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**Request to be heard?:** Yes

**Full Name:** Charles Becket

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Our communities, particularly in the country are all bound by unique lifestyles that are worth protecting and preserving. Nobel Prize economist and Public Policy Analyst Joseph Stiglitz stated at the Press Club Luncheon address on the 14th of November 2018 those 'Economies for any community exist to enhance people's way of life'. Importantly, this community has been most fortunate that over a long time, it has developed an important agricultural and tourism economy. It has all been done at a pace mindful of the sensitivities of the environment and the community. Now here we have Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd parachuting into our community, to exploit what they consider to be natural resources purely for a profit motive, then on completion, leave. A truly disruptive industry. The community has spoken loudly for more than six years that Kalbar and their disruptive enterprise is not wanted in our stable environment. The relations between Kalbar and the community has only hardened the community's resolve that Kalbar have no social licence to proceed with this enterprise. Why? The local agriculturalists know the land, the soils and the waterways and they strongly believe that the mine will impact to dangerous proportions with that community. There is a fear of our produce whether by perception or most likely reality, will be devalued as our land and waterways become contaminated with toxic waters and carcinogenic dust. Furthermore, our agriculturalists may lose access to water and labour; with our landscapes devastated forever. These are the sort of impacts that could ruin a community and all its holy traditions. Through hard work, the community has been able to ascertain that Kalbar is lacking a social license whose EES avoids assessing environmentally critical parts of the operation. I refer to the efficacy of the form of construction of dam elements to spare that community the fear or the possibility of contaminated water seepage into our waterways. Kalbar is not worthy of being part of our community even for a short while. Unfortunately, the community has also been able to confirm through many historic precedents that the regulators have been less than competent in protecting the community from similar documented catastrophes that have occurred elsewhere. This unfortunate enterprise represents an impact on our community of unmeasurable proportions. As a scientist pointed out. 'The people who will be cleaning up the mess (of the mine) are not yet born'. This unfortunate enterprise represents one of the largest forms of 'Institutional Vandalisms' this great state of Victoria has had to experience over its short history. I am sorry, I do not think a mineral sands mine project is going to enhance our way of life.