

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

Full Name: Margot Foster

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I am deeply concerned about the impact this mine will have on a vital part of Victoria's food bowl. As we manage the Covid-19 pandemic the importance of controlling our food supply and being self sufficient in the production of fresh food has been made abundantly clear. The volume of fresh vegetables produced in the area affected by the Kalbar mine proposal makes it a vital part of the Victoria's food bowl - a food bowl that is the nation's most efficient in delivering fresh food to its growing population centres. Alarming, our food bowls are shrinking and unchecked the impact on consumers and farmers will be immense. That's the finding of a recent report - 'Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Melbourne Foodbowl' prepared by Foodprint Melbourne at the University of Melbourne 2019. It's the culmination of over five years comprehensive research worldwide. It offers exciting solutions that grow jobs, build regional economies and offer sustainable solutions to water and land management. The report warns: "In 2015, this foodbowl had the capacity to meet around 41% of Greater Melbourne's food needs and over 80% of its fresh vegetable needs. Melbourne is predicted to reach a population of at least 8.6 million by 2066. If the city continues to grow as it has in the past, by the time it reaches a population of 7 million, the capacity of Melbourne's foodbowl to meet the city's food needs could fall from 41% to 18% due to a combination of population growth and loss of farmland." Concern about the shrinking and unmanaged food bowls of Victoria is growing. At its AGM last August CWA Victoria passed a resolution calling for foodbowl protection. "The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc calls for the urgent implementation of the recommendations of the report - 'Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Melbourne Foodbowl' prepared by Foodprint Melbourne at the University of Melbourne 2019." It recognises that this requires an integrated policy response across all tiers of government and to be effective needs to include all 5 key pillars recommended - farmland protection, farm viability, water access, nutrient recycling and sustainable farming. We know that climate is changing. Heatwaves, less rainfall during cool seasons, drought conditions and extreme weather events are routine now. The Kalbar mine proposal with a limited life span will disrupt the existing horticulture industry worth \$150M+ annually, and jeopardise 2000 jobs. It will threaten the district's 'clean green' marketing edge as well as divert the valuable water that could underpin an important expansion in the horticulture industry. I urge the Victorian Government to invest in this foodbowl and not put it at risk. We must protect our food security. There are wider opportunities available in horticulture which offer long term regional benefits.