

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Ryan J Bowden

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1: EES_submission.d

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: To whom it may concern, G'day, My name is Ryan, and I have lived, fished, hunted, hiked, paddled, and worked (among other things) on and around the Mitchell River for the majority of the 32 years I've been alive. I am writing this submission to voice my concerns about Kalbar's proposed Fingerboards mineral sands mine project, and specifically the process behind the Environmental Effects Statement for said project. Day to day I have been hearing many concerns from people from all walks of life who recognise various ways this project could severely negatively impact the area. I am sure you will be receiving many passionate submissions (hopefully from better writers than myself!) addressing specific points from the EES, I don't wish to waste your time rehashing points that I'm sure have already been made. The point of my submission is this: the process of the release of the EES and the time given to the community to respond. It is simply impossible for myself, and many, many, others like me to review the EES and respond appropriately in the timeframe given. Even with this wacky year that 2020 has dealt us which I understand has given some people more time on their hands, for myself and plenty of others this is not the case. Due to the sheer size of the EES document, despite my best efforts after work and on weekends, I have not come close to processing the entire document. This is also the case for so many others I have spoken to. This leads to people becoming reliant on "second-hand information" so to speak, which does not allow for informed responses/submissions. Community members who may be impacted by the project of course deserve the right to be able to just "access" but absorb and understand the EES, and time to form a rational response. As such I cannot see how this process could possibly be viewed as fair to the community, nor properly functional in its intended purpose. I urge anyone in this process to PLEASE consider the fact that, due to the flaws in this process which I have addressed, concerns from the community go far further than the submissions you will be receiving. Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns, Yours faithfully, Ryan J Bowden. "In Victoria, private and public projects with potentially significant environmental impacts may require an environmental impact assessment. This is to ensure the possible effects of a proposed development are identified and possible mitigation measures are considered before approval decisions are made and to provide opportunities for public participation in the decision-making process." Source: <https://www.invest.vic.gov.au/how-we-can-help/setting-up/environmental-effects-statements#:~:text=An%20EES%20is%20a%20document,significant%20impact%20on%20the%20environment.>

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