

Foreshore Renewal at Picnic Point Reserve Engagement Summary

Between 12 November and 10 December 2025, Council sought community feedback on the plans for Foreshore Renewal at Picnic Point Reserve.



The proposed Area A designs will improve access for pedestrians and fishing activities, while making the space more functional for the community.

Designs for Area B will create a natural living shoreline to protect the foreshore and restore the estuary environment.

The community was invited to share their feedback by completing the online submission form via Your Voice Our Coast, one informal pop-up session and writing to Council via email or post.

Key themes from the engagement include:

- **General comments** about Picnic Point Reserve such as the installation of CCTV and providing extra rubbish bins, shade and covered picnic tables.
- Concerns about **fishers obstructing pedestrians** with their fishing tackle and the need for fish bait bins.
- **Positive response** to the proposed designs with respondents welcoming Council's commitment to the environment, recreation, safety and visual appeal.
- **Suggestions** on how to further improve the Picnic Point Reserve proposed designs.

How you connected



1 targeted engagement pop-up, reaching **25** people



A total of **65** online survey responses



The design plans were downloaded **196** times



Your Voice Our Coast **489** views



Email sent to **402** Your Voice Our Coast subscribers

Engagement Results

Who we heard from

Council received a total of 65 online survey responses for the Foreshore Renewal at Picnic Point Reserve Project. The largest number of responses were from respondents aged 20-54 (n=42), with 16 submissions received from respondents aged between 55-85, and only two from youngsters aged 15-19.

In terms of gender, there was almost an equal split between men (n=31) and women (n=30), with one respondent indicating that they preferred not to say.

Why people visit Picnic Point Reserve

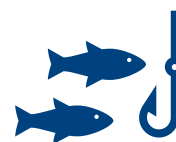
At the start of the online survey, respondents were asked what they used Picnic Point Reserve for.



The most popular activity was walking/cycling (n=45)



Having a picnic/BBQ was the second most popular activity (n=17)



Fishing was also the second most popular activity (n=17).

Eleven respondents mentioned other recreational activities such as running, dog walking, kayaking, using the playground and admiring the view.

When respondents were asked how often they visited Picnic Point Reserve, the most popular response was tied with weekly (n=19) and monthly (n=19). The other responses were rated as rarely (n=14), daily (n=10).

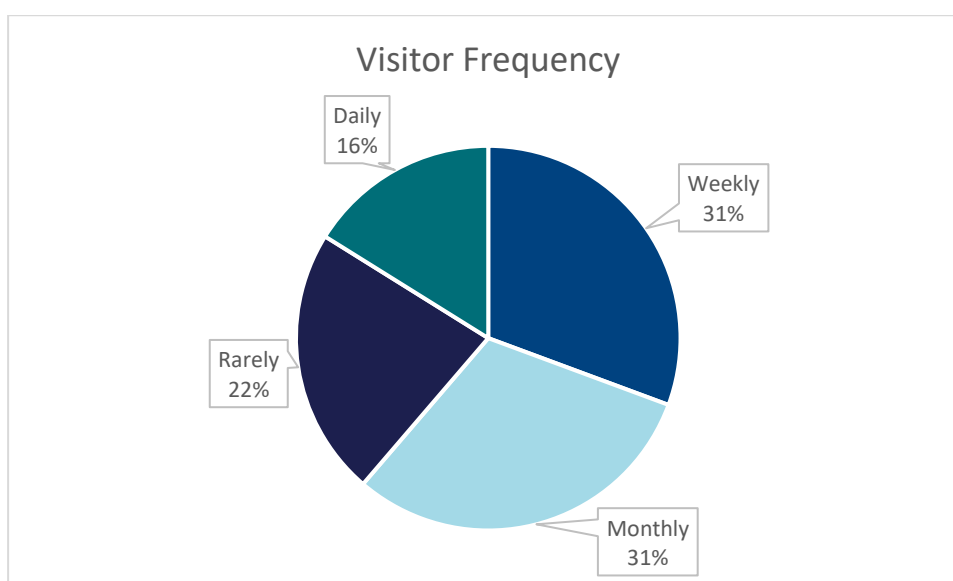


Figure 1 shows how often survey respondents visit Picnic Point Reserve.

