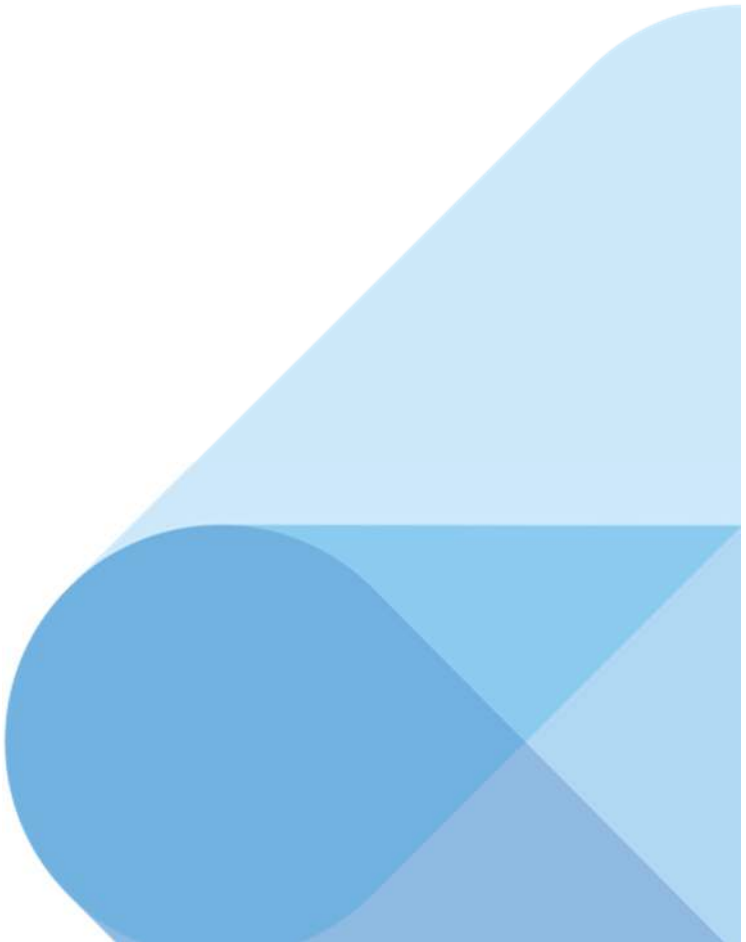
Community Engagement Feedback Report

Horseshoe Bay beach access points - Review and design

Consultation dates: 23 July - 14 August 2026



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1.Background

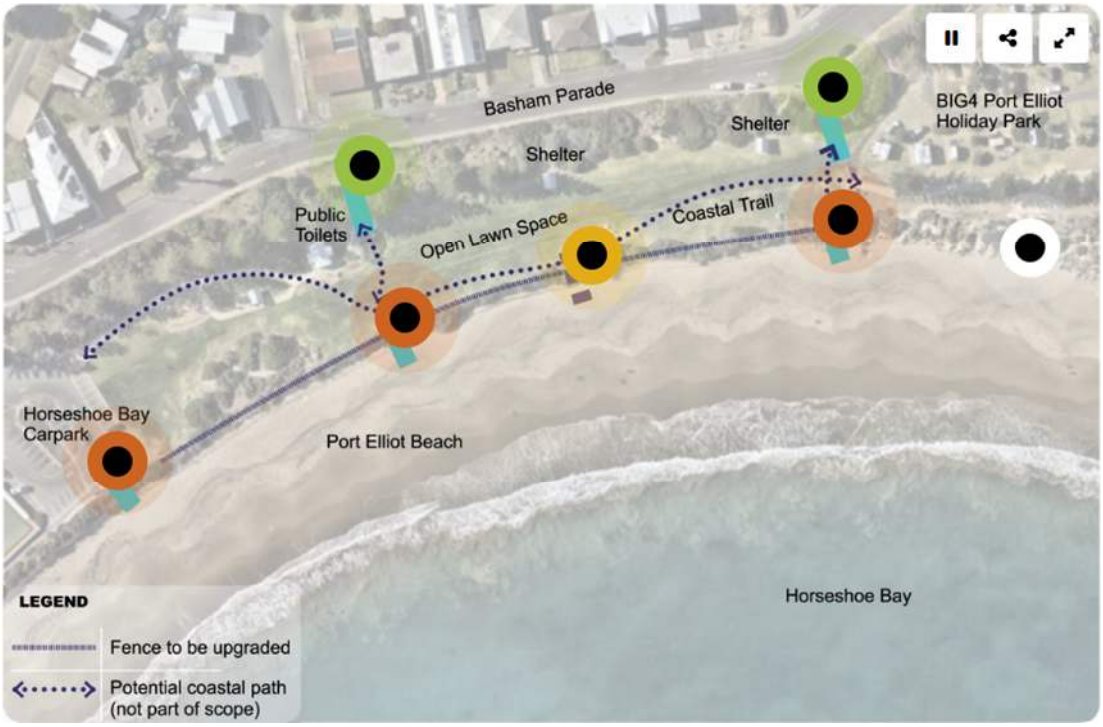
Council reviewed the beach access points at Commodore Reserve at Horseshoe Bay, Port Elliot, to explore safer and more accessible upgrades.

