

Media Release

27 October 2024

Southern Highlands residents are taking to the streets in Bowral tomorrow morning to rally against the decision by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) decision to recommend approval for what will be the Southern Hemisphere's largest plastics recycling and reprocessing factory – Plasrefine, which is proposed to be built in Moss Vale.

Community anger and frustration has boiled over since the announcement of the decision on 11th October 2024 by the DPHI to recommend the factory's approval to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

IPC community submissions will begin in Bowral tomorrow, Monday 28th October, and the community will be out in force to send a clear message to Paul Scully, NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, that the proposed location is not the right site.

An overwhelming response from the community for submissions to the IPC has seen 135 speakers registered and the public meetings expanded significantly.

Over 400 Southern Highland residents, many who have been fighting against the proposal for 4 years, gathered last week on Monday 21st October, in a packed auditorium at the Moss Vale Services Club to show their opposition to the recommended approval of the proposed Plasrefine Recycling Pty Ltd factory, with the statement '*Not the Right Site*'.

MP for Goulburn Wendy Tuckerman, MP for Wollondilly Judy Hannan and Wingecarribee Mayor Jesse Fitzpatrick were also in attendance.

Mayor Fitzpatrick stated, "The turnout on Monday clearly demonstrates monumental opposition to this factory. We hope the Independent Planning Commission, which is hearing this matter in Bowral on Monday 28th October, is hearing us loud and clear!"

The community is also calling on Water NSW and Sydney Water to respond to community concerns that this factory will contaminate creeks located on the proposed site that lead into Sydney's drinking water catchment.

Residents have also raised concerns about the key overseas-based party involved in Plasrefine, which has a record of environmental breaches in similar facilities overseas.

Some key points of concern are:

- Lack of buffer zone with residential areas, a medical research facility, childcare centres and location in Sydney's drinking water catchment
- Environmental pollution from micro plastics and forever chemicals
- Fire risk
- Lack of appropriate roads and transport infrastructure
- Conflicted with Wingecarribee Shire Council's draft strategic plan for the Southern Highlands Innovation Park
- Innovation Park is slated to be an employment zone
- Failure to have secured land-owner's consent for access to the site
- Inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the DPHI's recommendations

The proposed Plasrefine facility aims to process 120,000 tonnes of plastic waste annually from Sydney, Canberra and Wollongong, making it one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

For further information, please contact:

Suzannah Cowley
Resident
0401196881
suzannah1@bigpond.com

Anna Phillips
Moss Vale Matters Group
0418251523
ontheplateanna2@gmail.com



Resources

DPHI Recommendations

State Significant Development Assessment Report:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-9409987%2120241010T041046.799%20GMT>

Recommended Development Consent:

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-9409987%2120241010T000206.432%20GMT>

Development Consent Meetings

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)'s Independent Planning Commission (IPC) is holding three meetings where community representatives and members of the public are invited to make oral submissions:

Monday 28th October 2024 (in-person)

Bowral Memorial Hall, 16-24 Bendooley Street, Bowral

Friday 1st November 2024 (in-person)

Bowral Memorial Hall, 16-24 Bendooley Street, Bowral

Tuesday 12th November 2024 (online)

via videoconference and telephone

Livestreamed online and at Bowral Memorial Hall

Written Submissions

Written submissions close on Tuesday 19th November and can be made online:

www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/make-a-submission-forms/moss-vale-plastics-recycling-facility

For more information

Visit our website:

www.saynotoplasrefine.com.au