



Update of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve
Coastal & Marine Management Plan 2015-25

2019 ENGAGEMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2019

Surf Coast Shire Council acknowledges the
Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners
of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve.

Background

THE NEED FOR AN UPDATE

The Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan 2015-25 (CMP) was released in 2015, together with an Implementation Plan.

While the CMP sets the long-term vision and strategic management direction for the reserve until at least 2025, state legislation requires coastal management plans to be updated regularly. Surf Coast Shire Council is therefore updating the plan under the guidance of the new Marine and Coastal Act 2018.

Under the new legislation, while the 2015 plan remains much the same, the name of the plan has changed from a Coastal Management Plan (CMP) to a Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP).

The vision, guiding principles, core values and management goals remain largely unchanged and continue to set the long-term management direction for Bells. Routine maintenance and the renewal of ageing infrastructure will continue as required. Respect and protect remain the primary focus of the CMMP.

CONSULTATION WITH RESERVE USERS – 2018

As the update review did not set out to change the strategic directions of the 2015 plan, community consultation focussed on several proposed changes to specific management actions at the reserve.

During July and August 2018 reserve users were given the opportunity to comment on proposed changes via onsite and online processes. An extensive survey was developed to seek reserve users' feedback on specific management actions and also obtain information on general demographic characteristics of reserve users and their patterns of use of the reserve. Council held a daily pop-up 'Van Chat' onsite at the reserve for a week. The survey was also available online for three weeks. A total of 502 people completed the 2018 survey, 252 onsite at the reserve and 250 online.

Details of the 2018 engagement results can be found in the Survey Report: Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan Review 2018 and the Survey Report Summary: Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan Review 2018, available on our website www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au.

CONSULTATION WITH RESERVE USERS - 2019

The results of the 2018 consultation were used to help draft an update of the CMMP, endorsed by Council on 27 August 2019 and approved for public exhibition from 28 August to 26 September 2019.

The community could provide their feedback on the draft by either completing an online or hardcopy survey or they could submit a more detailed written submission. Van Chats were held at the reserve on 6 and 7 September 2019 and people could fill in a survey while having a coffee. The survey was also available online on Council's website throughout the public exhibition period.

A total of 379 people completed the 2019 survey – 60 onsite at the reserve and 319 online. Council also received six written submissions – four from individuals and two on behalf of organisations.

The results of the 2018 and 2019 surveys and the written submissions have helped inform the final update to the CMMP for Bells, along with the relevant legislation and policies and previous consultation and planning.

REPORT METHODOLOGY

Survey raw data: For each survey question the raw data results are presented with tables and charts presented by an external data expert.

Comments: Several survey questions provided the option for respondents to provide comments. Not everyone took up this opportunity. A summary is provided under each topic which had a comment option of the number and range of comments received. A full listing of all the comments received for the 2019 survey is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Data note: The % of responses per category in the data tables (raw data results) may vary slightly to the pie charts. This occurs because the 'nil responses' which are shown and counted in the data tables are not included in the pie charts.

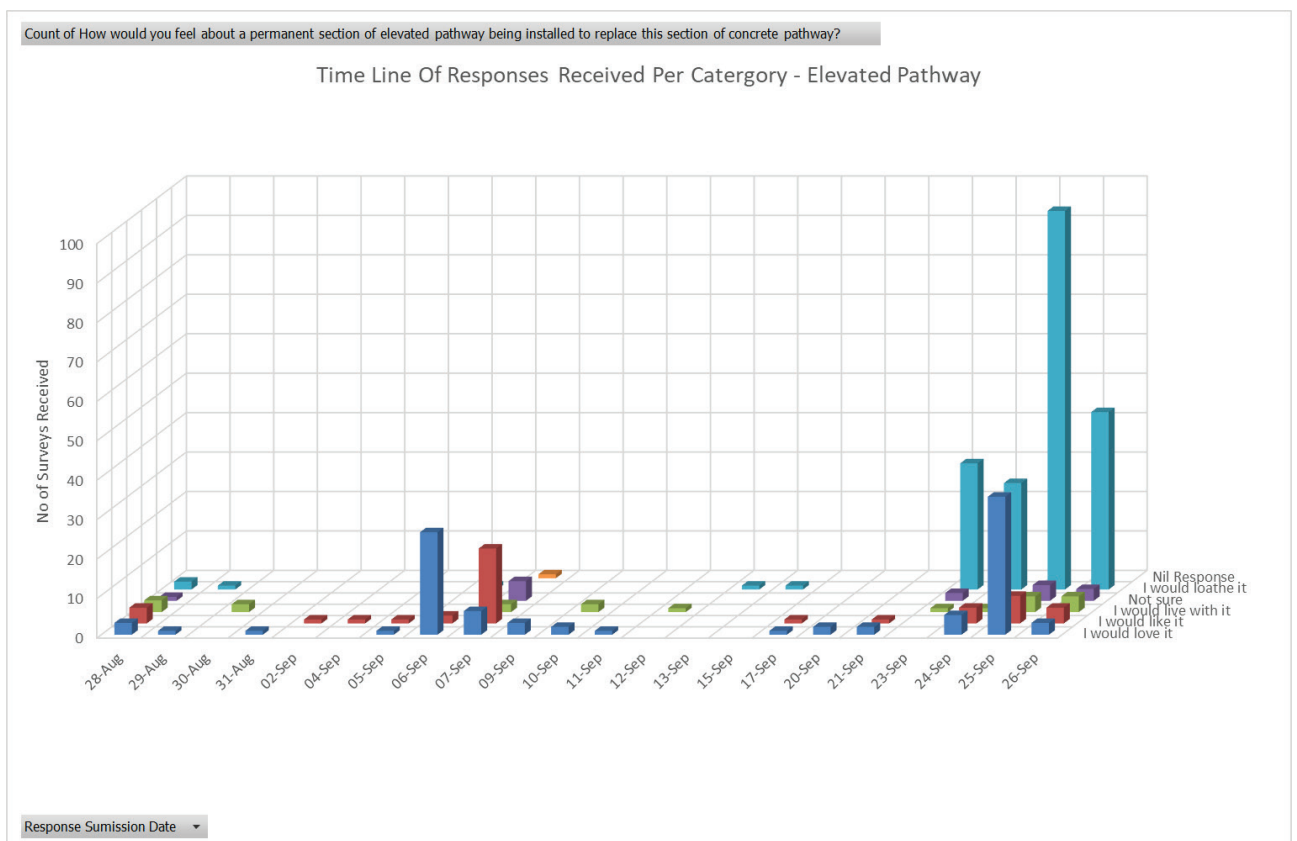
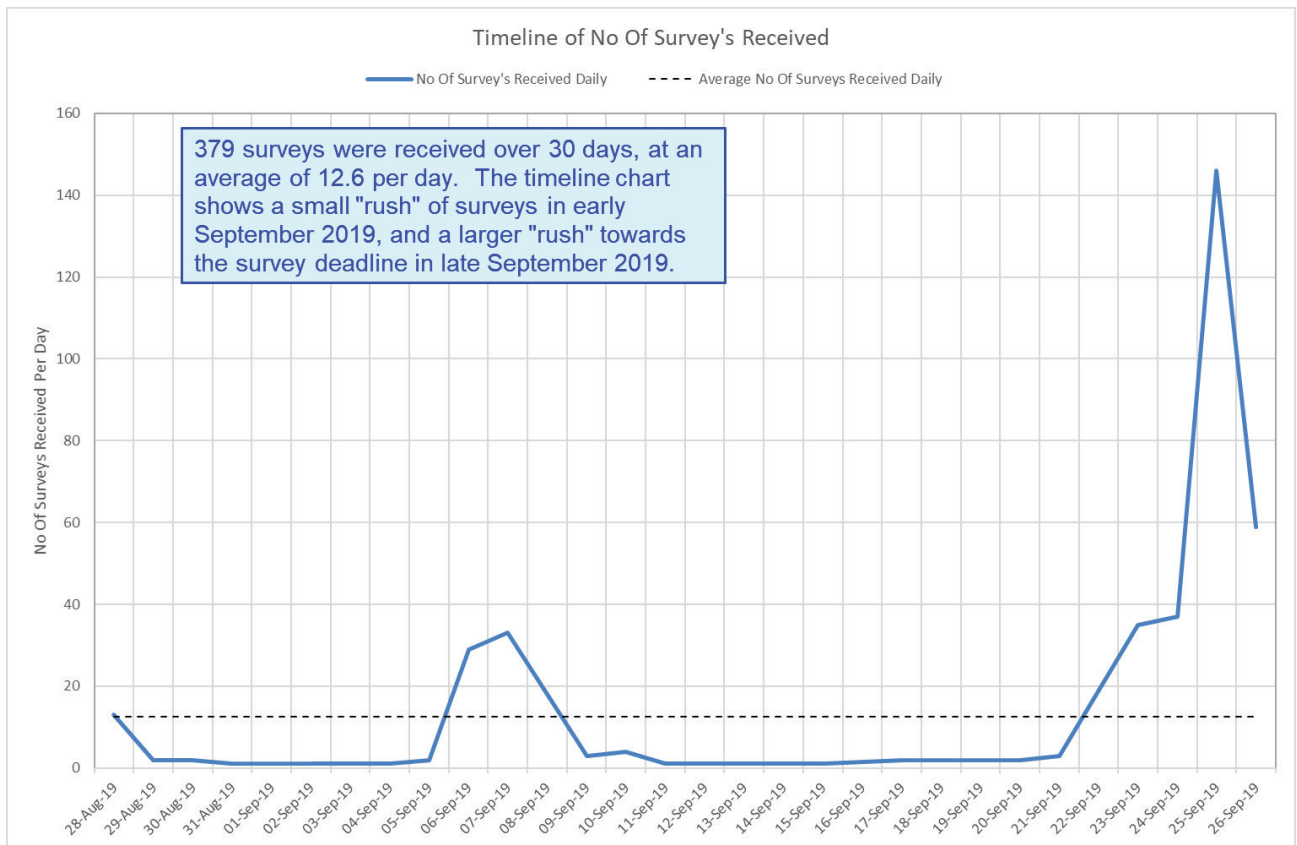
Written submissions: The feedback in the written submissions was collated and summarised under each topic. Five of the six submissions - shared with permission - are available on our website.

TIMELINE FOR SURVEY RESPONSES

The survey attracted 379 responses during the exhibition period from 28 August to 26 September 2019. During this time, there were two peak periods for survey responses (see diagrams below):

- 6 & 7 September 2019: During and immediately after the Van Chats onsite at the reserve
- 22 - 26 September 2019: Following a community led online campaign.

