

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Due to the complex nature of this landscape and high interest from the community, a comprehensive engagement plan was established with detailed activities to capture community and stakeholder consultation throughout the strategy development.

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To outline the project, inform it has commenced and that a project manager has been appointed.
- To consult with community, land holders and residents on the values, threats, uses and issues of the area.
- To involve the Geelong community in developing a greater sense of stewardship of the site.
- To collaborate with the Traditional Owners and land managers in developing a management strategy for this region.
- To ensure that the strategy is accepted by community and implemented by land management partners.

WHO WE ENGAGED



- Greater Geelong community
- Community groups and networks
- Bellarine residents
- Landholders
- Business & tourism
- Wadawurrung traditional owners
- State and local government & authorities

HOW WE ENGAGED



Notified community by postcard, print media, social media, email, letter and video

- Have Your Say page
- Survey
- Mapping tool
- Online open houses
- Individual contact
- Management working group

Our engagement required adjustment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and all activities were transferred to an online format.



2 walk in open houses were planned and 1 online session. When the walk-in open houses were cancelled due to covid, another online session was added and the community consultation was extended.



59 DAYS
of ENGAGEMENT
(Stage 1)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoiVf0eZr6U>

WHAT WE HEARD

89% of people were full time residents

93% from surrounding suburbs on Bellarine Peninsula

66% have lived on Bellarine for more than 10 years

62% were over the age of 55 years old

- Top 3 current uses: access to Beach/ocean, Nature walks, Walking/running (Birdwatching high in mapping tool)
- Top 5 values: Beach and ocean, Birdlife and fauna, Remnant vegetation, Waterways and lakes, Cultural heritage
- Top 5 threats: Development, Climate change impacts, Dune erosion, Pest plants, Pest animals
- Top 3 comments for future of this region: Stop development/further subdivision, Leave untouched for nature, Ensure trail is outside this area
- 162 comments - Enhancing the area through action
- 159 comments - Protecting the environmental assets and limiting development and use
- Landholder input varied greatly between supporting subdivision through to enhancing the environmental assets on their property.
- 100% of community groups supported protecting the environmental assets and strongly opposed a trail or increased access.
- Land managers and Traditional Owners do not support increased use or a trail through this green break. Collectively want to protect and enhance this area.

NEXT STEPS

Stage 2 - site tours & educational videos released

Stage 3 - draft strategy for review

ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS

- 1208 visitors to the HYS page
- 385 contributions through HYS page
- 105 followers of HYS page
- 9 landholders made written submissions
- 8 community groups made written submissions
- 7 community members made written submissions



- 24 online meetings with stakeholders
- 2 management working group meeting and online portal set up to collect contributions
- 571 views in first week of Launch video

