

Engagement Summary Report



Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) State Park
Camping & Access Strategy
November 2020



Managing
Country
Together



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1. Executive summary

In August and September 2020, Parks Victoria conducted the second stage of consultation for the Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) State Park Camping & Access Strategy. Altogether, 143 people shared feedback and ideas for the future management of this highly valued landscape.

In 2018 Parks Victoria and GLaWAC undertook the first round of community and stakeholder engagement. Workshops were held throughout the region with Gunaikurnai and local Aboriginal community members first. Meetings were held with stakeholders and community groups and an online survey was conducted. A total of 377 people participated in engagement activities including 311 responses to the survey.

After extensive site analysis and from the feedback from that first round of engagement Parks Victoria in partnership with GLaWAC produced the draft Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) State Park Camping and Access Strategy.

The community and stakeholders in the first round of engagement communicated that they loved the “natural” informal feel of the park and that they believed that the cultural and environmental values of the park should be protected. Though the informal feel of the park was something that visitors most enjoy it was found that some of these informal activities such as driving, fishing, boating and camping are causing serious damage to culturally and environmentally significant and sensitive sites. The saltmarshes and shorelines are suffering from compaction and erosion from pedestrian and vehicle access and there are tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the park that are being damaged. In response, the focus of the draft strategy was to provide some more formal facilities to keep some of those activities in key locations and stop them from spreading into sensitive areas. Some of these proposed changes included revisions to roads or off road access, new kayak/fishing launches, toilets, and upgrades to camp sites.

In July 2020 the second round of engagement commenced. The purpose of this stage of consultation was to share the challenges for managing this park, to explain the camping and access strategy development process and to hear feedback and ideas from community members and stakeholders to inform the finalisation of

the strategy. People contributed to the consultation in a variety of ways:

- 4 people/organisations provided written submissions
- 139 people (individually, or on behalf of their organisation) contributed their ideas online through Engage Victoria.

Most people who participated in the consultation visited the landscape regularly (at least one a year), and a significant number of participants were local community members and neighbours. The top three activities participants loved to do in the landscape were fishing, camping and boating and/or other water activities.

Participants were asked to provide feedback on their level of support for different elements of the draft strategy. The area with the highest level of support was the proposed changes to the Glasshouse camping site. The part of the strategy with the least support was the proposed changes to some of the access roads.

At the glasshouse respondents either supported or strongly supported all of the proposed changes including; designated camping areas, specific day visitor site, installation of fishing platform/jetty and installation of interpretive signage.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for each of the proposed access road/track changes. Respondents were divided on this topic with just over half disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the proposed track changes.

In relation to Trident Arm Track respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for construction of a launching area for small boats and a designated picnic area. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with those changes.

When asked to rank proposed improvements respondents had a clear preference for the repair/replacement of toilets. New/replacement picnic facilities, new kayak/fishing platforms and new walking trails were all popular while changes to access roads and interpretive signage were less of a priority for respondents.

Alongside other research, feedback captured in this consultation report will be used to inform the finalisation of the Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) State Park Camping and Access Strategy.

“I think the team have done a great job. It is protecting the area making it accessible to everyone and it is giving more support to amenities. I like the idea of protecting the cultural heritage value of the park as my grandparents were at Lake Tyers (buried there) and it is really an important area to me both spiritually and emotionally.”

Engage Victoria participant

2. Introduction

In partnership with Traditional Owners, Parks Victoria is preparing a new camping and access strategy for the Lake Tyers State Park.

2.1.1. Project background

The purpose of this project is to provide joint managers with a camping and access strategy that will guide the future direction for the management of Lake Tyers State Park.

The Park is rich in cultural and environmental values and is a popular tourist destination within East Gippsland, however issues related to the lack of adequate camping and recreation opportunities for visitors are causing significant impacts to the parks environmental and cultural values.

To support the development of the strategy, stakeholders and community members are being engaged through two stages of consultation. They are:

1. Stage one: Understanding the current environment and opportunities (Mar-Aug 2018). Engaged with 377 people.
2. Stage two: Feedback on the Draft Strategy (24July-20 Sep 2020). 143 people provided feedback.

Early consultation ensures stakeholders and communities can contribute park knowledge, views and perspectives. Alongside other research, community and stakeholder input will be used to inform the development of the draft plan.

2.1.2. Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the consultation activities, participants and findings. This report has been prepared by Parks Victoria.

All feedback and ideas presented in this report were collected at consultation activities, by written submissions or online via the Engage Victoria webpage. All input has been considered equally. The findings in this report reflect the views of the community. Findings have not been edited for accuracy and do not necessarily reflect the beliefs or position of Parks Victoria.

Parks Victoria is committed to considering all the feedback summarised in this report in the development of the plan. It is important to note that ideas suggested need to be considered in relation to relevant legislation that applies to Lake Tyers State Park and weighed up against other obligations and data.

This consultation process and summary report were independently peer reviewed. The outcome of the peer review is available on Engage Victoria.

2.1.3. Report limitations

Limitations relating to the consultation process and reporting analysis that should be acknowledged are below.

- People who participated in the consultation process self-selected to take part. Therefore, the information in this report does not necessarily reflect the views of a representative sample of the community.
- While background information was provided at consultation activities and online, it cannot be guaranteed that all participants read this information. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that all participants had an equal understanding of the project and the purpose of landscape management.
- While the majority of responses came from an online survey with a set of questions, some community members provided written submissions that did not follow the survey format. The written submissions have been considered in this report but some of the graphs and summaries from the survey questions may not reflect those individual responses.



Photo: Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)

2.2. Consultation approach

2.2.1. Stakeholder and community consultation activities

The purpose the second stage of consultation for the plan was to:

- Inform community and stakeholders about the strategy development process.
- Hear from stakeholders and community about their knowledge of using, living near, managing or connecting with the landscape.
- Seek input from stakeholders and community on key decisions for the future management of the landscape.

The community was invited to contribute their feedback and ideas on the Engage Victoria online project page. Questions were open online for feedback from Friday 24 July to Sunday 20 September 2020. To support their participation, people could download a copy of the draft strategy.

The link for the online page is –

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-tyers-strategy>



Photo: GLaWAC & Parks Victoria rangers

2.2.2. Communication and promotion activities

Table 1 details the communication and promotion channels used to inform stakeholders and the community about consultation activities.

Table 1: Stage one communications and promotions activities

Media Release	A media release notifying community consultation opportunity was commencing and promoting the strategy was distributed on 24 July 2020, with coverage on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bairnsdale Advertiser • Snowy River Mail • Lakes Post • Gippsland Times • ABC Gippsland • Ace Radio Network
Email Distribution	Email / letter notifying key stakeholders, park neighbours and Licensed Tour Operator's was sent prior to page opening on Engage Victoria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 Park Neighbours notifications • 75 Licensed Tour Operator's • 29 Stakeholders(Government Agencies, VFA identified key Stakeholders)/Community groups
Social Media Promotion	Parks Victoria shared one Facebook post letting people know they could participate in the consultation and directing them to the Engage Victoria page. GLaWAC shared two Face Book Posts letting people know they could participate in the consultation and directing them to the Engage Victoria page GLaWAC also sent notification to the Elders Council which consists of 16 people. The GLaWAC Facebook post was tagged to all of the LAN Networks and Co-ops
Information Centre	All communication about the consultation activities included the option to call the Parks Victoria Information Centre number 13 19 63, for more information

3. Who participated?

The following section represents the feedback and ideas of the 143 people who contributed to the first stage of consultation for the strategy.

