

Walkerville has a small permanent population but is mainly used by seasonal campers, day visitors, holiday home residents and specific user groups such as boaters, surfers, naturalists and school groups.

Community and stakeholder consultation is an integral part of the Master Plan. The analysis phase of the project included a range of online and direct engagement activities. The results of that process are summarised below and in Appendices A & B.

## 5.1 Public engagement strategy

The Master Plan project commenced in winter 2017 and as a result the resident and visitor population was likely to be at a minimum compared to summer and Easter peaks.

Given the nature of Walkerville's resident and visitor population, online consultation was extremely important in reaching a wide spectrum of the community. The user population of Walkerville varies widely across the year and weekdays / weekends. As a result, only a small proportion of potential users will be in Walkerville at any time, particularly in winter when the day visitor and holiday home numbers are at a minimum. Hence, a significant amount of electronic based communication was necessary.

### 5.1.1 Promotion of consultation opportunities

Opportunities for the community to have an input into the Master Plan process through consultation were communicated through a range of methods, including leaflets, posters, facebook, the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve website and email.

### 5.1.2 Community meeting

Each stage of consultation involved a weekend community meeting at the Walkerville Hall. Each session was well attended and allowed community members to learn about the project and most importantly, contribute to the Master Plan process.

### 5.1.3 Online presence

Given the nature of Walkerville's population, an online presence was extremely important in reaching a wide spectrum of the community.

The four main strategies for online consultation were:

1. **Email:** A Walkerville Foreshore Master Plan email account

was set up and distributed through resident, Stakeholder and interest group networks to invite community members to events, allow people unable to attend meetings to comment on the project and to provide a point of contact for the project to which questions could be asked. The stakeholders list grew in number through out the project, continuously reaching a greater number of the community.

2. **Facebook:** A Walkerville Foreshore Master Plan Facebook page was set up prior to the first consultation session. It provided opportunities for people to gain information and share issues related to the project.
3. **Online survey:** An online survey was made available to the public during the first and second stages of consultation. Both surveys allowed those unable to attend the community sessions to express their ideas and concerns.
4. **Website:** the WFRCOM launched a website during the second stage of consultation. It provided a platform to share:
  - General information regarding the WFRCOM and its work
  - Background information on the project and its objectives
  - Notifications of upcoming consultation sessions.
  - Summaries of each project stage findings

### 5.1.4 Media communication

Information on the project, contact details and meeting dates were provided to three local / regional newspapers at each stage of consultation.

### 5.1.5 Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

The WFRCOM is comprised of Authority representatives, property owners and others with a long standing, direct connection with Walkerville.

As a part of the project brief, the committee provided a detailed list of issues and objectives related to the foreshore reserve and provided ongoing feedback through the analysis process.

As a part of this consultation process a range of public authorities were contacted for comment including:

- DELWP
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- VicRoads
- AusNet

## 5.2 Consultation stages

### 5.2.1 Stage 1 – Key analysis issues & community vision

Stage 1 of public engagement aimed to identify key community concerns and shared visions for the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve through analysis and various forms of community and stakeholder consultation.

This stage included a community drop in session at Walkerville Hall and online survey for those unable to attend.

### 5.2.2 Stage 2 - Options Evaluation

This stage will consider design principles and several strategic options for the foreshore based on design principles, stage 1 community consultation results and analysis. The intention of this consultation stage is to establish a master plan design brief that includes:

- An agreed set of site planning and design principles on which future change can be based.
- A preferred level of foreshore development or style of design response.
- Agreement on priorities for change.

### 5.2.3 Stage 3 - Master Plan

This stage will consider the draft Master Plan and allow community members to respond. The stage will aim to:

- Confirm the findings from the second consultation session with the community.
- Present an overview of the draft Master Plan.
- Give the community the opportunity to give feedback on the draft Master Plan.
- Promote conversation between community members regarding the draft Master Plan