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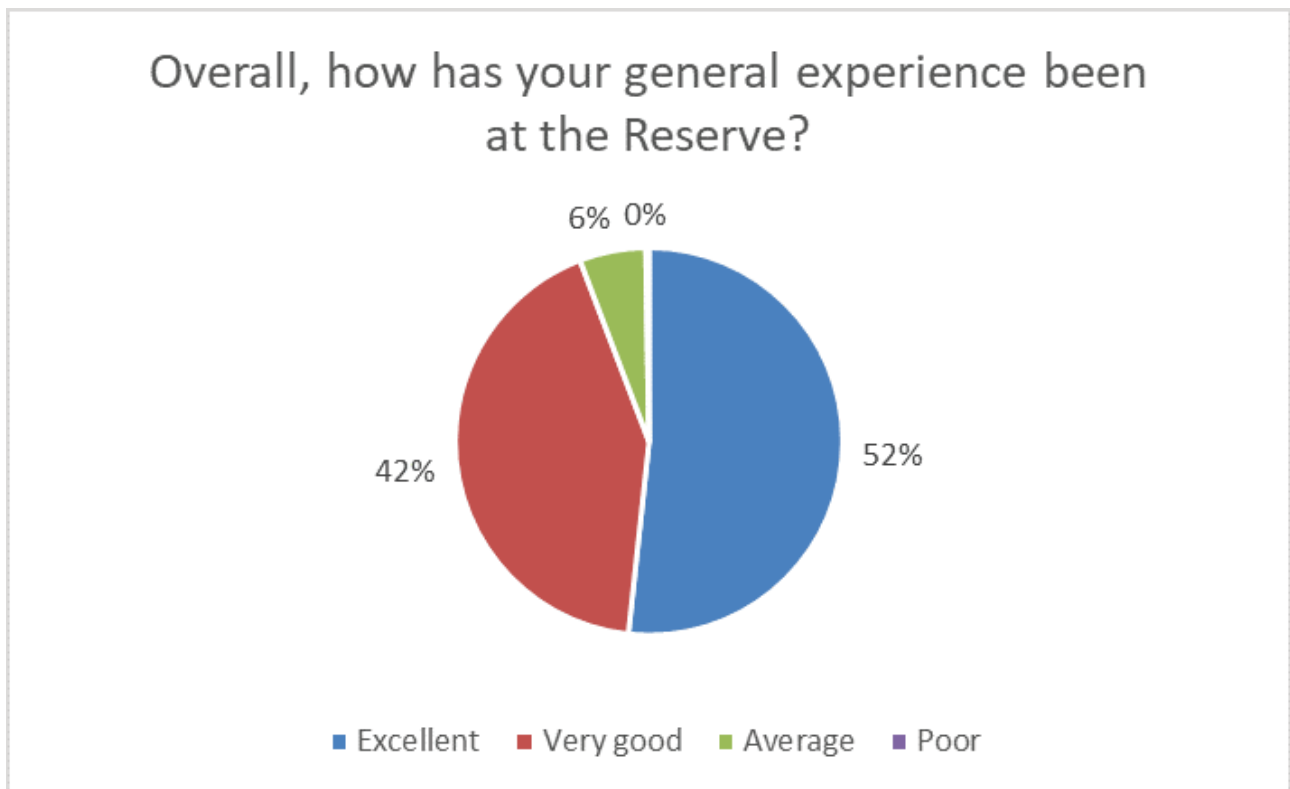
Section 1: Use of Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve

WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT BELLS?

94 % of visitors to Bells rate their experience as excellent or very good

Overall, how has your general experience been at the Reserve?

	Number	% of responses per category
Excellent	196	51.7
Very good	161	42.5
Average	21	5.5
Poor	1	0.3
TOTAL	379	100.0

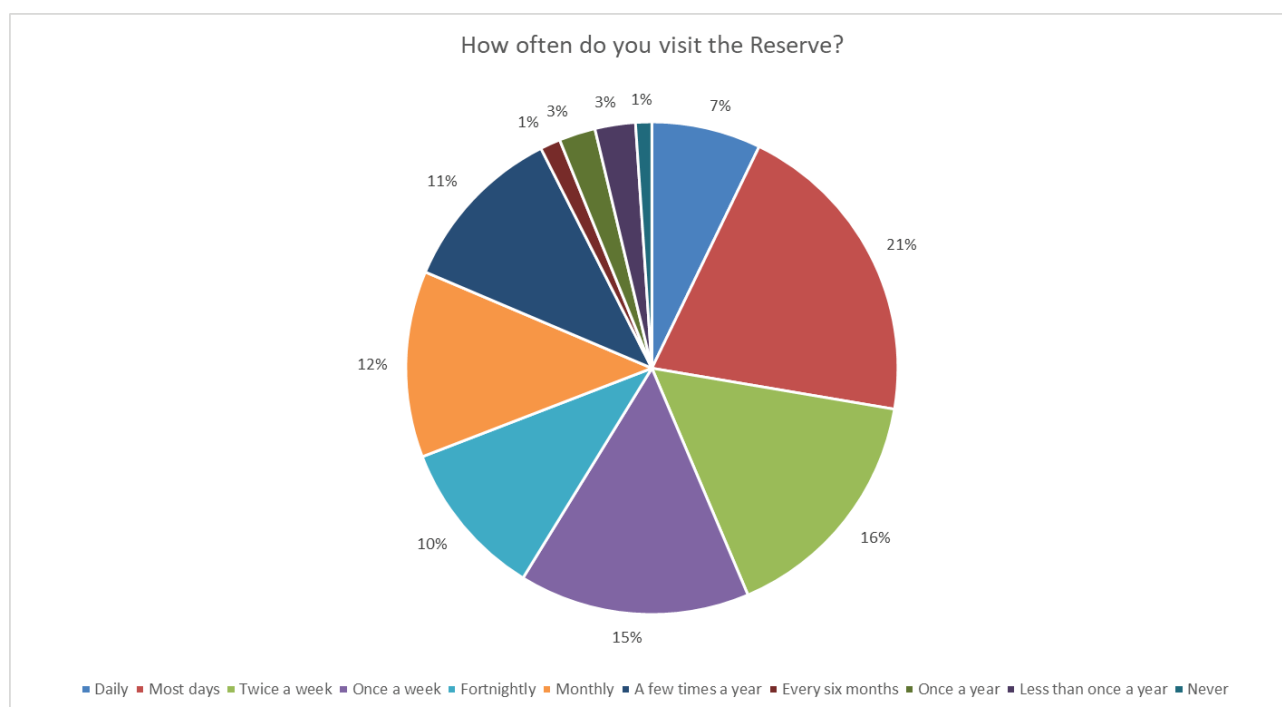


Comments

Forty-one people responded to this question. There were positive comments about the overall experience at the reserve, the beauty of the natural environment and the views and the importance of keeping the natural feel of Bells. Several people expressed concern about litter and people going to the toilet in the vegetation. Others requested an upgrade to the existing toilet facilities.

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How often do you visit the Reserve?	Number	% of responses per category
Daily	27	7.1
Most days	77	20.3
Twice a week	60	15.8
Once a week	57	15.0
Fortnightly	39	10.3
Monthly	46	12.1
A few times a year	42	11.1
Every six months	5	1.3
Once a year	9	2.4
Less than once a year	10	2.6
Never	4	1.1
Nil Response	3	0.8
Total	379	100.0



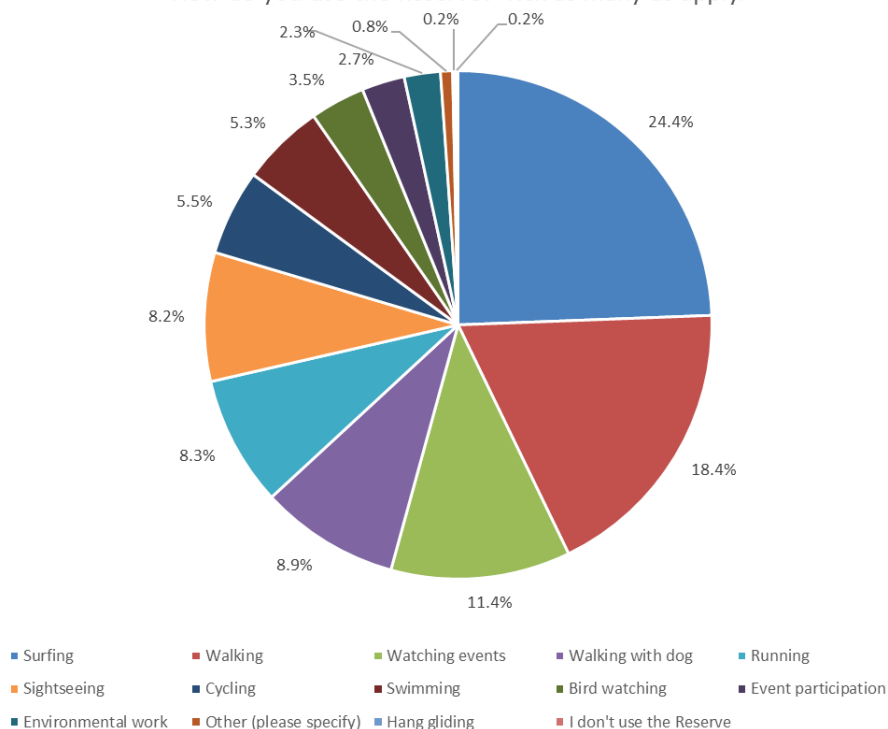
How often do you visit the Reserve?

How do you use the Reserve? Tick as many as apply.

This question allowed multiple responses per survey completed, so the total number of responses is considerably higher than the standard 379.

How do you use the Reserve? Tick as many as apply.	Number	% of responses per category
Surfing	286	24.3
Walking	216	18.4
Watching events	134	11.4
Walking with dog	104	8.8
Running	97	8.2
Sightseeing	96	8.2
Cycling	64	5.4
Swimming	62	5.3
Bird watching	41	3.5
Event participation	32	2.7
Environmental work	27	2.3
Other (please specify)	9	0.8
Hang gliding	2	0.2
I don't use the Reserve	2	0.2
Nil Response	4	0.3
Total	1,176	100.0

How do you use the Reserve? Tick as many as apply.



Section 2: Key Changes to the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal & Marine Management Plan (CMMP)

From the survey

The proposed update to the CMMP is minor and there are no significant changes to the vision, guiding principles, core values or management goals. Respect and protect remain the core focus. State legislation requires coastal and marine management plans to be updated regularly. Therefore Council is updating the plan under the guidance of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018.

The new implementation plan for Bells sets out management actions and activities for the next five years. During late 2018 just over 500 people provided feedback on a range of management proposals and this feedback has been used in preparing this update. Key changes include:

- Enhanced relationship with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners
- A section of elevated pathway at Winki (replacing part of the old degraded concrete pathway)
- New gross pollutant traps in the Winki and lower (Hammerhead) car parks
- Upgraded pathway and picnic area in lower Bells car park.

We would appreciate your feedback on these changes.

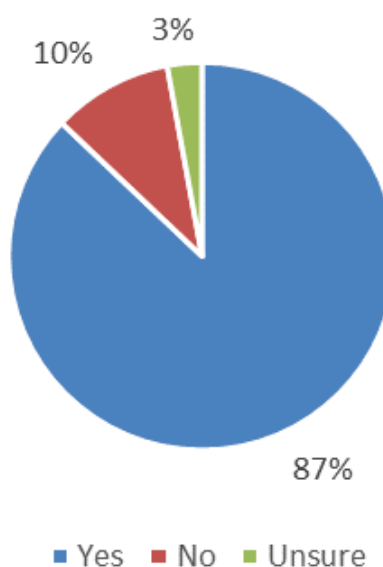
Traditional Owners

The Wadawurrung are the Traditional Owners of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve. This updated plan more clearly acknowledges this and includes recommendations about enhancing Wadawurrung involvement in reserve management.

Were you aware the Wadawurrung are the Traditional Owners of Bells?

	Number	% of responses per category
Yes	330	87.1
No	38	10.0
Unsure	11	2.9
TOTAL	379	100.00

Were you aware the Wadawurrung are the Traditional Owners of Bells?



From the survey

What parts of the Wadawurrung story at Bells would you like to learn more about?

One hundred and nineteen people responded to this question. There was a high level of interest in knowing more about Wadawurrung culture with people interested in 'everything', 'as much as possible', Wadawurrung stories, traditional names, relationship with the ocean, local foods and many more.

Written submission feedback summary:

Two of the six written submissions included feedback on Wadawurrung heritage. These written submissions were also supportive of improved Wadawurrung recognition and relationships with the broader community and reserve users. There was support for improved sharing of information via scannable QR codes.

