

DROMANA PIER DESIGN OPTIONS



Engagement Report
May 2021



Acknowledgement of Country

Aboriginal people, through their rich culture, have been connected to the land and sea, for tens of thousands of years.

Parks Victoria respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners, their culture and knowledge, their continuing connections, and cultural obligation, to care for their Country.

Privacy

Parks Victoria is committed to protecting privacy and personally identifiable information by meeting our responsibilities under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and the associated Information Privacy Principles.

For the purposes of community engagement for this project, we have collected personal information from individuals, such as email addresses, contact details, demographic data and feedback. This information is stored on secure servers for the duration of our project.

Notes were made during consultation activities, however, were not attributable to any individuals. Diligence is taken to ensure any comment or sensitive information does not become personally identifiable in our reporting.

Community Engagement

Unless otherwise stated, all feedback documented in this report was written or recorded during our consultation process, and the views expressed are those of participants, and not the views of facilitators and staff.

Parks Victoria staff, together with our partners, have taken care while transcribing participant feedback, but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however, confident that we have captured the full range of ideas, concerns of views expressed during consultation.

Definitions

'Parks' – Parks Victoria manages many sites such as piers, waterways, ports, bays, historic building, trails, urban parks, small conservation reserves, and large national and state parks. For the sake of brevity, these are collectively referred to as 'parks', unless a specific type of site is stated.

'Community' – Community can comprise of local residents, visitors and businesses near a project area, of who may have an interest in the project. The term is very broad and used to define groups of people. A community may be defined by a geographic location, a set of similar interests such as an industry or sporting club, or a shared sense of identity such as a culture or a generation.

'Stakeholder' – Stakeholder refers to key organisations or individuals who have an interest in the project. Examples include MPs, government departments, industry, peak lobby and interest groups.

'Engagement' – Engagement refers to a planned process involving two-way dialogue with the specific purpose of working with communities and stakeholders to encourage discussion or active involvement to inform a project decision.

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1. Introduction

Dromana Pier is a much-loved local icon of the Dromana township on the Mornington Peninsula that is popular for fishing, walking, boating and swimming. Parks Victoria is undertaking a project to develop options for a future pier and sought input from stakeholders and the community to better understand future aspirations for the pier.

Project overview

Dromana Pier is approaching the end of its life. This project sought community views on the future pier as part of investigations into options for future government consideration.

Working with the Department of Transport (DOT), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and officers from Mornington Peninsula Shire, Parks Victoria and design consultants, Cardno, developed two new pier design options for community consultation, along with a maintenance option. Three options were presented to local residents, recreational groups and other stakeholders.

The feedback received during this process will be used to further refine and inform the future pier.

About Dromana Pier

Dromana Pier extends from the intersection of Point Nepean Road and Pier Street, Dromana, on the Mornington Peninsula. Originally built in the 1860s and extended in the 1870s, the pier was the second longest pier in Port Phillip. In the 1950s it became unsafe and was replaced with a much shorter (186m) concrete pier. This pier remains popular for fishing, walking, and swimming, with the occasional recreational boat stopping to visit.

Dromana Pier is a focal point for the township of Dromana. It is a dominant feature on the long sandy beaches, and crystal-clear shallow waters that extend from Martha Cove to Anthony's Nose. Nearby car parking, lifesaving club, toilets, playground, local cafes and shops draw locals and visitors to the foreshore and pier.

Purpose of this report

This report summarises the consultation process and feedback received during the Dromana Pier community engagement process. This report includes feedback from an online information session held on 9 December 2020 and Engage Victoria survey responses collected on 30 June 2020 and between 6 November 2020 and 13 January 2021.

Parks Victoria has also received a submission from Mornington Peninsula Shire officers.

Report limitations

Limitations of the engagement process that need to be acknowledged are:

- This report reflects the views of the community who provided feedback. It does not represent the views of Parks Victoria or the three Traditional Owner groups who have an interest in this area.
- To ensure COVID-19 safety, there was no in-person, face-to-face surveying, meaning data collected is potentially biased towards people with internet connectivity and the ability to use digital engagement platforms.
- During the online survey period between November 2020 and January 2021, the Victorian government relaxed COVID-19 restrictions.

2. How did we engage

Parks Victoria engaged with community and stakeholders over a nine-week period, from 6 November 2020 until 13 January 2021, to gain feedback on the design options for the pier. A total of 412 surveys were completed, sharing their feedback and ideas on the options through the Engage Victoria website.

Purpose of consultation

The purpose of the consultation was to:

- Seek community and stakeholder input into design and maintenance options for the pier.
- Gain a clear understanding of the current and future use of the pier.
- Identify preferred design features for the pier, for consideration in a future design stage of the project.

Engagement questions

The following engagement questions were presented on the Engage Victoria website:

On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being “Love it”)

Q1 - How do you rate Option 1: Maintain Existing Pier?

Q2 - How do you rate Option 2: T-shaped Pier Head?

Q3 - How do you rate Option 3: Circle Pier Head?

Q4 - What features do you like?

Q5 - Are there any features or facilities you would like to see added to these designs?

Q6 - Are there any activities or opportunities for future use that you would like to see better catered for at Dromana Pier?

Q7 - Does Dromana Pier's low landing, in its current format, provide enough space for recreational boats?

Q8 - How often do you currently visit Dromana Pier?

Q9 - What is your primary reason to visit Dromana Pier?

