



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

TAYLOR PARK CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

ENGAGEMENT REPORT





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the separate and distinct Wadawurrung Peoples and Eastern Maar Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the Great Ocean Road's land, waters, seas and skies and recognise their cultural knowledge that has led to sustainable practices and has cared for Country over tens of thousands of years.

We honour Elders past and present and express gratitude for their sharing of wisdom that has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner and build meaningful relationships that reflect self-determination and enable us to work together with our Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices, and together deliver on their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

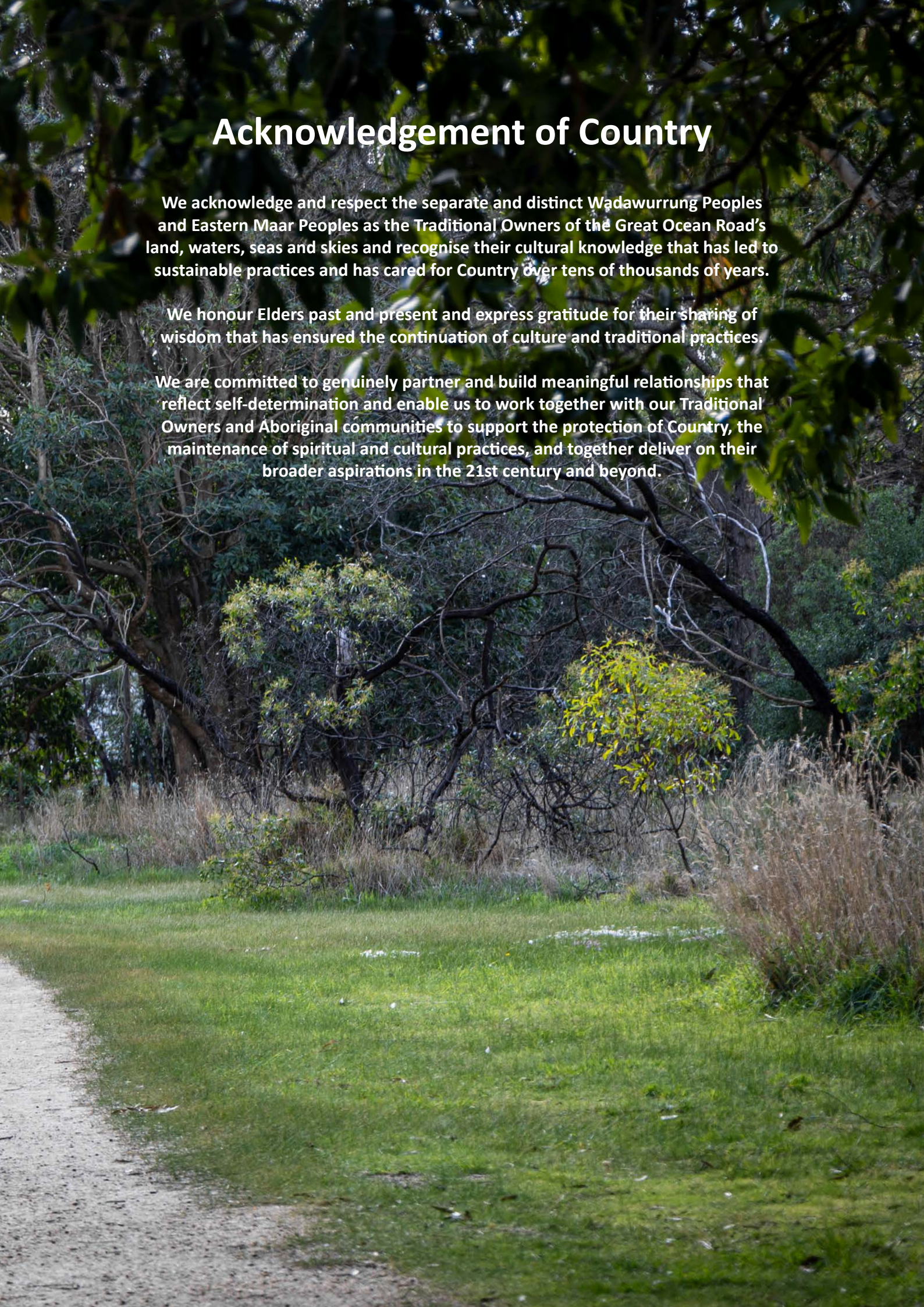


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INTRODUCTION

OUR COMMITMENT TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) is in an incredibly privileged position to be tasked with protecting and enhancing the Great Ocean Road's coast and parks on behalf of the community.