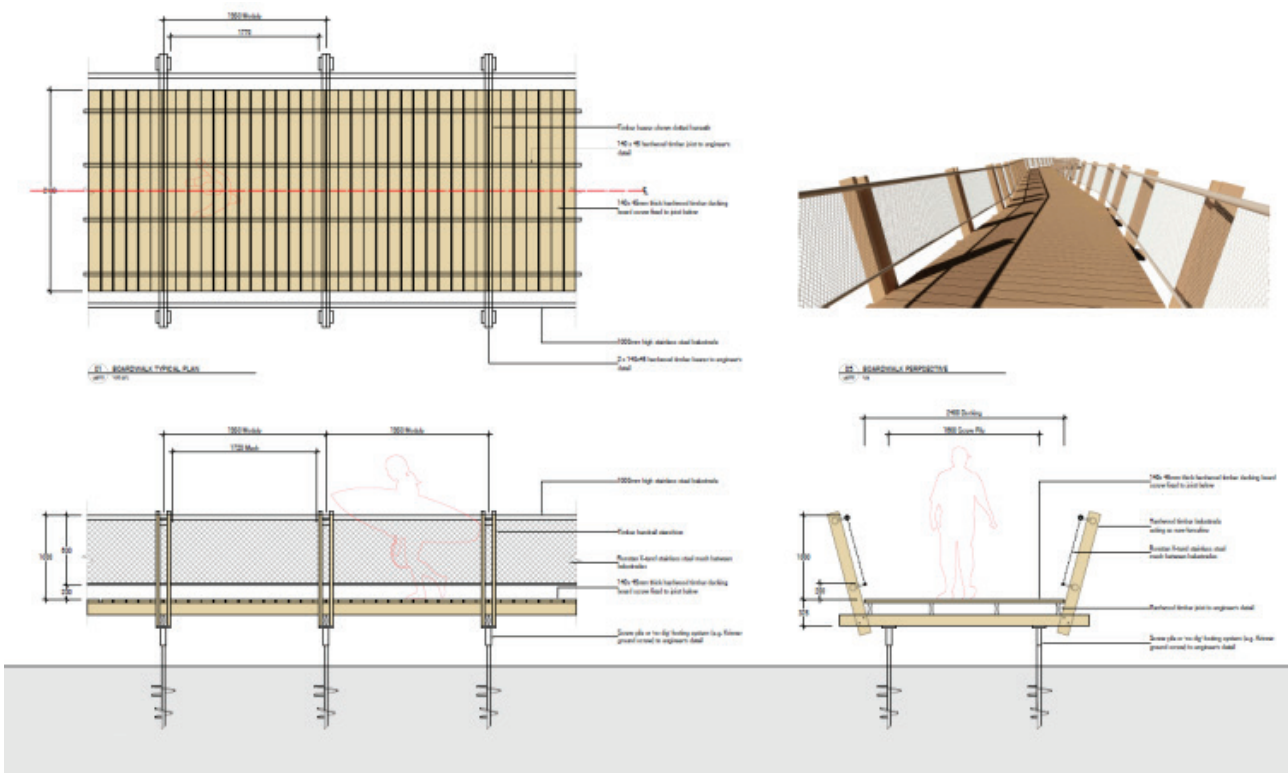
Elevated pathway

From the survey

A 60m section of elevated timber and steel pathway is proposed to replace part of the old concrete pathway leading to the Winki lookout and beach access stairs (see preliminary draft design, below). The old concrete pathway would be pulled out and the new pathway built exactly above where the old pathway ran. You may have seen temporary elevated walkways in this location during the 2018 and 2019 Rip Curl Pro.



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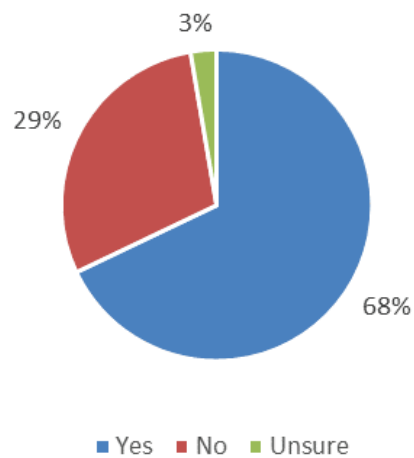


From the survey

Did you see the temporary elevated pathway installed for the 2018 and 2019 Rip Curl Pros?

	Number	% of responses per category
Yes	252	66.5
No	109	28.8
Unsure	10	2.6
NIL response	8	2.1
TOTAL	379	100.00

Did you see the temporary elevated pathway installed for the 2018 and 2019 Rip Curl Pros?

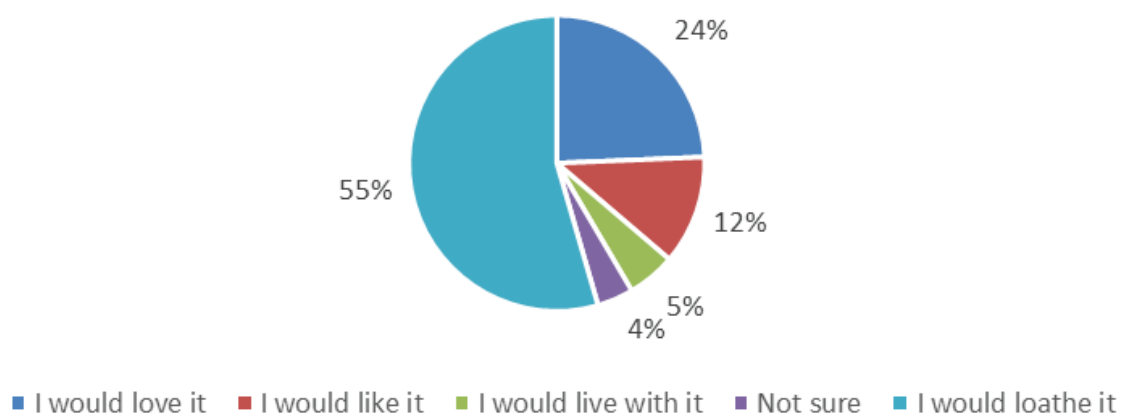


From the survey

How would you feel about a permanent section of elevated pathway being installed to replace this section of concrete pathway?

	Number	% of responses per category
I would love it	92	24.3
I would like it	45	11.9
I would live with it	20	5.3
Not sure	15	4.0
I would loathe it	206	54.4
NIL response	1	0.3
TOTAL	379	100.0

How would you feel about a permanent section of elevated pathway being installed to replace this section of concrete pathway?



From the survey

Do you want to say anything further about the proposed walkway?

Respondents were able to provide comments on the proposed section of elevated pathway and 174 people elected to comment. Responses fell within a number of broad categories:

- Oppose a section of elevated pathway for differing reasons, including a belief it would just benefit the Rip Curl Pro, is unnecessary, would be too visible, is more infrastructure, it should be left the way it is, already enough places to view the surf breaks, would lead to more tourists and rubbish, the existing structure is sufficient and it would be a waste of money.
- Support a section of elevated pathway for various reasons, including would be good for wildlife, something needs to be done to fix the existing concrete path, looks safer and would be protective of the environment, it is good for people who can't climb the stairs and it would mean less hard surface.
- Design suggestions – there were a range of design comments about features such as height, material and potential to repair the existing pathway.

Written submission feedback summary:

All six of the written submissions provided feedback on the proposed section of elevated pathway. One submitter commented that the lookouts at Bells and Victoria generally were of a lower standard than those along the NSW coast. The remaining five submitters were opposed to the proposed section of elevated pathway feeling that:

- The pathway would be visible from the water and is therefore detrimental to surfing amenity/views
- The pathway would increase visitor numbers resulting in more litter, greater visual intrusion and potentially trampling of vegetation during surfing events
- The elevated pathway was an increase in infrastructure
- The pathway does not fit the site context
- The primary beneficiary would be the World Surf League
- The structure is not in line with some of the principles and objectives of the coastal and marine management plan

Stormwater upgrades

From the survey

We are trying to improve stormwater management in the car parks in the reserve to reduce litter and other pollutants flowing to the ocean. We can do this by replacing the old style stormwater pits with modern pits that better trap pollutants. The pits are buried in the ground so things won't look different once the pits are installed but there will be some disruption during works.

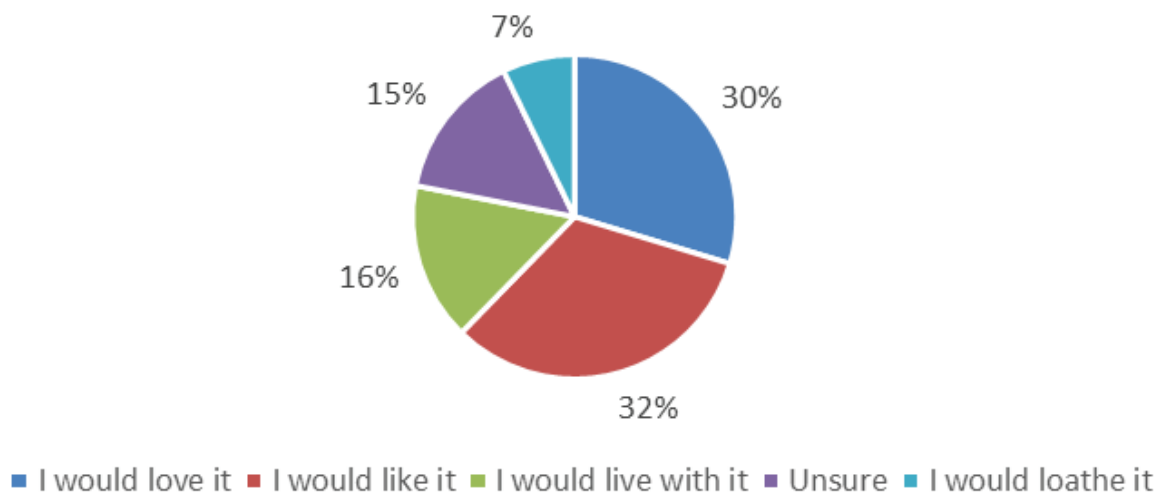


From the survey

How would you feel about new stormwater pits replacing the old pits at the top of the Winki pathways leading the look-outs (1st aerial photo) and near the beach access stairs at the Hammerhead (lower) car park? (2nd aerial photo)

	Number	% of responses per category
I would love it	111	24.3
I would like it	122	32.2
I would live with it	59	15.6
Not sure	55	14.5
I would loathe it	27	7.1
NIL response	5	1.3
TOTAL	379	100.0

How would you feel about new stormwater pits replacing the old pits at the top of the Winki pathways leading to the lookouts (1st aerial photo) and near the beach access stairs at the Hammerhead (lower) car park? (2nd aerial photo)



Survey comments on the proposed stormwater pits

Respondents were able to provide further comments on the proposed stormwater pits and 58 people elected to provide a comment. Responses fell within a number of broad categories:

- Support for the improved management of pollutants, happy that litter flowing to the ocean will be reduced
- Uncertain but okay if they are not visible and intrusive
- Feel stormwater management could be even further improved such as by removing more than just large litter and directing stormwater to a natural water course.

Written submission feedback summary:

One of the written submissions commented on the proposed stormwater pit replacement, suggesting other strategies such as constructed wetlands would treat a broader range of pollutants. Part of the flat area in the Hammerhead car park was suggested as a suitable location.

Picnic area

From the survey

In the lower car park at Bells, there is a wide gravel area that once had picnic tables in it (aerial below). This gravel area easily erodes and the picnic tables have not been replaced since they deteriorated in condition. We are proposing that this area be redesigned to have picnic tables and a different more stable surface such as pavers.