Commodore Reserve is a popular coastal open space used by locals and visitors for recreation, social gatherings and access to the beach. The reserve includes a range of amenities including playground, public toilets, shower and connection to the Caravan Park and coastal walking trails.

Some beach access points are ageing, with sections recently removed after reaching the end of their useful life.

This is the first stage in community consultation.

Community members were invited to view the preliminary concept design and provide feedback on the proposed upgrades and consolidation. Feedback from consultation will help inform detailed designs that will be utilised for future improvements.



Green = no change

Orange = proposed changes

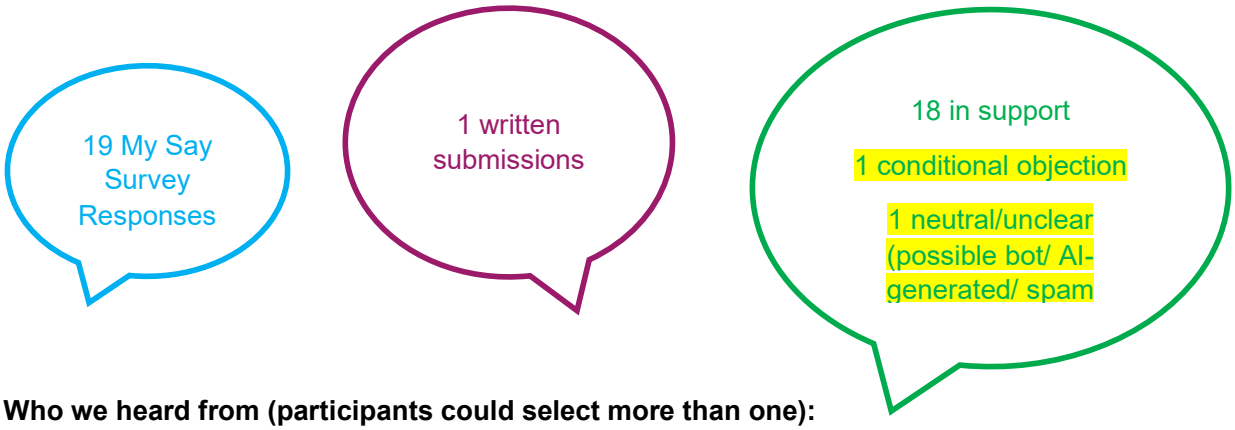
Yellow = Removal after end of asset life

White = Not included in project

2. Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 23 July - 14 August 2026 **a total of 20 responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy.

