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**Request to be heard?:** No - but please email me a copy of the  
Timetable and any Directions

**Full Name:** William Davidson

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** Dear Inquiry and Advisory Committee members, I refer to the proposed Fingerboards mineral sands mine project. I would like to express strong opposition to this project. I was born and raised in Bairnsdale and grew up enjoying the beautiful countryside of East Gippsland. I would love for my children and future generations to enjoy this area as I had, and for the region to continue to prosper. I firmly believe that this project represents an unacceptable risk to local environment and economy that far outweighs the project's projected economic benefit. The Lindenow Valley is Victoria's food-bowl and the green emerald of the State. The mine being only 500m this area, with most of the vegetables grown above ground, seems an unacceptable risk both to the vegetables and the image of the region. Even without any actual contamination (which can't be conclusively ruled out), the damage to consumer perception will be immense. This could be economically disastrous for the region. There is also an unacceptable pollution risk to the Mitchell River. There are risks of the river being contaminated, impacting on the crops, fishing, agriculture, the health of the rivers and the Gippsland Lakes (which has already suffered extensive damage from the bushfires). There is also a risk of unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage sites being present and impacted. Given the massive excavation, it will be impossible to avoid destruction of artefacts and heritage. With the recent media scrutiny on these types of events (e.g. Rio Tinto and aboriginal birthing trees), this could end up becoming a huge issue for all involved. I also question the compulsory acquisition of private land, to be used by the mine for infrastructure that is located outside the mining project boundary for: water pipelines, bore pumps, bore field, roadworks, new powerlines, easements, rail siding and vegetation removal. This should have been a part of the mine project area and matter for the determination of the East Gippsland Shire Council. East Gippsland's reputation as a tourism destination and source of the highest quality produce is at risk of being severely tarnished and I implore the Inquiry and Committee members to take a wide and long term view of the the implications of this mine. I thank the Inquiry and the Committee for its consideration. Regards, Will Davidson