

# Community and Stakeholder Consultation Report

Informing the development of the new  
Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan



What does a healthy  
Port Phillip Bay  
mean to you?

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**Authors**

Noel Gately, Jessica Fernandes, Robert Molloy and Amber Perry  
Melbourne Water Corporation

**Acknowledgement**

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# Summary

Feedback received during early consultation with community and stakeholders has been documented in this report, and has been used to guide the development of the *draft Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan: 2017-2027* ('the draft Plan').

The consultation has provided important insight into what the community values with respect to the Bay and what they believe are the key challenges for environmental management of the Bay. The consultation undertaken in January and February 2016 has raised awareness of the draft Plan.

Input was received from around 1500 people, who provided feedback through a range of mechanisms – including beachside listening posts, online survey, stakeholder meetings and formal submissions.

The stakeholder meetings provided an opportunity to collect more individualised data and case studies to assist in the development of the draft Plan. Similarly, the formal submissions offered further specific insight into the myriad of issues, values and challenges to be tackled in the draft Plan.

This comprehensive engagement has built an expectation that the community's feedback will be reflected in the actions and priorities of the draft Plan.

The community feedback has been summarised into two themes:

<b>1. Vision and values – things to be protected or improved</b>	<b>2. Challenges – things to be managed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• water quality</li><li>• economic benefit generated from Bay activities</li><li>• cultural heritage</li><li>• coordinated approach to management</li><li>• community involvement</li><li>• marine life and habitat</li><li>• recreation/fishing</li><li>• protecting the Bay as an asset</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• litter/water quality/pollution</li><li>• marine pests</li><li>• marine habitats</li><li>• climate change/sea level rise</li><li>• fishing</li><li>• jet skis</li><li>• dredging</li><li>• erosion</li><li>• coastal development</li><li>• impacts from shipping</li></ul>

The vision and goals, which have been presented in the draft Plan, reflect the interests and activities of the range of communities and groups that provided feedback during the consultation period.

Respondents wanted litter management and water quality to be a priority in the draft plan. For many respondents, measures to prevent litter, particularly plastics from entering our waterways, were seen as critical to the future health of the Bay.

Respondents expressed a desire for the Bay to be cared for and looked after; with a more coordinated approach for management; and that a shared appreciation of the Bay is fostered.

Respondents indicated that there should be more direct action taken to improve marine life, and to better understand the impacts from people and catchment inputs (water pollution and litter) on marine habitats.

The feedback from the community and stakeholder consultation has had a significant influence on the development of the draft Plan.

# 1. Introduction

The Victorian Government is delivering on its commitment to protect and enhance the health of Victoria's marine and coastal environments by developing the draft *Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027* ('the draft Plan').

Development of the draft Plan is being undertaken by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria.

Port Phillip Bay ('the Bay') offers a vast array of social, recreational, economic and environmental values for visitors and those who live and work in the region. Managing the Bay's marine life, habitats and water quality appropriately requires a coordinated effort from government, industry and the community.

The engagement sought to provide insights into community and stakeholder aspirations and concerns regarding the health and management of the Bay. These insights would be used to refine the long-term vision for managing the health of the Bay, values to be protected and the issues to focus on in the draft Plan.

## Objectives

The consultation process was guided by the following objectives:

- **To inform** the community and key stakeholders of the preparation of a new Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan, and increase awareness of their opportunities to provide input.
- **To consult** with community and key stakeholders, through local and accessible engagement opportunities, to determine what a healthy Bay means to them, identify what values they want protected, and what challenges they want addressed.
- **To assist** government and project partners to understand community and stakeholder concerns and their vision for a healthy Bay.
- **To ensure** community and stakeholder issues and aspirations are understood and inform the preparation of the draft Environmental Management Plan.

## Approach

Development of the draft Plan required community comment to be secured prior to the end of February 2016. This timeframe, coupled with the opportunity to engage with users of the Bay at the time of year when the benefits of the Bay are most tangible, informed the engagement approach.

With the goal of improving awareness of the draft Plan and increasing project partner understanding of community priorities, the proposed approach to consult via beachside face-to-face events and online survey was recommended.

Consultation began in mid-January 2016. Promoted under the theme 'What does a healthy Port Phillip Bay mean to you?' consultation sought to understand:

- **values** of the Bay that are important to community and key stakeholders
- key **challenges** associated with protecting the health of the Bay
- community and stakeholder **aspirations** for the future of the Bay.

A range of consultation opportunities were provided to gain input from across the breadth of the community. These included:

- beachside listening post events (held at Rye, Elwood, Altona and Queenscliff)
- online survey
- meetings with stakeholders and community based interest groups
- formal submissions.

The four beachside listening posts offered the opportunity for 'frontline' community conversations by the project team with people already using the Bay. By including child friendly activities, and simple feedback tools such as testimonials, voting activities, and draw your vision, the beachside summertime events were a cost effective way to capture the input from the broader community.

The online survey was included because it was acknowledged that the beachside engagement may not capture the input of all who have an interest in the Bay. The online survey, hosted on the DELWP website, was able to be promoted to a wider audience. This ensured broader engagement across the community.

A number of alternative options were considered. These options included focus groups, social research and public information sessions. These options were less preferable than the proposed approach due to limited opportunities to increase the profile of the Plan in the broader community, secure input from the broader community and casual beachgoers (or a combination of these).

The opportunity for public feedback was promoted through:

1. Direct mail to 191 key stakeholders, interest groups, sailing and fishing clubs, as well as 'friends of' groups around the Bay (see Appendix 1 for list).
2. 6,000 promotional postcards distributed to businesses and libraries near the beachside listening posts (along with direct mail).
3. Twice weekly social media updates (Facebook and Twitter) by DELWP (assisted by Melbourne Water and EPA Victoria).
4. Local press public notice advertisements promoting three out of four face-to-face beachside events.
5. Article in the Hobson's Bay *Leader Newspaper* promoting the Altona beach listening post.

Other initiatives to improve the profile of the project included:

- Foyer displays mounted at DELWP, Melbourne Water and EPA to target staff and visitors to the offices of the project partners.
- Promotion via intranet postings at Melbourne Water and EPA.
- Lunchtime screening to Melbourne Water staff of the Sheree Marris documentary on Port Phillip Bay, *Melbourne Down Under*.



**Figure 1 Promotional postcard (front and back) used to promote beachside listening posts and the project website**

**Voting at listening posts**

In addition to providing general feedback, participants at the beachside listening posts were encouraged to vote on what they value about the Bay and the challenges they believe should be managed.

Each participant was provided four beans, and invited to cast four votes (by placing their beans in corresponding jars) to indicate which of five 'Bay values' they most identified with:

1. Aquatic ecosystems
2. Commercial and industrial uses
3. Cultural heritage
4. Fishing
5. Recreation.

The second element to the beachside voting was for participants to indicate (by placement of beans in jars) which of four challenges to the health of the Bay they most wanted managed:

1. Climate change
2. Ecosystem issues
3. Maintain/improve marine habitat
4. Maintain/improve water quality.

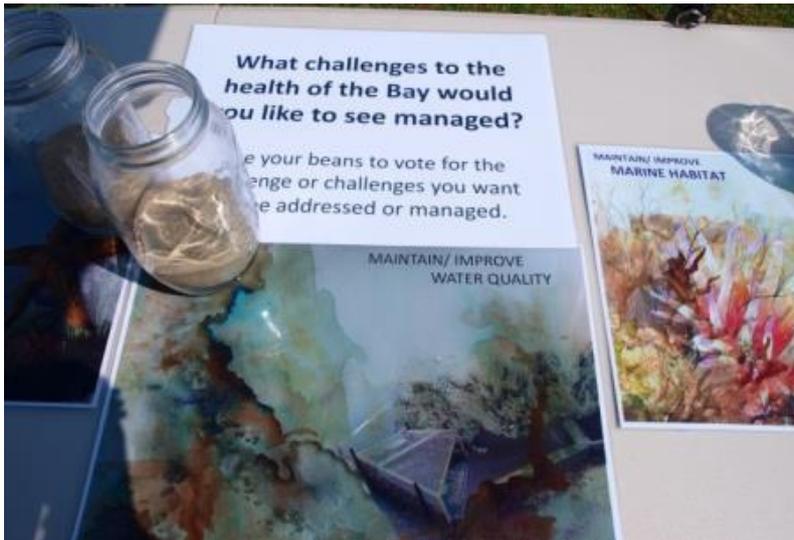


Figure 2 Voting activity – participants were given beans to place in jars to indicate their preferences



Figure 3 Voting activity at Elwood



Figure 4 Vision and writing activity at Elwood

## 2. Outcomes

### Listening posts

The beachside listening posts (between 25 January and 14 February 2016) captured feedback on issues of interest and concern from people at four locations around the Bay and were attended by approximately 430 people. The participants were not necessarily locals, but they had all chosen to visit the beach and Bay at these locations.

**Rye** – The first event was held on the foreshore at Rye, near the pier and boat ramp. Holiday-makers, boating and fishing enthusiasts, and local residents provided their feedback.

**Elwood** – In Elwood, the beach was closed due to recent heavy rains. Locals and visitors using the beachside paths and open space for recreation stopped to provide feedback.

**Altona** – The listening post in Altona was held on a warm summer day, when people were focused on getting to the beach for recreational purposes. A number of people who had heard about the event from local networks or newspaper attended, with the specific objective of contributing their thoughts and ideas. Contributors included passers-by happy to share their views on what the Bay meant to them.

**Queenscliff** – In Queenscliff the listening post was ideally situated to capture feedback of people walking along the foreshore from the ferry to the pier. Feedback was also captured from a number of locals, and residents from elsewhere on the Bellarine Peninsula.

At all four listening post events, participants spoke highly of the Bay, its importance to the state and the economy. They value the Bay as a place for recreation and enjoyment. Many expressed an appreciation of its marine life, emphasising the need to educate the broader community about the Bay's natural features and the measures needed to protect them.

Through discussion and vision statements, participants indicated that they want to see comprehensive management of the Bay. Many commented on the importance of managing litter, ecosystem issues and stormwater. These were seen as important ways to improve water quality and the health of marine habitats. The need for education and regulation also received frequent mentions.

Table 1 contains a summary of concerns and feedback from the four beachside listening posts. Appendix 3 contains a record of all the vision statements and concerns/issues written down by participants at the beachside listening posts.

A selection of visions collected at the listening posts, Jan-Feb 2016:

***'Healthy fish. Healthy water'***

***'We care for the future and make decisions and enforce'***

***'We are all linked - treat the Bay with respect'***

***'Strong ecosystem. Animal habitat looked after!'***

**Table 1 - Summary of feedback and voting from beachside listening posts**

Location (attendees)	Some of the issues raised at listening posts	Most supported Bay values	Challenges to Bay health to be managed
Rye (100)	<p>Majority of participants indicated enjoyment of the Bay as prime importance. There was also frequent mentions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>measures to protect fishing, and marine habitat</li> <li>water quality and stormwater runoff</li> <li>managing jet skis.</li> </ul> <p>Two participants suggested the creation of a single body to control the Bay and foreshore.</p> <p>The importance placed on protection of marine habitat and fishing was higher compared with responses from the other listening posts.</p>	<p>Aquatic ecosystems 29%</p> <p>Fishing 27%</p>	<p>Maintain/improve marine habitat 32%</p> <p>Ecosystem issues 29%</p>
Elwood (135)	<p>Participants were concerned and articulate about the Bay, with many seeking comprehensive management to protect its health. The main issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>concern about water quality and stormwater (and need to clean it before it gets to the Bay), and limiting the impact of plastics</li> <li>monitoring and managing climate change impacts (e.g. sea level rise)</li> <li>managing jet skis.</li> </ul>	<p>Aquatic ecosystems 37%</p> <p>Recreation 31%</p>	<p>Maintain/improve water quality 37%</p> <p>Maintain/improve marine habitat 26%</p>
Altona (70)	<p>Many of participants already had a commitment to managing the health of Bay through involvement in local groups. Despite the smaller sample, voting at this event reflected other listening posts. Concern for water quality and habitat received frequent mentions. Other concerns had a local focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rubbish left on the foreshore by visitors</li> <li>management of rotting seaweed washed onto the beach.</li> </ul>	<p>Aquatic ecosystems 36%</p> <p>Recreation 28%</p>	<p>Maintain/improve water quality 34%</p> <p>Maintain/improve marine habitat 28%</p>
Queenscliff (125)	<p>Participants, mainly visitors to Queenscliff, reflected on the range of challenges for managing the health of the Bay, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>water quality and aquatic ecosystems</li> <li>declining fish population</li> <li>management of the foreshore</li> <li>litter left by visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>Aquatic ecosystems 34%</p> <p>Recreation 25%</p>	<p>Maintain/Improve water quality 31%</p> <p>Maintain/improve marine habitat 28%</p>

## Creating a vision for a healthy Port Phillip Bay

Participants at the beachside listening posts were invited to write or draw their vision for the Bay. This provided an opportunity to include participants of all ages.



