

*Surf Coast Shire Council acknowledges the  
Wadawurrung people as the traditional owners  
of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve*

BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION  
RESERVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT  
PLAN REVIEW 2018

# Survey Report Summary

OCTOBER 2018

# Summary

## Bells Pop Up Survey

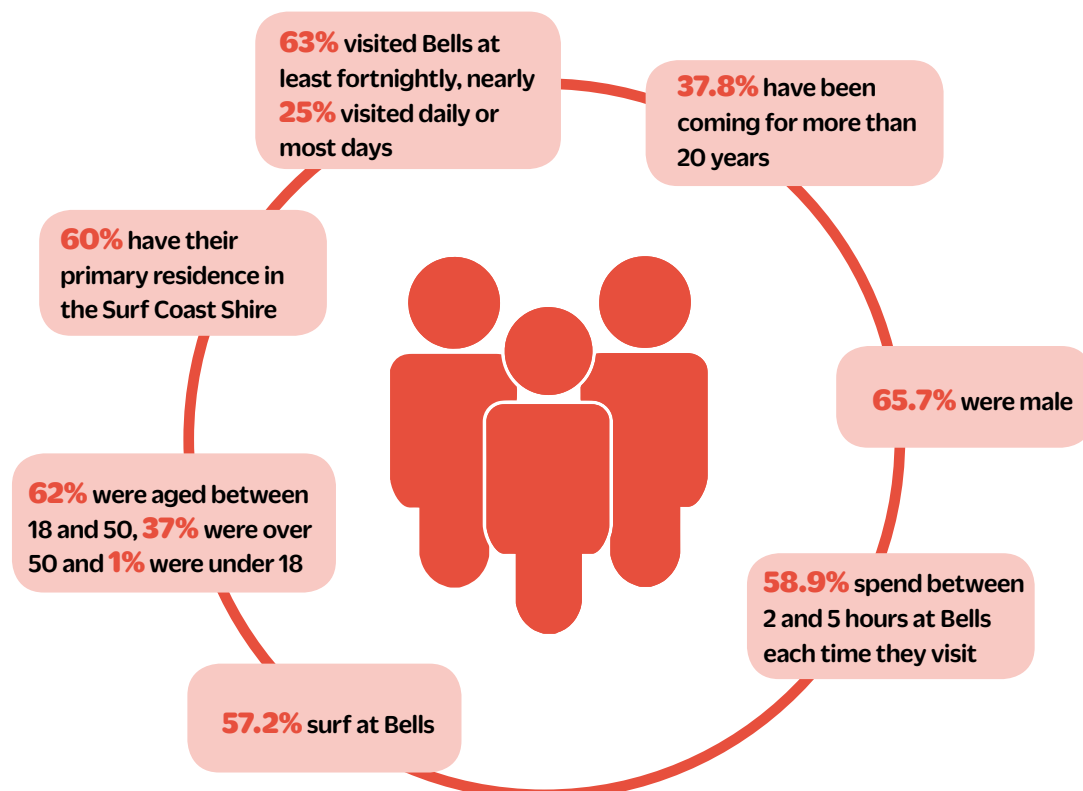
While the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve Coastal Management Plan (CMP) is a long term strategic document setting the vision and the guiding principles for Bells until 2025, Council is required to update the plan regularly. To help with this minor update and with drafting a new Implementation Plan to cover the next three years, the views of reserve users were gathered during the 'Bells Pop Up Survey and Van Chat' held throughout July and August of 2018.

The survey helps us understand how reserve users feel about the conditions at Bells generally and specific management proposals. The survey helps inform us on who is visiting the reserve and how they spend their time.

The Van Chat was designed to ensure regular reserve users who wouldn't normally fill in an online form, had the chance to talk with a staff member and complete a hard copy survey all while enjoying a coffee. We wanted to hear from a large number of people rather than a smaller number willing to attend more detailed planning workshops. For people not able to make it to Bells, the survey was available online from 29 July to 19 August 2018. The survey was widely promoted through online channels and in the print media. In total 502 surveys were completed.

