

# Apollo Bay and Marengo Projects Community Engagement March 2019

Community engagement sessions were held on 22 and 23 March 2019 at the Apollo Bay Golf Club and online via the Engage Victoria website



## This is what we heard

### Coastal erosion

#### Apollo Bay

There was support for the revetment and sand fencing recently constructed, with suggestions that there should be more of the same. However, this should be done in conjunction with groynes to trap sand and provide longer term protection.

Concerning the boardwalk construction sequence at the identified 'high risk' sites, the first section should be at the end of Cawood Street, with the design incorporating beach access.

#### Mounts Bay/Marengo

Generally, the overriding message is to act soon by constructing revetments where there is significant erosion damage, and groynes to trap sand and provide a natural long-term buffer between the ocean and road.

"The rock revetment and mesh fencing is so far doing a great job near Cawood Street."

### Concerns

Given the context of the road being on a sand dune at Mounts Bay, concerns were expressed about whether it would be possible to design a revetment that would not be undermined. There was also concern that groynes constructed at Apollo Bay would 'starve' Skenes Creek of sand unless they were properly filled with imported sand at the time of construction.



### Renewable energy transition

The Government has made a commitment to increasing the amount of energy generated by renewables. In discussions with those at the Apollo Bay sessions, some of the issues, concerns and ideas expressed were:

# Apollo Bay and Marengo Projects Community Engagement March 2019

- Conceptually, there is a high level of support for renewable energy in Apollo Bay
- Clearer policy will help community involvement in the renewable energy transition
- Batteries should be a part of the picture
- Current rules are complex and prevent community involvement in the renewable energy transition
- There should be more roof top solar
- Benefits should be shared equitably
- Current renewable energy feed-in tariffs are unfair
- Renewable energy should provide local skills and training opportunities
- Appropriate decisions should be made on competing land uses
- Renewable energy should provide long-term community benefits.

In considering an appropriate size of a renewable energy plant, participants registered their opinion about the kind of mix appropriate for Apollo Bay as per table 1.

In considering how renewable energy should be owned and financed, four options were offered for consideration (Individuals, Government, Community Not for Profit, Corporate For Profit):

- 30% felt individuals
- 20% thought it should be a mix of all four
- 10% a mix of individuals and Government
- 20% a mixture of individuals and Not for Profit
- 20% for an additional option, Community for Profit.

Table 1: Size of renewable energy plant

Large Scale Centralised					Small Scale Decentralised				
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	7%	38%	46%	

In considering the type of renewable energy technology attendees felt would be most appropriate for Apollo Bay, the feedback was:

Table 2: Renewable energy technology

Type of system	Wave	Bio-energy	Wind	Waste to Energy	Solar
% support	6%	13%	19%	26%	35%

Other responses included: 'Nuclear' and 'All of them'.



“Erosion = no road = no Apollo Bay”



# Apollo Bay and Marengo Projects Community Engagement March 2019

## Regional Forestry Agreement Modernisation Program

Participants showed genuine interest in the program, with discussions on sustainable forest managements, small-scale tree plantations and agro-forestry.

Several felt that there was a lack of resources invested in the state forests. They advocated for more protected areas and closer collaboration with Parks Victoria in the Otway region. One visitor appreciated the efforts made to inform and engage people and expressed a desire to be part of a values workshop.



## Colac Otway Shire

Request for improved signage and the possibility of toilets at the Marengo Beach Intersection. Referred to infrastructure.

The Skenes Creek – Wild Dog Trail was not supported by many. Areas of concern included more important priorities, blocking views of ocean from road, it being constructed on the wrong side of the road, erosion and maintenance.

The Marengo section of the Great Ocean Road is the critical issue and should be the number one priority for capital investment.

- Car parking at the Fishing Co-Op near Harbour needs to be investigated. Outdoor dining – it's supposed to be a public boardwalk.
- Don't use Pascoe Street for tourist bus parking – the locals like to use this area for convenience to the local shops.
- Should have a bus shuttle for tourists.
- Possibly drop visitors off at Tourist Centre and park buses near the Caltex.

## Next steps

Sand renourishment works are underway to build resilience into the foreshore during the winter months.

A Great Ocean Road Action Plan update will be provided to the community on Tuesday 18 June from 6pm – 8pm at the Apollo Bay Golf Club. Minor updates will also be provided regarding erosion, the Apollo Bay Coastal and Marine Management Plan and Colac Otway Shire's community infrastructure project.

More information about the Great Ocean Road Action Plan can be found here:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/great-ocean-road>

There will be further engagement sessions in mid-July with the community regarding several projects in Apollo Bay.

