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OBJECT

Submission ID: 209847

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Other issues</i>
Location: 2575 New South Wales	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 10/28/2024 4:14:06 PM

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for hearing my submission.

Firstly, I would like it noted that I recognise a dire need for plastics recycling in Australia and in NSW in particular. Having a large plastic recycling facility in close proximity to the Sydney metropolitan area would be a huge step forward in terms of taking responsibility for the way our society impacts the natural environment. Seeing as we already have a resource recovery facility in Moss Vale, it seems reasonable, if not desirable, to have the new plant here also. However, I emphasise that developers (and DPA's) need to pay attention to resident's concerns over noise, air and wastewater pollution, as the land has been rezoned to accommodate this facility (ie, the SHIP) and it is within 200 meters of residential areas.

My personal concern, however, is with the method of processing the plastics and whether adequate investigations have been made into the safety of this method. According to an article on the ABC News website, these concerns have been raised by structural engineering professor, Dr Aziz Ahmed, from Wollongong University. He asserts that the chemicals used in the process of recycling plastics can be potentially dangerous and leach into the environment over the lifespan of the recycled product. He also claims that the Australian Standards in the area of these additives are not as stringent as they could be (as stringent as they are in the EU, for example) and need to be reassessed.

The Department of Planning and the Environment needs to take responsibility for this potential now, in their decision to approve this recycling plant. I believe that it is the DPA's responsibility to find out what chemicals will be used by Plasrefine in this plant and to ensure that Plasrefine's (or their successor's) operations are stringently monitored into the future.

Plasrefine allegedly responds to questions from the ABC by issuing a statement saying that they are aware of community concerns regarding the changing character of the area. This reads like misdirection to me, a smokescreen to divert attention from other more far-reaching and serious implications of their development.

In my submission I wish to urge the DPA to consider and be responsible for these broader aspects of Plasrefine's proposed plastic recycling plant. We need to take responsibility for our waste "but we need to do it in a way that is not creating more problems.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.