



Community Consultation Feedback Report

**Naming a Native Grassland Site
Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve**

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1.0 Background

Alexandrina Council invited community feedback to help name a site located within the Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve, which is being restored into a native grass meadow.

The Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve, located on the coastal strip between Port Elliot and Middleton, is a landscape of significant cultural, environmental and recreational importance.

An area within the Reserve that was once used as a grazing paddock is now being restored with native grasses to create a healthier and more diverse ecosystem.

This new native grass meadow will restore biodiversity and improve habitat for wildlife, reduce soil erosion and improve water quality, support sustainable land management practices, and enhance the cultural and ecological value of the Reserve.

Council sought community input to name the new native grassland zone.

Three suggestions for consideration were:

- Ratalang Native Grasslands; or
- Ratalang Native Grassland Reserve; or
- Pleasant Banks Native Grassland Reserve; or
- Alternative name suggestions welcomed

How we sought feedback:

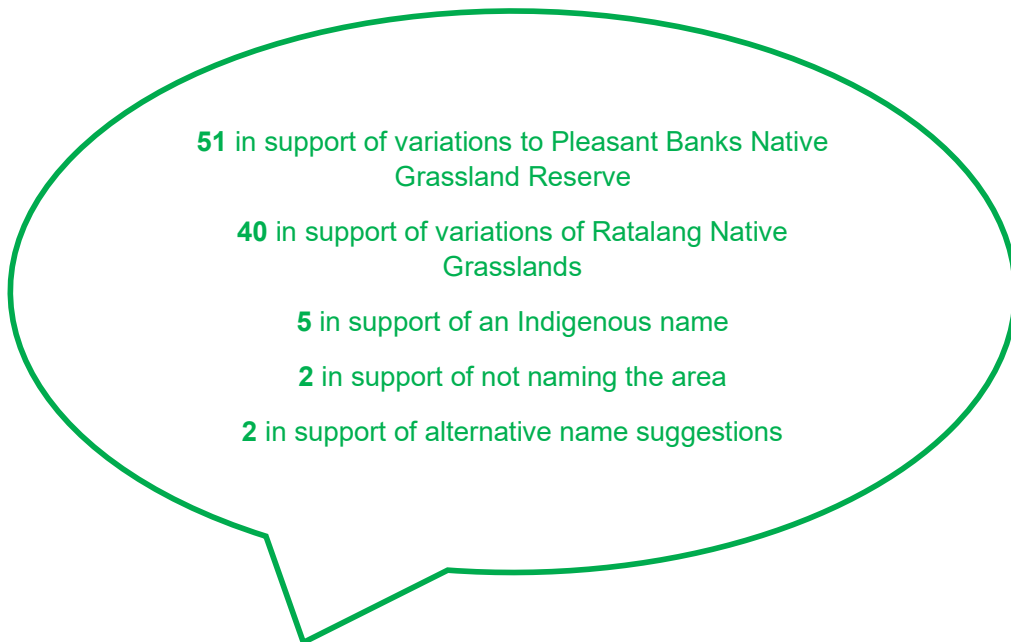
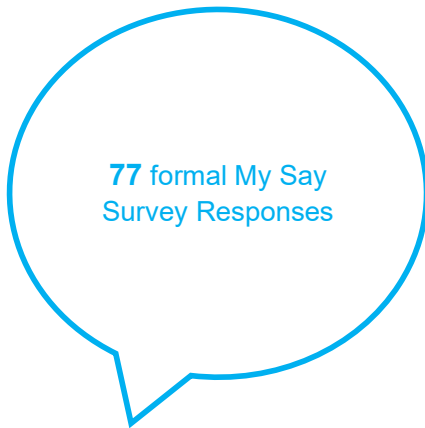
- Formal survey
- Alternative name suggestions shared publicly (see below)
- Informal quick poll.

2.0 Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 23 October 2025 to 14 November 2025 **a total of 100 formal responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy. In addition, the My Say Visioner Tool was used 18 times, allowing registered users to submit alternative name suggestions that were publicly visible and other participants could show their support by giving a 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down'. The Visioner Tool suggestions are not deemed as formal responses to the consultation, instead was used to spark discussion for members of the public to consider.

Email and hard copy surveys were consolidated into the My Say platform to streamline data and keep it in one central location.

