

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Fingerboards Inquiry and Advisory Committee \(DELWP\)](#)
Subject: Disgust and concern about today's announcement
Date: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 12:25:11 AM

[REDACTED]

Hello Tom and/or Amy

Please pass on to the Chair my absolute dismay and disgust about the announcement made by Stuart Morris today regarding ERR having accepted Kalbar's application for a mining licence.

I checked the Earth Resources website and it confirms the application was accepted on 8th July. The acceptance of the mining licence application makes a mockery of the whole EES process. What is the real reason for the sudden decision - and why did Kalbar wait 5 days to make the announcement. There are other licence applications that have been registered on Earth Resources site that have been applied for quite a while ago but not accepted (e.g EL007640, EL007029, EL007213).

Why have people been put through such a tortuous route when Earth Resources apparently had no intention of respecting the process. Is it any wonder that there are such strong feelings against Kalbar in the community when they continue to demonstrate such a high-handed, cavalier and dismissive attitude towards the very real and heartfelt concerns of the community.

Unfortunately, this feeds into all the community conspiracy theories about [REDACTED], [REDACTED], backroom decisions, favours done and delivered and generally playing the public for fools (unless they are aligned to the CFMEU, are members of the Nationals or dine at a couple of local establishments).

I have tried to put faith in the process and ignore what I've been hearing for some time about Kalbar claiming that the decision has already been made. However, this decision to accept the Mining Licence (with operations able to start as soon as the Work Plan is approved) has tipped me over the edge. What is the point of even putting an objection in when ERR intends to take no notice?

The move appears to support the following pieces of 'evidence' that people claim indicate we are experiencing [REDACTED]

1. Several new machines (purportedly for Kalbar and including D10 Dozers and Dump Trucks) that have been imported from America and are now at the Caterpillar yards in Traralgon . These type of purchases take many months to organise and the implication is that they would only have been ordered if the mine had been 'given the nod' before the EES process started ('The nod' perhaps explains their lack of concern about presenting such a second-rate document).
2. A \$700,000 grant (Forest Industry Transition money) for the Fennings/Bairnsdale rail siding - announced at the end of June but works completed already with a 24 hour automatically opening gate and special self-loading facility suitable for containers (which explains why Kalbar haven't bothered doing any of the expected risk work for the Fernbank siding but instead use it as a distraction).

3. Upgrade works on Racecourse Road to allow B-Doubles (ignoring the Shire transport expert's recommendations but obviously must have support from someone in the Shire as it's a local road)
4. Kalbar's sudden announcement of a stable of new 'employees' (all associated with Grand Cote or Appian)
5. [REDACTED] setting up the Gippsland Project Management business in [REDACTED] to play the same 'contracting and procurement' role that MG Mining Services Pty Ltd did in Bendigo with the Perseverance/Fosterville mine (and having only former Kalbar employees on the books)

The list goes on and while Kalbar might be feeling very smug it is looking very damning for the Government and associated departments.

No doubt I am not the only submitter who is very distressed about this situation.

I would appreciate your advice as to what processes are put in place to support submitters who will no doubt be feeling as I do? Seeking counselling is not an answer.

Regards

Joanne Eastman

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