

MOOLAP coastal strategic framework PLAN



Summary of Feedback Community engagement Round one

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Images Courtesy of Moolap Plan's Project Team

Introduction

This *Summary of Feedback* discusses the outcomes from the first round of community engagement for the Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan (the Moolap Plan). The Moolap Plan will identify the strategic direction of the Moolap area including any potential land use change. It will inform future development, clean-up, protection and improvement.

The community, including land owners, organisations and the general public were consulted and provided feedback through a variety of channels. Feedback is being used to inform the preparation of the Moolap Plan.

The *Summary of Feedback* captures the key points made during the first round of community engagement.

This document also analyses the feedback received, capturing and highlighting the range and depth of ideas and opportunities submitted.

It is not intended to capture every specific comment or reference comments to individuals or organisations.

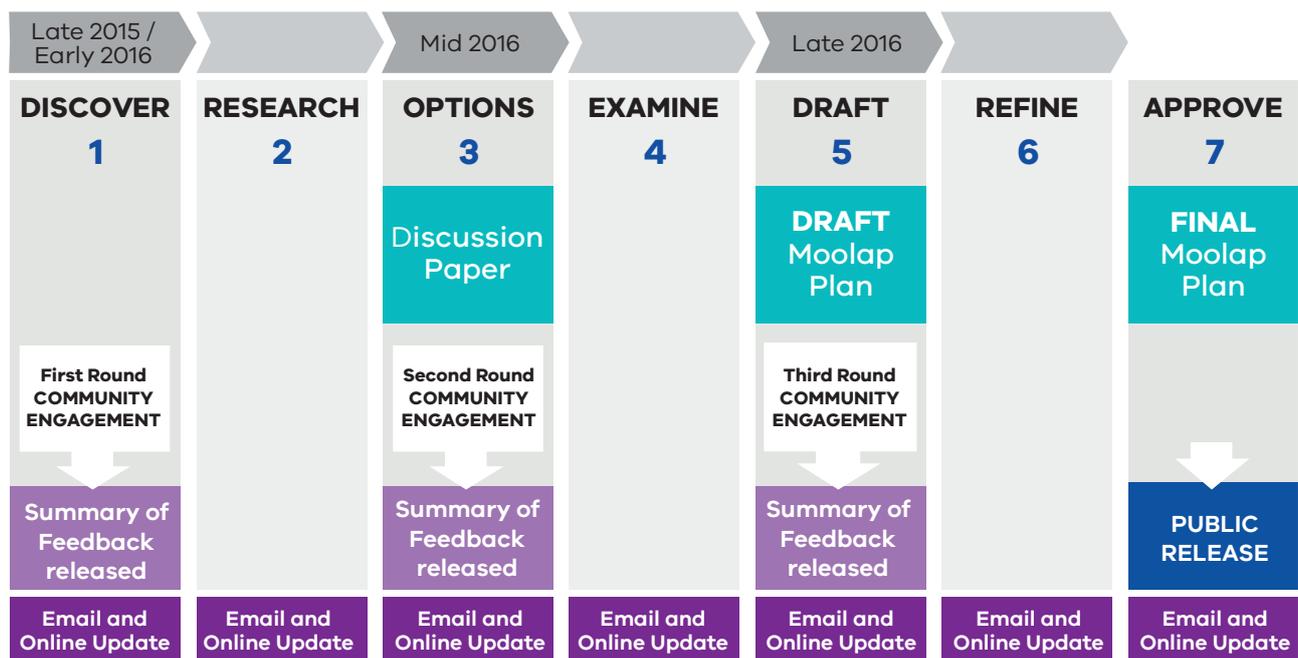
All ideas and opportunities are being considered in the preparation of the Moolap Plan.

Engagement

The Moolap Plan is being prepared by the Victorian State Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) with input from other government departments, agencies and the City of Greater Geelong. The Geelong Authority is also being consulted to inform and provide independent advice to the Minister for Planning.

The Engagement Plan for the project includes three rounds of community engagement (see diagram below).

ENGAGEMENT PLAN



Engagement channels

The first round of community engagement was announced by the former Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water on 4 December 2015. This engagement continued until 12 February 2016.

The community was offered a blank page to present ideas and opportunities for the future uses of the study area.

Members of local environmental groups, in particular, were highly responsive and identified issues, information and opportunities. A number of organisations and businesses advised that they will participate more actively in the second round of engagement when there is an opportunity to respond to the discussion paper.

The community engagement focused on the following themes:



COMMUNITY



ECONOMY



ENVIRONMENT



HERITAGE



**INFRASTRUCTURE
AND SERVICES**

While the level of interest across the themes may have varied, each theme was considered equally for the diversity of ideas and information provided.