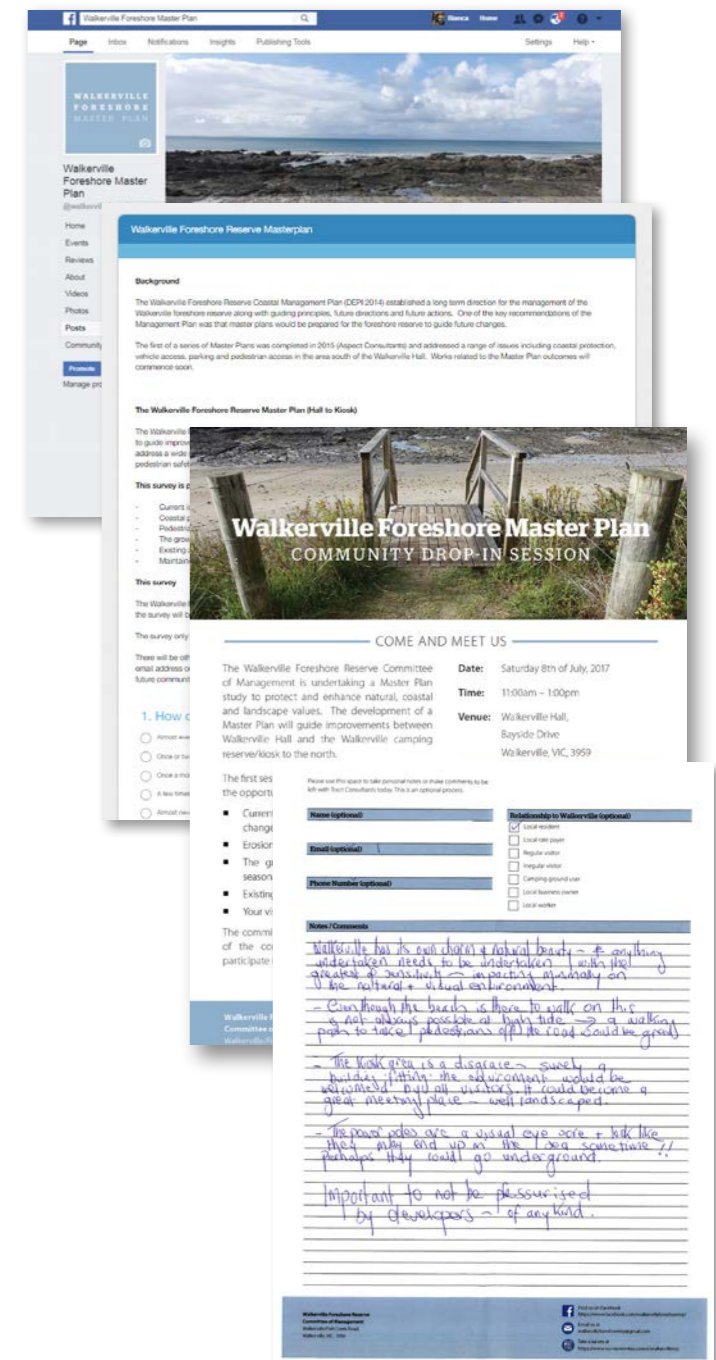


Figure 22 (From top to bottom) Screen print from the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Masterplan Facebook Group, Survey Monkey online public survey, Initial Community Consultation invitation, hard copy survey responses.

## 6.1 Promotion of consultation opportunities

Opportunities for the community to have an input into the first stage of the Master Plan process through consultation were communicated through:

- Invitation leaflets were distributed to houses within the study area and nearby residential areas. The leaflets outlined the project and the time, location and date of the drop in session. They also provided contact details for further information.
- Posters advertising the drop in session were put up in Fish Creek and Walkerville.
- A list of key stakeholders and community groups, determined by the Committee, were contacted and invited to the drop in session.
- The drop in session was advertised online via the Walkerville Foreshore Master Plan facebook page.

## 6.2 Drop in session

A well attended community session was conducted on Saturday 8th July at the Walkerville Hall. This meeting provided an opportunity for residents and stakeholder groups such as Council and the Ratepayers Association to view project analysis plans and to discuss the project with the consultant team. Participants were invited to write their thoughts on post it notes and stick them to maps of Walkerville, allowing community members to share their vision with each other and the project team.

## 6.3 Online survey

The online survey asked the public to identify a range of issues related to how they use Walkerville and what they do and don't love about Walkerville. Fifty-five individuals responded to the survey. Their full responses are available in Appendix B.

## 6.4 Media communication

One local newspaper ran an article on the project and first consultation session.



Figure 23 Community notes and responses on large format aerials of the Walkerville Foreshore area accumulated from stage 1 consultation.

## 6.5 Community concerns analysis

During the first stage of consultation, the community had the opportunity to raise concerns via four main methods – email, direct verbal comment, written response and online survey.

The following issues were reoccurring concerns raised by the community. For a full list of comments, refer to appendices A and B.

### Unique Walkerville character



Members of the Walkerville community are drawn to the coastal location due to its unique character. Many participants named Walkerville's unique character as a 'must' to be retained. Key elements of Walkerville's character discussed include its simple nature, unique quirks, natural beauty / landscape, heritage, informal atmosphere, vegetation and natural materiality. While many respondents wish to upgrade or add to the area, some argue that the site should only be maintained in order to preserve its character.

### Erosion



Existing and increasing erosion levels are a major community concern. Those who discussed the issue were in agreement that it must be addressed and a long term strategy enacted. However, the method of addressing erosion is contested within community responses.

Suggested strategies to control erosion include continued engineering solutions, the undergrounding of power lines and the use of rocks and planting to maintain dune stability.

