
Request to be heard?: No - but please email me a copy of the
Timetable and any Directions

Full Name: Kerryn Forster

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members I have many concerns about the Fingerboards mineral sands project and strongly oppose its development. My most pressing concerns are the volume of water required by the mining operation to function and the risk of pollution to our waterways due to failings via the tailings dams. Our local rainfall has significantly reduced and there have been serious water restrictions put in place on drawing from the Mitchell River in recent years. This has impacted on the vegetable growers in the region who rely on the water not to mention the health of the river and Lake system it also supports. The scientific indicators are for a drying climate in South Eastern Australia due to climate change. As we are already experiencing water shortfalls I cannot understand how the enormous additional water requirements could be guaranteed to the mining project without jeopardising the existing large agricultural industry not to mention the local environment. East Gippsland promotes itself as a region of pristine beaches and wilderness. The tourism industry is a well established major economic driver in our region. The vision of a mining operation that disturbs radioactive materials in the ground that produces dust that can potentially pollute our agriculture industry our drinking water supply and our natural waterways in no way supports our current tourism industry image. I seriously question the economic return and value of the mineral sands mining project to East Gippsland. It strikes me that it has relatively short term employment prospects in comparison to the long term employment and economic benefits provided by the established industries in the area. It would appear that the major financial benefits of the mine would be gained by people who live outside the region and the major risks would be borne by the residents and businesses of East Gippsland. As a long term resident of East Gippsland I highly value our natural environment. Our region is already under threat with a changing climate. We have reduced rainfall which impacts on the the health of our river and lake systems and with the drying forests we have had the extreme bushfires this year. I am of the opinion that we should be making every endeavour to preserve and protect our natural environment and promote economic development that enhances the wellbeing of our residents and community. I do not believe that the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project contributes in any way to our region. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a submission. In Hope Yours
Sincerely Kerryn Forster