

Surfrider Foundation Australia
Far East Gippsland Surfriders
Friends of Mallacoota
Mallacoota Surf Life Saving Club
Mallacoota Coast Action/ Coastcare
many other concerned people

Save Bastion Point

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Save Bastion Point Campaign Update No. 3 24th January 2006

This is the third in our series of Save Bastion Point Campaign Updates. We have produced this third update before the final boat ramp proposal is available, to raise further awareness about the proposed Bastion Point development. Please be in touch if you would like copies of our earlier Updates which described the EES process and the boat ramp and breakwater proposal.

WHERE IS THE EES UP TO?

We are still waiting for the East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) to issue their Environmental Effects Statement (EES) for their proposed new breakwater and boat ramp at Bastion Point. EGSC issued a draft statement in October last year. This draft was rejected by the Technical Reference Group established by the Victorian Government but it is still available from www.egipps.vic.gov.au. Follow the links to / **Planning & Building / Strategic Planning / Mallacoota Ocean Access – Bastion Point, Mallacoota / EES Stage 2 – Consultants Reports**. Some of the consultants have been back in Mallacoota over the summer, and we believe EGSC may finalise their statement within the next 4-6 weeks. Once the Technical Reference Group have approved the statement and the EGSC makes it available for public exhibition, the public will have 8 weeks to review it and to make submissions to the Minister for Planning.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL USE ZONE AT BASTION POINT

Gippsland Ports introduced a Special Use Zone in December last year at Bastion Point "... to provide safe navigation for vessels and to provide separation between vessels and swimmers / surfers wishing to use the area". After analysis and consultation, Gippsland Ports did not introduce an exclusion zone prohibiting swimming and surfing. The Special Use Zone requires boat operators to keep a constant lookout for swimmers and surfers. Boat operators must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a swimmer or surfer. Swimmers and Surfers must be vigilant and it is recommended that they wear high visibility clothing. The Zone recognises that swimmers, surfers and vessel operators share Bastion Point and that they all have obligations relating to water safety. If you agree this is a positive outcome, please thank Peter Hinksman at Gippsland Ports Head Office in 97 Main Street Bairnsdale VIC 3875 for their focus on community consultation.

PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT COASTAL TOWNS DESIGN FRAMEWORK

The Victorian Department of Sustainability and the Environment, EGSC, and the Gippsland Coastal Board have prepared a draft framework for Mallacoota's development.

The purpose of the framework is "to provide a sustainable vision for the future form, image and function of Mallacoota and give greater certainty to the local communities and investors about what is possible and appropriate in terms of future development."

The draft vision statement for Mallacoota is now available from EGSC. The draft vision statement includes proposed policies on environmental, tourism, and ocean access issues. Comments are invited by 31st January. Contact Bronwyn Carstairs at EGSC on 1300 555 886 or visit their website at www.egipps.vic.gov.au

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

Campaign members have been distributing information to Mallacoota residents and tourists at the Mallacoota markets during summer. The Surfriders have been raising funds with a raffle for a Save Bastion Point surfboard. The board was donated and shaped by Neil Oke.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

We are currently distributing postcards which are designed to be mailed back to the Campaign's post office box in Mallacoota, and presented to the Victorian Minister for Planning at a later date. Please contact us if you would like to order some postcards or bumper stickers. And please make sure your postcards are returned to us by 10th February.

We will need expert assistance to respond to the Environmental Effects Statement when it is exhibited. Please let us know if you can provide us with expert commentary on any aspect of the EES in areas such as:

- Marine safety
- Coastal ecology
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Coastal engineering
- Economic cost/benefit modelling

SAVE BASTION POINT CAMPAIGN

The campaign aims to protect the Bastion Point environment and coastline from inappropriate development and infrastructure, to promote Bastion Point for all user-groups and to encourage safety for all users of Bastion Point.

We need your help. You can join us in supporting the campaign! It is critical that we continue to be actively involved in the EES process and to educate the public and Ministers about the need to protect Bastion Point. For more information please visit www.savebastionpoint.org or contact Stephen Chey on 0437543473 or Jenny Mason on (03) 5158 0720.