Q10 - On average, how long do you spend at Dromana Pier each time you visit?

Demographic data collected included age, gender, residential postcode, cultural or linguistic background, and disability status.

Parks Victoria sought agreement from survey participants regarding collection of information and use of the information.

Supplementary information to assist survey respondents to provide feedback included:

- A plan view of each design option.
- Frequently Asked Questions document.
- Project timeline.
- Parks Victoria contact information.

Engagement activities

Parks Victoria promoted the Dromana Pier engagement opportunity to local residents and targeted recreational groups and peak bodies through a variety of methods, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Communication and engagement activities

Activity	Date	Audience	Comments
Engage Victoria online survey	One day: 30/06/2020 9 weeks between: 06/11/2020 and 13/01/2021	Local residents, recreational groups and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek feedback/support for each option. • Gather input towards proposed designs. • Identify additional facilities/ideas not captured in proposed designs. • Gain an understanding of the type of use.
Engage Victoria survey promotion	08/11/2020	Local residents, recreational groups and stakeholders	<p>Promoted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Release published by the Member for Nepean, Chris Brayne MP :- https://www.facebook.com/BrayneForNepean/post/s/dromana-pier-have-your-saymornington-peninsula-residents-are-being-invited-to-sh/968505413659343/ • VRFish website:- https://www.vrfish.com.au/2020/11/09/dromana-pier-design/ • Mornington Peninsula Shire website :- https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Building-Planning/Coastal-Planning/DELWP-and-Key-Agency-Coastal-Projects/Dromana-Pier-Concept-Plan • Posters placed on Dromana Pier and nearby public areas. • Parks Victoria social media posts and emails to key stakeholder groups. • Emails sent to Engage Victoria’s subscriber followers.
Online information session	09/12/2020	Local residents, recreational groups and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more detailed explanation of proposed design options. • Provide opportunity for participants to ask project staff questions, provide information and comment on the options. • For Parks Victoria to listen and gather feedback. • Articulate the next steps of the project.

3. Who we heard from

A significant majority (65%) of the survey responses received came from the local community (Dromana and the Mornington Peninsula). They walk, socialise, swim, fish and boat from the pier. Marginally more females than males responded to the survey, with representation from across the majority of age groups.

Survey respondents

The “Community Vision for Dromana Pier” engagement survey was hosted on Engage Victoria between 6 November 2020 and 13 January 2021. The survey was also open for a short period of a day in June 2020; these responses have been included in the analysis.

Information captured in the survey indicates a broad section of the community shared their views on the proposed designs. Participants were evenly spread across age groups from 20 - 69, with the younger and older age groups less well represented (see Figure 2). More females (57%) than males (42%) provided responses to the survey.

Most respondents were from the Mornington Peninsula in Dromana and surrounding suburbs, as shown in Figure 1 below. There was one respondent from New South Wales.



Arthurs Seat from Dromana Pier (Parks Victoria)

