Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee - EES

476

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Sophie Coleman

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: EES_Response.pdf

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine. As a healthcare professional I am completely opposed to this project for many reasons - including the unacceptable negative impact it will have on both human and animal health.

Glenaladale is an incredibly special part of Victoria and is fondly remembered by everyone who has been lucky enough to visit as a clean, green, and peaceful escape from the realities of everyday life. If this mineral sands mine were to go ahead, this image would be shattered and the loss of this will impact many.

One of the major concerning issues surrounding this proposed project is the industrial noise that will be produced. Not only will this affect people and animals in the surrounding areas, it has been shown that industrial noise and vibration can have serious effects on human and animal health. Studies have shown that industrial noise can cause tooth wear in animals – animals become stressed by the noise and in response exhibit parafunctional behaviours such as grinding their teeth, causing "significant tooth wear".[1] If an animal's teeth have been worn down, how are they supposed to eat and obtain the necessary nutrients to survive? Industrial noise has also been linked to fibrosis in the coronary arteries of rats.[2] The structural changes to the rats' blood vessels in this study is likely to lead to an increased risk of myocardial infarction and arrhythmias.[2] Glenaladale is a farming community and there will be an enormous number of animals impacted by the proposed project – the risk to these animals' health is unacceptable and will impact on farmers' livelihoods.

Moreover, noise pollution has been shown to cause significant cardiovascular effects in people. Studies have shown that noise pollution caused by traffic (particularly at night) can increase the risk of hypertension, arteriosclerosis, coronary heart disease, stroke, and most importantly cardiovascular mortality.[3] While some of these studies state that these impacts of noise pollution is only seen after several years of exposure, the proposed project is will run for 15 years plus extra time for development and closure activities. All of these conditions have significant, life-long impacts on people who contract them – this not only places stress on individuals and families, but also on our health care system as a whole. Given the massive increase in traffic on the Glenaladale roads and the 24-hour usage of roads by the proposed project this risk to the health of the residents of Glenaladale and surrounding areas is dangerous and impermissible. There is little evidence to show that noise mitigation techniques have an impact on the reduction of cardiovascular disease caused by noise pollution. Why are there no plans to mitigate the impact of such a serious health risk?

It is also unacceptable to allow the mine to compulsorily acquire private land for the use of infrastructure located outside of the mining project boundary. Why isn't land for roadworks, water pipelines, bore pumps, new powerlines, and vegetation removal part of the mine project area? This should be a matter for the East Gippsland Shire Council to review and determine.

I would like to thank the Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members for the opportunity to write this submission and express my serious concerns regarding this project.

Sophie Coleman

References:

1. Cavacas M, Tavares V, Borrecho G, Oliveira M, Oliveira P, Brito J et al. Industrial Noise and Tooth Wear - Experimental Study. International Journal of Medical Sciences [Internet]. 2015 [cited 25 October 2020];12(3):264-269. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4366631/
2. Lousinha A, Antunes E, Borrecho G, Oliveira M, Brito J, Santos J. Histomorphometric Evaluation of the Small Coronary Arteries in Rats Exposed to Industrial Noise. International Journal of Molecular Sciences [Internet]. 2015 [cited 25 October 2020];16(12):10095-10104. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4463634/
3. Argacha J, Mizukami T, Bourdrel T, Bind M. Ecology of the cardiovascular system: Part II – A focus on non-air related pollutants. Trends in Cardiovascular Medicine [Internet]. 2019 [cited 25 October 2020];29(5):274-282. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6408313/