People contributed in a variety of ways:

- 139 people contributed their ideas online through the Engage Victoria survey (minimum responses 136)
- 4 people/organisations provided written submissions

Out of the 139 Engage Victoria online participants:

- 92% of them answered on behalf of themselves, not as part of an organisation or community group
- of the 8% that were part of a community group, these groups ranged from outdoor ed, nature based – bird watching, parks, though to fishing groups and local Indigenous organisations

Participants provided individual information through the online survey or by written submission.

Participants were asked to indicate how often they visit the park. Figure 1 illustrates that most people who participated visit the park regularly (at least once a year). Many visit more regularly than that.

- A total of 54 participants (equating to just over 39%) indicated that they visit the Lake Tyers State Park either daily/weekly/monthly
- This visitation was almost equally matched by those visiting the Lake Tyers State Park three or four times per year (53 participants)
- Fewer participants (31) indicated they visited the Lake Tyers State Park only once per year or rarely

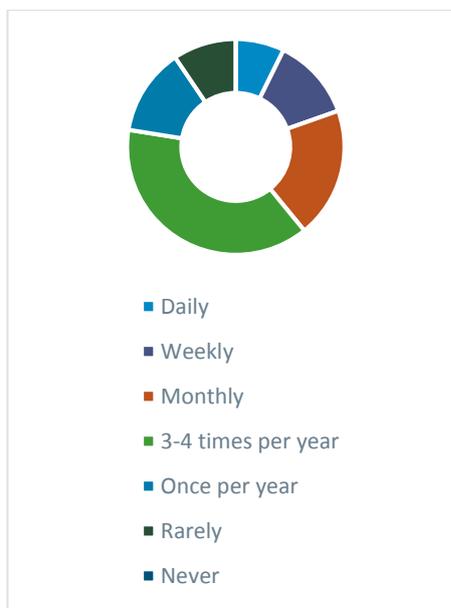


Figure 1: Participants visitation frequency

The ages of the participants who provided feedback as part of the Engage Victoria online survey were primarily between the ages of 40 through to 69 years of age. This accounted for 65% of the participants, or 89 respondents.

Survey respondents listed their postcodes as illustrated in Figure 2. A significant number of participants were local community members and neighbours.



Figure 2: Map of participants residential postcodes, darker colours indicate more participants from that postcode

Participants were also asked what their main interest was in Lake Tyers State Park. As shown in Figure 3, the top three activities were fishing, camping and boating and/or other water activities.

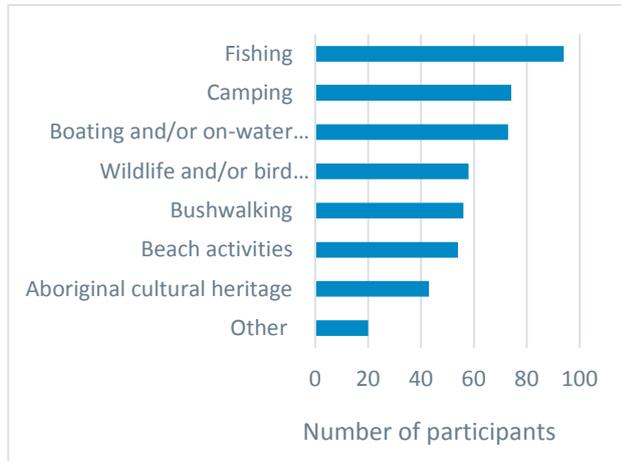


Figure 3: Participants main interests in the Park

To gauge participants' understanding about preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage in parks and waterways, they were also asked to indicate what their level of understanding in this area was. Figure 4 illustrates:

- A total of 111 participants (equating to almost 80%) indicated that they had a medium to high level of understanding
- 22 participants (equating to 16%) indicated that they had a low level of understanding
- 6 participants did not answer the question (equating to 4%)

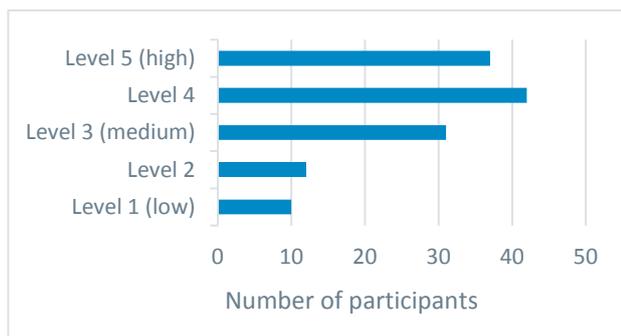


Figure 4: Level of understanding about preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage in parks and waterways by participants

3.1.1. Traditional Owner engagement

Traditional Owners are partners in the development of the strategy. Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation are joint management partners of the Lake Tyers State Park and have been working together with Parks Victoria to inform and guide the strategy and deliver community engagement activities.

Representatives from GLaWAC sit on the plan's decision-making group, the Project Control Group. In addition, Parks Victoria is engaging with Gunaikurnai people through cultural heritage values assessments and attending community sessions during the first stage.

All community members were welcome to attend the community workshops in the first round of engagement in 2018, and all community members were welcome to submit an online survey or provide written submissions in the second round of engagement in 2020.

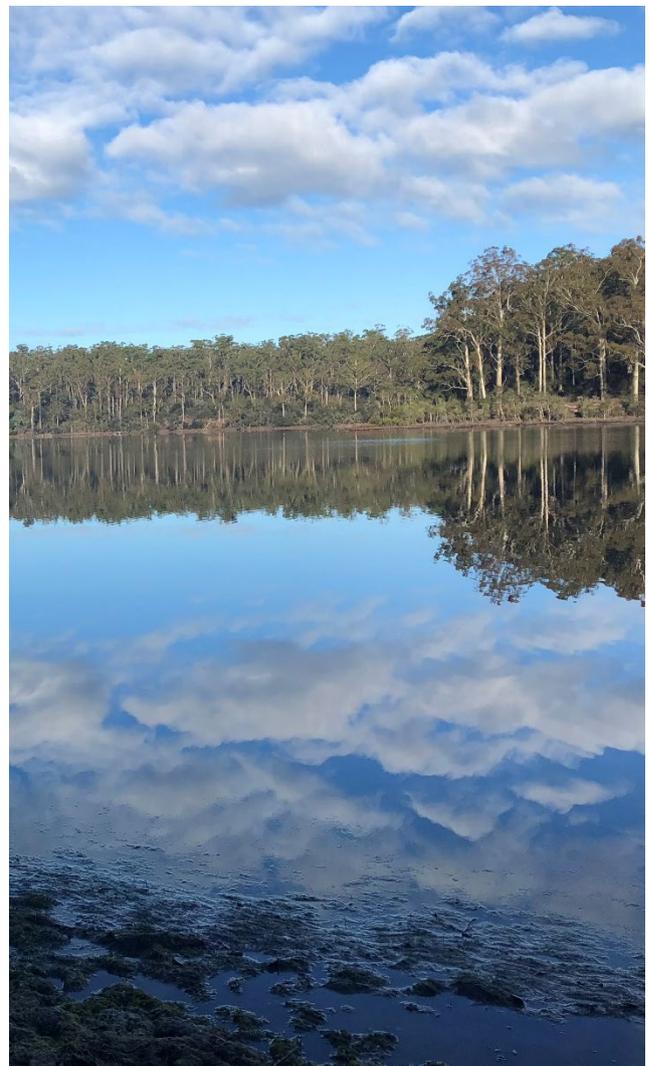


Photo: Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)

4. Summary of findings

The following section presents the analysis of all the data provided through online activities. Comments summary includes additional direct submissions.