Various methods of engagement were undertaken including two open house events, two workshops, an online survey, written submissions and small group discussions.

141

PEOPLE ATTENDED
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
& OPEN HOUSES

95

WRITTEN
SUBMISSIONS

93

STAKEHOLDERS
AT SMALL GROUP
MEETINGS

139

PEOPLE
COMPLETED AN
ONLINE SURVEY



Open house sessions conducted in December 2015 enabled participants to walk through displays, ask questions about the plan, share their knowledge of the area and provide ideas and their vision for the future.

During the workshops registered community participants shared their ideas about the study area's future, drawing their ideas on maps.

The survey included a series of questions on a community member's relationship to and interest in the study area.

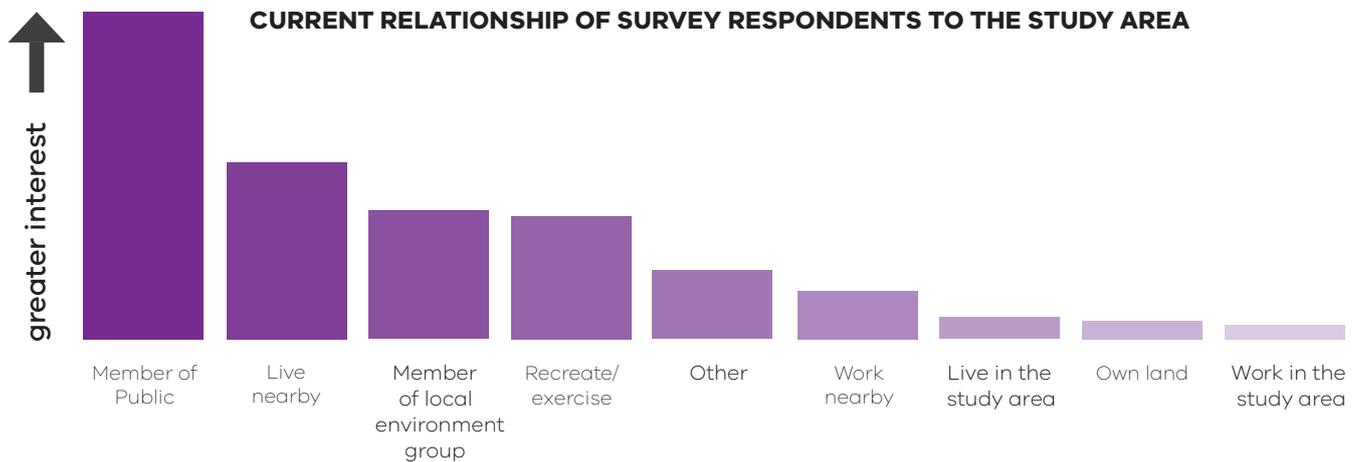
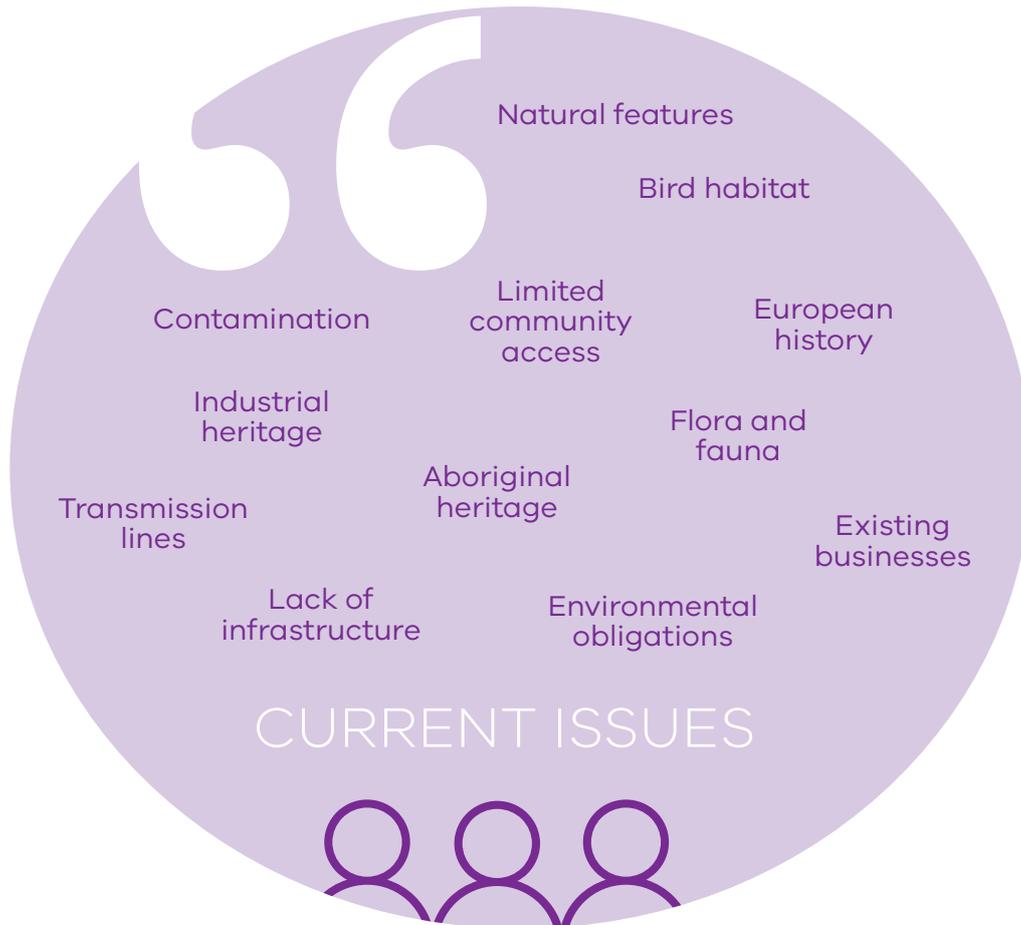
Small group discussions were held on request with peak representative and stakeholder organisations, including:

- Alcoa Australia
- Bellarine Catchment Network
- Birdlife Australia
- Central Coastal Board
- City of Greater Geelong Councillors
- Committee for Geelong
- Deakin University
- Dow Chemicals
- Federal Government Department of Environment
- Friends of the Point Richards and Bellarine Catchment Authority
- G21 Region Alliance
- Geelong Environment Council
- Greening Australia
- Geelong Chamber of Commerce
- Geelong Field Naturalists Club
- Port of Geelong
- Ridley Corporation
- Sanctuary Living
- The Geelong Authority
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
- Victoria National Parks Association
- Wildfowl Wetland Trust (UK)
- Winchester

What we heard

Current issues

The community was asked about current issues relating to the study area, responses included:



What we heard

By theme - current issues



COMMUNITY



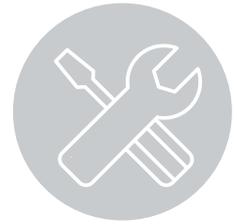
ECONOMY



ENVIRONMENT

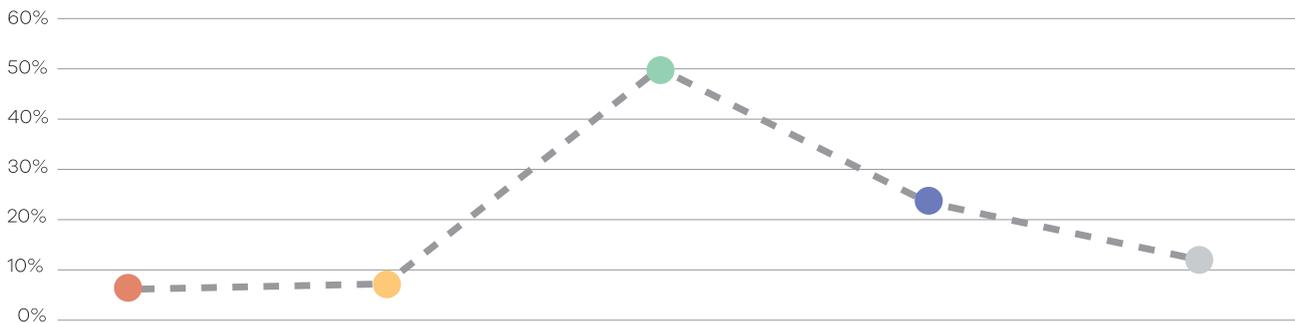


HERITAGE



INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

PERCENTAGE OF COMMENTS FOR EACH THEME



CURRENT ISSUES - TOP RESPONSES

Limited community involvement or access

Good recreational opportunities

Fishing is important but limited

Fragmented community

Contamination extent and type is undefined and will need potentially costly clean-up

Alcoa decommissioning process

Good businesses in the current industrial area

Good location for growth and tourism

Important bird habitat and breeding area

Natural features of the land

Environmental obligations

Significant seagrass meadows & marine habitat

Significant coastal wetlands & saltmarshes

Significant industrial heritage

First settlers and European history and farming

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Lack of sewage and open drain issues

