

Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project

Engagement Report – August 2022



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Executive Summary



Consultation highlights

This consultation was undertaken by Frankston City Council to inform Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project ('Project'), as part of the Victorian Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.

Between 21 February - 31 March 2022, Frankston City Council consulted with the community on how to improve and enhance the Seaford Wetlands. We welcomed feedback via:

- Online survey.
- Quick poll.
- Online interactive map.
- Community pop-ups.
- Stakeholder discussions.

Consultation feedback and outcomes

Overall feedback from this consultation is that the community overwhelmingly value Seaford Wetlands for its ecological values. While upgrades to the reserve are seen as a positive step, it is important that they preserve the environmental significance and natural aesthetics of the wetlands, and that community members (particularly nearby residents) are regularly informed and engaged. The Seaford Wetlands Steering Group have reviewed the community feedback and endorsed the following recommendations.

Community feedback	Outcome: Recommendations endorsed by Steering Group
All upgrades to Seaford Wetlands should prioritise the area as a natural reserve, with high ecological values, and comply with the Ramsar Management Plan.	All upgrades to Seaford Wetlands should prioritise the area as a natural reserve, with high ecological values including compliance with the Ramsar Management Plan.
The final design for the new pedestrian bridge should respond to the preference of 68% of responders: Option A – wooden clad bridge.	The final design for the new pedestrian bridge should respond to the preference of 68% of responders: Option A – wooden clad bridge.
The most commonly requested facilities should be installed around the new bridge,	Consideration will be given to include the most commonly community requested

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including native plants, bench seat, drinking fountain, signage and lighting.	facilities like native plants, bench seat, drinking fountain, signage and lighting in the development of the Signage and Facilities Masterplan.
The final location for the shared use path should respond to the preference of 81% of responders: Option A – Kananook Creek path. Residents of Palm Beach Drive should be further engaged given their concerns.	The final location for the shared use path should respond to the preference of 81% of responders: Option A – Kananook Creek path. Further consultation with residents of Palm Beach Drive and Melbourne Water is required.
The most commonly requested new facilities should be added to locations identified in the interactive online map. All facilities upgrades should ensure the environmental significance and natural aesthetics of the wetlands are preserved.	The summary of all the community requested facilities contributions will be given to the consultants developing the Signage and Facilities Masterplan for consideration. All facilities upgrades should ensure the environmental significance and natural aesthetics of the wetlands are preserved.

Key engagement statistics

The core components of this consultation included:

- Two Council staffed community pop-up events (approx. 80 people).
- Online activities, including a survey, quick poll and interactive map (473 contributors).
- Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands(key stakeholder) meeting
- Stories in Frankston City News and E-news.
- Emails to 95 ‘project’ subscribers.
- Postcard deliveries to residents in a 2km radius of the wetlands.
- 3 Facebook posts advertising the project and pop-ups (16,205 people reached, and 1,570 responses).
- City of Kingston also promoted consultation via a letter issued to 948 residents

Calculating these numbers, over 20,000 experienced a direct notification of this consultation.



Barriers to engagement

During community consultations, there are often limitations to the engagement activities. The limitations of this consultation have been identified as:

Weather

The second community pop-up on Saturday 5 March 2022 was significantly affected by weather, and was cancelled due to flooding on Austin Road. Unfortunately vehicles could not access the site, however, two council staff stayed in the location for the length of the planned pop-up to discuss the project with community members and take feedback.

COVID-19

While Covid-19 restrictions permitted in-person engagement over this period, it impacted the number of people engaging with council face-to-face due to safety, fear or mask requirements.

Non-negotiables

Non-negotiables included aspects of the project that had already been decided, including:

- No further community consultation required on Eel Race Road shared use path.
- Upgrading the southern levee bank (on Kananook Creek) presents a high environment and safety risk and will not be upgraded as part of this project.
- Water treatment project requires further research/ assessment and will not be undertaken in the project.
- Funding has been allocated and agreed by the Victorian Government and totals \$5 million (inc GST).
- Project works will be delivered by June 2023.
- The work will comply with relevant legislation and guidelines, including Environment Protection and Biodiversity and Conservation Act, Disability Discrimination Act, Environmental Protection Authority guidelines, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, Land Acquisitions Guideline, and Ramsar Management Plan.

Introduction



Overview

Seaford Wetlands is a precious community asset with significant ecological, cultural history and recreational values. With over 100 species of birds, the wetlands are renowned as a habitat for birdlife, including rare and endangered migratory birds. Once part of the extensive Carrum Swamp, the 158-hectare site is one of the largest natural wetlands in Port Phillip and Western Port Basins.

The purpose of this project is to improve and enhance Seaford Wetlands as part of the Victorian Government's \$315million Suburban Parks Program.

In 2018, a commitment was made to create more than 6,500 hectares of new and upgraded parks and trails across Melbourne's suburbs. As part of this program, the Victorian Government is funding \$5 million worth of upgrades to Seaford Wetlands with a focus on the following key projects.

1. Landscaping and environmental works

Rehabilitating priority locations through on-ground works, inclusion of habitat structures, pest animal control and revegetation including culturally significant species.

2. Walking path upgrades

Constructing a pedestrian and Cycle Bridge across Kananook Creek and a shared use path on the northern bank of the creek to 'close the loop' and improve wayfinding signage.

3. Facility upgrades

Designing and installing a bio-cultural, self-guided interpretative trail through signage and improving and renewing facilities. All facilities upgrades will ensure the environmental significance and natural aesthetics of the wetlands are preserved.

As part of this consultation, we sought input from all members of the community from Frankston City and City of Kingston (including Traditional Owners, neighbouring property owners, members of environmental group, local sporting clubs, local businesses, or visitors to the wetlands) on the three key projects.

We invited feedback and ideas on initial designs, with the promise that community responses would influence the final designs, and help us better understand how our community uses, and wants to use Seaford Wetlands.

Introduction



This report provides a summary of consultation and demonstrates how it meets Council's engagement principles of purpose, informed, representative, supportive, influence and report.



Engagement Details



Purpose

Frankston City Council, with its partners, seeks to improve and enhance Seaford Wetlands, in a way that responds to the needs and aspirations of the Frankston City community.

Objectives

This consultation process seeks to:

- Understand the community's feedback and ideas on initial designs for Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation project
- Ensure the community's input has directly influenced the final designs and project plan.
- Engage through cost-efficient and timely methods
- Meet legislative and policy requirements for community engagement.

Community consultation process

Input into the Project was gathered in the following key ways during the community consultation period:

Table 1

External stakeholders	Consultation
Whole municipality	Two community pop-up events at Seaford Wetlands: 3 March 2022 – Engagement launch and smoking ceremony 5 March 2022 (cancelled due to flooding)
Whole municipality	Online survey via Engage Frankston page
Whole municipality	Online mapping tool via Engage Frankston page
Whole municipality	Online quick poll via Engage Frankston page
Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands	Meeting on 16 February 2022

Council consultation process

A Seaford Wetlands Steering Group has been established to identify projects, this includes senior representatives from:

- BLCAC
- DELWP
- Frankston City Council
- City of Kingston
- Melbourne Water
- Local Member for Carrum

Working group meetings, feasibility studies and a series of internal engagement sessions were also held within the various agencies prior to the approval of funding agreement with Department of Environment, Land, water and Planning (DELWP) to decide on the projects and the and receive feedback.

Consultation materials

To help inform council staff and community, four posters were created to support in-person consultation activities. The posters were displayed at community consultation events as conversation starters.

Through colourful and thought-provoking posters people were encouraged to capture their thoughts or feedback on post-it notes and stickers, or begin conversations with the Engagement Team to share their feedback.

The four posters included:

1. Welcome to community engagement pop-up / project information
2. Your preferred design – pedestrian bridge
3. Your preferred design – shared use path
4. Where you would like to see upgraded facilities?

These posters have been provided in the Appendix.

Community pop-ups

Frankston City Council ran two public pop-ups at Seaford Wetlands to consult the Frankston community on the Project.

The pop-up locations and times are displayed below.

