

Buckland Valley State Forest Recreation Master Plan engagement summary



We're developing a strategic plan for recreation opportunities in Buckland Valley State Forest.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) asked the community how they value and use Buckland Valley State Forest. This is to inform a master plan to guide recreation investment and increase access and enjoyment of the area.

An initial community survey was conducted on Engage Victoria in November and December 2020. More than 1000 people visited the Engage Victoria page and 425 people responded to the survey.

In May 2021, DELWP published a draft Buckland Valley State Forest Recreation Master Plan on Engage Victoria and asked for the community's feedback. The draft master plan was viewed by more than 1300 people and 84 people responded to the survey, representing a diverse range of ages and recreational user groups.

How did we do?

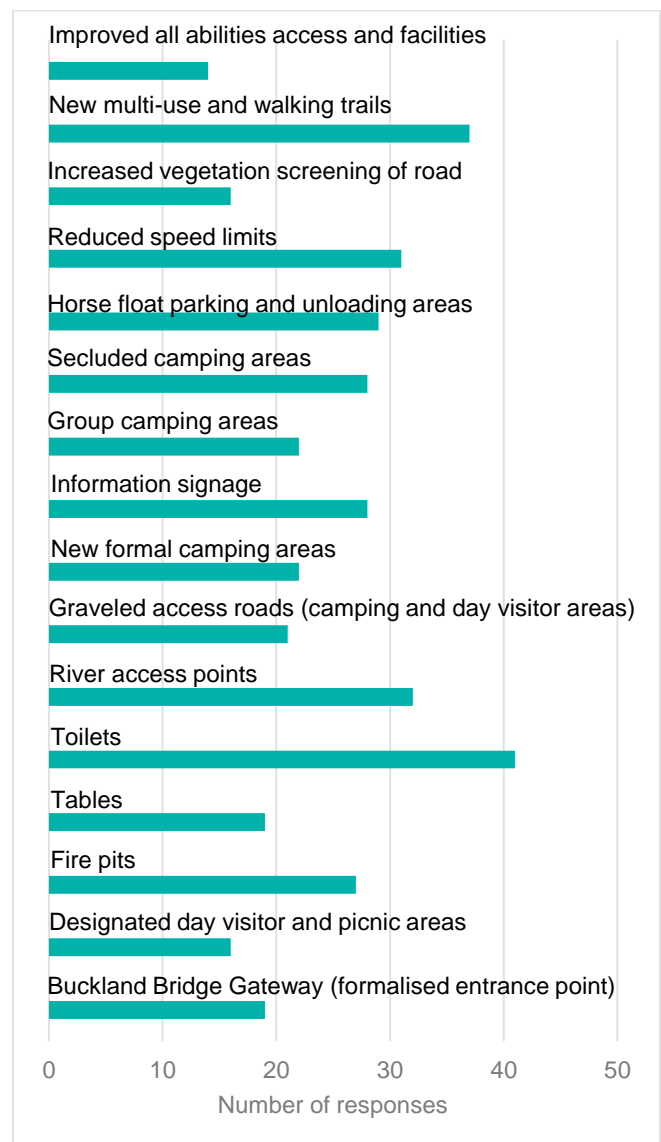
Almost half (44%) of the respondents of this survey also participated in the initial survey. Of those who took part in both, more than half (54%) believed that the draft master plan captured their responses from the initial survey.

A third (32%) believed that the draft master plan did not capture their responses, and a small portion couldn't remember (14%) their responses to the initial survey.

"Acknowledging the need to provide the balance between recreation and environmental/historical preservation for interested parties"

Better facilities and infrastructure

We asked respondents to tell us what facilities and infrastructure would improve their experience.