4.1.1. Participant's level of understanding of draft strategy and of preservation of cultural heritage

To gauge participant's level of understanding of the Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) State Park Camping and Access Strategy, they were asked to provide feedback on their review of the draft strategy and their understanding of the preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Participants were asked if they had read the draft strategy, or to indicate to what level they had read. Figure 5 illustrates:

- A total of 90 participants (equating to just over 65%) indicated that they had read the draft strategy
- 24 participants (equating to 17%) indicated that they had read some sections of the draft strategy
- 21 participants (equating to 15%) indicated that they had read only the summary section of the draft strategy

The high level response of participants having read the draft strategy aligns with the consistently high number of corresponding responses to all questions – between 136 to 138 (out of a total of 138 participants).

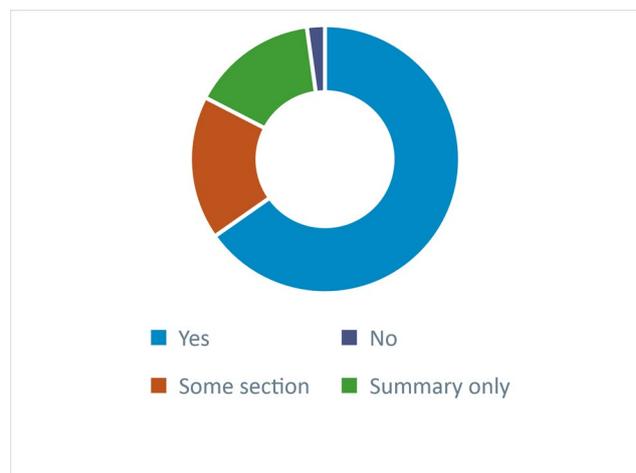


Figure 5: Level of draft strategy read by partisans



Photo: Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)

4.1.2. Support for the proposed arrangement of facilities throughout the park

Participants were asked to provide feedback on their level of support for different changes and improvements through Lake Tyers State Park.

They were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction along a scale of 'strongly support to 'strongly do not support'.

The main focus areas that they were asked to provide feedback focused on:

- Support for the proposed road and access changes
- Support for the proposed following changes at Trident Arm
- Support for the key changes proposed for the Glasshouse Site

Participants were then asked to rank a list of six improvements, based on what was most important to them.

Each of the main focus areas provides an overall summary of support and then delves further into the results of each individual question.

Contributors were overall happy with the proposed strategy and supportive of the facility upgrades, however had issues with the proposed access changes.

Participant's overall level of support for the proposed arrangement of facilities throughout the park was indicated with 81 participants (equating to 59%) responding that they 'support / strongly support' these proposed changes.

Support for the proposed road and access changes

Participants were asked to provide feedback on proposed changes to some of the roads in the park that had been identified as low use or impacting on cultural or environmental values. To protect these areas the strategy proposes changes to the use of some of the tracks. These changes include introducing 'Management Vehicles Only' (MVO) tracks and/or complete closure of some existing routes.

For all of the seven proposed road and access changes there were slightly more people that didn't support the changes than those who did.

The seven proposed road and access changes in order of highest level of non-support are listed in order:

1. Long Point Track (change to walking trail)
2. Morgan's Landing Track (closure)
3. Last 500m of South Boundary Track (change to MVO) (equal 3rd)
3. Cameron's Arm No 2 (change to MVO) (equal 3rd)
3. Susie Q track (closure) (equal 3rd)
4. Reedy Arm No 1 (change to MVO)
5. Balmers Break track (change to MVO)

Figure 6 displays the results of participants satisfaction with the proposed road and access changes. In summary:

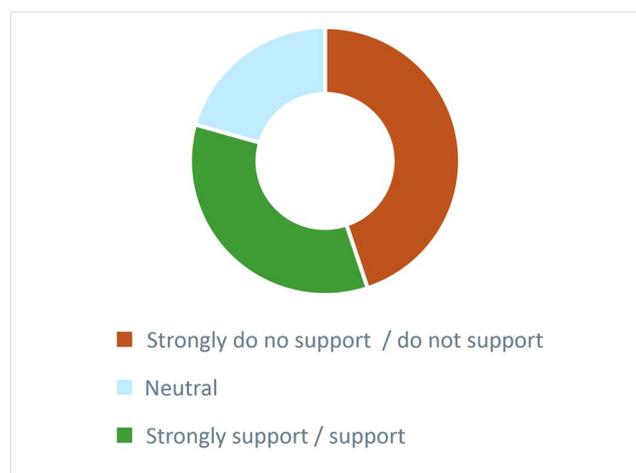


Figure 6: Overall level of support for all proposed road and access changes

Some of the key comments on the overall proposed road and access changes were:

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- Concerns generally focused on access restrictions, concerned that camping will become confined and no longer the bush camping experience that is Lake Tyers
- Concern that the natural characteristics of the park will be replaced by a more developed, "sanitised" experience
- Concern of removed access to some of the shoreline camping locations
- Public need to be educated about the changes for them to be effective

Key support:

- Overall support for the proposed layout for the park - strategy has identified a balanced approach for protecting the environment and culture sites, history and connection to country while still allowing access for recreation.
- Support for the engagement with Traditional Owners and that their views have been incorporated into the proposal
- I like the idea of protecting the cultural heritage value of the park as my grandparents were at Lake Tyers (buried there) and it is really an important area to me both spiritually and emotionally.
- As long as sites mostly remain open to public its ok

Each of the individual proposed road and access changes are listed below, in order of highest level of non-support:

Long Point Track (change to walking trail)

This proposed change not only received the highest level of support it also received the greatest difference in support.

