
Haining Farm Redevelopment Working Group

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



August 2017

Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
HAINING FARM WORKING GROUP	4
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS	5
PROCESS FOR ANALYSING DATA	5
Limitations of data:	6
QUANTITATIVE RESULTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	7
Visitation to Haining:	7
Importance of themes	8
Preferred concept of respondents:.....	11
Preferred concept by distance.....	11
Preferred concept based on theme.....	12
QUALITATIVE DATA FROM SUBMISSIONS	13
Comments on survey forms.....	13
Written submissions	13
NEXT STEPS.....	15
Appendix 1: Timeline of engagement.....	16
Appendix 2: Survey questions	17
Appendix 3: Printed media	20
Appendix 4: Social media	22
Appendix 5: Survey results - Visitation to Haining Farm by location	32
Appendix 6: Survey results - Importance of theme by location.....	33
Appendix 7: Survey results - Preferred concept by location.....	34
Appendix 8: Survey results - Preferred concept by theme	35

INTRODUCTION

Haining Farm is a 59 Hectare site in Don Valley currently managed by Parks Victoria and leased as a working dairy farm. Haining Farm is located at the confluence of the Yarra River and the Don River.

Parks Victoria together with Greening Australia and Zoos Victoria developed a draft concept for the site in late 2016. The concept raised concerns in the community particularly in relation to the potential for bushfire risk to increase and that dairy farming would cease at Haining Farm.

In response to the concerns of the community, Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning committed to better engaging with the community and established a community based working group to develop a new concept for the site.

The Haining Farm Working Group has, over the course of 10 workshops, developed two alternative concepts focused on Farming, Conservation, Education and Agri-Tourism at Haining Farm. The concepts were developed with the assistance of independent experts providing advice about bushfire risk, tourism, threatened species protection and dairy farming viability. The additional 2 concepts were presented alongside a modified version of the initial Parks Victoria and Greening Australia concept for review and input from the community.

The following concepts were presented to the community:

- Concept 1: Boutique dairy farm with conservation
- Concept 2: Commercial agri-tourism farming operation
- Concept 3: Habitat protection for threatened species with community access

The Haining Farm Working Group engaged with the community about the three concepts from the 3 June to 2 July. This process included 2 community drop-in sessions and an on-line survey set up on the Engage Victoria website.

The response to the engagement process has been overwhelming with 2345 people submitting a survey to have their say about the future of Haining Farm. The results of the community engagement process indicate that the large majority of respondents (~80%) are supportive of concept 3 being implemented at the site. The responses to the survey were broken down by location of respondents which identified that most respondents within 10km of Don Valley are supportive of concept 2 being implemented at the site. This changed for respondents outside 10km from Don Valley with a distinct change in preference to concept 3.

The Haining Farm Working Group will review the results of the community engagement and use this information to make a final recommendation to Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning about how the community want the site to be developed and managed in the future.

HAINING FARM WORKING GROUP

The Haining Farm Working Group (Working Group) is a community based working group that was established in February 2017. The Working Group is made up of seven Don Valley community members, and representatives from Parks Victoria, DELWP, Yarra Ranges Council, CFA, Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee and Yarra Waterways Group. The group met fortnightly over a period of 5 months to develop the three concepts for the site. A timeline of the process to date is provided as attachment 1.

The first step of the working group was to build on a community workshop held in Don Valley in December 2016. This community workshop identified several key themes that the community wanted the site to respond to. The working group used this information and developed 7 key themes for the site that formed the basis of all the concepts. The seven key themes are: Bushfire Risk, Farming and Agriculture, Conservation, Education, Community Access and Recreation, Tourism and Capital Expenditure and Maintenance.

The Working Group has been supported by independent technical experts, who have provided information about a range of factors that impact the site and influence what the site can be used for. This included presentations by two independent bushfire experts, Kevin Tolhurst and Justin Leonard who assessed the existing bushfire risk on the site and provided technical expertise about bushfire risk and mitigation measures that could be incorporated into the site to ensure there is no increase in bushfire risk following the development of the site.

The other factors that were considered by the Working Group in the preparation of the concepts for the site include:

- Bushfire risk and assessment.
- Hydrology of the site.
- Habitat requirements of the two threatened species.
- Figures associated with the viability of commercial dairy farming.
- Process for establishing a commercial operation on Crown land.
- Tourism opportunities in the region and at Haining Farm.
- Provisions for value adding and supporting the local community and the economy.
- Funding requirements associated with the different proposals for the site.

The Working Group then developed concepts for the site that responded to the seven themes to varying degrees. The focus for the uses on the site were farming, conservation, education and tourism. The focus for each of the concepts is different and required trade-offs with the other uses. The concepts proposed are as follows:

Concept 01 - BOUTIQUE FARM AND CONSERVATION

Concept 02 - COMMERCIAL AGRI-TOURISM FARMING OPERATION

Concept 03 - HABITAT RESTORATION FOR THREATENED SPECIES WITH COMMUNITY ACCESS.

The three concepts were presented in a community information booklet which contained the background information to the working group and how the three concepts were developed. The booklet also contained a survey (attachment 2) to provide the community the opportunity to comment on each of the concepts and to rank the themes in term of importance.

The results of the community engagement process are derived from the responses to the survey and the written submissions received.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Working Group used a range of approaches to engage with the community to ensure that as many people as possible had the opportunity to provide feedback. The approaches included face to face engagement by hosting community drop-in sessions, an on-line survey and the use of printed and social media.

One of the aims of the community engagement process was to ensure that the views of the local community, who will be most impacted by the development of the site, had the opportunity to have the first view of the concepts. The first community drop-in session was hosted by the Haining Farm Working Group in Don Valley and advertising for this session was targeted to Don Valley residents only, through a local letter box drop. The drop-in session was held on Saturday 3 June and was attended by approx. 40 people. Community members who attended had the opportunity to fill-out and submit a survey at the drop-in session.

A project page was developed on the Engage Victoria website to capture the views of the broader community. The website contained the background information to the project as well as the community information booklet developed by the Working Group. The site also contained an on-line survey for people to provide specific feedback on the three concepts. This site went live on Wednesday 7 June and closed on Sunday 2 July. The site was visited over 4,000 times and over 2200 submissions were received.

A second community drop-in session was held in Yarra Junction on Saturday 17 June. This session was advertised to the broader community via local media, social media and direct email to key stakeholders. The session was attended by approx. 30-40 people. Community members who attended had the opportunity to fill-out and submit a survey at the drop-in session.

The Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning put out a media release to advertise the community drop-in session in Yarra Junction on 17 July. This resulted in an article in the Mountain Views Mail which is provided as attachment 3.

There were several social media posts about the engagement process, with many organisations encouraging their followers to support a particular option. A sample of the social media posts are provided as attachment 4.

PROCESS FOR ANALYSING DATA

There was a total of 2345 submissions to the Haining Farm redevelopment. Of these, 2205 were submitted via the Engage Victoria website, 140 were submitted either in person at one of the community drop-in sessions, submitted directly to Yarra Ranges Council or emailed to the hainingplan@parks.vic.gov.au email address. There were also 11 written submissions received from both individuals and organisations.

The respondents to the survey came from a variety of locations which have been separated into locality for the purpose of data analysis. The separation of respondents was done based on postcode and using the distance from Don Valley to divide the data. This was done using an on-line tool at the following website: australiapostcodes.com. The on-line tool identifies postcodes within the radius of another postcode or suburb. These postcodes were then used to divide the responses into categories based on distance from Don Valley. It is important to note that approx. 70% of respondents live within 50kms of Don Valley.

The following number of responses were received per category of distance from Don Valley:

Location	No. of responses
Don Valley	146
Within 5km of Don Valley (excluding Don Valley)	198
Between 5km and 10km from Don Valley	84
Between 10km and 25km from Don Valley	292
Between 25km and 50km of Don Valley	926
More than 50km from Don Valley	699
TOTAL	2345

The results are presented in two forms, the survey results and a summary of the written submissions received. There were also several written comments received as part of the survey responses. The majority of these comments were in accordance with the survey responses and do not provide additional data for consideration. With the large number of comments (over 2,000) these comments have not been provided in this report, but will be provided to the Haining Farm Working Group members on request.

Limitations of data:

During the analysis of the data, some inconsistencies were identified between the on-line survey format and the written survey format relating to question 1. Question 1 asks respondents to rate the seven themes for the site. The online version allows a ranking system from 1-7 while the written survey asks respondents to rate the themes as either “Not important”, “Slightly important”, “Important” or “Most important” and themes could be given the same ranking. When combining the data from the on-line survey and the written submissions, numerical values were placed on the categories from the written survey to allow the data to be combined in a meaningful way. This means the following values were placed on the categories: “Not important” = 7, “Slightly important” = 5, “Important” = 3 and “Most important” = 1.

During the community engagement process, several people identified issues filling out the on-line survey, particularly with question 1, which required respondents to click and drag each theme from one side of the page

to another. There is a risk that the results obtained do not accurately represent people’s preferences in all cases due to the issues filling in the survey on-line.

Social media campaigns by some conservation focused organisations may have skewed the results to a particular option. DELWP is aware of some campaigns that actively advised followers to vote for a particular concept. We have accounted for this by breaking down the results by proximity to Don Valley to ensure that the views of those most impacted by the development are considered separately to those who live outside the local area and in a few cases, live interstate and internationally.

