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Gippsland > WIN News > [Bastion Point Decision Looms Closer](#) [SHARE](#)



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Tuesday 4, Oct 2011 | Gippsland

WIN NEWS

Max 15*, Showers

Bastion Point Decision Looms Closer

Monday 3, Oct 2011

It's a project that's divided the town.

On the one hand is a proposal to create a brand new boat ramp to improve ocean access and safety.

On the other, a plan to stay within the existing footprint, to avoid disrupting the environment and indigenous heritage.

Tim Bull, Member for Gippsland East: "I don't think there will be a happy medium in the outcome of this, but we just need to find out what is a viable option and what is not in relation to our guidelines."

The Save Bastion Point group met with government staff last month, to view the latest plans for option one.

It builds on the existing ramp and avoids the need for a breakwall and road along the beach.

But supporters of the East Gippsland Shire's option three-B say that would be unsafe, with boaters launching directly into a surf break.

Ian Lewis, Mallacoota Open Access Committee: "There's also an issue of mixed use between boaters, swimmers and surfers that occurs at the existing site; by relocating the hundred and odd fifty metres to here, that issue will be virtually eliminated."

Ian Lewis says the rock wall in option three-B would be made with as much material as possible from the excavation process.

But he says there'll be an environmental impact either way.

Ian Lewis: "Even the low key alternate put forward by the opponents, you're going to be hit with a jetty down on, as soon as you come down onto the beach."

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