



JUDY HANNAN MP

MEMBER FOR WOLLONDILLY

Judy Hannan.



01/11/2023

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED PLASREFINE PLASTICS RECYCLING FACILITY 74-76 BEACONSFIELD RD MOSS VALE NSW 2577, SSD APPLICATION NO – 9409987

I am writing in opposition to the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility Amended Application (SSD-9409987). I have been contacted by many of my constituents who have expressed their opposition to the Plasrefine plastic recycling plant, a State Significant Development. This matter, which the Wingecarribee Shire Council is also opposed to, has significant community opposition. As the Member for Wollondilly, my electorate borders the electorate of Hume and the suburb of Moss Vale is within the Southern Highlands area. This project would have a direct impact on my constituents living in the neighbouring suburb of Bowral, and beyond to other areas of the Highlands.

I agree with the view of residents who have made representations, who are highly concerned with the environmental impacts of the plant and the lack of meaningful community consultation. In particular, the lack of detailed information about the project leads me to question the ability of the project to meet any environmental or planning conditions.

The proposed project site which would affect the local area which is rural in nature, and contradicts the Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan which priorities protection of the watercourses and riparian areas. It cannot be overlooked that the Wingecarribee is within the Sydney water catchment area, and the lack of detail around the operations of the plant - and its obvious potential for polluting the land, water and air - is evidence that this project must be stopped. We have a duty of care to safeguard the vital asset of clean drinking water, not just for this area but for greater Sydney.

The location of the plant is not appropriate. It is situated only 200m from not only homes but hobby farms and community facilities such as schools and a childcare centre. Air and water pollution from exposure to the chemicals produced from the processing will directly impact these residents - including very young children - and such heavy industrial processing plants are completely misplaced in this location, which is zoned E4 General Industrial. The local DCP also notes this as a buffer zone, which does not allow for this type of heavy industrial operation.

The plant proposes to process 120,000 tonnes of plastic a year, and the roads surrounding the proposed location are not capable of supporting this amount of traffic. Along with the pollution from the plant itself, the dramatic increase in road traffic proposes a huge threat to surrounding residences and wildlife. The roads in Wingecarribee are already at their limits, and New Berrima would suffer cumulative impacts from heavy vehicle traffic, endangering road infrastructure, level crossings, and safety. The lack of transparency regarding truck numbers and the removal of toxic sludge on local roads raises concerns about the safety and functionality of our roads.

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The sheer bulk and size of the structures in the proposal are excessive for this location, and landscaping is conspicuously absent on the proposed site. The towering 22 metre exhaust stacks are unsightly and out of character for the area, and the architectural drawings fail to provide a comprehensive view of their design and venting details, again leaving critical information lacking. The character of the rural area of Moss Vale is an asset to the Wingecarribee area, and the removal of critically endangered trees from the site is further evidence that this project will exert irreversible damage on the environment.

Most alarmingly, Plasrefine lacks any experience in plastic recycling operations. Furthermore, one of the directors who owns the Plasrefine logo has a history of environmental sanctions in China, and I question whether he is a fit and proper person to hold an Environmental Protection License given these circumstances.

The project is extremely inappropriate, given the absence of essential operational details. It seems inevitable that it will result in pollution and irreparable harm to the area. Its suitability for this location is highly questionable, and decisive action must be taken to halt it. I stand firmly with my constituents in their opposition to this project.

Yours sincerely

Judy H.

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