

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

666

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Timothy Christopher Osler

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: As an East Gippsland Resident I am a SUPPORTER of this project. I have worked as a FLY IN FLY OUT worker for 22 years. I am currently 40 years old and have been made redundant recently because of the difficulties in getting to WA because of COVID. I am convinced that I will be able to gain employment through Kalbar Resources when this project gets the green light next year. I am aware that many people are against it for various reasons. People are concerned about Kalbar trucks on the roads, but nobody is concerned about any other trucks on the road. I am aware that if there are any areas of concern, but I have trust in the EES and this submission process, and that everything will be handled according to laws and regulations. Unfortunately many people against it, will not and have not listened with an open mind and have made many allegations and also have been very abusive. Our region, East Gippsland/Gippsland have suffered through years of drought, bushfires and now COVID. We have lost Hazelwood, decline coal mining, power industry, fisheries and timber industry, not to talk about the loss of retail jobs and hospitality jobs during COVID. Kalbar could employ many current FIFO workers/specialist and have people work in their own 'backyard'. That means that they can go home every night and spend time with their family, partners and kids. Many FIFO workers do not like to travel but do it to provide for their families. It would be amazing to actually have work in our own region. There is a lot of stress and marriage break downs because of FIFO I am also thinking of my 2 boys future. They are young boys and it would be amazing if there is actually a future in our own region for them. That they can get apprenticeships and work opportunities here and not have to go and move to Melbourne, 300km away. Regional Victoria has actually lost 15000 jobs and due to COVID alone 1749 full time jobs have been lost in Gippsland. The Victorian Government also announced that they are phasing out the native timber logging by 2030 which will contribute to another 21000 job losses in forestry and wood products sector. Again, we need jobs in our area, we need to attract large business to come into our country towns and set up job opportunities for 20 - 30 years and provide work and hope for not just myself but also for my kids. There is a huge brain drain, kids leaving country towns to study and find good paying jobs in bigger cities. We need for kids to stay and find work, be able to have a great paying job, be able to buy a house, provide for families so our future is secured in this part of the country. Thank you. Tim