

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

80

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Beverley Summers

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

From: Bev Summers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 22 September 2020 2:31 PM
To: Richard Wynne (VICMIN) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Kalbar Mine

I would like to reiterate my concerns for the East Gippsland area around Lindenow, Bairnsdale and the Gippsland Lakes should the proposed mineral sands mine go ahead even though I despair that the many voices raised in protest will be listened to.

The state government seems interested only in ticking off the right boxes so due process can be seen to have been done without giving any serious consideration to the very real concerns of people who know, love and live in the area. That won't stop the barrage of "I told you so's" that will surely descend upon your successors as the fears of residents become the reality they live with.

I don't want to be reassured that all that can be done to manage environmental impacts will be done. Managing impacts is not good enough! There should be no negative impacts on such a sensitive area and the only way to guarantee that is to say NO to the mine for all of the reasons that have been detailed (by myself and many, many others in previous, and decidedly one sided, correspondence).

I am not a scientist or a bureaucrat so find the EES statement almost unfathomable and, it seems to me, an exercise in obfuscation. As planning minister have you visited the site? Have you seen how close it is to the river which is our water supply, our irrigation source and a feeder river into the Gippsland Lakes? Have you actually spoken with and listened to the people who are raising objections? I urge you to do so before it is too late, for not only will the consequences of this mine going ahead be felt by the people in the area, they will resonate in years to come like a sonic boom throughout the state, impacting on both the tourism and the vegetable growing industries with dire effects on the economy.

Sincerely,
Beverley Summers
Resident of East Gippsland.

On Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 2:41 PM Richard Wynne (VICMIN) [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Beverley Summers,

Thank you for your email to the Hon Richard Wynne MP. Our office will process your correspondence at our earliest convenience.

Regards

Office of the Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Housing

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

[REDACTED]

From: Bev Summers [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 19 November 2019 5:42 PM

To: Richard Wynne (PARL) [REDACTED]

Subject: Kalbar Mine

As a resident of East Gippsland I would like to add my voice to the many who have concerns over the proposed Kalbar Resources mineral sands mine near Lindenow in East Gippsland. Not least of these concerns is the possibility (probability?) that the financial investment already made by Kalbar in pursuit of this proposal would not have been made without some surety that the mine could go ahead. That aside, the mine site itself is contentious in that it is very close to the Mitchell River, which goes on to flow through the highly productive agricultural lands of the Lindenow flats, and on into the Gippsland Lakes. The potential for contamination of the river itself and of the Lakes, and the effect of pollutants and dust on the nearby vegetable industry could have dire environmental and economic consequences for the region. There is so much more to be considered here than potential short term revenue gains to the government.

I implore you to take a longer view of this situation and make a decision that takes into account the long term sustainability of the existing industry in the area and the very real environmental threats posed.

Kalbar state that they are following due process and can take steps to mitigate the damage which may be done. That due process in itself is flawed as there is no truly independent study when all information is provided by Kalbar or by 'experts' employed by Kalbar. Situations which need mitigation (dust, pollution, greatly increased traffic, additional water usage in a drought affected area, contaminated run off, contamination of nearby vegetable crops, compromised health of river and lakes) should not be allowed to occur in the first place. If mitigation is necessary then it is already too late.

Please do not sell out the people, the agricultural and tourism industries, and the unique and beautiful environmental assets of East Gippsland.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]