

# Mount Martha North Beach

## Community consultation - January 2019 Response summary

In January 2019, DELWP published a survey comprised of 25 questions; that focused on the use, access, and future management of Mount Martha North (MMN) beach, as part of a larger project to maintain public safety for the Mount Martha North beach and protect the natural assets and public infrastructure. The survey was made available through the Engage Vic website, at local pop-ups, and mailed and emailed to stakeholders.

The purpose of the survey was to developing weightings that reflect community values, to apply to the four management options under consideration. The responses to the survey have been used in the social and environmental criteria of the options analysis.

### Respondents

- There were 612 unique respondents from 502 households. The average age of respondents was 50.
- The majority of respondents (75%) indicated they either lived locally or owned a holiday house within a short distance from MMN beach. Seventy-one percent of respondents had visited MMN beach in the past week (in January 2019).

### Responses – key themes and insights

#### Beach use

- When MMN beach was closed 62% of respondents reported a change in beach use patterns. The majority (49%) went to MMSB instead, 32% went to an alternative beach, 12% continued to use MMN beach, and 7% decided not to go to any beach at all.
- The most common recreational activity reported by respondents on their previous visit to MMN beach was swimming. This was followed by relaxing and enjoying nature, playing with children, and walking/running with a dog.
- More than half of the respondents reported that they often walk between the north and south beaches at Mount Martha.
- More than 50% of respondents access MMN beach via the beach steps and walk there from home.

#### Erosion and coastal management

A series of management option statements for Mount Martha North beach were made, with respondents being asked to score each statement on a scale of agreement, ranging on a five-point scale from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'. The statements were:

4.1 - A wide beach should be maintained year round at Mt Martha North beach through the construction of coastal structures such as large groynes and supplemented by continual beach renourishment (regardless of cost or visual disturbance of the beach)

4.2 - I support construction of smaller groynes and the less regular movement of sand onto MMN beach (with possibility of reduced beach availability/access in winter)

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4.3 - I do not support the construction of coastal management structures on the beach. I think we should let nature take its course and enjoy the relatively undeveloped vista of the beach (stay the same)

4.4 - I think we should just carry out beach renourishment (i.e. shifting sand from Mount Martha South beach to Mount Martha North beach) when the beach at MMN is severely eroded.

4.5 - I think the beach boxes should be removed to provide more space for the public to access when the beach is narrow.

- Majority provided responses that were positive (above neutral) for options 4.1 (55%) & 4.2 (54%)
- Majority provided responses that were negative (below neutral) for option 4.3 (69%)
- More than 50% of respondents felt construction on the beach (groynes, breakwaters) was acceptable to protect the beach; just under 50% felt beach nourishment was also an acceptable option when the beach was eroded at MMN.
- A significant proportion of respondents (70%) felt they did not want to see the removal of the beach boxes to provide space for the public when the beach was narrow (Q4.5). Close to 50% (48%) of the respondents owned or had access to a beach box at MMN beach.