



Community Engagement Feedback Report

**Stair Renewal Design - Ocean Parade,
Middleton**

Dates of consultation: 2 July – 24 July 2026

Contents

Community Engagement Feedback Report.....	1
1. Background	3
2. Engagement Snapshot.....	4
2.1 Engagement communications	6
3. Consultation Response Overview.....	7
3.1 Evaluation	7
4. Conclusion	10
5. Self-nomination to participate	101
6. Consultation images.....	12

1. Background

The beach access stairs located at Ocean Parade, Middleton have deteriorated beyond repair and are at the end of their useful life, requiring renewal.

The new staircase will be designed to minimise impacts on the surrounding coastal environment while improving safety and access. It will extend to the sand, include compliant handrails, to better support pedestrian movement for a range of beach users.

We asked the community to review the concept plan and share their thoughts on the proposed upgrade elements.

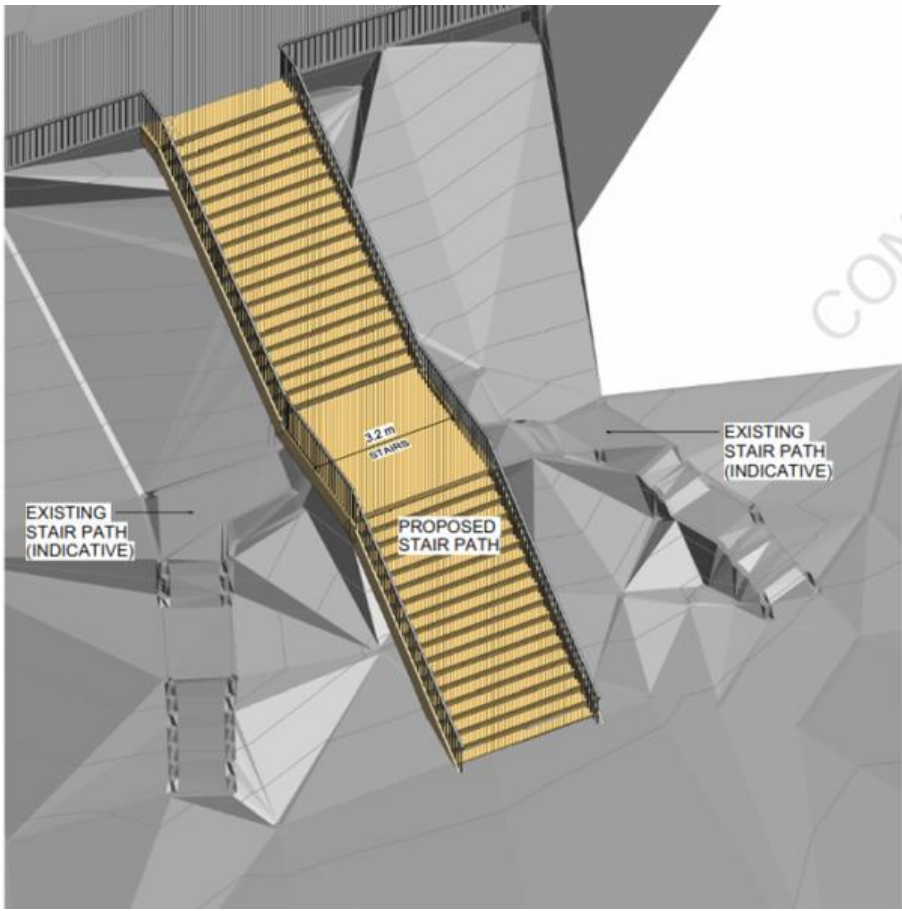
Community feedback will be used to refine the concept before moving onto the detailed designs process.



