



**CHRISTOPHER DUNNE**

**OBJECT**

Submission ID: 218411

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Social impacts, Visual impacts, design and landscaping, Land use compatibility (surrounding land uses), Traffic, Other issues</i>
Location: New South Wales 2577	
Attachment: Attached overleaf	

Submission date: 11/25/2024 3:58:04 PM

*Please see attached for my objection to this monstrosity*

**Christopher Dunne**

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**I STRONGLY OBJECT to the proposed PlasRefine Recycling Facility.**

I whole heartedly support recycling of all items possible, but this proposal is simply in the WRONG SITE.

**THE SITE:**

This site was chosen by the proponents purely because it was cheap. The land is not fit for purpose - it is too small, buffer zones are insufficient between it and local residents, daycare, and other businesses. The closest home is approximately 150m away, day care centre 700m, and my own home 900m away. It is right next door to the sensitive Garvan Research facility. It does not match the Wingecarribee Council's objectives for the Innovation Park, of which this site is a part.

**WATER:**

The land site contains riparian water courses which flow to the Wingecarribee river, and then on to Warragamba Dam and Sydney's water supply - what level of risk of poisoning this is acceptable? Considering the recent closure of dams in the Blue Mountains due to PFAS levels, we should be doing everything we can to protect our water supply.

The facility itself will use huge volumes of water each day to process the plastics, with rain water storage tanks only capable of holding 3 days' water supply – at that point the town water would be used. This is completely unacceptable – especially when we live on a drought prone continent, exacerbated by climate change and frequent El Nino weather patterns.

Waste water will be pumped into our already struggling sewage system.

**ACCESS & TRAFFIC:**

The land has no proper access for this type of facility and the large volume of heavy traffic proposed. The proposed route for these vehicles passes the back gate of St Paul's Primary School in Innes Road, which is used for the afternoon pick up. The majority of the roads outlined as the preferred access route are narrow, mostly residential, and not fit for the proposed hourly truck movements. How many lives of our kids are acceptable to lose during school drop off/pick up?

Most of our roads do not have footpaths & formed concrete guttering, meaning it is often easier to walk on the edge of the road – especially pushing prams etc. They are not fit for large volumes of heavy traffic.

**AIR QUALITY:**

The facility will undoubtedly lead to the release of microplastics into the air. They suggest the use of fast roller doors, and that the facility would not operate with the roller doors open. As these doors face west, which is the direction of prevailing winds in Moss Vale, it would be inevitable that plastics dust etc is stirred up and blown out through the doors to cover the local environment – all the way to the Wingecarribee reservoir and our water supply. It can't possibly be feasible for a large facility to simply shut down when the roller doors are open either.

The heavy traffic will also bring exhaust fumes, and create dust from the volume of trucks – if they idle whilst waiting to enter the facility that will add to the exhaust emissions.

Neither the proponents nor GHS appear to have any sense of responsibility towards the residents of the Southern Highlands – to suggest that we limit our exposure to emissions by limiting our time outdoors is contemptuous. This may be the norm in polluted countries such as China, but it is completely unacceptable to make such a suggestion in Australia.

We have a large number of vineyards, apiarists, and vegetable growers in the area, along with livestock and bloodstock – polluted air, soil, and water will kill these industries!

#### **FIRE RISK:**

The risk of fire in plastics recycling facilities is enormous due to stockpiling of flammable items, and the high temperatures used to melt the plastics. From the recent spate of fires in such facilities it seems inevitable.

The site also poses bushfire risk, due to the surrounding grasses and rural land.

A fire in this facility would be catastrophic – the site access alone would pose issues for fire trucks.

We do not have 24hr manned fire fighters in the Southern Highlands – they are all on call only – as is the rural fire service. We also do not have the necessary HAZMAT equipment for fighting such a fire. Trucks would be required to come from Campbelltown or Wollongong – both an hour away. By the time necessary fire equipment arrived, it would simply be too late. If this occurred on a hot day with high winds, a fire would take hold and devastate the town and the Garvan facility before anything could be done about it.

#### **VISUAL:**

The facility is not in keeping with the rural landscape and the adjacent C4 parcel of land. It would be visible from nearby wedding & hospitality venues which would be hugely detrimental to the future economy of the area.

Landscaping will not hide this monstrous facility, and the lighting from the 24hr operation will significantly dim our night skies.

#### **NOISE POLLUTION:**

The noise from the truck movements, roller doors going up & down, plus the general operation of a 24/7 facility will not be insignificant. Noise carries much further on a still night – and in summer sleeping with windows open this would be horrendous for those nearby.

#### **LIFESTYLE:**

The Southern Highlands region is growing, especially since COVID with numerous families relocating from Sydney. This relocation is due to the relaxed and rural lifestyle we enjoy here. Families want to get away from the frantic pace, traffic congestion, and pollution of large cities.

Moss Vale in particular is growing, with new housing subdivisions filling with young families. We are not an aging population as described in some of the Social Impact statements.

Australians enjoy an outdoor lifestyle in general. We enjoy backyard bbqs, backyard cricket & footy, going to playgrounds, cycling, bushwalking etc. We grow our own veggies. This is especially so in the Southern Highlands, due to the beauty of our landscape and typically larger backyards. We are not living in highrise apartments with no fresh air.

To suggest to us that we compromise our lifestyle in order to shield ourselves from the emissions generated by PlasRefine is outrageous and quite frankly, un-Australian.

The threats this facility poses to our lifestyle will also affect our property values – houses in our street are already taking much longer to sell than previously.

#### **THE PROPONENTS:**



The proponents mention wonderful new techniques and patents in the world of recycling – if they have no experience how do they even know that they work? Where is their business plan? Is it operationally feasible?

Their consultants GHD appear to lack any ability for proper research, due diligence, or public engagement. We live just a few streets away but did not receive any letterbox material etc.

Public meetings were only arranged after public outcry, and then at inconvenient times and locations with limited numbers. GHD appeared to be trying to sweep this proposal through under the radar of locals, in order to avoid the very situation we are in now. They seem to have very little knowledge of the actual operations with numerous statements containing “likely”, or other assumptions. Clearly they are just in it for their fee.

Building heights, number of stacks, diagrams, truck movements, haulage volume numbers, storage volume numbers constantly change – we as a community have had to pull together to analyse these documents – sharing our research with each other – so that we are able to make informed arguments against this facility. What a shame that GHD & PlasRefine did not bother to research our community and the Southern Highlands in general before concocting this environmental murder.

Does anyone even know of these “fast roller doors” exist?

#### **BENEFITS:**

It is difficult to find any benefits to the local community from this facility. The proponents plan to bring in specialised builders to build the actual facility – some trade sub contracting may be available for a short time. For the operation of the actual facility – again they plan to bring in specialists from overseas to operate the highly automated equipment. The number of jobs to be created is therefore negligible. So what is in it for us?

If this facility is to go ahead the local community will pay a hefty price with repercussions for generations, whilst GHD and the proponents will be laughing all the way to the bank – government grants in hand. I don't know how they can sleep at night.

THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE RIGHT SITE.

For the sake of our community, our livelihoods, and our health, this MUST be stopped from going ahead.