



Bird Rock, Jan Juc

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT



We acknowledge and respect the separate and distinct Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners of the Great Ocean Road's land, waters, seas and skies and acknowledge their cultural knowledge that has led to sustainable practices and has cared for Country over tens of thousands of years.

We honour Elders past and present and express gratitude for their sharing of wisdom that has ensured the continuation of Culture and Traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner and meaningfully build relationships that reflect self-determination and enable us to work together with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices, and together deliver on their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.



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We are undertaking an engagement process with the community, to collaborate on a design for the upgrade of the amenities at Bird Rock in Jan Juc.

Community engagement and relationships play an essential and effective role in the protection, improvement and promotion of the Great Ocean Road coast and parks. We are committed to ensuring our communities have the knowledge and the opportunities necessary to participate fully in the future of our Great Ocean Road region, coast, and parks.

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Project description

The amenity block at Bird Rock, Jan Juc is a dated and medium use facility that services the nearby Jan Juc Village, the Surf Coast Walk, beachgoers, tourists, and a range of other users. Its location adjacent to the Jan Juc Heathland and clifftops is environmentally sensitive. Due to its location on Coastal Crown Land any works undertaken in relation to the amenity block will need to align with the [Marine and Coastal Policy](#) and [Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast](#).

The works to upgrade the amenity block are identified in the Draft Point Impossible to Jan Juc Foreshore Masterplan 2019, which states:

Monitor and review the use of the amenity block at Bird Rock. Decommission or upgrade as appropriate, incorporate best practice sustainable design and initiatives such as solar, composting capabilities and water capture and re-use.

The Authority aims to maintain public facilities on our managed land in good order so they can be used by the community and visitors now and for generations to come.

In October 2022, we commenced a project to design a new amenity block for the site. The project is funded by the Victorian Government as part of the \$18.197 million [Great Ocean Road Visitor Experience Uplift](#) grant to deliver improvements to the visitor experience along the iconic Great Ocean Road. As part of this project, we have engaged with Traditional Owners, business and community group stakeholders and the broader community of users of the Bird Rock, Jan Juc area.



[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE DRAFT POINT IMPOSSIBLE TO JAN JUC FORESHORE MASTERPLAN 2019](#)

How we engaged



248

WEBSITE VISITS



832

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS



57

SURVEYS COMPLETED



3

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS



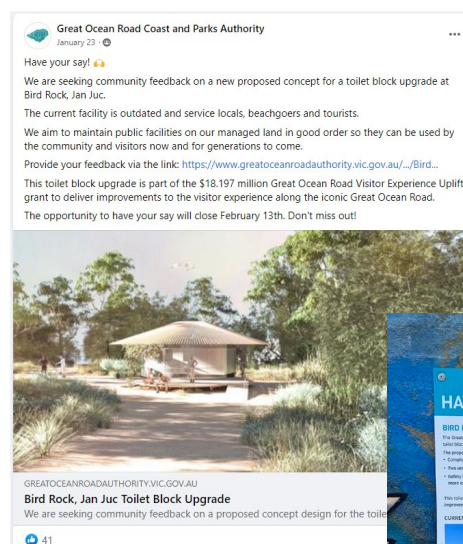
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ONLINE COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION



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GORCAPA STAFF INFORMATION SESSION

