
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Jade Forest

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I don't support more new mines in Victoria. The proposed mine pits will be gouged out of the highly dissected, erosive fluvial country within 350 m of the heritage Mitchell River. Three tributaries flowing directly into the river will be entirely mined, and dammed while several more will be partially mined in their headwaters. Mining will create toxic dusts containing respirable crystalline Silica, Arsenic, Chromium, Thorium, Titanium, Vanadium, Uranium and other chemicals. These fine airborne dusts will blow over the vegetable industry at Lindenow, and further to Bairnsdale and surrounding towns, carried on strong prevailing westerly winds. A huge 90 ha tailings facility [containing fine tailings, flocculants and heavy metals] straddling the headwaters of the Perry River, and a Mitchell River tributary poses an unacceptable risk of contamination to water, wildlife and communities. Tailings dam failure is a common occurrence in mining. Kalbar Operations have not supplied plans on how this dam will be built to the EES process, and there is NO GUARANTEE it won't fail during heavy rain events, or seep and leak during ordinary conditions. Wildlife values within the activity area are high, with Nationally, State and Regionally protected species of flora and fauna, and vegetation communities. Around 788 mature hollow-bearing trees which provide critical habitat for an array of species including large forest owls, other birds, bats and gliders will be destroyed. Loss of hollow-bearing trees is a serious issue in Australia due to land clearing and logging - they are disappearing from the landscape and can't be replaced because hollows take upwards of 120 years to form. The mine, on un-ceded Gunaikurnai country will destroy a significant Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape, along with every artefact, scar tree, and burial site in it's path. The country here contains high densities of archaeological artefacts and irreplaceable cultural heritage values. Kalbar plans to extract 3 -4 billion litres of water annually from the Mitchell River's winterfill and ground water from aquifers. Mining will also damage and contaminate those aquifers. With residents and farmers already under stress from drought, bushfires, and the impacts of climate change this is a frightening prospect. The world famous Ramsar listed Gippsland Lakes [25 km downstream] will certainly suffer impacts to hydrology, flow volumes and aquatic health, along with its lucrative tourism and fishing industries. The values which stand to be lost are TOO PRECIOUS TOO MINE. Please don't.