

# Supplementary Expert Witness Statement of Michael Cheetham

In the matter of the Fingerboards Mineral  
Sand Project EES – Centrifuge and  
Landscape Stability Considerations

Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd

February 2021





# 1 INTRODUCTION

I, Michael Cheetham, was engaged by Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd (Kalbar) to provide expert evidence in respect to fluvial geomorphology, landscape stability and sediment transport for the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine. I have previously provided an Expert Witness Statement on these matters based on work undertaken by Water Technology and myself.

This Supplementary Expert Witness Statement addresses the implications on my earlier advice and professional opinion on Kalbar's decision to now include centrifuges in their site operations.

# 2 TAILINGS CENTRIFUGE CONSIDERATIONS

Since preparation of the EES, Kalbar intends to include centrifuges as a component of project operations. I have been provided with a technical note dated 18/1/2021 detailing the rationale behind, and method of, implementation of centrifuges for water recovery and tailings management. I have considered this information and have made the following conclusions:

- The absence of a tailings storage facility will eliminate the risk of dam failure and contamination in downstream waterways.
- Continuous backfilling of voids will allow of earlier commencement of rehabilitation operations. Earlier commencement of revegetation activities in these areas will reduce their post closure monitoring duration requirements.

No additional hydraulic modelling or water balance results were available at the time of writing this supplementary statement, however, it is my understanding that inclusion of the centrifuge will not have adverse impacts on flooding and will not impact the operation of the water management dams (as discussed with James Weidmann). As such, the inclusion of the centrifuge does not affect the overall outcomes or my recommendations.

# 3 DECLARATION

I have made all the inquiries that I believe are desirable and appropriate and no matters of significance which I regard as relevant have to my knowledge been withheld from the Inquiry and Advisory Committee.

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Dr Michael Cheetham

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