

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 277

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**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Nicola Pero  
**Organisation:** Food & Fibre Gippsland Inc.  
**Affected property:**  
**Attachment 1:** 20201026\_Kalbar  
**Attachment 2:**  
**Attachment 3:**  
**Comments:** See attached submission

# Food & Fibre Gippsland Inc.

Warragul VIC 3820



26 October 2020

## RE: KALBAR SAND MINE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT

Food & Fibre Gippsland is the peak advocacy body representing Gippsland's food and fibre sector, producing around \$7b of the regional \$15b GDP. Produce from East Gippsland region has a well-established reputation as clean, green, and trusted.

Our organisation supports a comprehensive process for all parties when considering establishment and future operations of Kalbar and its proposed location in East Gippsland. We acknowledge the importance of economic development and creation of jobs as part of regional development and the part Kalbar Sand Mine may contribute to this. On behalf of our industry sector we highlight certain aspects of the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) where it is viewed sufficient detail is not sufficiently robust. Work undertaken on the EES must ensure rigorous studies have been undertaken to provide assurance to local agriculture and horticulture businesses and hold the relevant information to understand the future impacts of the development.

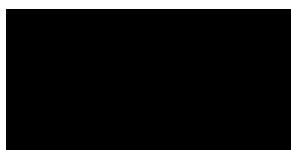
Plume modelling and re-distribution of particulates and metal attenuation into the environment has taken a standardised multi-year approach. It does not however consider future risk scenarios – for instance local weather conditions that exceed +/- standard deviation of existing ensemble data series for wind and plume dispersion. These data sets would be of interest for local businesses as future climate change predictions identify a number of changes in weather aspects that affect eastern Victoria.

The impact statements on provenance and supply chain issues are not supported by current consumer information. It is critical to existing horticultural businesses to understand the impacts of the development and how those impacts (if any) are mitigated. The reports on this issue clearly state the consultants engaged did not investigate the actual current consumer perception of produce from the Lindenow Valley or how the vicinity of a sand mine may affect it.

Fresh produce is normally consumed directly by the consumer – perception of a product is key to its successful adoption by the consumer. If the studies did not consider the consumers opinion, how can the risk matrices provide advice on mitigation strategies if an event did occur? Furthermore, sustainable production practices are becoming more important to consumers, especially amongst urban population, even if they do not understand farming practices. It is not clear whether consumers would assume that a sand mine would influence sustainable practices on farm. This is critical to many growers and a number of enterprises – for instance organic producers.

Food & Fibre Gippsland highlight through the above, a desire for further work to be conducted addressing more detail on these aspects. Whilst some risks in the EES are noted as unlikely, it is imperative to ensure full consideration has been undertaken on consequences to provenance, image, and future sustainability, should risks occur that irrevocably impair the brand and consumer perception of East Gippsland produce, specifically from the Lindenow Valley area.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer

cc: Food & Fibre Gippsland Board