

April 2024

Engagement Summary

We're currently working on our long-term coastal strategy, **Our Coast, Our Future**.

Recent engagement activities and events have focussed on sharing project information and learning more about important values and experiences our communities and visitors have relating to our coasts. We're using this understanding to shape how we assess and manage coastal hazards.

STAGE 2

Values, vision and objectives

Ensure adaptation planning is underpinned by regional and place-based values.

Introduction

From October 2023 to March 2024, we ran an extensive consultation program with the communities of Mornington Peninsula to inform development of *Our Coast, Our Future*. Aligned with Stage 2 of the *Victoria's Resilient Coasts – Adapting for 2100+ framework*, engagement has sought to establish an appreciation coastal values and experiences, to inform coastal hazard adaptation planning.



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

How did we engage?

A series of interactive engagement activities and events have been undertaken throughout Stage 2:



Values and experience survey: Targeted questions to hear views on values and uses of coastal areas and experiences of coastal hazards and changes witnessed over time.



Interactive map: An online mapping activity for people to share what they love, ideas for the future and memories of coastal change.



Photo competition: An opportunity to share personal values and connections with the coast through photography.



Pop-up events: In-person sessions in our five *Our Coast, Our Future* subareas across the Peninsula. Aided by wave tank demonstrations, we discussed current hazard concerns and desired outcomes for our coastal communities.



What did we ask?

We asked questions of our communities centred on the following themes:

- How people **use and enjoy** the coastal and marine areas of the Mornington Peninsula
- What people specifically **value** about the coast
- Individual experiences of coastal **hazards** (inundation and erosion)
- **Memories and knowledge** of coastal change, and key drivers of that change
- **Aspirations** for the Peninsula's coastal and marine areas into future, for following generations

Who did we hear from?

Throughout the consultation period, we heard from and spoke to a large number of community members from across the Peninsula. We also held discussions with Bunurong Traditional Owners, and the broader stakeholders of *Our Coast, Our Future*.

The engagement process resulted in:



4.9k people visiting the *Our Coast, Our Future* website from October 2023 to March 2024



64 surveys completed and 5 emailed community submissions



Over 30 people contributing **64 pins** on our interactive map



65 community photographers contributing nearly **200 photos** to our photo competition - *check out our three winners and their fantastic photos at the end of this Project Update*



Conversations with more than **750 people** at our **11 pop-up events**



We engaged early and are working closely with the **Bunurong Land Council** as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the region.



Briefings and workshops with stakeholders, including Shire staff, our Councillors and representatives from **key agencies** (DEECA, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Department of Transport and Planning, Victorian Fisheries Authority).

Online community contributors were spread across the Peninsula, with representatives from each of the five *Our Coast, Our Future* study regions (subareas), as well as from outside the Peninsula:

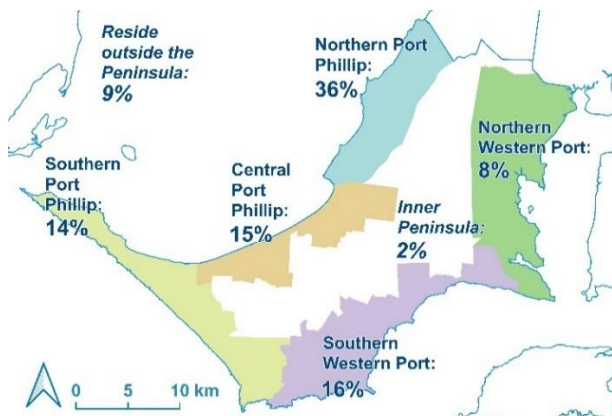


Figure 2. Geographical spread of online respondents.

Two thirds of our online respondents lived within 1km of the coast or waterfront, and **nine in ten people visited the coast at least once a week** (55% daily and 16% two to three times a week). **Most were aged over 55 (66%)**, with fewer aged under 35 (4%):

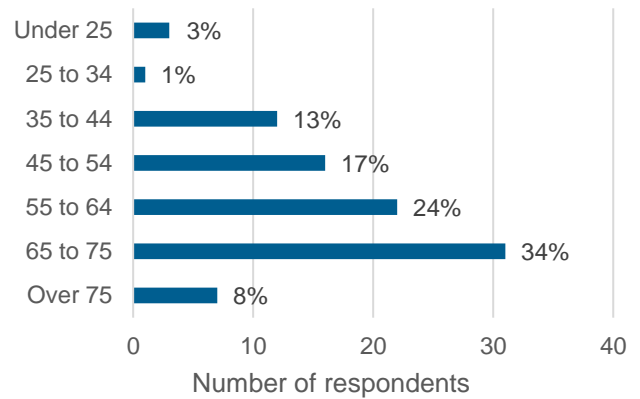


Figure 3. Age groups of *Our Coast, Our Future* online respondents.