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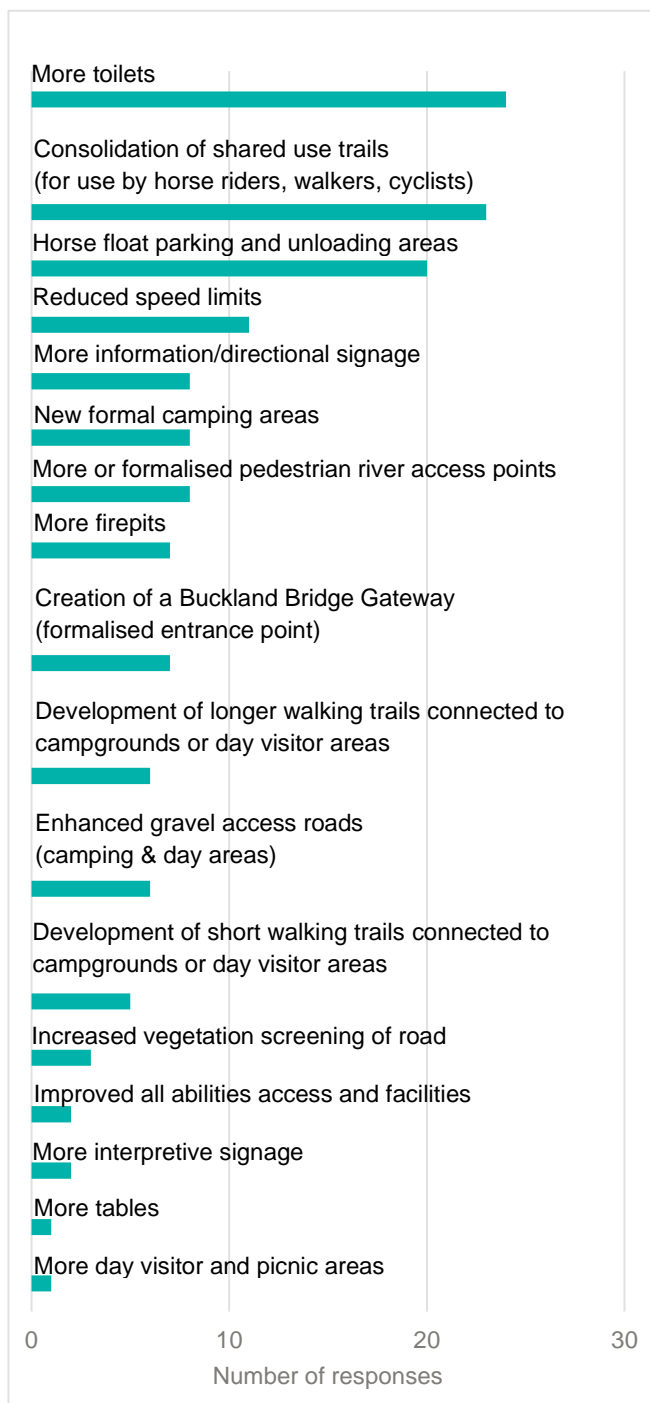
Improving recreational activities

Most respondents believed that camping, horse riding, long walks, picnicking and day visits would be most improved by the master plan.

The activities that most respondents thought would see no improvement included hunting and four-wheel driving.

How can we most improve your experience?

We asked respondents to select two proposals from the options below that they believe would most improve their experience.



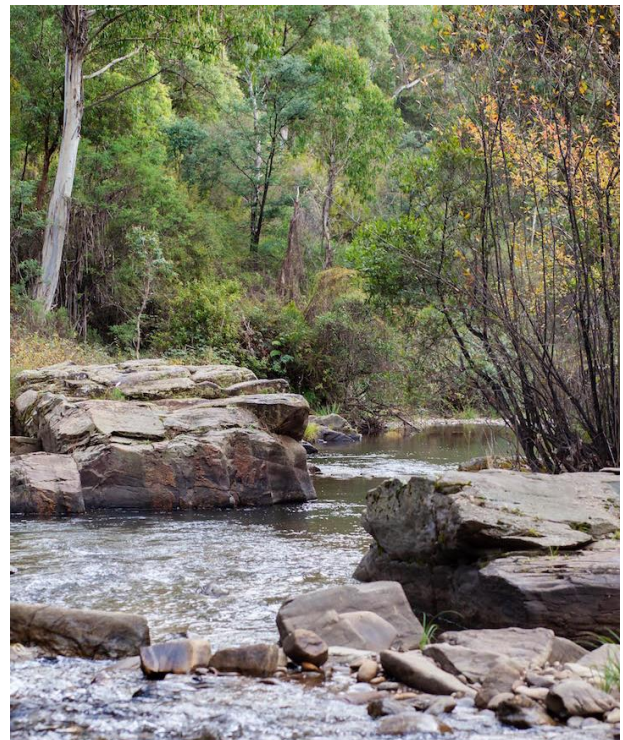
What else we heard

Respondents are excited to see:

- the consolidation and extension of proposed shared use tracks
- an increase to informative and interpretive signage
- increase in infrastructure for horse riders
- formalisation and increase in infrastructure.

Respondents are most concerned about:

- increasing visitor numbers and the challenges this can have for public land managers
- impact to private property and their privacy
- impacts on other government infrastructure such as local government roads



“Consolidation of trails for use by horses and horse riders.”