The Authority is committed to engaging, listening, respecting and reflecting community and stakeholder views in everything we do, as guided by our [Community Engagement Strategy](#).

We are committed to being transparent and open with our communities and building and deepening relationships grounded in reciprocity and trust. Through various channels, mediums and engagement spaces, we will invite feedback, robust discussion and reflection to strengthen our connections and common purpose.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

We undertook an engagement process to share knowledge and strengthen relationships with users of Taylor Park, Torquay. The focus of the engagement was the Taylor Park Conservation Improvement Project.

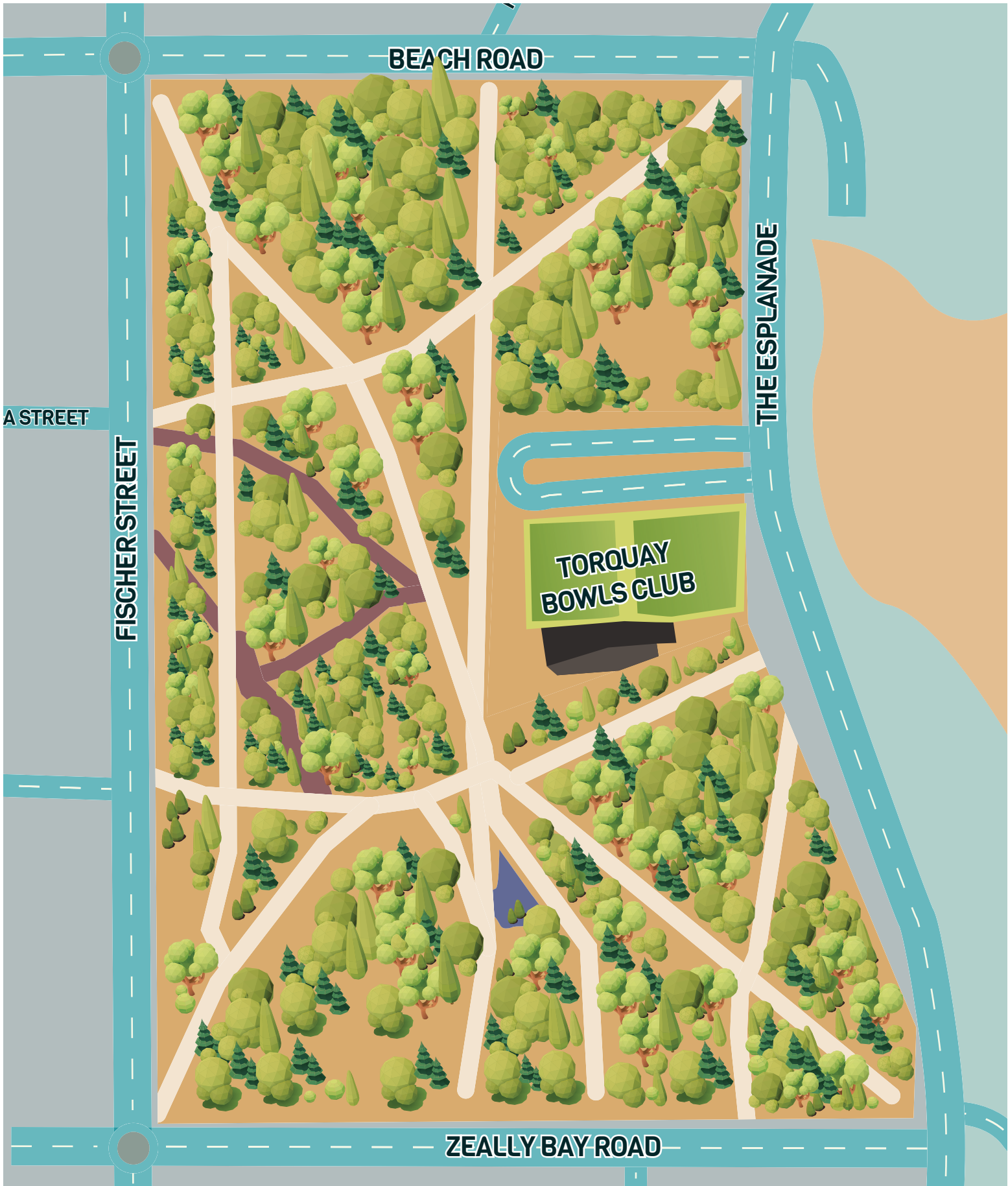
The way we manage Taylor Park is guided by the [Taylor Park Masterplan 2020](#). Protecting and improving conservation areas and their values is a priority for the Authority. Taylor Park is home to plants and animals of significant conservation value and is also a much-loved area for locals and visitors to the region.

The Taylor Park Conservation Improvement Project aims to improve conservation outcomes by removing some informal paths within Taylor Park. The informal tracks disrupt vegetation within the conservation areas, compacts soil impacting tree health and increases the need to remove some trees due to the risk of falling limbs.

The Taylor Park Conservation Improvement Project addresses some of the key priorities in the [Taylor Park Masterplan 2020](#) below:

- Consolidate conservation areas within Taylor Park to improve conservation values
- Create a safer and more accessible space for all park users, reducing the need to remove unsafe trees
- Create better defined and consolidated pedestrian pathways

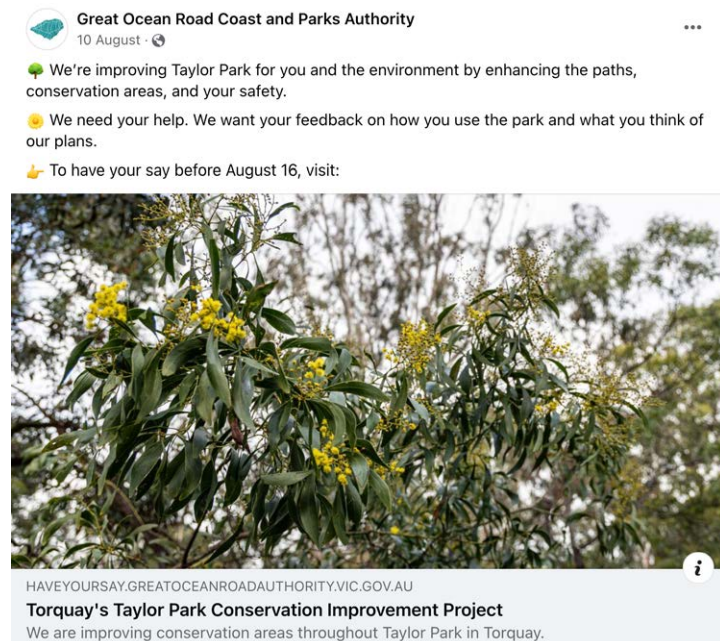
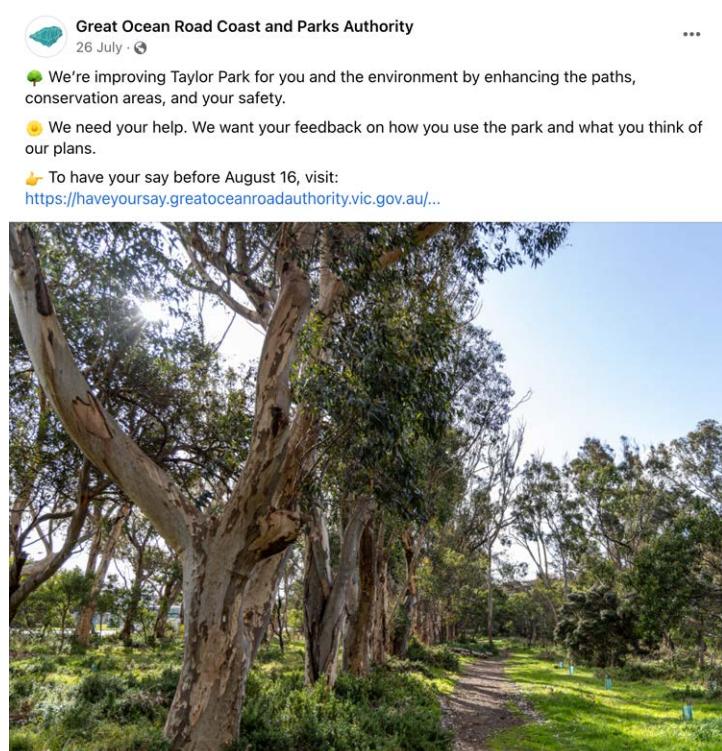
To meet these objectives, some informal paths have been permanently closed (as marked on the map overleaf) and were revegetated with flora indigenous to the Taylor Park area by Authority staff and the Friends of Taylor Park in September 2023.



