
Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Catherine Downes

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear enquiry and advisory committee members, I currently work and am raising my family in the Bairnsdale region and have significant concerns about the proposed mineral sands mine at Glenaladale. From reading the EES I understand that dust will be generated that is considered hazardous. I also understand that the primary mitigation effort to decrease the dust will consume a considerable amount of water. As a member of the community that lives on and loves the Mitchell River, I do not think this is an acceptable use of our precious resource. I do not believe that sufficient consideration for the impact on the community and river health that the removal of that much water from the river will have, particularly in increasing dry and hot times. Furthermore, there is a history of lax enforcement of mitigation strategies in dealing with hazardous produced by mines. While I understand that these mitigation strategies are recorded in the EES, I believe that the risk that they will not be followed sufficiently to prevent my family inhaling hazardous dust is too high to allow the proposed mine to proceed. Once the mine is approved all the community will have protecting it is these mitigation strategies. There will be no way to undo any damage that is done to the health of the community and damage to the health of the river will not be repaired in my lifetime. While I understand the mine will create some employment opportunities, at what cost do these come to the reputation of our region. I am certain that the cost to our image as a clean, pristine natural environment will cost far more jobs particularly into the future than the mine will ever create. I understand that the EES considered the risk to the environment, but does it take into account the reputational risk to East Gippsland? I also find it unacceptable that there will be compulsory acquisition of private land beyond the mining boundary. Can the council please address this directly? The time to listen to the community is now or we risk losing far more than we ever stand to gain.
Catherine Downes