

**Request to be heard?:** No

**Full Name:** Linette Claire Treasure

**Organisation:**

**Affected property:**

**Attachment 1:**

**Attachment 2:**

**Attachment 3:**

**Comments:** The Risks Are Too High. We cannot afford to despoil a whole region. Members of my family have lived in Gippsland over 160 years and I have grandchildren living here. The mine has a proposed life of approx. 18 years but should it be allowed, in a short time, it will likely destroy what makes this area of Australia so unique. We saw what Rio did to mankind's sacred heritage - once destroyed, it is lost forever. The proposed Fingerboards Mine siting close to major vegetable growing and the Mitchell River flowing down to the Gippsland Lakes and the nearby storage for water supply for the city of Bairnsdale is totally irresponsible. Our climate is becoming increasingly dry with several major dust storms over the past decade as well as water restrictions being placed on the growing population of Bairnsdale. Given the current demand for water there will not be enough for effective suppression of dust. If the proposed allocations for the mine were allowed for vegetable growing expansion, the economic result would far outweigh economic benefit from the mine (without dangerous short and long term degradation and risk.) Key drivers of East Gippsland's economy are agriculture and tourism. It also attracts increasing numbers of retirees because of its healthy environment. For years the East Gippsland Council has spent large sums of our money promoting the area as "Naturally Magic" and "Clean Green". To allow a huge mine into the centre of this for whatever short term gain, would be totally irresponsible. Would our tourists want to share the roads with big B-Double trucks, be concerned by radiation in dust they breathe or in the waters they drink, or catch fish from, or where their kids want to swim? Who would benefit most from this despoiling of our place - an overseas mining company,; the Government from royalties? But the locals as well as suffering the destruction of their environment will pay for more roads and their upkeep - while losing Council rates on the huge tract of mining land - for mines do not pay rates! It's easy for a mining company to make promises of rehabilitation but if we study the records in Australia, mostly this is not honoured and the government is left to clean up their mess, or simply leave it for the locals to suffer. The mine must not be allowed in this vulnerable area. Do our leaders care about East Gippsland and what our region provides for the economy of Victoria and Australia? On the map of Australia we are part of the small proportion that is fertile and arable - clean green - naturally magic. So to the leaders who will decide, if you are genuine leaders, please do not allow this inappropriate and irresponsible project. Don't throw East Gippsland under the bus. Recognize what we have and let us value it into the future - for our environment, for our economy, and for our people - our grandchildren, and their children's children.