

**Media Release**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019**

## **Horticulture Industry in Mitchell River Valley is Under Threat!**



In the rich fertile soils of the Mitchell River Valley in East Gippsland, world-class food is grown. This area supplies vegetables to fresh markets, fast food outlets, cafes, restaurants, cruise ships and various businesses along the value-added product chain throughout Australia and overseas. An industry that is valued at \$150M+ (annually) and employs up to 2,000 people is at risk from a proposed mineral sands mine.

Mr John Hine, one of the impacted horticultural business owners said, “The proposed mineral sands mine in Glenaladale is only 500m away from my veggie fields, on top of a plateau on the other side of the Mitchell River. The prospect of this mine is deeply concerning to us and we are speaking out now against that mine.”

“There is a very real risk of destroying the clean green image of our produce, both real and perceived. The risks of contamination to our veggies and soil from toxic dust plus having to compete for water as the mine will need over 3,000,000,000 litres annually, will potentially devastate our businesses and have health impacts on consumers of our produce and on workers in our fields.”

“We could create 3 times more jobs than the mine if that water was redirected to growing vegetables instead. These are long-term sustainable jobs.”

“If the Government is serious about the continued viability of our industry it must stop this mine from proceeding. Kalbar (the mining proponent) claims that when the Environment Effects Statement is submitted soon to Government it will prove the impacts on our industry will be low. We do not share their contention,” John said.

To inform their stakeholders about the potential risks and their concerns, a flyer has been prepared.

**For more information and a copy of the flyer contact:**

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