

Request to be heard?: No - but please email me a copy of the Timetable and any Directions

Full Name: Bernadette Lack

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I am strongly opposed to the mine and believe it will be detrimental to our way of life for reasons listed below. My name is Bernadette Lack and I live and work in Bairnsdale with my husband and our family. It's hard to know where to begin when listing all the reasons I and my family are opposed to this mine. Kalbar Operations Pty LTD have NO previous experience operating a mine and want to effectively experiment with a MASSIVE open-cut mineral sands mine in the heart of East Gippsland. The area where the mine is said to be located is amongst some of the richest vegetable farm lands in Victoria. Kalbar's own geochemistry report has listed a number of cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust that is generated. Not only is this alarming in itself, but, added to the fact that we are over 3 hours from major hospitals, means this could have a catastrophic impact on our community. Our wonderful Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry, which currently employs up to 2,000 people, is as close as 500m downwind from the mine, and the water to irrigate the vegetables is only 350m downwind. Considering the dust mentioned in the above paragraph, the possible negative impacts of this mine have no limits. On the topic of water, Kalbar needs over 3 BILLION litres of water annually for dust suppression and processing for 15 YEARS. This just highlights how much water is going to be needed to control the dust which will potentially pose a major health risk to both humans and animals. Considering we have just come out of a 3 year drought in this area, the need for one company to have access to so much water puts our community and farming business at risk of tighter restrictions – with the high possibility that it will have a negative impact on our beautiful Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water flow. I also worry that as a result, the tourism industry that is reliant on our beautiful inland lake system will be negatively impacted. Considering the huge devastation to our tourism industry this year as a result of the bushfires and then COVID restrictions, this additional challenge may well be too much for many businesses to survive. This proposed mine is in a dangerous and inappropriate location and will threaten our food, water, health, tourist industry and river flows. Please do NOT allow this to go ahead. Thank you, Bernadette Lack