

Submission Cover Sheet

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project Inquiry and Advisory
Committee - EES

892

Request to be heard?: No

Full Name: Wendy Miller

Organisation:

Affected property:

Attachment 1:

Attachment 2:

Attachment 3:

Comments: See attached submission

Submission about the Environment

Effects Statement. (EES) - Kalbar Mines.

Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee Members.

I have never written a submission before, but I feel so strongly about the EES for the Kalbar proposed mineral Sandstone at the Fingerboards / Glenaledale area near the town of Bairnsdale East Gippsland. I have put pen to paper.

- A totally inappropriate place for a sandstone.
- A threat to the environment
- Many statements in EES report vague and maybe not correct.
- Major problem for the area, loss of market for vegetable loss of tourism therefore loss of huge nos of jobs.

I have lived south of Bairnsdale for 28 years & have great love for the area. We are caretakers of the land inhabited by the aboriginal people for thousands of years. The area to be mined is highly likely to have aboriginal cultural heritage sites. As the excavation for the mine will go to 45m. it will be impossible to stop destruction of important artifacts.

The area is inappropriate for a sandstone due to being situated on top of a plateau. The land is friable & in the events of East Coast low the land is subjected to washaways. There will be a tailings dam 90 hectares in size. It will contain mine tailings. It is possible there could be leaching of the dam which would mean tailing waste could flow into adjacent creeks, & Aron & Mitchell Rivers. There is always a risk of dam failure as occurred at Benambra in East Gippsland. In the E.E.S there are no details of the construction of the dam.

The Woodglan reservoir, where domestic & commercial water is stored for the Shire is 3.5 km downwind from the mine & is visible from the area. There is a probability of

Contamination risks. People living near area have tank water so risk of windborne sands in tanks. When the sands are crushed it is highly likely these may cause a health risk.

The full analysis of the ore has not been disclosed.

Question! Is it possible for the panel to ensure that the analysis is made public?

Dust travels vast distances & some of the ore contains cancer causing substances. Duty of care to the community??

I live a long way south of the proposed mine & when the fires over the years have been in the Fingerboards/Glenaladale areas we have had huge ember & ash fall out from that area. The prevalent wind is from the west & very strong & travels vast distances.

The Mitchell River which runs into the Ramsar listed Gypstand Lakes is 350m downwind between the proposed mine & the multimillion dollar vegetable growing area.

Whisk of the sands blowing on to the vegetables which are then washed in water from the Mitchell River & packed in ice made from Mitchell River water. When Kalbar have used all the water in the Mitchell & they say they will need 3 billion litres of water annually, they will then have to tap the aquifers which supply the water to the farming areas of Benqworden & Merliv & other properties on the aquifer. If the top layer of aquifer depletes, Kalbar will push through to second level aquifer. A disaster. This will have an impact on the Gypstand Lakes already having problems. This amount of water will be needed to process the dust control for the life of the mine up to 15 years. It puts agriculture & the Gypstand Lakes at risk. Also mature eucalypts which take their water from the aquifer.

An enormous area of land being mined will I believe

Cause destruction of over 700 large mature trees. Many predate white settlement. This will impact already threatened flora & fauna. The EES has not fully surveyed the area, so little is known of the full ramifications. With the loss of so much native forest & mature trees in the fires of 19/20 we can ill afford to lose more important areas.

This landscape mine proposed area will never be replaced and so often rehabilitation of the area does not go ahead, if for some reason the mine is abandoned as has happened in several places in Victoria, eg. a toxic waste dump was left behind at the Douglas mine in Balmoral western Victoria.

Some of Kabara's pre covid 19 meetings people spoke of personal experience having worked for mines that were abandoned and the bonds for rehabilitation had disappeared & so no rehabilitation occurred.

Inconsistencies in E.E.S. possibly because some of the companies employed to do surveys did not ever come to the area. e.g. beans grown in May on river flats - never happened. Also the wind speeds were collected in the well known most sheltered spot in the area. Farmers moved their stock to that area in bad weather because it was so well protected.

What will happen to the multi million dollar vegetable industry? Who would buy vegetables that could be contaminated? When I asked that question I was told they wouldn't know they came from the Mitchell River flats !!

What will happen to the tourist industry? Fish in rivers & lakes could be contaminated. Why would you want to go swimming boating in possibly contaminated water. Huge areas of Gippstown could be contaminated by the sands. Sheep in Western Australia have been found to contain ^{carcinogenic} substances from sandmines over

100 kms away from the mines.

My last comment is this:

Is it acceptable to allow compulsory acquisition of private land (many landholders 5th generation) to be used by the mine for infrastructure - not part of the actual mine area, eg. waterpipes lines, bore pumps roadworks, easements, vegetation removal, power lines,

This should have been included in mine project area. Should this not be a matter for East Gippsland Shire Council to ratify?

To the Panel - Thank you for the opportunity to express some of my feelings in this submission.

Wendy Miller.