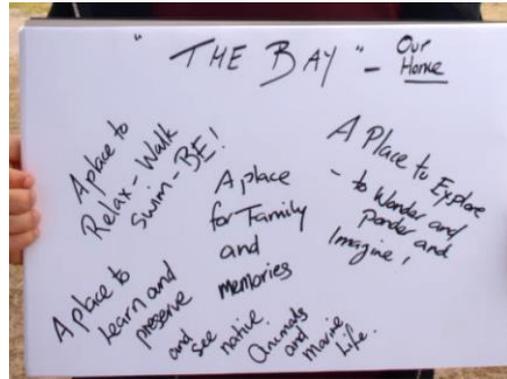
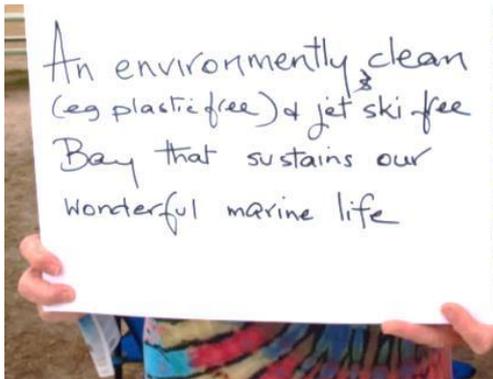
Figure 5 Vision activity – participants were invited to write or draw their vision for the Bay

Vision statements and drawings reinforced the importance of managing challenges to the health of the Bay, and the role we all have to play in caring for it.



Figure 6 Sample of vision statements from the beachside listening posts

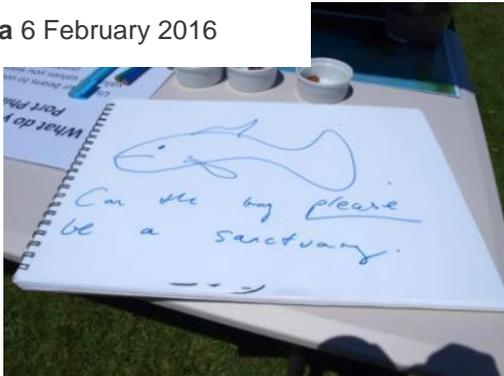
Rye 25 January 2016



Elwood 30 January 2016



Altona 6 February 2016



Queenscliff 14 February 2016



Figure 7 Sample of listening post participants with their visions

## Voting at listening posts

Figures 8 and 9 present the combined results from the two voting activities at the four beachside listening posts. Collages, prepared by artist Aviva Reed (Appendix 2), were used to visually communicate the Bay values and challenges, which allowed participants of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the voting. The voting exercises were well received, with many participants reporting it was an easy and quick way to provide feedback.

Participants were asked to vote on which of five 'Bay values' they most identified with (Figure 8). Overall, the most supported Bay value was 'aquatic ecosystems' (35% of votes), followed by recreation (27% of votes).

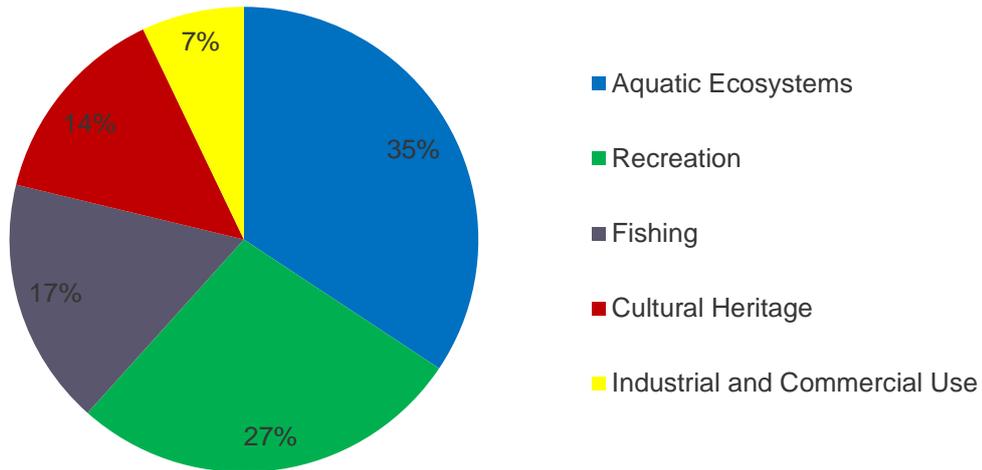


Figure 8 Percentage of votes from all listening posts for 'Bay values' participants most aligned with

The second voting activity invited participants to indicate which of four challenges to the health of the Bay they most wanted managed (Figure 9).

Overall, the challenge most people wanted addressed was to 'maintain/improve water quality' (33% of all votes). During the voting activity, participants stated they couldn't see the direct impact of climate change on the Bay, or that they saw it as too big a challenge to manage within the scope of the draft Plan. Only 15% of all votes were cast for this challenge.

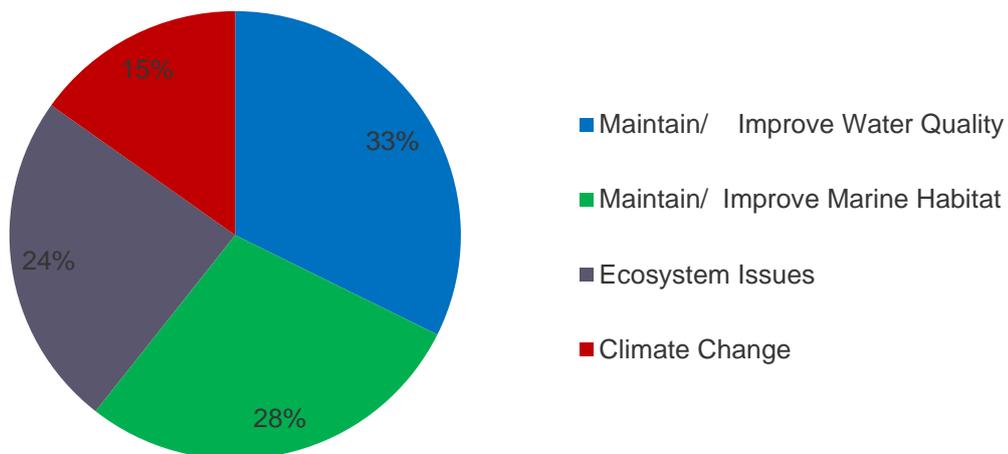


Figure 9 Percentage of votes from all listening posts indicating management challenges participants thought should be considered in the draft Plan

## Online feedback

The website acted as a hub for users and was promoted via social media, direct email to stakeholders and promotional postcards distributed at the beachside events. Around 66% of people who completed the online survey provided their contact details for the next round of consultation.

This portal was successful for engaging with the public, with over 2,600 visitors accessing the site during the six-week consultation period.

The screenshot shows the website for the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Victorian Government logo, the text 'Environment, Land, Water and Planning', and links for 'HOME' and 'PORT PHILLIP BAY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN'. A search bar and a dropdown menu for 'PORT PHILLIP DELWP' are also present. The main heading is 'Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan', followed by social media icons and a prominent blue 'REGISTER to get involved!' button. Below this, a section titled 'What does a healthy Port Phillip Bay mean to you?' contains introductory text and a list of survey questions: 'Your vision for a healthy Port Phillip Bay', 'What you value most about the Bay', and 'What you think the key challenges are in managing the future health of the Bay'. It also provides a deadline for the survey and contact information. A sub-section titled 'WHAT DOES A HEALTHY PORT PHILLIP BAY MEAN TO YOU?' is highlighted with a blue bar. Below this, there is a survey question: 'How do you or your family currently use Port Phillip Bay? (Please choose all that apply)'. The sidebar on the right lists 'Key Dates' for events like 'Rye foreshore event' (25 January 2016) and 'Weaver reserve, Altona event' (06 February 2016), along with an 'FAQ' section.

Figure 10 Screen shot from the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan website

The online survey was completed by 1058 respondents from around the Bay, including residents of the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas. Appendix 4 contains a map of the locations of survey respondents, based on their home postcode. However, the frequency of responses from each postcode is not represented in the map.

Given the high level of promotion to special interest and key stakeholder groups, it is not surprising that just over 57% of all online respondents had heard about the survey via membership of a group or a group's social media.

The survey sought information to better understand people's use of the Bay, their concerns and values, as well as their aspirations for the future health of the Bay. Additional information was secured on the way people access information about the Bay. This data will assist with the implementation of the Plan.

### General information

Participants were asked to indicate how they use the Bay. Swimming and relaxing/socialising were the top two uses of the Bay (19% and 17%).

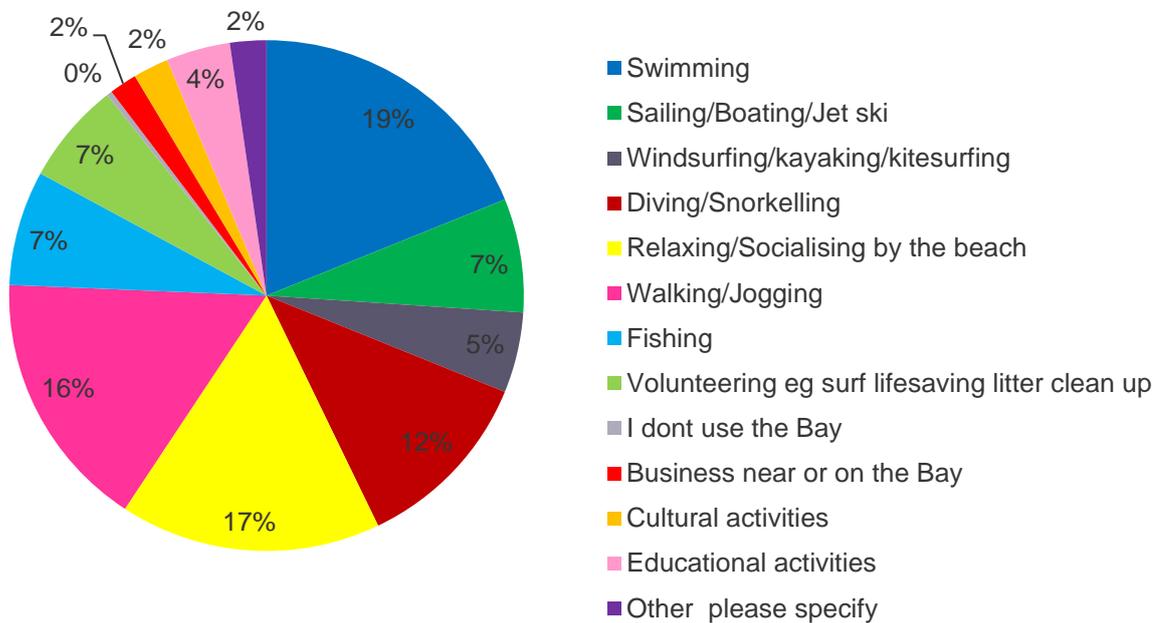


Figure 11 Indication of how individuals or families use the Bay (multiple uses included)

Respondents were also asked *how often* they used the Bay. The majority of respondents (76%) stated they use the Bay often and year round. As heavy users of the Bay these respondents are invested in its future use and protection.

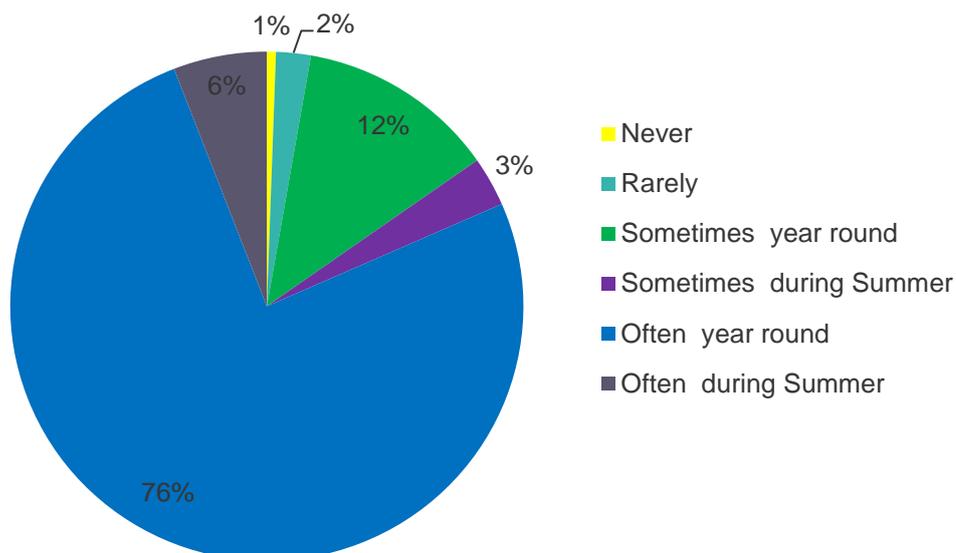


Figure 12 Indication of frequency individuals or families visit or use the Bay

### How people access information

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked how they found out about the survey, how they generally find out about the health of the Bay, and how they would prefer to access this type of information in the future. This information could be used to shape actions around community education as well as providing a frame of reference for promoting the next round of consultation.