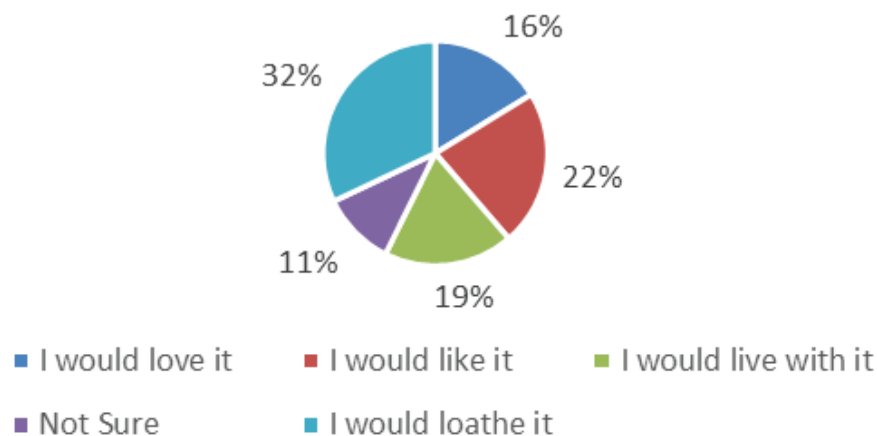


From the survey

How would you feel about changes to this wide gravel area and gravel pathway connecting it to the Hammerhead section of the car park?

	Number	% of responses per category
I would love it	61	16.1
I would like it	84	22.2
I would live with it	70	18.5
Not sure	40	10.6
I would loathe it	120	31.7
NIL response	4	1.1
TOTAL	379	100.0

How would you feel about changes to this wide gravel area and gravel pathway connecting it to the Hammerhead section of the car park?



Survey comments on the proposed change in the lower car park of the wide gravel area and connecting gravel path to a more stable surface and the return of the picnic tables

Responses on this proposal were mostly against the change because it might be related to further rubbish, greater difficulty in finding a car parking space, the area should be revegetated instead, more campers, it's a reserve for surfing so doesn't need picnic tables, mean more hard surfaces, the less development the better, it would look less natural and would create more erosion pressure. People supporting the proposal felt it would be good to be able to sit instead of standing around and there would be less injury risk.

Written submission feedback summary:

Two of the written submissions commented on the proposal to change the surface of the steeply sloping gravel area and pathway connecting to the Hammerhead car park, and both opposed the proposal. Comments included that:

- The Style Guide for materials is not included in the draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan
- The option of gravel within a plastic grid is not included though used successfully elsewhere
- Pavers are not acceptable
- More concrete or hard surfaces is not supported
- The existing boardwalk along the cliff edge is sufficient access
- The picnic tables are under used and the area needs a rethink
- Return of the picnic tables is supported.

Other feedback themes from both the surveys and written submissions

As well as the detailed feedback provided above, respondents provided comments on a broad range of management issues, considerations and concerns. As this is a minor update and no major changes to the ten year strategic direction were being considered, some comments were beyond the scope of the current review. A full list of the comments is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Further issues raised in the survey comments included:

- Toilet facilities – support for an update including improved showers
- Enforcement – supported for issues such as camping and dog management
- Commercial influences – concern these are a factor in decision making
- Marine areas – desire for improved links and management
- The new Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority – concerns there may be a tourism agenda
- Bus management – concern unmarked tourist buses are entering the reserve
- General management – various matters including litter, a ranger, signage.

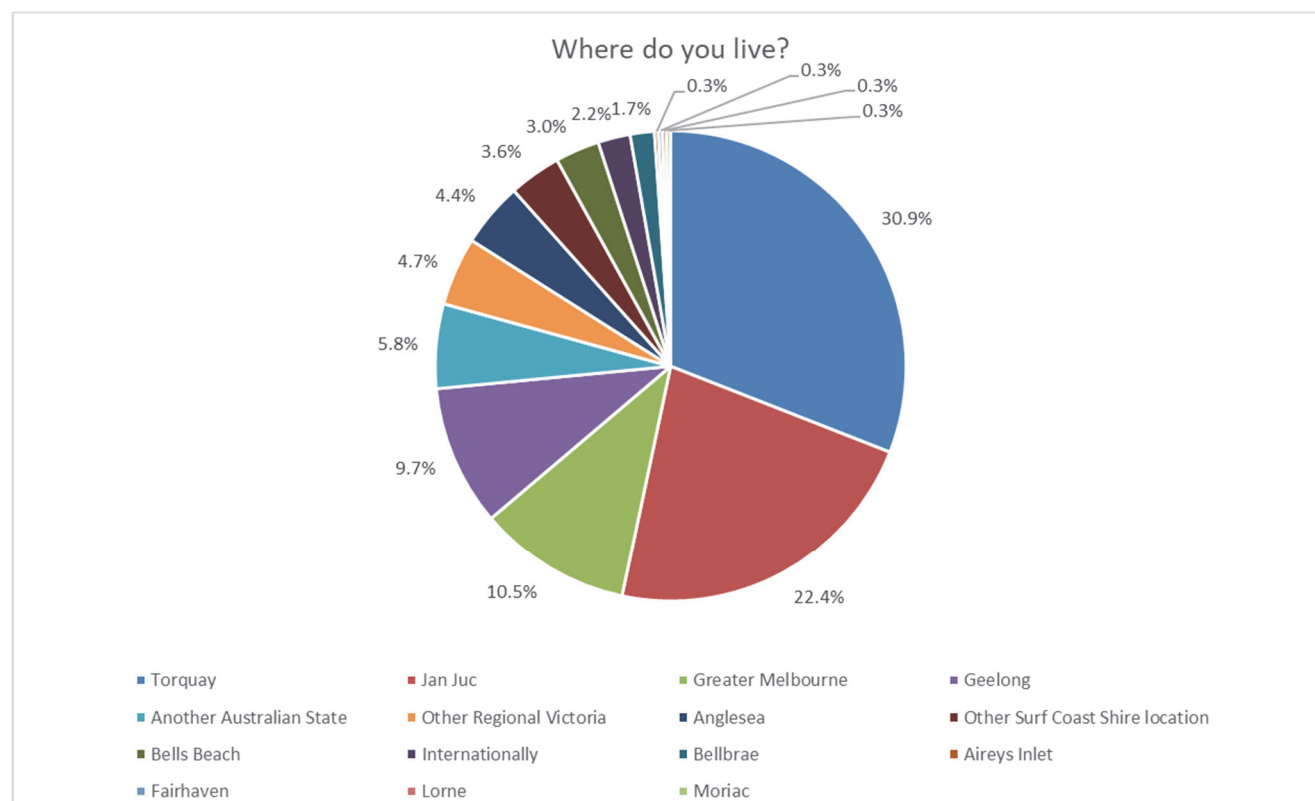
Further issues raised in the written submissions included:

- Over tourism – concerns with the number of visitors, their impacts, carrying capacity
- Environmental protection – the need to preserve the unique environment at Bells
- Events – their impact on other reserve users, financial arrangements
- Governance – the committee structure, committee member interests
- Traffic management – car parking, the pedestrian crossing
- Enforcement – of dogs off lead, dog poo not collected, people entering fenced-off areas
- Climate change – strategies for coping with change
- The new state appointed Great Ocean Road Coasts and Parks Authority – concerns this will adversely alter reserve management
- Consultation process – problems with how consultation was undertaken

Section 3: About you

Where do you live?

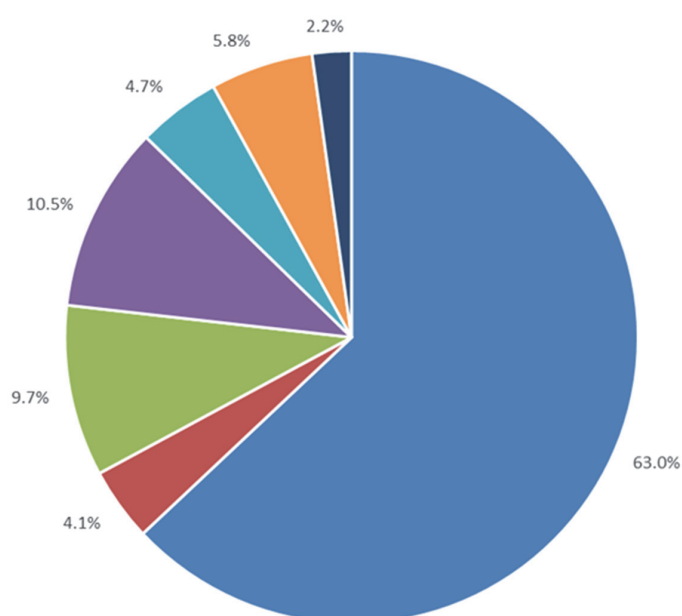
Where do you live?	Number	% of responses per category
Torquay	112	29.6
Jan Juc	81	21.4
Greater Melbourne	38	10.0
Geelong	35	9.2
Another Australian State	21	5.5
Other Regional Victoria	17	4.5
Anglesea	16	4.2
Other Surf Coast Shire location	13	3.4
Bells Beach	11	2.9
Internationally	8	2.1
Bellbrae	6	1.6
Aireys Inlet	1	0.3
Fairhaven	1	0.3
Lorne	1	0.3
Moriac	1	0.3
Nil Response	17	4.5
Total	379	100.0



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Where Do You Live Grouped	Number	% of responses per category
Aireys Inlet, Angelsea, Belbrae, Bells Beach, Fairhaven, Jan Juc, Torquay	228	60.2
Other Surf Coast Shire location	15	4.0
Geelong	35	9.2
Greater Melbourne	38	10.0
Other Regional Victoria	17	4.5
Another Australian State	21	5.5
Internationally	8	2.1
Nil Response	17	4.5
Total	379	100.0

Where Do You Live Grouped

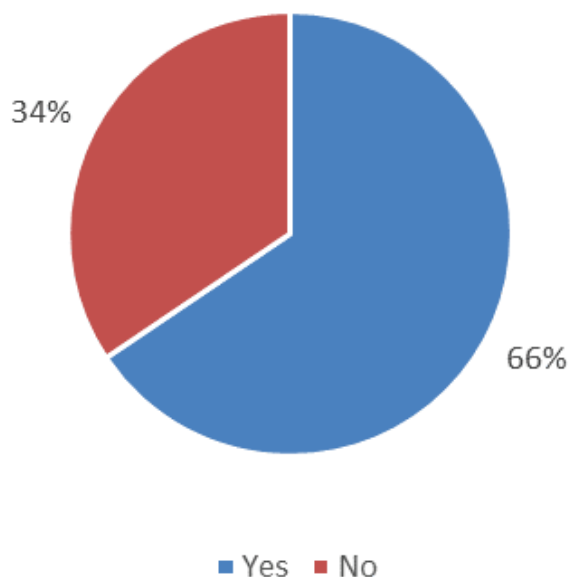


- Aireys Inlet, Angelsea, Belbrae, Bells Beach, Fairhaven, Jan Juc, Torquay
- Other Surf Coast Shire location
- Geelong
- Greater Melbourne
- Other Regional Victoria
- Another Australian State
- Internationally

Is your primary residence in Surf Coast Shire?

	Number	% of responses per category
Yes	238	62.8
No	125	33.0
NIL response	16	4.2
TOTAL	379	100.0

Is your primary residence in Surf Coast Shire?



Do you belong to an organisation or group with an interest in Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve?

