

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

684

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

Full Name: Zoe van der Knijff

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Dear_Inquiry_and

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing in response to the EES conducted by Kalbar for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project. As a young person who has grown up in East Gippsland (Metung, 30km from Bairnsdale) and attended school and work in Bairnsdale, I am extremely concerned about the negative effects the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine will have on the region.

As Kalbar's geochemistry report states, there are a number of cancer-causing, radioactive substances that will be present in the dust generated. Given that the mine is as close as 500m to the Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry, the potential for contamination as a result of this toxic dust is far too high. If such contamination was to occur the 2000 people that the industry employs may find themselves out of work and the \$155m/year these farms create would be lost. This would be devastating to the region and those who live and work within it.

The potential enduring risks this poses to the health of East Gippsland residents is unsettling, especially in comparison to the proposed benefits of the mine.

The potential for damage and contamination of the Heritage listed Mitchell River and the world-renowned Gippsland Lakes is also of concern. These bodies of water are a huge tourist attraction and if they are polluted the effects on tourism in the region could be devastating.

Irrigation data shows that if the 3 billion litres of water Kalbar would require annually was redirected to growing vegetables, three times more jobs would be created than Kalbar's proposal. These jobs, according to the National Farmers Federation, would all lead to an additional 4.2 indirect jobs.

I simply don't see how it can be reasoned that any small or short-term benefits of going ahead with this mine can outweigh the potential degradation of the economy of East Gippsland and the welfare of its people. We have such a beautiful place here and I feel very lucky to be able to call East Gippsland home. I strongly feel that the government investment required for this project could instead be used to better the community in a multitude of ways which bring about enduring positive effects rather than being a drain on our resources and tourism. I hope you will listen to the people of East Gippsland and advise that the project be scrapped.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe van der Knijff

