

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Danielle Kerr

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. A mining projects which i strongly oppose for the reasons outlined below. I (Danielle Kerr, currently living within Strathmore, Melbourne) strongly oppose the Fingerboards Sand mining project on the grounds that the long term damage caused to the environment, agricultural industry, community health and the local economy will far exceed any commercial benefit the project could offer Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd, a new company with no experience operating a mine is proposing a massive open-cut mineral sands mine at the Fingerboards, 20km NW of Bairnsdale in East Gippsland. 13 square kms on a plateau which is above the Mitchell River and the vegetable fields of the Mitchell River Valley is to be mined up to 45m deep Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive and cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated. this dust has the potential to contaminate produce grown in the area and to adversely impact the health of the rlocals. The \$155M/year Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry that employs up to 2,000 people is as close as 500m downwind from the mine. The Mitchell River, the source of water to irrigate those vegetables and make ice to transport them is 350m downwind (between the mine and the vegetable fields). Kalbar needs over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing and dust suppression for 15 years. This shows how much water is needed to control the dust which will potentially pose major human and animal health risks. Kalbar's high need for water could lead to earlier and tighter restrictions on users reliant on water from the Mitchell River (such as the horticulture industry) and is likely to impact the health of the Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water. There are concerns that jobs in tourism and agriculture are at risk from potential contamination of the river and crops. \Based on irrigation data, if the 3 billion litres of water Kalbar requires annually was redirected to growing vegetables, 3 times more jobs could be created than Kalbar's proposal. These would be long-term sustainable jobs to grow food. According to National Farmers Federation statistics, every job created in agriculture leads to 4.2 indirect jobs. From Kalbar's website, 1 mining job leads to 1 indirect job. This proposed mine is considered to be in a highly inappropriate and dangerous location, threatening our food, water, health and already reduced river flows. This project needs to be stopped as it is little more than a short term cash grab. It would be a better long term investment to support and develop the agricultural and tourism industries already existing within the area, thereby protecting the residents, local economy and the environment. Please stop this project. Regards Danielle Kerr