

MEDIA RELEASE

3 June 2008

Seagulls on the Payroll

East Gippsland Shire Council plans to use seagulls to clean up discarded fish frames and offal at its proposed Bastion Point breakwater and boat ramp development.

The Ancillary Structures Report released on Monday 2nd of June claims that due to environmental sensitivity and lack of easy access to power and water, there will only be limited services at the site. The proposed solution for fish cleaning is to rely on seagulls and pelicans to consume scraps and for Council to provide a bucket for washing down the fish cleaning table with sea water.

“The plan for the fish cleaning table is embarrassing in its simplicity and clearly demonstrates the absence of forethought and planning that council has put into this project from the outset. The final location of the cleaning tables is unclear as these details have not been included in the report,” said Leo op den Brouw, Save Bastion Point spokesman.

“Council is willing to spend hundreds of thousands of ratepayers dollars on a legal team to argue the merits of the proposed facility at the Inquiry hearings, yet it is unwilling or unable to prepare an ancillaries report that has any detail or credibility,” he added.

It is unclear if council proposes to use local seagulls or will utilise migratory seabirds that visit the site during the summer months.

Ends/ends...

MEDIA NOTE:

The Ancillary Structures Report is one of 2 additional reports on the proposed Bastion Point development that the Inquiry directed to be exhibited for public comment. Submissions are due by the 30th June.

These reports can be viewed on the East Gippsland Shire Council website

The public hearings will begin in Mallacoota on 14th July.

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