

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

298

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Patricia Munday

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Mine_Submision.p

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry & Advisory Committee Members.

Re: Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands mine project. I strongly oppose this mine for a number of reasons that I will outline below.

I grew up in Glenaladale and I have family and friends that currently live in what will be extremely close proximity (less than 1km) to the proposed mine site.

As a young adult I moved to Melbourne. In 2011, after starting a family my husband & I decided to return to my country town to raise our children as the noise, traffic & pollution in Melbourne were becoming unbearable.

We chose to live in Lindenow because it was a small quiet town with a great school and a fantastic community and would provide us with the space & fresh air that we were looking for.

I am now horrified at the thought that a 13-kilometre square open cut sand mine to a depth of up to 45metres could be approved within 5kms of my home.

The mining proponent Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd has acknowledged there are radioactive substances being mined. When these substances are excavated and crushed the dust that will be generated and spread into the environment will pose a health risk to the community which is unacceptable.

With so many communities, water supplies, vegetable growers, schools, homes, and families downwind from this proposed mine, how will they be protected from this high-risk dust? When the prevailing winds of our region are from the west the dust will spread far and wide across East Gippsland.

The Woodglen Reservoir where domestic & commercial water is stored for the whole of East Gippsland Shire is only 3.5kms downwind from the mine. What are the contamination risks of this dust settling in our water supply? Many people in the region rely on tank water and they are also at a high risk of water contamination from this dust.

My family and those that live in my community should not be exposed to this type of potential radioactive substance. If this mine is approved, I am concerned that we will have to live with the constant fear about the health risks that our family could face in the future such as lung disease from respirable silica.

Over 3 billion litres of water will be required by the mine annually for processing and to control the dust which just shows what a huge problem the dust is expected to be. We have just come out of a 7yr drought and I saw firsthand the effects of this on the land around us and the Mitchell River whose levels were the lowest I have ever seen in my lifetime. We had the highest water restrictions placed on us due to this drought. How, in good conscience can we allocated that level of water to a mine over a 15+ year period and expect the people of East Gippsland to endure potential harsher water restrictions as a result when we inevitably go back into another drought.

There are so many other reasons why I strongly object to this mine however I will state one more that I find to be just abhorrent, which is the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment – Attachment C in the EES that will allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal.

Why were these things not allowed for within the mine project area and why is this not a matter for the East Gippsland Shire to determine? It is a very frightening time when a mining company will have the power to “take” your land without any recourse for the landowner.

I'd like to thank the Inquiry & Advisory Committee Members for the opportunity to make a submission.

Regards
Patricia Munday