
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Harry Rijs

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED]

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Advisory Committee, Re Kalbar Finger Boards Mineral Sands Project. I have followed the progress of this project over the past 3 years and I have to say I am extremely impressed with the inclusiveness and the lengths to which Kalbar have gone in keeping East Gippslanders informed of the project and I now submit my support of the project in the form of this letter. I am an East Gippsland resident and businessperson, I have lived here for 60 years and I am a founding member and been significantly involved in a major food manufacturing business here for over 50 of those years employing many hundreds of East Gippsland people during that time. I am a keen advocate for economic development and jobs creation in East Gippsland and the Greater Gippsland Region and I am incredibly supportive of utilising the many wonderful natural resources in our region to the benefit of our region and Victoria. My main Business interest over those years and to this day is food manufacturing in East Gippsland supplying National market leading brands to the National Food Service and Grocery Industry as well as exports to the USA, Japan, and the Pacific Islands. At a more personal level I am also significantly involved in the tourism holiday Accommodation Industry in and around East Gippsland and as well, I own and operate a reasonable size beef production farm. As such with all my interests in the region I understand benefits of marketing our region as clean, green, and wonderful and I am deeply passionate about this. To this end I have served as an advocate for our region for several decades and in the last decade as the Founding Chairman (now retired) of the Committee for Gippsland. I understand that there are some opposed to this project however having spent a reasonable amount of time studying the Projects EES I have satisfied in my mind that this project will be good for East Gippsland, Victoria and Australia and I believe it will have a significant net benefit to our region in economic development and job creation. I also believe that as I and many others are consumers of products that contain these mineral sands, such as mobile phones etc, I felt that it would be wrong to oppose the project purely on the grounds of ideology. KALBAR needed to demonstrate through the EES their ability to safely mine in our region and then to rehabilitate the area to as good as or better than they found it. I believe they have demonstrated this in the EES and based on this and through sticking to their plans and being monitored by the relevant authorities, I fervently believe the mine should go ahead. Thank you and I eagerly wait for hopefully favourable findings of IAC