

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 27 October 2010

The Last Bastion to be Defended in Inner City Marginal Seats

Today the Save Bastion Point Campaign brought their campaign from Far East Gippsland to Melbourne's inner city marginal seats, with the launch of an advertisement in the Melbourne Times.

The Campaign believes the long-standing battle over a proposed harbour development at Bastion Point, Mallacoota is not just an issue that affects local residents.

Bastion Point is an important holiday destination for many Melbournians – it is Victoria's premier Wilderness Coastal destination. The East Gippsland Shire Council is now seeking final approval under the Coastal Management Act to build the breakwater development on Mallacoota's wilderness headland, Bastion Point.

Mr Leo op den Brouw, the group's spokesperson, said "Bastion Point, Mallacoota is a popular holiday location for Melbourne's inner city residents who hold dear the opportunity to get away from life's daily hustle and bustle to a remote and undeveloped wilderness."

An Independent Inquiry recommended in 2008 that the proposed development was of 'no societal benefit'. Yet Minister Madden, who could have accepted the Panel's recommendations for a low impact facility, gave his rubber stamp to the large harbour development that will see the end of Bastion Point's famed surfbreak, rockpools and wilderness status.

"Despite this project having an exhaustive and transparent independent Panel Inquiry, the government has allowed this project to proceed to final design and approval stage. This is regardless of the Panel finding that the development will be to the overall net detriment of tourism – something that greatly concerns Mallacoota residents and many of the visitors to Mallacoota, who return to this special place or year after year.

"We're hoping in the end that the final decision over Bastion Point will demonstrate a sound planning decision and a desire to protect Victoria's valuable wilderness coastal environment." said Mr op den Brouw. The Government and all parties are well aware that inner city residents have a strong environmental conscience and regard Victoria's coast as a valuable asset not to be lost. This will no doubt influence how they vote in the upcoming State election."

The Liberal and National Parties are yet to state a position on the Bastion Point development and The Greens have strongly supported the Panel's recommendations to investigate a low impact option at the site of the existing ramp.

Link to electronic copy of Melbourne Times advertisement:

<http://savebastionpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Melbourne-Times-27-Oct-2010.pdf>

Link to SBPC website: <http://savebastionpoint.org/>

Link to Independent Panel Executive Summary:

http://savebastionpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Exec_Summary_Panel_Report_2008.pdf

Contact details for interviews –

Leo op den Brouw

Save Bastion Point Campaign

Ph. 03 5158 0255