

I have 30 minutes of my 67 years to convince you that a mineral sands mine in Glenaladale should not be allowed.

I am not an expert or specialist in the mining industry & obviously by the number of pages of changes & alterations to the original EES either is the proponent. I am however a very honest land holder in Glenaladale, honesty is something the proponent seems to lack.

I listen with great interest to my neighbours who comment with authority on the construction of the soils, the winds we suffer, the flows of the rivers & creeks, the aquifers, fires, floods, drought & many other subjects.

The proponent did not seek out this knowledge in the beginning, they came into the community with a brash & distasteful attitude & according to Mr Bishop the people of Glenaladale are nothing, just sheep farmers & lettuce growers.

Their abrasive approach & senile comments see's them awarded no social licence by the large majority of residents in the Glen.

The connection to the land by generational farmers is something they are all very proud of, Their commitment and time spent doing what they do best negates the flawed attempts to communicate, lack of knowledge of our lands, & all efforts by the proponent to force families not just off their land but in most cases force them into debt & into trying to survive on an income massively reduced by loss of land to the proponent.

Farmers feed stock on a rotational basis, if they lose half of their land the rotations will not take place, this ends the life of the farm. In tough times farmers may need to borrow against the farm but if the proponent has taken over the land then borrowing ceases, plunging the farmers family into destitution.

The word environment means :

Surrounding objects, region or conditions, circumstances of life, person or society.

An environmentalist is a person concerned with protecting the environment, one who considers that environment has primary influence on a persons or groups development.

These 2 words summarise everything that is good about the Glen, & its environment & everything about her is fantastic, the residents & others have a great love for what they have & will not give it up or share it with greedy interlopers that will not care for the locals & their farms.

It is very hard & upsetting to be here today I do not understand why I or in particular the farmers have to justify to anyone why we want to maintain what is rightfully ours, for the proponent to think they have the right to assault our civil right to own, care for, & enjoy our properties a privilege I have had for 30 years is just not the Australian way.

I do not give a tinkers toss for the Government to say it is ok. It is not ok to put my neighbours off their land or to send them into financial hardship, it is not ok to force the veggie farmers into closing down their operations because of contaminations to their crops, it is not ok to push people further into a depressive state, it is not ok to lose many hundreds of jobs in the veggie growing industry to give a limited number of jobs to people that will cause nothing but angst among the residents of the Glen.

I challenge you & the Victorian government to give me 5 good reasons why the people of Glenaladale should support this proposal, there is not 1 good thing that you could say will be a positive for our community. This proposal has no positives to offer the environment, there is nothing this proposal can do to make life better in any way shape or form for the residents of the Glen. It has had & will continue to have an extremely big negative impact on the mental wellbeing of many of the residents including myself

How do I legally fight against a cashed up group of so called experts that have put forward an EES of over 11,000 pages of over inflated & misleading claptrap & statistics. How did the Government think we could as individuals read 11000 pages in the time allowed, the government gives the proponent 7 YEARS to prepare the EES & allows them to alter & make as many changes as they want, this is done to enhance their poor efforts in obtaining truthful & correct information.

900 replies from the community picking out the lies & misinformation in the EES cannot be incorrect, the immediate reaction from the proponent to submit thousands of pages of additions & corrections is proof to us all that they are an amateurish & incompetent group of pecksniffian characters. When we consider that the new volumes added to the original 14 volumes sees a correction rate of nearly 50% must prove to be a state of higgledy piggledy.

As locals we must assume this amount of variation to be more than alarming for the impact on the environment, if they did not get it right in the original EES & still have not got it right then surely this is an indicator that they are not professional enough to work with the community to even get this off the ground.

When local farmers (some 5th generation) talk about what they do & how they do it is a treasure trove of knowledge & expertise, their combined experience as you know covers beef, sheep stock feed & mixed vegetable enterprises, the diverse methodical approach ensures the best outcome for all farmers, with vegies shipped Australia wide & internationally, beef tabled at some of the best restaurants & wool purchased by Italian clothing manufacturers. These well established ventures have no ability to work beside a dirty mining company & the proponent has no right to expect these farmers to lie down & allow the proponent to takeover Glenaladale.

There are a large number of people involved with horses, there are clubs & groups in East Gippsland with many day, weekend & week rides being held in the Glenadale area. My property is a horse property, my horses are educated to pleasure & show harness driving. I compete at many agricultural events & Royal shows. I have 2 welsh ponies a welsh cob & a Clydesdale, my 14hh black cob won the Victorian concourse de elegance 2 years in a row beating over 25 competitors each year. I have my paddocks sown in differing blends of grasses suitable for horses , my largest paddock is native mixed grass & my other paddocks are a mix of grazing & higher energy grasses. With good management practices I cut & bale grass every other season for roughage feeding.

