



Tackling Coastal Erosion on Ocean Grove Main Beach

Community Open House Series One

Summary Report

Barwon Coast held two Community Open Houses on the Ocean Grove Main Beach Coastal Erosion Project. The Open Houses were held on Thurs 10th Oct 4-7pm and Sat 13th Oct 10am to 1pm. This document summarises the Open House approach and the community feedback received at these events.



Promotion:

The Open Houses were promoted for the month prior through:

- Barwon Coast update columns in 3 local newspapers;
- a media release which was widely picked up by the Bellarine Times, Echo and Ocean Grove Voice;
- CEO direct email to key stakeholders inviting them to request a one-on-one meeting;
- Social media including a video by CEO which received 1500 views
- Signs at major beach access-ways at Ocean Grove Main Beach
- A sign out the front of the Open House venue on the day

Before consultation commenced, we also did a number of things to ensure a basic level of information was publicly available on the project on our webpage;

<http://www.barwoncoast.com.au/15w-ramp>.

Attendance

13 people attended the Thurs night open house and 5 on the Saturday. All engaged well with BCCM staff and the Water Technology consultant, left written feedback and registered to be kept up to date on the project. Ocean Grove Coastcare, OGSLS & OG Community Association all attended.

Method

A series of displays were put up at the Open House detailing the project, the coastal processes at Ocean Grove Main Beach, a timeline of the site and a Community Input area. These displays can be accessed on the Barwon Coast website at





<http://www.barwoncoast.com.au/15w-ramp>

Community Feedback

The community were asked to detail their objectives for Ocean Grove Main Beach and what they valued about the site. We received these responses:

- Have noticed many kids and adults who are probably not local playing in the crumbling sand dunes in summer - very risky behaviour, even playing under overhangs.
- I see an urgent need for education and increased signage to inform people of the dangers and need to stay out of sand dunes for safety AND environmental protection.
- Would not like to see any more infrastructure development, carparks and facilities etc.
- A beach that has high usage but retains natural values and habitats for wildlife (two ticks)
- Need more pedestrian beach access points from car park to beach
- Easy access to main beach, especially on hot summer days, along with everybody else.
- Long stretch of beach. Natural features - dunes, reefs, home for wildlife, hooded plovers (two ticks)
- I use the beach for recreational activity, especially with my companion animal (dog). I enjoy interacting with other dog friendly people; however I follow the rules and ensure 'effective control' is maintained. I also enjoy the aesthetic aspect of this coastal area and don't appreciate over-development if facilities and structures. Finally, and most importantly as an animal advocate, I have concerns for wildlife and avoiding impacting their habitats! Thinking about humans - I want access for all abilities and age groups.
- Like to education for user to assist in preservation - stay out of dunes, vegetation etc.
- Beach is accessible for all and good to use all year round.
- Long, clean, beautiful beach, good parking, easy access, excellent amenities, safe, need to do more to protect the ti-tree foliage areas and sand dunes, especially during summer tourism season.
- While I want to protect wildlife (eg. Plovers), I have massive concerns about the use of some baits (eg. compound 1080) on 'target pest' species. Alternatives must be looked at. This poison is the LEAST humane option to address foxes and cats etc.
- Highly accessible, fantastic beach for recreational pursuits. Community hub where there is a sense of connection to 'land' and community

The community were also asked to provide their thoughts on a number of coastal erosion protection treatment options used elsewhere in Australia. The treatment options were displayed and the community asked to answer two questions about each:

- What do you LIKE about this protection approach?; and
- What do you NOT LIKE about this protection approach?

Community feedback for each option is listed below. Note responses with a '*' beside them indicate other community members showed their support for this comment by placing a tick beside it.

