

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

211

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

Full Name: Alan Solomon

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: EES_Submission_o

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

EES Submission on Culture Heritage.

The proposed Mineral Sands Project.

My name is Alan Solomon (Gunai Kurnai man) living in Bairnsdale(Brabawooloong).

I strongly oppose the mine.

I do not believe the EES document provided by Kalbar Operations is correct in the survey area, to be mined. A lot of information is missing and not recorded.

Consultation with local Gunai Kurnai community was very poor , and it was very important to have meetings with the elders in the community.

Gunai Kurnai people are not just in Victoria, Gippsland but also extend into far N.S.W ., with connections to other family tribes. It is so important the elders and community from the N.S.W need to be consulted and have their say about the proposed mine because it also effects their attachment to the land and family connections.

I personally walked the land and there's so much connection to aboriginal people that lived and travelled through the Finger boards, for thousands of years.

Gippsland is made up of five Gunai Kurnai Tribes.

Bratwoloong , Brayakooloong , Brabawooloong people in East Gippsland encompassing the Mitchell, Nicholson and Tambo rivers and north to Bairnsdale and Bruthen, Tatungooloong and Krowathunkooloong .

This propose mine is in the Brabawooloong area and has many tribal boundary trees (marker) situated around the area. There is one metres away from the excavation site. There are many camp areas, natural fresh water springs situated in around this area also that have not been recorded.

Gunai Kurnai people would travel far distances following the seasons of the year collecting bush food. They will always come back to the same place every year known as there song lines and there were laws you must follow. If you where from another tribe you will need permission to enter another tribe's area. This was done by a message stick from another tribe and passed only to a head person or elder. A meeting will take place and you must wait unit you was given permission to cross over. The area around the finger boards is known as a trade area that's why there's a boundary tree close by. This is a meeting point for trade and to cross over to one tribe land.



Boundary tree

This whole area will take years to survey, it's not just what you see above but also what lies below.

Surveys should only be done by local Gunai Kurnai people that know the area.

I believe every person in the world was put on this beautiful land to care and look after it.

Many countries around the world believe in their spirituality and how the world was created. From spiritual ancestors, gods all have a creation story or belief system. This makes up our cultural identity and religion across the world.

Aboriginal people of Australia is the oldest living culture in the world.

We have survived on this land more than 80,000yrs.

Answer why ?

- Our connection to Land
- Our spiritual beliefs
- Our connection to animals
- Our connection to water
- Our connection to plant and trees
- Our connection to the universe
- Our songs, dance and story

All Aboriginal and Indigenous people have Totems. This is our birth rite and makes up different clans and tribes. If you was born with a totem you must protect your totem.

We have songs that is our teaching, using our song lines to navigate through the lands. Teach us how to protect to land and give back to mother earth. There are sacred songs and dance held in ceremony.

We have our own traditional Law which is our true Lore.

Respect- without it you fail and destroy everything around you including yourself.

LORE

- Do not be greedy
- Take only what you need
- share what you have
- respect nature and the animals
- pass on knowledge

There are many dream time stories where I live.
Here is two I would like to share with you.
GUNAI KURNAI DREAMING.

The Story of Jiddelek

Long ago there was a big frog and his name was Jiddelek. He went to the river to have a drink. He began to drink the water from the water hole, then from the creek, then the river, 'til there was nothing left. All the animals were thirsty. There was no water anywhere. The animals called a meeting, they decided that one of them should try to make Jiddelek laugh. Turtle and platypus played leapfrog. That didn't make Jiddelek laugh. Duck and bird flew around. That didn't make Jiddelek laugh. Bataluk strutted to and fro puffing out his stomach. Jiddelek was nearly asleep. Snake said, 'Let me try'. He started a wiggly, squiggly dance. He twisted and nearly tied himself in a knot. Then came a rumbling noise from Jiddelek and it grew louder and louder. His mouth opened and he began to laugh. A mighty gush of water came out of his mouth, all the water came back to the water holes and the rivers.

The Story of Legend Rock

One day, some fisherman who had hauled in many fish with their nets, ate their catch around their campfire. The women, guardians of the social law, saw that the men had eaten more than enough but had not fed their dogs. As a punishment for their greed the fishermen were turned to stone.

This story is one of many Gunai kurnai stories that were told and retold to show that greed would bring punishment.

The Legend Rocks hold great spiritual value to the Gunai kurnai people and the story serves as a great legend for its people to remember the laws of the land.

Massacres in our own country

All over Australia there have been massacres.

This area is know by local community and Gunai Kurnai people, the story of skull creek.

Still today the truth has not surface on where the bones lie.

This is a story told by my mother.

This area is also know the Brabawooloong people to have many traditional burial sites within the mining area that needs to be protected.

And please give the Brabawooloong people the rights to have a proper burial so they can peacefully put the rest by traditional ceremony.

Australia needs to realize there was massacres happing here in our back yards across this country . Aboriginal people fighting for their rights to be treated like human beings. It was there land before any Europeans came . It was always occupied for thousands of years by Aboriginal people.

For example , if the deaths were from Colonial or ANZAC wars, the area will not be touched and the Government and the people of Australia would stop it from being destroyed.

I see today on the news 2020, how mining company destroy the land and did not respect any Indigenous sacred sites all over the world.

We all live in a world where we should be respecting and looking after each other.
For thousands of years there has been wars all over the world fighting over religion rights, and land rights.

Respect

Everyone should follow Traditional LORE

How can we heal when people are not listening.

Can for the first time in history can the Government please listen to the people and our voices.

Alan Solomon
GUNAI KURNAI