

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

**Full Name:** Kathleen Clayden

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** I strongly object to the proposed Kalbar mineral sands mine. I live in Newlands Arm and am asthmatic. Kalbar advise that the mine will be operating 24/7 and I am very concerned that my health is likely to be adversely impacted by the toxic dust generated from the mining operations. I don't believe that the dust mitigation measures proposed by Kalbar will prevent hazardous chemicals in fine dust particles being blown down wind from their operations. There is no compelling reason for the mine to proceed. It is touted as the largest mineral sands deposit in Australia but mineral sands are NOT a rare commodity and are found in every Australian state and the Northern Territory. If it is mined, the heavy mineral concentrate will be exported to refineries in China and Southeast Asia and will not benefit Australian industry. Quite frankly the risks associated with this mine and just not worth the export dollars or the few jobs it will generate. It is probably no coincidence that mining companies are finding it more and more difficult to get environmental approval to mine mineral sands not just in Australia but worldwide. Australia is a big continent but only a relatively small portion of our land mass is suitable for intensive vegetable production. The Mitchell River Valley is one of Australia's prime vegetable growing districts and Victoria cannot afford to jeopardise this vital industry which employs hundreds of people and generates around \$155M a year. If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us anything it is that Australia must have safe and secure fresh food production and not be reliant on overseas (or even interstate) sources. As a consumer, I don't want to buy vegetables from an area that is adjacent to an open cut mine extracting heavy metal ore. Even if Kalbar is able to run the mine without polluting the environment, the perception will be that the vegetables are contaminated. So much for the reputation of clean and green Gippsland produce! The mine is just too close to the Mitchell River. I reckon even Blind Freddy can see that the annual 3 billion litres of water to be used by the mine over the next 20 years will adversely affect both our local water supply and the health of our RAMSAR listed Gippsland Lakes. The recent drought shows just how precious our water resources are. We need to seriously think about the long term requirements for our farmers, a growing population and the environmental flows to the lakes system. Decision makers need to be brave enough to say "NO" to industries that will threaten the environment and our future water security. The Gippsland Lakes region relies heavily on tourism and it is ludicrous to even consider threatening this beautiful and unique area for the benefit of a high risk heavy metal project. As the Australian economy fights its way out of the current recession, tourism in the Gippsland area will play a far more significant role than in our region's recovery than the Kalbar project. SAY NO!