Level of support:

- 68 participants (equating to 50%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the change
- 48 participants (equating to 35%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the change
- 20 participants (equating to 15%) indicated they were indifferent to the change



Figure 7: Level of support for proposed change to Long Point Track

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- Concern of the closure of Long Point Track would mean a longer, steep walk to/from the car to the water's edge

Key support:

- No specific supporting comments were provided

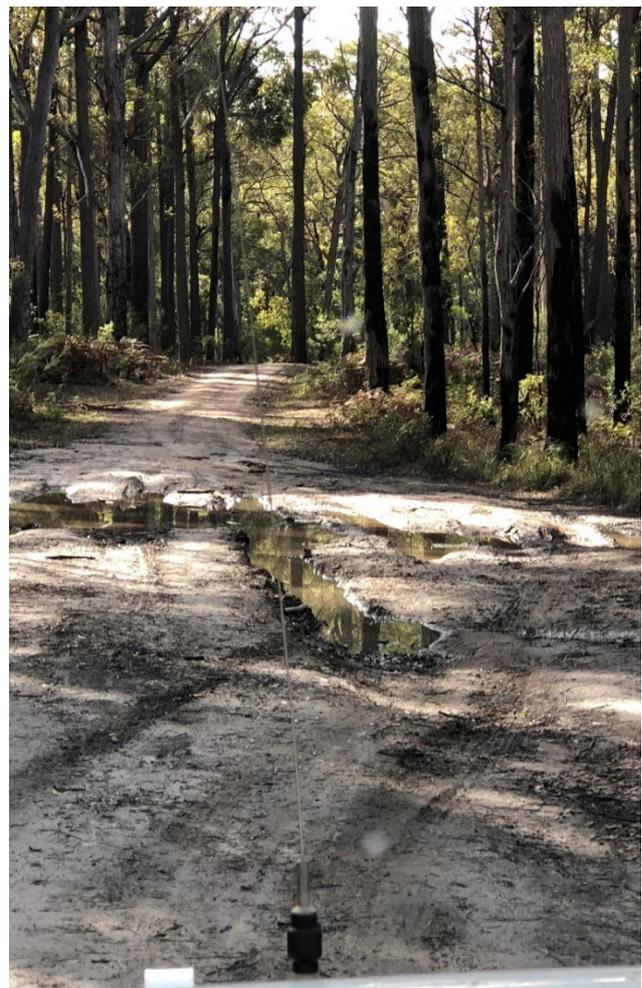


Photo: Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)

Morgan's Landing Track (closure)

This proposed change received the second highest level of non-support.

Level of support:

- 63 participants (equating to 46%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the change
- 47 participants (equating to 34%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the change
- 27 participants (equating to 20%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

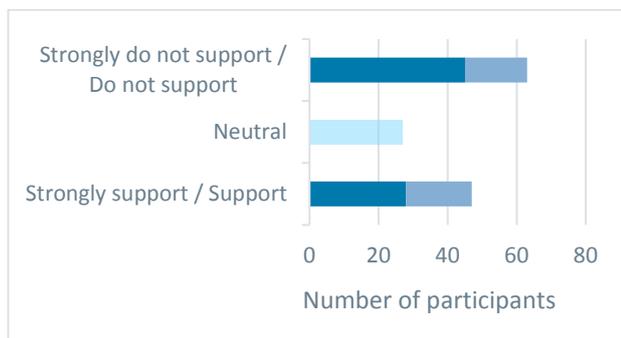


Figure 8: Level of support for proposed change to Morgan's Landing Track

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- General concerns were focused on the closure of some tracks leading to reduced access to the lake and camping
- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- A small amount of support centred around an understanding about the need to protect both the local environment and cultural heritage
- No specific supporting comments were provided

"All the upgrade ideas are great but the closing of tracks I definitely don't support."

Engage Victoria participant

Last 500m of South Boundary Track (change to MVO)

The level of non-support for the proposed change of the last 500m of South Boundary Track was exactly the same as that for the proposed changes at Cameron's Arm No 2 and Susie Q track.

The proposed change for the last 500m of South Boundary Track received the greatest percentage difference of non-support to support of the three different proposed changes, with a 13% difference in favour of not supporting the change.

Level of support:

- 61 participants (equating to 45%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the change
- 44 participants (equating to 32%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the change
- 31 participants (equating to 23%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

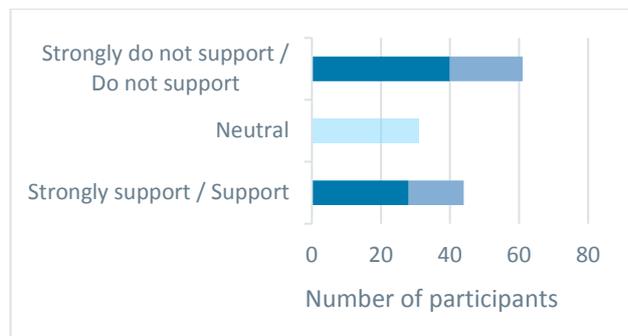


Figure 9: Level of support for proposed change to last 500m of South Boundary Track

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- General concerns were focused on the closure of some tracks leading to reduced access to the lake and camping
- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- A small amount of general support centred around an understanding about the need to protect both the local environment and cultural heritage
- No specific supporting comments were provided

Cameron’s Arm No 2 (change to MVO)

The level of non-support for the proposed change at Cameron’s Arm No 2 was exactly the same as that for the proposed changes of the last 500m of South Boundary Track and Susie Q track.

Although equal with non-support of this proposed change with the last 500m of South Boundary Track - this proposed change received the second greatest percentage difference of non-support to support, with an 11% difference in favour of not supporting the change.

Level of support:

- 61 participants (equating to 45%) indicated that they ‘do not support / strongly do not support’ the change
- 46 participants (equating to 34%) indicated that they ‘support / strongly support’ the change
- 29 participants (equating to 21%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

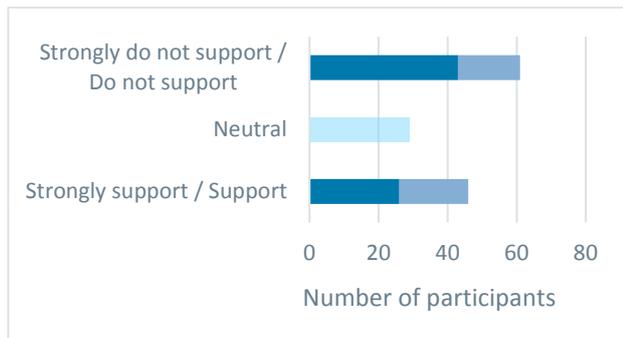


Figure 10: Level of support for proposed change to Cameron’s Arm No 2

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- General concerns were focused on the closure of some tracks leading to reduced access to the lake and camping
- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- A small amount of support centred around an understanding about the need to protect both the local environment and cultural heritage
- Frequented by boaters, fishermen, campers, kayakers and school groups - the addition of a fishing platform for campers is great.

Susie Q track (closure)

The level of non-support for the proposed change at Susie Q track was exactly the same as that for the proposed changes of the last 500m of South Boundary Track and Cameron’s Arm No 2.

Although equal with non-support of this proposed change with both the last 500m of South Boundary Track and Cameron’s Arm No 2 - this proposed change received the lowest percentage difference of non-support to support, with an 8% difference in favour of not supporting the change.

