

**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** James Griffiths

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:** [REDACTED]

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project and strongly oppose the mine. Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd has acknowledged there are radioactive substances being mined. Undisturbed these are safe but when they are excavated and crushed, the dust poses a health risk. Risk to real people like the Alexander's who have worked the land next to the proposed site for four generations. The mine is far too close to where many families, live, farm and work. Families, like the Alexander's, with young children who could be at risk of future health complications. The number of houses near the mine has been under-reported and it irresponsible for the government to put so many hard working Australian people at risk. Furthermore, the Lindenow vegetable bowl is just 500m downwind from the mine, with the majority of vegetables grown above ground. An immense amount of vegetables that are sold in supermarkets all over Victoria. Vegetables that reach the tables of people like you and I all over Victoria. Do you want to feed your family these vegetables? Not to mention the exorbitant amount of water that will be siphoned out of the Mitchell River. They want 3GL a year. Water that puts that food on Victorian families tables. Water that could create three times the amount of jobs proposed by the mine if it was redirected into horticulture. Water that gives life to flora and fauna, and that replenishes the biggest lakes system in the southern hemisphere. The Gippsland Lakes are not only an environmental treasure, but they also bring countless tourists to the region, which in turn provide livelihoods for a great number of local families. You cannot say that the measly amount of jobs that will be created are worth this. Especially when it will come at the risk of thousands of others. Furthermore, it is simply not acceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for the EG Shire Council to determine? I would like to thank the panel members for allowing me to make this submission. Kind regards, James Griffiths