

**Friends of Mallacoota
Far East Gippsland Boardriders
Mallacoota Coast Action/ Coastcare**
supported by ~
**Mallacoota Surf Life Saving Club
Melbourne Save Bastion Point Group
Surfrider Foundation Australia
Australian Conservation Foundation
Victoria National Parks Association
Save the Waves Coalition
Friends of Gippsland Lakes
Disabled Surfers Association**

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

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Save Bastion Point Campaign Update No. 8

3 Sept 2007

DIRECTIONS HEARING - ON 12 SEPTEMBER IN MALLACOOTA. INQUIRY HEARING – PLEASE REQUEST TO BE HEARD TO MAKE A PRESENTATION

SUBMISSION WRITING RESULTS

Congratulations to everyone for the tremendous effort in writing submissions to Planning Panels Victoria in opposition to the East Gippsland Shire Council's proposed breakwater/ boat ramp development.

Close to 500 submissions were written! We understand that most of the submissions opposed the proposed development and that the quality of submissions is regarded as high due to the individual views expressed by each submitter. Hooray!

We also understand that such significant interest in the Bastion Point Ocean Access EES process has now made it the largest EES conducted by Planning Panels Victoria outside an urban or major regional centre.

PUBLIC VIEWING OF SUBMISSIONS

Copies of all submissions will be made available for public viewing from the time of the Directions Hearing. Hard copies will be available at Planning Panels Melbourne office, the East Gippsland Shire Council office, the Mallacoota Parks office and the Mallacoota Outreach Centre. Electronic copies will be made available on the DSE website – keep checking the link below. In regard to privacy laws, instructions will be given at the Directions Hearing by the Panel regarding how submissions may be viewed and used.

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenpl.nsf/LinkView/A684ED3F5775D64DCA256F2A000EDE6592FBC7C133A6F520CA2572DA007FAB8B>

PANEL

The Panel is yet to be finalised and announced. We probably won't know who is appointed to the Panel until the Directions Hearing. It's likely to be three people with expertise relevant to the issues around Bastion Point.

DIRECTIONS HEARING

The Directions Hearing - will be conducted by the appointed Panel in Mallacoota at noon on 12 September at the Mudbrick Pavilion. The Panel will give information and instructions about arrangements for the Inquiry Hearing, i.e. how it will be conducted, what to expect, etc. It is not the forum for raising our issues about the development. Members of the public are most welcome to attend the Directions Hearing. However *it is not essential* and if you cannot attend *you are still eligible to make your presentation* to the Panel at the Inquiry Hearing later in the year.

Representatives of the SBPC will attend the Directions Hearing and you'll receive another Campaign Update soon afterwards.



*We hope you enjoy "Bastion Storm Clouds"
by our late friend and campaigner
against the breakwater
Mr Steve Wadsworth
Taken on Wed March 16th, 2005.*

INQUIRY HEARING

The Inquiry Hearing – is proposed for mid November and will be held for some days in Mallacoota and some in Melbourne.

REQUEST TO BE HEARD AT THE INQUIRY

If you made a written submission you should have received your letter from Planning Panels Victoria, dated 22 August 2007. Included in the letter was a 'Request to be Heard' form. If you wish to speak to the Panel at the Inquiry Hearing, this form needs to be completed and returned to Planning Panels *no later than 10 September*. Post it to Panel Coordinator, Planning Panels Victoria, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, VIC 3002 or fax it to (03) 9637 9700.

You can still make the decision now if you wish to speak to the Panel at the Inquiry Hearing. The Inquiry Hearing should not be intimidating. It is an informal forum; any members of the public attending the Inquiry cannot make comments about what you present or ask questions and you cannot be cross examined.

It is really important that as many people as possible take the opportunity to speak to the Panel.

Having your last say with a face-to-face presentation will have a big impact!

A short presentation saying why *you* value Bastion Point without a breakwater, even without much reference to the EES, will achieve a lot.

Below are some tips to complete sections of the Request to be Heard form –

- 10 – 15 mins is a good average time you might want to take for your presentation.
- Indicate whether you want to be heard in Melbourne or Mallacoota according to the most convenient location.
- If you plan to use any audio/visual equipment be sure to indicate which sort – VCR, DCD, CD ROM, Data Projector, Slide Projector, Overhead Projector, Other. We recommend use of audio visuals to show pictures or info to enhance your information/ ideas.
- It is likely that as a general member of the public you won't be calling Expert Witnesses to give evidence in support of your arguments. However if you intend to, we think it is great and you need to include on the form their names and the time they require to make a presentation. Note that the SBPC will be calling Experts in various fields to give evidence in support of our arguments.
- Fill in the names/ expertise of any that might represent you if you don't intend to or can't do all the speaking yourself.

After the Directions Hearing everyone intending to make a presentation will be notified by Planning Panels Vic of the date/time of their presentation.

If you do not intend to make a presentation to the Panel, you can come along to the Inquiry sessions in Melbourne and Mallacoota and listen in as they are public forums. We will post on our website the full schedule of all presentation times. You'll be able to hear presentations made by the proponent of the proposed development - the East Gippsland Shire Council, its Expert Witnesses, Government agencies, supporter groups of the development, our SBPC Groups, our Expert Witnesses and of course all members of the public such as our campaign supporters.

If you would like to discuss anything about the Directions Hearing and Inquiry Hearing, please do not hesitate to be in touch with coordinator@savebastionpoint.org or call the numbers on the top of this sheet.

Thanks for your ongoing support to [Save Bastion Point!](#) We really do believe our efforts will make a difference and result in the outcome we are all looking for.



Photo of Bastion Point called "Circular" by Mr Gary Proctor on Sun April 2nd, 2006.

If we don't campaign to stop the proposed development at Bastion Point, we will no longer be able to enjoy this area of ocean, its marine life, and the reef, because a large breakwater and oversized boat ramp will replace it. We won't be able to wander along this beach for a stroll, do some rock rambling, or use this vantage point for spotting whales and dolphins or looking to the sea eagles above us, because a road will enter the beach and become a large vehicle/ boat turning area. The native vegetation to the right of the large rocky outcrop will be gone and replaced by a road and retaining wall, and the Aboriginal cultural heritage sites beneath the vegetation will be destroyed. Don't just think about it – please start campaigning with us now!