



Community Engagement Feedback Report

Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve Master Plan

Review of actions



Contents

Community Engagement Feedback Report.....	1
1.0 Background	3
2.0 Engagement Snapshot.....	3
2.1 Engagement communications	4
3.0 Consultation Response Overview.....	6
3.1 Evaluation	6
3.2 What we heard	6
4.0 Self-nomination to participate	18
5.0 Consultation images.....	18

1.0 Background

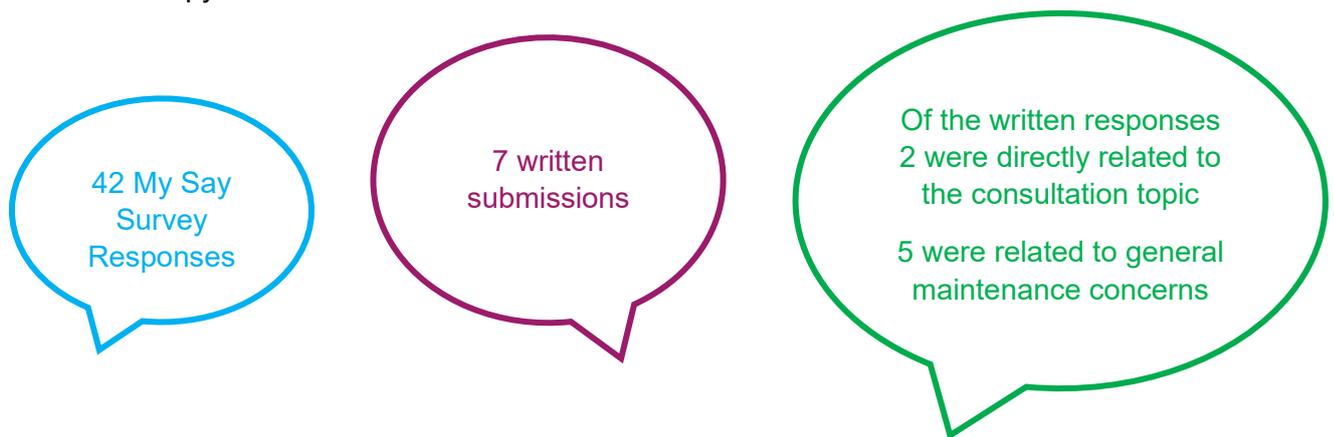
The Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve Master Plan (Master Plan) was adopted by Council on 5 February 2018. The Master Plan makes recommendations for a number of actions to be considered and undertaken within the Reserve.

Given it has now been over 7 years since the Master Plan was adopted, it was timely for the Alexandrina Council in conjunction with the Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Committee (Section 41 Committee of Council) to review the actions and determine what actions are complete, what is in progress and what remains outstanding. As well as reassessing the relevance and need of each action.

The Council administration working with the Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Committee reviewed the actions detailed within the Master Plan and recommended changes be made to the Plan and presented it for consultation.

2.0 Engagement Snapshot

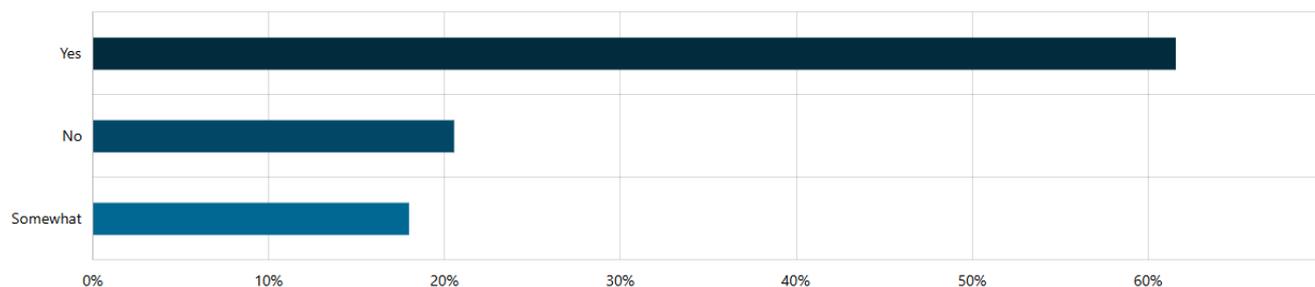
During the consultation period from Thursday 15 January 2026 until Friday 13 February 2026, **a total of 49 responses** were received across both the My Say platform and via email/hard copy.



Who we heard from (My Say):



Quick poll results:



Option	Percent	Count
Yes	61.54%	24
No	20.51%	8
Somewhat	17.95%	7

For context, the quick poll is intended as an engagement tool to encourage participation and provide a high-level snapshot of community reaction in real time. Hence the difference in engagement numbers. Greater weighting is typically given to the full survey responses in the preparation of any reporting.

2.1 Engagement communications

Audience	Channel	Results
Residents/ Ratepayers	Council website - Latest news article on home page of corporate website (space permitting)	Published throughout consultation
	Social media (Instagram and Facebook)	Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views: over 8k Link clicks: 150 Interactions: 55 Instagram <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views: over 1.2k Reach: 715 Interactions: 18
	Council office displays - entryways	Duration of consultation
	Community noticeboards	N/A
	My Say e-newsletter subscribers	15 Jan - Sent to 2,354 subscribers (48.2% open rate) 9 February - Sent to 2,345 subscribers (46.4% open rate)

	Corflutes (large waterproof signage on site)	Installed onsite 15 January 2026 at both entrance points (Middleton and Port Elliot) to Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve.
Adjoining Property Owners / Business Owners	Posted letter to adjoining property owners	Letters posted to adjoining / neighbouring property owners 13 January 2026
Government and key agencies	Direct email sent	Email sent to Minister for Planning, Department for Environment and Water (Native Vegetation Council) and Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation on 13 January 2026, inviting them to participate in the consultation.
Section 41 Committees / Advisory Committees/ Audit and Risk Committee	Direct emails sent to Heritage Advisory Group, Climate Emergency & Environment Advisory Group, Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Committee	Emails sent to relevant S41 Committees and Advisory Groups to encourage them to participate in the consultation process. 13 January 2026.
Community groups, resident and ratepayer associations	Direct emails sent to Middleton Community Association, Port Elliot Town and Foreshore Association, Miwi-inyeri Pelepi-ambi Aboriginal Corporation	Emails sent on 13 January 2026 inviting them to participate in the consultation.
Media	Fleurieu Sun and The Southern Argus	 <p>ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL Community Consultations</p> <p>Council seeks community feedback on the following three (3) consultations. 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 Council on 8555 7000.</p> <p>Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve Master Plan – Review of Actions</p> <p>Council is seeking community feedback on proposed amendments to the Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve Master Plan (2018).</p> <p>The Master Plan was recently reviewed by Alexandrina Council in partnership with the Ratalang Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay Advisory Committee. Submissions will be accepted by Council until 5 pm, Friday 13 February 2026.</p>
Internal staff	Connect Intranet Announcement	Announcement published throughout consultation
Council Members	Briefing to Council Members via Council Report	Community Engagement Plan endorsed by Council at the Council meeting on 15 December 2026 (C420/12/25)

3.0 Consultation Response Overview

3.1 Evaluation

49 online and written responses to the consultation were received of which 5 were related to maintenance concerns within the caravan park. These responses will be provided to the caravan park management company for their consideration.

Of the 44 responses that responded to the consultation questions the following is a summary of the outcomes, with more detailed information provided below for each question.

Question	Total response	Yes	No	Unsure
4.2.3, Zone 2, Port Elliot Caravan Park – Alternative water sources – Remove action	44	28	10	6
4.2.5, Zone 4 Crockery Bay – Upgrade creek crossing – Change priority from medium to low	43	30	9	4
4.2.7, Zone 6 Main Park Entry – Improve park signage at main entry – Remove action	43	31	10	2
4.2.7, Zone 6 Main Park Entry – Retain open grassed site to south west for future caravan park expansion – Remove action	44	38	5	1
4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland – Reinstate windmill – Remove action	43	31	7	5
4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland – Create link path – Remove action	43	31	8	4
4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland – Increase facilities - Change priority from medium to low	43	32	11	0
4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland – Restore historic copper mine - Change priority from medium to low	43	30	9	4
4.2.10, Overall, Park Recommendation – Improve park signage at major entry points – Remove action	43	38	4	0
4.2.10, Overall, Park Recommendation – Improve park signage at major entry points – Change priority from medium to high	43	32	7	4

Of the 10 recommended changes to the Masterplan actions all have majority support from those that responded.

