
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Kate Chapman

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I would like to express deep concern for the development of the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project aka the Kalbar rare earth Sand Mine. This is a completely misplaced open cut 'mine' proposal being in the middle of one of the most productive valleys in all of Victoria for food production. I really couldn't think of a worse placement for the probable impacts and the threats of even larger impacts on local industry, communities and the wider Victorian food security. My concerns are threefold: Firstly the risks of poor air quality due to (contaminated) dust that would impact not only field workers in neighbouring vegetable growing farms of Lindenow, but direct negative impact on the lucrative vegetable produce that is grown in the region. The growers of Lindenow have a wonderful reputation for clean and green produce and this will basically be lost by this mine - ie from dust contamination, tailing leakage (common amongst many open cut mines currently) and river impacts. Huge numbers of jobs (1500 directly and 3 times that in related employment) would be directly threatened by this loss of reputation and the ensuing economic loss could devastate the area. After reading the management strategy around dust mitigation it is clear that even with these various strategies that are proposed, (irradiated or contaminated) dust will still have real, ongoing impacts and threats to quality of produce and the health of workers. Secondly, the likely impacts to the waters of the Mitchell River are substantial - either thru the amount of direct water use being in direct competition with growers needs or the dust itself polluting the river. The area was recently under severe water restrictions with the prolonged (green) drought of 2018-early 2020 and has only now returned to better levels. In addition, when a east coast low hits it is not unusual to have 250mm of rain in a short time with significant flooding. Tailing dams would/could overflow and the river would be significantly polluted with concentrated contaminants. Thirdly, the following threats directly from the mine being in this prime agriculture area - the loss of quality of life for those that live in the area adjacent to the mine - through dust contaminants, truck movements, and lastly but incredibly important - the loss of income/jobs thru impacts on the vegetable growing region as mentioned previously. Mining and agriculture can co-exist successfully in limited scenarios. This is a great example of what not to do!! Please consider the possible benefits of this mine (very limited in terms of employment and money brought into the area) compared with historically likely (ie in other rare earth sand mines) real impacts and potential threats to the huge neighbouring agricultural industry and the subsequent losses for not only Lindenow and Bairnsdale but the whole of East Gippsland and for Melbourne's 'vegetable basket' and wider food security. Thank you for considering my submission.