

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

525

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Stephen Cross

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: S_Cross_EES.pdf

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: "see attached submission"

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission in unwavering opposition to the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project, recognising the comprehensive inappropriateness of the proposal for the preliminary reasons outlined below.

- Born on the land and with extensive knowledge of the area, environmental management, and changing climatic events specific to the location, it is unavoidable that annually and increasingly large quantities of toxic dust will be deposited into waterways, drinking water supplies and across food production areas by extreme wind events.
- Due to elevation and geology, on one or more occasion, high rainfall storms will result in the contamination of adjoining waterways, again in a manner that is irreversible and that will retain profound and irreversible consequences.
- With diminishing water availability, the water resources required by the project would indisputably support better economic and environmental equity by servicing food production, established industries and in being maintained as clean water within the environment.
- Any suggested economic and job related gains proposed would be outmatched and generate symbiotic benefit, not aversion, though an investment in existing industries and new, complimentary, low risk, long term projects that retain no maintenance and clean up burden.
- Any form of contamination, which is unavoidable, will create wide spread economic, job and market loss for food production, while furthermore terminating the regions clean and green image and ecological tourism status.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and existing and proposed land use legacy is being ignored, and resources, land use and the whole of community surrounding the mine is entirely inappropriately placed under the mines control and reach.

The EES process and governing environmental protocols also accommodate the following failings, determining that these items can only be recognized secondarily as a part of any responsibly upheld decision making process.

- The findings within the EES are not independent and can be actively influenced by omission, preference and in predetermining findings. Several of numerous instances where this has occurred throughout the EES process is in placing air quality monitoring stations in a wind shadow, in assessing only parts of the mining process as far as dust production, in disregarding the diversity and potential of industries that will be impacted (i.e. Organic), and in not quantifying all of the toxic minerals that will be present as part of the operation.
- The safeguards and procedures proposed by the proponent are only that, and in many cases can be immediately altered or evaded across the ongoing life span of the project and beyond; as the mining industry have an almost conclusive record of upholding.
- The relevant Environmental laws within Australia are no longer current and are lower in standard than those maintained by most Third World countries.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Stephen Cross