Existing stairs

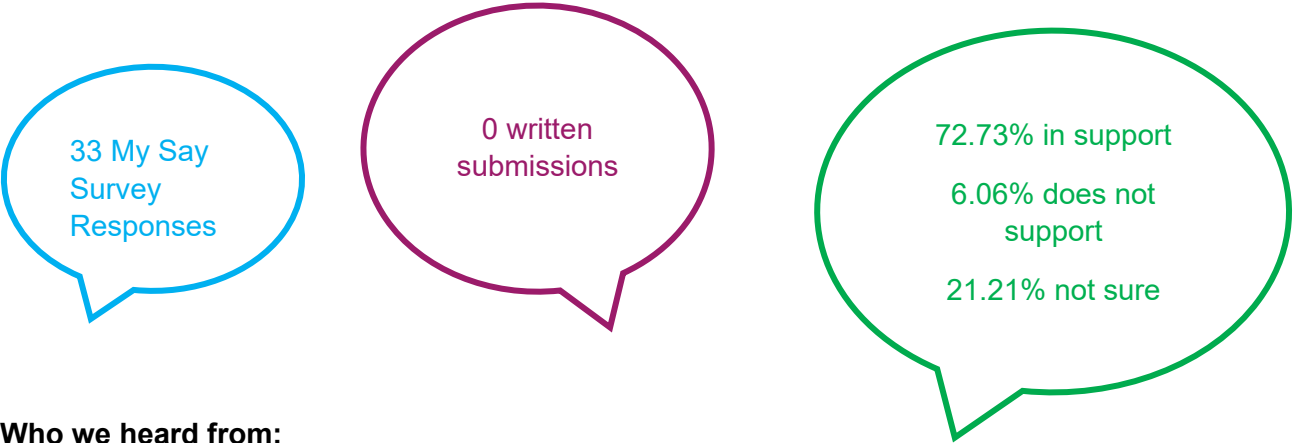


Proposed Concept



2. Engagement Snapshot

During the consultation period from 2 July 2026 to 24 July 2026 **a total of 33 responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy.



Who we heard from:

Answer Choices	Percent	Count
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Ratepayer and ongoing resident	51.52%	17
Middleton resident	30.30%	10
Ratepayer and seasonal/holiday resident	15.15%	5
Ratepayer and business owner	0%	0
Resident (e.g. residential tenant)	3.03%	1
Frequent visitor	0%	0
Infrequent visitor	0%	0
Interested stakeholder	0%	0
Total	100.00%	33

2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page	Throughout consultation period
	My Say page	Page visits: 221 Document downloads: 25
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	3 July 2026 - Sent to 2,309 subscribers (45.1% open rate)
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook) – 3 July and 22 July	Facebook - Views: over 5.4k - Link clicks: 15 - Interactions: 15 Instagram - Views: over 2.1k - Reach: 950 - Interactions: 30
	Council office displays - entryways	Duration of consultation 
	Community noticeboards	N/A
	Corflutes (large waterproof signage on site)	Three signs installed at the top of the Ocean Parade/ Middleton Point staircases

Adjoining Property Owners / Business Owners		N/A
Government and key agencies	Direct email	- Federal Member of Mayo - Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP - State Member for Finniss - Lou Nicholson MP - SA Coastal Protection Board - Landscape SA Hills and Fleurieu
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/ Audit and Risk Committee		N/A
Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations	Direct email	Middleton Community Association 2 July 2026
Media	Fleurieu Sun, The Southern Argus	 ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultation Stair Renewal Design - Ocean Parade, Middleton Council seeks feedback on a proposed concept plan to replace the central beach access stairs located at Ocean Parade, Middleton. The existing stairs have deteriorated and reached the end of their useful life. Community feedback will inform the final detailed design for project construction in 2026/27. Please direct all written submissions via mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au, 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 Team Leader Open Space and Buildings on 8555 7000. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 24 July 2026.
Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	21 July 2026
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via CM Portal	29 June 2026

3. Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

The feedback received indicates strong overall support for the proposed concept design for renewal of the Ocean Parade beach access stairs, with 24 of 33 respondents supporting the proposal. A further seven respondents were unsure and two did not support the concept. While support was strong, submissions identified several matters for consideration during detailed design, including stair width and two-way movement, materials and durability,

handrail height and sightlines, access at the base of the stairs, environmental protection, and requests for supporting amenities.

- Support for renewing ageing beach access infrastructure
- Regular community use of the stairs for walking, beach access and recreation
- Requests for the design to prioritise safety, accessibility and durability
- Interest in ensuring the structure suits the coastal environment and ongoing public use

Most respondents identified as ratepayers and ongoing residents or Middleton residents, and more than half indicated they use the stairs daily or weekly. Walking was the most common use of the beach access, followed by surfing and carrying equipment such as prams or surfboards.

Feedback summary:

Respondents who supported the concept generally indicated that the stair renewal is needed and that improved beach access would benefit local residents and beach users. Several submissions supported a wider, safer staircase and easier transition to the sand, particularly for people walking, surfing, carrying equipment, walking dogs or using the access during busy periods. With feedback including the following:

- The stairs are a valued pedestrian connection to the beach and are used frequently by local residents and visitors.
- The existing access requires renewal to improve safety, usability and the transition between the stairs and sand.
- The design should support a range of beach users, including walkers, surfers, families, people carrying equipment and older people.
- Several respondents asked that the stairs remain as wide as possible, with enough room for surfboards, bags, dogs and two-way movement.
- Some respondents suggested additional features such as a drinking fountain, shower, viewing areas, clearer stair-edge markings and seating sightline improvements.