3.2 What we heard

4.2.3, Zone 2, Port Elliot Caravan Park

Original action

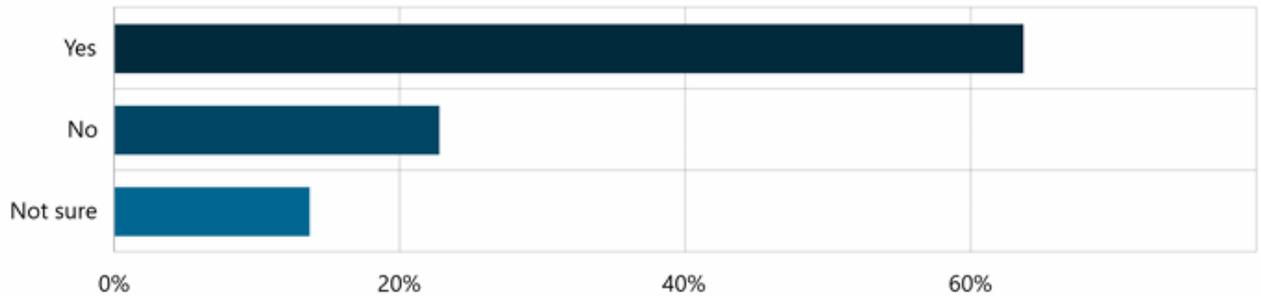
Investigate alternative water sources for irrigation supply to the main turf activity areas of the Caravan Park. Options include stormwater harvesting, storage and reuse from the urban catchment upstream from Crockery Creek (possible scaled wetland at the upper end of the creek adjacent to the Cockle Train line).

Change Proposed

Remove recommendation

Committee's Reason for proposed change

Inconsistent with conservation plan as this was a caravan park priority.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	63.64%	28
No	22.73%	10
Not sure	13.64%	6
Total	100.00%	44

Further comments:

- All common sense changes
- Ongoing vegetation management and replanting okay
- No need for major change
- This should stay in make it more appealing and inviting. Money needs to be spent on the caravan park to upgrade the playground and fence it. There seems to be plenty of funds available and generated by the caravan park.
- No more expansion of caravan park already crowded area
- Request to follow conservation as a priority than a caravan park improvement.
- Further irrigation is definitely needed at the caravan park, as regular users we have noticed the quality of the park gradually going downhill with the lack of watered / green space, yet the prices remain the same to stay or have increased.
- The ablution facilities are very substandard and need replacing as they have been the same for 25+ years. Couldn't a water harvesting / grey watering system be incorporated in new ablution blocks to cater for watering the grounds (after treatment).
- Caravan Park renovations should be consistent with a sustainable overlay - for example the walls of cabins could be slim rainwater tanks that service the cabin and the area surrounding it. Also a few years ago the operators cut down trees and there should be strict oversight to any changes the operators make.
- I do support the wetland. It's always been a good idea, even if prevarication has now caused cost blow-out making it less viable financially, if not environmentally!
- I would look at alternative water sources to water conservation park vegetation. With climate change and increased drying rainfall has changed and native vegetation may need water to survive extreme heat

- Sensible
- Keep it open for everyone to have access
- This work should be done as the caravan park is the major income source for the reserve and it is essential that funds are invested back into the caravan park to maintain that income stream.
- Alternate options are quite limited without significant design and infrastructure.
- Detailed discussions with caravan park management should be undertaken before making any decisions.

4.2.5, Zone 4 Crockery Bay

Original action

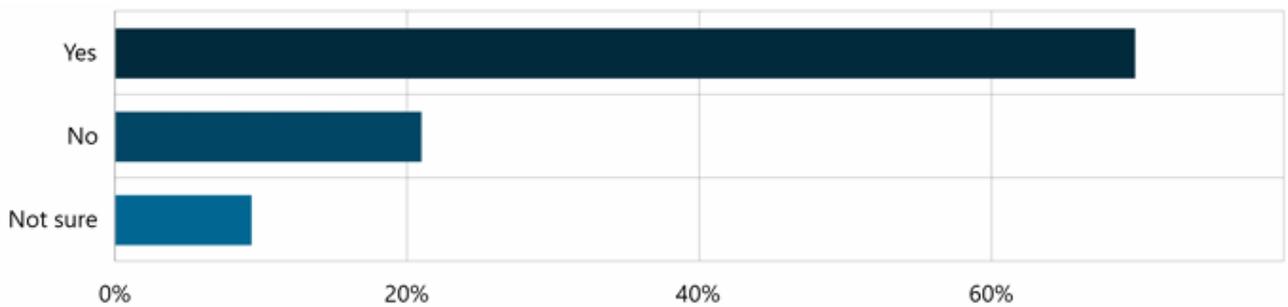
Upgrade existing creek crossing.

