

Media release

Monday 29 March 2010

Guy given truth on fact-finding mission on Bastion Point

Save Bastion Point Campaign called on Shadow Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, to support its campaign to stop the Bastion Point harbour development proposal, during his visit to Mallacoota today.

The Mallacoota community met with Mr Guy to share with him the truth about the proposed development. Over 200 residents turned out with placards and banners to send the very strong message that they do not want their beach vandalized, and that they are angry with Minister Madden running rough shod over due process.

Mr. Leo Op den Brouw, spokesperson for the Save Bastion Point Campaign said "We may live in a remote Victorian coastal town far from Spring Street, but it's time we were listened to."

Just over a year ago Minister Madden came into Mallacoota in a seemingly clandestine way to spend just a short time viewing the site of the proposed development at Bastion Point, in the company of the proponent. He made no appointments to meet with the community to hear its views.

"One wonders how planning decisions are made in this State," said Mr. Leo Op den Brouw, "Is it from undue influence from proponents, or is it from some sort of political deal?"

Certainly Madden's support for the harbour development at Bastion Point makes little sense. He ignored community views and showed a complete disregard for Coastal Planning Strategies and Policies. He also discounted the findings and recommendations of the Panel he appointed to conduct an independent Inquiry. The Panel clearly recommended against the proposed development proceeding.

"We've called on Mr Guy to trust in the expertise of the independent Panel and listen to the passionate views of the majority of the Mallacoota community." said Mr. Dave Huxtable, spokesperson for the Friends of Mallacoota. "We need him to take our plea back to Spring Street because our own local Member of Parliament, Mr Craig Ingram, certainly doesn't represent the people either. Ingram is a part owner of an abalone license and has been an overtly strong advocate for the development."

"The community can only hope that the truth will now prevail. We are encouraged by Mr Guy's visit to Mallacoota, have urged him to take our case to Parliament and asked for his commitment to promote a sustainable outcome for Bastion Point based on the recommendations of the Inquiry." said Mr Huxtable.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Mr Leo Op den Brouw 03 5158 0772 and Mr Dave Huxtable 03 5158 0778

For further information go to www.savebastionpoint.org

MEDIA INFORMATION KIT: The Save Bastion Point Campaign has compiled a kit of information for media. Please email coordinator@savebastionpoint.org or call 0418427768.