Table 2

Pop-up locations	Date	Time
Seaford Wetlands	Thursday 3 March 2022	11:30am-1:30pm – Including engagement launch by Minister, MPS, CEO and smoking ceremony performed by Bunurong Elders
Seaford Wetlands	Saturday 5 March 2022	10:00am-12:30pm (cancelled due to flooding, but council staff still onsite taking feedback)

Online

Online Survey

An online survey was created on Engage Frankston for the Frankston City and wider community to share their feedback online. The survey was open from 21 February - 31 March 2022. The questions were consistent with the community pop-up posters. The survey questions included:

- Which bridge design do you prefer (two options)?
- Are there any other features you would like to see on the bridge or surrounds?
- Which location would you prefer for a shared use path (two options)?
- Are there any other features you would like to see on the path or surrounds?
- Which facilities you would like to see more of at Seaford Wetlands?
- Do you have other ideas for how Seaford Wetlands could be safer and more accessible for all abilities, cultures and ages?
- Seaford Wetlands are an important cultural landscape for the Bunurong People. How would you like learn to learn more about Bunurong cultural values in the parklands?
- How important are large open parks (like Seaford Wetlands) to you?
- Do you have any other comments that you would like to provide to help us plan for the rejuvenation of Seaford Wetlands?

Interactive map

An online interactive map was created on Engage Frankston (open 21 February - 31 March 2022) for the Frankston City community to 'drop a pin' to show us where they would like to see upgraded facilities at Seaford Wetlands.

Quick poll

An online quick poll was created on Engage Frankston (open 21 February - 31 March 2022) for the Frankston City community to share brief feedback on our two key questions:

- Which bridge design do you prefer (two options)?
- Which location would you prefer for a shared use path (two options)?

Social Media

As well as the online survey, community members were also asked about the project through a series of posts on council's Facebook page.

These posts raised awareness about the project and community pop-up events. Facebook events were also made for each of the pop-ups.

The dates and subject of Facebook posts are summarised below:

Table 3

Social media post	Date
Launch of Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation engagement	22 February 2022
Community Engagement pop-up	3 March 2022
Last days to have your say	26 March 2022

Media

Community members were also informed about the project through a story in Frankston City News and a media release.

These stories raised awareness about the project and community pop-up events, with a reach of over 60,000 residents. The dates and subject of the stories are summarised below:

Table 5

Media	Date
Frankston City News: <i>Seaford Wetlands rejuvenation</i>	March-April edition 2022
Frankston City E-News: <i>Seaford Wetlands rejuvenation official launch</i>	9 March 2022
Media release	3 March 2022

Consultation outcomes



Council feedback

During the development of this project leading up to the signing of the funding agreement with DELWP Council was extensively consulted and feedback included in the scope of works for all the four elements included as part of Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project.

Stakeholder feedback

The Project team heard that the Seaford Wetlands are particularly important to the following stakeholder groups:

- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.
- Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands (FESW).
- BirdLife Australia.
- Down's Estate Community Project (DECP).

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) have undertaken a Cultural Values Mapping report as part of the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation project which was commissioned by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The report outlines the Aboriginal cultural values associated with Seaford Wetlands, named in the Boon Wurrung language as 'Lowyeeung', which was found to have unique cultural heritage values to the Traditional Owners of the land, the Bunurong People.

The report outlines Traditional Owner recommendations and actions which will be embedded into planning and ongoing management of the wetlands such as the self-guided biocultural trail which will complete a loop around the wetlands and rejuvenate significant cultural knowledge and practices that were identified by Bunurong Elders.

Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands (FESW)

The Project Team attended a FESW Committee Meeting on 16 February 2022 to advise the Committee of the upcoming engagement and encourage all members to have their say via the online and in-person engagement options. During the discussion, we heard valuable feedback from FESW of the importance of the natural values of the wetlands, and the need to preserve the present and future health of the wetland ecology and its wildlife.

Down's Estate Community Project (DECP)

The Project Team also discussed the project with DECP as part of the Phase 1 consultation, who then provided a written submission. Key highlights of this submission re as follows (full submission attached in the Appendix):

'It is exciting that Council in collaboration with the State Government, Bunurong Land Council, Melbourne Water and other agencies has the opportunity to design and implement improvements which will benefit the preservation of the wetlands ecology, help educate the community about their ecological and cultural significance and provide path access to the whole wetlands circuit by closing the loop.'

'Like FESWI, we consider the Seaford Wetlands a natural reserve, a noted one with a Ramsar listing... Therefore all new measures should have the present and future health of the wetland ecology and its wildlife as the highest priority...'

'Bringing more structures or gathering elements into the buffer zones including the Shared User Path and its mown borders will not support the conservation purpose and peaceful character of the Wetlands reserve.'

'The interactive map on Engage Frankston! invites ideas such as the addition of rocks, picnic tables, shelters or other features in this border area of the path. These would create obstacles for Council mowing and maintenance. They may also create gathering places for inappropriate after hours use by locals as the whole area has 24 hrs access.'

The DECP submission also proposed the creation of an ecological mural on Down's Estate shed, which if designed as 'a professional standard work of art' could 'be of significant benefit to the Rejuvenation Project.' The Seaford Wetlands Steering Group acknowledged DECP's contribution and noted the submission.

Community feedback

Overall, Frankston City Council received over 500 responses from community members. This is broken down as follows:

- 80 (approx.) people provided feedback and input during the public pop-ups.
- 121 people completed the online survey. The majority of survey respondents were visitors of the wetlands (94.17%), 41% on a weekly basis, and 31% on a daily basis.
- 267 people completed the quick poll.
- 68 people inputted into the interactive online map.
- 3 email response were received to the consultation.
- 1,570 responses to social media posts (including reactions, clicks, shares, comments).

During the consultation process 94 people ‘followed’ the project to receive ongoing updates.

The main demographics of community members Council engaged with were the elderly, retirees, environmental group members, families, local residents and young people.

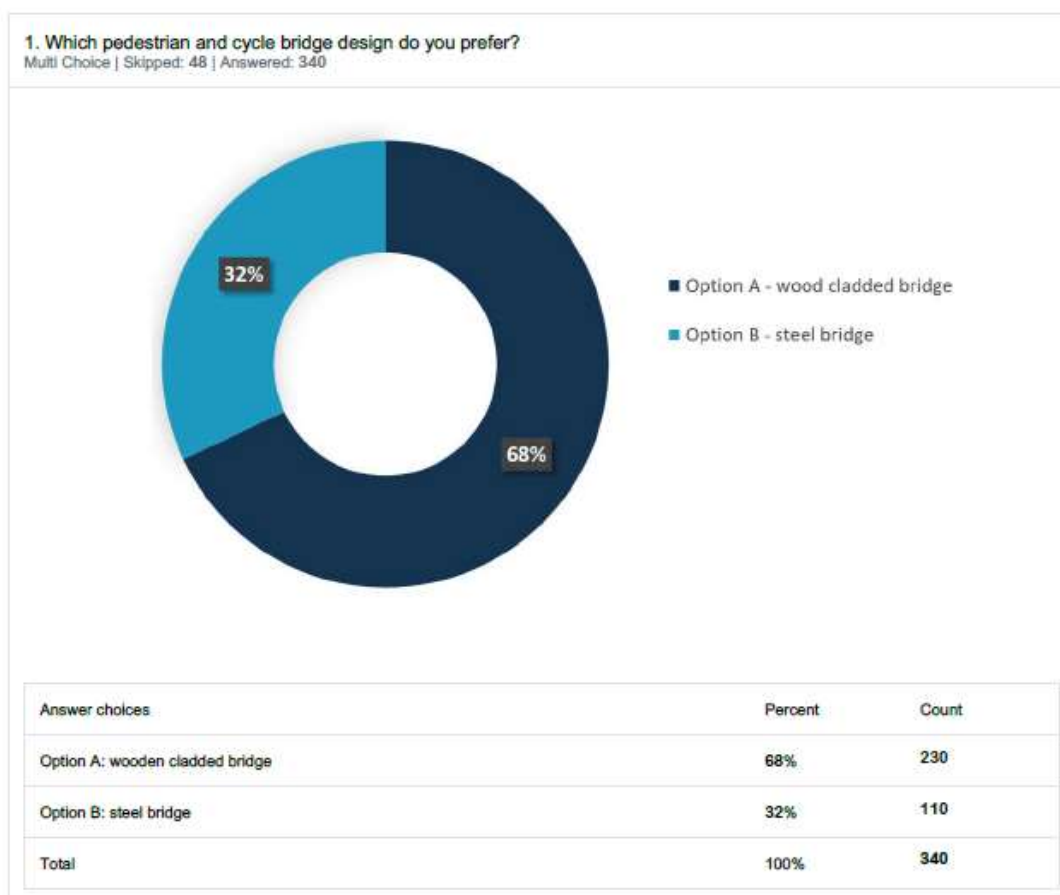
Key summary

The majority of community feedback related to the following questions asked in both the online survey, quick poll and mapping tool, about the following proposed upgrades:

- **Question 1:** Your preferred design – pedestrian bridge
- **Question 2:** Your preferred design – shared use path
- **Question 3:** Which facilities would you like to see more of?
- **Question 4:** Where you would like to see upgraded facilities?

