

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Raymond Keith Griffiths

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Re the proposed mineral sands mine at the Fingerboards: I have resided in the East Gippsland region for over 30 years, and hold tertiary qualifications in Economics and Education. My professional life has been dedicated to the development and improvement of Vocational Education as a driver of industry growth, enterprise profitability and the development of individuals' skills, attitudes and behaviors to benefit their employers, themselves and their communities. I am a shareholder in several mining companies and would consider myself to have a balanced view of the need for resource development viz the need to protect the environment and genuine community interests. I have concluded that, on balance, the proposed mineral sands mine will be detrimental to the regional economy and community on the basis that the proponents have: - not adequately addressed the inevitable human and animal health, horticultural and agricultural hazards caused by prevailing winds spreading dust and potentially toxic (including radioactive) materials to nearby grazing and vegetable growing farms and private dwellings. - not provided sufficient assurance that the water usage proposed will be adequate to obviate contamination and dust hazards, nor provided conclusive evidence that Gippsland's future water resourcing will not be seriously compromised. - not adequately covered the long term, irreparable risks to the agricultural industry, tourism industry, community, Mitchell River and Gippsland Lakes from the potential leaching from and/or failure of tailings dams and the potential failure of the company to remediate. - not sufficiently addressed the inevitable adverse impact of 7 day/24 hour operations and considerable heavy transport usage on local residents, community and infrastructure. - not adequately analysed nor addressed the Indigenous cultural value of the site. - not adequately addressed the environmental value of the flora and fauna on site. In the absence of Kalbar having any track record, and considering the established record of other mining companies failed dust control, leaking tailings dams, company administrations, 'pneonixing' and failed remediation elsewhere, it is difficult to have any confidence in this proposal. There is enormous potential economic and environmental losses that will accrue if Kalbar drop the ball at a difficult site that is too close to iconic tourist assets and borders some of Victoria's most productive and valuable agricultural land. For the reasons outlined above, it is my considered view that this is the wrong mine in the wrong place and it ought not be developed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.