Our Coast Our Future

Mornington Peninsula Coastal Strategy

MORNINGTON PENINSULA Shire

Engagement Summary August 2024

Our second major consultation period for our coastal strategy, *Our Coast Our Future* has recently closed. The consultation was a chance to raise awareness of information available on coastal hazard exposure, what this means for people, and to discuss different measures for managing hazard risk.

Introduction

From June to July 2024, we ran our second round of consultation with the communities of the Mornington Peninsula. Aligned with Stage 3 of the Victorian State Government framework *Victoria's Resilient Coasts – Adapting for 2100+* (Figure 1), guiding adaptation planning to coastal climate change impacts, these conversations are informing development of *Our Coast Our Future*.

STAGE 3 Coastal hazard exposure	Assess coastal hazard exposure, including scenarios that enable best practice approaches to assessing current and emerging risk.

Outcomes from this consultation period are also informing our approach to Stage 4 of the project, which is underway, and future Stages.



Figure 1. The seven stages of the Victoria's Resilient Coast - Adapting for 2100+ framework (DEECA 2023).

How did we engage?

Consultation focussed on sharing project findings to date – especially coastal values and regional hazards. It also aimed to build community awareness and understanding of what these results mean for those living, working and visiting the Peninsula's coast. We also asked our community their thoughts on some measures available to manage current and future coastal hazard risk.

People were able to share their perspectives via:

Pop-up events: In-person information sessions to discuss hazard risk now and in the future, to interpret our hazard extent maps, and to learn about different measures available for managing hazard risk.

Coastal hazards and risk survey: Targeted questions to gather people's views on how they may be impacted by coastal hazards in the future and their support for different measures for managing hazard risk.



Who did we hear from?

Over the two-month engagement period, the *Our Coast Our Future* project had:

566 people visiting the *Our Coast Our Future* website

20 surveys completed on coastal hazard risk and measures to manage risks

321 downloads of coastal hazard maps and factsheets on coastal hazards

200 people at our pop-up events, taking part in many conversations

Our in-person engagement events in Dromana, Mornington, Mount Eliza, Mount Martha, Sorrento Flinders and Hastings, gave us the opportunity to share knowledge generated in the project so far with hundreds of people, many from younger generations.

There was an even spread of ages across our survey respondents, with respondents in their 30s to 80s. Many respondents resided along the Peninsula, and over half lived within 1 km of the coast.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to learn about coastal hazards or took the time to share their thoughts and insights online.



What did we hear

Readiness to talk about the future, yet some uncertainty

During our pop-up events, we had many diverse discussions with community members about coastal hazards, including planning for the future.

Figure 2 below shows the change in sentiment people had when referring to aspects of coastal hazard risk and management in the present, compared with how they feel about these challenges in the future.

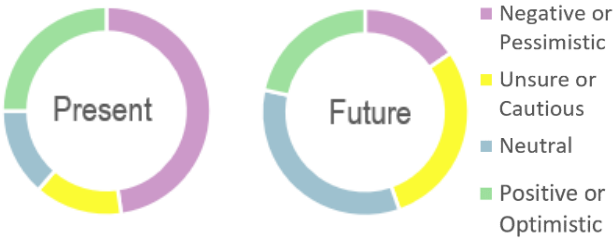


Figure 2. Change in sentiment for the present vs. the future of coastal hazard risk and management.

People expressed fewer negative sentiments towards hazard risk and management for the future when compared to the present, yet they were more likely to feel uncertain or cautious.

This reflects some of the uncertainty associated with preparing for a changed future and demonstrates the need for proactive planning and leadership in this space. *Our Coast Our Future* aims to provide this leadership and a clear path forward for management decisions.

During our discussions, people brought up a range of topics related to coastal hazard risk and management. A range of topics were covered in these conversations (Figure 3).