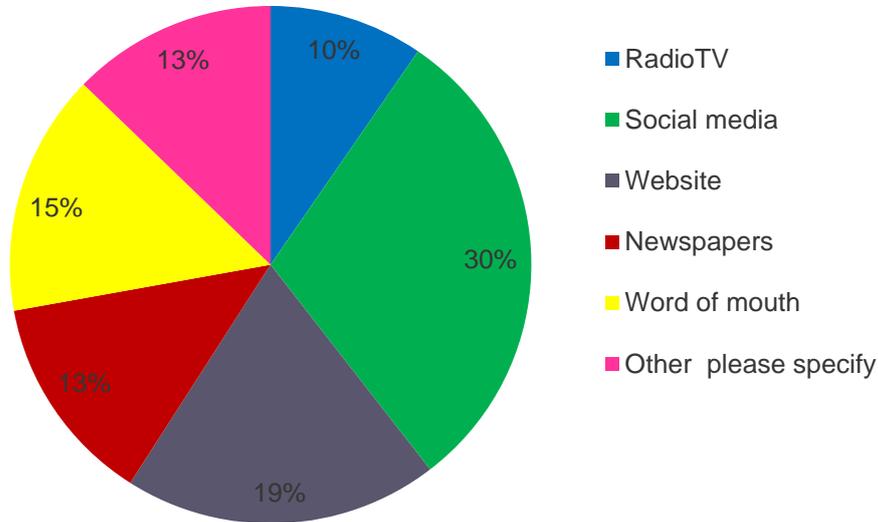


Figure 13 Indication of how people find out about the health of the Bay

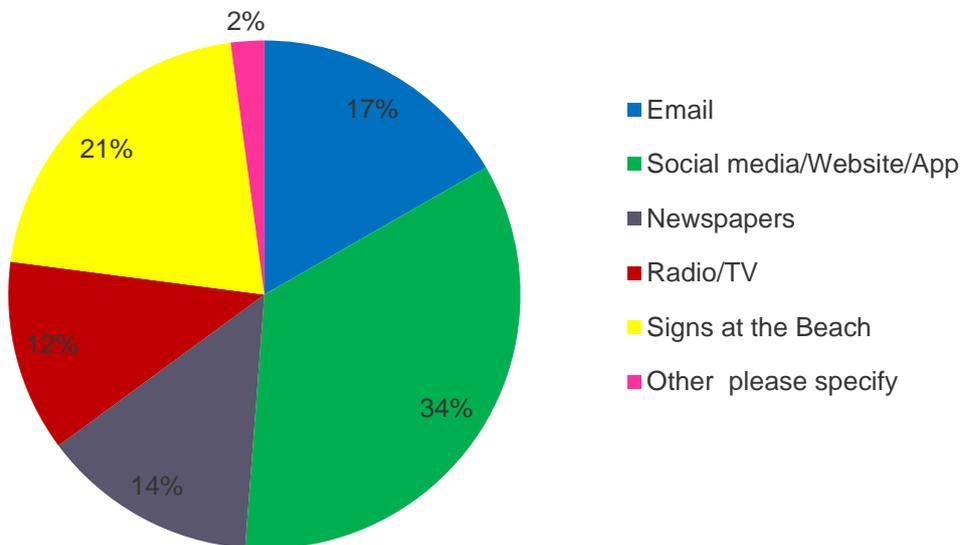


Figure 14 Indication of how people want to assess information about the health of the Bay

The way that respondents found out about the survey gives an insight into the success of various methods of promotion and the level of engagement with the Bay.

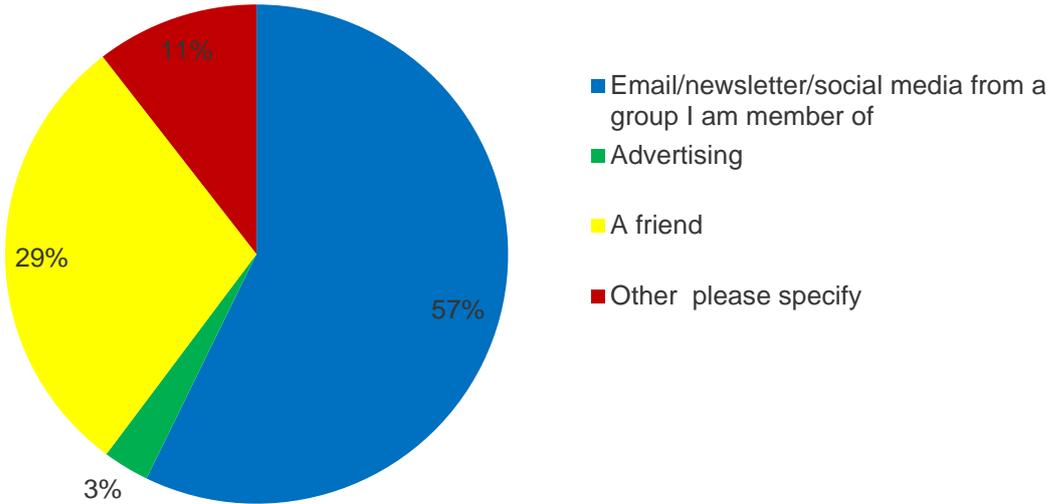


Figure 15 Indication of how people found out about the survey

**Values**

Mirroring the voting activity used at the beachside listening posts, respondents were asked to select the three things they value about the Bay.

The three things online respondents most value about the Bay are:

1. Healthy marine habitat and wildlife (26%)
2. Opportunities for relaxation, socialising and recreation (21%), and
3. Swimming (17%).

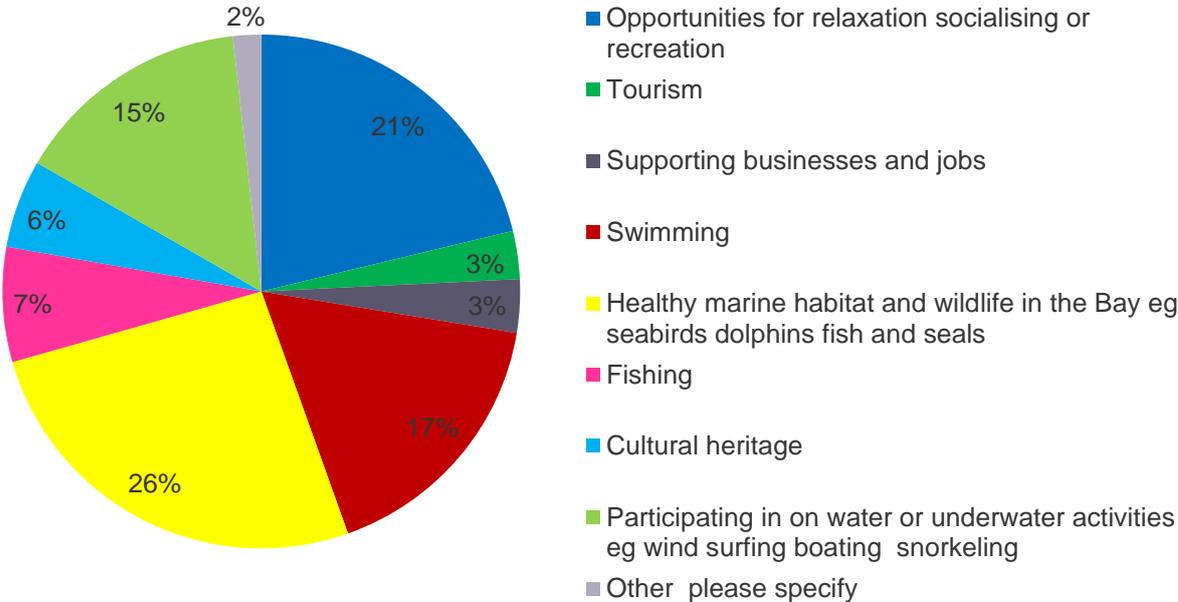


Figure 16 Indication of what people value most about the Bay

### Challenges to the health of the bay

When asked to nominate which three challenges to the health of the Bay respondents most want protected, 'Maintain and improve water quality flowing into the Bay' and 'Maintain and improve marine life and habitat' were both nominated as priorities by 36% of respondents, with 'Ecosystem issues' receiving 28% of votes. These results echoed the votes of participants in the beachside events.

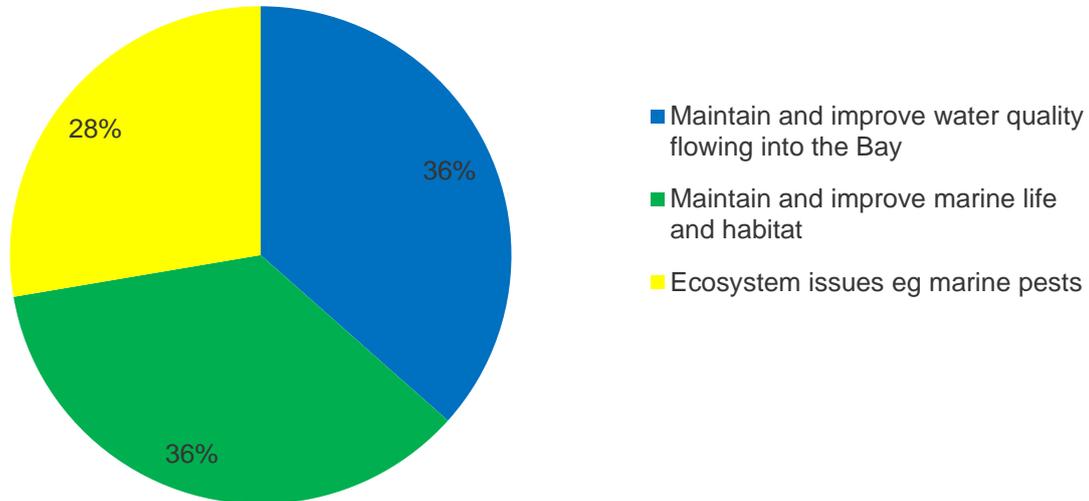


Figure 17 Indication of which issues people thought would most impact their ability to use or enjoy the Bay

### Free text responses

The online survey included three free text questions, which provided respondents the opportunity to provide more specific feedback to the Project team. The three free text questions in the online survey were:

1. Any other issues not listed that might impact your use or enjoyment of the Bay?
2. What do you want to see most protected or improved in Port Phillip Bay?
3. Do you have you any other comments about the future/current health of the Bay?

Appendix 5 contains a list of the key themes, number of mentions they received, and verbatim examples. The themes are listed in order of most mentions to least.

## Other activities

The following stakeholders agreed to meet with the project team in early 2016 to provide input to the development of the draft Plan and discuss the consultation questions in the discussion paper:

- Museum Victoria
- Victorian National Parks Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Yarra and Werribee Riverkeepers
- Port Phillip Baykeeper
- Western Region Environment Centre
- Dolphin Research Institute
- Seafood Industry Victoria
- Mussel farmers - meeting hosted by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

The project team was also able to meet later in the year with Aboriginal groups from the Kulin nation, including the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council, Bunurong Land Council, Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, and Boon Wurrung Foundation.

Formal submissions were received from the following stakeholder organisations, community groups and councils:

- Port Phillip Bay Conservation Council
- Marine Care Ricketts Point Committee
- VRFish
- Seafood Industry Victoria
- Rye Community Group Alliance
- Bunurong Land Council
- Tangaroa Blue
- Hobsons Bay Council
- Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club
- Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
- Victorian National Parks Association

Four submissions from individual community members were also received.

### 3. Key themes and response

The main themes from the public (community and stakeholder) consultation on the vision and values of the Bay, and the challenges to Bay values are summarised in Table 2 and Table 3 respectively.

The main considerations taken from the consultation that have been included in the draft Environmental Management Plan, and that were not focussed on in the previous 2001 Plan are:

- **Stewardship (vision and values):** People expressed a desire for the Bay to be cared for and looked after; a more coordinated approach for management; and that a shared appreciation of the Bay be fostered.
- **Cultural heritage (vision and values):** In developing the Plan there should be recognition of Traditional Owners, and incorporation of their values and knowledge into management actions.
- **Marine life (vision and values):** The consultation has indicated that there should be more direct action taken to improve marine life, and to better understand the impacts from people and catchment inputs (water pollution and litter) on marine habitats.
- **Water quality issues beyond nutrient – eg. litter, pathogens and other pollutants (challenges):** Respondents wanted litter management and water quality to be a priority in the draft plan. For many respondents, measures to prevent litter, particularly plastics from entering our waterways, were seen as critical to the future health of the Bay.

A broad range of issues have been evaluated against the risk they pose to Bay health; the need and the opportunity to improve their management and coordination; their existing management controls (legislation, policy, regulation); the community's level of concern; and the ability to achieve a positive and significant outcome in the ten year life of this Plan. The *State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) – Schedule F6 (SEPP Waters of Victoria)* also provides direction on what should be covered in the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan. Priority goals and actions in the draft Plan have been derived from these assessments and investigations.

There are many issues and activities which are therefore not featured in the draft Plan, but which are still acknowledged to be significant in the eyes of the government and the community. Issues such as dredging, commercial and recreational fishing, coastal erosion and inundation, and shipping/boating pollution were not identified as priorities for this Plan. These issues are all managed through other mechanisms, regulation and legislation as outlined below:

- **Fishing:** Fisheries Victoria within the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) manages and regulates commercial and recreational fishing in the Bay under the *Fisheries Act 1995*. Commercial netting in the Bay is being phased out by 2022 and participation in recreational fishing will be encouraged with enhanced fishing opportunities and facilities.
- **Dredging:** Dredging is regulated by consents under the *Coastal Management Act 1995*. Major dredging operations may require additional approvals under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. Those involved in dredging activities have a responsibility under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* to minimise environmental impacts. The *SEPP (Waters of Victoria)* and accompanying *Schedule F6* also contain specific provisions regarding dredging.
- **Coastal erosion:** Coastal erosion is already being addressed through plans such as the *Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014*, the *Central Regional Coastal Plan 2015-2020* and local coastal plans, regional and local climate adaptation plans. Managing the Bay in the context of climate change has been included as a key principle, and activities are proposed to address knowledge gaps in the response of marine habitats to sea level rise and storm impacts.

- **Marine vessels (such as shipping and jetskis):** Under the *Port Management Act 1995* and the *Port Management Amendment Act 2012*, managers of local and commercial ports are responsible for Safety and Environment Management Plans (SEMPs).

Discharge of oil and other pollution to Victoria's waters is prohibited under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. Spill management is overseen by DEDJTR, and occurs under the *National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies*, the *Victorian Marine Pollution Contingency Plan* and any other relevant state or regional marine pollution contingency plans. DELWP is responsible for coordinating the response to wildlife impacted by maritime pollution under the *Wildlife Response Plan for Marine Pollution Emergencies*. EPA provides enforcement under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and the *Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986*. Discharge of ballast water is also regulated through the *Environment Protection (Ships Ballast Water) Regulation 2006*.

