

IPC Meeting 28/10/2024

43. Graham Hordern

The past nearly four years, have been a significant ordeal for my wife and I and our extended family following a letterbox drop on Christmas Eve 2020, notifying of the Plasrefine development proposal and the proponent's consultants, GHD, seeking to place noise monitoring equipment on our property.

Subsequently the development proposal has been all consuming.

To effectively respond to two Environmental Impact Statements prepared by GHD has required extensive research and time. The pressure exacerbated by the biased process timeframes.

All the while we and the community have sought to come to terms with what approval of the development would have and personally for us, on our remaining retirement years.

So many local people and beyond have been either unaware of the development or with the lapse of time, thinking it had understandably failed to proceed.

The impact on our health and wellbeing has been and continues to be real.

We have recognition of the need for a credible and sustainable response to the plastic waste issues and firmly support the vision of our elected Council's, Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) Master Plan.

As defined "sensitive receivers" we are front and centre to the siting of the proposed development. In short, it represents 24/7 in scale and form, an assault on our health and senses while compromising the nature of future local development and viable employment opportunities.

Yet the DPHI has determined that by its approval that the Plasrefine development;

- is **not** a potentially hazardous industry such that the criteria that underpin State Environmental Policy SEPP 33 have not been applied under this specific determination.
- Question is -When was this determination made?
- As In the past four years of deliberation, the world's understanding of plastic waste recycling has significantly evolved with revelations from credible scientific studies concerning the health and environmental impacts of microplastics and Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- Noting the unresolved frequency, scale and intensity of hazardous fires associated with plastic waste facilities locally, nationally, globally;

- Noting that Plasrefine would store up to 20,000 tonnes of plastic materials on site
- Noting the site's close proximity to residents like us, to neighbouring commercial and research facilities, their staff, our neighbourhood, the Southern Highland communities.
- All and more on riparian land and in Sydney's water catchment

The development is indeed potentially hazardous and demonstrates either an **error in effectively applying SEPP 33 guidelines or,**

- that NSW policies, regulations and legislation are lagging behind the science behind plastic waste management as they did historically, with tobacco, asbestos and silicon dust.
- In the current circumstances **we cannot say to current and future generations we didn't know of the threats**
- Drawing on my own past professional capacity as a practicing certified Lead Auditor in ISO9000 management systems in both the private and public sectors, the plausibility that the proponent has the record or ability to consistently **comply** with the DPHI's multiple conditions and recommendations, is fantasy.

Thankyou.

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