

# White elephant stampedes steps of Parliament

An inflatable white elephant this week stampeded the steps of Parliament House, along with hundreds of protesters concerned about the ocean access development proposed for Bastion Point, Mallacoota.

Tuesday's rally took place one week before East Gippsland Shire Council's monthly meeting (to be held next Tuesday), where tenders for the ocean access boat ramp will be discussed and a contract possibly awarded, in camera. Tenders closed

on May 15.

Mallacoota locals and other supporters took 'Ziggy the elephant' to Melbourne to trumpet the message "buried beaches equals bad business" to highlight long-running community opposition to plans to build a "damaging" breakwater at the beach.

Those rallied hoped to convey that the coast is too precious to lose, and damaging developments have no place on Victoria's coastal environment.

Approvals have been granted for the construc-

tion of the boat ramp, funding committed from the State Government, and East Gippsland Shire Council will next week debate officers' recommendations about the tender/s received for the project.

Council stressed the tenders received for the Bastion Point project would be subjected to the same process as those received for all other council projects.

Council this week took out a paid advertisement in the *East Gippsland News*, which carried an image showing the similar size of the proposed and its preferred 3B ramp, and the disregarded H2 option.

"The new boat ramp and breakwater will dramatically improve safety for the launching of commercial and recreational vessels and vehicle parking facilities, and provide a much-needed separation for swimmers and surfers in that location," the advertisement read.

"The breakwall is a white elephant," Save Bastion Point Campaign spokesperson



The 'blasting beaches is bad management' and 'white elephant' slogans were rammed home on the steps of Parliament House on Tuesday. (PS)

Jenny Mason said.

"If this damaging development goes ahead it sets a dangerous precedent and leaves no

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