

Another mistake

Sir,- Council has made yet another mistake on the Bastion Point saga, and this time it is on a fundamental safety issue.

The safety audit of the proposed Option 3B facility by the Australian Maritime College Search (AMCS) is based on the assumption that the facility will be used by no more than 30 boats at sea at any one time.

East Gippsland Shire Council has interpreted this to mean an unlimited number of boats can be at sea, but no more than 30 boats can launch or retrieve at the same time.

This is clearly illogical, and in conflict with the findings of the safety audit that identified safety issues should any more than 30 boats attempt to return to the breakwater facility as the result of a sudden deterioration of weather conditions.

AMCS, in consultation with the Department of Transport, has confirmed that its study and risk assessment ratings are based on the assumption that there would be only 30 boats at sea at any one time, rather than an unlimited number as suggested by council.

Council is planning to operate the facility in what AMCS describes as a potentially dangerous situation. It is an indictment on the process conducted by council that senior staff and councillors have made such a fundamental mistake at this stage of the process. If only council had

willingly consulted with the community to achieve a safe, environmentally acceptable, economic and sensible solution for Bastion Point.

Yours etc.,
James Thyer,
Northcote.