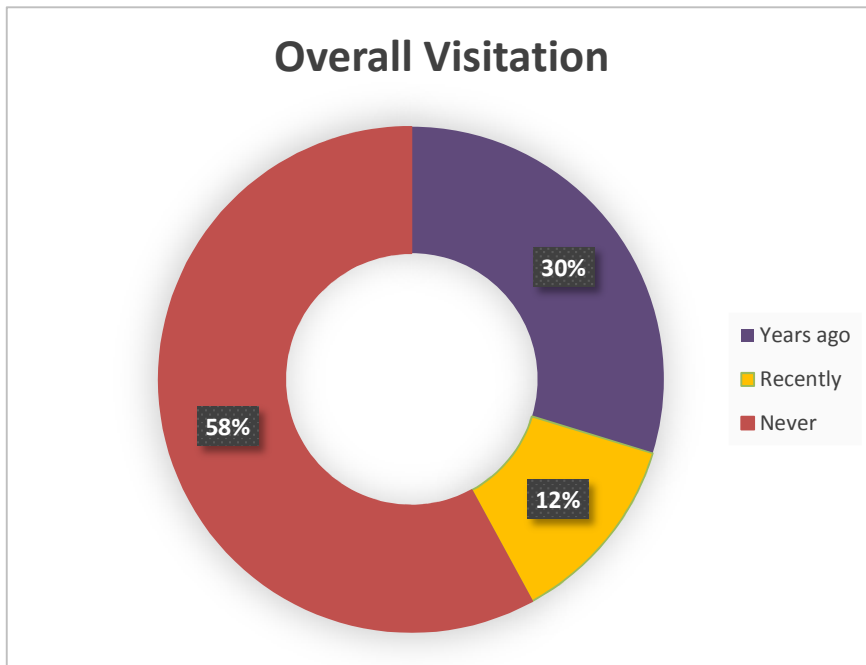
QUANTITATIVE RESULTS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Th quantitative results show the data from the survey responses using both the on-line website and surveys that were submitted by other means, such as submitting during a community drop-in session, or posting/emailing.

Visitation to Haining:

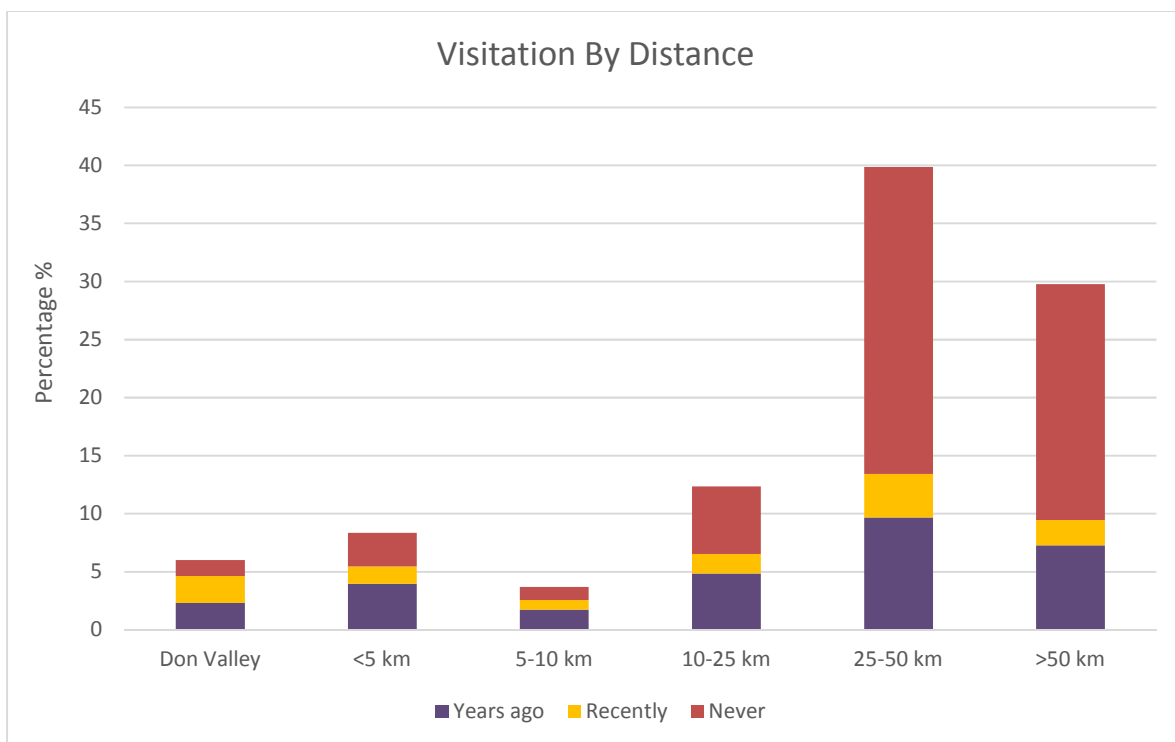
One of the initial questions in the survey asks if the respondent has ever visited Haining Farm. There were 3 possible responses to this question, “Years ago”, “Recently” or “Never”.

A review of all the responses demonstrates that most survey respondents, 58%, have never visited the site, with the remainder of respondents having visited the site at some stage. It is noteworthy that only a small percentage, 12%, have visited the site recently.



Graph 1: Visitation to Haining Farm of survey respondents.

Haining Farm was once visited by school groups as part of the school curriculum. For various reasons, including a change to school’s curriculum, this visitation has ceased in recent years and the site has become largely inaccessible to the public. The results indicate that most of the local community have visited the site at some stage, either recently or years ago. This visitation rate changes for those respondents living more than 10km from Don Valley with a majority having never visited the site. A comparison of the visitation of the site based on location is provided as graph 2.



Graph 2: Overall visitation of the site based on location.

The results were further graphed in appendix 5 which shows a breakdown of visitation by location category.

Importance of themes

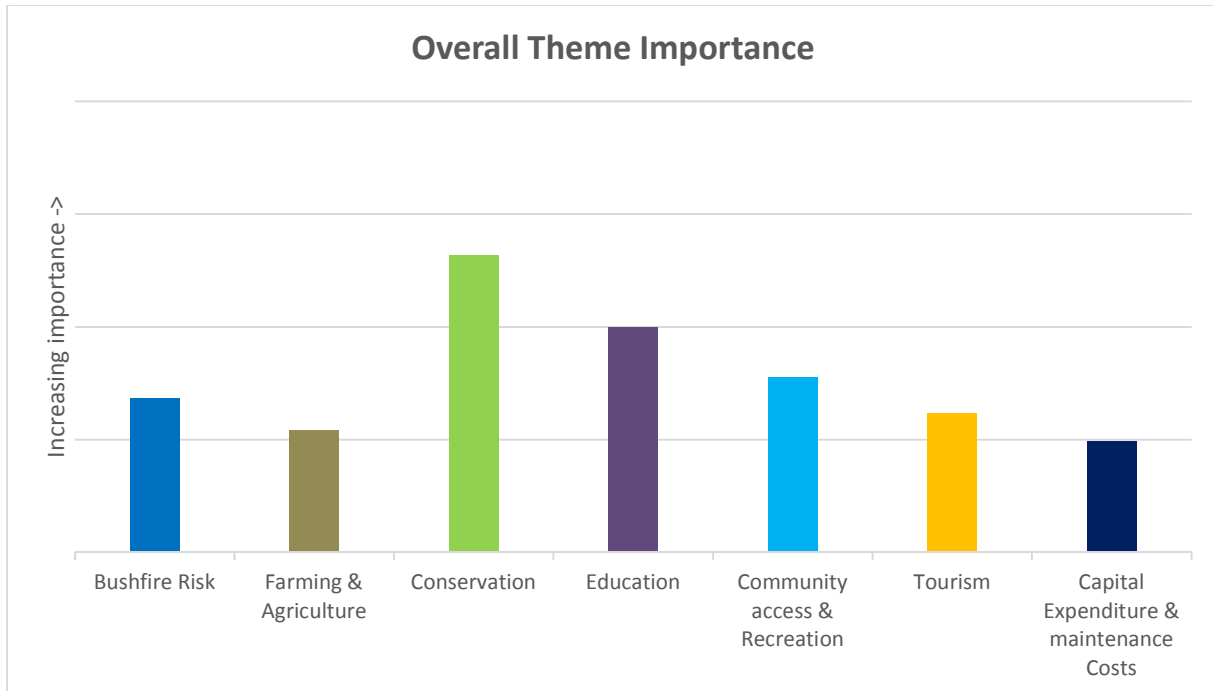
Question 1 in the on-line version of the survey asked respondents to rank the seven themes in order of importance giving them a value of 1-7, with 1 being the most important and 7 being least important. When the data was analysed, the total value of each theme was added together with the theme having the least value being considered the most important overall.

The printed version of the survey was slightly different and asked respondents to tick whether they thought the theme was “not important”, “slightly important”, “important” or “most important”. A numerical value was placed on these responses to allow the data for both the on-line survey and printed survey to be combined. The graphs representing this data does not have a scale associated with it due to the lowest value results being the highest value in terms of importance.

The data shows that overall, the most important theme was conservation and the least important was the capital expenditure and maintenance of the site.

In terms of importance, the total responses to this question would result in the following ranking of the themes in terms of importance:

1. Conservation
2. Education
3. Community Access and Recreation
4. Bushfire risk
5. Tourism
6. Farming and Agriculture
7. Capital expenditure and maintenance.