The results of the survey have informed a draft, minor update to the CMP which will be available for further public consultation in mid 2019.

## Snapshot of the demographics of Survey respondents:





A scenic view of a forested hillside. In the foreground, there is a wooden railing and a wooden staircase leading up the hill. The hillside is covered in dense green vegetation and trees. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# Most people visit Bells for more than one activity

Walking

Surfing

Watching events

Sightseeing

Walking with dog

Running

Cycling

Swimming

Event participation

Bird watching

Hang gliding

Environmental work

Watching the surf

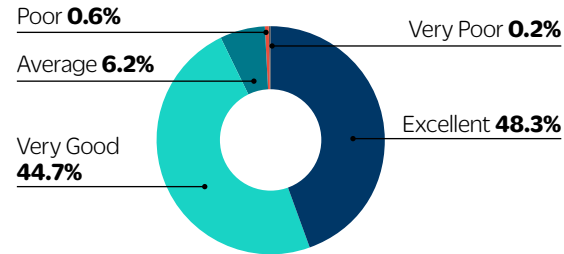
Photography



# What do people think about Bells?



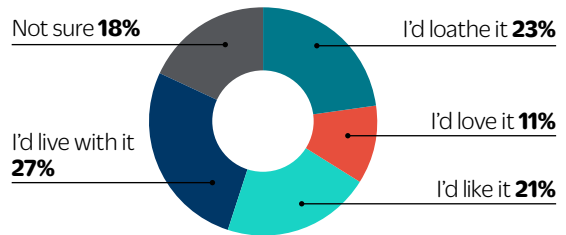
Overall, how has your general experience been at the reserve?



## Pathway adjoining Winki top car park

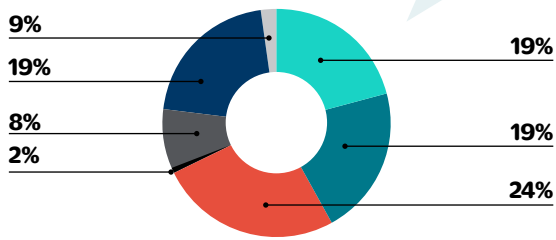
We wanted to know how people felt about potentially changing the pathway adjoining the Winki car park from gravel to a different surface and what the preferred pathway material was.

How would you feel about changing the surface of the Winki main carpark footpath from gravel to a different material?



- Winki top car park pathway
- Path leading to the Hammerhead, lower Bells car park
- Path leading to Winki breaks, potential elevated walkway
- ★ Existing toilet block
- ★ Landing platform at Winki beach

The width of the path (Winki main carpark footpath) would not change but if the surface was changed, which surface material would you support?

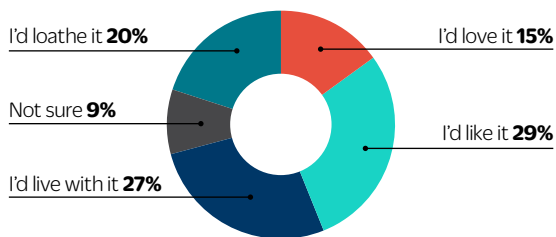


- Textured concrete stone aggregate with similar colour to gravel
- Recycled timber-plastic composite such as Modwood
- Sustainably harvested timber decking
- Fibre-Reinforced Plastic Products such as Envirowalk mesh grid
- I don't support change
- Not sure
- Other

### Pathway leading to the Hammerhead, lower car park

On this steeply sloping section of pathway where the old picnic tables used to stand, there are issues with the gravel washing out when it rains. We wanted to know what people thought about changing the gravel to a more stable surface.

