

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

300

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Amanda Jane Hack

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1: My_submission_o

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

Re: STRONG OBJECTION TO FINGERBOARDS MINERAL SANDS MINE PROJECT

I am writing this submission regarding the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project and wish to convey my **strong opposition to this mine proposal**. I have been to many of the community information sessions, read quite a lot of the EES and talked to many fellow East Gippslanders. I oppose the mine due to many factors such as:

- unacceptable amount of precious water (over 3GL annually) that will be used,
- dust and associated health risks from radioactive substances being mined (and fear that the full analysis of the ore body hasn't been disclosed),
- aboriginal cultural heritage that will be destroyed
- but my biggest concern and area that I will highlight below is in regards to Kalbar having **NO SOCIAL LICENCE** to move into East Gippsland and operate a mineral sands mine. At one meeting, the then CEO of Kalbar Resources Victor Hugo stated that "if the community doesn't want it, it won't go ahead". Contrary to what the EES, funded by Kalbar, and some community members with vested interest are trying to portray, I believe the majority of my Community of East Gippsland do not want this inappropriate mine in the pristine environment of Glenaladale.

I am a proud East Gippslander. According to the EES, I am considered an 'indirectly affected stakeholder' as I live further than 2km from the proposed mine site. I find this title abhorrent as this mine will negatively affect my community. Like many, I moved away at 18 and "was never coming back". But after university, travel and work my husband and I moved back to this area to live, work and raise our family. This is our home. I am devastated by what this proposed mine by Kalbar has already done to the cohesiveness of our community and what destruction it will cause if approved.

Both my mother and fathers family have been living in East Gippsland since the 1800's. They were the early pioneers who helped to shape our area. They donated their time, money and skills and build community facilities (Lucknow Hall), sporting arenas (Howitt Park Tennis Courts), ran local Country Women's Associations , served on school councils, raised money for charities, etc, etc. They lived and worked within and for the Community. This is our home, and surely the feelings of the community must prevail over all else.

Now we see Kalbar, a junior mining company with NO SOCIAL LICENCE, moving in, destroying the very fabric of our community. The directors of Kalbar have no interest in my community, apart from what they perceive as a financial gain, Kalbar is >90% foreign owned, even the previous CEO has moved on. There are a few supporters but they seem to have vested interests in the mine and believe that they can make a profit. The community do not want it, the generational farmers who live within 10 km of the mine site do not want it, and so many East Gippslanders who will be affected by radioactive dust, contamination of our water supply, negative effect on tourism by probable impacts on the Gippsland Lakes and Ramsar Wetlands, do not want it. Unfortunately, the EES, whilst it states that it has 'engaged with the community' fails dismally in portraying that the majority of the community do not want this mine in this inappropriate location. They fear the risks are just too great There have been so many people turning up to community meetings expressing their outrage,

letters opposing it for a myriad of reasons in the local paper, even a petition tabled in State Parliament with 4,558 signatures opposing the mine. We must be listened to.

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. This is so wrong. Why wasn't this part of the mine project area and why isn't this a matter for the East Gippsland Shire to determine? It just goes to show how disrespectful this whole process is, to generational families like mine, who are having their community ripped apart by greedy miners who have no interest in our community apart from what profit they can make.

East Gippsland has been a safe National Party seat for years and years with only a small hiatus when an independent member was our State Representative. Both our Federal and State political representatives have shown no leadership regarding the mine, hiding behind the 'waiting for the EES' mantra. It is the first time that traditional National Party voters in East Gippsland, generational farmers, have felt let down and betrayed by their elected representatives who are following a national trend of supporting mining over traditional agriculture. In fact, it took a Greens member, to table the petition in State Parliament and when it was tabled, our local State Government representative, wasn't even in the chamber.

The Victorian Labor Government has shown true leadership during this Covid pandemic. Please show true leadership over this inappropriate mine and do not grant approval.

I wish to thank the Panel members for the opportunity to make a submission. Please listen to us.

Amanda Hack