

Push for road block continues

Kate Leaver

A SCARBOROUGH lobby group has welcomed Labor and The Greens' commitment to scrapping proposed road extensions through Bush Forever dune sites and say they remain disappointed the Liberal party had not come to the table.

The roads were proposed as part of the \$75 million Scarborough foreshore redevelopment and would mean extending the Esplanade north and south through Bush Forever sites 308 and 310 to ease congestion around the foreshore on West Coast Highway and Scarborough Beach Road.

The State Government agreed

LIBERAL PARTY STILL WON'T COME TO THE PARTY

to consider alternatives after the City of Stirling voted to delay the handover of the land for the extensions in November last year.

Anti-roads group Beach Not Bitumen spokeswoman Robyn Murphy said it was clear that the State Government was not going to change its mind about building roads through the "environmentally sensitive" sand dunes.

Ms Murphy said the group had met with Scarborough MLA Liza Harvey, Greens candidate Judith Cullity, Labor candidate Tony Walker and Labor environment spokesperson Chris Tallentire

but invitations to Planning Minister Donna Faragher and Environment Minister Albert Jacobs were declined.

Ms Harvey said she understood the concerns but could not rule out the road extensions.

"Without knowing what other potential options exist, I don't believe that we can rule out the proposed road extensions," she said.

"I advocated the views expressed from some members of the Scarborough community to the Planning Minister and am pleased that she directed the Metropolitan Redevelopment Au-

thority to investigate and identify other potential solutions."

Labor candidate Tony Walker said Labor opposed the road extensions and would undertake a traffic study to improve traffic flow and public transport options.

"Our promise is to work with the City of Stirling to ensure that car park signage and the car park flow is improved that will mean that it is quicker and more efficient and won't be so gridlocked there," he said.

"You don't want to go hacking into the sand dunes, we've taken

consideration to re-plant and vegetate those dune systems we can't go back and be putting in transport links along sand dunes which will destroy those micro environments."

Scarborough Greens candidate Judith Cullity said they were opposed the road extensions and would explore options such as light rail.

"These sites are vitally important for preserving our world-class biodiversity and are a draw card for tourists," she said.

"Light rail along Scarborough Beach Road to the coast was proposed by The Greens over a decade ago and (Stirling) council now plans something similar."

your
say

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE EXTENDING THE ESPLANADE ROADS THROUGH BUSH FOREVER SITES AT SCARBOROUGH BEACH AS PART OF THE \$75 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT IF IT WOULD ALLEVIATE CONGESTION IN THE AREA?

STEFAN KOPEC,
Marmion

There's two sides to it, but we learn how to deal with congested roads every day.

We haven't really got much bushland and natural areas as it is in that section, I'd say it would probably be best not to put roads through there.

Maybe more money could be spent on people learning to merge; it seems like all we do is build roads.



RENEE BARBIERI,
Trigg

Putting a road in would really take away from the beach-front and the sand dunes, it would encroach on the seaside. It would mean be more concrete there.

ROBBIE MACAFFER,
Karrinyup

At the end of the day, once all the options and alternatives are on the table from the government then you can look at what is the best one. Until all the other options and details are known, it is difficult to comment on what would be the best.



JORDAN KELLY,
Scarborough

I don't think it is a bad idea to put the roads in if it will fix some of those traffic issues because that area it is really congested.

Even now, I understand it is still being constructed but it is so hard to get down there, even just to get to the grocery store or get take-away. Parking is always an issue at Scarborough too.

DOMINIC LANNI,
Morley

I think if you start putting roads through the dunes you're just taking traffic from one area and putting it in another, the dunes are there for a reason: sand erosion.

I don't think it is a good idea, especially because it gets so windy down there.



