

Camping Reserve Master Plan

November, 2024

Public Consultation Document



Walkerville Camping Reserve Master Plan (WCRMP) Public Consultation – November 2024

Background

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management (WFRCoM) manages the Walkerville Foreshore Reserve on behalf of the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA). The reserve, a narrow strip of coastal land bordered by the sea to the east and the hills of the Cape Liptrap Coastal Reserve to the west, is recognised for its environmental and landscape values of State Significance. With increasing visitor numbers and limited space, there is growing pressure on the reserve's amenities.

In 2018, the Walkerville North Master Plan (WNMP) outlined management strategies for the broader Walkerville Foreshore, including recommendations for improving the camping reserve's entry and kiosk. However, with recent updates to the Coastal and Marine Act, Coastal and Marine Policy, and Coastal and Marine Strategy, some of these recommendations need to be reviewed to ensure they comply with the new legislation. These updates have made it necessary for the Committee to prepare a new **Walkerville Camping Reserve Master Plan (WCRMP)**, which will incorporate and reconsider recommendations from the previous foreshore master plan.

Particular attention is being given to the camping reserve entry, kiosk facilities, and associated car parking as part of the new master plan, ensuring that these elements align with both the Committee's vision and current regulatory requirements.

Vision for the Walkerville Camping Reserve

Our vision is to preserve a peaceful environment where the natural, cultural, and landscape values are respected, ensuring that only essential infrastructure and facilities are introduced. All suggested improvements should align with this vision, maintaining the natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere of the reserve.

Community Input and Consultation

The Committee has identified several areas where improvements could enhance the reserve's amenities while protecting its unique character. These areas have been informed by camper feedback, and we now seek input from the wider community. We invite suggestions for any other improvements that could further enhance the reserve while aligning with the overall vision.

Key Areas for Consideration

The following areas have been identified for potential improvement:

- **Camping Reserve Entry:**
 - **Disabled Parking & Congestion:** There is a need to improve parking at the camping reserve entrance, particularly for disabled access. Discussions have explored limiting cars within the reserve to reduce congestion.
 - **Traffic Flow:** Due to a lack of formal walking paths, pedestrians are forced to walk on the road, creating a safety risk. The Committee is considering solutions to improve pedestrian safety.
 - **Repurposing BBQ Spaces:** The Committee is evaluating the current use of BBQ areas and may repurpose some of these spaces to increase parking capacity.
- **Kiosk:**
 - **Upgrades:** The Committee is considering upgrading the kiosk. One of the options being considered is an all-inclusive building that would house an office, a toilet block, and the kiosk. This may allow for better functionality, including a commercial kitchen and outdoor seating with a covered area. However, other options with separate facilities are also being considered to ensure flexibility and address any potential concerns.
 - **Community Amenity:** The kiosk is also a gathering place for locals and should be designed to enhance this function, serving both campers and the wider community effectively.
- **Toilet Block Upgrades:**
 - **Accessibility & Modernisation:** Toilet Block 1 requires significant upgrades due to high use. The Committee is considering installing facilities that prioritise accessibility, ensuring that all visitors, including those with disabilities, have suitable amenities.
 - **Laundry Facilities:** The current laundry facilities are outdated and need upgrading, possibly including septic system improvements.
- **Office:**
 - **Future Changes:** The current location and function of the office are under review, with considerations for future functionality and operational needs.
- **House and Workshop:**
 - **Planning Considerations:** The house and workshop need to be reviewed in relation to any changes made to Toilet Block 1, the kiosk, and parking. The house is currently liveable, but future planning will dictate its role.
- **Amenity and Infrastructure:**
 - **Toilet Block Upgrades:** Outdoor rinse-off areas are being considered, and all toilet blocks need to be upgraded to ensure wheelchair accessibility.
 - **Cabin Upgrades:** The Committee is reviewing the condition of cabins and may replace or upgrade them to meet current standards, ensuring they are accessible for visitors with mobility issues.
 - **Campsite Boundaries:** Clearly defining campsite boundaries is a priority to ensure proper management and use.

- **Powered Sites:** Reviewing the safety of powered sites and determining the ideal ratio of powered to unpowered sites is being considered to maintain the natural character of the reserve.
- **Visitor Numbers:** The Committee is evaluating the impact of the number of people and vehicles per site to ensure facilities can handle capacity without compromising safety or the visitor experience.
- **Renewable Energy:** Exploring the feasibility of installing solar power and rainwater collection systems to reduce the environmental impact of the facilities.
- **Potable Water:** Investigating options for providing filtered potable water on-site, including risk management and compliance with safety standards.
- **Resilience Centre/Hub:** Collaborating with the community to explore the possibility of establishing a resilience centre or hub within the reserve.
- **Communal Fireplaces:** The Committee is also considering the installation of communal fireplaces located away from campsites. This option could allow for controlled campfires during declared fire danger periods, providing an alternative in light of potential restrictions on fires at individual campsites. This would ensure safety while still allowing visitors to enjoy a campfire experience.
- **Environment:**
 - **Vegetation Plan:** The detailed vegetation plan will be integrated into the master plan, addressing tree audits, erosion control, and sea level rise.
 - **Rubbish Disposal & Grey Water:** The Committee is considering implementing a grey water policy and improving waste disposal and recycling to reduce the environmental footprint.
 - **Bushfire Planning:** Developing strategies for bushfire protection and reviewing campfire regulations to ensure visitor safety and environmental protection.
 - **Pest Animal Control & Native Animal Welfare:** Implementing pest control measures while ensuring the welfare of native animals is prioritised.
- **Access:**
 - **Beach Access:** Improving access to the beach, particularly for people with mobility issues, is a key consideration. The Committee is exploring options for ramps and providing all-terrain wheelchairs for visitors.
 - **Road and Path Maintenance:** Maintaining the unsealed road for a bush camping feel is a priority, though sections near the reserve entrance may be sealed for practical purposes.
 - **All-Ability Facilities:** The Committee is considering upgrades to picnic tables, paths, and other facilities to ensure they are accessible to visitors with mobility challenges.

Seeking Your Feedback

We encourage community members to share their thoughts on these proposed improvements and to suggest any additional ideas for enhancing the camping reserve. All feedback should align with our vision of maintaining a peaceful, nature-based environment, ensuring that any developments respect the natural beauty of the Walkerville Foreshore.

Next Steps

 **Submissions Open:** Friday 22nd November

 **Submissions Close:** Friday 20th December

Once feedback is collected, the Committee will work with consultants to develop the final Walkerville Camping Reserve Master Plan. This will ensure that community input is reflected while complying with all relevant policies and protecting the natural charm of the reserve.

To provide feedback or for more information, please contact the Walkerville Foreshore Committee of Management:

- Email: admin@walkervilleforeshore.com.au

We look forward to hearing your ideas and working together to protect and enhance the Walkerville Camping Reserve for future generations.