HOW WE ENGAGED THE COMMUNITY

On 26 July, 2023, we began a three-week engagement period with users of Taylor Park in Torquay and the broader community. In this engagement we shared knowledge about the conservation values of Taylor Park, revegetation of informal paths in the park and the Taylor Park Masterplan. We heard from park users through an online survey through our Have Your Say website, email submissions and placed signs detailing the project throughout Taylor Park.

The insights collected from this engagement process has given us a better understanding of how our community uses Taylor Park and community aspirations for the park. We will use these insights to help inform how the park is managed and maintained into the future.

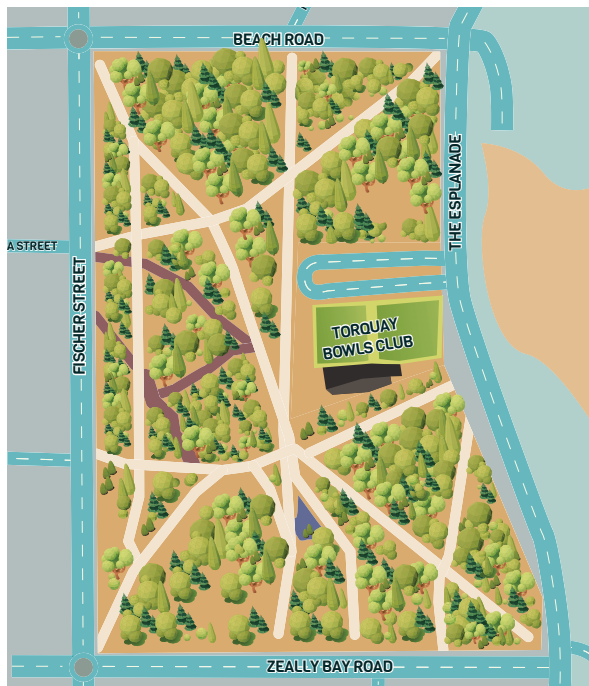




TAYLOR PARK CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority will be consolidating paths within Taylor Park at the end of winter to improve conservation areas and create a safer and more accessible space for all park users.

Before works begin, we want to learn more about how the community uses the park and if introducing signage within the park would create a better experience.



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

TAYLOR PARK MAP

PATHS TO REMAIN OPEN
PATHS PERMANENTLY CLOSED

The Taylor Park Conservation Improvement Project will:

- Consolidate conservation areas within Taylor Park to improve conservation values
- Create a safer and more accessible space for all park users, reducing the need to remove unsafe trees
- Create better defined and consolidated pedestrian pathways
- Address key priorities from the Taylor Park Masterplan.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit this webpage
www.haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/taylor-park



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY



1300 736 533
www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

HOW WE ENGAGED...



