

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

862

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Noel Scott

Organisation:

Affected property: as above

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

SUBMISSION CONCERNING KALBAR FINGERBOARDS SAND MINE.

Dear Inquiry & Advisory Committee members.

I am writing to you about the EES for the Fingerboards mineral sand mine project.

I am very strongly opposed to the prospect of this mine going ahead in our district.

I have lived in the area 36 years and presently live on a river front property quite close to the area of the proposed mine. I have worked on the vegetable farms so I am very aware of the concerns of the farmers and the local people. This is a very lovely clean fresh quiet area and is the reason we want to live here undisturbed.

Some of my concerns are.

WATER.

The amount of water that the mine will need to operate is a big concern to me (and the vegetable growers). The Mitchell River cannot be relied on for water all the year.

In the time I have lived here I have seen the river reduced to a trickle in the summer with so little flow I have walked across it in my best shoes without getting wet, and farmers have had trouble with stock walking across because the river was dry. And even the vegetable farmers cannot get enough for their crops.

I have also seen the major floods in this area and the water flowing down these gullies has to be seen to be believed, and would have the potential to overflow or wash away Kalbar's dams.

I am also concerned that if the water comes from the aquifer under the area it will deplete the aquifer and affect the farming community that relies on it for the vegetable industry which is a major employer in the district

The mine proposes to have tailing dams of nearly 1 square kilometre containing chemicals and tailings on the high country above the river and if there was any failure or leakage the tailings would end up in the river and then into the Gippsland Lakes a Ramsar listed wetland.

DUST.

Kalbar has admitted that there are radioactive and rare earth substances that will be mined and any dust will have these things in them.

My home water supply is tank water off my roof so any dust would end up in my tank.

The mine would be quite close homes in the Lindenow Valley and the people living in these homes would be badly impacted by dust.

Where I live the prevailing winds come from the south west which would bring any dust from the mine over my property. I am concerned that the dust has potential to contain a risk to my health. Also any dust that settles on the crops in the area could make them unusable.

Any dust that comes this way will already have been blown into the Mitchell River which then runs into the Gippsland Lakes and any hazardous dust could contaminate the lake system.

DISRUPTION OF SUROUNDING AREA.

The 13 square kilometre mine area will cause major disruption to the area around the mine.

The actual mine is not the only part of the affected area, there will be public roads diverted, powerlines built, water mains built and a rail siding probably on land subject to compulsory acquisition.

The mine will cause the destruction of a great number of mature trees and some important remnant vegetation.

The mine proposes to operate 24 hours a day 7 days, people in the area will be effected by mining noise and traffic noise.

I do not have any faith in the companies' ability or commitment to rehabilitate the site during and after the mining ceases. The company is majority overseas owned so could leave the site without rehabilitation without a penalty. There have been many examples of companies failing and leaving the sites in a mess.

I am also worried that if this mine goes ahead property values in the district including mine will fall, who would want to buy near a mine operating 7 days 24 hours with noise and dust and trucks on the roads.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinions and opposition to this project which I feel would be a disaster for this lovely valley.

Noel Scott.

