

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

99

Request to be heard?: No - but please email me a copy of the
Timetable and any Directions

Full Name: Zoe Blandford

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: ESS_Submission_c

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission in regard to the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. Although I have had a career in the WA mining industry for the last 9 years I am strongly opposed to this particular mine, specifically due to its proximity to our agricultural sector and waterways. I have lived in this area most of my life (aside from the times I was FIFO to WA and living in remote mining locations) I have a house in Lindenow and at first I thought it could be a chance for me to transition to a mining sector that was in my home town, however the more I learn about the project the less I am willing to take part.

One mine could impact not only the livelihood of our local farming families but it has the potential to effect our water ways and impact the East Gippsland Lakes.

I know the amount of water used to contain dust on a mine site, as I operated a water-cart in the Pilbara and goldfields. I'd rather see the use of that water be used for farming - and growing our food source. The dust on mines I worked was not 100% suppressed with dust still being exposed regardless of the systems in place to suppress it.

In my opinion this mine is too close to where many families live, farm and work. The vegetable industry in the Lindenow Valley is only 500m downwind from the mine with most of the vegetables grown above ground, so dust from the mine is a high risk. Not only do I not wish to eat dust contaminated vegetables but it would be of great risk that that the agriculture industry be so effected that it get shut down. I am a daughter of a generational farming family and I cannot imagine loosing a viable farming industry to a short term mining project 15-20 year mine is nothing compared to 4th generation farming industries.

The Water used to irrigate the crops comes from the Mitchell River. This last drought saw massive restrictions to these properties ability to access water and to add a mining company into the mix to access that water is an environmental disaster. The mine will take priority no doubt with its access to the water at the expense of our food source and farms !!

Over 3 billion litres of water (3GL) is required by the mine annually for up to 15 years for processing and to control dust. Water being used to suppressed dust is such a ridiculous waste of a precious resource especially when you consider that the farms will be using to grow food we can eat!! Water dumped on the ground vs water used to grow food, it is hardly a debate. If the 3GL of water was redirected to the horticulture industry, 3 times more jobs could be created than proposed by the mine.

I feel that our community is somewhat powerless to stop this mine going ahead despite the raising of serious concerns. That the value of the ore deposit and the growth to our economy on paper, overpowers the risks to the people who actually live here. Why do we not have a say in how our lives and livelihoods will be effected? Do we only get to look back after an environmental disaster and get to say "I told you so?" While Kalbar get to say "oops" !!

It is unacceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for the EG Shire Council to determine?

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission I hope it is considered

Zoe