

Victoria's Great Outdoors

Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park

Community Engagement Findings Summary

As part of the \$105.6 million commitment to 'Victoria's Great Outdoors' initiative, the Victorian Government is creating the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park. It will combine existing parks and reserves along 40kms of coast between San Remo and Inverloch, on Bunurong Country. This will include extending and upgrading the George Bass Coastal Walk.

Introduction

In May and June 2020, Parks Victoria and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) sought community feedback to help plan the trail inside Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park that will link San Remo and Inverloch. The feedback will inform an Access and Infrastructure Plan.

Engagement objectives

The purpose of this community engagement was to:

- Inform stakeholders and community about planning and design process
- Consult partners on values in the park
- Understand community preferences for trail features
- Reach a wide range of community members
- Provide engagement using different mediums (such as online, posters, and telephone) to comply with coronavirus (COVID-19) directions.

Engagement activities

Engagement was promoted through: social media, emails, local media, and posters in local areas. The engagement activities and participation levels were:



Engage Victoria survey

794 participants



Community Information Sessions

58 participants - 3 online sessions



Online workshop

30 participants



Youth survey

98 participants



School workshop

6 participants

Participation

Participants gave basic demographic information that showed:

- **53%** of survey respondents were local to Bass Coast
- Survey respondents **aged 35-69** were highly represented when compared to the Victorian state average
- Young people who participated were mostly between **10-12 years old**

Acknowledgment

Victoria's network of parks and reserves, of which Yallock-Bulluk is one, form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes, which have been modified over many thousands of years of occupation.

Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park lies on the traditional lands of the Bunurong People. The name of the park honours one of five clan groups of the Bunurong Traditional Owners, the Yallock-Bulluk clan, who occupied the broader Bass Coast Region.

Parks Victoria and DELWP acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land that this report relates to, the Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to this park and ongoing role in caring for Country.



- There was a close-to-even gender split of participants.

Key findings

There were some themes that arose across many comments in many questions, and the overarching feedback included:

- A trail that respects the natural environment and showcases the beauty of the coastline between San Remo and Inverloch
- The importance of protecting local environmental and Aboriginal cultural values
- Provision of facilities such as toilets, drinking water, access to carparking and seating along the trail is important
- Managing use along the trail is needed so that it does not feel busy, and manages different user groups
- The trails should be fit-for purpose trails and functional year-round with good drainage, and walking connections to towns
- There should be good information and signs provided along the trail
- There was a strong desire for engagement and being kept informed as the plans progress.

Trail features

Participants said walking and hiking, appreciating nature, enjoying views and seeing wildlife are things they would like to see and do on the trail.

The features considered most important on the trail were:

- Clear directional signage (**69%**)
- Lookouts (**68%**), and
- Beach access (**64%**).

Participants were interested in walks that:

- Loop back and finish where they start (**64%**)

Are day walks of between 1-4 hours (**80%**).

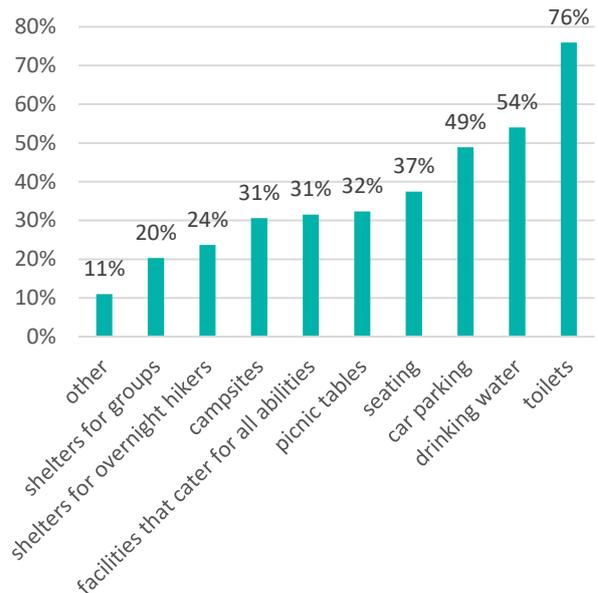
Information sharing

Participants were most interested in learning about:

- environmental and cultural heritage values along the trail.

- Signage and information boards were the most commonly suggested ways to share information.

What facilities are most needed in the park?



Sharing the trail

Participants noted that different trail uses need to be managed with environmental sensitivity (vegetation, bird nesting sites and sensitive dunes), protecting Aboriginal cultural values and other trail users.

Participation feedback

- **80%** of participants think that Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park will help more people enjoy Victoria's Great Outdoors
- **82%** felt they had the chance to have their say, and
- **86%** of participants found it easy to participate.

Next steps

Alongside other research, feedback captured in this consultation report will be used to inform the draft of the Access and Infrastructure Plan.

There will be a further public consultation when the draft Access and Infrastructure Plan is available. Visit [Engage Victoria](#) for the latest updates, or to read the full Community Engagement Findings Report.