

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

100

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Anne Sullivan

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Kalbar.docx

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear members of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee,

I write to share my concern about the EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project.

While generally in agreement with projects which could boost employment in our area, I am greatly concerned that this project, in this location, presents too great a risk environmentally. In fact it has the potential, in the longer term, to reduce employment opportunities by substantially damaging our important horticultural, agricultural and tourism industries.

I have lived in this area for 17 years and moved here because of the natural beauty of the area and the proximity to such irreplaceable resources – clean air, the Lakes, rivers, forests, National Parks and beaches. Living in Paynesville overlooking the Lake we constantly enjoy the wonders of the Natural World. Dolphins pass frequently and bird life abounds. We enjoy watching others, locals and visitors sharing the amazing diversity of Nature our region is so lucky to have.

While Paynesville is not immediately adjacent to the mine site, the environmental effects to the whole of our area could be far reaching. My grandchildren are growing up and going to school in the area and currently enjoy all that it offers -clean air free of toxins and dust pollution, locally grown fresh produce, a clean safe water supply and river systems. Our climate is warming, and we will see more frequent and severe flooding which increases the risk of pollution of our waterways by the mining activity. We must consider the environment and its' importance for future generations above the possible short-term gains offered in exchange. The proximity of the mine to the Mitchell River and the Ramsar listed Gippsland Lakes is of great concern.

An important additional concern, apart from the very high likelihood of pollution of our waterways is the proposed water usage. Kalbar Resources state that over 3 billion litres of water will be needed annually for up to 15 years of the mine's proposed life. The mine will compete for water with our existing industries which contribute significantly to our local economy .We need to protect the horticultural and agricultural industries along with tourism which deliver ongoing employment opportunities now and for future generations well beyond 15 years.

The mine has the potential to employ locals for a relatively short period, if in fact locals are preferenced by this International Company .This short term gain could well put at risk the opportunities that preserving our existing environmental advantages offers to our current industries as well as to others that could be encouraged to invest in our beautiful Region of East Gippsland in ways that present much less risk . Our environment could well be an important factor in bringing clean emerging industries to this area with the increased likelihood of Decentralization being encouraged in the Regions in response to some of the insights gained from the recent COVID 19 pandemic experience.

Rehabilitation is too often an unfulfilled promise. Destruction of environments including removal of ancient and significant habitat trees cannot be offset by replacement seedlings even if the promised land rehabilitation occurs. Too often we have seen large multinational companies walk away from such responsibilities and ride rough shod over issues of protection of areas of Cultural Significance to our Indigenous people. Such failures of responsibility often leave the community and Taxpayers bearing the cost of rehabilitation – there are numerous examples, including locally. The EES for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project gives me no comfort or assurance that our Environment and Community will be protected should this project be approved.

Therefore, I really value the opportunity to make a submission to members of the Inquiry and Advisory Committee and trust that my concerns on behalf of our beautiful area of East Gippsland will be given due consideration. Thank you.

Anne Sullivan

Paynesville.