The outcomes of the formal responses received are detailed below:



2.1 Engagement communications

Activity/ Method	Date	Outcome/ Result
My Say project page	23 October	426 total page visits 672 page views
Local Displays – Council Office, library	23 October	 Community Consultation Naming a native grassland site Ratalang Basham Beach Council is inviting community feedback to help name a site located within the Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve, which is being restored into a native grass meadow. Three suggestions for consideration are: ➤ Ratalang Native Grasslands; or ➤ Ratalang Native Grassland Reserve; or ➤ Pleasant Banks Native Grassland Reserve. We also welcome any alternative name suggestions from the community. The map opposite outlines the native grassland areas. How to Have Your Say Online Complete the online survey on Council's website via the relevant link below: https://alexandrina.sa.gov.au/native-grassland-site By mail Please direct written submissions to alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to A/C/O, Alexandrina Council, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214 In person Complete a hard copy survey at the Shirehills or Seiches offices For more information and to provide your feedback, visit mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/native-grassland-site
Instagram	23 October 14 November	Over 1k views and 584 accounts reached
Facebook	23 October 14 November	Approximately 5k views and 25 links click
Public Notice Fleurieu Sun and Southern Argus	23 October	 ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultation Naming of Native Grassland Restoration Site at Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve Council seeks feedback to name a site located within the Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve that was once used as a grazing paddock and is being restored with native grasses to create a more diverse ecosystem. The Reserve is located on the coastal strip between Port Elliot and Middleton and is a landscape of significant cultural, environmental and recreational importance. Three name suggestions for consideration include: • Ratalang Native Grasslands; or • Ratalang Native Grassland Reserve; or • Pleasant Banks Native Grassland Reserve. Council also welcomes any alternative name suggestions. Please direct all written submissions via mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/native-grassland-site, email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au or by post to the Chief Executive Officer, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. For further information, please call Council's Executive Assistant, Infrastructure on 8555 7000. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 14 November 2025

Email/ Letter	21 October	Email/ Letters sent to key stakeholders inviting them to participate in the consultation: • Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation • Minister for Planning • Port Elliot Town & Foreshore Improvement Association • Middleton Community Association • Adjoining/ nearby Property Owners
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3.0 Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

The proposed naming of the Native Grasslands zone within Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve has generated a mix of support and concern from community members. Feedback reflects a range of perspectives, including:

- Retaining the recognition of the European settlement and farming heritage of the land
- Retaining a reference to the Basham Family and the Pleasant Banks homestead est. 1856
- No name needed as it forms part of the Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve
- Why name the area when we haven't seen the success of the site yet
- Connection to Ngarrindjeri and use of an appropriate Ngarrindjeri indigenous name for 'grass'
- Concern of the loss of local history and connection to Basham Beach and Basham Beach Farm
- Preservation of the open farming landscape and European cultural history
- Fire Safety

The majority of submissions support a name that includes reference to Pleasant Banks, followed closely by support for keeping the name simple as Ratalang Native Grasslands.

51 in support of variations to Pleasant Banks Native Grassland Reserve

40 in support variations of Ratalang Native Grasslands

After reviewing the responses there is evidence that some respondents may have misunderstood the intended naming of the native grassland 'zone', with several submissions assuming the entire Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve would be renamed, hence the submissions requesting to keep 'Basham' in the name.

Feedback summary

100 formal responses were received during the consultation period.

51 formal responses were in support of a name that included a reference to Pleasant Banks or Pleasant Banks Farm est. 1856. Variations to the names suggested are:

- Basham's Pleasant Banks Est. 1856 = 3 in support
- Basham's Pleasant Banks Farm = 2 in support
- Basham's Pleasant Banks Farm Est. 1856 = 19 in support
- Basham's Pleasant Banks Farm Est. 1856 Grassland Reserve = 1 in support

- Basham's Pleasant Banks Farm Est. 1856 Native Grasslands Reserve = 1 in support
- Pleasant Banks Est. 1856 = 3 in support
- Pleasant Banks Native Grasslands Reserve = 22 in support

40 formal responses were in support of a name that relates directly to the native grasslands zone within the reserve to be named with a reference to Native Grasslands. Variations to the names suggested are:

- Ratalang Native Grasslands = 22 in support
- Ratalang Native Grasslands Reserve = 15 in support
- Ratalang Grassland = 1 in support
- Ratalang Basham Grassland Reserve = 1 in support
- Ratalang Ruwi Native Grasslands Reserve = 1 in support

In addition, 5 formal responses preferred an Indigenous name. Suggestions are:

- The Indigenous name for the area or meaning 'meadow' from local language
- Yarta Nindi "Land becoming" / "Land Renewing"
- Ratalang Ruwe Reserve
- Milarawanthi
- A traditional Aboriginal name

Whilst an invitation was sent directly to the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation inviting them to participate in the consultation, no formal response has been received from the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation.

