

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 474

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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Gary Ratcliffe

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** STOP\_KALBAR\_MI

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission in the protest AGAINST the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project, Kalbar Mine. I strongly oppose of this, for reasons outlined below.

My family has taken residence in Glenaladale for 46 years. This mine would be an environmental, social and economic disaster. Please refer to my points below as to why this mine cannot go ahead at all costs. The land must be protected.

- The land must be protected at all costs as it has immense cultural significance. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land. This is COMPLETELY unacceptable. The land is filled with great history and must be unaltered!
- The real dangers and details of this mine, such as the analysis of the full ore body, are being hidden from the public, this is because the cost to the biodiversity of the area will be irreversibly impacted. This is an issue that cannot be ignored and must be addressed immediately.
- The mining company themselves have acknowledged there are RADIOACTIVE substances being mined including rare earths. This poses an enormous health risk, further than we could imagine as the dust will travel beyond our worst imagination. The contamination will cover everything including the air we breath, food sources, water sources, pastures and grazing lands to name a few. This is destruction. The Mitchell River, is the water source for the whole Shire and it will be ruined! It cannot be contaminated! The mine is on the other side of the river on top of a plateau. There are risks of the river being contaminated, impacting on the crops, fishing, agriculture, the health of the rivers and the Gippsland Lakes (an important Ramsar-listed wetland). Additionally, there will be a tailings dam 90 hectares in size, that's nearly 1 square km. It will contain mine tailings waste and flocculants (chemicals used to treat the tailings) which have warnings on safety data sheets about being harmful to aquatic life.
- The mine is too close to where many families live, farm and work. It is completely irresponsible for the Government to put the community at risk, they are wishing ill health against the community. The number of houses near the mine has been grossly under-reported. There is a school 10 minutes from the mine. This is unsafe, I am very concerned about this.
- 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. This shows how big a problem dust is. What will the impact of this be on bores, aquifers and the Mitchell River? According to irrigation data, if the 3GL of water was redirected to the horticulture industry, 3 times more jobs could be created than proposed by the mine. We also run the risk of drought, this is an environmental disaster! Touching again on the contamination risks of the water, the area chosen for the mine is a high density gale force wind area, with severe storm weathers and flooding. This raises the contamination risk and run off of the chemicals highly probable. Terrifying.
- If this Mine does tragically go ahead, the reparations of the destruction are irreversible and irreplaceable not only to the biodiversity of the land but the emotional wellbeing of the people. Nothing will ever bring it back, and it will never be the same.

STOP KALBAR.