Transmission lines and road linkages

Lack of existing pedestrian and cycle access and infrastructure

Road infrastructure limitations need to be considered

Access issues to Point Henry Pier



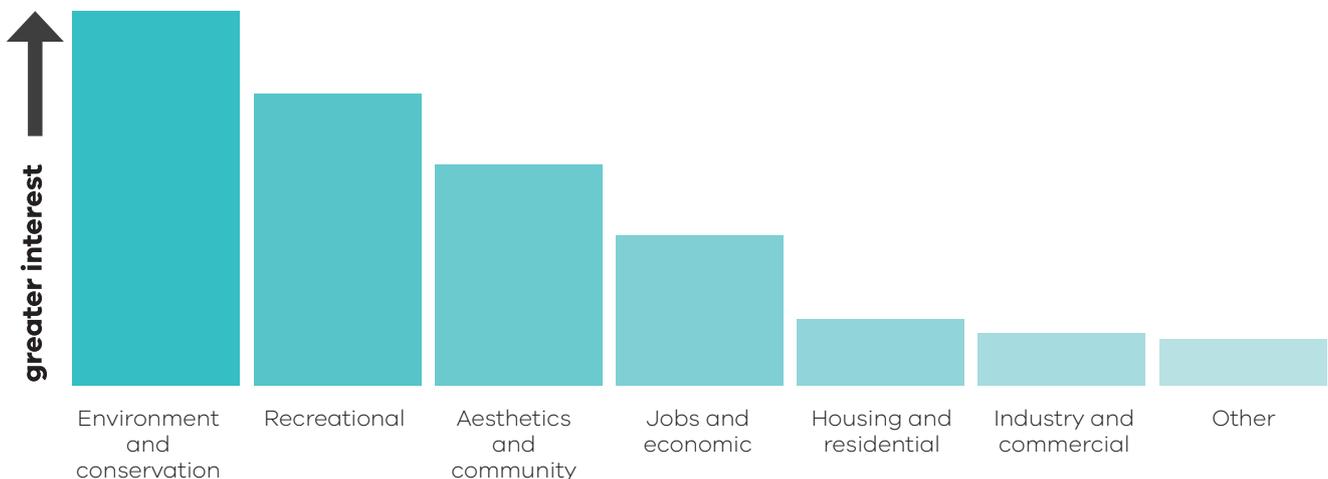
What we heard

Potential opportunities

The community was asked what they would like to see the study area used for, responses included:



FUTURE AREAS OF INTEREST



What we heard

Potential opportunities – by theme



COMMUNITY



ECONOMY



ENVIRONMENT

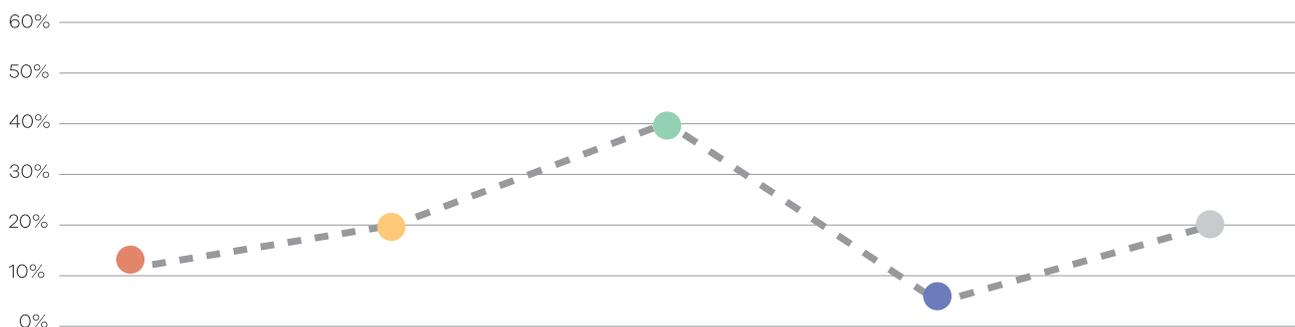


HERITAGE



INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

PERCENTAGE OF COMMENTS FOR EACH THEME



POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES - TOP RESPONSES (FULL RANGE OF RESPONSES IN FOLLOWING PAGES)

Provide for transition over time

Create a balanced mix of development

Create good access via walking and cycle tracks

Protect against flooding

Provide housing that is accessible and complementary to surrounding areas

Create recreation, tourism and eco-tourism destination

Integrate activities in the study area through mixed industries and landuse

Provide environmental education facilities linked to tourism industry

Ensure a local and regional, state, national and international context

Create an open nature reserve or parkland for Geelong for active use

Create a world class wetland or wildlife reserve accessible to the public

Protect marine and bird life in the area

Prioritise ecologically sustainable development

Consider and manage climate change impacts

Recognise, document, preserve and educate the community on historical and ecological significance

