

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING

DATE: Monday, September 17, 2007

PANEL APPOINTED FOR PROPOSED MALLACOOTA BOAT RAMP

An Inquiry Panel has been appointed to consider East Gippsland Shire Council's proposal to construct a boat ramp, ocean ramp and associated car park, to provide safer ocean access at Bastion Point, Mallacoota.

The Minister for Planning, Justin Madden, announced today that the Inquiry Panel will consider an Environment Effects Statement (EES) and a Planning Permit Application regarding the proposed boat ramp.

The Permit Application, which proposes the removal of native vegetation associated with the proposal, was called in by the Minister for Planning earlier this year to allow the EES and permit application to be considered through a single process.

Nick Wimbush, a Senior Panel Member with Planning Panels Victoria, will chair the Panel, and will be assisted by fellow panel members Leon Collett and Robin Saunders.

Mr Madden said the Inquiry Panel was appointed under the *Environment Effects Act* and *Planning and Environment Act*, and would advise him on the submissions received.

"This proposal will not be approved unless any potential adverse effects can be shown to be outbalanced by the benefits of the proposal," Mr Madden said.

"We will now go through an inquiry process to ensure all views and details have been taken into account before a final decision is made."

The Panel hearings will be held from November 14. The Panel will provide advice to the Minister for Planning on the suitability and feasibility of the proposed boat ramp.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, which detail the hearing arrangements, are available at www.dse.vic.gov.au/planning/ees or can be obtained by calling Planning Panels Victoria on (03) 9637 9690.

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