Level of support:

- 61 participants (equating to 45%) indicated that they ‘do not support / strongly do not support’ the change
- 50 participants (equating to 37%) indicated that they ‘support / strongly support’ the change
- 24 participants (equating to 18%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

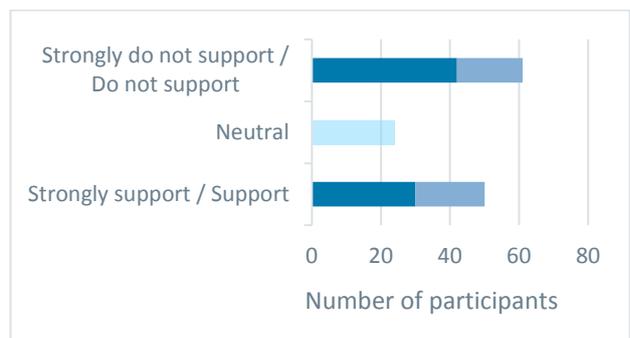


Figure 11: Level of support for proposed change to Susie Q track

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- General concerns were focused on the closure of some tracks leading to reduced access to the lake and camping
- Specific concern for the closure of Susie Q track was that it’s the only access on the western side of the lake close to town

Key support:

- No specific supporting comments were provided

Reedy Arm No 1 (change to MVO)

This proposed change received the second lowest level of support, with only 9 more responses not-supporting the change.

Level of support:

- 58 participants (equating to 43%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the change
- 49 participants (equating to 36%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the change
- 29 participants (equating to 21%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

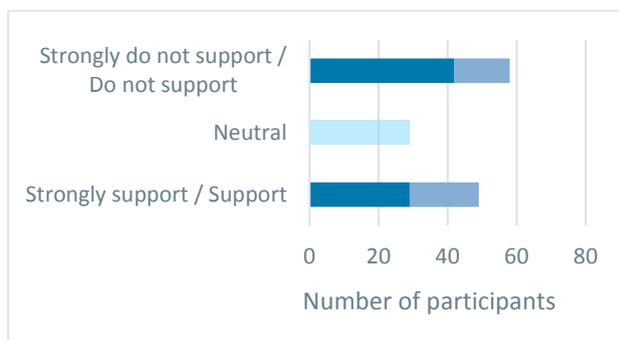


Figure 12: Level of support for proposed change to Reedy Arm No 1

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- General concerns were focused on the closure of some tracks leading to reduced access to the lake and camping
- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- A small amount of support centred around an understanding about the need to protect both the local environment and cultural heritage
- No specific supporting comments were provided

Balmers Break track (change to MVO)

This proposed change received the lowest level of support, but received the highest level of indifference (neutral) to the proposed change.

Level of support:

- 55 participants (equating to 41%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the change
- 44 participants (equating to 33%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the change
- 36 participants (equating to 26%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

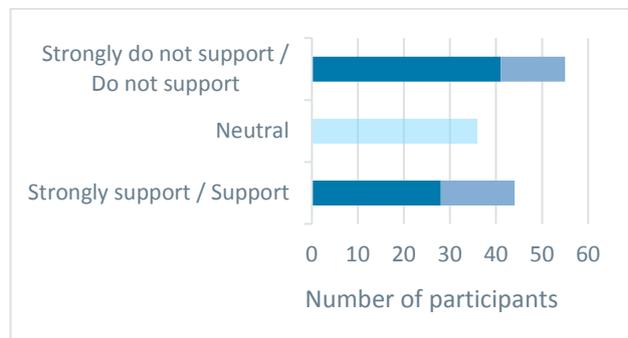


Figure 13: Level of support for proposed change to Balmers Break track

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- General concerns were focused on the closure of some tracks leading to reduced access to the lake and camping
- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- A small amount of general support centred around an understanding about the need to protect both the local environment and cultural heritage
- No specific supporting comments were provided

Support for the proposed following changes at Trident Arm

Participants were asked to provide feedback on proposed changes to the launching of boats and camping at Trident Arm, which are currently not permitted. Both of these activities have been identified as causing erosion along the foreshore and damage to the area’s cultural values.

There was an overwhelming level of overall support for the proposed facilities and amenities changes at Trident Arm.

The proposed changes in order of highest level of support are listed as follows:

- Establishing a dedicated area for day visitors (picnic table, barbeque, information boards, etc)
- Construction of launching area for small boats at Trident Arm

Figure 14 displays the participants level of support with the proposed facilities and amenities changes.

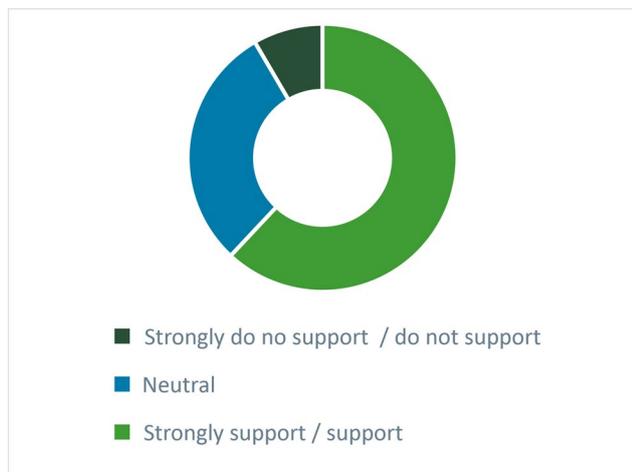


Figure 14: Level of support for proposed road and access changes

Each of the individual proposed facilities and amenities changes are listed below, in order of lowest level of support:

Establishing a dedicated area for day visitors (picnic table, barbeque, information boards, etc)

This proposed change received a significantly high level of support and also received the greatest difference in support, with an overwhelming majority of participants indicating that they supported the proposed change of establishing a dedicated area for day visitors.

Level of support:

- 106 participants (equating to 77%) indicated that they ‘support / strongly support’ the change
- 10 participants (equating to 7%) indicated that they ‘do not support / strongly do not support’ the change
- 21 participants (equating to 16%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

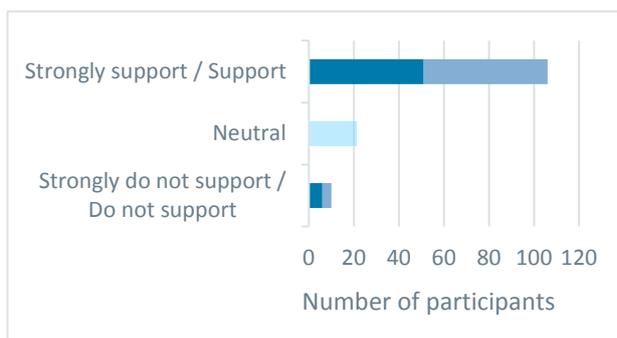


Figure 15: Level of support for proposed facilities and amenities change to Trident Arm

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- A small amount of general support centred around general day visitor facility improvements, particularly improvements to toilets
- No specific supporting comments were provided

Construction of launching area for small boats at Trident Arm

This proposed change also received a significantly high level of support and an exceptionally high level of difference in support.