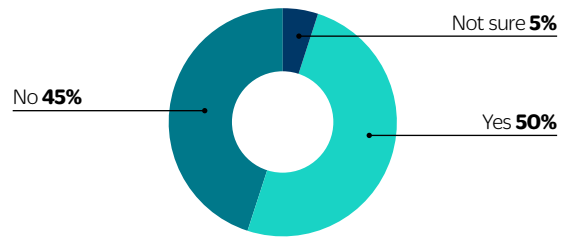
How would you feel about changing this section of gravel to a more stable surface such as textured concrete stone aggregate with a similar colour to the existing gravel?



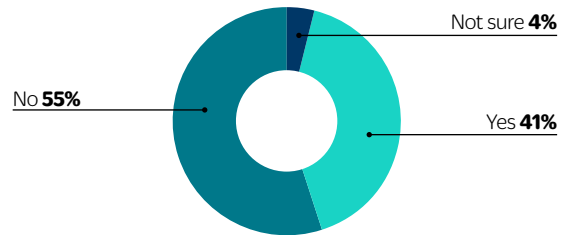
### Path leading to Winki surf breaks – possible change from old concrete pathway to elevated walkway

The old concrete pathway to the Winki surf breaks is due for upgrading. Following the erection of a temporary elevated pathway during the 2018 Rip Curl Pro, we wanted to find out how people felt about replacing a section of the concrete path with an elevated pathway.

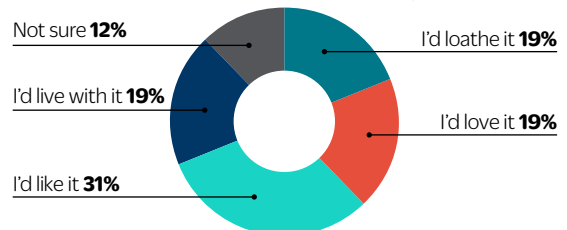
Did you see the temporary elevated pathway?



Did you use the temporary elevated pathway?



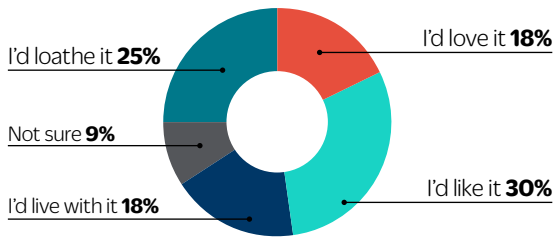
How would you feel if a permanent section of elevated pathway about 40m long replaced this concrete path?



### Landing platform at the end of the Winki stairs

The steps to the beach at Winki end on large uneven rocks. It had been suggested a landing at the base of the stairs could improve access and safety. We asked people how they felt about this proposal.

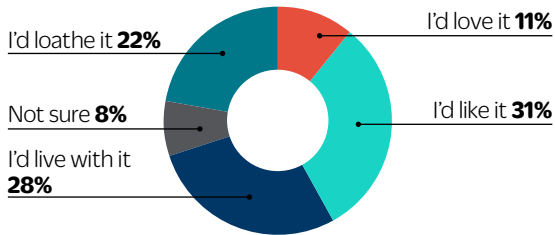
*How would you feel about the installation of a small landing at the base of the stairs at Winki beach?*



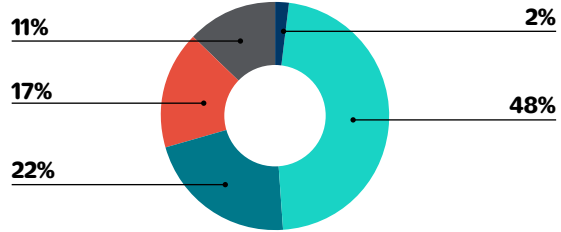
### Potential for material other than timber being used for infrastructure at Bells such as stairs and lookouts

With increasing community discussion about sustainability and recycling, we wanted to hear how people felt about materials other than timber and what they felt about different construction materials.