Note: One additional written submission was received outside the My Say reporting system from Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club. The submission supported improvements to public access but raised specific concerns regarding emergency vehicle access at the central beach access ramp. This correspondence has been considered separately due to its relevance to emergency response access and future detailed design.



Who we heard from (participants could select more than one):

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Ratepayer and ongoing resident	65.2	15
Ratepayer and seasonal/ holiday resident	8.9	2
Resident (i.e. residential tenant)		
Ratepayer and business owner		
Frequent visitor	13	3
Infrequent visitor		
Interested stakeholder	13	3
Other		
Total		23

2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page	Duration of consultation
	My Say page	Page visits: 278 Document downloads: 127
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	23 July - Sent to 2,306 subscribers (46.7% open rate)
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook) – 27 July and 12/13 August	**Facebook** • Views: over 1.3k • Link clicks: 47 • Interactions: 6 **Instagram** • Views: 971 • Interactions: 13
	Council office displays - entryways	Duration of consultation
	Community noticeboards	Hotel Elliot Port Elliot Bakery Port Elliot Pharmacy Port Elliot Institute 
	Corflutes (large waterproof signage on site)	Three signs installed throughout consultation

Adjoining Property Owners / Business Owners	N/A	
Government and key agencies	Direct email	Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation Department for Environment and Water Landscape Boards SA
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/ Audit and Risk Committee	Invited committee members to provide feedback as individual community members and share information with their networks via an out-of-session email	Climate Emergency and Environment Advisory Committee Heritage Advisory Group Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Committee
Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations	Direct email	Port Elliot Town & Foreshore Improvement Association Port Elliot SLSC Port Elliot Bowling Club Flying Fish Café
Media	Fleurieu Sun, The Southern Argus	
Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	24 July
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via Council Report	20 July 2026

ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL
Community Consultations

Council seeks community feedback on the following two (2) consultations. Please direct all written submissions via **mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au**, email **alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au** or by post to the CEO, PO Box 21, Goolwa SA 5214. Submissions for both consultations will be accepted by Council until **5 pm, Friday 14 August 2026**.

Milang Soldiers Memorial Garden Courts renewal - Design
The five tennis courts and recreation area located at the Anzac Park corner of Coxe Street and Luard Street at Milang contain ageing infrastructure and no longer serves the current recreational needs of the community. Council is inviting the community to consider a preliminary concept design for potential usage. Feedback will help to shape final priorities and detailed designs.

Horseshoe Bay Beach Access points - Review and Design
Council is reviewing beach access points at Commodore Reserve within Horseshoe Bay, Port Elliot, to explore safer and more accessible upgrades. Community members can view the preliminary concept design and provide feedback on the proposed upgrades and consolidation. Feedback from consultation will help inform detailed designs that will be utilised for future improvements.

For further information on both consultations, please call the Team Leader Open Space and Building Assets on 8555 7000.

3. Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

Feedback received

The majority of respondents identified as ratepayers and ongoing residents, representing 78.95% of responses.

When asked about consolidating beach access through the removal of Beach Access No. 5 (as noted within the concept with Consultation Images section) from Commodore Reserve to the beach, 42.11% of respondents supported the proposal, 26.32% somewhat supported it, and 31.58% did not support it.

When asked whether upgrading the existing boat ramp to a pedestrian ramped access would be beneficial, 47.37% of respondents supported the proposal, 31.58% somewhat supported it, and 21.05% did not support it.

When asked about installing a pathway network through Commodore Reserve to connect access points, 22.22% of respondents supported the proposal, 38.89% somewhat supported it, and 38.89% did not support it.

Respondents expressed the strongest overall support for upgrading fencing to improve public safety, with 55.56% supporting the proposal and a further 38.89% somewhat supporting it. Only 5.56% did not support the proposed upgrade.

The complete renewal of Beach Access No. 4(as noted within the concept with Consultation Images section), including demolition, reconstruction and minor relocation to better align with the stairs from Basham Parade, also received majority support. A total of 47.37% of respondents supported the project, 31.58% somewhat supported it, and 21.05% did not support the proposed works.

