

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Battle over Bastion Point to storm up on Bastille Day

The controversial breakwater/headland development proposed for Bastion Point, Mallacoota will now undergo public scrutiny at a Panel Inquiry Hearing to commence on July 14, 2008.

Spokesperson for the Save Bastion Point Campaign, Mr. Leo Op den Brouw, welcomes the decision. "Finally the proposed development can be rigorously and transparently assessed by an independent panel" he said.

The hundreds of supporters behind the Save Bastion Point Campaign are ready to strongly oppose the development at the Inquiry. "It's been a long battle which we're confident of winning. We'll be presenting a very sound case for the Inquiry", said Mr Op den Brouw.

The Environment Effects assessment process has been delayed for months because the proponent, the East Gippsland Shire Council had wanted the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to withdraw its submission, which voiced serious concerns about Council's proposed development. Whilst DSE has clarified its position, it has still held its ground and not withdrawn its submission. At a third Directions Hearing held on Monday 31st March 2008, Council finally agreed to proceed with an Inquiry after shying away from the original schedule some four months ago.

The DSE criticisms are widely echoed by the local and broader community with 87 % of 471 written submissions to the Inquiry opposing the proposed development.

Mr. Op den Brouw said "The proposed development would forever change this popular family beach and headland into an industrial site. The current ocean access boat ramp at Bastion Point has a good safety record. It is possible to make minor improvements at the current site while maintaining the outstanding ecological, cultural and recreational values of this important stretch of Victoria's coastline".

The Bastion Point Panel Inquiry Hearing will commence on 14 July in Mallacoota and is expected to finish in Melbourne on 1 August, 2008.

Ends/ends...

MEDIA NOTE:

The Public Inquiry for the Bastion Point EES is now re-scheduled to commence on July 14th 2008 with 4-5 days of submissions in Mallacoota and approximately 2-3 weeks of expert evidence in Melbourne, finishing 1st August.

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