

31 October 2023

To whom it may concern,

Re: Proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility, Project ID SSD-9409987 EXH 62855253

I am a property owner in Berrima and write to object to the proposed plastic recycling facility above. I refer to my original submission dated 21 March 2022 and would like to reiterate my concerns now.

My objection encompasses many concerns, mainly environmental, and is not limited to the following:

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The proposed site is meant for light industry. This development is not light, it is a clear overdevelopment and potentially hazardous. As a result, it will have far reaching and very concerning long term environmental impacts.

- **Water quality** - I am extremely concerned about the potential for this proposal to impact the water supply of the Sydney drinking water catchment and the pumping of contaminated water that flows into the Wingicaribee river. This is unacceptable. Future generations will never forgive us if we allow this.

- **Pressure on water supply** - If we are experiencing drought conditions I question where the water will be sourced to wash the plastic and the unnecessary pressure this will put on town water supplies for local residents? Whilst we have experienced La Nina weather recently, it is clear that we will again experience severe drought and extreme weather events in the near future. Following from this I question the safety of having such a facility if we experience bush fires and what would happen if this facility burned?

- **Loss of wildlife and habitat** - I am very concerned about impact to local wildlife and particularly the effects on the rare species of birds that call this area home. Once again – it is simply not the right site to put a facility like this. We need to remain accountable to future generations and preserve wildlife corridors, not demolish them for heavy industry.

- **Air quality** – toxic residue and smell will affect surrounding areas. I note the number of schools and child-care centres in the vicinity of this proposal.

In addition to environmental suffering, there needs to be consideration of the following impacts of this overdevelopment:

- **Traffic and road safety** – the current road infrastructure is already under pressure and in a state of disrepair. Having heavy vehicles coming in and out at high frequency is going to make a bad situation worse. In addition, New Berrima residents should NOT have to bear the brunt of hundreds of trucks passing by daily. This is an area primarily populated by young hard-working families, with young children, and having the safety issues (as well as the noise pollution) of a constant stream of trucks is simply unfair. At a

minimum, the route should be moved AWAY from New Berrima township and from Taylors Ave. Road deaths are a leading cause of child mortality in Australia.

- **Noise pollution** – 24/7 work and traffic from trucks will be detrimental to the residents and wildlife.

THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The proposal argues it will generate jobs however the number of actual jobs for locals will be small relative to the huge unprecedented detrimental impacts of this proposal to the community. In addition, Plasrefine has stated that many jobs will be automated so I query the generation of jobs.

In addition to the above environmental impacts of inappropriate overdevelopment, this proposal will have far reaching negative impacts on the community as follows:

- **Health** (both mental and physical) - through the emission of microplastics into the ecosystem
- **Wildlife** - Likewise this will also affect local wildlife
- **Agriculture** – local farmers will have their produce polluted by microplastics
- **Tourism** – which the community relies on – will suffer as our clean environment drawcard will be heavily tarnished. One simply cannot understand how the NSW Government could allow heavy polluting industry such as this in one of its most cherished tourist centres?

Overall, it is **difficult to comprehend how this proposal is genuinely in the public interest** and the interest of the local community. There appears to be far more downsides to this project and it sets a very dangerous precedent for other industrial projects for this area which currently enjoys a pristine environment and relies heavily on tourism.

It is frankly ridiculous to argue that this development will genuinely benefit the local community and I **question whether it will genuinely benefit the broader State of NSW.** The public interest aspect of this proposal needs to be **carefully scrutinised.** It would be a very grave mistake to let this development go ahead without such scrutiny given the very serious environmental, social, health and economic impacts it will have on the area. Overall – this project should not tarnish the Southern Highlands community and it is very unjust for it to be allowed. If the State government feels it is **genuinely** of benefit to the State of NSW then **another more appropriate site should be found for it.**

I urge you to consider how this project will risk destroying the Southern Highlands as we know it. I am not opposed to appropriate industrial development and this isn't a matter of NIMBY – it is genuinely NOT the right site for this facility. If implemented, this proposal will have devastating long term impacts for the environment and the community of the Southern Highlands.

Regards