

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing to you about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I am extremely concerned that this rare earth mine will destroy the much loved, pristine East Gippsland rivers, lakes and forests, agriculture and tourism forever.

This mine has the potential to create severe health risks for people living, working and visiting in the area. No one really knows the initial and ongoing impacts of the toxicity this mine will produce. Kalbar has not disclosed the full analysis of the ore body. Who knows what other dangerous particles they will unleash? We do know the mine will create toxic, respirable silica and radioactive dust particles that kill life. These cancer causing particles only need to travel downwind 3.5kms to the Shire's drinking reservoir. The vegetable industry is only 0.5kms downwind. These particles can travel far and what isn't breathed in or soaked into our skin will end up in the soil for a very long time. There are families living close by, agricultural animals eating grass and vegetables grown in the soil nearby.

It will use 3 billion litres of water each year for 15 years. Water we drink and that keeps the already struggling (bush fire prone) environment healthy. Water that is used for growing food. This water is our drinking water and is used for growing food.

The mine will leave a massive 90 hectare toxic tailings dam behind. I believe this dam can't be contained in a flood event and it has the potential to leach into the river systems, killing aquatic life, animals and people.

Kalbar plan on destroying Aboriginal cultural heritage sites as well as cutting down 700 mature trees and threatening flora and fauna species that are recovering from drought and bushfires.

It's not right that Kalbar can use the locals' private land for their infrastructure without permission. Isn't this up to the Shire Council?

I have sat in on one of Kalbar's information sessions. They didn't or couldn't answer fair questions put forward by the local community. Their knowledge of the area was below average. Their session wasn't transparent enough for my liking and gave me little faith that they would or could do the right thing. The data they put forward wasn't collected independently and they gave no real guarantees on safety or consequences of unforeseen risks. I felt their presentation was a shambles. It gave me no faith in their organisation whatsoever.

I live in Bruthen, East Gippsland, and have lived here for 16 years. East Gippsland has had, and will continue to have, extreme weather events that will affect the safety of this mine. It is beyond me how such a dangerous proposal could be allowed. I hope and pray this mine will not go ahead and destroy what many people love and depend on in East Gippsland.

I'd like to thank the Panel committee for this opportunity to put forward a submission.

Yours faithfully,

Michael John Marmo

Sound

I'm a part time musician. I have learned if an orchestra played all instruments at once the sound scape would be so full one could not distinguish or hear any of the individual musical instruments. The fauna in an Eco System need to distinguish between sounds to survive and reproduce. To communicate. To find prey and hear predators. Insects use frequencies to survive that we can't hear. I believe the sound and frequencies this mine will produce will have an adverse affect on the fauna and insects in the area. Sound can be healing as well as harmful. The sounds of nature are healing to people. The sounds of the mine are harmful. The power of sound should not be underestimated.

Toxicity

Radioactive materials released into the environment can cause air, water, surfaces, soil, plants, animals, buildings, people, or animals to become contaminated. Contamination occurs when radioactive material is deposited on or in an object or person. All these creatures can't read signs like hazardous or keep out. Radioactive dust particles can attach to all living and non living things causing contamination. These creatures travel carrying and spreading substances through the Eco Systems as they go about their business. Ingesting each other, decomposing, and producing offspring. Aquatic species travel through the rivers into the lakes and come in and out of the oceans. Migratory birds travel the globe eating fish, insects, spreading what ever they have been in contact with. If fauna is contaminated with radioactive material, this is what they will spread. If the food we eat is contaminated so will we be. We are what we eat.

An Eco System is a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Humans are dependant on natural Eco Systems to survive.

Thanks for this opportunity to speak.