



Future use of 20 Wangara Road Community Engagement Summary Report

April 2024

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Overview

This report provides a summary of community feedback on the Future use of 20 Wangara Road. The Wangara Road site was previously used as a quarry and municipal landfill, which contaminated the site. Council endorsed the future use of the land at Wangara Road as an “Interactive passive open space with an environmental focus” at its [November 2022 meeting](#).

To inform the site's draft Masterplan, we undertook a three-month community engagement program to share information about the site's development limitations and to better understand how our community would like to use and experience the site. Community members were encouraged to share their ideas and aspirations via an online ideas board and at pop-up engagement sessions.

Project information outlined the master planning process for the site's six-hectares – acknowledged the development constraints, and adherence to the Environmental Action Notices (EANs) relevant to the former landfill site.

More than 3,800 community members visited the project webpage, and 397 contributed.

Feedback gathered through the consultation included:

- 560 contributions (including all posts, comments, and up/down votes) to an ideas board
- 317 suggestions posted on the ideas board
- 243 comments across all community and Council ideas posts
- 75 contributions at drop-in events
- 30 direct submissions to Council officers
- 16 phone calls
- 2 meetings.

Findings overview

There was a very strong community sentiment to use the land for both passive and active recreation. The top five ideas supported via the online ideas board were:

- bike park and tracks (mountain bike, BMX and pump track) (264)
- rehabilitation of native vegetation (216)
- pickleball courts (175)
- enclosed off-leash dog area (143)
- running and walking tracks (124).

Support for Council's ideas was mixed:

- Mother stock area for the Bayside Community Nursery
8 up votes, 1 down vote, 5 comments: one in support, one neutral and 3 opposed.
- Interactive garden beds
1 up vote, 1 down vote, 3 comments: one in full support, 2 in support if incorporated with other features.
- Protection and enhancement for native wildlife including Bronzewing habitat
19 up votes, one down vote, 2 comments: one in support, one opposed.
- A large Floral Clock (consisting of predominantly indigenous plants)
One up vote, 5 down votes, 3 comments: all opposed.

Council Officers received 30 direct emails, 16 phone calls and attended 2 meetings. feedback from residents, community groups and organisations included;

- Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.
- Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary
- Bayside Dog Alliance
- Pickleball Victoria representative
- Volleyball Victoria
- Australian Rules Football Representatives- Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA), Southern Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL) and southern Metro Junior Leagues (SMJL)
- Various bayside volunteers, local residents, and community members

Face to face sessions, phone discussions, meetings and detailed direct submissions were in alignment with overall online feedback. Received contributions supporting and advocating for ideas in the following themes:

- Vegetation and habitat areas
- Dog on/off leash areas
- Mountain biking/pump track
- Active recreation e.g. football, volleyball, pickleball etc
- Exercise areas e.g. walking, running, shared equipment
- Community gathering spaces e.g. nature play, education space, art etc.
- Interactive garden beds

There has also been an expression of interest for a volunteer group to establish at Wangara Road once the rehabilitation plan has been implemented and the masterplan is underway.

Next steps

Community feedback will inform the draft 20 Wangara Road masterplan. Following Council's consideration of the draft Masterplan, a further phase of community engagement is planned. The masterplan is expected to be considered for adoption by Council in July 2024.

1 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback from the first phase of community engagement on the future use of 20 Wangara Road.

The Wangara Road site has been intended as the location of the Bayside Netball Centre courts. Detailed site investigations found that the site's former use as a landfill would result in challenging construction requirements and significant cost escalation. The subsequent construction of new netball and sporting facilities at Sandringham College (300m away) freed up the Wangara Road site for a masterplanning process to determine its future use.

Council engaged an EPA approved auditor who conducted a 12-month site audit (as approved by the EPA) to identify possible issues including gas migration and storm water impacts. The audit resulted in the EPA issuing Bayside City Council with two Environmental Action Notices (EANs) (EAN-00001437 & EAN-00001441). Based on this, Council has several legal obligations to fulfil at the 20 Wangara Road site, and its future use may be likely to be limited to passive open space for informal recreation.

In September 2022, Council received an Environmental Impact Study through the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria as part of the site audit that recommended an approach to manage the soil contamination. The report included four years of monitoring, and soil capping to remediate the site. Potential pathways and native habitat can be considered for the site, but further recommendations need to come via the technical report. The project will be delivered as part of the staged master planning process.

At its November 2022 meeting, Council endorsed the future use of the site as an “Interactive Passive Open Space with an Environmental Focus” for the purpose of developing a Rehabilitation Plan and the development of the Wangara Road Masterplan.

