

Save Bastion Point

protect this coastal environment from inappropriate development

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 12 November 2013

PROTESTER LOCKS ON AT MALLACOOTA BEACH

Overnight Mallacoota resident Melinda Beacham locked herself to a concrete foundation on Bastion Point Beach as a protest against the outrageous development which commenced construction yesterday.

Melinda locked her arm through a metal pipe onto a concrete anchor point and under the shelter of a seal-shaped structure in an attempt to stop machinery coming on to the beach.

Police were informed of the lock-on. Despite this, at 7 a.m. workers arrived and commenced work with large machinery removing rocks and sand from the beach. When told that there was someone under the seal-shaped shelter the workers refused to stop the machines which were within 5 metres of Melinda and endangering her life.

Police arrived on the site as work continued, with large excavating machinery moving sand and rock within meters of her lock-on. Although asked several times to turn their machines off, work continued.

In a statement Melinda said "This may be a small gesture of defiance on my part yet I find myself with nowhere else to go. To stand back and allow this destruction would be harder to bear. I am praying for a miracle".

In a statement to East Gippsland Shire she said "Listen, it is not too late".

After 5 hours of being locked on, Melinda realised that even this extreme act of obstruction was not going to stop the machinery on site. She reluctantly unlocked herself and was escorted off the site by police.

Campaigners will continue to oppose this inappropriate development at Bastion Point Beach and do what they can to stop construction continuing.

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