

At The Heads Refurbishment Project

Community consultation report

August 2024





Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land, waters, seas and skies of Collendina, Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads 13th Beach and Breamlea. We honour and say Nyatne (thank you) to Elders past, present and future whose ancestors, for thousands of years, have cared for this part of Dja (Country)



Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) is appointed by the Victorian State Government to manage 19km of the coast along Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula. This includes the beaches and foreshores of Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, 13th Beach, and Breamlea.

In partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Barwon Coast's charter is to protect and enhance the natural environment and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy these areas.

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Introduction

'At The Heads' restaurant and kiosk at the Barwon Heads jetty, is 25 years old and needs an upgrade to continue to meet industry standards and improve the internal functioning of the restaurant. The restaurant is on coastal Crown land managed by Barwon Coast through a lease arrangement with Short Game Pty Ltd. The restaurant and kiosk provide a passive way for visitors and the local community to enjoy and experience the coast.

'At The Heads' was converted to a restaurant in the early 2000's from a historical fisherman's co-op building. The proposed works are within the existing lease area and include the following elements:

- (i) realignment of the building footprint and roofline to consolidate the 'back of house area' (including improvements to the kitchen, cool room, freezer, dry store)
- (ii) relocation of the historic 'Boot Room', that is currently used as part of the restaurant dry storage area
- (iii) retention of the existing kiosk and the installation of new public seating area adjoining the kiosk.

This report provides information on the community consultation process including the online survey from 5-25 August 2024. There was also a community information drop-in session on 18 August, that provided an opportunity for people to view the plans and also ask any questions of the Barwon Coast or At The Heads planning consultants.

A City of Greater Geelong planning permit process is also underway, and the community were able to make submissions to the proposed plans through this process.

Engagement summary



Spoke to 20 community members



1 drop-in information session



68 online survey responses



956 visits to the project webpage

Online survey

The community online survey was open for three weeks from 5-25 August and aimed to gather feedback on the refurbishment plans from a foreshore user experience.

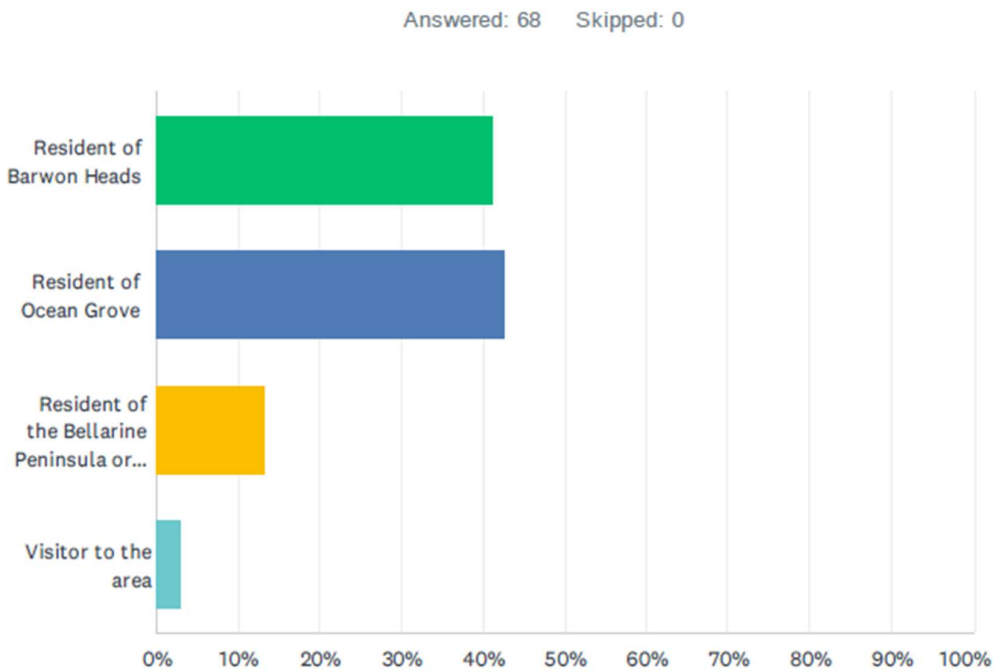
The survey was promoted on Barwon Coast's website, social media platforms, social and print advertising and at face-to-face event.

