

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

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Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Jill Trumble

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED] Glen Iris

Attachment 1: submission.docx

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory members,

I write to present a submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project.

I wish it to be recorded that I strongly **OPPOSE** this mining project. The basis for my opposition are due to my concerns on the impact such a project would have on:

- The environment
- Health and wellbeing of residents
- Aboriginal cultural heritage

The carnage to the environment if this project proceeds cannot be overstated.

Water, and the impact this mine will have on the Mitchell River is of paramount importance. The Mitchell river flatland at Lindenow is the location of a major food bowl for Australia. Vegetable crops have successfully been farmed and supported by irrigation from the river for decades. This huge local industry harvests and transports produce nationwide. It is a significant business that provides secure employment to many hundreds of people both directly and indirectly. If the Mitchell river becomes contaminated from tailing waste and flocculants then this million dollar industry is ruined. Is there a recorded plan if this scenario should occur? The proposed tailings dam is huge and as seen with the recent leakage from a private dam in Surf Coast area, dams are not always stable. The risk is too great. Where will the produce come from in Australia if the Lindenow crops are ruined? How will the Govt of the day manage the explosion in the unemployed figures? What will be the impact on the resulting stress levels of local farmers/suppliers?

The other waterway that is in danger of being affected environmentally is the Perry river. My maternal grandparents cleared and settled on land on this river. The very thought that this river could be damaged alarms me. The damage done to the aquifers, aquatic life and native flora and fauna that depend on this pristine water source would require decades to restore if ever.

The landscape will also be severely altered. The area of the proposed mine is significant. The clearing of trees and supporting habitat for local flora and fauna can never be replaced. Full rehabilitation rarely occurs. Does this company really think any offsets will effectively address the denuding of the landscape? Where is their duty of care to protect and maintain the environment?

The health and wellbeing of all residents in the immediate and surrounding area.

Air pollution from this proposed mine is concerning. The dust that will travel to the many families that live, farm and work in the area needs to be examined very, very carefully by qualified medical experts and this Panel must ensure this information is fully disclosed. Respirable silicia is potentially a death sentence. I have family and friends living at Walpa, Fernbank and Lindenow South. They all do have a genuine fear for their health. The number of houses near the mine had been underreported so exposure to the threat that this dust presents cannot be ignored. Doesn't Kalbar have a moral obligation to the health and wellbeing of everyone? Those working for Kalbar should also be included in this obligation.

The noise pollution cannot be underestimated. This mine is to operate 24/7. The noise generated is quite difficult to imagine. The impact on immediate communities will be extremely stressful. Noise is carried on the wind day and night. As the mine is on a plateau it will also be carried north over the

Mitchell river and into many widespread communities. Noise from mine traffic that includes trucks, workers/cars/transport rail links etc will also be significant.

The impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage.

This is Kurnai country. As massive excavation is required it is an extremely naïve approach to think that sacred sites, artefacts and heritage will not be lost. The world has just witnessed the cavalier approach by Rio Tinto where it comes to protecting Aboriginal culture. Another large company Fortescue is also under pressure regarding permit to mine areas of cultural significance. The eyes of the world are now focussing on companies where greed drives them to ignore indigenous rights and order to improve profit margins and company dividends. Is Kalbar prepared for this scrutiny if they morally fail to protect Aboriginal culture and heritage? Can I ask what would become of the Den of Nargun if the Mitchell river is contaminated?

The compulsory acquisition of private land to be used for the mine infrastructure is bewildering. This is outside the mining project boundary (water pipelines, bore pumps, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, sidings and vegetation removal). Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Who determines land value? Why isn't the EG Shire Council involved?

Many, many points for the Panel to consider. Thankyou for allowing me the opportunity to make this submission and hopefully protect an area of land quite close to me and past generations of my family.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Trumble