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Ms Emma Barnett
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 Barnett,

I am writing to express my heartfelt objection to the proposed construction of an enormous plastic recycling factory in Moss Vale. As a long-term resident of this beautiful town, I have witnessed the ebb and flow of life in this community for decades, and I firmly believe that the current site for the factory is entirely wrong for our beloved town.

My life's journey has been closely intertwined with Moss Vale, and I have watched our community thrive and grow while retaining its unique charm. Our town's natural beauty and small-town atmosphere have made it an oasis for people seeking a quieter, more peaceful way of life. I am deeply concerned that the construction of such a massive and potentially hazardous factory, which would inevitably lead to pollution, increased traffic, and environmental degradation, will irreversibly alter the character of Moss Vale and the Highlands. This is not the kind of legacy I would like to see our grandchildren and future generations inherit. They deserve better.

The key reasons for my objection are:

1. **Environmental Concerns:** Moss Vale is home to rural landscapes, clean air, and pristine waterways. A factory of this magnitude within a riparian zone and Sydney's Water Catchment, poses a substantial risk to the drinking water of Sydney residents, our local environment through potential water and air pollution, as well as ongoing noise disturbances. I understand it will operate 24/7 for 44 weeks of the year and 8 weeks for maintenance.
2. **Health Impact:** Our community includes vulnerable individuals, such as young children and the elderly in particular, who form the primary demographic of the Highlands. The factory's emissions would have adverse and irreversible health effects, especially on those with pre-existing conditions.
3. **Traffic Congestion:** The increased traffic with an estimated 320 vehicle movements each day. I suspect this could even be much higher, resulting from the factory's operations. This would not only disrupt our tranquil way of life but also pose serious safety concerns for pedestrians and drivers alike. It is already a dangerous process for the elderly attempting to cross Argyle Street with only two designated pedestrian crossings. Although there is no proposed use of our main street, truck drivers will always take the most direct route, so those coming from Wollongong will use Macquarie Pass and then Argyle Street to Lackey Road. So dangerous.
4. **Decreased Property Values:** The construction of an industrial factory of such huge proportions, would inevitably lead to a decrease in property values, for a considerable radius, particularly those closest, thereby impacting the hard-earned investments of many long-time residents, who have chosen to make their permanent home in our lovely town.
5. **Increased Heavy Industry:** It is my belief that a factory of this size and nature, would only serve to attract similar heavy industrial developments to the Southern Highlands Innovations Park, which is not what our Council has envisaged for this area. Our beautiful town will become an epicentre for industries deemed unacceptable in other areas, simply because the zoning allows it.
6. **Preservation of Our Heritage:** Moss Vale's history and heritage are invaluable, and the presence of a huge plastic recycling factory would overshadow our historical landmarks and diminish our town's unique character. It is the main reason so many people choose to visit, move and stay. How many potential 'new residents' would want to move to an area prone to micro plastic contaminants and toxic emissions? Possibly only those who are totally unaware of this contentious development. The proposed site would be completely illuminated for quite some distance and the night glare would be an insurmountable blight emanating from the 180 external lights.

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There are 75 lights along driveways and another 105 on the buildings. This will not only affect the surrounding homes and businesses but also the Garvan Institute and its vital research.

I implore you to consider the impact of this project on the lives of the residents who have called Moss Vale their home for many years. It is vital that we prioritize the welfare and tranquillity of our community over the stated 'potential' economic benefits of this factory. Plasrefine has stated that there will be full-time employment opportunities for 140 workers. This is highly questionable, given the difficulty that employment agencies are having in our town, to fill the large number of vacancies across all sectors.

There are undoubtedly more suitable locations for such an endeavour that would not jeopardize the natural beauty, health and quality of life that we have enjoyed for generations. I understand that an offer has already been made by MP Ms Wendy Tuckerman, to assist in locating an alternate site, but her offer was declined.

I kindly request that you reconsider the proposed location for this plastic recycling factory and explore alternative sites that would be more suitable for such a heavy industrial operation. Please hear the voices of long-term residents who wish to preserve the legacy and charm of Moss Vale for future generations.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for your dedication to serving our community.

Sincerely,



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