

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

310

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Anthony Simpson

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1: Kalbaroflettersub

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Date 27th October 2020

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

We are writing in response to the EES conducted by Kalbar for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project. We are local farmers who live close by to the proposed mine site and have serious concerns about the impacts on the local community. These are the reasons we do not believe the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project should go ahead at Glenaladale, East Gippsland:

- **School** – We have three primary aged children at Lindenow Primary School, It is within 5.5km of the proposed mining site. We have serious concerns about airborne contamination, dust, and increased heavy vehicles using local roads. There will also be disruptions/ restriction of existing bus routes for students accessing to school. The safety & health of our children who currently attend Lindenow Primary School concerns us. If stage 2 of the project commences there will be no school which greatly troubles us. Woodglen Campus has students currently enrolled – with weekly use for Student Education.
- **Water** –We have a family farm at Meerlieu (1150 ha) which relies on underground aquifers for stock, domestic and irrigation use. If the Sale Restricted Water Zone and shallower aquifers get drawn down by heavy water use, areas around Meerlieu and district will be greatly affected. Bores could run dry. We rely on irrigation as part of our farming strategy to mitigate against drought. 500 mega litres were used in 2018-19 by our farming enterprise.
- The project alters natural waterways and puts more pressure on the Mitchell River with agricultural users, less water available for agriculture, pollution of drinking water
- **Contamination** of our food bowl – Lindenow Veggie Growers and Agricultural Farms are at risk of contaminated products (meat, veggies, and crops). There is also a real risk of pollution running-off into Gippsland Lakes and Rivers.
- The area had water shortages during the last three years of drought (2017-19). **Heavy drawing on underground aquifers will affect our family farming enterprise**
- **Local Cultural Heritage** is important to me and the future of East Gippslanders – The importance to protect Cultural Heritage is paramount with many spiritual and cultural sites within and adjacent to the mining site in the Mitchell River National Park and Glenaladale area.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony & Leah Simpson