

PLEASE NOTE: I have no objection to the publication of my name but do not consent to the publication of my address.

The following submission contains my firm **objection**, to the **SSD – 9409987 Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility**

This is to certify that I **have not** made any reportable political donations within the last two years

Alan Bird

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Moss Vale

NSW. 2577

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,

I would like to state my **opposition** to the Plasrefine plastic waste recycling proposal to be built in the township of Moss Vale. My reasons are summarised as follows:

Site and Scale:

- Inappropriate bulk and scale, totally spoiling the rural vistas and amenity – a blight on the landscape that no amount of screening can obviate A massive visual intrusion on the landscape
- Zoned for General Industrial, but with no buffer zone applied, the building size will dominate surroundings and be clearly visible for kms
- Appropriate zoning and cheap land price on purchase, does not mean appropriate heavy industrial complexes should be approved for the site
- Two incompatible zones C4 conservation and IN1 general industrial
- Only 30 metres from the highly sensitive Garvan Institute for world recognised medical research. Reliant on peaceful surroundings without disruptive noise, vibration and/or pollutants and emissions
- Only 150 – 200 metres from residential homes, many nearby residents being unaware and not directly consulted regarding this application
- Located less than the stated 3 kms from the GPO within the town boundary – inaccurate figures from GHD
- No infrastructure or access available and to the current date, none granted
- Located within the Sydney water catchment and a category 2 riparian zone in a flood zone No satisfactory mitigation measures in place or detailed, only a proposal to realign the watercourse
- Conflicting height estimates: Scoping Report stated height 8 – 10 metres EIS – 18 metres and 9 ½ acres of buildings Clearly an overdevelopment of the site, on a grand scale
- Measurements taken by GHD on private property, to gauge the true height of the facility for concept drawing purposes, were conveniently positioned at the lowest possible point on the property. Therefore, the true height and landscape impact of the buildings, is unknown
- No detailed architectural drawings of buildings, no contour plan, no survey plan, no cut and fill plans, no provision for a suitable buffer zone between site buildings and residential homes, nor the Garvan Institute
- Risk of significant landslip issues towards Lackey Road, not addressed
- **Where are the benefits to the community?**

Lighting:

- Questions to GHD regarding lighting have received completely inadequate answers. Adverse impacts on the amenity of surrounding residents and businesses cannot be accurately assessed without an external lighting assessment. This was a requirement of the SEARS and has been dismissed and not addressed at all, as noted in Technical Report 7: Landscape and Visual Impact
“This assessment does not include landscape and visual impacts from lighting and any possible visual impacts from lighting or light spill are excluded from this assessment, and with the exception of mitigation measures outlined in Section 8, external lighting has not been assessed.”
- **How is GHD allowed to completely disregard a requirement of SEARS when the impact of external lighting is so critical?**
- **GHD benefit score: 1 Community benefit: 0**

Traffic, Roads and Safety:

- Stage 1 construction calculated to take between 1 – 2 months to complete a significantly sloping road access from Lackey Road. Requiring retaining embankments, cut and fill, building to Council specifications, and stated 13 metre width for their 20 tonne heavy vehicles, including turning access. A ridiculous timeframe for such an undertaking, no construction details provided and the width stated for those vehicles is highly questionable, requiring even more land acquisition from the Garvan Institute Costing could not have been accurately calculated due to the lack of specific detail
- Importation of 120,000 tonnes of plastic waste material from transfer stations in major capital cities and regional centres Each time GHD is questioned for locations, the list increases. **Note:** nothing from Wingecarribee Shire
- Proposing to use Beaconsfield Rd to construct the site access roads. Beaconsfield Road is a narrow, extremely quiet, residential Council owned road, with no pedestrian access. Currently used by existing residents, businesses and local road users. Inappropriate and dangerous for use by heavy vehicles
- An Early Learning Childcare centre is located midway on Beaconsfield Road
- GHD has proposed using other quiet local residential streets if the Braddon Road access is not permissible. Lytton Road also does not have pedestrian access and residents primarily walk along the road. This company should not be permitted to selfishly ignore the safety, amenity and well being of local residents and community members for their own benefit
- Plasrefine has attempted to mitigate developer contributions in exchange for the cost of land purchase and construction of site access roads. All ongoing damage, maintenance and upgrades through degradation of local roads from their heavy vehicles 24/7, 44 weeks per year of operation, will fall to Council and ratepayers Costs will be considerable As evidenced by the increasing complaints to Council, local roads are already in an appalling state and will only worsen over time if this proposal is allowed to proceed
- During December of 2020, GHD conducted traffic studies at the intersection of Lytton, Gibbons and Berrima Roads, at a time when Covid restrictions were in place and prior to the influx of Sydney residents escaping from city life. These figures are now outdated and highly inaccurate
- Noise and exhaust fumes from Plasrefine's heavy vehicles, will severely impact the community, especially on roads which are primarily rural, residential in nature and therefore relatively quiet, particularly Beaconsfield Road. Residents have lived harmoniously along this road for years, in relative peace and even accepting the recent subdivision developments taking place, heavy vehicles are not commonplace, nor is their associated noise and pollution.
- Plasrefine has reduced calculated truck numbers to 100 daily movements following a community outcry. However, their weight has significantly increase for 10 tonnes, to 20 tonnes and all of this on our local roads. Even those roads designated as suited to industrial use, would be subject to a considerably increased daily volume and therefore, a subsequent deterioration over time, the cost for which would not be borne by Plasrefine
- **Where are the benefits to the community?**

