

An Economic Development Initiative for Mallacoota with NO detrimental effect on the Environment

# Mallacoota

- The hub of Australia’s Wilderness Coast,
- A unique location where the Southern Ocean waters (via Bass Strait) meet the Pacific Ocean (Tasman Sea),
- With the added influence of the warm East Coast Current bordering the land mass of low mountains, valleys, granitic peaks, ancient sedimentary cliffs and almost pristine estuaries fed by major free-flowing rivers,
  - A biodiversity ‘hotspot’,
- And the perfect place for an **Environmental Studies Campus** for academic studies and vocational training for eco-tourism aimed at understanding and appreciating this special area.

An **Environmental Studies Campus** is an ideal business for Mallacoota as its academic year would complement our current tourism high season, providing year-round business and work for the entire local region.

## For East Gippsland Shire

Supports economic development that does not have a detrimental impact on the environment yet provides year-round employment in the local community

Revitalises the whole local region

## Benefits

The studies will

- focus on understanding this unique area and how to ensure it retains its status **and** value as Australia’s Wilderness Coast
- whilst bringing sensitive, sustainable economic development to this part of Victoria and East Gippsland Shire
- and, **AT THE SAME TIME**, greatly improving the demographic (age, employment, income, etc.) picture of Mallacoota.

All without a detrimental effect on the environment.

## For Mallacoota

An **Environmental Study Campus** would enable long-term academic studies of a unique marine environment, estuary and river systems, closed lakes, heathlands, open forest, temperate rainforest, etc, as well as bringing a wealth of ancillary benefits to the community.

A **Campus Outreach** component provides

‘citizen science’ access to information, resources, expertise etc for local population and for visitors

A **Vocational Training Campus** within the academic facility provides

local career paths for Mallacoota youth

eco-tourism training in marine, estuarine, river, botanical, reptile studies amongst others

training for National Park Rangers

Improves the **demographic composition** of Mallacoota with increased / younger labour force and their families

Provides **research data and knowledge** leading to greater care of the environment and for control of bushfires, invasive flora, feral fauna, when/how to conduct regeneration burns

Increased student numbers at P-12 College

Revitalised CBD that satisfies the changing demographic (range of shops, dining, etc.)

Increased support for local volunteer groups (i.e. CFA, SES, 3MGB, etc)

Increased support for local sporting teams