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**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Aaron Claringbold

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project as I strongly oppose the mine for the reasons listed below. My name is Aaron Claringbold, I am an artist, and photographer based in Naarm/Melbourne. I regularly travel throughout East Gippsland for work and leisure. My parents have a house in South Gippsland and my partners Aunty lives in Gippsland also. As such we spend a lot of time between these properties and throughout the national parks and state forests of Gippsland and East Gippsland. Right across the continent of Australia we are seeing the effects of a wonton disregard for environmental balance and the frenzied extraction of colonisation. We are standing on lands that are dying. The East Gippsland region only at the start of this year experienced the largest wildfire ever on record, exasperated by unnaturally dry forrest (along with a host of other land management issues). Whilst we seem - as a country, and as that country governing bureaucracies – to be waking up to the threats of climate change through global warming, this is unfortunately only one of the significant causes of large scale landscape change and biodiversity loss. The removal and alternation of the flow of water across the landscape is another. We can see the effects of this all across urban areas, where the drainage channels we built hoping to mitigate flooding have increased the severity and regularity of floods due to a lack of porous surfaces. We see this is the huge and damaging droughts various regions of this country face semi regularly, and the effects of this on livestock and agriculture. We see this very very clearly in the mass fish die off observed in the last few years throughout regional VIC, NSW, and SA, and more broadly through the entirety of the Murry Darling Basin. The annual requirement of the 3 billion litres of water for processing and dust suppression operations as part of the proposed project is entirely unacceptable within this climate. It is foreseeable that this private enterprise, and largely unnecessary project, will have significant and permanent negative impact on the health of the Gippsland Lakes region, the Mitchell River, surrounding Gunnai Kurnai cultural landscapes, and the Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry. It is likely that the existence of the mine, once functional, will justify restrictions on smaller scale water users (as is observable with most large scale water using projects). The nearby (500 meters downstream) Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry is a \$155M a year industry, and also a hugely important strategic food bowl for all of Victoria moving forward. There is also the ongoing and legitimate risk of contamination for this surrounding area, agriculture and tourism industries, and major human and animal health risks from airborne, un-contained cancer-causing and radioactive substances produced by the project. Please do not support the establishment of this project