

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 506

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**Request to be heard?:** Yes

**Full Name:** Rhys Waller

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:** [REDACTED] Bairnsdale 3875

**Attachment 1:** EES\_submission\_-

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

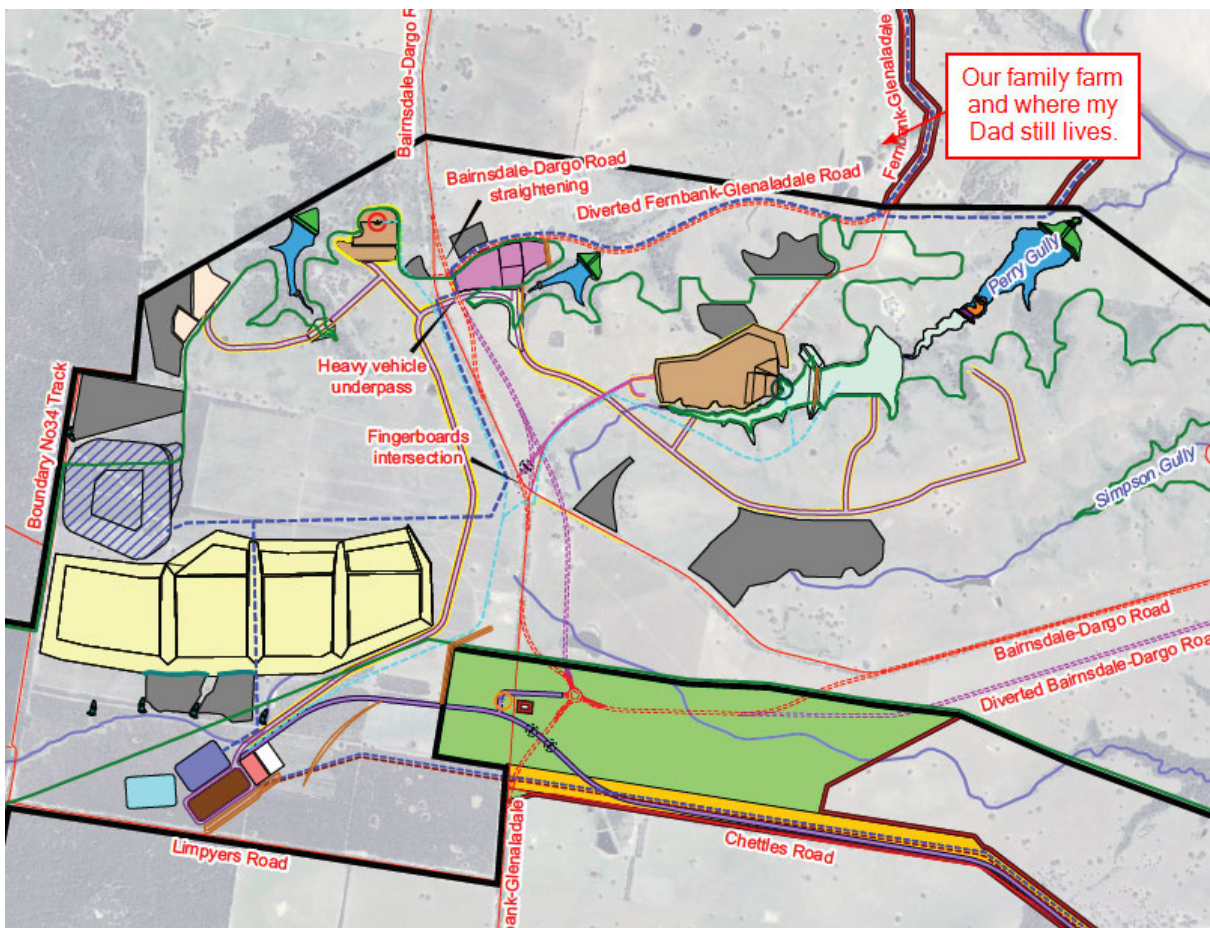
**Comments:** see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project as I am strongly opposed to the proposed mine. I am convinced it is not the best land use for the local community or the environment.

My family has a rich history throughout Glenaladale region. I grew up at our family farm located at [REDACTED] Bairnsdale. This location is adjoining property north of the proposed mine.

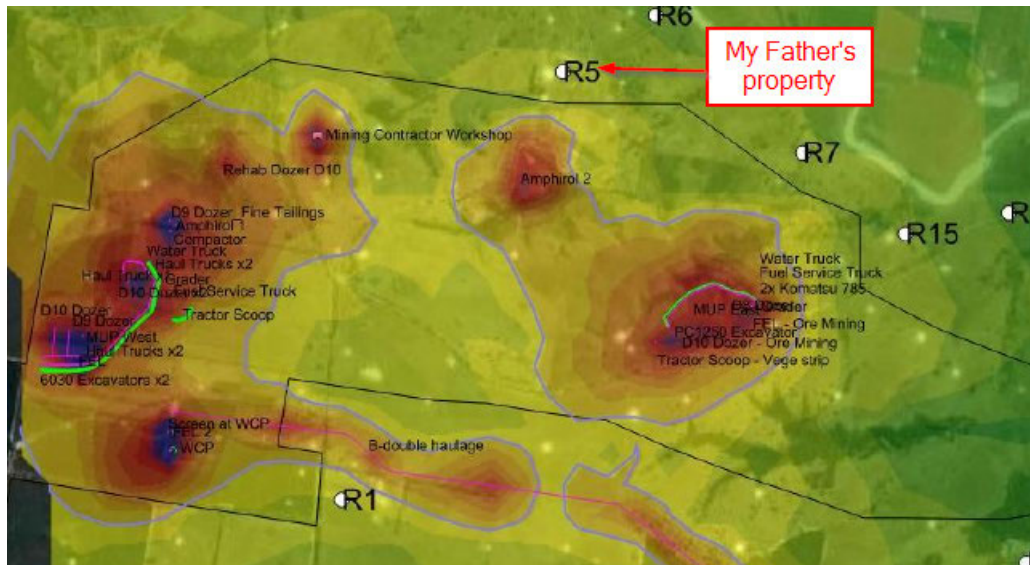
My Dad, Ewan Waller, is currently living at the family farm and runs approximately 550 sheep between his two farms at [REDACTED] and another paddock at [REDACTED] Fernbank. My Mother and two sisters live in the local Bairnsdale area. The farm is the centre point for all family gatherings and activities, and incredibly meaningful to our family, immediate and extended.



My wife, Louise, and I have 3 young boys. My immediate family thoroughly enjoys visiting my family farm and my Dad on holidays. This year we have spent over 3 months on the family farm. During this time we helped my Dad on the family farm and enjoyed the local area. For my boys experiencing farm life is an invaluable experience you cannot get from the Melbourne and is not taken for granted.

The proposed mine threatens the my immediate and extended family's wellbeing. We are massively concerned that the family farm will be adversely effected by ;

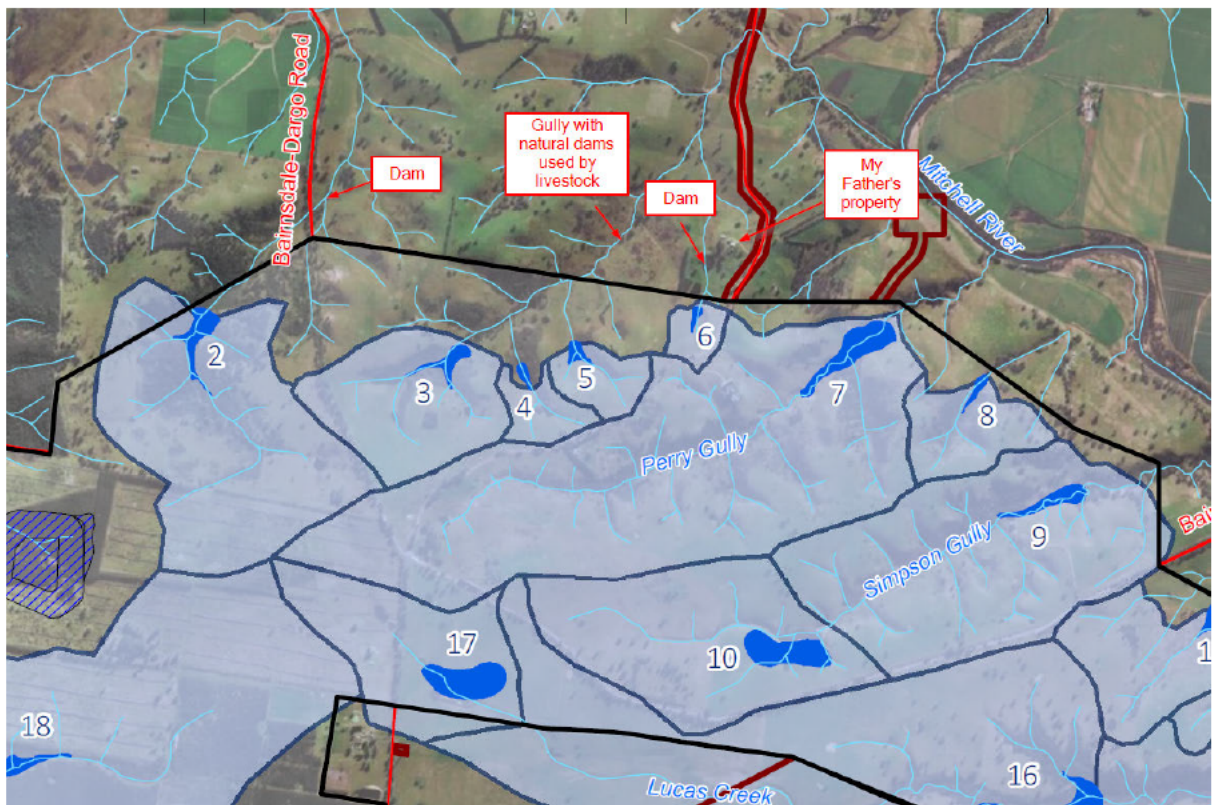
- Noise. The 24 hours a day 7 days a week heavy industrial site next door does not make the family farm untenable and very stressful. The EES contains noise and vibration modelling. The noise and vibration study modelling and wording downplays the reality of the ambient background noise of locals living nearby a mine site. The EES also failed to provide any real clarity on the type and frequency of noise monitoring, the maximum noise levels for the local community, and implications of non-conformances.



