

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

160

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Gillian Trudinger

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Submission_re_Fi

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission.

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members,

I wish to submit this objection to the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project.

With dismay I have heard about the possibility of this mine project going ahead in East Gippsland. It will significantly negatively impact peoples' lives, the natural environment and agriculture.

I have lived in East Gippsland for 30 years and care very much about this area and the state in which we leave it for future generations. Mining may bring some economic benefits to the area for a few years but will have accompanying problems and potentially leave a very long lasting legacy of environmental degradation.

It concerns me that radioactive substances will be mined causing some inevitable contamination of the air and water. How will this affect human and animal health? Many people live, farm and work nearby and will be directly affected by dust and the noise of mining.

The proximity of the proposed mine to the Lindenow vegetable farms is a worry. The purity of the food produced here is threatened by dust potentially contaminating the produce and the nearby Mitchell River which provides irrigation for the crops. This would cause hard to repair damage to the clean, healthy image of food production in East Gippsland.

The Mitchell River, listed as a Heritage river in 1992 and recognised for its high conservation value, feeds into the Gippsland Lakes. Any contamination of its water is likely to extensively affect the vegetation, fish and other wildlife. Even a slight risk of a tailings dam leaking dangerous substances into nearby creeks, rivers and aquifers is unacceptable.

Any potential contamination of our water is highly concerning as is the quantity of water required for the mining process. Water is increasingly valuable as climate change impacts and rainfall becomes more unpredictable. Is its use in mining the best use of this precious resource?

The proposed mine will require the removal of trees and the habitat of native wildlife. Even if rehabilitation of the site occurs it will be many years before, if ever, that the area will be returned to how it is now.

Finally, it is concerning that private land outside the mining project boundary, for pipelines, road works etc, can be compulsorily acquired with no consideration by the East Gippsland Shire Council. Why was this land not included in the mine project area?

I would like to thank the members of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee for the opportunity to make this submission.

Gill Trudinger