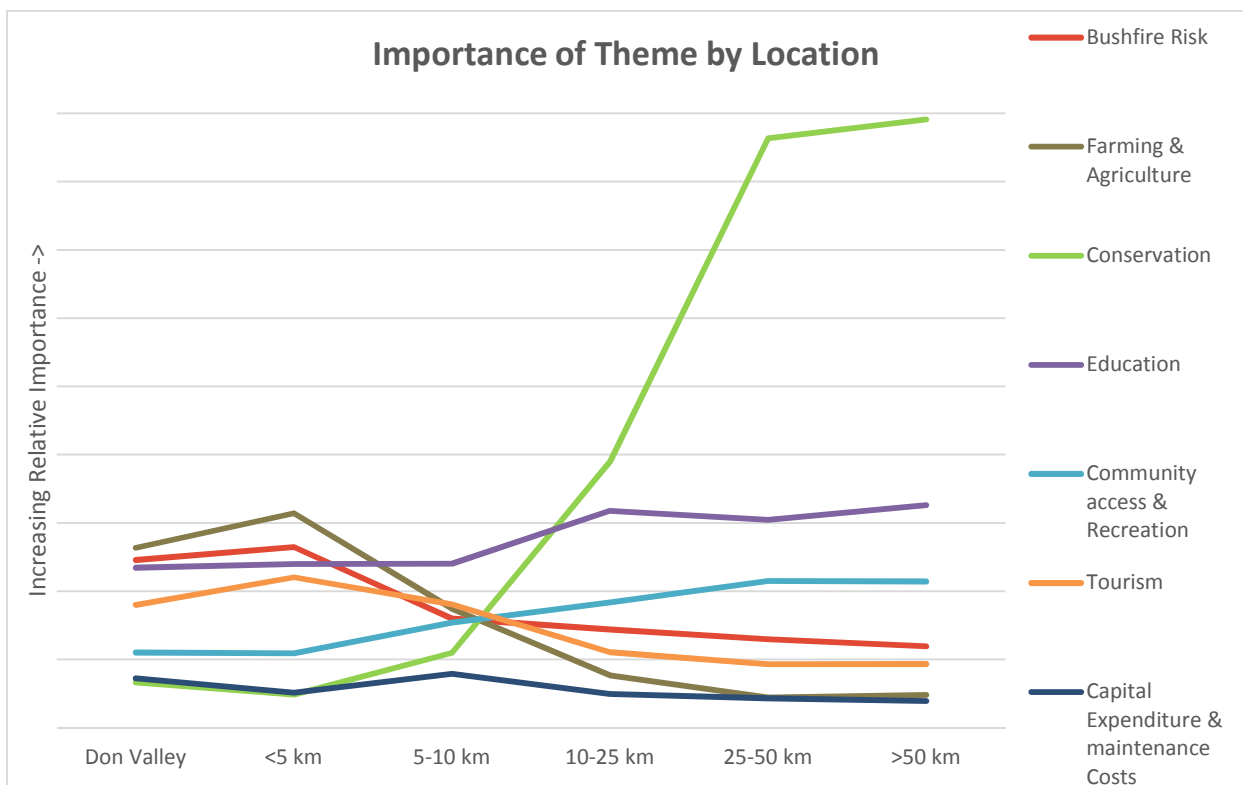
Graph 3: Importance of themes for survey respondents

The data was then analysed based on location. This analysis demonstrates that the themes are given different levels of importance depending on the location of the respondent. For example, for respondents in Don Valley, Farming and Agriculture is the most important theme and Conservation is the least important theme. This trend is continued for respondents within 5km of the site, with a shift in importance for respondents outside of a 5km radius to Don Valley. For respondents between 5km and 10km from Don Valley, Education was the most important theme and the two themes of lowest importance are conservation and capital expenditure and maintenance.

The majority of respondents outside a 10km radius from Don Valley identified conservation as the most important theme and capital expenditure and maintenance being the least important.

The graph shows a trend of three themes becoming less important the further respondents were from Don Valley. These three themes are Farming and Agriculture, Bushfire Risk and Tourism.

The three themes that increased in importance the further away respondents were from Don Valley were Conservation, Education and Community Access and Recreation.



Graph 4: Importance of themes by location

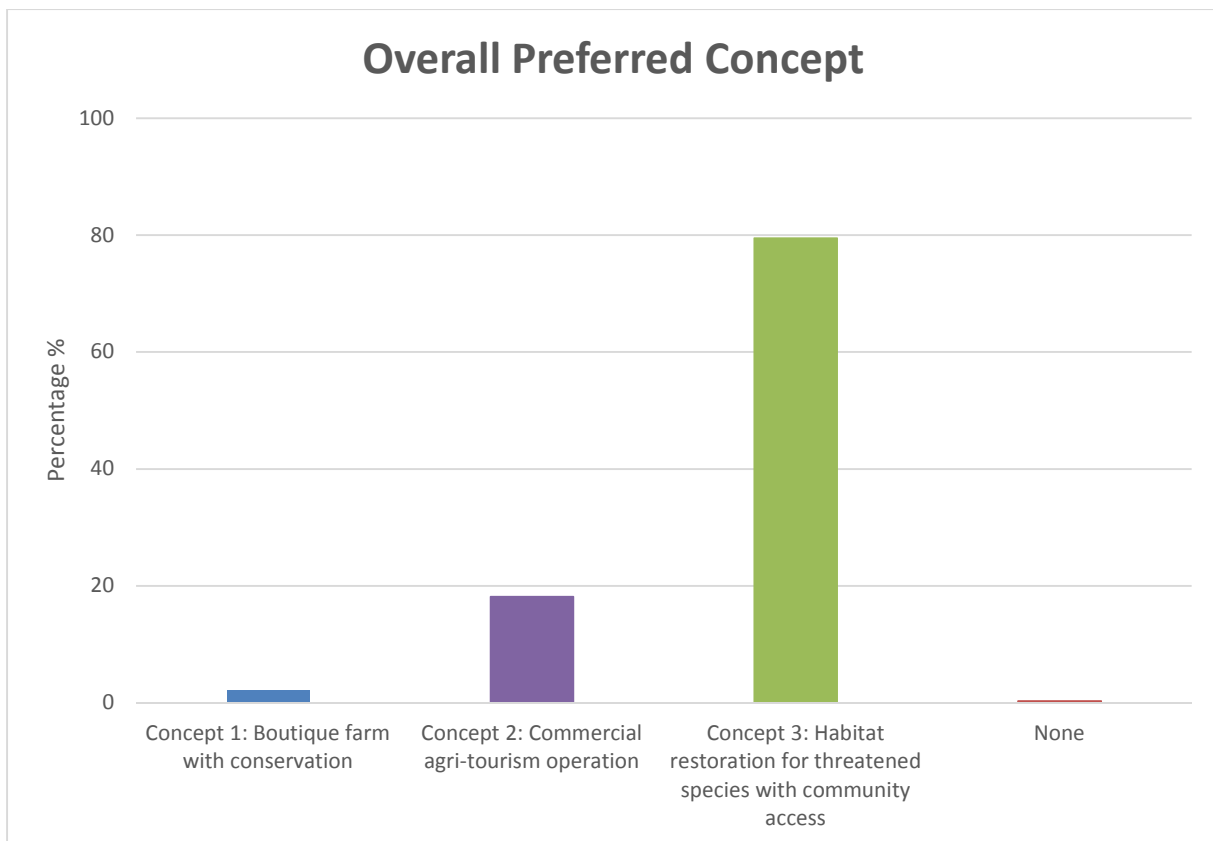
Further graphs are provided in appendix 6 showing the importance of the themes by distance from Don Valley.

Preferred concept of respondents:

Question 2 in the survey asked respondents to choose a preferred concept from the three that were presented to the community.

The overall preference was for concept 3.

Approx. 80% of total respondents (1874 submissions) preferred concept 3. This is in comparison to 18% of respondents (427 respondents) preferring concept 2 and 2% of respondents (52) preferring concept 1.

