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Hello,

My name is Tina Hemming. I'm a business owner and resident of Moss Vale.

My family have been in the area for over 40 years and I would like to express my strongest possible opposition to the Plasrefine Plastics Reprocessing Facility which has been approved for Moss Vale.

I am seriously anxious and deeply concerned about the following.

- The close proximity of the proposed facility to residential and farming land
- The impact this will have on the local environment.
- The potential health risks to our town and the wider Southern Highlands and Sydney regions
- The impact of increased traffic volume from heavy vehicles
- The potential to negatively impact tourism to the area and therefore weaken the local economy

Moss Vale is a picturesque town, surrounded by farmland and home to a wide range of wildlife.

It's beauty along with easy access to Sydney & Canberra has made it a popular tourist destination and thriving and harmonious centre.

**It is not the right site for a huge recycling facility**, supplied by hundreds of trucks daily carrying plastic waste.

There is no buffer between this proposed heavy industrial development and the community. It's only 150 meters away from residential homes, an area shared by farmland where cattle graze.

It's 2 kilometres as the crow flies, or more to the point, as the wind blows from Moss Vale Railway Station.

This proximity increases the risk of exposure to the community to toxic chemicals and microplastics generated by the recycling process.

Any accident or fire at the facility could have catastrophic impact, toxic "forever" chemicals potentially spilling into the ecosystem with devastating results – a disaster from which the area may never recover.

Our fire brigades are not equipped to respond to a chemical crisis of any magnitude. The nearest back up vehicles are 45 minutes away in Campbelltown. That's 45 minutes too long when every second counts.

Accidents aside, the proposed facility has the potential to emit harmful chemicals and microplastics into the surrounding air **on a daily basis**, through it's ventilation stack and doors.

The site is located near a waterway that flows into the Wingecarribee River. Rainwater runoff or accidents would impact the water supply to adjacent agricultural land and wildlife habitats.

It's important to note that the Wingecarribee River feeds into the water supply for **greater metropolitan Sydney**.

Another issue of concern is the increase in heavy traffic.

The volume of trucks and support vehicles travelling to and from this site will significantly impact traffic congestion, along roads that are already struggling to cope at peak times. Not to mention the added air and noise pollution of around 100 truck movements per day.

Google maps tells you that the fastest route from the south to the proposed site will take heavy vehicles through Sutton Forest and into Moss Vale via the Illawarra Highway, past vineyards, residential homes and schools. This is not ok.

Plasrefine have promised to direct trucks via an alternate route - but who monitors and enforces these traffic restrictions? At a public meeting I attended last year, this question was raised and apparently it's not the Police, not the Council and not the RTA. So who is it?

Once this facility is opened, Plasrefine can take their trucks down any road they like.

As a local business owner, I am deeply concerned about the economic impact of this development.

Damage to our fragile environment will undermine tourism which our local economy relies on.

My family has a retail business here and I can tell you **definitively** that at least 50% of our business is generated by visitors.

Tourism supports many local businesses across the region and is a fundamental component of the local economy. Any negative impact such as toxic contamination, heavy vehicle traffic and noise & air pollution will drive visitors away and damage our regional economy.

Please know that I am 100% in favour of plastic recycling and reprocessing – there is an urgent need to increase our capacity to cope with the volume of plastic waste we generate.

However, there must be a more suitable location for the **country's largest Plastics reprocessing plant!!**

Similar facilities in regional areas such as Parkes & Albury have been developed in sympathy with the local communities, alongside buffer zones to ensure the health and safety of residents and the local environment.

**Respected IPC Members**, I implore you to overturn the decision made by the DPHI with their approval of this development.

Moss Vale is not the right location for this project.

It may be an easy solution to the Plastics reprocessing shortfall but it's the **WRONG** decision, one that will do irreparable damage to a thriving regional community, the impact of which will send shock waves through this region for many years to come.

Thank you.