

# Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory  
Committee - EES

# 848

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**Request to be heard?:** Yes

**Full Name:** Margot Stapledon

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee member,

I am writing to your committee in regards to the proposed Fingerboards mineral sands mining project, and my opposition to the possible destruction and contamination of the eco sensitive area. Having lived in the areas surrounding the intended mine for 25 years, it is beyond belief that the area that supplies food, to most of the states of Australia, water to the rivers (i.e. Mitchell, Wentworth) of East Gippsland for drinking, irrigation and the Lakes could, and would, be contaminated.

In reports released by Kalbar Operations Limited, they, the company, have acknowledged the presence of radioactive substances being mined, i.e. mineral sands. Mining at any level creates dust. This is a fact. It is also a fact that wind carries dust, prevailing winds will, without doubt carry contaminated dust into the areas of the flats at Lindenow, a major food growing area( as mentioned above). Wind, will also carry contamination to the farming community, the rivers and Lakes system. This will also contribute to a health risk to the inhabitants of Bairnsdale and surrounding areas. If members of the Committee have spent any time in the E.G area they will know the power of the winds that regularly hit the surrounding districts. The possibility of water and air quality contamination, will contribute to the health risk and well-being of all persons living in this part of East Gippsland.

The Committee should also consider that cattle and sheep graze in the wider area. Cattle eat grass, drink water, and are then sent to slaughter and into the food chain. Wind blown contaminates flowing into the Lakes system and into the fish dependent areas, like Lakes Entrance. Nobody can guarantee that all these creatures will not be subjected to contamination. Can Kalbar guarantee that cancers would not be a possible side effect of the mining? The answer is – NO.

Why would tourists come to an area that could be contaminated? East Gippsland has tried over the last few years to increase the level of tourism, to create a clean, healthy place to visit. A working mine will not be drawcard to the general public. Tourists from Melbourne, and from other states and countries, will not automatically come to enjoy the beautiful areas we have in East Gippsland, if they are aware of the possibility of radioactive contamination in the wider area. East Gippsland has so much to offer, mountains, lakes, rivers and fabulous fresh clean food, the mine will change all that in peoples perspective.

As for the overall destruction of wildlife areas, removal of native bushland, acquisition of private lands to be used for mine infrastructure, the structure of the farming and region will be destroyed.

As has been shown in many other parts of Australia, mines come and go, but they rarely clean up or regenerate the areas they have destroyed. The local inhabitants (and the tax payer) end up the w

Thank you for your attention, and I hope that some of the above resonates with your inquiry.

M. I Stapledon