Transport Safety Victoria (formerly Marine Safety Victoria) regulates the safe operation of vessels (sailing, human-powered, and motor craft) on all state waters, under the *Marine Safety Act 2010*.

Specific action focussed on jet skis has not been included in the Plan. However, the issue of education around behaviour and responsibility may be addressed more broadly through actions under the 'Connect and inspire' priority area.

**Table 2. Key findings and response to community and stakeholder consultation on Port Phillip Bay vision and values**

Themes from consultation	Commentary	Response
<b>Water quality</b>	Water quality was a key issue mentioned in the survey, at the community listening posts and stakeholder meetings. It was often referred to as an overarching theme which supported all other values.	The draft Plan addresses water quality; and expands on the 2001 Plan, by inclusion of separate priorities for litter and pathogens, as well as nutrients, sediment and toxicants.
<b>Marine life and habitat</b>	<p>Protection of marine life and habitat was a strong theme at the community events and in the surveys, but wasn't the key issue for some stakeholders. It was perceived that management of marine life and habitat was a gap in the previous Plan, and that its value was under-appreciated by the broader public.</p> <p>Divers and anglers had a strong interest in marine life and habitat as it supports their activities (values). Fisheries management and industry groups mentioned the need to conserve and enhance marine habitats as they support sustainable fishing.</p>	<p>The draft Plan addresses the values of marine life and habitat in the third goal, and through a separate priority area that focuses on improving understanding of marine habitats, ecological processes and interventions to improve habitats.</p> <p>The background investigations recognised marine pests and habitat are affected by water quality, and that water quality needs to be managed to protect these values.</p> <p>Marine biosecurity and the management and prevention of marine pests continue to be a priority within the draft Plan.</p>
<b>Recreation/fishing</b>	<p>Support for recreation and fishing activities was high at the community events and in the survey.</p> <p>Respondents reflected on the importance of the values that supported their ability to undertake recreational activities (marine life and habitat, water quality).</p>	The draft Plan addresses the value of recreational activities and fishing through the vision and goals. Recreation and fishing are not specific priority areas, but their values are protected through the management of other priority areas such as water quality, habitat and marine life, and marine pests.
<b>Economic input generated from Bay activities</b>	Respondents tended not to acknowledge the economic importance of the Bay's health, preferring instead to focus on other values and issues that indirectly deliver economic outcomes. The Bay should be used to help the Victorian economy, not be an end itself.	The draft Plan adopts the logic that if the health of the Bay is protected (e.g. water quality, marine life, habitats), then the economic potential of the Bay will be maximised. The vision implies maintaining all values (i.e. private as well as commercial uses), which in turn will benefit the State's economy.
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	Cultural heritage received minimal reference in the free text comments in the survey and may have confused attendees at the events. This was potentially due to the absence of a clear definition for cultural heritage and awareness of these issues in the community.	<p>The approach to Cultural heritage aligns with the <i>Water for Victoria</i> plan and DELWP's <i>Munganin Gadhaba – Aboriginal Inclusion Plan 2016-2020</i> and will be developed through consultation with representative groups from the Kulin nation.</p> <p>Recognition of Traditional Owners has been included as a principle in developing the draft Plan. Within the 'Connect and inspire' priority area, there is an action to work with Aboriginal groups to improve understanding of Cultural values and interests in the Bay. Within the 'Empower action; priority area, there is an action that will improve mechanisms for informal and formal involvement of Aboriginal groups in Bay management.</p>

Themes from consultation	Commentary	Response
<b>Coordinated approach to management</b>	Many respondents to the survey and at the events highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to Bay management. This included a desire to clarify roles and responsibilities and develop a holistic approach to management across all stakeholder groups.	This desire for a more coordinated approach and clarity of roles and responsibilities has been encapsulated in the priority area 'Empower action'. This priority area aims to improve collaboration and partnerships across community, industry and government, and to strengthen stewardship of the Bay.  Roles and responsibilities for delivering on plan actions will be explicitly addressed in the Delivery Plan as part of finalising the Plan.
<b>Community involvement</b>	Respondents to the survey and people at the community events stressed their desire to be more engaged and involved in Bay management. Many mentioned the importance of involving existing community groups and tapping into these networks to maximise impacts.	The 'Empower action' priority area addresses the need for community involvement. There are three actions that build capacity and collaboration across networks, empower the broader community to get involved and support stronger partnerships across community, industry and government.
<b>Change in management approach</b>	Some respondents at stakeholder meetings and in formal submissions expressed a desire for government to adopt an ecosystem based approach, which aligns with UNESCO standards for management of marine areas. The desired approach includes use of marine spatial planning tools, risk assessments, and ecosystem services assessments.	The draft Plan is bound by the management approach given in the <i>SEPP (Waters of Victoria)</i> , which focuses on protecting beneficial values as defined in the <i>SEPP (Waters of Victoria)</i> . The draft Plan does incorporate elements of ecosystem based management approaches and marine spatial planning, especially with the 'Habitat and marine life' priority area. Full adoption of the alternative approaches may be enabled under the future <i>Marine and Coastal Act</i> . The draft Plan has maintained alignment with the <i>SEPP (Waters of Victoria)</i> planning approach since it is currently an instrument of it.
<b>Protecting the Bay as an asset</b>	Respondents to the survey and people at events identified the Bay as an important asset to Victoria. They stressed the importance of educating the broader community of the Bay's values. There was also a desire for the Bay to be managed as a centrepiece or showcase for best practice environmental management.	The value and importance of the Bay to Victorians has been included as part of the narrative for the new Plan, and is reflected in the vision – 'A healthy Port Phillip Bay that is valued and cared for by all Victorians'. Engagement with the community and inspiring greater involvement is encapsulated across the 7 priority areas and 21 actions.

**Table 3. Key findings and proposed response to community and stakeholder consultation on Port Phillip Bay challenges**

Themes from consultation	Commentary	Response
<b>Litter, water quality, and dog poo</b>	<p>Water quality as an issue affected by stormwater, litter and dog poo, came up as a challenge in the surveys and face-to-face consultation.</p> <p>Respondents wanted better filtering of stormwater, beach clean ups, signage, more bin facilities (emptied more often in summer) and more education. Some respondents outlined specific actions such as container deposit schemes, banning use of plastic bags and straws, and banning smoking on the beach. Some also requested better enforcement of dog owners picking up after their animals on beaches.</p>	<p>The draft Plan addresses water quality through the goals, and actions under the priority areas of nutrients and pollutants, litter and pathogens. There is a good understanding of the impacts on water quality from nutrients and other pollutants and how they can be controlled. However, the draft Plan will also increase understanding of the impact and mitigation required to address litter and pathogens in the Bay. The ideas raised by respondents, especially with respect to reducing litter volumes will be considered in the actions.</p> <p>Issues associated with dog poo will be addressed through improved education and understanding of individual’s responsibilities. There are mechanisms in place outside the draft Plan to manage dog poo issues for amenity and direct public health contact via local council planning laws.</p>
<b>Jet skis</b>	<p>Respondents were concerned by the danger posed by jet skis to swimmers and wildlife. Some mentioned issues of excessive noise, leaking petrol and fumes, and risk of injury from collisions. Many respondents insisted that jet skis be banned while others thought they should be better policed. Others thought the areas for jet skiing should be more clearly marked and enforced.</p>	<p>Management of jet skis is outside the scope of the draft Plan. Feedback on safety concerns and behaviour is being passed on to Transport Safety Victoria. There are regulations covering jet ski behaviour and safety, and it is not proposed to include safety and amenity related actions in the draft Plan.</p> <p>Transport Safety Victoria (formerly Marine Safety Victoria) regulates the safe operation of vessels (sailing, human-powered, and motor craft) on all state waters, under the <i>Marine Safety Act 2010</i>. DELWP oversees regulations covering interference of vessels with marine mammals via the <i>Wildlife (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2009</i>.</p> <p>The Plan has included actions to raise awareness of Bay management arrangements and responsibilities and this could encompass the associated risks and regulations of jet skis, and agencies responsibility for enforcement.</p> <p>Furthermore, actions under the habitat and marine life priority area will increase our understanding of the risks that these types of recreational activities pose to the health of animals and plants in the Bay. This knowledge can then be used to inform regulatory authorities on specific actions needed to reduce these risks.</p>

Themes from consultation	Commentary	Response
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>Topics discussed in relation to fishing included the ban of commercial fishing and netting, increased facilities for recreational anglers, overfishing, illegal fishing and poaching, and spear fishing (safety).</p> <p>Fishing was one of the more contentious issues raised by respondents with some hoping for more education and policing of angler behavior in terms of litter and size and catch limits.</p> <p>Some questioned the ban on commercial fishing, saying they want to be able to buy local fish as it made them feel more connected with the Bay.</p>	<p>Challenges posed from fisheries management are already being regulated by Fisheries Victoria through the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> and are not within the scope of the draft Plan. The draft Plan does not include actions to change management of fisheries.</p> <p>Fisheries management and regulations may be considered as an area for improved communication and awareness-raising as part of implementing the 'Connect and Inspire' goals and actions in the draft Plan. If so, this will be done in close consultation with Fisheries Victoria.</p> <p>Issues relating to fishing litter can be covered through implementation of the litter actions within draft Plan.</p>
<b>Dredging</b>	<p>Comments about dredging in the survey and at face-to-face events mainly focused on the perceived damage caused by the Port of Melbourne's channel deepening and head widening. People mentioned specific changes such as strength of currents, erosion of beaches (Portsea) and dumping of dredge spoil in the Bay.</p> <p>The majority of comments were either entirely opposed to dredging or wanted extremely tight controls if it is to occur again.</p> <p>A few comments mentioned a desire for some localised dredging to improve access for small vessels, but these were the minority.</p>	<p>Actions to address potential impacts from dredging are outside the scope of the draft Plan.</p> <p>Dredging is regulated by consents under the <i>Coastal Management Act 1995</i>. Major dredging operations may require additional approvals under the <i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i>. Those involved in dredging activities have a responsibility under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> to minimise environmental impacts. The <i>SEPP (Waters of Victoria)</i> and accompanying <i>Schedule F6</i> also contain specific provisions regarding dredging.</p>
<b>Erosion</b>	<p>Comments made about beach erosion mostly related to the perceived impacts of dredging, though some mentioned climate change (storm surges and sea level rise).</p> <p>Many mentioned specific beaches that had been affected by erosion, for instance Portsea and Carrum.</p>	<p>Coastal erosion is not included as a specific threat/priority area in the draft Plan.</p> <p>Coastal erosion is being addressed through plans such as the <i>Victorian Coastal Strategy</i>, the <i>Central Regional Coastal Plan</i> and local coastal plans, regional and local climate adaptation plans.</p> <p>There are also a range of guidance tools in existence such as the <i>Victorian Coastal Hazard Guide</i>. The coastal erosion issue also extends beyond the proposed high tide boundaries of the draft Plan. However, managing the Bay in the context of climate change has been included as a key principle of the draft Plan, and activities are proposed to address knowledge gaps, particularly around marine habitats adaptation.</p>
<b>Coastal development</b>	<p>Respondents to the survey were concerned about the potential impacts of inappropriate coastal/foreshore commercial and urban development. Respondents cited increased pollution and limits on public access to the Bay as negative outcomes of overdevelopment.</p>	<p>Potential impacts from 'residential and commercial development' on Bay values are likely to have the greatest impacts above the high tide mark (beyond the geographic boundaries of the draft Plan).</p> <p>These issues are being managed through the <i>Victorian Coastal Strategy</i>, <i>Central Regional Coastal Plan</i> and statutory planning controls.</p>

Themes from consultation	Commentary	Response
<b>Impacts from shipping</b>	Respondents mentioned the negative impacts of increased shipping such as marine pests, pollution and the need for increased dredging/head widening, as well as the impact on existing marine life.	<p>Marine pest risks posed by shipping are addressed in the 'Marine biosecurity' priority area within the draft Plan.</p> <p>Management of pollution and dredging issues associated with shipping is not a priority area within the draft Plan.</p> <p>Under the <i>Port Management Act 1995</i> and the <i>Port Management Amendment Act 2012</i>, managers of local and commercial ports are responsible for Safety and Environment Management Plans (SEMPs).</p> <p>Discharge of oil and other pollution to Victoria's waters is prohibited under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>. Spill management is overseen by DEDJTR, and occurs under the <i>National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies</i>, the <i>Victorian Marine Pollution Contingency Plan</i> and any other relevant state or regional marine pollution contingency plans.</p> <p>DELWP is responsible for coordinating the response to wildlife impacted by maritime pollution under the <i>Wildlife Response Plan for Marine Pollution Emergencies</i>. EPA provides enforcement under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> and the <i>Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986</i>. Discharge of ballast water is also regulated through the <i>Environment Protection (Ships Ballast Water) Regulation 2006</i>.</p>
<b>Climate change and sea level rise</b>	Comments about climate change related to the potential future risks to the Bay such as sea level rise, erosion and extreme weather.	Climate change was included as a principle in guiding development of actions rather than as a priority area. There are many gaps in our knowledge of climate change and its impacts (on Bay values), and as such actions across the draft Plan incorporate aspects to improve understanding of potential impacts and intervention strategies for adaption.
<b>Marine pests</b>	Marine pest management was mentioned as an important issue requiring more funding in order to achieve results. Shipping was highlighted as a key cause of pest introduction.	Marine pests are a priority area of the draft Plan.
<b>Marine habitats</b>	Commenters wanted marine habitat protected from pollution impacts, litter and overfishing.	Marine habitats are a priority area of the draft Plan.

