

Fishermans Beach

MULTI-USE SITE

FINAL ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT - APRIL 2025



FISHERMANS BEACH MIXED-USE SITE

Fishermans Beach (Fishos) is a valued recreational hub in Torquay, supporting multiple activities including boating, swimming, and community gatherings. The site above the Torquay Angling Club serves both commercial and community purposes, featuring a food and beverage operation (under a trial arrangement) while maintaining public access to the beach viewing platform from The Esplanade.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2024, we conducted two stages of community and stakeholder engagement on the mixed-use site.

- Stage One, August 2024: We connected with the community to better understand community sentiment on the trial commercial operation and to help inform a Draft Concept Design for future use of the site.
- Stage Two, October 2024: We gathered information on community satisfaction with the Draft Design.

Our commitment to evidence-based decision-making means that we always consider community feedback alongside Traditional Owner values and knowledge, environmental outcomes, social outcomes, funding requirements and current policies and legislation governing coastal Crown land.

ENGAGEMENT STATISTICS



We spoke to **222** people at community drop-in sessions



There were **1200** views of the project webpage



212 survey responses submitted

Key findings

The engagement revealed that the site is highly valued by the community, with 98% of respondents rating it as somewhat to very important, with strong support expressed for having a commercial offering at the site. Most participants (84%) were Torquay residents, ranging in age from 10 to 85 years old. Current satisfaction with the existing site design is high, with 88% of respondents indicating they are somewhat to very satisfied.

Stage One Engagement: Community feedback highlighted several key themes that the community wish to be maintained or improved in a new site design. These are listed below.

A Draft Concept Design (Design) that integrated this feedback was then developed.

Stage Two Engagement: Information on community satisfaction with the Draft Design was gathered. Specifically, (using a 5-star rating system), how satisfied the community was that the Design met the key feedback themes identified from Stage One of engagement.

The key themes raised in Stage One; and community satisfaction with their integration into the Draft Design are listed below.

Preserve Current Design and Character



Preserving the open-air, casual, surf-town aesthetic was consistently mentioned as crucial.

Accessibility



Accessibility is a primary attraction of the site, with a high level of appreciation for the accessibility of the current site design and for this to be maintained or improved.

Balance Commercial and Community Use



The site's value as a community hub was widely recognised, with many highlighting its importance for social gatherings and events. Respondents also stressed the importance of preserving the current balance between commercial and community use of the space.

Wayfinding



Wayfinding emerged as another significant issue, with calls for improved signage and navigation throughout the site, including clarity on access.

Environmental Considerations



Environmental considerations were raised, with some advocating for sustainability in future site plans.

Weather Protection



Weather protection was identified as an area for improvement to enhance the site's usability year-round in all conditions.

Beach Views



Views of the beach and ocean are a key attraction of the current site and community members asked for these to be maintained.

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Noise



A small amount of respondents asked that site design would not create noise impacts on surrounding areas.

Overall Design



Community input has helped us better understand the way the Fishermans Beach Mixed-use Site is used and valued and reinforced what a special place it is to so many. The information gathered through the two engagement stages has guided the Final Concept Design for future use of the site. The final design has remained largely the same as the Draft Concept Design, with some minor changes in response to community and stakeholder feedback received during Stage Two Engagement.

The Design is now finalised subject to planning approval. We anticipate that construction of the new design will commence in late 2025.

GET IN TOUCH

For more information about the project community members are encouraged to contact the project team at: haveyoursay@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au.



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