

# St Kilda Marina Project Community Panel Session Two Summary



The 50-year lease of the St Kilda Marina is ending on 30 April 2019. This presents an exciting opportunity to plan for the marina's future before a long-term lease arrangement is secured. Council is committed to working with the Victorian Government, community, users of the marina and other key stakeholders to re-imagine the St Kilda Marina site.

Formed in July 2018, the St Kilda Marina Project Community Panel is a key part of Council's commitment to working with the community. The Community Panel is currently working with Council and technical consultants to identify the best long-term option for the site that delivers an effective balance of social, cultural, environmental, economic and financial benefits.

This document provides a summary of the Community Panel's second session held on 15 September 2018 at the St Kilda Town Hall.

To view previous session summaries and to learn more about the St Kilda Marina Project please visit [haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildamarina](http://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildamarina)

## Overview of Session Two

The second Community Panel session was designed to explore the 'big decisions' that need to be made about the future of the St Kilda Marina to assist in refining the best long-term option for the site.

### Keeping focused on delivering the site's vision and objectives

To help frame the 'big decisions' conversation panel members were asked between sessions one and two to explore ideas for how the site's vision and objectives could be realised.

At the second session, participants divided into four discussion groups, and each group was provided with one of the following questions to answer:

- what social, cultural and economic benefits could this site provide? (for the neighbourhood, the municipality and beyond)
- how can we give this site a unique identity?
- how will the natural environment be enhanced in the context of an urban foreshore site?
- how can we showcase the working marina?

Across the four groups, many of the ideas celebrated the history of the site as a working marina, focusing the site's future use on water and marina related activities. Increasing the diversity of activities that the site offers was also a common thread, with increased opportunities for drawing both tourists and the local community into the site (for example space for community activity). All groups supported opening

### How you can input into the options development process

To help with the Community Panel's future deliberations and the technical assessments, Council is undertaking broader community engagement to test some of the ideas being explored by the panel. The community engagement will run from 21 September to 7 October 2018, [click here to complete the survey](#)

the site up for public access, along with opening up visual access to the site. All groups supported improving and enhancing the natural environment by increasing vegetation, enhancing the natural habitat and environmentally sustainable design.

### Unpacking the 'big decisions'

To help Council and the technical team refine the site's opportunities further the Community Panel deliberated on the following 'big decisions' for the site:

- the key components of the working marina, including:
  - overall scale of the working marina and its associated services for boat users
  - preferred solution/s for dry storage of boats on the site
  - recognising the heritage of the site in the future development

- the view lines to be protected and enhanced; and how to achieve increased mixed-use development that does not compromise views or public open space
- the best way to improve the interface between Marine Parade and the site
- how to provide public access to the water from both motorised and non-motorised water crafts
- the future experiences the site needs to accommodate and promote
- the ways people can move within the site, including routes and destination points
- the commercial activities that most align with the outcomes we want to achieve for the site
- the greatest opportunities for biodiversity on the site
- the future use of the peninsula and how public access balances with biodiversity opportunities.

The list of 'big decisions' was developed following feedback from the Community Panel and technical assessments of site opportunities. They also consider what Council can stipulate in the site brief for future tenderers.

## Areas of agreement

Panel members worked in groups on the 'big decisions', seeking agreement within their groups for various solutions. The groups then presented their ideas to each other and the technical experts, and following feedback refined their ideas further.

The Community Panel as a whole was not expected to come to agreement at the second session of the panel process. However areas of agreement started to appear across the groups, particularly around:

- relocation of the public boat ramp to move it closer to the entrance of the marina. This was supported as it improves access into Port Phillip Bay for ramp users and opens up its current location for greater public use. The location of the current public boat ramp has high value views to the city and Ormond Point
- focusing future experiences on connecting people to nature and the Bay rather than structured recreational activities
- the need for improved boat storage to provide increased access to the peninsula. This could be achieved by removing the need for the hard stand boat storage currently located along the peninsula
- opening the interface between Marine Parade and the site through decreasing the commercial footprint along the edge and removing fences to increase access and views in to the site
- improving and maximising important view lines for public enjoyment, such as continuing the view line from Dickens Street through the site to the Bay, and views from within the site to the Bay, the city and Ormond Point

- the peninsula was identified as the area with the greatest opportunity to increase biodiversity on the site. Ideas were consistent across the groups, which included reducing hard surfaces and increasing vegetation
- in terms of future public use of the peninsula, biodiversity and connecting people to nature appeared to be the preference, with ideas of concentrating commercial activity and marina operations away from the breakwater
- there were consistent messages that the design of the site needs to exceed minimum standards for environmentally sustainable design.

## Areas where opinions differed

- The panel was not aligned on continuing the Bay Trail along the peninsula with a bridge over where the boats enter the Bay from the marina. Those who did not support the bridge felt options should focus on the biodiversity of the foreshore and questioned how the costs would be balanced out across the site. There was also concern on the practicality of the design in meeting boat, pedestrian and cyclist needs.
- Location of the dry boat storage was also debated. There was mixed support for the boat sheds to stay where they are with some support for increasing their depth to improve capacity. Others wanted to see an option where the boat sheds were relocated to the south end of the site, clustered with the future commercial activity areas.

## Next steps

Alongside the broader community engagement, Council officers and the technical team will continue to assess feasibility and opportunities for the different ideas.

The Community Panel will reconvene for session three on 13 October 2018. At this session, the project team and technical consultants will present refined options for the site. This session will be used to seek agreement from the panel members on their final recommendations to Council about the best long-term option for the site.

To learn more about the project visit the project page [haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildamarina](http://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildamarina)

## Any questions?

If you have any questions about the St Kilda Marina project please contact the project team via ASSIST on 03 9209 6777 or by emailing [skmproject@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:skmproject@portphillip.vic.gov.au)