

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 115

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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Rachel Savage

**Organisation:** no

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Letter\_Submission

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attached submission

Date 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing in response to the EES conducted by Kalbar for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project. I have lived in the area my entire 27 years and have close connection to both the area and the Mitchel River system. I am a teacher at a local school and have the responsibility to ensure our pristine rivers and lakes are kept this way for future generations to enjoy as we have.

These are the reasons below I do not believe the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project should go ahead at Glenaladale, East Gippsland:

- Kalbar needs over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing and dust suppression for 15 years. This shows how much water is needed to control the dust which will potentially pose major human and animal health risks. Due to global warming and our knowledge on droughts in this area, how can you ensure there will be droughts that comprise the level of water needed for this project, as well as farms and crops and the entire shires drinking water?
- Could other jobs be created instead? Based on irrigation data, if the 3 billion litres of water Kalbar requires annually was redirected to growing vegetables, 3 times more jobs could be created than Kalbar's proposal. These would be long-term sustainable jobs to grow food. According to National Farmers Federation statistics, every job created in agriculture leads to 4.2 indirect jobs. From Kalbar's website, 1 mining job leads to 1 indirect job. Creating jobs that are long-term and contribute to the local town's lively hood is far more beneficial for many than a short-term mining job which only leads to 1 indirect job.
- The removal of over 700 large mature trees. Flora and fauna species are incredibly threatened. Given the horrendous impact of the 2019/2020 bushfires on the east Gippsland area, of which my property was part of, surely the areas sole focus is on revegetation and creating more food source for our native animals and healthy plant systems for our health and wellbeing. To remove this amount of mature, oxygen dense trees is a travesty and quite frankly an irreversible act of ignorance.
- This mine is a short-term project, requiring immense amounts of water, destroying unbelievable amounts of flora and fauna that cannot be replaced to their current form in the time the mine is running. It is a catastrophic amount of damage done to a pristine area, but such a short term project.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Savage

Department of education and training.