

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

855

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Sheila Deane

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Date: 10 October 2020
To: Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry & Advisory Committee
Subject: Response to the Environment Effects Statement (EES)
Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd – Sands Mining and Rare Earths Mining
East Gippsland Region (Glenaladale)

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members,

I am writing this submission in response to the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands/Rare-Earth Mining project in Glenaladale, East Gippsland.

I am **strongly opposed** to this mining venture for the following key reasons:

1. Proximity to community
2. Health and Wellbeing

1. Proximity to Community

- (a) The proposed site is amid an established community and close to the town of Bairnsdale which disregards the impact of noise, dust and disruption of waterways. This was a special holiday destination for many years, and for the last 10 years, this has been home. My family moved here to escape the negative impact of city life, and to enjoy a healthy life in retirement.
- (b) East Gippslanders have always been proud of, and promoted the clean air, clean waterways and beautiful natural habitats for its wildlife. The 13 square km of land being mined will destroy trees and habitat, and there is potential that the Mitchell River (which flows through Bairnsdale to Paynesville) will become contaminated.

The Council's Lindenow Community Plan did not plan for this mine and there have been decades of effort to build up the residential and farming community. Noise from a mine operating 24 hours/7days a week will be unbearable. The vegetable famers in the Lindenow Valley are only 500m from the mine which will result in dust contamination and potential water contamination. If our farmers lose their capacity or reputation for organic and fresh vegetables delivered to Sydney and Melbourne, this will represent a significant financial and employment risk to our region.

- (c) Having worked for ten years for a global mining company with significant operations in Australia I am **very aware** of the fact the rehabilitation of mine sites is not always successful. For me, it is most irresponsible to allow a mine-site with its inherent risks, so close to communities.

2. Health and Wellbeing

- (a) On the principle of 'first do no harm' this project has too much risk to people and fauna. In particular, I have concerns about the by-products of this mine which Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd have acknowledged is inclusive of producing radioactive substances.

Kalbar has confirmed this project will produce and require the management of 'dust'. It is known that dust will be contaminated with radioactive particles. I am concerned that the dust particles that carry radioactive molecules will contribute to respiratory diseases, such as respirable silica. What is the composition of these radioactive dust particles? I am concerned at the absence of transparency of a full analysis of the ore body. There is an inherent conflict of interest in the EES process, so I would request that the Panel ensure this information is fully disclosed and implications exposed. I am [REDACTED] and therefore very sensitive to dust and especially to mining by-products known to cause respiratory complications.

What would happen to the local residents and employees, who in years after the mine closes, develop terminal illnesses, such as cancer? Are there assurances of compensation for this circumstance? Is provision made for such circumstances?

- (b) The Mitchell River will have to supply a proposed water usage consumption of up to and inclusive of 3 billion litres per annum over a 15- year period. This river is not dammed currently and is part of a series of waterways that link to the Lake system. This system is one of the key drawcards for tourism and migration to this area. Are we really prepared to risk this natural gem for short term shareholder profit?

The Woodglen Reservoir is 3.65 km from the mine (downwind). This Reservoir stores water for commercial and domestic use for the Shire. What assurances do you have that this Reservoir will be protected from contamination?

Finally, can you please explain compulsory acquisition of private land to be used by the mine for infrastructure outside of the project boundaries, such as bore pumps, pipelines, roadworks, powerlines, rail sidings. Why was this not disclosed as part of the mine project area?

Thank you for taking this submission seriously.