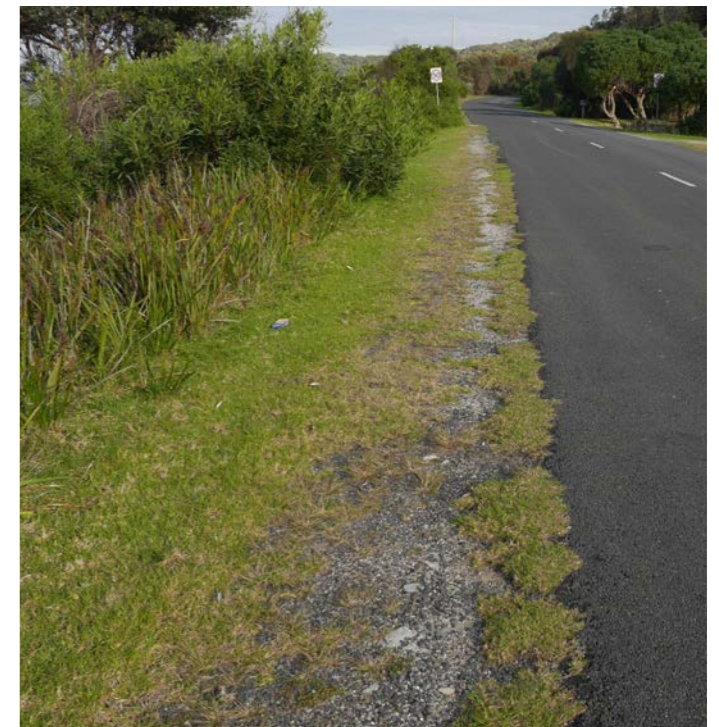
### Parking and vehicles



The priority, safety, speed and parking of vehicles is contentious within the community responses. The restricted site nature of Walkerville means space is contested. Responses request parking options that maximises beach access opportunities, including disabled parking and boat access.

A common idea was to have offsite parking and use a shuttle bus to the beach. However, responses also request that the role of cars be minimised, with lower speed limits, restricted parking, less car on the beach and reduced vehicle priority.

### Pathways and pedestrians



The safety and movement of pedestrians is consistently raised by a broad spectrum of the community. A designated pedestrian network is requested between key destinations, including the camping ground, beach access locations, Holt St and existing walking tracks. Strategic road crossing are also requested within a network. The majority of respondents would prefer an off-road equal access shared path network with elevated boardwalk sections to protect vegetation, design accommodating bike riders and way-finding signage to direct users to facilities and the beach. A fewer number of respondents request a shared pedestrian / cycle / road design.

**Public facilities and amenities**



General feedback suggests a desire for upgraded facilities and minimal number of new facilities to service basic community needs e.g. appropriately located shade / rain shelters, picnic tables, toilets, drinking fountains, bins and strategic way-finding / educational signage. Some respondents go further to request play facilities, change rooms and more BBQs. Conversely, other respondents suggest that no further facilities are added to Walkerville to maintain natural beauty. The current kiosk layout is consistently referred to as poor. Respondents suggest the kiosk be upgraded to facilitate community needs.

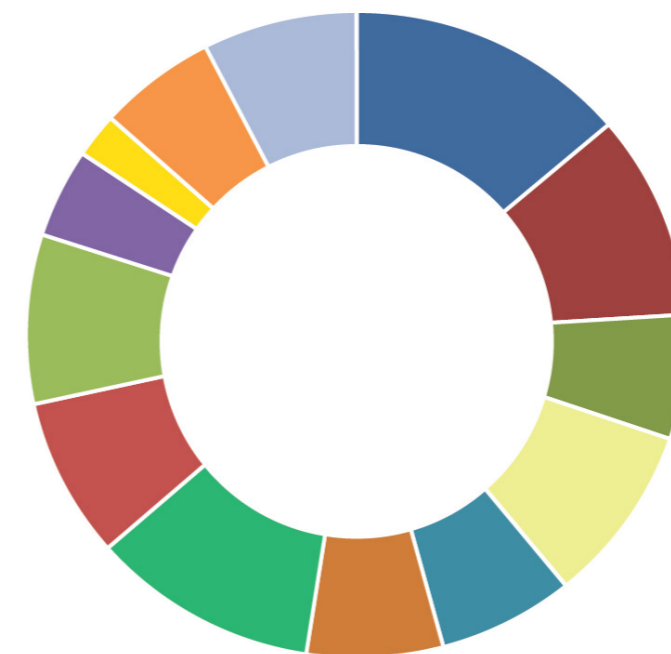
The boat ramp issues were raised but are outside the scope of this study

**Vegetation and environment**



Vegetation and environment are key to Walkerville's unique character and many respondents outlined their wish to minimise the removal of vegetation or protect all vegetation. Some respondents recognised that there are some areas of poor vegetation quality and weeds, which are in need of maintenance. Issues of climate change, creek health and drainage were also raised regarding the protection and use of Walkerville's landscape.

**What the community want to see at the Walkerville foreshore...**



- Management of beach erosion
- Improved pedestrian accessibility (for all pedestrian types, including those with disabilities)
- A shared use path (bikes & pedestrians) that runs the length of the foreshore
- More places to sit
- More amenities such as shelters, toilets, shower or changing facilities
- More BBQ or picnic amenities
- Rubbish bins
- Provision of drinking water
- More formalised, off road parking locations
- Parking restrictions in road edge locations not designated for parking
- Better street lighting
- Better signage and interpretation
- Other (please specify)

# 07 CONSULTATION - STAGE 2

Stage two of consultation aimed to:

- Confirm analysis issues with the community from the first stage of consultation.
- Identify any gaps in research and analysis to date. Two were identified - the need for a coastal processes / erosion study and increased parking / speed data.
- Discuss the design principles driving the Master Plan.
- Introduce schematic options to the community and discuss the pros and cons of each.

