

Bastion protestors are barking mad

After 30 years of debate and planning, work started on a new ocean access boat ramp at Mallacoota on Monday.

Far from putting up a token fight, opponents of the project this week have actively shown their dismay at work starting.

A group of about 70 people gathered at the site early on Monday morning, before work began, and later reached an agreement with police to have their say and then move on.

The following morning Melinda Beecham locked herself to a concrete block while disguised under a seal shaped tent.

The Save Bastion Point group released footage of an excavator moving in on the seal.

EGSC's stakeholder engagement and communication plan states the Mallacoota Ocean Access Boat Ramp Community Advisory Committee (MOABRCAC) is to meet at the start of the tender phase, before the start of construction and monthly during construction.

MOABRCAC has committee members representing EGSC, the Mallacoota Ocean Access Committee, Friends of Mallacoota, Save Bastion Point, Mallacoota and District Business and Tourism Association and others as required.

Shire director of operations, Chris Waites, said the committee was last convened at the start of the tender phase.

"The meeting that was to be programmed prior to construction could not occur due to the tight timing between receiving feedback from the group in regard to the final draft of the envi-



Melinda Beecham has gone to unusual lengths, including disguising herself under a fake seal, to protest against works starting on the Bastion Point ocean access ramp this week. (PS)

ronmental management plan (EMP) and finally receiving approval of the EMP last week," he said.

"The shire has communicated project start dates through newsletters and local media to keep everyone informed," Mr Waites said.

"Arrangements are being made for an appropriate meeting of the committee to occur in the coming weeks and periodically through the construction period as originally envisaged," Mr Waites said.