

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

Full Name: Edith Margaret Ashley

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project to state that I am emphatically opposed to this development. I strongly oppose the proposed mine for the following reasons: 1. It poses a Public Health Risk: radioactive substances including rare-earths - safely present undisturbed below ground when excavated and crushed, generate dust that is subsequently dispersed into the environment. This poses a health risk to the local community – both to people living in the area and in terms of vegetation and food grown there. 2. The Health Risks posed by the dust are not restricted to a small local area as the dust easily travels exposing the wider community. Contamination and health risks are real and there is a duty of care not to increase the burden of cancer within the local community. 3. The full analysis of the ore has not been fully disclosed – further reason to appose the proposed mine. 4. Proximity to houses, homes, families, farms and places of work holds many problems– It is irresponsible to threaten the lives and livelihoods of a community already committed to the well-being of the East Gippsland region and the development of an attractive tourism spot. 5. Dust from the mine will threaten the vegetable industry in Lindenow – just 500 downwind from the proposed mine site the vegetable industry will be exposed to contamination. The mine would potentially see the closure of the vegetable industry in the Lindenow Valley along with financial losses for the region. 6. Water use by the Mine – Over three billion litres of water (3GL) is required by the mine for up to 15 years for processing and to control dust. The impact of this requirement on the bore and aquifers of the Mitchell River is unknown and potential negative impact is considerable. 7. Impact on Flora and Fauna and wellbeing of the neighbourhood. 13 square kms of land will be mined, with huge impact on trees and habitat, including the removal of over 700 large mature trees. The full ramifications of the environmental risk in this area has not been adequately assessed. The landscape of the area will never be replaces. 8. The potential for contamination of the commercial and domestic water is high. The Woodglen Reservoir where domestic and commercial water is stored is positioned just 3.5km downwind of the mine. 9. It is unacceptable to allow the compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. This should be part of the mine project area. I offer my thanks to the members of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee for the opportunity to make this submission. Edith Ashley