Although not directly related to the project, feedback was received about safety concerns in the area and a suggestion of having a basketball court added to the reserve.

"For the economic growth of The Entrance, the safety of those in the area, and in order to make any improvement like this project something people want to come and enjoy, it is imperative that the issue of "campers" in the car park at Picnic Point is addressed sooner than later."

"This is a side note, but I feel it was missed when the playground was put in - Picnic Point should have a basketball court by the skate park. For people in the area (particularly residents of North Entrance and Magenta), there are no outdoor basketball courts between Harry Morre Oval at Toukley, and the half court at EDSACC."

One popular feedback theme was the desire for more amenities at the reserve such as rubbish bins, CCTV, extra shade and covered table facilities.

"Provide plenty of bins."

"Rubbish bins with free dog waste bags along the concrete path."

"Secure night lighting and CCTV for everyone's safety."

"Shade is very important. Whether it is via trees or covered table areas."

There was also general feedback about Picnic Point Reserve being an asset for the area.

"This area could be the hidden gem of The Entrance if naturally developed."

"The Entrance is about our waterways so the more we beautify it, the better."

"Positive outcomes are bound to come from finding a way to balance the needs of the environment, tourism, locals and visitors. It's already a very popular spot. By creating safe access, while maintaining connection to natural areas, and enhancing habitat and foreshore stability the LGA will only benefit in the long run."

Additionally, there were several suggestions directly relating to fishers and the need for bins for fish bait and fishing waste.

"Make sure there are plenty of bins for lines hooks bait. Who is cleaning blood guts from fish getting cut up?"

"Need to ensure adequate number of bins for general and fishing waste (tackle bins). We've assisted OzFish with surveys for the Key Litter Item Study (KLIS) along this stretch of foreshore and found high quantities of fishing tackle and litter around popular fishing spots. Ironically, the most litter was found in close proximity to the existing bins so some sort of educational signage with anti-litter messaging is likely needed (bin wraps maybe?)."

Feedback for proposed designs

The online survey asked participants for feedback on the two sections covering designs for Area A and Area B.

Area A design options

There were two proposed designs for Area A. Council proposed modifying the existing seawall and pathway to protect the reserve and infrastructure from coastal erosion, while at the same time enhancing public access for pedestrians and recreational fishing.

Respondents were asked to choose from two design options for the shared pathway design.

The most popular option (n=35) was for a continuous 3.4m wide platform for shared pedestrian and fishing access boardwalk along the foreshore (Figure 2).



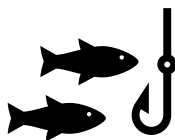
Figure 2 shows a continuous 3.4m wide foreshore platform for shared pedestrian and fishing access boardwalk along the foreshore.

The second most popular (n=22) option was for a 2.25m wide concrete pathway with an extended fishing platform (Figure 3). Only one respondent chose the option of only a 2.25m wide concrete pathway. Four respondents expressed no preference for the designs.



Figure 3, a 2.25m wide concrete pathway with an extended fishing platform.

Feedback was also requested about the use of fishing rod holders, a proposed boardwalk link and the sharing of space between pedestrians and fishers.



Fishing rod holders

When asked about installing fishing rod holders, respondents were almost equally divided with respondents (n=30) against the idea and 29 respondents wanting fishing rod installers. One person indicated no preference.

Boardwalk link

Respondents were also asked whether they would like to a small boardwalk link to the existing footpath. The overwhelming response (n=58) was to provide a boardwalk. Three respondents did not want a boardwalk link.



