

'What We Heard' Dog Beach Community Consultation

Community Feedback from Community Engagement Session
29 May 2022 and online on Engage Victoria
29 May 2022 to 10 July 2022



Borough of Queenscliffe
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia

delwp.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

'What We Heard' Dog Beach Community Consultation

DELWP and the Borough of Queenscliffe are developing a Coastal Adaptation Plan for Dog Beach, Point Lonsdale. Community consultation was conducted to gain community feedback on six proposed adaptation options for the beach.

The consultation was undertaken at an in-person engagement session held at Queenscliff Football and Netball Club on 29 May 2022, and also on-line on the Engage Victoria website from 29 May to 10 July 2022.

For each option, participants were asked:

- **What are the advantages of the option?**
- **What are the disadvantages of the option?**
- **To share any other thoughts about the option**

Thirty-two submissions were received, and this is what we heard:

Option 1 – Minimal Intervention and Improved Public Safety

There were 29 responses for option 1, 19 were positive, 5 were neutral and 5 were negative.

Option 1 was by far the most favoured option with the majority of respondents providing positive feedback to this option. Very few participants responded negatively to this option. Beach amenity, specifically retaining a wide natural beach for dog walking, was a common concern along with the use of public money with several participants noting this was the least costly option.

"Best option for maintaining as an off leash dog beach, given there are no other leash free areas available."

"The main advantage of this option is that it maintains public amenity. Continued use of a 'natural' beach and access to the bush track, albeit re-routed in some areas. The extended fencing is a low visual impact solution."

Option 2 – Dune Management

There were 24 responses for option 2, 5 were positive, 5 were neutral and 14 were negative.

Option 2 was not well supported with most participants responding negatively to this option. The general perception is that this option would not succeed, in part as it has been attempted at this site previously. Ongoing maintenance and cost were also raised as concerns.

"Unlikely to succeed due to the topography of this particular dune site, will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance, failure risk too high and unlikely impacts may develop requiring further cost."

A few participants were mildly in favour of this option as it does not restrict amenity.

"Beach access remains easy and feel would be retained"

Additionally, some participants thought this option was viable in conjunction with other options.

Option 3 – Beach Nourishment

There were 24 responses for option 3, 5 were positive, 4 were neutral and 15 were negative.

Option 3 was also not well supported with most participants responding negatively to this option. The main concerns were the cost, that each nourishment is a temporary solution, and that beach amenity would be restricted whilst the nourishment occurs.

"It is a costly temporary solution that will be washed away in a short time period."

Option 4 – Groynes

There were 26 responses for option 4, 9 were positive, 1 was neutral and 16 were negative.

Option 4 had the largest mix of favourable and non-favourable responses, but the overall feedback was negative. The positive feedback included that it would trap sand and reduce erosion at this site.

"The dune face is stabilised & further erosion is limited."

The negative feedback and concerns included cost, lack of beach amenity during construction, erosion further along the beach, safety to people crossing

'What We Heard' Dog Beach Community Consultation

between compartments, submerged rocks, and the lack of natural wide beach.

"cost, moves the erosion further along, loss of dog beach at this location"

"Expensive, ugly, dangerous to public, destroys amenity of the beach, should be avoided at all costs."

Option 5 – Rock Revetment

There were 22 responses for option 5, 8 were positive, 2 were neutral and 12 were negative.

Option 5 had very similar responses to Option 4 – Groynes, again with the overall feedback being negative.

The positive feedback was that it addresses the erosion at the Dog Beach site.

"addresses the problem at this point for the longer term"

Like option 4, the main concerns included cost, erosion further along the beach and the loss of the current wide beach.

"No beach for half the time. ugly. destroys much of the attraction of the beach as it stands."

"There is not any mitigation against the impacts of this option on the new scour bight further along the beach. The effect of this strategy may be worse than the current situation."

Option 6 – Offshore Breakwater

There were 21 responses for option 6, 4 were positive, 4 were neutral and 13 were negative.

Option 6 was the least favourable option with strong negative feedback, and no exceptionally favourable responses. This option also had the smallest number of responses. The main concerns were the lack of certainty of success for this option, the cost, and the disturbance to natural systems and marine life.

"This seems like a major work with no guarantee of addressing erosion problem"

"There has already been considerable disruption to the bay via dredging over past years to widen the shipping channel with impacts on marine life, sea grasses and reef systems."

Not what residents want for this unique area, we value the environment we have."

Overall concerns:

The overall concerns raised by participants were losing beach amenity and somewhere for off leash dog walking, along with losing the natural character of the beach.

Other suggestions:

A few participants suggested that the erosion should be left to occur and a bridge to Queenscliff should be built when needed.

Other participants suggested implementing options in combination especially Dune Management in combination with more engineered options such as a Rock Revetment and a few suggested having a staged approach.

"The "Progressive Rock Revetment" may be the best solution. In this option the wall would be extended about 150-200m* every say 20-25* years so that a new scour area and beach forms at the new end. The area behind the new section of rock wall would be reconstructed and vegetated knowing that it would be protected. When the new scour area became too extensive and permanent damage could occur, the rockwall would be extended again creating a new beach at the new end. This progressive approach would continue along the beach."

Next steps:

The final report will be made available on the Engage Victoria website on the 15 September 2022.

DELWP and Borough of Queenscliffe wish to thank the participants who provided valuable feedback which will be used into future planning decisions

'What We Heard' Dog Beach Community Consultation

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2022



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Printed by <Insert Name of printer - Suburb>

ISBN XXX-X-XXXXX-XXX-X (print) [How to obtain an ISBN or an ISSN](#)

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DELWP Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au (or insert relevant address), or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

OFFICIAL