
Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Pamela J. Parker

Organisation: Australian Landscape Trust

Affected property: as above

Attachment 1: ALT_Submission_c

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: The Australian Landscape Trust strongly opposes the Fingerboards mineral sands project in this location. The inexperienced proponent was unable to offer credible science ensuring safeguards against the many risks posed by this project. The scope of the project, containment of its wastes and source and security of its water requirements have never been definitively settled. Its potential damage to the community is unquantifiable. The project threatens economics of the area's established contributions to the Victorian economy including primary production feeding Melbourne and elsewhere, and an environment supporting fishing/tourism/recreation. This project's contributions, most optimistically assessed, are insignificant compared to contributions of established economic activities and employment those activities entail. Existing businesses are put at risk by pollution and water requirements of this project; neither are adequately defined, quantified or demonstrated to be manageable. This project makes no environmental, social or economic sense. Potential contamination from mining in this location include ground and surface water resources, scarce commodities essential for agriculture and horticulture, pollution of primary production rendering milk, meat, vegetable and grain crops a consumer health risk along with disqualifying area organic producers. Damage to public health from exposure to cancer-causing air born fine particulate matter risks an exploding long term health care crisis. The project is a classic demonstration of private gain from public losses that include costs of provision of essential infrastructure such as roads and ongoing maintenance burdens. The overriding public loss is quality of life, environment and livelihood for residents in the area. The overriding government risk is a diminished local economy's tax contributions, employment losses, health care costs, diminished environmental quality that distinguishes and supports this part of the state. Those losses cannot be compensated by revenue from the proposed project. The Australian Landscape Trust, a government registered Environmental Organisation, is trustee for heritage listed Strathfieldsaye Estate, the oldest continuously occupied farm in Victoria, located just south of the project site by the Perry River and Lake Wellington. ALT provides public good services through research and demonstrations in regenerative farming using grazing management to store soil carbon to enhance production quality, quantity and resilience. The farm is organic certified. Its data assist farmers making production choices that can enhance climate amelioration and farm profitability. The proposed mining project puts at risk this public good service; Strathfieldsaye Estate's program could not survive loss of its ground water resource or particulate pollution impacting research and disqualifying its organic status that enables marketing organic beef in Australia and USA.

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