

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

252

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Rodney Callaghan

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Kalbar_PDF.pdf

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Please refer to attached Kalbar PDF document

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Nungurner. 3909.

25th.October,2020.

**The Hon. Richard Wynne,
Minister for Planning,
MELBOURNE.**

Dear Minister,

I wish to express my deep concerns over the proposal by Kalbar Resources for a sand mine project at Glenaladale, and thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.

The proposal will certainly cause a catastrophic amount of harm, not only to the Glenaladale community and the immediate Glenaladale area, but to the people of the wider Gippsland region.

My objections to the proposal are:

- The Kalbar proposal would have the mine operating 24 hours a day every day for the next 20 years. The proposal thus covers an absolutely unconscionable time span, with its debilitating impacts to be felt across successive generations. This is completely unacceptable.
- Kalbar acquired the exploration licences in 2013 after both Metallica Minerals and Rio Tinto had decided that there was no value in proceeding due to the very poor test results they obtained. It is significant that previous licence holders have decided not to proceed with such a project.
- The Mitchell River, which Kalbar wishes to access, provides the water for the Lindenow Food Bowl, which employs directly and indirectly some 2000 people and generates income of some \$70 million annually for the area. The job creation claims by Kalbar are minute in comparison. The potential destruction of this industry by Kalbar is absolutely catastrophic. Further to this the rivers of the area cannot supply anywhere near the required volumes for the proposal.
- The severe reduction in water flows that would be catastrophic to the area. There would be significant polluting of the rivers and streams as

well as major groundwater contamination which would have a severe effect on the other farming activities in the area. This contamination would also flow to the Gippsland Lakes, which are of extreme importance to the area and are under considerable threat already from contamination. Further damage would impact considerably on the vitally important tourism industry across the region.

- The number and size of the open cut mines is outrageous. Coupled with the establishing of a processing plant operating 24 hours a day and a tailings storage facility on the site constitute major health and environmental impacts for residents within a large area around the mine. It will also have a deleterious impact on farming in the area.
- A further potential health disaster for people in the area is the significant quantities of **monazite** that the mine will produce. **Monazite** is radioactive mineral due to the presence in its structure of both thorium and uranium. This alone renders the project total unacceptable.
- The mine would also produce large quantities of silica dust, which poses horrendous health risks to both workers and residents of the area.

Thus the Kalbar proposal is a completely unnecessary intrusion into an area where the residents have clearly demonstrated they do not wish it.

Importantly, it poses serious and debilitating health problems for residents of the region.

The impact on the extremely important Lindenow Food Bowl by both air and water pollution is simply unacceptable.

At a public meeting in 2014 Kalbar CEO Rob Bishop stated that the proposal would not proceed if the community didn't want it to. Clearly the wider community across the region has demonstrated time and again that Kalbar is not wanted. We have the right to expect Kalbar to respect this undertaking.

Thank you,

Rodney Callaghan