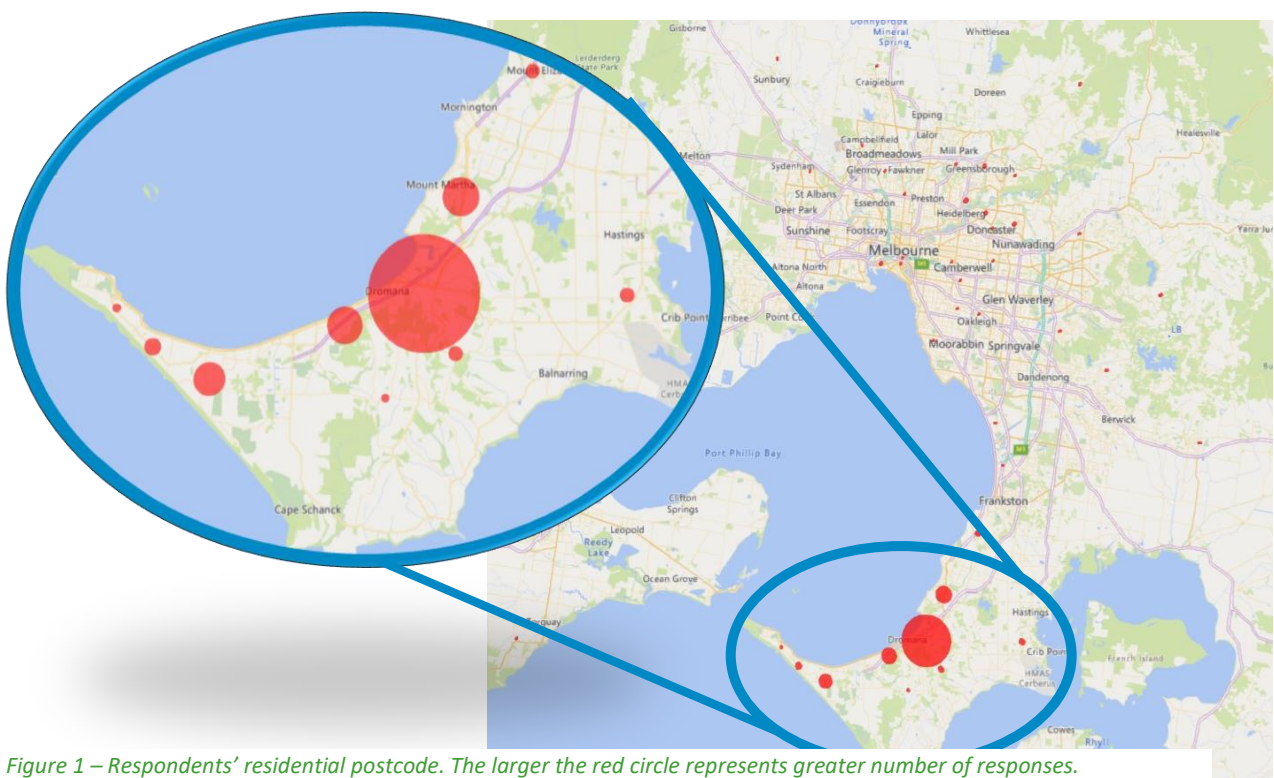


Figure 1 – Respondents’ residential postcode. The larger the red circle represents greater number of responses.

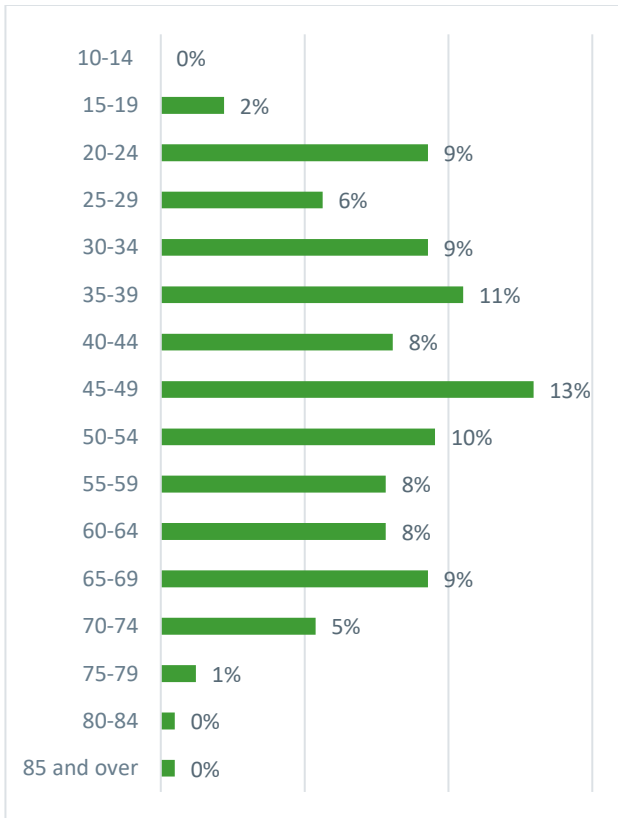


Figure 2 - Age range of survey respondents (n. 409)

Most respondents stated they visit Dromana Pier weekly (Figure 3) and most tend to spend 10 to 20 minutes each time they visit the pier (Figure 4).

The primary reason for survey participants to visit Dromana Pier is to walk (Figure 5). Looking more closely at the data, walkers tend to spend less time on the pier than those engaged in fishing, boating, swimming and photography.

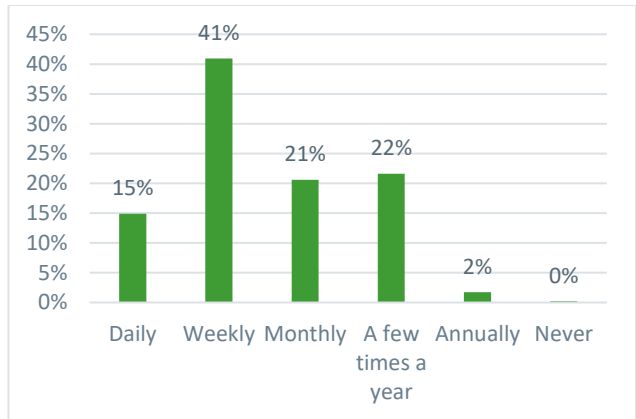


Figure 3 - Frequency of visits to Dromana Pier of survey respondents (n. 403)

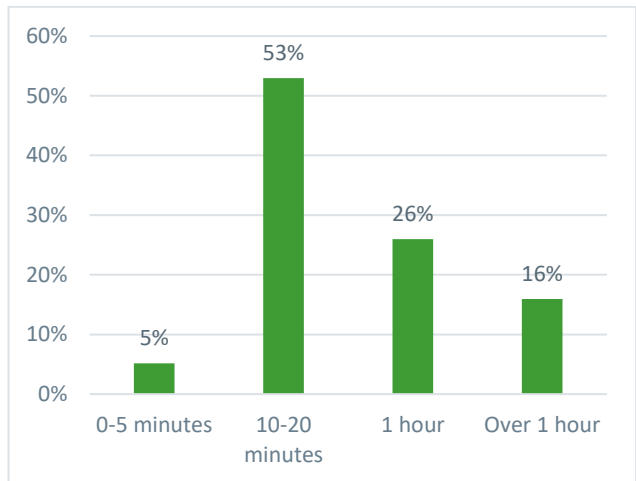


Figure 4 - How long survey respondents spent on Dromana Pier (n. 408)

