

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

908

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

Full Name: Nichole Heller

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

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From: Nichole Heller [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 29 October 2020 2:46 PM
To: contactus@fingerboardsproject.com.au
Subject: Stop Kalbar

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing in response to the EES conducted by Kalbar for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project. As a young person who has grown up in East Gippsland (Mount Taylor, 5km from Bairnsdale) I am extremely concerned about the negative effects the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine will have on the region.

As Kalbar's geochemistry report states, there are a number of cancer-causing, radioactive substance that will be present in the dust generated. Given that the mine is as close a 500m to the Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry, the potential for contamination as a result of this toxic dust is far too high. If such contamination was to occur the 2000 people that the industry employs may find themselves out of work and the \$155m/year these farms create would be lost. This would be devastating to the region and those who live and work within it.

Further this toxic dust could have extremely harmful effects on the health of East Gippsland residents and to risk this would be highly inappropriate.

The potential for damage and contamination of the Heritage listed Mitchell River and the world-renowned Gippsland Lakes is also of concern. These bodies of water are a huge tourist attraction and if they are polluted the effects on tourism in the region could be devastating.

Irrigation data shows that if the 3 billion litres of water Kalbar would require annually was redirected to growing vegetables, 3 times more jobs would be created than Kalbar's proposal. These jobs, according to National Farmers Federation would all lead to an additional 4.2 indirect jobs.

The potential consequences this project may have, as outlined above, far outweigh any benefits it could bring. I hope you will listen to the people of East Gippsland and advise that the project be scrapped.

I am a young, proud, 6th generation East Gippslander and I implore you to consider the consequences this mine could have for my future in the region and the futures of all those who live and work within our beautiful East Gippsland.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely,
Nichole