

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 2 December 2010

New Victorian Government can now turn tide on Bastion Point overdevelopment

The Save Bastion Point Campaign today called on the new Victorian Government to act swiftly on its election commitment to review the East Gippsland Shire Council's proposed overdevelopment of Bastion Point, Mallacoota.

SBPC spokesperson, Leo Op den Brouw, said that four of the five Gippsland East candidates either opposed or wished to see the proposal reviewed while Craig Ingram, the only candidate supporting it, lost his seat in the largest swing in the state. At the Mallacoota booth, two thirds of voters cast their primary votes for candidates that opposed, or supported a review of the breakwater development.

"The Victorian election has given voice to Gippsland East voter concerns about the Council's proposed overdevelopment of Bastion Point. We urge the new Victorian government to listen to those concerns.

"Whenever the Bastion Point development is put under public scrutiny, such as by the Independent Planning Panel or the voters of Gippsland East, it is rejected as unsafe, unsustainable and uneconomic.

"By reviewing the project we would expect the new government to draw the same inescapable conclusion.

"Premier Baillieu has committed his government to being open, transparent and accountable, three fundamentals lacking from the Bastion Point process driven by Council and the previous government.

"The most open, transparent and accountable way to resolve the issue of ocean access at Bastion Point is for the new government to establish a community-based process to determine a sustainable alternative to the Council's destructive proposal.

"As a good starting point, the Save Bastion Point Campaign has developed an alternative design that satisfies relevant Australian Standards, improves ocean access, protects Bastion Point and does all this for one-quarter the cost of the Council's environmentally devastating proposal.

"The Save Bastion Point Campaign is encouraged by the pre-election pledge of the then Shadow Minister for the Environment Mary Wooldridge to give local communities, environmental managers, coastal boards and the Victorian Environment Assessment Council a much stronger say in land and water management issues. We are calling on the new Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, to stand by this commitment.

"By establishing an open, transparent, accountable and community-based process to resolve ocean access at Bastion Point, the new Government can immediately signal to all Victorians that it will rejuvenate coastal planning and be more responsive to community concerns.

"The Save Bastion Point Campaign now looks forward to working with the Victorian government, the new member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull, and the Council to achieve a long-term, sustainable and economically responsible solution to ocean access at Bastion Point."

Contact details for interviews –

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