

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

886

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Mary Anne Cunningham

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

26th October 2020

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands project because I strongly oppose the mine. This mine, from my understanding, has the potential to pollute our water, air and soil (from polluted air including silica dust) and therefore put at risk the health of the people who live in this area and the health of the environment.

I have lived in this area for over 10 years and moved to this area because of its pristine environment. East Gippsland thrives on its ability to produce a clean and healthy food supply. The area is also dependent on Tourism and people visit because of the healthy environment. This mine has the potential to destroy this tourist industry on which numerous businesses depend. Who will visit East Gippsland when there is a major risk to their health???

Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd has acknowledged there are radioactive substances being mined including rare-earths. Below ground level and undisturbed, these substances do not pose a health risk. But when excavated and crushed, dust is generated which disperses these materials into the

atmosphere, causing a danger to the air we breathe. I ask that the Panel fully discloses this information and exposes the health risks to the people living in East Gippsland. You have a DUTY OF CARE to not add to the cancer burden of our community.

The mine is very close to families who depend on a healthy lifestyle. There is an extremely strong concern about the risk of lung disease from irrespirable silica. It is irresponsible for the Government to put the lives of our community at risk. The number of houses near the mine has been under-reported.

Our Food Bowl lays 500 metres downwind from the Mine Site! People in East Gippsland will no longer wish to eat food produced from this area when there is a risk of silica contamination in the food. Also the Mitchell River supplies irrigation water. The mine will be on the side of the river on a plateau and there are risks that contamination from the mine to the river will impact on crops, fishing and agriculture.

There are also hundreds of 700 year old trees which will be destroyed by the mine site. Is this something we can live with, be proud to tell the children of the future and in fact, the children born now.

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: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore fields, road works, new power lines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal.

WHY WASN'T THIS PART OF THE MINE PROJECT AREA?
WHY ISN'T THIS A MATTER FOR THE E.G. SHIRE
COUNCIL TO DETERMINE?

I wish to thank the Panel members for this opportunity to make a submission.

Mary Cunningham