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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Bernard John McGoldrick

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project which I am opposed for the following reasons. The proposed Kalbar sand mine is expected to use a significant amount of fresh water. How can this even be contemplated when Bairnsdale and district was on water restrictions through 2019 - 2020. Climate change is predicted to exacerbate water shortage. Clearly allowing a new major water user to draw from local water resources will only result in more severe and longer water restrictions effecting residents, the environment and agricultural businesses. I am concerned about the following environmental impacts of the mine: • Radioactive dust from the mine polluting the neighboring vegetable growing industry and nearby drinking water reservoir. • Water pollution in the Mitchell river and Gippsland Lakes from tailings dam run off during normal mining operations or as a result of extreme weather events. ( there are many examples worldwide of this occurring with disastrous consequences). Once again climate change is increasing the probably of extreme weather events. The health of our rivers and lakes is vital for many local industries, not least being tourism. Finally I believe it is naive to accept the EES developed by Kalbar as a document they will abide by. Mining companies have a deplorable history of honoring their environmental commitments while operating and after they have ceased. Sure the proposed mine offers a short term financial "sugar hit" but at what cost? The Gippsland community has struggled with the drought, the bushfires and now the pandemic. If this mine is approved it will be taken not as a "sugar hit" but a real "body blow" by the large number who oppose it. Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission. Regards Bernard McGoldrick  
28/10/2020