

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

Full Name: Garry Clayden

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I live in Newlands Arm and I strongly object to the proposed Fingerboards project. My main concerns relate to the very close proximity of the project to the Mitchell River and the likely contamination of the river, the underground aquifer and the prime farm land situated nearby. I live on the Gippsland Lakes. I care deeply for this unique and beautiful area and don't want to see it destroyed or degraded. We already have issue with reduced water flows. We simply can't afford to squander our precious river water on this mining project or to allow the lakes to become polluted with heavy metals. I am also extremely concerned at the possibility of adverse health impacts from the wind-born respirable crystalline silica that will be released 24 hours a day 7 days a week by the open cut mining operation. My wife is [REDACTED] and will be forced to stay indoors when the wind blows this toxic dust over our home. I have worked in the open cut mining industry for many years and my experience has been that, despite their best efforts, it is extremely unlikely that the mine operators will be able to prevent dust pollution. Likewise, I believe that any tailings dam is highly likely to fail in some way, whether that be through leaching or spillage. By the time the water monitoring shows there is a contamination by heavy metals, it may well be too late. Kalbar is a WA-based unlisted private company with overseas investors. They have limited mining experience and limited capital. The concentrate from the mine will be sent offshore to be processed and there will be no value adding in Australia. Our country is littered with abandoned mine sites where there has been little or no remediation and where there has been serious contamination of rivers, groundwater and the environment. I am concerned that Kalbar may not have the ability or the financial capacity to rehabilitate the area in the future. If there is contamination the owners can pull up stumps and leave and the local community and future generations will be left with the mess. This type of mining has been banned in many overseas countries, so why are we even thinking of allowing it here? The position of proposed mine is clearly incompatible with the adjacent farm land. Why risk the bio-security of prime vegetable growing land? Apart from the jobs generated by the mine, profits will not stay in the local community. Contrast this with the local vegetable growing and tourism industries where profits stay in the community and many more jobs are generated. In summary, please hear the voices of the people who live in this area. Your decision will not only affect the local community but will also have an impact on the health of our wildlife, our rivers and the lakes. Please remember that we are merely the current custodians of the land and we have a duty to protect it for our future generations.