

CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT



Peachtree Creek Campground
Victoria's Great Outdoors
March 2021



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Traditional Owner Acknowledgement

Victoria’s network of parks and reserves, including Peachtree Creek Campground, form the core of Aboriginal cultural landscapes, which have been modified over many thousands of years of occupation.

They are reflections of how Aboriginal people engaged with their world and experienced their surroundings and are the product of thousands of generations of economic activity, material culture and settlement patterns.

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these cultural landscapes, recognising their continuing connection to Victoria’s parks and reserves and ongoing role in caring for Country.

Introduction

The Victorian Government is investing \$235,000 to upgrade a campsite at Peachtree Creek adjoining Croajingolong National Park. Public consultation held between August and October 2020 sought ideas and feedback about the upgrades from all community members.

Project overview

Peachtree Creek Campground is adjacent to Croajingolong National Park in far East Gippsland. The campground is situated in Peachtree Creek Reserve, has 11 campsites and provides access to the waters of Tamboon Inlet via an onsite boat ramp and jetty. As part of the Victoria's Great Outdoors funding, \$235,000 has been allocated to upgrade the site.

The upgrades will clearly set out and design the campground and amenities, including improving signage. There will be additional car parking, day visitor facilities, and the toilet will be replaced. Draft plans have two-day visitor sites and the camping sites reduced from 11 to ten. The site will be planted with local vegetation to create screening between sites and revegetation of the fire-affected area.

To assist with the planning and design of Peachtree Creek upgrades, Parks Victoria undertook community consultation between 27 October and 22 November 2020.

About this report

The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings from the first phase of consultation. The report was prepared by Parks Victoria.

All feedback and ideas presented in this report were collected via the Engage Victoria webpage or through email. All input has been considered equally. The findings in this report reflect the views of the community. Findings have not been edited for accuracy and do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or position of Parks Victoria.

Reading the report

As with all consultation processes and reporting analysis there are considerations that should be acknowledged when reading the report:

- To report on qualitative survey responses, each comment was given a code (or several codes) based on the themes the participant discussed. In the summary of findings section of this report, findings are grouped according to these themes. They are ordered according to the frequency with which they were raised.
- Where needed, quotations have been amended for spelling and grammar but are otherwise unchanged.

Consultation approach

A consultation strategy was developed by Parks Victoria that outlines the purpose and ways that people can provide ideas and feedback on the Peachtree Creek Upgrades. The primary purpose of this strategy was to generate interest about the project and collect ideas from community.

Objectives

The objectives of the engagement were:

- To communicate proactively with local community, existing site users, potential new site users and stakeholders (including registered Traditional Owner interest groups) about the project and opportunities for input
- To provide the opportunity for public input to influence detailed design of upgrades
- To clearly articulate the project scope, funding, timelines and what is negotiable through public consultation
- To inform locals and campsite users during construction and works
- To build and maintain relationships with stakeholders
- To engage with range of park users and stakeholders.

How people could participate

Participants could provide their ideas and input by:

- Completing a survey on the Engage Victoria platform
- Sending an email through to engage@parks.vic.gov.au or calling 13 19 63

In addition to the activities listed above for all community members, key stakeholders and interested groups were offered a one-on-one meeting about the project.

A community information session was planned; however due to low interest (two people), this was cancelled and one-on-one meetings were offered to those people.

Promotion

The engagement was promoted through:

- An email distributed to people who have camped at Peachtree Creek Campground
- A [media release](#) by Minister D'Ambrosio Member for Mill Park which listed Peachtree Creek among other upgrades and directed readers to the Parks Victoria website
- Parks Victoria social media post on 16 November 2020
- Parks Victoria webpage content at: www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/victorias-great-outdoors

Table 1: Promotional activity and estimated reach

Promotion activity	Reach
Email	~880 campers
Media Release	4 news items potential reach: 23,500
Facebook post	167 reactions 13 shares 24 comments

Adapting to covid-19

The consultation activities were planned to reach the diversity of the community. While initially activities were planned to be conducted in-person, they were adapted to an online format to help slow the spread of coronavirus. Participants without access to the internet were able to participate by phoning the Parks Victoria Information Line (13 19 63).

Of those who contributed via survey, 89% of people said they found it easy to participate.

Participation

The participation rates reflected the scale of the Peachtree Creek Upgrades and the size of the nearby local community.

Altogether, 66 people contributed through Engage Victoria survey, and 876 people viewed the site during the consultation period.

The following table outlines how people participated in the consultation.