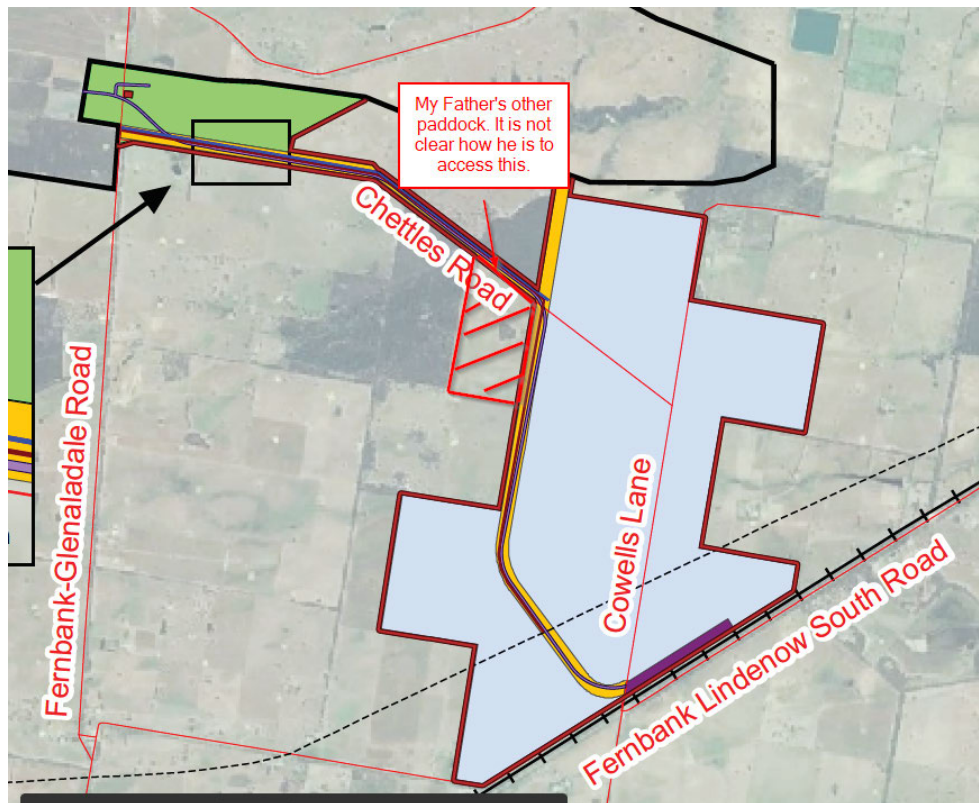
- Dust. My family farm relies on tank water for drinking and showers and dam water for livestock. It also has an outdoor swimming pool. The reality is that dust from the mine will end up on my Father's roof, in the drinking water, in the dam, and in the outdoor pool. The EES has acknowledged there are radioactive substances being mined including rare-earths. Are the health effects of the radioactive dust known? What about the health risks in the future such as lung disease from respirable silica?
- Vehicles. Currently you only experience local traffic going down Fernbank-Glenadale Road. The proposed mine will see 80 truck movements per day travelling throughout the local area. This is totally unacceptable on the local roads. Will Vicroads or the council have to pay for the additional wear caused by a massive increase from large mining trucks driving around the local roads outside the designated mine site?
- Amenity. The scenery from my family farm is simply superb from every direction. The proposed mine would impact the visual amenity throughout its use. It has been noted that Victoria's mines do not have a proven record to rehabilitate land after the mine is completed. What is the retention held by the Government to ensure the mine will be rehabilitated? Large infrastructure projects can hold up to 5% of the total cost of the project in retention to be released after the defects periods.



- Reducing groundwater runoff to our livestock. Several of the proposed mine dams would restrict water from running through to my Dad's farm. Over the last few decades we have witnessed less rainfall. Some people would attribute the hotter and extended summers, and reduced rainfall to climate change. The mine is reducing groundwater which would end up in my Father's dams and therefore will affect the amount of livestock he can hold.



- Restricted access to the Chettles Road farm. The proposed maps show that access would be restricted accessing our second farm at Chettles Road. There is no indication how farmers are meant to access their farms along Chettles Road.
- Redirection of Fernbank Glenaladale Rd. In order to run a successful farm my father needs to be able to frequently move his stock between his farm on Fernbank Glenaladale Rd and his Chettles road property. He does this by driving the sheep by himself with his cattle dogs. Although geographically separate, the 2 properties work together as one farm. The proposed redirection of Fernbank Glenaladale Rd would result in it being impossible to move stock between the 2 properties due to the considerable extra distance he would need to travel. This threatens his livelihood.



- The proposed mine also threatens the local community adversely and is not the best land use. Currently the area has many successful farms, many of which provide employment for many people.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I urge you to reject his proposed mine. It threatens my father's livelihood, will make his home incredibly unpleasant to live in or visit and will make the value of the land which he has worked hard to improve reduce considerably. It also will make operating his 2 properties as one farm impossible (and they cannot operate independently). The proposed mine threatens my family's home, the centre point of our family and the thing that connects us together. It is not necessary to have a mine so close to a thriving community when there are more remote options available. Please reject the mine proposal.

Sincerely

Rhys Waller