

EES Presentation
Submitter 151
Peter Reed

The purpose of the EES is not to put the project on trial, it's not to prove it guilty of lying, or being deficient, it is to try and make it work. The government's policy is to encourage mining, the government understands the wealth that mines bring. The EES is to make sure that its environmental effects are managed in a way that means the benefits will outweigh the impacts. The EES process is to assist the project manage any impacts, it is not to try stop the project. Under the government's policy, the IAC (the panel) should be acting to make the mine work in a sustainable manner, not to try stop it. This project easily achieves that. The reports show the environmental impacts are minor or non-existent.

The opponent's strategy seems to be to cast doubt in the hope it is determined that further delays are required. I guess the Anti Fingerboards Project group hopes that if they cause enough delays, the project goes broke. The group does not seem to realise that someone else will just carry on with it. It is easy to create doubt about anything, especially where you have a population that doesn't understand mining. The fact is Australia has been a leading supplier of mineral sands for 100 years. We've had hundreds of mineral sands mines, in all sorts of environments, many far more challenging/fragile than the Fingerboards. Mineral sands have an excellent track record of rehabilitation, many of the east coasts' famous beaches have been mined for instance, but you couldn't tell now.

I am representing the silent majority. I want to give the workers a voice – we don't seem to have one in this process. However, I know of many FIFO mine workers living in the area. Their work places an enormous strain on their families. It would be so much better if they could work at the Fingerboards. I know that there is a drain of youth and young families from Gippsland as there's no good work and well paid work. Not everyone wants to earn minimum wage working in tourism or horticulture where a lot of the precious horticulture jobs are itinerant workers.

The newly elected East Gippsland Shire Council has been captured by greenies. They don't speak for the majority. They are illegally using council funds to prosecute their own agendas. Several East Gippsland Shire Councillors have submitted to the EES and that makes them have an apprehensive bias. They should not have been allowed to vote for or against the project. Several Councillors were 100% for the project but Mendy Urie, Jane Graecen and Tom Crook made sure that the person that informed the group was an ANTI Fingerboards Project person and the information session was filled with lies and deception. The meeting on the 1st of December 2020 is proof about lies and deception as there were approximately 15 ANTI Fingerboards project presentations and they were all obviously informed by the greenies in the council to turn up that night. No PRO Kalbar person was informed about this meeting and the possibility to talk so no PRO Kalbar person had a chance to present during that night. Again, the councillors voted against supporting the project but they DO NOT represent the majority of constituents.

There are many people in this community who privately expressed their support to the project. There is an enormous interest in working for Kalbar so that proves that there are many people (and businesses) in favour of the Fingerboards Project. Most people do not dare to express those views publicly because the rhetoric has been toxic, intense, verbally and physically abusive.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present.

Peter Reed

I give permission to my wife, Karolina Reed, to read out my presentation as I am not able to do this, while working in a remote area where there is no phone service at all.