Sharing space

Twenty-four respondents voiced their opinions about pedestrians and fishers sharing space in Area A. Comments included the concern that fishers could obstruct the public and that fishing tackle would be left in the path of pedestrians.

"Fishers preferably stay on platform to prevent obstructing pedestrians walking or cycling on concrete walkway."

"Treat each other with respect and don't leave fishing tackle in the path of walkers."

Support for Area A design options

There was strong support for both Area A design options.

"Having the park upgraded has made a big difference. Anything here will be good for the area."

"Positive outcomes are bound to come from finding a way to balance the needs of the environment, tourism, locals and visitors. Over the long term it will pay off to have catered for all these needs in this upgrade."

Two people commented against the design for Area A.

"I think we should try and leave the foreshore as untouched as possible and the more structure you put in the more rubbish and debris that will get stuck under it. It is already an issue near boat shed and pier closer to The Entrance centre - why extend this issue more?"

"I would like to not see fishing prioritised here. It attracts litter, and the lake is overfished as it is. Active transport, walking and cycling should be a priority at this location. There are

plenty of other sections along the wharf for fishing."

"Would rather see money spent to the north of the area to link it with The Entrance."

Design suggestions

Several respondents offered suggestions on how to improve Area A such as ensuring shared pathways are wide enough for pedestrians and fishers, the need for signage, rubbish and recycling bins.



"I suggest a sectioned bike lane and pedestrian lane or directional arrows on the concrete pathway to guide traffic, signage indicating it is a shared path, reminding users to keep left and sound their bell, rubbish and recycling bins near fishing platforms to prevent pollution from entering the water or accumulating between boulders, signage urging people not to pollute the water or harm local biodiversity, ... and signage reminding users to look both ways before stepping onto the path."

"I think it is important to have enough width for fishers and walkers etc. To better avoid conflict, I think it may be even better to have the path terraced to delineate the upper walking area, and the lower fishing area. There may be other options here. If budget is an issue, delineating the two zones with line markings or different coloured FRP (Fiber-Reinforced Polymer)?"

Area B design options

In terms of Area B designs, respondents ranked their considerations in order of importance:

1. Environmental protection
2. Recreation
3. Safety
4. Visual

Respondents gave their overwhelming support for the "living shoreline" design approach for Area B (n=54). Only two respondents did not agree with the design approach and four indicated they were unsure.

Furthermore, respondents were asked to choose which habitat feature they liked the most.

The most popular option (n=31) was a mix of all three visuals (Figures 4, 5, and 6), incorporating rock pools, planting and small-stone edging.

Ranked first popularity for individual designs was the rock bench concept with no planting (n=13) (Figure 4).



Figure 4, a proposed rock bench design with no planting.

The second most popular individual design was the habitat pools option (n=10) as shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5, proposed design for habitat pools.

Nine respondents voted for the option of small-stone edging and a planted bench option (Figure 6).



Figure 6, proposed boulder edge design with planted bench.

Boardwalk construction materials

Council also proposed access to the water via a short Fibre Reinforced Polymer/Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boardwalk with educational signage or a sandstone stepping stone path.

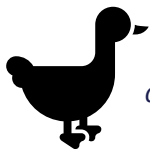
The most popular option was the sandstone stepping path (n=34), followed by the FRP boardwalk design (n=20). Five respondents said they preferred no access.

Landscaping materials

Additionally, Council proposed a row of sandstone blocks as a landscaped edge between the foreshore and grassed area. Respondents overwhelmingly supported this option (n=53). Two respondents were against this suggestion and seven were unsure.

Signage

Respondents overwhelmingly supported having signage that explained the living shoreline and local wildlife (n=57).



"I also support installing educational signage to inform the public about the living shoreline and local wildlife, along with signs reminding users to "look but don't touch" and to avoid walking on or dumping rubbish between boulders."

"Signs to remind people to take their rubbish with them or place in bins."

Four respondents were against signage with one respondent commenting that signs attract graffiti.

"Signage will only be sprayed over graffiti."

