

APRIL 4
Snowy River Mail

Option 3B supported

Last night, council staff recommended the East Gippsland Shire stick to option 3B for the Bastion Point boat ramp, instead of supporting the State Government's hybrid (known as 'H2') design.

Council director operations, Chris Waites, in his report tabled to council, states that following a review of all information provided to council, and through observation of the community consultation process, there remained a number of significant areas of concern in respect to H2, the Government's own design in the same location as the current inadequate ramp, but with a breakwall. H2 doesn't require a road along the beach.

Mr Waites recommended the council re-confirm its previous decision in relation to Mallacoota Ocean Access Boat Ramp Option 3B (as voted on at the August 3, 2010, council meeting), to submit the detailed design and supporting documentation, to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change to seek Coastal Management Act Consent and to construct the facility upon receipt of such consent and sufficient external funding for the project.

Mr Waites states in his report there remain a number of areas of concern with the Government's H2 concept. H2 was developed for the Government at its request after it won power and elected to review the previous Government's decision to proceed with Option 3B.

Mr Waites summarises the issues with H2 issues as:

- * Increased operational costs compared with Option 3B, due to increased volume of sand dredging.
- * Inadequate parking facility, resulting in unsafe roadside parking.
- * Conflict with swimmers and surfers; more significant than 3B.
- * Significant delay to the project start due to preparation of detailed design, Cultural Heritage Management Plan, etc.
- * Potential for damage to cultural heritage sites near head of proposed ramp.
- * Construction costs likely to mirror or exceed 3B costs, if second breakwater of 140m length is constructed to minimise sand intrusion into facility.
- * Significant aesthetic impact due to proximity to adjacent family swimming area.
- * Impact on usability of family swimming beach.