

Cape to Cape Resilience Project

STAGE 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS OCTOBER 2021



Community Engagement Findings

The Cape to Cape Resilience Project is a long-term coastal hazard adaptation project, to plan for managing future changes to coastal areas between Cape Paterson and Cape Liptrap.

Introduction

From late July to early September, we invited people who live in or visit Inverloch, Venus Bay and nearby communities to share their local coastal values and experiences of coastal hazards, such as erosion. This update provides a snapshot of what we heard, greater detail will be shown in the Community Values Study.

We've heard perspectives from many people, and we thank everyone who contributed to the activities.

What were we asking?

Using a range of methods – a survey, interactive map and story board, we asked people to share what they value most about the Cape to Cape region and what makes the region so special. We asked people to:

- think about what was really important and meaningful to them for their coastal areas
- share their understanding and experiences of coastal hazards
- contribute ideas to build resilience, adapt to change and help retain values into the future.

Consultation was promoted through social media, emails, local media, and the [Cape to Cape webpage](#).

Who did we hear from?

We had over 2,000 visitors to the website, this included:

- 180 surveys completed
- Nearly 180 pins on our interactive map
- 80 people following the project

63% of respondents were residents of the region, with **53%** living within 1km of the coast.

28% of respondents were holiday home owners.

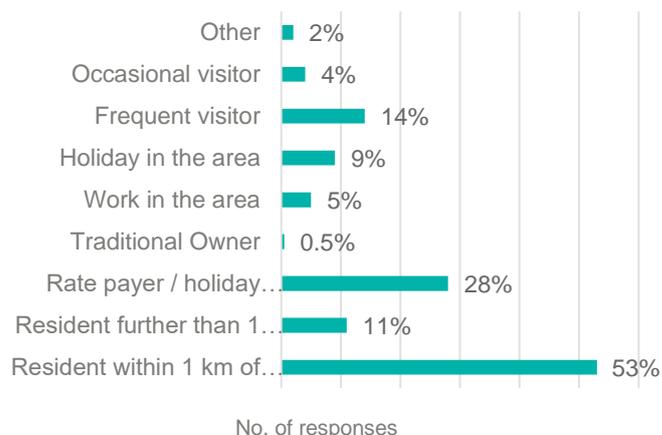


Figure 1: Consultation respondents by location

Respondents mostly came from these areas:

- Inverloch (**38%**)
- Greater Melbourne (**19%**)
- Venus Bay (**14%**)

Acknowledgment

DELWP and the partner agencies of the Inverloch Regional and Strategic Partnership acknowledge and respect that the land and sea is of spiritual, cultural, and economic importance to Aboriginal people.

The Cape to Cape Resilience Project lies on the traditional lands of the Bunurong, Gunaikurnai and Boon Wurrung. We honour Elders past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We recognise the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to Country and acknowledge their contribution in the management of Victoria's marine and coastal environments.



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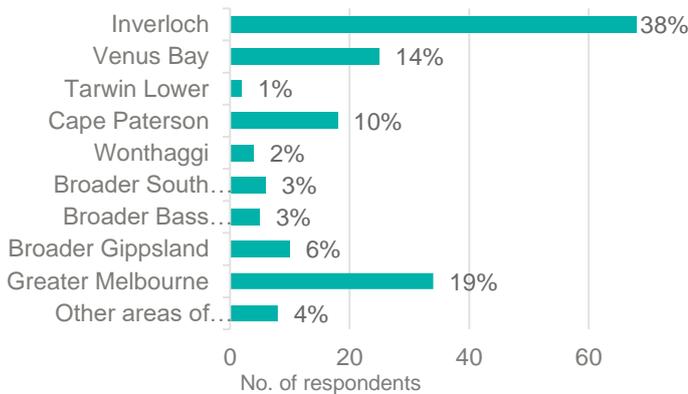


Figure 2: Consultation respondents by location

Most respondents were aged over 55 (56%), with fewer respondents in the under 35 age range (8%).

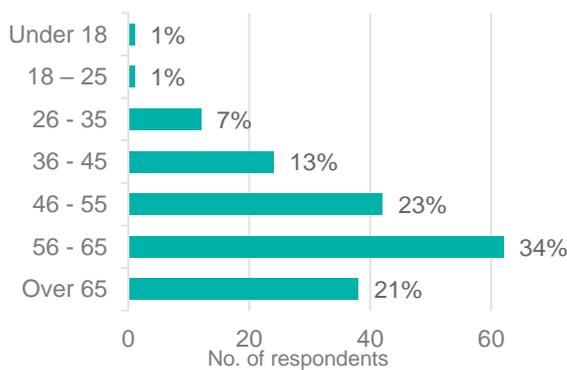


Figure 3: Consultation respondents by age

Key findings

The themes that arose across many questions included:

Values

Our respondents visit the coast regularly, with two thirds visiting at least once a week.