Do you belong to an organisation or group with an interest in Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve?	Number	% of responses per category
Do not belong to any group or organisation	179	47.2
Local interest group (please specify below)	39	10.3
Prefer not to say	39	10.3
Event organiser	14	3.7
Other (please specify below)	12	3.2
Business owner	7	1.8
Government agency	5	1.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Business owner	3	0.8
Do not belong to any group or organisation ,Prefer not to say	2	0.5
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Government agency	2	0.5
Business owner,Service Provider	1	0.3
Do not belong to any group or organisation ,Other (please specify below)	1	0.3
Event organiser,Other (please specify below)	1	0.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Do not belong to any group or organisation	1	0.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Event organiser	1	0.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Event organiser,Business owner	1	0.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Event organiser,Other (please specify below)	1	0.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Event organiser,Service Provider	1	0.3
Local interest group (please specify below) ,Other (please specify below)	1	0.3
Nil Response	68	17.9
Total	379	100.0



2019 Bells Survey Comments

Q1: Overall, how has your general experience been at the Reserve?

Visually not appealing - too much carpark.

The natural environment is hard not to enjoy. I like the lack of access by big busses these days. It makes the place more user friendly for people who actually want to spend time here.

There are some excellent experiences to be had at BBSRR but these are often off-set by some equally poor experiences. Given the amount of use the Reserve endures it's looking a bit rundown but coping OK. Just. But the experience could be so much better if only council prioritised the main users of the Reserve, the local, everyday, non contest oriented, surfer.

It's a beautiful outlook but as soon as the Bells Car Park is reached it is ugly and cluttered with signs. The bushes are used by visitors as toilets and the hammerhead is littered with rubbish from overnight vans parked there esp in summer. The concrete path down from the top of Winki is ugly and broken.

It is a beautiful place, and has to date has avoided being impacted by inappropriate infrastructure and over population of information infrastructure. The landscape and seascape speak loud and clear.

Still lots of people littering, smoking, using the bushes as a toilet. Large busses blocking car spaces, people jumping fences and trampling native veg and middens etc

Could do with a path above Winki to view the surf breaks

World Standard Reserve - Is up there.

Fantastic. Easy to follow. Information to educate.

Keeping it simple and managing the impact is great.

Protect the National Values and the Cultural and Indigenous Heritage. Values limit impact of Tourism.

Beautiful views, friendly people.

Just passing through.

Great natural enviro.

Great start to the morning prior to work. Suns out!

Very tidy and appears well managed.

I surf at Winki and improvements will be good.

A great experience.

Cold.

It is beautiful.

Frustrated by cigarette garbage.

Please stop people sh****g in the bushes

Leave it the way it is!!! Just maintain what we have.

Need toilets at the winki carpark

Great natural outlook.

Reserve is great as is

Good except for the new wink pop car park plan since narrowing car parks my car and most who don't drive small cars have had doors opened on causing damage

Updates to toilets and road surface needed

Leave it as us. Ask the aboriginals and surfers

Always beautiful with the simplicity of one car park and walk way. Seeings almost no person from the water is a wonderful thing

The Winkipop Carpark is way too busy

Too many tourists and litter

Leave it

I've been a regular surfer in the area for over 25 years and consider the reserve a spiritual site.

I find the winki pop area a bit unsafe, when people gather in the carpark area.

Bus traffic is in need of management

Once again another to survey, us surfers don't want change so stop. Just leave Bells alone.

A visit to Bells is the highlight of my week

Too many tourists (mostly foreign). They leave rubbish, damage vegetation and get in the way of surfers and other beachgoers.

I love the natural feel

For over 40 years now the toilet facilities at Bells are amongst the poorest in the world. They are unsightly and never fail to smell disgusting. During the Bells Pro they are a shameful disgrace. Little has changed over the years. What sort of an impression do you want people from many countries to have of this major sightseeing spot? Please have the respect to provide them and us all with clean and pleasant facilities. This can bring in more tourist dollars. I don't think that any decent parent should be forced to have their young ones put themselves at risk in such unhygienic conditions. Would it be an idea to include space in your survey for other kinds of feedback?

Q2: What parts of the Wadawurrung story at Bells would you like to learn more about?

Aboriginal meeting ground, where the Wathaurong people would gather to trade yarns, tools, skills and supplies. The reef that runs through Bells offered a consistent food source, with plenty of abalone and crayfish available, and low tide offering up a plentiful supply. Signs of food preparation still remain with a shell midden lining the famous break.

elderly locals say the indigenous people rarely ate from the sea, marine life for food is poor due to lack of underwater vegetation - vast areas of pure sand. There was more food in the hinterland this story should be told.

Their use of the area at Bells

All parts, but not with signage.

The relationship of the Wadawurrung to Bells and the immediate surrounding area

Knowledge, culture and the network connection required by visitor to connect to the land

I think it's important not just for locals to be aware of the significance but for tourists to learn about the deeper meaning of this area. I'd love another mural or artwork but to be honest this is a decision for the traditional owners as to how their connection is represented.

Would love to hear about their ocean activities and how swells and weather affected it

all

All of it

The seafoods they gathered there. Any special sites to be treated, highlighted, cordoned off, signed, preserved, etc as if they were e.g. Roman Ruins

All!

how they used the area, how many lived there, what remains there from that time considering their race was butchered by white man

I would like to learn what ever the Wadawurrung are keen to share with us.

what their current day movements are

idk

I don't know anything so it would be great to know more

All of it

Very satisfied with it now.

Balanced views.

Did Wadawurrung surf?

Brief history.

All of it.

I am fully supportive of fully voiced expression of Wadawurrung Sovereignty over their country. Very important - pre-colonial; invasion; impact of invasion; survival; revival and cultural recovery. Relationship with all aspects of Country.

Original use of land and traditions.

Naming of the place.

Always curious we fenced off area - what is so important about this area.

What the land represents for them. How it supported their people.

Pre-settlement history is always interesting.

The History.

Local foods eaten by Wadawurrung, songlines, conflict history, massacres.

All of it. I don't know anything about it. Would love to learn.

Nil.

All.

I think more information boards on how they used this land.

The history of the Bells site.

Who first discovered the place.

An acknowledgement and understanding culture for visitors.

The story of the cliffs.

The sacred spot near the Bells Beach pro site. More detailed understanding.

All of it.

Environmental management.

Elevated pathway.

As much as possible.

Any.

Nature walk, how plants are used as food, medicine signs.

All of it.

Current relationships with area.

All part to do with area

I'm ok with what I already know.

History

History & land care education about the area.

Bush medicine

What does the area signify to their people spiritually and practically. Would love to have a regular community gathering blessings etc. would be good to connect us all back to the land we share and care for.

Not sure

Their use of the space

Would the Wadawurrung people approve of the vision and wishes of local people or the distroying the character this reserve has ? Realistically looking at insurance will this walkway be suitable for supposedly spectators to watch ?

What the surf coast was like pre british migration.

I would like to who and when started surfing there

Are there other TO's with a claim to the area too? (I'm not sure) if so, is there a way to recognise/celebrate them all?

General plant foods used and other use of area including the waterways

How did ancestors use the area?

everything.

All

It's original condition

How the Wadawurrung used the Bells area, how long have they been spending time there

The more the better

There connection with the ocean.

All of it

This story needs to be promoted more

Their stories about the area.

I would like their story told on site.

I;m into some more history and relationship to any songlines.

How they used the land, their relationship to it, their customs and how they cared for it.

History of the elders and any ancestors living in the area today and their stories connected to the land

All of it! Culture, history, language.

Anything, the more information the better, it should also be visible at the reserve.

Culture, but I think they do a great job in showcase the Wadawurrung story at Bells Events.

Traditional hunting & sourcing of food

All of it

The whole story

N/a

The history

As much as we can

Their use of the reserve ie. hunting, rituals, gatherings, living etc

None

All of it, and to have them be given rights over it.

I'd like the full picture to be easily accessible.

how did they live there

All of it

As much as possible.

The history of their arrival and their techniques for managing the environs

What type of structures they lived in, what they wore, what they ate, what they called Bells Beach (consideration should be given to using the Wadda Wurrung name for Bells in a similar way to Uluru, Kakadu etc), any crops that they grew, did they fish in the ocean, how did they store food, what did they use for trading. I have heard there is a massacre site at the Southside cliffs, that should be explored.

None

The traditional story as handed down from previous elders

All stories

NA

History

How they came about to bells

Significance & past land management

Dreamtime stories, history

How the tribe used the land

Their relationship with the Ocean.

All of it

All of it

Interpretive signage would be good to help educate tourists and locals of the history of the area. Similar to the cultural walk at Point Addis.

Everything

All of it

anything interesting to better understand wadawurrung culture

Any/all

Their way of life

All if possible

Everything

Any of their history that they could share would be wonderful!

All of it. Would like signage to tell the story

How the land was used

Bunjil

History of the area. Who they used the land etc.

How the land was used

Q3: Do you want to say anything further about the proposed walkway?

Indigenous planting to also be incorporated to fill in under and next to the walkway so the steel structure is less obvious.

I assume its to allow free flow of water underneath rather than running down the concrete path and promoting erosion. The real reason is Rip Curl wants a better vantage point to judge surfing events at Winki. - without spending the money.

About time something gets done about that concrete pathway

Make sure the hand rail is not shiny and silver, this will be attention grabbing from the water. Keep the handrail dark or a wood style colour.

No plastic. Keep high below the vegetation level.

ESD principle must we included in its procurement and construction

I still support it to be made from recycled materials.

Make it as timber as possible. Nothing like the new stairs at steps and boobis. I understand that they are like that to be more durable

This change does not seem to be such a priority when compared with other work that would greatly enhance the Bells experience. It seems this upgrade is being done to placate the RC Pro organisers and tourists as it won't change the experience for the regular Winki surfer at all. If anything the path leading down to the proposed walkway is of more urgent need of fixing (replace with wooden stairs?). And the toilets/showers are without doubt a higher priority than any other fixes.

If you're replacing that bit of the pathway, why not the whole of the concrete pathway - it's steep, ugly and cracked. The work is only for viewing the Pro.

Great idea!

Steel can be visually intrusive in the coastal landscape. It sits more quietly once weathered, or could be powdercoated black to become more visually subservient to the timber elements and surrounding vegetation.

I can't see any reason for an elevated walkway, there's already a look out spot.

Can't read these plans above - this is not proper consultation it is misleading. This is not for community use, it is for corporate use. Out of character with the area, overdevelopment, constructing infrastructure. Should not be visible or elevated. Its not a theme park.

Make it not so noticeable from the water and not a ugly metal construction.

Lifting above vegetation lan's providing great sights is an excellent idea.

Looks safer and like it will provide increased protection of the dunes

I think the more visibility to the beaches as some people are not able to climb the stairs to the area below.

It is good for native veg protection

Less development the better.

Disability Access - for slow walkers and those with assistive mobility aids.

Long term sustainability and minimal impact to the enviro is important to me.

Just that the questions above give 3 options that can be bundled up as a "Yes" and only one for a "No". I would prefer to say "I would not like it" as opposed to "loathe it". I wonder whether this has had an unwitting influence on the results? atp

Can we have a raised part to 'spot' from, assist with Rescue.

Love birdwatching - elevated walkway easier for wrens and other birds and those of us watching it.

Improving facilities would be great to improve impact on vegetation etc.

Provided natural vegetation is encouraged.

Important to fix down path (path located near parked cars - path leading to beach).

As long as it is not visible while surfing Winki or Bells.

I think this is a great idea.

I like that it will improve habitat connectivity.

I would live with it - but not your current design. I dislike the mesh side-barriers as they are not in tune with the surrounding environment. I'd prefer a timber handrail (top) with widely-spaced horizontal wire side barriers. Also not convinced about the use of stainless steel handrailing.

Use recycled plastic.

Great idea, removes concrete and allows far more natural vegetation and minimal traffic from one side of the path to the other.

Would like recycled plastic used (Replas).

Nice initiative.

Build when no surf.

It looks environmentally friendly and accessible.

Better for environment.

Would it be safer to walk in varied weather? What would it be made of?

As long as it benefits wildlife.

Great idea. Look good.

Local provider - Surf to City concreting for the works!

