

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Bastion Point - beautiful one day, bulldozed the next

Thursday 14 November 2013

**Community dismay as the bulldozers move in on Bastion Point, Mallacoota, to dig up the beach for a bitumen road and 130 metre break wall.**

Bastion Point, on Victoria's far east wilderness coast, is part of a landscape classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as an essential part of Australia's heritage that should be preserved.

"We are dismayed that the beauty and ambience of the beach and coastline at Bastion Point will now be lost forever under rock and bitumen," said Simon Branigan, spokesperson for the Victorian National Parks Association.

"The decision to allow beautiful Bastion Point to be trashed sets a dangerous precedent for future coastal planning and development in Victoria.

"The Napthine Government is not listening to community concerns about protecting Victoria's natural environment.

"It's a dangerous precedent. No beach in Victoria is now safe from this type of unnecessary and destructive development."

Despite an independent planning panel recommending against the development, overwhelming community opposition and the Department of Transport proposing a potentially lower cost and less damaging alternative as part of a review process, the Napthine Government has given the go-ahead for a 1980s-style remodelling of this precious place.

Distressed local community groups have been protesting at the construction site, and further protests are expected over coming weeks.

"The crazy situation is that there is a less damaging and clear alternative that would allow safer open ocean access at Bastion Point, but this has been repeatedly ignored," Mr Branigan said.

"We call on Premier Denis Napthine to demonstrate commitment to protecting coastal environments by intervening immediately to stop this development, and to withdraw funding until the East Gippsland Shire Council agrees to implement a lower impact option to boating access."

- [Download high resolution image of construction works](#)
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