It was noted the Masterplan should include for consideration, but not limited to, best practice available for the management of the former landfill site; a mother stock area for the Bayside Community Nursery; interactive garden beds; protection and enhancement for native wildlife including Bronzewing habitat; and a large floral clock consisting of predominantly indigenous plants. An area within the site may also be allocated to manage overflow car parking from the Bayside Community Sports Centre at Sandringham College’s Holloway Road campus, however this project will not be within the scope of the masterplan.

In June 2023, Council submitted the site’s Rehabilitation Plan to the EPA for endorsement.

Between 29 November 2023 – 28 February 2024, Council invited the community to share their aspirations for the site and gathered ideas for how they would like to use the space. Community feedback will be used to inform the development of a draft Masterplan.

2 Definitions and scope

Within this document, reference is made to stakeholders. These stakeholders are:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (ATSI)
- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Environmental and Friends’ of Groups:
 - Friends of Native Wildlife
 - Friends of George Street Reserve
 - Friends of Merindah Park
 - Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary
- Sandringham Driving Range (former)/ Sandy Mini Golf
- Bayside District Netball Association (BDNA)
- Sandringham College
- Bayside Dog Alliance
- Bayside advisory and representative committees:
 - Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
 - Reconciliation Advisory Group
 - Bayside Healthy Aging Reference Group

2.1 Glossary

Item	Definition
BDA	Bayside Dog Alliance
DAIAC	Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Group

EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
HYS	Have Your Say
RAP	Reconciliation Action Plan
Stakeholders	See above for stakeholder list.

2.2 Related Council documents and consultations

- [Community Vision Bayside 2050](#)
- [Council Plan \(2021-2025\)](#)
- [Annual Action Plan \(2023-2024\)](#)
- [Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-27](#)
- [Bayside Open Space Strategy](#)

3 Consultation process

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide stakeholders and the broader community with the opportunity to share ideas for the draft constraints-based masterplan for 20 Wangara Road.

Information about site constraints and management of contaminated land was shared through the project's Have Your Say page and face-to-face engagement events. This information provided a guide for participants about the likely and unlikely features that could be implemented at the site and included in the masterplan.

3.2 Consultation methodology

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders, and type of feedback sought.

Community engagement was conducted over three months between 29 November 2023 and 28 February 2024 to maximise participation over the summer period.

More than 3,800 community members visited the project webpage, and 397 contributed.

Feedback gathered through the consultation included:

- 560 contributions (including all posts, comments, and up/down votes) to an ideas board
- 317 suggestions posted on the ideas board
- 243 comments across all community and Council ideas posts
- 75 contributions at pop-up events
- 30 direct submissions
- 16 phone calls
- 2 meetings.

The communications program is estimated to have reached more than 20,000 residents, while targeting local residents.

The consultation materials were available in accessible formats on request.

Table 1: Engagement methods

Details	Engagement activity
29 Nov 23 – 29 Feb 24	Have Your Say project page
4,878 Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online digital ideas board (using the Gatherer tool) with the capacity for contributors to up and down vote ideas and comment.
5,843 Views	
3,752 Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book a meeting with a Council officer
577 Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact a Council officer via direct email
396 Contributors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public online Q&A forum
	Drop-in sessions
Saturday 2 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandy Festival <p>35 people spoken to with 30 contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandringham Twilight Market
Saturday, 3 Feb	52 people spoken to with 45 contributions
	Committee meetings
Wednesday, 13 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAP (Reconciliation Action Plan) Committee meeting <p>12 people in attendance (online and council officers included)</p> <p>The RAP committee were given an introduction and overview of the site and masterplanning approach. No direct feedback was received within this meeting or following this presentation.</p> <p>However, in this meeting <i>'it was proposed the Advisory Group participates in a standalone workshop in early 2024 with the project consultant and Council officers to explore opportunities to imbed recognition of First Nations people throughout the site'</i>.</p> <p>This will be explored further in the second phase of engagement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAIAC (Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Group) <p>DAIAC and the committee's council representative provided direction to include disability, access and inclusion within initial planning for the site. DAIAC will have the opportunity to provide specific feedback on accessibility considerations within a draft proposed masterplan during the second phase of engagement.</p>
29 Nov 23 – 29 Feb 24	Direct correspondence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 people at pop-up events 30 direct emails 16 phone calls 2 meetings.