1

on-site meeting
with Friends of
Taylor Park



53

online surveys
submitted



4

email submissions



11

stakeholder groups
contacted



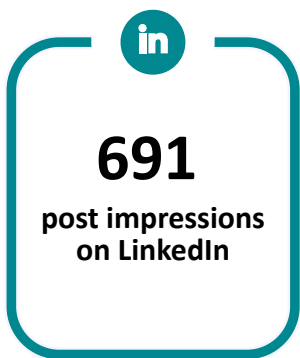
164

website visits



476

reached across
2 Facebook posts



691

post impressions
on LinkedIn

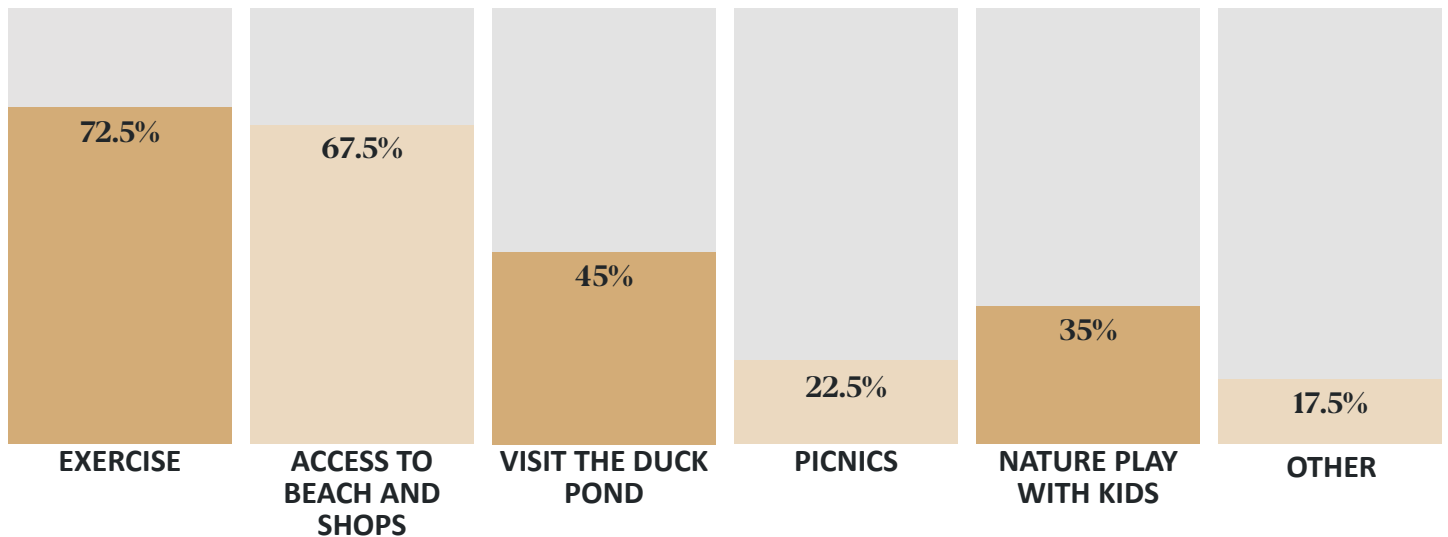
WHAT WE HEARD

DIVERSITY OF VOICES

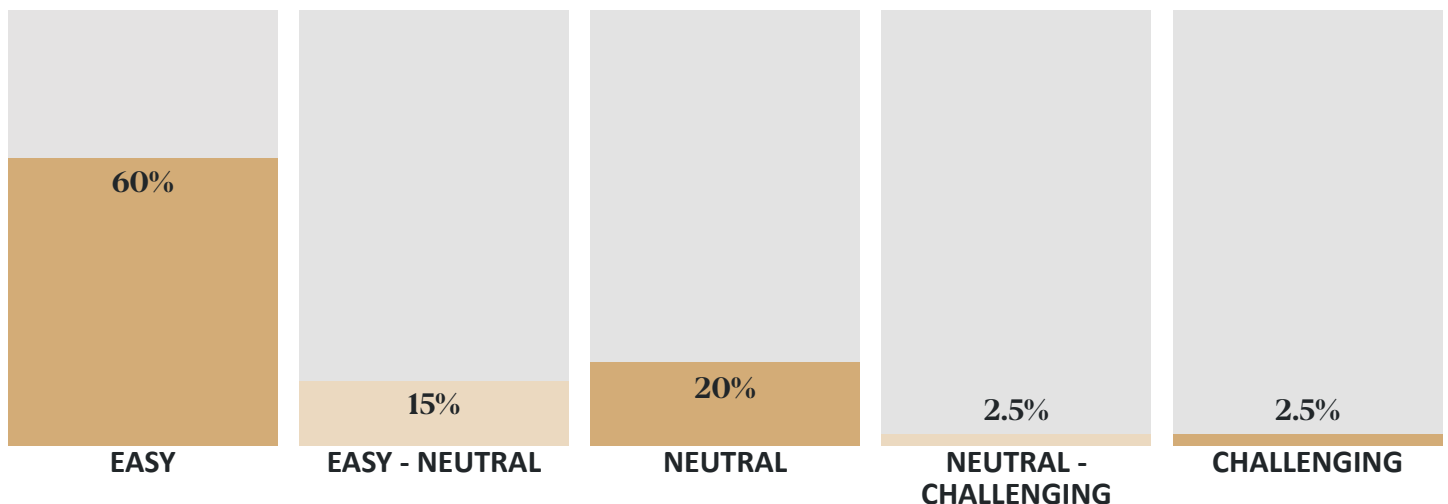
The Authority values hearing from a diverse array of community members across all our engagement initiatives. Data collected from survey respondents helps us understand the diversity of voices contributing to the engagement.

THE WAYS PEOPLE ARE USING TAYLOR PARK

A majority of survey respondents use Taylor Park every day, or a few times a week for the following uses:

