

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

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

Full Name: Anne Christie Arras

Organisation:

Affected property: Paynesville

Attachment 1: submission_letter

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: see attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

I am writing this submission concerning the Kalbar mineral sands mine project that is proposed for Glenaladale right next to our food bowl and abutting the heritage listed Mitchell River. I am strongly opposed to the location of this mine for so many reasons but will focus on the fragile resource of WATER and the disastrous potential of the lack of water in light of our changing climate in this pristine area of Victoria.

I have enjoyed seventeen years here in Paynesville taking advantage of our beautiful lakes, sailing, fly fishing, biking, hiking, golf, and living in this pristine environment. This area is called the Riviera of Victoria for its beauty, the Mitchell River, Gippsland Lakes, and its wonderful quality of life...all which require adequate rainfall and the water provided by the Mitchell River and managed by East Gippsland Water.

In the time here, we have been through a number of periods of drought where strict water restrictions have been in force residentially, in business, and especially in our highly productive food bowl vegetable industry in the Lindenow valley (only 500 meters from the proposed mine site).

Just this winter the farmers were restricted in their water use for their winter crops a situation that could challenge the 150 million dollar per year industry employing at times 1000 workers.

Our area is now on permanent water saving rules having been in water restrictions this winter.

According to the EES, Kalbar will require an estimated 3 billion litres of water taken from the heritage listed Mitchell River, in addition to the run-off of the rain water that will be diverted in the gullies for mine use and the unground water basin for 15 years. This amount is equivalent to all the water supplied by East Gippsland Water to 45,000 people, 22,490 customers including businesses. This water service reaches the area from "Lindenow through the region's capital, Bairnsdale, the holiday hotspots of Paynesville and Lakes Entrance and on to the Wilderness Coast and Mallacoota near the New South Wales border. Also to customers as far north as Dinner Plain in the High Country of the Victorian Alps". (taken from the East Gippsland Water website)

Also, there is an incredible amount of new development in the EGW supply area which will also impact on water requirements. And when restrictions need to be applied due to lack of rainfall, who will bear the brunt of it: the people and businesses already here or the mine operations? How would the mine safely operate and avoid spewing toxic dust if they have water restrictions as well?

Not only could it jeopardize the water availability to this extensive customer base, what will it do to the heritage listed Mitchell River, the Ramsar listed wetlands and the Gippsland Lakes?

The farmers could add immeasurably to their production of Victoria's agriculture if they were allowed more water for their crop expansion thus employing many more workers in the area. Money which stays in the area not which goes overseas as the Kalbar profits will.

With our climate changing, the reliability of water, our most precious resource, is at risk. How can we allow a mine that will use 3 billion of litres of water a year to threaten a region with so many people, so many tourism dollars, so many agricultural dollars, and such a pristine environment of rivers and lakes and wetlands so dependent on water?

These are but a few of the issues which leave me sleepless at nights. I worry about the health of our community from the dust carrying silica and even radioactive elements, the slurry dams in the gullies which are so unreliable historically, full rehabilitation of the area (which is seldom completed), among others.

Please COME and physically see the inappropriately sited proposed mining area high up on the plateau along the Mitchell River. Really, it is time to look at what is happening to our planet with the changing climate and how precious water and a pristine natural environment such as we live in here in Gippsland are. **I believe that soon wars will be waged not for oil but for water!**

Also, in response to the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment, I believe it is **unacceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary** for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, road works, new power lines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. Where will it stop? Why wasn't this included in the mine project area? Shouldn't this be a matter for the East Gippsland Shire Council to determine?

I hope to wind up my life here in the Gippsland Lakes with serenity and the comforts of a pristine environment, lakes, rivers and adequate water to maintain my life in this beautiful area.

Please, be forward thinking: DO NOT ALLOW THE KALBAR MINERAL SANDS MINE TO BE PLACED IN GLENALADALE ON THE MITCHELL RIVER.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and for your thoughtful consideration of my points.

Anne Christie Arras