



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

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Location: New South Wales 2576	
Attachment: N/A	

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To the esteemed members of the Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Burradoo to voice my strong opposition to the proposed Plasrefine recycling plant in Moss Vale. While I recognise and support the need for enhanced recycling capabilities in Australia, the location chosen for this facility is deeply concerning for a multitude of reasons.

Of primary concern is the health risks this facility may pose. Recent research, including a report by Greenpeace USA, reveals that recycled plastics often contain high levels of hazardous chemicals—such as flame retardants, carcinogens, and endocrine disruptors. Exposure to these toxins can have detrimental effects on human health, especially for developing children. There is significant concerns about the plant's emissions and potential contamination of our air, soil and water. A study published in Science of the Total Environment (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969723049653>) has indicated that children exposed to airborne pollutants from industrial sites are at increased risk of respiratory issues when compared to those living farther away. The health impacts on children from a facility of this scale could be substantial.

Additionally, data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) (<https://www.who.int/activities/providing-information-on-endocrine-disrupting-chemicals-and-child-health>) indicates that prolonged exposure to endocrine disruptors can lead to developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune problems, particularly in children. With the proposed plant operating 24 hours a day in such close proximity to residential areas and schools the consistent exposure to these chemicals cannot be ignored. The health and future of our children must take precedence over industrial convenience.

Plasrefine's documentation lacks crucial details about the proposed air filtration systems, raising serious concerns about the potential release of harmful pollutants. While Plasrefine claims to utilise innovative technologies, there is no transparency regarding the specific measures in place to mitigate air pollution. A community representative, Rachel Russell, highlights the potential for plastic particles to become airborne during processing, citing the difficulty of containing these particles even within enclosed spaces.

The strong westerly winds prevalent in the area, coupled with the facility's westward-facing roller doors, could exacerbate the spread of these potentially toxic particles. The absence of a detailed explanation regarding the efficacy of the air filtration system in preventing the release of microplastics and other hazardous pollutants into the surrounding environment is deeply concerning, especially given the plant's proximity to residential areas and schools. This lack of transparency necessitates a comprehensive and independent assessment of the proposed air filtration system to ensure the health and safety of the community.

The plant's location within Sydney's drinking water catchment only heightens my concerns. Such sensitive areas demand strict protection from potential contamination, and the proposed facility lacks sufficient safeguards. According to data from WaterNSW, the Sydney drinking water catchment supplies over 5 million residents. The introduction of microplastics or chemical runoff from the recycling process into this catchment could have disastrous consequences. Studies have shown that microplastics can affect water quality and result in potential long-term health issues for consumers.

In addition to these issues of our health the traffic issues also poses unacceptable risks to the safety and well-being of our children. To provide more context, data from the New South Wales (NSW) Government indicates that over 1,500 students are enrolled in schools within a 5 km radius of the proposed site. The increased heavy



vehicle traffic "estimated at up to 200 trucks per day" would create significant congestion along Beaconsfield Road, which already sees considerable use during school hours. According to Transport for NSW, the road currently handles around 4,000 vehicles daily, and adding the projected truck traffic would represent a nearly 5% increase, posing a greater risk for accidents involving children commuting to and from school.

The safety of our children and community must be paramount. I urge the Independent Planning Commission to reject this proposal in its current form and to prioritise the well-being of local residents and future generations.
