

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

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Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Glenda Maloney

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1: Glenaladale_3.doc

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See submission below

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

Being a resident of East Gippsland I am writing with grave concerns with regards to the proposed Kalbar Fingerboards Open Cut Mineral Sands Mine at Glenaladale, in the East Gippsland Shire.

I have studied baseline reports, several other relevant publications, attended two Council meetings and several community information meetings convened by Kalbar pertaining to this important issue. I am strongly of the opinion that to approve this mine will have the potential to cause an environmental and agricultural catastrophe.

I have listened to the intimate relationship with regards to the land in question of First Nations People and generational farmers.

The risk of contamination to our rivers, aquifers, Ramsar listed lakes, drinking water supplies, air quality and agriculture is extremely likely and in this day and age of scientific evidence of health risks of open cut mining it is unthinkable for such a project to have ever proceeded in the first place.

Dangerous ore particles from mining travelling large distances on the wind pose a huge threat to the local and wider community. We personally experienced fine ash that arrived on the wind from the Rosedale fire in 2019. The distance travelled was 125km.

With demand on water usage continuing to increase, together with effects of climate change, we need to minimise the environmental impact on our rivers and lakes system. Kalbar estimates a further annual use of 3 to 4 gigalitres (which could be understated).

Kalbar's proposed Fingerboard mine is located on the foothills of the Great Dividing Range and encompasses a broader area of the Heritage Mitchell River floodplain. Premium vegetables are grown on either side of the Mitchell River on these lush fertile plains and are sold here and all around Australia. The proposed mine's boundary is situated approximately 500 metres from this high value agricultural production region and only 350 metres from the Mitchell River. There is a high risk of the collapse of a multi million dollar industry if there is a hint of contamination, plus the loss of up to 1200 jobs.

At a community meeting prior to Covid, Kalbar's so called expert was confused as to what vegetables were grown and in what season. Some 'modelling' had been carried out with the Kalbar speaker admitting to never having set foot at Glenaladale.

Listed native bird species and other native fauna are predominately endangered or vulnerable and the removal of 700 hundred large mature trees and other flora, will be testament to the further depletion of Victoria's diminishing biodiversity and continuing environmental vandalism. The EES shows the lack of comprehensive technical studies carried out at Glenaladale.

Extremely limited baseline reports commissioned by Kalbar within the survey area indicate they are clearly talking down and dismissing any issues relating to the wellbeing of the region and its inhabitants.

We are all aware of the deplorable record of rehabilitation of mine sites throughout Victoria, Australia and the world.

I put a question to you.

Why would Government allow compulsory acquisition of private land to occur outside the mine boundary parameters which wasn't included as part of the mine project area? Surely the East Gippsland Shire Council is responsible for these determinations.

Like myself and thousands of East Gippsland residents, you must be aware of the negative impacts of the proposed mine and the significant stress it is causing to the immediate and wider community. Retaining the 'Fingerboards' in its present state, far outweighs Kalbar's proposed open cut mineral sands mine. Government has a duty of care more than ever before to protect its constituents, our natural environment, agricultural land and aboriginal heritage. These could be lost in a single generation if this dangerous mine is allowed to proceed. I implore you to make the correct moral judgement.

This is on your watch.

I thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Yours sincerely,

Glenda Maloney.