## 7.1 Promotion of consultation opportunities

Opportunities for the community to have an input into the second stage of the Master Plan process through consultation were communicated through:

- A list of key stakeholders were contacted and invited to the workshop. The list was determined by the Committee, community groups, online contacts and those who attended the first stage of consultation.
- The workshop was advertised online via the Walkerville Foreshore Master Plan facebook page and the WFRCOM website. The latter displayed a draft report with the schematic design options.

## 7.2 Community workshop

Approximately forty community members attended the Walkerville North Foreshore Master Plan Workshop on Saturday 7 October at the Walkerville Hall. It was an extremely productive day, full of great ideas and discussion. The session presented a number of schematic options to the community, which they had the opportunity to view prior online. Four groups of eight to ten community members discussed the pros and cons of each schematic option. A spokesperson from each group then reported their findings to the wider workshop. Individuals were given the opportunity to raise personal concerns at the end of the session.

The comments and ideas of each group were recorded through out the session and can be found in appendix C.

## 7.3 Online survey

The online survey asked the public to identify the positive and negative aspects of schematic design options for Walkerville North Foreshore. Thirty-seven individuals responded to the survey. Their full responses are available in Appendix D.

## 7.4 Media communication

Two local newspaper ran an article on the second consultation session.



Figure 24 Stage 2 consultation workshop

## 7.5 Community concerns analysis

### 7.5.2 Option A

Option A is a minimal change scheme that focuses on maintaining the site ecology and character of Walkerville while connecting users to the beach.

#### Workshop

During the workshop, zero groups chose option A as preferred. Groups 3 and 4 found it difficult to decide on a preferred option due to the complexity of issues. However, they both agreed that Option A was not appropriate. Neither group 1 or 2 chose A as their preferred option.

Reasons for the lack of support included:

- The Waratah St Hub was not included in the scheme, including toilets, parking and picnic area.
- Many commented that it did not combat coastal erosion adequately.

#### Online survey

In juxtaposition to the workshop, Option A was the most preferred option in the online survey, with five out of nine people ranking it first out of options A, B and C.

The graph below illustrates the perceived positive and negative elements of option A, as dictated by online survey. Results show:

- The option maintains Walkerville's character.
- Similar to the workshop, there is concern regarding the management of coastal erosion.
- The majority found beach access to be desirably located.
- Safety was potentially not increased.

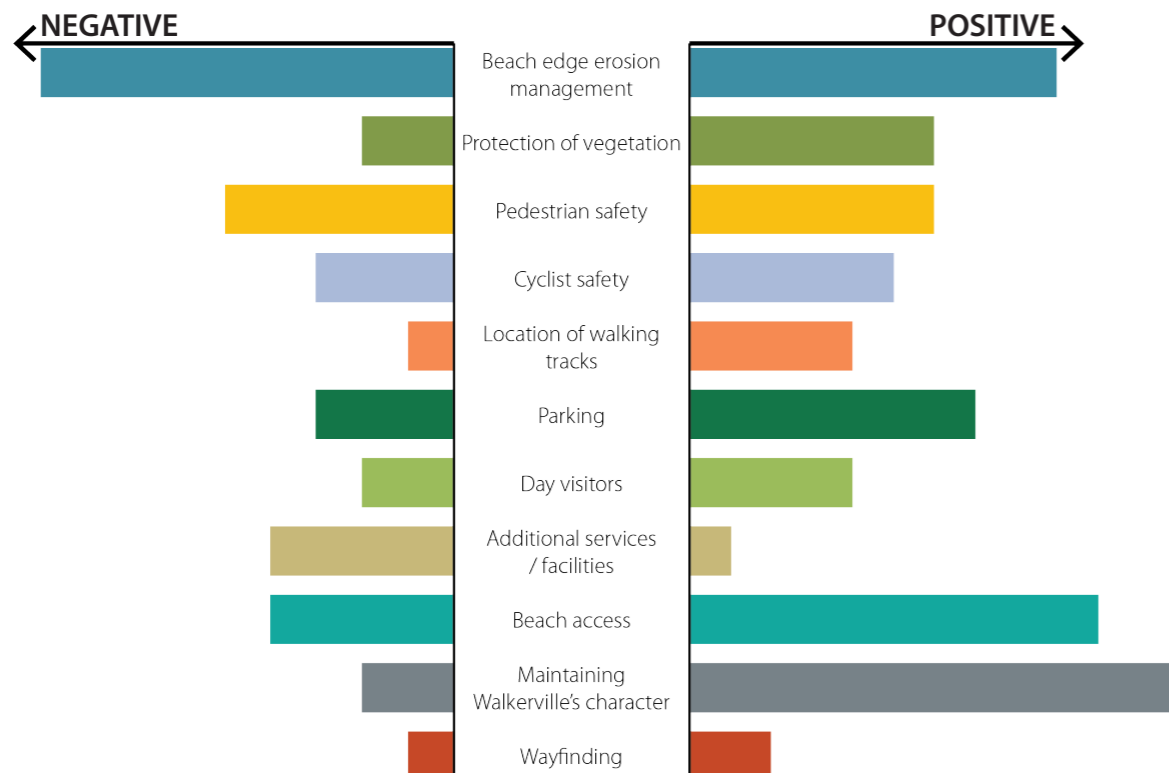


Figure 25 Stage 2 online survey response to option A

### 7.5.1 Option B Pros and Cons

Option B is an intermediate level of change between Option A and Option C. It focuses on maintaining the character of Walkerville while increasing beach access, implementing a hub system of activity areas and introducing a north-south walkway along the proposed seawall and sections of road.

