

# ALTONA BEACH ENTRY

## WHAT WE HEARD

Thank you to everyone who participated in the initial consultation phase for the Altona Beach Entry. Whether you submitted feedback via 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

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to protecting the Altona foreshore from the effects of climate change and sea level rise, our seawalls need to be raised to a height of 2.4AHD. This reflects an approximate rise of 20 centimetres, or comparatively, the height of an existing bluestone brick along the seawall at the bottom end of Pier Street.

Currently, there is no pedestrian entry through the seawall to the main swimming beach at the bottom of Pier Street. People who choose to access the beach at this location do so by stepping over the existing seawall. Once the seawall is raised, access to the beach by this method will be more difficult. To allow for ongoing access to the beach consistent with other entry points along the foreshore, Council is proposing to design a beach entry to go up and over the seawall.

The bottom end of Pier Street is a busy section of the foreshore, stretching from Bent Street and the recently constructed vehicle access ramp at Sargood Street. This section of the foreshore is the major congregation point for beach goers in Altona. Alongside this, the lifesaving club operates an important service to the community with a patrolled beach on the eastern side of the pier. In this location the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail runs directly behind the seawall, providing a three meter wide space catering for pedestrian and cycling traffic that then intermingles with people congregating around the entry to the beach and the Altona Pier.

This consultation process was undertaken alongside 5 other projects including:

- Pier Street Stage 4 Streetscape project,
- Weaver Reserve Upgrade,
- 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 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.

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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 that were attended by 5 people. There were also meetings with key stakeholders including the Emergency Services, Altona Village Traders Association, Louis Joel and the Altona Lifesaving Club.

### What we heard

- 89% of respondents like the concept plan for the Altona Beach Entry
- 95% of respondents agree with the separation of the shared trail and the pedestrian promenade
- 78% of respondents think that picnic tables should be installed at the Altona Beach Entry
- 86% of respondents think that tiered seating should be installed
- 91% of respondents think additional trees should be planted
- 53% of respondents think that there will be a shortage in the public toilet provision if we remove the public toilet at the Lifesaving tower.
- Most people use the Weaver Reserve toilets when visiting at the beach, followed by the Logan Reserve toilets, then the toilets at Lifesaving Club Tower.

Key themes and issues from the Altona Beach Entry consultation include:

- I like it
- Like the separation of the footpath and the shared trail
- Like the tiered seating
- Pay homage to the pier and reuse the natural timbers
- Too much encroachment onto the beach
- Stop bikes from entering the precinct
- Provide better waste facilities.

### Next Steps

This project will move into detailed design phase after the designs of the Esplanade have been completed and a determination on what is happening to the Altona Pier is made. The Altona Beach Entry and the Altona Pier works will be programmed for construction within the same year. Council will continue to liaise with Parks Victoria to obtain a firmer timeline of works.

Based on community feedback, the ongoing plumbing and cleaning maintenance issues associated with the exeloo toilet at the Lifesaving Club Tower, and the need to construct a dedicated first aid room within the Lifesaving Club Tower, Council will be removing this toilet.