

'Coota decision upheld

Planning Minister Justin Madden's decision to approve the controversial Bastion Point boat ramp development at Mallacoota was upheld yesterday morning in the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Minister's assessment and, according to the Minister, the judgement confirmed that safety and social considerations were relevant considerations under the Environment Effects Act 1978.

Minister Madden welcomed the decision and said he was determined that to do nothing or only a minor upgrade at the existing site would have been a risk to swimmers and beach users sharing the ocean where boats are launched.

"The Supreme Court ruling recognises that this was the right decision," he said.

"This is a good outcome for growth in marine tourism, commercial fishing and recreational boat users in the region."

East Gippsland Shire mayor Cr Michael Freshwater said the verdict would be welcomed by many in the community.

"Council is now busy completing the detailed design of the boat ramp and ancillary works having proven through simulation studies that the design is sound and well able to handle the prevailing sea conditions."

Full story, including comments from the Friends of Mallacoota and Mallacoota Ocean Access Committee, in next week's Snowy River Mail.