

Step aside

Sir,- In its bid to have the Bastion Point Environment Effects Statement (EES) public inquiry delayed, East Gippsland Shire Council is being disingenuous in its claim to have been blindsided by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) submission.

Letters from DSE to council in 2005 and 2006 show that the majority of issues raised in the DSE submission were previously raised by DSE.

It can be imagined that, as they state in their submission, DSE brought up many more issues of concern via technical reference group meetings.

Moreover, it can be seen that council ignored many of DSE's recommendations in the finalised EES.

In these letters DSE states that the EES 'does not adequately address the full range of matters set out in the Assessment Guidelines, and is not of an adequate standard...'.

DSE found the draft EES did not correctly reference Government coastal guidelines, it contained a lack of engineering and geological detail, the options had high impacts on marine and terrestrial habitats and cultural heritage sites, and there was a lack of visual assessment appropriate to

the landscape significance of Bastion Point.

In Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings' words in Parliament on October 11, 'the matters raised in the [DSE] region's submission were not items that came from outer space in terms of environmental concerns'.

Council should either stop obstructing the public inquiry into the Bastion Point EES, or withdraw its plans immediately and hand over to a suitably formed representative group to formulate a low impact plan for all Bastion Points users.

Yours etc.,
Dr James Thyer,
Northcote and Malla-
coota, on behalf of Save
Bastion Point Campaign
Melbourne Group.