When respondents were asked to rank the proposed projects in order of priority, the following order was identified:

1. Renew Beach Access No. 4 and slightly relocate it to better align with the stairs from Basham Parade.
2. Upgrade the existing boat ramp to provide pedestrian ramped beach access.
3. Consolidate beach access through the removal of Beach Access No. 5, with the intent of providing an upgraded and more accessible beach access point.
4. Upgrade fencing to improve public safety.
5. Install a pathway network through Commodore Reserve to connect access points.

Survey respondents reported the following frequency of visits to Commodore Reserve and Horseshoe Bay:

- Daily = 31.58%
- Weekly = 26.32%
- Monthly = 31.58%
- Occasionally = 10.53%

Respondents were also asked whether they, or someone they know, experience challenges or barriers accessing the beach from Commodore Reserve. The following responses were received:

- Yes= 36.84%
- No= 63.16%

Evaluation/summary of feedback:

Feedback on the Horseshoe Bay Beach Access Points Review and Preliminary Concept Design demonstrated strong community interest in balancing practical beach access, public safety, improved accessibility, environmental protection and the preservation of the area's coastal character.

The feedback indicates that Commodore Reserve and Horseshoe Bay are well-used community assets, with regular visitation reported by daily, weekly and monthly users. A notable proportion of respondents also identified access challenges for themselves or someone they know, reinforcing the importance of considering accessibility and ease of movement in the next stage of design.

Overall, the survey results showed support for renewing and improving existing access infrastructure, particularly works that improve public safety, accessibility and long-term asset condition. The highest level of support was recorded for fencing upgrades, the renewal and minor relocation of Beach Access No. 4, and upgrading the existing boat ramp to provide a renewed fit for use beach access.

Respondents also recognised the potential benefits of improved connectivity through Commodore Reserve, while identifying the need to carefully manage any consolidation or modification of existing access points. Future design work should therefore balance improved access and pedestrian connections with user convenience, coastal conditions, environmental protection and the character of the reserve.

Overall, the feedback recognised the need to renew ageing infrastructure and improve safety and accessibility outcomes at Commodore Reserve and Horseshoe Bay. It indicates broad support for progressing design work that maintains practical beach access for a diverse range of users, including residents, visitors, people with mobility challenges, recreational users and emergency service operators. Future design development should continue to balance accessibility, public safety and asset renewal with local site conditions, coastal processes, environmental values, existing recreational use patterns, emergency access requirements and the reserve's role as a significant coastal recreation destination for residents, visitors and nearby businesses.

Key Themes Identified

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Beach Access and Connectivity	Feedback highlighted the importance of maintaining practical, convenient and legible beach access for residents, visitors, families, older community members, people with mobility challenges and	Detailed design should demonstrate how practical access and connectivity will be maintained or enhanced for a broad range of users, particularly where access points are consolidated, renewed or

	recreational users. Respondents recognised the value of access points and emphasised the need to maintain connectivity between Commodore Reserve, Horseshoe Bay, the caravan park and surrounding coastal areas. Community feedback also identified opportunities to improve pedestrian connections and reduce informal dune crossings through well-planned access infrastructure.	modified. Consideration should be given to pedestrian movement between key destinations, user convenience, universal access outcomes and opportunities to reduce informal access paths and associated impacts on the dune system.
Accessibility and Safety	Respondents expressed strong support for improvements that enhance public safety, accessibility and the long-term condition of beach access infrastructure. Feedback highlighted the importance of accommodating people with varying mobility needs, including older residents, wheelchair users, families with prams and users transporting recreational or lifesaving equipment. Several submissions also emphasised the need to maintain access arrangements that support emergency services, surf lifesaving operations and beach management activities.	Detailed design should prioritise safe, durable, accessible and maintainable infrastructure, including appropriate gradients, surfaces, handrails and transitions between access structures and the beach. Design development should also consider emergency and operational access requirements where required, ensuring public accessibility outcomes are balanced with response and service needs.
Environmental Protection and Coastal Resilience	Protection of dunes, native vegetation and the broader coastal environment was a consistent theme throughout the consultation. Respondents recognised the need for access infrastructure to respond to fluctuating sand levels, erosion processes and storm impacts, while minimising disturbance to sensitive coastal environments and supporting sustainable long-term outcomes.	This feedback aligns with the project's objective to provide safe and sustainable access infrastructure that responds to dynamic coastal conditions. Detailed design should seek to minimise impacts on dunes and vegetation, manage erosion risks, reduce ongoing maintenance requirements and improve the resilience of access infrastructure to coastal processes.
Coastal Character and Amenity	Respondents highlighted the importance of ensuring future infrastructure complements the	Material selection, siting and design detailing should be carefully considered to ensure

