

24 May 2021

The Chair
Fingerboards Inquiry and Advisory Committee
C/- Planning Panels Victoria

By email only: Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Wimbush

Fingerboards Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee – Expert evidence of Mr Lincoln Kern

1. In accordance with the *Planning Panels Victoria Guide to Expert Evidence (April 2019)*, I wish to bring a potential perceived conflict of interest to the attention of the Fingerboards Inquiry and Advisory Committee.
2. I own a property in Fernbank with bushland protected as biodiversity offsets near the project area and have declined the opportunity to sell offsets for the mine. The land also has frontage to Princes Highway and the Fernbank-Glenaladale Road, which was being considered at one point for a possible route for the trucks moving concentrate for the proposed mineral sands project.
3. I was also asked by [REDACTED] of Mine-free Glenaladale to speak at a public meeting in Bairnsdale in 2019, where I described how the EES process works. However, I have no direct connection to the mine proponent and have based all of the opinions expressed in my Expert Witness Statement on ecological data and information available in the public sphere analysed in the context of Victorian and national law and guidelines that are relevant to the assessment of the environmental effects of the proposed works.
4. In May 2020, I donated \$992 to a fundraising campaign for a documentary being made by the Environmental Media Association Inc. on the Fingerboards mineral sands mine.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Lincoln Kern
Ecological and Bushfire Risk Management Consultant
Practical Ecology Pty Ltd

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