Question 1 - Your preferred design – pedestrian bridge

Summary of contributions from online survey and quick poll:



Additional comments made in relation to the pedestrian bridge:

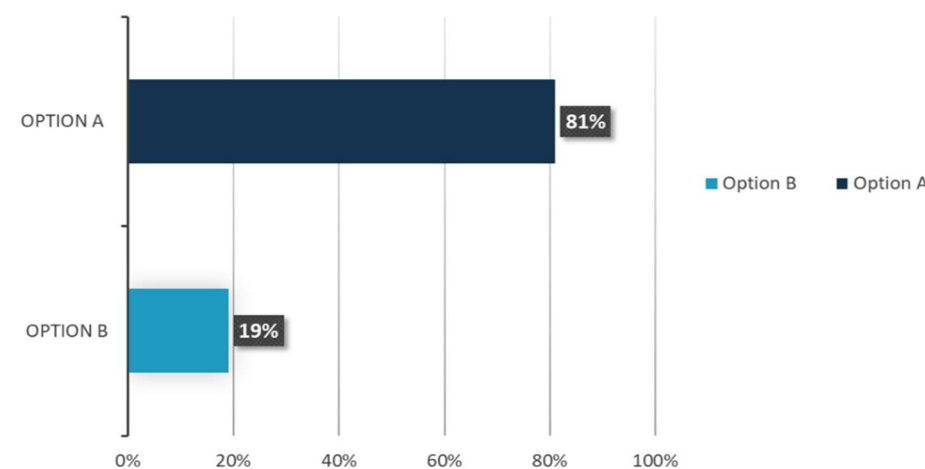
- A few comments questioned why the existing bridge (near the Patterson lakes Secondary School) is not being upgraded instead of a new bridge being installed.
- The most commonly requested facilities to be added to area around the new bridge included native plants, bench seat, drinking fountain, signage and lighting.

Question 2 - Your preferred design – shared use path

Summary of contributions from online survey and quick poll (note Option A is the path along Kananook Creek, and Option B is the path along Palm Beach Drive):

2. Which shared use path location do you prefer?

Select Box | Skipped: 41 | Answered: 347



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Option A	81%	281
Option B	19%	66
Total	100%	347

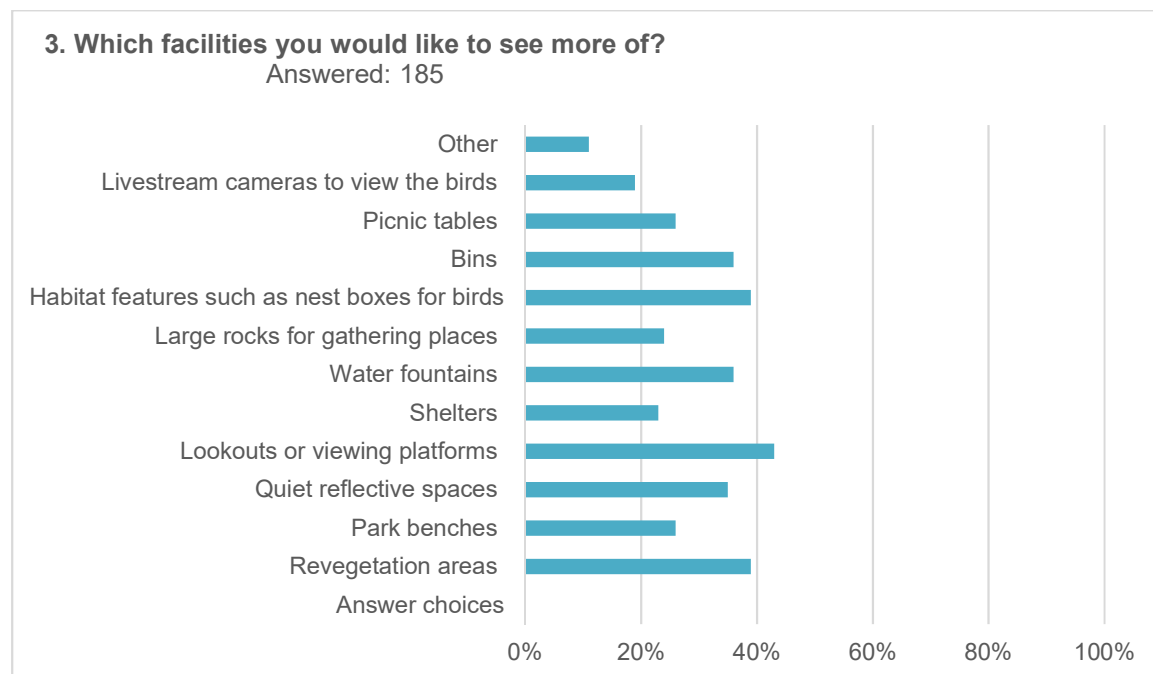
Additional comments made in relation to the shared use path:

- Additional facilities are required to ensure the path is usable and effective, particularly suitable lighting, and access suitable for people with disabilities.

- The previous engagement undertaken on the shared use path options: some people queried what the outcome was of this, and whether the residents of Palm Beach Drive would be further engaged if Option A is chosen as the preferred location for the path.
- Why there is not a proposal to extend/upgrade the southern embankment track, as this would represent a 'true' closing the loop option.

Question 3 – Which facilities you would like to see more of?

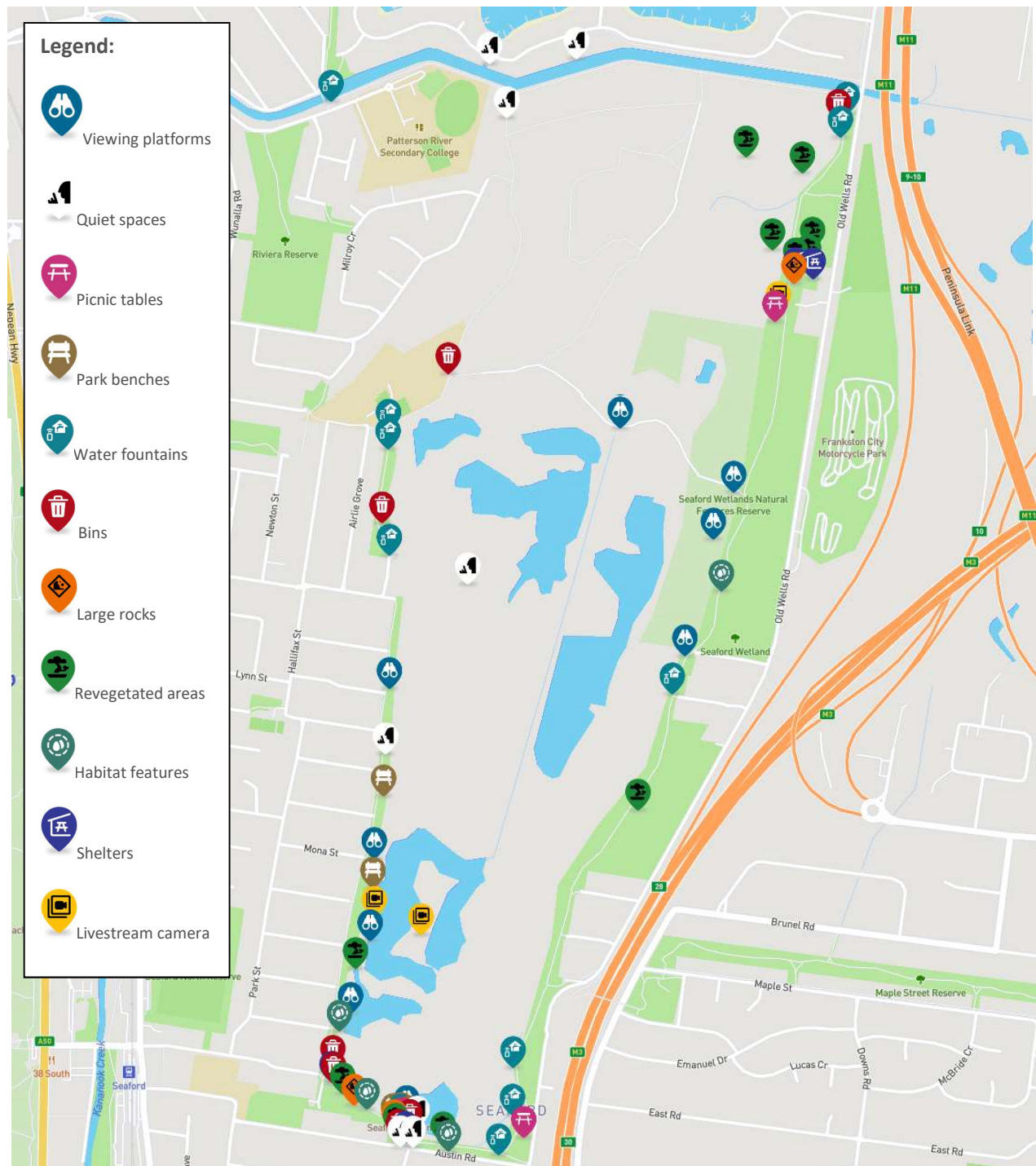
Summary of contributions from online survey and quick poll:



Facilities	Percentage	No. of responders
Revegetation areas	39%	73
Park benches	26%	48
Quiet reflective spaces	35%	64
Lookouts or viewing platforms	43%	79
Shelters	23%	43
Water fountains	36%	66
Large rocks for gathering places	24%	45
Habitat features such as nest boxes for birds	39%	73
Bins	36%	66
Picnic tables	26%	48
Livestream cameras to view the birds	19%	22
Other	11%	21

Question 4 – Where would you like to see upgraded facilities?

Map showing all posts contributed online and in-person:



Positive insights

The community strongly values Seaford Wetlands, and uses the wetlands for a variety of activities.

Many community members were happy to hear about the rejuvenation project, but for many diverse reasons, which will need to be balanced in the final design. Some comments made by community members are provided below:

'Looking forward to the upgrades.'

'More access to the wetlands - there are very few places to actually appreciate the beauty of the wetlands, and engage with it.'

'I will visit the wetlands more frequently when the loop is closed. Trudging through muddy half made paths was never enjoyable and deterred me from visiting the wetlands more frequently. I'm also looking forward to being able to view the birds better from additional observation points.'

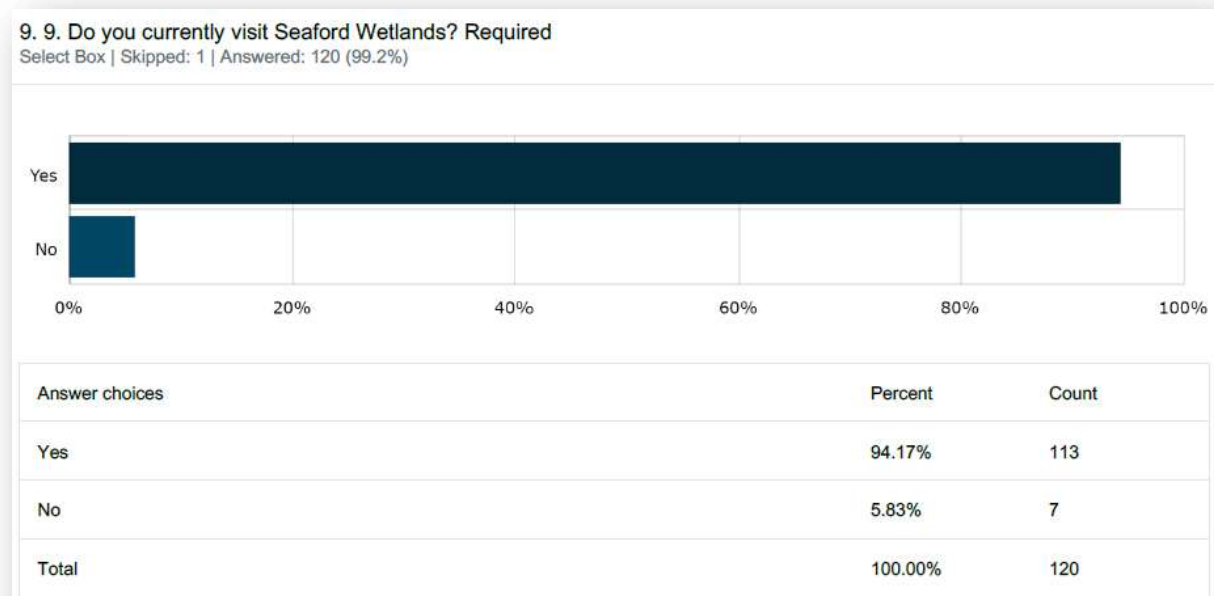
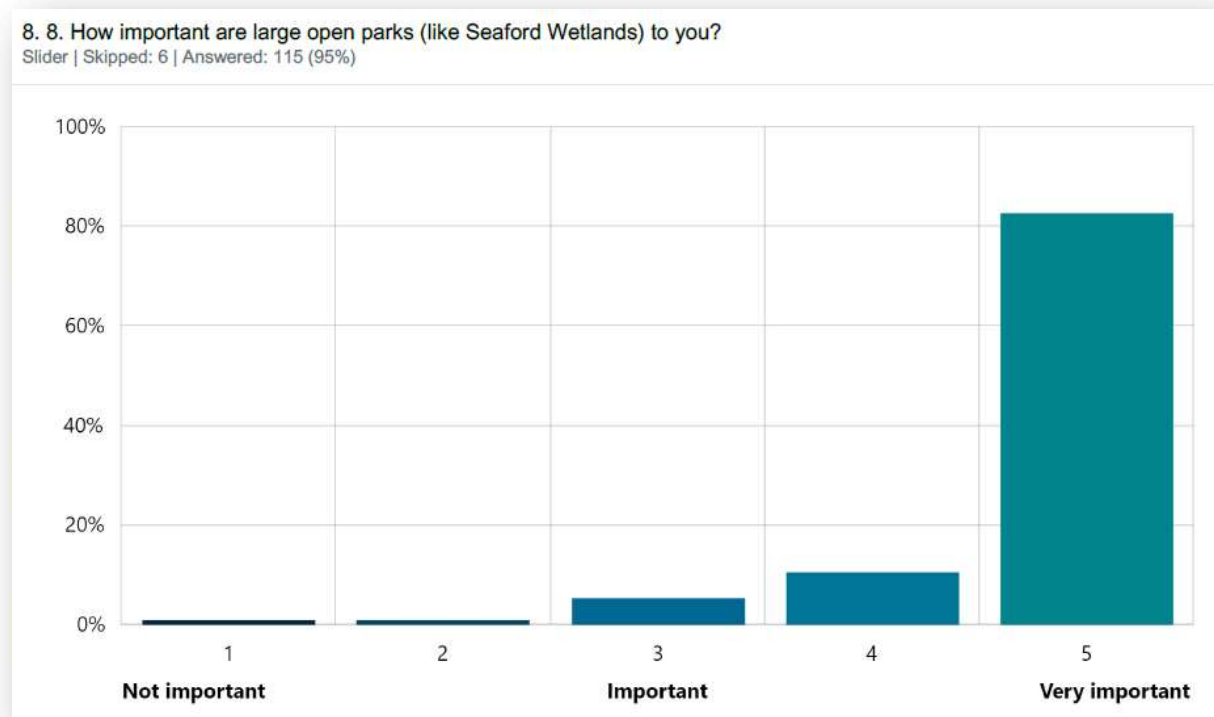
'I visit the Seaford wetlands on a daily basis as I love to be surrounded by all the natural elements. It feels like I am in the country side while still being in suburbia...The Seaford wetlands are a quiet place to go for a walk or a ride or to sit and reflect in a peace and quiet environment. The wetlands do not need modern designs or concrete or useless structures or artworks/sculptures all over the place to make it more accessible and pleasing. Simple well thought out and designed paths to make it easily accessible for everyone is enough.'

'This is a very exciting project. Please ensure the local community can make the most of this as a great recreational space in a natural environment and are not locked out.'

'Just focus on what is best for native flora and fauna, especially the migratory the bird species.'

