
Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Dr Anastasia O'Rourke

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: I am very concerned about this proposed mine and its negative effects on the heritage Mitchell River. Three tributaries flowing directly into the river will be entirely mined, and dammed while several more will be partially mined in their headwaters. Mining is very likely to create toxic dusts containing respirable crystalline Silica, Arsenic, Chromium, Thorium, Titanium, Vanadium, Uranium and other chemicals. The tailings dam pose an unacceptable risk of contamination to water, wildlife and local human health. Tailings dam failure is a common occurrence in mining, and Kalbar Operations have not supplied plans on how this dam will be built to the EES process. There is a high chance that dams won't fail during heavy rain events, or seep and leak during ordinary conditions. Wildlife values within the activity area are high, with Nationally, State and Regionally protected species of flora and fauna, and vegetation communities. Around 788 mature hollow-bearing trees which provide critical habitat for an array of species including large forest owls, other birds, bats and gliders will be destroyed. Loss of hollow-bearing trees is a serious issue in Australia due to land clearing and logging - they are disappearing from the landscape and can't be replaced. Moreover, the mine, on un-ceded Gunaikurnai country will destroy a significant Aboriginal cultural heritage landscape. The country here contains high densities of archaeological artefacts and irreplaceable cultural heritage values. Kalbar plans to extract 3 -4 billion litres of water annually from the Mitchell River's winterfill and ground water from aquifers. Mining will also damage and contaminate those aquifers. With residents and farmers already under stress from drought, bushfires, and the impacts of climate change this is a frightening prospect. The world famous Ramsar listed Gippsland Lakes [25 km downstream] will certainly suffer impacts to hydrology, flow volumes and aquatic health, along with its lucrative tourism and fishing industries. I strongly oppose this mine as an Australian citizen concerned about our country.