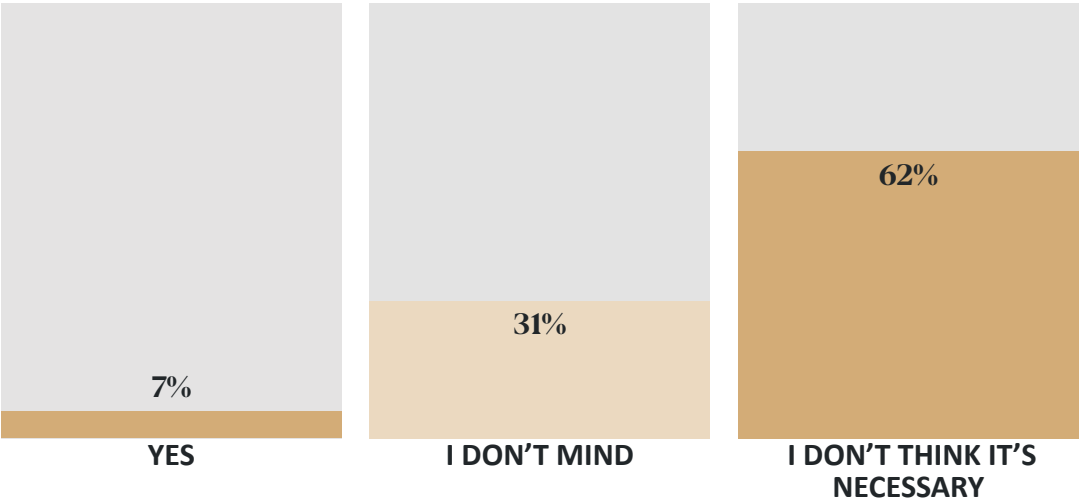


HOW PEOPLE FIND NAVIGATING TAYLOR PARK



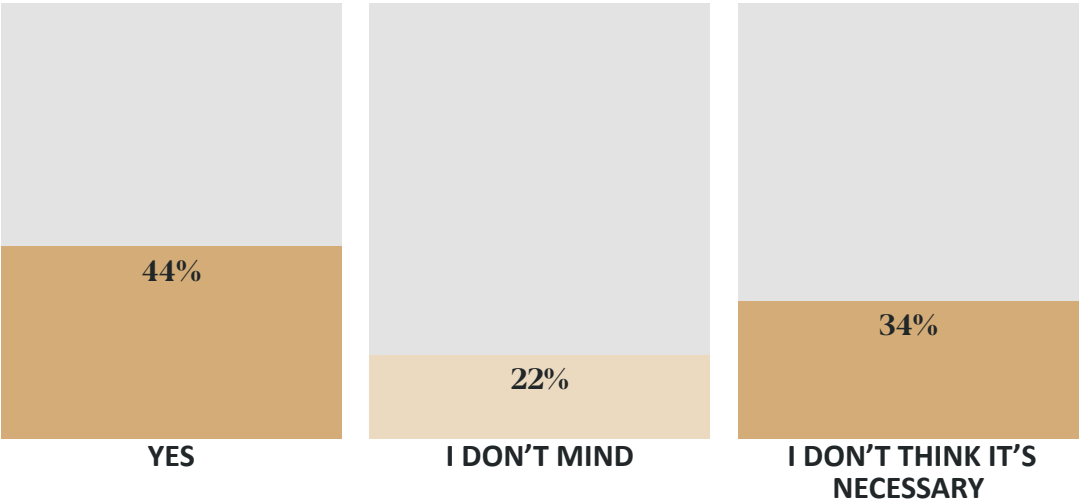
THE NEED FOR WAY-FINDING SIGNAGE

Most survey respondents didn't think way-finding signage was necessary for direction through Taylor Park.



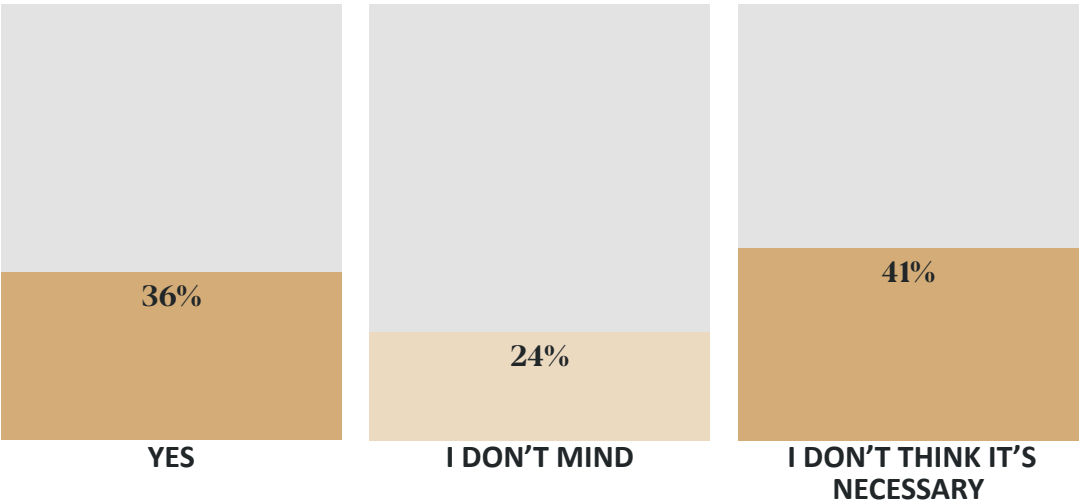
EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

We asked you if you would like to see educational signage (such as on vegetation) in Taylor Park.



