

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 654

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Request to be heard?: No

**Full Name:** Matthew Busch

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:** [REDACTED] Hillside, Vic 3875

**Attachment 1:** Fingerboards\_min

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission in response to the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I strongly oppose the mine and call upon the Minister for Planning to step up and protect East Gippsland and our thriving horticulture industry in the Lindenow Valley.

As a 29-year-old fourth generation vegetable farmer I cannot stress any more the importance that water security has on the Lindenow Valley and its producers. I recall as a child when the millennium drought struck through the 2000's. Times were tough. As a result of low flow to the Mitchell River, restrictions on pumping hours were significantly increased for prolonged periods of time. The drought we are now coming out of bears a similar story. By the third year of the drought, pumping restrictions on the Mitchell River were difficult, bore levels were dropping and with reduced rainfall there wasn't sufficient recharge through the winter months. This is nature running its course and through experience we have learnt to become resilient and mitigate these risks with clean reliable groundwater. Compare this to the risks that the proposed Kalbar mine poses to our already fragile water supply from the Mitchell River. Consider a drought and the impact of Kalbars minimum annual requirement of over 3 billion litres of water on top of that. Consider the leaching and contamination into ground and surface water from the 90-hectare dam containing mine tailings waste and flocculants. It doesn't stack up. We simply cannot mitigate this constant man-made risk to our water security.

I make this submission with genuine concern for current and future generations. This mine will be far too close to the Mitchell River Valley and I plead that you, the advisory committee, see the impact it will have on our 150 million dollar a year industry. Please stop Kalbar, an inexperienced, destructive mining company.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,

Matt Busch