

Ms Emma Barnet
Infrastructure and Industry Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY
NSW 2001

RE: SSD - 9409987

Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility Amendment

Dear Ms Barnet,

As a frequent visitor to the Southern Highlands and a passionate advocate for preserving the region's natural beauty and environmental integrity, I am writing to express my profound concerns regarding the Plasrefine plastic recycling factory proposed to be constructed in Moss Vale.

The Southern Highlands, with its breathtaking landscapes and pristine environment, has long been a haven for tourists seeking solace in nature's splendour. The introduction of an oversized factory complex, 15-16 metres in height and spanning 8 acres, poses an imminent threat to the area's charm and the tourism it heavily relies upon. This will become particularly evident at night resulting from the light spill emanating from the 180 lights on site at height of between 15 – 20 metres above ground level and operating 24/7.

The proposed location being landlocked within Sydney's drinking water catchment compounds the issue, raising alarms about potential contamination risks. Despite claims of the factory being screened by hundreds of plants, the reality that these are mere plugs and tube stock, susceptible to rapid depletion due to the local rabbit population, undermines the screening efforts entirely.

Moreover, the lack of pertinent experience by the proponent in managing a facility of this nature, coupled with a history of multiple fines from the Chinese Government for pollution concerns, raises serious doubts about their capability to operate in an environmentally responsible manner according to Australian standards. The use of untested technology, absence of a manufacturer's warranty, and the recycling of water within the factory, which may concentrate chemicals and microplastics, are all significant concerns. Additionally, the exemption for 24/7 operations during drought and bushfire periods would undoubtedly have detrimental consequences for Moss Vale's water supply, particularly in times of critical need.

The prospect of sending contaminated sludge to the local sewer works, already at capacity, further exacerbates worries about the project's viability and its impact on the community's well-being. Placing such a toxic industry in close proximity to residential homes, businesses, and esteemed institutions like the Garvan Institute without a considerable buffer zone, is both irresponsible and potentially hazardous.

As a visitor who cherishes the Southern Highlands for its natural beauty, I am appalled and distressed by the potential threat this factory poses to an area so reliant on tourism and environmental purity. I implore you to reconsider the site selection for the Plasrefine plastic recycling factory. The Southern Highlands deserves preservation, not degradation, and any industry introduced should align with the area's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable growth.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I hope that through dialogue and reconsideration, we can work towards a solution that preserves the beauty and integrity of the Southern Highlands.

Sincerely,

