



# The new St Leonards Pier – external design features

## Engagement Summary

December 2025

Parks Victoria invited community feedback on the external design features for the new St Leonards Pier through the Engage Victoria website. The survey ran from 20 October to 23 November 2025, inviting pier users, local residents, and visitors to help shape features such as seating, fishing facilities, and interpretive/educational signage.

- A total of **218 submissions** were received.

## Key feedback

The consultation indicated strong community interest in the external design features of the new St Leonards Pier. Participation was received from a broad range of age groups, contributing to a well-rounded understanding of community needs and preferences.

Key themes included:

- Clear support for bench seating, with many also open to curved seating.
- A strong preference for using recycled materials, including timber from the existing pier.
- Very high support for fishing rod holders, with a desire for placement across multiple locations.
- Interest in interpretative/educational signage, particularly relating to marine life, heritage, and local ecology.

This feedback will directly inform the refinement of the detailed design to ensure the new pier reflects community values, improves the user experience and supports safe and sustainable recreation.

## Summary of findings

The survey results below show strong community preference across seating, fishing facilities and interpretative/educational signage. This feedback is helping shape the final design of the new St Leonards Pier.

### Seating Preferences

There was strong overall support for seating, with bench seating being the preferred.

**Bench seating:** 155 Participants

Curved seating: 52 participants

No seating: 9 participants

Example participant comments.

*"bench seating makes it easier to sit with fishing gear"*

*"curved seats would be great for families to watch the sunset as shown on the drawing"*

*"We need seating to have back and arm rests to assist getting up and down".*

### Recycled materials

Participants were asked whether they would like seating constructed from recycled materials, including timber salvaged from the existing pier.

**Yes:** 176 Participants

No: 34 participants

Example participant comments.

*"using the old pier timber would help keep the history alive"*

*"recycling materials is important for sustainability"*

### Fishing Rod Holders

Participants who fish from the pier were asked whether they would use fishing rod holders.

**Yes:** 165 Participants

No: 35 participants

Example participant comments.

*"they help keep lines tidy when it's busy"*

Of those who answered yes, they were asked about the preferred location for the fishing rod holders. The pier head was the most preferred, followed closely by the finger jetty and the main pier.

**Pier head:** 64 participants

Finger Jetty: 50 participants

Main Pier: 46 participants

## Rod Holder Placement

### Finger Jetty

**Both sides:** 25 Participants

Offshore east side only: 20 participants

Inshore west side only: 4 participants

### Main pier

**Both sides:** 40 Participants

South side only: 3 participants

North side only west side: 3 participants

Example participant comments.

*“the pier head is best for deeper water fishing”*

*“I’ll enjoy fishing beyond the breakwater from the finger jetty”*

*“locating on both sides would spread people out and avoid congestion – it gets busy”*

## Interpretative and Educational Signage

Participants were asked what type of information they would like included on interpretative and/or educational signage. Many respondents expressed interest in learning about the pier’s natural environment and its history.

**Marine flora and fauna:** 143 Participants

Heritage information: 140 participants

Local ecology: 107 participants

No signage: 24 participants

Example participant comments.

*“Information on local marine life would be great for visitors and kids”*

*“Heritage stories would help connect people to the pier’s past”*

## Age Profile of Participants

A wide range of age groups contributed. This reflects strong engagement from users with long-standing connections to the pier, from across the age spectrum.

- **35-49 years:** 60 participants
- 50-59 years: 50 participants
- 60-69 years: 58 participants
- 25-34 years: 16 participants
- 70-84 years: 14 participants
- 15-24 years: 6 participants
- Under 18: 2 participants
- 85 plus: 1 participant
- Prefer not to say: 9 participants

## Other feedback

The following is a sample of additional example comments provided by survey participants. These remarks fall outside the specific design elements included in the survey but offer further context to the individual views shared.

- “Steps from dive platform need to go under low tide water level similar to Rye Pier to allow safe access for people with disabilities and for scuba divers”
- “I would like to see alternatives to stalk lighting on the pier. Growing evidence shows the detrimental effects of light pollution on wildlife”.
- “Permanent fixtures along the jetty rails to accommodate art exhibitions and other educational material would be great”.
- “We need to have a separate entry point for the divers and snorkellers. This should not be attached to the same spot where boaters can berth”.
- “Bins on the pier, I know it's not entirely practical but will help keep the pier cleaner”.
- “Smaller finger pier inside the pier with ladders for boats to pick up people Inside the harbour (protected waters from wind) also for mooring boat owners to pick up people and fishing equipment”
- “Including Indigenous artwork on the pier would be welcome by locals. We are proud of our cultural and heritage history”.
- “You're worried about seating not worried about the future of small coast towns the commercial fishing and marine construction industries are screaming out for more ...”
- “The design looks great except the breaker wall needs to be fixed to protect the harbour and the swimming area the same as what has been done in Portarlington”.
- “Shading islands for people are needed along the pier”
- “Entry into water for snorkelers off lower landing needs handrail”.
- “A fish cleaning table and more rubbish bins would be good”
- “Excited to see the intention for the new pier to be environmentally sustainable and more accessible as someone with a disability”
- “Please consider how all ability scuba diving can be facilitated (which again would be a massive drawcard for an uncatered demographic). Some type of trolley or cable car could be provided to get scuba tanks and heavy gear to the entry stairs”.
- “Please consider more bins”
- “Rock wall needs to be repaired and extended to protect new pier and provide shelter in inner harbour. An inside low jetty needs to be included for boats unloading, divers and swimmers in rough weather”

## Next steps

This feedback will directly inform the refinement of the detailed design to ensure the new pier reflects community values, improves the user experience, and supports safe and sustainable recreation.

Parks Victoria thanks everyone who has contributed their ideas and feedback in this phase of engagement. We look forward to finalising the detailed design for the rebuild of the new St Leonards Pier, with works expected to commence late 2026. We will update stakeholders via the project website [www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects) and via the project mailing list. If you'd like to join the mailing list, please subscribe via the project page.