## 4. Conclusion

Through the targeted public and stakeholder consultation, the project team heard from organisations and individuals who want a healthy Port Phillip Bay that is well managed with a view to the future.

Community and stakeholders have provided valuable direction and insights, which have assisted in the development of priorities and actions within the draft Plan. The engagement process has raised awareness of the new Environmental Management Plan. This report documents that feedback.

Input was received from around 1500 people, who provided feedback through a range of mechanisms – including beachside listening posts, online survey, stakeholder meetings and formal submissions. This was a relatively large number of responses for a project of this nature and reflects the community's strong level of interest in the health of the Bay and its management.

The stakeholder meetings provided an opportunity to collect more individualised data and case studies to assist in the development of the draft Plan. Similarly, the formal submissions offered further specific insight into the myriad of issues, values and challenges to be tackled in the draft Plan.

Respondents wanted litter management and water quality to be a priority in the draft plan. For many respondents, measures to prevent litter, particularly plastics from entering our waterways, were seen as critical to the future health of the Bay.

Respondents expressed a desire for the Bay to be cared for and looked after; with a more coordinated approach for management; and that a shared appreciation of the Bay is fostered.

Respondents indicated that there should be more direct action taken to improve marine life, and to better understand the impacts from people and catchment inputs (water pollution and litter) on marine habitats.

This comprehensive engagement brings the expectation that feedback will be reflected in the action and priorities of the draft Plan.

The vision and goals, which have been presented in the draft Plan, reflect the interests and activities of the range of communities and groups that provided feedback during the consultation period. The feedback has had a significant influence on the development of the draft Plan.

The feedback received through a range of engagement activities with communities and stakeholders has been documented in this report, and has been used to guide the development of the *draft Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan: 2017-2027*.

# APPENDIX 1 – List of agencies, clubs and interest groups

The following table lists the 191 agencies, clubs and interest groups that were advised of the public consultation program for January and February 2016.

Albert Park Yacht Club	Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club
Albert Sailing Club	Altona Boating & Angling Club Inc
Altona Sports Club	Altona Yacht Club
Australian Coastal Society	Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Marine Conservation Society	Australian Marine Mammal Foundation
Australian Marine Sciences Association	Australian National Sportfishing Association (Victoria)
Australian Recreational Fishing Alliance	Barwon Coast Committee of Management
Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group	Bayside City Council
Bayside Library Service	Bayside Sportfishing & Game Club
Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron	Beaumaris MYS Angling Section
Beaumaris Yacht Club	Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.
Bellarine Catchment Network	Bellarine Catchment Network and Bellarine Landcare Group, Project Manager
Bellarine Fly Fishing Association Inc	Bellarine Light Game & Sportfishing Club Inc
Bellarine Pirates Angling Club	Bentleigh RSL Sub Branch Inc. - Angling Section
BirdLife Australia	Black Rock Yacht Club
Blairstown Yacht Squadron	Blue Wedges
Boating Industry Association of Victoria	Boon Wurrung Foundation Ltd
Borough of Queenscliffe	Brighton Central Angling Club Inc
Brotherhood of St. Laurence Fishing Club	Bunurong Land and Sea Association
Bunurong Land Council	Capel Sound Foreshore Committee of Management Inc
Capel Sound Foreshores	CAPIM
Catchment Management Networks	Chelsea RSL Anglers
Chelsea Yacht Club	CoastCare Victoria
Conservation Volunteers Australia	Corio Bay Sailing Club
CRC for Water Sensitive Cities	Davey's Bay Yacht Club
DEDJTR: Agriculture	DEDJTR: Resources
Docklands Yacht Club	Dolphin Research Institute
Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.	Drysdale Sportfishing Club
EarthCare St Kilda	Ecotourism Australia
Elwood Angling Club Inc	Elwood Sailing Club

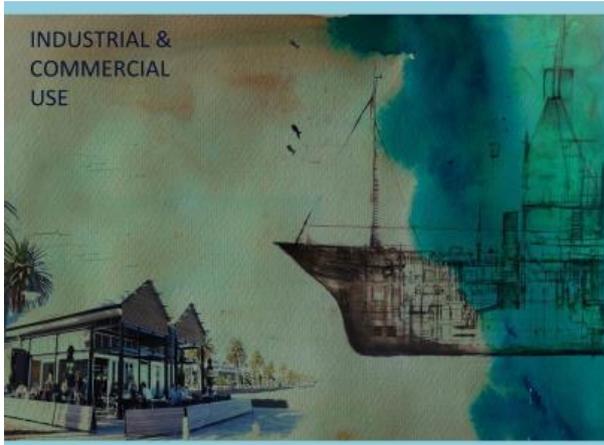
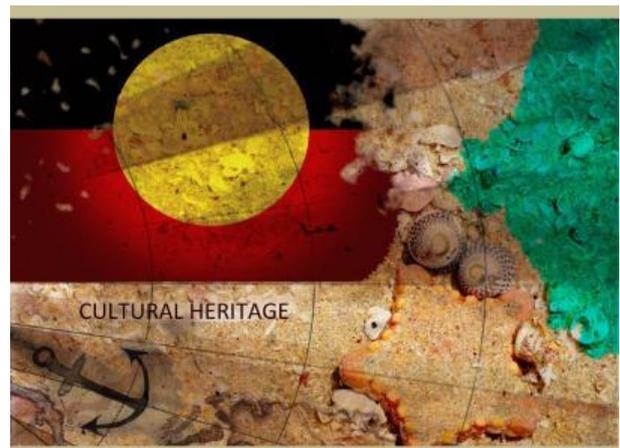
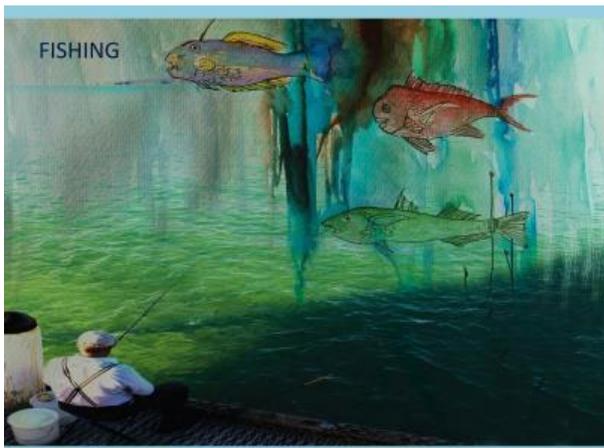
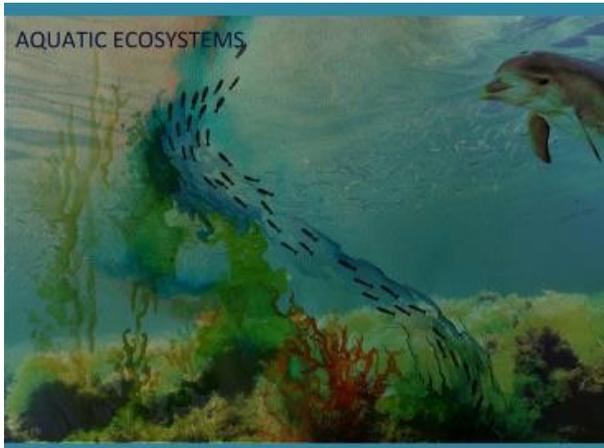
Emergency Management Victoria	Environment Education Victoria
Environment Victoria	Environmental Justice Australia
Federation of Traditional Owner Groups	Fishcare Victoria
Flinders Yacht Club	Frankston Anglers & Boat Owners Club Inc
Frankston City Council	Frankston Yacht Club
Friends of Greenwich Bay	Friends of the Earth
Futurefish Foundation	Geelong & District Angling Club & FPS Inc
Geelong Gun and Rod	Geelong Sport & Game Fishing Club Inc.
Geelong Trailable Yacht Club	Greater Geelong City Council
Hampton Sailing Club	Hartley TS 18/21 Yacht Club
Hastings Yacht Club	Hobsons Bay City Council
Hobsons Bay Sport & GF Club Inc	Hobsons Bay Yacht Club
Indented Head Yacht Club	Kingston City Council
Landcare Australia Limited	Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club
Life Saving Victoria	Marine Care Ricketts Point
Marine Coastal Community Network	McCrae Yacht Club
Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club Inc	Merri Creek Management Committee
Metropolitan Planning Authority	Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group
Mordialloc Boating & Angling Club	Mordialloc Motor Yacht Club
Mordialloc Sailing Club Inc.	Mornington Peninsula Flyfishers Inc
Mornington Peninsula Marine Alliance Mornington Peninsula Ratepayers and Residents Association and McCrae Action Group	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
Mornington Yacht Club	Mount Martha Yacht Club
Multihull Yacht Club of Victoria	Museum Victoria
Nepean Anglers	Ocean Racing Club of Victoria
Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	Parkdale Yacht Club
Parks Victoria – Marine and Coasts, Park Planning Division	Peninsula Speaks
Petrel Angling Club	Pines/Seaford Fishing Club
Port Melbourne Yacht Club	Port Phillip Bay Keeper
Port Phillip City Council	Port Phillip Ecocentre
Portarlington Sailing Club	Ports Australia
Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club	Queenscliff Lonsdale Yacht Club
Ranelagh Yacht Squadron	Reef watch Victoria
River Basin Management Society	Riviera Angling Club
Rosebud Motor Boat Squadron & Rosebud Motor Boat Squadron Anglers	Rosebud Yacht Club
Royal Brighton Yacht Club	Royal Geelong Yacht Club
Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron	Royal Yacht Club of Victoria
Rye Foreshore Committee of Management	Rye Yacht Club
Safety Beach Sailing Club	Sandringham Anglers Club Inc

Sandringham Yacht Club	Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria
Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV)	Seafood Industry Victoria
Snapper Point Angling Club Inc	Sorrento Sailing Couta Boat Club
South East Climate Change Alliance	Southern Boat Fishing Club
Southern Peninsula Angling Club Inc.	St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron
Stormwater Victoria	Surfcoast Fishing & Outdoor Sport Club
Surfrider Foundation Australia	Tangaroa Blue
The Nature Conservancy	The Wilderness Society
Victoria Police Angling Club Inc	Victorian Catchment Management Council
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	Victorian Farmers Federation
Victorian Game Fishing Club Inc	Victorian Landcare Council
Victorian Local Government Association	Victorian Metropolitan Anglers Club
Victorian National Parks Association	Victorian Recreational Fishing (VR Fish)
Victorian Tourism Industry Council	Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group
Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group	Victorian Water Industry Association Inc (Vic Water)
VRFish	Water Keepers Alliance
Waterwatch Victoria	Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, trading as Wadawurrung
Wentworth group of concerned scientists	Werribee & Yarra Riverkeeper Associations
Werribee South Fishing Club	White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserves Committee of Management Inc
Williamstown and Newport Anglers' Club	Williamstown Sailing Club
Williamstown Sportfishing & Game Club	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council	Wyndham City Council
Yachting Victoria	Zoos Victoria

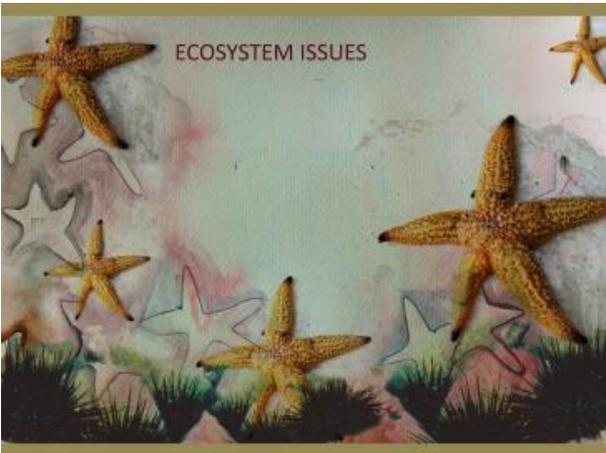
# APPENDIX 2 – Visual prompts at Listening Posts

The following collages, prepared by artist Aviva Reed, were used as visual prompts at the beachside listening posts to communicate selected Bay values and challenges.

