


Samantha Shortt

  
Paynesville. Vic. 3880

12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project  
Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC)

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard about my concerns about the proposed Fingerboards Mineral Sands Mine at Glenaladale.

My grandfather Dick Aukema was a long-term resident at Paynesville. Mum tells me that he worked as the head of the agricultural department in Bairnsdale. In that role, he was commissioned by the Victorian Government in 1973 to write a report on soil erosion environmental effects upstream on the Gippsland Lakes.

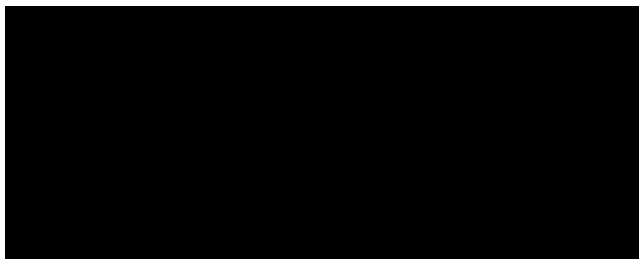
Mum is very proud that because of Dick's and other researchers reports, farmers were empowered to change their farming practises. Critical information in Dick's report gave the farmers the impetus to protect the land by not removing trees as well as implementing other sound environmental farming practises.

Mum has passed on to me Dick's passion in understanding erosion. I am aware that his knowledge was sought after by farmers where he encouraged the use of planting vegetation to conserve and stop erosion in gullies and riverbanks.

In honour of my grandfather's report, I would like to make it known that Pa would be very alarmed at upstreaming mining. My mum and I strongly express the need to take notice of Dick's report and passion and hence, ***protect the Mitchell River, River Flats, and the Gippsland Lakes from the upstream effects of mining.***

I thank you for the opportunity to write to you. I would also like to Karen Fleischer for speaking to the panel on my behalf. She was charged with saying that East Gippsland environmental future is important to me for especially for my children's and future grandchildren's sake.

Yours sincerely



Samantha Shortt.