

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Feels Anger and Distress at Council Decision to Award Tender for Bastion Point Breakwater

Today the East Gippsland Shire Council awarded a contract for the construction of a breakwater and beach road development at Mallacoota's iconic Bastion Point, known as 'Option 3b'.

This development was subject to an Environment Effects Statement Inquiry in 2008, which recommended strongly against this development, saying it was of no societal benefit and should not proceed.

A more recent Review by the current Victorian Government in 2012 found that a cheaper facility, with significantly less environmental impact would perform as well or better than East Gippsland Shire Council's 'Option 3b'.

And yet, Council has seen fit to ignore the overwhelming public objections to this development – both the Inquiry Panel and Review had 87% of submissions opposing Option 3b and supporting lower impact options.

"We feel angry and disappointed, but not surprised. Council has proven itself quite incapable of managing this matter. It has consistently failed to listen to the community or to advice from experts", said Jenny Mason, Coordinator of Save Bastion Point Campaign.

"It is irresponsible of Council to have committed itself to the construction of Option 3b. This is a destructive, oversized development - so unnecessary when a less damaging and less costly alternative is possible."

"It is ratepayers that will ultimately have to bear the costs - a financial burden for years to come."

"For people in Mallacoota, it will be a permanent scar on the landscape - a monument to political expediency, financial irresponsibility, mismanagement, and ego. It will be a constant reminder to the many who love this place, all that has been lost."

"Council's decision is damaging not just to the environment and the public purse: it is damaging to the health and well-being of our community."

"People will not just stand by and watch this devastation unfold: opposition and resistance will continue."

Contact details for interviews –

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