#### Workshop

During the workshop, it was the proffered option of group 1, a possibility for group 2 and not ruled out by groups 3 and 4.

Many of the community approved of its management of coastal erosion, the increased safety, walking tracks and parking.

Major concerns voiced during the workshop included:

- The scheme involves the removal of vegetation at the Waratah St hub and the potential removal of vegetation for walking tracks.

- That increased sea walls and road side walking paths will diminish the character of Walkerville.
- The concept of a north - south walkway from the camping ground to the Hall raised concerns with some community members. They argue that there is not sufficient need for the path and that the beach is generally usable instead. These concerns were raised regarding the sections of road-side paths. The concept of a path along the top of a sea wall was well regarded.

#### Online survey

Option B was the second choice of seven out of eight people in the online survey. The graph below illustrates the perceived positive and negative elements of option B, as dictated by online survey.

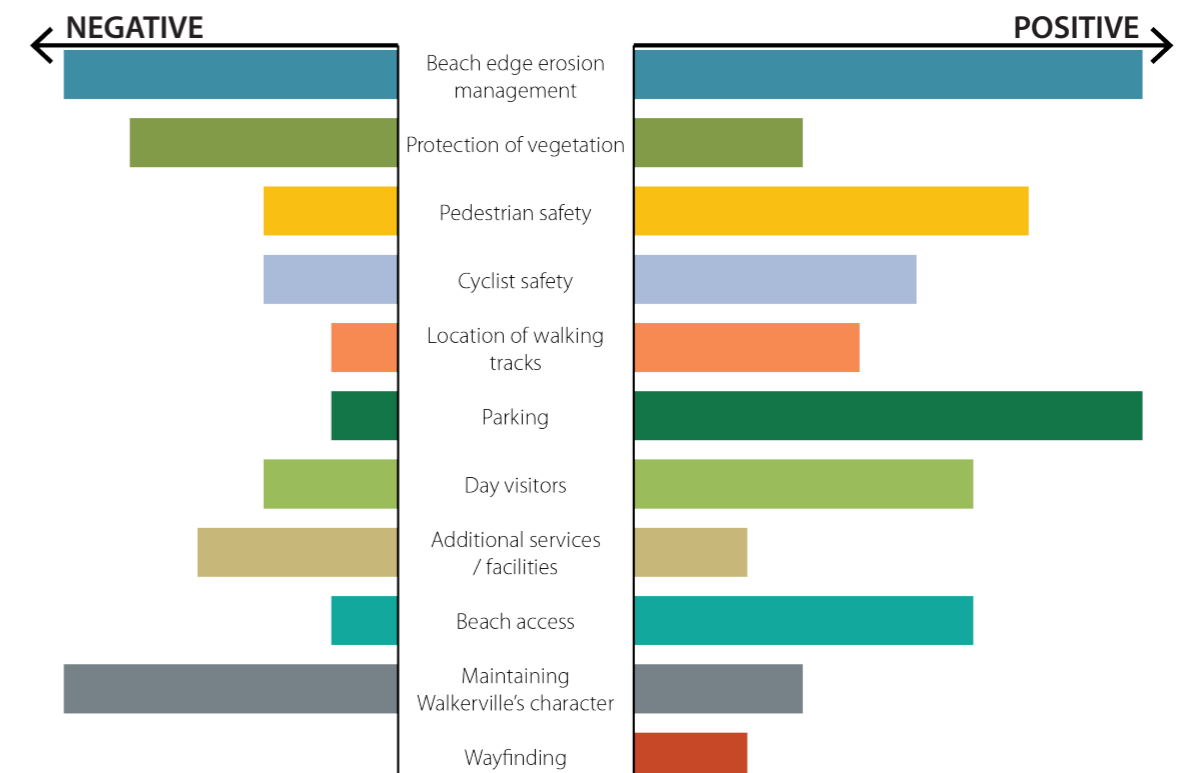


Figure 26 Stage 2 online survey response to option B

### 7.5.3 Option C Pros and Cons

Option C offers the most change of the three overall schematic options. It proposes a seawall for the extent of the beach, a north-south walkway, increased facilities within hub activity areas and additional parking.

#### Workshop

During the workshop, only one group considered option C as viable (along with option B).

While option C provides the most facilities and upgrades, it was widely considered to create a negative change to the character of Walkerville. The element of a sea wall from the camping ground to the Hall was polarising within discussions. Some argue that it is necessary for erosion control while others argue that its extent is unjustified.

#### Online survey

Four out of eight people chose option C as their preferred option in the online survey. The graph below illustrates the perceived positive and negative elements of option C, as dictated by online survey. The scheme has positive responses to most elements. However, similar to the workshop, there is major concern regarding change to Walkerville's character.

