

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

692

Request to be heard?: No - but please email me a copy of the
Timetable and any Directions

Full Name: Lara Caplygin

Organisation: East Gippsland Region Water Corporation

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Lara_Caplygin_on

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Please see attached submission.



133 Macleod Street, PO Box 52, Bairnsdale Victoria 3875
Tel: (03) 5150 4444 Fax: (03) 5150 4477
Email: egw@egwater.vic.gov.au Web: www.egwater.vic.gov.au

Our Ref: DOC/20/51546

29 October 2020

INQUIRY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FINGERBOARDS MINERAL SANDS PROJECT
C/O ENGAGE VICTORIA
<https://engage.vic.gov.au/fingerboards-IAC>
Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: East Gippsland Region Water Corporation submission on Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd Environmental Effects Statement; Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Environment Effects Statement (EES).

East Gippsland Water has been an active participant in the DELWP-led Technical Reference Group (TRG) for the Fingerboards Minerals Sands Project since 2016 due to the project's proximity to our river pump station at Glenaladale as well as our aquifer storage and recovery bores, raw water storages and treatment plant infrastructure at Woodglen. Our focus was to ensure the EES comprehensively addressed risks to safeguard our ongoing ability to provide safe and secure drinking water to customers in our Mitchell System, which serves around 22,000 customers in East Gippsland.

We have reviewed the EES and associated technical reports, noting the following potential risks in the interest of East Gippsland Water:

- Airborne contaminants reaching our raw water storages at Woodglen.
- Reduced groundwater yield from our Woodglen borefield (due to groundwater pumping).
- Increased groundwater levels in our Woodglen borefield (due to potential seepage from tailings and water storages).
- Adverse impacts to groundwater quality in our Woodglen borefield (due to potential seepage from tailings dams).
- Reduced surface water availability from the Mitchell River (due to surface water extraction activity).

East Gippsland Water has reviewed and noted the measures outlined in the Environment Effects Statement to mitigate the above risks and strongly reiterates the importance of ongoing engagement with East Gippsland Water to ensure these risks are managed should the mine proceed. In particular we request further detail around the management of potential contaminants (both airborne and in tailings dams).

We also note a number of uncertainties around the project, it is imperative that Kalbar engage early with East Gippsland Water to discuss any changes or decisions that may impact our ability to provide safe and secure drinking water supplies to our customers in the Mitchell System. In particular we recognise that the predicted impacts described in the EES are based on many assumptions and reiterate the importance of establishing monitoring programs to determine the actual impacts.

We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,



LARA CAPLYGIN
EXECUTIVE MANAGER STRATEGY
EAST GIPPSLAND WATER