

---

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

**Full Name:** Olga Ohanessian

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:** [REDACTED] Kangaroo Ground 3097

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** I oppose granting permission to Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd, which is a new company with no experience operating a mine and is proposing a massive open-cut mineral sands mine at the Fingerboards, 20km NW of Bairnsdale in East Gippsland. 13 square kms on a plateau which is above the Mitchell River and the vegetable fields of the Mitchell River Valley is to be mined up to 45m deep. It is imperative to protect the vegetable growing areas from pollution created by such mining. There is a risk also to human health, as Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive and cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated. The \$155M/year Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry that employs up to 2,000 people is as close as 500m downwind from the mine. It MUST be protected. There is a great risk to the Mitchell River, the source of water to irrigate those vegetables and make ice to transport them is 350m downwind (between the mine and the vegetable fields). Kalbar needs over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing and dust suppression for 15 years. This shows how much water is needed to control the dust which will potentially pose major human and animal health risks. Kalbar's high need for water could lead to earlier and tighter restrictions on users reliant on water from the Mitchell River (such as the horticulture industry) and is likely to impact the health of the Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water. The mine would destroy many jobs in tourism and agriculture because of the risk from potential contamination of the river and crops. There are few jobs to be created by allowing such a mine, compared to destruction of the Environment causing job losses in agriculture and tourism. Based on irrigation data, if the 3 billion litres of water Kalbar requires annually was redirected to growing vegetables, 3 times more jobs could be created than Kalbar's proposal. These would be long-term sustainable jobs to grow food. According to National Farmers Federation statistics, every job created in agriculture leads to 4.2 indirect jobs. From Kalbar's website, 1 mining job leads to 1 indirect job. This proposed mine is considered to be in a highly inappropriate and dangerous location, threatening our food, water, health and already reduced river flows. PLEASE do not allow this mine to go ahead.