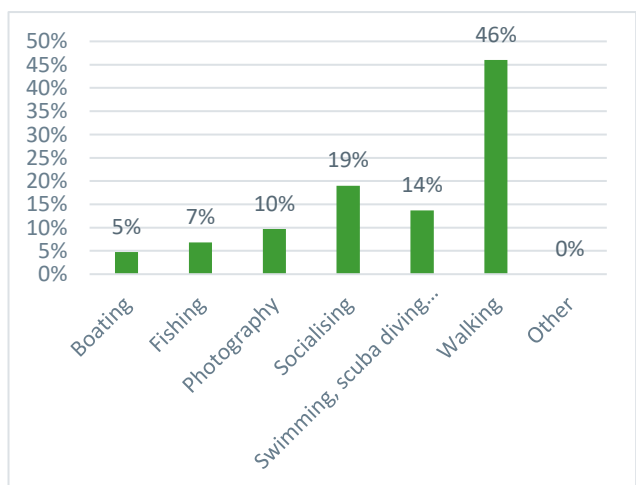


Figure 5 - Activities that survey respondents undertake on/at Dromana Pier (n. 732) (note the survey allowed for multiple entries)

4. What we heard

Respondents told us that Dromana Pier is an important feature of Dromana. There is a strong desire for the design to be unique to Dromana and support the range of existing and new recreational activities. There is support for improving the service offer by; providing more seating, shelter, lighting, access to the water, fishing rod holders and boating access.

Stated preferences for Dromana Pier

The survey was designed to gauge the preference of the respondents in regard to each option, not a “vote” for the preferred option. **Error! Reference source not found.** provides the average score of the options.

Error! Reference source not found. is a graphical representation of the responses rated 5 for each option and a count against the reasons.

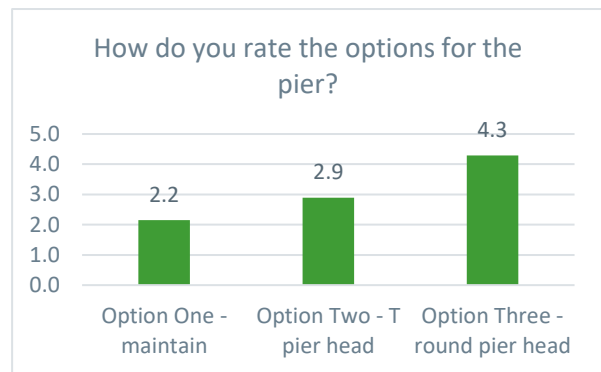


Figure 6 - Average of all scores for each option

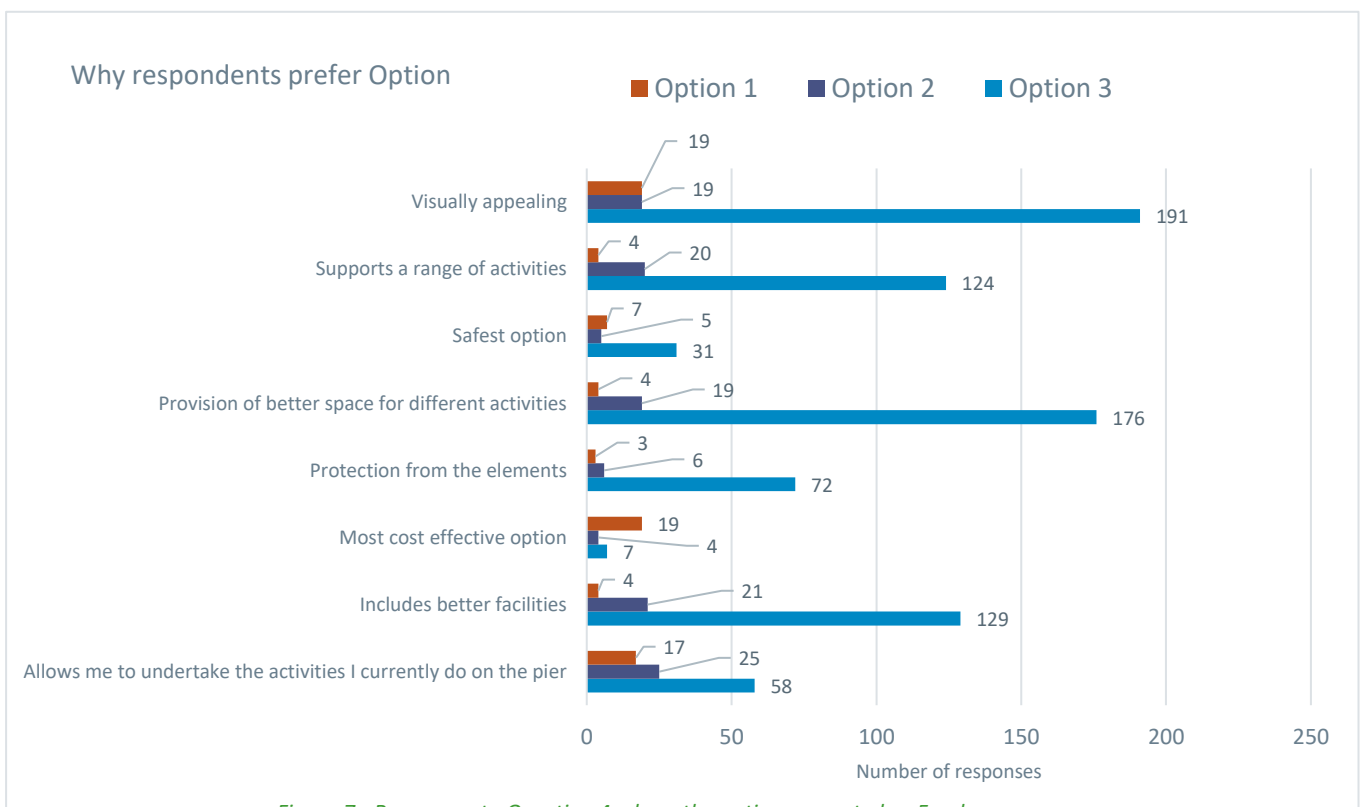


Figure 7 - Responses to Question 4 where the option was rated as 5 only

Option One: Maintain existing pier

To maintain the visual identity and character of Dromana Pier, significant repair works will see areas of the pier that are in poor condition periodically fixed. Maintenance work will include removing and treating large sections of damaged concrete, upgrading lighting and improving handrails and seating along the pier. This is the most cost-effective option.



