

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

413

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

Full Name: Sharon Byrne

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: submission_to_th

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

As a mother, educator, performing artist, local resident of Lindenow I write to object to the proposed Kalbar mineral sands mine in Glenaladale. I have attended numerous community consultations with Kalbar and I still am unable to see how this mine could be anything but disastrous for our community. We live in one of the most beautiful, environmentally and culturally significant places in Victoria. It is with this in mind I must take this opportunity to state my objections to the proposed Finger Boards mining project.

Please see my objections below.

- The vegetable industry in the Lindenow Valley is only 500m downwind from the mine with most of the vegetables grown above ground, so dust from the mine is a high risk. It is not acceptable to risk the contamination of vegetables or risk that industry being shut down due to contamination. This would result in catastrophic employment and financial loss for this region.
- Over 3 billion litres of water (3GL) is required by the mine annually for up to 15 years (the maximum life of the mine) for processing and to control dust. This water usage will have a significant impact on bores, aquifers and the Mitchell River. According to irrigation data, if the 3GL of water was redirected to the horticulture industry, 3 times more jobs could be created than proposed by the mine.
- Water to irrigate the crops comes from the Mitchell River. The mine is on the other side of the river on top of a plateau. I am concerned that the river would become contaminated, impacting on the crops, fishing, agriculture, the health of the rivers and the Gippsland Lakes (an important Ramsar-listed wetland).
- There will be radioactive substances being mined including rare-earths, undisturbed these substances do not pose a health risk but when excavated and crushed concentrated toxic dust will be generated.
- Noise from a mine operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week will be untenable and very stressful for local farmers, wildlife and residents.

We live at 870 Lindenow-Glenaladale road. The proposed shipping/trucking route is right past our driveway. Kalbar has stated at numerous community consultation meetings that there will be 80x B-Double trucks doing a return trip past our front door every day. This will have a significant impact on our family wellbeing. Having spoken to local real estate agents recently they have said it will also significantly impact the value of our property.

- It is irresponsible for the Government to put our community at risk. There is talk in our community that the number of houses near the mine has been under-reported in the ESS.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are present in the mine footprint and will be impacted by this mine. Given the massive excavation down to 45m, it will be impossible to avoid the destruction of artifacts and heritage. This is unacceptable. Kalbar's mitigation measures will not avoid the obliteration of cultural heritage.
- There will be a tailings dam 90 hectares in size, which equates to nearly 1 square km. this tailing dam will contain mine tailing waste and flocculants (chemicals used to treat the tailings) which have warnings on safety data sheets about being harmful to aquatic life.
- Located on high ground above both the Perry and Mitchell Rivers there is a stated risk of leaching from the dam. If there is a 1 in a 100-year flood, tailings waste could be released into the creeks/rivers, harming aquatic life and aquifers.
- With 13 square km of land being mined there will be great impact on habitat will be removed including over 700 large mature trees. Flora and fauna species are threatened. EES technical studies have not comprehensively surveyed the area to know the full ramifications of what is at risk.

- Full rehabilitation rarely happens. Will progressive rehabilitation actually occur (an example is Douglas mine at Balmoral in Western Victoria where a toxic waste dump was left behind) The risks of no rehabilitation are high if the mine goes into 'care and maintenance' with the tailings dam and 19 dams on gullies/creeks being abandoned.

Sharon Byrne



Lindenow.

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