

The Age 20 Feb 2010

## Riding roughshod

IN REMOTE Mallacoota, in south-east Victoria, an East Gippsland Shire Council proposal for an inappropriate major development at Bastion Point, a beach in "the heart of the Wilderness Coast", is proceeding despite a comprehensive environmental effects assessment and a three-person independent panel report recommending against it.

The Planning Minister and the council have ridden roughshod over the wishes of the majority of the locals and bodies such as the Gippsland Coastal Board.

The decision would appear to contradict the council's "Code of Conduct and Good Governance" policy, which urges councillors to "exercise responsibility impartially and in the interest of local community". Little wonder the average citizen is becoming increasingly cynical about council decisions affecting local communities.

**June Drake, Mallacoota**