



AUGUST UPDATE

1) Status of EES

Although Kalbar's CEO (Jozsef Patarica) said on ABC Gippsland radio recently that the EES will be released for public submissions in July, that is looking highly unlikely. According to Kalbar's Bulletin emailed on Thursday night, the EES hasn't been finished yet and the adequacy review by DELWP is still underway. You can see Kalbar's Bulletin at this link:

<https://www.fingerboardsproject.com.au/news/project-bulletin-july-2020>

2) Access to EES When it is Released

Kalbar asked people to respond by 26th June as to how they want to receive the EES. After raising concerns about this, it appears this date was not a deadline and there isn't one "at this stage". Kalbar advertised that costs will be charged for hardcopies of the EES (main report and technical studies) costs that haven't been specified for a document that will be over 8,500 pages. AGL's EES for the gas import jetty at Crib Point has just been released for public submissions and their hardcopies were free (over 8,000 pages). We have written to the Minister for Planning and DELWP indicating it would be unfair for our community to have to pay for hardcopies of Kalbar's EES. Stay tuned! We have asked that access to EES documents be provided prior to the start of the public exhibition period so that valuable time isn't lost waiting for documents to be received due to current mail delays (this was arranged for AGL's EES so we have asked for the same treatment). Kalbar advised if people want a copy of the EES documents saved onto a USB, the documents will be "locked" so they can't be annotated. Documents on AGL's USBs were unlocked, so we have raised this issue as well.

3) Webinar, Questions and Answers

If you missed the webinar and the questions and answers Kalbar provided from the webinar, both are here:

<https://www.fingerboardsproject.com.au/news/ees-key-findings-webinar-june-25-2020>

4) Masks

Wearing masks is now recommended, particularly when social distancing may not be possible. To help us raise much needed funds to pay for experts to develop credible responses to the various technical studies in the EES, a number of volunteers helped by becoming mask makers. The masks have 100% cotton outers and are lined with non-woven fusible interfacing for added protection. They have adjustable elastic 'behind the head' straps and mouldable nose wire for better security. We are selling them for \$20 each (plus postage): for every two sold we are donating one to an essential services worker.

While we have a wide selection of sizes and multiple designs on offer there are limited numbers so if making your choice online please select one or two alternative designs.

There are currently two ways you can purchase the masks:

1. From our website at this link: <https://minefreeglenaladale.org/buy-an-mfg-face-mask/>

2. Directly from the following:

- Paint Shop on the corner of Dalmahoy and Bailey Street, Bairnsdale
- Foundry (75A Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale - in the laneway on the western side of Woolies) Gippsland Grain Stores (157 Macleod Street, Bairnsdale).

5) Postcards

These are still being forwarded to Minister Wynne. You can collect hardcopies from the Paint Shop and return completed ones to Sharon who will post them for you. There are instructions for the email version from the homepage of our website here:

<https://minefreeglenaladale.org>

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT

As the popular phrase goes, "garbage in, garbage out". If the data used in scientific research isn't accurate, then we can't expect the results to be reliable, sometimes with devastating outcomes.

This is what our community is confronting in response to Kalbar's proposed Fingerboards mineral sands mine. Can we trust the data that has been used in their research?

For example, the location of Kalbar's air quality monitoring station is known by locals to be in a wind shadow, where cattle go to shelter from the weather. How reliable will that data be if it isn't reflecting the real wind conditions across the 1,675-hectare mine project site?

Kalbar refers to residences within 2kms of the boundary of their mine licence as "sensitive receptors" due to the expected impacts of, for example, noise and dust on residents living close to a heavy industrial mining operation. Kalbar reported there are 49, however, our survey showed there are over 79 residences within 2km of the mine boundary, a massive 38% underreporting by Kalbar, another example of the inaccuracy of Kalbar's data.

In surveying directly impacted landholders, 85% said they were against the mine, 5% were unsure and 10% were considered to be in support of the mine. Given the nature of the materials being mined, there will be radioactive and cancer causing substances in the dust. A whole technical study has been devoted to radiation. A mine like this is too dangerous so close to where so many people live, farm, work, where there are primary schools, the Mitchell and Perry Rivers and our major vegetable industry in the Mitchell River Valley.

With no independent research included in Kalbar's soon to be released over 8,500 page EES report, it will be the community that has to bear the consequences if Kalbar gets it wrong.

Sharon Clerke

KALBAR POTENTIALLY THREATENS OUR WATER SUPPLY

Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd, a new company with **no** experience operating a mine is proposing a massive open-cut mineral sands mine at the Fingerboards, 20km NW of Bairnsdale. 13 square kms of the plateau will be mined up to 45m deep, much deeper than other such mines in Australia.

Contamination Risks

Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive and cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated.

The \$155M/year Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry that employs up to 2,000 people is as close as 550m downwind.

The Mitchell River, the source of water to irrigate those vegetables and make ice to transport them is 350m downwind.

Our drinking water from the Woodglen Reservoir is 3.5km downwind.

A 20m high 90-hectare unlined tailings dam will be on the Perry River catchment that flows into the western end of the Gippsland Lakes.

There are major risks of toxic substances entering both waterways from leaching/flooding.

Huge Demands on Water

3 - 4 billion litres of water needed **annually** for processing and dust suppression for 15 years, is proposed to come from:

Winter-fill licences from the Mitchell River that Southern Rural Water will sell to the highest bidder if demand exceeds supply;

the Latrobe aquifer from a series of bores extending south to the Princes Hwy; and 19 dams constructed on gullies to capture billions of litres of water that would normally flow into the Mitchell River.

Kalbar's high need for water will lead to earlier and tighter restrictions on users reliant on water from the Mitchell River and is likely to impact the health of the Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water.

Kalbar's proposed 'Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project' is in a highly inappropriate location, threatening our water and already reduced river flows. With the Environment Effects Statement (EES) soon to be released, please inform yourselves and speak out now to the Minister for Planning, because the risks are too great.

For more information, check out: <http://egcactiongroup.com.au/>

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