

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

253

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Gillian Emily Phyllis and Robert Scott Morpeth

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Fingerboards_Min

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

To Enquiry and Advisory Committee members,

This submission comes from myself and my husband. In the 2000s we arrived in Australia to spend our final years somewhere beautiful, peaceful and serene. After spending a week in many Victorian town possibilities, we chose East Gippsland. We have lived here and grown to love this wonderful area for the best 14 years of our lives and our opposition to the Fingerboards mineral sands mine is absolute.

Should the project proceed the possible negative affects on the priceless assets of East Gippsland are of great concern to us both. Some of our most serious worries are as follows:

1. Huge anxiety focuses on the potential for contamination of the Mitchell River. At its closest point the proposed mine site is dangerously close, a mere 350 metres away. Woodglen Reservoir, supplied by the Mitchell is also only 500 mtres away. Kalbar has stated that it can't control all the dust from the mine. Ultimately water which supplies the Shire of East Gippsland could be contaminated, effectively making over 24,000 homes uninhabitable.
2. Further to the risk to private water supplies the iconic Gippsland Lakes are also threatened. Both the Mitchell and Perry rivers which run into the Lake system are downstream from the proposed mining activity. That in itself is a significant risk but the possible failure of the tailings dam, as occurred at the Stockman Mine near Benambra, only compounds our unease.
3. Tourism is the predominant local industry. Visitors holiday here for its glorious beaches but the unspoiled landscapes are also an integral drawcard. Imagine driving to The Den of Nargun, a very popular local tourist destination, through the Lindenow Valley and seeing the devastation a major mining project will cause, certainly enough to completely ruin the appeal for travellers and damage the reputation of our wonderful countryside.
4. Re the Draft Planning agreement (Attachment C in the EES) we believe it is outrageous for private land which is outside the mining project boundary to be subject to compulsory acquisition for water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. If required by Kalbar should this area not have been part of the mine project area? Also surely this should be under the jurisdiction of the East Gippsland Shire Council.
5. We are concerned about threats to fauna and flora as EES technical studies have not adequately surveyed the whole area they propose to use.
6. Health risks resulting from dust that cannot be controlled and may include radioactive substances are significant. We believe you have a duty of care to affected residents, particularly those on tank water ensuring their exposure to respiratory diseases or cancer are not increased in any way.
7. Having attended most of Kalbar's information evenings we were left with the impression that they were merely complying with their obligation for community consultation in a tokenistic manner, hearing our concerns and overriding them. We appreciate this opportunity to express our views and sincerely thank you for considering them.

Gillian and Robert Morpeth