

SNOWY RIVER MAIL 24/11/2010

Head in the sand

Sir,- At the recent candidates forum held in Bairnsdale, only Craig Ingram failed to acknowledge that there were problems with the damaging breakwater development at Bastion Point.

This is indicative of his "head in the sand" approach.

Unlike other candidates, he has ignored the broader community concerns: the ongoing costs to ratepayers, the risks to

safety, the loss of a much used beach, degradation of the environment and the list goes on.

Ingram calls it "just a boat-ramp". What a blatant distortion of the facts!

It is a huge overdevelopment of Bastion Point. A community plan for a low impact upgrade is more in keeping with his definition, but he has chosen to reject it.

It appears Mr Ingram puts self-interest before community interests. It's time for him to go.

Yours etc.,
Jenny Mason,
Mallacoota.

Response, Craig Ingram: Thank you for pointing out that I am the only candidate running at this election who is offering a real solution and commitment to provide safe, reliable ocean access at Mallacoota,

fully compliant to accepted Australian Standards.

The proposed Bastion Point boat ramp is just one of the important tourism projects that are essential for the future economy of East Gippsland and Mallacoota.

It is supported by the majority of Mallacoota residents, East Gippsland Shire Council and the business and tourism communities.

This project has been delayed for too long and the lack of leadership shown by candidates in this election is at complete odds with what their own parties are telling the business and tourism industries.

Bairnsdale Advertiser
26/11/2010

Limit the development

Sir,- I am a visitor to your lovely area and am aware of the debate in regards to the Bastion Point boat ramp.

It appears to me that millions of dollars of ratepayers money is going to be spent on turning this unique part of the world into something like many of the coastal areas I choose to drive past.

Recently I read 'Bastion blow up' (*Advertiser*, November 12) and found it difficult to believe some of the quotes from the councillors that are the people's representatives.

The classic quote from Cr Buckley being: "The benefits are irrelevant."

Having "division in council" on this matter can only be a positive thing, and demonstrates that a good cross-section of your community is being represented.

It's things like "anti-boat ramp people" that make the council sound narrow minded and a little ridiculous.

This debate has been going on for years, and I take my hat off to the people who have put the energy into trying to limit the scale of the development. Many lovely coastal villages have been lost because the residents didn't care until it was too late.

Yours etc.,
Elizabeth Wade,
Dondingalong, NSW.