The impact on all grazing & vegetable paddocks with contaminated dust will be a diabolical nightmare, contamination will see the majority of farmers become victims of unacceptable mining practices this would be the end of family life on the farm & would see the region lose thousands of jobs, do you people want to be responsible for that could you carry the burden of knowing you have destroyed hundreds of millions of financial worth in the region, would you be able to look the depressive community in the eyes & say that is acceptable.

The conduct of the proponent sees the large majority of the community give them no social licence, 99% of the 909 EES respondents did not support the proposal , is this not proof enough that it would be very dangerous to allow this to go ahead.

I have a scenario I need you to hear, in the EES the proponent states that there will be crashes, the dictionary states that a crash is “ a violent impact of a vehicle “ with another or a fixed object.

There is a large truck travelling along a road, there is a bus with school children on board coming from the opposite direction, unfortunately the truck & bus collide, the crash sees the truck end up on its side the driver is trapped inside, the bus has sustained serious damage, the truck is now billowing smoke, the bus has a large number of casualties, it is from Melbourne.

Children are screaming & crying, some are not moving, the CFA is 30 minutes away police & ambulance 40 minutes away, 3 locals have pulled over & more will do the same, the rear window of the bus is removed & the children are being extracted from the bus.

The CFA arrives, 1 truck with 3 volunteers aboard others are coming, more & more people stop to assist, it is chaotic, many of the young children have serious injuries, police & 4 ambulances arrive, it is now 50 minutes since the accident, there is nowhere near enough first responders. The large number of children needing urgent medical assistance, sees more ambulances up to a further hour away, with limited emergency beds to cater for such an emergency sees children rushed to Bairnsdale, Sale, Traralgon, Warragul & Melbourne hospitals.

This scenario may or may not happen, we all hope & pray that it does not. The scenario highlights the length of time it takes for first responders to arrive on scene, I am not sure how a crash like this would end I hope that in reality it does not happen, but at the moment there is a 50% chance that it will. Are you prepared to say that it will not occur are you prepared to take responsibility if it does happen.

Are we to believe that as stated in the EES crashes & possible deaths are part of the mining process, are we to accept the fact that we all have a number on our backs. If I am killed in a crash will you people console my partner & family, do you expect us to accept the fact that crashes & death are an acceptable part of the mining industry. Are we led to believe that it is ok that death equals profit in the mining industry.

Help us lock the gates, help the farmers to maintain their current existence, allow them to do what they have always done, simply put that is provide for the community. If the Government takes away these farmers, they can never be replaced, those of you that sit in judgement today need to support the community of Glenaladale. Like you, all we want is to maintain the lifestyle we have, nothing more, nothing less.

The greatness of the Glen is in the future of what we already do & that framework of our environment certainly should not include mining of any type, especially dirty mineral sands mining. Glenaladale is not just the geography it is the people that make it what it is.

Our forbearers breathed a big sigh of relief after ww2 families got back together & got on with life, do not lose sight of this, as the hard work ethos of respecting the environment has been bred into most of us in the Glen, this sees us being helpful, respectful, caring & supportive of what we have & of each other. We are a welcoming community toward people that want to share our ethos, but the door is shut to the proponent. Allowing the proponent into our community is akin to putting foxes in the chicken pen, they will never work together.

The proponent cannot stop drought, flood or fire. They have no control over high winds, or airborne toxic dust particles, they cannot stop serious road crashes. If they cannot stop any of these problems then you cannot allow them access to farmers land.

No weapon forged against us shall prosper, life is incredibly fragile, what you must think of is what if this was you.

Ernest Hemingway said, the world is a fine place & is worth fighting for. As a member of the community I shall take note of Mr Hemingway & if need be I will fight to maintain what I have worked all my life for.

Mr Bishop said the Community will be key beneficiaries of this wonderful resource & that the proponent would be held to the highest standard, you must ensure that that occurs, if this proposal goes ahead. I would like to know what I receive in regard to benefits, profit & advantages.

1A & 1B

Like everyone in the Glen I have experienced fire, flood & drought, the intensity of the Mt Ray fire in 2014 was horrific & life changing. I stayed on my property & had prepared to the best of my ability, I was happy to have had constant contact with neighbours & the CFA during this ordeal. This occurred on the majority of land at the fingerboards, if the mine was operational what would they have done to fight it, how would they have protected assets, they would not receive help from the community nor the CFA.

I could not leave the property for several days, the impact of seeing dead stock, houses burnt to the ground, fences destroyed & the loss of trees, vegetation & wild life was heart breaking.

Night after night I witnessed trees burning slowly it was a devilish sight an incident that will always remain with me. When the floods came the damage was devastating, millions of dollars of crops was lost, grazing paddocks rendered useless & as for the Mitchell River it became the carrier of so much rubbish off the land.

