

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

Full Name: Jane McKay

Organisation: Jane McKay Communications

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I am writing in response to the EES conducted by Kalbar for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project. I live in East Gippsland and it shocks and saddens me that the Government would consider permitting an open cut/strip mine in this unique landscape. Below are some of the reasons the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project should not proceed at Glenaladale: The mine will be constructed to a depth of 45m on a 13km² plateau which is above the Heritage-listed Mitchell River and the vegetable fields of the Mitchell River Valley. If there is run-off from the 90ha tailings dam which is cited in safety data sheets as containing flocculants, there is unacceptable risk of the river being contaminated, impacting on agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, and the Gippsland Lakes system, Ramsar-listed wetland of international significance. Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive and cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated by mining activities. Dust can travel far so this potentially could affect the entire district. The mine is highly inappropriate for a populated area. The \$155Mp.a. Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry employs up to 2,000 people and is 500m downwind from the mine. Can you guarantee farmers will be able to sell their crops, meat and livestock if their produce is contaminated and they are known to be in a toxic mining area? There are further concerns that thousands of jobs in tourism and agriculture are at risk from potential contamination of the river and crops, for the 300 jobs generated by the mine. The Mitchell River, the source of water to irrigate those vegetables and make ice to transport them is 350m downwind (between the mine and the vegetable fields). The mine requires over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing and dust suppression for 15 years. This demonstrates how much water is needed to control the dust to "acceptable levels" that will potentially pose major human and animal health risks if not controlled adequately. I am not confident the mine has the capacity to do this to the standards required. The mine's water consumption could lead to restrictions on users reliant on water from the Mitchell River and is likely to impact the health of the Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water flows. Unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are stated as being highly likely to be present. Given the extent of the excavation, it will be impossible to avoid destruction of artefacts and heritage. Mitigation measures will not avoid the obliteration of cultural heritage. The pre-existing residential and agricultural land use needs to be recognised for this area. Noise from a mine operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week will be untenable and very stressful on humans and animals. Woodglen Reservoir which stores domestic and commercial for the Shire is 3.5kms downwind from the mine. This poses contamination risks to East Gippsland's drinking water supplies.