Build connection and recognition of Aboriginal cultural history

Retain and re-purpose Alcoa buildings

Recognise the significance and preserve the saltworks

Create adequate and shared public access infrastructure and transport in study area

Create transport links to Melbourne

Create quality public amenity and facilities

Provide an opportunity for something iconic and innovative

Enable potential access for cruise ships or large vessels



Feedback themes

Community

Provide for transition over time

A workable 'holding pattern' was considered important for the short-medium term

Create a balanced mix of development

Balance the needs of everyone considering environmental, economic and community concerns, given the general community has not had access to this site for a long time

Create education opportunities

Consult with Aboriginal communities

Recognise cultural heritage

Provide protected and accessible beaches and pier for recreation

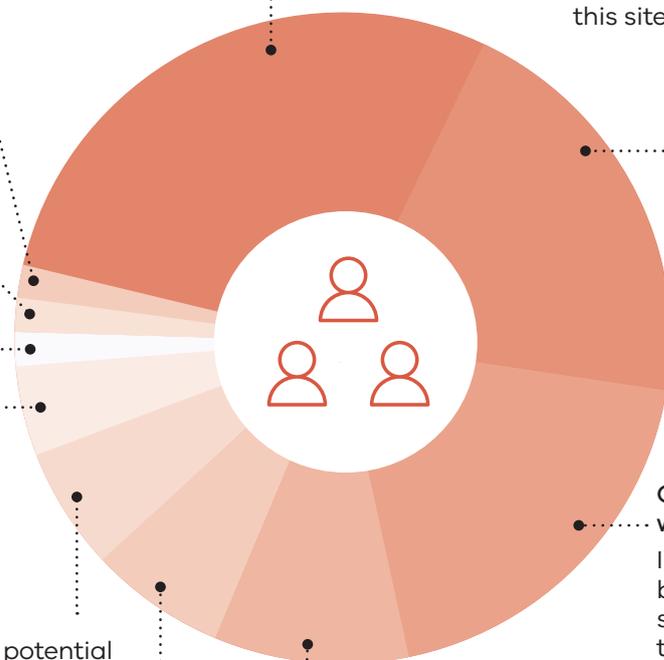
Provide potential local community benefits and consideration for any development

Provide housing that is accessible and complementary to surrounding areas

Provide protection from flooding

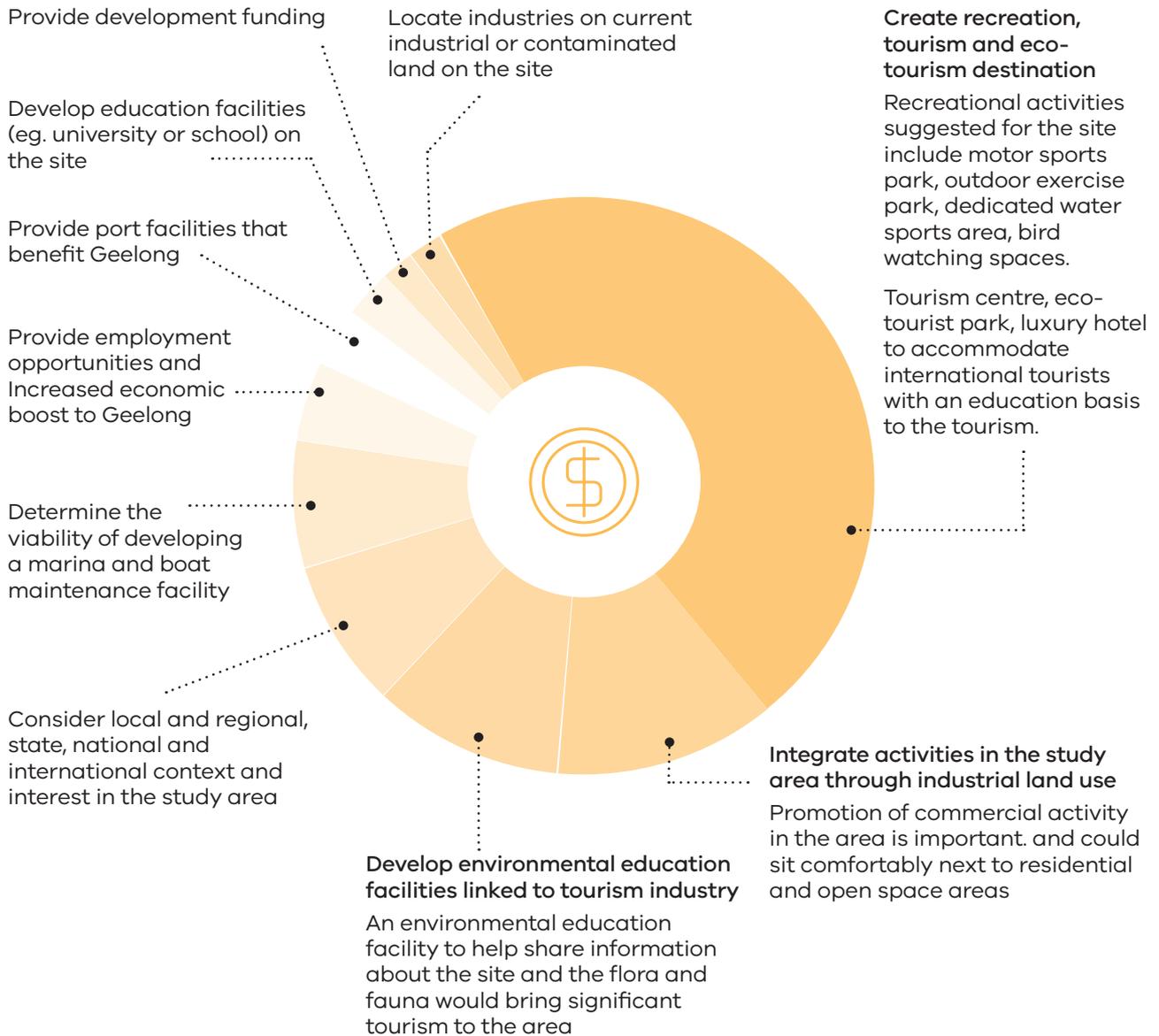
Create good access via walking and cycle tracks