For more information about the Buckland Valley State Forest Recreation Master Plan project, please email buckland.valley@delwp.vic.gov.au

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Site name	Feedback
Ah Youngs	<p>Multiple respondents wanted the track re-opened on the eastern side of the river to make another short shared use track. This shared use track could also be improved with the addition of a picnic area with toilet along the track.</p> <p>Respondents also wanted to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase in interpretive signage displaying the history of the Buckland Valley • screening between campsites for added privacy from other groups • the separation of campsites without the need to use pine post and rail fencing.
Camp Flat	<p>Respondents indicated that this campground is great with the addition of a new toilet. They would also like to see better 2WD access, reduced speed limits and better horse float parking.</p> <p>Most respondents were horse riders and were positive about the increase in shared use tracks suitable for their recreational user group.</p>
Shippens Flat	<p>Respondents indicated that informalised camping should continue as formalising the campground will negatively impact on their camping experience.</p>
Leinster Flat	<p>Respondents indicated that informalised camping should continue as formalising the campground will negatively impact on their camping experience.</p>
Hope Flat	<p>Respondents commented that due to restrictions in international travel they have noticed an increase in people visiting the area and are concerned that improvements to the area will increase its popularity.</p> <p>Respondents are excited to see the area well designed to keep it quiet and secluded with positive comments on the new shared trails.</p>
The Bend	<p>This campground is already popular with public land users, specifically horse riders. Respondents would like to see a formalisation in recreational facilities such as horse yards, dedicated loading and unloading areas and improvements to the existing road network with access for 2WD vehicles.</p>
Beveridges station	<p>Respondents would like to see formalisation of campgrounds by adding firepits, reducing the likelihood of people making their own.</p> <p>An update to signage, increase in toilets and a formalisation of the road networks were also highlighted.</p>
Buckland Bridge Gateway	<p>Respondents were positive about the addition of a day visitor area, although could be better screened from the road.</p> <p>A local landholder shared concerns about the location of the day visitor area and the impact this may have on their privacy, with multiple suggestions for different locations.</p> <p>Respondents were also concerned about the chance of people illegally camping. They were supportive of better educational information and an increase in FFMVic patrols in the area to combat this.</p>
Junction Picnic Area	<p>Respondents would like to see improved and more informative signage of the history of the Buckland Valley and Buckland Township.</p>
BV22.5	<p>Respondents were unhappy with the proposal to shut this area off to camping and make it a day visitor area only. They also commented that this could be a very good camping area with improvements to existing infrastructure and management of pests and weeds.</p>
Fairley's Creek Mine Walk	<p>Respondents would like to see an increase in management of the weed species and proper management of the area as it is near freehold land.</p>

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Camp Flat Junction Interpretive Route	Respondents didn't want to see any changes except for an increase to the informative signage of the history of the area and Buckland Township.
Red Jacket Mine Walk	Respondents had major safety concerns about this walk as they believe the mine is unsafe for public land users.
Western River Multi-use Track Section 1	Respondents were most concerned about this track being so close to private properties and the potential for their privacy to be violated. They suggested that publicly accessed areas be placed further south away from private landholders. Respondents were also concerned about mountain and trail bike riders going off the track and impacting the surrounding area, and that FFMVic will need to monitor for this activity and have patrols on busy weekends to combat this.
Western River Multi-use Track Section 2	Respondents were concerned about the impact mountain biking can have on the surrounding area if people go off the track, making their own tracks. This area will need to be continually monitored by FFMVic patrols to ensure this doesn't happen.
Bridge-Camp Flat Multi-use track section 2	Respondents want to see a dedicated area for horse float parking and loading and unloading their horses, alleviating the need to tow vehicles further down the road. They would also like to see this track joined with the one across the river.
Bridge-Camp Flat Multi-use track section 3	This walk was very popular with horse riders, suggesting that the road verge needs to be widened to allow parking suitable for horse floats as respondents believe the current parking arrangement at Camp Flat is not suitable for larger groups.
Telecom multi-use track	Respondents were concerned about the impact this track could have on the existing infrastructure, such as the Telstra Cable. The track will need to be carefully planned to reduce the risk of damage to the line.
Junction-clear creek multi-use track	Respondents were very positive about this track extension, with most of them excited to be able to have a full day ride or walk in the Buckland Valley. Several respondents were very supportive and wanted to see this area further extended into Kings Ditch, creating a loop back to the Junction.
Head Race Flat	No responses were provided for these sites.
BV01	
Kings Ditch Walking track	
Shippen-Leinster flat walking track	
Leinster-Good Hope walking track	
Shippen-Good Hope walking track	
Nelson Mine & Battery Site	
Miners Right School Site	
Leinster Battery Site	
Bridge-Camp Flat Multi-use track section 1	
Bridge-Camp Flat Multi-use track section 4	