Submission Cover Sheet

740

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee - EES

Request to be heard?: No - but please email me a copy of the

Timetable and any Directions

Full Name: Georgina Robinson

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments:

21/10/20 Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I am writing in response to the EES conducted by Kalbar for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project. I have lived in the area to be impacted and in the areas surrounding the area to be impacted my whole life. These are the reasons below I do not believe the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine Project should go ahead at Glenaladale, East Gippsland: ● The pre-existing residential and agricultural land use needs to be recognised for this area. Noise from a mine operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week will be untenable and very stressful.

Largest lake system in the southern hemisphere. ● The ecological vegetation class Plains grassy woodlands is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC act. And there is only 1% left in Victoria of what was here originally and Kalbar have said that they will be definitely destroying a large portion of that if the mine is approved. Are you willing to let this EVC become extinct? This EVC and the area surrounding supports animals such as the critically endangered Swift parrots if which there are less than 1000 pairs left in the wild. They depend on large hollow bearing trees which are to be removed if this mine is approved. ● 13 square kms on a plateau which is above the Heritage listed Mitchell River and the vegetable fields of the Mitchell River Valley is to be mined up to 45m deep. If there is runoff there are risks of the river being contaminated, impacting on the crops, fishing, agriculture, the health of the rivers and the Gippsland Lakes (an important Ramsar-listed wetland).

Kalbar's geochemistry report lists a number of radioactive and cancer-causing substances that will be present in the dust generated. Dust can travel far so this potentially could effect the entire district. The mine is too close to where many families live, farm, work and go to school, it is a highly inappropriate area.

The \$155M/year Mitchell River Valley vegetable industry that employs up to 2,000 people is as close as 500m downwind from the mine. Will any farmers be able to sell their crops, meat or live stock if their produce is contaminated and they are known to be in a toxic mining area? The answer is most likely a NO. ● The Mitchell River, the source of water to irrigate those vegetables and make ice to transport them is 350m downwind (between the mine and the vegetable fields).

Kalbar needs over 3 billion litres of water annually for processing and dust suppression for 15 years. This shows how much water is needed to control the dust which will potentially pose major human and animal health risks. ● Kalbar's high need for water could lead to earlier and tighter restrictions on users reliant on water from the Mitchell River (such as the horticulture industry) and is likely to impact the health of the Gippsland Lakes from reduced fresh water. ● Removal of over 700 large mature trees. Flora and fauna species are threatened. from