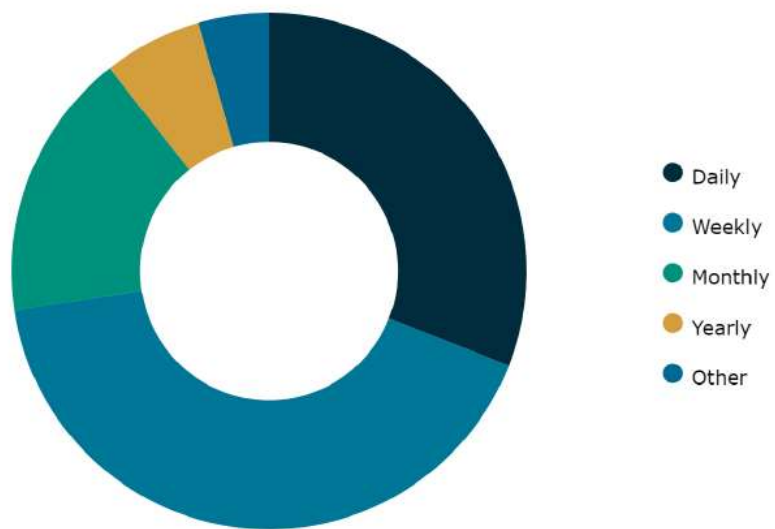
'Fix the paths, poo bins, make Seaford Wetlands shine.'

The importance of the Wetlands, and its diverse values and uses are also shown in the following survey question responses:



10. 10. If yes, how often?

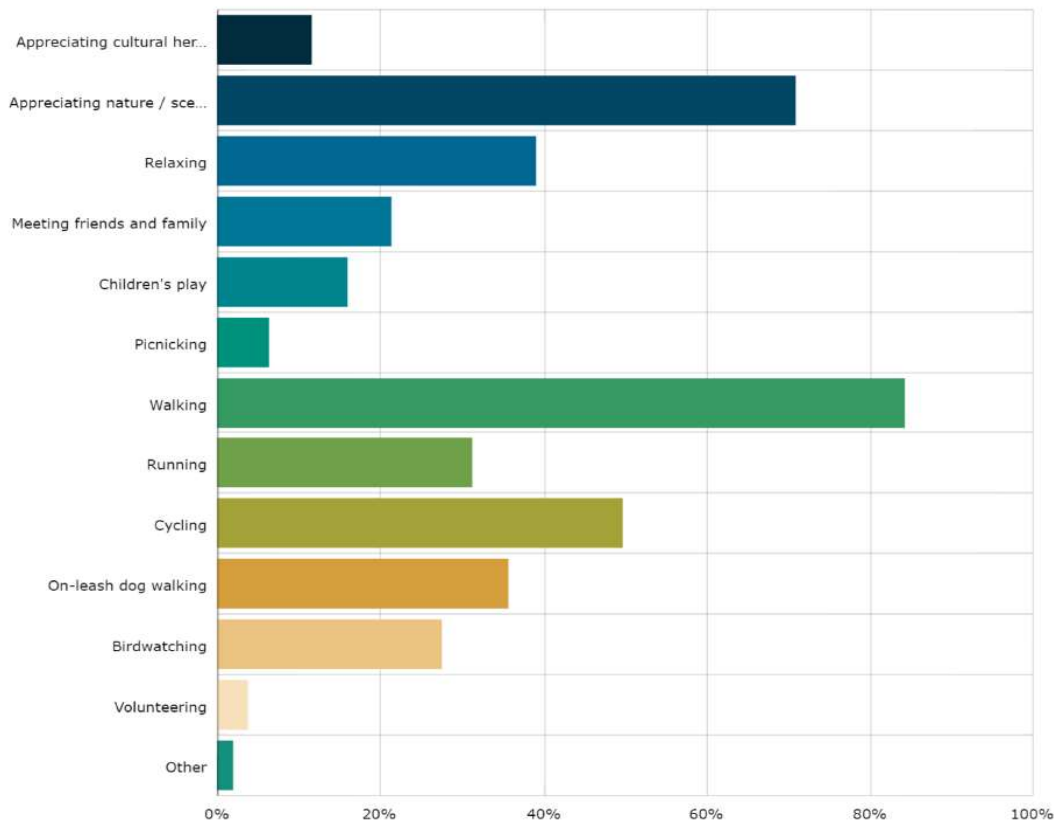
Multi Choice | Skipped: 8 | Answered: 113 (93.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Daily	30.97%	35
Weekly	41.59%	47
Monthly	16.81%	19
Yearly	6.19%	7
Other	4.42%	5
Total	100.00%	113

11. 11. If yes, what activities do you do there?

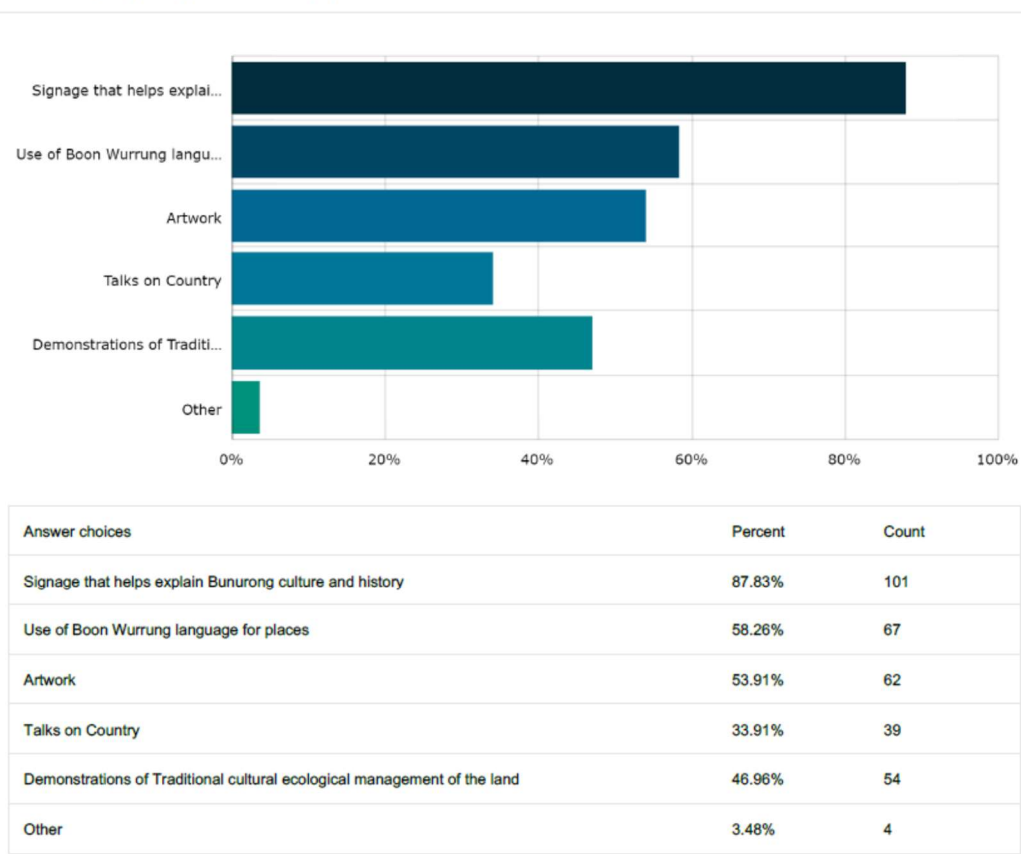
Multi Choice | Skipped: 8 | Answered: 113 (93.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Appreciating cultural heritage	11.50%	13
Appreciating nature / scenic views	70.80%	80
Relaxing	38.94%	44
Meeting friends and family	21.24%	24
Children's play	15.93%	18
Picnicking	6.19%	7
Walking	84.07%	95
Running	30.97%	35
Cycling	49.56%	56
On-leash dog walking	35.40%	40
Birdwatching	27.43%	31
Volunteering	3.54%	4
Other	1.77%	2

7. 7. Seaford Wetlands are an important cultural landscape for the Bunurong People. How would you like learn to learn more about Bunurong cultural values in the parklands?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 6 | Answered: 115 (95%)



Opportunities for improvement

Recognition of the natural values of Seaford Wetlands

While 185 community members listed facilities that they wanted to see more of in Seaford Wetlands (via online survey and interactive map), the project received significant feedback indicating that many community members would prefer the wetlands to remain as natural as possible.

Some comments made by community members are provided below:

'I would like to see this area actually be given over more to the wildlife with connected corridors of indigenous vegetation that includes all the layers... I would like to see really

careful & considered approaches be taken with any rejuvenation... that it actually doesn't become gentrified.'

'I have serious concerns about the impact of this project on Seaford Wetlands...It is not a park, it is a conservation reserve - the only Ramsar listed wetland in VIC that's located in an urban landscape...Its urban surrounds make it particularly vulnerable to harmful disturbance and so a buffer zone was declared. It's that buffer zone the Project will be using.'

'Please keep it natural, thank you.'

