



Department of Planning and Community Development

Enquiries: 03 9637 9690
Contact: Nicole Maloney

8 January 2008

As Addressed

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: OCEAN ACCESS BOAT RAMP, BASTION POINT, MALLACOOTA
ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT
EAST GIPPSLAND PLANNING SCHEME, PERMIT APPLICATION 162/2007/P**

The Inquiry notes the correspondence from Maddocks (for East Gippsland Shire Council) dated 12 December 2007 indicating that Council can offer no advice in terms of progress at this stage other than that discussions with DSE have commenced. The Inquiry has also received correspondence from the Environment Defenders Office (for Save Bastion Point) requesting a further directions hearing in February 2008.

Mid February 2008 will be approximately five months since the original directions hearing was held and the Inquiry considers that this is enough time for a way forward to be developed.

The Inquiry thus directs that a further directions hearing will be held on **Wednesday 20th February at 10am, in Hearing Room 2 at Planning Panels Victoria, Level 1, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne.**

The purpose of the hearing will be as follows:

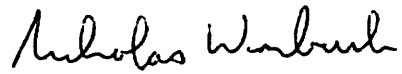
- To ascertain the status of discussions between Council and DSE and in particular any progress relevant to the conduct of the EES Inquiry and consideration of the planning permit application
- To consider the timing and process of the EES Inquiry from here onwards
- Other matters as necessary

If modifications to the existing process are being considered (for example further exhibition) then advice should be sought by the Proponent prior to the hearing from the Environment Assessment Branch at the Department of Planning and Community Development.

I would also like to bring to the attention of all parties the sad and sudden passing of Inquiry member Dr Leon Collett.

The Minister for Planning has confirmed that at this stage the Inquiry will proceed with two members rather than a third person being appointed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Wimbush". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Nick Wimbush
INQUIRY CHAIR
BASTION POINT EES INQUIRY