

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

688

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Alexandra, Kaitlyn and Ella Cameron

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Public_Submission

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

We are writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine to tell you we strongly object to the project.

We are three local children who live on a property close to where the mine would be. We have lived in this area our whole lives and have lived at our current property for nearly 8 years. We love our farm, its peaceful, pretty and after a busy day at school we all love to come home and detach from the noise of life. We don't want to come home and listen to the noise of a mine, after school and on the weekend. It would never end day and night every day. We will never have any peace.

We love where we live the way it is. We enjoy our family days where Dad and Mum takes us to look at places and Dad tells us story from his childhood or things about a particular place and Mum tells us about the environment and why it's important to connect with it and value it. Dad always tells about the Fingerboards its history and when we have days out with other people we meet at the Fingerboards because everyone knows where it is simply by that name. To think that that area will be destroyed by a mine and the road turned into a roundabout is so wrong. We often read or listen to news events where history or things with special meaning are destroyed in the name of progress and we often wondered why does it have to be? We have also learnt that this mine would destroy all the special Aboriginal sites in the area. We think this is completely wrong. Society has a history of not placing importance on indigenous people and their customs. This is just another example of not respecting what is important.

From what we have learnt about mineral sands mines is that there are other options, there are other places where it could be mined that has less of an impact on people, the environment and things that have special meaning. So, whilst mineral sands are important (no we don't want a life without devices), but we do think mines should be in some places and not others. The Fingerboards is not a place for a mine.

Our school bus travels down the Fernbank Road through the Fingerboard's intersection and then down the Dargo road into Bairnsdale. If this mine went ahead, both the primary school and high school buses would be travelling through a mine site twice a day 5 days a week. Is this safe? What about the air we would be breathing in? Circulating through the bus, will we in 10, 20 years end up with respiratory problems?

Also, what about the fact we would have to look at the mine, ground all dug up, dust blowing everywhere. We live in the country because that's what we like to look at countryside, Geoff Johnson's cows. We love the little ones as the play in paddocks. The big old trees that the possums live in, there would be no point going on night walks to see the possums once Kalbar cut down all the trees they live in.

People say children are the future, we need to listen to children and teach them to make good decisions. We know already that this mine is a bad decision. We want jobs in our local area when we leave school but not through a mine that will destroy our area, destroy what is important, destroy the local environment. We need to look to sustainable environmentally friendly solutions for a future. We can not and must not keep taking from the earth. Please do not damage our environment in the name of progress. We can find alternatives to mining at the Fingerboards that are better for everyone.

We know that there are many other things wrong about this mine and we know Mum, dad and plenty of other really good people are writing to you about them, and they can sometimes explain things better than us, but we just want you to know that we disagree with this mine and since we are future adults of the area then we should have say in what happens to it.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our concerns and please don't let there be a mine at the Fingerboards.

From, Alex, Kaitlyn and Ella.