

## Calls to shelve 3B

The Save Bastion Point Campaign is calling on East Gippsland Shire Council to shelve its plans for Option 3B breakwater and beach road and put an end to the waste of public money that "this unpopular proposal demands".

Spokesman for the group, Leo op den Brouw said: "We support the move away from Option 3B to a solution at the current ramp site, as it reduces vegetation clearing on the headland by almost half, doesn't require a road on the beach, doesn't throw a large breakwater through the Broken Boards surfbreak, and will have significantly less impact on Aboriginal heritage sites."

Council has been the proponent for Option 3B development for over seven years. Mr op den Brouw claims both the capital and operating costs of 3B are now about fourfold what council originally proposed in the EES.

"This gives further weight to the (EES) panel's fears that this development would be a financial burden on the people of East Gippsland," he said.

"The Save Bastion Point Campaign urges the Government and council to find a solution for the current site that is acceptable to the community.

"We believe an upgrade at this site is possible, one which is safe, and has good environmental, economic and landscape credentials," Mr op den Brouw said.

"We urge East Gippsland Shire Council to vote for a positive community result, unlike Option 3B which has caused so much division in the Mallacoota community over the years."

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (Victorian Group) is also in favour of a low-key and sensitive upgrade.

State group president, Kirsten Bauer said it was very pleasing the latest proposal (H2) did not involve a cantilevered road directly along the beach as in previous option, and proposed a smaller car park area and overall footprint than shown in previous options.

Continued page 31

## Low-key request

From page 1

"However, we remain very concerned regarding the extent and visual impact of sea-wall infrastructure contained in the most recent proposal," Ms Bauer said.

Ms Bauer noted that the 'Multi-Criteria' analysis undertaken by appointed engineering firm Hyder allocates an overall weighting of just three per cent to Visual and Urban Design Assessment Criteria.

"We believe this to be an incredibly insufficient (and in fact token) weighting to assess the visual and landscape amenity of the most recent proposals in this highly sensitive area. The significance of the visual impact of any proposal was emphasised in the recommendations of the independent Panel, and supported by the Institute and the local community. Surely the visual impact warrants a similar weighting to the safety criteria."

Ms Bauer also strongly advocates that appropriate design professionals be involved in the Visual and Urban Design Assessment Process in relation to the most recent proposals, and ultimate design of the final facility.

"We urge that a low-key, sensitive upgrade of the existing boat ramp, parking and associated facilities be undertaken at Bastion Point, having minimal intrusion on this unique coastal landscape."