## Bay Values

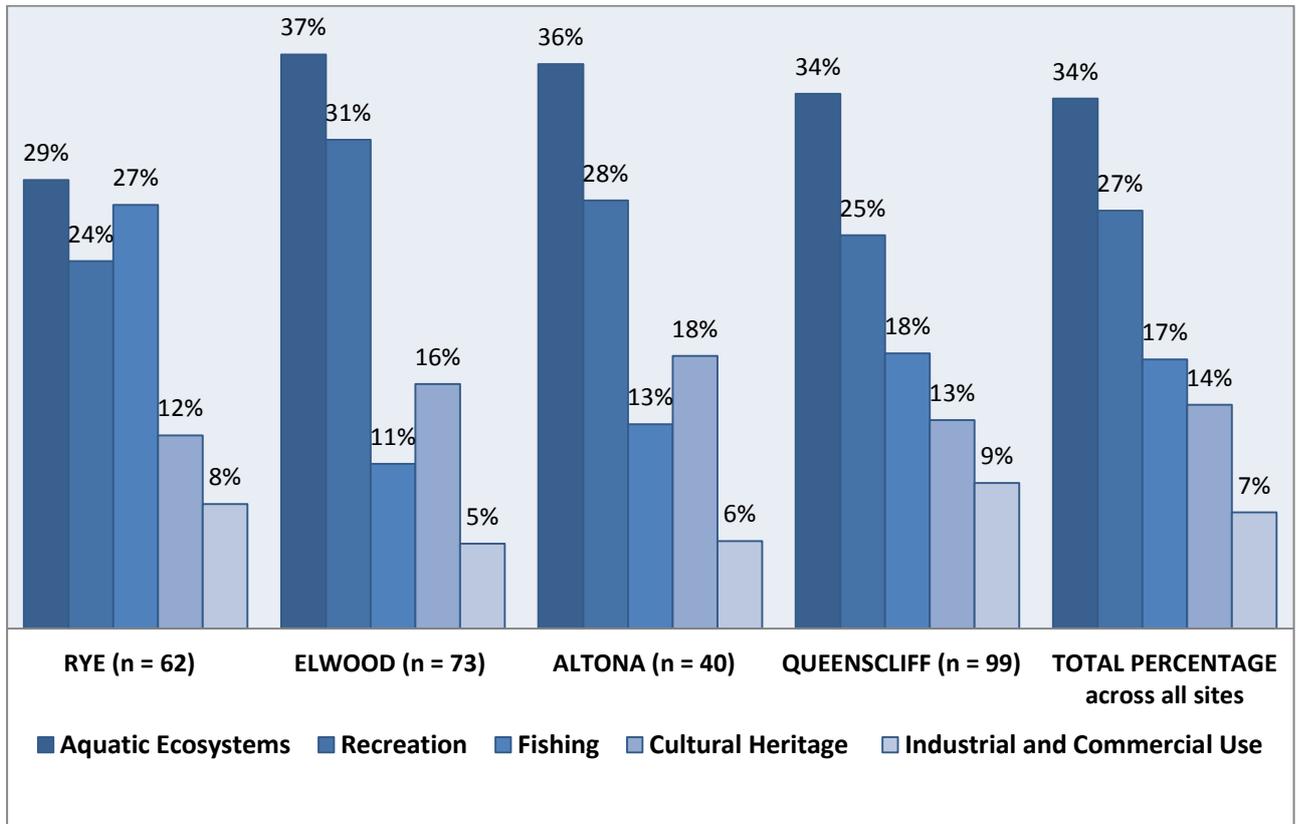


Challenges for management

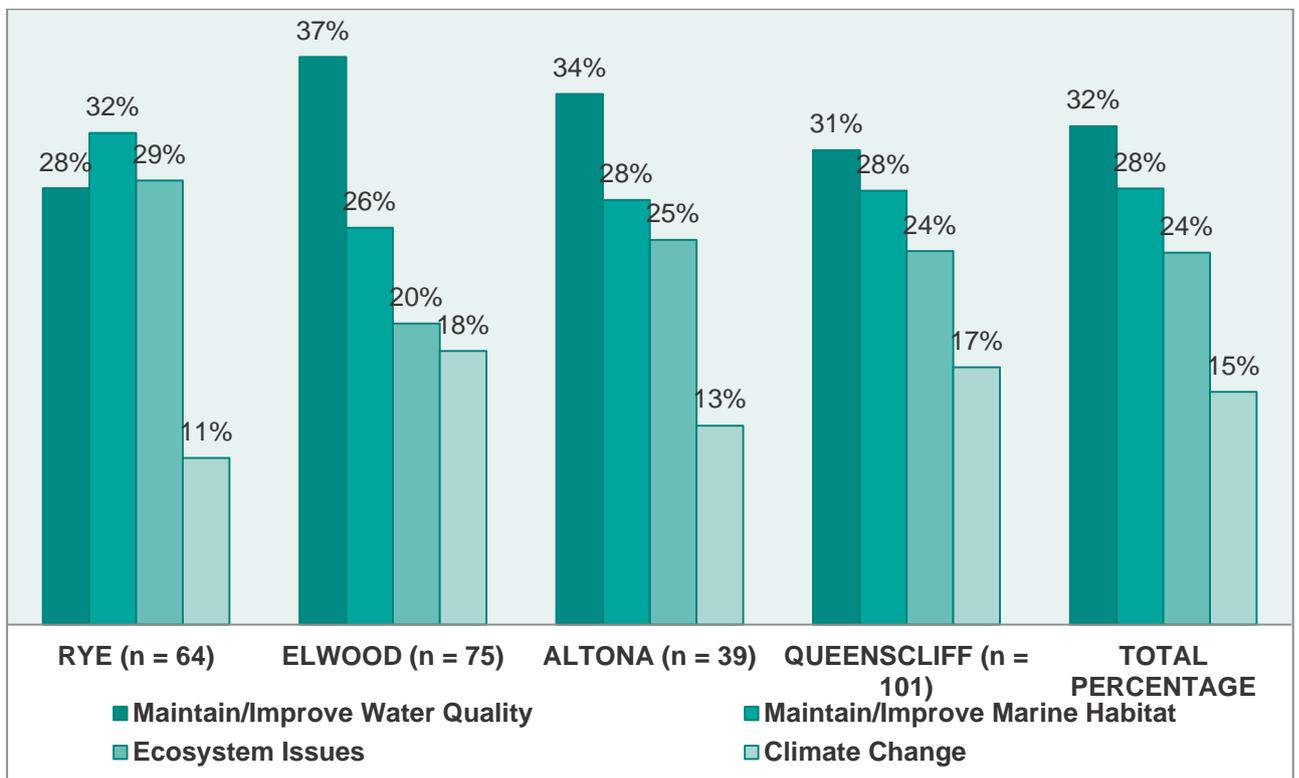


# APPENDIX 3 – Listening post feedback

Listening post voting on Bay values (n=274)



Listening post voting on challenges to the health of the Bay (n=279)



## Rye Public Event Feedback (what people said):

The quotations you will read here are directly transcribed.

### Vision statements

THE BAY - our home. A place to relax - Walk, Swim, BE! A place for the family and memories. A place to learn and preserve and see native animals and marine life. A Place to Explore - to wonder and ponder and imagine!

A clean bay for everyone to enjoy and use!

Not to smell of diesel. To swim in clean water. Happy fish

Not to smell of diesel. Clean water. Happy fish (brother of previous submitter)

An environmentally clean (e.g. plastic free) and jet ski free Bay that sustains our wonderful marine life

### Concerns/issues

Improve facilities for fishermen. Stop commercial scallop diving. Single Authority to control Bay and Foreshore

Good water quality on most days. Introduce measures to reduce the spread of star fish and sea urchins attacking native habitat/scallops. Ban jet skis. They are dangerous

The toxic dump in Port Phillip Bay where 3 mil tonnes of Yarra toxic sediment was dumped should be monitored for potential leakage of toxicants and ultimately cleaned up. We oppose development of container port at Point Wilson or any further port expansion in Port Phillip Bay. Also keep Port of Melbourne in public ownership. Coast development must be coast dependent

One single body to control Bay and foreshore

Minimum size for Flathead. 450mm> should be returned to sea

Get rid of the longliners and netters

## Elwood Public Event Feedback (what people said):

The quotations you will read here are directly transcribed.

### Vision statements

Educate about the Environment! Value what we have along this amazing shoreline or risk losing it!!! Think globally but act locally!! Maintain and improve

Harmony – People, Wildlife, Industry. Pollution Free - Management and Regulate. Who? How? What? Commercial? Public? What about...Drains and Canals. Educate/Work with next generation. Support our lifesavers. Better facilities. More respect.

Squeaky clean

2030 - We care for the future and make decisions and enforce (Victorian Government). Housing with good infrastructure doesn't send pollution into the Bay. We are all linked - treat the Bay with respect. Accessible to all abilities. I don't have to be rich to go to the beach. Healthy fish. Healthy water. We have food. Native indigenous vegetation. No smog. Clear skies

A clean bay for swimming and animals etc. Curtail commercial activities. Keep an eye on climate change

Improved water quality and marine habitat closer to the city!

Port Phillip Bay: Gateway to the World. Used to help the Victorian economy, not an end itself. No commercial fishing. Recreation very important. Clean and Healthy ecosystem with a diversity of wildlife - Marine and Bird. Limited ecofriendly on shore development. Not like Gold Coast

Clean out the Elwood Canal. No more sludge in the Bay after it rains

Sailing, fishing, swim with the Dolphins. For the world

### Concerns/issues

Get rid of the stormwater outflow into the Bay. Get rid of pollution into the Bay

Reduced sewage outfall. NO dredging. Better quarantine on ship ballast

Water quality - stormwater (clean up) before getting to the Bay. More reefs (artificial). Plastics filters on drains to reduce plastic bottles and bags in the Bay. What happens with rising sea/bay level due to climate change?  
Erosion control Black Rock. No Jet skis

When the Yarra floods rubbish from boats gets washed into the Bay. The groin at Elwood doesn't work - to be extended (sand on the beach)

### Altona Public Event Feedback (what people said):

The quotations you will read here are directly transcribed.

### Vision statements

Nil

### Concerns/issues

Can the Bay please be a sanctuary

Seaweed collection. Do not allow to sit and take in Sun. STENCH!!

Solar powered bins that can compact rubbish located along the foreshore. Bin capacity on hot days does not cope with demand

### Queenscliff Public Event Feedback (what people said):

The quotations you will read here are directly transcribed.

### Vision statements

Clean beaches for peeps and dogs

Port Phillip Bay 'Great' Free access to all areas. Pets OK to access areas managed by Parks Vic too.

Protect environmental outcomes of the Bay. Listen to the scientists

Sailing. Dolphin watching. Recreational fishing. Clean water. Healthy biodiverse fish population. Healthy marine life. Shellfish

Clean environment will sustain a healthy environment for the fish and try and stop climate change which will alter everything

Crystal clear water.

I want the water to be nice and clean. Even the sand

Co-operation. Abundance. Safe boating.

I want a boat

### Concerns/issues

Help Please - groups coming to Queenscliff great for us but leave copious rubbish (locals pick up most). Washes into the Bay. E.g. last weekend hot rods - great but cigarettes, rubbish etc.

Strong ecosystem. Animal habitat looked after!

One of the real day to day issues is the silting up of the Harbour. Parks Victoria needs to take a more proactive interest



## APPENDIX 5 – Online Survey responses

**Table A5.1 Responses to question ‘Are there any other issues not listed that might impact use or enjoyment of the Bay?’**

This table provides a summary of the responses received for the online survey’s first ‘free text’ question. Examples of what people said are transcribed from the survey with minor corrections for spelling and grammar to improve legibility.

