

Last-gasp review is a win-win

RECREATIONAL fishermen are not the only stakeholders in the proposed Bastion Point development (Letters, 20/4). Locals and visitors alike enjoy the area for its surf, beach and wilderness qualities, as exemplified by the 87 per cent of submissions opposing the development. Indeed, the independent panel found that the proposed development would have a detrimental impact on overall tourism at Bastion Point.

Franz Grasser is indeed misguided if he believes Bastion Point can provide all-weather safe ocean access. It can't, as clearly demonstrated by the findings and recommendations of two expert panels.

The Brumby government failed to observe due process by overriding expert advice. The Baillieu government's commitment to reviewing the project is therefore welcome. An alternative low-impact upgrade takes into account all stakeholder views. Surely this is a win-win outcome.

Jenny Mason, Mallacoota

Keep it family friendly

THERE is certainly more to the Bastion Point boat ramp plan than abalone, and certainly many more stakeholders than recreational fishermen.

I live in Mallacoota and have my entire family, including seven grandchildren ranging in age from toddlers to 18, staying. We all visit Bastion Point regularly to enjoy walking, wave jumping, exploring rock pools and looking for shells to decorate sand castles, as well as photographing the views to the Howe Range and Gabo Island.

Why should our much loved beach become the preserve of a two-lane road and elevated pedestrian walkway when an acceptable alternative option for improving facilities for fishermen is available — upgrading the current ramp, as recommended by an independent panel of experts and supported by the majority of Mallacoota's residents?

June Drake, Mallacoota

Local wishes come first

TO HAVE to rely on freedom of information laws to discover the truth behind the Brumby government's decision to support East Gippsland Shire's proposed breakwater development clearly demonstrates why that government lost many of its natural supporters. We now know that the government overrode recommendations from two expert panels, as well as advice from its own bureaucrats.

It will be interesting to see whether our new Coalition government puts its money where its mouth is, and does what it said it would do before it was elected. That is, work with and listen to local community wishes.

Graeme Charles, Chiltern

Small is beautiful

CONGRATULATIONS to Royce Millar for exposing the moral bankruptcy behind the Brumby government's proposed political deal with independent Craig Ingram to brutalise beautiful Bastion Point at Mallacoota. Power does indeed corrupt and both, thankfully, lost it at the last election.

It's about time government showed commitment to a more sustainable future by putting the "small is beautiful" philosophy into practice. The Baillieu government's proposal to look at a low-impact boat ramp is a step in the right direction.

Gib Wettenhall, Ballarat