



# Planning Panels Victoria

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

7 April 2021

As addressed

1 Spring Street  
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Telephone (03) 8624 5712

Dear Party

## **Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project – Government Agencies in Expert Meetings**

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The meetings of expert witnesses are outlined in Directions 8 – 22 of the [Inquiry and Advisory Committee \(IAC\) consolidated Directions](#) dated 19 February 2021:

As provided for in Direction 9 of the IAC directions:

*9. Government agency submitter representatives with technical expertise in the expert areas should also be invited to attend the relevant meeting(s). In this case this may include:*

- a. EPA – water quality*
- b. DELWP Forest Fire and Regions – ecology*
- c. Southern Rural Water – water*
- d. Department of Health and Human Services – Radiation*
- e. Department of Transport – traffic and transport*
- f. Earth Resources Regulation - centrifuges*

Expert witness meetings are for experts to discuss issues to identify (and if possible, reduce) areas of disagreement without advocates or other observers in the room. The aim is to allow expert witnesses to have productive, open discussions and assist in an efficient hearing process.

Government agencies as per Direction 9 can attend and/or participate:

- As an observer who simply observes and does not contribute, conclude, or offer a position on the issues being discussed. Questions of clarification can be asked but the agency representative would not be expected to sign the expert meeting statement. Their presence and any questions asked should be recorded.
- As a participant who provides opinions based on technical expertise and the facts and matters agreed or not agreed in respect of each issue and the reasons for any agreement. Agencies who attend on this basis would be expected to sign the expert meeting statement and may be asked questions through the Chair in the Hearing.

Agencies who attend as observers only should not 'report' on the expert meetings beyond the agreed signed statement to ensure discussions are not constrained.

If you have any queries please contact Amy Selvaraj at [fingerboards.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:fingerboards.iac@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**Nick Wimbush**

Chair, Inquiry and Advisory Committee

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