



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Minister for Roads and Ports

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Wednesday, 27 October, 2010

## **\$6.5 MILLION FOR SAFER BOAT RAMP AT BASTION POINT**

A new ocean access boat ramp will be developed at Bastion Point, subject to required planning and environmental approvals, thanks to funding from the Brumby Labor Government.

Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas today announced \$6.2 million for the boat ramp and said the contemporary new facility would improve the safety of swimmers and beach users by separating them from where boats are launched.

“Regional Victoria is growing faster than it has in decades, that’s why the Brumby Labor Government is delivering a blueprint for growth in regional Victoria that invests in job-creating infrastructure and supports new jobs and investments in cities and towns across the State,” Mr Pallas said.

“The ocean access boat ramp at Bastion Point will provide important infrastructure required for safer launching into deep waters for commercial fishing and recreational boaters.

“This will be a great boost for the region and encourage more visitors and boat users to the area, boosting local tourism and the economy.

“Boat access to the ocean is vital for Mallacoota due to the region’s emerging marine tourism industry, the existing commercial fishing industry and increasing recreational boating demands.”

Subject to relevant approvals, the Bastion Point development will include:

- Redevelopment of the access road;
- Development of car and boat trailer parking;
- Compliance with cultural heritage requirements;
- Offset planting to compensate for vegetation removal;
- Provision of public amenities, including toilets; and
- Within a fissure on the rock shelf, creation of a two lane boat ramp protected by a 130-metre rock sea wall.

Mr Pallas said the East Gippsland Shire was the proponent of the project and would provide on-site supervision, with Major Projects Victoria directed to act as the project manager.

“The design of the boat ramp is based on minimising the size and impact of the development, while greatly improving safety and access,” he said.

The Brumby Labor Government funding is being provided through the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* and the *Boating Safety and Facilities Program*. East Gippsland Shire Council will contribute \$300,000 for a car parking upgrade.

The funding is subject to multiple statutory approvals, including cultural heritage consents and approval under the *Coastal Management Act*.

“We understand the project is required to achieve extensive approvals, which consider its expected benefits and impacts, as well as provide reassurance that it’s being planned and delivered in an environmentally sensitive way,” Mr Pallas said.

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