

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Rebecca Nadine Reid

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1: Fingerboards.docx

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission regarding the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sand mine project to declare my objection to the mine. I live on a family farm in the Bairnsdale area. Although not directly impacted by the mine I am concerned about the impacts of the large amounts of water required to keep the mine safe and containment of tailings in an area that experiences both drought and floods. I am also deeply worried about the effects to local landowners and potential damage to the cultural heritage of the Gunaikurnai people. The strong objections of the local landowners alone should be reason enough to pause the development of this mine. The Fingerboards mineral sands mine will use a large amount of water. The Air quality assessment in the EES states that it will comply with airborne emissions using mitigation measures such as “using water or chemical suppressants on roads, stockpiles and exposed areas”, “transport of the ore from the pit to the processing plant as a slurry in a pipe, wet processing”. It is no wonder that the mine requires 3,000,000,000 litres of water per year to keep it safe. According to a media release by East Gippsland Water in September 2019; “Normally we are able to pump enough water from the Mitchell to maintain at least three months of supply in our storages. However, last summer the river was so low that we couldn’t extract water for nearly a month, which cut our reserves. Agricultural irrigators were also prevented from pumping out of the Mitchell River”. (<https://www.egwater.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Water-restriction-survey-Sep-2019.pdf>) Earlier this year residents in Bairnsdale were also on water restrictions. I am concerned that in the event of another drought that the Fingerboards mine in order to keep safe and would have to continue to draw precious dwindling water supplies from the Mitchell River to the detriment of irrigators and residents of Bairnsdale and surrounds. That water would be better put to use in my mind used for irrigation and keeping our river and lakes system healthy. With climate change we should expect more frequent droughts. Along with more frequent droughts we should expect more flooding events in an area that already has a history of floods. Planning for 1 in 100 year weather events is not good enough in my mind because we are witnessing around the world never before seen disasters. I believe that we should stop and consider the impacts on the local community, especially land owners. I have spoken to many who are very distressed at the proposal of this mine. They feel as though it is being forced upon them. The fact is that if the mine does not go ahead now the minerals will still be in the ground for future generations where future mining technologies may not be as destructive to the environment and cultural heritage. Kind Regards Rebecca Reid

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Earlier this year residents in Bairnsdale were also on water restrictions. I am concerned that in the event of another drought that the Fingerboards mine in order to keep safe and would have to keep drawing water from the Mitchell River to the detriment of irrigators and residents in Bairnsdale and surrounds.

Kind Regards

Rebecca Reid