



Barwon
Coast

Draft Caravan & Camping Parks Master Plan

Community consultation report

December 2023





Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the land, waters, seas and skies of Collendina, Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads 13th Beach and Breamlea. We honour and say Nyatne (thank you) to Elders past, present and future whose ancestors, for thousands of years, have cared for this part of Dja (Country)



Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc. (Barwon Coast) is appointed by the Victorian State Government to manage 19km of the coast along Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula. This includes the beaches and foreshores of Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, 13th Beach, and Breamlea.

In partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Barwon Coast's charter is to protect and enhance the natural environment and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy these areas.

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Introduction

Barwon Coast has developed a ten-year Master Plan for its caravan parks and camping areas. This covers the Breamlea Caravan Park, Barwon Heads Caravan Park, Riverview Family Caravan Park and Riverside Campground. The Master Plan sets the direction for improvements to the parks over the next ten years, and guides the long term mix of accommodation types and sites available to ensure a range of accessible camping and visitor experiences.

This project was undertaken with guidance from the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. Campers, the local community, and other foreshore users are also important stakeholders, and input from these groups was a valuable part of the process.

This report provides information on the overall community engagement approach and what was heard from the public consultation period in 2023.

Overview of consultation approach



Between late 2021 and early 2022, Barwon Coast undertook a number of camper, community group, staff, Committee and stakeholder engagement activities to gather background information and identify opportunities for improvements to the caravan parks to inform the draft Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan.



The draft Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan was available for public comment for 6 weeks (21 August – 2 October 2023) on the Barwon Coast website. Information sessions were also held for twelve-month permit campers and community members during this time.



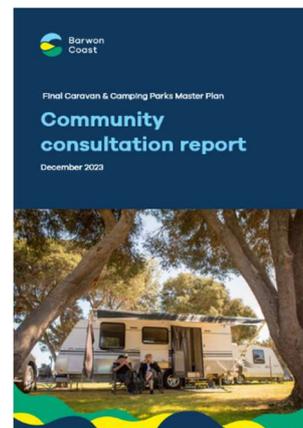
Over the public consultation period, Barwon Coast received 97 completed surveys and 15 email submissions and spoke to over 270 people at the camper and community information sessions.



The final Barwon Coast Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan, released in late 2023, was refined and informed by community, camper and stakeholder input.

Engagement summary

-  Spoke to 260+ campers and community members
-  7 drop-in information sessions
-  97 survey responses
-  15 email submissions
-  6 community stakeholder groups consulted
-  9+ staff and committee consultation sessions
-  1,080 visits to the project webpage



Community survey 2023 summary

The community survey was open for a six-week period (from Monday 21 August until Monday 2 October) and aimed to gather feedback on the draft Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan.

The survey was promoted on Barwon Coast’s website, social media platforms, social and print advertising and at face-to-face events. Overall, there were 97 survey responses, 97% of whom noted they had read some or all of the draft Master Plan.

Below is a snapshot of some of the key responses.

Connection to the Barwon Coast caravan parks and campground

I camp at Barwon Coast’s caravan park/s and/or campground.	I live in the local area.	I am a regular visitor to the townships and beaches of Barwon Coast.	I am a past or current twelve-month permit holder.	Other (please specify):
24%	23%	16%	28%	7%

A lot of respondents were interested in the Breamlea and Barwon Heads caravan parks, and some were interested in the caravan park and campground at Ocean Grove.

Breamlea Caravan Park	Barwon Heads Caravan Park	Riverview Family Caravan Park	Riverside Campground
36%	36%	18%	11%

Support for the Vision and Guiding Principles

75% of people of respondents indicated they were 'extremely', 'very' or 'somewhat' supportive of the vision, and 82% said they were extremely, very or somewhat supportive of the Guiding Principles.

Key actions

We asked respondents to tell us which key action (per park), would most improve thier experience, and the most popular responses were:

Caravan Park	Key action (% of people who responded to the question)
Breamlea Caravan Park	Redevelopment of the toilet blocks and laundry (65%)
Barwon Heads Caravan Park	Other Key Action from draft Master Plan (50%) - Vehicle access, pedestrian safety and traffic management for the Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club
Riverside Campground (Ocean Grove)	Upgrade of camping toilet/shower facilities (including removal of septic systems and connection to sewerage) (50%)
Riverview Family Caravan Park (Ocean Grove)	Upgrade/redevelop toilet blocks (24%)

We received 36 responses about additional key actions.

Other feedback

We also received 48 responses about the proposed layouts of the campgrounds, and 49 responses with other comments and feedback, some containing multiple themes or ideas.

Key themes about we heard throughout the consultation, and how it was considered in the final Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan, in set out in the next section.

How you helped shape the Final Master Plan

Here we share the feedback themes we heard during our community consultation about the draft Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan, and how it was considered in the Final Master Plan.

Breamlea Caravan Park

You said

Themes from the consultation

Many twelve-month permit holders said they prefer the layout of caravan park with twelve-month permit sites and casual sites mixed together across the park (to support connection with family and friends), rather than the proposal to arrange them in separate areas (to support better servicing and infrastructure management).

Feedback indicated that some campers would prefer the playground in its current position rather than the proposal to move it nearer the recreation room.

