



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

FISHERMANS BEACH CAR PARK UPGRADE

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.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

6	INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT BACKGROUND
8	ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW
10	KEY FINDINGS
14	BREAKDOWN OF RESULTS
18	NEXT STEPS
19	APPENDIX



INTRODUCTION

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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

The Authority will upgrade the car park and surrounds at Fishermans Beach, known to many as Fishos.

The area, home to the Torquay Angling Club, Torquay Marine Rescue Service and Salty Dog Café, provides boating and beach access for the local community and visitors.

Fishos is a popular and much-loved area for all sorts of activities.

It has Torquay's only boat ramp and when the fish are biting, it gets very busy. We want to make it safer, easier to access, and more enjoyable.

Proposed upgrades were identified in a draft [Masterplan](#) developed in 2020 by the former Great Ocean Road Coast Committee for Torquay's foreshore areas between Point Impossible and Jan Juc.

For the popular Fishermans Beach recreational area, suggested actions in the draft Masterplan were to "Reconfigure Fishermans Beach car park including safe and efficient layout, sealed surface and a short-term vehicle drop off area. Include shade trees and water sensitive urban design."

To read more about the proposed upgrades, head to our project page - [Fishermans Beach car park upgrade Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority \(greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au\)](#)

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Our engagement held in May 2023 for the Fishermans Beach car park upgrade, followed an initial round of community engagement held in September 2022 (refer to the appendix for key findings).

This engagement focused on seeking feedback on safety measures at Fishos.

We provided multiple opportunities for feedback. We received 102 online survey contributions from 69 people, and over 1000 people visited the Have Your Say page. Over 80% of survey participants were Torquay or Jan Juc residents. We also held a stakeholder workshop, an online information session, and emails were received to the Have Your Say email address.

Two face-to-face engagement sessions took place at the Fishos car park on Saturday 13 and Sunday 21 May, with more than 100 attendees.

The community received the revised design positively.

The revised design included:

- Retaining the drive-through access from the cafe area to the boat ramp car park. This reduces congestion within the car parks and makes it safer and easier to get in and out of The Esplanade.
- Enhanced pedestrian crossing point for safe crossing of the road between the main buildings and the beach
- Additional dedicated timber beach access point where an informal path exists (next to the Salty Dog café car park)
- Dedicated Car Trailer Unit (CTU) parks as per Better Boating Victoria guidelines
- Enhanced disability access, with wide, sealed access paths throughout the precinct
- All users considered, including kayak drop-off, outrigger access, amenities including additional showers and bike parking facilities
- Further design effort into finding surface material that has beach 'feel'
- Pedestrian connectivity from the Surf Coast Walk to the Esplanade to provide a safer pathway.