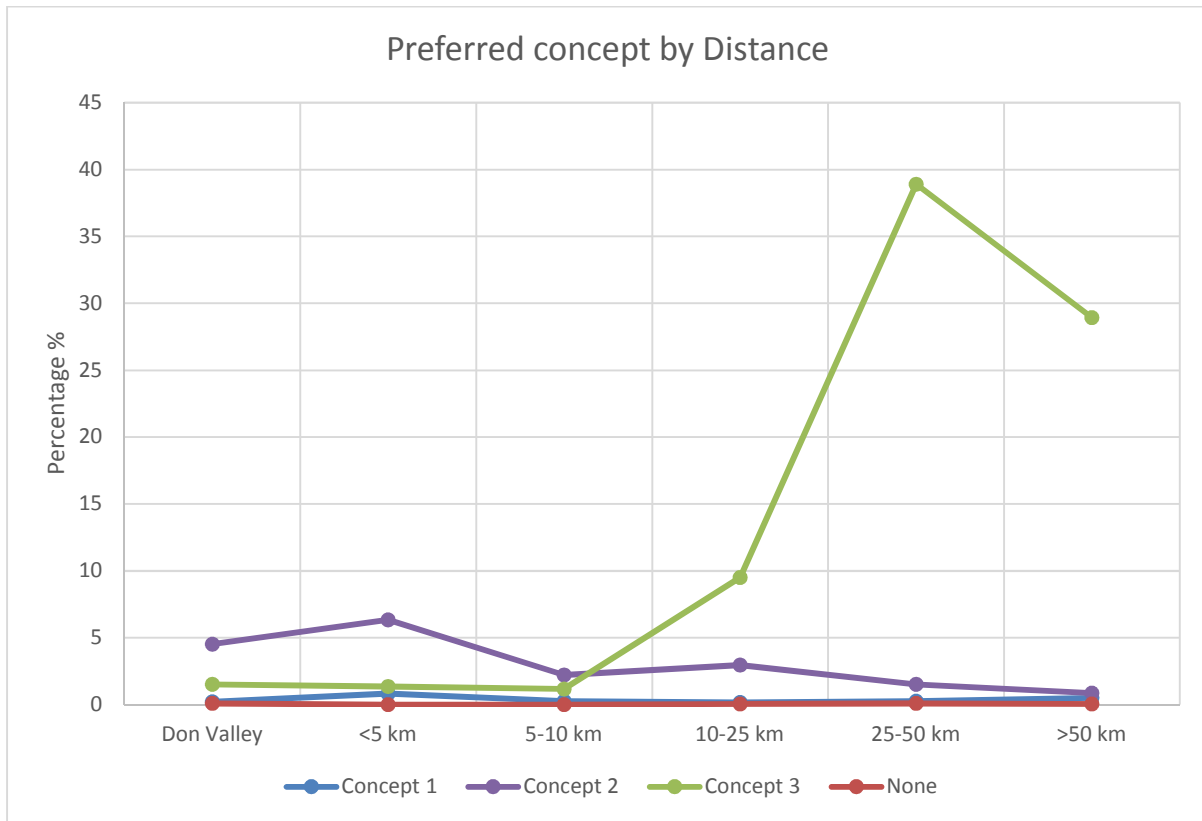


Graph 5: Preferred concept of respondents

Preferred concept by distance

The data was further analysed by distance from Don Valley and this data followed the trend in the other responses. That is that most respondents within 10km of Don Valley preferred concept 2. This preference shifted to concept 3 for respondents further than 10km from Don Valley. This is demonstrated in the graph below.

Survey question 2 – preferred concept by location



Graph 6: Preferred concept by distance

Appendix 7 shows the preferred concept by each distance.

Preferred concept based on theme

Questions 3-8 of the survey asked respondents to choose a preferred concept based on the seven different themes. The graphs displaying the data for this question are displayed as attachment 8.

In reviewing the data for these questions, it appeared that respondents chose a preferred concept for each of the themes based on their overall preferred concept and this was not likely to change when considering the themes individually. This is demonstrated as the preferred concept for all the themes was concept 3 with a range of 65%-81% of respondents. Of those who preferred concept 3, the least number of people (65%) preferred it when considering Farming and Agriculture and the largest number (81%) preferred it when thinking about Conservation.

Those who preferred concept 2 ranged from 17% to 21% for each theme. Of those who preferred concept 2, the least number of people (17%) preferred it when considering Conservation and the most number of people (21%) preferred it when considering Farming and Agriculture and Tourism.

Of those who preferred Concept 2, they were more likely to choose this concept when considering Farming and Agriculture (14%) and least likely to choose this concept when thinking about Conservation (2%).

QUALITATIVE DATA FROM SUBMISSIONS

Comments on survey forms

The survey provided opportunity for submitters to make additional comments. There were several comments made and a review of these comments indicate that the responses were largely in line with the preferred concept of the respondent. A compilation of all comments received for question 9 has been made and resulted in an additional 75 pages. This information will be provided to the Haining Farm Working Group to assist in deliberations.

Written submissions

Written submissions were also received and include submissions from a number of organisations and individuals.

Table of summary of submissions.

Written submitters	Summary of submission
Melbourne Water	Provided a history of work at the site and identified currently proposed works in the surrounding areas. Identified MW assets in the area. Clarified the approval requirements of the concepts. Raised concerns with the proposed Yarra bridge crossing in concepts 1 and 2. Provided design advice for structures in flood plains. Identifies the MW preferred concept as concept 3.
Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee	Summarises the role of YCACC in coordinating the establishment of the Yellingbo Conservation Area. Supportive of concept 3 as the only concept consistent with the Government’s response to the VEAC recommendations.
Birdlife Australia	Supportive of concept 3 due to the environmental and community benefits.
Friends of Hoddles Creek	In principle support for concept 3 as the only concept that is consistent with the Government supported VEAC recommendations.

Individual submission	Daughter of Sir John Reid and states that her father had a strong concern for conservation and the education of children. Supportive of concept 3 as the only concept that would have met with Sir John Reids approval.
Individual submission	Daughter of Sir John Reid and states that her father wanted the land to be available to city children to see where their food came from. States that the dairy herd on the site is not a commercial proposition. Supportive of concept 3 as a positive plan for the future conservation of the property.
Individual submission	Granddaughter of Sir John Reid. States that she has spent a lot of time at the farm and attended the ceremony to hand Haining Farm to the Government. Provides a review of all three concepts, including an additional option of doing nothing at the site and maintaining the status quo. Supportive of concept 3 as the only option consistent with her grandfather’s philanthropic vision.
Individual submission	Granddaughter of Sir John Reid and states that her grandfather had a strong focus on conservation and that the dairy operation was an important part of his idea to use Haining as a site for environmental science and education. Following a review of Sir John’s diaries from the time of donating the land to the Government, states that Sir John’s intention for the land were for it to be used for education, conservation and science. Supportive of concept 3 as the only option consistent with Sir John’s gifting of the land to the Victorian Conservation Trust.
Individual submission	Proposing a new concept based on tertiary education and primary production, including dairy farming, fruit and vegetables and an apiary. Would prefer low visitation to the site, but link in to the existing trail network and have a low-key café on site.
Individual submission	Proposing a new concept focussed on tertiary education and primary production to be run by the Department of Education as a TAFE college. The site could be used for education about all

	aspects of farming including management of animals, pastures, trees, waterways etc. The site could include a small café run by hospitality students to serve tourists. Concerned about the maintenance of the site is large areas are revegetated. Does not want a large tourist attraction.
Individual submission	Proposing a new concept based on food production in preparation for climate change and food security. It is expected that climate change will impact standard food production practices and greater efficiencies could be achieved. Recommends using Haining Farm as a village system producing food as close to communities as possible. This would lead to using the site for education about efficient food production techniques.

Appendix 9 contains a copy of all written submissions which was provided to the Working Group members. These submissions will not be provided to the public.

NEXT STEPS

The Haining Farm Working Group will review the results from the engagement process and use this information to develop a final recommendation to Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning about how the community want the site to be developed.

Appendix 1: Timeline of engagement

Date	Engagement activity
10 December 2016	Community engagement event in Don Valley.
February 2017	Haining Farm Working Group formed.
February – June 2017	Haining Farm Working Group meetings to form the 3 concepts.
3 June 2017	Haining Farm Working Group hosted a community drop-in session in Don Valley
7 June 2017	Engage Victoria website went live with information and survey
	Media release advising of the Yarra Junction drop-in session and Engage Vic website
17 June 2017	Haining Farm Working Group hosted a community drop-in session in Yarra Junction
2 July	Last day for submissions through the Engage Victoria website.

Appendix 2: Survey questions

Introduction

The Haining Farm Working Group has developed three concepts for the future of Haining Farm and is presenting these to the community for comment.

Haining Farm is a 59 Hectare site currently managed by Parks Victoria and leased as a working dairy farm. Haining Farm is located in Don Valley, at the confluence of the Yarra River and the Don River.

Everyone with an interest in Haining Farm is invited to comment on the draft concepts. All comments will be carefully considered in developing a final concept.

To contribute a submission, you can:

- Complete an online submission survey on the Engage Victoria website.

www.engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea

- Write a submission. Please fill out the survey questions below and either email to hainingplan@parks.vic.gov.au or post to Manager Park Planning, Haining Farm Submissions, Parks Victoria, Level 10, 535 Bourke Street Melbourne, VIC 3000

- Surveys must reach us by **Sunday 2nd July 2017**

About You

- Your name _____
- Your town of residence _____ Postcode _____
- Your Email address (optional) _____
- Have you ever visited Haining Farm? (please circle)

YEARS AGO RECENTLY NEVER

About the Plans

1. Please rate the following uses for Haining Farm.

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Important	Most Important
Bushfire Risk				
Farming & Agriculture				
Conservation Education				
Community access & Recreation				
Tourism				
Capital Expenditure & maintenance Costs				

Other (please state) _____

2. Based on reviewing the criteria for each of the 3 concepts, do you have a preferred concept?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03 None

3. Thinking about Bushfire Risk and management, which of the 3 concepts do you most like?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03

why? _____

4. Thinking about Farming and Agriculture, which of the 3 concepts do you most like?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03

why? _____

5. Thinking about Conservation and habitat for threatened species, which of the 3 concepts do you most like?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03

why? _____

6. Thinking about Education, which of the 3 concepts do you most like?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03

why? _____

7. Thinking about Community Access and Recreation, which of the 3 concepts do you most like?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03

why? _____

8. Thinking about Tourism, which of the 3 concepts do you most like?

Concept 01 Concept 02 Concept 03

why? _____

9. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Surveys must reach us by **Sunday 2nd July 2017**

To register your interest to be kept informed about the progress of the plan, please email your contact details to **hainingplan@parks.vic.gov.au** or visit the Engage Victoria website www.engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea

Appendix 3: Printed media

 <http://mountainviews.mailcommunity.com.au>

MOUNTAIN VIEWS 

+Newspapers +Magazines [Contact \(http://mailcommunity.com.au/contact-us\)](http://mailcommunity.com.au/contact-us)
[Advertise \(http://mailcommunity.com.au/advertise\)](http://mailcommunity.com.au/advertise) [About \(http://mailcommunity.com.au/about\)](http://mailcommunity.com.au/about)

Options for Haining Farm

16 June 2017 4:18 PM .

1

By Derek Schlennstedt

Three options have been put forward by the Haining Farm Working Group regarding the future of the Don Valley dairy farm.