Table 2: Engagement activity and participation

Activity	Participation
Engage Victoria survey	66 responses
Engage Victoria site	876 page-views
Email feedback	3 emails responses received
Submissions (attachments to emails or letters)	1 submission– from Tamboon-Peachtree Association

The overwhelming majority of participants (85%) were men as shown in Figure 2.

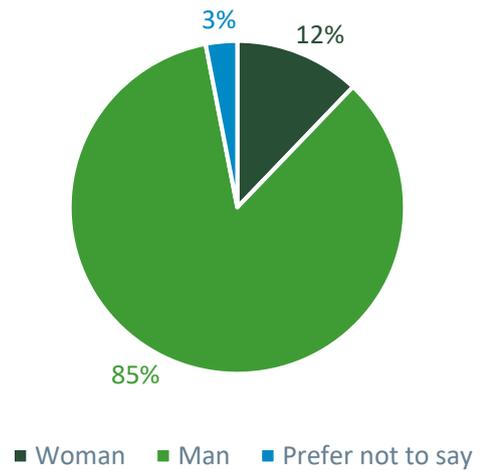


Figure 2: Participants gender

Participants gave details of their relationship to Peachtree Creek Campground. Participants main relationship to the campground was launching their boat, camping, fishing, or living in East Gippsland (Figure 1). There was representation from nearby residents in Tamboon, and Cann River.

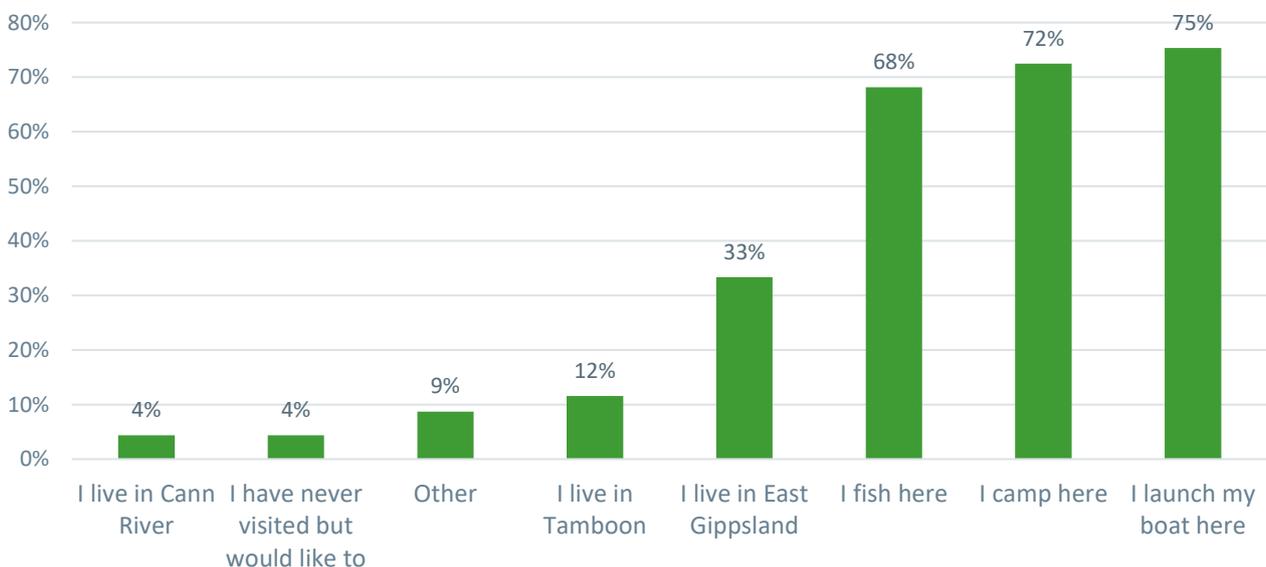


Figure 1: participants relationship to Peachtree Creek Campground

Summary of findings

Through the Engage Victoria Survey, emails and the submission, participants supported the upgrades with some suggestions for further consideration.