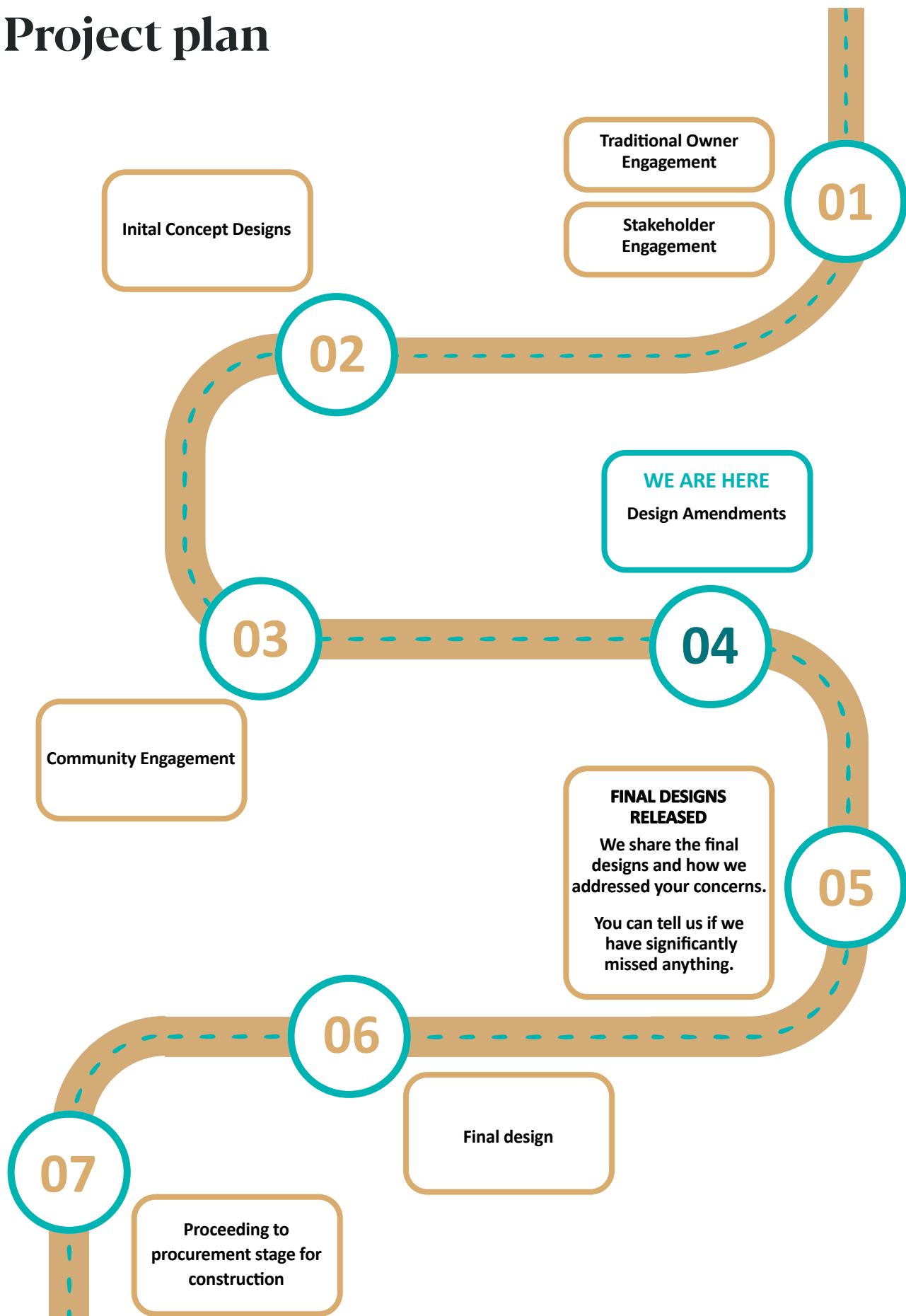


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Project plan





How we engaged

01

In October 2022 we held a series of meetings with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and various local businesses located close to the amenity block site. Input from these meetings informed draft concept designs.

02

The draft concept designs were then distributed for broader consultation over a period of three weeks in January and February 2023.

03

The engagement was advertised widely via signs at the existing amenity block, social media and newspaper adverts and emails to key stakeholder groups and local businesses.

We received 57 online survey responses, 3 email submissions and 34 social media comments on the draft concept plans.



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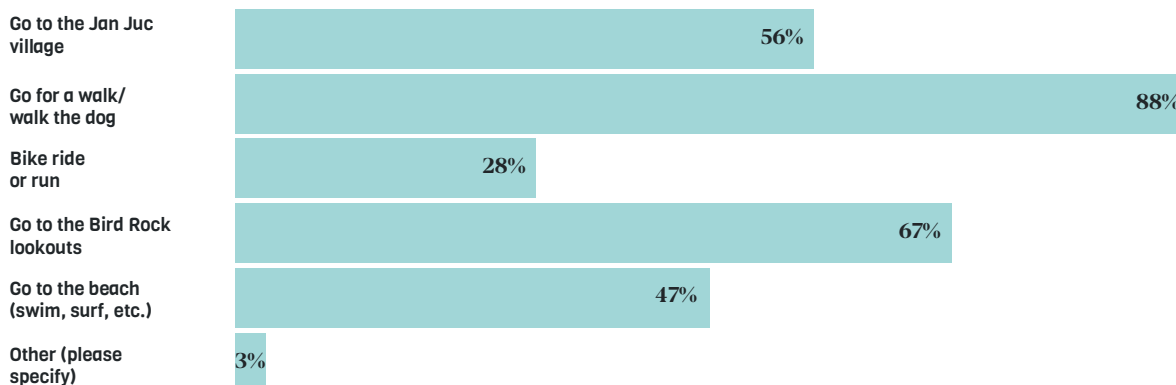
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What we heard

