Getting it Right – Dust

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Gippsland Critical Minerals

The redesigned Fingerboards project is smaller in both scope and scale, reducing dust generation at its source. We've also introduced stronger dust management controls at key stages of the project, from mining and processing through to storage and transport.

Buffer Zones
The new project includes a 1.5 km buffer between mining activities and the Lindenow Valley Horticultural Area, more than doubling the distance proposed in the 2021 project. This reduces the risk of windblown dust reaching farms and crops.

Wet Separation
Ore is mixed with water and moved as a wet mixture through pipelines, not as dry materials in trucks. Keeping materials wet reduces dust at every stage, from extraction through to transport.

Covered Storage and Transport
All product will be stored in a purpose-built, covered shed, replacing the open-air stockpiles previously proposed. It will then be loaded in covered containers and transported via private road to a new rail freight terminal in Fernbank, keeping trucks and dust off local roads.

Reduced Surface Activity
Trenches are created and overburden removed wherever possible with a method known as ‘in-pit dozer pushing’, reducing surface truck movements and associated dust

Smaller Voids, Faster Rehabilitation
We’re reducing the size of mining voids and progressively refilling. Land rehabilitation will begin within 12 months in most locations across the site, supporting faster environmental recovery and returning land to productive use sooner.

Slower Mining Rate
The mining rate has been reduced from 1,500 tonnes per hour to 900 tonnes per hour (40% reduction), reducing dust at any one place at any one time.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Monitoring, studying, testing and validating

We expect these measures will dramatically reduce dust, and quantifying the impact of these proposed mitigation measures is now the subject of detailed assessments and studies.

This includes a demonstration pit in early 2026 to ensure our dust modelling and rehabilitation strategy is tested in situ.

We've also installed baseline air quality monitors across the project area, along with a second weather monitoring station.

EES Studies to assess dust impacts include:

- Air Quality
- Agricultural and Horticultural
- Radiation
- Human Health
- Social Impact

Reducing dust is a key priority for the new Fingerboards Project. These studies allow us to quantify the reduction in dust generation and impact, with results shared as part of the environmental approvals process.