

CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

Banksia Bluff Activity Centre Rebuild
Cape Conran Coastal Park
February 2021

Bushfires during the summer of 2019/20 lead to the loss of the popular Banksia Bluff education and activity centre at Cape Conran Coastal Park. Parks Victoria sought input from visitors and user groups on their priorities for the new centre, which will be rebuilt on the current site.

Objectives

The objectives of the engagement were:

- To understand how the centre is being used
- To understand which facilities are most important and what additional facilities are desired should additional funding become available.

Method

A survey on the Engage Victoria website was open to responses from 16 November to 13 December.

People could also submit responses via email or phone. No responses were received via this method.

Participation

There were **143** people who responded to the survey. Most respondents visited **once a year (60%)**.

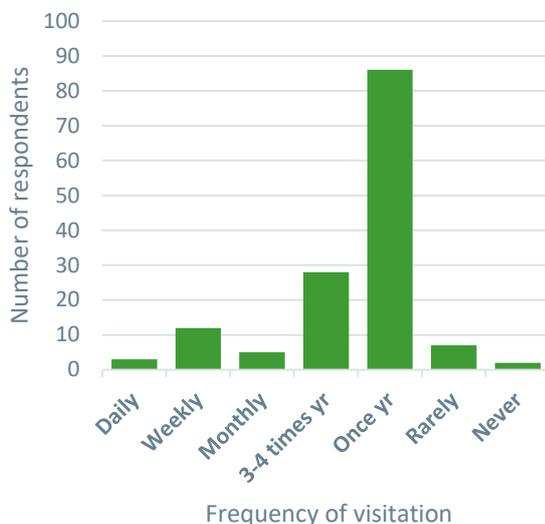


Figure 1: Frequency of visitation by respondents

- The majority of respondents were from **Metropolitan Melbourne (40%)**.
- One third of participants were from **East Gippsland (31%)**, with just over half of these identifying themselves as 'local' to the park.
- Other respondents are from **regional Victoria (27%)** and **NSW (2%)**.

Nature of park use

The majority of respondents were **campers (80%)** and **park visitors (39%)** with other users being **local residents (15%)**, **Junior Ranger program participants (5%)**, **environment groups (4%)**, **students (3%)**, **volunteers (3%)**, **education/activity leaders (2%)** and **Traditional Owner groups (1%)**. Participants could select more than one option.

Key findings

Use of activity centre

The most commonly identified use of the centre was to **read information displays (71%)**, followed by use as a **meeting place (37%)**, a place to **participate in led activities (30%)** and as a **play area (7%)**. Respondents could choose more than one use.

Facilities

Respondents were asked to rank 11 possible facilities for the activity centre in order of importance (1 = most important, 11 = least important).



From the priorities identified, most users wanted the activity centre to be a meeting place with tables and chairs, toilets and contain static and interactive information displays.

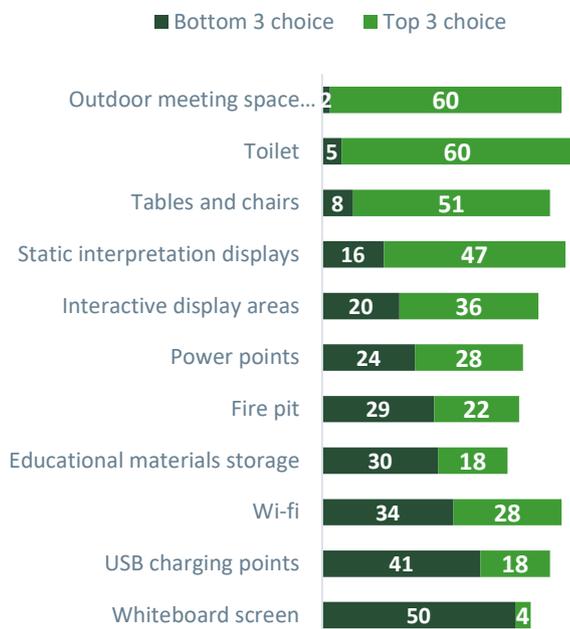


Figure 2: Ranking of facilities based on bottom three (dark green) and top three (light green) choices

Utilities such as power, internet and device charging came further down the list and were more important to users who visited once a year or less. These visitors were more likely to be campers.

The issue of technology in the centre was a polarising one. Many users omitted these options in the ranking exercise and 16 people commented specifically that they would not like to see wi-fi or USB charging in the activity centre because it distracted from their enjoyment of the natural environment.

Infrequent visitors were more likely to be based outside of East Gippsland, and valued Cape Conran as an escape from technology.

“What we love most about Cape Conran is the isolation from technology and the lack of facilities, it would be so sad to have these things become easily available”.

There were similar comments from frequent users, who were more likely to be local.

“Needs be a low-key community activity space. Not a place to charge phones and access wi-fi. Cape Conran is a place to be with nature not technology.”

Facilities if extra funding available

Sixty-seven respondents identified the following priorities, which have been grouped into themes, should extra funding be available:

Theme	Mentions
Information about local cultural heritage and the environment	32.8%
Tourist/visitor information	11.9%
Video presentation capability	10.4%
Drinking water	9%
Playground - nature based	7.5%
Showers/changeroom	6%
Kitchen, BBQ, Equipment hire, staffed and small performance/concert facilities.	4.5% (each)

There were 16 other one-off suggestions

The use of the centre as a place for information was the biggest priority. Information about local Traditional Owner history and culture and the surrounding environment was the strongest theme (32.8%), followed by the desire for tourist visitor information (11.9%).

“I would love to see historical data about the area ... a lot more information about the First Nations people. The animals and flora of the area are important too so I think there should be good artwork to allow people to identify what they are seeing.”

Next steps

Thank you to all who participated in the engagement process, your feedback will help inform the design for the Banksia Bluff Activity Centre.

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