Finally, two formal responses were in support of not naming the area, and keeping the existing reserve name for the reserve, being Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve.

Key Themes Identified

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Masterplans for the Reserve	The two Masterplans (1995 & 2018) for the whole reserve talk to the importance of preserving and promoting the European history of the property. The Masterplans support the retention of an open farming landscape at the Middleton end of the reserve.	The current Masterplan is the plan adopted in 2018. Whilst administration acknowledges the previous Masterplan from 1995, this Plan has since been superseded by the 2018 Masterplan. The 2018 Masterplan is the current plan to be referred to. Whilst the 2018 Masterplan does provide a guiding principle to protect areas of European farming heritage including the Pleasant Banks homestead, remnant farm buildings, old

		quarry and mine site, the Masterplan also provides key recommendations to explore the introduction of experimental native grass seed crops in existing agistment paddocks in the agricultural zone. Native grasslands are culturally significant to indigenous Aboriginal people including Ngarrindjeri, supporting their traditions, carrying cultural meaning, ancestral stories and long-held practices for caring for the land.
Retaining recognition of the European settlement and farming heritage of the land Retaining reference to the Pleasant Banks Homestead / Farm est. 1856	Area has historically been known as Basham's Beach and Pleasant Banks Farm. The European cultural heritage of the reserve holds unique historical significance and should not be disregarded. European settlers were hardworking who laid the foundations for the agricultural development of past and current times. They deserve ongoing recognition. The Native ancestors are already recognised with the inclusion of the name 'Ratalang' in the conservation reserve name. Since the 1920s, the Basham's dairy stud has always had a registered prefix name of Pleasant Banks. The road to Pleasant Banks is named Basham Beach Road which also ends at Basham Beach. Basham's Mill was also on the farm with Basham's Dairy Factory located in Port Elliot. For 169 years the Basham family have been land holders and productive members of the community. Retain the name with Basham's Pleasant Banks Farm Est. 1856 to be retained for future generations.	The European farming heritage has been retained within the Reserve by preservation and retention of the historic farm buildings, including the old poultry shed, stock troughs, out-buildings and old Dairy. In addition, the installation of the Dairy Cow sculpture commemorates the local dairying industry. The Basham family are already recognised with the inclusion of 'Basham Beach' in the conservation reserve name, road name and the name of the beach. In 1972, the Basham family decided to sell the farmland. Whilst the family retained the homestead block, as a result of a concerted community campaign strongly opposing residential development on the land, the State Government compulsory acquired the property in 1976 and subsequently established the Basham Beach Regional Park. The Park came under the care and control of Council in 1981 and is subject to a 99-year lease, to ensure the land is

		maintained as a conservation reserve. The Basham family still retain the Pleasant Banks homestead. It is therefore noted, that should the State Government have not stepped in to compulsory acquire this land, the area would now be a residential development, likely with no or very limited European farming heritage retained.
Fire Safety	The planting of large quantities of native grasses will create a potential fire hazard.	This concern has already been addressed in the Maintenance Management Plan for the Native Grasslands zone. Fire safety and ensuring appropriate fire buffer is in place to provide protection to the Pleasant Banks Homestead is already included in the Maintenance Management Plan.
Land Management	Support the idea of creating the grasslands as this areas vegetation would have been previously open woodland/shrubland with grass and herb understory. Land management of this area needs to take into account the lack of native grazing herbivores to eat the grass. Eventually the native grasses will smother themselves out and exotic grasses will take over posing an even greater threat of fire risk.	The Maintenance Management Plan addresses the appropriate land management practices required to ensure the best success of the native grasses. The Plan also addresses the risks of weed invasion and fire prevention.

4.0 Self-nomination to participate

It is important to acknowledge that involvement in the public consultation process is voluntary, with participants self-nominating to contribute. As a result, the feedback gathered should not be regarded as statistically representative of all perspectives.

5.0 Consultation images

N/A