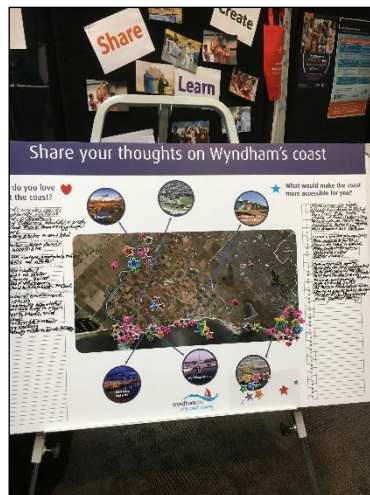


# NDIS Coastal Accessibility Community Engagement Survey

JULY 2018

The Wyndham Coastal Accessibility Community Engagement Session was hosted on June 7, 2018 at the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Expo in Hoppers Crossing. The aim of the session was to develop a better understanding of how people with disabilities currently access coastal areas and what would make coastal sites more accessible to them. Over 80 disability support service agencies were present at the Expo and participants attended to collect information for their use under the NDIS program. The engagement session was hosted as a joint exercise between Wyndham Council and Parks Victoria Rangers from parks in Melbourne Western suburbs. Engagement methods included a mapping exercise and questionnaires.



## 1. Survey Demographics

A total of 43 participants completed the questionnaire and 88 additional comments were received regarding coastal accessibility. Survey respondents were predominately women, being 79% female and 21% male and were either living with a disability or caring for a person with a disability. 31% of respondents were aged 45-55 years and 26% were aged 35-44 and 55-64 years. Over 88% of respondents lived in Wyndham and 12% were visitors to the area. Over 60 % of respondents had lived in Wyndham for over 10 years suggesting long term residents were well represented in the survey sample, as indicated below.

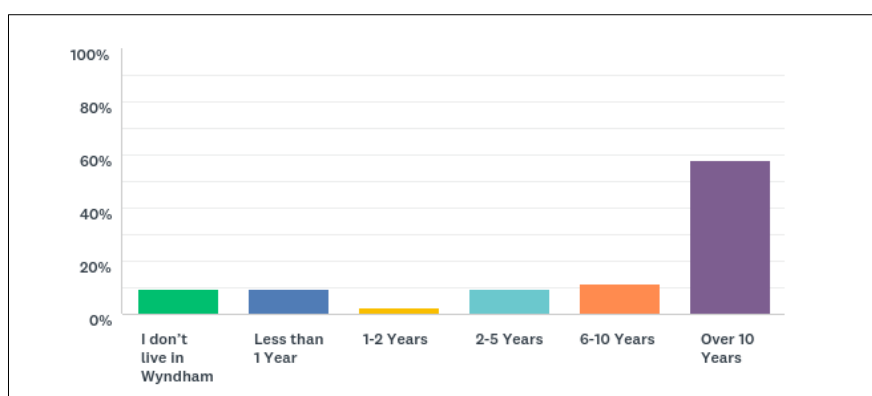


Table 1- If you live in Wyndham, how long have you lived here?

## 2. Most Visited Coastal Sites

The most frequently visited coastal sites were Werribee South Beach and Boat Ramp and Wyndham Harbour, which were commonly visited several times a year. Campbells Cove and Baileys Beach and the KRoad Cliffs were the most rarely visited sites or where participants had most commonly never been. No sites were visited on a daily basis and only a few were visited 2-3 times a week. Very few respondents visited coastal sites on a monthly basis, suggesting most participants do not currently access coastal sites on a frequent or regular basis.

