

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 434

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**Request to be heard?:** No - but please email me a copy of the  
Timetable and any Directions

**Full Name:** Tony Peck

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Fingerboards\_-\_K

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** See attached submission:

## **Fingerboards - Kalbar Mine at Glenaladale**

I would like to express my vehement Opposition to the Kalbar Mine planned for Fingerboards near to Glenaladale, Lindenow, Bairnsdale...

We have been in the area for nearly 30 years. My partner and I first lived at Ellaswood. This area is likely to be impacted by dust on a regular basis. Our sister/sister in-law lives still lives in this property.

We now live in Bairnsdale on a Mitchell River frontage. We regularly swim in the river in summer. We walk along the river morning and night with our dog. We interact with others also enjoying this delightful vista. We are convinced that the river water quality will be reduced and it may not be safe in summer for us to regularly swim here. We also use kayaks in the river at other times of the year. The possibility of silting, contaminants etc is quite high.

If there is dust from the mine we will get contaminated by it as we are in the prevailing Westerly flow from the mine site. If the river floods (which it does once or twice every 10 years or so), our property will flood. Again we will be affected by contaminants from the mine.

We are not happy!

**Health.** My partner and i are both retired Nurses with a strong Community Health and Health Education background. We believe there are potential significant health issues from this mine especially from the risk of dust with a variety of potentially damaging elements. Health outcomes in our region are already significantly worse than the state averages. We do not need additional risk factors.

Any escape of dust and contaminants from the site are likely to directly and indirectly impact us and our friends and family who live across the affected region. Control of both dust and when there are extreme rain events, contaminated water running off the mine site is a great concern.

### **Climate change**

It is not clear that the significant impact of climate change on our region has been considered for this project. The potential for this adversely affecting us is compounded by our federal government not having any effective strategy to combat climate change.

The mine function is predicated on dozens of best case scenarios in regards to water availability both surface and subterranean. The science locally and internationally indicates that this is not the likely future.

**Water:** There is likely to be significantly lower rainfall across the 20 year projected life of this project. The region has been considered as overusing both its groundwater and aquifer resources for at least a couple of decades now. The extra impact of a major project, which will need to use large amounts of water in the hotter months to suppress the expected large amounts of dust will place an added burden on the available water.

The existing agricultural activities already have severe restrictions placed on them in many years. With an additional large draw on this water there is added risk to these industries which are the lifeblood of the region with a number of processing activities and tourism as added employment opportunities.

We are likely to have significant drops in runoff from snow melt in many years as the region warms. this is another of the many compounding effect is of global warming on the region.

Mitchell River water flows are already often minimal in summer and this is predicted to get significantly worse with rising temperatures..

**Temperature:** Global warming has already resulted in approx 1.1 degrees of warming in our region. This temperature is predicted to rise. These rises will continue through this century unless

all governments are more ambitious than the current Paris accord. It is estimated that there will be around 4-5°C warming by 2100 at the rate set by the Paris accord.

There will be more days of extreme hot weather. There will be more years with drought. There will be lower rainfall. The flow on of these changes will include more days when dust from the site is likely, more risk of a range of other events such as flood as mentioned.

**Food production** is jeopardized by both inappropriate use of a finite resource - water - and predicted reduced viable agricultural land. The Mitchell River agricultural area will come under pressure, both from the climate changes but also importantly as food security becomes a key global tension. With competition with an unnecessary mine agriculture will be likely to suffer.

While rainfall is likely to be significantly reduced - some predictions suggest 25% by 2070 - there will also be more likelihood of isolated significant rain events. Potential extreme weather events including severe flooding is likely as intermittent events. Extreme erosion off soils disturbed in the mining process is even more likely for land rehabilitated after mining.

I reiterate that am seriously concerned about this project. I believe that if it is approved the Mitchell Valley and indeed the Gippsland Lakes regions are threatened. This is both in the aquatic area and on land. Both areas will be likely to bear the impact of pollution escaped from the mine.

i believe that the lifestyle enjoyed by residents in the area will be impeded. I also believe that there will be an impact on employment with loss of jobs in agriculture. There is also the immeasurable loss of amenity.

Please do not proceed with the project. Thank you for considering my submission.

Regards,

Tony Peck