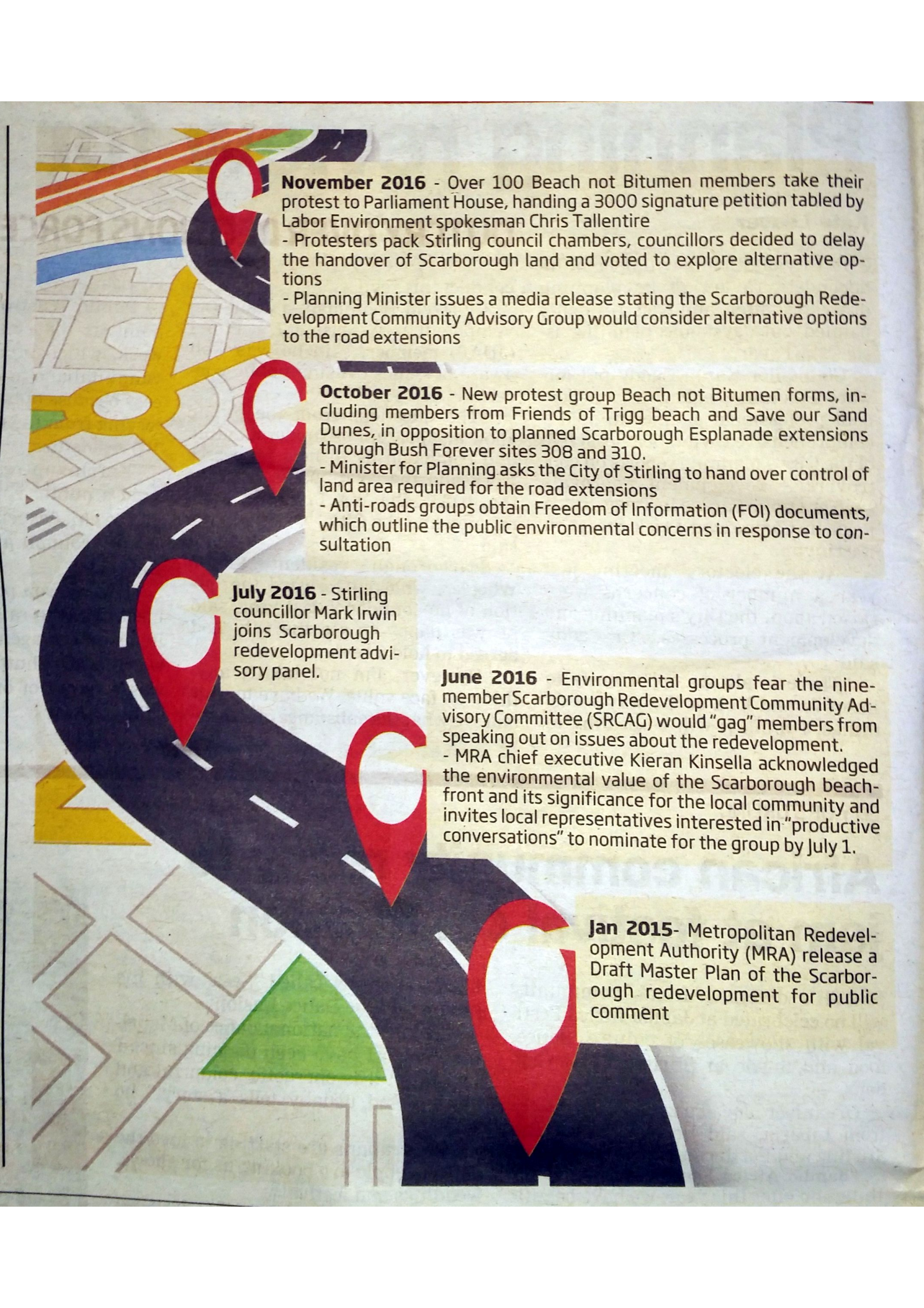
MICHELLE INNES,
Scarborough

It is just a magnificent stretch of natural land there and to imagine a road cutting through it is just horrible.

I use the bike path and I think access to Scarborough Beach and Brighton Beach would be hugely impacted.

I'm cynical of them looking into alternative options, with West Coast Highway in the morning and afternoon the way they have got the light system ensures the traffic flows, the congestion is not as bad what is being said and I've travelled through there both ways.





November 2016 - Over 100 Beach not Bitumen members take their protest to Parliament House, handing a 3000 signature petition tabled by Labor Environment spokesman Chris Tallentire

- Protesters pack Stirling council chambers, councillors decided to delay the handover of Scarborough land and voted to explore alternative options
- Planning Minister issues a media release stating the Scarborough Redevelopment Community Advisory Group would consider alternative options to the road extensions

October 2016 - New protest group Beach not Bitumen forms, including members from Friends of Trigg beach and Save our Sand Dunes, in opposition to planned Scarborough Esplanade extensions through Bush Forever sites 308 and 310.

- Minister for Planning asks the City of Stirling to hand over control of land area required for the road extensions
- Anti-roads groups obtain Freedom of Information (FOI) documents, which outline the public environmental concerns in response to consultation

July 2016 - Stirling councillor Mark Irwin joins Scarborough redevelopment advisory panel.

June 2016 - Environmental groups fear the nine-member Scarborough Redevelopment Community Advisory Committee (SRCAG) would "gag" members from speaking out on issues about the redevelopment.

- MRA chief executive Kieran Kinsella acknowledged the environmental value of the Scarborough beachfront and its significance for the local community and invites local representatives interested in "productive conversations" to nominate for the group by July 1.

Jan 2015- Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) release a Draft Master Plan of the Scarborough redevelopment for public comment