

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

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Request to be heard?: No - but please email me a copy of the
Timetable and any Directions

Full Name: Paula Joan Holmes

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: EGS_MINE_submi

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

This submission is being written on behalf of 3 concerned citizens on Raymond Island about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. We strongly oppose this project.

We have all been visitors to the East Gippsland area over the past 30 years. Through our visits we have all at different times decided to move permanently into the area. Our reasons for moving here included the pristine environment and lifestyle choices.

We are extremely concerned for the long term environmental impact that this mine will have.

Mining releases contaminants into the environment no matter how careful and diligent the mine operators are. This is a real concern to us and there is not enough information in the public domain explaining the risks to the environment, human and animal health. Total transparency is essential before decisions like this can be made. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure the safety of the community. How can the Government guarantee the safety of the community without full disclosure from the mining company?

We are greatly concerned about the surrounding properties and how dust contamination will impact their livelihoods along with agricultural food production. The Woodglen Reservoir which provides domestic and commercial water for the entire shire is only 3.5 kilometres downwind from the mine. How can the quality of our water be guaranteed? The overall impact of dust contamination will not only affect local properties but will have the potential to impact our waterways, lakes and wetlands.

The obscene amount of water that the mine requires for processing and to control the dust will add more stress to an already struggling and water deficient land. How can the mine justify this and how will the farmers survive it?

We have attended a number of meetings, at one in particular there was a presentation on how pristine the environment could become through proper rehabilitation and adequate funding. History has taught us this rarely happens. Mining companies are there to make a profit and please the investors and often have little regard for the devastation that they leave behind. We would strongly object if this project was to go ahead. What guarantees can the Mining Company put in place to ensure full rehabilitation of the mining site? Could an adequate percentage of profits be guaranteed and directed towards the rehabilitation of the site to become better than it once was?

It is incomprehensible that the mining company has the right to compulsory acquire private land for mining infrastructure. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why weren't the surrounding properties advised of this acquisition requirement when the original plan was developed? Why did the map of the mining plan shown at one of the meetings exclude surrounding properties? No details were shown on this plan of any acquisition requirements. Why hasn't the East Gippsland Shire Council reviewed this compulsory acquisition? Why is the East Gippsland Shire Council even considering this project?

We would like to thank the Panel for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Paula Holmes
Charan Singh
Jan Franz