

To: The Director – Industry Assessments, Planning Group, Department of Planning and Environment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

SUBMISSION – MOSS VALE PLASTICS RECYCLING FACILITY

Application No. SSD-9409987

Applicant – Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd

Council Area – Wingecarribee Shire

I object to Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd's application to the Department of Planning and the Environment to build a Plastics Recycling Facility at Moss Vale. I am interested in this issue as I believe it is in the wrong location and I will be directly impacted if this facility is approved as I live in the area off Beaconsfield Road. In addition, I believe that building and operating such a facility will not only have a negative impact on all residents who live in the immediate vicinity but surrounding residential country towns in the Southern Highlands Region. I object on the following grounds: location, inadequate infrastructure, safety, social and health implications.

Location The Southern Highlands has for over 100 years been a tourist destination for city folk to escape to including the Governor of New South Wales whose summer residence was near Moss Vale. This quiet and peaceful area with the crisp fresh air of the mountains, the rolling pastures for cattle and sheep to graze on, the agricultural industries and dairy farming has attracted thousands of visitors. Consequently, over the years many tourists have chosen to live in the highlands permanently. This area was never planned as an industrial area because of this prime agricultural land. Instead Moss Vale and surrounding towns now have many wineries which previous governments encouraged people to venture into. The Plasrefine Recycling Facility, if approved, is to be built on prime grazing land for cattle and sheep and will be five stories high. This facility will not only be a blot on the landscape but a waste of valuable land for food production. It is to be built near residential areas and only 3km from

the Moss Vale town centre. As well as local residents there is an Early Learning Centre, two Primary Schools, two Churches and a Basketball Facility nearby that all use the roads proposed to be used in the construction of this facility.

Inadequate Infrastructure The local access roads to build the facility including Beaconsfield Road have no curb and guttering, are not wide enough, there are no weather proof footpaths and when it rains large potholes form in the bitumen roads and dirt verges. Also, Beaconsfield Road is a rural/residential road and there is less street lighting at the rural end. As many people park their vehicles on the verge of these roads day and night it is impossible for two cars to pass each other. The only way is for one car to stop to let the other pass. Therefore there would be no room for trucks to do so safely. The employees at the Southern Highlands Early Childhood Learning Centre on Beaconsfield Road park their cars on the verge all day as there is nowhere else to park.

Safety There are road safety issues for people who use Beaconsfield and surrounding streets. It is hazardous enough for drivers trying to turn right onto Beaconsfield road from Stables place seeing oncoming traffic because of the cars parked near the Early Childhood Learning Centre. There are two blind curves on Beaconsfield Road near Bulwer Road which will make it dangerous for people to exit their driveways if trucks are travelling downhill as they don't stop as quickly as a car can. There is another blind curve on Lytton Road. As there are no weather proof cement footpaths, only uneven grass ones, people walk their dogs, including myself, on the bitumen on Beaconsfield road and surrounding streets. This is dangerous enough without having trucks using the roads. Others ride horses and I have even seen cattle herded up the street by people on horseback. Mothers and fathers push babies and toddlers in prams and walk their school children to where the school bus stops on the corner of Lytton Road and Beaconsfield Road twice a day. Many parents in cars also park at this intersection

and drop their children off to catch the bus to the local primary and high schools and pick them up. Parents also push prams, walk or drive their children to the playground equipment at Lackey Park on Lytton Road. There are also cricket practice nets at Lackey Park and a sporting field which children walk to along these roads as well as cars. Adults and children ride bicycles along the local roads after school, weekends and holidays. The local churches not only hold services on Sundays but other activities during the week as well which increases traffic along the local roads. As well there are safety issues for the local wildlife as over twenty ducks cross Beaconsfield Road from the flower farm dam on Beaconsfield Road to Stables Place and Roche Place open stormwater drains. This happens at least twice a day and as they are very slow waddling across the road a truck may not be able to stop on time and they could be killed. There are also blue tongue lizards and other reptiles that cross the local roads as well as rabbits, foxes and possums. In addition, there is a new residential development of over twenty blocks of land which has just been completed on Beaconsfield Road which, when built on, will increase the number of people and cars on the road. As you can see there are many road safety issues to consider.

Social and Health The social life of local residents and their health will be impacted. If there are heavy truck movements on the local roads they may no longer feel safe to walk their dogs, take their children to the park and school bus stop. Also, they may stop riding their bikes, riding horses, walking on local roads or attending church activities because of the added danger of being hit by a truck. This would go against the government Health Department's advice which encourages people to exercise as it is good for their health. We are lucky in Moss Vale that so many people do exercise using the local roads but for how much longer if this facility gets the green light? I moved here to have a quiet life. The only sounds I hear are animal and bird noises, an occasional train and cars. Heavy vehicles using

these roads would create excessive noise and disturb residents which cannot be good for mental health. The site for this facility is on land with water courses that flow into the Wingecarribee River. A major concern is the very real possibility that such a facility could contaminate the air and water and be hazardous to not only the local residents but the rest of the Southern Highland residents. Operating such a facility involves transporting plastic waste, stockpiling that waste and processing the waste. The question I have about this is; is the recycling process of breaking the plastic down into plastic flakes so fine that it is as hazardous to the health of humans as asbestos dust from asbestos sheeting and silica dust from the cutting of stone benchtops? In speaking to staff at the Early Childhood Centre there are children who attend that have asthma and any disturbance of dust on Beaconsfield road sets off an attack let alone fine plastic flakes that may be released into the air. My husband has reduced lung capacity and I suffer from hayfever so we are very worried about such a facility being built nearby. The strong westerly winds we experience here would easily blow any such fibres all over the Southern Highlands. If this occurred not only would people's health be at risk but tourists may stop visiting the area which would have economic impacts on businesses.

For the above reasons I have set out in my submission I believe the Department of Planning and Environment should not approve this application for a Plastics Recycling Facility in Moss Vale. Also, I understand that few plastic products can be recycled. Rather than facilitating these types of developments the Department could be more proactive in encouraging businesses and people in Australia to reduce their use of plastic products in the first place.