- Overall, there were 68 survey responses, 77% of whom noted they had viewed the proposed plans.
- 95% of respondents understood or somewhat understood the need for the proposed works.

- 85% of respondents were very supportive, or mostly supportive of the works that related to the outside of the building, 15% of respondents were somewhat supportive.
- 93% of respondents were very supportive, mostly supportive or somewhat supportive of the new public seating area. 7% were not supportive.

Snapshot of the key responses

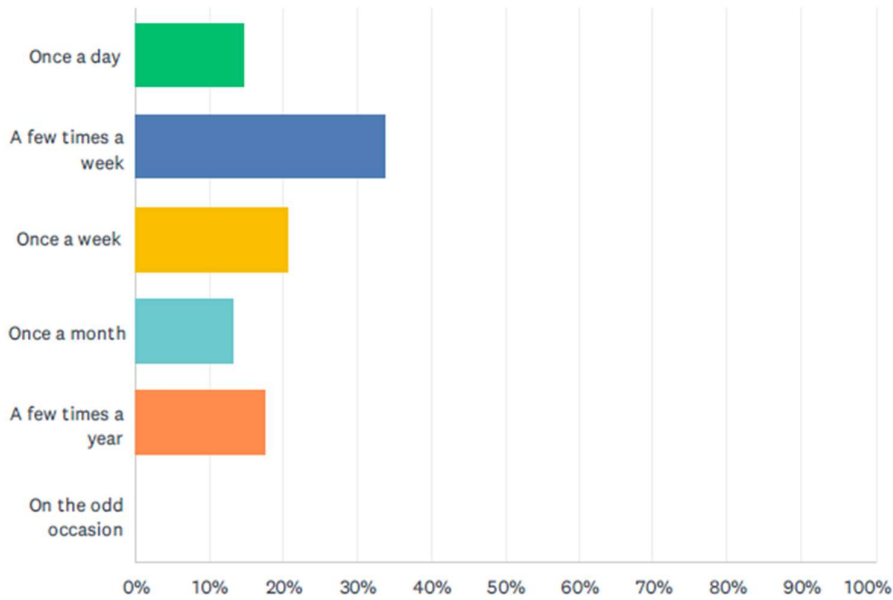
Connection to the foreshore around 'At The Heads' restaurant



At The Heads restaurant, in Barwon Heads

How often would you visit the Barwon Heads foreshore near 'At The Heads' restaurant

Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Once a day	14.71%	10
A few times a week	33.82%	23
Once a week	20.59%	14
Once a month	13.24%	9
A few times a year	17.65%	12
On the odd occasion	0.00%	0
TOTAL		68