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Litter – 195 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Plastic - 55 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Nurdles – 10 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Micro-plastics – 12 mentions</b></p> <p>Respondents highlighted the problem of litter both in the water and on beaches. Various sources were mentioned including industry, anglers, smokers, visitors and events. Many specifically referred to plastic litter. Respondents wanted better filtering of stormwater, more beach clean ups, signage, bin facilities (emptied more often in summer) and more education about the impacts of litter. Some mentioned specific actions such as container deposits, banning of plastic bags and straws, and banning smoking on the beach.</p>	272	<p>The growing amount of litter including microplastics that enters the bay and threatens the health of marine species.</p> <p>Jet skis make it really unpleasant to enjoy the bay. Litter from streets as well as industry (nurdles) are a huge issue, polluted runoff especially after heavy rain is a huge issue. We need gross pollutant traps (GPTs) in every suburb and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) throughout to clean the runoff before it gets to the creeks and the bay.</p> <p>Litter, especially syringes, cigarette butts and plastics. This is a big turn-off and deeply concerning.</p> <p>Litter and rubbish in the bay is a real issue, including fishing line left at and around the piers.</p> <p>Litter and marine plastics – Every day, when I walk along the beach, or swim in the Bay, litter impacts both the amenity and water quality, as well as impacting on marine life. The litter I see is from both beach users, industrial sources (i.e. nurdles), or from the stormwater system.</p>
<p><b>Managing jet skis</b></p> <p>Respondents focused on how dangerous jet skis are to swimmers and wildlife, as well as mentioning the loud noise they produce, the leaking petrol, and the smell of petrol being irritating. Many respondents insisted that jet skis be banned while others thought they should be better policed. Others thought the areas for jet skiing should be more clearly marked and enforced.</p>	146	<p>Safety – jets skis are very problematic for swimmers and snorkellers. They are also loud, irritating and polluting.</p> <p>Jet skis. Please ban them. They are a nuisance to the environment and all living beings and produce high intensity noise that carry up to a kilometre. This is intolerable.</p> <p>Failure to regulate and restrict jet ski usage.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Stormwater – 56 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Pollution 52 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Water quality 26 mentions</b></p> <p>Respondents highlighted the need for stormwater to be filtered before entering the Bay. They raised concerns about industrial pollution, litter and health impacts, E.coli from sewage and dirty water preventing recreation activities. In particular respondents expressed frustration at not being able to swim after rain events.</p> <p>One respondent stressed that monitoring and reporting on water quality and Bay health needed to be more accessible to the public.</p>	134	<p>All stormwater into the bay needs to be filtered so that polluted water and rubbish is not being dumped into the bay.</p> <p>Location and management of stormwater outlets to the bay - detrimental visual impact to using beaches, as well as the health impact to the receiving environment, and users following rain events.</p> <p>The connection of Melbourne's stormwater drains directly into the bay.</p> <p>Pollution, over fishing, dredging and sewage.</p> <p>Not knowing the health of the Bay accurately at any given time. Current monitoring and reporting arrangements are inadequate to fully inform the public. Extensive developments and increased population growth will increase stormwater and pollutants washing into the bay. It is not clear enough is being done to understand the current risks or future risk trends in pathogens and pollutants entering the Bay.</p>
<p><b>Fishing</b></p> <p>Topics discussed in relation to fishing included the ban of commercial fishing and netting, increased facilities for recreational anglers, overfishing, illegal fishing and poaching (shellfish and abalone) and spear fishing (safety).</p> <p>Fishing was one of the more contentious issues raised by respondents with some hoping for more education and policing of angler behavior in terms of litter and size and catch limits. Others wanted more fishing facilities, more fish and artificial reefs and better access to the Bay.</p> <p>Some disputed the ban on commercial fishing, saying the ability to buy local fish made them feel connected to the Bay.</p>	95 (with 25 mentioning overfishing)	<p>Recreational fishing is going majorly unpatrolled and creates great amounts of marine debris. We need better and more consistent control of fishing.</p> <p>More artificial fishing reefs around Carrum, Chelsea, Frankston area 15m and deeper would be nice.</p> <p>Plastic pollution, overfishing, careless recreational fishing practices. Lack of education for recreational fishermen and spear fishers.</p> <p>The boating, swimming and fishing activities that are challenged by the PWC (jet skis) and in turn the impact on the marine life.</p> <p>Increased recreational fishing will bring with it more marine debris issues- much more education required if there is a push for more people to fish- and better controls of what individuals are doing. I was very sorry that the bay lost commercial net fishing as to my understanding it was a sustainable harvest and good for our local markets.</p>
<p><b>Dredging</b></p> <p>Comments about dredging mainly focused on the perceived damage caused to the Bay by the channel deepening and head widening. People mentioned specific changes such as strength of currents, the erosion of beaches (Portsea) and the dumping of sediment in the Bay.</p> <p>The majorities of comments were either entirely opposed to dredging/head widening or wanted extremely tight controls on future dredging.</p> <p>A few comments were made in regards to a desire for some localised dredging, but these were the minority.</p>	86	<p>Yes, dredging. I scuba dive regularly and have noticed the deleterious effects of dredging the Bay first hand.</p> <p>Dredging needs to stop.</p> <p>Pollution in general and possible tidal changes relating to heads dredging.</p> <p>Erosion of the beaches at the southern end of the bay caused by the dredging. Something MUST be done!</p> <p>Dredging like the previous large scale effort. The increased movement has absolutely affected the beaches south of Ricketts Point.</p> <p>Concerns about dredging dumping in the bay.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Beach erosion</b></p> <p>Comments were made about beach erosion mostly related to the impacts of dredging.</p> <p>Many mentioned specific beaches that had been affected, for instance Portsea and Carrum.</p>	47	<p>Severe tidal changes since dredging including breaking waves at Chinaman's hat and severe erosion from Portsea to point Nepean.</p> <p>Build-up of sand especially at Point King Portsea.</p> <p>Coastal erosion – the continual erosion of Carrum Foreshore.</p>
<p><b>Development</b></p> <p>Respondents were concerned about the potential impacts of inappropriate coastal/foreshore commercial and urban development on the Bay's health. Commenters cited increased pollution and limits on public access to the Bay as negative outcomes of development.</p>	37	<p>Inappropriate development that impinged on or restricted the public's ability to enjoy the area. e.g. creating visual impact, erosion or limiting access.</p> <p>Increased pollution from storm water drains due to growth in population and housing developments.</p> <p>Keep inappropriate development out of the bay, such as expanding marinas around shorelines that are too precious and could be damaged if built on.</p>
<p><b>Impacts from shipping</b></p> <p>Respondents mentioned the negative impacts of increased shipping such as marine pests, pollution and the need for increased dredging/head widening, as well as the impact on existing marine life.</p>	27	<p>Cargo ships depositing pollution and marine pests.</p> <p>I worry about the impact of dredging and of larger ships using the channels.</p> <p>Impact of dredging and bigger ships on marine life.</p> <p>Increased shipping would make it harder to access the dive sites I enjoy.</p>
<p><b>Access</b></p> <p>Concerns about access related to facilities such as public toilets, parking and transport as well as overcrowding.</p>	26	<p>Access i.e. parking nearby.</p> <p>Access to the bay: Parking, transport, road works, etc.</p>
<p><b>Dogs on beaches (positive and negative)</b></p> <p>Respondents were divided on the issue of dogs on beaches. Some thought the times dogs are allowed off leash should be more strictly enforced. While others wanted more dog beaches with better facilities.</p> <p>Many worried about the pollution of dog excrement ending up in the Bay and the lack of enforcement of people cleaning up after their dogs. Some mentioned the disturbance of bird life by off leash dogs.</p>	22	<p>More off leash dog beaches would be appreciated, especially around the Mornington Peninsula.</p> <p>Dogs: too many beaches are dog friendly, but not enough matching beaches that have permanent dog bans: dog poo pollution, noise and disturbance to people using the beach from dogs, disturbance of nesting sites of birds etc.</p> <p>Restriction in the times that dogs can be on the beach.</p> <p>Other issues include -noisy people who disregard the enjoyment of other beach -goers, people throwing and leaving litter, people leaving plastic or dropping it in the sea. The illegal destruction of foreshore vegetation, uncontrolled dogs.</p>
<p><b>Boating facilities</b></p> <p>Respondents requested more boating facilities, such as ramps, parking and moorings.</p>	22	<p>Lack of adequate boat launching facilities, especially on weekends.</p> <p>Safe boat storage.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Climate change</b></p> <p>Comments about climate change related to the potential future risks such as sea level rise, erosion and drought.</p>	17	<p>Potential impacts of climate change - sea level rise, ocean acidification, reduced freshwater inflows.</p> <p>Climate change effect on beaches - erosion etc.</p>
<p><b>Education – more</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted more education on a range of issues such as: the impacts of litter, stormwater management, the value of the Bay, rules of boating/jet skiing/fishing and marine habitat and wildlife.</p>	13	<p>Micro plastics pollution in the storm water systems.</p> <p>Storm drain filters and public education required.</p> <p>Littering, sewerage outfalls, dredging, too many wharfs for boats and yachts to moor at, overdevelopment near estuaries and the bay, education about the natural flora and fauna of the bay.</p>
<p><b>Shared use of the Bay</b></p> <p>Commenters wanted a more coordinated approach to management of different Bay users such as jet skis, boats, swimmers and anglers. For instance different zones that are better enforced.</p>	12	<p>Shared interaction on the water. A coordinated approach for recreational users of the bay, e.g. power boats, jet-skis, sailing yachts, snorkellers, kayakers, kite-surfers, free-divers, anglers and spear-fishers would be of benefit... An education campaign for all water-users would be welcome.</p> <p>Wind sport zones excluding traditional spots windsurfing is done at.</p>
<b>No comment</b>	392 (37%)	

**Table A5.2 Responses to question ‘What do you want to see most protected or improved in Port Phillip Bay?’**

This table provides a summary of the responses received for the online survey’s second ‘free text’ question. Examples of what people said are transcribed from the survey with minor corrections for spelling and grammar to improve legibility.

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Water quality</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted water quality protected and improved. Their responses included concerns about shipping, stormwater and pollution.</p>	276	<p>Water quality and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Keep improving water quality.</p> <p>Water quality and biodiversity impacts.</p>
<p><b>Marine life – 140 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife – 50 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Marine ecosystems – 9 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Flora and fauna – 9 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Marine species – 4 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Ecology – 2 mentions</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted wildlife protected from pollution impacts, litter and overfishing.</p>	220	<p>Marine ecosystem, marine wildlife conservation.</p> <p>Natural environment including wildlife.</p> <p>Habitat for wildlife, even at expense of recreation.</p> <p>Natural wildlife protection.</p>
<p><b>Litter – 109 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Bin facilities/emptying – 10 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Beach cleaning – 4 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Plastics – 36 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Micro-plastics – 6 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Nurdles – 5 mentions</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted litter management improved and more education on the impacts of litter and plastics.</p>	170	<p>Reduce the amount of local litter and plastic pellets from local industry.</p> <p>The amount of plastic waste that is in the bay is getting worse. I run a litter pickup group 3186 Beach Patrol and it is astounding how much plastic waste we collect at our group clean-up each month. We regularly collect between 50-75 kilograms of rubbish in just one hour. And when we come back the next month there is just as much.</p> <p>An action plan that addresses and seeks to reduce the flow of litter and microplastics into the Bay.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Stormwater – 54 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Pollution – 45 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Sewerage/sewage – 3 mentions</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted better stormwater and pollution management. Including management of illegal dumping and litter.</p>	102	<p>Significantly reduce litter in the water from being washed down the stormwater system.</p> <p>Disconnect the stormwater system from the bay.</p> <p>Water quality - pollution entering via waterways and stormwater drains.</p> <p>Inflow of polluted and rubbish-filled stormwater drains; prevention and legal action to prevent dumping of waste water etc. from boats and ships (including ferrets such as the Northern Pacific seastar).</p>
<p><b>Habitat</b></p> <p>Commenters wanted marine habitat protected. This was linked to other issues such as marine life and water quality, litter and pollution.</p>	99	<p>Water quality. Habitat for the flora and fauna that depend of the bay and surrounds for survival.</p> <p>“The marine environment should not be exploited for commercial gain. The heritage of the fishing and marine history should be protected. The natural habitat of wild creatures should be protected from pollution and exploitation. Tidal flows should be maintained.</p>
<p><b>Fishing – overfishing, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, illegal fishing/poaching</b></p> <p>Again the issue of fishing was divisive with some wanting more fish and fishing facilities while others wanted more enforcement of size and catch limits and harsher punishment for illegal fishing and poaching.</p>	79	<p>Water quality, marine life, policing fishing (bag limits and size).</p> <p>While they do occupy a relatively very small area, marine sanctuaries need to be policed far better; numerous instances of people illegally fishing in such areas have been detected previously. Basic enforcement around recreational fishers is required in an effort to protect the biota.</p> <p>Improved fishing platforms and artificial reefs.</p>
<p><b>Education – 40 mentions</b></p> <p><b>Awareness – 7 mentions</b></p> <p>Commenters cited education as an important aspect of managing the health of the Bay. This included education on the impact of litter, the marine life in the Bay, and the value of the Bay.</p>	47	<p>Please run education campaigns to reduce litter including the pervasive, long-lasting cigarette butts. Enforce the existing smoking ban for the health and enjoyment of the majority rather than the effective passive smoking rule.</p> <p>Education about the bay - marine life, etc.</p> <p>Education to improve local knowledge of Port Phillip Bay.</p>
<p><b>Marine sanctuaries</b></p> <p>Respondents want better management of marine sanctuaries, including enforcement of fishing exclusion zones. Some also wanted more marine sanctuaries.</p>	35	<p>While they do occupy a relatively very small area, marine sanctuaries need to be policed far better; numerous instances of people illegally fishing in such areas have been detected previously. Basic enforcement around recreational fishers is required in an effort to protect the biota.</p> <p>More marine sanctuaries.</p>
<p><b>Access – parking facilities, infrastructure etc.</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted more foreshore facilities.</p>	29	<p>Access to parking, boat ramps, accommodation, and sandy beaches.</p> <p>Access (infrastructure).</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<b>Dredging</b> Respondents were opposed to further dredging or widening the Heads.	27	Stop dredging. It is vital to protect our bay from inappropriate development, further dredging and environmental vandalism.
<b>Managing Jet skis</b> Respondents wanted jet skis banned or better policed.	27	Dolphins' protection from jet skis. Better policing of the hoon factor of jet skis that disregard personal safety of swimmers.
<b>Development</b> Respondents wanted the foreshore protected from inappropriate development.	21	The way it is now - that is NO more development. Marine life and protection of the coastline from inappropriate development of marinas.
<b>Pests – invasive species</b> Respondents wanted more control of existing pests and of ballast water to prevent new pests being introduced into the Bay.	20	Controls to mitigate the impacts of pest species being introduced through ballast water. Ecosystem protection including water quality, habitat and quarantine & control of invasive species.
<b>Impacts from Shipping</b> Respondents wanted the impacts of shipping on water quality, marine life, etc. managed.	19	Habitat, water quality, offshore shipping dumping at sea enforcement. Management of land run-off and shipping channels.
<b>Boat ramps</b> Respondents wanted more boat ramps, boating facilities and moorings.	18	Improved boat ramps. Use of fishing license money to provide more boat ramps and better facilities for fishos.
<b>Seagrass</b> Respondents mentioned the importance of protecting seagrass beds.	15	Sea grass beds. Marine habitats such as seagrass beds and reefs.
<b>Beach Erosion</b> Respondents wanted beaches protected from erosion. Some mentioned dredging as the cause of specific erosion (Portsea).	16	The health of the beaches- prevention of erosion. Revegetation & erosion control, mooring for boats, etc.
<b>Dogs on beaches</b> Respondents wanted better management of dogs on beaches, citing concerns about water quality and safety of humans and native wildlife.	11	The marine habitat, water quality & beach cleanliness - better management of dogs on beaches. No dogs off leads (preferably no dogs at all as owners ignore signs).

