

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

833

Request to be heard?: Yes

Full Name: Neil Stevens

Organisation:

Affected property: [REDACTED] Glenaladale

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Inquiry & Advisory Committee Members

In response to the Kalbar Operations EES submission 2020

I am 66 years of age I have operated my own business since 1992 which is situated in Bairnsdale. I live in Glenaladale amongst long standing friends & neighbours.

I am confused at how to respond in 40 days to the EES process that took up to 6 years to prepare & submit. Your allowance of 40 days to reply lacks empathy toward the residents of the Glen, we suffer under duress from bushfires, drought & covid 19 we are placed in a position where we cannot meet to fight this EES & as a department of the State Government you allow Kalbar to take advantage of this situation.

I own a small farm & am involved with horses, my partner & I chose to invest in Glenaladale as it offered affordable living with a wonderful life style, we have turned a run down farm house & land into a property that is admired far & wide.

Kalbar state in the EES that they are an Australian owned Company yet in reality there is a UK company that is an Investor in Kalbar.

Kalbar have for years refused to answer questions at community meetings, they have always misrepresented the facts and are well trained in telling porky pies (lies).

They have always used their evil disposition to try & take advantage of the Glen residents, they have no social licence with the majority of land holders & use this tactic to their advantage. On or about 10/10/20, Kalbar have threatened action through VCAT to gain access to the properties owned by families, these threats are disgusting & emotionally disturbing for the family. Today 26/10/20 sees Kalbar forcing their way onto a property causing a great deal of damage to paddocks as their large trucks become bogged in the paddocks, this is disgusting action by Kalbar & the damage is totally unacceptable, but who will do anything about that.

Why you allow them to mock & bully land owners is beyond me, the way they talk to people & the lies they tell are despicable, they cause ill health, worry & concern amongst us, depression in residents is evident. I once asked a local councillor could he arrange assistance for those suffering mentally & his reply was very negative.

I am deeply concerned at what neighbours have & are still going through with threats of land acquisition being made by Kalbar, how dare they threaten 5th generation farmers & how dare they say that their land is no good in their EES. What right do you give to Kalbar to say to my neighbours that they will compulsory acquire their land & turn it into a mining void bigger than Morwell, would you allow that to happen to your Home (not bloody likely)

If you personally have not been on a guided tour of Glenaladale then you have no moral right to pass judgement in favour of this Kalbar proposal, if you have not sat down with people like me to view lifestyles that will be impacted by this proposal then you have no moral right to support this proposal.

I like all my neighbours have invested emotionally & financially in my property. I have now semi retired from work after more than 50 years of hard work to gain what I have. I have

never been a burden on society or the Government & I have always paid my dues.

I will not allow you or Kalbar to make my life miserable. I have had [REDACTED] of late I have had [REDACTED] life is very precious to me now. I have a much stronger connection to what is around me, Kalbar are certainly not part of my future.

My neighbours & friends will without doubt point out to you all the lies & misleading information that Kalbar will present, I can only hope that you read the EES in full & also read all the objections as well. In relation to the objections you need to become a (Resident) of Glenaladale to truthfully understand the situation & peoples emotions, there will be no lies or twisting of the truth from people against this proposal, just the truth.

1 simple amazing truth is if the amount of water that Kalbar say they want was given to existing & new farmers then vegie production could be doubled, that would mean an extra 2000 approx workers on the vegie paddocks. The land that Kalbar are trying to steal will in the future be turned into vegie farming again creating thousands of jobs. Mining pales into insignificance in relation to growth compared to vegie production.

All exploration & retention licences should be removed from the Lindenow & Glenaladale area as without a doubt the vegie farms are becoming bigger & would continue to do so into the future. Growth is evident as the production creeps closer along the river toward Bairnsdale, the bigger Australia becomes the more crops we will need to plant, this alone makes the Kalbar proposal fade into insignificance compared to the important growth of the vegie industry.

Surely it is so important to ensure that food bowls can continue to grow in size, from Glenaladale to Bairnsdale the acquisition of land on both sides of Bairnsdale Dargo Road should be a priority of the Government for many reasons, it is now established, future growth is an easy acquisition, growers are fully experienced, the work force will increase dramatically, resellers will become dependant on the area, resellers are guaranteed.

The support of a continuance & growth expansion of the clean green food bowl is a much better option than a proposed mine, there are thousands of hectares of farming land to be converted to vegie farming & it is happening as I type this letter, you should not be responsible for stopping this life long growth of clean green farming, nor should you be fooled by Kalbar who grossly misrepresented & lied about the current value of the vegie industry. They have also lied about the value of farming they again use malicious clap trap to falsify what is actual, this is done to make out that the area is better suited to mining.

You have a duty of care to ensure the health of all residents, we have massive winds at Glenaladale, the intention of Kalbar to suppress dust is not attainable on a mineral sand mine site, a water truck will have no hope of achieving dust suppression, your duty of care is to ensure that cancer does not become a reality in our community. Are you prepared to be responsible for a cancer spread.

The proposed mine is far to close to where people live, work & farm, a mine would have a health impact on thousands of people, the health risks of such things as cancer & lung disease caused by respirable silica is a major nightmare, are you and the Government prepared to take the responsibility that this will not happen.

When dust from a mine site hits the vegie crops who will be responsible for the loss of

business that the vegie farmers will no doubt have to endure. Can you & the Government be responsible for the demise of the vegie farmers if the mine was to go ahead & they destroy the existing vegie farmers businesses.

We have a lot of old growth trees these if cut down can never be replaced, who bears the responsibility of some 700 trees being eliminated from Glenaladale & surrounds, Kalbar say they Will offset the trees in another area, well to be frank that is crap you know that as well as we do & if it was to happen who would care for & maintain these sucklings with water. What about the wildlife that depend on the existing trees, where will the birds rest & nest, where will the wildlife find shade & shelter not to mention the livestock owned by farmers, this would be akin to mass slaughter by pack hunters, this would be a disgrace if it were to occur.

I live within 2klms of the fingerboards, at no stage have I been approached by Kalbar at my home, they work very hard at not having social licence with residents close to the proposed mine site. Kalbar constantly fob people off who ask the hard questions, initially they jumped on the sponsorship bandwagon throwing money around to all & sundry like schools & sporting clubs, but there was a large group that refused Kalbar bribery, in the country it is hard to buy a persons pride in where they live.


The Minister recently declared the Lindenow Valley vegie farming area a no mining zone Kalbar held an EL over this region as you are aware, as I mentioned earlier more thought should be put into making the no mining zone extend to at least Beverleys Road to the north & all the way back to Bairnsdale. As mentioned this would be forward thinking into the continued & future growth of clean green vegie & livestock farming.

The main report part 1 pages 27 & 28 state the project will increase crashes on the main public road network. The project will result in traffic delays & increase the risk of crashes, will they be " minor " or " major " crashes resulting in serious injury & or " death ". As one of many people who travels the local roads what number are you putting on my back.

80 minimum B Double truck movements a day will certainly cause chaos & mayhem, will Mr Wynne travel up here to tell families of those killed by these trucks that the deaths are part & parcel of mining (I do not think so).

East Gippsland is predominately a large tourist destination & also consists of a magnitude of families that make a living from diverse farming. A mineral sands mine will not be part of the tourists destination travels. Kalbar will have a major negative impact on many existing profitable industries that employ thousands of staff, do not be responsible for the demise of East Gippsland by allowing Kalbar to stuff it up. Be strong & do not allow mining in inappropriate areas STOP KALBAR MINE FREE GLENALADALE.

Truthfully yours



Neil Stevens
26/10/20