



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

APOLLO BAY HARBOUR REDEVELOPMENT | NOVEMBER 2021

Community Engagement: 1 November 2021 – 15 November 2021

From 1 to 15 November 2021, the Geelong City Deal project team for the Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment project invited the local community to tell us their thoughts on the concept designs for the proposed redevelopment of the Harbour.

This was the first time the community had an opportunity to view the designs since the Apollo Bay Development Plan was released in December 2020. The presentation materials were uploaded to the ['Have Your Say'](#) section of the Colac Otway Shire Council website and two online sessions were scheduled on Tuesday 9 November and Thursday 11 November to allow community members to ask questions of the project team and design consultants.

This project is funding upgrades to the Harbour precinct that covers five main areas:

- a new waterfront promenade and boardwalk along the Harbour's edge
- a new port operations depot with public amenities
- upgrades to Harbour precinct roads and carpark, including upgrading the Nelson Street footpath
- services upgrades to power, NBN and sewerage
- extension of the Apollo Bay Fishermen's Co-operative building

From this engagement, community input was sought for three designs (as highlighted above).

Inviting the community to participate

A postcard was mailed to 1820 non-local residents, and 1600 locals (as an unaddressed letterbox & PO Box drop).

To support the postcard mailout, posters were placed in key locations around Apollo Bay, and an article appeared in the *Apollo Bay Newsheet* on 28 October and 4 November. The *Colac Herald* also ran an article on this community engagement on 10 November.

A series of Facebook posts were scheduled across a 10-day period, with posts published on the days of the online Q&A sessions. Presentations were made to the Apollo Bay Chamber of Commerce, and Harbour Users Group.

A total of 783 page views were received (632 unique visits), and 107 subscribed to the project.

Forty people registered for the ABH Q&A #1, and thirty-five registered for ABH Q&A #2. In total, 83 surveys were completed, over 20 email submissions were received.

The following is a summary of the survey results and comments received regarding the concept designs, and overall thoughts on the Harbour plans so far.

Next steps

The project team will be taking this feedback to the design team to see what can be incorporated. Updated designs will be presented back to the community early in 2022.





Executive Summary

The responses received from the community during this engagement were overwhelmingly and consistently favourable. Generally, the respondents liked the idea of relocating the existing Port Operations Depot to make way for a new promenade and boardwalk which was seen as a positive opportunity to enhance socialisation and visitation opportunities at the Harbour. Broad support was received for improved traffic flow and management, and the community was generally in favour of a new public toilet facility at the relocated and new Port Operations Depot building.

A number of suggestions were received for improvements to the design, along with a few comments in opposition to certain elements. A summary of results and responses is provided in the appendix.

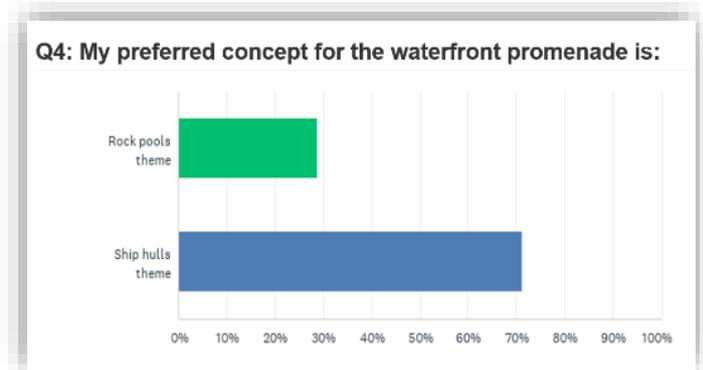
Promenade and boardwalk responses

The first survey question invited participants to indicate their preferred design for the waterfront promenade, out of the Rock Pools theme or Boat Hulls theme.

Boat Hulls – was the favourite at 71%.

When asked what they believed will be the best thing about the waterfront promenade, respondents made comments in three main categories:

- Good design that takes advantage of harbor views and location (33 comments)
- Opportunity for socialization and increased visitation (31 comments)
- Minimal 'other comments' relating to retail, design not appropriate (6)



“The overall re-development and modernisation of the promenade, both in terms of function and built form (is the best thing).”

“Well-designed space for all sorts of visitors. Great views and pleasing design.”

“Enhancing of the view over the Harbour and hills in distance.”

75% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the proposed designs will create a great public space

When asked if there are any stories about the Harbour which you would like to see represented through interpretive elements (eg. Indigenous cultural history, Fishing Settlement of the town, Scientific, The freshwater well etc), the following responses were provided:

- Fishing industry and history (27 comments)

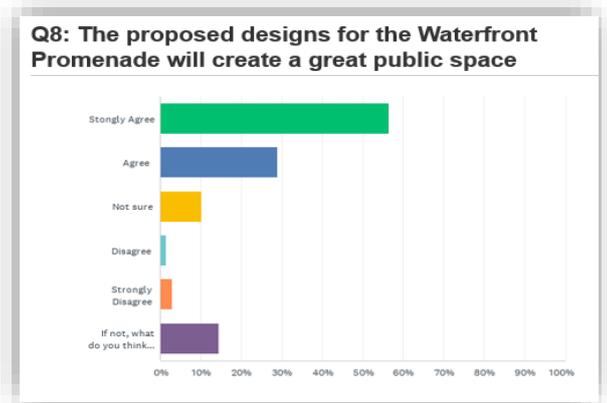
“Fishing, the Harbour and the fishing industry are intrinsically linked to the development of the Harbour zone.”

- Indigenous culture (21 comments)

“Indigenous cultural history and freshwater well”

- Town story and combining all the stories (10)

“Let the actual town and the stunning bay landscape speak its living”





When asked for any further comments about the designs for the promenade and boardwalk, the majority of comments related to:

- Designs could be more representative of small town, fishing village

“Something simpler and more fitting with historic fishing village would be better than both current options. Boardwalk is great but the more low key the better - link to crayfish is good but should include fishing too.”

- Prefer a simpler design and more of a working Harbour feel

“I want it to feel like a fishing village/ port”

Port Operations Depot

The first survey question asked whether the designs for the Port Depot building in its new location improves the functionality and look of the Harbour precinct and will enable better use of the waterfront site where it was previously located - **68% agree**

“Great it is moving from the current location to free up space”

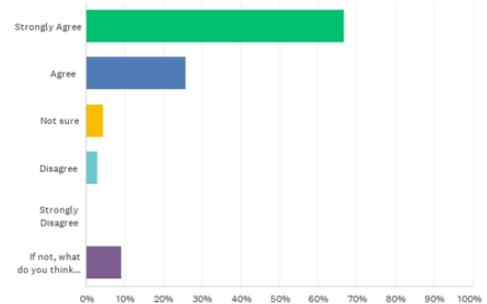
If respondents disagreed, they were asked ‘what’s missing’ and responses were mainly around:

- Designs too ‘shed like’,
- Building is too big in Mother’s Beach carpark

When asked if the new and improved public toilets and showers for users of the Harbour precinct is a good inclusion at the new Depot building - **85% agree**

- When asked ‘what’s missing?’, there were mixed comments on unisex toilets, and could the project consider outdoor showers

Q12: New and improved public toilets and showers for users of the harbour precinct is a good inclusion at the new Depot building.



“Toilets are good. Suggest just outdoor showers. Proposed showers will just be a magnet for backpackers and grey nomads to camp at Harbour.”

The preferred internal finish colour of the new public toilet was: Green

Respondents were asked if they would like to add any further comments, and they included:

- Concerns for how the port operations depot will safely interact with visitors using the car park
- Internal toilet design could be improved
- Building design too industrial, prefer low key design

“Please ensure Port Operation visitors and staff do not use the public parking in this area”

“I think the public mixing with a commercial port operation is a major OHS issue”



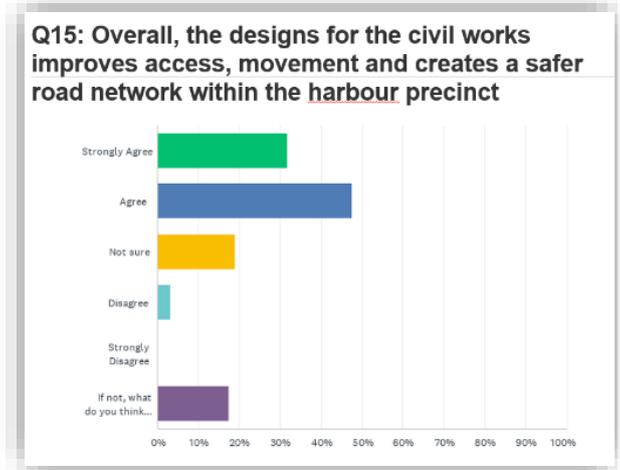
Road and parking

The first survey question for the road and parking improvements asked if the designs for the civil works improves access, movement and creates a safer road network within the Harbour precinct – **67% agree or strongly agree**.

