

## **Fingerboards Critical Minerals Project Agricultural and Horticultural Assessment**

### **What are we examining**

The agricultural and horticultural assessment will deliver a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of the Project's potential impacts on the local agriculture and horticulture industry.

The assessment will have a strong focus on consultation and engagement with potentially affected landholders, community groups, and relevant regulators to develop an understanding of the agricultural resources and current agricultural enterprises within the surrounding locality of the project area.

The study examines possible impacts over the life of the Project with a particular assessment of the concerns raised by stakeholders relating to dust, water availability and reputation. Economic risk and opportunity for existing resources and enterprises during construction, operation and closure of the Project is also a focus area.

As a key outcome, the study will identify, assess and propose options to avoid, minimise and manage potential impacts.

### **Assessment Objectives**

- Characterise the agricultural and horticultural resources and industries in the project vicinity to understand the sensitivities to changes
- Assess potential agricultural and horticultural impacts from the Project.
- Focus on both direct and indirect impacts such as water competition, economic growth and dust.
- Develop measures to avoid, minimise and manage adverse effects on local agriculture and horticulture.

### **Preliminary Focus Areas**

- **Dust** - Risk of dust from mining affecting high-value crops, potentially contaminating produce and threatening organic certification and market access. The assessment will translate technical air-quality data into practical, crop-specific advice and, where necessary, develop mitigation strategies.
- **Water Competition** - The assessment will analyse water sourcing, potential reductions for farmers, and the implications of water trading.
- a. **Land Loss** - Any temporary or permanent loss of productive agricultural land due to the mine footprint, soil changes, infrastructure, and biodiversity offsets.

- b. **Agriculture and Horticulture Reputation** - engagement with local industry representatives and groups to gather insights and develop robust and evidence-based assessment.
- c. **Noise, Vibration, Traffic and Access** - the assessment will assess the extent of change on farming operations and current lifestyle and infrastructure.

### **Specialist Consultant**

AgriQulture Consulting has been engaged to undertake the agricultural and horticultural assessment. The firm specialises in impact assessment, risk analysis, and practical solutions for complex agricultural and horticultural projects and delivers evidence-based advice and transparent stakeholder engagement for regional development across Australia. More information can be found here <https://agriqulture.com.au>

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