**Kalamazoo Mining Exploration Licence Application (EL6752)**

**Who are Kalamazoo Resources?**

Kalamazoo is an ASX listed mining company based on Western Australia. If you want to know more about them, here’s the link to their most recent annual report: <https://kzr.com.au/investors/annual-reports/>

**Why do I care?**

Recently this company was granted an exploration licence over 70km2 known as the Wattle Gully Gold Project. This includes Wattle Gully and a large section of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. It appears that this exploration licence doesn’t include private land with the exception of a pine forest. Maps showing the licence areas are contained in the company’s annual report, p9.

The company has also applied for a second, much larger licence, covering 218km2., known as the Wattle Gully South licence. Unlike the smaller licence already granted, this application includes private residential properties. The Chewton Bushlands are in the northern section of the area that would be covered if this second licence is granted.

**What does this company want to do?**

At this stage, the company has applied for a licence to conduct low impact exploration. Here’s the link to the way ‘low impact’ is defined (p6). <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/456100/Code-of-practice-for-mineral-exploration.pdf>

Essentially the level of exploration allows for track construction, tree removal and drilling on a limited basis. If the company want to do more, they are required to submit a workplan to the Department of Earth Resources. The Department is unlikely to disclose the workplan to the landowner.

Although we haven’t yet heard from the company about their exploration methods, their annual report indicates that they are considering carrying out gravity and seismic surveying techniques. The detrimental impact of seismic surveying on marine life has been the subject of recent research. We don’t have any information about impact on land-based wildlife or on human health where residents live close to exploration sites.

**Why hasn’t anyone told me about this?**

The application to conduct exploration activities on Chewton Bushlands and surrounding property was advertised in the Bendigo Advertiser but not in any Castlemaine newspaper. A few Bushlands residents put in objections but many did not find out in time and the deadline for objections has now closed.

**We are requesting that the Department of Earth Resources readvertise in the Castlemaine papers and reopen an invitation for objections.**

**What if I don’t allow them on my property?**

Even if the licence is granted, the company must have the landowners’ permission to come onto private land… but it’s a bit more complicated than that. Although you have the right to refuse entry, the company have the right to go to VCAT who would step in to negotiate the terms on which the company gets access. In short, you have limited options to prevent this exploration from occurring if the licence goes ahead.

**What if I have a Trust for Nature Covenant on my property?**

A TFN covenant provides no protection against mining. Although the landowner is not permitted to initiate mining, they must allow it if it is legally sanctioned by government.

**What can I do about it?**

The first thing is – come to the meeting on July 12.

The company is legally obliged to consult with landowners as well as with the wider community. **The CEO has agreed to come to meet with Chewton Bushlands residents on July 12 from 6-7pm.**

**If you are concerned about how this licence could affect you, you need to get involved now.**