



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 210586

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

Submission date: 10/31/2024 12:45:43 PM

I am 100% against this proposal. The location is wrong.

As a parent, my heart aches at the thought of the proposed location of a toxic chemical factory, emitting airborne microplastics and forever chemicals so close to my family home and children’s school. There is a profound negative impact this factory would non-negotiably have on health and the well-being of our community. I can’t help but feel a sense of panic.

It is factual, from global studies of similar factories, that microplastics small enough to enter our bodies will be spewed from the proposed factory. When they enter our bodies, it will effect our organs, change our DNA, start cancer development, and many more serious health issues. These are just not statics or abstract information, it represents real threats that every child and adult will face daily.

I am distressed thinking about my family play out outside, unaware of the invisible dangers of airborne microplastics and toxic emissions that surround them. The proximity of this factory’s starting only 200 meters from homes. Billions of microplastics will permeate our air and water, affecting not just my young family, but every child & adult in our community. The potential health consequences are endless, including childhood leukaemia, early onset puberty, infertility and respiratory issues, are simply unacceptable.

Can you imagine sending your child to a daycare or school so close to a factory spewing out toxins? The thought of my children, anyone’s children playing at playgrounds, attending schools, and participating in sports activities within such proximity to potential hazards fills me with dread. There are thousands of children in our community who would be directly affected by this decision, and the implications for their health and safety cannot be overstated.

This is not just a personal concern; it is a serious public health issue that demands attention. We owe it to our children to provide them with a safe and healthy environment to grow, learn, and play. I urge you to consider the potential risks and to prioritise the well-being of our community over industrial interests. Additionally, the health risks posed by microplastics are not just theoretical; they represent a genuine threat to public health. As these particles enter our body and ultimately our blood stream and organs, we face an insidious and irreversible danger resulting in a public health emergency.

The Southern Highlands has long been celebrated for its picturesque landscapes, vibrant wedding industry, charming shops, wineries, and accommodation typically from Sydney. These sectors not only support local livelihoods but also draw visitors from far and wide. Introducing a chemical factory into this environment would deter tourists and residents alike, who would understandably be reluctant to visit a region known for its toxic air and harmful microplastics.

The potential fallout is staggering. If the reputation of our region is marred by concerns over air quality and food safety, all business will suffer immensely. Who would want to celebrate a wedding or enjoy a weekend getaway in an area perceived as hazardous? The economic ripple effect would lead to shop closures, loss of jobs, and a general decline in community well-being.

Moreover, the implications for our agricultural exports are equally alarming. The Southern Highlands is known for its fresh food produce, meat, and wines. Crops and livestock would be compromised by microplastics and other toxins, and the integrity of our food supply will be questioned. Consumers will be increasingly aware of



health and environmental issues; they will not choose to support a region associated with food contamination. Who would consume that? This would lead to a long-term decline in the viability of our agricultural sector, further endangering local livelihoods.

Numerous studies and incidents highlight the dangers associated with plastic recycling factories; Plastics have a higher risk of fires. A fire in a plastic recycling factory are prolonged to burn for a week, releasing toxic smoke and chemicals into the atmosphere and prompting evacuation orders in nearby neighbourhoods which involve significant damage. They release harmful pollutants, effecting air quality for km's around. Studies prove this incidents lead to serious long-term health impacts to residents and increased cancer risk.

The potential for such incidents near our homes is alarming. In addition to the immediate fire hazards, the long-term environmental impact cannot be overlooked.

Recent studies have highlighted the alarming prevalence of microplastics in our water sources. With Sydney's main water dam linking to southern highlands. It is vital for the health and safety of Australia's largest city, to stop risk of contamination from nearby operations. This be taken seriously. The introduction of microplastics & forever chemicals into our water system poses a significant threat not only to human health but also to the broader ecosystem.

As the region experiences rapid growthâ€”particularly with developments like the proposed addition of 2,198 new homes in South Bowral alone, projected to bring in over 6,500 new residentsâ€”it is vital that we prioritise the health and well-being of our community.

The Southern Highlands is not just a picturesque landscape; it is an evolving region with a vision that emphasises sustainability, innovation, and quality of life. The anticipated population increase, with multiple housing developments in the pipeline, will significantly raise the demand for clean air, water, and a healthy environment. The introduction of the proposed factory in this context poses serious risks to the health of our residents. With a current population of approximately 54,130, the potential impact of pollution and health hazards from such a facility cannot be overlooked.

The projected heavy truck and light vehicle traffic is particularly concerning. The proposal indicates trucks arriving every seven minutes, which translates to a significant increase in traffic on our already deteriorating roads. The potential for increased truck banking and car accidents poses a serious threat to residents and their families. Moreover, the risk of livestock being struck and accidents involving children playing near the roadways cannot be overstated.

Additionally, operating a factory in a residential area 24/7 raises numerous safety concerns. The noise pollution alone would disrupt the quality of life for many residents. Coupled with light pollution and vibrations from machinery, the factory would significantly alter the peaceful atmosphere of the Southern Highlands.

It is alarming to think that the health of our growing community could be sacrificed for industrial interests. We must not prioritise a quick solution, in the wrong location, for recycling plastic at the expense of our residents' well-being. The Southern Highlands should be a model for responsible developmentâ€”one that protects our environment and promotes public health, not one that introduces toxins and environmental degradation.

Please listen and prioritise our health and safety over industrial interest and take the time to find another location.
