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

Full Name: Ian Onley

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to be heard and my concerns to be considered, My main concern with the mineral sand mine proposal is the use of water to suppress dust that would be radioactive and would potentially pollute large tracts of land and living space downwind of the proposed mine. 3 Gigalitres of water annually that could be put to better use, if it were available, would create more employment and opportunities if used in Agriculture. The future effects of climate change are well understood and indeed seem to be playing out according to scientific predictions. We have to assume that there will be less water available in the future. In the case of a severe drought in the future, when there may not be enough water to water crops for food. Where would the mine operators get water to suppress radioactive dust? I don't see that this question has been sufficiently addressed by the proponent. The assumption is that the water will always be available. I would like to draw the panels attention to the issue of rehabilitating mines in the Latrobe Valley. It was always thought that when mines were decommissioned they would be filled with water. We now are having to come to terms with the fact that doing so would impose hardship on irrigators and environmental flows. This is a real issue and one that must be taken seriously. Using precious water to suppress dust in drought conditions could only be seen as wasteful and not a good use of water. Therefore there will be pollution. Even if mining stops there would be bare ground and the definite opportunity for wind blown radioactive dust. I would again draw attention to the experience with mine operations in the Latrobe Valley, operators are required to suppress dust but the value of water encourages them to sell it, instead of use it to suppress dust. Turning to ineffectual methods such as covering coal batters with mulched paper. On many occasions large clouds of coal dust can be seen blowing out of open cut mines across farmland and settling in Rosedale, Sale and further. Most established house roof cavities in Sale are thick with coal dust. It is not hard to see the potential for radioactive dust building up in rural and residential areas when there is conflict over water use in the future. What would be the effects on the Gippsland Lakes system after another prolonged drought that we have seen over the last twenty years in Gippsland. Well below average rainfall in most years to come will become the normal. Scientists have told us that there will be more El Nino events and less La Nina events. This years La Nina event has brought average rainfall to most of Gippsland but should not be considered to be a return to average rainfall of the past. Even if the proponent were to construct extensive water storage, there is no guarantee of strong winter rains. In fact the last twenty years has shown us that winter rain is now unpredictable in Gippsland.