Change Proposed

Change priority from medium to low

Committee's Reason for proposed change

This creek crossing is a non- commissioned Asset. The Asset will be reassessed in 2027.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	69.77%	30
No	20.93%	9
Not sure	9.30%	4
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- Providing the lack of action does not lead to an erosion situation, or a public risk scenario.
- Council should undertake repair of the creek crossing
- Why is this not being looked after? Leave it in.
- I believe this will be addressed in 2027
- How does the flood plain effect the crossing?
- The old original hand built bridge was much better though. I never understood why it was replaced with the narrower one.

- Sensible
- An explanation of a non commissioned asset would have been useful. If an assessment of the crossing has been made that replacement is been necessary why would it move from medium to low.
- The creek bridge crossing is in the reserve and should be maintained as part of the reserve.

4.2.7, Zone 6 Main Park Entry

Original action

Improve Park signage at the main Port Elliot entry point on the Victor Harbor - Goolwa Road.

Change Proposed

Remove recommendation

Committee's Reason for proposed change

This is not a Committee priority or requirement for the Conservation Reserve.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	72.09%	31
No	23.26%	10
Not sure	4.65%	2
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- It's confusing - I did not even know you could access Ratalang from this end - I just thought it was a caravan park entrance. Just do it. It's not all about conservation. IT a priority in the master plan shouldn't that mean it just happens?
- Signage is clear and not related to conservation .
- Better signage is needed as people see it only as an entry to the caravan park
- Well, what harm? Not a huge cost. Directs people to follow the Encounter Bikeway, surely? Without signage, if you don't know the area, you're left in a bit of a nowhere spot.
- Signage should be improved for visitors.
- Agree
- As little signage as possible

- Not necessary
- At this point as a user of the bike way path, I think it would be most beneficial to signal that that path leads into PT Elliot. I've seen many tourists walk dangerously along the road.
- To add further to this, a pedestrian crossing having cats give way at the entrance would also be beneficial as a rider who commutes along the bike path
- Why is this not a priority as the major entry point to the park?
- No signs, no link path, no seating – this is not the way to encourage people to use the reserve.

4.2.7, Zone 6 Main Park Entry

Original action

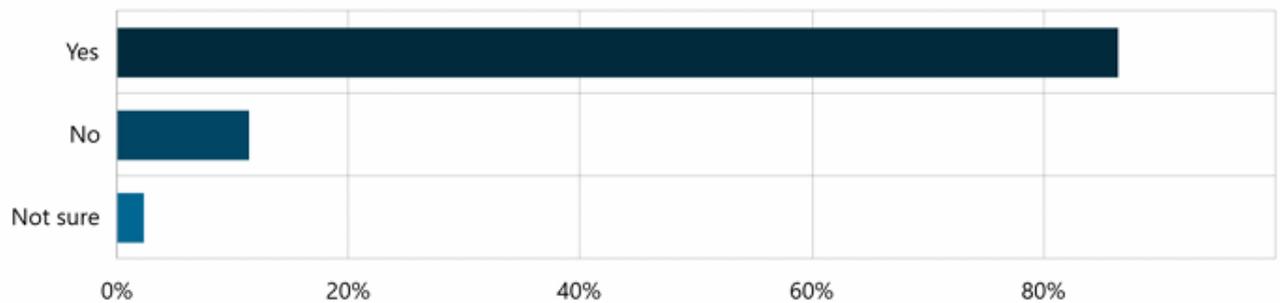
Retain open grassed site to the South West of the entry road for future caravan park extension including accommodation for educational tour groups.

Change Proposed

Remove recommendation

Committee's Reason for proposed change

Open grassed area has been retained. This area will be rezoned to Conservation and will also contain a portion of land earmarked for the Crockery Creek related stormwater diversion wetland. A caravan park extension including accommodation for educational tour groups is not supported for this area.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	86.36%	38
No	11.36%	5
Not sure	2.27%	1
Total	100.00%	44

Further comments:

- Tourism accommodation is needed. Expand the caravan park, and actually spend some money on the facilities within the caravan park. Why is all the money going to conservation... there's plenty of room - you've now got conservation at the other end of

the Ratalang so why can't you expand the caravan park for tourist accommodation - makes sense to be near the existing facilities and the township. Whilst you are at it make it a priority to upgrade the playground in the caravan park and fence it.