*How would you feel about materials other than timber being incorporated into the beach access stairs and lookout on a maintenance needs basis?*



*If materials other than timber were incorporated which materials would you support?*

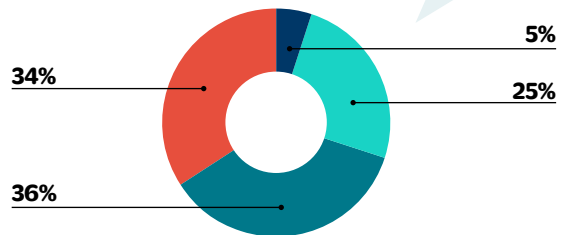


- Recycled timber-plastic composite such as Modwood
- Fibre-Reinforced Plastic Products such as Envirowalk mesh grid
- I don't support change
- Not sure
- Other

### The future of toilet facilities at Bells

We need to consider the future of the existing toilet block at Bells. While no works are planned for the next three years, we have to start planning as the existing building is about 30 years old, does not have compliant access for people with mobility restrictions, is not water or energy efficient and is not convenient for people using the upper car park. The mural on the external wall is difficult to maintain and the Wadawurrung are keen to explore other interpretation opportunities to tell their story.

*With the above matters in mind, which of the following options do you prefer?*

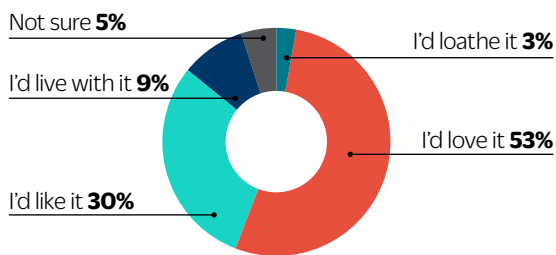


- Retain the existing toilet block and undertake an internal refurbishment
- Demolish the existing toilet block and \*on the same site\* construct a new water and energy efficient building which blends in with the environment
- Demolish the existing toilet block and \*in a new location\* such as the mulched area west of the car park, construct a new water and energy efficient building which blends in with the environment eg. recessed into the slope, has an earthen roof etc.
- Other, please specify

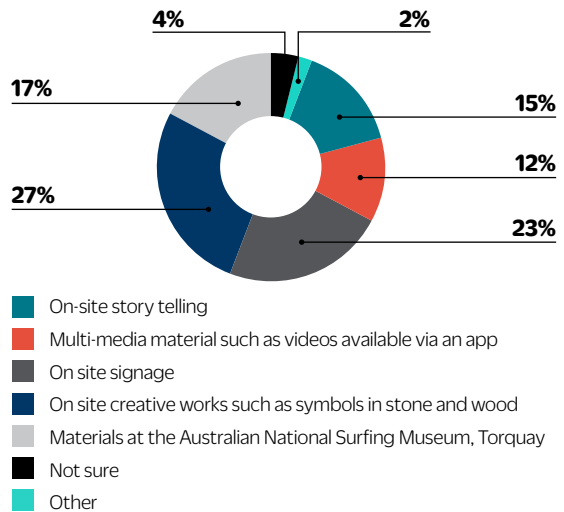
### Interpretation of indigenous and surfing culture and the natural environment

We wanted to hear if people thought improving understanding of indigenous, surfing and environmental values was important and if so, how they thought this could be achieved.

*How do you feel about improving knowledge of the indigenous, surfing and environmental values of Bells?*



*What type of interpretation material would you support?*



## The next steps

The results of the survey along with the existing vision and guiding principles and the new Marine and Coastal Act 2018, have been used to inform an updated draft marine and coastal management plan for Bells and a new Implementation Plan. These documents will be available for further public consultation in mid 2019.

## More detailed survey results

This summary provides an overview of the results of the Bells Pop Up Survey and Van Chat. A more detailed report has been compiled and can be viewed on our website

## Thank you

Thanks to all the people who made the time to respond to survey and chat with us down at Bells. We were thrilled to hear directly from so many of you.



