

# Save Bastion Point

*protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Monday, 18 April 2011**

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DISCOVERY SHOWS WHY AN ALTERNATIVE DESIGN IS CRUCIAL FOR BASTION POINT**

The Victorian Government's review of the Bastion Point planning process is shaping up as a first key test in its commitment to restore fairness and transparency in planning, the Save Bastion Point Campaign said today.

This follows FOI investigations by the Save Bastion Point Campaign that revealed key ministers in the Brumby Government ignored the advice of planning and safety bureaucrats, and the findings of both an independent planning panel and a boating safety panel.

Leo Op den Brouw of the Save Bastion Point Campaign said that the Baillieu Government must heed the lessons of the failed Bastion Point planning process and not allow it to become politically motivated and non-transparent again as under the previous government.

"It is now clear the Brumby Government overrode recommendations from 2 expert panels set up to provide advice, as well as advice from its own bureaucrats."

It is believed that the Brumby Government was keen to approve the development to secure the support of independent Craig Ingram, an abalone license holder, in the likely event of a hung parliament. However Labor lost the election, and Ingram his seat.

The Save Bastion Point Campaign has welcomed the Baillieu Government's commitment to review the process and to assess a lower impact alternative development for Mallacoota's Bastion Point.

"Any outcomes of the Bastion Point review being undertaken by the Coalition Government need to follow the expert advice of the independent Planning Panel, which was not to build the breakwater, and to use a community driven process to find a better solution to boat launching at Bastion Point," said Mr. Op den Brouw.

The Save Bastion Point Campaign urges the East Gippsland Shire Council to abandon its current application for Coastal Management Act consent, and to work with the community for a low impact alternative.

"The Planning Panel found that the breakwater development did not have coastal policy support – and that means quite simply, that it cannot and should not get approval under the Coastal Management Act," concluded Mr. Op den Brouw.

Further information and FOI source files available at: [www.savebastionpoint.org](http://www.savebastionpoint.org)

Contact details for interviews –

Leo op den Brouw, Save Bastion Point Campaign Ph: 51580255 M: 0428 535 192