

KALBAR operations P/L

Mr. Kim Martin
Frais Farms P/L
[REDACTED]
Walpa VIC
3865

26th September 2020

RE: Response to the RMCG Final Report V13 July 2020
"Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Horticultural Impact
Assessment" prepared for Kalbar Operations PTY Limited

My CV

4th Generation farmer in Lindenow Valley.

Graduate Victorian College of Agriculture & Horticulture –
Glenormiston Campus 1984.

Graduate Australian Rural Leadership Program Course 8.

Founding Executive Vegco/OneHarvest. 1995-2004

Executive manager of business development COSTA Group
AUSTRALIA 2005-2008.

Founding sole director Frais Farms P/L a horticultural
growing, processing and marketing business based in Walpa
specialising in fresh organic produce. 2008-Current.

Industry member Lindenow Valley Water Security Project.

After reading the above mentioned document (FMSPHIA) I
am very disappointed at the lack of accurate detail that tries
to frame the horticultural activities of the East Gippsland
region.

The document does not include \$ multiplier of the fast
growing horticultural value adding category that has
emerged over the last 20 years. The document talks about
value added consumer convenient products but no mention
of its \$ contribution our economy.

The document consistently talks to minimizing identified risks by various mitigation methods but really only increases the risk compared with the current situation. Why introduce risk into a food bowl when the types of soils suitable for food production are becoming swept up by residential and industrial land holders across the state?

I was interviewed by RMCG and consider the interview to be nothing more than small talk over a coffee and fail to see how this could form a valid response of the farmers concerns.

To locate a sand mine meters from the upstream point of Victoria's world class food bowl with direct prevailing winds blowing across the mine site onto the river valley and gippsland lakes is nothing short of complete stupidity. My opinion is these types of projects should be located well away from the very industry that will sustain healthy living for generations.

Having worked on the Lindenow valley water security project (LVWSP) as an industry representative I can confirm that there is a planned expanded irrigable area that is seeing horticulture production areas move across elevated land adjacent to the existing river valley. This is happening now and it does not appear on any of RMCG tables, which is a gross oversight. Very poor form to not include the positioning of the Mitchell river in their tables, it's a bloody insult actually and speaks to the very tone of this RMCG report.

I can also confirm that the historic stream flow run off data from the Glenalidale catchment is inaccurate as was found in the LVWSP when we looked at potential off stream storage sites. What this means is run off from an east coast low rain event(s) will see unmitigatable volumes of water pass through the proposed mine site heading to the river and

onto the gippsland lakes and surrounding townships of Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, Metung, Loch Sport etc.

This reports states under a heading concern to 'Clean Green' image that if a contamination occurred 'Customers and consumers would have to know the organ of produce and its growing environment for any image damage to occur'. This statement is damning of RMCG, its Author, its Reviewer, its Quality Checker, its Releaser and shows the level of contempt and respect shown to our region.

This documents states that there is 6,000 megalitres of irrigation water that has not yet been allocated but does not say that it is not yet available. I would think that the majority of our population would support continuing to invest further water allocations into our clean green horticultural growing region securing clean food supplies into our future.

There is a proven record of sustained job creation in the horticultural sector in our region and continues to grow year on year. Our irrigated horticultural region has proven to lead and sustain innovation and jobs, the envy of other growing regions.

Industries that cannot add value to our proven formula of land and environment management, clean food production (with very strong continued investment) should not coexist in our catchment. Any industry that will, would, may introduce a possible contamination risk of any level to our successful fresh produce region should be denied.

WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF SUITABLE LAND, WATER & ENVIRONMENT FOR FOOD PRODUCE
I reject the entire RMCG report on the grounds it is grossly inaccurate and very mis-leading. I am also at a loss to understand how RMCG have made such a comprehensive mess of this report. RMCG should have had a far better understanding of our horticultural industry given the

opportunities that have had in the past working across horticulture.

Yours Sincerley

Kim Martin




WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF LAND SUITABLE FOR
FOOD PROⁿ THAT HAS ^{CLEAN} WATER, CLEAN ENVIRONMENT
CLEAN SOILS .

KALBAR

Doris Blaesing RMEG

12-5-21

Climate
Soil
Water

} = Clean, fresh produce ready to eat, growth, future

Zero risk can never exist!

Only used published data!

Land owners opinion is not valid. (bias)

Dust is not an issue. What about mineral sands.

→ removed by - rain
- irrigation

- washing = marinating

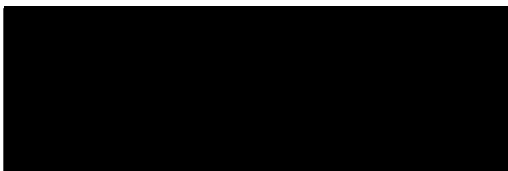
- sanitation does not remove minerals

Windbreaks 5 years to grow.

→ dust mitigation

Comparable jobs - Permanent only! not seasonal.

Provenance does not apply to fresh veggies



Grower interviews were pertheatre?

Discussions were kept out of report.

Doris Blaesing has not spoken to Land Holders !!!

ABS 2015-2016 Data.

- July 2020 published
- not worth including
- value added component not included

Area for Vegetables is misleading - Doris in report maps. old data in report.

- Doris HAS ~~to~~ → OLD REPORTS.
- Reliance on others reports = VERY POOR UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT STATUS
- Lack of actual land holder engagement.

DORIS BIAS THE REPORT

Unmitigatable water flows in east coast low only locals would understand. No historic data to support, No consultation with land holders to learn of history.

BASELINE DATA