

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

866

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: William Reid

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED] East Bairnsdale, Vic 3875

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

To Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members, I am writing this submission regarding the EES on the Fingerboards Mineral Sand mine at Lindenow in East Gippsland.

I have lived in the Bannisdale area at the property of [redacted] East Bannisdale since 1953. The property has direct frontage to Jones Bay which is a fish breeding area for the RAMSAR listed Gippsland Lakes.

During my life here I have witnessed quite a few floods; mostly caused by what is called East Coast low rain events. The most recent being in June 2007 when we recorded 310 m.m. in 3 days and an unconfirmed report of 425 m.m. at Mt. Taylor - approx. 10 kms. to our Northwest and closer proximity to the mine site. Another flood in 1998 was of the same magnitude as was a flood in 1990.

The biggest flood of all was in 1952 when the highway bridge at Stratford was washed away with the loss of a life. The level of driftwood on our shoreline to Jones Bay still exists and matches the level of 2007 and 1998 floods.

We have personal rainfall records for the property from 1963 and Bannisdale records from 1880.

When reading the EES summary of Flood History of the Mitchell River for the last 118 years the information does not correlate.

For example the 1936 1 in 100 year flood event would seem incorrect because only 174 m.m. fell that year as a fairly even spread of rain per month. However in December 1935 there was 324 m.m. which on my past experience would have been a similar flood to June 2007

and also June 1998. I would expect there were similar events in between - particularly in the 1960's.

In ^{their} ~~your~~ statement on Runoff Management 3.7.4.2. they mention that runoff water which cannot be diverted around active mining areas will be captured and transferred to the process water circuit.

We are being required to accept a project that has given no detailed volumes of water captured, no detail of the area and detail design of the wall and containment structures, to contain the volumes of water during an East Coast Low Event.

Of particular concern is the storage of thorium & Thorian stockpiles. There is no mention of using a plastic or similar membrane (As is now mandatory in all landfill and tip sites in Victoria) to prevent leaching of this concentrated product into ground and water aquifers.

There is no detail on the Bund Wall construction that would enable full containment of contaminated water. There is also no detail or even mention of membrane coverage of this stockpile that would prevent dust contamination over a considerable area.

We are being asked to approve a mining project that has no detail and is open to too much interpretation by vested interests.

I would also add that Shire Councils under law have a duty of care to their residents to protect their health.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission

Yours faithfully
W. P. Reid