
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: James Callahan

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: To Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the proposed mineral sands mine located at the Fingerboards. My wife and I are opposed to the development of the sand mine for a number of reason but mainly on the potential impact the mine may have on the environmentally sensitive Gippsland Lakes and the surrounding wetlands. We are also concerned about the impact, both immediate and long term, that the mine could have on the vital agricultural activities in the Fingerboard area and along the Mitchel River that provides long term employment and income for the region. My wife and I have lived in this area for the past 30 years and the last 20 years on Raymond Island. I have taught at Lindenow and Woodglen Primary Schools and therefore have a close association with the community. I understand how importance the viability of the farms and the protection of their environment is to the people of Lindenow, the Fingerboards and the surrounding area. Over the years that we have lived on Raymond Island we have experienced three major floods. When you observe the damage that has occurred around the world when mining companies do not take into sufficient consideration extreme weather conditions the environmental and community impacts have been terrible. One only needs to look at what has happened in mines in South America and Ok Tedi in PNG to name but a few. An extreme weather event that impacts the mine could cause the tailing dam to collapse and producing an environmental disaster that the Mitchell River and the Gippsland Lakes would never recover from. the past track record of mining companies rehabilitating the land after the mine has finished is not encouraging. Having worked in the area for many years I have seen hope productive the farms are along the Mitchell River. To put at risk this vital agricultural district for the short term returns of the mine doesn't make economic sense. The farms in the area will produce vital foods and provide employment for workers long into the future. The farming in this area is sustainable over the long term and to put it at risk for a mine that could pollute the water and impact the soils and livelihoods of so many people is short sighted. I worked at Woodglen PS while the dam was being constructed. This dam supplies the area and is essential to the long term future of the region. Can we be assured that the dust from the mine will not affect the water supply? There are other issues related to the mine but the above are our main concerns. Thank you for the opportunity for my wife and I to express our concerns. I am sure you will make a careful and considered decision. James and Linda Callahan