

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

229

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Geoffrey Ewart Sharpe

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: mine_submission.

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Please find attached submission

Dear inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project which I strongly oppose on environmental grounds and believe it will have adverse impacts on the local community health and economy.

I have lived in Gippsland for 37 years and many of those were at Dargo. We often travelled through the area proposed for the mine on our way to Bairnsdale, the closest business centre.

The mining radioactive sands will pose a health risk to the local community and wildlife and even to communities further away downstream and downwind of the mine. It will be impossible to stop all dust and run-off from the mine particularly in adverse weather conditions. The full analysis of the ore body has not been disclosed so the full impacts cannot be foreseen. These dangers will go on long after the mine closes.

The mine is very close to a major food growing area which brings social and economic benefits to the whole country as shown in the recent pandemic. If we threaten this industry it will have far reaching effects. Contaminated food could cause health problems for consumers Australia wide.

Tourism is also a major industry in the area with fishing and eco tourism both threatened by having a mine in the catchment of the Gippsland Lakes, a RAMSAR listed wetland. The potential to contaminate these waterways causing fish and wildlife deaths is a real concern.

Using over 3 billion litres of water from an already stretched resource is going to create problems for farmers and communities which rely on this water for everyday use. The climate emergency is only going to make it harder to collect enough water for the current uses.

The full rehabilitation of the site at the end of its life may not happen as this is very expensive, the rehabilitation bonds are grossly inadequate and companies go broke leaving an environmental disaster. There are many examples of this in Australia and around the world.

Compulsory acquisition of private land outside of the mine project boundary for roads, pipelines, powerlines, rail sidings etc should not be allowed. Why isn't this a local council responsibility.

Overall the very minor and short term benefits, if any, are far outweighed by the detrimental effects of this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my say in this.

Geoff Sharpe