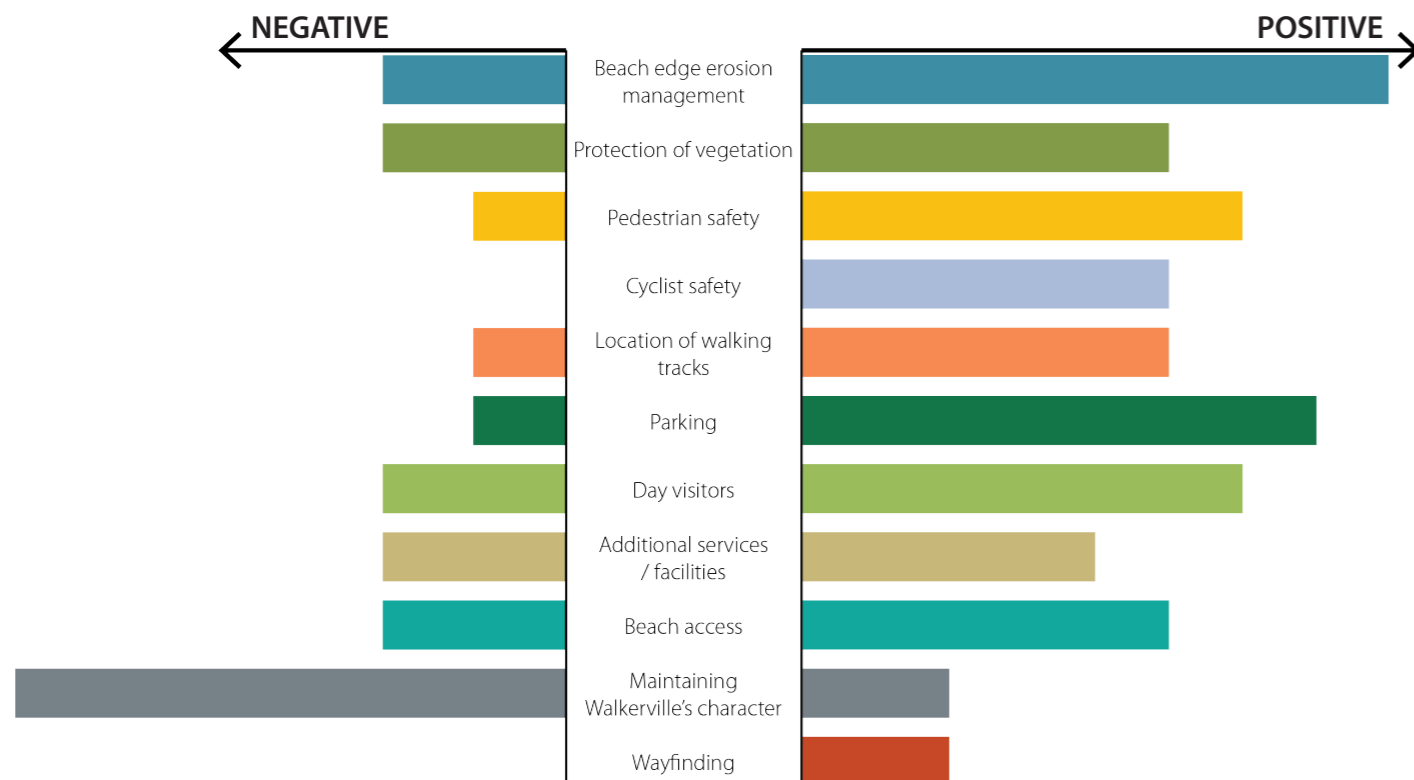


Figure 27 Stage 2 online survey response to option C

### 7.5.4 Option D Pros and Cons

Option D is a zoomed in schematic, offering an alternative layout to the camping ground entrance and kiosk area. It includes a new sea wall, with increased parking, the re-location of the kiosk to the existing Manager's house, a network of paths and a new Manager's House.

#### Workshop

In the workshop, groups 1 and 2 preferred Option D for the camping ground, while group 3 was undecided.

The majority of workshop participants agreed that improvements were necessary to the camping ground entrance. Increasing safety, wayfinding, protecting vegetation and upgrading facilities were the biggest drivers brought up by community members.

#### Online survey

In the online survey, six out of eight people identified option D as most favourable between option D and E. The graph below illustrates the perceived positive and negative elements of option D, as dictated by online survey. Results show:

- Similar to the workshop, there is concern regarding the management of coastal erosion.
- Option D offers more parking than Option E, however is perceived to be more detrimental to Walkerville's character.