That future is now in the hands of community groups and residents who are invited to put forward their votes on which concept they deem best suits the location.

The 65-hectare farm was donated to the community in 1974 by Melbourne businessman Sir John Reid to help educate children about commercial dairy practices.

Now, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria and the Haining Farm Working Group are welcoming the public to attend a community drop-in session on Saturday, 17 June to determine what it will become. Rick Houlihan, member of the Yarra Waterways Group who had been part of the Haining Farm Working Group said everyone was welcome to vote on it.

"It's up to the general public, everyone is given the opportunity to virtually vote on it," he said.

"They can vote on which concept they personally feel happy with."

Each Concept has gone through various workshops by the Haining group and has been supported by independent technical experts, who have provided information about a range of factors that impact the site and influence what it

Like 8 people like this. Be the first of your friends.



Members of the community are urged to vote on the future of Haining Farm in Don Valley. 169578
Picture: DEREK SCHLENNSTEDT

Purchase this photo from Star Photos: 169578
(http://www.starphotos.com.au/?m=main&p=event&event_id=1695)

can be used for.

Concept one focuses on accommodating both conservation and farming and would include a Warburton rail trail connection and a boutique farm.

"The First option primarily is a 50/50 option – 50 conservation and 50 farming," Rick said.

Concept two would transform the farm into a commercial agri-business focusing solely on using the site as a commercial farm.

This concept aims to take advantage of the existing tourism to the area and would transform the farm into an established cafe and restaurant that sells food produced on-site and would also create a Collingwood children type farm model with animals, a vineyard, orchard and vegetable garden.

"It would involve building a new building on the site, which would primarily become like the ice creamery, where you can see cheeses, and yoghurts being made," Rick said.

"So all the milk coming from the property would be used in this complex, the idea is not to send the milk out of the front gate."

"We have thousands of people driving past the front gate of the farm going to Healesville every weekend," he said.

The final and third option focuses on retaining the farm as part of the Yellingbo Conservation Area to provide enough habitat for two of Victoria's critically endangered species, the helmeted honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum.

DELWP Project Manager for the Yellingbo Conservation Area, Victoria Purdue, said: "It's important for us to involve the community and find out what they want to see at Haining Farm in the future.

"This is the first step in planning for the broader Yellingbo Conservation Area," she said.

The Working Group is made up of seven Don Valley community members, and representatives from Parks Victoria, DELWP, Yarra Ranges Council, CFA, Yellingbo Conservation Area Co-ordinating Committee and Yarra Waterways Group.

The Haining Farm Working Group has, over the course of 10 workshops, developed three concepts for the future of Haining Farm.

To learn more about the three available options and to make an online submission visit

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea>

Submissions close on 2 July.

Appendix 4: Social media

Hillcrest Fire Brigade
7 June at 15:31 · 🌐

Haining Farm Redevelopment Community Session. Local residents opportunity to provide feedback on draft concept plans and have your say on what you think the Haining Farm Redevelopment should look like.
Yarra Burn Centre, 1 Park Road Yarra Junction
Saturday 17 June from 9am to 1pm
You can also make a submission via the Engage Victoria website
www.engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea
All feedback must be submitted by Sunday 2 July.



HAINING FARM REDEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY SESSION



Hillcrest Fire Brigade shared Parks Victoria's photo.
21 June at 15:04 · 🌐

Don't forget to have your say on the draft proposed concept plans - feedback closes on Sunday 2 July.



Parks Victoria
21 June at 15:00 · 🌐

Have your say about the future use of Haining Farm in Don Valley, a 59 hectare site at the confluence of the Yarra and Don Rivers, currently managed by Parks Vi...

See more

Like Comment Share

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc. shared Zoos Victoria's photo.
11 hrs · 🌐

Thx, Zoos Victoria. Carry on with your work and your support... and, yes, option three will help me.



Zoos Victoria
22 June at 18:17 · 🌐

Do you care about the Leadbeater's Possums and Helmeted Honeyeaters and want to help prevent wildlife extinction?
Have your say in how a significant piece of th...

See more

Like Comment Share

👍❤️ 18

View 1 comment

Zoos Victoria
22 June at 18:17 · 🌐

Do you care about the Leadbeater's Possums and Helmeted Honeyeaters and want to help prevent wildlife extinction?
Have your say in how a significant piece of their habitat, Haining Farm, should be used in future. Follow the link below to read about the three options for its use and complete the survey to have your say.
<https://engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea...> See more



Like Comment Share

👍👍👍 1.1k

Chronological *

150 shares

View previous comments 2 of 55

Amber Waugh Jane Waugh
Like · Reply · 28 June at 19:58

Mandy Forde Luke Worthy remember your project? I do
Like · Reply · 28 June at 20:13

Write a comment...


Greening Australia
23 June at 10:10

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY: Just a few minutes of your day could help secure a new home for this little Leadbeater's Possum!

The Victorian Government is currently reviewing options for how a significant piece of their habitat called Haining Farm, should be used in future. One of these is building a world class conservation reserve where people like you can see lowland Leadbeater's Possums and Helmeted Honeyeaters in the wild.

Follow the link below to read about the three options for the use of Hainings Farm and complete the survey to have your say at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea>

Photo copyright Dan Harley, Zoos Victoria



Have your say to help secure new homes for Leadbeater's Possums and Helmeted Honeyeaters

ENGAGE.VIC.GOV.AU

Like Comment Share

454

139 shares 14 comments

Zoos Victoria Hey guys, Zoos Victoria supports concept 3 as the only option to restore the habitat of these threatened species.

Like · Reply · 3 · 23 June at 09:00

Posts

Helmeted Honeyeater
24 June at 11:35

If you have a spare couple of minutes please place your vote on the online form to help protect habitat for two of our local endangered species the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeaters possum at the Haining Farm property.



Yellingbo Conservation Area – Haining Farm :: Engage Victoria

We invite you to help inform the future use of Haining Farm as part of the broader implementation Yellingbo Conservation Area. What do you want to see Haining Farm become?

ENGAGE.VIC.GOV.AU

Like Comment Share

13


1 share

Write a comment...

View 1 comment

Victorian National Parks Association
26 June at 23:33

Two of Victoria's official wildlife emblems are in trouble – but you can help. A visionary habitat restoration program to save them desperately needs your support to ensure that it goes ahead. Can you make a quick submission now before the survey closes on Sunday?



Saving our state wildlife emblems at Haining Farm | Victorian National Parks Association

Two of Victoria's official wildlife emblems are in trouble – but you can help. A visionary habitat restoration program to save them desperately needs your...

VNPA.ORG.AU

39 Likes 1 Comment 18 Shares

Share

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc.
27 June at 20:55 · 🌐

We encourage you to take an interest and participate online in this great opportunity. There are three concepts for what Haining Farm might evolve into. Option three is the best outcome for me. Do complete the online survey 😊



Saving our state wildlife emblems at Haining Farm | Victorian National Parks Association
Two of Victoria's official wildlife emblems are in trouble – but you can help. A visionary habitat restoration program to save them desperately needs your support...
VNPA.ORG.AU

Like Comment Share

43

17 shares

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc. shared their post.
28 June at 16:46 · 🌐

Remember, Only Concept 3 helps LbPI

Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc. Like Page
27 June at 20:55 · 🌐

We encourage you to take an interest and participate online in this great opportunity. There are three concepts for what Haining Farm might evolve into. Option three is the best outcome for me. Do complete the online survey 😊



Saving our state wildlife emblems at Haining Farm | Victorian National Parks Association
Two of Victoria's official wildlife emblems are in trouble – but you can help. A visionary habitat restoration program to save them desperately needs your...
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4



Saving our state wildlife emblems at Haining Farm

[Tweet Share](#)

Two of Victoria's official wildlife emblems are in trouble – but you can help. A visionary habitat restoration program to save them desperately needs your support to ensure that it goes ahead.

The critically-endangered helmeted honeyeater (fewer than 250 birds) and the lowland Leadbeater's possum (probably fewer than 60 animals) are restricted to a tiny, fragmented reserve at Yellingbo, east of Melbourne. But it's just not big enough to guarantee their survival.

The lowland Leadbeater's possum is a genetically distinct subspecies, different to the critically-endangered Leadbeater's possum threatened in the Central Highlands.

We urgently need to find other sites with suitable habitat to sustain new populations of at least 100 individuals of each species.

Fortunately, there is currently a great opportunity to do exactly that. Haining Farm, not far from Yellingbo, is a Parks Victoria property with some good remnant vegetation. There are currently three options for its future:

Concept 1 mixes farming and conservation, but will not provide enough habitat.

Concept 2 focuses on farming and tourism, with very limited habitat.

Concept 3 aims for careful habitat restoration. It is the only option that offers new hope for helmeted honeyeaters and lowland Leadbeater's possums.

Importantly, **Concept 3** also allows the greatest community access and retains options for education programs and local tourism.