Sea Wall



This is what the community told us they LIKE about this protection approach

- Gives solid permanent protection to sand dunes
- Very effective to stabilise, but ugly
- Very thorough and long lasting
- Hard vertical wall results in beach lowering. Can other profiles be better to reduce energy/sand loss
- still looks like a beach
- Will result in loss of beach at high tide
- Stable but unnatural aesthetically
- Modular concrete might be effective in less powerful beaches but perhaps not OG
- Protects the fenced area effectively

This is what the community told us they did NOT LIKE about this protection approach

- Concrete taking over a natural environment *
- hazardous in surf conditions
- too many made and formal - not good for a natural setting *
- manmade, unnatural artificial *
- kills the beach : (no sand) *
- unnatural artificial (step approach) **
- Quite severe causes more erosion at ends of structure
- Steps are too artificial and would cause more erosion
- Pushes water elsewhere causing problems down the beach

Rockwall Rough



This is what the community told us they LIKE about this protection approach

- The colour of rock *
- looks like natural feature *
- appears natural *
- Looks more natural as long as a gentle slope - not severe wall
- Natural, effective

This is what the community told us they did NOT LIKE about this protection approach

- Sand will still wash away and damage sand dunes
- dangerous for people walking along there
- causes more erosion and loss of beach
- unsafe for people to walk across - hard to get to water *
- increased risk for injuries *
- makes access difficult *
- Where do you access rocks from?
- Erosion still problems at end of wall
- Huge 'inaccessibility'

Rockwall Smooth



This is what the community told us they LIKE about this protection approach

- Colour of rocks ***
- profile of rock matches natural dune slope **
- looks more natural if rocks match sand bar
- (basalt Barwon River peers Crescent pic) has tendency for small in-fill rocks to be pulled out by vandals and scattered on beach
- worth investigating
- natural
- wildlife friendly
- Some rock walls might work and look ok - rough seas
- Practical, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing

This is what the community told us they did NOT LIKE about this protection approach

- Looks hard (though left image fits better with natural landscape)**
- black basalt does not blend into 'yellow' sand dune *
- sandstone is much lighter than basalt and may not resist big waves
- no sandy beach (narrow from peers crescent image)
- Too severe and not gentle natural slope - erosion will occur either end

Sand Replenishment



This is what the community told us they LIKE about this protection approach

- A natural option, closest to natural beach ****
- Unfortunately easily washed away
- Easily eroded but more natural looking, could combine with rocks, wood and plant cover
- Nothing

This is what the community told us they did NOT LIKE about this protection approach

- Query length of effectiveness (time) **
- Easily washed away ***
- Temporary *
- No vegetation to cover to build sand ***
- Where do you take the sand from - another beach?
- Short term fix for long term issue

Geobags



This is what the community told us they LIKE about this protection approach

- Looks like a natural beach, able to be protected with sand brought in
- Looks better than rocks
- Fits in better in natural landscape
- People friendly - can be walked over
- natural action of beach still visible *
- Looks unnatural but maybe practical and feasible
- Probably cost less
- Effective & long-lasting (simple)

This is what the community told us they did NOT LIKE about this protection approach

- Needs constant sand brought in to maintain *
- Ugly and looks temporary. Query length of solution *
- Maintenance required
- Looks unnatural
- It does look like a flood wall

Sea Barrier



This is what the community told us they LIKE about this protection approach

Helps maintain natural look of beach

Partial low cost treatment

Low cost horizontal large planks as in centre pc might work and also act as a barrier/fence

Looks pretty

This is what the community told us they did NOT LIKE about this protection approach

Doesn't work, look at the sand dunes at RAAF's **

Partially effective

Only partially work

Not especially effective

What next?

Barwon Coast will be working with coastal engineers from Water Technology to develop draft concepts for a new ramp and erosion protection works. The community values for the area as well as the specific feedback on each potential protection treatment will be considered alongside other evaluation items such as cost and effectiveness in protecting against erosion in choosing and designing the draft treatment concepts.

Can I still get involved?

Yes! A series of 'Listening Posts' will be held on the Ocean Grove Main Beach to display draft concepts for a new ramp and erosion protection works. The details of these are listed on our webpage <http://www.barwoncoast.com.au/15w-ramp>

We also invite anyone with interest in this project to contact us at Barwon Coast on 5254 1118 or email office@barwoncoast.com.au