

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

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Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Ian McNicol

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Ian_McNicol_Opp

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: My submission has been uploaded below:

I oppose the proposed Mineral Sands Mine due to the following:

- The EES for the mine contains many inaccuracies. We know that the EES will be biased. It is a given! Many of the experts preparing the statement never even visited the area!
- This is a major food growing area and organic farms are 500 metres from the mine site. They are severely threatened. How can they sell food that is contaminated!
- Destruction of a world-famous area of natural beauty which relies heavily on tourism. We have visitors from both Australia and other parts of the world. We need tourists to visit!
- Use of a huge volume of water from the area for mine operations – the area is in drought! If the vegetable growers could get more water, this would lead to the creation of thousands of new jobs.
- Over 3 billion litres of water (3GL) is required by the mine annually for up to 15 years (the maximum life of the mine) for processing and to control dust. This shows how big a problem dust is. What will the impact of this be on bores, aquifers and the Mitchell River? According to irrigation data, if the 3GL of water was redirected to the horticulture industry, 3 times more jobs could be created than proposed by the mine.
- Pollution fall-out – Extremely toxic chemicals which will (there is no doubt) impact the air and water quality in the area and the areas around East Gippsland.
- Sand dust from digging and blasting. These particles are airborne and propose a great danger to health. Large dust particles tend to deposit in the airways and are usually associated with breathing problems. For example, lung disease, asthma and infections. Whereas, the smaller dust particles go more deeply into the lungs and can even enter the circulatory system of the body. This in turn increases the risk of heart disease, vascular disease, blood vessel disease but particularly strokes and heart attacks. (Scientists opinion, not mine).
- 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?
- Impacting local farms and homes with noise from blasting and excavating, not to mention the primary school in the vicinity. There is even a primary school very close to the proposed mine site!
- Health risks due to pollution of air, rivers and lakes which will see an increase in diseases such as Cancer.
- Foreign mining companies have an extremely bad track record of caring for the land and the rehabilitation required after. Why give them the opportunity?
- Loss of habitat for wildlife and death of wildlife.

- Traffic dangers due to large trucks coming and going from the mine and throwing up dust as they go. Large amounts of toxic dust will be flying every which way.
- Local roads will be damaged by these heavy vehicles. Who pays for this?
- Traffic pollution and chaos from all the extra trucks.

The destruction of such an area is a crime. It must be prevented now and in the future. Safeguards must be put in place. Why should foreign companies be allowed to wreak havoc for the sake of profits? They are neither familiar with, nor, have any regard for this delightful area.

Many thanks to the Panel members for the opportunity to make my submission.