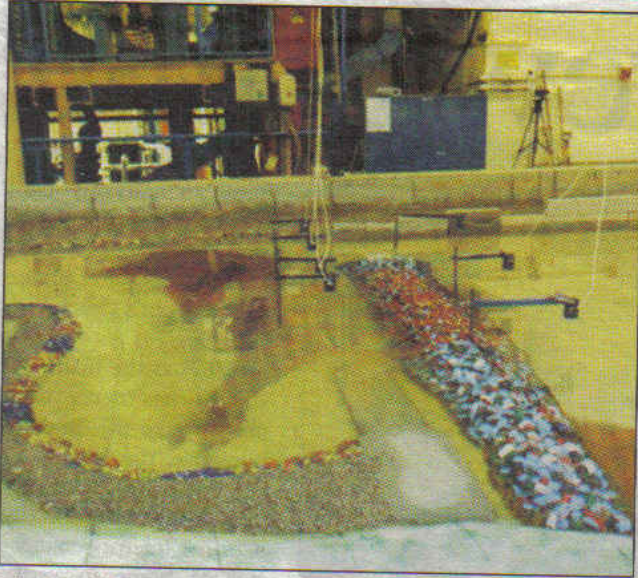


MAY 14 2010



Model of the proposed Bastion Point boat ramp looking down the ramp and out to sea. (PS)



Waves striking the breakwater in the simulated one-in-100-year weather event. (PS)

Wave effects studied

The effect of waves on the proposed Bastion Point ocean access ramp have been studied at Adelaide University.

A 1/40 scale model of the proposed boat ramp and breakwater has been used to conduct the tests.

The model is an accurate representation of the seabed and surrounding beach area and includes the proposed access road along the base of the escarpment.

The model was built by Dr Peter

Riedel of Coastal Engineering Solutions, with assistance from Adelaide University staff. Dr Riedel is recognised nationally as an expert in the field of coastal engineering.

The process was overseen by Bairnsdale engineering and environmental consultants Crossco.

East Gippsland Shire director Chris Waites said that the tests simulated a wide range of anticipated sea conditions.

"These ranged from moderate storm events right up to the major 'one-in-100-year' events and in all cases the proposed breakwater provided a high level of protection to the boat ramp itself," he said.

"While a final report is still to be prepared it appears the tests have confirmed the efficacy of the design as well as the robustness of the breakwater and its ability to withstand severe storm events."

Bastion Pt postcard message

Mallacoota residents presented 1400 postcards embodied in a unique marine art installation to Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Innovation, Gavin Jennings on Wednesday.

The postcards call on Minister Jennings to reject a proposal for a boat ramp and breakwater development, through his powers

under the Coastal Management Act 1995.

The Bastion Point boat ramp was approved by Minister for Planning, Justin Madden, under planning law and was the subject of Supreme Court proceedings earlier this week.

The proposal will shortly go before Minister Jennings for consent under the Coastal Management Act.

"This development proposal will destroy one of Mallacoota's iconic surf breaks and damage the tourism potential of Victoria's Wilderness Coast," Friends of Mallacoota spokesperson Leo op den Brouw said.

"The panel clearly laid out a way forward on Bastion Point - recommending a low key upgrade to the cur-

rent ramp, without breakwaters, that would preserve swimming and surfing and the unique natural features of Bastion Point.

"The Brumby Government and Minister Jennings need to put a halt to this coastal development and restore community faith in the state's planning process, following a series of controversial decisions of late."