Figure 8 - Option One maintain the existing Dromana Pier

When asked how they rated Option One (Question 1 – “How do you rate Option One: Maintain Existing Pier?”), 38 of the 412 respondents gave the highest rating of 5 for this option. The following information is derived from the responses rated 5 only.

Those that rated this option higher did so providing the following reasons to Question 4 (“What features do you like?”):

- Visually appealing.
- Cost effective.
- Allows me to undertake the activities I currently do on the pier.

Some respondents also provided a written response to Question 5 (“Are there any features or facilities you would like to see added to these designs?”) which was helpful in providing context around their rating of the option and potential improvements. A sample of quotes are provided below that highlight the important features of the pier to the community.

“Keep as is. Dromana is so beautiful, if it ain’t broke don’t fix it. The pier is the charm of Dromana.”

“Don’t touch the pier!! We are a little village keep it like that!!”

“... I believe minimal funds should be expended to upgrade and maintain the existing pier as per Option 1. The pier currently allows local residents and visitors to enjoy walking, fishing, swimming along and around the pier.”

“Just keep it safe with barriers for young children”

“Seating along the pier, if there is sufficient space.”

“Keeps the history of this beautiful pier.”

Although Option One may not have as many responses in support as the other options, it does highlight the importance of the existing pier to the local community and its sense of place.

Option Two: T-shape Pier Head

A T-shaped pier head will provide more area for walking, fishing and swimming at Dromana Pier. This option provides safe access to the water on the western side of the pier, with a fixed low landing and ladder extending into the water, in view of Dromana Bay Life Saving Club, as well as views towards Arthurs Seat.

The pier's deck (walking surface) will be wider than the existing pier to allow for maintenance or emergency vehicles to pass pedestrians on the pier.

Handrails will be provided on both sides of the pier, as well as more frequent seating. Stairs will connect the new pier head to the existing low landing, which will improve visitor flow, both on and off the landing.



Figure 7 - Option Two (computer generated image)

When asked how they rated Option Two (Question 2 "How do you rate Option Two: T-shaped Pier Head"), 52 of the 412 respondents gave the highest rating of 5 to this option.

Those that rated this option higher did so providing the following reasons in Question 4 ("What features do you like?"):

- Visually appealing.
- Supports a range of activities.
- Includes better facilities.
- Provision of better space for different activities.
- Allows me to undertake the activities I currently do on the pier.

Option Two had a good level of support from respondents, particularly those concerned with Option Three attracting anti-social behaviour. The potential to extend the pier into deep water was

also raised, along with using the pier as a place for art, sculpture and historical information. There were some interesting comments regarding learnings from what works on other piers on the peninsula which said long L shaped designs and low landings were desirable. Some respondents provided a written response to Question 5 ("Are there any features or facilities you would like to see added to these designs?") which helps provide context around their rating of the option as well as suggested improvements. Here are some examples:

"Added sun shelters/awnings. Ladders for diving. Road markings for left-handed walking ... lighting displays by local light artists to attract people at night time."

"Extended into deeper water."

"... having access to a ramp on both sides of the pier giving much easier access to use."

"Option 3 with the circular design concerns me in that Teenagers will use it congregate and party"

"I live in Dromana and walk the piers all around this area. I like the design of the Rye Pier the best. It is very long and at the end where it has the L section is great. I also think you should include the lower sections like Rosebud Pier has."

"A plaque or a series of boards with history of the Dromana Pier and the township displayed along the length of the pier."

"Could make the option 2 T section (west side) wider to incorporate some shady area concept from option 3 (but a simple rectangle structure cross where seatings are provided but no fishing is permitted) that provide reasonable space for other visitors to walk/stand/sit around as people fishing would usually occupy at least two sides (north and east) of that part of the pier."

Option Three: Circle Pier Head

Setting Dromana apart from other piers across Port Phillip, the circular pier head offers an architectural element to the landscape, with larger spaces to relax and enjoy the bay.

This design allows more area for pier-based fishing, walking or simply taking in the views of Arthurs Seat and the nearby foreshore.

The pier's deck (walking surface) will be wider than the existing pier to allow for maintenance or emergency vehicles to pass pedestrians on the pier.

Handrails will be provided on both sides of the pier, as well as more frequent seating. Shade is a key element of this design, along with accessible features include ramping, frequent seating and wide decking. This is the most expensive option.



Figure 8 - Option Three (computer generated image)

When asked how they rated Option Three (Question 3 - "How do you rate Option Three: Circle Pier Head?"), 298 of the 412 respondents gave this option the highest rating of 5.