Level of support:

- 94 participants (equating to 69%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the change
- 18 participants (equating to 13%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the change
- 25 participants (equating to 18%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

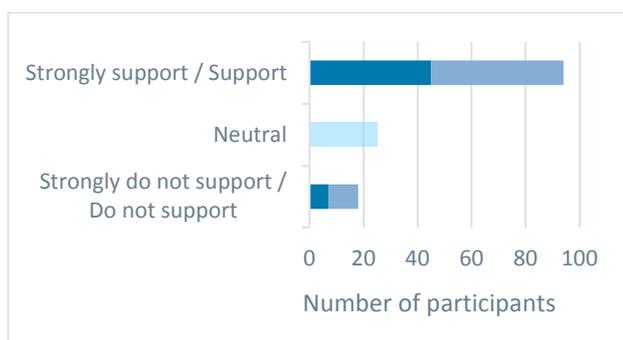


Figure 16: Level of support for proposed facilities and amenities change to Trident Arm

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- Concerned that motorised boats cause damage to the shoreline through wake/wave creation, and disturbance to plant and animal life in and around the water
- Concern that a greater number of motorised boats will significantly detract from the remote calm of Lake Tyers
- Concern that motorised boats will moor at launching area, reducing access

Key support:

- No specific supporting comments were provided

Support for the key changes proposed for the Glasshouse Site

Participants were asked to provide feedback on proposed improvements to visitor facilities to the Glasshouse. These improvements were acknowledged to be subject to funding and any approved works would be completed over several years.

The four key changes at the Glasshouse site received overwhelming levels of support across all of the proposed improvements. A minimum of 90 responses (out of 136 who answered this question) supported each of the improvements.

The proposed improvements for the Glasshouse site in order of highest level of support are listed as follows:

1. Specific Day Visitor site with picnic tables and BBQ's
2. Installation of interpretive signage
3. Designated camping areas
4. Installation of fishing platform or jetty

Figure 17 displays participants level of satisfaction with the proposed improvements to visitor facilities at the Glasshouse site. In summary:

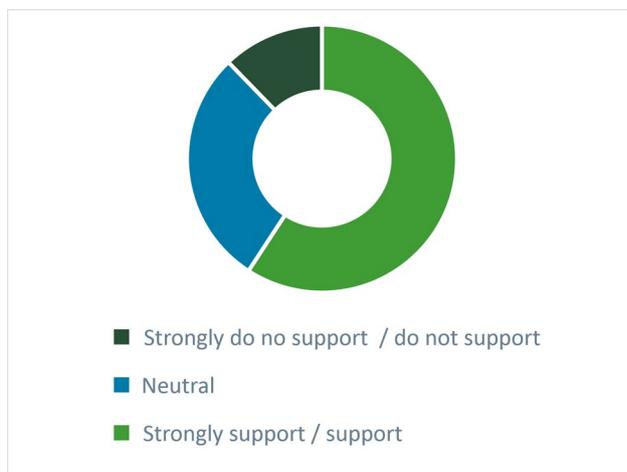


Figure 17: Level of support for proposed improvements to visitor facilities.

"I think implementation of the plan would be a great thing, but funding, future compliance and remediation could necessitate prioritisation of works.

Aspects of the plan with medium to long term environmental outcomes should be targeted, balanced with the need to provide public access and Utility."

Engage Victoria participant

The level of support for each of the individual proposed improvements to the Glasshouse site visitor facilities were as follows:

Specific Day Visitor site with picnic tables and BBQ’s

This proposed improvement received a significantly high level of support and also received the greatest difference in support, with a high number of responses indicating that they supported the proposed change of improving visitor facilities at the Glasshouse site.

Level of support:

- 99 participants (equating to 73%) indicated that they ‘support / strongly support’ the improvement
- 16 participants (equating to 12%) indicated that they ‘do not support / strongly do not support’ the improvement
- 21 participants (equating to 15%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

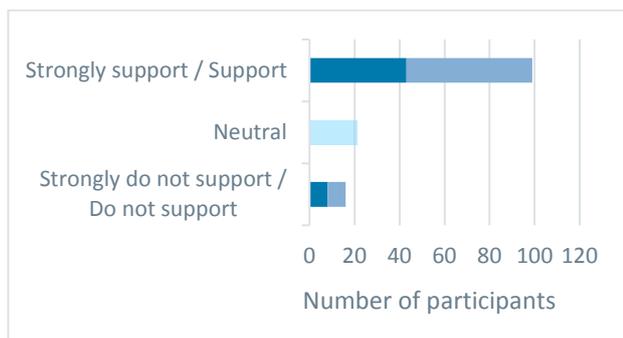


Figure 18: Level of support for proposed improvements specific Day Visitor sites

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- No specific concerns were provided
- Don’t alter the place too much, retain natural character

Key support:

- A small amount of general support centred around general day visitor facility improvements, particularly improvements to toilets to keep the area clean
- No specific supporting comments were provided

Installation of interpretive signage

This proposed improvement also received a significantly high level of support and high level of difference in support, with over half of the participants indicating that they supported the proposed change to install interpretive signage

Level of support:

- 96 participants (equating to 71%) indicated that they ‘support / strongly support’ the installation
- 16 participants (equating to 12%) indicated that they ‘do not support / strongly do not support’ the installation
- 23 participants (equating to 17%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

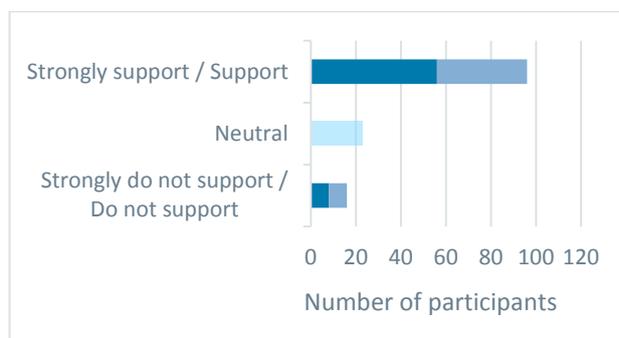


Figure 19: Level of support for proposed installation of interpretive signage

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- No specific concerns were provided

Key support:

- No specific supporting comments were provided



Photo: Glasshouse site looking over Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)

Designated camping areas

This proposed improvement again received a significantly high level of support and high level of difference in support.

Level of support:

- 92 participants (equating to 68%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the improvement
- 24 participants (equating to 18%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the improvement
- 20 participants (equating to 14%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

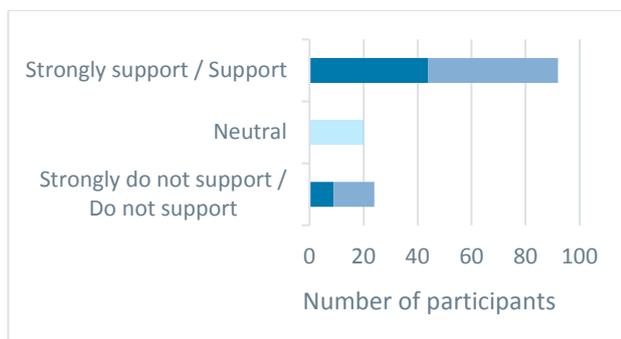


Figure 20: Level of support for proposed improvements to camping areas

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- Concern that overall reduced camping areas within the park will place more pressure on Glasshouse camping area

Key support:

- Building toilets was seen as an essential requirement for both campers and day visitors

Installation of fishing platform or jetty

This proposed improvement also received a significantly high level of support, with well over half of the responses indicating that they supported the proposed change to provide designated camping areas.

