

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 819

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**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Sharon Clerke and Neil Stevens

**Organisation:** The Paint Shop Bairnsdale

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** See attached submission

I would like to acknowledge the Gunnaikurnai people and their elders, past, present and future as the traditional custodians of the land.

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members,

Not quite 30 years ago my partner and myself made the dream a reality and moved to East Gippsland. We had purchased a small business, a paint shop in Main Street, Bairnsdale.

Over the years we have expanded our business, built our own purpose built store and enjoyed a lifestyle many never get to experience.

Our business has supported both us and others over the years. We have worked hard, made lasting friendships with customers and now call ourselves locals, unlike that of a mining company that has destroyed many dreams for the East Gippsland Community.

Six and a half years ago we made the decision to become quite vocal regarding Kalbar and their proposed mine. Our business premises over the last 6 years has become a Mine Free Glenabedale hub. We have proudly displayed and sold Mine Free signs, hats, bags, stickers, badges and the list goes on.

- We have had over 1,000 customers of almost 5,000 sign a petition against the mine that was presented to parliament.
- We have sold 1,000 of items of Mine Free Glenabedale merchandise.

- and as a fundraiser to raise funds for experts at the panel hearings we have sold from our humble store over 1,000 face masks. Made with love by the ladies of East Gippsland that support Mine Free Glenaladale.

The people of East Gippsland do not want a mine. Many will not write a submission but are vehemently opposed to this mine. We see it everyday 1<sup>st</sup> hand.

Our business could have jumped on the bandwagon with the promises of Kalbar to support small local business. Mines require a substantial amount of paint. However at what risk + cost to the environment will this mine have caused if approved.

The Paint Shop Bairnsdale will continue to stand up for + support the people of East Gippsland + Mine Free Glenaladale to fight this absurd proposal.

There is no 'Plan B' when this mine pollutes the vegetables, Mitchell River, Perry River + East Gippslands drinking water.

We stand with the farmers of Glenaladale + will continue to object to this proposal.

If this proposal was to proceed we, like others, will have no choice but to leave East Gippsland as the future will not be why we chose to become East Gippslanders, small business owners + residents of Glenaladale.

Thank you to all that have supported both 'The Paint Shop' + Mine Free Glenaladale.

Sharon Clarke + Neil Stevens.  
The Paint Shop Bairnsdale.