

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,

I wish to express my objection to the Plasrefine Plastics Recycling project which in my view, can only be deemed an extremely detrimental development to the entire Southern Highlands community, not just Moss Vale.

The Site:

The site chosen for this development is very clearly unsuited to an industry which should rightfully be reclassified as Hazardous, not General Industrial. The recycling of plastic, although essential, given the amount of material being produced and consumed, should involve a development in an area specifically allocated for that type of specialist heavy industry. The Brightmark facility at Parkes planned to open in 2025, is a prime example, being located in the Parkes Special Activation Precinct and with Government support. The rolling green hills on the fringes of Moss Vale at 74–76 Beaconsfield Road, is not compatible with the type of industry being proposed and is not what the Wingecarribee Council envisaged in their DCP.

To quote from MP Wendy Tuckerman's Parliamentary address, "It is not a case of Not in my Backyard, because it is not a backyard project; it is a serious industrial operation that has been proposed for a residential area." The proposed site for construction, is located within 150 – 200 metres from residential homes and only 30 metres from The Australian Bio Resources Garvan Institute.

The Proponent:

An investigative newspaper article in the "Sydney Morning Herald" has raised some extremely concerning issues in terms of the proponent. By his own admission, neither Mr Lyu the owner, nor his director niece, Ms Nanxi Zheng, have ever operated a plastic recycling facility. However, we should not be alarmed by their obvious lack of expertise in this area, since we were assured that they have visited two such facilities in China. In other words, our community is expected to rely upon an owner and director with no experience in this developing industry, using technology not previously tried or tested in Australia. We are expected to accept assurances that Plasrefine will safely operate their massive 8-acre factory with potentially carcinogenic chemicals, in an area not designed for such a development and within close proximity to residences, businesses and the Garvan Institute. By their own admission in the Appendix J document on Air Quality and Odour, it states, "As outlined previously, Plasrefine Recycling has been in discussions with various pollution control system providers but has not yet formally engaged a provider and therefore cannot provide manufacturer guarantees." This is an extremely alarming admission and not one that the community is willing to accept unchallenged. Recent evidence has surfaced, showing that Mr Lyu has been fined in China multiple times for breaches of the building code and pollution. Everything that GHD is expecting the community to tolerate and rely upon, is purely conceptual and without any experience or a substantiated proven track record. The proponents are not residents of the Southern Highlands and therefore whatever diabolical industry with its associated short- and long-term effects, they inflict upon our community, will not affect them, except in the hip pocket and profit margins, when the inevitable class actions begin filing in.

Plastics Recycling, the Industry:

The recycling of plastics although necessary, is a relatively new enterprise with associated advances in technology needed to accommodate such an industry, also evolving. The long-term effects of dissemination and contamination from the micro and nano plastics produced in the recycling process, are only just beginning to emerge and the research is considerably alarming. In the natural environment, it can take between 10 – 40 years for plastics to degrade. However, in pelletising the plastic feedstock, as the Plasrefine factory is intending to do, it will accelerate this process considerably. Since many of the resultant micro and nano plastics produced can be microscopic or virtually invisible,

there is no way to guarantee that these particles will be successfully screened out or captured, as proposed. That presents the very real danger of contamination and transfer - to employees, to the tyres of vehicles within the factory and to escaping to the external environment. This would also pose a considerable danger to the Riparian Zone and the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment due to their close proximity to the factory.

The designated area although zoned as General Industrial, is not the right site for any such hazardous petro-chemical fossil fuel based industry, particularly one of this size and scale. For the reasons listed above, I am hopeful that the Planning Department will give due consideration to the detrimental effects and irreversible impact that this Plasrefine proposal will have on our Southern Highlands community and refuse the application. Thanking you for considering my objections.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. D. Bampton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.