



# Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

1 Spring Street  
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Telephone (03) 8624 5712

1 June 2021

As addressed

Dear Party

## **Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) – New Arrangements for Bairnsdale Hearing**

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Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the IAC is proposing a significant restructure of weeks 6-9 of the above Hearing which will affect all submitters in those weeks. The IAC apologises sincerely for this disruption, but the suggested changes are to facilitate a regional Hearing or regional input in the circumstances.

### **What you need to do**

***If you were scheduled to be heard in person in Bairnsdale between Wednesday 9 June 2021 and Friday 25 June 2021***

These in-person Hearing days are being rescheduled due to COVID-19. Can you please contact the IAC **by midday (12 noon) Friday 4 June 2021** on [Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au) with your preference to:

- a) be Heard via Zoom in the week commencing Tuesday 15 June 2021. If you have the capability to present via Zoom the IAC would appreciate you considering this option; **or**
- b) appear in-person in Bairnsdale in the week commencing Tuesday 29 June 2021 or Monday 12 July 2021.

*Note, if the later in person hearing days in (b) above cannot be held in person due to the COVID-19 situation and the directions of the Chief Health Officer, these hearing dates will then become Zoom video conference sessions.*

*If this occurs the IAC will explore opportunities for submitters to attend a venue in Bairnsdale to make their submission to the IAC via videoconference. You should advise the IAC if you do not have any capacity to do video conferencing from home.*

### **Background**

The IAC has been closely monitoring the developing COVID-19 situation. At the Hearing this morning the IAC discussed and sought parties' views on the proposed options for the Bairnsdale face to face

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#### **Privacy Statement**

Any personal information about you or a third party in your correspondence will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. It will only be used or disclosed to appropriate Ministerial, Statutory Authority, or departmental staff in regard to the purpose for which it was provided, unless required or authorised by law. Enquiries about access to information about you held by the Department should be directed to the Privacy Coordinator, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002



Hearing as outlined in correspondence dated 28 May 2021 (Tabled Document 438) and a fourth option<sup>1</sup>.

Following the consideration of responses from parties, the IAC has determined the following course of action to provide certainty to parties going forward:

- The in-person Hearing currently scheduled for next week in Bairnsdale (Wednesday 9 June and Thursday 10 June 2021) and in Week 7 (15 June – 17 June) and Week 8 (21 June – 25 June 2021) will not be taking place.
- Submitters scheduled for those days will now be rescheduled into either:
  - a Zoom video conference Hearing session to be held in the Week beginning 15 June 2021 (voluntary opt-in); or
  - a later in-person hearing day in Bairnsdale that will be held in either the Week beginning 28 June 2021 (starting on Tuesday 29 June) and Week beginning 12 July 2021.

### **Represented Parties closing**

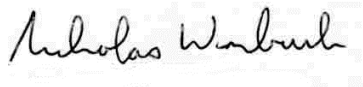
Any represented parties, whose Counsel has particular times of unavailability in the weeks 12 July and 19 July 2021 are to inform Planning Panels Victoria by **midday (12 noon) Friday 4 June 2021** on [Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au).

### **Next Steps**

Once the IAC has received responses from submitters who want to now be heard on video conferencing an updated Version 7 Hearing Timetable will be issued.

If you have questions, please contact Amy Selvaraj at Planning Panels Victoria at [Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



**Nick Wimbush**

Chair, Inquiry and Advisory Committee

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<sup>1</sup> To offer Zoom video conferencing slots for submitters in the Week beginning 14 June 2021 and then schedule in person hearing days for the remainder of submitters in the Week beginning 28 June 2021 (starting on Tuesday 29 June) and Week beginning 12 July 2021, with closing submissions to be held the end of that week or the week after.