

An aerial photograph showing a large green sports field, likely a pump track, surrounded by trees and residential areas. In the background, a body of water (Geelong Harbour) is visible, along with a coastal road and more houses. The sky is clear and blue.

THE CITY OF  
GREATER GEELONG

# BARWON HEADS PUMP TRACK

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

September 2022

## BARWON HEADS VILLAGE PARK – BIKE DISCOVERY AREA

There have been numerous cases of illegal makeshift bike jumps being created throughout the municipality during the COVID pandemic. Over 60% of the makeshift bike jumps in the City of Greater Geelong have been created in the Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove towns. The makeshift bike jumps have caused a lot of damage to open space and has also damaged significant native vegetation.

In 2021 Council adopted the Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan that included a “designated bike discovery area for a safe and challenging bike experience”. The delivery of authorised mountain bike facilities within the Village Park could reduce the amount of makeshift bike tracks and associated environmental damage as there are no dedicated bike tracks in the Barwon Heads / Ocean Grove area.

To respond to the makeshift bike jump activity, The City of Greater Geelong developed 2 concept plans for an asphalt pump track to be delivered at the Barwon Heads Village Park. The City invited the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the design options between 9<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

What we heard from the community was that:

- A bike track is supported in this location and would be used by residents of all skills levels.
- The delivery of the track could reduce the amount of makeshift jumps and trails (74% of survey respondents identified as riding on the makeshift jumps that have been created in public open spaces)
- The use of asphalt was not in line with the intention of the Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan which envisaged the Bike Discovery Track as being less formalised and designed in collaboration with local riders using natural materials.

### ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The emphasis of the engagement with the community was to understand the communities’ opinions of an asphalt pump track located in the Barwon Heads Village Park. A “designated bike discovery area for a safe and challenging bike experience” was identified in the Council adopted Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan in 2021.

The four-week consultation period allowed time to reach stakeholders across the community, including bike riders, their families and interested residents.



**27 DAYS**

of engagement



**3,248**

Have Your Say  
website views



**234**

Number of  
contributions



**36**

People following  
the project

### HOW WE ENGAGED

**HAVE YOUR SAY ONLINE PORTAL**  
**[YOURSAY.GEELONGAUSTRALIA.COM.AU](https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au)**

An online HYS project page was designed to share relevant information to encourage community feedback. A survey was available online and was the core feedback tool, with 229 surveys completed.

## HOW WE ENGAGED

<b>FACE-TO-FACE</b>	A face-to-face session was held on Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March from 4:00pm to 7:00pm to discuss the plans and to allow residents the chance to ask questions and provide feedback. Approximately 30-40 residents attended with residents aged under 10 to 70.
<b>TARGETED FACEBOOK POSTS</b>	Targeted Facebook posts to Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove residents as well as Twitter. Paid advertising was completed in the week of March 8 <sup>th</sup> and again in the week starting 7 <sup>th</sup> April.
<b>MEDIA RELEASE</b>	A media release went out directing people to the Council website to leave feedback.
<b>ON SITE SIGNAGE</b>	On site signage was installed at Barwon Heads Village Park from March 7 <sup>th</sup> for park users to be aware of the consultation and directing residents to Council's website or to contact Council officers directly to provide feedback.
<b>EMAIL</b>	Emails were sent to anyone who subscribed to the Barwon Heads Village Master Plan letting them know about the design and the options to provide feedback.

During the community engagement period there were 229 survey contributions. Of the survey respondents 79% were local from Barwon Heads (117) and Ocean Grove (57). Other respondents were from towns on the Bellarine and other areas of the City of Greater Geelong, with 4 respondents from outside of the City of Greater Geelong.

## WHAT WE HEARD

Key survey findings included:

- **87.2%** (204) of respondents were supportive of a pump track at this location
- **10.2%** (24) of respondents were unsupportive of a pump track at this location

The primary concern identified was that an asphalt pump track is inappropriate for the village park and that the pump track design options do not align with the Council endorsed Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan.

It was suggested that a new design option was needed that adequately considered the landscape character and significance of the Barwon Heads Village Park

Based on the feedback from the survey, the key themes and issues were identified:

- Strong support for bike facility track
- Project not in line with the Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan - 'Bike Discovery Area'
- Use of natural materials rather than asphalt envisioned in Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan
- Environmental concerns & landscape character
- Location in park as reduction of passive open space

## NEXT STEPS

Officers will continue to investigate alternative design approaches to the delivery of the Bike Discovery Area, including options to facilitate community co-design and delivery of trails using natural materials that are more aligned with the vision of the Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan