



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 213145
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues	
Location: New South Wales 2118		
Attachment: N/A		

Submission date: 11/11/2024 5:11:55 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to protest against the Plasrefine plastic recycling proposal slated for Moss Vale.

Although my husband and I are not local, we are frequent visitors to his parents' property in the township. Over the last 18 years we have come to know and love this area and consider it a second home.

My intention in this submission is to vigorously uphold our family's opposition to this short sighted and ill conceived application. I truly cannot comprehend why it is still being considered. It is lunacy.

During the past fortnight the IPC panel has heard the Southern Highlands community speak. The commissioners have repeatedly been made aware of the myriad issues of concern, raised not only by distressed residents but also by individuals with specialist expertise in various fields of pertinence to the proposal; environmental scientists, planners, consultants, medical and health practitioners, engineers, architects, lawyers etc. There is no need to paraphrase the arguments again, however, drawing on their opinions and my own research, I will focus on an issue close to my heart, that of our legacy for future generations.

A legacy generally denotes a positive outcome, the welcome long lasting impact of an event or action for the good of the recipient. It is no exaggeration to suggest that the approval of this heavy industrial factory within the boundaries of the town will be forever associated with the catastrophic irreversible state sanctioned poisoning of a community. Nothing and no one will escape its toxicity and once contaminated, no amount of after-the-fact rehabilitation will reverse the damage. This simply cannot be countenanced. This is not just an environmental or economic issue, it is an ethical and moral one and for this reason alone I believe the proposal should be denied. I for one would not want this legacy on my conscience.

Having examined the application, I am astonished at the laxity displayed by the DPHI in its assessment. Specific details are sparse, vague, often contradictory and are replete with uncertainty. Our recent development application to council for backyard improvements necessitated more detailed specifications!

The repetition of the conclusion is unlikely to have a negative impact is totally unacceptable when the well-being of a community is at stake. Let's be clear - the Plasrefine application lacks transparency and seeks to meet only the most superficial of specifications set down by the planning bodies. Further, GHD has from the outset failed to act in good faith toward the Moss Vale community. Condescension, arrogance and a dismissive attitude have been the norm and have broken trust. The community has every reason to be suspicious.

When Premier Minns was recently questioned by a MV resident on ABC radio, his response was disappointing - "trust the process" Forgive my scepticism but I have precious little faith in the process if the last 4 years is anything to go by. I am also a realist and suspect that this case will ultimately be decided by how much money the applicant is prepared to throw at it, considering his previous statement that I don't lose The resources available to the Shire of Wingecarribee to fight this proposal are limited and are no match for those of the proponent. It matters not that this application is almost universally opposed, because sadly it is a fact of life that money talks and usually has the final word. Profit above people. How I would love to be proven incorrect.

In a decade or so when the consequences of the factory's first 10 years of processing are quantifiable and investigative journalists report on the exponential increase in disease and death in the region and beyond,



litigation and class action will commence and once again it will fall to the innocent taxpayer to foot the massive compensation bill. Politicians come and go, so our only real recourse is the ballot box. I look forward to the Federal election next year and a State election in 2027.

It is also significant that three tiers of elected government of differing persuasions oppose the plant in its current location. Stephen Jones, Federal Member for Whitlam (Labor), Wendy Tuckerman, State Member for Goulburn (Lib) and Judy Hannan, State Member for Wollondilly (Indep) have all expressed strong opposition. Why do we bother with a democratic system if the views of our elected representatives are ignored?

My husband and I look at our young niece who loves to visit her grandparents in the country and we grieve for that which she will be denied because of greed, power and self interest. Diagnosed asthmatic, her parents try to spend as much time as possible in the unspoilt air of the Highlands. She revels in the untainted atmosphere of this beautiful area and for a short time her cheeks regain their rosy hue, her cough abates and her energy levels increase. She is but one of thousands who will be directly impacted should this experiment go ahead. Coincidentally I have just heard that the Southern Highlands has been awarded Best Drinking Water in NSW. Oh the irony.

Living and working in the city means that word is spreading. Sydney residents are being made aware of the impact of such a plant on their drinking supply. Should approval be given, I foresee prolonged legal challenges, a further waste of time and money and an unnecessary burden of fear and anxiety borne by this community. My plea is that this Government's green credentials agenda takes a back seat to common sense and a more suitable location be identified. # Not the right site.

Thank you.
