

equipment that Plasrefine is proposing to use during construction of their 8-acre factory, and during its operation. Vehicles and equipment such as 20 tonne excavators, compactors, heavy haulage 19m - 26m long semi-trailers and B-Doubles have been mentioned in documents. With such a monstrous factory in such close proximity to Garvan, the impacts of a fire would be nothing short of catastrophic.

Moss vale does not have the specialised equipment to combat a fire from a plastics factory. Our closest specially equipped brigades would need to come from either Campbelltown, Oran Park or Shell Harbour. They would not only have to be ready to respond, but also available. The risk to Garvan and the community from the potential of such an event, is far too great. There have been over 70 fires worldwide, including Australia, in plastic recycling facilities since 2019. These statistics are simply frightening.

Traffic Impacts: I find it extremely concerning that the Plasrefine proposal plans to import up to 120,000 tonnes of plastic waste from major cities throughout the country, using our small country township as a virtual 'dumping ground' but with no inclusion of any waste material from, nor any direct benefit to, Wingecarribee Shire other than purported employment opportunities which is questionable. Due to the highly publicised use of robotics and modern technology proposed, there would seem to be very minimal employment opportunities for locals in this facility. Interestingly, information from GHD has changed since its inception and now claims employment opportunities for at least 140 people. However, major use of our already congested local roads which are in an appalling state, has been proposed. These roads are not designed to take the volume or capacity of heavy vehicles being suggested, on a daily basis and well into the future. They are in urgent need of upgrading and repair which is unlikely to occur in the near future and once the developer contributions have been exhausted, it will be up to ratepayers to fund any repairs or upgrades required, for little or no local benefit. This situation is untenable and cannot be allowed to occur. There are serious concerns for the welfare and safety of local residents with the proposed increase in traffic, not just from the heavy vehicles, but also from the anticipated 240 additional light vehicles accessing the facility, on a shift work basis.

There is no guarantee that the truck drivers employed by other firms, will operate within the guidelines set by GHD in regard to the designated routes. Given that many of these will involve long haulage, it is far more feasible that drivers will take the shortest, most direct and time saving route to the facility which in turn, means a severe impact on local residential streets and the associated dangers. There are no means of effectively controlling or preventing this from occurring, once the facility is fully operational. By necessity, these heavy vehicles will be diesel combustible engines, not electric and the subsequent noise emanating from them, significant. Engines will be left idling whilst in a holding pattern for entry to, and exit from, the factory. Our local roads will not only be clogged but destroyed and us as ratepayers, left to pay the price! None of this is acceptable to local residents, with those residing closest to the facility being the most impacted, in addition to the disastrous effects on the Garvan Institute.

Water Usage and Wastewater Issues: GHD have made several concerning alterations to their statements regarding water usage and their plans to mitigate the overuse of our town water supply. I believe this to be purely a public relations exercise to appease residents and make the proposal more palatable. From stating initially, that they would require 40,000 litres daily of potable water including roof water harvesting to wash and process the plastic, it has now been magically downgraded to between 5,500 litres – 15,500 litres per day, with an additional 2,500 litres for toilets and other uses. They have claimed that their eight acres of roof space will harvest 80% of requirements. However, provision has only been made for 150,000L of water storage amounting to a three-day supply. I would question the validity of their calculations. Additionally, if the Highlands experiences long periods of drought as in the past and predicted for the latter part of this year, there will be little to no water available. Therefore, the factory will revert to relying on the town water supply. Residents would no doubt be placed on water restrictions and the factory would be exempt. My other major concern is that during a bushfire, also experienced in this area as recently as 2019, every drop of available water is needed. There is no allowance for excessive usage for other purposes, most specifically for a factory relying so heavily on such huge quantities of water usage to conduct its operations.

There are a myriad of reasons why the site proposed for the construction of the Plasrefine factory is simply not suitable. It is not the right site. It is my firm belief that in the best interests of the community, the proposal should be rejected. The proponent should withdraw their application and relocate to an area that would best meet the specific site suitability demands.

Kind regards,

Kay Jones.

