

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

202

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Dana Johnston

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Finger_Boards_Pr

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached Submission

Dear Richard Wynne (Minister of Planning)

I would like to state my concerns regarding The Fingerboard's Mineral Sands Project in Glenaladale.

Firstly, the time given for the community to put in a submission in stating their concerns about the EES was pretty unfair. Allowing only 40 days to read thousands of pages worth of study done over four years. What a joke!

The stress people are feeling right now with the impact of what problems this mine is going to cause and now the stress of dealing with applying a submission to save their livelihood's, has really put a lot of strain on the people to have it done in a short amount of time, which is affecting them physically and emotionally.

I believe we live in a pretty special place and the area is beautiful and we are so very lucky to have the Gippsland Lakes nearby, the 90 Mile Beach, our beautiful Food Bowl Industry, Beef farmers, Sheep farmers, Dairy Farmers and best of all The High Country.

We have a lot to offer in the Tourism sector for people holidaying in East Gippsland. So much to see and do. We don't want a mine operating in the area as right now we need our tourists to help support and keep this area running.

We have gone through so much with drought, fires and now Covid 19.

East Gippsland needs to be left alone, we need to recover from the events that have recently occurred we don't need a mine to really ruin the area for good.

What a site it would be great big dirty holes dug out everywhere, not appealing for people visiting the area. As where the mine is proposed, that Bairnsdale Dargo Road is quite a busy Tourist route and is one of the gateways to some of our beautiful National Parks. We have such an influx of tourists who travel to these areas and to the High Country.

The Mitchell River National park holds Aboriginal history with The Den of Nargun. One of our many tourist attractions within the area. With a lot of beautiful walking tracks or hikes. A great spot to take some beautiful scenic photos.

How are they going to make sure any Aboriginal heritage listed areas will not be affected with this mine? We have so much local history in this area and we do not want it ruined!

Bringing a mine to this area would be a big mistake and absolutely ridiculous, it isn't the right place to operate a mine.

The Agricultural farm land is beautiful rich soil which is perfect for farming, that's why people have been farming here for many generations. Farming is a lifelong operation where a Mine is a short-lived project that will destroy the rich soil for farming and rehabilitation will never make it back to what it was in the beginning.

The lay out of the land with the magnificent hills help when it rains and they act as a run off into the creeks and then the Rivers, which the Mitchell River is our main water supply to drink.

The Mitchell River is the main water supply for the whole of East Gippsland! It's a vital source for all, for example it's quite a tourist attraction with its pristine Mitchell River Silt Jetties, that have been around for thousands of years and the important history. Great river to fish but also the lifeline for local farmers and agricultural industries. Can you please explain to me how are they going to stop any contamination into the river? What about the aquatic species that inhabit in the river? How are they going to protect all these aquatic species of any contamination? Also, people eat fish so there's another thing to consider as well!

Are Kalbar going to have priority over our water supply in dryer years, over local irrigation of farm lands and the locals of East Gippsland? Are their going to be restrictions in favour of the proposed project?

In a drought and dryer times of the year the Mitchell River really suffers and has gotten really low. I have kayaked many of times down the river and in a drought its pretty scary to witness just how low our water supply gets. Just imagine if a mine were to operate using water 24/7, How would we cope with our water then??

Who gets preference over the water the townships or the mine? We need water to survive. Our water source is very valuable and we don't need a mine to take all the water away and waste it.

The farmers and the Vegetable farmers use ground water and the river water to water their crops and water their stock. We are a farming community and always have been and nothing should change because we need meat and vegies to eat and milk to drink. Why destroy the area for a short-lived project that's going to bring nothing but disaster in its path.

What about the domestic water supply and people who have tank water? How are they going to reassure locals that there will be no cross contamination of water? Peoples health is of most importance.

How are they going to make sure the Vegetable farmers won't be affected with contamination of their Vegies? The wind is always very strong in the proposed mining area and dust from the Mine will travel a very long way.

Also, there's radiation to consider in the dust too! The dust will blow onto farm land, their stock eat the grass and then ingest contaminated dust. Humans eat meat so we then we consume what cows have been exposed to.

The people on tank water! What are they going to do about the radiation that's in the dust, it settles on roofs and then we get rain and then it goes into the tanks? How can that be stopped? How are they going to reassure everyone there's no health risks involved?

How is the noise going to be assessed correctly? Are they able to reassure locals that the noise from the mine will be monitored accurately? Will the noise from the mines plant and machinery 24 hours a day be restricted enough not to disrupt nearby residence and not disturb grazing live stock or discourage the native wildlife in their natural habitat within that area?

There will be a dramatic increase with traffic on the road with the B-Double trucks coming and going from the mine area. The infrastructure of the road at the moment will only deteriorate over time with heavy haulage.

Are they going to assess the safety for other drivers using this road? What about the safety of local children around the schools and the smaller communities?

Looking at the bigger picture I really wish you would consider the people of this beautiful area and see what we see that this agricultural farm land needs to be left alone. Farming is very important!

My families farm is affected by this proposal and I will be damned to sit back and watch it be taken away from us and destroyed all because of some selfish company hoping to make something work and make some short term money, when we can already see the outcome and devastation it will do to the area and the impacts it will have in the future. Nothing will ever be rehabilitated properly back to the original farming soil in the foreseeable future.

Please I really hope you see and understand my point of view and consider the options that this area isn't the right place to be operating a Mine.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

Dana Johnston