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OBJECT

Submission ID: 215697

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses)</i>
Location: New South Wales 2575	
Attachment: N/A	

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I object to this proposal.

1) *The site is unsuitable as it is too close to the residential area, waterway leading to Warragamba Dam, child care facilities, schools and sporting grounds.*

The Social Impact Statement states that the impact area of the proposed facility is 800 m, yet there are houses 80 m away. On day 3 of the public meeting, the Commission heard from [REDACTED] who lives 250 m away from the proposed site.

A child care facility is 750 m away from the plastics recycling facility.

There are 9 schools within 5 k from the site. In case of a fire, which is highly likely for a recycling facility, the impact on children will be disastrous.

It is estimated that 20 000 tonnes of plastic will be stored on site. The Rural Fire Service equipment at Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale is not designed to handle a plastic recycling fire. A real world risk has not been made.

In the likelihood of a fire, the proximity of aged care facilities means it is unlikely that there will be time to evacuate the aged residents. As the public meeting heard, residential aged care facilities are not designed to protect residents from toxic smoke.

A suitable site would be one that is zoned for heavy industrial, away from the residential area, and kilometres away from schools and sporting grounds. It must be nowhere near a riparian zone.

The proposed Plasrefine facility zone is the E4 General Industrial. The E4 General Industrial has the following objectives:

- To ensure the efficient and viable use of land for industrial purposes*
- To minimise any adverse effect of industry on other land uses*
- To ensure new development and land uses incorporate measures that take into account the spatial context and mitigate potential impacts on neighbourhood amenity and character and the efficient operation of the local and regional road system.*

Zones, their objectives and land use tables, all form the local strategic merit framework for assessing development proposals.

The assessment of a proposal, taking into account the opportunities, constraints of a specific site and its environs, all ensures that the development is appropriate not just to the zone, but to the location and its immediate vicinity.



Plasrefine is a company [REDACTED]. The Commission needs to explain to the Southern Highlands community why a company with no experience is being given the tender.

As the Commission has heard from Council, as well as numerous speakers at the Public Meetings, this is the wrong site for this facility.

2) The proposed plastics recycling facility not only compromises, not also sterilises this land for the future development of the Southern Highlands Innovation Park. The Innovation Park is planned to foster an emerging biotechnology sub-precinct.

The Southern Highlands Innovation Park is a regionally significant, long-term employment precinct comprising 1,053 hectares of industrial zoned land. The Innovation Park presents an opportunity to become a major economic driver for the Southern Highlands, providing future employment opportunities and stimulating investment in enabling infrastructure.

The proposed facility does not reflect the Innovation Park aspirations.

3) The Council has brought to the Commission's attention that there are unresolved matters in the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Report that are unworkable and irreconcilable.

The Council's report does not consider that the use of the land for a plastics recycling facility represents the efficient and viable use of the site.

4) The Commission has been advised that Council does not accept the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure risk assessment regarding known and emerging microplastics contamination.

This situation is aggravated by the facility being close to a riparian zone that leads into Wingecarribee Reservoir, which feeds into Warragamba Dam.

The current Moss Vale Sewerage Treatment Plant has no specific treatment element in the process to remove microplastics.

The proposed facility expects to discharge up to 400 g/day of microplastics to the Moss Vale Sewerage Treatment Plant. This has the potential to double the amount of microplastics likely being received by the Plant. This will inevitably result in a subsequent increase in microplastics making their way into the environment which is within the Sydney Water Drinking Catchment.

In accord with the principle of due diligence and responsible management, the Commission needs to halt the progressing of the facility's application until a rigorous assessment and independent evidence based validation has been made by the appropriate agencies to ensure, beyond reasonable doubt, that the health of Southern Highlands residents will not be compromised.

I object to the proposed plastics recycling facility. Moss Vale is the incorrect site. The facility has been objected to by the Council, the State member for Wollindilly and the Federal member for Whitlam.