Table 2: Communication methods

Details	Engagement activity
29 Nov 23 – 29 Feb 24	Council channels

- Banksia Bulletin, summer edition: 594 emails delivered, 345 (58.08%) opened, 124 (20.88%) click-throughs to the HYS feedback page
- Healthy Aging bi-monthly newsletter, November edition: 680 recipients
- Youth Monthly Newsletter, December edition: 1,300 recipients
- Council website: news story (29 November)
- This Week in Bayside (Council weekly e-news) feature article (30 November)
- This Week in Bayside (Council weekly e-news), featured in projects open for feedback (9 publications), 11,000+ subscribers
- Council social media channels (29 November, 16 January, 1 February)
- In the Loop (Council weekly staff e-news) feature article (29 November)

29 November 2023

Direct email

- HYS Wangara Road project subscribers and relevant topic/location subscribers: 3,705 (open rate 59.5%, 2,204 opens, 5.2% (194) click-throughs to HYS page)
- Bayside Dog Alliance (BDA)
- Bayside District Netball Association (BDNA)
- Sandringham College
- Friends of Native Wildlife
- Friends of George Street Reserve
- Friends of Merindah Park
- Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary
- DAIAAC

29 November 2023

Postcards

- Approximately 2,700 postcards delivered to surrounding residents and businesses (within 500m of the site)

29 Nov 23 – 29 Feb 24

Signage

Displayed onsite in 4 locations with project information, HYS URL and QR link to HYS page

4 Participant profile

More than 680 community members participated in this first phase of community engagement from online, via phone call and in person.

A total of 397 community members contributed suggestions and/or voted or commented on other contributor's suggestions on the digital ideas board.

At pop-up events, 75 community members contributed with 87 people visiting the stand and asking questions about the site. Correspondence was also received from 30 individuals/organisations.

Demographic information was not requested as this not considered relevant to this phase of consultation, which was designed to gather high-level ideas. However, communications were highly targeted towards residents of the surrounding area, as well as community groups to encourage key stakeholder participation in the engagement program.

5 Consultation findings

5.1 Support for actions

The key findings from the consultation were the strong community sentiment for 20 Wangara Road be used for recreational activities with 7 of the top 10 broad themes in support of active recreation.

However, there is also a desire for passive open space, as endorsed by Council at its [November 2022 meeting](#), with “Native vegetation/ rehabilitation” placing second, and “Picnic / BBQ areas / Benches” placing eighth in the most popular key themes. These more passive suggestions were typically in conjunction with recreational activities, with a majority of contributions supporting multiple key themes.

The consultation demonstrated an overwhelming desire for a mountain bike/ BMX/ pump track facility (the most supported idea). The sentiment was the sport is a new, up and coming activity that veers away from the more traditional community sports where existing infrastructure already exists in Bayside (sports ovals ranked sixth). A considerable number of bike track suggestions were combined with running and walking tracks (ranked fifth most popular), and skate parks (ranked eleventh), indicating the community have a vision and desire for these elements to co-exist.

The consultation also measured a strong desire for an off-leash dog area to be included in the masterplan, placing as the fourth most popular key theme.

Car parking did rank as the seventh most popular key theme, however an area on the site map displayed on the HYS project page and at face-to-face events, was marked as “proposed future car park site” for a potential overflow car park for the Bayside Community Sports Centre at Sandringham College, Holloway Road campus. The engagement plan overview noted “this is considered a separate project and is outside of the scope of the Wangara Road Masterplan”.

In [November 2022](#), it was resolved that the masterplan should consider incorporating 4 Council ideas. Support for these ideas was mixed:

- A mother stock area for the Bayside Community Nursery
 - 8 up votes, 1 down vote, 5 comments: one in support, one neutral and 3 opposed.
- Interactive garden beds
 - One up vote, one down vote, 3 comments: one in full support, 2 in support if incorporated with other features.
- Protection and enhancement for native wildlife including Bronzewing habitat
 - 19 up votes, one down vote, 2 comments: one in support, one opposed.
- A large Floral Clock (consisting of predominantly indigenous plants)
 - One up vote, 5 down votes, 3 comments: all opposed.

5.2 Community ideas submitted and supported online

This section summarises the broad community feedback themes. Individual quotes have not been included within this document. Individual comments and suggestions can be viewed on the project's Have Your Say page: yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/future-use-wangara-road-site.

There were 37 themed community suggestions, within 6 broad categories of: recreation, environment, supporting infrastructure, sustainability, arts and culture, and other.

Comments were attributed for each individual idea contained within a suggestion. Overall support considers unique posts and likes on those posts.