70% of survey respondents identified as Jan Juc residents and 14% as holiday homeowners. 91% of survey respondents stated they use the current amenity block. Use varied; a significant proportion (37%) use the amenity block monthly and 21% use it weekly. Users participated in a variety of associated activities close to the amenity block, with the largest number of people identifying walking, including dog walking (88%), going to the nearby Bird Rock lookouts (67%), going to the Jan Juc village (56%), and going to the beach for a swim or surf (47%).

When visiting the space the Bird Rock Jan Juc amenity block services do you:



Overall Sentiment

80% of survey respondents indicated that they felt the concept designs improved the existing amenity block and 81% also indicated that the concept designs would deliver an amenity block that would meet future expectations. We have analysed survey responses and email and social media comments to further understand these sentiments.



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Key points raised by the community

A variety of support and concern about the concept design and ideas for improvement were shared by our community. The following is a summary of some of the key points raised:

PROJECT NEED AND DESIGN

Survey respondents stated that they liked the concept designs and no design features had been missed (14%) and many respondents (80%) stated that the design of the new amenity block would meet future expectations. 7% of survey respondents expressed that the new design is over the top and the amenity block does not need upgrading. Four community members stated that they do not like to use the current amenity block as it does not feel inviting.

Authority response:

We are pleased that the concept designs meet the expectations of majority of the community. The need to update these amenities was identified in the Draft Point Impossible to Jan Juc Foreshore Masterplan, which has also been shaped through consultation with the community.

BUILDING FOOTPRINT AND SURROUNDING VEGETATION

Four community comments showed concern about the proposed circular shape and increased footprint of the amenity block. The purpose and size of the decking area was also a concern. Several responses asked that the design does not impact surrounding native vegetation or local wildlife. It was also noted that the proposed concept design may take away the 'natural feel' of the current location.

Authority response:

*To meet the requirements of the **Disability Discrimination Act 1992**, the footprint of the new building must increase. The approach is low impact as accessible ramps will be added to the existing building foundation, which will increase the footprint. The proposed design utilises a circular shape, as this is a shape that can be found in nature and blends in with the existing natural surroundings. A minor amount of vegetation may be impacted through the small increase in building footprint. Our recently released [Coastal Vegetation Strategy](#) outlines our commitment to protecting and enhancing native vegetation along our coastline, so we will minimise vegetation loss where we can, and revegetate where necessary.*

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN FEATURES

There was considerable support for including sustainable design features in the new amenity block. It was noted that the Authority needs to be stronger in rolling out sustainable features across all projects.

Authority response:

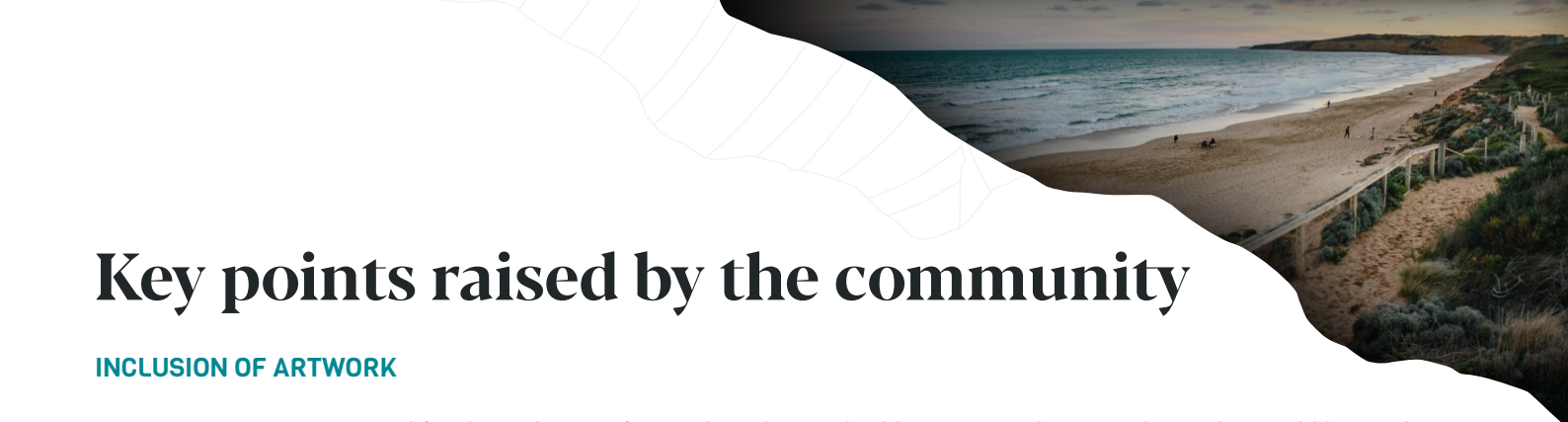
It is pleasing to see community support for sustainable design features in coastal buildings and we are actively integrating this into all new amenity blocks. The concept designs for the amenity block integrates sustainable design and materials. We're intending to include sustainable features including design to maximise natural light and ventilation with the use of durable and sustainable materials.



