

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

440

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Tricia Irene Bambrook

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Dear_Inquiry_and

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission in response to the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project to clearly state my absolute opposition to the proposal for the go ahead for their operations for the reasons outlined within the following.

I was born at the Bairnsdale hospital as the youngest child of a family of seven who were fundamentally living 'life on the land'. Growing up on a dairy farm, the trials and tribulations of this life were always apparent; feast and famine, fire and flood and life and death. But in all, a life rich in the realities of how nature needs nurture and respect for the elements can literally mean life or death. No, I'm not being dramatic, rather, telling it how it is. The power yet the fragility of the various ecosystems East Gippslander's are lucky to share are not to be taken for granted. Any more. Ever again. I oppose the proposed mine.

A summary of my concerns are as follows;

- Removal of over 700 mature trees – Offsets cannot 'mend' the disruption to flora and fauna in this event, not to mention the tragedy of losing the remaining trees, of which some have stood proudly since before European settlement. As we become more educated, the planet strives to protect trees...yet here is a proposal to chop down more. Progressive? We should be protecting established trees.
- Water contamination – Given the proposed site and its topography, if there is a 1 in 100-year flood (of which I have witnessed a number of times in my 51 years), tailings waste & flocculants could be released into the creeks/streams, harming aquatic life and aquifers.
- Dust contamination – Dust travels...a long way. Suppressed whilst mining apparently but post? Once 'rehab' has occurred? The potential for years of dust contaminants cannot be completely guaranteed against. Cancer, lung disease from respirable silica? Given the proximity and amount of peoples in East Gippsland, and many living and working close to the proposed site, I stress that health of residents has to be a priority?
- Our reputation for fresh produce and scenic/water/country tourism may be irreversibly tarnished with the knowledge that a considerable sized mine is operating close to a major water source and existing fresh produce farming land. The impact of failure of these existing industries is too shocking to consider.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites – I am extremely worried that yet another significant site of the oldest living culture on earth will be destroyed. Present? Likely. So, risk it? 45 metre deep excavation could destroy artefacts and heritage. At what point do we begin to feel deep humiliation for acts that other countries could not conceive? When do we start to value that which should be valued? Once gone, we cannot get it back. Seriously, WHAT are our values?
- 3 GL of water required – Please refer MY history and heritage. Feast or famine, fire or floods and life and death. I've lived through all and I'm only 51. This gargantuan requirement of water would see the operation taking precedence over others in need as the suppression of toxic dust will ensure priority over other needs. Fear will ensure this as people are aware of risk to health and life if dust is NOT suppressed.
- It is unacceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by 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 wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for the EG Shire Council to determine?

I take this opportunity to thank Panel members for the opportunity to make this submission and offer my further appreciation for common sense, values, morals and integrity.

Yours sincerely,

Tricia Bambrook.