

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

858

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Krys Bertino

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission in regards to the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project.

I am totally opposed to it. I believe it will be an environmental disaster, with potentially devastating and far reaching consequences for our area.

I have lived in East Gippsland area for all of my 53 years, and my family has farmed here, and raised their children here for generations.

While I don't live within the area that is going to be mined, I do live downstream from the potential mine.

Our local East Gippsland area is such an amazing place to live, with lots of tourism destinations, like the Gippsland lakes system, for boating and fishing, the Den of Nargun, a beautiful natural, and important part of our aboriginal peoples heritage, and our beautiful National Parks.

East Gippsland, in particular, the Mitchell river flats, feeds and provides clean drinking water to thousands of us, and our farmers farm the surrounding countryside, and river flats, growing vegetables, organic produce, beef, sheep, dairy, and everything else in between.

To me, the Mitchell river is the heart and soul of our area, and needs to be protected at all costs!

It is the last pristine, unregulated, un dammed large river in Victoria.

I am extremely concerned that this mine will eventually contaminate our river, and consequently, the lakes system.

We all drink this water, as do our animals, and any chance of contaminating our drinking water would be criminal!

While there are thousands of people who drink treated water from the Mitchell river, there are hundreds who drink untreated water, directly from the Mitchell. Any potential contaminated water, downstream from the mine, is potentially life threatening to us and others.

We have seasons when we get unprecedented amounts of rain, with massive flooding and runoff. There is no way this can be prevented, and contamination from the mine, into local waterways will occur.

I am also concerned about the amount, and types of dust that the mine will generate.

With the winds we get here, it will be impossible to keep the dust from the mine suppressed 100 %. Any risk to the health of people and animals is unacceptable!

During drought years, the mine will be competing with everyone, including local farmers for water which is often in short supply, and during droughts, the amount of dust generated is going to be substantially larger than during better years, and the demand for water will be greater. Is the mine going to get badly needed water for dust suppression, at the expense of farmers trying to water their crops?

This, in itself poses a big threat to farmers livelihoods.

With a thriving vegetable industry, employing hundreds of people, why would we risk it all for the sake of an overseas company to strip bare our land, and take the profits!

I am very worried about the damage this mine will do to:

A) The families that will be directly impacted by the mine. The amount of stress they must be feeling at the moment, must be astronomical! Their lovely peaceful area will be made unbearable, with 24/7 noise, traffic, and dust invasion, and their beautiful homes, properties, and surrounds ruined!

B) The habitats of all of the native animals that live there. The loss of mature trees, shrubs, and vegetation, means that thousands of animals will be displaced, and these habitats are irreplaceable! These trees have taken years and years to mature, and planting a sapling isn't going to provide instant homes for our wildlife.

I feel that if this mine is allowed to go ahead, it will be the beginning of the end of our area as we know it.

The more we give, the more this mining company will want!

It seems to me, to be only the tip of the iceberg!

Already, this company wants to acquire more land, outside of the mining project area, for water pipelines, easements, powerlines, bore pumps, roadworks, etc, and this land belongs to farmers, and families! Is the mining company going to be able to run roughshod over everyone! I am also concerned about the amount, and types of dust that the mine will generate. With the winds we get here, it will be impossible to keep this dust suppressed 100 %. Any risk to the health of people and animals is too bigger risk! We can't let this happen!

This is not fair, or acceptable!

And finally, at the end of this mining fiasco, they say, 'they will rehabilitate the land.'

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They won't!

Look at the Latrobe Valley as a prime example! They want to fill it with water and call it a lake!

That's not rehabilitation. That's a cop out!

This letter wasn't going to be this long, but I couldn't stop once I started. There are so many reasons why this project should not be allowed go ahead, and I've only mentioned a few.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a submission regarding this matter.

Kind regards,

Krys