Respondents who were unsure or did not support the design may require further information about the final design details, including materials, safety features, access arrangements and how construction impacts will be managed.

- Some respondents requested greater clarity about construction materials, footing and tread supports, and how the final design will perform in the coastal environment.
- Concerns were raised about disability access, pram access and whether a ramp or other inclusive access improvements could be considered.
- Several submissions preferred the existing two-direction layout because it disperses users during busy periods and may reduce exposure to sand and tidal movement.
- Further design detail may assist in addressing uncertainty or concerns before detailed design is finalised.

Key Themes Identified

Theme	Summary of Feedback	Evaluation
Overall support for renewal	A clear majority of respondents supported the proposed concept design, with 72.73% answering yes.	The proposal has strong community support and should progress to detailed design, while considering feedback from unsure and opposing respondents.
Regular use and local importance	The stairs are used frequently, with 21.21% using them daily and 33.33% using them weekly. Respondents referred to regular walking, dog walking, surfing and beach access during busy periods.	The access point is important to regular beach users and should be designed for ongoing community use, including periods of high pedestrian and surfing activity.
Beach access uses	Walking was the most common use, selected by 84.38% of respondents. Other uses included surfing, carrying equipment, swimming and walking with children.	The detailed design should support safe pedestrian access and practical use by people carrying beach equipment, surfboards, bags, prams or walking dogs.
Need for further design clarity	Respondents requested more detail about materials, construction methods, footing and tread supports, handrail height, stair-edge visibility, bottom landing treatment and how coastal erosion or sand movement will be managed.	The renewed staircase will be constructed using hardwood and designed and built to meet relevant Australian Standards for design, construction, safety and coastal environments. Detailed design will confirm footing, tread support, handrail and stair-edge treatments. The base of the stairs will be designed to respond to sand and tidal movement, with the aim of improving the transition between the stairs and beach and supporting more accessible beach access throughout the year.
Accessibility and inclusive access	Feedback questioned how people using wheelchairs, walkers or prams would access the beach and whether a ramp, matting or firmer base landing could improve access.	The renewal will remain stair access and does not include a ramp or all-abilities access within the scope of this project. The design will seek to improve the safety and usability of the stair access, including the transition at the base of the stairs where possible.

Layout, width and user movement	Several respondents supported keeping stairs as wide as possible and noted that the existing split access helps disperse users during surfing events, tourist periods and other high-use times.	The revised design aims to maintain efficient pedestrian flow by providing sufficient width for people moving both up and down the stairs at the same time. While the existing split access helps disperse users, the proposed single alignment reduces the overall footprint and disturbance at sand level, while still supporting safe passing and practical use during busy periods, including surfing events, peak visitor times and regular beach access.
Coastal environment and durability	Submissions raised the need to protect vegetation, avoid material breakdown in the coastal environment, manage undercutting and consider tidal sand movement at the base of the stairs.	The renewed stair access will continue to use hardwood, consistent with the material currently used at the site. This approach supports durability in the coastal environment and avoids introducing alternative materials that may be more prone to breakdown over time. The detailed design will also consider footing and base treatments to manage undercutting, sand movement and tidal conditions, while minimising disturbance to surrounding vegetation where possible. Fixings and other metal components will be durable to meet the demands of a coastal environment.
Amenity and supporting infrastructure	Suggestions included a drinking fountain, shower, covered viewing areas for surf events and whale watching, a photo opportunity archway, step-edge markings and improvements to the broader Ocean Parade frontage.	The suggested amenities and broader frontage improvements are outside the scope of the Ocean Parade stair renewal project. However, these items will be noted for consideration as part of any future upgrades or planning for the surrounding area.

4.Conclusion

The community engagement undertaken between 2 July and 24 July 2026 indicates strong overall support for the proposed Ocean Parade Stair Renewal Design, with 72.73% of respondents supporting the concept design and only a small number not supporting the proposal. Feedback confirmed that the stairs are a well-used and valued beach access point for local residents and visitors, and that renewal of the ageing infrastructure is broadly supported by the community. Key themes raised through the consultation included safety,

accessibility, durability, environmental considerations, stair width, user movement and the desire for clear information regarding final design details.

The consultation has provided valuable input to inform the detailed design phase. Community feedback will be considered where practicable, particularly in relation to stair width, materials, safety features, coastal conditions and the transition between the stairs and the beach. The engagement findings demonstrate sufficient community support for the project to proceed.

5. 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. However, the submissions provide useful insight into the views of people who use, value or are affected by the Ocean Parade beach access, and identify matters for consideration during detailed design.

6. Consultation images

EXISTING STAIRS



PROPOSED CONCEPT

