
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Kellie Sabell

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Committee, I write in objection to the Kalbar mineral sands project. My childhood home was on the banks of the Mitchell River. I watched the horticultural industry boom into the number one local economic driver – supporting numerous other industries in the process. The East Gippsland economy is dependent on horticulture, and nowhere is the land more productive, or valuable, than in the Lindenow valley. I am gravely concerned about the proximity of the proposed mine to these valuable farmlands the associated impacts that may occur. With such extreme weather events occurring with increasing frequency and intensity in the region, how can the proposal assure us that nothing will go wrong? For example a leakage in the temporary tailings dam would be catastrophic on lands downstream. Remediating such valuable soil would be impossible. Kalbar is a short-term temporary proposal whereas the horticultural industry is long-term and permanent. The associated employment with the project is minimal in comparison to the employment in the horticultural industry. The Kalbar project is not locally owned and profits exit the shire along with the products, whereas the overwhelming majority of the horticultural industry is locally-owned and profits don't leave with the produce. The Kalbar product doesn't just leave the shire but it will leave the country, whereas the produce of the Lindenow valley is used locally as well as across the broader eastern sea board by Australians. It doesn't appear to make economic sense to risk such an industry. Outside food production and associated industries, the tourism industry is the other major economic driver in East Gippsland. COVID has changed the face of tourism spending with an immediate refocus from international to backyard destinations and East Gippsland, whilst currently a significant employer of local people and a major contributor to the local economy, is ripe with potential for far greater development. The primary tourism drawcard is the Ramsar-listed Gippsland Lakes and another key asset at risk from the Kalbar project being downstream from the Mitchell River. Tourism is a sustainable industry with no limits on its life span – as long as the drawcard is looked after. The environmental health of the Gippsland Lakes should be of the highest priority. Two of the East Gippsland Shire's greatest assets are at risk from this proposal. For these reasons I believe it would be poor governance to allow the project to proceed. Yours Sincerely Kellie Sabell