

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**

Dear Ms Barnet,

My wife and I are long term residents of Moss Vale and have only recently become aware of a massive plastic recycling facility being proposed within 3kms of our town centre. The distance as the crow flies, is a mere 2.17kms, which is how any of the released emissions will travel. Many assurances have been made by GHD, the company representing the proponent, none of which do anything to allay our concerns. Much of what has been written and is contained within their EIS seems to be speculative, using terms such as 'anticipated', 'probable,' 'likely,' 'expected,' etc. so that many of their solutions to the problems posed and concerns raised, are in fact unknown, until the facility is constructed and in full operation. How can this situation be deemed satisfactory or acceptable?

**The Site:** The land earmarked for this facility is located within a Category 2 Riparian Zone and within the Sydney Water Catchment area. Plasrefine claims to be able to mitigate any overflows by redirecting the water course, which is highly questionable. This is of extreme concern to us, as we are sure it would be, to Sydney residents, if they were made aware of what is being proposed and the very real possibility of a contaminated water supply. The recent flooding of that exact area is a prime example of the difficulties associated with redirecting a watercourse, which has been proposed as a solution.

**Roads & Traffic:** Our local roads, which their huge 20 tonne trucks are intending to use on a daily basis, are already in an atrocious state. Once developer contributions have been exhausted, it will be left to us as ratepayers, to maintain and remediate any subsequent damage. Given the volume of traffic - 100 heavy semi-trailer movements and 240 light vehicle movements daily, this will amount to considerable and long-term damage, for which we the residents, will be ultimately responsible at great cost. This is an untenable situation. The noise emanating from these diesel vehicles will create considerable noise in surrounding streets, which are currently located in a quiet rural setting. Despite assurances by GHD, that trucks will not be queuing on local streets surrounding the facility, but fully contained onsite, there is no real provision for this, on what can only be described as a very basic concept drawing. There are so many anomalies with this proposal, not the least of which is the size and scale of the facility.

**Scale & Lighting:** Plasrefine is proposing to construct two buildings, 18 metres in height, taking up 7.7hectares. This will be monumentally visible from some considerable distance, more particularly at night when their 18-metre-high lighting system remains on, to allow the facility to operate on a 24/7 basis for 44 weeks of the year. The entire surrounding neighbourhood will be severely impacted by this and with no restrictions, the lights will be visible for kilometres. No amount of screening and landscaping will be able to combat the visibility nor the angle of projection, due to the slope of the land and scale of the buildings.

**Vehicle Access & Emissions:** The community has been assured by GHD that any emissions produced during the recycling process, will be fully contained within the buildings, due to their four efficient filtration extractors and 'fast acting roller doors.' This is a ridiculous proposition, given the number of heavy vehicles which will need to be entering and leaving the building. Our concerns are, that for unspecified periods those 'fast acting roller doors' will, by necessity, have to remain open for a period of time, if not permanently. There is no guarantee or provision to suggest otherwise, since the following considerations would need to be taken into account for this stipulation to be effective: the speed of entering and exiting vehicles and related OH&S issues, together with the length of each vehicle, since they will be arriving from different trucking companies in different cities, with associated variables. This remains yet another unknown factor which can only be speculative, until such time as the facility is in full operation and by then it may be either too late to correct, or simply not possible. Either scenario is completely unacceptable, in our view.

With specific regard to the emissions, if they are so toxic as to require a technologically advanced filtration system of no less than four units, how can this 'contained' environment be deemed safe for any employees working within the vicinity? Are they to be issued with hazmat uniforms and equipment on arrival each day/night or what provisions have been made to ensure their safety whilst at work?

For all the above reasons and countless others, we wish to express our united opposition to this project which in our view, can only be deemed as extremely detrimental to the entire Southern Highlands community, not just Moss Vale.

The Plasrefine plastics recycling proposal needs to be wholeheartedly rejected by the Planning Department.