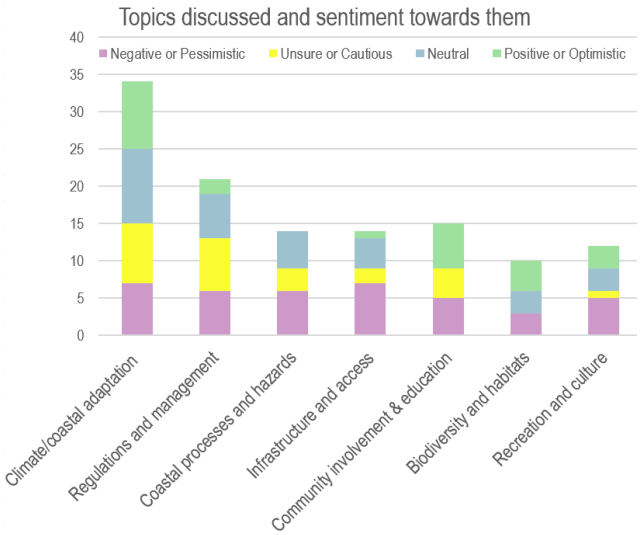


Figure 3. Key topics discussed at in-person engagement and the range of sentiments towards each topic.

People were eager to discuss 'climate/coastal adaptation', with people mostly either positive or uncertain towards the topic. People felt most negatively about impacts of 'coastal processes and hazards', and the impacts they may have on 'infrastructure and access'.

People often wanted to discuss contemporary issues (i.e. loss of beach access, damaged facilities, significant sand loss) and at times found it challenging to visualise future scenarios yet to occur.

Coastal hazards impacts at a personal level

As part of this engagement program, we asked people to consider the mapped locations of coastal hazard extents, such as erosion and storm tide flooding, for different sea level rise scenarios.



Figure 4. Coastal hazard extent maps.

Considering what was important to them, we then asked how people see coastal hazards impacting them personally in the future.

Four key themes emerged:

Damage to infrastructure and loss of access to the beach and coast: e.g. damage to coastal roads and car parks from storm tide inundation (flooding), in addition to having access to coastal locations impaired.

Increasing loss of sand: increasing frequency and severity of erosion events resulting in loss of sandy beaches.

Impacts on housing, insurance and loss of property value: hazard impacts influencing where people choose or are able to live, and risk decreasing property value.

Inability to practice valued recreational activities: coastal hazards preventing people from performing highly valued coastal activities, such as surfing and swimming.



How can I get involved?

To ensure you keep up to date with the *Our Coast Our Future* coastal strategy and upcoming events:

Visit the project website
shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our-coast-our-future

On our page you can:

- Learn more about the project, coastal hazards and risk
- Sign up to receive progress updates and notifications
- Read our latest project updates

Ask us a question – email our team at coastalplanning@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Different measures for managing hazard risk

A key component of this engagement program was to introduce to the community three broad categories of adaptation measures we have available to us for managing our risk to coastal hazards:

- **Land management, planning and design** measures
- **Nature-based** measures
- **Engineering** measures

These measures will form the suite of adaptation options and actions we have for developing our adaptation planning in later stages of the project.

Figure 5 shows the survey results for how people rated their support for each measure.

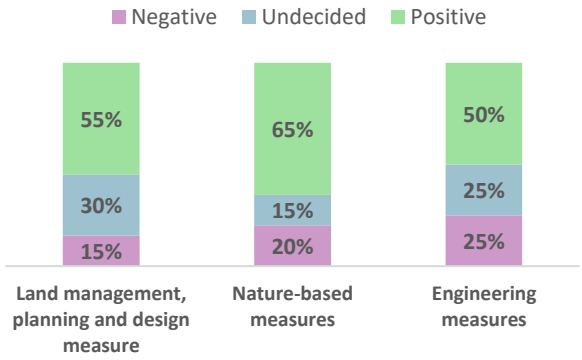


Figure 5. Proportional support for different measures of managing coastal hazard risk.

Nature-based measures received the strongest support, with a number of people citing the multiple benefits these measures can provide.

Engineering measures had a more even split between positive, uncertain and negative views. Many people stated they can have an important role in select locations, but that flow-on effects must be considered.

Land management, planning and design measures received uncertain to positive views, with a number of people strongly supporting these measures, while others were unsure of their efficacy, particularly for current hazards.

Next steps

We are now finalising Summary Reports for Stages 3 and 4 of *Our Coast Our Future*. This work characterises potential vulnerabilities and risks of important values and aspirations to increasing coastal hazards.

Later work on the project will focus on Stage 5, where values understanding gathered during the earlier stages will inform our adaptation planning and deciding on options and actions.