

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 708

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**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Heather Oke

**Organisation:** Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parkes and Reserves (FOGL)

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:** KALBAR\_FINGERB

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** see attached submission

29.10.20

Submission - Fingerboards mine

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

This submission is being lodged by FOGL Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parkes and Reserves with great concern for the body of water that is the Australia's largest inland waterway. The Heritage listed Mitchell River plus silt jetties which are both now potentially threatened. How can this be allowed, knowing that the Mitchell River silt jetties are the longest silt jetties remaining on the planet and have taken thousands of years to form? The enormous impact this proposed mine will have on the Lakes system will effectively change it for ever. It could be the tipping point.

The Gippsland Lakes has been used for thousands of years by the original indigenous people with little or no change and where they could walk for days without carrying water, the lake system was fresh to drink directly from the shore. A letter was recently circulated through the Landcare network describing back in the mid 1800's animals, fish and birds were abundant, surrounded with lush vegetation that purified the water before it entered the Lakes system, back then the Gunaikurnai people had no history of cultural burning as the vegetation was too lush and wet to burn.

So much has been lost since colonisation, how can this mine be approved, compounding and intensifying even more extreme loss.

The Gippsland effectively been under attack since settler's first arrived. The local people were massacred, the animals hunted the pristine waters were opened to the ocean, the waterways polluted through many mining pursuits from coal mines in the Latrobe valley to gold and other mining in the upper Tambo River, over fishing, introduced species, logging, inappropriate burning regimes, clearing of vegetation, harvesting water for irrigation and eventually for Melbourne's water supply as well as erosion caused by increasing deeper dredging of the Entrance and with all of this with little or no monitoring has been done for decades so how can you convince that adequate pre monitoring has been done and will be done by Kalbar for this mine.

Consequently over the years much change has occurred to the Gippsland Lakes, if correct protocols had been adhered to these changes should have been reported to the Ramsar Convention, a requirement to the agreement by the Australian governments. However, much of the change that the lakes has endured

has not been reported correctly or at all to Ramsar or to both levels of Government so this us as a friends group to be very sceptical of an accurate and proper assessment of the –potential harmful impacts of this mine on the lakes system and we question if accurate and appropriate information in this EES process will be presented to you, the decision makers of this Kalbar mine. How can we be sure you have been given correct and accurate information on which to base your final decision.

Please consider these points, the effects of the stockman mine at the headwaters of the Tambo, recently approved along with the impacts of past mining on the Tambo River where a big sand slug is still moving down river from past gold mining.

Please consider the impacts from illegal logging by Vic Forests in our catchments. Of incorrect burning regimes carried by local agencies in our catchment both having a direct link to regular toxic algae blooms

Please consider the effect on our aquatic life:-

1. Having to survive a now Marine environment caused by increased dredging of the ocean to a 5 metre depth from an historical 3 metre depth.
2. Potential increase in the saline levels from the proposed annual extra 3 billion litres of fresh water LOSS for the next 15 years by Kalbar.
3. The wetlands needed for refuge and breeding will have been destroyed.....is this mine creating the tipping point leading to total collapse
4. East Gippsland have had unprecedented fires recently and currently the Lake system has a huge slug of fire retardant moving through and polluting its waters

The Gippsland Lakes needs HELP not another polluting disaster of radioactive particles along with other harmful dust entering the heritage listed Mitchell river.

The EES does not provide detail for the tailings dam construction, how can we feel confident that it will be low risk from leaching a chemical cocktail from the tailings dam into the Perry River and then into Lake Wellington.

What is going to be left for Tourism, agriculture and Horticulture industries, industries that will provide many more jobs than this proposed mine ever will?

Rehabilitation bonds are often inadequate and too often in the past we have seen failed attempts at rehabilitation, where the tax payer becomes responsible for most of the cost, why is this allowed to happen time and time again, and how confident are you, the decision makers, that it won't be repeated here again, what guarantee will there be to make sure it won't happen again.

We are disappointed that as well as the large mine footprint, Kalbar are expecting compulsory acquisition of private land for storage of infrastructure equipment. What else are we not being told?

The friends of the Gippsland Lakes wish to thank you for the opportunity to make this submission against this inappropriate open cut mineral sands mine, so close to an iconic river and lake system, so close to a flourishing vegetable growing industry, so close to the thriving town of

Bairnsdale. Our effort is delivered to you with much sadness but with much hope that you will see within your hearts to stop this mine proposal, for to approve this mine, will destroy much more than what KALBAR ENTERPRISES ARE TELLING YOU, PLEASE STOP THIS MINE, PLEASE LET EAST GIPPSLAND HEAL ITS UNHEALED WOUNDS [PLEASE VOTE FOR RECOVERY AND PROSPERITY OF ITS ALREADY ESTABLISHED AND FLOURISHING INDUSTRIES,.

LET ITS PEOPLE BREATHE

THANK YOU

HEATHER OKE

PRESIDENT,