

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

878

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Ellen Edwards

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

1-10-2020

To Whom ever it may concern.

My husband and I live with our 2 sons at Fembank, not far from the proposed location of the processing plant and close to the planned route for the haulage rd. Kalbar has included us in their list of sensitive receptors. We live on the farm that my husband has lived on, worked on, looked after and nurtured all his life, being second generation to work the property. My younger son suffers from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], being very sensitive to dust, living so close to the haulage Rd we are very concerned about the dust and noise of the 80 B-double truck ^{trips} travelling the road 24 hrs a day 7 days a week stirring up dust, we cannot and will not lock ourselves in our homes just to protect our health, something that Kalbar does NOT care about. This toxic dust will settle on our paddock, Dams, house and roof then into our drinking water tank.

We have attended all meetings held by both Kalbar and the community members and I don't feel confident about the accuracy of their monitoring of ambient noise due to the monitors being placed in unsuitable location to provide reliable data. The meteorological station, which they used to measure wind speed was placed in a wind shadow (This was pointed out by a local, but ignored) because of the high hill behind it so the readings used as data

For working out the wind strength to indicate how far dust and noise would travel would be much greater than their measurements suggested. This area of Fernbank is typically very windy as most people realise when they see the letterbox on the Fernbank id once belonging to a local, but now owned by Kalbar with the name being "Windy Hill." However because of the wind monitor being in a wind shadow, we have no confidence when they claim at meetings or in the EES that residents won't be disturbed by noise and dust will not be accumulating on our clean, green veggies growing in our kindenow valley.

The processing plant is located very close to our house. There will be noise, movement and dust from the vehicles and trucks and machinery constantly day and night. Kalbar has stated that the blue gum plantation that it will be operating from will screen noise and dust. This will not be enough as the trees are old and sparse with little foliage to block anything and is there a guarantee from Kalbar that this stand of trees will remain there?

The country around the fingerboards has been successfully farmed for over 150 years and is still going strong the maximum life for this mine is according to Kalbar is 20 years. If the mine closes before this time as often happens due to mine suspensions, drop in ore prices, political issues, community complaints or disruption, worker accidents, it will leave people out of work and quite possibly the mine pits and land unrehabilitated, what happens then?

No mine in Victoria has ever been fully and successfully rehabilitated long term. Kalbar has detailed its

closure and decommissioning plans but there is no guarantee and history shows there is every possibility that the company will walk away when commodities are low and just as happened as in the case of the Douglas Mine which was supposed to operate for 20-25 yrs, which closed after 5-6 years leaving the mine in "care and maintenance" and pit 23 and 19 open and unrehabilitated.

This may not happen but Kalbar is unable to provide any solid answers to our questions and concerns.

At all of the meetings they stand at the front and have the spiel and as soon as the community have their say, their faces glaze over and they just stand there like stunned mullets and give some generic answers and are at times quite arrogant with some of the answers such as "oh you won't even notice the mine" or "The only dust will be what comes off the truck tyres as they drive along". We are being treated like a bunch of idiots. Listen to the locals who have lived here for generations, they have the knowledge and know the weather and layout of the land better than any so called expert employed by this disgusting company. A friend of mine applied for a job advertised by Kalbar and when he asked about the certainty of the mine going ahead he was told "It's a done deal". Is it really? What does Kalbar know that the local community does not.

Wake up Kalbar if this mine goes through there is no turning back and just one simple mistake can and will have irreparable damage to not just the Mitchell river but the whole of the Gippsland lakes system, the beautiful Hindend

Valley. Vegetable industry.
We as a family cannot cope with the noise,
dust, traffic, the loss of our peaceful peace of
paradise all for greed and money.

yours

Ellie Edwards
Brian Edwards
Clancy Edwards
Darby Edwards