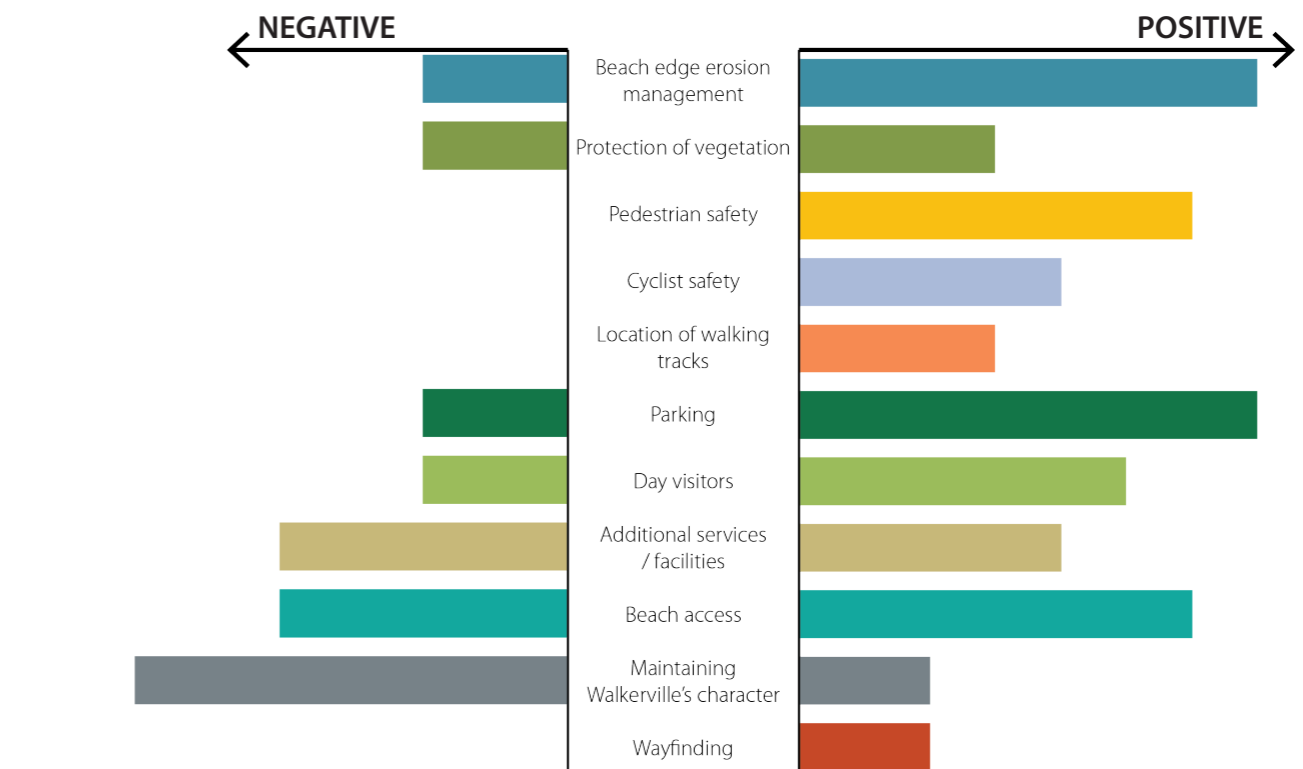


Figure 28 Stage 2 online survey response to option D

**7.5.5 Option E Pros and Cons**

Option E is a zoomed in schematic, offering an alternative layout to the camping ground entrance and kiosk area. It includes a new seawall, relocation of the kiosk to the south west of the existing Manager’s House on the non-seaside and a network of paths.

**Workshop**

In the workshop, group 4 preferred Option E for the camping ground, while group 3 was undecided.

The majority of workshop participants agreed that improvements were necessary to the camping ground entrance. Increasing safety, wayfinding, protecting vegetation and upgrading facilities were the biggest drivers brought up by community members.

**Online survey**

Two out of eight people identified option E as most favourable between option D and E in the online survey. The graph below illustrates the perceived positive and negative elements of option E.

