

Boat ramp row draws to a close

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An artists impression of what the \$6.5 boat ramp built at Bastion Point would look like.

A DECADES long community battle over a massive new boat ramp and breakwater at Bastion Point near Mallacoota is almost over after the Baillieu government gave final environmental approval for the development.

The project proponent, East Gippsland Shire Council, says the proposed 130 metre breakwater and associated ramp is needed to improve launching safety for recreational and commercial fishing boats.

But community group Save Bastion Point has been battling the project for years, arguing it is too large and will cover 40 per cent of the rocky headlands.

Both parties were told late on Wednesday that state Environment Minister Ryan Smith had given environmental approval for the project with some conditions.

Mr Smith said the conditions included a requirement for the council to put in place an environmental management plan for construction, maintenance and operational works of the ramp.

Leo op den Brouw, from the Save Bastion Point campaign, said the group would continue fighting the project by putting pressure on any additional sources of funding that may be needed for the project.