

01 November 2023

To whom it may concern,

Submission in Opposition to the Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility Amended Application (SSD-9409987)

I am making a submission in opposition to the above-mentioned State Significant Development by Plasrefine.

I live in the nearby suburb of Mittagong, and regularly visit Moss Vale with my children. I am deeply concerned about the proposed Plastic Waste Facility. The reality that the Plasrefine company has no experience in plastic recycling is troubling alone, but the fact the one of the directors has a history of environmental breeches is downright alarming. This, along with the lack of details on how the processing plant would actually work, should be enough to put an end to this proposal but the problems of this project extend beyond just questionable corporate responsibility. The environmental and logistical impacts have not been considered, and frankly once they are this project simply should not be allowed in this place, by this company now or ever.

The facility is planned to be a mere 200m from residential areas, which is wholly inappropriate and poses a significant threat to the health and quality of life for the local community. Pollution from heavy industry such as this cannot be underestimated. The proposed plant has the potential to devastate the local wildlife, compromise road safety, lower land values, and release toxic residues into the surrounding agricultural and residential lands. The capacity of the Moss Vale sewage treatment plant is already stretched, and I have no confidence in the ability of Plasrefine to handle the wastewater from this facility in a safe way that won't impact the local waterways. The facility's proximity to the Wingecarribee River, part of the Sydney water catchment, poses a significant risk to the drinking water supply. The potential for irreversible damage to the catchment must be taken seriously.

The prevailing winds in the region will carry plastic dust, chemicals, and fumes, affecting not only Moss Vale but also neighbouring towns like Bowral, Burradoo, and beyond. The three largest schools in the Highlands, located nearby, face long-term health impacts on our young people, potentially leading to various health issues. Emissions from the plant contain microplastics and health-impacting chemicals that pose a risk to our environment and health. The potential for spills, accidents, and the impact of the proposed "deodorizer" on our air quality are major concerns.

The proposed facility would strain local fire services and resources, which are ill-equipped to handle potential fires and hazardous materials incidents. The growing number of fires in waste facilities nationwide should be a stark warning.

The local Development Control Plan (DCP) clearly states that this type of heavy industry is not suitable for this site. It designates it as a buffer zone. Moreover, the Wingecarribee Shire Council does not support this project.

It is inconceivable how this industrial monstrosity is even being considered in the peaceful and pristine semi-rural environment of Moss Vale. None of my friends, neighbours, or fellow community members like this idea, and we are united in our concerns. We implore you to reject this proposal, preserving the beauty and environmental integrity of Moss Vale and the Southern Highlands.

Yours sincerely,
Erin Foley
Mittagong, NSW