

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

890

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Frances Wilson

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members

I am forwarding my submission on behalf of my family, to you with our concerns regarding to the Environment Effects Statement for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project at Glenaladale.

My family and I strongly oppose this mine and I shall firstly give you a brief outline of the incidents we have experienced with the Extractive industries in the Latrobe Valley, while living there for 55 years, before moving to East Gippsland.

Below are but a few documented examples, that I would like to share with you of the failures of the mining industry to avoid or mitigate the damage they have caused the local community and the environment.

1986 - The Coal to Oil plant opens in Morwell, operating for 5 years before closing in 1991 leaving the site highly polluted and unrehabilitated.

2007 - An 80m wall collapses into the Yallourn Open Cut allowing the Latrobe River to spill billions of litres of water into the mine for 6 days before the contaminated water is pumped back into the river which flows into the Gippsland Lakes.

2011 - Subsidence in the Hazelwood Open Cut mine wall structure leads to collapse and closure of part the Prince's Freeway at Morwell for 8 months.

2012 - The Morwell River (which has been diverted on 6 separate occasions), collapses into the Yallourn Open Cut, flooding the mine for 6 weeks, before the EPA approves pumping the contaminated water through pipes into the Latrobe River, which flows into the Gippsland Lakes. (It should be noted that the Morwell River has been classified as Australia's most poorly treated river).

2014 - The Hazelwood Open Cut mine fire, the most devastating of many coal mine fires in the Latrobe Valley, burned for 45 days sending toxic smoke and ash over local communities, resulting in huge impacts to health, wellbeing, environment and economy.
This mine is now closed and consensus on how the mine will be rehabilitated has not been reached.

2020 - Rio Tinto's destruction of the 46,000 year old, Aboriginal Cultural Site, Juukan Gorge in Western Australia, is one of many and it is believed that the mines future expansion will destroy many more cultural sites.

Moving to the East Gippsland area, we became aware of the Benambra, Wilga copper and Zinc Mine, north of Bairnsdale, which started operation in 1992 for 4 years before being abandoned.

With no immediate rehabilitation or stabilization of the tailing dam wall, the resulting neglect allowed toxic water to flow into the Tambo River, which flows into the Gippsland Lakes.

7 years after the mine was abandoned, remedial work on the tailing dam wall cost taxpayers \$7 million.

I would like the panel to consider Kalbar's proposed tailing dam which will contain toxic mine waste, situated on 1 square Km on the watershed of the Mitchell and Perry Rivers, which flow into the Gippsland Lakes.

The tailing dam must be able to withstand the increasing chances of 1 - 100 year floods and the further risks of climate change.

Kalbar tell us the risks of a breach in the tailings dam are low, but as there are no details in the EES of the dam construction, one has to question their assumption.

This is of great concern to us when you consider the constant failure and breaches of man made earth restraints caused by the extractive industry, here and overseas.

The threat to community health, our unique dwindling wildlife, our rivers and the Ramsar Listed Gippsland Lakes, is too high in many aspects from the proposed mining operation of Kalbar's mine.

My family and I ask the Panel to please reject Kalbar's Fingerboards Mineral Sands and Rare Earth Mine at Glenaladale.

Thank you for your time and consideration



Frances Wilson