



**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 209765

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic</i>
Location: Redacted	
Attachment: N/A	

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*The proposal to construct a plastic refinery in our area has sparked considerable concern among local residents. While the promise of economic growth and job creation is often touted in favor of such projects, the potential negative impacts on our community, environment, and public health far outweigh these benefits. Below are several key reasons why this community does not want a plastic refinery built near our homes.*

**1. Environmental Impact**

*One of the foremost concerns regarding a plastic refinery is its potential environmental impact. Plastic production is notoriously energy-intensive and relies heavily on fossil fuels, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. A refinery in our area would not only increase local carbon emissions but also exacerbate global climate change, threatening ecosystems and biodiversity.*

*Moreover, plastic refineries can generate significant air and water pollution. The process of refining plastic can release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter into the air, which can lead to respiratory issues and other health problems in nearby residents. Water contamination is another significant risk, as chemicals used in plastic processing can leach into local waterways, harming aquatic life and potentially affecting drinking water sources.*

**2. Public Health Risks**

*The public health risks associated with a plastic refinery cannot be overstated. Studies have linked exposure to the chemicals involved in plastic production to various health problems, including respiratory illnesses, skin conditions, and even cancers. The risk of accidents or malfunctions at the refinery can also lead to hazardous spills or explosions, endangering the lives of those who live nearby.*

*Furthermore, the cumulative impact of increased industrial activity in the area could lead to higher overall rates of illness. Increased traffic, noise, and pollution can create an unhealthy living environment that contributes to stress and mental health issues in the community.*

**3. Economic Considerations**

*While proponents of the plastic refinery may argue that it will create jobs and boost the local economy, the reality is often more complex. Temporary construction jobs may be created, but many of these positions are short-term and do not provide long-lasting benefits to the community. In contrast, the long-term economic impact may be negative if health issues arise or if local property values decline due to pollution concerns.*

*Moreover, investment in a plastic refinery may divert resources from more sustainable economic opportunities. Communities can thrive through investments in renewable energy, green technologies, and sustainable industries that do not carry the same environmental and health risks as plastic production. By prioritizing a plastic refinery, we risk missing out on the chance to build a more resilient and future-focused economy.*

**4. Impact on Local Quality of Life**

*The construction and operation of a plastic refinery can significantly alter the character of a community. Increased industrial activity often leads to higher traffic volumes, noise pollution, and a general decline in*



*quality of life for residents. The peaceful, clean environment that many of us value could be compromised, making our neighborhoods less attractive places to live.*

*Additionally, the presence of a plastic refinery may deter potential new residents and businesses that prioritize sustainability and environmental stewardship. Communities that value a clean environment often see an increase in property values, while industrial developments can lead to a decrease, affecting homeowners' investments and local tax revenues.*

#### *5. Alternatives to Plastic Production*

*In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need to reduce plastic consumption and promote sustainable practices. Instead of investing in a plastic refinery, our community should focus on supporting initiatives that encourage recycling, composting, and the development of biodegradable materials. By shifting towards a circular economy, we can create jobs and promote sustainable practices without the detrimental effects associated with plastic production.*

*Investing in local businesses that prioritize sustainability can also foster community resilience. Encouraging innovation in the realm of sustainable materials can lead to new economic opportunities while aligning with public health goals and environmental protection.*

#### *6. Community Engagement and Decision-Making*

*The decision to build a plastic refinery affects everyone in the community, yet such decisions are often made without sufficient public input. Transparency and community engagement are essential components of any development project. Local residents deserve the opportunity to voice their concerns and influence decision-making processes. A lack of genuine engagement can lead to mistrust between the community and developers and government officials, further exacerbating tensions.*

*To foster a sense of community, it is crucial that local leaders prioritize dialogue and collaboration with residents. This approach not only empowers the community but also ensures that any development aligns with the values and needs of the people who will be most affected.*

#### *In Conclusion*

*The potential construction of a plastic refinery near our area raises significant concerns that warrant serious consideration. The environmental and public health risks, combined with potential negative economic impacts and effects on quality of life, make this project highly undesirable. Instead, our community should focus on sustainable development practices that prioritize health, environmental protection, and long-term economic resilience.*

*By advocating for alternatives to plastic production and engaging in meaningful community discussions, we can protect our environment and enhance our quality of life. The future of our community should not be dictated by the interests of industrial development but should reflect our collective commitment to sustainability and the well-being of all residents. Together, we can ensure that our community remains a vibrant, healthy place to live for generations to come.*

*Moss Vale is not the right site.*

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