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OBJECT

Submission ID: 209878

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: 2577 New South Wales	
Attachment: N/A	

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In this submission I would like to outline my concerns about the proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility.

These include environmental and social impacts, as well as the process of assessment by the various government departments and the IPC, and the information provided to the public of the details of the submission.

Environmental Impacts

Recycling plastic can release harmful pollutants into air and water, often resulting in microplastics contamination. This is particularly concerning as the site layout map in the assessment report shows that the Plasrefine site crosses over riparian land, the vulnerable zone between land and creeks and streams. This is of great concern considering the planning portal report states that estimates of waste water discharge (used in the washing of incoming plastics) to be in the order of 10 kilolitres per day. The report also states that a disinfectant used in the plastic washing process contains tea tree oil and turpentine, some of which may also flow into the nearby creeks. The negative environmental impacts of this include polluting the local water supply, and the broader Sydney Catchment Area, flowing eventually into Warragamba Dam.

I imagine there will likely be huge public outrage when this becomes broadly known outside the Highlands.

Social Impacts

These include loss of property value on the western side of Moss Vale, concerns of noise and air pollution and traffic congestion and road overuse. There is residential land within 200 metres of the site and more within the buffer zone. It is not hard to understand the concern this creates to the residents in nearby households.

An enormous concern for local residents is the increase in traffic and the wear and tear on our roads. One hundred trips per day of 19 metre long trucks will change the very character and experience of living in Moss Vale. The amendment to the transport plan now involves Medway Rd, Taylor Avenue, Berrima Road, Douglas Road, Collins Road and Braddon Road - sending huge vehicles throughout Moss Vale and its surrounds. Residents in or near any of these roads will be greatly affected. The stress placed on an already damaged road network will make life harder for all. It is also worth highlighting that these trucks will commence at 7am each morning.

It is clear that this site is not suitable for such a project. The SSD and local bodies note, as a positive, that this facility is in keeping with statewide efforts to achieve sustainability objectives, but this is no argument for the placement of such an inappropriate development here in Moss Vale. I believe several more suitable sites have been suggested, but so far not explored.

Assessment process and poor information

Many locals have found the process of assessment of the IPC concerning in its lack of transparency and clear details. Over and over I see phrases such as approval based on implementation of recommendations, or a Road Safety Audit needs to be undertaken. Why would the IPC consider approval within two weeks when so many of its judgements depend on actions not yet taken by Plasrefine. A typical example is consultant Professor Roberta Ryan's Social Impact Management Plan concluding that the proposal 'adequately addresses social impacts subject to implementation of her recommendations'. Who would approve any project with so much work yet to



*be completed and verified? The public would really like to have a highly detailed explanation of the assessment process, instead of these vague equivocations. Plasrefine has also been very short on real, factual details. In a recent missive from *****, she said the public were worried because of misinformation about the project. What better way to remedy this than by releasing details of the whole project and the IPC's deliberations?*

For the IPC to set such a close deadline for submissions seems designed to undermine our ability to voice our concerns and challenge the project's approval process. With so many amendments and recommendations yet to be acted upon, surely the assessment process needs to be extended.