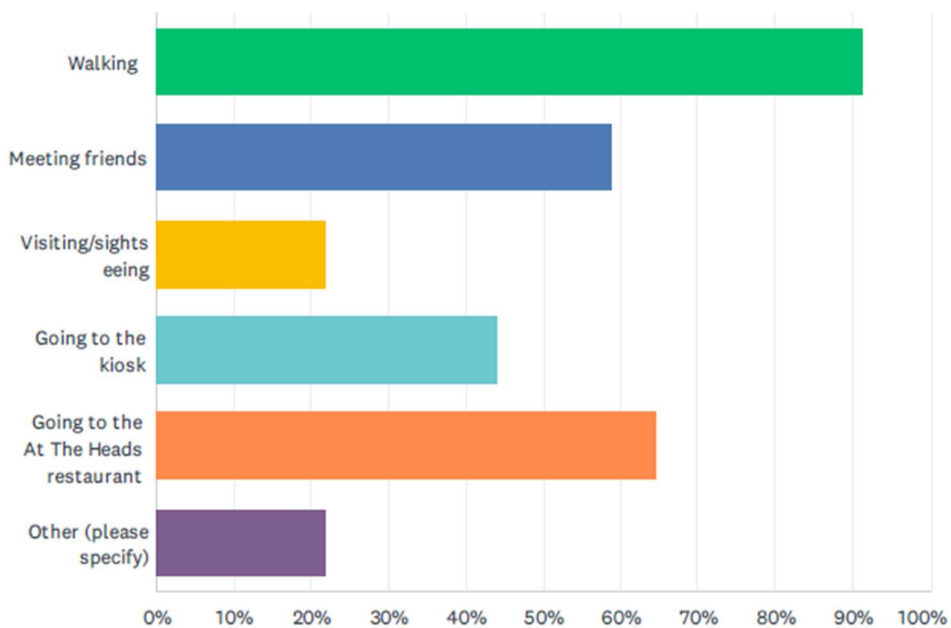
What do you most value about visiting Barwon Heads foreshore near 'At The Heads' restaurant

Spectacular outlook and ties in historical elements of the towns development	Character
Small town vibe	History
The simplicity and unsophisticated nature of the area	Great walking paths with access to great quality eateries
Family activities	The scenery
Meeting friends in great venue	Relaxed vibe
The views	Atmosphere
Natural rustic landscape	The serenity
That is closes at the reasonable time, we are impacted by music and guest send off by weddings at night time	Connection to fishing industry and memories the buildings and surrounds invoke

Kids being on the beach	Calm
Peaceful	Beautiful scenery
Ambience	Historic connection
Icon bluff and views	Green open space
Formal walking paths	Proximity to river
Ease of walking	Quiet calm setting with world class views of river
Walking along boardwalk	Not too busy
Coastal charm of Barwon Heads	History of fishing co op
Ever changing scenery	Proximity to town
Area not too cluttered with buildings and beach easily accessible	Seaside village vibe
Jetty and spit	Beautiful riverside
Seachange tv series	Smell of ocean
Historical significance of old jetty and boot room	Access for prams and wheel chair on boardwalk
Lovely wooden structure	Natural shoreline
Easy beach access for SUP, kayak, swimming	Protection from the wind
The bluff and bridge	View of estuary and changing moods

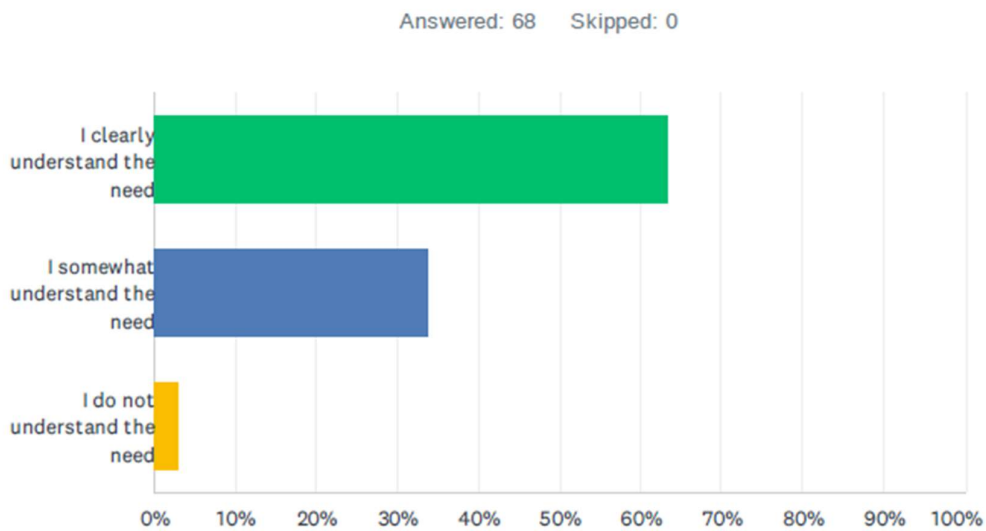
What activities to you do when visiting the Barwon Heads foreshore near 'At The Heads' restaurant

Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	91.18%	62
Meeting friends	58.82%	40
Visiting/sightseeing	22.06%	15
Going to the kiosk	44.12%	30
Going to the At The Heads restaurant	64.71%	44
Other (please specify)	22.06%	15
Total Respondents: 68		

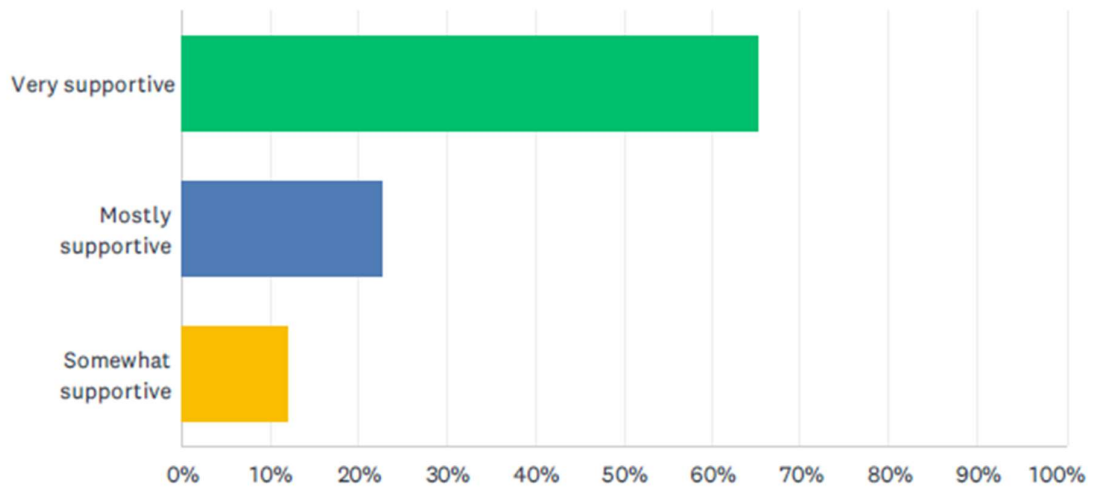
Do you have a sense of the overall need for the works (ie: works are needed to upgrade the facility to meet industry standards and improve the internal functioning of the restaurant)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I clearly understand the need	63.24%	43
I somewhat understand the need	33.82%	23
I do not understand the need	2.94%	2
TOTAL		68

For the works that relate to the outside of the building, are you supportive of the overall look and feel and how it blends with the existing building

Answered: 66 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very supportive	65.15%	43
Mostly supportive	22.73%	15
Somewhat supportive	12.12%	8
TOTAL		66

