

Submission 868 Presentation to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee

I am forwarding this letter in regard to the EES that is being put forward to ascertain if the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project will be approved.

This is a highly inappropriate use of the land and area in question. My objections are manifold, and I will list them below.

I have lived in the East Gippsland region for 40 years, in Lindenow and now in Bairnsdale. I am 83 years old and for the last 4 years have been attending information sessions held by Kalbar - the proponents of the project. In my opinion, as a ratepayer and resident of East Gippsland, this company has never been truthful, transparent, or socially credible in their actions and information disclosed. Please find below a list of the issues I would like to speak to at the public hearing.

As a member of the large number of elderly retirees in the East Gippsland area, I have been involved in frequent discussions with friends and associates, all of whom are alarmed, disappointed and quite frankly dumbfounded that this project is even being considered.

I have lived in Lindenow and Bairnsdale since moving here with my husband Ian, 40 years ago. Prior to moving here my family visited the beautiful Gippsland Lakes area on any occasion we could.

Upon moving to Lindenow, I gained employment at the Lindenow Adult Day Care Centre and Ian commenced an engineering business in Lindenow. It was a friendly community-minded town and we settled into a peaceful relaxed lifestyle.

In our time there we had the pleasure of knowing many of the locals through social events. These people were from all walks of life, vegetable, sheep, and cattle farmers.

The following are my concerns and questions.

1. Water usage was estimated at 5 gigalitres now reduced to about 3 gigalitres. There are no firm details even now where the water will be sourced. Water is integral to the health of the Gippsland Lakes, residents, industry, and agriculture. Water availability is limited in this region and a secure supply and flow should be guaranteed by Council, local government, State and Federal government. WATER IS THE BASIS FOR LIFE!!
2. East Gippsland has a reputation (put forward by our tourism, local government, and industries) as a clean green region. "Destination Gippsland" is a fantastic concept not "Destination Radioactive Noisy Dustbowl." We have a Beautiful, clean, healthy area, welcoming, millions of tourists per year. It is up to the authorities making decisions about this inappropriate use of land, to make a valid decision reflecting the wishes of the majority and to listen to the concerns of the people who will have to live with the consequences. They need to protect this area from an invasive toxic short-term profit-driven mining company - Kalbar, which has never operated a working mine before.

3. Vegetable growing and farming has been a major employer in the region for many decades. These "clean green" industries are flourishing and if Kalbar cannot honour their projected "safe" operations, the East Gippsland area could become a prohibited source of food - meat, vegetables, and seafood.

4. "Employment" opportunities put forward by Kalbar is a minute percentage compared to the ongoing sustainable industries already operating in the area. Sustainable long-term employment is more important than a company that has no prior experience operating a mine And has already stated that the workforce would be Fly-in Fly-out "experts" and subcontractors drawn from who knows where?

These are just a few of the issues myself and everyone I have been in contact with over this long period (over 4 years) have concerns with.

Over the years, I have participated in many community events and have been involved in various actions and activities against the mine because I feel very strongly that this is the wrong place for a mine and have wanted to do whatever I could to help raise community awareness about this dangerous proposal.

I am strongly opposed to this mine project as it will have unacceptable consequences for the environment and the clean green reputation of the area.

Please listen to our concerns and recommend against this mine project proceeding.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my submission to you today.

Bev Mace