
What are the figures?

Sir, -

So far our publicly elected East Gippsland Shire Council has refused to inform constituents how much money has been spent on their plans to try to get a breakwater / boat ramp approved for development at Bastion Point.

We do know they've had to do far more work on it than originally intended.

The public does therefore have to wonder whether they've blown the budget on it already.

Further to this, at the public inquiry commencing in mid-November, the council is planning to be

represented by a minimum of a barrister and solicitor and to call upon 'consultant experts' to defend their proposed development.

Exorbitant daily fees for preparation, report writing and appearances, as well as administration, travel, accommodation and allowances, will all have to come out of the council's budget.

Is the council planning for it to come out of our pockets? To date the councillors have claimed it is not their responsibility to make decisions on the proposed development.

It is therefore unclear as to why councillors support the council to make such a strong defence of the proposal at the inquiry.

How many of them really know exactly what the council is proposing to build?

Do they know the full process they are entering into for the inquiry and how much it is likely to cost and where the money will come from?

It is about time councillors take responsibility and make themselves knowledgeable, transparent and accountable for such decisions.

Yours etc.,

Ros Macvean
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