

Use funding constructively

Sir,- An open letter to Minister Tim Pallas re. The \$6.5 million for a breakwater facility at Bastion Point, Mallacoota.

Thank you for your generous \$6.5 million towards the very controversial and not yet approved Bastion Point breakwater facility at Mallacoota.

As an independent panel enquiry proved and the Mallacoota community has previously (like for the past 10 - 20 years) opposed such a huge, inappropriate development, we continue to wonder 'what it's all really about?'

However, (regarding the \$6.5m) as a small democratic community, living in the heart of "Victoria's wilderness coast" and not wanting to seem unappreciative, we have decided to use these funds more constructively - to build the community, not break it!

We have decided to develop a much less intrusive, more user friendly ramp upgrade at Bastion Point (\$2.5m), upgrade and seal public roads (\$1.5m), build public footpaths in and around our township (\$1m) and build a community swimming pool (\$1.5m).

These projects if correctly overseen and constructed in appropriate accordance with our environment will prove to be a real asset to the future of our community and tourism in Victoria as a whole.

If there's any change - what's say we have a sausage sizzle at the beach?

Long live "The Wilderness Coast", democracy and "Victoria's best kept secret".

Thanks once again for your generous donation (let's hope the Environment Minister doesn't feel pressured into approving this preposterous proposal just because funding is available).

Yours etc.,
Julie Parker,
Mallacoota.

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Talking frankly

Sir,- Flash forward to Craig Ingram talking frankly at the Christmas party...

Firstly, thanks so much to taxpayers for stumping up \$6.5 million for the Bastion Point breakwater facility.

I know it started off as \$1.7 million, then it was \$5.2 million a few weeks ago, but hey, it's only gone up a bit recently, and we might need some more anyway. Especially if it needs the breakwater extensions shown in the Marine Safety Victoria report!

Secondly, thanks to the ratepayers of East Gippsland who have agreed to underwrite the operating costs of the facility for the next 30 years; it's greatly appreciated.

I know that pesky independent panel found it would be to the overall net detriment of tourism, and an economic burden on East Gippsland, but council got some smart cookies to produce some much better figures. Though, those recalcitrants from Save Bastion Point Campaign still quibble about \$2.8 million annual black holes - hey it's only a one-line mistake!

Have a great holiday season, oh, you should get down to Bastion Point for one last surf, or play with your family in the rock pools before Major Projects starts construction.

Yours etc.,
James Thyer,
Northcote.