

# Submission Cover Sheet

## Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee - EES

# 717

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

**Full Name:** James Smith

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** I have reviewed the EES, and I have serious concerns regarding the Fingerboards project. Firstly, I find it ludicrous that the company planning the development has been tasked with crating the EES, and I see no way that this EES can be unbiased or Factual, and this is indeed evident in language used throughout the entire report. Amongst other things, The EES Report indicates there will be; - An increase in Silt levels for the Gippsland Lakes, - An Impact to threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna, - Uncontrolled runoff from the sight, - Radiation increase in the atmosphere, - Significant and irreparable damage to culturally significant sights, - A decrease to the flow of the Mitchell River. - A negative impact to air quality for the area. However insignificant the EES Report attempts to make these negative and detrimental impacts appear, any man made negative impact to the local and surrounding area is unacceptable. To even entertain risking damage to the Mitchell river system, the Lakes and general well being of the East Gippsland Shire is ridiculous on many levels. Further to this, the ES shows very little concern given to the Immediate and wider neighboring property holders, offers no assurances there will not be significant negative impact to producers, the well being of the laborer's on these properties, or the possible impact to foods grown for human consumption on the same properties. All 'Facts and Figures' as presented in the EES appear to based solely on 'best case scenarios' and modelling, with no attention given to worst case scenarios or catastrophic weather events, etc. The very Minerals planned for extraction, nature of extraction, in the open storage and location of the sight leaves a ridiculously high chance of of major and irreparable damage to local ecosystems, the river and lake system, the general well being and health of immediate and further surrounding residents. Any reduction in air quality whether considered significant or not as per the EES Report, will impact a vast majority of residents in East Gippsland. The EES indicates it will create approx. 200 jobs over the expected 20 year life cycle of the mine. This equates to 10 jobs a year, which is a very small number when put in context, with no guarantee they will not be outsourced, and in fact it would appear, given the companies international ownership, in its best interest to do exactly that. Also considering that the developer is an international company, this would mean that the lions share of the clearly lucrative profit will be funneled overseas, and be of no benefit to the local, state or national economy. The figures as stated in the EES to benefit Victoria and Australia via royalties, Taxes and Local expenditure, when considered over the twenty year life cycle, are paltry and minuscule as compared to the perceived value of the extracted minerals on the global market. It is ludicrous that this project has been considered at all.