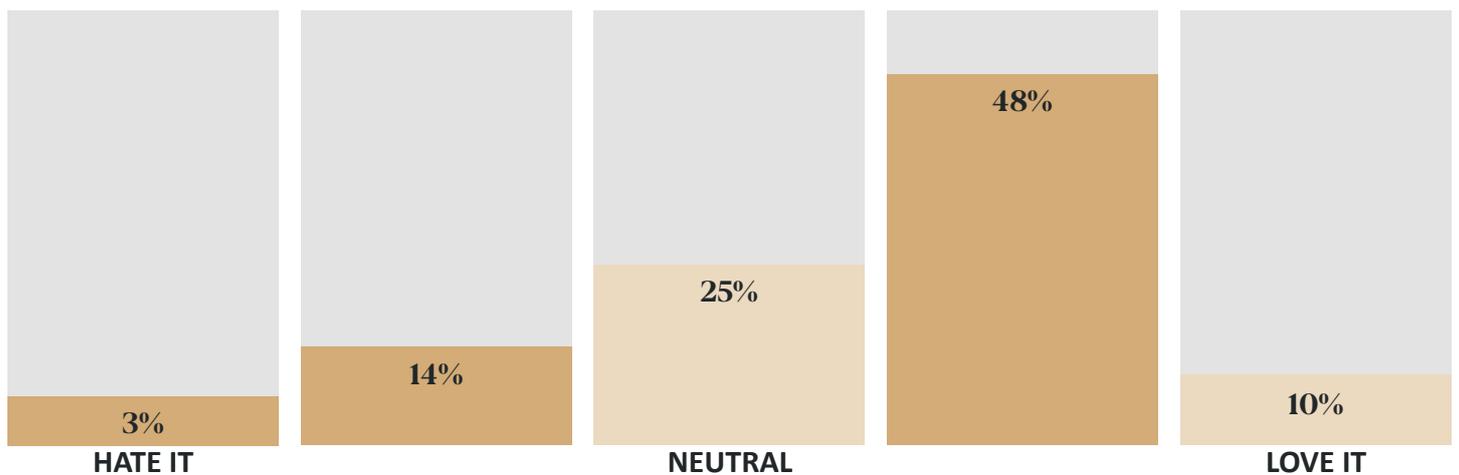


FACE-TO-FACE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY AT FISHOS CAR PARK, SATURDAY 13 MAY, 2023



SUPPORT FOR DESIGN

Overall, how do you feel about the design (once we have made the safety improvements?)



Online survey results. 58% of survey respondents either liked or loved the design, 25% were neutral. 17% didn't like the design.

KEY FINDINGS

58% of survey respondents either liked or loved the design, 25% were neutral. 17% didn't like the design.

Comments included:

"Looks good to me"

"Overall, well done. This is not an easy task for you, but this seems like a good balance and delivers the one key issue = safety !!"

"I think the new design is the best so far"

"Well thought out plan. Caters for the need for boat trailers to be safely accommodated"

"I like it, but salty dog must be well fenced off from the road and their car park to stop kids, adults and dogs walking/running across the road in front of cars, they must be directed to the pedestrian crossing,"

"It is better than previous 2 options"

We sought feedback on the aesthetics and usability of Fishos to ensure it remains user-friendly, preserves its beach-side appeal, and provides clear information about the boat ramp. In response to three questions about:

- Pavement colour and finish for the boat trailer car park. Asphalt lanes with diamond grid bays or tiled bays was preferred (on page 16).
- Pedestrian crossing options. A raised pedestrian crossing was preferred (on page 17).
- Signage in the boat trailer car park. A combination of static and electronic smart signs was preferred (on page 17).

Participants were also asked to rank safety options at six identified locations on a map (see next page), moving from entry to exit.

1

At feedback point one (entry to precinct) - **road marking** was the preferred safety option.

2

At feedback point two (Salty Dog car park) - **road marking, signage and traffic control** all rated highly.

Comments here noted how busy this area is for all users, and that the road is narrow for boat trailers.

3

At feedback point three (main pedestrian crossing point) - **traffic control** (eg. raised crossing) was preferred.

Comments here noted safety needs to be a priority.

4

At feedback point four (boat ramp) - **signage to direct traffic and road marking** were preferred.

Comments noted that the interaction between boats and pedestrians needs to be reduced/limited.

5

At feedback point five (flexible use of south car park) - A combination of **static signage and smart signage** was preferred here to provide information for vehicle parking.

6

At feedback point six (precinct exit) - **signage** was preferred.



Legend

- Pavement
- Timber
- Landscaping
- Rain Gardens
- Shared Use Path (Sealed)
- Benches

- 1 Install Rain Scour Protection for High Tide Access
- 2 Historical Boat Winch
- 3 Timber Beach Access Stairs
- 4 Accessible Car & Boat Trailer Park
- 5 Fish Cleaning Table and Outdoor Shower
- 6 Fish Weighing Station
- 7 Permit Parking
- 8 Safer Pedestrian Crossings
- 9 2.5 m Wide DDA Compliant Timber Walkway
- 10 Kayak Drop-Off Area

