

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

909

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Jill Redwood

Organisation: Environment East Gippsland Inc

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission



Orbost
Victoria 3888
www.eastgippsland.net.au

SUBMISSION: KALBAR EES –

Mineral Sands Mine – Glenaladale.

Who we are:

Environment East Gippsland has been working for the protection of the East Gippsland environment since 1982. We have spent many years informing ourselves, researching, carrying out on-ground work, writing submissions and letters to the government. We also have a valuable resource among our members who are able to add to our knowledge base, many who are experienced land managers and biologists.

We have a membership of around 350 and a supporter base of over 1000, with a social media following of over 11,000. A significant number of our supporters live in this region.

Our experience with public consultation:

Over the decades EEG and many others have spent very valuable time writing lengthy and detailed submissions. This should go towards informing government decisions but ultimately, evidence presented by EEG and other groups and people are ignored. Instead, political decisions continue to cause serious damage to the land, to forests, communities, waterways and wildlife of the region.

We must state clearly up front that we have a very soundly based scepticism and distrust in the government and its submission process when it comes to the big industries and developers.

Regardless, EEG would like to submit our strong opposition to this extremely disruptive, destructive and unnecessary proposal. We hope our lack of trust in these processes is proven to be wrong.

Reasons for our opposition:

The Kalbar EES appears to be designed to bamboozle. We are expected to accept the filtered information we are presented with, for example, regarding its analysis of the ore. The dangerous potential for serious health risks is very real,

not just for the immediate locality but almost everywhere east of the proposed mine.

The most obvious and worrying aspect of the operations for mineral sands is the radioactive nature of the material and the tonnes of dust that would be generated and released for years of the mine's life.

The disasters of so many mining operations across the country also leave us with almost no faith in any mining company to do the right thing no matter what strict conditions are placed on them. The controversial Benambra Copper mine is the local example. This Kalbar proposal would have no social licence.

Kalbar's plan to create a massive open cut mine so close to long established homes and properties, and government's willingness to forcibly acquire private property is callous governance. At what point is destroying people's lives and homes acceptable? This would never happen in Toorak.

As well as environmental losses and possibly permanent destruction of waterways and surrounding areas, the impacts on community, socially and financially are enormous. More so if you happen to be the community being sacrificed.

Toxic and radioactive contamination of one of the richest food bowls in the state would be very real.

One of EEG's main concerns is the inevitable contamination from the massive tailings dam and its toxic soup. The tailings dam could be a hazardous legacy for centuries to come. Being located by two rivers which drain into the Gippsland Lakes and Gippsland being a high rainfall area, this mine and the tailings dam would be a catastrophe in every way imaginable.

The fact that the EES omits any details on dam design is telling – and very concerning.

Contamination of land used for grazing and cropping is a major concern. The wind-blown dust and spray run-off would also contaminate water supplies and likely result in further degradation of the rivers and lakes' in-water life.

The mine would take enormous volumes of water from the streams and rivers for many years. The impact on waterways, stream life and agriculture would be unacceptable and far too great and long lasting to justify a short-term mining operation.

Another of EEG's concerns is the habitat that would be cleared. Protecting threatened species or critical habitat has ever stopped any mine in the country, but the destruction of healthy forests with large habitat trees after such devastating bushfires is even more appalling and unforgivable.

If the company has not carried out thorough and credible environmental surveys

yet, this must be done. To destroy such habitat, extremely high compensation should be required.

Kalbar has a background of not telling the truth to the community, as most large profiteering proponents do.

There will be almost no benefits locally, but many major detriments both in the immediate locality and much more widely.

We urge the government to fully consider the long lasting impacts this will have in a region which is seen as the clean, green end of Victoria.

J Redwood
Coordinator

28 October 2020