Community Impacts – Social and Economic

- Multiple research evidence has been provided, on the dangers and prevalence of micro plastics being transferred into the environment from facilities such as that proposed by Plasrefine Any emissions released during processing, would inevitably be carried on prevailing westerlies, to surrounding towns and villages such as Burradoo, Bowral, Mittagong and most likely even further afield towards Sydney
- Residents and more particularly visitors, are attracted in their hundreds, to the Southern Highlands for the offerings of character and lifestyle This element of attraction would be significantly detrimentally and irreversibly impacted by the installation of such a massive plastic waste recycling facility on the proposed site. **Why should the community tolerate such an intrusion and irreversible change to the current enjoyment of a relaxed, attractive, quiet rural lifestyle and clean country air?**
- Highly visible, glaringly illuminated at night, operating 24/7 for 44 weeks per year and 8 weeks for maintenance, excessive noise factors that cannot be successfully mitigated with regard to both the facility and transport, located in an essentially rural vista, overuse of already congested local roads in atrocious condition, a constant flow of more than 50 extremely noisy, polluting heavy vehicles and 240 light vehicles daily, loss of amenity, serious OH&S issues both externally and internally, impacts from pollutants on local wineries and tourist based

industries and businesses, using up 46,300 litres of potable water, expelling 10,000 litres of sludge and effluent, unknown quantities of emissions and carcinogens, accepting 120,000 tonnes of filthy plastic waste from national cities and regional centres but not Moss Vale, filling local roads with congestion, and undetermined minimal local employment numbers due to the use of robotics and advanced technologies not tried or tested in Australia

- **Where are the benefits to the community?**

Fire Hazard and Emissions:

- Moss Vale experiences predominantly prevailing westerlies, particularly during winter. As recently as winter 2021, we had several days where the township experienced winds in excess of 65kms per hour. Emissions and toxins from a factory fire the size of what is being proposed, would reach as far as outlying Sydney suburbs, if propelled by winds of this nature.
- GHD have made assurances that Plasrefine will install four carbon filters within the facility and that, in their own words, “**there will be no emissions**” Much of the new technology purported for use by the facility, has never been trialled in Australia and with a facility as large as the Plasrefine proposal, within such close proximity to homes and more especially to the Garvan Institute, this is extremely concerning, particularly in the event of a fire.
- In July, 2021 a fire destroyed several shops in the township of Bowral. It took 30 firefighters over 4 hours to completely extinguish the blaze. Brigades had to be called in from as far away as Campbelltown to assist, as the resources at Moss Vale were not sufficient to cope, with a fire of that magnitude. A fire in a facility the size of Plasrefine would prove catastrophic and there are not sufficient mitigation measures in place that would satisfy OH&S issues.
- **Significant hazard related issues and insufficient combative measures in place A potential danger to the community No benefits**

Community Consultation – totally unsatisfactory:

- Deliberately restrictive community consultation sessions –
- initially online,
- questions in advance and had to be written,
- answers provided selectively,
- in-person sessions only begrudgingly provided following coercion and political intervention
- numbers capped at 25 when the venue catered for 100,
- the final venue at Exeter not Moss Vale despite community requests and local venue availability
- only one session catered for working families with a 5.30 – 7.30pm timeslot, the remainder during working hours
- no interactions with the Director until the final 6 meetings, despite numerous requests

GHD themselves, have provided the best possible conclusion on my behalf in their

Technical Report 7 – Landscape and Visual:

“The visual impact of the proposal would be high for the surrounding sensitive receivers, and it is anticipated that the ongoing changes throughout the re-development of rural land would result in long term and adverse impacts to the landscape character of LCZ1 and the surrounding sensitive receivers, with significant and irreversible, changes to the attributes, elements and value of the rural landscape character.”

My question therefore, still stands: Where are the benefits to the community...OUR community?