Some of the local residents are concerned that the revegetation will increase the fire risk. While Concept 3 involves a considerable increase in bushland, independent fire experts and DELWP fire modelling have assessed the proposal and concluded that the careful planning of the revegetation will not add any significant risk to the region. All three options bring no significant additional fire risk. Importantly, the area is well-served by rapid attack firefighting aircraft; two helicopters and two air cranes can now get to the area within 12 minutes of a fire breaking out

Haining Farm, situated at the confluence of the Yarra River and the Don River, was given to the state of Victoria as a site for conservation and education. At 59 hectares, with the right type of restoration it is big enough to support 190 helmeted honeyeaters and 85 lowland Leadbeater's possums. Both animals use similar habitat based on swampy Manna Gum and Mountain Swamp Gum forests along the Yarra River and its tributaries. Unfortunately most of this type of landscape was cleared long ago. Haining Farm's location on the river connects it to other habitat that will support even greater numbers of animals.

A partnership of Greening Australia, Parks Victoria and Zoos Victoria has developed the plan to revegetate the farm with habitat for helmeted honeyeaters and lowland Leadbeater's possums.

Concept 3 has secured over \$1.2 million of funding – enough to make it a reality.

How can you help?

We need people to support **Concept 3** by going to this [website](#) and completing the survey by **Sunday 2 July 2017**. You can also see a detailed map and description of each proposal.

In addition you can also write a submission directly to the Minister clearly stating your support for Haining Farm **Concept 3**:

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

[News](#)

[27 June 2017](#)

[Tweet Share](#)

From: Zoos Victoria Memberships <members@zoo.org.au>
Date: 22 June 2017 at 4:28:32 pm AEST
To:
Subject: Will you be a voice for wildlife?

You can make a difference.

[View Online >](#)



Dear

Zoos Victoria is a proud voice for wildlife.

We know our members care about adding their voices to our fighting extinction work, which is why we thought you would be interested in this issue.

For a limited time, we have an opportunity to support an important cause that will significantly improve the future of two critically endangered species, the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum. This support centres on the site of Haining Farm.

The future for Haining Farm

Haining Farm is a 59 hectare site located in Don Valley, managed by Parks Victoria and currently leased as a working dairy farm.

In 2013, the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council recommended that the site be used to restore habitat for two of Victoria's critically endangered species. In addition, they recommended that use of the land be changed to provide greater community use and access.

The choice is ours

The Haining Farm Working Group has developed three potential concepts for the future use of the site. As this is public land, the decision lies with all of us.

Zoos Victoria supports **Concept 3**, which prioritises habitat restoration, alongside increased public access to the site.

As a valued member of the Zoos Victoria family, we encourage you to complete the online survey so you too can have a say in what you think is the most valuable future use of this land.

How to have your say

You'll note it is referred to as a submission on the Yellingbo webpage. Scroll down the page to the heading '*Make a Submission*' to have your say:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/yellingboconservationarea>

Thanks for adding your voice to this important project. Your support is extremely important to us, and the future of our precious wildlife depends on it.

With regards,

Dr Jenny Gray
CEO Zoos Victoria



Yarra Waterways Group

Balanced Land Management

VOTE FOR FUTURE HAINING FARM (closes Tomorrow 2nd July)

Feel free to make your choice

[Click here to to get a simple explanation of the Concepts](#) *(continued next page)*

If you like to preserve Haining farm (close to) “the way it is” choose Concept 2

Go to the **bottom** of the web page to see the form

[Click me to go to the web form](#)

Regarding Haining Farm Web site : www.engage.vic.gov.au/vellingdoboconservationarea

Notes regarding differences between the concepts presented, not mentioned in the brochures

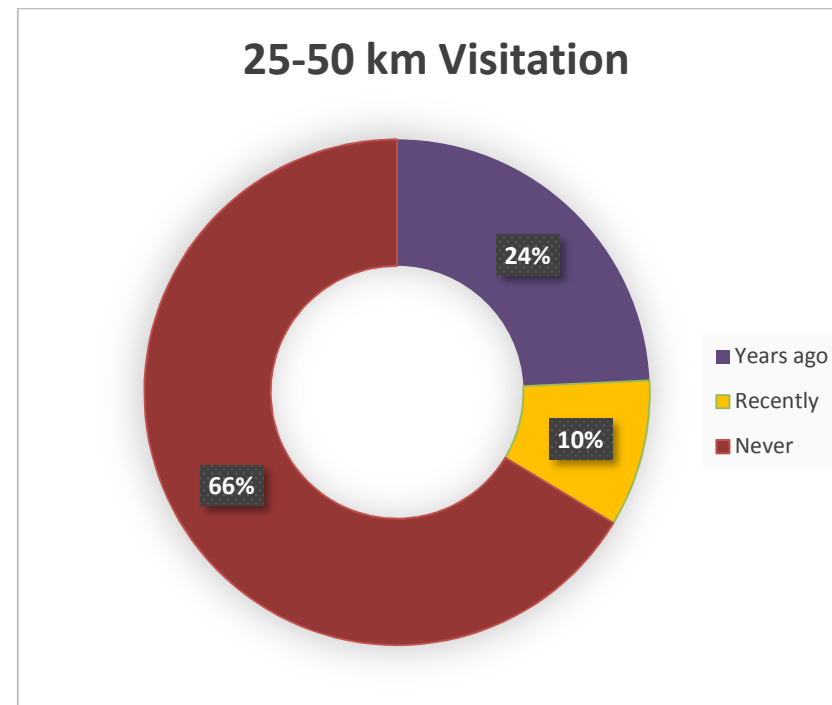
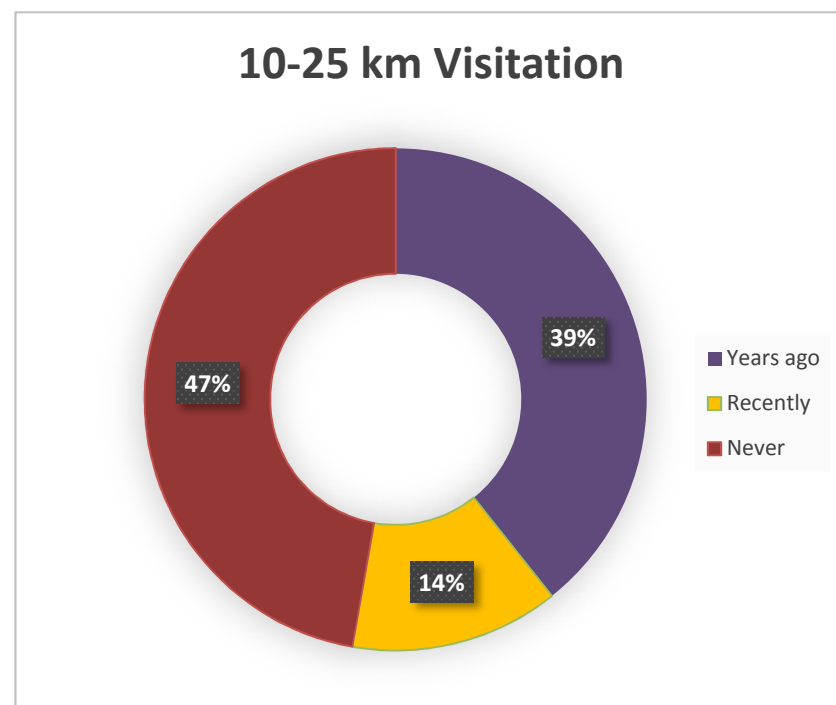
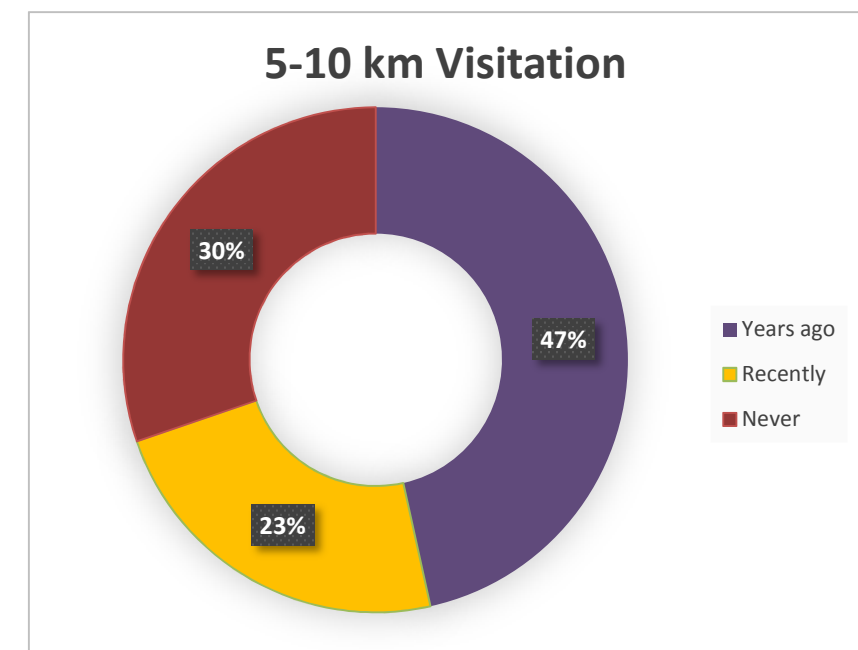
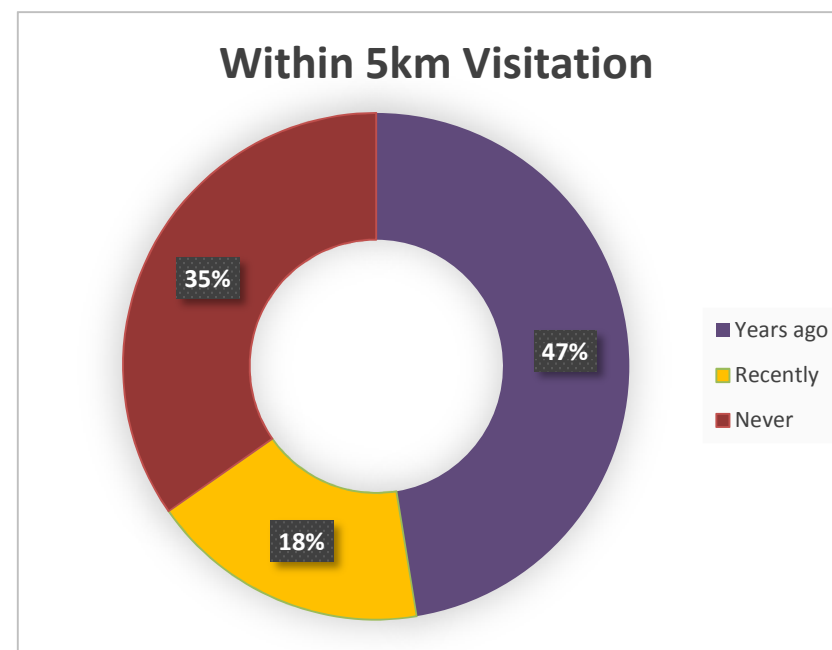
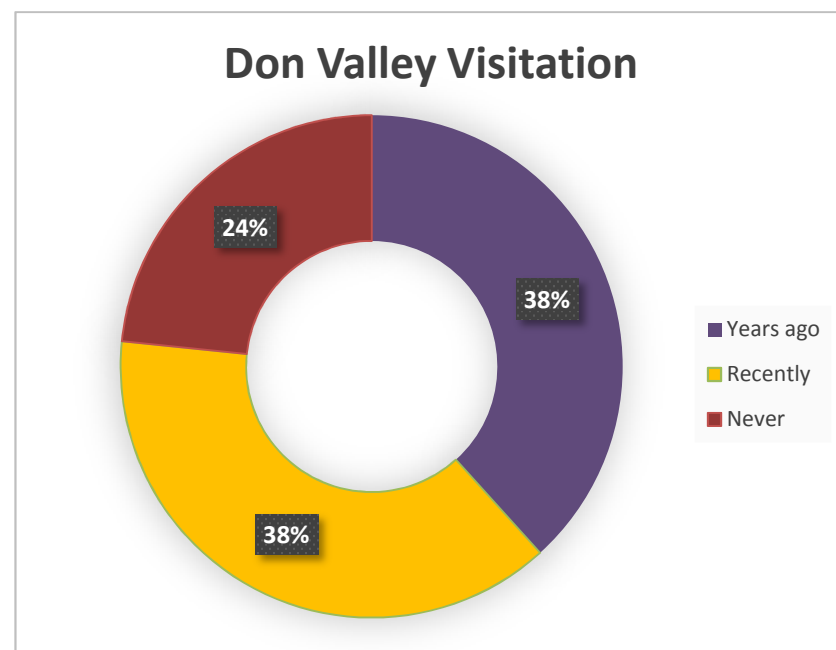
Concept	Comments
Concept 01	<p>On the map, the areas of "Open Woodland Grazing" implicate planting trees at a certain distance. Over time these trees will grow, the canapés will prevent grass from growing, which will make the farming component not viable and sustainable over time.</p> <p>This model therefore will destroy itself over time, with a waste of tax payers' money and loss of local jobs</p> <p>Fire risk will be increased due to => more trees = more fuel</p>
Concept 02	<p>Closest option to continuation of existing usage of Haining Farm.</p> <p>Largest amounts of open space & farm land to enable viable farming over time</p> <p>The model contains all the options of "boutique farm" of concept 01, but with a more viable component for farming.</p> <p>The model supports Farming, Education and Tourism (= Collingwood Children's farm model) and will provide local jobs</p> <p>Safest option regarding fire risk (large open spaces, least amount of trees), helicopters can land</p> <p>Evacuation & Safety area for Don Valley people</p>
Concept 03	<p>Planting of many trees. Artificial raise of water level to enable the mountain swamp gum trees to grow = species required for Helmeted Moneyeaters and lowland Leadbeater's possum.</p> <p>Large increase of fuel = increase of fire risk</p> <p>If Haining farm burns, there is an immediate danger for Don Valley, Yarra Junction and the rest of the Upper Yarra Valley.</p> <p>No Evacuation and Safety area for Don Valley people</p>

