
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Nailz Van Diggele

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: There are definitely areas of concern regarding the mine. It's understandable that the community are concerned regarding the impact on the environment, however, the EES has been developed in order to mitigate the risks and ensure that the mine is operated under stringent conditions that ensures the health and safety of our region. If the mine is to go ahead, there are benefits for our region that shouldn't be undermined. In the last few years, we have experienced the loss of many industries in our region. In addition to the loss of industries, COVID19 has impacted businesses and employment rates within our region, as well as nationally. If the mine adheres to the strict OHS practices and rehabilitates the environment post-extraction, then I think we really need to consider the benefits to our community. If the mine will go ahead, I believe these things need to be taken into consideration: 1) Renewable energy Where possible, Kalbar should try purchase power via renewable energy. Perhaps Kalbar could consider negotiating a deal with Star of the South (<https://www.starofthesouth.com.au/>). Not only will Kalbar purchase renewable energy, but it will also ensure that the Star of the South has reliable income over the next 20 years. Win win - two large-scale industries coming to Gippsland. 2) Jobs for young people, entry-level positions and LOCALS We don't necessarily have to meet 'quotas' because this can be hard to achieve and sometimes results in the wrong people being recruited into jobs. However, there should be opportunities for young people to enter the workforce by ensuring there are 'entry level' jobs and adequate training opportunities offered locally. This ensures we address the skills shortage and build the skills and knowledge of people within our community. Local jobs are important. Do not hire FIFO workers. 3) A local royalty. Kalbar will be paying a royalty to the state government but how can our community directly feel the positive financial impact of the mine beyond just the 'additional jobs'? Kalbar are only paying rates on the land that they own. Should Kalbar pay an extraction rate of sorts? This would mean additional money for our local community, which can be injected into programs, activities, events , capital work projects. This is just an idea and I don't know if it has ever been done before - but it would be good to see more local benefits. I am aware that Kalbar will able to provide donations to community groups, which is amazing and much-needed in our community but how can we go beyond that? The financial gain should be felt much more locally, rather than at a state government level. Just to reiterate - I understand why members of our community are concerned about the mine, however, the EES is extensive and takes into account all of the possibilities and how they plan to mitigate risks and if they can do this properly, then I see a great opportunity for economic development in our region.