

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

884

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Ruth Tice

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to let you know that I am strongly opposed to the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project at Glenaladale. I am not alone in expressing this opposition, it is very much what I am hearing in the wider community. Many different people from all walks of life be it young people, working families, young business professionals as well as long-term residents and business and industry professionals are overly concerned about what could happen and the potential disasters.

- It will be impossible for people to redevelop a connection with the land once 13 square kilometres has been dug 45m deep and all the ancient trees and woodlands removed. The hilly terrain and the natural gullies that have been formed is what makes this area so special. This cannot be replicated. These high risks cannot be mitigated, and it is an insult to those who live locally to suggest otherwise.
- There are many families who live near where the mine is proposed to be located and they will be impacted by the noise of a 24 hour per day seven day a week mining operation in what is an agriculturally zoned district. It is unacceptable that a mine be allowed to operate throughout the night when so many people live nearby. Other mines in Western Australia were not allowed to operate during the night so why is that being considered here? According to irrigation data, if the 3GL of water was redirected to the horticulture industry, 3 times more jobs could be created than proposed by the mine. Innovation from horticulture and other innovative sustainable projects e.g. wind farms is exciting especially as it would create a generational employment opportunity which is the Government's aim. These are the jobs we need to support that will be long-term contributors to the economy. I am concerned the mine will attract workers from the horticulture industry because it can pay higher wages, impacting on the viability of the food sector.
- There are huge environmental risks to the health of both the Perry River and the heritage listed Mitchell River. The mine will sit on the catchment of both significant river systems. There are risks of these rivers being contaminated, impacting on the vegetable crops in the Lindenow valley, fishing, agriculture, the health of the rivers and the Gippsland Lakes (an important Ramsar-listed wetland). I have been speaking with farmers who all say that the ground is porous and that wastewater from the tailing dams will leak into the surrounding land and end up in both rivers. These are not emotional statements. The farmers know the land and surroundings. It appears that not enough evidence has been contained within the EES to assure me otherwise.
- The Woodglen Reservoir where domestic and commercial water is stored for the whole Shire is 3.5kms downwind from the mine. I am concerned that our drinking water will get contaminated. As not all the facts are expected to have been released about what will be in the dust, how will East Gippsland water be able to assure us that there won't be any risks to our health from the water?
- It is unacceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for the EG Shire Council to determine?

Yours sincerely

Ruth Tice