Notes regarding online form

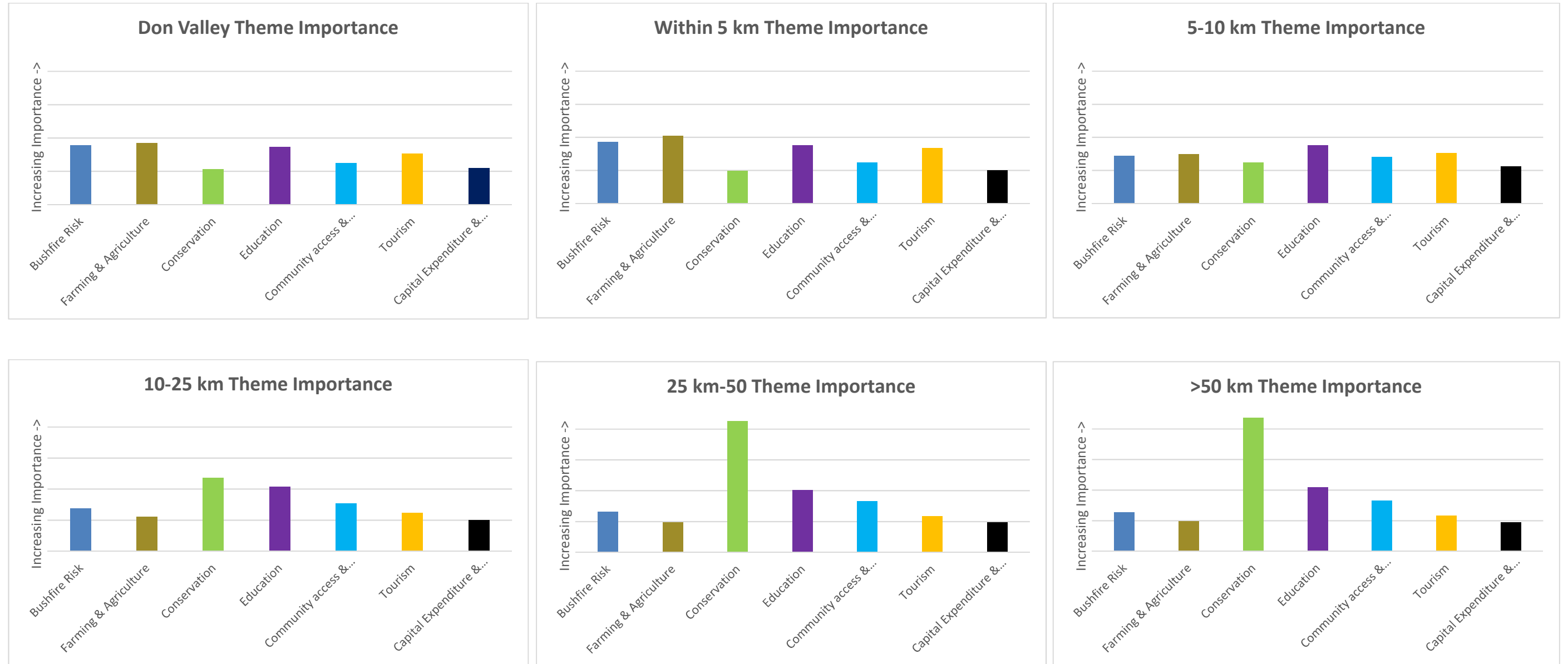
Scroll down to see the Online Submission form => "Make a submission"

- **Express your opinion : Every member of a family can submit a form**
- "Email address "is **NOT** required (= optional)
but you get a reply per email of the form if you provide your email address
- Question 1. Rank themes from highest to least importance
 - You **HAVE** to drag the boxes from right to left in the order you prefer
 - **otherwise the form will NOT submit**
 - You can drag them right to left in the same order if you want to
- Question 1b Other => **optional**, no need to answer
- **All the "why ?" questions (= 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7b, 8b) are optional**, no need to answer
- Question 9 = **optional**, no need to answer

