

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 444

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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Carol Frecheville

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Kalbar\_EES\_submi

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine project.

I am strongly opposed to the Mine.

I have lived and worked in the Bairnsdale area since 1990. Together with my husband we have raised a family, built up a successful business and been fully engaged in the community enjoying the beauty and vitality of the Gippsland Lakes, rivers and rural/agricultural hinterland.

The thriving agriculture (including the vegetable growing industry in the Lindenow valley just 500m from the proposed mine) and tourism activities of this region rely on clean, healthy water running into the many creeks, rivers and lakes.

I am extremely concerned that a huge Mineral Sands Mine is proposed to be constructed upstream and upwind of this agricultural and tourist region. The water quality in the downstream rivers, streams and aquifers would be extremely adversely affected by dust and toxin release (by digging up unknown compounds that are currently safely underground). And what of potential run off/leaching from the tailings dam - covering nearly 1 square km and containing mine tailings waste and chemicals used to treat the tailings. The risks of contamination of rivers, creeks and lakes are considerable and foreseeable.

In the 30 years that I have been living here we have had frequent drought periods. Currently this region has been declared in drought since 2018. Water from the Mitchell River is used to irrigate crops and provide water for domestic and commercial use in the Bairnsdale area. We have permanent water restrictions and during periods of drought farms, domestic and commercial users are strictly limited in their use. I believe over 3 billion litres of water (3GL) is required by the mine annually for up to 15 years (the maximum life of the mine) for processing and to control dust. What will the impact of this be on bores, aquifers and the Mitchell River? It is my understanding that the mine will not be restricted in its water use unlike the horticultural industry which, according to irrigation data, would provide 3 times more jobs than the proposed mine for that 3GL.

With 13 square kms of land being mined a lot of trees and habitat will be removed including over 700 large mature trees. Flora and fauna species are threatened - we cannot know the full ramifications of what is at risk.

I understand, from the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment in the EES, that the mine will be allowed to compulsorily acquire private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for the EG Shire Council to determine?

Thankyou for the opportunity to make this submission and for giving your attention to my considerable concerns about this proposed Mine .

Yours faithfully

Carol Frecheville