- 11 Designated Bicycle Parking
- 12 Existing Rigging Area Retained. Northern Carpark Layout to be Reviewed for Easier Access
- 13 All Abilities Pedestrian Bridge
- 14 Proposed Outdoor Shower
- 15 Proposed Interim Outrigger Laydown Area (access to be provided)

Total Parking Summary

- 24 No. Car & Boat Trailer Parks (same as existing)
- 3 No. Short Car & Boat Trailer Parks (same as existing)
- 14 No. Car Only Parks
- 1 No. Accessible Car & Boat Trailer Park
- 3 No. Accessible Car Parks
- 4 No. Permit Parks

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DES.	VER.	APPD.
B	2023-03-31	CONCEPT DESIGN UPDATE	LW	JD	JD
A	2022-09-14	CONCEPT DESIGN	JD	JD	JD

CI | FNT



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

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DRAWN	LW	2023-03-31	CLIENT	GREAT OCEAN ROAD COAST AND PARK AUTHORITY		
CHECKED	JD	2023-03-31	PROJECT	FISHERMAN'S BEACH CAR PARK UPGRADE		
DESIGNED	LW	2023-03-31				
VERIFIED	JD	2023-03-31	TITLE	CONCEPT DESIGN		
APPROVED	JD	2023-03-31				
			STATUS	CONCEPT DESIGN		
			SCALE	NTS	SIZE	A3
			DRAWING NUMBER	220249-SKH-GEN-1		REV
						B

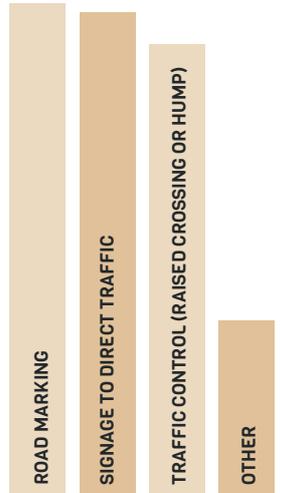
BREAKDOWN OF RESULTS

1

ENTRY TO PRECINCT

At the precinct's entry, **road marking** emerged as the favourite safety measure. Feedback included:

- *Pedestrian connections – Esplanade footpath crossing at entrance to precinct.*
- *General safety, including steepness of entry road contributes to need for traffic slowing treatments*
- *Needs to be boat friendly – road is narrow, tight turn on entry, width of road past Salty Dog too narrow*
- *Warn all drivers entering the precinct that it's a boat trailer park ahead, especially when restrictions apply.*

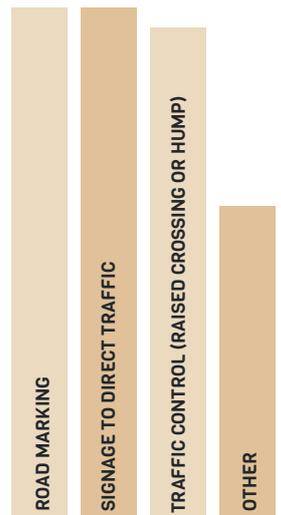


2

SALTY DOG CAR PARK

All three safety measures garnered high support at the Salty Dog car park. **Traffic control** rated slightly lower in the online survey but slightly higher at the Fishos' in-person sessions. Comments incorporated suggestions to:

- *Ensure drivers are aware of parking areas and any restrictions*
- *Boat prep area needs to be clearly marked*
- *More bike racks*
- *Shower is a good idea*
- *Reconfigure Salty Dog car park - include 2 minute drop off zone*
- *Feedback emphasised the need to segregate foot traffic from passing vehicle traffic, due to high user concentration in this area. Users include the outriggers, park run participants, walking path users, ocean waders, and boat trailers.*