I love the idea - more accessible.

Minimising impact is positive.

The beauty is when you surf and look back to the landscape it is natural with no man made structures.

It's unnecessary, the existing infrastructure is sufficient

There are enough views to the surf as there is. I understand there would be less hard surfaces by pulling up the old path but the height of it would ruin the views from the water. Not many people understand the view from the water, this would be devastating to see a man made structure 60m long! No way!!

It does not seem aligned with the other objectives. It is also only going to benefit one commercial event held once a year.

Not needed at all ! Profiteering has been a big part of that site for many years and they still want more.

The raised walkway is totally unnecessary. If the path needs to be replaced, it should be replaced with another path at ground level. If WSL so badly want raised walkways for the 3 days a year they monopolise the site, then temporary structures are fine. For the remaining 362 days of the year, there is no need for an intrusive structure.

I am opposed to it because it will only encourage more white tourist buses who leave their filthy cigarette butts wherever the buses are parked. It's disgraceful. The tourists also drop their plastic rubbish everywhere.

There should be nothing visible from the water. This will only encourage incursion into the Heath areas.

One of the great things about surfing Winki and Bells I saw the lack of buildings and structures. Why stuff it up just for the WSL? Let them just surf Bells. When Winki is on spectators can't see anyway.

Please don't install this surfing is my escape front the world I love the fact winki is hidden behind the hills.

Many of us surfers come here to escape the pressures of modern world. We don't want to looked down upon by hordes of tourists.

What a ridiculous proposal a walkway of such a nature is so unnecessary. I hate it when the circus (wsl) comes to town each year i dont need to be reminded of it all year...

No point to further disrupt the natural habitat with building and maintaining something that has no added benefit except for the Bells pro.

I feel it's unnecessary and would impact on the view of the reserve from the water

Please don't have it visible from the surf.

The temp structure was not for spectators it was for selected WSL staff competitors ect - spectators were not allowed in this area? Realistically at best it will be another thing for the selected few that our rates get to pay for ? Money could be better spent fixing unsafe substandard bells blvd ?

The part of the coast along there is pretty special. If things need to be elevated, maybe a few tree stumps would be a better option, but the current proposed plan is an absolute eyesore and would really ruin the natural athetic of the area.

Bells Beach is just too special to build up. The most special aspects of the site come from its seclusion and closeness with nature. The current infrastructure is important to protect the natural environment. This infrastructure should only be fixed if it's broken (or might break) it should not be expanded.

Please leave the path at ground level. No new structures please. The natural beauty of Winki Should remain just that 'natural' as possible. It would be a great shame to see that beautiful landscape diminished by the proposed structure.

The beauty of the area is the natural atmosphere, particularly when looking back from the water. We should NOT be building more visible infrastructure in the reserve. I and strongly opposed go a permanent elevated walkway.

No more signs or structures visible from the ocean.

Too built up for a permanent structure to exist like this and it is too imposing for surfers and their connection to the natural feel of this surfing area

I assume the concrete pathway would be demolished so vegetation could grow underneath the boardwalk

It will impose negativity on the environment

The idea of surfing in the the reserve is to not only to surf but to feel connected to nature and see as little man made structures as possible .

It will negatively impact the aesthetic of the area.

Keep it real. Stay away from the edge of a cliff

Sensitive design and implementation allowing native vegetation to grow around an underneath

Chipping away at what makes this place so special. There is a strong sense of country there - leave it alone

I believe the whole area does need an updated management plan but I do not believe we should be encouraging more traffic to the highly sensitive area. This idea would work well if the car parks were closed and moved to the paddocks across the road. The bells beach and winki cliffs should be rehabilitated and if you want to visit you should have minimal impact.

Any proposed elevated structure should be sited below the top of existing vegetation so that it is not seen when viewed from the water (the temporary structure during the competition is way too high and an eyesore) and also be below 1m in height so that a balustrade is not required thus reducing the visual impact of the structure and no doubt cost. A balustrade should only be considered if the post & wire fencing along the pathway is removed and therefore becomes the restraint used to protect the vegetation. Further information on the transition between existing concrete pathway and proposed boardwalk would be appreciated, as to would be the proposal for the steepest part of the pathway between the carpark and the lookout where it is not DDA compliant and also serves as the main drainage pathway during storm events, exacerbating erosion further down.

The beauty of winkipop is the lack of infrastructure and abundance of nature.

You do not need this section of pathway to be elevated. You can see the water and surf along this section when ever there are waves. I thought that it has been a waste of time and money having the raised metal boardwalk during the last two easter Bells events.

Great way to ruin winki. Can't see me or my fellow surfers enjoying hundreds of tourists taking photos of us from above

Leave it how it is.

Please no. There is no need for this! You can clearly see the waves from the top car park, and there is a viewing platform, two in fact, that are already there! The scaffolding walkway for the bells pro is fine, I understand why it's erected for the pro, but does not need to be there all year round. Really what is it's purpose? And is this purpose already served? Yes it is.

The adding of more man-made structures to this beautiful coastal reserve completely contradicts earlier policies. In order for Bells to be enjoyed as a reserve there needs to be NO MORE INFRASTRUCTURE.

Why can't the temporary walkway be installed every Easter for the duration of the event only?

I think it's unnecessary and obtrusive

I believe the pathway is completely unnecessary and runs contrary to the principles of the reserve. It would be an eyesore and a total intrusion of commercial interests over the conservation of the natural landscape.

NOT APPROPRIATE AT ALL

One of the wonderful things about surfing at Winki is the feeling you get by being surrounded by raw nature & not seeing any man made structures - the walkway could be an eye sore for the surfers in the water. And would potentially create a pathway for further development which is not really that welcome here for the locals.

Unnecessary and unattractive.

It cuts the view from the lookout at the old helipad and from the whole of the car park.

Raising the height of the walkway does nothing to enrich the area. It will allow for rubbish and trash to collect underneath that will be damaging to the environment, will need to be cleared daily by council workers to ensure garbage does not enter the ocean and surrounding bush land. The design aims to allow viewing of the surf which can be done from ground level. An expense that is not required which serves only to possibly be a place for tourists to take photos and dump their garbage.

It will impact the natural landscape negatively, with a man made structure to benefit visitors rather than locals who use the area regularly.

It's unnecessary, and will cause visual pollution from both land and sea.

Leave it as is do not develop any more .

It would make the Reserve look "less natural"...leave as is, this proposal would mainly benefit Surfing Victoria and the Riocurl Pro organisers, keep their hands off beautiful natural Bells!

Structures created for the sole purpose of creating a viewing platform for the surf comp are completely unnecessary and go against the 2015 management plan core values which was to minimise infrastructure and keep the reserve as natural as possible.

Good idea to provide improved views without affecting the vegetation which is establishing well.

No need for it, spend money to clean up oceans and environmental action.

There is no need for a permanent elevated pathway. It serves no significant purpose. The environmental values need to be protected, and the existing amenity of the walkway needs to be maintained. No structures should be constructed.

Not a fan of this proposal - leave it the way it is.

Leave it the way it is

This is unnecessary and will change the light touch that manmade walkways currently have on Bells. Bells Beach has for surfing and preservation. The focus is not dog walking or sightseeing.

Would be amazing for viewing of the ocean.

great viewing platform

It would be so out of place, we don't need it.

My mate is a local and surfs there regularly. He loves the fact that you can surf and virtually see no human made structures. I agree it should be left that way.

Don't do it

The walk way can f**k off

I don't want any works done on this area that aren't for the wildlife and environment.

Leave The area as is..... its for the people who live here and frequent often, not for the few that pop in once a year.

Intrusive - all development in the reserves should have minimal visual impact. Cliffs and bush land are all I would like to see when looking shoreward. Viewing platforms and access areas are a necessity - they should however be designed to have the least possible environmental and visual impact on the surrounding shoreline

Does not feel consistent with maintaining the natural setting of the Bells Beach surfing reserve

There should be no permanent structures they totally ruin the area and turn it into an overdeveloped tourist area. There should absolutely be no changes made purely because WSL wants better visibility for a yearly event that takes over the entire town. If people want to watch and can't see there are plenty of large screens which give far better visibility

It's unnecessary and a waste of money, also directly impacts wildlife in a negative way.

No more permanent infrastructure please, leave the reserve as close to its original state as possible

Totally unnecessary.

Unnecessary development in the reserve

This walkway isn't consistent with the principles and core values in the Plan. It is visually prominent and there is no clear need for it - replacing the path would meet the access needs without impacting on the visual amenity from both land and water.

Winkipop is a truly unique beautiful area as it is, it does not need a manmade structure for an event that runs 1 week a year. Please ignore the wishes of the corporate world and allow the area to remain a magnificent natural environment, which is where its true worth is for tourism and surfers.

horrible eyesore

is it money well spent? I could think of a couple of other locations overlooking Winkipop that would be better suited for a viewing platform

Permanent pathway would allow the increased unavoidable traffic to have less impact on the natural environment.

Temporary infrastructure is good for temporary events, there's no need to tarnish the place for the short term needs of one event.

Such a beautiful area that it shouldn't be tainted with more man made structures. There's already too much development happening too close to this beach with the new housing estates. More man made structures, more people, more business and more likelihood of large developers coming in and being able to build right up to the Bells car park and beach.

It is a very positive project for an important tourist and locals spot

Keep any man made structure hidden from the water

This is so unnecessary effecting the man made foot print in the reserve just in case the surf comp is moved from Bells to Winki!

This would be a step in the wrong direction. The beauty of the reserve and its paths and walkways is they're as unobtrusive as is practical, and they should remain this way.

Too many changes have occurred on our coast. Leave Winki alone.

The walkway sounds like a terrible idea.

It seems unnecessary

There should be no permanent above ground structures built for the easter surf contest. There is no justification for this structure, it would be visible above the ridgeline from the water and have even greater impact with the presence of people on it. It does not fit the site's context, is not visually sensitive and is not minimal in its visual impact. I think the cracked sections of concrete footpath should be replaced with concrete at the same vertical alignment. I have no problem with a temporary structure being built for the contest each year as long as it doesn't extend the bump in and bump out times.

Keep it the way it is. Less man made objects, better. Is not that the point of a reserve.

Better access for surfers, better scenic / viewing area for visitors

Please leave the pristine nature of this coastline alone. The WSL tournament runs once a year only.

Please don't ruin our natural environment.

The one at the comp was not obtrusive - I had wished it was a permanent structure at the time. I'm glad this is proposed and I hope it goes ahead. It is an upgrade to the area.

I don't feel the raised walkway is needed and the funds would be better spent elsewhere.

Structures like this, as nice as they are, take the character away from a place like this. Bells/Winki is rich with history and indigenous culture. I would hate to see this beautiful area's essential qualities be ruined by infrastructure.

It's a great idea, it gives better viewing of the spot all year round, it's a nice gathering place for people at Winki as opposed to the dangerous area up at the carpark. For people with young children, this is a nice safe place for them to spend time. The platform at the event didn't look obvious from the land nor sea.

Seems fairly unnecessary

We don't want additional unnatural infrastructure that will be visible from the water, to further commercialise our reserve, it is unwanted by the people who are there everyday. Leave it the way it is please.

It is just an extension of the stairway, yes? I think this would resolve the issue of people gathering up in the carparks. I for one would like the space, rather than the one lookout or the winki stairs.

Not necessary

To remove the old concrete pathway and to build an elevated pathway is a gain not only for the community but for the reserve as a whole.

It's bells beach, please keep it as it is. Looking up out of the water and seeing nothing but bush is how it should be. It's as much about the view for the surfers who love, respect and use it everyday as it is about the tourists who come, litter, Instagram and go. Make the right choice for the community rather than the corporation for a change

I think it would ruin the environmental atmosphere that is so special when enjoying the bells reserve

Unnecessary for a once year event, the beauty of bells and winki is the untouched natural landscape. Development of the area will not make it a better place to be. If the WSL want spectators to watch the event then hold it at a location with existing infrastructure. Let's leave the area as is!!!

