

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE

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Locals And Visitors Stand In Solidarity Against Breakwater Development

Hundreds of people gathered at Bastion Point on Thursday night to give the strong message that opposition continues against the East Gippsland Shire Council's proposed development at Bastion Point. Linking hands, community members and visitors stood in unity along the beach that will become a road if the proposal goes ahead.

Mr. Leo Op den Brouw, spokesman for the Save Bastion Point Campaign, said "People are determined to keep fighting against this oversized development. People aren't prepared to sit around and simply watch Bastion Point be buried under concrete and rubble."

"This development will directly affect not only Mallacoota, but the whole region. It will be an ongoing drain on the public purse, a white elephant. Ratepayers will be forced to bear the cost. The construction and management costs will mean higher rates and less money available for critical community infrastructure. All Victorians should be very concerned when projects which have very weak economic credentials, aren't supported by the Victorian Coastal Strategy and are strongly opposed by the broader community, get rubber stamped simply because weak legislation allows it" he said.

The crowd was addressed by community members, who spoke passionately about the issues and their determination to achieve a smaller and more appropriate boat ramp at the existing site. "We have had major successes in this Campaign - The Inquiry Panel recommended against the development and said that there is no overall societal benefit, and the Department of Transport review found there could be a much cheaper and better alternative for Bastion Point. But the process has failed us. The East Gippsland Shire continues to push ahead, regardless of the detrimental effects this will have" said community member Melinda Beacham.

"We are not opposed to an upgraded boat ramp at Bastion Point. We recognise that improvement is required" said Mr. Op den Brouw. "But what the Council proposes is a very expensive over-development and totally unnecessary when a smaller, more appropriate upgrade is readily achievable."

Contact details for interviews –

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www.savebastionpoint.org