



**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 207344

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 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 10/24/2024 10:45:04 AM

*The proposed plastic refinery plant in our community brings with it serious environmental, health, and economic risks. Over time, its impact could lead to detrimental consequences for our environment, public health, and overall quality of life.*

*Plastic refineries are notorious for contributing to pollution. The refining process releases harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the atmosphere. These emissions drive climate change, air pollution, and acid rain, which can devastate local ecosystems.*

*Plastic production is deeply intertwined with the fossil fuel industry, relying heavily on oil and natural gas. Building a refinery only strengthens this dependence, perpetuating the environmental damage caused by the extraction and transport of these fuels. This harms biodiversity, degrades water quality, and diminishes air purity in our community, jeopardising the natural resources future generations will depend on.*

*Beyond environmental harm, the release of toxic chemicals during the refining process poses significant public health risks. Communities living near plastic refinery plants have reported higher rates of respiratory illnesses, cancer, and chronic health conditions due to long-term exposure to pollutants like benzene, formaldehyde, and particulate matter.*

*Air and water contamination from these facilities can introduce toxins into the local food and water supply, further endangering vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions. A plastic refinery would inevitably strain local healthcare systems and reduce the quality of life for residents.*

*Supporters of plastic refineries may point to job creation and economic growth, but these benefits are often exaggerated and short-lived. Many of the jobs created are specialised, leaving the local workforce with limited opportunities. Moreover, any economic gains may be offset by the significant costs of environmental clean-up, rising healthcare expenses, and decreased property values due to the refinery's proximity.*

*As global awareness around reducing plastic production and fossil fuel consumption grows, governments and organisations are advancing policies aimed at phasing out single-use plastics and decreasing reliance on fossil fuels. Investing in a plastic refinery could result in a stranded asset an outdated facility that no longer complies with future environmental regulations or market demands.*

*A plastic refinery would also negatively affect the character and livability of our community. The construction and operation of such a facility would introduce noise pollution, increase traffic, and potentially displace local residents. The stigma of living near a refinery could drive away potential homeowners and investors, lowering property values and stifling economic growth.*

*Communities around the world have seen a decline in quality of life after permitting plastic refineries. These large industrial complexes often lead to reduced tourism, diminished recreational opportunities, and the collapse of local businesses, making the area less attractive for both residents and visitors.*

*Instead of supporting a plastic refinery, our community should prioritise sustainable industries that promote environmental conservation and long-term economic growth. Renewable energy projects, green technologies,*



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

*and circular economy initiatives like recycling and waste reduction programs present viable alternatives that can generate jobs without the harmful side effects of a refinery.*

*By opposing the construction of a plastic refinery, we advocate for responsible and sustainable development that aligns with global environmental goals and protects the health and well-being of our community.*

---