- When asked 'what's missing?', most comments were about widening of the breakwater road and slowing down vehicle movement

“Breakwater road has adequate width given the 10km speed limit”

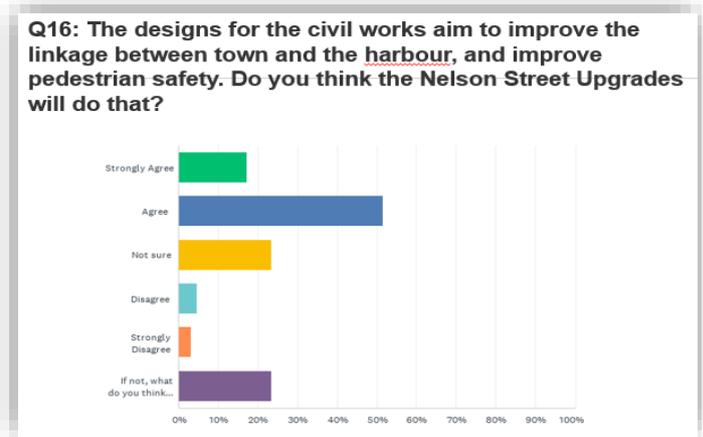
“Need to prioritise pedestrians, cyclists and bike parking. Need to slow all vehicle traffic.”



When asked if the designs for the civil works aim to improve the linkage between town and the Harbour, and improve pedestrian safety. Do you think the Nelson Street Upgrades will do that? – **56% agree or strongly agree**

- When asked 'what's missing?', comments provided suggested that it's not improved as it's the same path to town, as well as safety concerns

“Always an issue now - I get nervous during peak season as families with children on bikes and dogs share the road walking to the Harbour.”



When asked if the Mother's Beach parking and Harbour Road improvements will provide better parking, access and movement at the Harbour precinct? – **67% agree or strongly agree**

- When asked 'what's missing?', responses included safety concerns, limit buses, and if there is adequate parking over summer.

“I think it will not be enough parking in the summer holidays but you can't change that. People can walk over. Bus parking small and large should not be allowed in this car park.”

Respondents were asked if they would like to add any further comments, and the main comments included:

- Ensure good signage
- Ensure enough parking, and boat parking
- Slow down vehicle movement
- More trees, more green



Sense of arrival and visitor experience

Further to the road and parking concept designs, the designers have been asked to create a 'sense of arrival' at the intersection of Trafalgar Street and Nelson Street.

To gain feedback on what the designs should include, the survey question asked for ideas to create a sense of arrival at the Harbour. The comments consisted of:

- Sign, art, sculpture, wharf timbers, Harbour/fishing theme, nice planting
- No need to over-do-it; it's already a working Harbour, masts already visible from town
- Good directional signage

"The design strongly incorporating the fishing element of the Harbour, using natural elements/materials (e.g. rock)"

"Clearly sign posted entrance"

An additional question asked respondents to tell us their thoughts on how we could create an inviting visitor experience at the Harbour, and the suggestions included:

- Lighting for evenings and safety
- Consider the weather – undercover areas
- Information and history boards
- Green spaces
- Visitor facilities
- Artwork, other features, cafes

"Local historical and marine information. This could be in a centre or on carefully designed information boards"

"Lighting for evening walks along pathways"

Overall concept

Finally, the survey asked participants to tell us if we were on the right track for the overall Apollo Bay Harbour Redevelopment designs.

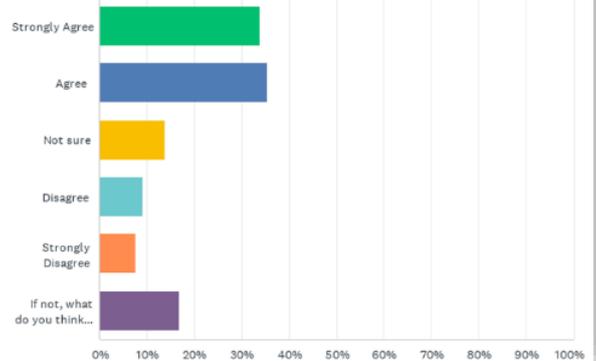
When asked if the concept drawings reflect what I would like the Harbour to look like - **59% agree**

- What's missing?: lacking working Harbour feel, more green, too much/too commercial

When asked what areas within the Harbour precinct hold significance, the main comments included:

- Fishermen's Co-op and history
- Sailing Club, Marina, Port
- Harbour Look & Feel - maritime atmosphere, working harbor, seeing all the boats, views, beach, pier, Co-op, boat ramp facilities

Q21: The concept drawings reflect what I would like the harbour to look like?



"Port and Marina, Sailing Club and boat ramp - both fulfill essence of vibrant harbor"

When asked what the best aspects to the designs are, and how do you see the public spaces being used, overwhelmingly the response was that the designs were good, taking advantage of Views, Location and Harbour.

"The open space and boardwalks. Being able to look into the water at high tide. The awesome site of the slipway with a boat on it right next to you. And the educational and historical centre adults and children can enjoy."