New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

SANDRA MOORE		**OBJECT**	Submission ID: 0
Organisation:	*N/A*	Key issues:	*Social impacts,Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)*
Location:	*New South Wales 2576*		
Attachment:	*Attached overleaf*		

Submission date: 11/5/2024

Good afternoon

Please find attached correspondence which we believe falls within the responsibilities of the NSW Independent Planning Commission. The Department of Finance is referring this item for consideration and response as appropriate. Please confirm if the Commission will accept this referral within 5 business days. Thank you.

Kind regards, Department of Finance

From:	[redacted]
To:	IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Cc:	[redacted]
Subject:	Referral to the Independent Planning Commission - Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility - Ms Moore [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date:	Monday, 4 November 2024 2:30:35 PM
Attachments:	241103 Letter.pdf

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

Please find attached correspondence which we believe falls within the responsibilities of the NSW Independent Planning Commission. The Department of Finance is referring this item for consideration and response as appropriate. Please confirm if the Commission will accept this referral within 5 business days. Thank you.

Kind regards

Lauren Veness | Parliamentary Liaison Officer
Parliamentary, Governance and Strategy Branch
Corportate Division
Department of Finance
[redacted]

The Department of Finance acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Sandra Moore
[redacted]

November 3rd, 2024

Objection to Proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility (SSD-9409987)

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express my strong objection to Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd constructing and operating a plastics recycling and reprocessing facility at 74-76 Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale NSW in the Wingecarribee local government area.

This may not be your portfolio however it may well affect your constituents directly or indirectly, their relatives or friends. This is a bigger issue than a local shire problem. I support recycling but

IT IS NOT THE RIGHT SITE

I respectfully request that you voice your opposition to this proposal and take whatever action you can to ensure an intelligent decision is made. My community's health, safety, and well-being must be prioritised.

This facility is too close to a residential area and a significant research centre, the Australian BioResources (ABR) Pty Ltd. It has no buffer zone and is within a critical water catchment zone that supplies drinking water to Sydney. I am deeply concerned that the approval of such a facility poses significant risks to the health, environment, safety, quality of life and economy of our community.

1. Health Risks:
Microplastics, nanoplastics, POPs, PFAS, phthalates, bisphenols, to name a few.
Plastics contain more than 13,000 chemicals, with thousands of them known to be hazardous to human health. The emissions from plastic recycling facilities and their harmful chemicals and particulate matter are well documented and pose potential health hazards to our children, elderly and residents with respiratory conditions. NSW Health don't have any comments on this proposal, they should have plenty of comments.

2. Environmental Impact on the Water Catchment Area:
The proposed site is within a crucial water catchment area, which supplies drinking water Sydney. The runoff and waste by-products from a plastics recycling plant will introduce microplastics, chemicals, and other pollutants into the water supply, harming aquatic ecosystems and potentially contaminating our drinking water. Any breach in environmental safeguards could result in long-term damage which would be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.

3. Impact on Property Values and Quality of Life:
The noise, traffic, and industrial activity associated with this type of factory are incompatible with the character of our neighbourhood. Increased heavy vehicle movement will disrupt our community and endanger local pedestrians, especially children. Additionally, the perception of pollution risks has already decreased property values, affecting the investments of many residents who have built their lives here.

The proposal does not fit in with $270,000 Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) Master Plan that the State Government funded.

4. Economic Impacts:
The proposal will be eligible for government grants, I do not consent to my taxes contributing to the proposal in this location.

There will be increased costs in road maintenance as a result of the excessive number of trucks on local roads, the ratepayers won't want to bear these costs.
Property prices have already been affected as well as residents' retirement funding.

The proponent stated "If you ask us to fund it ourselves, we wouldn't be able to fund it. We still mainly rely on loans." (Southern Highlands Express). One questions how a newly formed company with no trading history is able to secure loans. The economics do not add up and with the market for the end product being questionable, who will pick up the pieces. Who will be paying for the inevitable class actions if the negatives are realised. The government will have a lot to answer for approving this misplaced facility knowing 100% of the risks and outcomes if it goes wrong. It is simply not the right site.

5. Fire:
This site will be 3 times the size of a Bunnings store with an inadequate buffer zone. There have been numerous fires at waste recycling facilities that are difficult to contain. We have 3 fire trucks in the Southern Highlands with any required assistance a minimum of 45 minutes away if available. A major fire at this site is more likely to be left to burn out due to size, access, lack of resources and volume of flammable stock resulting in toxins polluting the air and waterways. Fire and Rescue NSW tell us that any toxic smoke would rise directly upwards yet strangely Moss Vale is well known for the winds that occur. Even if it did rise up, where do the toxins end up?

6. Inadequate Planning and Alternatives:
"The Department considers that these benefits can be realised without significant amenity or environmental impacts and therefore, considers the development is in the public interest and could be approved, subject to conditions."

It is not in the public interest, far from it.

The fact it will require significant mitigation and conditions is a strong indicator of its flaws in the first instance and who will monitor and regulate these conditions. What business/machinery operates 100% perfect 100% of the time? When machinery and/or operators fail the consequences will be devastating.

Whilst the proposal is technically permissible, it is risky in such a fragile environment. The Department has not stepped back and applied any **common sense** whatsoever. The government should be taking a precautionary approach and look at the bigger picture. This is not the right site in the government's fight against the plastic problem.

Alternative sites that do not threaten residential areas or natural resources should be investigated by the applicant. Ms Wendy Tuckerman MP – Member for Goulburn offered to assist in the search for a more suitable location that was declined.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully request that you voice your opposition to this proposal. My community's health, safety, and well-being must be prioritised in any development decision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust you will consider the concerns of my community and take appropriate action to protect our environment and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Sandra Moore
Financial Accountant
Local Resident
Tax payer and voter