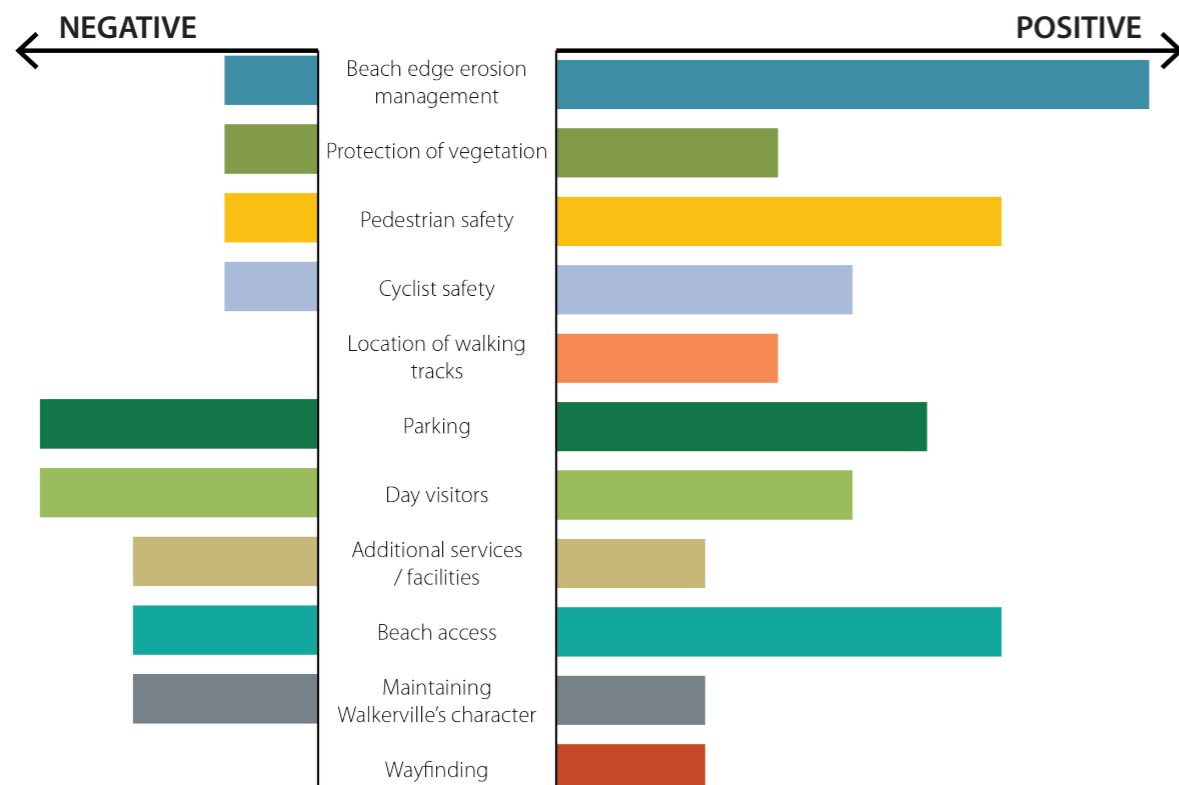


Figure 29 Stage 2 online survey response to option E



Stage three of consultation aimed to:

- Confirm the findings from the second consultation session with the community.
- Present an overview of the draft Master Plan.
- Give the community the opportunity to give feedback on the draft Master Plan.
- Promote conversation between community members regarding the draft Master Plan

### 8.1 Promotion of consultation opportunities

Opportunities for the community to have an input into the third stage of the Master Plan process through consultation were communicated through:

- A list of key stakeholders were contacted and invited to the workshop. The list was determined by the Committee, community groups, online contacts and those who attended the first two stage of consultation.
- The workshop was advertised online via the Walkerville Foreshore Master Plan facebook page and the WFRCOM website. The latter displayed a draft report with the Master Plan designs.

### 8.2 Community feedback session

Approximately thirty-two community members attended the Walkerville North Foreshore Master Plan Feedback Session on Saturday 14 April at the Walkerville Hall. The feedback session reviewed the site planning and design principles of the project before providing an overview of the draft Master Plan Design. Community members were then given the opportunity to view the draft Master Plan material individually and give feedback. A valuable discussion ensued in which community members were able discuss their opinions and hear others points of view. Community feedback was recorded throughout the session and can be found in appendix H.

### 8.3 Online survey and responses

The online survey asked the public their opinion of key aspects of the draft Master Plan design for Walkerville North Foreshore. Thirteen individuals responded to the survey. Their full responses are available in Appendix I. Additionally, nine individuals sent responses via email.

### 8.4 Community comments analysis

The following outlines the major topics discussed by the community during stage 3 consultation and the main views expressed by different groups and individuals.

#### 8.4.1 Principles

There was a general consensus that the design principles in the draft Master Plan were positive. However, a number of community members argued that the design does not represent the principles, specifically the level of development and environmental impacts.

#### 8.4.2 Hub System

The concept of a hub system is generally well liked. Some community members have however argued that the Waratah St Hub is unnecessary and a poor outcome for Walkerville's character. At the stage 3 consultation feedback session, 18 people voted it was a good idea, two were unsure and six believed it was a bad idea. The group also voted nineteen to six that a toilet block at the Waratah St Hub was a good idea.

#### 8.4.3 Development Level

Excess development is generally viewed as detrimental to Walkerville's character by the community. The definition of 'excess development' was not agreed upon within consultation comments. Some argue that formalised parking at Waratah St is excess development and others argue that the Kiosk on

the sea-side Bayside Dr is excess development. At the stage 3 consultation feedback session, nineteen to four community members voted that they were comfortable with the Kiosk and camping ground entrance design.

#### 8.4.4 Ecological systems and the Sea Rock Wall

The majority of the community agrees that coastal erosion is an issue in North Walkerville, however an appropriate response has not been agreed upon. Some accepted that a continuous sea rock wall may occur, others were unhappy with the outlook and a minority argued that erosion control was not necessary. Many members of the community found it difficult to draw a resolved conclusion with the lack of detailed information as to the walls necessity, time line and location. It was widely agreed that a detailed engineering study is necessary for the area regarding coastal erosion and possible responses.

#### 8.4.5 Path network and safety

Throughout the consultation process the topic of pedestrian and cyclist safety has been prevalent. Many have argued that shared use zone along Bayside Drive would be beneficial to the community and safety. A number of community members also noted that it is necessary to consider the wider path network to Prom Views and South Walkerville.

#### 8.4.6 Staging and implementation

A number of community member expressed a need for a detailed staging plan and process of implementation for the Master Plan. Erosion in close proximity to Bayside Drive was brought up as a key concern with a need for immediate action.

#### 8.4.7 Maintenance

Some community members expressed concern with the maintenance required for the level of development. The materiality of the plan was also questioned by some for its suitability for Walkerville North.



Figure 30 Stage 3 consultation workshop