
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Margaret Treasure & Max Treasure

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: For the past five years we have followed the progress of this project. We have attended all community information sessions. sourced relevant information to clarify issues including the EES and we are familiar with the location of the proposed mine. We visited agricultural areas where a mineral sand mine had operated and spoke to directly impacted landholders and business owners in the town. Their experience was very positive and following our visit we felt that with engineering, technology and foresight mineral sand mining can co-exist with agriculture and provide worthwhile employment. The approval of this project would bring significant economic benefits to our area and provide employment opportunities for our young people. With the demise of the timber industry, the commercial fishing industry and the Corona Virus pandemic East Gippsland is desperate for projects that attract workers to the area. Not only would the area benefit from the additional 200 plus workforce but the associated economic benefit would be substantial. The proponent, Kalbar Operations, has endeavoured to engage the community by way of town meetings, zoom meetings during the pandemic, press releases and regular specific information in the local newspaper. Unfortunately, many of the interested people have not been comfortable voicing their opinions. A group of anti-mine people have bullied, harassed and threatened anyone who dares to have a different opinion. They have continually manipulated fact, encouraged adverse comments knowing these to be inaccurate and canvassed people to object to the project based on inaccurate propaganda. There has been much discussion regarding dust, noise and water usage. Dust and noise control are outlined in the EES along with water supply. Water extraction would be "winter fill" during the four months of peak flow and even during the recent drought, according to data released by East Gippsland Water, there was a plentiful supply for the proposed mine along with agriculture. There must be no damage to the environment or the agriculture industry. Rehabilitation of the area must be monitored and bank guarantees held must be increased progressively to account for rising costs in relation to rehabilitation, for the duration of project. With any change of ownership all aspects of the project must continue to be scrutinised by relevant Government Departments and no major changes to the project that could be detrimental to the area be allowed. The EES was thorough and addressed concerns that have been raised at public meetings. With stringent Government regulations in place we believe this project should be viewed as a positive economic contribution for East Gippsland.