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Cigarette butts/smoking</b></p> <p>Some respondents wanted a ban on smoking on beaches due to the health risks, while others mentioned the proliferation of cigarette butts at many Bay beaches.</p>	7	Amount of human litter and waste that washes in on a daily basis. Also, there should be a no smoking policy for all beaches. 50% of the litter that washes into the ocean is toxic cigarette butts. Hugely damaging to birds and animals which forage in the water and intertidal areas. Plastics are also a huge concern and doing so much damage.
<p><b>Climate change/sea level rise</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted climate change considered in the future management of the Bay.</p>	5	Healthy, resilient, climate change considered and an integral part of management and decision making.
<p><b>Cultural heritage</b></p> <p>Respondents mentioned the importance of understanding and respecting cultural heritage.</p>	3	Return to traditional fishing practices. Engage with indigenous cultural practices.
<p><b>Over use/overcrowding</b></p> <p>Some respondents were concerned about overcrowding of the foreshore.</p>	2	Foreshore environments need to be protected from over-use, parking should not overwhelm the foreshores.
<b>No Comment</b>	216 (20%)	

**Table A5.3 Responses to question ‘Do you have any other comments about the future/current health of the Bay?’**

This table provides a summary of the responses received for the online survey’s third ‘free text’ question. Examples of what people said are transcribed from the survey with minor corrections for spelling and grammar to improve legibility

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Litter - 69</b></p> <p><b>Plastic – 33</b></p> <p><b>Micro plastic – 4</b></p> <p><b>Nurdles – 6</b></p> <p>Respondents again reiterated a desire for better management, enforcement and education around the impacts of litter on the health of the Bay.</p> <p>Some requested more leadership should be taken by government and industry.</p>	112	<p>It's terrible! We should be ashamed of ourselves as a species. Do you see bird litter? Fish? What's our excuse? Plastics must be banned 400m from all aquatic environments, rivers included and industry with its micro plastics needs seriously huge fine. It's just not ok. Plastics in the marine environment are widely known problem and have been for years. No excuses!</p> <p>Micro-plastics entering the bay (from industrial businesses) need to be stopped. Pollutants from Elster Creek and other waterways should be addressed through strong education campaigns.</p> <p>Marine life should continue to be documented and celebrated and issues highlighted e.g. Melbourne Down Under film, Baykeepers film. Many Victorians LOVE the Bay but I don't think enough people know about how to ensure it stays as wonderful as it is (or can be). Government needs to play a lead role in education and protection of water quality and marine life in the bay.</p> <p>Can you please clean it up, it's disgusting.</p> <p>More leadership and action needs to be taken by governments and industry to prevent single use plastics from getting on to the street in the first place. To give consumers alternatives like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Cash for Container campaign is proven to reduce bottles by 80%</li> <li>-A ban on plastic bags from leading supermarkets</li> <li>-tighter regulations and monitoring of fruit and veggie markets losing their polystyrene containers</li> <li>-tighter regulations and monitoring at resin manufacturers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dredging</b></p> <p>Respondents were opposed to any further dredging.</p>	51	<p>No dredging.</p> <p>Hate what the dredging has done to our shoreline. Have seen more erosion in the last few years than all the years I have lived here (over 40).</p>
<p><b>Fishing</b></p> <p>Respondents held mixed views on fishing. Many wanted more fish stock and artificial reefs to protect recreational fishing. Others thought more should be done to educate recreational anglers about their impact on the environment, bag and size limits etc.</p> <p>Some respondents supported commercial fishing saying it allowed them to feel connected with the Bay.</p>	49 (4 mentions of over fishing)	<p>Protect ecosystems by placing realistic limits on recreational fishing. Lower bag limits for long lived species and close fisheries during spawning seasons.</p> <p>I am concerned about the ban on commercial fishing in the bay. This removes the ability for everyday Victorians who do not wish to spend large amounts of money for their own private fishing boat to enjoy fresh LOCAL seafood. The number of recreational boats on the bay is out of control. It is not environmentally friendly to have so many boats on the bay.</p> <p>No scallop dredging and reintroduction of commercial fishing. Increased fish stocking and seeding protects for sustainable fishing.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Education and citizen science</b></p> <p>Education was mentioned as a key action to support the health of the Bay. Many respondents mentioned education in relation to issues or concerns such as litter, smoking and the value of the Bay to the community.</p> <p>Education was seen as a key measure to help people appreciate the Bay and understand their impact on its health.</p>	48	<p>There are many groups who help to support the environment of the bay. I am a person who believes it is not only government who should keep our bay clean but be a coordinator and promoter of media which encourages people to care for their local area.</p> <p>More education in the community about the bay as a natural resource and how to protect it and restore it.</p> <p>Government should work closely with community environment groups and support and fund them to do citizen science and education for and in the community.</p> <p>More education, clean up days, schools and groups cleaning up the bay and surrounding waterways, education about why everyone needs to be accountable, festivals having more accountability for pollutions (St Kilda Fest, White Night, NYE?).</p>
<p><b>Water quality</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted the quality of water entering the Bay to improve. Some wanted more monitoring of water quality, while one respondent praised Beach Report as an excellent resource. Water quality was seen as a key issue linking to other aspects of Bay health such as marine life and habitat.</p>	32	<p>Better, more frequent water quality data is required to understand impacts and if water is safe for swimming. Local councils should also be assisted with better access to reliable water quality data of the bay and within their municipality to understand upstream water quality impacts and ways to reduce them.</p> <p>Improving water quality from rivers, stream and especially further up the catchment is critical. Beach Report is a great tool for the community to understand water quality.</p>
<p><b>Stormwater</b></p> <p>Stormwater entering the Bay was seen as having a negative impact on Bay health. Respondents requested more filtering or pretreatment.</p>	27	<p>Future health of Port Phillip Bay could be improved by stopping Stormwater pollution at various locations.</p> <p>Want some type of pre-treatment before stormwater enters the bay.</p>
<p><b>Jet skis/Pleasure craft</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted to limit or ban jet ski use, citing the risk they pose to humans and animals.</p>	25	<p>Jet skis detract from enjoyment on the bay.</p> <p>Jet skis are a scourge that put people &amp; animals in danger.</p>
<p><b>Marine life</b></p> <p>Respondents were concerned about the health of marine life in the Bay and wanted more done to protect it. The risks related to marine life according to respondents included water quality, shipping, fishing and pollution.</p>	25	<p>I am concerned about the deteriorating nature of the marine life.</p> <p>Clean water flowing into the bay and maintaining marine life (as it previously existed) are not compatible. Pre-European settlement, the bay was much more active. Its nutrient load was always being replenished from flooding rivers carrying dead stock, manure, timber and silt - lots of it. As that reduced, the load was replaced by settlement runoff including WTP.</p>
<p><b>Management</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted more coordinated management by authorities. Some were confused by how many agencies are involved. Others wanted more community involvement.</p>	24	<p>There needs to be a more coordinated approach to management of the Bay and more money invested into understanding coastal processes so that they can be managed appropriately by the state and the local councils/ management authorities.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Pests</b></p> <p>Marine pest management was mentioned as an important issue that required more funding in order to achieve results. Shipping was highlighted as a key cause of pest introduction.</p>	21	<p>Commercial Port traffic needs to be monitored rigidly so that there is no further introduction of marine 'pests' as per the Northern Pacific seastar.</p> <p>I am concerned that channel dredging will degrade and damage the marine life. The proliferation of introduced pests such as the orange starfish also need to be addressed other than by volunteers.</p>
<p><b>Pollution</b></p> <p>Respondents were concerned about pollution of the Bay from dredging, boats and jet skis, stormwater, industry and increasing population.</p>	21	<p>"Water quality and pollution in bay and catchment should be monitored more closely and more research undertaken.</p> <p>The increase in population plus technology enabling a greater number of faster, noisier 'craft' on the water bigger container ships, dredging, leads to further pollution &amp; destruction of the bay &amp; its creatures.</p>
<p><b>Population growth</b></p> <p>Many respondents were concerned about increasing pressure on the Bay due to population growth. The concerns mainly stemmed from increased use of the Bay and increased litter.</p>	18	<p>The Bay is a wonderful resource and unique ecosystem that needs to be protected for future generations. The growing population rate surrounding the bay and growing rate in the use of throwaway plastics means that the control of litter entering the bay is also of key concern, now and into the future.</p> <p>I think the plan should further address how to deal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Melbourne's rapid population growth</li> <li>- Climatic changes and their impacts on the health of the Bay.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Beach erosion</b></p> <p>Beach was a concern for several respondents. Many related beach erosion to dredging.</p>	16	<p>The erosion in shore lines since dredging is a very obvious pattern to any local.</p> <p>Investigation into the full effects of dredging the heads re beach erosion of southern bay beaches.</p>
<p><b>Waterways</b></p> <p>Respondents saw the connection between the health of waterways and the overall health of the Bay. Some requested more education about the impacts of litter, chemical use, etc. Others stressed the need to manage industry and land use pollution.</p>	14	<p>Ensure factories using nurdles have controls to stop spillage and escape to waterways entering the bay. I picked up thousands of nurdles on Seaford beach.</p> <p>Health of the bay is inextricably linked to health of upstream ecosystems of waterways that flow into the bay: litter, chemical/household/land use pollution that flows into the bay degrades Marine Habitat and possibilities for my use of the bay.</p>
<p><b>Shipping</b></p> <p>Respondents worried about the impacts of increased shipping on the health of the Bay. Some recognised the necessity of commercial use of the Bay, but stressed that shipping activities need to be managed to prevent negative environmental outcomes.</p>	13	<p>It is an environmental habitat as well as having commercial interests (shipping and passenger liners and recreational fishing). If the environmental impacts are monitored and looked after then the commercial interest will also benefit.</p> <p>Clean water benefits everyone.</p> <p>Shipping and Port control are also major users of the Bay and need more awareness and action to prevent littering, prevent feral (including weed) ballast water escapes.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Development</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted development along the foreshore to be managed responsibly. They also wanted to prevent large scale commercial development on the foreshore.</p>	12	<p>Maintain sensitive development of Bay development and infrastructure. i.e. Quarantine Station.</p> <p>Stop large developments such as the proposed harbour site at Yaringa (in Western Port).</p>
<p><b>Marine sanctuaries</b></p> <p>Respondents want more marine sanctuaries and better management of existing sanctuaries.</p>	12	<p>Needs more marine sanctuaries.</p> <p>More marine sanctuaries and more monitoring of current ones.</p>
<p><b>Climate change</b></p> <p>Respondents worried about the impacts of climate change on the health of the Bay. Issues such as sea level rise, extreme weather events, flooding and drought were of concern to respondents.</p>	10	<p>There are many community and individual assets that are at risk from climate change impacts - not just sea level rise but also the predicted increase in extreme weather events. A major storm combined with peak tides could lead to significant flooding in some parts of the Bay. Areas such as Aspendale are particularly vulnerable. In addition, there are many community assets (such as beach infrastructure) which could be at risk. I am concerned, not just about how these issues will be managed, but also about potential flow on impacts. There was a major storm yesterday (27/1/16) which led to flooding in Geelong, and later reports of an oil slick. So what strategies are in place to prevent flood events from leading to pollution?</p>
<p><b>Research</b></p> <p>Research to inform the management of the Bay was encouraged.</p>	10	<p>Marine pests are an ongoing concern – and as much research as possible is needed to understand and mitigate.</p>
<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <p>Some respondents wanted more responsible “eco” tourism, while others wished to curtail or manage any significant increases in Bay tourism to avoid negative environmental outcomes for the Bay.</p>	10	<p>As population increases, and tourism increases in our area (Mornington) we are really concerned about the declining water quality and the lack of understanding of the environmental issues. Over use of fishing resources by recreational fishers is increasing with the more responsible commercial fishers forced out of the area.</p> <p>Encourage areas where 'nurseries' can develop for fish and marine life, to increase variety and numbers. This will encourage economic development through leisure and tourism.</p> <p>Think in terms of the Bay as an economic advantage if it is encouraged to be used for recreation, tourism and education.</p>
<p><b>Ecosystems</b></p> <p>Respondents wanted the ecosystems in the Bay protected. Education of the public about the variety and significance of the ecosystems was also requested. Risks and threats to ecosystems included shipping, boats and jet skis, fishing, water quality and pollution.</p>	9	<p>Please, please take care of our bay and give it due respect. Its range of marine diversity and ecosystems needs to be carefully managed as does the quality of the bay water. Over use for boating and other petroleum based recreation should be carefully monitored and all vehicles should be checked regularly like a road worthy to make sure they are not unduly leaking oils and petroleum based products into the bay. Better sewerage control before anything hits the bayside via outfalls and estuaries.</p>

Theme	Number of mentions	Examples of what people said
<p><b>Port of Melbourne/Hastings</b></p> <p>There was some discussion around the sustainability of the Bay as a Port and some mentioned moving Port operations to Hastings.</p>	9	<p>Yes, Melbourne needs an alternative port - using the Port of Melbourne is not sustainable environmentally.</p> <p>Move the port operation to Hastings.</p>
<p><b>Asset for Melbourne</b></p> <p>Respondents recognised the Bay as a key asset to Melbourne and wanted it promoted as such (including more education).</p>	7	<p>It is an incredible asset for all Melbournians, that is a huge part of the liveability and great quality of life that we have.</p> <p>The marine ecosystems should be properly valued.</p>
<p><b>Dogs on beaches</b></p> <p>Respondents were concerned about the enforcement of rules around dogs on beaches (poo pickup, enforce time restrictions).</p>	7	<p>Recreational pressure from walkers, on and off lead dog walking, water craft (motor boats, kayaks, kite-surfers etc.) can be severe locally and can also reach far into less inhabited or wild areas.</p>
<p><b>Scuba diving</b></p> <p>Some mentioned the value of the Bay's dive sites and that they should be protected.</p>	4	<p>It would be sad to lose the scuba diving sites down the southern end of the bay or have restricted access placed on these sites.</p>
<p><b>Water sensitive urban design (WSUD)</b></p> <p>One respondent mentioned WSUD as a way to cope with stormwater and climate change impacts.</p>	1	<p>With climate change, these habitats will be under increasing pressure from extreme weather events and sea level rise. It would be simply an application of the precautionary principle to ensure new development, and new built structures along the shores are prevented. Maintaining current approaches to water quality, including WSUD approaches throughout the bay's catchment is really important.</p>
<p><b>No Comment</b></p>	583 (55%)	