'I would love to see the priorities in the rejuvenation in the order of its natural value:

- important wetlands for future conservation*
- an area with a strong diversity value, supporting wildlife and endangered species*
- a nature retreat to be managed and appreciated within developed areas*
- an area for humans to appreciate and contribute to*
- an area for humans to 'use'.'*

'The Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands are a precious sanctuary for the wildlife. We need care and protection of this environmentally-significant area. PLEASE NOTE we do NOT want an upgrade to the extent of picnic areas, walking paths, dog areas, children's playgrounds etc...'

Recognition of the prior engagement undertaken with residents of Palm Beach Drive, Patterson Lakes

Several community members commented on the initial engagement run by the City of Kingston on shared-use path options, which had focused on residents of Palm Beach Drive, Patterson Lakes.

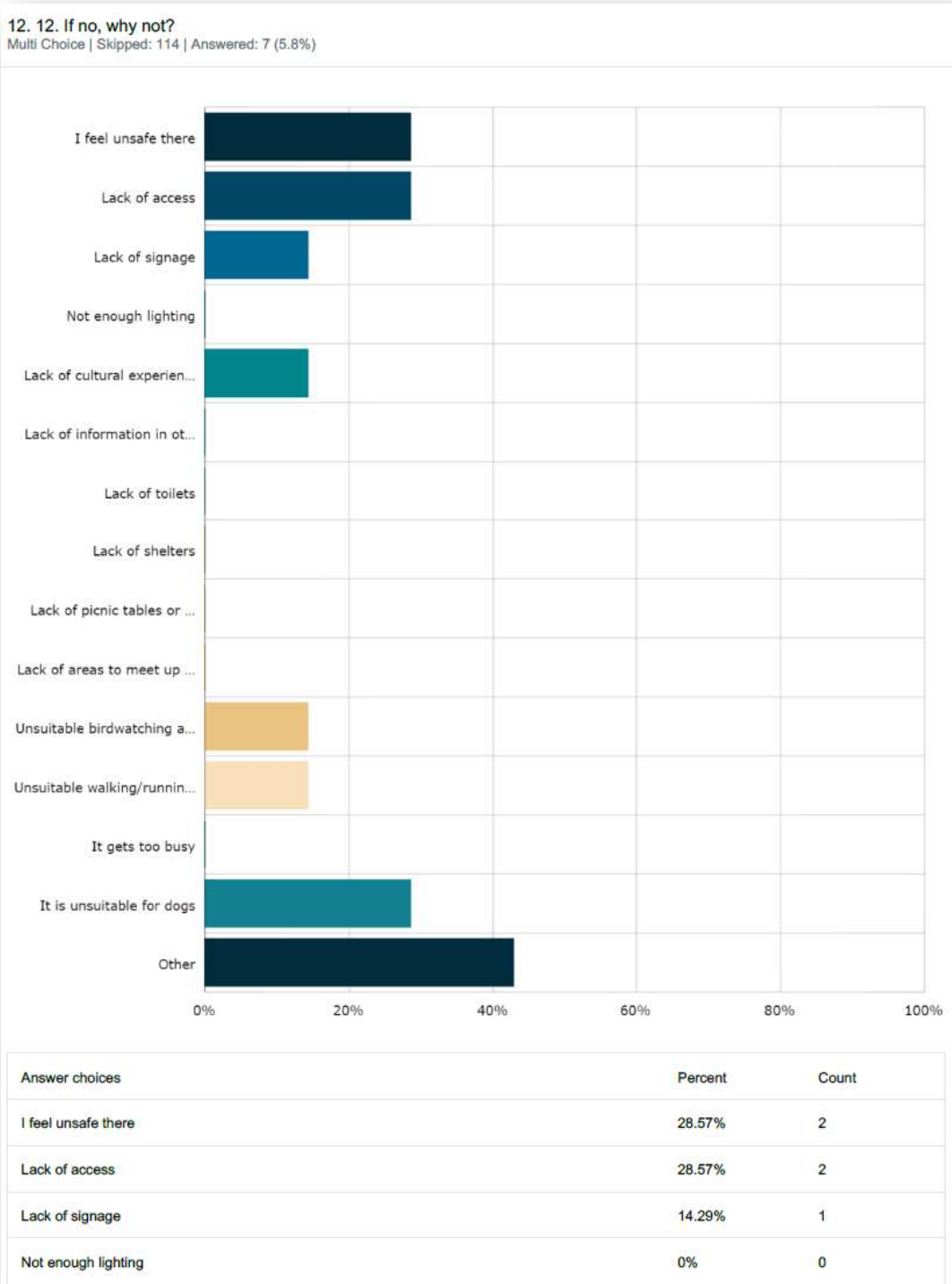
Some comments made by community members are provided below:

'Further consultation with residents impacted by the (Option A) extended shared path.'

[As outlined in the earlier consultation] 'We are not supportive of the shared use path being place that the back of our property along the Kananook Creek (option A). We are however supportive of the shared use path being proposed out the front of our house as per Option B in the consultation documentation.'

Issues leading to community members choosing not to visit the Seaford Wetlands

Community members commented as follows as to why they do not visit the wetlands currently:



Lack of cultural experiences	14.29%	1
Lack of information in other languages	0%	0
Lack of toilets	0%	0
Lack of shelters	0%	0
Lack of picnic tables or seating	0%	0
Lack of areas to meet up with family/friends	0%	0
Unsuitable birdwatching areas	14.29%	1
Unsuitable walking/running/cycling tracks	14.29%	1
It gets too busy	0%	0
It is unsuitable for dogs	28.57%	2
Other	42.86%	3



Conclusion



Evaluation

The Engagement Plan for this consultation included several measures of success related to the engagement objectives.

The success measures met and the objective they relate to are outlined below:

Objective	Success measure	Evaluation
Inform the general public and key stakeholders about the project, the timeline of project delivery, any local impact and the potential works/upgrades and engagement opportunities.	Community are informed of project activities and have the ability to contribute to planning of the ecological component of the project.	Achieved – over 20,000 received direct notification of this project
To provide an opportunity for all interested parties to provide their initial thoughts and feedback on the project through an online engagement portal and/or via written response.	100+ initial feedback submission received.	Achieved – over 500 people provided input via multiple engagement methods.
To celebrate cultural heritage and incorporate these cultural values into the Seaford Wetlands rejuvenation.	Engaging the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to complete a Cultural Values Study, develop meaningful cultural events, heritage information, and interpretative signage as part of the project.	Achieved – cultural values study completed and has informed the project final design.
To increase usage, and types of usage of the wetlands by community and visitors, and to enhance the experience they have.	Increased numbers of people accessing the space by cycling, walking and in group activities, such as group fitness and tour groups.	To be confirmed following completion of project.
To showcase, educate and preserve the natural environment and ecology in the Seaford Wetlands.	Ecological restoration activity, revegetation and installation of nest boxes.	To be confirmed following completion of project.
To enhance public appreciation and use of the wetlands and the associated ecology.	Engage local environmental groups, install interpretative signage.	To be confirmed following completion of project.
Create positive and informative news/media coverage	Continued positive media coverage and positive community sentiment.	Achieved – positive media sentiment and community insights received as part of this engagement.

Recommendations

Overall feedback from this consultation is that the community overwhelmingly value Seaford Wetlands for its ecological values. While upgrades to the reserve are seen as a positive step by council, it is important that they ensure the environmental significance and natural aesthetics of the wetlands are preserved, and that community members (particularly nearby residents) are regularly informed and further engaged.

Based on the outcomes of the consultation, the following recommendations that have been provided to the Seaford Wetlands Steering Group and have been endorsed. This will guide council's implementation of this Project:

- All upgrades to Seaford Wetlands should prioritise the area as a natural reserve, with high ecological values including compliance with the Ramsar Management Plan.
- The final design for the new pedestrian bridge should respond to the preference of 68% of responders: Option A – wooden clad bridge.
- The final location for the shared use path should respond to the preference of 81% of responders: Option A – Kananook Creek path. Further consultation with residents of Palm Beach Drive and Melbourne Water is required.
- Facilities:
 - o Around new pedestrian bridge: Consideration will be given to include the most commonly community requested facilities like native plants, bench seat, drinking fountain, signage and lighting in the development of the Signage and Facilities Masterplan.
 - o Throughout wetlands: The summary of all the community requested facilities will be given to the consultants developing the Signage and Facilities Masterplan for consideration. All facilities upgrades should ensure the environmental significance and natural aesthetics of the wetlands are preserved.

Next steps

Council acknowledges and expresses gratitude to all the members of the community who have participated in engagement activities informing the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project.

