonged fire at the development would rise directly upwards reducing risk of impact to the ABR (Garvan Institute). This shows a basic ignorance of simple physics in that what goes up comes down. What about the winds? Which way will they prevail when there is a fire? What kind of assessment report is this really? This erroneous kind of statement cannot be in anyway accepted as credible.*

### *4 Lack of Community Support*

*PlasRefine, despite what it may say, has failed to engage with the community to allay their fears. I live in Moss Vale and have never received any communication from the company and can only assume this is typical for residents in the area and the Wingecarribee Shire in general.*

*I feel deceived by their proposal which has glaring omissions such as the failure to include the stacks/chimneys which will emanate from the building adding a further blight on the landscape.*

*Although, I note, it is also suggested in the Report that a 'Community Engagement Plan' be prepared and a 'Community Consultative Committee' be established, it is far too late for any such proposals, as the community has too many concerns now and these concerns are real and cannot be eliminated by a 'plan' or 'consultative committee'.*

### *5. Economic*

*The project will have a serious and everlasting negative effect on the local economy. The Southern Highlands is a tourist destination noted for its fresh air, viticulture, agritourism, regenerative agriculture, open paddock and organic farming practices. These will all be quashed with a dirty polluting plastics recycling facility in the area.*



*Similarly property values will be affected as is already the case, with residents close to the proposed site unable to sell their homes.*

*I cannot support this proposal in any way, as it is not the right site for a potentially hazardous industry. This industry should be located in an appropriate heavy industrial zoned area away from schools, residences, farms and the Sydney water supply catchment.*

*Not the right site!*

---