Rank	Category	Suggestions	# Posts/ Suggesti ons	Likes/ up votes	Down votes	Comme nts	Total support: posts + likes on those posts
1	Recreation	Mountain bike/ BMX/ pump track	36	228	9	83	264
2	Environment	Native vegetation / rehabilitation	63	153	27	62	216
3	Recreation	* Pickleball courts	145	30	8	5	175
4	Recreation	Dog off-leash (enclosed)	31	112	16	30	143
5	Recreation	Running / walking track	34	90	14	32	124
6	Recreation	Sports oval(s)	19	61	10	34	80
7	Supporting infrastructure	Car parking (additional)	14	64	17	19	78
8	Supporting infrastructure	Picnic / BBQ areas / Benches	24	54	4	20	78
9	Recreation	Golf driving range	12	62	10	5	74
10	Recreation	Playgrounds / gym fitness circuit	20	51	7	17	71
11	Recreation	Skate park	12	41	4	18	53
12	Environment	Native wildlife habitat / refuge	27	24	3	14	51
13	Arts & culture	Sculpture park	7	21	2	5	28
14	Recreation	Tennis courts	10	18	4	8	28
15	Sustainability	Community garden	13	15	5	8	28
16	Supporting infrastructure	Coffee shop/kiosk/food trucks	10	14	5	12	24
17	Recreation	Natural playground	5	15	5	11	20
18	Recreation	Basketball courts	6	13	4	4	19
19	Recreation	50m pool	6	12	1	4	18
20	Recreation	Netball courts	6	10	0	4	16
21	Environment	Wetlands	7	6	0	6	13
22	Sustainability	Community battery farm	2	10	4	5	12
23	Arts & culture	Open air theatre	2	10	0	1	12
24	Arts & culture	Outdoor performance/ events	6	6	1	3	12

25	Arts & culture	Drive-in theatre	1	8	2	2	9
26	Arts & culture	Markets	2	6	0	1	8
27	Sustainability	Waste recycling facility	2	5	3	2	7
28	Recreation	Pétanque	2	4	0	3	6
29	Recreation	Disk golf	3	2	0	2	5
30	Recreation	Volleyball	4	0	0	0	4
31	Other	Expand cemetery	2	1	1	2	3
32	Recreation	Splash park	2	0	0	1	2
33	Supporting infrastructure	Community hall	1	0	0	0	1
34	Recreation	Children's farm	1	0	1	0	1
35	Recreation	Outdoor rock climbing wall	1	0	0	2	1
36	Recreation	Model aeroplane flying park	1	0	0	1	1
37	Other	Astronomy activities	1	0	0	0	1
38	Other	General comment	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	

*From 26 February, 140 exact and near identical ideas were submitted in support for pickleball courts, indicating a targeted campaign from an interested business owner/organisation.

In response, registration was switched on to ensure unique submissions. Data from IP addresses indicates few duplicate submissions.

During the previous 12 weeks of consultation, pickleball was suggested 5 times and up voted 26 times, and down voted 8 times.

5.3 Feedback from drop-in sessions

The presence at two local events did not garner a lot of community feedback, however it must be noted the outdoor Sandy Festival was in inclement stormy weather, and the Sandringham Twilight Market was hosted in over 35-degree weather.

Sandy Festival received 30 written contributions that mirrored online feedback with key themes including; secured leash free dog area, running track, community gathering space, vegetation and habitat areas.

Sandringham Twilight Market received 45 written contributions that mirrored online feedback with key themes including; dog on/off leash areas, mountain biking, pickleball, vegetation and habitat opportunities, exercise areas, and community gathering spaces.

5.4 Feedback from advisory committees

- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee

The RAP committee were given an introduction and overview of the site and masterplanning approach. No direct feedback was received within this meeting or following this presentation.

However, in this meeting *'it was proposed the Advisory Group participates in a standalone workshop in early 2024 with the project consultant and Council officers to explore opportunities to imbed recognition of First Nations people throughout the site'*.

This will be explored further in the second phase of engagement.

5.5 Feedback from correspondence

Council Officers received 30 direct emails, 16 phone calls and attended 2 meetings. feedback from residents, community groups and organisations included;

- Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.
- Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary
- Bayside Dog Alliance
- Pickleball Victoria representative
- Volleyball Victoria
- Australian Rules Football Representatives- Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA), Southern Metro Junior Football League (SMJFL) and southern Metro Junior Leagues (SMJL)
- Various bayside volunteers, local residents and community members

Discussions, meetings and direct submissions were in alignment with overall online feedback with key themes including; dog on/off leash areas, mountain biking, active recreation and exercise areas, vegetation and habitat, and community gathering spaces.

There has also been an expression of interest for a volunteer group to establish at Wangara Road once the rehabilitation plan has been implemented and the masterplan is underway.

5.6 Out of scope feedback

Approximately ten comments were received relating to other Council infrastructure and services outside of the scope of this project. These comments have been shared with the relevant departments across Council.

