

# Kalbar Resources Proposed Mineral Sands Mine at Glenaladale

## Information Sheet About Concerns and Risks (April 2019)

Are you aware of the potential negative ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH and SOCIAL consequences of this proposed mine? Please refer to the following facts that include data and information sourced from Kalbar:

- Kalbar has no experience operating any mine and they are no longer 100% Australian owned.
- In July 2018, Kalbar formed a joint venture with Chinalco Rare Earths (Jiangsu) a Chinese mining company. Chinalco is currently being prosecuted in China for several major breaches of environmental regulations.
- Kalbar is proposing to mine for and partially refine zircon, titanium bearing rutile, ilmenite and rare earths minerals; they have acknowledged that radiation, respirable silica dust and heavy metals will be present.
- This will be an open-cut mine dug to a depth of up to 45m (height of St Mary's Church spire, inverted).
- The project area is 1,675 hectares of which 1,100 hectares (11 square kilometres) is to be mined (*Source: Kalbar Information Sheet 1/7/2018*). The area being mined will be larger than the Hazelwood Mine, with no guarantee that staged rehabilitation will occur.
- This is a highly inappropriate location for a mine, near where people live, work and children go to school.
- The Fingerboards area which is of great historic and indigenous cultural significance will no longer exist, resulting in the loss and destruction of significant aboriginal culture and heritage.
- Significant remnant vegetation will be removed including over 400 mature shade and habitat trees.
- Airborne dust generated from mineral sands mines is known to contain numerous toxic heavy metals and radioactive MONAZITE and THORIUM as well as SILICA (which causes lung disease when inhaled).
- Dust contamination of pastures, crops and domestic and stock water is inevitable within several kilometres of any open-cut mine. Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in soils, pastures, crops and stock is a common problem with persistent dust contamination. Kalbar acknowledges it can't eliminate all the dust.
- Our heritage-listed Mitchell River (part of the Gippsland Lakes) is as close as 350m downwind of the mine.
- The Lindenow Valley vegetable growing area begins 400m downwind from the mine, an industry valued at over \$150million/year and employs up to 1,500 people depending on the season, compared to the claimed 200 short-term jobs to be created by Kalbar that are mostly contract roles and likely to be filled by fly-in fly-out workers.
- Contamination from airborne dust and leaching into the Mitchell River (the water supply to irrigate those crops) could threaten jobs and destroy the 'clean green' image of Lindenow Valley grown produce.
- The Woodglen water storage, the source of our drinking water, is 3.5km downwind from the mine.



Pit 23 at Iluka's abandoned mineral sands mine at Douglas in Western Victoria. The mine opened in 2006, ceased operation in 2012 and despite assurances in the EES, was not rehabilitated as mining progressed. Photo taken March 2019.



This is a lake of toxic waste from rare earths processing at Baotou, China. Will Kalbar's rare earths processing be done here in China, potentially contributing to this problem?

- The mine will require over 4,000,000,000 litres of water/year - the same as the total supplied annually to all domestic/commercial water users in East Gippsland. The source of this water hasn't been confirmed yet, but all the water the mine will require has to be made available if the mine is approved.
- This huge amount of water required by the mine would be better redirected to agricultural production which is currently adversely affected by drought. This would lead to the ongoing direct and indirect employment of many more local people than the 200 proposed short-term mining jobs.

- The tailings dam walls will be 20m high (65ft), span 60 hectares and be positioned at the headwaters of the Perry River which feeds into Lake Wellington, part of the Gippsland Lakes. Flocculants will be used on the tailings and these are chemicals that pose a serious risk to aquatic life should flooding and spills occur.
- During heavy rains it will be impossible to contain run-off and siltation of the Mitchell River which flows through the longest silt jetties in the world and into the Ramsar protected Gippsland Lakes.
- The Gippsland Lakes support a vast and lucrative tourism industry that will be threatened by both real and perceived damage to water quality; the wetlands rely on freshwater from the Mitchell River to function ecologically as do fish populations, waterbirds and botanical values.
- 80 B-Double trucks with hazardous mined ore and 240 light vehicles will travel on our rural roads daily.
- Government statistics show that of the 150 mines that operated in Victoria, only one mine has ever been classified as fully rehabilitated, so confidence is extremely low that rehabilitation will happen here.
- The area to be mined contains steep gullies and dispersive soils which are subject to serious erosion when disturbed, with experts suggesting these would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to rehabilitate.
- The future of this mine proposal will be determined soon, once the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process is finalised. **ALL** studies in the EES are funded by Kalbar and the community isn't represented on the Technical Reference Group overseeing the process. EES determinations are recognised for downplaying risks, ignoring community concerns and approving projects based on Workplans that are then altered without public scrutiny. A Parliamentary Inquiry in 2011 made 50 recommendations to overhaul the EES process and, according to a recent Auditor-General's report, none of the recommendations about the process have been implemented.
- Ultimately, the Minister for Planning makes the final decision about the EES; **only one mine proposal has ever been rejected**. In the unlikely event the EES Panel Hearing recommends against the mine proceeding, the Minister for Planning can overrule their recommendation and approve the project as he did with Bastion Point at Mallacoota.

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY IS VITAL TO HELP STOP THIS PROPOSED MINE**

**PLEASE EMAIL OR WRITE TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS/CONCERNS/OBJECTIONS TO:**

Minister for Planning, Hon Richard Wynne [richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au)  
*(The Minister for Planning will make the decision whether the mine is approved so if you only have time to send one email or letter please write to him and copy in the others below if you can)*

The Premier, Hon Daniel Andrews [daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development, Hon Tim Pallas [tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:tim.pallas@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Minister for Agriculture, Hon Jaclyn Symes [jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Minister for Environment, Hon Lily D'Ambrosio [lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Minister for Water, Hon Lisa Neville [lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lisa.neville@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Local Member, Hon Tim Bull [tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**SIGN AND SHARE OUR ONLINE PETITIONS @ change.org (search: 'Glenaladale')**

<https://www.change.org/p/tim-pallas-minister-for-resources-protecting-our-farmland-environment-and-rural-communities-from-mining-companies>

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