

been approved by him. His decision flies in the face of the recommendations in a comprehensive environment effects assessment put together by his own expert panel and is contrary to the expressed wishes of the majority of the Mallacoota community and visitors to the area. It also ignores due process and undermines the integrity of our democratically elected government.

Ray and Jeannette Davey, Mallacoota

Finally caught out

IT'S fun watching Justin Madden squirm. Has there been any Brumby government public consultation process that was not a sham or a scam? Mr Madden's cavalier attitude towards the latest incident confirms this. He thinks the issue is about the language used in the controversial "memo" and not about the sentiments expressed.

As an affected landowner, I participated in the environment effects statement process for the Wonthaggi desalination plant. At the outset the panel chairman announced that the hearing had no power to make recommendations that would affect the building of the plant. At the closure of the hearing the QC representing the government against us (its citizens) stated that nothing would change as a result of anything in the 400-plus submissions.

Before the hearing we had reservations about trusting the planning process. Afterwards, we realised we had been duped and our time wasted. Now we get this EES process shoved in our face every time we complain we were not consulted about the plant. It is well time for Mr Madden to be caught out.

Lyn Whitlam, Glen Forbes

Please explain ^{Age} 1/03/10

COULD Planning Minister Justin Madden please explain why a beachfront housing development at Port Fairy ("Beach bid fails climate test", *The Age*, 26/2) was refused a permit as it is inconsistent with planning and coastal policies, which include avoiding development on primary sand dunes and in low-lying areas, while a 6.5-metre-wide road and two-metre-wide pedestrian walkway on an ocean beach at Mallacoota has