

WEAVER RESERVE

WHAT WE HEARD

Thank you to everyone who participated in the initial consultation phase for Weaver Reserve. Whether you submitted feedback via the online survey, joined the online conversation, emailed us, had a conversation with the project team online at one of the online drop in sessions or left a comment on one of the social media posts all this feedback has been collated and a summary of what we heard is presented below.

Where possible, your feedback has been used to help shape the final concept plan for this project.

About the project

Over the last couple of years Council has been trialing a closure of the Esplanade between Bent Street and Pier Street. The activation of this section of the Esplanade has highlighted the need to upgrade Weaver Reserve and how it interacts with the Esplanade and Pier Street.

Currently Weaver Reserve is used by picnic and beach goers throughout the summer months. The Tuesday market utilises the reserve for its stall holders and the Altona Lifesaving Club run programs on the northern section of the reserve. Increasingly it is being used as a small intimate event space with recent examples including Summer Sounds, inflatable water slides and music events. There are also two picnic tables located in the reserve. Its connection to the Esplanade and the activations that have taken place there in the last couple of years has raised its profile as an important linkage between the Pier Street trading precinct and the foreshore.

This consultation process was undertaken alongside 5 other projects including:

- Pier Street Stage 4 Streetscape project;
- A proposed Esplanade Closure between Bent Street and Pier Street;
- The raising of the seawalls, shared trail realignment and upgrade of the Webb Street Pedestrian Beach Access;
- The Altona Beach Entry, a new Pedestrian Beach Entry at the bottom of Pier Street; and
- The Altona Pier Redevelopment, this project is being undertaken by Parks Victoria.

Council made the decision to undertake the design and consultation process for these projects collectively as these projects interact with each other and by integrating the design processes we can achieve a seamless design, providing a better outcome for the Altona community.

The concept plans presented to the community for this consultation process were developed using the information and feedback gathered from the two previous years' consultation of the Altona Beach Summer Closure trials which saw the closure of the Esplanade between Bent Street and Pier Street and the creation of parklets in Pier Street between Queen Street and the Esplanade.

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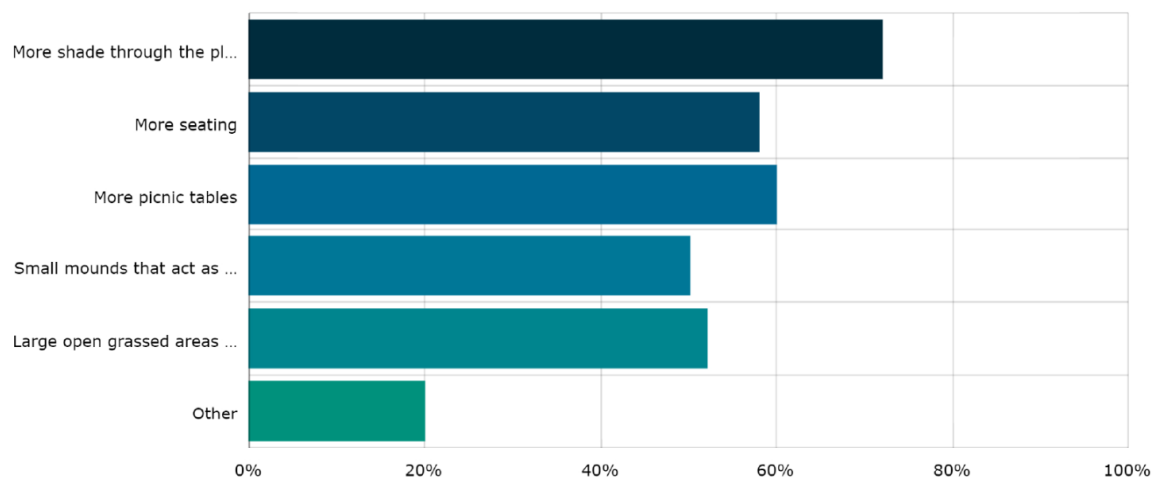
Who got involved

The consultation process for the Altona Beach Precinct ran from 26 July 2020 through to 24 August 2020. Across the five Council projects included in the Altona Beach Precinct consultation it had a reach of over 69,000 people via social media, with over 5,500 people visiting the online engagement component of the project which generated 579 responses to the consultation from 415 individual contributors. Three online community drop-in sessions were held attended by 5 people. There were also meetings with key stakeholders including the Emergency Services, AVTA, Louis Joel and the Altona Lifesaving Club.

What we heard

The wish for greater shade capacity in Weaver Reserve was a dominant theme from the consultation followed by more seating and picnic table capacity. Comments received also included the need for better connections from Weaver Reserve to the beach through a revitalised pedestrian access only Esplanade.

There is also a wish to extend the Weaver Reserve carpark across to Bent Street. This aligns with the proposal to reduce parking spaces in Pier Street Stage 4, ensuring that the overall precinct does not lose available parking spaces.



The key issues and themes that came through from the community on the upgrade to Weaver Reserve included:

- Do we need that much car parking
- Maximise green space and trees
- Maximise car parking
- More street / park furniture
- Focus on sustainable transport modes
- Close the bottom end of Pier Street to cars
- Have both exits to the carpark on Valetta Lane and Bent Street

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Next Steps

The final concept plan for Weaver Reserve Upgrade is now out for community comment. This second phase of the consultation process is to check in with the community's level of comfort on what is proposed in this space. The final concept plan reflects the direction provided by the community in the initial consultation phase held in August 2020.

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