

21 March 2022

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Proposed Moss Vale Plastics Recycling Facility, Project ID SSD-9409987**

I am a property owner in Berrima and write to object to the proposed plastic recycling facility above.

My objection encompasses many concerns, and is not limited to the following:

**OVERDEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA – AND RELATED IMPACTS OF THIS**

The proposed site is meant for light industry. This development is not light, it is a clear overdevelopment.

As a result it will have far reaching environmental impacts.

- **Water quality** - I am particularly concerned about the potential for this proposal to impact the water supply of the Sydney drinking water catchment and the pumping of contaminated water that flows into the Wingicaribee river. This is unacceptable.
- **Pressure on water supply** - If we are experiencing drought conditions I question where the water will be sourced to wash the plastic and the unnecessary pressure this will put on town water supplies for local residents? Whilst we are in La Nina weather cycle now, it is clear that we will again experience severe drought in the near future. Following from this I question the safety of having such a facility if we experience bush fires and what would happen if this facility burned?
- **Loss of wildlife and habitat** - I am also concerned about impact to local wildlife and particularly the effects on the rare species of birds that call this area home.
- **Air quality** – toxic residue and smell will affect surrounding areas.

In addition to environmental suffering, there needs to be consideration of the following impacts of this overdevelopment:

- **Traffic** – the current road infrastructure is already under pressure and in a state of disrepair. Having heavy vehicles coming in and out at high frequency is going to make a bad situation worse.
- **Noise** – 24/7 work and traffic will be detrimental to the residents and wildlife.

**THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

- The proposal argues it will generate jobs however the number of actual jobs for locals will be small relative to the huge unprecedented detrimental impacts of this proposal to the community.
- In addition to the above impacts of overdevelopment, this proposal will have far reaching negative impacts on the community as follows:
  - **Health** (both mental and physical) - through the emission of microplastics into the ecosystem
  - **Wildlife** - Likewise this will also affect local wildlife
  - **Tourism** – which the community relies on – will suffer as our clean environment drawcard will be heavily tarnished
  - **Amenity** – general amenity and enjoyment of the area will suffer.

Overall, it is **difficult to comprehend how this proposal is genuinely in the public interest** and the interest of the local community. There appears to be far more downsides to this project and it sets a very dangerous precedent for other industrial projects for this area which currently enjoys a pristine environment and relies heavily on tourism.

**Lack of transparency by the developers** in terms of the information they have provided to date (which has tended to be inaccurate, vary depending on the audience etc) calls to question their intentions to maintain this project into the long term with a view to benefiting the public.

It is frankly ridiculous to argue that this development will genuinely benefit the local community and I **question whether it will genuinely benefit the broader State of NSW**. The public interest aspect of this proposal needs to be **carefully scrutinised**. It would be a very grave mistake to let this development go ahead without such scrutiny given the very serious environmental, social, health and economic impacts it will have on the area. Overall – this project should not tarnish the Southern Highlands community and it is very unjust for it to be allowed. If the State government feels it is **genuinely** of benefit to the State of NSW then **another more appropriate site should be found for it.**