
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Rosemary Gooch

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: 27th October 2020 Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing this submission about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I wish to express my strong opposition the mine. I am deeply concerned about the impact of the mine on the immediate area and the surrounding communities. As a long-term Gippsland resident, now living in Nicholson I am really shocked at the implications this mine has for many aspects of life in this area. My concerns centre around, contamination and water consumption. Both have the potential to have far reaching and devastating implications for the immediate area and the widespread community. I am very concerned about the vegetable farming on the Lindenow flats. This high-value agriculture producing area, is as close as 500 metres from the edge of the proposed mine's boundary and cannot help but be in danger of contaminates. Regardless of what the mine says and what they say they will do. Some radioactive substances being mined including rare-earths and silica will end up in the dust from the mine and will pose significant health risk. Having this mine so close to where people live and work is totally unacceptable. Kalbar spokesperson says, "Management of dust at the site in accordance with the recommended mitigation techniques will mean that dust is unlikely to be a significant risk to horticulture." Not very reassuring. The EES concluded that, with their mitigation plan, dust was only a risk exceeding the air quality standard on four days of the year. Which four days are they talking about? Who would know? Again, not very reassuring especially if you have a child at the Lindenow Primary school or are just about to harvest a crop for market. In addition to this, the full analysis of the ore body has not been disclosed. This does not add to any feeling of openness and trust. In an area where there are such high stakes, that is people's health and livelihood, any percentage of possible error is not acceptable. My other concern is water, that is the amount to be used and the danger of contamination of this limited resource. East Gippsland is coming out of a three-year drought and now with climate change speeding up, the prospects of this happening again are high. East Gippsland needs every bit of clean reliable water available. After all the accidents with mines across Australia in my lifetime, all promising to practice the highest level of safety standards, why should this one be any different? Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. Rosemary Gooch.