Include walking trails, boardwalks (over saltmarshes) and cycling tracks for passive use of the area



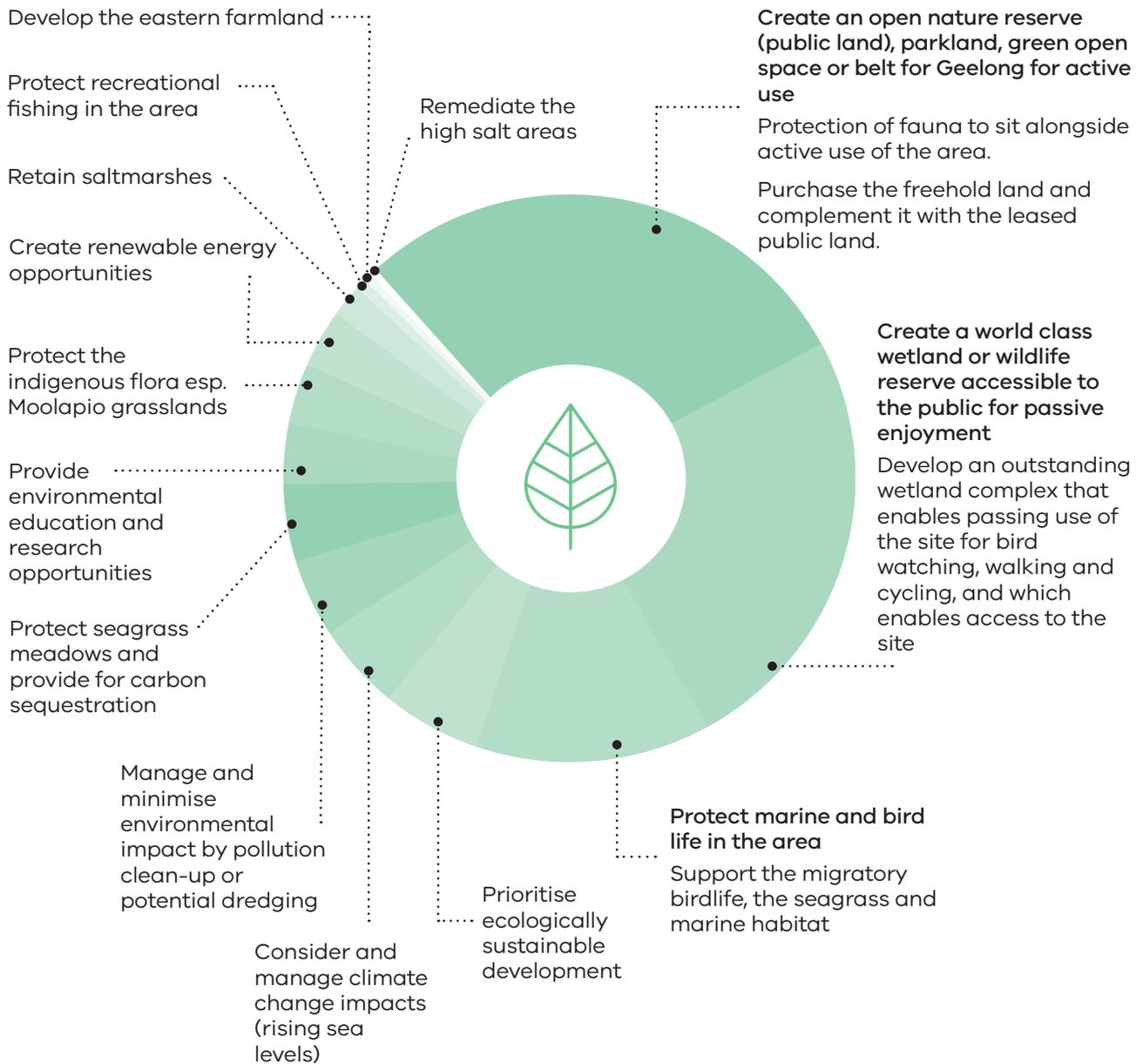
Feedback themes

Economy



Feedback themes

Environment



Feedback themes

Heritage

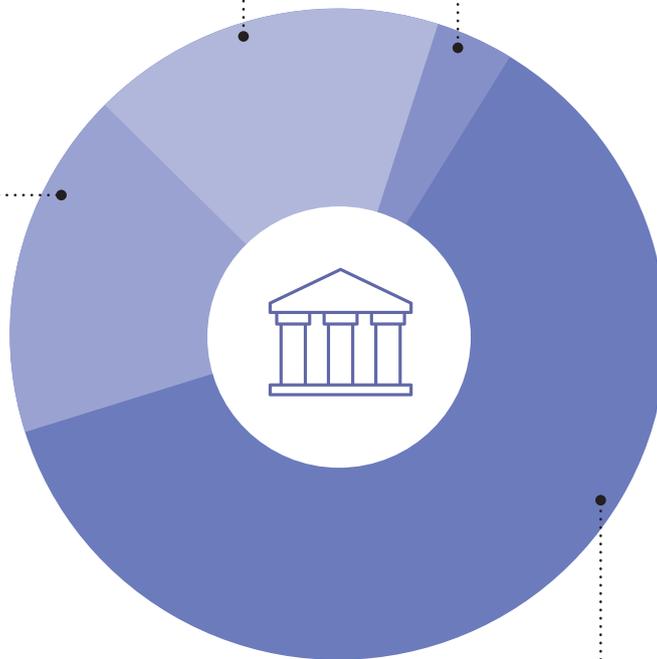
Retain and repurpose Alcoa buildings

Ensure the buildings at Alcoa can be reused in some way either as a distinct heritage centre or something similar to Powerhouse where it can be appreciated in a different way

