

ALTONA SAFE BOAT HARBOUR

WHAT WE HEARD (SEPTEMBER 2021)

The Altona Safe Boat Harbour is one of the most used boat ramp facilities in Port Phillip Bay.

The facility was identified by Council as an area due for improvements, two draft concept design options were created to present to users of the facility, as well as those who live, work or visit the Hobsons Bay municipality.



Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences, concerns, and ideas on the Altona Safe Boat harbour in August 2021. We heard from many people who live all over Hobsons Bay, as well as some outside the municipality.

Whether you attended our virtual drop-in session, submitted a survey online or contacted us directly, all feedback has been collated and a summary of what we heard is presented below.

The community engagement process

From 2 August to 20 August 2021, Council sought feedback from both water vessel and non-water vessel owners throughout Hobsons Bay and greater Melbourne to capture community concerns, thoughts and level of support for the two draft concept design options.

Due to state government restrictions at the time, only online engagement activities were on offer, including:

- **a virtual community drop-in session** via Zoom on Thursday 25 August, 6-7:30pm
- **an online survey** on the project's website on Participate Hobsons Bay
- **email and phone calls** to share feedback

These community engagement opportunities were primarily shared via Council's digital platforms. Also conducted was an initial stakeholder meeting attended by fishing club officials, key agencies such as Melbourne Water and Better Boating Victoria as well as Council officers and design consultants. This initial meeting helped shape the two design options presented to the wider community.

Who got involved

We received 116 survey submissions over the community consultation period. We also hosted conversations with and received valuable feedback from nine community members and seven key stakeholders across our virtual drop-in engagement sessions.

The feedback received was submitted by residents located within suburbs of Hobsons Bay as well as suburbs outside of the municipality.

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The majority of Hobsons Bay respondents were from Seaholme. Almost 30% of respondents selected 'other', representing suburbs outside of the municipality.

Almost 98% of respondents indicated that they were boat owners. Nearly 10% identified as owning other vessels, with a small percentage of people owning a Jet ski.

What we heard

The community were asked to share how they feel about various aspects of the two draft concept design options including; levels of support and happiness for traffic flow changes, fish cleaning tables, de-rigging areas, the four dedicated entry lanes, inset or lowered pontoons and which of the two they prefer.

Most respondents preferred option two, with reasons for this being the larger number of trailer parking in comparison to option one. Many respondents indicated option two also had better traffic flow and entry/exit points, but expressed concern in relation to the pontoons, believing they are too close together making the manoeuvrability of larger vessels difficult.

When asked to offer their level of support for the location of the fish cleaning tables, de-rigging areas and lowered freeboard pontoon, respondents ranked the location of the fish cleaning tables and de-rigging area highly with almost 60% strongly in favour for both. The lowered freeboard to accommodate Jet skis and smaller vessels was contentious with almost 48% liking the idea, 38% of respondents indicating they do not like the idea, and the remainder of respondents who answered this question were indifferent. Some concern was raised for fish cleaning debris getting into Cherry Lake and potentially producing unpleasant odours.

Next steps

Thank you to all community members who got involved and shared valuable feedback.

Council will consider all suggestions, comments and concerns alongside other relevant planning and construction considerations when formulating the detailed design for the Altona Safe Boat Harbour before sharing this with the community. This will be published on the project website, participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/altona-safe-boat-harbour.

Construction for this project is dependent on future funding from Better Boating Victoria.