- This area should not be used for extended caravan etc usage but for conservation.
- Great idea
- Keep it in conservation area
- Absolutely
- This is the only area available for future expansion of the caravan park and needs to be available for future development to underpin the long term sustainability of income from tourism.
- Consideration to retain a portion of Zone 7 (south) for the opportunity for future expansion for educational tour groups, schools etc. It may be worth considering retaining a portion and allocating the rest to conservation as it could be valuable for the region at some point in time rather than needing to rezone again.
- It is short sighted to remove the option of a caravan park expansion.

4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland

Original action

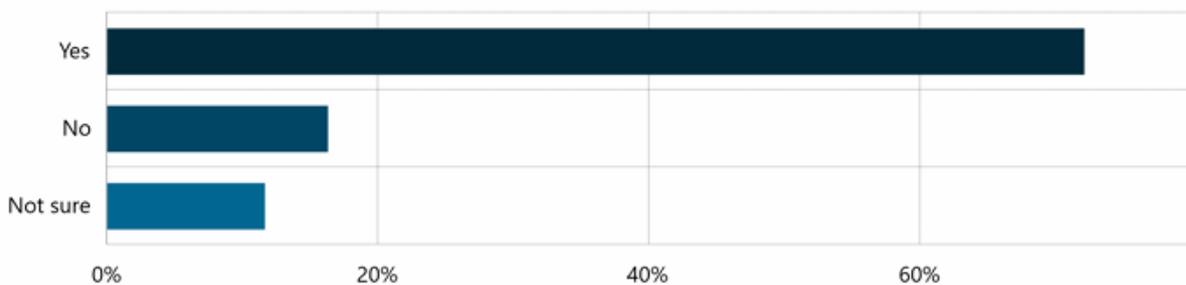
Reinstate windmill for water harvesting and education subject to environmental authority approval.

Change Proposed

Remove recommendation

Committee's Reason for proposed change

Interpretive signs already onsite talk to the European farming heritage of the area, as well as old farm ruins and stock trough being retained onsite. Installation of a windmill will be problematic, likely attract vandalism and management of water harvested via the windmill, will be challenging to keep it from going stagnant.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	72.09%	31
No	16.28%	7
Not sure	11.63%	5
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- Leave it in but change the rating maybe - it's a link to farming heritage.
- A 'nice to have', but I understand the reasons to not proceed.
- Maybe put a fence around that old remnant well though? Recycled old timber.
- I'm not fussed either way about a windmill. However, I take issue with the committee's reasons - sounds like the committee is struggling to come up with excuses for this one. Vandalism on a windmill and stagnant water is clutching at straws.
- Interpretive signs are enough
- Monies can be spent elsewhere.
- Put the windmill back without making it a working windmill. It is part of the European heritage.

4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland

Original action

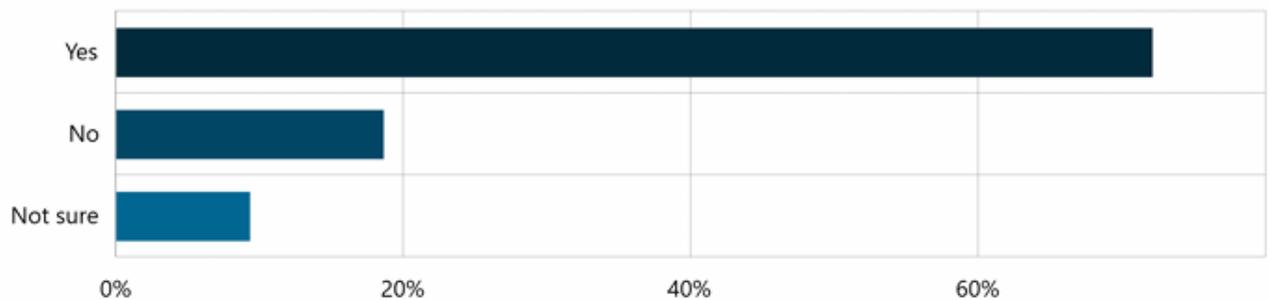
Create a link path in existing road reserve to connect residents of Frenchman's Drive area to Ratalang.

