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

Full Name: Geoffrey Kevin Willett

Organisation:

Affected property: As above

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I am opposed to the proposed mine for the following reasons: 1. The annual requirement for the mine of 3 gigalitres of water from the Mitchell River and/or artesian bores would reduce water availability to farmers, particularly vegetable growers, and flows into the Gippsland Lakes (the Lakes). 2. During the recent drought, farmers' water allocations were cut and the salinity of the Lakes increased to very high levels. 3. Dry years and droughts are common in East Gippsland which means the Mitchell River water resource is already fully utilised in certain years. 4. There is a strong belief locally that higher salinity levels adversely impact fishing in the Lakes. 5. Previous reduced river flows into the Lakes, particularly from the Thomson River following the construction of the Thompson Dam, have resulted in increased algal blooms in the Lakes. 6. Further degradation of the Lakes, which is a national icon, should not be permitted on any grounds. 7. The Lakes are the major attraction making East Gippsland a prime Victorian tourist attraction. A mine in the vicinity, degrading the water quality of the Lakes, would significantly reduce this attraction. 8. A large part of the economy of East Gippsland relies directly and indirectly on tourism. The mine project is only anticipated to have benefits for 20 years, but tourism could be damaged forever. 9. Prevailing winds will bring dust from the mine directly towards heavily populated Bairnsdale and surrounds. If this becomes a problem, more water will be required for dust suppression, further adding to the water problems outlined above. 10. The impact of mineral sands dust, if inhaled by the local population, is an unknown but presents a huge potential risk to current and future generations.