

**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. 11

11 June 2008

**ACTION - write submissions on newly exhibited material
& please donate now**

TWO MORE REPORTS ON EXHIBITION

Two additional reports are now out on exhibition for public comment.

CES Supplementary Report January 2008

This report presents an alternative access to the Option 3 breakwater proposal, namely a road on the beach with a rock wall revetment between the roadway and the sea.

Ancillary Structures Report

This report provides superficial information on lighting, toilets, and boat-washing and fish-cleaning facilities.

These Reports can be viewed at the Outreach Centre and the Parks office in Mallacoota, or downloaded from the Councils website www.egipps.vic.gov.au (look under Bastion Point in the A-Z section).

We urge all our supporters to send a submission by Monday, June 30th.

Submissions can be posted or faxed to:

Ms Nicole Maloney
Planning Panels Victoria DPCD
GPO Box 2392
Melbourne Vic 3001
Fax (03) 96379700

What to say in your submission

Submissions must focus on the new material only, and not on the original EES. If you wrote an earlier submission, you need to quote your submission number. It is important to write submissions in your own words with your own points of view.

Your submission could be as simple as saying: "I wish to reiterate my strong opposition to the breakwater development access roads and ancillary structures as proposed by EGSC - Refer to submission no...."

Or you can include the following points:

CES Supplementary Report (Jan 2008)

This road access is completely unacceptable, and is the same as a proposal that was knocked back in 1991.

Key points to make:

- This road alienates a greater area of beach from public access and usage.
- It is visually imposing and destroys the scenic values and integrity of the Wilderness Coast.
- There is potential for increased maintenance costs through storm and sea damage.
- It fails to address traffic management issues.

Ancillary Structures Report

This report fails to provide sufficient detail on design, costs, location and impact assessments on key components of the proposed development.

Key points to make:

- We support the exclusion of boat washing, boat rigging area and fuelling facilities from Bastion Point.
- Fish cleaning facilities and lighting should also be excluded.
- Plans for toilet facilities need to consider all users, and be appropriately designed and located.
- It is unacceptable to rely on seabirds to eat fish scraps.
- Location of cleaning station is still not specified.
- Lighting on breakwater is visually intrusive, and night boating should never be considered because of extreme hazards and risks to safety.
- Chemical toilets located near the Pittosporum walk are not appropriate (issues include proposed location, distance from car-park, variable visitation numbers, unspecified size, vegetation removal, and construction and maintenance costs).

(For more info see www.savebastionpoint.org)

LEGAL TEAM

We are pleased to inform campaign supporters that the Environment Defenders Office (EDO) has secured the services of two barristers to act with EDO as part of our legal team during the Inquiry. Sarah Porritt and Emily Porter will have the crucial role of cross-examining all Council's and SBPC's expert witnesses. It is important to note that this type of support for our campaign is *essential* for going into an Inquiry in order for us to have a real crack at winning this.

EXPERT WITNESSES

EDO is now working closely with our expert witnesses who have proven credentials in a relevant topic to the proposed development. Experts are required to submit to the Panel a statement of evidence on their subject of expertise. They will be expected to answer questions from the Panel and the barristers acting for SBPC and Council. The views of the experts we have secured will support our arguments. Experts are a *crucial* part of arguing a case at an Inquiry.

The following people have generously agreed to appear as expert witnesses on our behalf—

Dr. Wayne Stephenson (Coastal geomorphology)
Mr. Neville Rosengren (Coastal management)
Ms. Bernadette George (Planning)
Mr. Lincoln Kern (Ecology)
Mr. Ken Boundy (Tourism)
Mr. Peter Haack (Landscape)
Dr. Boyd Blackwell (Economics/passive use)
Mr. Simon O'Connor (Economics)
Mr. Neil Lazarow (Economics/recreation)
Mr. Max Wells (Recreation/safety)
Dr. Tim O'Hara (Marine ecology)

In addition, the following people will prepare statements for us in their relevant topics of expertise, though won't appear before the Panel Inquiry —

Prof. Andy Short (peer review of Dr Wayne Stephenson's work as above)
Mr. Michael Perry (Marine safety)
Ms. Lindy Allen (Arts & culture)
Dr. Geoff Mosley (Landscape/heritage)
Dr. Ken Coghill (Governance)
Mr. Ian Anderson (World Biosphere Reserve)

FUNDRAISING

We now have a better understanding of the financial resources required to fully participate as a serious campaign group that aims to win.

In order to cover expenses relating to our legal team, our expert witnesses and essential administration, our budget sits at just over \$65k. It should be noted that all these professionals are giving of their time either freely or at greatly reduced fees.

We have received donations from the various groups in the SBPC, along with numerous private donors. This is an incredible demonstration of support and of the widely held belief that a breakwater/ boat ramp development at Bastion Point is not acceptable.

Please donate if you can

With everyone's support we are confident we'll soon be able to reach our \$65k target. If you have not yet made a financial contribution and are able to help we would be most grateful for your support. Please go to our website to see how you can donate online or write a cheque made payable to:

'Friends of Mallacoota-Bastion Point Account' and post to:

Save Bastion Point Campaign
PO Box 192 Mallacoota VIC 3890

We'll post information on our website to let you know when we've reached our target.

Thank you

We wish to extend a huge heartfelt thank you to all who have been so generous with their time, money and verbal encouragement. This level of support has injected a significant boost to everyone's morale. Knowing that so many people believe in and support the Campaign has strengthened our determination to see that Bastion Point is never buried under tonnes of concrete.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS BEFORE THE PANEL INQUIRY

If you made a written submission last year to the Panel and requested to speak in person at the Inquiry, *now is the time to prepare your presentation.* You should know if this applies to you because you will have been receiving correspondence from the Panel. Soon we will be sending out some handy hints in preparing for the Inquiry. If you have any queries on this please don't hesitate to contact us.

THE INQUIRY HEARING DATES

The Inquiry Hearing begins in Mallacoota at the Mudbrick Pavilion and runs from 14th – 18th July.

The Hearing continues in Melbourne in Hearing Room 2 at Planning Panels Victoria, 8 Nicholson Street, from 22nd – 25th July, 28th – 30th July and 4th - 7th August.

The Public is welcome to attend, and we would encourage supporters to come along.

WHAT NEXT?

Once the Inquiry Hearing is finished, it'll be critical for us to start some major political lobbying. Stay tuned!