

'Lets get it right the first time'

"We've got once chance to get this right, so let's get it right the first time."

These are the words of East Gippsland Shire councillor John White following his retraction of an intended notice of motion slated for last night's monthly council meeting.

Cr White was seeking support for council to take a stance in "strongly opposing" the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mining Project.

However, at last Wednesday's briefing between councillors and chief executive officer, Gary Gaffney, in the lead up to tomorrow night's public meeting, Cr White told the *Advertiser* it was clear he would not garner enough support at this point in time.

"My motion had been tabled, but with no support from the councillors, except maybe one, I felt I had to pull it, though I know the Glenaladale groups (Mine Free

Glenaladale) will be disappointed," Cr White said.

"Several said that they couldn't make a decision until all the information has been gathered and I understand that, but I did tell them on Wednesday that they needed to get off their backsides and organise visits to other sites.

"I'm not anti-mining. If they decided they wanted to mine on my farm, they could. I wouldn't necessarily like it, but I would have no reason not to. But where they are looking to mine at the Fingerboards, it will have such negative impact.

"East Gippsland has a reputation as being clean and green, and we want to retain that image.

"We need to broaden our horizons and look beyond the Fingerboards."

Cr White's proposed motion was on behalf of East Gippsland Community Ac-

tion Group (EGCAG), whose executive consists of unsuccessful council candidates George Neophytou (president), Janiece Grenfell (vice president) and Jeanette Wagner (secretary), and Mine Free Glenaladale.

The intention is to request council take a position of strongly opposing the proposed mining project and as part of this to write to all relevant State Government ministers, Federal Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, and State Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull, stating their concern that potential dangers inherent in the project far outweigh any benefits, not only for East Gippsland but for the whole state of Victoria.

EGCAG and Mine Free Glenaladale claim the mining project will jeopardise East Gippsland's clean, green image, its livestock and vegetable production, tourism and healthy environment.