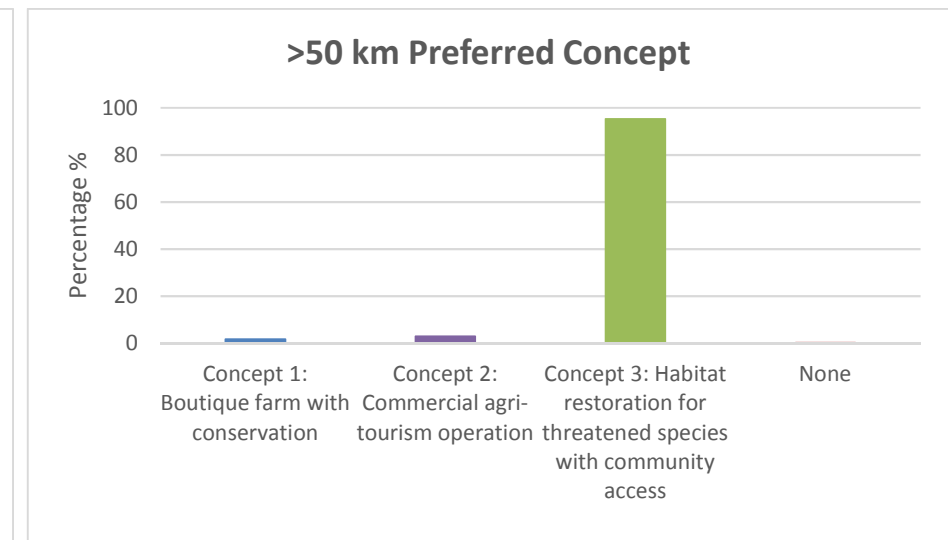
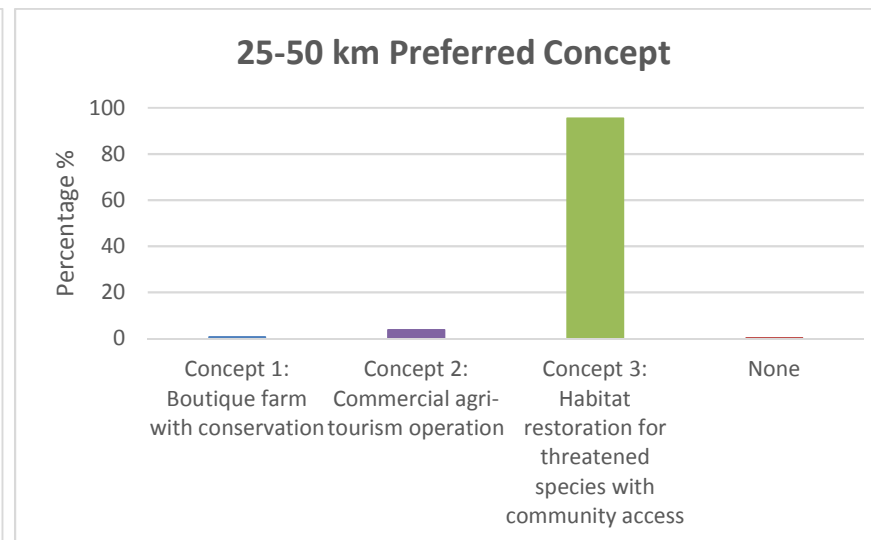
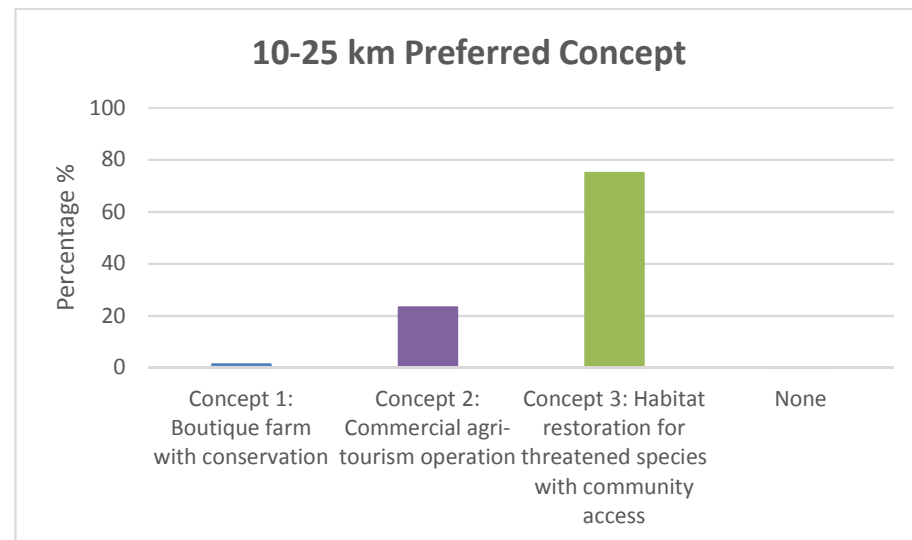
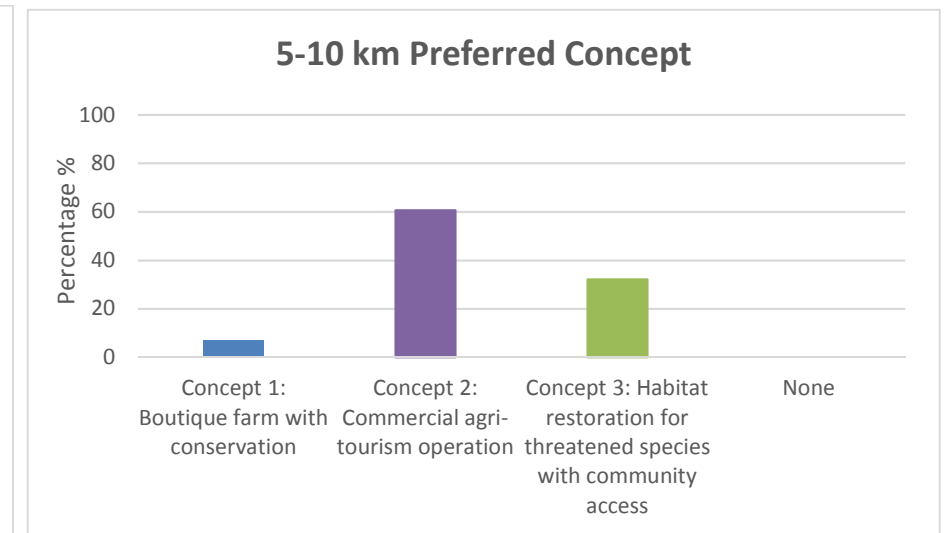
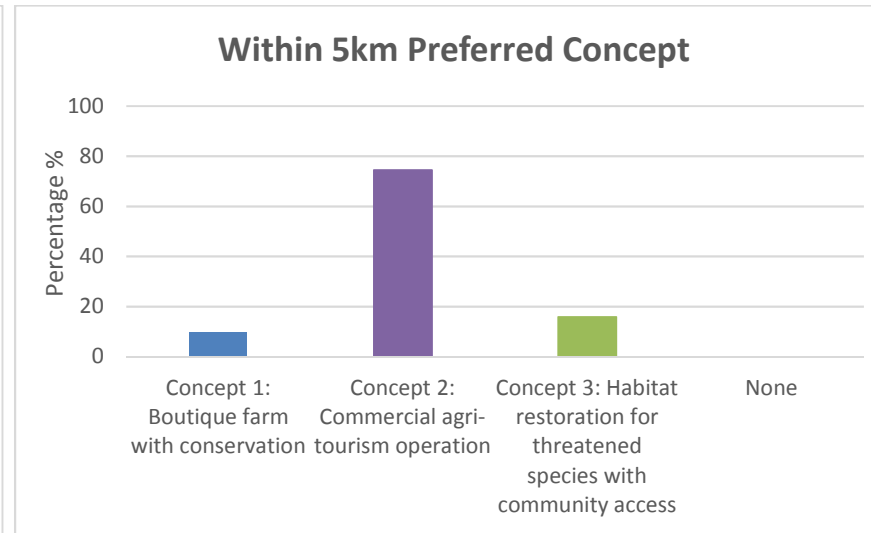
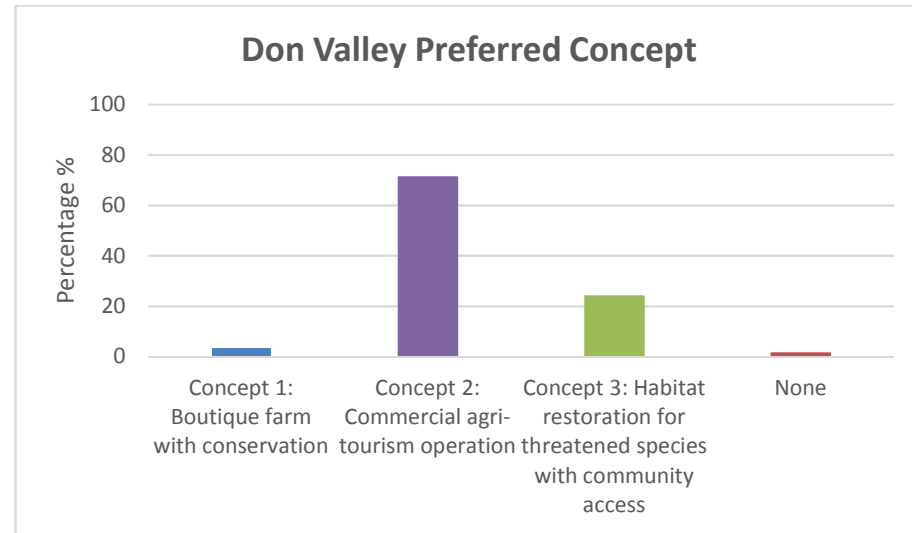
Appendix 5: Survey results - Visitation to Haining Farm by location



Appendix 6: Survey results - Importance of theme by location



Appendix 7: Survey results - Preferred concept by location



Appendix 8: Survey results - Preferred concept by theme