Those that rated this option higher did so providing the following reasons in Question 4 ("What features do you like?"):

- Visually appealing.
- Supports a range of activities.
- Includes better facilities.
- Protection from the elements.
- Provision of better space for different activities.
- Allows me to undertake the activities I currently do on the pier.

Some respondents also provided written responses to Question 5 ("Are there any features or facilities

you would like to see added to these designs?") which help provide context around their rating of the option and ideas for improvement of the design, for example the following quotes:

"A safe dive entrance ladder would be awesome to encourage divers like Rye Pier."

"Make it longer."

"Is there a way to make the pier more appealing for snorkelling like at Blairgowrie Pier?"

"A larger covered area and more fixed seating with back support."

"Accessibility for all - wheelchair and walker accessible and large enough which option 3 would have."

"Nothing just don't go planning on coffee shops and restaurants on the new pier. People are already struggling. This would kill the local business ..."

"If it went to deeper water an artificial reef under the pier could be created to attract some resident fish and vegetation."

"Better access for boats."

"Art work such as a sculpture. Take a look at the Whale Tail sculpture, Esperance WA. It's a big tourist attraction."

"The shade at the end of the pier for option 3 is fantastic and additional seating for elderly residents. I love the rounded design 3 as it is something different and the pier is the heart of Dromana."

"Allows for a larger platform to allow for more locals and tourists to see the beauty of Dromana, Arthurs Seat, Mt Martha, The Bay & Water Activities Happening and to see the Melbourne CBD Buildings on good days, but this allows for even events to happen, whether a musical group playing to promoting the Morn Peninsula Attractions or even just relaxing on sunny days."

The common theme presented was that there are opportunities to improve on the design and that the majority of survey respondents are looking for a new pier with a design that is unique to Dromana.

The new pier will need to provide shelter, lots of seating and extend into deeper water. Option Three would need to provide for boating, fishing and swimming opportunities that do not detract from the experience of the majority, who enjoy a walk out on the pier to take in views of the bay, Arthurs Seat and Mornington Peninsula.

Low landing for boat access

A specific issue Parks Victoria sought input on was the provision of boating access (low landing) Question 7. Just over 30% of the 384 responses support making the low landing longer to accommodate more boats (see Figure 9).

Respondents also believe there is also a need to consider the depth of water which is a constraint on access to the low landing.

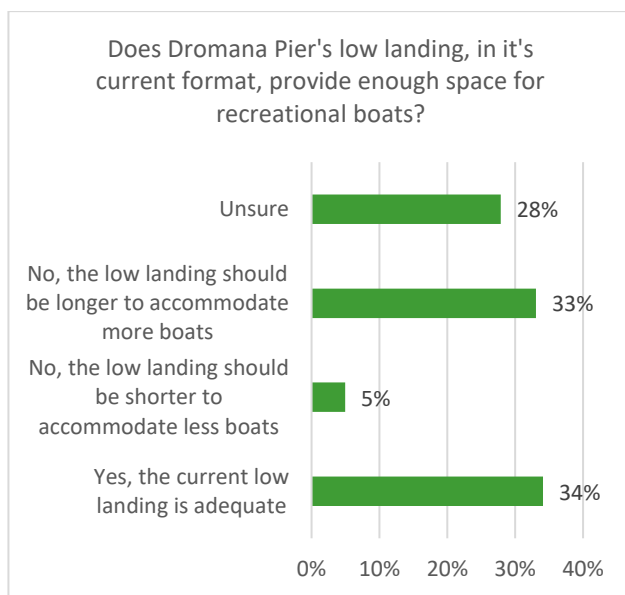


Figure 9 – Current low landing space for boats responses (n.384)

Analysis of free text comments

Questions 5 (“Are there any features or facilities you would like to see added to these designs?”) and 6 (“Are there any activities or opportunities for future use that you would like to see better catered for at Dromana Pier?”) provided respondents the opportunity to provide feedback in their own words.

In response to Question 5 (“Are there any features or facilities you would like to see added to these

designs?”), of the 410 surveys, 40% of respondents provided comments. From these responses some of the suggested improvements and desired added features include:

- Longer / wider pier to access deeper water (n.71).
- Seating (arm and back rests) (n.32), lighting (solar) (n.16) and shelter (n.17).
- Rubbish/litter management (n.14).
- Café/kiosk/restaurant on the end of the pier (note there were divided views on this point) (n.22).
- More art/sculpture/heritage/signs (n.40).
- Facilities to support, fishing (n.23), swimming/diving (n.12) and boating (n.8).
- Proposed a water slide (n.5).
- Viewing/walk – telescope on the end of the pier (n.18).
- The connection to the beach (ramp access)/rails/safety (n.28).
- Raised issues with the drain (n.5).

In response to Question 6 (“Are there any activities or opportunities for future use that you would like to see better catered for at Dromana Pier?”), of the 412 surveys, 28% of respondents provided comments. These tended to be an extension of the same themes raised in regard to Question 5.

The following is an extract of some of the ideas expressed.

“... for promotions of Dromana and surrounding area, attractions, events and even allow for musicians to play, based on a booking system. You may even be able to lure public persons and event groups, to do scenes at the pier, which could lure money to the peninsula, utilizing Arthurs Seat as well, you could even get well known musicians to use for part of video's or TV scenes.

“[It would] be good to see a board, to highlight the history of Dromana/Safety Beach, its origins and history of the local indigenous people that came, respecting boat histories and not just being political over it.”

