

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

221

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Jeanette Anne Blennerhassett

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: Kalbar_Resources.

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members,

This is East Gippsland Calling.

We wish to advise the EES that we strongly oppose the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project.

We wish to state that we feel that there are major implications in allowing this project to proceed for at least the following reasons -

1. Risk to health of all nearby communities. Kalbar have stated that this will not be the case, however when excavation and crushing occurs, how is it possible to hold the ensuing dust etc from escaping into the environment. We request that the EES fully investigate this threat to our health and the health of the nearby rivers, creeks and the mighty Gippsland Lakes. We believe there is a duty of care involved in the decision. The Government must look to the long term effects on the nearby families who live, work and farm nearby, also for those living downwind even further away.
2. The huge vegetable growing industry is only 500 metres from the proposed mine showing what a false promise Kalbar have made. We do experience strong winds in the planned area. How can they make such an impossible to prove and fulfil statement that this area will not be impacted.
3. The mine requires an exorbitant usage of water. This MUST NOT be allowed to happen. All aquifers and storages are designed for the protection, firstly of the populations of the towns of East Gippsland Shire supplied by the Mitchell River, and equally, the reserves must be held towards water allocation for the huge bowl of food production in the very near proximity to the proposed mine. The Woodglen Reservoir for the entire Shire domestic and commercial water supply is located just 3.5kms downwind from the mine. We cannot allow this mine to happen.
4. Tourism dollars play an major part in the viability of East Gippsland, which has suffered continuing droughts over many years, many fires and more recently the restrictions of Covid 19. The precious water available must be retained to assist all East Gippslanders in these extraordinary times and not used for sand mining purposes. Climate changes will require careful water conservation. The mine will use 3 billion litres annually for processing and dust control over 15 years. This is NOT in keeping with water conservation. The historic Ramsar listed wetland may be contaminated along with crops, fishing, agriculture and the extraordinary Gippsland Lakes.
5. Aborigines have lived in this area for thousands of years and we believe it will be impossible to protect historic, but perhaps not yet discovered, Aboriginal sites. Disturbance or impact by the mine proposed to be excavated to an incredible depth of 45m., cannot be allowed to occur.

6. We have personally experienced, while staying on the Darling Downs, the many false promises made by mining companies who chase the Almighty dollar, make false promises then drill or mine etc and then leave the land and it's people to considerable irreparable damage and loss possibly for over decades.
7. Kalbar Resources propose to build a dam of 1 sq km in size on a plateau which will supposedly contain? all the mining poisonous contaminants and waste. The risk of leaching from the dam into the nearby rivers and creeks and earth is considerable as seen by the recently leaking dam at Benambra. This would impact on aquatic life and aquifers among the many other disasters environmentally. The vegetables grown extensively on the Lindenow flats will be impacted in many ways if this sand mine is granted a licence to proceed. This food bowl for many Australians must be protected at all costs.
8. Irrigation data shows if the same amount of water, ie 3GL, was released for irrigation for horticulture the number of jobs created would be far in excess of any local temporary jobs created by the unwanted mine.
It is also proposed that approx.13 sq kms of land are to be mined. There will be a huge loss of threatened flora and fauna species also loss of many, many large mature trees. This has not been assessed as deeply as we would expect given the threat of so much damage. Offsets and so claimed restoration of landscapes can never compensate for the overall losses. We believe the ESS has not been told the full story. No company should be permitted to degrade these precious resources and cause any possibility of leaving behind abandoned toxic waste as occurred in WA. Rehabilitation will never return the area to its previous natural and safe environment to what it was before the mine arrived.
9. It is definitely **not** acceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land located outside the mining project boundary for infrastructure of water pipelines, bores, roadworks, easements and vegetation removal etc. surely East Gippsland Shire Council would need to approve any such infrastructure.
10. Our submission is in response to the Draft Planning Scheme Amendment – Attachment C in the ESS.

We wish to thank the Panel Members for the opportunity to present our strong opposition by making this submission against the proposed mineral sands mining by Kalbar Resources.