

Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project

Environment Effects Statement - PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd (Kalbar) (ABN 30 635 720 759) has prepared an Environment Effects Statement (EES) for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project. The documents will be on public exhibition for a minimum of 40 business days.

The EES together with the draft East Gippsland Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) (C156egip) and the EPA Works Approval Application are now available for public comment.

Written submissions can be made between Thursday 3 September 2020 and 5.00pm on Thursday 29 October 2020.

The Project

Kalbar proposes to develop the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project (the Project) which has an approximate area of 1,675 hectares and is located approximately 20 kilometres north-west of Bairnsdale in East Gippsland, Victoria.

The proposal includes:

- the development of a mineral sands mine
- two mining unit plants
- wet concentrator plant (comprising mineral separation processing and tailings thickening and disposal plant)
- water supply infrastructure (inside and outside of the mining licence)
- power supply infrastructure (inside and outside of the mining licence)
- tailings storage facility
- additional site facilities, such as a site office, warehouse, workshop, loading facilities and fuel storage
- new rail siding / roads/ diversions/ intersections etc (outside of the mining licence).

The proposed mining methods involve open pit mining to extract approximately 170 million tonnes of ore over a projected mine life of 20 years to produce approximately 8 Mt of mineral concentrate. Mine products are proposed to be transported via road or by rail for export overseas.

The mining project would require 9000 kilowatt hours of power likely to be supplied from the electricity grid and annual water requirements of approximately 3 gegalitres.

The Environment Effects Statement

In December 2016, the Victorian Minister for Planning determined an EES was required for the Project under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (EE Act).

EPBC Act

Pursuant to Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), the Project (EPBC 2017/7919) is a controlled action and requires assessment and approval under the EPBC Act.

The relevant controlling provisions for matters of national environmental significance (MNES) are:

- Ramsar wetlands (sections 16 & 17B)
- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
- Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)
- Nuclear actions (sections 21 & 22A)

The Victorian Government is assessing the relevant impacts on MNES within the EES process in accordance with the bilateral agreement between the federal and state governments, which will inform the commonwealth approval decision under the EPBC Act. Therefore, the EES being exhibited, covers all potential impacts of the project under both the EE Act and EPBC Act.

Planning Scheme Amendment

A draft Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme has been prepared to facilitate the construction and use of infrastructure associated with the Project located outside the project mining licence area, as well as associated removal of native vegetation. Such infrastructure will include power to the project; a private haulage road; realignment of existing roads; and water supply pipelines.

The PSA will be exhibited with the EES as Attachment C. You may make a submission or provide comments on the PSA by making a submission on the EES.

EPA Works Approval Application

The EPA has received an application for a works approval for the proposed mine water treatment and discharge system under the Victorian Environment Protection Act. The Works Approval Application is exhibited as Attachment D, together with the EES.

A copy of the Works Approval Application and accompanying plans, specifications and other information can be inspected online at www.fingerboardsproject.com.au/ees

You may make a submission or provide comments on the Works Approval Application by making a submission on the EES.

How to access the EES and exhibited documents

The EES, draft PSA and EPA Works Approval Application are now available to read and download at www.fingerboardsproject.com.au/ees

Under the declared state of emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic, conventional exhibition of hard copies of the EES in public places cannot occur.

Electronic copies of all EES documents, together with the draft PSA and EPA Works Approval Application are available free of charge on a USB, by contacting Kalbar. This free EES pack includes:

- EES Summary Report
- EES Map Book
- EPA Works Approval Application
- Project description information sheet
- Full suite of specialist study information sheets
- Guide on how to navigate the EES
- Guide on how to make a submission

Hard copies of all EES, the PSA and the Works Approval Application documents are also available to anyone. These may be provided free of charge to those who have accessibility issues or, where electronic options are impracticable. Below are the normal costs for EES documents:

- EES Summary Report (with USB) and Map Book: Free of charge
- EPA Works Approval Application: Free of charge
- EES Main Report: \$25
- Hard copy EES Technical Reports/Appendices:
 - \$20 for an individual Report
 - \$75 for a group of five Reports
 - \$200 for all Technical Reports
- Hard copy of everything (EES Main Report plus all Technical Reports): \$225

To obtain any of the exhibited documents (electronic on a USB, or hard copy) please contact Kalbar at contactus@fingerboardsproject.com.au or by calling 1800 791 396.

If you are requesting a free hard copy of the EES Main Report and/or Technical Appendices, please outline the reason why electronic format is not suitable.

How to make a submission

Submissions on the exhibited EES, draft PSA and EPA Works Approval Application must be received by 5.00pm on Thursday 29 October 2020. You may make a submission or provide comments about the PSA and Works Approval Application by making a submission on the EES. Each submission will be treated as a submission in response to all exhibited documents, so only one submission is needed to address all of your views about the Project, its effects and the relevant documents.

Online submissions are preferred, via the Victorian Government's engagement portal: engage.vic.gov.au/fingerboards-IAC

Hard copy written submissions must be accompanied by a coversheet available by calling Planning Panels Victoria through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Customer Service Centre on 136 186. Each written submission must have a separate cover sheet and they cannot be copied.

All submissions must state the name and address of the person making the submission. Submissions will be treated as public documents and will be published on the Victorian Government's engagement website. Therefore, your submission and your name will be made public.

The submission process is independently managed by Planning Panels Victoria.

Inquiry and Advisory Committee process

The Minister for Planning will appoint a joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) under the EE Act 1978 and the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The IAC will review the public submissions, the EES, the draft PSA and the EPA Works Approval Application. It will review and consider the environmental effects of the Project in accordance with Terms of Reference issued by the Minister for Planning.

After the exhibition period, the IAC will hold a Directions Hearing on Friday 13 November 2020, where the necessary arrangements and timetable for the public hearing will be established. Further information about the Directions Hearing arrangements, including venue and time, will be published on the Engage Victoria website. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is possible the Directions Hearing and the Public Hearing will be conducted online via video conference. The IAC will follow health advice from the Victorian Government and the Chief Health Officer in making this decision.

The public hearing process will commence on Monday 7 December 2020.

Members of the public and any other parties seeking to be heard at the public hearing must provide a written submission and indicate on the submission form that they would like to be heard at the hearing.

Information on the IAC process and the timetable for the hearings will be published as it becomes available at engage.vic.gov.au/fingerboards-IAC

Questions

Questions relating to the:

- Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project and exhibited EES documentation should be directed to Kalbar at: contactus@fingerboardsproject.com.au/ees or by calling 1800 791 396
- Making a submission and the IAC hearing process, should be directed to Planning Panels Victoria by calling 136 186 or emailing Fingerboards.IAC@delwp.vic.gov.au
- EES process should be directed to the Impact Assessment Unit at DELWP at: environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au or by calling (03) 8392 5503
- EPA Works Approval should be directed to the Development Assessment Unit, EPA Victoria at: works.approvals@epa.vic.gov.au or by calling 1300 372 842