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

Full Name: Michael Walker

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members, This written submission is in relation to the ESS for the Fingerboards mineral sands project mine and I strongly oppose this mine for many reasons. In particular, I am worried from an environmental viewpoint. The impact from so many vehicles coming into and out of the mining site through day and night, the destruction from cutting so deeply into the earth and the pollution caused by dust on surrounding areas and potential contamination of the river system are all risks that are in no way worth undertaking. The dust from the mines may be able to travel some distance. The unknown impact (unknown at this time) could severely threaten surrounding agricultural farms and areas. Water extracted from the Mitchell River to irrigate these crops would also be at risk from contamination and the general river ecosystem could also be in danger. Damage to these river systems and industries could be crippling and cost jobs and livelihoods for people that have been established in this area for generations. I am also greatly concerned for the people who live and work in the immediate areas surrounding the mine. The prospective underlying health risks posed by the mine in the short and long term are worrying. Risk of cancer or lung disease from the dust, mental health issues, problems from incessant noise are all issues that take time to evaluate should the mine go ahead. I argue that they present a significant enough risk to see this project stopped. Furthermore, there would be the general damage caused to the habitats of existing wildlife in this region and not just short term but for many years to come. It is difficult to put a price on this but globally, we continue to be witness to the overall destruction that projects like this are causing to our environment. There is also the point regarding damage to indigenous cultural heritage sites that needs to be considered. How many times will projects like this be allowed to roll through and damage the lands of our ancestors who lived in and cared for these lands for so many thousands of years. The Fingerboards area has been a massively important part of my life. I grew up in Melbourne, a city person yet with a mother from Bairnsdale, I have been visiting this area since I was born. It has always been an incredibly important part of my life. A place of extraordinary beauty, of solitude and reflection, a special place with spiritual significance. And as I have come to love this land, I now share its magic with my own family. It's a river based area, a gateway from agricultural flatlands and small towns to the nearby high country. To see a mine come into this beautiful area is simply depressing to think about. Our world is changing rapidly. We must continue to look for ways to preserve it so please, do not allow this mine. I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and wish you well in the decision making processes. Yours sincerely,
Michael Walker