

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

400

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Kate Douglass

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: submission.docx

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

28/10/2020

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project as I strongly oppose the mine due to the environmental impacts on the Mitchell River and surrounding areas.

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. You don't want to eat contaminated vegetables or risk that industry being shut down which could result in big job and financial losses for our region.

Water to irrigate the crops comes from the Mitchell River. The mine is on the other side of the river on top of a plateau. There are risks of the river being contaminated, impacting on the crops, fishing, agriculture, the health of the rivers and the Gippsland Lakes (an important Ramsar-listed wetland).

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. The Woodglen Reservoir where domestic and commercial water is stored for the whole Shire is 3.5kms downwind from the mine. What are the contamination risks...??

How is it acceptable 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?

Finally, as a Mental Health Professional, I have ongoing extensive concerns about the negative effects of this proposed mine on the individuals within this community that has recently been heavily impacted by drought and bushfires

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Regards,

Kate Douglass