

**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
Victorian 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. 10

18 April 2008

Panel Inquiry Hearing to commence on July 14 (Bastille Day)

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE BASTION POINT EES?

Last year the East Gippsland Shire Council (Council) called for an adjournment of the Assessment process to clarify issues raised in the submission made by the Gippsland Office of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Two Directions Hearings have since taken place in Melbourne (Feb 20 and March 31).

Directions Hearing 20 Feb

Council still claimed there was a lack of clarity in DSE's position. More time was granted for Council and DSE to correspond about DSE's submission.

Directions Hearing 31 March

Council announced that it was willing to proceed as the proponent for the project. DSE has not withdrawn its submission of 5 Sept 2007, as initially requested by Council. DSE has however narrowed the scope of what it will comment on at the Inquiry Hearing.

For more details of the Direction Hearings and communications between Council and DSE, see www.savebastionpoint.org.

The upshot of all this procrastination by Council is that a new date has now been set for a Panel Inquiry Hearing. The Hearing will commence in Mallacoota on July 14 for 5 days of oral submissions and will continue in Melbourne for approximately 2-3 weeks of further submissions and expert evidence.

Significance of July 14 and Bastille Day

The storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 was seen as a symbol of the uprising of the modern French nation. For us it symbolizes the uprising of our community against the excesses of the Council and its Bastion Point proposal!

MORE MATERIAL WILL BE EXHIBITED IN MAY

The Panel has directed that Council must exhibit extra material for public comment. This will be available for one month from May 19.

1. Ancillary Structures

A report outlining location and possible impacts of all ancillary structures (fish cleaning and boat wash down facilities, toilets, security lighting etc.) will be prepared by Council and made available for public comment.

2. Supplementary Coastal Processes Report

Coastal Engineering Solutions was commissioned by DSE to provide an option that avoided loss of vegetation of high-conservation value. This will also be available for public comment. This option considers a seawall with road and pedestrian pathway on the beach and we believe is as inappropriate as other options considered.

Everyone who made a written submission will be contacted when this material is exhibited. *It will be extremely important to make some comment on this.*

WHAT NEXT?

The Save Bastion Point Campaign is currently working with the Environment Defenders Office (EDO) and our expert witnesses to prepare our case.

SBPC will continue to advise supporters on appropriate action during the following months, and will keep updating our website with new information.

DONATIONS

THE SBPC IS REQUESTING DONATIONS TO
HELP FINANCE THE CAMPAIGN IN
PREPARATION FOR THE INQUIRY.
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO SEE HOW
YOU CAN DONATE.

Thank you for your continuing support. Together we will succeed!