

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

437

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

Full Name: Angela Crunden

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Angela_Fingerboa

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission:

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members

I am writing to strongly oppose the Fingerboards Mineral Sands mine.

There are a number of issues I would like to raise and I thank you in anticipation of you taking them into account:

Community Health -Potential Health problems associated with radioactive material extraction-

Massive quantities of water is slated for use in Glenaladale Mineral Sands mine project. This is in order to reduce dust from the extraction process. Dust inevitably escapes no matter how much water is used and this dust contains radioactive materials. This is a clear and unacceptable health risk to people near the mine site and people downstream. Gippsland has more than its fair share of cancers with significant mortality and morbidity rates. The radioactive and unknown particulate will not help here and it is incumbent upon you to look to your duty of care.

Degradation of the landscape -

The footprint associated with this mine is extraordinarily large. Clearing land for agriculture can be in some ways justified but clearing whole ecosystems for the extraction of a material already readily available from existing sources is entirely irresponsible. It is time decision makers like you oversee the preservation of our natural environment and put a halt to its destruction for nothing more than short term gain.

Transparency

What are the proponents hiding when there is incomplete disclosure of analysis of the ore body? Secrecy around projects like these seem to be a growing trend and hardly conducive to bringing the community on side. It seems the company prefers to resort to more devious means to win the community over.

Water use

I can only gasp at the quantities of water being used to keep this project operational. Further land destruction in the building of water bores to supplement the river supplies not only increases the footprint of the mine but impacts on our already depleted aquifer. This is environmental vandalism that cannot be allowed to happen!

Water run-off

All this contaminated water has to go somewhere and inevitably, much of it will find its way back into the Mitchell River through gullies and rainwater run-off. Again, completely unacceptable!

Footprint

I understand that not only will there be habitation destruction adding to the mine's footprint, but also compulsory acquisition of land for pipelines, roadworks and new powerlines. The proponents wax lyrical about jobs for locals, a highly contentious claim, but they minimise the destruction being caused. There is a definite arrogance here where the company seems to have the attitude that they are dealing with farmers and a few hippy greenies in a strong National Party seat. They seem to expect that push back will be minimal.

With its sugar coated community infiltration this company is morally bankrupt and cannot be trusted or supported in any way. Most especially on the grounds of jobs for locals, health of the community, environmental degradation and community cohesiveness.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely
Angela Crunden