Recognise the significance and presentation of saltworks

Build connection and recognition of Aboriginal cultural history

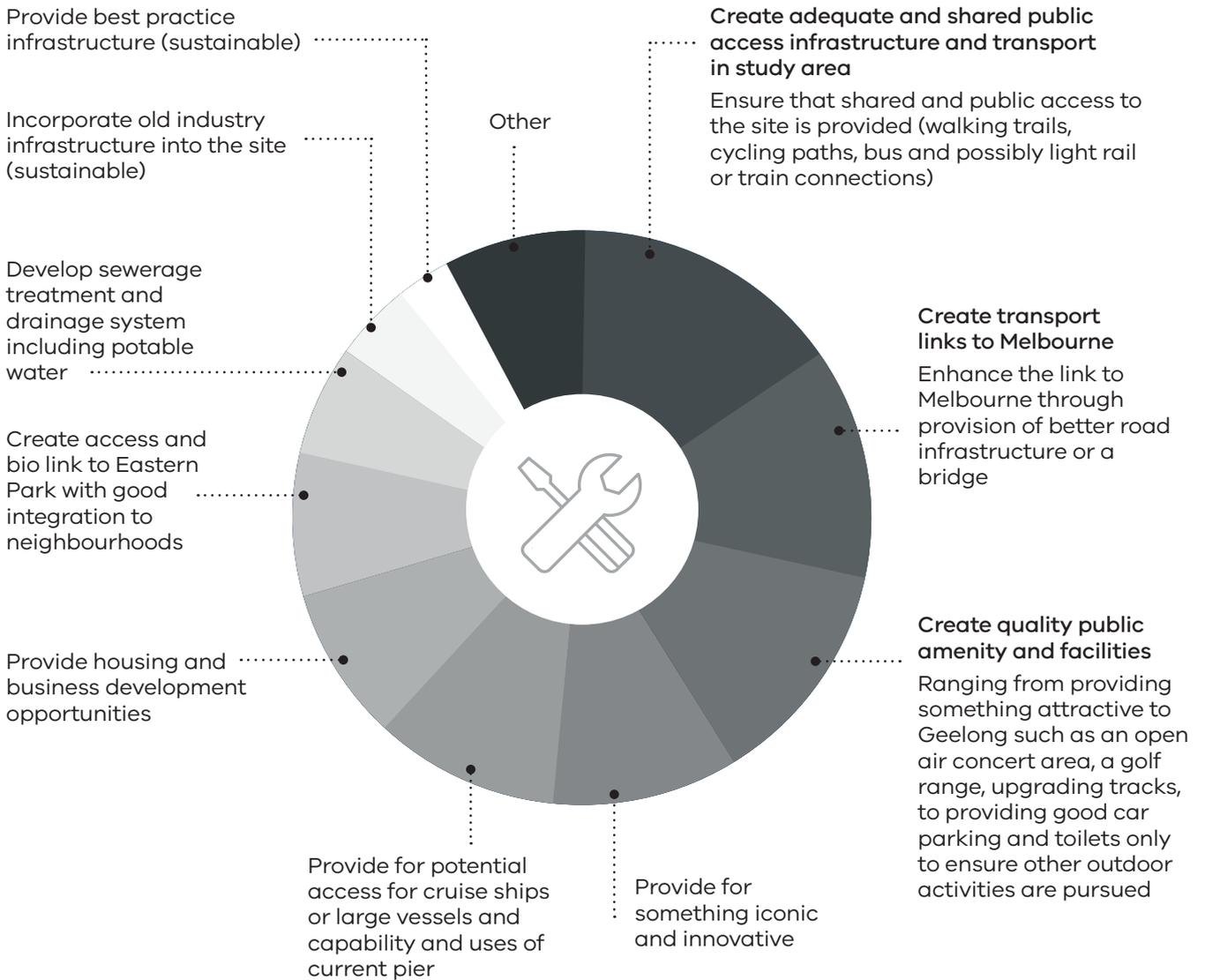
Ensure the Aboriginal cultural heritage is recognised either through interpretation signs or through a heritage/tourist centre



Recognise, document, preserve and educate community on the historical and ecological significance of the site
Ensure the history of the site, the industrial use, first settlers are captured in interpretation signs or a heritage/interpretive centre

Feedback themes

Infrastructure and services



Through the various methods of engagement, people described their vision of the study area (see below).



Nature reserves to be the GEM of Geelong
Every great city has a great park
An internationally recognised ecotourism destination
Showcase the region's flora and fauna
Tourism that celebrates the area
Create a recreational boating and fishing hub
Link wetlands with Lake Connewarre
Create a coastal link to Eastern Gardens
Housing and community facilities to extend Moolap to the north
Educational and tourist facilities attracting visitors to Geelong
A tranquil place to escape
Improve drainage, roads and community facilities
Parks for active and passive recreation
Protect existing jobs
A place to generate renewable energy to be used locally
Remove industry
A jewel for Geelong
Protect Moolap and Newcomb from coastal inundation
Minimal housing
Make the area beautiful from the sea
An architecturally amazing building on the Alcoa site
Capitalise on the use of Point Henry Pier
Grow the economy
Land and water-based recreation
Preserve saltpans/ wetlands for migratory birds
Integrate with the local area
Long term view needed
No canal housing
An industrial area with a coastal/marine focus
Once in a hundred year opportunity
Interpretive/education centre and heritage museum
Employment areas needed
Huge opportunity for something of local, national and international significance
Share access and don't let one landuse dominate
Capitalise on seagrass as a carbon sink/storage
Take advantage of the water

Informing the MOOLAP coastal strategic framework plan

Submissions and information received during the first round of engagement provided:

- Further information about the study area
- Ideas and possibilities about the study area's future

This has informed the subsequent research step of the project, including the preparation of a:

- Background Report (that includes information about the study area's context, assets and constraints)
- National and International case studies (a report commissioned from Deakin University)

Engagement and research is informing the Moolap Plan's Discussion Paper which will include a draft vision, land use principles and possible land use scenarios. The Discussion Paper is scheduled for release and engagement in mid-2016.



