



Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

20 July 2021

Mr Peter Vaughan
Environmental Media Foundation
Via email

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Melbourne Victoria 3000
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Dear Mr Vaughan

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project

Thank you for correspondence of 15 July and 18 July 2021 (Tabled Documents 689 and 690). Please see a response below on some of the major issues from the Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC).

Video Recording of the Hearing

The taking of submissions and deciding on a procedural matter is not a voting process and the IAC made its decision after carefully considering the submissions and issues raised and procedural fairness. No external advice has been sought by the IAC and the reasons published yesterday were all canvassed in submissions to, or internal discussions of, the IAC.

The decision to refuse to allow video recording was made on Thursday morning 15 July 2021 after thoughtful discussion amongst the IAC members and was not a decision taken lightly.

The reasons were released yesterday. This was later than originally planned due to the need for the IAC to travel back to Melbourne late in the evening of 15 July 2021 to avoid the Covid lockdown and the full day of Hearings on Friday. Such decisions and reasons require considerable thought, and they were only finalised yesterday after input from the whole IAC; it is not a decision made by the Chair alone.

The IAC has now made a decision on this matter and is not considering it further. If you wish to challenge the decision you should seek your own legal advice as to how to proceed.

Inconsistent Response

In relation to Document 516 that you expressed concern about, the IAC had already decided that it should be removed/redacted based on your correspondence prior to receiving the application from Council.

Apology from the Chair

As you may be aware I as Chair (and this is no reflection on the rest of the IAC) did apologise for intemperate remarks in relation to your appearance at the Hearing on Zoom on Thursday morning and this apology stands. It is included on the audio recording of Day 33 (15 July 2021) from approximately 2:07:20 to 2:08:20. Both day recordings (Day 33 and Day 34) are on the Engage Victoria website as usual.

If you have any queries, please contact Tom Milverton at fingerboards.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Nick Wimbush

Chair, Fingerboards Inquiry and Advisory Committee

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