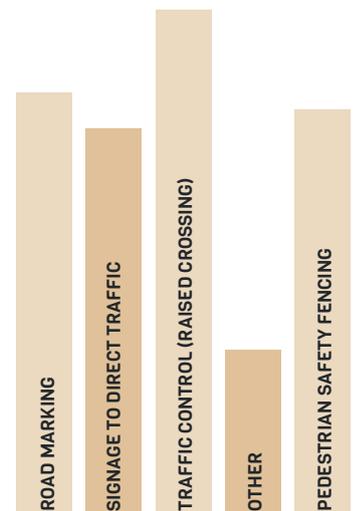


3

MAIN PEDESTRIAN CROSSING POINT

At the main pedestrian crossing point, **traffic control**, specifically a raised crossing, emerged as the favoured safety measure, with a focus on pedestrian safety. Comments included:

- *Public safety needs to be the first priority – keep cars and people separate*
- *Use a raised crossing so it's obvious and slows traffic*
- *"I like it but salty dog must be well fenced off from the road and their car park to stop kids, adults and dogs walking/running across the road in front of cars, they must be directed to the pedestrian crossing"*

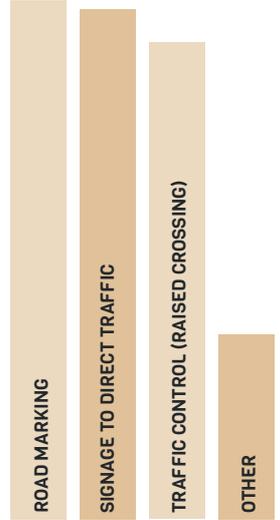


4

BOAT RAMP

For the boat ramp entry/exit point, **signage and road marking** were preferred over traffic control. Many comments underlined the need to reduce the interaction between boats and pedestrians. Suggestions included large signs cautioning pedestrians, exclusive boat ramp use, pedestrian awareness of boat launching, and considering an exclusion zone for boat launching and retrieval. Comments included:

- *When you are launching a boat, often you cannot see people behind your trailer...so safety is critical here. I suggest large signs either side that say 'STOP - do not cross unless clear of boats / vehicles'*
- *Ensure boat ramp is used for boats only – no pedestrians*
- *Ensure pedestrians are aware of boat launching*
- *Consider exclusion zone for boat launching and retrieval*
- *Concerns with DDA ramp at this location – next to boat ramp*
- *Kayak drop off will make this location even busier*
- *Shower is a good idea, but maybe not next to fish cleaning*

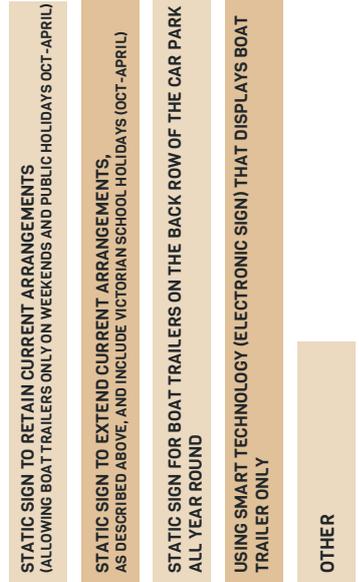


5

FLEXIBLE USE OF SOUTH CAR PARK

Feedback for this point sought to optimise parking in the south car park. Preferred suggestions included a mix of static and smart signage to manage parking, prioritising boat trailers in the back row all year round. Comments at this location included:

- *Smart technology is a good idea*
- *Boat trailer parking needs priority (22 comments)*
- *Please provide car parking for non boat users (17 comments)*
- *Ensure enough DDA parks*
- *Need rescue vehicle parks (consider putting rescue vehicle parks on the Esplanade)*



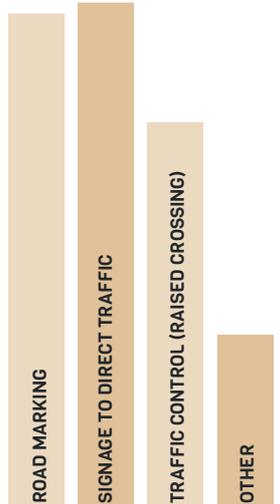
6

PRECINCT EXIT

Signage was the preferred safety measure at the exit to the precinct with road marking also well supported.

