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Three hundred and fifty people turned out at Bastion Point last Sunday to see the Biggest White Elephant in East Gippsland. (PS)

## Coota's white elephant

Hundreds rallied at Bastion Point last Sunday to celebrate the beach and make a point to East Gippsland Shire Council – that there are cheaper and more site-appropriate alternatives than its proposed 'Option 3B' safe ocean access proposal.

Jenny Mason, of Mallacoota, said the rally came together through the work of community members. "Hundreds of people were there, along with a huge white elephant, which was very symbolic of this oversized, unnecessary project that will be a drain on the public purse," Ms Mason said.

"It was a celebration of Bastion Point, but also to send a strong message to council that we still op-

pose inappropriate development.

"There is an alternative that would be more sustainable and appropriate to the area."

Ms Mason said the costs for the option 3B development are large, and ratepayers would have to meet the substantial ongoing costs.

Two past East Gippsland Shire mayors – Brenda Murray and Mendy Urie – have spoken out against the project.

"All ratepayers in East Gippsland may find themselves out of pocket on an ongoing basis to cover the exorbitant cost of the construction and ongoing maintenance of the proposed over sized ocean access facility at Bastion Point," they said.