

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 61

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

**Full Name:** Colin William Frisch

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Fingerboard\_obje

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attachment

## **To Fingerboard Mine Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members**

Dear Members

I wish to voice my strong opposition to the Fingerboards Mine Project proposed by Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd or other shelf company name that entity may use.

### **WATER QUANTITY**

#### **Water, water everywhere – but not a drop to drink for residents of East Gippsland’s biggest towns in the near future of 2030**

I have read the EES attached to the Kalbar proposal in detail and find it shallow and deficient in a number of areas. But here I want to focus my objection on the most important aspect of all – water. In particular, the critical importance of water to communities – Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Metung, Lakes Entrance, Bruthen and localities is inadequately addressed in the Kalbar sponsored EES.

The Mitchell River supplies more than 85% of water to the citizens living in the towns listed above. It is almost beyond comprehension that the proposed Fingerboard’s mine project will take 3 billion litres annually – almost 50 billion litres across the imagined life of this mine.

The figures just don’t add up. The mother nature’s ability to supply domestic drinking water and for use in food production after extracting 3 billion litres just isn’t there any longer.

- **Australian Government’s Bioregional assessments (10/6/2020) show that Surface Water Flow from the Mitchell River won’t make exceed the minimum (1400 megalitre a day) water flow for the Fingerboard mine to extract Mitchell River water 227 days in a given year.**
- **East Gippsland Water’s *Annual Water Outlook 2019- 2021* – Mitchell System Forward Outlook 4.1.2 to quote “ ...plotted against average daily flows since 2010 the data shows poor flows in the Mitchell River over the past 3 years ...which highlights the drying effect the ongoing drought has had on the Mitchell catchment (page 31 of 42)**

The residents of the communities listed face a real threat of progressively dying of thirst out to 2030 if this inane project proceeds.

The consequences of 3 plus years of drought and below average falls of rain in 2020 have already seen severe water restriction placed on people living in the area.

Water comes from the sky not from the Mitchell River and Latrobe Group Aquifer as one of the Kalbar project employees Chris Cook wrote in a regional newspaper advertorial "*Kalbar Conversations*"

If it doesn't rain Surface water flows are reduced to trickles, aquifers are not replenished and things become very finite for one of man's critical basic needs – water.

### **WATER QUALITY**

Of additional personal and undoubtedly of concern to the community is the fact that the Woodglen Reservoir is 3400 metres leeward - given the prevailing winds -of the proposed mine. There will be dust, there will be fallout. The Woodglen water storage holds water for the whole East Gippsland Shire.

There are serious risks of contamination of that water storage from dust drift and fallout of particulate matter from the proposed mine. I am very worried about this matter. There has not been full disclosure in the ESS of what will constitute dust from the mine. **What was the laboratory producing data for the ESS asked to analyse?**

**Dear panelists you have a duty of care to the citizens of East Gippsland to ask hif you don't have the information and to provide full disclosure about the health risks to people and wildlife through potential water pollution.**

Another matter of significant concern is the potential integrity of the proposed 90 hectare tailings dam on the site. Leaching from the dam located on high ground into the Mitchell and Perry Rivers is another scary element. Breach, leach and mismanagement of a dumping dam – that's what it is – is a very, very real risk given regional and national dam 'failures' of various types.

mine – particularly for water supply/management such as water bore fields and associated pumps and piping and other water infrastructure such as powerlines to pumps should be non-negotiable. This aspect is not part of the mine project area. Big question is why wasn't it part of consideration of *Planning Scheme Ammendment*?

**Matters related to water conservation, use and management for the good of the whole community are of the greatest concern. The Fingerboards open cut mineral sands proposal puts all that at the most serious risk.**

I am sure the Panel members will take matters raised herein seriously and I thank you for your time to read my submission and the opportunity to make it

**Colin Frisch JP Vic 12380**