DOG REGULATION SIGNAGE

We also asked if you would like to see clearer dog regulation signage throughout Taylor Park.



KEY POINTS RAISED AND OUR RESPONSE

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions about the way they use Taylor Park, signage, other communications, and the closure of the informal tracks. Feedback received via email submissions was considered alongside survey responses. We have outlined some of the key points raised below and provided a response.

Most people told us that wayfinding in Taylor Park is easy and that pathways through the park are clear. Others mentioned that there is a lack of direction and that there are too many paths.

We are pleased to hear that the paths in Taylor Park are easy to follow. This may indicate minimal requirement for additional way-finding signage. Paths in Taylor Park will be consolidated from this project and vegetation will be restored on informal paths through conservation areas.

We heard that Taylor Park should be left the way it is.

The Taylor Park Masterplan 2020 identifies that conservation values are important to park users, and these revegetation works will deliver conservation outcomes.

If the path closures are not respected, we may install temporary fencing until the vegetation establishes.

Some responses highlighted that during wet periods the paths in Taylor Park can become boggy and difficult to use.

Our coastal reserves and conservation teams work hard to maintain accessibility of paths throughout our coast and parks however after heavy rain we acknowledge this is a challenge. This feedback will help inform our path maintenance work plans. If there is a specific issue with a path in Taylor Park or any of the land the Authority manages, please contact info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au.

Some respondents noted that vegetation was being damaged by the use of informal paths.

The Taylor Park Conservation Improvement Project will be consolidating paths in the park. Identified informal paths will be revegetated. This conservation improvement aligns with the Taylor Park Masterplan 2020.

Some users let us know that the park should have improved lighting, and that in its current state it feels unwelcoming and unsafe.

We are currently engaging a lighting consultant consistent with the Taylor Park Masterplan 2020 to review the lighting in Taylor Park. We will then upgrade the solar lights along the main paths in the park. We anticipate this work will be completed by the end of 2023.

There was some support and some opposition to educational signage in Taylor Park. The opposition was related to the signage detracting from the natural beauty of the park.

Educational signage is outlined in the Taylor Park Masterplan 2020. To protect conservation areas and ensure public safety we need to have some signage throughout the park. We will take the feedback on board and ensure the visual impact of signage is minimised.

A few people raised the topic of homelessness in Taylor Park.

Homelessness is a complex issue. We're mindful that anyone experiencing homelessness has their own unique set of circumstances and where appropriate, we connect people with local support services and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect. We work with the Surf Coast Shire and homeless outreach services to address homelessness on land that we manage.

We received some comments regarding road crossings adjacent to Taylor Park.

We are grateful for this feedback and have forwarded it to the relevant managing authority as we do not manage the roads surrounding the park.

There was a suggestion to relocate artwork from other areas of Torquay to Taylor Park.

We are obliged to ensure any upgrades to the park are consistent with the Taylor Park Masterplan 2020. Additional artwork is not included in the Masterplan.

HOW WE ENGAGED WITH YOU

A couple of survey respondents suggested the survey design could have included a space to express concerns for the project and that the survey could have been more user friendly.

We appreciate receiving feedback on how we engage on projects. This feedback helps us to better understand how our community would like to be engaged on projects. We're always striving to improve the online survey experience for people visiting the [Have Your Say website](#).

NEXT STEPS

Your valuable input has helped us better understand the way Taylor Park is used and your preferences for signage, conservation, and maintenance. We will use these insights to help inform how the park is managed and maintained into the future.

The Authority joined forces with Friends of Taylor Park at the beginning of September 2023 to revegetate informal paths in the park to improve the conservation value of the park. We will continue to work with the Friends of Taylor Park to help conserve the natural values of the park.

We are also engaging a lighting consultant and anticipate lighting works to be complete in Taylor Park by the end of 2023.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have further questions about the project, please visit the [Have Your Say](#) webpage.

The project team can be contacted at: haveyoursay@GreatOceanRoadAuthority.vic.gov.au.

