



MEDIA RELEASE

DAVID MORRIS MP

Member for Mornington

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Morris Calls on Council to Reject Marina Plans

“The public release of the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mornington Marina sets the stage for a speedy conclusion to this long-running and divisive attempted privatisation of Mornington Harbour.”

“The Assessment demonstrates all the flaws so apparent in the policies pursued by the former Labor Government, particularly the proposed development of a regional boating facility at Mornington. The policy, published in the Central Coastal Board’s *Boating Coastal Action Plan*, was adopted with little local consultation, and no opportunity for debate in the Mornington community.”

“The Assessment is necessarily based on this flawed policy framework.”

“The document identifies a number of significant issues which in my view provide justification for the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council to abandon the amendment. They include:

- A lack of clear evidence that the proposal has sufficiently maximized public benefit
- A need to re-design the proposal to minimize impacts for current users of the harbour
- A need to improve the protection of the current character of the Harbour
- That the proposal is only unlikely to have significant impact on the marine environment if an onerous monitoring and management regime is imposed
- Confirms that there will be significant effects on visual and landscape values of the Harbour
- The need for a genuine and independent assessment of the parking demands generated by the proposal
- The need for an independent auditor, subject to veto by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, to monitor the impact of the development”

“The Assessment provides clear evidence that the proposed Marina should not proceed.”

“I urge the Council to maintain the strong leadership they have shown on this issue, and to take the opportunity now available to them to end this flawed process. I look forward to working with the Council and the community on a proper safety plan for Mornington Harbour.”

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