
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Debra McCoy

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fingerboard Mineral Sands Project. The prospect of a mine so close to prime agricultural land and waterways is shocking and distressing. Technical studies on risk profiles are easily manipulated. Even under best practice and the most stringent environmental conditions the risks of pollution and contamination in such a sensitive site are far too high. This area's agricultural production is close to \$150 million a year and in season can employ up to 2,000 people. The mine will be only 350 metres from the Mitchell River which is used for crop irrigation. The proposed tailings dam is close to the Perry River which runs into Lake Wellington and the Ramsar-listed Gippsland Lakes. There are significant wetlands downstream of the proposed mine site. They could be affected by groundwater and surface water discharge running from or through the mine site. Not only is there a significant risk of pollution, in a further assault on water reserves, the mine itself would use 3 billion litres each year. This region is already subject to intense weather events. Climate change is affecting weather patterns. In some areas there will be high intensity rain events with attendant flooding and high winds. How is it possible to stop water pollution and keep toxic chemical dust from blowing into soils and above ground crops? Could we see product recalls, forced destruction of contaminated crops and the collapse of consumer confidence in the safety of the food we produce? Please reject this proposal. Important agricultural land is at stake. The risks are too high.