

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

767

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Chloe Helen-Rose Wagner

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Chloes_EES_submi

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I have attached my submission. I have also started a petition for kids from 10-20 years old who are against the mine in this area.

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine project, which I strongly oppose for reasons outlined below.

I am 16 years old and have lived in this area my whole life, and want to continue to live here and raise a family in this beautiful region. I live very close to the Gippsland lakes, which will be directly affected and contaminated if the proposed mine is to go ahead.

Though there are many, many reasons that this mine should not be approved to go ahead some of the ones that most concern me are for the future generations, my future children and then theirs include: The sheer size and depth of the mine and the impacts on our native flora and fauna, now, and many years into the future, the billions of litres of water that will be used annually for the mine, and the effect the mine will have on multiple industries and how that will affect the future generations wanting to live in this region.

The proposed mineral sands mine will cover around 1,675 hectares and be roughly 45 metres deep, causing serious damage to the local areas and destroying many habitats, ecosystems, and wildlife sanctuaries. The sheer amount of water that will be used by the proposed mine is astronomical, we do not have an unlimited source of water and it is already needed for other vital operations and necessities such as farming, to provide food for our area and others and fresh drinking water. This area is, and has been, home to many generations and will be home to many others in our future, by creating this massive sore that will most definitely never truly heal will ruin the tourism industries, agriculture and farming industries, and many small businesses of our beautiful region.

This petition of concerned Victorian young residents represents the concerns for the future of this region, future businesses, future landowners, and future generations that would be severely affected by the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine if it is approved to go ahead in Glenaladale, near Bairnsdale. The proposed mine will have many negative impacts on many precious and vital areas of our region, including existing and future multi-million-dollar agricultural industries and our fresh water supplies over an extensive area, with the mine also causing high risks of polluting our internationally recognised and highly sensitive Ramsar listed Gippsland lakes wetlands, which is known as the largest freshwater lakes system in the southern hemisphere.

Furthermore, we as the future leaders of this region are concerned about the health of the community, because of harmful radioactive substances produced from the mine site, as well as dangerous dust pollution, in particular silica.

The proposed mineral sands mine will cover at least 1,675 hectares of land, and will be up to 45 meters deep, using over three billion litres of water per year. A wound in the land this deep will be basically irreparable, made more significant by the fact that only one mine in Victoria has ever been classified as fully rehabilitated, albeit questionably.

Our region, country, community, and world is at a vital and precarious tipping point. Every person that turns a blind eye to situations like this puts us closer to the point of no return. We have duties as the future leaders and owners of this region and country to protect and preserve

the rare, beautiful areas we have left.

We understand and appreciate the need we have for these kinds of mines and what they produce, but not in areas like this location, where they can permanently damage our landscape, community, waterways, and ecosystems.

This is our future, our home, and our voice. Let us be heard.

Thanks for listening to my submission.