**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Title of Proposal: Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project**

**Proponent:** Kalbar Resources Ltd

**Description of Project:**

The proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project has an approximate area of 1,400 hectares (ha) and is located in the eastern part of the Glenaladale mineral sands deposit, in East Gippsland, Victoria.

The proposal includes the development of a mineral sands mine, mining unit plant, wet concentrator plant (comprising mineral separation processing and tailings thickening and disposal plant), water supply infrastructure, tailings storage facility and additional site facilities, such as a site office, warehouse, workshop, loading facilities and fuel storage. Proposed mining methods involve open pit mining to extract approximately 200 million tonnes of ore over a projected mine life of 20 years. Mine products are proposed to be transported via road or by rail for export overseas.

The mining project would require up to 3000 kilowatt hours of power likely to be supplied from the electricity grid and annual water requirements of between 3 to 4 gigalitres.

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required for the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sand Project, as described in the referral accepted on 15 November 2016.

**Reasons for Decision:**

* The project has the potential for a range of significant environmental effects. In particular the project as proposed is likely to have significant effects on:
* a very large extent of native vegetation and associated biodiversity values, including listed threatened species and communities;
* surface water and groundwater (i.e. hydrology, quality, availability) and protected beneficial uses;
* existing land uses, amenity and landscape values of the project area and those associated with the broader area, including the Mitchell River National Park; and
* Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
* An integrated assessment is necessary to ensure the range of likely adverse effects and related uncertainties are sufficiently investigated, in terms of both their extent and significance, and how significant effects can be avoided and minimised to acceptable levels.
* An EES would enable a transparent and rigorous process for consideration of potentially significant adverse effects of the project, prior to any relevant statutory decision-making, including under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990, Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Water Act 1989*.

**Date of Decision: 18/12/2016**