I like many others worry about what the Mitchell will be infested with if the mine is operating & we have floods. What will end up in the river & travel through the Ramsar wetlands, how toxic will it be, will our drinking water be rendered useless & if so what does the Community of Greater East Gippsland do for water. Will the river overcome this, will the wild life survive this, & should I even need to point out what about the water used by the veggie farmers.

1C & 1D

We are currently on the good side of a drought, recently we saw stock feed prices increase around 4 fold, a small bale of \$7 grass hay was selling for up to \$28, and a large round of hay was up to \$180 normally at approximately \$60. Life on the land is rosy when it rains & when the grass grows, but imagine being in beef, sheep or dairy farming & having to spend in excess of \$100, 000. 00 to keep your stock on the land.

Where does this money come from to purchase the feed, can they continue to finance bank loans to feed stock, are you aware that if the proponent takes even a small portion of a farmers land the farmer cannot borrow against any or all of his farm to help through hard times therefore making progress on the farm impossible.

Not only do farmers have to battle fire, flood & drought but if the proponent gets the go ahead the farming industries through no fault of their own will have to deal with the selfish grab for cash by the proponent.

The proponent is financially supported by a very small number of Australians but by thousands of International Investors, the International Investors have no knowledge or understanding of the damage their money will do in Glenaladale. If they knew would they really want to be involved in such destructive mining, would they want to be involved in uprooting the heritage of first nations people, would they want to be involved in the killing of native animals.

Are these investors informed of how the majority of wombats will be culled, wombats are territorial & if captured & resettled elsewhere they will be killed by other wombats, you cannot resettle them. What will their response be to the news that removing many hundreds of old growth trees will see the decimation of thousands of birds. How will the Kangaroos travel along their safe paths as a mine will remove all of that.

1D cont.

The residents of the Glen, their families & friends only want to maintain what they have, I want to see the river & other waterways flow as they always have. I want to see the Ramsar wetlands protected, I want the farmers to continue growing & employing more people, hundreds more than the proponent would employ. I want to see all small business reliant on the Mitchell & reliant on our farmers continue to grow without being impacted by the proponent.

Are you aware that the visual impact of Glenaladale sees it used by car & motorcycle clubs for weekend tourism trips, you will see varying vehicles & motorcycles in convoy enjoying a drive or ride to a destination for lunch ensuring that the tourism dollars continue to be spread amongst local small businesses, all of this would be lost to Glenaladale if there was a dirty filthy mineral sands mine.

We also have regular cycle races that utilise the near traffic free roads on weekends, they compete in short & longer distance races & seem to enjoy the hills & dales of Glenaladale to pit them against, we also have contingents of horse riders that enjoy during the week & on weekends bush rides in Glenaladale & surrounding areas. We have our own cricket club a long standing group of people that with the Glenaladale hall committee look after a wonderful piece of local land that is used by a lot of people in the community.

Our country Glenaladale is used for many varied reasons, it is not an area suitable just for mining. The cost to the community would be immense, you would see thousands of jobs effected, you would see thousands of people miss out on their favourite past times, events & hobbies.

I will be as bold to say that the Glenaladale CFA would more than likely disband as the majority of members would not want to assist the proponent in any way, shape or form, that would be tragic, but that is just my opinion.

1E

The proponent has for 7 years played ducks & drakes with people's minds & properties. Their constant verbal claptrap is very misleading & of great concern. I am at a loss to understand how the proponent who intends on doing so much damage to an already massive producer of what people not only want but need to survive, has been allowed to continue wasting the time & finances of the people of the Glen & their supporters.

If the proponent has spent \$50 million to date as stated by their Barrister, maybe that money would have been better spent developing & growing a future in the food bowl, they could have acquired land developed it into positive farming, continued their growth & acquisition of land & prospered for eternity, not only that they would have created thousands of jobs & be welcomed into the community.

As it stands they have taken the negative path of setting neighbour against neighbour a practice I am told is used frequently in mining, I have seen several acquisitions of small parcels of land, 1 acquisition was of a property owned by a catholic priest who took a small offering & ran. Another purchase was of land that saw the owner harassed on a regular basis, something he could not stand any longer & therefore sold.

The latest land acquisition by the proponent saw a sale price of over \$3 million dollars for a property worth maybe just under \$1 million dollars. Precedence has been set for a value per hectare.

After having worked for over 50 years, being self employed for a large majority of that time, I have a respect for a hard days work reaps a fair days pay. I now enter the twilight years of my life I enjoy my environment & I enjoy the work I put into it.

It is not for sale it is not up for trading for less than what it is. I respectfully ask what are 5 reasons why I should give up what I have for the proponent, they only offer me grief, ill health destruction of the region & my land, they will impact my life in many different ways, the impact on my mental wellbeing has been tested by the proponent already & I do not need anymore grief from them.