Design suggestions



Several design suggestions were put forward from respondents concerned about the effect on the environment in relation to vegetation and plants, and factors affecting habitat growth. There was also a suggestion of making the design more suitable for launching kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs).

"I think the pools/planted bench would be best positioned at a height that can be temporarily inundated and planted with appropriate species (although it may encourage phragmites, which is probably not a favourable outcome). Perhaps in the detailed design, the height and vegetation type used could be considered in such a way to best natural capture and assimilation of wrack, reducing the amount impacting other catch points downstream towards the channel."

"Please also include textured rocks for supporting habitat growth e.g. living sea wall. The planted bench in your visualisations, given the elevation, looks to effectively provide similar or better foreshore habitat than the habitat pools. A planted bench would also help to filter runoff and catch debris. It acts as habitat for more species and the root depth would also stabilise the foreshore more than the habitat pools. Ideally a few habitat pools amongst the planted edge would be best but if I had to choose, I think the better option for stability, maintenance, habitat, functionality and access would be the most ideal."

"Need to ensure sandstone block as an edge doesn't trap seagrass/macroalgae wrack causing it to decompose in the water leading to unpleasant sulphur odours (H2S gas) and the development of black ooze (MBO)."

"Plants will die in the water here. Just rocks please."

"I recommend keeping recreational users away from the water's edge to reduce the risk of pollution and minimise disturbance to wildlife and habitats."

"Add in living seawall fixtures to the living shoreline to increase habitat opportunities. Local universities would be happy to conduct monitoring to produce data on the abundance of flora and fauna prior to and after establishment as well as down the track."

"As a local resident, I would like to see a focus on a shared path along the water here linking up to the bridge and back towards Long Jetty. This is an area where the path narrows and pushes people onto the road. You only need to look at the new playground to show that this area is worth more than providing platforms or rod holders for fishers. With the amount of children now in this area, I encourage Council to consider this interface.""

"It'd be good if the steps leading down to the water are made suitable for launching kayak's SUPs etc."

Council Response

Theme	Theme summary	Council response
General comments	Relating to the installation of CCTV and providing extra rubbish bins, shade and covered picnic tables.	Council acknowledges feedback regarding additional amenities within Picnic Point Reserve. Opportunities to improve site amenity, including rubbish facilities, shade and seating, will be considered as part of the detailed design phase, subject to feasibility, funding, and operational considerations.
Fishers obstructing pedestrians and the need for fishers to contain their fish waste	Concerns about obstruction caused by fishing tackle and the need for fish bait bins.	Council acknowledges concerns about shared use between pedestrians and fishers. The detailed design for Area A will consider spatial separation, path widths, and appropriate placement of seating to define areas, help manage potential conflicts and encourage responsible fishing practices, while maintaining safe and equitable access for all users.
Feedback about design options	Positive response to the proposed designs with respondents welcoming Council's commitment to the environment, recreation, safety and visual appeal.	Council notes the strong overall support for the proposed design approach. Community feedback has reinforced the project objectives and is informing refinement of the designs as the project progresses.
Design suggestions on how to further improve the Picnic Point Reserve proposed designs.	Ideas to improve the Picnic Point Reserve designs by respondents concerned about the effect on the environment in relation to vegetation and plants, and factors affecting habitat growth. There was also a suggestion of making the design more suitable for launching kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs).	Council acknowledges the detailed and technical feedback provided by the community. These suggestions will be considered during the detailed design phase, particularly in relation to habitat performance, planting selection, foreshore stability and appropriate recreational access, where feasible and consistent with environmental and safety requirements.

What's next?

Council is currently reviewing all feedback received during community consultation and will amend the design plans where necessary. Community feedback has played an important role in shaping the project and will continue to inform detailed design development and decision making. The final plans and results of the community consultation will then be presented to Council for formal adoption.

Find out more and stay up to date at

Your Voice Our Coast

www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/picnic-point-foreshore-renewal-project