

*Submission to public hearing on Plasrefine Monday 28<sup>th</sup> to the Independent Planning Commission.*

My name is Grant Figtree, a long-term Highlander.

I have consulted to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Various Boards of Investment, the Australian Govt, and private companies in industrial development for 30 years.

**I AM ASTOUNDED THE DPHI HAS RECOMMENDED APPROVAL ON SUCH INADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION, AND EVEN MORE ASTONISHED THAT DPHI HAS BELIEVED IT WITHOUT QUESTION.**

I've had 2 days to study this problem seriously here are some of my findings:

- **FIRSTLY, AND MOST CONCERNING IS THE FACT THAT PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POP'S) HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AROUND SOME RECYCLING SITES AND IN**

**PRODUCTS FROM RECYCLED PLASTIC.** These are **KILLERS**

To quote from the European Chemical Association (ECHA): “*POPs are: “Persistent organic pollutants that persist in the environment, accumulate in living organisms and pose a risk to our health and the environment. They can be transported by air, water or migratory species across international borders, reaching regions where they have never been produced or used”.*

**POP’S ARE AMONG THE WORLD’S MOST TOXIC CHEMICALS, REGULATED GLOBALLY UNDER THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, AS IS WASTE CONTAINING POPS –**

But ACCORDING TO The **INTERNATIONAL POP’S ELIMINATION NETWORK - IPEN** ( with over 700 NGO members) somehow, POP’s get into recycled plastic products and the surrounding environment

**Secondly**, no current technology exists to contain the hazardous plastic particles produced by recycling.

- **Thirdly**, There are over 4,200 hazardous chemicals in plastics, recycling increases the toxicity of plastic and the resin is more unstable.
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**I discovered that In the USA** which claims WBP recycling technologies -. Recyclers:

- 1) call themselves manufacturers to avoid harsh zoning regulations. (***sound Familiar***)
- 2) lie routinely in their presentations and reports.
- 3) Make empty promises, EIA's and EPM's.
- 4) The 9 largest US recyclers are located in the poorest Justice Communities, not to attract workers, but to avoid class action.
- 5) All Recyclers make hazardous waste yet despite regulation 5 of the 9 largest have not even registered as producers of hazardous waste.

6) Despite sealed, Supposedly WBP, factories, there has been explosions, air born leakage, toxic fumes, and wastewater leakage.

The same story continues across the world – air pollution, wastewater leakage, soil pollution, dust pollution, food contamination, cancerous gasses, blood contamination, worker health issues, contaminated end use toys etc,etc

two studies stood out to me particularly.

- FIRST, in 25 locations worldwide Eggs produced in proximity to recyclers were contaminated with toxins According to IPEN quote " *Chickens can absorb the chemicals by drinking contaminated water or eating contaminated worms and insects. Eggs are particularly sensitive to containing toxic chemicals*" (**Doesn't auger well for Garvin's day-olds**)
- SECOND, Recycled plastic products [REDACTED] [REDACTED] all contained toxic chemicals, **including POP's.**

Major Toxic fires occurred in Canada, Ghana, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom and 4 in the USA

As I said two days research and these reports are just a drop in the ocean, what has DPHI been doing for 4 years!

**CLEARLY THIS FACILITY IS GUARANTEED TO BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO THE REGION AS SAFETY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED**

**WE DON'T WANT IT, AS SO ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSED BY OUR NEW COUNCILLORS.**

If IPC cannot reject it out of Hand and DHPI cannot repeal this approval for some political reason , I seek that the NSW Government consider undertaking the following 3 phase course of action, **PRIOR TO ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

## **I STRESS, AT THE APPLICANTS EXPENSE –**

1. Contract a detailed **independent** RISK Report using the best available independent worldwide consultants with a wide-ranging TOR including.
  - a. Worlds best practice factory design
  - b. Processes and equipment and process flow
  - c. process risk at every process stage from transport in to transport out
  - d. Statement of Environmental Risks
  - e. Statement of Risk Management

**SUCH WILL REQUIRE A FULL REVISION AND UPGRADE OF PLASREFINES EIS, EIA, EPM, MODELLING AND A FULL-BLOWN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN BEFORE THE CONSULTANTS CAN EVEN START.**

2. undertake a major independent detailed attitude survey that the population of the Highlands has towards this facility.
3. engage independent consultants to establish a set of control and procedures for the facility **AND ENSURE SUCH ARE AGREED AND SIGNED OFF BY THE STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNMENT**

**UNDER NSW LAW** and then design and agree implementation and monitoring mechanisms and sign off on a set controls with high penalties and compensation plans attached.

If you do this, I believe either,

**PLASREFINE WILL DISAPPEAR INTO THE ETHER,**

or if not,

the NSW Government will have the ammunition to

**REJECT THE APPLICATION OUT OF HAND.**

*Sources – further details can be supplied on request*

*Beyond Plastics*

*Toxic Forever – Greenpeace*

*Greenpeace reports and notes*

*UN Environmental Programme – Paris Conference 2023*

*IPEN*

*Human Rights Watch*

*IPJ Materials*

*Plaschem*

*Chinese Recycling Reports*

*European Chemical Association*

*Royal Society of Science*

GRANT FIGTREE SUBMISSION SPEACH