6 Project evaluation

The three-month engagement period and various engagement methods which underpinned this consultation program enabled community members that were interested in the project to provide feedback to help inform the draft masterplan for 20 Wangara Road.

The consultation was widely promoted to the Bayside community with signage throughout the area, postcards delivered to letterboxes surrounding 20 Wangara Road, and emails directly sent via newsletters, bulletins, weekly e-news, subscriber updates and relevant community groups.

Campaign social media posts and an e-news story also promoted the campaign and the opportunity to provide feedback.

The presence at two local events did not garner a lot of community feedback, however it must be noted the outdoor Sandy Festival was in inclement stormy weather, and the Sandringham Twilight Market was hosted in over 35-degree weather.

The 3-month community consultation achieved 561 contributions, 397 unique contributors, and 3,508 page views. The feedback gathered represents a broad viewpoint and overwhelming support for the area to be used for recreational activities combined with the planting of native vegetation.

Performance summary charts

Chart 1: Overview of visitation and contributions during engagement period

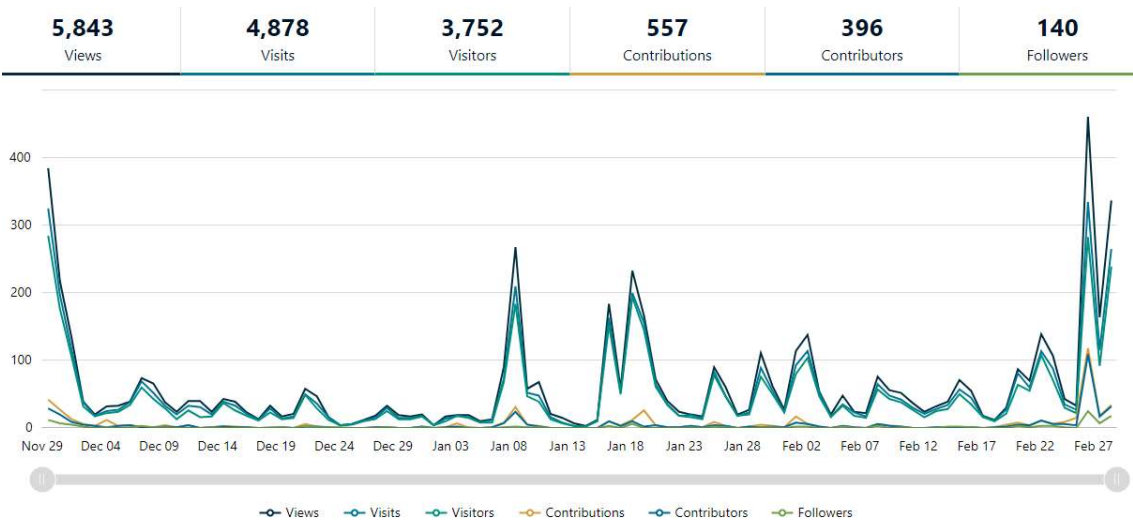


Chart 2: Conversions from visitation to engagement with the Have Your Say page

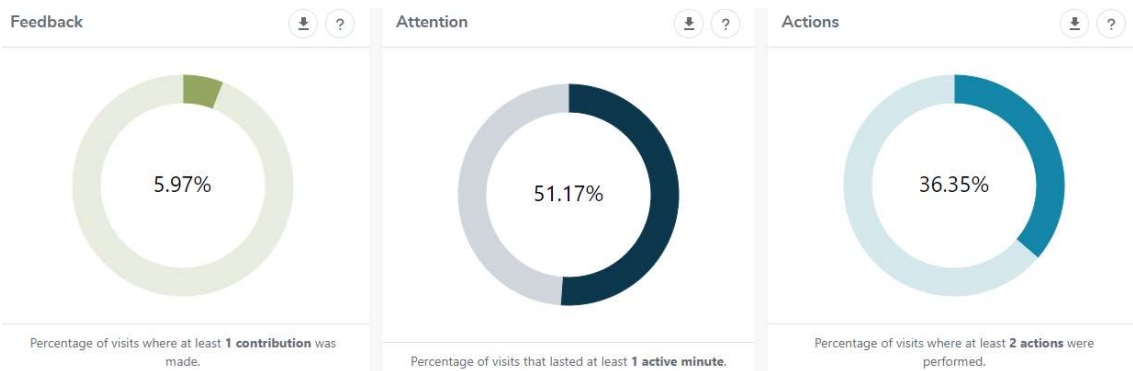


Chart 3: Acquisitions (how visitors found the Have Your Say page)

