

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

157

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Judith and Ken Alexander

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: SUBMISSION_-_EE

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

SUBMISSION

FINGERBOARDS MINERAL SANDS PROJECT

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members

We are writing this submission because we are opposed to the Fingerboards mineral sands project. We have many reasons for this opposition, as you will see below.

We, the Alexander family, have been farming in this area, since 1878. Our son is the fifth generation. He is full time farming along with his father and there is another generation ready to be involved. We have a large land holding, both dry land and irrigated pasture and run both sheep and cattle. It is a very successful business and our future was looking very promising. This will all change if the mineral sands mine goes ahead.

These are our main points of concern –

- Our homes – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are less than two kilometres away from the mine's edge. We will be severely impacted and will not be able to live in our homes when the mine is at its closest point to us (as intimated by two CEO's of the company!) WE DEMAND COMPENSATION.
- We are concerned about the level of dust that will be impacting our families and workers.
- There will be elements in the dust of great concern, as identified in section 5.3 – arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium and zinc. The prevailing wind comes from the south west and we are in that direct line. The wind can be gale force, many times of the year. The modelling shows that we are above the threshold on many occasions and the mitigation is totally unrealistic. There is no weather station near us and this is another concern. The impact of dust particles on humans, animals and pasture cannot be underestimated. COMPENSATION WILL BE NEEDED.
- Kalbar's demand of 3GL – 3 BILLION litres of water! Every year! What the hell! This area is so water deprived. What will happen to bores, aquifers and the Mitchell river? Can you answer that? We have just come out of the worst drought on record in this area. There is huge demand on water resources at the best of times, it is a growing area. Last summer the river was on severe restrictions. Farming and households suffered. How can 3 billion litres a year be justified, whether it is from the river or an aquifer or both.
- Winter fill license. Nine years ago, on 6/12/2011, we put in an EOI for 200 ML with Southern Rural Water. We were told that there is a moratorium on issuing any new winter fill licenses, pending the outcome of the Mitchell River Water Security Project. This was a scheme to build an off stream storage on the Mitchell River. The decision on this has not been declared. We received a letter from SRW on 6/3/2017, stating that there is no change to our winter fill license application. The consideration of 3GL for Kalbar is unfair. RIGHT TO FARM.
- Trees. 763 ancient, beautiful trees are going to be cut down. We have been planting 500 trees on our farm every year for 45 years. They take a long time to grow and we will not see them at maturity in our lifetime. This one is just too hard to think about!

- Land Values. It is a concern of ours that the capital value of our farm will be adversely affected because we are adjacent to the proposed mine. This will have a serious impact on the viability of our business, affecting our ability to secure finance and to service our current liabilities. It will have an impact on our future development.

Here is a summary of how we will be affected –

- Dust
- Noise
- May have to leave our homes
- Decrease in property values
- Impact on pasture and livestock
- Impact on our health – three generations of us
- Uncertain of our future in farming
- NO COMPENSATION

We would like to thank you, the Panel members, for reading this submission. We have faith in the procedure and in you, for taking our concerns very seriously.

We want to continue farming. The Alexander family started farming here 142 years and up until now, we thought that this would continue well into the future.

If you have not visited this area, we would like to invite you to our farm to see what we are talking about, before you make any decisions.

Thank you for your consideration.