

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE



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Mallacoota community says hands off Bastion Point, Dr Napthine

Mallacoota community members today used a front-page advertisement in *The Age* to signal their determination to continue their fight to stop the controversial Bastion Point development going ahead—a proposal that will bury Bastion Point under tonnes of bitumen and rubble.

The community campaign to save Bastion Point has been going for a generation, supported by thousands of people from across Australia and internationally. It also has the backing of a number of community organisations, including the Victorian National Parks Association and Surfrider Foundation Australia.

“Our coast belongs to all Victorians, and we can’t let insupportable coastal planning decisions such as this go unchallenged”, said Jenny Mason, spokesperson for the Save Bastion Point Campaign.

“By approving the destruction of this much-loved beach the Napthine Government has shown that, under its stewardship, no Victorian beach is safe.”

The advertisement in *The Age* also puts the spotlight firmly on the East Gippsland Shire Council for its role as proponent and manager of the project.

“Bastion Point should not be ruined because a small minority wants to have exclusive use of the area”, said Ms Mason.

“We are appalled that our Council has persisted with this destructive proposal, instead of working with the community for an acceptable alternative. It is an indictment of Council’s ability to handle controversial and sensitive community issues.

“The Napthine Government still has time to intervene and redirect its \$6.2 million funding for this project towards a lower cost and less damaging proposal that provides improved open ocean access – which we all agree needs to happen.

“The plans for such a sustainable alternative development are already well advanced, with the Government's own review of the proposal recommending that preference be given to a new design, and that Council's Option 3b should not go ahead,” concluded Jenny Mason.

Construction is due to begin in September, but opposition to this destructive project of the East Gippsland Shire Council and Napthine Government will continue.

High resolution images available on request

Media Contacts:

Jenny Mason from Save Bastion Point Campaign, 5158 0720, or 0428 341 743

Simon Branigan from Victorian National Parks Association, 0409 087 278