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Community group fights planning decision

10/05/2010 | 12:59 PM



A local community group will challenge the Victorian Government's decision to approve a boat ramp and breakwater in Mallacoota in the Supreme Court today.

Planning Minister Justin Madden approved the Bastion Point development last year despite an expert panel rejecting the plans because it had no "societal benefit".

Friends of Mallacoota group spokesman Leo op den Brouw said the development will have a big impact on the environment.

"It would have a very significant impact on the coast line. That section of the coast line has a high scenic value as well," he said.

Mr op den Brouw, who has lived in Mallacoota for 30 years, said a large majority of public submissions were against the development.

"It is time we stood up for all Victorian communities to put a stop to Justin Madden's ill-conceived environmental vandalism and unbridled steam-rolling of Victoria's planning system," he said in a statement.

At the Supreme Court today, Mr op den Brow said he's very hopeful.

"We wouldn't be going through all this trouble if we didn't think we had a chance," he said.

"The Minister did not make his decision on the Environmental Defence Act, he based his decision outside the Act."

Representing the group solicitor Elizabeth McKinnon will argue the Minister failed to access how the proposed coastal development would impact the environment.

A spokeswoman for Mr Madden said the Government would not comment on the matter before the courts.



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