Change Proposed

Remove recommendation

Committee's Reason for proposed change

This project would require a large budget allocation to accommodate major road works to safely get pedestrians from Frenchman's Drive, over or under the main Port Elliot Road. This offers minimal benefit to Ratalang or the residents.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	72.09%	31
No	18.60%	8
Not sure	9.30%	4
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- Your original action as detailed misses the point of the original proposal, which was to connect the Encounter Bikeway to the northern areas of Port Elliot and provide a safer

way to negotiate into that area for both cyclists and pedestrians, including residents, without having to cross the main road directly. Whilst I understand the possible reluctance to expend Ratalang funding solely, this is an ideal opportunity to look to a joint venture between Ratalang, Alexandrina Council and the State Gov't. The precedent for such a crossing already exists via the underpass from Beyond Today to Watsons Gap under the Victor Harbor-Port Elliot Road.

- Nor required at all.
- I think the residents would think differently - it would not take major road works - just protection and signage and formalise what's happening now to make it safer. Sounds like you want to keep people out.
- "A path is a good idea, opens the beach up with another access point and creates loop walk /cycle track from Waterport Pt Elliot area
- A small underpass the same as Watsons Gap would not be to hard"
- expensive and unnecessary
- I would love to see an access point and very basic path to the park here even if there is no road works/pedestrian crossing.
- I think this is a straightforward and good masterplan action that would improve access for residents at a relatively low cost. There is no mention of an over or underpass, again the committee is clutching at straws. Please retain.
- Depends if tourists use it along.
- But I don't see huge benefits and monies can be spent elsewhere for benefit of more"
- Totally unnecessary
- I support the removal of this action. What I would like to see though is pedestrian access path from the main road into Ratalang closest to the Port Elliot corner, without having to walk through the nearby streets.
- How many residents are there in Frenchman Drive? Is it worth it? It is a pretty 'Yuppy' drive as it is
- This should always remain an option as it would be a significant connection with an underpass to enable Middleton residents to access a safe passage by foot or bike to the primary school and dog park. Funds may become available from external sources from time to time.
- Even if the link path is not to be done as it appears in the masterplan, at least keep the path within the reserve cut.

4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland

Original action

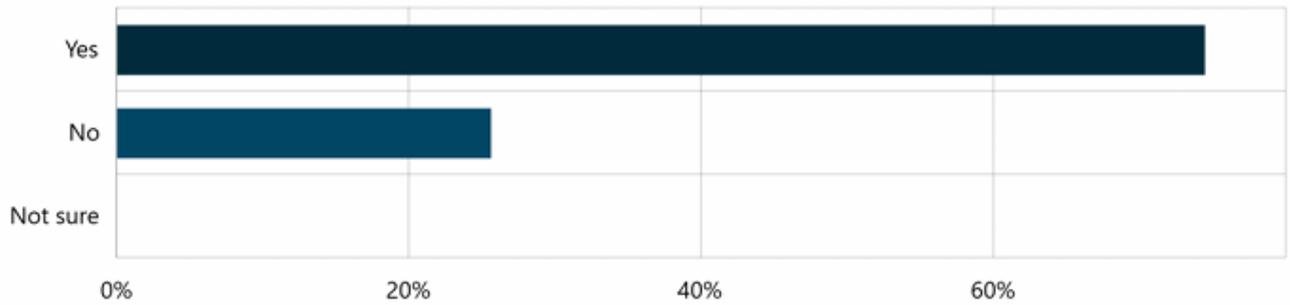
Increase facilities and interpretive material adjacent existing ruins including additional picnic tables, potential shelter and interpretive material.

Change Proposed

Change priority from medium to low

Committee's Reason for proposed change

Interpretive signs are already in place on the existing ruins. Future consideration to be given to need for additional picnic tables or shelters. Need to be mindful not to take away from the natural setting of the park. Don't want the park to be over built.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	74.42%	32
No	25.58%	11
Not sure	0%	0
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- The only issue is the ongoing maintenance of the current signage so that it remains legible.
- There is already adequate signage, although it could be renewed / updated to include additional indigenous information. Do not wish for the area to be overloaded with signs. So far as possible, keep it in its natural state - this is why it is so beautiful.
- I do not support inclusion of picnic tables etc in this area, as will detract enormously from the popular walking / cycling track. There is already a whale watching platform, picnic table and toilet immediately adjacent Middleton end of Ratalang
- The park won't be over built. Allow people to spend time more easily there and enjoy it. Picnic tables and shelters sympathetic to the environment would be great and used - Alexandrina does these sorts of things well - why not in Ratalang?
- I believe the natural biodiversity should be kept in its natural state. There are plenty of picnic tables etc in areas that are more suitable. This area is more conducive to walking and bike riding, bird watching etc rather than picnicking
- There is plenty of room for picnics
- Further trees to shade such facilities would be ideal.
- Possible scope for a Minards style shelter over the picnic table near the whale platform by the carpark at the end of Basham Beach Road though. It's quite exposed there.
- These are low key improvements.
- "Keep it like a park.
- "Could plant more trees"
- "Get rid of the proposal altogether.
- Picnickers will leave rubbish and take away the reason we frequent and enjoy Ratalang.
- It is a peaceful and natural place. The work done to revegetate is wonderful.
- Sometimes we need to leave things as they are and maintain, not overdevelop."
- A further 2-3 picnic tables would be good and not take away from the natural setting of the park
- Picnic tables and shelter would encourage visits

- Signage lets visitors know the reserve is there.

