

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

530

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Kim Martin

Organisation: Frais Farms

Affected property: [REDACTED], WyYung 3875. [REDACTED] Hillside 3875.

Attachment 1: EES_Kalbar_Respo

Attachment 2: EES_Kalbar_Respo

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

RE: Response to the RMCG Final Report V13 July 2020
“Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Horticultural Impact
Assessment” prepared for Kalbar Operations PTY Limited

My CV

4th Generation farmer in Lindenow Valley.

Graduate Victorian College of Agriculture & Horticulture –
Glenormiston Campus 1984.

Graduate Australian Rural Leadership Program Course 8.

Founding Executive Vegco/OneHarvest. 1995-2004

Executive Manager of Business Development COSTA Group
AUSTRALIA 2005-2008.

Founding sole director Frais Farms P/L a horticultural
growing, processing and marketing business based in Walpa
specialising in fresh organic produce. 2008-Current.

Industry member Lindenow Valley Water Security Project.

This submission is to advise you that Frais Farms is strongly
opposed to the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project.
My business and potentially my livelihood will be directly
impacted by this mine proposal.

After reading the above mentioned document (FMSPHIA) I
reject it on the grounds it is grossly inaccurate and very mis-
leading. I am also at a loss to understand how RMCG have
made such a comprehensive mess of this report. RMCG
should have had a far better understanding of our
horticultural industry given the opportunities they have had
in the past working across horticulture. I am extremely
disappointed at the lack of accurate detail that tries to frame
the horticultural activities of the East Gippsland region.

RMCG's report does not include \$ multiplier of the fast
growing horticultural value adding category that has
emerged over the last 20 years. The report talks about value

added consumer convenient products but no mention of its \$ contribution to our economy.

Australia's most successful fresh produce value adding businesses source very large volumes of fresh produce from the Lindenow Valley due to its unique growing season which is not found in other production areas in Australia. PMFresh, Vegco/Oneharvest, Primo, Salad Fresh, GSF Aust, Hussey & Co. all rely heavily on our valley for its quality and consistency of fresh produce. Our valley is also a key supply region for Woolworths, Coles, ALDI, Costco and the horticultural fresh produce markets of Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide.

The RMCG report consistently talks about minimizing identified risks by various mitigation methods but really only increases the risk compared with the current situation. Why introduce risk into a food bowl when the types of soils suitable for food production are becoming swept up by residential and industrial landholders across the state?

To locate an open pit mineral sands mine meters from the upstream point of Victoria's world class food bowl with direct prevailing winds blowing across the mine pit site onto the river valley and Gippsland lakes is nothing short of complete stupidity. My opinion is these types of projects should be located well away from the very industry that will sustain healthy living for generations.

Having worked on the Lindenow Valley Water Security project (LVWSP) as an industry representative I can confirm that there is a planned expanded irrigable area that is seeing horticulture production areas move across elevated land adjacent to the existing river valley. This is happening now and it does not appear on any of RMCG tables, which is a gross oversight. Very poor form to not include the

positioning of the Mitchell river in their tables, it's a bloody insult and speaks to the very tone of this underwhelming RMCG report.

I can also confirm that the historic stream flow run off data from the Glenaladale catchment is inaccurate as was found in the LVWSP when we looked at potential off stream storage sites. What this means is run off from an east coast low rain event(s) will see unmitigatable volumes of water pass through the proposed mine pit site heading to the river and onto the Gippsland Lakes and surrounding townships of Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, Metung, Loch Sport etc.

This reports states under a heading, concern to 'Clean Green' image that if a contamination occurred 'Customers and consumers would have to know the origin of produce and its growing environment for any image damage to occur'. This statement is damning of RMCG, its Author, its Reviewer, its Quality Checker, its Releaser (which I note is often the same person) and shows the level of contempt and respect shown to our region.

This document states that there is 6,000 megalitres of irrigation water that has not yet been allocated from the Mitchell River but does not say that it is not yet available. I would think that the majority of our population would support continuing to invest further water allocations into our clean green horticultural growing region securing clean food supplies into our future.

There is a proven record of sustained job creation in the horticultural sector in our region and continues to grow year on year. Our irrigated horticultural region has been proven to lead and sustain jobs and innovation, the envy of other growing regions.

Industries that could add a negative value to our proven formula of land and environment management, clean food production (with very strong continued investment) cannot coexist in our catchment. Any industry that will, would, may introduce a possible contamination risk at any level to our successful fresh produce region should be denied.

I have 3 farms in the Lindenow region one of which is certified Organic by NASAA. We employ approximately 30 people. I would guess there are approximately 1000 full time and 2000 casual employees that are connected to the production of vegetables in the Lindenow Valley and employed in our shire. These are long term sustainable jobs and are directly threatened by risks identified and associated with this proposed project.

I was interviewed by RMCG and consider the interview to be nothing more than small talk over a coffee and fail to see how this could form a valid response of the farmers concerns.

I have nothing negative to say about the mining industry in fact I am a shareholder in many mining companies. The overwhelming and undeniable risk associated with this proposal is its location and the sharing of our valuable water resources.

I am asking the IAC members to visit the region and stand on the proposed mine site and look to the East across the Lindenow Valley and downstream to Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Metung and Lakes Entrance. This will give you a perspective on what could be at risk if this project proceeds and fails to delivery on its said mitigatable risk management solutions.

We should not be forced to share our precious resources for the benefit of an open pit mine that only brings increased risk to our catchment.

Yours Sincerely



Kim Martin