

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 675

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**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Mr Alistair William Craven

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Submission\_-\_EES

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** See Attached Submission.

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I have live in Bairnsdale for about 15 years and it is a nice place to live.

I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project and I am strongly oppose the Mine.

I am not totally against Mining, we need the raw materials for the modern day world.

However Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd that are operating the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine in the Genaladale Area. This is a very sensitive area, where it is not far from the major water source for the Bairnsdale Rural Area & East Gippsland Shire plus Vegetable farms on the Mitchell River Floodplains that supply Vegetables for Melbourne and Sydney Markets.

I will go through the reasons why they should not have a Mineral Sand Mine in the Glenaladale & Lindenow Area.

About 3.5 km away from the mining area is the East Gippsland Water main reservoir Woodglen that holds about 1565 Megalites of Drinking Water that is used in the Bairnsdale Rural Area and most of East Gippsland Shire. The main pumping station for Woodglen Reservoir is only about 2.0 km up stream on the Mitchell River from the mining area. This like having a mine not far from the main reservoir that supplies Drinking Water for Melbourne!

East Gippsland Water “EGW” is using Aquifer Storage and Recovery “ASR” system in the Woodglen area attached to the Reservoir. EGW is putting five bore going down to the Latrobe Group Aquifer for Storage and to be extracted at a later date. EGW has approval from the ground water regulator, Southern Rural Water “SRW”, to store up to 500 ML of water sourced from the Mitchell River.

The Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd are thinking of doing the same thing by Storage and Recovery water from the Latrobe Group Aquifer as well.

Is SRW is going to regulate Kalbar concerning the limits of water use?

Until last year East Gippsland Shire has been in drought for four years, and East Gippsland Water set the area at Stage 2 water restrictions so the local farmers could not use water from the Mitchell river through last year to irrigate their crops. The demand for water to irrigate the crops or to be used as Drinking Water is getting bigger.

As Bairnsdale Area is growing in size, with Covid-19 and Melbourne being lock-down for most of the year, some people are looking to the countryside as better place to live instead of Melbourne Region. In the last year there are some new estates in the area around Bairnsdale. They are as follows:-

<b><u>Name of Estate</u></b>	<b><u>Area Name</u></b>	<b><u>Number House Lots</u></b>
Brookfield Lakes	Lucknow	233
Park Point Landing	Lucknow	100
Peppercorn Rise	Nicholson	36
Nicholson River Estate	Nicholson	74
The Boulevarde Estate	Wy Young	18
Eagle Bay Rise	Eagle Point	60
Eagle Point Landing	Eagle Point	36

To add to this list as part of Brookfield Lakes Estate there will be a proposed Retirement Village built in the near future.

This Mineral Sands Mine could be using per year about 3,000,000,000 litres “3 GL” of water each year (for 20 years).

At the end of the day there is only so much water you can use above & below “Aquifer” in the ground in the Mitchell River and Aquifer around the Glenaladale & Woodglenn Area. We need Water Security for the growing area of Bairnsdale, East Gippsland & Farmer from now and into the Future.

The Open Cut Mining for mineral sands will be done in stages up to **60 ha** in area and about 45m deep. The Topsoil and Overburden storing area could be up to **60 ha** in area. The proposed total mining area is approximately 1350 hectares (13 square kilometres) in size and will be as large as the Yallourn Open Cut Mine.

The major uses of 3 GL of water each year will be for Dust Control “suppression” over that large Open Cut Mining Area with the other use is for processing of the Mineral Sands. Through the dryer times of the year the water evaporation can be very high and you can go through lot of water much quicker than in the normal part of the year, some of the Dust is not good for the Environment.

If we have an other Drought there will be not enough water to operate this mine and in that case will Kalbar Stop Mining?

As there is a river not far away the dust will go down in to the river water and could have serious impacts on Gippsland Lake System and Wetlands that are protected by Ramsar. That could be a severe threat to recreational fishing that is so important for local area. To brings people from Melbourne for fishing & is enjoy the area and Hospitality sector through the year. Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance area starting to become popular for people from interstate and International Tourists.

Can you Guarantee that we not going to have No Dust Storms through dry time of the year?

In the Dust from the Mineral Sands will be Silica, heavy metals and some Radioactive Contamination (Level Unknown) that could be blow towards Bairnsdale Area that is 20 km away. Plus the nearest by farms through the Lindenow Vegetables Growing Area. And as well that on to main Drinking Water storage for East Gippsland Water at Woodglenn.

After the Minister for Resources Ms Jaclyn Symes safeguarded 4000 hectares from mining and minerals exploration, that does not stop dust from blowing over different farms through the Glenaladale, Lindenow “Mitchell River floodplains” to Hillside of prime irrigated horticultural area producing a wide variety of fresh vegetables including lettuce, cabbage, peas, capsicum and sweet corn. The farmers are trying to be Clean & Green without having Airborne “Dust” Contamination of there Vegetables Crops.

What we have been told by Media that the local farmers with farm gate production estimated at over \$100 million per year and providing up to 2000 permanent and seasonal jobs. They might be true about \$100 million per year, but they are growing Vegetables for people to live off. Some times it is more important than money. For the 2000 permanent and seasonal jobs working on the farms, do not forget the Truck Drivers and Trucking Company's plus the local service providers. There is company in Bairnsdale that process the Vegetables and it is call Vegco Pty Ltd . So in the end it could be 2500 to 3000 or more people that rely on income from the Vegetables Farms.

So at the end of the day, how much benefit is there from the Mineral Sands Mine to Bairnsdale Rural Area & East Gippsland?

Some of the farmers could be put out of business because of lack of Water Security and Airborne “Dust” Contamination on to there Vegetables Crops. So in the end they will not be able to sell Vegetables to market in Melbourne & Sydney or locally.

Thanking the Panel members for the opportunity to make a submission.

Mr Alistair Craven