4.2.9, Zone 8 Basham Beach Hinterland

Original action

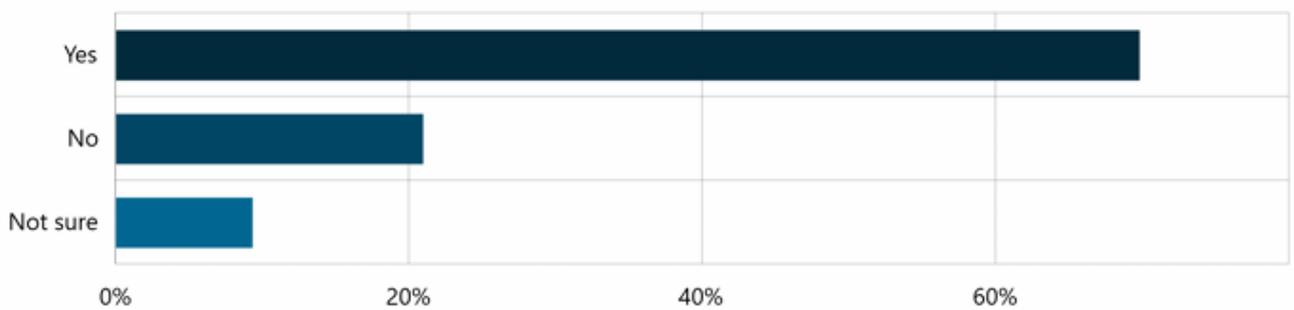
Restore historic copper mine for improved safety and educational benefit.

Change Proposed

Change priority from medium to low

Committee's Reason for proposed change

Large beehive is present and recommended to keep the bees in place. Opportunity for interpretive signage to be installed to detail the history of the mine.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	69.77%	30
No	20.93%	9
Not sure	9.30%	4
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- Get on with the interpretive signage as recommended. Review the safety aspects of the site for the future - no need to 'develop' or restore the mine for 'educational' benefit beyond this. Keep the bees in place!
- Leave as is. It's location is not well known within the community and restoration / signage would presumably require additional funds to upgrade for safety reasons. The mine was I understand an insignificant operation in its day. Signage could be placed only once site made safe for inevitable public access.
- People love exploring and understanding history like this - you are just trying to erase anything that's not indigenous. Everything has its place. Even if you don't restore it, why not put interpretive signage there to detail the history. Alexandrina does history so well - why not at least share the history? Seems odd to downgrade this - just get on with this small stuff like signage.
- The bee colony is an extremely important part of the local environment. It must be preserved.

- The bees are more important for the environment - minimal signage is needed
- Bees are important
- Signs are enough

4.2.10, Overall, Park Recommendations

Original action

Improve park signage at major entry points from the Victor Harbor-Goolwa Road.

Change Proposed

Remove recommendation

Committee's Reason for proposed change

This is a repeat of recommendation 4.2.7. This is not a Committee priority or requirement for the Conservation Reserve.



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	88.37%	38
No	11.63%	5
Not sure	0%	0
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- Leave it and do it - the master plan has it as a priority. At the very least upgrade the signage. Encourage visitors please.
- Improved signage benefits visitors. Seems the committee doesn't want any 'outsiders' who are visitors to the area, and not locals, to be made aware of this beautiful area.
- Sensible.
- Only very necessary signs are needed.
- But more car parking is also required.
- This was obviously considered important to be in the priorities twice.
- Signage lets visitors know the reserve is there.