	natural coastal setting and preserves the character of Horseshoe Bay and Commodore Reserve. Feedback indicated support for improvements that enhance the visitor experience, maintain recreational amenity and avoid unnecessary visual or environmental impacts on the foreshore environment.	new infrastructure integrates with the surrounding landscape, protects coastal character, maintains the reserve's recreational amenity and supports ongoing community use.
Project Scope and Communication	Respondents showed strong interest in understanding the proposed changes, the rationale for access upgrades and consolidation, and how community feedback will help inform future decision-making. Feedback also highlighted the value of continued, accessible communication as the project progresses, including clear updates on how preferred outcomes balance accessibility, safety, environmental protection, emergency access, user convenience and long-term asset management.	Future communications will continue to support transparency by clearly explaining the intent of proposed works, the reasons for prioritised projects, the implications of any access point consolidation, and how community feedback has informed design development. Feedback reports and project updates will be made available through the My Say platform.
Boat Ramp upgrades	Community feedback highlighted the value of renewing the central boat ramp to provide safer and more accessible beach access, particularly for people with mobility challenges. Feedback also recognised the ramp's important role in emergency response and recreational equipment movement.	The future design should seek to deliver fit-for-purpose, multi-use infrastructure that supports safer and more accessible beach access for all users, including people with mobility challenges, while also accommodating emergency response and movement of recreational equipment whilst recognising relevant coastal conditions and site constraints.

Additional Stakeholder correspondence

An additional written submission was received from Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club outside the My Say reporting system. The submission supported improvements that enhance public access to Horseshoe Bay, but raised concern that the proposed redesign of boat ramp may not adequately consider emergency service operational requirements.

The letter identified the boat ramp, located between the Port Elliot Bowls Club and Commodore Reserve, as an important emergency response access route for Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club vehicles and other emergency services, including SA Ambulance, SAPOL and SA State Emergency Service. The submission noted that this access has previously been used to reduce response times and improve patient access during incidents, including medical response, missing person response, stretcher retrieval and casualty transfer.

The submission also raised concern that relying on the alternative access point behind the Flying Fish Café may create operational risk, as this area can be affected by delivery vehicles, parked vehicles and high pedestrian activity during peak periods. Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club recommended that emergency vehicle-capable access be retained at the central location, either by retaining the existing ramp or integrating a suitably designed vehicle-capable ramp into the new pedestrian access.

The submission further recommended that any bollard treatment avoid a key-lockable arrangement, due to previous issues with keys and lock deterioration in the coastal environment, and that Council consult directly with relevant emergency service agencies before finalising the design.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Council note the outcomes of the community engagement undertaken for the Horseshoe Bay Beach Access Review and Preliminary Concept Design and use the feedback received to inform the next stage of detailed design.