“One of the first activities that locals and visitors to Dromana do is walk to the end of the pier - this is during any season, as it is equally

enjoyable during the warmer and colder weather. ...”

“Mooring of boats for enough time to be able to buy lunch at a local restaurant.”

“Discourage power boating especially jet ski activities, encourage family use, easy pram, wheelchair accessible pier and beach.”

“... allowance for a proposed ferry. There is also the possibility to host tenders from cruise ships as trialled at Mornington. Dromana is ideal for this with nearby chairlift, mountain walks, wineries, breweries, distilleries, restaurants and shopping.”

“Just keep it safe with barriers for young children.”

“I enjoy walking the pier without it being used for boats or fishing as we have deeper piers around Rye and in Mornington with successful fishing. The Dromana pier is the people pier, to take in the unsurpassed surrounding views and to relax whilst walking without fishing rods flying and sitting or walking in fishing remnants. Would love for it to remain a great improved icon!”

Mornington Peninsula Shire Input

Mornington Peninsula Shire officers provided a submission to Parks Victoria on the design of the pier and what it needs to achieve. This submission included the following points:

- Strong axis with the Town Centre (Pier Street).
- Continue to provide key views from the end of the pier towards the Town Centre and Arthurs Seat.
- Continue to be the ‘defining element of Dromana’ valued by the community and visitors.
- The Mornington Peninsula’s dominant natural assets are the beach foreshore and the Arthurs Seat Summit and State Park. Therefore, existing views to these assets are highly valued, and should be retained.
- Continue to be a destination point for locals and tourists and a ‘postcard image’ impression for Dromana.

They expressed that repair or redevelopment of the pier should look holistically at the Dromana precinct and in consultation with Mornington Peninsula Shire and Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management to maximise opportunities that enhance user experience including:

- Better pedestrian connection and access with the commercial precinct and to beach.
- Inclusion of universal design principles.
- Consider community safety through passive surveillance and aesthetic lighting along the pier deck.
- Cohesive approach to signage (regulatory and educational).
- An improved pier precinct to enhance shoulder seasons and off-peak visitor experiences.
- Public art installation to link the forecourt, pier and pier soffit with opportunity to reflect and respect the cultural heritage of the area.

5. Next steps

Parks Victoria will use the feedback captured in this consultation period to refine and inform the options for Dromana Pier.

This report is intended to reflect the views shared by community and stakeholders.

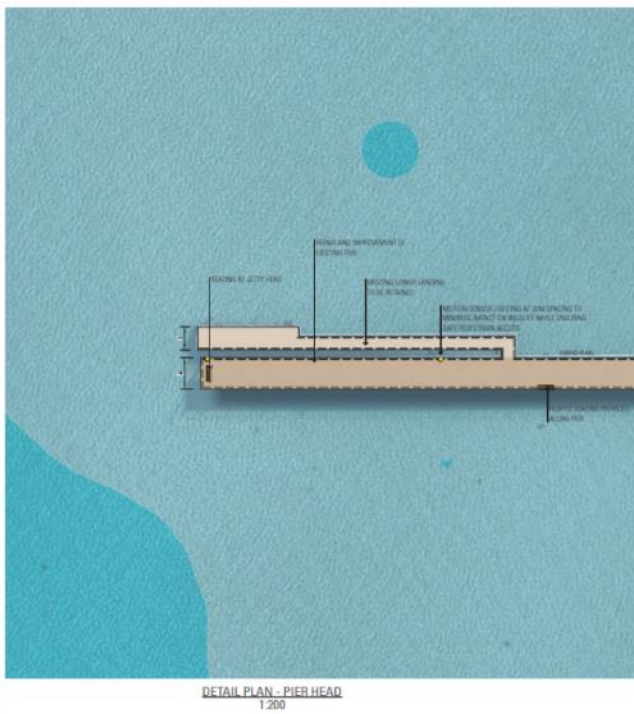
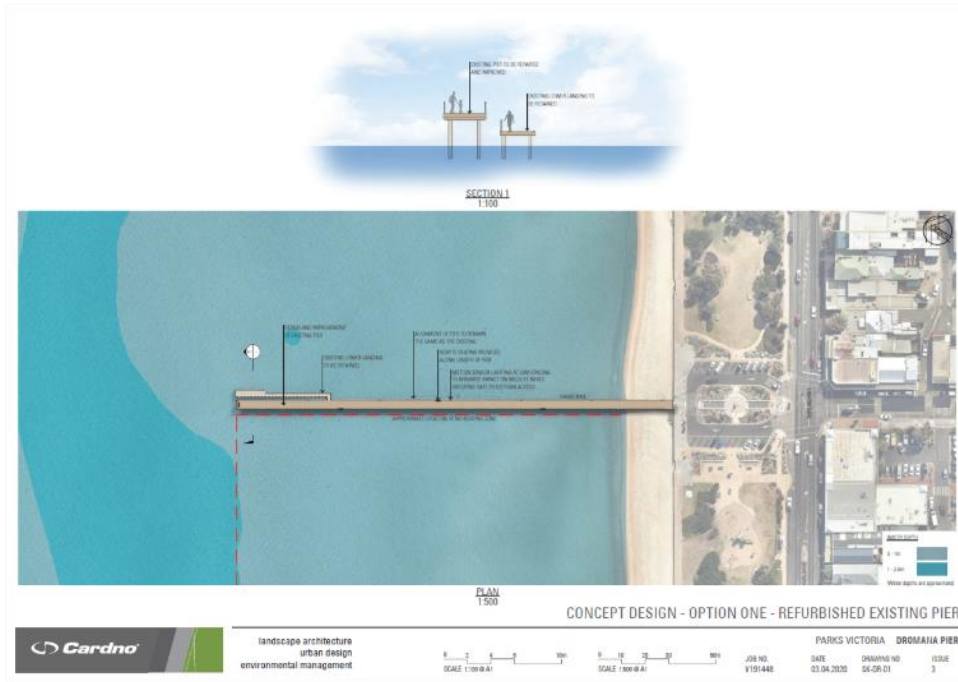
In addition to this report further technical investigations (for example bathymetry, sea level rise, geotechnical conditions, etc.) are required to progress the concept designs and fully understand the costs associated with delivery. This will involve discussions with specific stakeholders and adjoining facility and land managers.