Comments at this location included:

- *Difficult to exit, especially with trailer on steep grade, poor visibility*
- *Drivers attempting illegal right turn*
- *Is roundabout necessary?*



FISHOS CREATIVE INPUT

Participants were also asked to provide feedback about the look and feel of Fishos to ensure the precinct is user friendly, retains its beach side appeal, and has clear information about the boat ramp.



PREFERRED PAVEMENT COLOUR AND FINISH

The preferred pavement colour and finish for the boat trailer carpark was asphalt lanes with diamond grid bays or tiled bays.



PREFERRED TYPE OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

A raised pedestrian crossing was the preferred crossing type. The online survey preferred a raised paved crossing, and the in-person session feedback showed a preference for raised concrete crossing.



PREFERRED SIGNAGE IN THE BOAT TRAILER CAR PARK

The preferred signage was a combination of static and electronic smart signs.

FINAL COMMENTS

Overall, respondents largely endorsed the design. However, we noted some feedback expressing that Fishos prioritises boat trailer parking over other options, an issue also raised during the previous year's engagement.

Comments that were generally supportive of design included:

"Looks good to me."

"Overall, well done. This is not an easy task for you, but this seems like a good balance and delivers the one key issue = safety !!"

"I think the new design is the best so far"

"Well thought out plan. Caters for the need for boat trailers to be safely accommodated. Otherwise forced out onto the road where hazards could quickly arise. On days that are not amenable to boating/fishing the car parking can be made more available to the general public"

"I like it but Salty Dog must be well fenced off from the road and their car park to stop kids, adults and dogs walking/running across the road in front of cars, they must be directed to the pedestrian crossing."

"Keep the look as natural and beach aesthetic as possible."

Comments that felt the designs over-emphasised boating facilities included:

"Insufficient balance of car park usage to enable all residents to access Fishos"

"There needs to be more parking for local residents whether they have a boat trailer or not"

"Too many trailer parks. Like the roundabout - fishing access is now a vast minority in the car park usage. Times have changed. Many young families in Torquay and Whites Beach is a safe beach for young families"

NEXT STEPS

Given the popularity and diverse use of Fishos, especially when the fishing conditions are ripe, we strive to create a safer, more accessible, and enjoyable environment. Feedback on the designs will be instrumental in achieving this.

The next project stage entails a detailed design process, finalising construction details, user testing, obtaining detailed costings, and seeking necessary permits. Once the detailed designs are finalised, they will be presented to the community. We anticipate construction to commence by the middle of next year.

Appendix: Key Findings from September 2022 engagement

Hearing from the community gave us valuable insights into how the community uses Fishermans Beach car park, boating facility and beach access area that adjoins the Torquay Marine Rescue Service and Salty Dog Café in Torquay.

Below is a summary of key findings. To read the full report, [CLICK HERE](#).

KEY FINDINGS

In summary, the feedback highlighted the following themes:

- Clearer signage and information needed about Fishermans Beach being home to the Torquay Boat Ramp.
- Separation of two car parks was supported by the community, mostly for safety reasons.
- Preference for angled long-bay parking in southern car park (concept design Option 1), but nose in, not reverse in. Additional comments about drive-thru parking.
- Boat preparation area needs to be provided in the car park area, and safety for the ramp and beach launch area needs further thought.
- Desire to find the right balance for parking bays in the southern car park to cater for regular cars vs. boat-trailers during boating season. Flexible use during winter, non-boating days is important. Suggestions for improved signage.
- DDA inclusion is great, but reconsider DDA car parks and beach access so close to boat ramp.
- Comments for environmental considerations included managing sand drift and whether the car park needs to be sealed were provided.
- The Authority to consider all user groups at Fisho's (i.e., Outriggers, surfers, kayak/SUP users, café goers, families).
- Further public infrastructure suggestions (e.g., more bike parking, better toilets).

