

Proposal contradictory

Sir,- The proposal of East Gippsland Shire Council to build an intrusive 130-metre, \$5.5 million breakwater at Mallacoota's Bastion Point contradicts so many environmental, heritage, safety, economic and recreational fundamentals that it is amazing that it is still on the table.

Years of studies and reports have demonstrated the fallacies and dangers inherent in the proposal.

The Council's own recent study contains massive errors, and the economic case both to construct and maintain the breakwater is so

weak that it represents an unsupportable waste of taxpayer funds.

A much cheaper, less intrusive solution, costing \$1.6 million, will achieve the same practical results without the drawbacks. Why, then, is it not being adopted without further ado?

Mallacoota residents and community groups are strongly against the council's proposal. Nor will it benefit holidaymakers. So who are the beneficiaries? Who is driving it? Is there a hidden agenda?

The pristine coastline at Mallacoota is part of Australia's pioneering UNESCO Biodiversity Reserve. It would be tragic indeed if Victoria's contri-

bution to the present International Year of Biodiversity was to foolishly and permanently was to vandalise part of that reserve.

Yours etc.,
Ray Edmondson OAM,
Kambah, Mallacoota.

Credible alternative

Sir,- At long last, a credible alternative plan to the controversial option 3B Boat Ramp at Bastion Point, Mallacoota, has been published by the Save Bastion Point Campaign.

We feel this plan to be a sincere attempt to find a common-sense compromise solution which can allay the angst that has wracked our community.

Unfortunately, the East Gippsland Shire Council's (EGSC) proposal was designed by outsider consultancies with no appreciation

of local values.

The result was the overkill, high-impact monstrosity option 3B.

EGCC has refused to consider any alternative, despite the rejection of option 3B on all grounds by the independent review panel!

The Bastion Point Campaign does not have council's resources to engage consultants in support of its alternative, so to whom can they turn?

The alternative plan is far cheaper, safer and low-impact. Sheltered by the natural reef and much closer to parking and toilet facilities.

It eliminates the huge, obscuring rock-wall and provides clear visibility of boats, waves and swimmers.

Gone is the ugly, vulnerable road on the beach, and the interruption of the town walking track.

It does not pollute the beach with sand dredge out-

fall.

It is a plan which deserves public scrutiny and support.

Yours etc.,
Geoff and Betty Coles,
Mallacoota.

Snowy River Mail

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