



Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning
Minister for Housing

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Mr Nick Wimbush
Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee Chair
Planning Panels Victoria
1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
[REDACTED]

Ref: MIN078122



Dear Mr Wimbush

FINGERBOARDS MINERAL SANDS PROJECT INQUIRY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

East Gippsland Shire Council wrote to me on 1 September 2020 requesting an extension until 30 December 2020 for the council to provide a submission on the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Environment Effects Statement (EES). The council also asked for the inquiry hearing to be delayed until February 2021.

Following consideration of East Gippsland Shire's request and the advice from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), I have decided that East Gippsland Shire Council may lodge an endorsed submission to the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) after the exhibition period, provided that council officers lodge an initial submission by the close of the public exhibition period on 29 October 2020.

I have determined that the IAC will accept an endorsed submission from East Gippsland Shire Council if it is lodged with you by **10 am on Friday 11 December 2020**. That timeframe will enable the newly elected council to be sufficiently briefed by council officers before a formal council resolution to endorse a final submission.

I acknowledge the current schedule for the directions hearing and public hearing, and advise that the IAC should select new dates for the directions hearing and public hearings for this matter. You may wish to consider holding a directions hearing in mid-December of 2020 and commencing public hearings in early February 2021.

If you would like more information about this matter, please contact Dr Bruce Abernethy, Director, Impact Assessment, DELWP, on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

HON RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

20 / 09 / 2020