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Bastion approval

Independent Member for Gippsland East, Craig Ingram, has welcomed yesterday's announcement that the Minister for Planning has given formal approval for final design and construction of a regional ocean access boat ramp at Bastion Point, Mallacoota.

Speaking from Parliament House yesterday afternoon, Mr Ingram said the project can now finally proceed and described it as "an essential piece of boating, tourism and fishing infrastructure".

"This has been a long-running and difficult process and I thank the community for its patience," Mr Ingram said.

"With the Minister's approval through the Environmental Effects Statement, Mallacoota and the Croajingolong coast can now look forward to a future with a reliable, safe and usable bluewater ocean access — something that many coastal communities everywhere else take for granted.

"This project is incredibly important for the future of Mallacoota and East Gippsland and has been identified for many years as one of the region's top priority tourism and economic development infrastructure projects.

"I look forward to seeing this important project through its funding, design and construction process.

"The tourism potential of the Mallacoota region is well recognised and this project will only add to that potential and future opportunities for this area."