

Boat ramp costs keep piling up

A purpose-built sand dredger for the Mallacoota Ocean Access Boat ramp will cost \$447,160.

East Gippsland Shire Council last week approved, in camera, the awarding of a contract to Roll-a-pipe Pty Ltd for the design, construction and commissioning of the dredge to operate primarily at the Mallacoota ramp to maintain the sea channel, and its entrance.

The successful Victorian-based company is a specialist in maintenance dredging equipment construction.

The dredge will be able to be transported by road for use at other council marine facilities such as boat ramps, jetties and marinas as required.

The council also approved an additional payment of up to \$95,000 to Bairnsdale-based Crossco Pty Ltd for provision of construction management services at the boat ramp site.

The payment was approved on the grounds that because of various factors including changes to the scope for construction management services, bad weather and protester interference, the project timeframe extended from the scheduled 11 months to 13 months and the construction supervisor was required on site more often than expected.

Council said the total project cost still remains in the allocated project budget.

The new dual lane boat ramp was opened last year and has been well received by the boating public of East Gippsland the many visiting offshore fishing and diving enthusiasts.