

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

853

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Joy Hoare

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing to let you know as a concerned resident of East Gippsland for 44 years that I oppose the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I am well familiar with the wonderful clean green and pristine area we live in and feel this mine in this location will be disasterous. It is totally abhorrent to us to put at risk our amazing Mitchell river that feeds our reknown lake system, one of Victoria's premium vegetable growing areas, our tourism industry and the health and wellbeing of the people and the surrounding environment from contamination.

My husband and I lived in Lindenow South for 27 years, raised our family, then moved to Calulu and farmed for a further 17 years. We realized how vitally important the Mitchell river was to the the whole area, not only the vegetable farmers but all farmers and the towns along the river and beyond. To have a mine less than 1kilometer from the life blood of the region is madness.!

Contaminated water could so easily be washed into the river from the tailings dam which is 90 hectares in area and will contain all sorts of toxic waste and flocculants which according to safety data sheets can be harmful to aquatic life in the river and lakes. Our water is just too precious to be at risk of poisonous materials leaking , leaching or flooding into the river which supplies water for much of East Gippsland ,the vegetable industry ,dairy farmers and recreational activities dependent on clean uncontaminated water.

Continuing with contamination, the dust particles that will be dispersed during tons and tons of excavating daily, will be a huge problem to the whole environment and it's waterways as well as to people's health . The wind will carry the toxic particles including silicon, and cover vegetables, organic produce, and affect the health of the community, including children in schools and a kinder close by. The Woodglen Reservoir which supplies domestic and commercial water for the whole shire,is only 3.5 kms from the mine,not to mention domestic tanks on houses through out the area.

Water is so precious to everybody , particularly in our rain shadow area and by taking 3 GL of water for the mine ,it will rob our essential groundwater aquifers ,essential for the irrigation for the whole agricultural industry .This is just not acceptable. We have experienced frequent droughts during our life here and the availability of water is just so critical to all who live and work here .

There are over 50 hard working people who live and work in the immediate location of the mine and their families have been there for generations. They have weathered all that nature could throw at them ,over and over again- droughts , floods ,fire and shocking prices ,but this mine will destroy them and their livelihoods. In some cases 4 or 5 generations of farmers caring and loving their land will be destroyed by a toxic mine.I have witnessed first hand the anxiety and stress that many of them have been through.They will need to leave their farms.

The risk of contamination to the iconic Gippsland lakes and surrounding environment ,the huge vegetable industry and the health of it's people is simply not a sensible option.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my submission.

Yours Sincerely

Joy Hoare