All I want is to live as I do & enjoy the rest of my time on my land. I am astounded that as an Australian that has always supported himself & is proud to say I have never relied on the Government for financial assistance, that I am now begging the government for the right to continue to live as I always have.

I am shocked that my friends & neighbours have been forced to allow the proponent to have access to their properties to gain what they want. What other industry can enforce with the Governments help access to private land, what other industry can be so rude & insulting to landholders.

I do not know how to ask the government to see through the ruffraff of the proponent & their so called experts opinions, how can opinions of their experts & those of the experts against this proponent vary so much, to someone like me that just wants the environment to stay as it is finds this all to be dishonest & I am disgusted to think that my government may support this inappropriate proponent.

I wish to make comment on the verbal attack by Mr Morris on Mr Campbell of the Australian Institute. Mr Campbell was labelled a Sniper, as we know the word Sniper attaches itself to war, the word carries a meaning of making a sly critical attack to kill, the attack by Mr Morris was not relevant to the proponents EES.

It was an attack that lacked integrity, an attack that tried to shame Mr Campbell, the attack was barbaric. Mr Campbell proved to be the consummate expert with both his reply & passive action to such a disrespectful assault by the proponents behind the play king hit.

Do the residents of the Glen have to witness or accept such childish & venomous attacks that carry no relevance. This type of verbal diatribe sees the environment of the Glen again under attack, a pathetic cheap shot that has been noted in the community.

There should be an immediate apology from Mr Morris to Mr Campbell made through the IAC. If Mr Morris thinks he can come into the Glen & make these types of comments he should not come.

My voice is very important regarding this issue & the effect it has on my personal environment, whether you listen or not is your priority not mine.

December 14 1953 is the day I was born, my mum & dad, my grandparents & family members were all very negligent, as they did not inform that when I turned 67 I would have to fight tooth & nail to maintain what is rightfully mine.

Those of us that are under threat doubt that you really understand the mental, physical & financial stress that this inflicts upon us.

The proponent without land owner permission pushes their way onto family land they make threats & state they will acquire the land & do what they want with it & have it for as long as they want. How dare they assume ownership of farms how dare they seek government assistance to do this, how dare the government assist them, the majority of the land owners in the Glen say no. If they keep pushing, if they keep making threats then they declare Cassis Belli on the community.

Having tuned in & listened to a majority of the paid for comment experts I am just astounded at the pages of mistruths, but when you are being paid as an expert to give an opinion the opinion must fall in favour of the proponent. What this actually does is see the experts label themselves as story tellers, benders of the truth & experts that willingly damage my connection to the environment & what may once have been their good name. Their lack of actual knowledge of the area just shows that money is very important to some more than others.

I was shocked to hear the comments from the veggie lady, I am speechless that a person considered to be an expert exhibited such stupor & lethargy, the expert was slow to respond with answers & lacked sensibility, was incorrect with many statements like growing seasons, & proved that speaking on opinions placed by others dating back to 2016 was a pathetic attempt at being an expert witness, when you choose to be a keyboard warrior & make no attempt to seek knowledge & information on the ground just shows a great deal of contempt for the veggie growers on the flats. Driving around the flats for several hours does not make you an expert. It is just dumbfounding that we have to listen to so many untruths.

My environmental connection to the Glen makes me worried & concerned that the proponents misleading information may infiltrate your common senses, they should be judged on their original EES but have chosen to add thousands of pages of corrections to the original with the permission of the government, how am I to understand that the umpire (the government) shows so much favouritism to the proponent, to date I have been given a month to read the EES 11,000 pages, how could that possibly be done they are given 7 years to release it & I get a month to not just read it but write a reply, the government should hang their head in shame. It is so hard to find truth & honesty in what is said by the proponent & its legal representatives & experts, they all seem to suffer from mythomania & it is hard to tell truth from lies.

The proponent's barrister stated that they had spent to date 50 mill, not my problem, not a lot of that would be their money, more likely money from investors that have no knowledge of the Glen. What do they think the community has spent over 7 years to fight this proposal, there has been a large monetary cost to many of us, but the real cost is in mental anguish that we suffer & this suffering is worth more than 50 mill.

Mother Earth & it's environment becomes highly important as she gives us food & water to sustain life, our wellbeing solely depends on her, as she gives everything to all living things, it is our responsibility to take care of her. By getting outside we learn to appreciate the simple things, fresh air, the smell of the tree's, the natural beauty, the wildlife, the waterways, earths music created by the wind, rain, bird's & more. It is so beautiful & precious & provides us with endless opportunity for adventure, happiness & healing.

Thank you for listening, as you make your decision, do so living in my shoes on my property.