

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*  
(REFERRAL NUMBER 2026-R01)**

**Proponent**

Gippsland Critical Minerals Pty Ltd

**Project**

Fingerboards Critical Minerals Project

**Description**

The Fingerboards Critical Minerals Project is a proposed mineral sand mine located in in Glenaladale, East Gippsland, approximately 25 km west of Bairnsdale. The project would involve the extraction and processing of approximately 156 million tonnes of mineral sand ore to produce approximately 6.1 Mt of heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) over an approximate 22-year period using a mining technique incorporating progressive backfill and rehabilitation.

The Mining Licence Area would incorporate six mining pits, a processing area and other mine site infrastructure. Ancillary project components to support mining and processing operations include transport infrastructure (internal haul road and a rail siding at Fernbank East), power supply infrastructure (a new substation, overhead and internal powerlines, and back-up power generation) and water supply and storage (Latrobe Group Aquifer borefield, pump stations, pipelines and a freshwater storage dam).

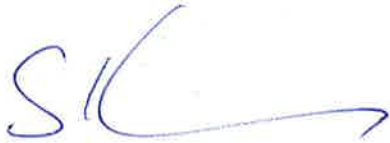
**Decision**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement (EES) is required for the Fingerboards Critical Minerals Project, as described in the referral accepted on 8 January 2026.

**Reasons**

- The project has the potential for significant environmental effects as a result of the spatial extent and duration of the proposed mining and its substantial ancillary components, together with the nature of the existing environment.
- In particular, the project could have significant effects on:
  - native vegetation and biodiversity values, including listed threatened flora and fauna species and communities;
  - surface water and groundwater, including downstream wetlands and groundwater dependent ecosystems;
  - Aboriginal cultural heritage values;
  - air quality, particularly in relation to airborne dust emissions;
  - noise and vibration;
  - agriculture and horticulture;
  - socioeconomic values; and
  - landscape and visual values (including those associated with the nearby Mitchell River National Park).

- There is also uncertainty about the extent and magnitude of other potential effects, relating to traffic and transport, soils and contamination, radiation and historic heritage.
- Further detailed investigations are needed to assess potentially significant environmental effects, associated with this proposed project, in particular to understand how such adverse effects can be avoided and/or minimised through any feasible designs, layouts and relevant alternatives for construction, operation and decommissioning.
- An EES is warranted to enable a robust, transparent and integrated assessment of the range of potentially significant environmental effects and their acceptability, to inform decision making for required approvals, including approvals under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*, *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Water Act 1989*, *Environment Protection Act 2017*, *Radiation Act 2005* and *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.



Date

14-2-2026