

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. _____ / 2017

Subject – Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mining Project Inappropriate

Take notice that it is my intention to move at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 21st November 2017 or at any adjournment of that meeting:

* That the East Gippsland Shire Council take a position of strongly opposing the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mining Project.

* And as part of this to write to all relevant State Government Ministers, Federal Member for Gippsland Victoria and Member for Gippsland East, stating concerns as outlined in the rationale of this motion, that the potential dangers inherent in the project far outweigh any benefits, not only for East Gippsland but for the whole State of Victoria.

Signed _____

Date / /2017

Rationale

Serious concern with East Gippsland's Clean, Green image, its livestock and vegetable production, tourism and healthy environment:

1. Heavy metals and radioactive materials – at least 4 carcinogens, likely to become airborne will be exposed. Import countries have strict testing for these in vegetables and meat.

2. Soils – contamination in air and silt to the Mitchell River which is the source of Bairnsdale's water.

3. Dust – The open cut will be shifting 800 tons per hour on a 24/7 basis. This could contaminate river water, crops, grazing land and tanks.

4. Water Consumption – This is already a scarce resource with growing needs of farms and city. 3 to 4 gegalitres will be required annually by the mine. Considering the need to suppress toxic dust what priorities will eventuate in times of drought?

5. Mitchell River and Perry River – concern with contaminants to these and flowing on to the wider Lakes system. The mine would be in very close proximity, only 400 metres to the Mitchell River.

6. Potential Destruction of the vegetable food bowl industry. Only one part per million of air borne contamination is enough to cause rejection of an entire shipment. The flow on effects could affect Australia's export image and over years amount to billions of dollars.

7. Degradation of the environment. We attract tourists from around the world through our clean, green image. The noise and congestion of 30 to 40 B-doubles using the roads every day are another deterrent. Mines pay no rates but the cost to Council would be millions of dollars in road damage.

8. Rehabilitation is a serious issue with gross uncertainties. The damage created by such a project would be permanent if a company had insufficient funds for proper rehabilitation.

9. Jobs. The incentive of many jobs appears highly over-estimated. Mining today is increasingly mechanized and experienced workers would be attracted from elsewhere, particularly the Latrobe Valley.

Overall the risks are enormous. They threaten all that East Gippsland holds of most value.

I hereby move that Council takes a strong proactive position not to support the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mining Project.