

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 24 September 2010

Embargoed till Monday 27 September 2010

Alternative Design Concept for Mallacoota's Bastion Point Ocean Access a Win-Win for Community

The Save Bastion Point Campaign has released an alternative concept design that it believes can resolve the ongoing debate about the future of ocean access at Bastion Point.

Save Bastion Point spokesman Leo op den Brouw said the alternative design concept is the best way forward, a win-win solution that improves ocean access without the environmental, social and economic damage that would be caused by the East Gippsland Shire Council's excessive harbour development proposal.

An Independent Panel found that the Council's plan would likely be to the net detriment of tourism in Mallacoota. The Panel was also concerned that the facility would fail, and become a burden on the East Gippsland community.

"The alternative concept design would significantly improve boating infrastructure at Bastion Point. It will protect Bastion Point's special values while enhancing ocean access for boaters in suitable weather conditions, meets the relevant Australian Standards, and avoids the danger forecast by marine safety experts of boaters leaving a breakwater and broadsiding into breaking waves."

"It will achieve these objectives at far less cost to the community. An experienced engineering firm estimates the cost of the alternative at \$1.6 million. That is less than a third of the cost of Council's breakwater plan currently estimated at \$5.5 million plus."

"We believe the ongoing maintenance of our alternative would also be far lower than that planned by Council – another major saving."

"It's certainly not a 'do-nothing' approach, it's a do-something-sustainable approach with special features that:

- Allows the continuation of surfing
- Retains the beach and rock pools for all users
- Avoids construction near Aboriginal midden areas (in the Council plan they become roadside verges..
- Provides the same number of trailer parks as the Council plan
- Reduces vegetation loss
- Halves the turnaround time for boat owners retrieving trailers by moving boat trailer parking closer to the ramp
- Better separates users with safer pedestrian entry at the northern end of the beach and boating users entering further south."

"The alternative concept does all of these things while also generating economic benefits from improved ocean access. Not the ludicrously inflated economic benefits claimed by Council for its proposal - based on a deeply flawed economic analysis, but significant economic benefits nonetheless."

“We are now urging the Victorian Environment Minister Gavin Jennings to reject the Council’s proposed breakwater development and recommend a genuine community-based process to establish a sustainable solution to ocean access at Bastion Point that is consistent with principles of our alternative design concept.”

Contact details for interviews –

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Alternative Plan Brochure available at:

http://savebastionpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/100916_Poster-A3.pdf

and further information:

<http://savebastionpoint.org/campaign/alternative-concept/>

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