Level of support:

- 90 participants (equating to 66%) indicated that they 'support / strongly support' the installation
- 21 participants (equating to 15%) indicated that they 'do not support / strongly do not support' the installation
- 25 participants (equating to 19%) indicated they were indifferent to the change

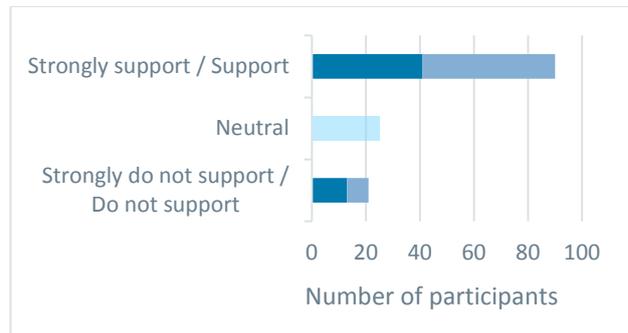


Figure 21: Level of support for proposed installation of fishing platform or jetty

Key comments were:

Concerns:

- Concerns generally focused on the misunderstanding that the fishing platform or jetty would allow for the launching of motorised boats, and were concerned with the impact of the shoreline and the tranquillity of the lake

Key support:

- No specific supporting comments were provided

4.1.3. Priorities for improvements

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the six most important improvements for the park. These improvements were acknowledged to be subject to funding being available for implementation.

The responses prioritised these improvements from 1 (most important) through to 6 (least important). The data (directly from Engage Victoria) provided an overall score for each of the improvements.

The six most important improvements based on responses are listed in order as follows:

1. Replacement and additional toilets in day visitor and camping locations
2. Replacement of and additional picnic tables and wood fired BBQ's
3. Construction of new walking tracks and improvements to existing walking tracks
4. New fishing/kayak launching platforms
5. Changing vehicle access in some locations
6. Installation of interpretive signage at key locations

Figure 22 displays the scores (developed by Engage Victoria based on responses) for the priority of the proposed improvements.

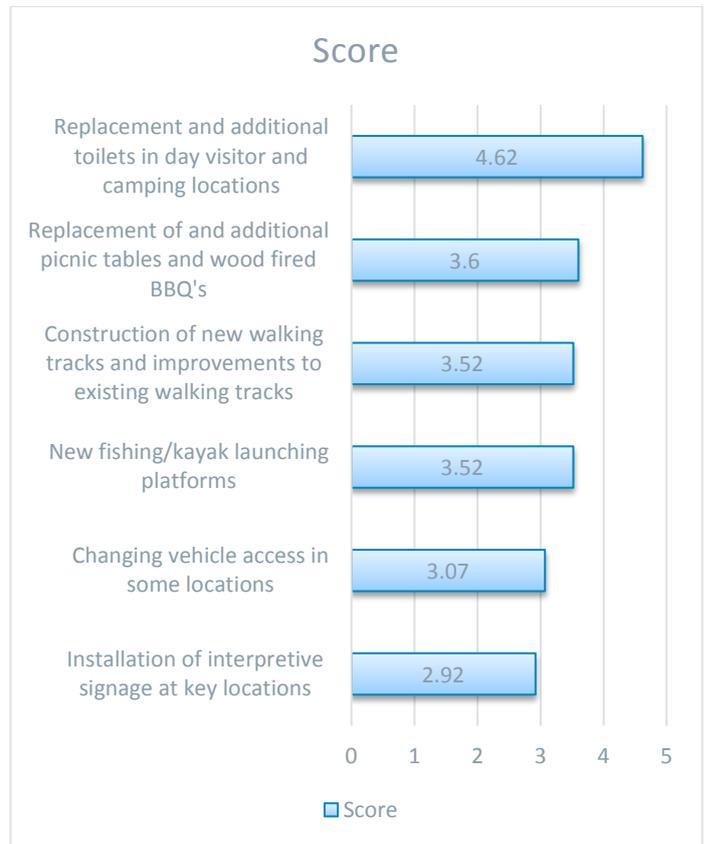


Figure 22: Level of support for priorities of proposed improvements

Additional toilets in day visitor and camping locations was seen as the highest importance and were also mentioned in a number of comments provided, with other amenity improvements of park furniture, walking tracks and fishing/ kayak launching platforms coming in at a fairly equal level of importance. Changing vehicle access was lower on the level of importance, with the least important of the 6 improvements being the installation of interpretive signage.

"I strongly support all levels of tourism that protect and engage the public in a meaningful way with our First Nations values and environmental appreciation"

Engage Victoria participant



Photo: Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)

5.1. What next?

Feedback captured in this consultation report will be used to inform the finalisation of the Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) Camping and Access Strategy.

This report has been reviewed by Parks Victoria and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Project Working Group. Community suggestions for the future management of Lake Tyers State Park have been considered by Parks Victoria and GLaWAC. Suggestions were considered as long as they complied with legislation that applies to the state park. Parks Victoria will detail how community suggestions were considered in the management planning process and whether it was included in the management plan or not. Where it could not be included a reason will be provided.

The final version of the Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda) Camping and Access Strategy will be released in early 2021.



Appendix 1.

Media release

MEDIA RELEASE



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation



Lake Tyers State Park

Seeking community input on future usage and park amenities

24 July 2020:

Parks Victoria and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) are seeking final input into the Lake Tyers State Park Camping and Access Strategy following two years of extensive stakeholder and community engagement.

The Lake Tyers State Park Camping and Access Strategy consultation period has provided both Parks Victoria and GLaWAC with valuable insights into the current usage patterns and the desired future direction for park visitation.

The strategy is focusing on three key components being day visitation and camping sites; vehicle and boating access, fishing and walking tracks. It also identifies current facilities offered and considerations for future improvements while prioritising protection of the cultural and environmental values of the park.

Parks Victoria and GLaWAC welcome further community input into the Lake Tyers Camping and Access strategy by visiting the Victorian Government's *Engage Victoria* Website.

Provide your submission by Sunday 20 September 2020 at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-tyers-strategy>

Quotes attributed to Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Chief Executive Officer Roger Fenwick

"Lake Tyers State Park is significantly important to the Gunaikurnai community due to its remarkable Aboriginal cultural heritage."

"We understand this park is popular with many visitors who come for its natural beauty and recreational opportunities including excellent fishing and bush camping locations."

"This is now the time for us to consider the future management of Lake Tyers State Park to ensure a balanced approach for all visitors."

Quotes attributed to Parks Victoria Regional Director Eastern Victoria Chris Corbell

"The Lake Tyers State Park camping and access strategy was developed to ensure balanced and representative views of the community."

"A park that could still be enjoyed for camping, fishing, boating and walking, while significantly reducing potential impacts on the land, water and cultural heritage."

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Name Jessica Shapiro, Media and Communications Manager GLaWAC

Phone 0437 390 584

Name Melanie McVey-Di Lazzaro, Communications Advisor Eastern Victoria

Phone 0459 818 451

Supporting Images



Lake Tyers State Park, credit Parks Victoria



Sunrise over Lake Tyers State Park, credit Parks Victoria



GLaWAC Rangers, credit Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

About Parks Victoria

[Parks Victoria](#) manages and protects a diverse estate of more than 4 million hectares including 3,000 land and marine parks and reserves making up 18 per cent of Victoria's landmass, 75 per cent of Victoria's wetlands and 70 per cent of Victoria's coastline.

These places are home to more than 4,300 native plants and around 1,000 native animal species. It is our privilege to conserve Victoria's natural environment for current and future generations.