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Key points raised by the community

INCLUSION OF ARTWORK

Strong support was expressed for the inclusion of artwork in the new building. Respondents emphasised it would be good to see artwork from the Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung People. Several comments also asked for mural artwork to display Jan Juc's history or to reflect Jan Juc lifestyle and its intrinsic connection to nature, the ocean and surfing. It was highlighted that graffiti and vandalism may be minimised by incorporating large murals into the design.

Authority response:

We're delighted to see enthusiasm among the community for artwork which connects the building to the Country it is located upon and its history and culture. We are working with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to develop artwork for the new building.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FACILITIES

Lots of ideas were shared on including a variety of extra facilities both inside and surrounding the new amenity block. Suggestions included a defibrillator, a water fountain to fill drink bottles, a dog bowl, a cold shower, and a bike rack. Some comments noted that the fittings and fixtures should be stainless steel, and that a men's urinal and four toilets instead of two could be included in the design.

Authority response:

Additional external facilities have not been considered at this location as we intend to maintain the existing building footprint, minimising impact on the environment, with only a small increase for access ramps to ensure compliance with disability access requirements. As a result, some elements such as the external shower will not be possible, however, we will review other suggestions and feedback as part of the final design. A defibrillator is beyond scope for our grant funding for this project, however, we would welcome the opportunity to host one, if a community group obtained a grant for one and identified this was the best local location. The suggestions and ideas on other inclusions are appreciated and will be further considered in the final design.

ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES

Feedback showed support for increasing the accessibility of the amenity block through the size of the cubicles and the addition of the access ramp. Three community members expressed concern that the design of the hand basins needs to ensure they are accessible for wheelchair users.

Authority response:

It is great to see support for accessible amenities and the concept design ensures that the new amenity block is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. We can confirm that the hand basins will be accessible for all ability users, including wheelchair users.





Key points raised by the community

SAFETY / INAPPROPRIATE USE

It was noted that the concept design appeared more friendly and safer than the existing building. The lighting of the new amenity block was a concern for some who suggested that the building should be well lit at night. Concerns that the decking area may become an area to 'hang out' at night were also raised.

Authority response:

We appreciate that safety concerns are a key consideration for many community members. We will further consider this and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in the final design, including the integration of night-time sensor lights.

Next steps

Your valuable input will help us finalise a design that best meets the needs of the community and visitors now and for generations to come. We will consider community feedback alongside Aboriginal inclusion, environmental outcomes, design quality, social outcomes, and funding requirements to create the final design. We will share the revised designs via our website, social media and newspaper updates and community will have an opportunity to provide feedback.

How did we do?

We are committed to engaging, listening, respecting, and reflecting community views in everything we do. Working with our community of coastal users to design this amenity block is important to us. We received feedback about the way we engaged with you on this project which will help us continuously improve our public engagement activities.

What you said:

You appreciated that the community was provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed concept designs.

Website: It was noted that the concept plans provided on the website were not clear and not enough detail was provided on the drawings provided. It was suggested that an image showing an overlay of the existing amenity block against the new concept design would have showcased the changes better. It was also noted that a different concept design could have been provided to show alternative options.

Survey design: The survey question on future expectations caused confusion as did the use of acronyms without explanation. For example, we used DDA instead of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Thank you for this feedback. We will consider it as a team and plan to avoid similar issues in future engagement projects.



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Get in touch

If you have further comments or questions about this project, please see the [project webpage](#).

The project team can be contacted at: haveyoursay@GreatOceanRoadAuthority.vic.gov.au



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