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Music to their ears



page 5

'Bon Jovi' returns



Entertainment

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Domain



Tree huggers: Greens MP Cate Faehrmann met with Wolli Creek Preservation Society spokesperson Peter Stevens and councillors Lesa de Leau from Rockdale, Fiona Byrne from Marrickville, and Linda Eisler from Canterbury, on Thursday to condemn M5 East expansion plans.

Bush threat

'We'll lay in front of bulldozers if plan passed'

By KIRSTY JAGGER

GREENS councillors have vowed to lay down in front of bulldozers to prevent the RTA from mowing down sensitive remnant bushland at Wolli Creek to make way for M5 expansion plans.

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ment, led by Greens MP Cate Faehrmann, includes Canterbury councillor Linda Eisler and Marrickville Mayor Fiona Byrne .

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Creek," she said.
"This is a unique piece of land - it's bush in the centre of the city - and we refuse to be bullied into losing it."

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Continued page 3

Story ID 73859 on page 1 of Valley Times on November 11th, 2010

Bush threat

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GREENS councillors have vowed to lay down in front of bulldozers to prevent the RTA from mowing down sensitive remnant bushland at Wolli Creek to make way for expansion of the M5. This conservation movement, led by Greens MP Cate Faehrmann, includes Canterbury councillor Linda Eisler and Marrickville Mayor Fiona Byrne.

Cr Eisler said the group's bulldozer threat spoke to the community.

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"This is a unique piece of land - it's bush in the centre of the city - and we refuse to be bullied into losing it."

Wolli Creek Preservation Society (WCPS) spokesperson Peter Stevens said he was "outraged" by the threat the RTA plans pose to the area "locals have fought for years to protect and restore".

In 1998, the Carr Government pledged it would make Wolli Creek bushland a regional park under the National Parks and Wildlife Service management.

"The WCPS and thousands of community members are calling on the Government to keep its 12-year-old promise," Mr Stevens said.

"Declare the whole 50ha a regional park before the 2011 election, preferably in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity."

Cr Byrne said that with little in the way of natural heritage, there was "immense pressure to hold onto the remaining valuable bushland we have".

"The Labor Government must take full responsibility for this debacle, assert its authority and immediately deliver on its promise to return this land to the people," she said.

An RTA spokesperson confirmed "some land near Wolli Creek may be required" for the M5 East expansion but said that planning was at the "early feasibility stage and no decisions have been made on the location of any future tunnels".

"To come to a better understanding of what land may be able to be transferred to parkland, as soon as possible, the RTA will shortly carry out geotechnical and design investigations in the Bexley Road/Wolli Creek area," the spokesperson said.

"Once the feasibility work is complete and route options are determined, an environmental assessment, including stakeholder consultation, will take place."

Continued page 4 From page 1