Please note there is no current commitment from Parks Victoria to replace the pier with a preferred option or a construction timeline.

Further information will be provided by Parks Victoria as this project progresses. For further information visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or email engage@parks.vic.gov.au.

6. Appendix

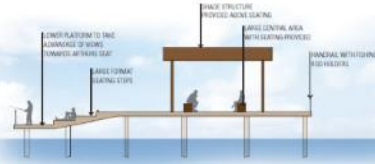
Option One – layout plans (maintain existing pier)



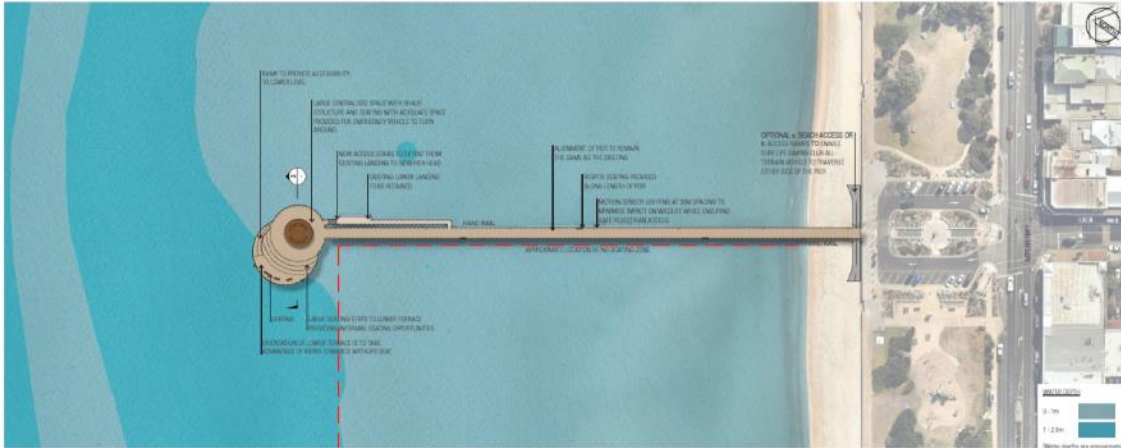
CONCEPT DESIGN - OPTION ONE - REFURBISHED EXISTING PIER (DETAIL PLANS)



Option Three – layout plans (Circle Pier Head)



SECTION 3
1:100



PLAN
1:500

CONCEPT DESIGN - OPTION THREE - CIRCULAR PIER HEAD

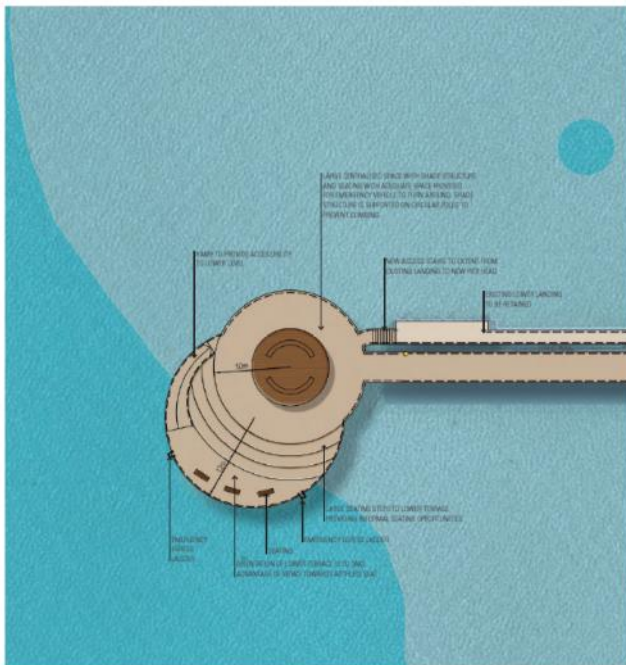


landscape architecture
urban design
environmental management

SCALE 1:500 @ A1

SCALE 1:500 @ A1

PARKS VICTORIA		DROMAIA PIER	
JOB NO.	DATE	DRAWING NO.	ISSUE
V191448	03.04.2020	SK DR 06	3



DETAIL PLAN - PIER HEAD
1:200



DETAIL PLAN - ABUTMENT
1:200

CONCEPT DESIGN - OPTION THREE - CIRCULAR PIER HEAD (DETAIL PLANS)



landscape architecture
urban design
environmental management

SCALE 1:200 @ A1

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V191448	03.04.2020	SK DR 06	3