Submission Cover Sheet

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Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee - EES

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

Full Name: Ian Delaney

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I object to this proposed project on the following grounds:- 1. There are very few undammed rivers remaining in Victoria. The Mitchell river is one and as such is an extremely valuable public asset. It must be maintained in as close to pristine condition as possible especially as it drains into the Gippsland Lakes which in themselves are a precious asset. 2. Tailings dams have a history of breaches and failures. There is no possibility that the operating company can absolutely guarantee that the tailings dam will not ever fail and cause massive pollution everywhere downstream and consequent enormous economic loss to already established industries of which vegetable farming and fishing are just two examples. As climate change will lead to an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events, the likelihood of a tailings dam failure can only increase with the passing of time. 3. The water requirements for the mines operation are simply unacceptable in these times of climate uncertainty. This water must be reserved for genuinely important uses such as clean food production and the continued maximum flow of clean fresh water into the Gippsland Lakes. 4. The proximity of the mine to food growing areas. There is no possibility that the mine operator can guarantee that dust will not contaminate food growing areas. Once the reputation of the area for clean food production is damaged it will be near impossible to reestablish that reputation. In summary there is too much risk of long term irreparable damage to the safety of local residents, the viability of their businesses and most importantly to the overall health of the East Gippsland environment. The small amount of employment resulting from the project is in no way a sufficient balancing compensation for the above risks. This project must not proceed.