

**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Melissa Jane Hopley

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:** [REDACTED] Lucknow, 3875

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine, Which I strongly oppose. I am deeply concerned about the long term environmental effects that this mine will have on the local community, farming and tourism businesses and our future generations. I have lived in Bairnsdale for 50 years. My husband and I have owned and operated a successful small business since 1992. We have two children who are working and attending school respectively. I feel very much part of my community. It is with a high degree of anxiety that I view the possibility of this mineral sands mine being allowed to proceed. With it's close proximity to the Lindenow Flats and the extremely important, intensive farming area, renowned for producing clean, edible crops, for distribution in many Australian towns and cities. I find it completely unacceptable that we allow even the slightest possibility that the highly toxic dust that the mine produces, through wind drift, be allowed to contaminate this lucrative agricultural area. Would you be willing to take the risk and either consume These vegetables or ask your loved ones to? No one would want to take the risk of eating contaminated products. Are you willing to see this viable agricultural area collapse, and put in to jeopardy the future employment opportunities of hundreds people? The proposed tailings dams through the close proximity to the Mitchell River is a disaster in the making. In times of high rainfall and the inability for the tailings dams to cope with the huge deluge this contaminated mine waste will overflow into the Mitchell River. This contaminated water will then be used by households, the irrigation of crops and the watering of livestock, before flowing out into the magnificent Gippsland Lakes, which are a tourist Mecca. These lakes bring wealth and employment to our region, where every person is able to benefit. Noise pollution, generated by the mine operations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week will place a huge burden on those residence who live in the nearby community. They have sought this quiet country lifestyle only to have their dreams shattered as they contend with the noise generated from the plant processing equipment as well as the continual movement of large trucks on and off the site. This is sure to cause stress and subsequent health issues. I find it deeply unacceptable to allow the compulsory acquisition of private land by the company, outside of the mining boundary to be used for mining infrastructure. I have little confidence when the life of the mine is finally reached, that the rehabilitation of the site will resemble anything that had been promised. Instead it will be a partially rehabilitated with the Rehabilitation bonds falling well short of what is required to repair the damage. Thank you for giving me the time to present this submission. Melissa Hopley