

Hi Committee,

My name is Tom Lightfoot, and I represent Lightfoot Wines, a grape growing and winemaking business located above the Lindenow flats. It is a business started by my parents as a pure grape growing enterprise. It was then taken over and developed into a winery by myself and my brother to become the largest grower of grapes and maker of wine in Gippsland. It is a business that employs 8 full time staff, 5 casual staff and up to 40 seasonal workers when required.

I am appearing today to voice my concerns over the proposed mine development and in particular how it will impact my business from a water, pollution and tourism perspective.

- Not against mining, just the location
- A productive industry that is already at the mercy of the water security
- Where is the water coming from?
- What happens if they can't get it? Who misses out first
- Water supply to river, damming of tributaries, preventing runoff
- Health of the river and Gippsland lakes

- Biggest drawcard for the region, not just from an agricultural perspective
- The lakes are a huge contributor to economy of East Gippsland, separate to agriculture.
- Major source of employment for the region, directly and indirectly
- Arguably the biggest tourism drawcard for the region
- Any spoilage of the Mitchell River/Gippsland Lakes would be disastrous

- Our customers are tourists visiting pubs, cafes and restaurants, who visit for the RAMSAR listed lake system

- Mining dust (what composition?) landing on Cellar Door, Grapes and Vegetables

- What sense in threatening all jobs and industries relying on River/Lakes to create a couple of hundred jobs in mine? Mineral sands exist elsewhere.

Tom Lightfoot