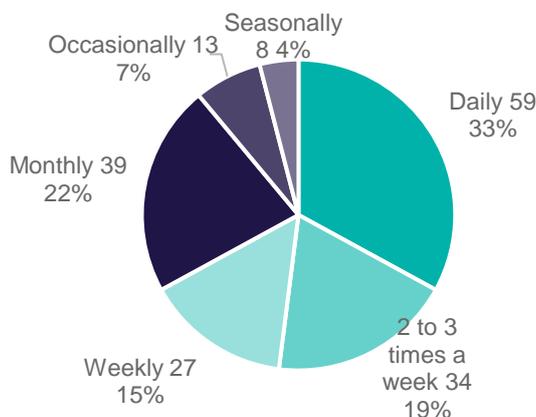


Figure 4: How frequently respondents visit the coast

Some of the things that people felt were really important and unique about the Cape to Cape area included:

- **Recreation** - opportunities for walking, cycling, surfing, boating, swimming, relaxing
- **Native flora and fauna** - including preservation of habitat for key species and managing threats
- **Landscape** - coastal views, sandy beaches, land and seascapes, including peaceful settings and small town character
- **Healthy ecosystems** - functioning coastal and marine ecosystems, with biolinks and connectivity
- **Heritage and unique history** - both Aboriginal heritage and European history, including stories, special sites and specific assets.
- **Safe access** - All abilities and safe access for everyone to enjoy the beaches and foreshore of the region

We asked people to pick the top three things they thought attracted people to visiting and living in the Cape to Cape region.



Landscapes, natural beauty

127 responses



Recreational opportunities

113 responses



The beach and open coast

103 responses



Natural ecosystems and wildlife

84 responses

Change and hazards

Two thirds of respondents felt they had a good or very good understanding of coastal hazards and 75% said that it was very likely the Cape to Cape area would be affected by coastal hazards in the future.

This saw 77% of respondents saying that a lot more planning and preparation is required to prepare for these hazards.

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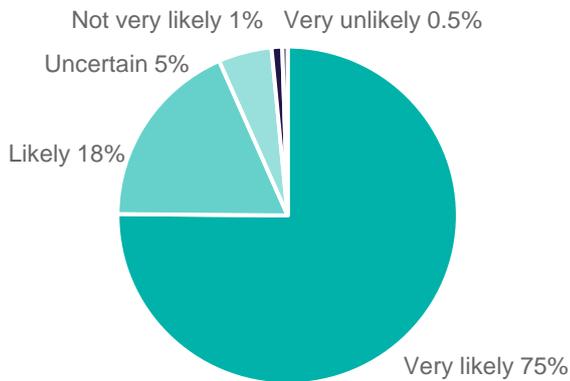


Figure 5: Survey respondents views on the likelihood the Cape to Cape region will be affected by coastal hazards in the future

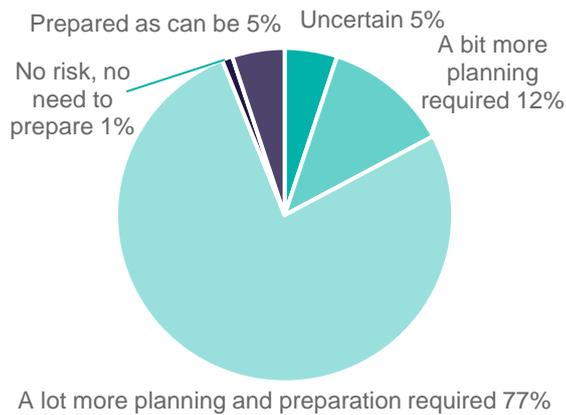


Figure 6: Survey respondents views on the planning and preparedness required for community and coast to withstand and recover from coastal hazards in the future



Figure 7: Impacts of erosion at Inverloch surf beach, 21/07/20
Photo credit: Karyn Bugela

Many people had seen changes across the dynamic coastal zone and had some experience of coastal hazards.

Some key themes were:

- **Dynamic** - coastal zones are dynamic and change with every tide
- **Erosion** – people had more experiences with erosion than other hazards such as coastal flooding or groundwater impacts
- **Sandy beaches** – loss of beaches and access were seen as key coastal hazard impacts
- **Rate of change** - many were surprised and concerned at the rate of coastal change they had seen
- **Habitat and vegetation** - people were worried about the loss of vegetation and habitat
- **Assets and infrastructure** – people also voiced concern for impacts on road access, residential properties and open space assets.

Ideas

While we'll be exploring potential adaptation actions in more detail later in the project, we asked people to think about their ideas for building resilience in the Cape to Cape region. Ideas included:



Planning updates



Education and stewardship activities



Modifying and moving infrastructure



Access management and dune enhancement



Eco-sensitive design



Engineering opportunities

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People also highlighted that research and building knowledge about the coastal environment was important, as well as taking broader action on climate change.

As the project progresses, we will continue to build on these adaptation ideas for how the Cape to Cape region and community can potentially increase its resilience.



Figure 8: Saltmarsh wetland on the shores of Anderson Inlet
Photo credit: Sarah Gilligan

Next steps

We will be incorporating all of the feedback we heard, along with information from document reviews and other data sources into a Community Values Study.

The study will identify what the community and stakeholders value about the Cape to Cape coast to help inform upcoming analyses, including understanding potential vulnerabilities and risks to these values, and shaping our approach to adaptation.

The technical studies being completed are essential to

inform detailed design and implementation of any coastal management or protection works. The studies also enable us to assess different options and their impact on the beach. The wrong approach could result in damage to the dune system, substantial loss of the high tide beach and changes to the surf break.

While the technical work progresses, short term works and emergency response will continue to be implemented and monitored by the Inverloch Coastal Protection Interagency Working Group.



Figure 9: Beautiful rockpools which are highly exposed at super low tides. Lots to explore
Photo credit: Lisa Nicholls

Keep up to date with the Cape to Cape Project:

- Visit the project website: marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/cape-to-cape-resilience-project
- Sign up to receive project updates or ask us a question – email capetocape.project@delwp.vic.gov.au

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