

**Surfrider Foundation Australia
Far East Gippsland Surfriders
Friends of Mallacoota
Mallacoota Surf Life Saving Club
Mallacoota Coast Action/ Coastcare
many other concerned people**

Save Bastion Point

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Save Bastion Point Campaign Update No. 2

7th October 2005

This is the second in our series of Save Bastion Point Campaign Updates. We have produced this second update before the final boat ramp proposal is available, to raise further awareness about the proposed Bastion Point development. Please be in touch if you would like a copy of our first Update which described the EES process and the boat ramp and breakwater proposal.

WHERE IS THE EES UP TO?

On 23 August the East Gippsland Shire Council voted to proceed with the Environmental Effects Statement proposal to build a boat ramp and breakwater development at site 3. The EGSC is still finalizing some of the studies. The Department of Sustainability and the Environment must then review the proposal and advise the Council as to whether it is ready for public exhibition.

It is likely that the Council's final boat ramp proposal will be available to the public for comment by Nov/ Dec. Once on exhibition, the public will have 8 weeks to make submissions to the Minister for Planning.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE PROPOSAL?

This proposal is not about increasing ocean safety or ensuring the economic future of Mallacoota. This proposal represents the vested interests of a few individuals.

This is the third time in 17 years that the same individuals have proposed the same inappropriate, large scale and costly plans. Each of the previous times the plans were knocked back by the community and the Victorian government - with the suggestion that alternative, more environmentally sensitive plans be produced. Each time the proponents have chosen to ignore the feedback and overlooked the opportunity for a solution that the rest of the community could support.

Our major concerns include:

1. Promoting an unsafe boating environment and practices will increase the risk and severity of boating accidents – the ocean off Bastion Point is hazardous and should not be promoted to inexperienced boaters
2. Excluding surfers and swimmers from using the Bastion Point area will disadvantage the majority of

local residents and tourists – surfers and swimmers use the area more than any other group

3. Changing the existing environment will cause irreversible damage to Bastion Point and the surrounding coastline – we do not support breakwalls or major infrastructure
4. Ongoing costs from maintenance and dredging will result in usage fees estimated at more than \$40 per launch and will not be recoverable from a user-pay system. The costs have been underestimated while the benefits have been overestimated
5. Workability of the structure – the amount of sand that will have to be removed from the new structure has been underestimated and the distance between the ramp and the car park will be impractical
6. Loss of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage to the area is a history and lifestyle lost forever.

The recent decision of the Council to proceed to the exhibition stage of the EES and vote for a large development with break walls and associated infrastructure demonstrates that the community is being ignored.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP WRITING LETTERS TO THE POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS!

The Hon. Rob HULLS
Minister for Planning
Level 1, 55 St Andrews Place,
East Melbourne VIC 3002
rob.hulls@parliament.vic.gov.au

Include in your letters to HULLS-

- The East Gippsland Shire Council should not be allowed to release its proposal for public exhibition because it is based on flawed data and is not what the community favours.
- An expert peer review should be undertaken on any proposal that is to be exhibited for public comment
- A panel inquiry and public hearing should be held prior to the Minister making his Environment Assessment recommendations.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

ALSO WRITE TO:

The Hon. John THWAITES
Minister for Environment
Level 3, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002
John.thwaites@parliament.vic.gov.au

Include in your letters to THWAITES–

- The boat ramp proposal should not go ahead because it is totally inappropriate for a significant and valuable coastal environment.

The Hon. Justin MADDEN
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Level 7, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Justin.madden@parliament.vic.gov.au

Include in your letters to MADDEN –

- A boat ramp and breakwater development at Bastion Point Mallacoota will completely destroy the recreational amenity of the area.
- A 40 year history of surfing at Bastion Point Mallacoota will be destroyed, creating disadvantage for local and regional youth.

The Hon. Gavin JENNINGS
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Level 21, 55 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Gavin.ryan@parliament.vic.gov.au

Include in your letters to JENNINGS -

- In respect of the numerous cultural heritage archeological sites identified in the Bastion Point area, a boat ramp and breakwater development and ancillary infrastructure such as dual-lane road way, should not be permitted in the area.
- The community urges you to protect the history and heritage values of the area.

The Hon. John BRUMBY
Minister for State and Regional Development
Level 4, 1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002
John.brumby@parliament.vic.gov.au

Include in your letters to BRUMBY –

- The Mallacoota community does not support an inappropriate boat ramp and break water development at Bastion Point and urges you to not provide support or funding towards it.

The Hon. Craig INGRAM
Member for Gippsland East
PO Box 443

Bairnsdale VIC 3874
Craig.ingram@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon. Peter MCGAURAN
Federal Member for Gippsland
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 486
Sale VIC 3850
Peter.mcgauran.mp@aph.gov.au

Include in your letters to INGRAM and MCGAURAN –

- The majority of the Mallacoota does not support your push for a boat ramp and breakwater development at Bastion Point.
- The community urges you to represent its views and not support or fund the project.

SAVE BASTION POINT CAMPAIGN

The campaign aims to protect the Bastion Point environment and coastline from inappropriate development and infrastructure, to promote Bastion Point for all user-groups and to encourage safety for all users of Bastion Point.

We need your help. You can join us in supporting the campaign! It is critical that we continue to be actively involved in the EES process and to educate the public and Ministers about the need to protect Bastion Point. For more information please visit www.savebastionpoint.org or contact Stephen Chey on 0437543473 or Jenny Mason on (03) 5158 0720.