It's not required. If you want to upgrade the track you can do that without making it elevated. Just put in a timber platform at ground level similar to what you would find in fragile ecosystems across Victoria and the world. The elevated structure would take away the aesthetics of the area. It's natural, leave it that way.

Sounds like a great alternative that allows the fauna to grow with minimal hinderance

Already enough view points of winki

Please dont build this. We dont need it and it is only desired by a few who would like to see it during the major event each year. Please think of the lovely natrual aspects of the area when ,aking your decision.

Why not just re surface the existing paths? I believe that the existing amenities go far enough. It is incredible, but fragile. Leave it as it is now.

Leave bells. Alone. Less is more. Town is getting out of control. We need to at least protect the bells area now

Why ?? Leave bells reserve alone.

This would be a disgusting thing to construct on our beautiful coast line.

It would change the view from the surf looking back at the natural environment

Don't do it. When you're surfing and you look at the cliff it feels isolated and natural and its beautiful the way it is

We need to preserve this area like many others. The space should be left alone. Build a temporary structure for the Comp if needed

Sitting in the water at Winki Pop is one of the most serene views in the world. To add a large, permanent man made structure would ruin the experience entirely. It's outrageous.

Keep Winki pop as natural as possible - I don't want to see anything manmade from the surf.

It doesn't warrant the spend and isn't really required just to cater for the surfing event. Especially considering it won't add any benefit for the rest of the year.

I would hate it to be too elevated but I do agree that a new pathway is required

The best thing about Bells & Winki is that when you're in the water you don't see anything man made. This would change that.

While it is helpful for viewing, it will clog up the path with more tourists which gets in the way of the surfers. Also, the view from the water looking at the cliff will be less natural, as currently all that can be seen is the vegetation and the wooden stairs and lookout.

Are the Wadawurrung people happy with the plans?

I would love to see this area retain its natural beauty and not have this compromised for the sake of the event once a year (which we love attending)

Too visually obtrusive, unnecessary, leave the natural experience PLEASE

You have to know most people want natural.....! Not man made all the time...! Just stop..!

Do not do it, it will ruin the natural vibe of the place. Why put a permanent structure in place when it is really only needed(?) for 1-2 weeks per year.

If it's specifically proposed for the contest, it's an absolute joke. You are still only going to get such a minor fraction of total spectators on it.

I think this area should be protected as is, and not start with extra infrastructure unless it's a safety concern. Building will only encourage the next step, which would be maybe a cafe. Where does the line stop? I thought it had its protection in place.

Its a very bad idea and will completely ruin both the walking experience and ambiance of the Winki Pop area. Also, surfers don't want heaps of tourists looking down upon them from that area , we have enough viewing areas as is. After surfing Winki and getting to the top of the stairs you are immediately separated from looking back by the vegetation and you then begin the walk to your car in solitude and reflection (or perhaps having to tell other surfers coming down the path that its great out there) - lets keep this years old tradition alive.

Apart from increased vantage points for viewing surfing when held at Winkipop during the Bells Pro, this walkway seems largely unnecessary. Even when the comp is moved to winki this area is usually off limits to spectators with general admission and would therefore only benefit Ripcurl Pro VIP guests, competitors etc. It seems that this structure detract from the natural aesthetic and only benefit a select few. I am somewhat cynical that other infrastructure, namely the upgraded picnic area and bells walkway may be mostly aimed at providing a better base / footprint for the Bells Pro infrastructure rather than the reasons given in the report.

Given the natural assets (flora, fauna, geology, paleontology) and cultural (Wadawurrung, Surfing) values of the Reserve I believe it is at user/visitor capacity. No further footprint or visitor access is warranted. Nor should we encourage more visitations into this 'one of the Worlds High Fire Danger Areas'. Im ok with a temporary modular platform for the Easter Pro with minimal bump in/out time. Im opposed to any additional structures repair what's there.

What the f**k is wrong with you guys

Q4: Do you want to tell us anything further about the proposed stormwater pits?

I see this as a temporary fix. The stormwater management of the reserve need to have a comprehensive plan undertaken.

Stormwater pits to include removal and treatment of colloidal clays, fine sediments and gravel.

My response is different for the 2 proposals: the hammerhead Bells pit is in urgent need of upgrading so in the love it category; the winki work seems less urgent so unsure.

Good - as long as all vegetation removed during the works is replaces.

No. I trust that the hydrologists / specialists do their job properly.

Supported, the CMP is silent on sandy beach ecology, distracted by the importance of terrestrial flora fauna. The bulk of the beach lies above the notional HWM (an ill defined boundary in its own right) Any action to reduce impact from roading/vehicle use on both the beach ecology and intertidal/subtidal is commendable.

Need better litter management - people still smoke and drop butts, more bins, more education, more compliance action required - this will help but won't address the underlying problem of peoples behaviour.

Anything you can do to trap pollutants is great. Especially important during peak tourism and event seasons.

I am glad the fishies will be happier with less pollutants

I think anything that would stop pollution of the area is important to stop health risks especially for the surfers and events held there.

Better storm water outcomes would be good

It would be good to at least filter the storm water through a sediment trap/basin before it hits the beach.

No.

Nil.

Reducing waste to ocean. Big tick from me.

Good to remove rubbish. Would be better if people just used bins!

(Winki) Gravel on path is the main problem - Tourists slipping.

They should divert water into natural water courses.

No.

About time we used more modern tech to protect the environment.

Not sure about the functionality.

We need to better trap pollutants.

Good improvements.

No.

Invisible is the goal!

Happy with non intrusive upgrades to the reserve

Need more info

There is no area to comment on the proposed picnic tables change, so i will use this field. I am more than happy for the tables to be replaced, however there is no need to change the surface. Pavers or other impermeable surfaces just increase runoff.

We need outs to collect the filthy cigarette butts from the white buses. I'd prefer you to stop the buses.

Great idea

Ok with that.

If everyone respects their environment there should be no litter but understand the need for these pots to stop pollution washing into the ocean.

Makes sense to proceed with this

As long as these pits take know carparks away and work with the environment

These proposals are good. Things to protect the natural environment are paramount.

Stormwater pits are a last line of defence (and it's great to have them upgraded), is there more that can be done to educate and prevent litter in the first instance? (Bins, etc)

Ensure they do not bring attention to themselves with bright materials

I assume that the new pits will help to prevent washaways and erosion

Light touch, zero impact pls

We should be ensuring we are not having a negative impact on the environment marine or terrestrial. If this improves this then it sounds great.

New stormwater pits at carpark level are required, but so to are major upgrades to the drainage outlets at the beach level... This does not seem to be part of the proposed works which is just as important and urgently required.

All efforts should be made to preserve all natural structures and vegetation during construction and must not alter appearance once completed

So long as they don't change the overall look, and provide a real benefit.

Minimising litter and pollution going into the sea is a good idea.

The more pollution that gets caught before it hits the beach and the sea - the better!

Underground boring should be the preferred method and no impact to existing vegetation

Anything that catches rubbish before it goes to the ocean is a great thing, as long as putting them in doesn't ruin the environment for wildlife.

These GPTs should be visually unobtrusive.

Stop the tourists and stop the rubbish. Should be encouraging people to take their rubbish with them, not installing measures to carry the rubbish 'away'.

This is a great plan and f it keeps the ocean and beaches as pristine as possible.

Any new infrstructure for stormwater has to not oly trap large pieces of litter but also treat or filter out suspended solids and microscopic pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorous, heavy metals and petrochemicals.

Please leave the look as it is currently.

I haven't really noticed any problems with the current pits.

Only that I appreciate the fact that the Surf Coast Shire taking care of issues that aren't visible to the normal punter but that will bring benefits for the ocean & beaches in the area.

This makes sense. The alternative would be to remove the current car park on the cliff top and rehabilitate the area. Move the car park into the cleared area across the main access road and ask that all walk in. If you won't do that, upgrading the pits is a good option.

Good to stop bottles and plastic entering the ocean

Q5: *Is there anything else we need to know about these other management priorities?*

We should not encourage picnic groups into Bells Carpark. On good surf days its almost impossible to park now without groups milling around picnic tables. There are plenty of picnic locations in Torquay.

Why is there no opportunity to give comment on changing the hammerhead gravel area? No added hardsurface area at Bells. Remove this unused gravel area and revegetate.

How to deal with litter, vegetation degradation with increase access, an erosion and sediment control plan for disturbances

Picnic tables equal more rubbish which is already a problem. I'd like to know that there is a strategy for dealing with the rubbish left behind. We also have a big (unaddressed by council) problem of illegal campers at Bells. Picnic facilities will make it even more inviting for them. They leave rubbish and sewerage behind and often start fires.

Campers galore!

You don't provide space for comment on the last proposal but I'm not in favour as it will not change the surfing experience but is obviously designed to cater for tourists, overnight stayers etc. This will in turn lead to more crowding of the already overcrowded carpark as well as the associated pollution (remember the rubbish left by the bus tours). I would suggest that the viewing platforms, toilets and showers are the areas that need upgrading before picnic tables are added. For eg some coverage over some of the platforms, a new expanded toilet block behind the existing wall, a good shower area with taps (and no smelly rubbish bin immediately adjacent!)

Picnic tables in an ugly, cold car park? Why not put in the bike racks the local kids asked for a few years ago? No sign of any more plantings. Ugly.

While I really like the indigenous artwork on the outside of the toilet block, I think that the Wadawurrung deserve something better than a toilet block to depict their connection. I'm imagining some artifact or signage that is just as imposing, but is more modern and not associated with the toilet block.

It is a surfing reserve, it doesn't need picnic tables, it needs areas for surfers to get changed or shower

Try to avoid adding further hard surface areas (concrete etc)

Reducing erosion would be good, why not revegetate or restore vegetation on the gravel areas... picnic tables will mean more litter. Not sure they are a good idea. Also concerned about this being more infrastructure.

nah

I am glad to see the council spending funding on stormwater management .

As long as it doesn't mean more concrete, I'm OK with them

If improving drainage without changing current layout, all for that.

If this upgrade offers increased environmental outcomes then it is valuable.

Excellent! I love to take visitors to Bells and we tend to stand around and to be able to sit down and have a picnic or tea and coffee would be great. Some shelter protection from the wind would also be great but I'm not sure how that would look aesthetically.

The sooner the better!

Less development the better.

N/A

No.

Nil.

I can't remember too much detail about the picnic area so will be interested when that is available.

Like more stable pathway surface as proposed for lower car park - less risk of injury.

More dog enforcement on lead and pick up poo.

There is a large amount of dog waste on tracks. Not sure how to manage it, but a better presence of council and fines for owners.

Costing is always important.

Picnic tables = rubbish.

Cost.

No, keep up the good job.

Litter management would need to be in place.

Why do we need changes to the gravel area?

No.

Not really.

Great management.

This would be warmly welcomed by the local community and people who frequent the Bells Beach Reserve.

We want to keep infrastructure as simple as possible.

How much does it cost to community?

N/A

To fix the erosion along the fenceline at Bells.

Maintain what is present!

My main concern is man made structure from the water. It is a huge aspect that many may not think about if they don't surf

S.A.N.E have always had the the interest of the area first . Let them decide

I think that this would create a littering issued around the area.

Keep the greedy developer's out of there. They've already screwed up the town enough. Leave bells reserve alone!

We need to respect the natural habitat and try not to disrupt it further.