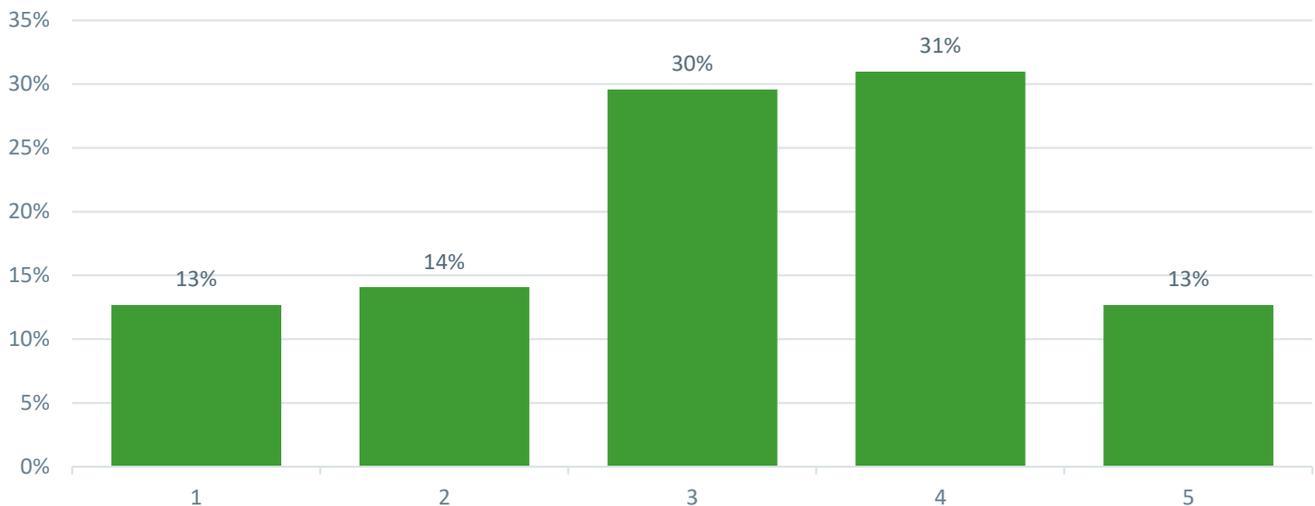


Figure 3: Responses to 'how satisfied are you with the planned Peachtree Creek campground upgrades on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being lowest, 5 being highest)

Participants were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the planned Peachtree Creek campground upgrades on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the lowest, 5 being the highest). As shown in **Figure 3**, overall, there was a high degree of support for the upgrades, with 4 being the most highly selected response. The average rating was 3.17 out of 5.

Most liked aspects of draft designs

Participants were asked to describe what they like most about the draft designs. Participants stated that they like (in order of most frequently cited):

- The **toilet** replacement was recognised as a necessary upgrade by over half of respondents
- **Additional or better designed car parking** with space to accommodate boat trailers
- **Investment into the campground** or overall support for infrastructure upgrades
- **Inclusion of day visitor areas**
- **Screening** and vegetation planting.

Quotes regarding what people like most about the upgrades:

"Campground and launching facilities all looking a bit sad. A general tidy up will help a lot."

"[I like] the day visitor areas. As a Cann River resident I would like to visit this area but have always been deterred by campers."

"Peachtree creek camp area is just a great little camping area and having a overall upgrade to make more family friendly is great, replacing toilets and providing day parking is excellent."

Suggested improvements

Participants were asked to describe what they think could be improved in the draft designs. Participants suggested that the following could be improved (presented in order of most frequently suggested):

- **Upgrading the jetty** was considered important for some respondents (approximately one third), particularly regarding emergency (bushfire) safety for

evacuations, and improving access to the water for all abilities.

- **Parking** was suggested as a key issue at Peachtree Creek that could be better improved through increasing the number of parks without compromising campground numbers. Some believed it was important to create long-term parking and space for boat trailers to turn.
- **Reducing campsite numbers** was a concern for some respondents, in particular not redirecting camping from site 11.
- Some respondents commented that the **site layout** could be improved to preserve a sense of wilderness, safely separate day and camping areas, and improve access to campsites, water and needed car parking.
- Some participants requested **more information** or a detailed design to better understand the upgrades.
- **Facilities** such as **fire pits and a fish-cleaning table** were also suggested as improvements for the site.

Quotes about suggested improvements to the draft designs:

“An upgrade of the boat ramp to floating jetty would be of great value”

“If inundation is an issue, perhaps look at raising the sites up instead of restricting them.”

“As per the other campsites in Croajingolong NP, it's really important that the design creates a sense of wilderness and isolation for this remote part of Victoria.”

Next steps

All feedback summarised in this report will be read and considered by both Parks Victoria and the design contractors. This will inform the detailed design for Peachtree Creek Campground Upgrade.

Parks Victoria thanks all those who have contributed their ideas and feedback during the community consultation and we look forward to showing you detailed plans in 2021.