Parks Victoria works in partnership with Traditional Owners and is committed to [Managing Country Together](#).

About Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) represents Traditional Owners from the Brataualung, Brayakaulung, Brabralung, Krauatungalung and Tatungalung family clans, who were recognised in the Native Title Consent Determination, made under the new Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, the first such agreement under that Act.

Is the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) for the Gunaikurnai people and claim area, as outlined in the agreement, providing joint management of 10 parks and reserves within the State.

Is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the Gunaikurnai claim area, as decided by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006.

Has a membership of more than 600 Traditional Owners, all of whom have proven their ancestral links to one of 25 Apical Ancestors registered in the Native Title Consent Determination.

Appendix 2.

Social media and email communications

GLaWAC Facebook post

Don't forget to have your say on how Lake Tyers State Park is managed into the future.

The final round of feedback for the Lake Tyers Camping and Access Strategy closes on Sept 20th.

The aim of the strategy is to improve the facilities and the visitor experience while celebrating and protecting areas of cultural and environmental values. Some of the suggested changes include new and upgraded public amenities, picnic tables, boat launching facilities, walking access to the water's edge and road access.

Your voice is important, so head to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-tyers-strategy> to complete the survey.

If you know someone who might want to have a say but isn't on Facebook, why not give them a hand or get them to call GLaWAC on 5152 5100 and we can have a yarn.

#YourVoiceIsImportant

Central Gippsland Local Aboriginal Network (LAN) Information Page, LAN's, Local Aboriginal Networks - East Gippsland, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Page, Deadly Gippsland, Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation- Sale, Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-Operative, Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc.

Parks Victoria Facebook post

The Lake Tyers State Park, located near Lakes Entrance is known for its natural beauty and exceptional Aboriginal cultural values for the Gunaikurnai community.

We're proud to be working closely with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation to improve recreational opportunities and facilities, while also protecting significant cultural sites.

Click here to share your thoughts about this special place by Sunday 20th September: <https://fal.cn/3ao>

Letter

Park Update

Lake Tyers State Park Camping and Access Strategy

Invitation to have your say on the Lake Tyers State Park Camping and Access Strategy

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and Parks Victoria have developed the Draft Camping and Access Strategy for [Lake Tyers State Park](#) following a two-year community engagement process, which is now ready for your review.

The goal of the strategy is to ensure that Lake Tyers State Park continues to be a place to enjoy camping, fishing, boating, walking and other activities in a natural setting, while reducing potential impacts on the land, water and cultural heritage in the park. Considerable effort has been made at locations like the Glasshouse camping area to ensure values are protected while maintaining the bush camping experience.

In drafting the Camping and Access Strategy, current facilities and opportunities in the park have been reviewed and considered for future improvements while prioritising protection of the park's cultural and environmental values. The strategy considers the following uses:

- Day visitor sites
- Camping sites
- Vehicle and boating access
- Walking tracks

We would like to understand the views of park neighbours, park users and the broader community. As a Licensed Tour Operator registered with Parks Victoria, we would value your feedback on the draft strategy.

To review and comment on the draft Lake Tyers State Park Camping and Access Strategy, go to the Government's *Engage Victoria* Website. The Strategy's web page includes an overview, draft documents and a brief survey for you to complete if you wish.

Engage Victoria link: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-tyers-strategy>

The information and survey will be available on Engage Victoria from **24th July until 20th September 2020**. Thank you in advance for providing your feedback.

If you require further information please contact 131963, or email engage@parks.vic.gov.au.

Conditions can change in parks for many reasons. Check for any changes affecting the park you intend to visit by going directly to the [park page](#)

Please ensure all relevant staff and volunteers are notified as to the contents of this email.

Appendix 3.

Engage Victoria Survey

Lake Tyers Camping and Access Strategy (LTCAS) – Survey

This survey is available online at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-tyers-strategy>

This survey will take you approximately 10 minutes to complete. There are some general questions about you, followed by questions about the draft strategy.

Part A: About You

Age Group - Please circle your age range

Under 9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85 and over

Postcode - Please enter your residential postcode

Are you completing this survey on behalf of an organisation or community group?

Yes No If yes, please specify the name of the organisation or community group? _____

How often do you visit the Lake Tyers State Park?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Three or four times per year
- Once per year
- Rarely
- Never

What are your main interests in the Park?

- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Beach activities
- Boating and/or on-water activities
- Bushwalking
- Camping
- Fishing
- Wildlife and/or bird watching

Other (please specify) _____

Please indicate your level of understanding about preserving Aboriginal cultural heritage in parks and waterways.



One star = low understanding - five stars = high understanding



Part B: Your Views

General

The main objective of the strategy is to ensure cultural and environmental values are protected while enhancing the visitor experience.

Have you read the draft strategy? Available on the webpage <https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-tyers-strategy>

Yes No Some Sections Summary only

Looking at the map, please indicate your overall level of support for the proposed arrangement of facilities throughout the park.

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Strongly do not support

Thinking about your level of support, do you have comments about the proposed layout?

Do you have ideas to share about the proposed layout?



Roads and access

Some roads in the park have been identified as low use or impacting on cultural or environmental values.

To protect these areas the strategy proposes changes to the use of some of these tracks. This will include introducing 'Management Vehicles Only' (MVO) tracks and/or complete closure of some existing routes.

Please indicate your level of support for the proposed road and access changes:

Page 14 of strategy contains a map of tracks with proposed changes. MVO - Management Vehicles Only

	Strongly do not support	Do not support	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
Cameron's Arm No 2 (change to MVO)					
Reedy Arm No 1 (change to MVO)					
Last 500m of South Boundary Track (change to MVO)					
Balmers Break track (change to MVO)					
Susie Q track (closure)					
Morgans Landing Track (closure)					
Long Point Track (change to walking trail)					

Facilities and amenities

The launching of boats and camping are currently not permitted at Trident Arm and both activities are causing erosion along the foreshore and damage to the area's cultural values.

Please indicate your level of support for the following changes at Trident Arm:

	Strongly do not support	Do not support	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
Construction of launching area for small boats at Trident Arm					
Establishing a dedicated area for day visitors (picnic table, barbeque, information boards etc.)					

The Glasshouse is a popular camping location within Lake Tyers State Park.

The strategy outlines proposed improvements to visitor facilities throughout the park, as identified previously these improvements are subject to funding and any approved works will be completed over several years.

Please indicate your level of support for the key changes proposed for the Glasshouse Site.

Strongly do not support.

	Strongly do not support	Do not support	Neutral	Support	Strongly Support
Designated camping areas					
Specific Day Visitor site with picnic tables and BBQ's					
Installation of fishing platform or jetty					
Installation of interpretive signage.					

Prioritisation

To help us prioritise, please rank which six improvements you see as most important (1) to least important (6) for you:
Please note the proposed changes identified throughout the strategy are all subject funding being available for implementation.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____

If you would like to receive updates about this project, please provide you email address: _____

Your contact information is only be used to administer the public consultation process and will be separated from your survey. You can view the Collection

Notice below.

- I agree to the Collection Notice Required
- Check this box if you do not want quotes from your survey used in public reports





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Lake Tyers (Bung Yarnda)



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