4.2.10, Overall, Park Recommendations

Original action

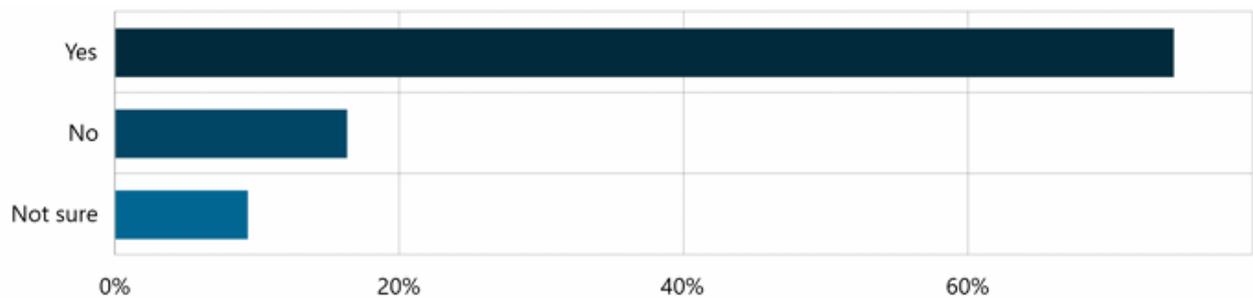
Undertake coastal hazard assessment and develop adaptation plans in response to climate change impacts.

Change Proposed

Change priority from medium to high

Committee's Reason for proposed change

Ongoing erosion is continually occurring and increasing. Consultant has been engaged to undertake a detailed Coastal Dune Assessment at Sandy Bay within Ratalang Basham Beach Conservation Reserve. Once the report has been



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	74.42%	32
No	16.28%	7
Not sure	9.30%	4
Total	100.00%	43

Further comments:

- Definitely required with reasonable urgency. Having been subjected to copious grand and more minor plans over several decades in Alexandrina, I always worry when the proposal only goes as far as 'developing plans', without the proposal/action detailing timescales to undertake the work detailed in the plans.
- And improve the beach access point which is currently fenced off.
- I thought this was happening already. It will be expensive to do anything.
- Consultants must be made accountable for their predicted outcomes, don't pay them if the recommendations do nothing as we have seen from past reports
- Updated information on coastal changes will be forth coming.
- I don't think the sanctuary zone should be tampered with, extremely delicate ecosystem with so many different types of marine life. Changes like these always have unforeseen environmental issues. To be specific, the implementation of a breakwater could ruin southern right whales migratory patterns. Not to mention the touristic significance of the surf break "chicken run". Me and my friends often enjoy this break, it would be heart breaking to see such a thing disappear.

- I love to surf the chicken run on my bodyboard and have been loving it since the early 90s. When the swell is large and it's blown out everywhere else, the chicken run is the only place that still works. It's such a lovely break, with a great vibe of other surfers, long boarders, stand up paddle, kneeboarders, body surfers etc that all use it. It attracts quite a diverse bunch of locals and crew from Adelaide and beyond. So please don't stuff up this wave to save the beach. Give it time, the sand disappeared from Petrol Cove a couple of years ago and then it came back again. I've spotted the difference at the beach but it'll be ok. Man made edits usually bring new problems (like ruining the surf) to try to fix another problem (sand drift).
- With regards to the Coastal Dune Assessment at Sandy Bay. The Surf break at "Chicken Run", adjacent to Sandy Beach, is unique and a very important break to the South Coast. All assessments must include an impact study on this break as any recommendation for a breakwater or similar cannot be constructed if it is to inhibit swell resulting in the loss of the break. Sand gets moved naturally all along the coast and as a Lifesaver at Goolwa, I see sand movement regularly throughout the year. It goes and then comes back. Please be very cautious to what any report may suggest needs doing at Sandy Beach.
- Let nature do its thing. We will adapt to changes.
- Beach erosion is a problem, mitigation needs to be mindful of the area's attraction to surfers, local surf clubs and competitions held there...
- If the consultation assessment recommended a breakwater off of the point, I would profoundly oppose that. A breakwater would ruin any chance of the our surfing community from using that spot for recreation and or club events."
- This is the most important item on the plan. The beach is fading away. Very sad.
- But don't just have a talk fest afterwards, take action quickly
- Anything to improve and protect the natural environment is a positive, especially in the face of climate change.
- Will likely become a safety issue if not assessed and addressed
- My concern is for the protection of homes that are close to this Park and lack of fire protection, especially in the light of the recent fire at Nangkita and Victoria. I feel the park committee has lost sight of protecting the community and have their own agenda which seems to be wasting a lot of money.
- Let nature take its course. Action to protect coast here can have unintended actions in other places. Money invested would be a waste.
- The erosion that has occurred since May 22 makes this very important. If something can be done, the sooner it is done, the better to preserve the dunes and the reserve.

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