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## NEWSFRONT

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# Storm brews on mayor's bogan claim

HELEN KEMPTON

THE war of words over a Tasmanian mayor labelling the state's population disparate and home to some of the "most bogan of bogans" has gone international.

East Coast Mayor Bertrand Cadart has dismissed a backlash over his comments about bogans, published in a national magazine, as "a storm in a teacup". But his stance has got tongues wagging around the nation – and now the globe.

The fact that Tasmania has four finalists in a national television search for Australia's biggest bogan could be driving the interest in a debate that has caused some locals to suggest Cr Cadart should resign.

The Glamorgan-Spring Bay leader's comments are part of a much larger article in *The Monthly* magazine about the sale, closure and dismantling of the Triabunna woodchip



Bertrand Cadart

mill. The article has also raised the hackles of the state's political leaders and concerns on the East Coast about how the mill was sold to a party that offered \$6 million less than a bid already on the table.

Fellow councillor Jenny Woods this week urged residents to take a deep breath, read the full article and join her call for answers to bigger issues than the "unwise and flippant" comments from Cr Cadart. "I implore people to not get overly fired up and become a lynch mob," Cr Woods

said. "What Cr Cadart said is a small part of a much bigger issue which the community needs to be addressed."

Local business leaders said the mayor's comments — and the focus on Tasmania as the bogan capital of Australia — were unhelpful as the state continued to search for fresh investment in Triabunna and the broader region.

Councillors will talk to Premier Will Hodgman about the issue next week and a special council meeting will be held on Monday in Triabunna at which a motion of no confidence in the mayor is expected to be tabled.

In the article, Cr Cadart is quoted as saying Tasmania's population is disparate, ranging from the "most bogan of bogans" to "green pains in the a..."

He also called Triabunna "ugly" because of the attitude of some of its people.

your voice

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## Bogan village

IT appears the early French explorers pre-empted Mayor Bertrand Cadart's observations about Triabunna when they named the nearby coastal headland Cape Bougainville.

**Roger Martin  
Kettering**