At our in-person events, we spoke with **over 750 people** across our five study subareas that we visited. Many of the conversations we had were with members of our younger generations, with people **under 15 years of age representing nearly 20%** of the people who engaged with our pop-up events.



In the *Our Coast, Our Future* project, we are considering coastal change that will stretch many years into the future. Engaging with younger people in our community is key to informing our decisions on how we manage the Peninsula's special coastlines. These generations will be the ones living, working and enjoying these spaces in the years to come.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by for a chat, or took the time to contribute online. We really appreciate the insights that have been shared so far.

Aspirations

Key aspirations for the future of the Peninsula and its generations to come emerged from the thoughts and perspectives people shared with us.

These included:

The Peninsula remains a **beautiful and peaceful** place

Beaches are **accessible, safe,** and **shared** by all

Prioritising **restoration** and **conservation** of coastal ecosystems, with protections against pressures such as informal beach access, littering

Ecosensitive management controls to balance human use and activities near and within ecosystems (flora and fauna)

Resilient, well-maintained and adequate **public amenities** and **facilities** for an increasing population, including well connected and cared for coastal paths and tracks

Visitation numbers are well-managed and catered to, exerting low pressure on the Peninsula's social and ecological environments

Future **development is environmentally sustainable**

Establishment of sustainable **foreshore businesses**

Coastal protection considers **innovative** and **nature-based solutions** as first-line

An **informed, engaged,** and **resilient** community in the face of climate change impacts

Strong community **connection and well-being**

Clear and coordinated management

Next steps

Local aspirations and values of stakeholders, rightsholders and the communities of Mornington Peninsula shape resilience planning. Understanding what is valued about their coastal and marine areas, the potential threats to these values, and what they hope to see in the future is providing the foundation for *Our Coast, Our Future*.

We're using this feedback as part of developing a shared vision and objectives for *Our Coast, Our Future*. This knowledge will inform our work to better understand potential coastal hazard vulnerabilities and risks to our coastal values.

Next stages will build off this foundational work, with place-based values and aspirations embedded in the upcoming hazard exposure, risk and vulnerability assessments. It will also inform adaptation options and pathways developed during the later stages of *Our Coast, Our Future*.

How can I get involved?

To ensure you keep up to date with the *Our Coast Our Future* Coastal Strategy and upcoming events and activities:

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 our coastal communities
- Sign up so you receive progress updates and notifications
- Read our latest project updates

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



Photo competition winners

We had an incredible selection of photographs submitted to our photo competition. We would like to thank everyone for sharing their own unique view of Mornington Peninsula's special coastal and marine places through their camera lens. A winner was decided for each age group based on the community support it received via the number of 'likes' given to each photo.

Congratulations to the winners below, and to all our photographers - we have seen some spectacular images through your eyes. You can check out all the entries in our [PHOTO GALLERY](#).



Adult (18 years and older):
Angela B.

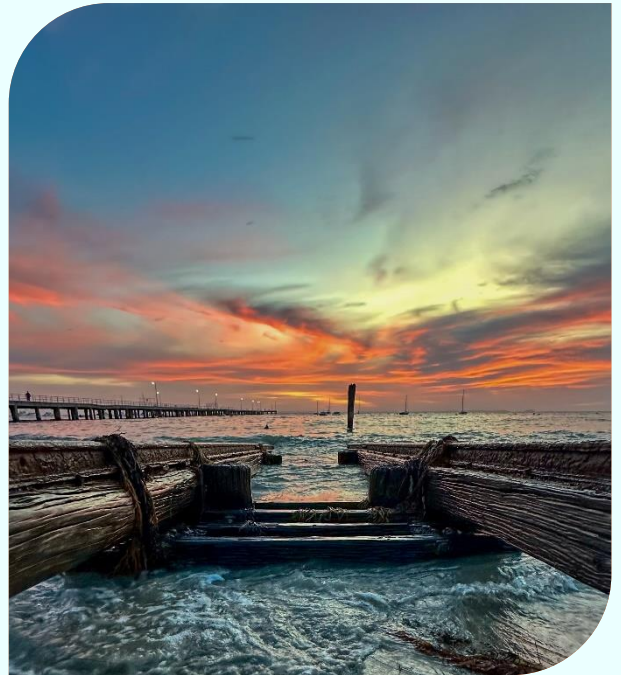
Sunrise, a morning kiss from the skies

Flinders pier.

Children (12 years or younger):
Areefa Fatima K.

The feeling to be alive

London Bridge, Portsea.



Youth (13 to 17 years):
Charlie M.S.

Beauty above and below,
McCrae Beach.

