

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 910

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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Gerard Deery

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** See attached submission

Minister for Planning, Hon. Richard Wynne  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
Melbourne, Vic 3002

### **Submission Relating to the Proposed Mineral Sands Mine in Glenaladale**

As a fourth generation member of my family to live and farm in East Gippsland, I am absolutely opposed to this open cut sand mine development at Glenaladale.

This is a highly inappropriate location for Kalbar to propose locating their mine with more than 50 local people living within two kilometres of the mine site, and hundreds living within five kilometres. All will be exposed - men, women and children – to the many dangers this mine presents to their health, safety and livelihoods. As well, the wider community will similarly be adversely affected if this proposal is allowed to proceed.

For a start, air borne toxic dust generated from the mine is known to contain heavy metals and radioactive MONAZITE, THORIUM and SILICA which causes lung disease when inhaled. Dust contamination of pastures, crops and water used for domestic and livestock purposes is inevitable within several kilometres of any open cut mine. The Lindenow Valley vegetable industry is extremely important to Victoria. Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in soils, pastures, crops and livestock is a common problem with persistent dust contamination. Kalbar acknowledges that it cannot 100% eliminate the risk the dust from their mine poses to the local community.

The tailings dam required for this project will have walls 20 metres high, span 60 hectares and be positioned at the headwaters of the Perry River which feeds into the Gippsland Lakes via Lake Wellington. Chemicals present in the tailings dams will also pose a serious threat to aquatic life should flooding, spills or dam failure occur. During the heavy rains generated by the, not uncommon, east coast low rain events in East Gippsland, it will be impossible to contain the run off caused by these events and thus will create an unacceptable risk to the Ramsar listed and protected Gippsland Lakes via the nearby Mitchell River.

Local roads will be clogged 24 hours a day by the 80 B-Double trucks loaded with hazardous mine ore using them, along with 240 light vehicles. The mine will be located on an elevated plateau and noise generated by the mine operations will carry through the Lindenow Valley. There will be constant 24 hour a day activity of traffic to and from the mine, mobile plant and equipment servicing and repairs, diesel generators etc, etc. The nearby communities of Lindenow, Lindenow South, Walpa, Fernbank and Glenaladale will be expected to put up with an intolerable level of industrial scale noise and vibration 24 hours a day for the life of the mine's operation.

The mine will require over three billion litres of water per year – the same volume as the total quantity supplied annually to all domestic and commercial users in all of East Gippsland. The source of this water has not been confirmed but all the water required by the mine must be made available if the mine is approved. This huge amount of water required, in competition with other users, would be better re-directed to agricultural production often adversely affected by drought. This would lead to the ongoing direct and indirect employment of many more local residents than the meagre 200 proposed short term mining jobs.

In conclusion, to locate such a large scale open cut mining operation in such a highly populated and environmentally sensitive location would be a reckless and irresponsible action for any government to give the green light to.

When fracking was banned from Victoria several years ago, maintaining the 'clean and green image' of Victorian agriculture was one of the main reasons given by the Victorian Labor Government. The same logic needs to be applied to the Kalbar proposal at Glenaladale.

Yours faithfully,  
Gerard Deery

  
Bengworden, Vic 3875