

BARRACLOUGH ADU
8/3

Wasteful structure

Sir,- East Gippsland ratepayers need to watch the spending of the shire council on inappropriate and wasteful structures because we all pay in the end.

The proposed construction at Bastion Point, Mallacoota, considering potential user ship, is oversized. It is to be built to 90 per cent usability to attract year round boat users.

However, fish catches drop off in the cooler months as do the amount of people wishing to travel to Mallacoota. We will always have much higher tourist numbers over the Christmas and Easter holidays. In the meantime the locals and visitors who enjoy the beach year round are stuck looking at and clambering over the new monstrous piles of rock supposedly protecting the new road, etc., from our high seas.

Why not further encourage the many that enjoy the lake and the bushland surrounds in the cooler months?

After all the well-considered decision of the expert panel which weighed up all submissions to the Environmental Effects Statement was that the design called Option 3b was of no societal benefit. This included cost-benefit analysis, safety, social and environmental issues. Also there is a limit to the size of our small town. We should make our town even more a centre for nature-based tourism.

A "natural" result for a town surrounded by wilderness areas and promoted as such. This implies that we should set ourselves apart as a "niche" market and not aspire to copy all the commercial boat harbours along the length of the Australian east coast.

It seems like the council is putting all its eggs in one basket. These eggs (dollars) will fritter away.

The novelty of spending hundreds of dollars by people in large boats travelling to find fish will wear off. Fuel prices are rising, increasingly fierce storms at sea are looming along with other detractions. The councillors must realise that they will endanger boaties even by encouraging them to enter these changeable waters. Our town is already investigating having to procure a coastguard boat.

The operational management costs, which include maintenance of the large dredge to be stationed near the boat ramp will be \$270,000 per annum. This amount will be paid every year

out of your rates along with the initial cost of \$300,000 for the large car park some 416 meters from the ramp. Oh, what we could do with this sort of money in our town as well as yours.

Storms already lap the bottom of the cliff where they are intending to construct a raised road to the ramp. Large amounts of kelp gather in the ramp area. This is happening now. They will have to be removed when required.

The minor upgrade at the existing site would be a win-win situation as most boaties just want a boat ramp that works considerably better than the present inadequate piece of concrete.

Yours etc.,

Maryanne Crocker,
Mallacoota.