It is therefore recommended that the detailed design progresses to include the following:

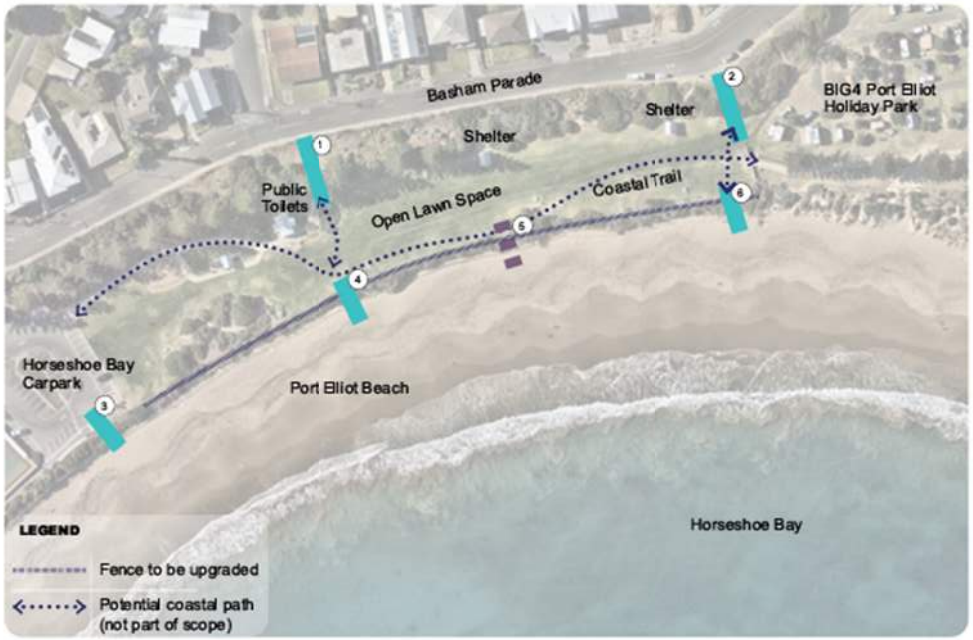
- Renewal of Beach Access Stairs No. 4(as noted within the concept with Consultation Images section), including realignment to improve connection with the stairs from Basham Parade.
- Improved pedestrian beach access.
- Consolidation with removal of Beach Access No. 5 (as noted within the concept with Consultation Images section) at the end of its useful life.
- Ensure any future consolidation of access points is accompanied by upgraded alternative access that maintains or improves connectivity for residents, visitors and those with mobility requirements.
- Review the design requirements for the existing boat ramp to ensure that the renewal outcome accommodates a fit-for-purpose beach access and supports an outcome that provides safe, practical and inclusive access for all users, including people with mobility needs, families, the Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club and emergency services.
- Consider opportunities to improve accessibility, safety and connectivity for residents and visitors while maintaining practical beach access.
- Minimise impacts on dunes, native vegetation and the broader coastal environment, and incorporate coastal resilience measures where appropriate.
- An updated concept plan will be published on the My Say platform to communicate the final design outcomes from this engagement process and support future decision-making for the Horseshoe Bay Beach Access review project. The My Say page will

also continue to be used as the central location for future project updates, including information on detailed design development and the proposed approach to construction timing.

4. 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.

Existing Site & Opportunities





Retain Stair Nos. 1 and 2, currently in good condition.



Boat ramp no longer required, opportunity to provide ramped pedestrian access to the beach



Opportunity to demolish and reconstruct Stair No. 4 to align with Stair No. 1, creating a clear pathway from Basham Parade to the beach



Stair No. 5 is no longer considered necessary due to its close proximity to and connections with Stair No.4 and No.6. It has been noted for removal at the end of its asset life



The reinstatement of previously removed stairs will be funded through the successful Algal Bloom grant and is planned for completion by the end of 2026. These stair will restore a connection and improve access between Stair No.2 on Basham Parade to the beach



Upgrade the existing fence to improve public safety

Precedent Images



DDA access ramp to beach
East Beach, Low Head, Tasmania



DDA access ramp to beach
Point Nepean, Melbourne Australia



DDA access ramp to beach
Christies Beach South Australia

Alexandrina Council