

Leadership needed on Bastion Point issue

Coalition candidates have shown they are just followers - not leaders - following their comments when questioned about the Bastion Point boat ramp at the Bairnsdale 'Meet the Candidates' forum on Tuesday evening, according to Gippsland East Independent MP Craig Ingram.

Mr Ingram says he was both amazed and dismayed at the comments from Coalition candidates in response to a question from the floor of the forum, asking for both their personal and party views on the question of the Bastion Point access ramp.

"The Mallacoota com-

munity, which has been waiting decades for safe reliable ocean access, has been abandoned by the Coalition candidates," Mr Ingram said.

"We had one candidate simply opposing the upgrade, the other calling for more studies and reviews. Comments such as 'we would have to have a closer look at it' and 'we need more questions answered' are beyond belief.

"Bastion Point and safe ocean access has had repeated investigations over decades, all coming to the same conclusion that an upgrade is required and it must be built to acceptable Australian safety standards.



* Craig Ingram

"The community just wants government to get on with it and all the Coalition offers is flip-flop.

"If this is what the Liberal and Nationals have to offer - indecision, red tape and opposition on important tourism projects, what other projects will the Coalition candidates block?

"The time for continual studies is over. The ramp must be built and the comments from the Coalition duo shows an amazing lack of support for the tourist and recreational fishing community, who have worked tirelessly for decades for a boat ramp.

"For the future of Gippsland East, we can't afford to elect candidates who just blow with the breeze and fail to show leadership."