

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 680

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**Request to be heard?:** Yes

**Full Name:** Natalie Moore

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** Final\_Submission.

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission about the EES to **strongly oppose** the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project for Glenaladale Victoria. **The degradation, destruction and long term impacts of this project are beyond comprehension.** The foreseen complications and projected benefits are grossly inaccurate. **The proposed mining area is not a jigsaw that can be desecrated, obliterated and supposedly reconstructed or rehabilitated to its former state.** There is a high probability of major and **significant environmental impacts**, health complications, destruction of yet to be known Aboriginal cultural heritage, contamination far and wide, and the negative impact on the tourism into East Gippsland as a result of this **absurd** mining project.

The proposed mining area has extensive and abundant species of Flora and Fauna, the EES has **not surveyed the area sufficiently** to know at this point in time, if there are more species at risk than currently projected. The landscape that is going to be obliterated by the mine contains hundreds of very large, mature tree's of which many can't be replaced. The proposed rehabilitation and offsets will **never be sufficient** in comparison to the **Environmental degradation** this mining project will have. The Rehabilitation bonds are insufficient for the costs associated for the rehabilitation of the landscape. It is extremely rare for a full rehabilitation after a mining project has been completed, this is a known fact. What will happen to the tailings dam, rehabilitation bonds and the toxic waste dump if the mine goes into care and maintenance mode? What if there is little to no rehabilitation and the region is left as a toxic wasteland? This unfortunately happens all around the world, all too often!

The already thriving vegetable industry in the Lindenow Valley will be enormously impacted, being so close to the proposed mining area, the dust from the mine will highly likely **contaminate the vegetables and the local food bowl.** What impact will this have on the industry, the jobs and financial losses for the area? Would you eat vegetables that have been contaminated with mining dust, potentially cancer causing radioactive dust? Or do you think a rinse under tap water is sufficient to remove such substances? Can you be certain that the cells of these vegetables are not absorbing these harmful microscopic substances of which you are about to eat? I know I would certainly not risk my nor my families health knowing a mine was right next to a vegetable growing region. As a result of the mine going ahead, it would almost certainly wipe out the industry, which will have major economic impact on our region, major impact on jobs and families. Let's not forget the potential impact on the health care system in our region as result of cancer causing materials from the mine and mental health issues as a result of the job losses or family health burdens due to the mine going ahead.

There are unknown health impacts as a result of this proposed mine going ahead. The dust that will be generated from a mining operation and dispersed into the surrounding areas, highly likely to be of cancer causing and have negative health outcomes as a result. It will potentially take decades for the full complications to take effect inside the human and or animals body. Are you willing to risk your loved ones health? Why is the government prepared to be so **reckless and negligent** with the lives of the members of the community?

The proposed mining area potentially has unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage and by the excavation process will **annihilate the artefacts and heritage of the area.** This is completely impermissible! Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd mitigation measures will never circumvent the loss of significant and sacred heritage. If your heritage was at the mercy of the Government or Kalbar Operations, would you find it acceptable?

The proposed mine area is elevated above the Mitchell river, numerous creeks and gullies with a 90 hectare tailings dam proposed. In the EES, there doesn't appear to be any details of the

construction of the tailings dam of which **major risks of leaching of waste and chemicals** into the waterways below, via the gullies, creeks and into the Mitchell river to the Gippsland Lakes and ultimately into the ocean. This leaching will have **devastating consequences on aquatic life**, aquifers and the health of many waterways. With no details of the dam's construction and risk management of a potential failed dam, how can the Government jeopardise so much of the environment and so many industries? What about major flooding, flash flooding, and the like of the current La Nina? How will this sudden inundation be managed and the risk associated with overflow of waste and chemicals be managed? What effect would the seeping tailings waste contaminating the Mitchell river have on the irrigation of the vegetable crops? What effects will the contaminated water have on the fishing and tourism industries of the Gippsland Lakes further down stream? Wouldn't it be a healthier objective to use the 3GL of annual water required to operate the mine, rechannel this water to the already prosperous horticulture industry? This would provide more jobs, more food and more economic benefit to the region.

Council's "Lindenow & District Community Plan" didn't envisage a mineral sands mine nor any mine for that matter, as such the **Government needs to concede the residential and agricultural land use**. The operations of the mine will result in **inexcusable and unjustifiable noise pollution**, which highly likely will cause major stress, sleep disturbances, hearing loss, hypertension, neurological problems and many other health issues associated with noise pollution adding unnecessary pressure on the regions health care systems.

It is **impermissible for the Government to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used for the mine**, outside of the project mining boundary. How and why has this been allowed to occur outside the proposed project area? This compulsory acquired land will be used for the mines new roads, new powerlines, new easements, bore pumps, water pipes, and further destruction of existing vegetation and ecosystems. This compulsory acquisition is alarming, distressing and disturbing and must cease.

I have been a resident of East Gippsland for over 15 years. The region has some very unique attractions, pristine and untouched landscapes, rugged coastlines, and many biodiverse ecosystems. I have become particularly fond of the Fingerboards at Glenaladale, as this has become a regular training ground for my personal marathon running goals. The potential of this area to be obliterated is extremely unsettling and gut wrenching. The thought that the Den of Nargan or the Iguana Creek Gorge could be directly or indirectly impacted is soul destroying. These are a couple of the majestic indigenous landmarks that will be environmentally impacted, not just the mining project area at the Fingerboards.

After the region has suffered significant impacts due to the recent bushfires and adding the economic negative effects of Covid-19 pandemic, **how can the Government really believe that further destruction to the region could even be a consideration?** The potential to annihilate so much environmentally and cause reckless, unacceptable losses to many industries, communities and the region in general.

I would like to thank every single individual on this Inquiry and Advisory Committee, for genuinely considering my submission.



Natalie Moore  
29th October 2020