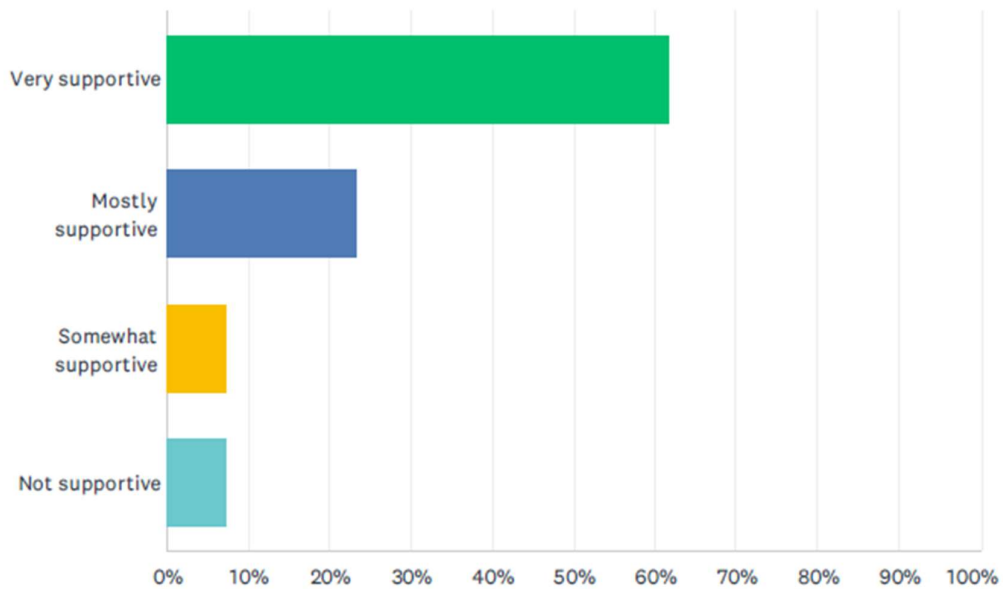
Any comments on the external design

Public path around the restaurant needs to be maintained and accessible to public at all times	Not big change to this iconic building, going 'up market' will spoil the casual nature of the area
Keep the look traditional beachy	It has been very considered and will look beautiful
Should remain coastal and in keeping with the existing structure, weatherboard look/appearance	Excellent design
Find a better way to receive deliveries as current location is dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists	Keep the colour
Like the current colours and coastal feel	Do not change the colours, do not extend the footprint on any of the jetty/river sides as the colours and footprint relate to the historic connection to fishing industry

Like to see Barwon Heads vibe maintained	Leave as is, tenant should be able to work within existing constraints
Should be done by skilled artisans and not detract	I love the seachange vibe it once had
Will make it look like one building instead of a number of "lean toos"	Is in keeping with overall history of jetty
Sensitive and appropriate it is well thought out	Keep colours simple, keep it coastal, no concrete or nothing modern
Retention of historic colour scheme	Within keeping of the original building
With each refurbishment we seem to take it further away from the feel of the co-op	Don't change it, dolphins were painted by local artist who used to have a gallery in the boot room
Important to retain building style and colours	When football/netball is on parking is a problem- consider redesign of car park to be more efficient.
It takes away from the seaside feel	

For the works that relate to the new public seating area near the kiosk are you supportive of this element

Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very supportive	61.76%	42
Mostly supportive	23.53%	16
Somewhat supportive	7.35%	5
Not supportive	7.35%	5
TOTAL		68

Other feedback on the works that relate to the new public seating area near the kiosk

It's already a very busy place in summer	Seating area looks nice but small can you add more seating on the other side of kiosk where the bins are
Looks great	Minimise visual impact
Good for community	Area on ocean side needs to be utilised
Good to see community asset being rejuvenated	Showcase our beautiful views
Will be an asset instead of sitting on seawall	Have the kiosk open longer
Do not support the seating works	Don't think seating is required, it's a quick stop for a coffee walking past, might add more rubbish/waste going into the ocean
Concerned about removal of existing vegetation, hope to see significant plantings in the area	Kiosk to have seating
Longer opening hour	Mindful of timeframe and disruption it will cause
Like improvement to seating area	Good use of under utilised area
Ensure rubbish bins in area where seats are (for empty coffee cups)	Shade will be great
Keep it minimal, people can sit on the beach	Will there be a grass seating area, like to see an area to sit on bean bags or cushions on the grass area on the non kiosk side of the restaurant
Hopefully kept dog free	There is a current lack of accessibility for people, they have stopped doing breakfast, often closed for weddings, don't go there much anymore as it's more difficult.

Thank you

Barwon Coast would like to acknowledge all community members for their feedback. This information will be considered by Barwon Coast in the Marine and Coastal Act consent process.

Thank you for helping us care for the coast.

For further information on the proposed works as they relate to the City of Greater Geelong planning permit process, please visit their website.

Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc.

7 Ewing Blyth Drive
Barwon Heads VIC 3227

P: 03 5254 1118

E: office@barwoncoast.com.au

www.barwoncoast.com.au