

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

Full Name: Louise Romanin

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the Environmental Effect Statement of the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project and wish to express my strong opposition to the mine. The mine will be a serious and long-lasting threat to our natural environment, water supplies and precious farming land. I have lived in the area for 18 months and have had familial links to East Gippsland since childhood. I work in the environmental sector so have insight into the unique character of the region. The region is inherently beautiful and home to many threatened plant and animal species which we all have a duty to protect. The massive tailings dam which is planned for storage of mine waste and flocculants poses a real threat to the Perry and Mitchell Rivers. If there is a 1 in 100-year flood these waste products will be released into the creeks and rivers associated with both of these river systems. While we are seeing the beginnings of runaway climate change with its associated extreme and unpredictable weather events our ability to accurately predict the frequency of historically 1 in 100-year events becomes limited. It may be that these flood events become more frequent placing unnecessary harm on aquatic life and aquifers. In Australia, the second driest continent on earth, it is foolish to threaten our precious water supplies. These are vital for healthy human, animal and plant communities. Even if the risk of dam failure is low, the impacts of dam failure would be catastrophic. In any health and safety risk matrix, an event that has catastrophic impacts even if unlikely to occur must be seriously considered before being put into place. I don't believe the safety mechanisms planned by Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd are adequate for the risk posed by the mine. The vegetable industry in the Lindenow Valley is only 500m downwind from the mine with most of the vegetables grown above land. Dust contamination from the mine is a high risk. Water contamination is another high risk. Customers will not consume contaminated vegetables which could result in job losses and more financial hardship to the region. Living through the current pandemic also highlights the importance for Australia as a whole, and Victoria specifically to be self-sufficient in as many ways as possible. We should protect our ability to feed ourselves. It is unacceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area? Why isn't this a matter for the EG Shire Council to determine? Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission in response to the EES for the Fingerboards minerals sands mine. Regards, Dr. Louise Romanin