

Guy gets straight to the Point

BY AMANDA STROUD

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Victorian Shadow Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, visited Mallacoota on Monday and Save Bastion Point protestors were on hand to ensure the Member of the Legislative Council got the point - their point of course.

Mr Guy was in Mallacoota on a fact-finding mission as a member of the Victorian Government's Finance and Public Administrative Committee, undertaking an enquiry into government decision-making processes.

Questions are being asked around the nature of the consultation process undertaken on a number of controversial projects, including the one at Bastion Point.

"I went down there to meet both sides of the debate," Mr Guy said.

"I am someone who believes in getting both sides of the argument before forming a view. I was very happy to meet with people who are against the proposed Bastion Point harbour development and those in favour of it."

The East Gippsland Shire Council's (EGSC) controversial harbour development comprising a boat ramp and breakwater constructed through the reef with ongoing dredging requirements and a roadway along the beach, is viewed by many locals as a threat to the natural beauty of the area.

Mid last year Victorian Minister Justin Madden gave his support to the project despite an independent Panel of Inquiry recommending otherwise. Local group, the Friends of Mallacoota, have since challenged Madden's action and are taking the case before the Victorian Supreme Court.

"I will be looking at the EIS report and related issues before I formulate a view," Mr Guy said.

"I really want to be sure the consultation process was sincere, genuine,": Mr Guy said.

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