

---

**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Michelle Atkinson

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** My submission is based on logic. Why would we consider approving a development that could jeopardise a large part of the industry that is already here. I am completely astounded that the application has gotten this far. Surely the basic principal that the river is essential for the livelihood of the town and the Gippsland Lakes puts an instant stop to a mine application that could devastate so many facets of the area. I am against the mine being located anywhere near the Mitchell river. The arguments from Kalbar that they are doing XYZ to ensure the river is not polluted in anyway are mute...they are not guaranteeing anything, why would we even risk it? In regards to the number of jobs it will bring...I am very skeptical. If the mine goes in, some of the agriculture will go (maybe even very large parts of the horticulture the flats are known for) so what jobs is it creating? Jobs for FIFO? Jobs for Melbourne\International based developers and investors? Then on top of this the mine will not pay rates. I am curious as to what employment and monetary benefits the town will really experience. When you weigh this up against the risk to the towns water source I do not see any choice but to not allow the mine to proceed. I do have an understanding that certain power players want the mine to go ahead for their own personal financial benefit and I find this a sad state of affairs. How could we consider potentially wiping out a food bowl FOREVER for a mine that will bring very little financial benefit to the town. Where are the priorities? If the mine goes ahead and the river gets contaminated and the water table is lowered by their forecast 15 metres and the gippsland lakes get polluted, what would be the solution to repair? Would Bairnsdale sue the mine? Unlikely. Would industries that relied on the water die out and move away? Likely. Please do not allow this mine to go ahead in its proposed location.