

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Director – Industry Assessments Planning Group

Dept of Planning & Environment,

Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta, NSW 2124.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a formal objection to the proposed plastics waste disposal facility for Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale.

\*May I confirm from the outset that my opposition to this proposal is not NIMBY-based. I am a professional economist specialising in Industry and International Trade Economics with a decade's experience as Senior Economic Advisor to the European Union Delegation in Canberra.

\*My objection is principles – based after living in the Moss Vale area for over a decade. However there are financial and other details missing which preclude any detailed assessment.

Questions and Major Barriers include:

\*Which other sites were examined and rejected in order that Beaconsfield Road, Moss Vale (BMV) emerged as the obvious location?

\*What amounts of State and Federal monies have been allocated for the BMV project?

\*The area has no local council at present, which itself presents a clear democratic deficit, but what is the size of future council expenditure involved in the BMV project.

\*The image which has been developed for the Southern Highlands Region is one of tourism and viticulture. The proposal for Australia's largest waste disposal site sits clearly at odds with that!

\*Whilst details on volume and sources of waste seem sketchy a focus on road transport might seem somewhat "third world" given the evolving world petroleum crisis. Rail access should be the focus.

\*Waste volumes are directly related to population centres. The BMV site location would make little sense even for the processing of Southern Highlands waste but for extremely long distance sourcing from the Sydney-Goulburn-Canberra Corridor (let alone expected more distant sources) the road miles involved make it a somewhat ludicrous choice.

\*Even before the effects of recent floods the area's carriage ways were poorly maintained. Since then many surfaces are disintegrating and exceptionally dangerous. The arrival of 34 wheel B-Doubles for 24 hours per day will devastate the local roads.

\*Following the State Government's insistence that the area takes larger and larger numbers of Sydney's excess population – meagre expansion of State funded infra structure has followed. There are no signs of any changes in this to accommodate this traffic volume.

\*The road network is currently totally insufficient to cater for current traffic flows. With a major development like BMV without a Moss Vale Bridge Duplication and By-Pass the Sydney invasion will only recreate the very conditions which encouraged surplus Sydney population to leave in the first place.

\*Waste of the proposed kind inevitably creates stench which will be carried by prevailing winds across the towns. When the green waste at the "Recycling Centre" caught fire (several times) all windows had to be sealed for several days. Fire is an ever-present danger at industrial sites especially when located in residential areas. The BMV site could be expected to store up to 1000 tonnes of plastic waste on site in order to draw down a continuous flow for processing. Any fire would send clouds of toxic carcinogen laden smoke over the town of Bowral.

\*Waste of the proposed kind leaves residual sludge which requires a major receptor. This would require odour control. Seepage into ground water will also be a major issue.

\*Given the current virus pandemic and the movement restrictions imposed on truck operations it is clear that large scale developments of this type proposed could well create a Wuhan situation.

\*Excessive 24 hour noise from truck access, internal TANNY communications and commercial radios in vehicles especially at night will create a major source of pollution. This will happen – I have personally experienced this in the U.K. in a similar situation. It is extremely difficult to control.

\*Overseas studies suggest that tight monitoring of standards is vital. This may be unlikely to occur here.

\*The area has already gone through a long battle to prevent a South Korean coal mining development near Berrima and there are a number of proposed developments creating conflict at present in the area. The last thing the community will welcome is yet another one.

Sadly, proposals like the BMV one are clearly marked out to trigger civil disobedience campaigns, which again are an unwelcomed component of a tourism area.

I remain yours sincerely

