

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

677

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

Full Name: Shaun & Monique Tomlinson

Organisation: N/A

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Shaun__Monique

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members,

I write to you today to express our deep concern and disapproval of the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine.

As residents and farmers in the area – running a fat lamb/wool and cattle enterprise, we are concerned on several fronts should this mine be approved.

Should this mine be given approval – it will have devastating affects not only for those in the immediate vicinity of the proposed mine, but also as far afield as Bairnsdale and beyond. The current lifestyle of many local farmers, landholders and visitors to the area will be severely impacted due to the mines proposed operation.

The EES statement in its entirety is written by well healed wordsmiths that in one paragraph state one thing – then in another – add the ‘if’ word – which then gives free range to change the goal posts to suit the proposed mine rather than being held to account should they not undertake construction/works/operations of the mine to ensure the voices of the local residents and that of the region are heard.

It’s a bit like the job description that states – ‘and other duties as required’.

We like many are concerned due to the increased traffic on local roads that barely support the traffic that currently utilises the infrastructure.

We are also concerned around the noise levels that the mine will produce when working at full capacity.

More importantly we are extremely concerned as to what the affect the proposed mine will have on our current bore water that is the lifeline of our farm. Can you assure us that this proposed mine will in no way shape or form reduce not one millimetre of water that our current bore produces for the survival of our stock and farming operations?

Water is the life blood for many in our local community not only for stock survival – but also in times of bushfires when this finite resource is the only thing between you and devastation.

How will we know if our water current water supply is compromised should the mine be given approval with all the megalitres it will require to function until it’s too late? Not to mention the Mitchell River and its catchment which supports the local multimillion-dollar vegetable industry and along with other rivers is the lifeline of the Gippsland Lakes.

This proposed mine has already seen division within our immediate community along with the far broader community as some landholders adjacent to the proposed mine may well see some financial gains from having the proposed mine as a neighbour.

Sadly, some of these local landholders are not living on that farming land and therefore will never be directly impacted – except when there is a ‘flush to the bank account’ for being an obliging neighbour.

We are also concerned about the amount of dust that this proposed mine will generate. In this part of East Gippsland, the wind blows nearly all year round – part of living near the coast one expects.

What guarantee can be given that the noted studies around particles suspended in the air from the mining process will not have a single impact on our health or the health of immediate neighbours and the broader community of East Gippsland?

Will cancer rates and lung disease become something we are to expect in our older years? How can Kalbar assure us that this will not be the case? How will our local Shire, State and Federal Government assure us we will continue to live in a healthy environment and that we will be protected from such diseases?

If this proposed mine is given approval – can you promise that our lifestyle as we know it will not change? That our children and their children’s children will have the same healthy environment that we currently have with no mineral sands mine? Will you guarantee that we will not loose one drop of water from our current bore for our stock? Can you ensure that the local vegetables I buy to keep the local economy thriving will be safe to eat with not a single speck of mineral sand mining dust or residue? Can you assure me that there will be no radioactive contaminants or other airborne toxic dust that will land on the roof of our house and then contaminate our drinking water?

Can you assure me that the vegetables we grow, and the beef, sheep, wool, and eggs we produce will not be affected by the proposed mining should it take place?

In closing – can you assure us that you will take the concerns we have seriously and that you will thoroughly take on board not only our submission – but also the many that have similar or the same concerns?

Please consider ‘all the people’ who will be affected by the outcome of this proposed mine.

And we sincerely hope that we will have the guarantee in writing that not one thing will change to our current enterprise/business/lifestyle or beautiful region if a ‘new neighbour’ comes to the district.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun & Monique Tomlinson