Next steps for this project are as follows:

1. [Development of the Signage and Facilities Masterplan and community feedback on the Draft Masterplan in September 2022.](#)
2. [Final Signage and Facilities Masterplan completed by December 2022.](#)

3. Residents will be consulted through a separate engagement process on the shared use path and pedestrian bridge.
4. Planning and Construction of the pedestrian bridge and shared use path to be completed by June 2023.
5. Ecological projects (habitat improvement, revegetation and pest management to be completed by June 2023.
6. New signage and facilities including biocultural trail installed by June 2023.
7. Construction complete: All project in the Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project will be completed by June 2023.

Future community engagement opportunities will be promoted via Engage Frankston, social media, media and newsletters. Emails, Postcards and mailing letters to the targeted residents may be considered based on the need basis.

The project team will continue to build collaborative relationships across the broad range of community groups, committees, and resident groups to ensure updates are regularly provided.

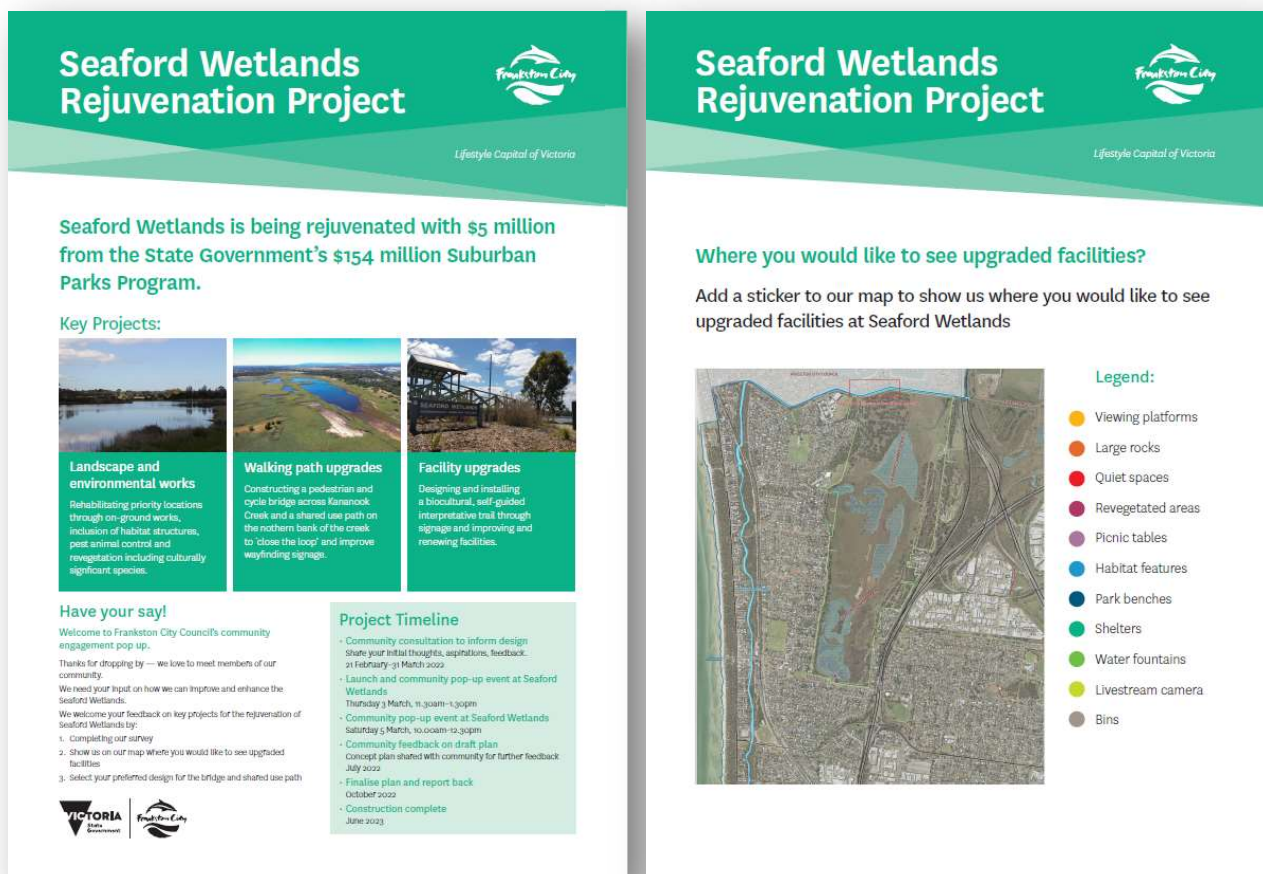


Appendices



Appendix A	Consultation materials
Appendix B	Social media
Appendix C	Down's Estate Community Project submission

Appendix A - Consultation materials



Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project



Lifestyle Capital of Victoria

Your preferred design

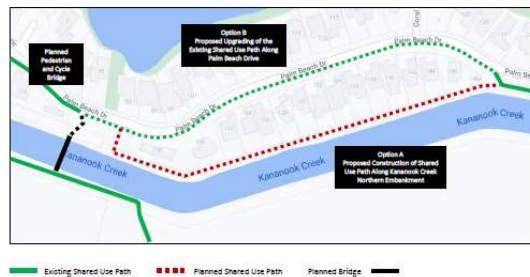
Shared use path

As part of 'closing the loop' around the wetlands the existing shared use path on the northern levee bank of the Kananook Creek will be upgraded.

In order to link the path with the new bridge and existing paths, two options are proposed.

Which shared use path location do you prefer?

Planned access projects (detail of options A and B)



Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project



Lifestyle Capital of Victoria

Your preferred design

Pedestrian and cycle bridge

A new pedestrian and cycling bridge is planned across Kananook Creek near the pumping station to 'close the loop' around the wetlands. Due to engineering and landscape constraints, there is only one location where the bridge can safely be constructed as indicated on the map.

Which pedestrian and cycle bridge design do you prefer?

Option A: Wooden cladded bridge



Option B: Steel bridge



Appendix B - Social media

Frankston City Council
Published by Falcon.io • February 22 •


Great news! 🎉

The much-loved Seaford Wetlands is being rejuvenated with \$5 million from the State Government's \$154 million Suburban Parks Program.

Features include a new bridge across Kananook Creek, upgraded path network and a self-guided cultural interpretive trail that 'closes the loop' around the wetlands along with environmental restoration works 🌱

📌 To learn more or share feedback about this exciting project, please visit <https://fal.cn/3miBy> by 31 March.

#FrankstonCity #Seaford #Environment #SuburbanParksProgram Parks Victoria Melbourne Water Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Sonya Kilkenny MP



ENGAGE.FRANKSTON.VIC.GOV.AU
Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project
We are consulting with our community on how we can improve an...

[See Insights](#) [Boost post](#)

👍❤️ 186 48 Comments 18 Shares

Frankston City Council
Published by Falcon.io • March 3 •

☕ Join us for a free coffee this Saturday from 10am – 12.30 pm at Seaford Wetlands (📍Austin Road) viewing platform and share your feedback on the rejuvenation project.

🌱 The much-loved Seaford Wetlands is being rejuvenated with \$5 million from the State Government's \$154 million Suburban Parks Program.

Features include a new bridge across Kananook Creek, upgraded path network and a self-guided cultural interpretive trail that 'closes the loop' around the wetlands along with environmental restoration works.

📌 To learn more or share feedback about this exciting project, please visit <https://fal.cn/3mCQk> by 31 March.

#FrankstonCity #Seaford #Environment #SuburbanParksProgram #EngageFrankston Parks Victoria Melbourne Water Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands



[See Insights](#) [Boost post](#)

👍❤️ 27 6 Comments 7 Shares

Great news! 🎉 The much-loved Seaford Wetlands is being rejuvenated with \$5 million from the State...
Published by Falcon.io • February 22 •

Post Impressions	Post Reach	Post Engagement
8,728	8,655	1,129

Distribution

📈 +3.5x more impressions than your other posts within 21+ days of publishing. [Learn more](#)

Interactions

Reactions	Comments	Link Clicks	Shares	Other Clicks
220	48	0	1	0
269	85	222	18	535

Join us for a free coffee this Saturday from 10am – 12.30 pm at Seaford Wetlands (📍Austin Road) viewin...
Published by Falcon.io • March 3 •

Post Impressions	Post Reach	Post Engagement
4,316	4,127	308

Distribution


📈 Average performance as your other posts within 21+ days of publishing. [Learn more](#)

Views

3-Second Video Views	1-minute video views	Average minutes viewed
1,770	0	0:06

Interactions

Reactions	Comments	Link Clicks	Shares	Other Clicks
36	7	0	2	0
45	17	12	7	189

 Last days to #HaveYourSay and help protect and enhance the natural surrounds of beautiful...
Published by Falcon.Io · March 26 at 9:55 AM ·

Post Impressions	Post Reach	Post Engagement
3,582	3,423	133

Distribution

📈 -1.5x less impressions than your other posts within 13 days of publishing. [Learn more](#)

Interactions

Reaction	Count
👍	18
❤️	2
😂	0
😮	0
😭	0
😡	0
Reactions	20
Comments	18
Link Clicks	17
Shares	4
Other Clicks	26

Appendix C - Down's Estate Community Project submission

Down's Estate Community Project (DECP) Submission for Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project, March 2022

It is exciting that Council in collaboration with the State Government, Bunurong Land Council, Melbourne Water and other agencies has the opportunity to design and implement improvements which will benefit the preservation of the wetlands ecology, help educate the community about their ecological and cultural significance and provide path access to the whole wetlands circuit by closing the loop.

