
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Stuart Hebbard

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I am writing this submission for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I oppose the mine. I believe that the proposed mine would cause irreversible damage to the local environment and the RAMSAR listed Gippsland Lakes system, with a massive and prolonged detrimental effect on local people, via impact on environment, health, farming and tourism. I believe the proposed mine will cause serious adverse health outcomes in local people, due to mine dust escaping, as well as atmospheric entrainment of toxic particulates over the Gippsland lakes catchment area, a danger that has been exposed in research undertaken by the Australian National University in a study regarding the Tasmanian Toxic (Mountain) Lakes entitled: 'How significant is atmospheric metal contamination from mining activity adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area? A spatial analysis of metal concentrations using air trajectories models'; (15 March 2019; Schneider et al; Pub. Science of the Total Environment; pp. 250-260). The ANU research (15th March 2019) shows that heavy metals can be carried via atmospheric entrainment over time upwards into mountains and tributaries. It shows that the currently safely buried toxic and radioactive particulates and silica to be unearthed via open cut mining can be carried upwards and be deposited in both higher and lower lying waterways, eventually to be carried by the water cycle through rain clouds, firestorm, flood, leaching or flight into the surrounding lands, waterways and tributaries of the Gippsland Lakes. According to the ANU study, atmospheric entrainment of toxic particulates could potentially occur into the surrounding High Plains country effecting the tributaries of the Thompson, Perry, Nicholson and Tambo Rivers. I do NOT believe there is adequate water available to suppress mine dust as well as continuing to support the massive local farming industry. This site is too close to rivers, waterways and farms for the risk of mine dust contamination to be contemplated. Our Gippsland Lakes system is rich in biodiversity, filled with local wildlife as well and hosting numerous international avian visitors. Our local caravan parks are always booked out over summer and the area is busy with naturalists, swimmers and water sporting. I am concerned about long time effects on the waterways, plants and sea-life and the economy. I have no doubt that a mine placed in the catchment area for the RAMSAR listed Gippsland Lakes will detrimentally effect the entire system. It is impossible to overstate the importance of a clean river and Lakes sytem to the East Gippsland community. The economy relies on healthy land and clean water for the farming, employment, tourism, social health and well-being, population expansion and the economy.