Please detail how you maintain existing ecology in the area

As long as rubbish removal is consistent and plenty of bins provided this car park needs to be pay to enter like Sydney northern beaches not a drop in place for tour operators to let everyone go to the toilet eat the the tour provided not contributing to our local economy and leave there rubbish

Maybe some signanage for day visitors letting them know about the area.

The priority for Bells Beach and the whole surf coast is conservation and stopping commercialisation

I don't object to the reintroduction of picnic tables but I don't like the idea of adding more hard surfaces (pavers or concrete).

Creating hard surfaces will just put more erosion pressure on other places. Again, we should be aiming for minimum infrastructure in the reserve, not catering for tourism. Put the environment first, not tourism services.

Toilets improved please

Cleary outlined parking spaces for Bells lower carpark, often poorly parked and prevents maximum number of cars utilising parking spaces.

I think minimal intervention is best. There's no local benefit from the proposed changes.

Lock the gate and leave it alone.

Close the car parks and move them into the paddocks, if people want to visit the area they can walk in. The bells beeach area has its own Environmental vegetation class, we should be ensuring the enhancement and protection of this comes first

Re-establishing the picnic area in this location is not suitable... it would be better served with raised timber change decks or reduced in size and revegetated. Any proposal for a picnic area should not be here, but rather in the existing benched clearing, up the hill on the Jarosite road side. Likewise this existing cleared area may also be a more suitable location for any proposed new toilet block facility to replace the existing one...?

Do not encourage people to "picnic " at Bells please. I feel that it would only increase the chace of wrappers amd rubbish amd more cigarette butts to be left behind by people who don't care. Visitors don't care

A picnic area is only going to increase the amount of rubbish and litter.

I fear that picnic tables encourages more rubbish to be left around the area by illegal campers.

Updating the toilet facilities should be a priority. Providing sufficient car parking for surfers, rather than sightseers should also be a priority.

Preservation of vegetation and maintaining the natural surroundings should be the councils primary objective. The area has beaches for picnics and numerous parks with picnic tables that can be used. Additional ones are not required in areas of cultural significance. Please be mindful that over time so many sacred sites have been encroached upon woh just a sign acknowledging the traditional owners. This area can be left virtually as it preserving it in a natural respectful way that so many areas now lack.

Keep Bells as a beautiful, pristine natural reserve rather than making it another tourist park. That's what makes it unique and attracts people in the first place!

no

yes stop urbanizing the coastal experience.

Picnic area is NOT necessary, it would only promote more illegal overnight campers (which hasn't been enforced by the Council anyways) and more rubbish (ie. Food wrappers, tea bags, ciggie butts, etc.) would be left in the area if there were tables.

The reserve should be protected from further infrastructure and built environment. The natural coastal landscape should be protected from any development. Bells is an internationally recognised location valued for its natural environment, open space and coastal lansdcape. Permanent infrastcuture should be avoided beyond what currently exists

Some tables and seets would be good

Bells beach does not need a picnic area. Bells is a surfing reserve.

The priority must be the surfers. Not visitors.

The picnic area has the capacity to increase overland flow during heavy rain events and intelligent design options should be considered to minimise this. The tables have the potential to be visible from the surf, and the materials used should minimise visual impacts.

No

Don't make anything to comfortable for illegal campers eg picnic areas where that set up all day blocking the car park

I have no problem with the picnic table sgoing back in but keep the gravel surface for the path

Don't build anything permanent on the cliffs please

Leave it as is - minimally visually intrusive. Please do not cave in to the WSL and tour buses. We would hate to have a 12 Apostles tourist fiasco on our doorstep.

Anything to allow more people to spend time in this beautiful place is a good thing!

Not to be bullied by the old surfers. So many different demographics use the space than they did 30 years ago and they need to accept that. Please cater for the wider population, including children.

Drink fountain needed

Please just listen to the community.

Development of this area will not make it better

Not required. It's a surfing recreation reserve. There is so many areas to picnic across the surfcoast promote that sort of tourism elsewhere and leave the fragile ecosystem as it is or even better remove the car park and rehab it!

I believe the area should be left as natural as possible. And i am against any more paths and tables etc that encourage more visitors to hang around there and have there rubbish blow away

Keep the place natural

Clean up the rubbish please!

Better showering facilities would be great. I often drive straight to work after a surf

Keep the area as natural as possible, less hard surfaces not more.

We don't need any more tourists. The car park gets full because of them and they don't understand how to respect the area and respect the locals.

Just leave bells alone and maintain what's there otherwise one change is going to need to another and we don't want that. If the only complaints you got and are making the changes for are lack of viewing at the rip curl pro while it's run at winki then hopefully those people don't come back next year and bells is left alone

Please leave Bells Beach as natural and untouched as possible .
No Advertising / No buses / No trucks / No development at all .

Q6: Do you have any further comments about the update of the CMMP?

Removal and upgrade of the toilets needs to be a high priority!

The materials to be used in the reserve should be natural as far as possible. Eg wood not plastic.

Develop sustainably and you'll do the community a favour

See above.

I am a rate payer and I have been surfing in this area for over thirty years. We are so lucky to live on such a beautiful coastline. When surfing the reefs between Jan Juc and Point Addis it is amazing to look in at shore and admire the views of the sandstone cliffs and natural foliage. There is no need for a raised pathway. I can understand the need to improve drainage around the car park but the view of the water waves and surrounding cliffs is great from the existing walkway. Please leave the pathway as is.

It's difficult to understand how some of these priorities have been set when there are so many simple, obvious fixes required: clarity over the traffic direction through the winki carpark; removal of some of the speed advisory signs; improved, better located toilet facilities; decent showers; enforcement of the no camping rules...

Very little confidence that this plan still hasn't got the couple of weeks of the Pro as it's main focus rather than the everyday users.

Good work. Keep thinking.

You should take a fee from tourists somehow to fund toilet maintenance and upgrades. Same for the use of the entire GOR. Even a tourist bus parking fee?

It is already crowded, The carpark determines how many crew can be there.

There is little recognition of the bounding Point Addis Marine National Park, and the partnership opportunities that present in terms of boundary marking, interpretive opportunities, and joint projects.

Feel like some of these changes are driven by commercial interest in the reserve, which I don't like.

We require the gravel at top of winki carpark removed and replaced with a permanent non erosive surface

nah

Top job

This is a tourist attraction that needs to be continually improved and made safe so I am glad that these improvements are being proposed.

Please leave as nature intended for all to enjoy and preserve for future generations Shut down the RIP Curl Pro we dont need or want it.

Increased / updated Waddawurrung information would be excellent. 1 suggesstion would be an app designed to provide an augmented reality tour of the Bells reserve. This would require only limited (1) additional sign yo inform visitors of the apps availability / purpose without any further infrastructure added to the site.

Absolutely enjoyed the experience.

No. Progress is good.

I want to see signs using Wadawurrung language place names, plant and animal names, etc.

N/A

No.

Nil.

No, other than the Shire will need to be mindful of the new GORA and that it has a big tourism growth agenda (special report ABC News 7pm 20th September). I'm concerned how upgrades like the elevated walkway fit into that purview of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreational Reserve.

Will the slope of the Winki Path be reduced?

Good Luck.

No.

Nope!

No.

It is a great initiative and we need to focus more on Wadawurrung history, culture, people and current cultural engagement.

No.

Anything to improve good.

Don't destroy this natural treasure. Please realise it's value and protect over development. Thank you!

Let's keep things low level, and respect the Wadawurrung traditional custodians by not doing anything further!

Remove picnic tables all together

Stop the buses and have a ranger out their to fine polluters. The wage of the ranger would be covered 100 times over by the fines if they were actually issued to the white buses. Those buses are unmarked and not legal yet they are private your companies. Fine them.

Every year the WSL event shuts the car park for longer. It's time to give them strict timelines for set up and pull down. The car park is shut for a month or more. It's a joke.

Please don't install elevated platforms at Winki, it will completely destroy the atmosphere of this place.

My answers maybe synical but this is such a special place and anyone who actually lived there lives for n this area would agree

Picnic tables will encourage the consumption of more food in the area, of which naturally some will end up in the ocean.

I need more info on the picnic area proposal to know exactly what it involves. At this point it is difficult to decide whether it would be the best for the area

How do these changes align with the Distinctive areas plan?

Minimal visual impact please

Obviously updated toilet/shower facilities that are modern, well lit and appealing and well signed in Winki carpark also so people don't "go" in the bushes

Stop it

Maybe put tyre barriers in carparks as a roll stop for tyres so people do not drive too far forward damaging the fences that were put in too close to the designated carparks in the last upgrade

Improve what exists, please don't impose any new large permanent structures. There are two views - looking out to sea and looking from the sea.

Keep it as natural as possible. It is truly unique

no

rehabilitate the habitat.

Keep the Reserve as NATURAL looking as possible! Focus on planting/revegetation of the area instead of building more unnecessary infrastructure...Bells is special because of its natural state/beauty, the Gold Coast and Sydney surfing reserves are exactly why we (true local residents) won't want the same thing to happen at Bells!

There wasn't space above to comment on the picnic tables. I seriously doubt they will get used a lot (apart from surfers standing on them to see over the bushes.) In my opinion, very few people want to sit and picnic view-less between a parking area, cars and a hedge. Personally I think that money can be saved or better used for other parts of the CMMP. The other proposals in the CMMP are excellent.

We have one chance to protect the Bells Reserve into perpetuity, we can't start compromising its natural beauty and coastal landscape now.

Appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback

Leave it alone there's nothing wrong with it the way it is except for some tables and bench seats

Bells need less interference and infrastructure. Keep Bells natural.

We DO NOT NEED OR WANT an elevated platform. It is purely for the WSL circus.

The only improvements to the area that need to be made is keeping it wild for the wildlife that live there.

It's pretty upsetting how this new body intends to commence facility management by completely refurbishing and altering the current reserve. Pull your head in and consult with environmental leaders first

as custodians of this area please don't allow any more permanent structures to be built.

Shouldn't even be a question. Shouldn't be developing this any further.

No

Do not delete the style guide. Increase the maintenance budget for Bells rather than advocating for more hard surfaces. Make sure survey questions are balanced in future. 3 positive responses and only 1 negative leads to skewed results. Events to be run to suit the reserve, not the other way around. This is not a 'minor' update, what is being proposed is a big change from preserve the natural values and leave it as it is in the 2014 consultation process. No additional carparks. No dressing Bells up as a major tourist destination similar to 12 Apostles or the Penguin Parade. More visits by bylaws officers to crack down on illegal buses/coaches and litter, camping and jumping the fences. Too much influence from Surfing Vic (2 employees) and Torquay Boardriders (3 members) on the Bells Beach Committee. Why exclude Surfrider Foundation?

Leave it as it currently is / respect the traditional owners of the land and the locals.

Don't fix what's not broken

No

The whole area should be managed by the state government through Parks Victoria, DELWP or the new authority. Areas like these should be left to council to manage.

Apart from the storm pits, nothing else needs to change

If it's Wudawurrung land. Let them make the decisions with community input and community funds. Let's not just pretend to respect the land and traditional owners.

Thanks for consulting with the community that use it

Just leave it the way it is there's nothing wrong with it

So many people frequent the area. It makes sense to create spaces for people to enjoy it. I don't know why these plans are always about the surfers. They should not be.

Protect the environmental integrity of the location not make alterations for once a year money making. Install virtual fencing to protect local kangaroos from road trauma

Don't build permanent infrastructure just to accommodate 3 days of the year. Think about those that use the reserve regularly, they are the ones that love and care for it most.

Stop the buses

Keep up the great work in protecting this amazing place

Try to keep the look of any upgrades minimalist to ensure that the focus is on the natural environment.

I don't think picnic tables would be a good idea in this area. Will only encourage more rubbish from tourists.

Leave foot prints /take away memories only.