

Group to take Madden to court over boat ramp ruling

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Opponents of a Gippsland boat ramp development have served Planning Minister Justin Madden with an affidavit to appear in the Victorian Supreme Court.

- [Map: Mallacoota 3892](#)

Mr Madden overruled a planning panel in June to approve a boat ramp and breakwater at Bastion Point at Mallacoota.

Leo Op den Brouw of the Save Bastion Point group says Mallacoota residents are aware of the risks of taking Mr Madden to court, but are determined to press ahead.

He says barristers working on the case are confident of a favourable result.

"The community and the group feel so strongly about this issue that we decided we had no choice," he said.

"The Minister has consistently ignored the community's strongly expressed views, and he's also ignored his own expert panel's recommendations.

"To our best knowledge this is the first time a community group has taken a Minister before the court seeking a judicial review."

Australian Conservation Foundation spokesperson Chris Smyth said the legal action was inevitable.

"Minister Madden approved the East Gippsland Shire Council's Bastion Point harbour development in June this year, despite strong community opposition and his own expert panel's recommendation to reject the proposal because it would be unsafe and would provide no net benefit to society," he said in a statement.

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