

Data is incorrect

Sir,

The EES for the Bastion Point Ocean Access claims that the project is so profitable that it is well above what might be considered viable for public investment.

In fact, the East Gippsland Shire Council has reached this conclusion only through its use of incorrect source data, using dubious methodology and by making basic arithmetic mistakes. Moreover, it has spent what we estimate to be close to \$ 400,000 of ratepayer and taxpayers money to achieve this.

A small snapshot of the incorrect source data includes:

- An estimation that there are 3,000 campsites in Mallacoota when the RACV lists just 811.
- Expenditure by tourists in Gippsland of \$220 per **day**, when in fact the Tourism Victoria reference quoted shows tourists in Gippsland spend \$221 per **trip** of median length 3 days, or expenditure of \$79 per day.
- Current commercial and government tractor launches at Bastion Point are listed as 2460 per annum, when the Department of Primary Industries recorded just 1300 for the study year of 2004/2005.
- The EES makes the reasonable statement that local industry estimates that an average boat trip might use about 50 litres of fuel, yet when this costing is added to the overall calculation for the economic benefit, this becomes 50 litres per person and each boat trip from the new breakwater ramp will use \$245 of fuel at today's prices!

Council must explain why it delivers a rosy benefit-cost analysis based on a capital cost of the facility of \$1.7 million, yet in 2005 applied to the State Government for provision of \$3 million in forward funding for the project.

One wonders if they don't trust the economic analysis either?

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Thyer

On behalf of Save Bastion Point Campaign Melbourne Group