Like FESWI, we consider the Seaford Wetlands a natural reserve, a noted one with a Ramsar listing, and do not consider it, the eco-sensitive area of Down's Estate or the access way through Down's Estate including mown borders to be a park, in the normal usage of that term eg Beauty Park. Therefore all new measures should have the present and future health of the wetland ecology and its wildlife as the highest priority. The impact of increased human usage in the buffer areas is an important consideration in this evaluation.

The wetlands with the shared user path surrounding it on three sides with its buffer zone in place between the path and fenced boundary, is greatly appreciated and well used by the community for passive recreation like cycling, walking and running, birdwatching and picnicking. There are already five sets of tables and benches situated around the wetlands and a bird viewing platform on Austin Road.

Bringing more structures or gathering elements into the buffer zones including the Shared User Path and its mown borders will not support the conservation purpose and peaceful character of the Wetlands reserve.

Both sides of the SUP at Down's Estate are visible and included in the interactive map for community to suggest where new facilities could be situated. The activities at DECP are permitted by Council with consideration to any possible negative impacts on the wetlands or buffer areas. These community activities are set back from the path and its mown borders.

DECP works strategically and collaboratively with Council to create clear functional areas around the buildings, water tanks and community garden space, including the area extending out to the path. Council now mows the wide borders both sides of the path for maintenance and fire hazard reduction purposes which also improves visibility and safety for users and is probably a significant deterrent to vandalism or anti-social behaviour of different kinds.

The interactive map on Engage Frankston! invites ideas such as the addition of rocks, picnic tables, shelters or other features in this border area of the path. These would create obstacles for Council mowing and maintenance. They may also create gathering places for inappropriate after hours use by locals as the whole area has 24 hrs access. A serious problem occurred once last year when a large group of young people gathered on a Saturday night near the newly installed seating behind the shed, where a lot of drinking took place and smashing of glass bottles covering a large area. DECP did most of the clean up for public safety reasons before Council services were available.

Since then, such an incident has not reoccurred and the new seating area near the shed is now being used by cyclists and others as a rest stop. However in our view, adding more facilities like tables etc

is not necessary nor desirable in this setting and may attract unwanted behaviour and pose a risk to the Wetlands and DECP security after hours. The existing picnic tables should be able to service the need of those using the reserve respectfully. Possibly another bench seat on a gravel base for walkers to rest along the path leading to the northern boundary of Down's Estate could be helpful.

Installing rubbish bins anywhere is an absolute invitation for people to bring and leave rubbish in the reserve and should not be considered. Bins also add more cost to Council for ongoing collection and maintenance. The rejuvenation project is a great opportunity to elevate the "Take nothing and leave no trace" message to community and visitors. Likewise, we would suggest that most people know to take a water bottle with them into reserves for their own needs.

DECP is gradually enhancing its licenced area between the buildings and the front fence with picnic tables that are available for public use and there are future plans to incorporate children's nature play spaces into the southern end of the licenced area. There is also a planned quiet space for further north in the DECP area, away from the path.

Rejuvenation Project priorities

1. Landscaping and environmental works

We believe that ecological works should be the main priority, drawing on all the expertise available to establish the most beneficial actions and outcomes. We would welcome discussions with Council to include increased ecological plantings within DECP licensed area as part of this project.

2. Walking path upgrades

The existing bridge at Emma St/Whatley St is just a few hundred metres to the West of the proposed new bridge. This connects the path around the wetlands to an existing path that connects to Patterson River and beyond to both the Bay Trail and Dandenong Creek Trail. It seems unnecessary to construct a new bridge so close to this one. If a path is to be constructed on the north side of Eel Race, this could be extended to connect to this bridge. Upgrading this bridge would seem more cost effective than building a new bridge and maintaining both.

If a new bridge is needed: Both bridge options appear to have the same metal construction and one has extra wooden cladding on the outside. The metal bridge would mostly likely require less maintenance and cost over time compared to preserving and replacing the wood façade. It is hard to say which version would be most graffiti proof and which is most aesthetically appropriate.

Re locations offered: If the option for a path on the southern bank has been evaluated and rejected by the Steering Committee (FAQs), it would seem that staying closer to the creek on the north side would be preferable in terms of a natural environmental loop. There may be other practical considerations to take into account in this decision.

Lighting and other features near bridge: There is no need for lighting as this reserve is intended for day use. Installation of lighting would be very intrusive and impact negatively on wildlife, particularly with any uplighting of trees. Light pollution in our urban environments is pervasive and any options to preserve "dark skies" should be valued and not compromised.

3. Facility upgrades

Bio-cultural self-guided interpretive signage: It is important that we find ways to educate our community and visitors about the value and significance of this area to help create an informed public who will want to support protection of this area for future generations. Whether it is possible to create signage which will stand the test of weather and vandalism and remain an asset to the area is difficult to say. Clearly Council would need to allocate funds for its maintenance and restoration when required or it could become a detraction from the Wetlands. There is a lot of degraded signage throughout reserves and parks in many municipalities. A future fund initiative to preserve this signage for a considerable time would be very beneficial to include in this element of the project.

We have commented extensively on the other facilities suggested in the first part of our submission above.

*We request that DECP be included in discussions about placement of any infrastructure in our licenced area so we can inform Council if there is a potential conflict in relation to location of our future signage or other features in our strategic plan. We are also very willing to contribute to conversations about information for the signage.

Additional Proposal for the Facility Upgrades

by Down's Estate Community Project Inc and Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc

1. Creation of an ecological mural on Down's Estate shed

We believe a professional standard work of art would be of significant benefit to the Rejuvenation Project.

The benefits would include:

- The establishment of an educational and artistic feature for the enjoyment of the general public passing by or by attracting specific interest in mural art. A QR code could be included.
- The enhancement of a blank building wall into a special entry or exit marker for the Seaford Wetlands.
- The lessening of attention of taggers to that building - a positive impact of the work of respected street artists being in place.
- The opportunity for this mural to be done in 2022 as there is funding available for facility upgrades.
- This mural would be an appropriate complement to the bio-cultural signage envisaged.
- Seaford is unique in having three different waterways – bay, creek and wetlands in close proximity and this mural project could play an important part in raising the environmental importance of Seaford even more significantly in the community's awareness.

Rationale:

For a long time DECP has considered that the back side of the Shed at DECP facing the path would provide a wonderful canvas for a street art type ecological mural. This idea was first suggested to FCC years ago when the Big Picture Fest had just established in Frankston. This venture is now a great success with the Frankston Street Art Tour receiving very recently the Australian Street Arts award for the Best Australian Street Art Tour. Every new piece of art in city adds to its collection and reputation as a street art destination, enhancing Frankston's cultural reputation and supporting economically beneficial tourism.

DECP business cases and strategic plan put a high priority on telling the stories, history and heritage of Down's Estate and Seaford/Frankston focusing foremost on the ecology, Aboriginal connections and the migrant experience. This mural can reference the ecological history of the Carrum Carrum Swamp as well as showcasing the endangered species and flora, fauna and birds of the Wetlands. FESWI is very supportive of a mural and interested to input on this project, having a vast photographic archive of species which can be drawn upon.

The well-known wildlife wall and silo artist Jimmy DVate was emailed last year to ask if this mural project would interest him. He said he would like to know more about it and the most recent conversation we had about this prospect was during this year's festival March 14-20. DVate has already completed two large works for Frankston City Council.

We believe the benefits and prestige of this Mural project would easily justify the costs involved. The mural should have up to a 20 year longevity as the paints now used by artists are top grade exterior paint.