

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

Full Name: Abbey Treloar

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: This project has the potential for irreversible damage to the Mitchell River, and the risk associated with giving a company with zero experience in operating a mine is far too high. There are red flags all over this plan. The \$155M/year Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry employs up to 2,000 people and is as close as 500m downwind from the mine. Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive and cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated. Dust can travel far, and this therefore could potentially affect the entire district. The mine is too close to where many families live, farm, work and go to school. It is a highly inappropriate area for mining activity to take place. Kalbar needs over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing and dust suppression for 15 years. With water security already a concern for many in the region, how this can be logically justified is beyond comprehension. The Woodglen Reservoir, where domestic and commercial water is stored for the whole Shire, is 3.5kms downwind from the mine. This poses contamination risks on Bairnsdale's drinking water and those on tank water living near the mine. Beyond health concerns, jobs in tourism and agriculture are at risk from potential contamination of the river and crops. 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. Finally, the historical and cultural significance of this area is invaluable. With the recent destruction of indigenous land to the Djab Wurrung people, your track record is, quite frankly, disgusting and disappointing to Victorians, especially our first nations people. The Mitchell River is an extremely important landmark filled with 12,000 years of Gunaikurnai history. Unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites are stated as being highly likely to be present and will be impacted. Given the massive excavation down to 45m, it will be impossible to avoid the destruction of artefacts and heritage. Mitigation measures will not avoid the obliteration of cultural heritage. This is your opportunity to redeem some level of decency surrounding the treatment of Australia's indigenous history. This must be protected. As a government, it is your job to ensure the wellbeing of Victorians, not the wellbeing of corporations who choose destruction of land over profit, land that you are responsible for protecting. Should this go ahead, you are to blame for the economic, environmental and cultural destruction that is inevitable. Please exercise your decency, goodwill, and responsibility to the people of Victoria by rejecting this proposal.