

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

23

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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Heather Costigan

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:** [REDACTED] Nowa Nowa

**Attachment 1:** submission.docx

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project, I wish to express my strong opposition to this project. I feel the treat to the environment and destruction of vital farmland out way to need for the mine.

I have lived in East Gippsland the whole of my 62 years, as did my ancestors the previous 5 generations. The connection to the environment is due to the respect of nature, that can not be replaced. I believe it is up to everyday citizens to speak up, so future residents have the same long-term benefits that only can be provided by an unadulterated land.

I find no consolation that the benefits of mining mineral sands will provide employment and vital material for technology as the risks and destruction to the environment will be vast and final. The risk of contamination to neighbouring communities by the toxic dust cannot be underestimated. I have seen mining disasters in the media, there is never an acceptable risk when the populations health is at risk. Though I do not live in the immediate zone, the vegetable growing industry is only 500m downwind. In East Gippsland we get regular gale force winds during the warm months of the year. Drying winds that cannot be stopped from travelling that distance and contaminating our food supply.

The idea of a toxic tailings dam is of a real concern to me, nature knows no boundaries in disasters. Historically there have been failings in such dams, the risk of record floods in this time of climate change is a reality than can be foreseen. The catchment area is far reaching, with water flowing all the way to the Gippsland Lakes.

The rehabilitation of the site at the end of such a project is one to be avoided, governing authorities have to left to the clean up once the mining has completed on others mines, with the wastelands left behind by companies that have ceased. The soil can never be reinstated to be used for future farming, disturbing it for mining is not tolerable when it is already used to benefit current and future communities.

I feel it is short sighted to consider mining in the beautiful rural landscape, with the current farming practices it fits perfect with our green footprint in natural environment, tourism and recreational activities already provide opportunities to be built on for the future.

It is unacceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new power lines, easement, rail siding and vegetation removal. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for EG Shire Council to determine?

I would like to thank the Panel member for the opportunity to make this submission.

Heather Costigan