Priority of key actions:

1. Redevelopment of the toilet blocks and laundry.
2. Development of a new playspace area.
3. Refurbishment of the recreation room.

We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Master Plan

The final Master Plan has been amended based on this feedback. The Master Plan now includes a 'mixed camping area' to the site layout of the park.

Whilst the reorganising of camp sites remains a long-term aspiration, this natural change can occur organically as opportunities arise, and through the issuing and allocation of permits via the Sale of Vans and Annex process.

The location of the future playspace has been updated to reflect this feedback. The playground will be relocated so it stays closer to the current playground location and nearer to the camp kitchen facilities in this area of the park.

Community preferences for implementing priority actions will be considered during the development of the Operational Implementation Plan.

Barwon Heads Caravan Park

You said

Themes from the consultation

Change the location of proposed built accommodation behind the Multi Purpose Facility (MPF).

Improve vehicle access and traffic management around the football oval during the football season.

Priority of key actions:

1. Toilet block redevelopment.
2. Upgrade/redevelopment of the camp kitchens.
3. Upgrade of BBQ and picnic area.

We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Master Plan

The Master Plan has been amended to remove proposed built accommodation classification from the area behind the 'Multi-Purpose Function building'. This area will continue to be used for seasonal or casual camping.

Barwon Coast and the Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club will continue to work closely together to address traffic management issues relating to caravan park users and football/netball users. This action has been removed from the Master Plan list so it can be managed more efficiently as part of the regular ongoing communications between the Barwon Coast and the Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club.

Community preferences for implementing priority actions will be considered during the development of the Operational Implementation Plan.

Riverside Campground

You said

Themes from the consultation

Strong support for upgrading the camping toilet/showers, removal of septic systems and connection to sewer.

We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Master Plan

The final Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan retains a key action to progress and implement the removal of old septic systems, connection to sewer and replacement of the toilet and shower facilities. Barwon Coast are seeking funds and grants from the federal and state government to implement these key actions.

Protecting the landscape character of Bukareeyoo particularly as a loved community asset that supports connection to nature.

The Master Plan has been amended to include further information about protecting the landscape character of Bukareeyoo.

A shared path through Bukareeyoo/Riverside campground.

The final Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan retains a key action to improve signage and wayfinding for shared paths.

Support actions of the *Barre Warre Yulluk* (Rivers of the Barwon) Action Plan.

Barwon Coast will continue to work with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to support the actions from the *Barre Warre Yulluk* Action Plan.

Barwon Coast will also work closely with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to confirm joint actions and implementation of the Kitjarra-dja- bul Bullarto-langi-ut (Barwon River) Masterplan

Priority of key actions:

1. Upgrade of camping toilet/shower facilities.
2. Create year-round public facilities including upgraded toilet/shower and BBQ area.
3. Improved signage and wayfinding for shared paths.
4. Enhanced picnic facilities and clearer parking.

Community preferences for implementing priority actions will be considered during the development of the Operational Implementation Plan.

Riverview Family Caravan Park

You said

Themes from the consultation

Improve care of the native flora and fauna.

We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Master Plan

The final Master Plan includes Guiding Principal 2, 'Protect and enhance the environmental values', which will remain a key focus over the life of the Master Plan.

Some survey respondents were keen to see the Ocean Grove Park Run operate at the caravan park (along the path) during four weeks of the summer season.

Barwon Coast is focussed on providing safety for campers and runners at this extremely busy time of the summer season. Given this, it remains appropriate that Park Run is paused from using this specific location at Riverview for four weeks. Barwon Coast will continue to connect with Park Run organisers and encourage them to investigate alternative sites in Ocean Grove during these four weeks.

Priority of key actions:

1. Upgrade/redevelop toilet blocks.
2. Improve playspace and social areas (near twelve-month permit area).
3. Improve social activity hub and playspace (near casual camping area).

Community preferences for implementing priority actions will be considered during the development of the Operational Implementation Plan.

All parks

You said

Themes from the consultation

Overall support for vision and guiding principles.

Clarity about process and timing of 'sale of vans' policy.

Clarity on the process and timing of casual campsite allocation.

Affordability of camping and permit fees.

We did

How this feedback was considered in the final Master Plan

The final Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan has retained the vision and Guiding Principles.

The Sale of Vans policy is not a part of the Master Plan; however, camper and community feedback has resulted in expediting the Committee's review of this policy. We will share the outcome with campers in coming months.

How campsites are allocated sits outside the Master Plan, we will ensure this process is communicated clearly in the future.

Fees and charges are reviewed annually by the Committee of Management. Community feedback will be shared with the Committee to help inform future discussions.

Thank you

Barwon Coast would like to acknowledge every community member, community group and stakeholder group that helped shape the final Master Plan. The caravan parks and campground we are responsible for managing are incredibly special places, and the community consultation period demonstrated the strong connection between community members and these special parts of the Barwon Coast reserve.

Thank you for helping us care for the coast.

Next steps

The Master Plan is to be implemented over the next ten years. The two major implementation components are changes in the reorganisation of campsites and infrastructure improvements.

More information around the implementation can be found in the final Caravan and Camping Parks Master Plan on our website at www.barwoncoast.com.au/projects/masterplan



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