

---

**Request to be heard?:** Yes

**Full Name:** Russell Peel

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** I object to this proposed mine on the basis that it is in an inappropriate area for mining, spanning two watersheds into the Gippsland Lakes and associated streams as well as being immediately adjacent to one of Victoria's main food production areas. Additionally, it is in the middle of people's homes and livelihood, being surrounded by over 80 residences in close proximity. Water flows into the Gippsland Lakes have been successively reduced by Melbourne catchment diversion; industrial use in the Latrobe Valley; and irrigation; to the point where freshwater flows to the Lakes are massively reduced compared to historical levels, and this proposal would further reduce that by taking large quantities of water to do nothing more constructive than suppress the dust that inevitably arises from open cut mines such as this. It is evident that claiming to be able to suppress dust in a hot westerly or north westerly gale is a nonsense regardless of how much water is wasted attempting to do so, and dust containing the full range of materials that this mine is intended to produce will be dispersed over the vegetable fields and people's homes, all the way to Bairnsdale and beyond. Bairnsdale already has historical caches of radioactive mining waste encased in concrete because it is too dangerous to allow exposure, we don't need finely distributed radioactive material dispersed across our region, regardless of whether it remains below regulated levels or not. The record of Australian Governments ensuring mining rehabilitation is successful is on record as woeful, and this community has zero confidence that any future Victorian Government will be successful in ensuring this mine is properly rehabilitated either. The recent experience in Western Victoria with a similar mine demonstrates how impotent the Government and its authorities are in this area. And finally, I object to Mining Legislation in general in Australia that removes the right of landholders to determine what happens with their land. Compulsory acquisition of private land for private gain by others is immoral, and in this case it is not just the mining area, but associated private land that the Council intends to compulsorily acquire to service the mine. These affected areas should clearly be part of the overall footprint of the mine, yet they are not included in the EES. The entire process is unsupportable on any reasonable or rational grounds.