

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Kristin Blackmore

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry & Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project to inform you that I strongly oppose the mine & to urge you to end the progress toward what will be a local, state & countrywide disaster. I am local to East Gippsland, living on the beautiful Gippsland Lakes, therefore this proposed mining activity will directly impact my family & I on many levels. Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd, a new company with no experience operating a mine is proposing a massive open-cut mineral sands mine at the Fingerboards, 20km NW of Bairnsdale in East Gippsland. • 13 square kms on a plateau which is above the Mitchell River & the vegetable fields of the Mitchell River Valley is to be mined: 45m depth is nearly an Olympic sized pool on end! • Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive & cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated – my family & I will be ingesting this dust – I'll refuse to live in dust, therefore I will not be able or willing to live here. My family & I will relocate if this goes ahead; this area will lose significant income from our 'buy local' habits. • The \$155M/year Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry that employs up to 2,000 people is as close as 500m downwind from the mine – this should result in instant & immediate rejection of this proposed mine. People all over Australia will be impacted & will ingest horrific dust & particles from this mine. That's if the vegetable industry can survive should it progress. • Kalbar needs over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing & dust suppression for 15 years. This shows how much water is needed to control the dust which will potentially pose major human & animal health risks. –do not interrupt our amazing & beautiful river system, which will be severely & detrimentally impacted forever. These rivers feed into the Gippsland Lakes – if you don't reject this plan the mine will destroy the river & the lakes. • Kalbar's high need for water could lead to earlier & tighter restrictions on users reliant on water from the Mitchell River (such as the horticulture industry) & is likely to impact the health of the Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water – water use from the river is carefully managed & the river system is respected at the moment – the volumes the mining proposal is detailing to remove are astoundingly horrific levels & this project should be quashed for this reason along with every other reason provided. This proposed mine is considered to be in a highly inappropriate & dangerous location, threatening our food, water, health & already reduced river flows. I implore you to make the sensible decision; reject big corporate backed business & refuse this proposal for the mine. Do not introduce an environmental disaster to one of the most stunning regions on earth. Listen to our voices & look after our earth, not the pockets of investors.