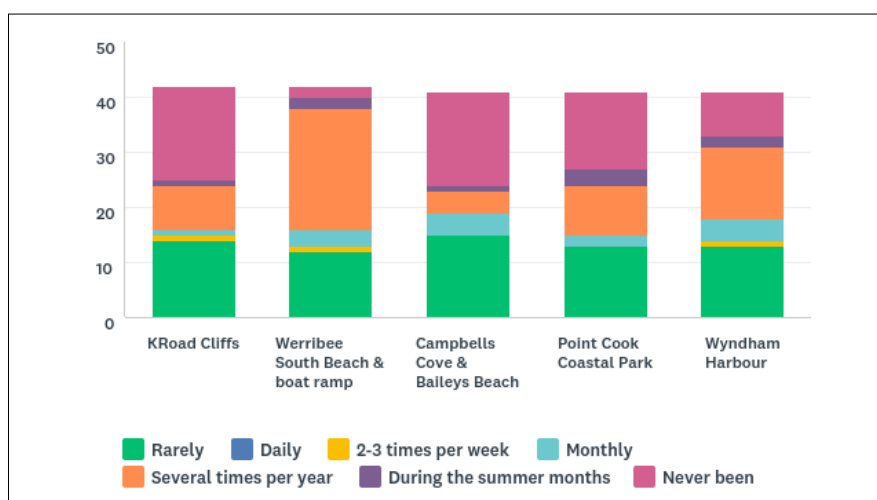


Table 2 – What places on the Wyndham Coast have you been to and how often do you visit?

## 3. What do you love most about the Wyndham coastline?

A total of 36 respondents shared what they love most about the Wyndham coastline. Responses suggest that connecting with the coastal environment and nature, enjoying outdoor activities and the ability to use community recreation facilities are the most valued attributes of the Wyndham coastline. Respondents most commonly identified enjoying the views out over the water, the natural and unspoilt environment and the birdlife amongst what they love most about the Wyndham coastline.

Value	Theme	No. of comments
Connecting with the coastal environment and nature	Views out over the water	7
	Is natural, unspoilt, under developed	5
	Birdlife	5
	Quiet & relaxing	3
	Open space & freedom to explore	2
Activities	Walking	3
	Fishing	2
	Dog walking	1
Facilities	Picnics and barbecue facilities	2
	Is accessible	2
	Playgrounds	4

#### 4. Most accessible coastal sites

Respondents indicated that Wyndham Harbour (51%), Werribee South Beach and Boat Ramp (46%) and Point Cook Coastal Park (32%) are the most accessible coastal sites for people living with disabilities. The least accessible coastal site was K Road Cliffs (16%), followed by Campbells Cove and Baileys Beach (19%), which is consistent with low levels of visitation indicated in Question 5 discussed on page 1.

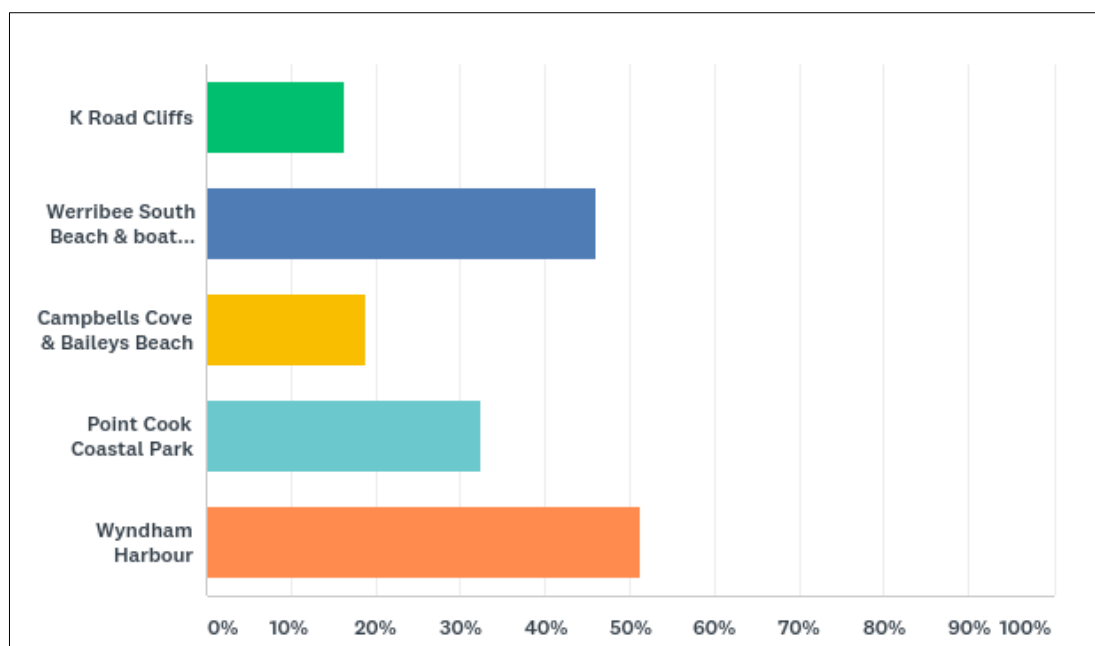
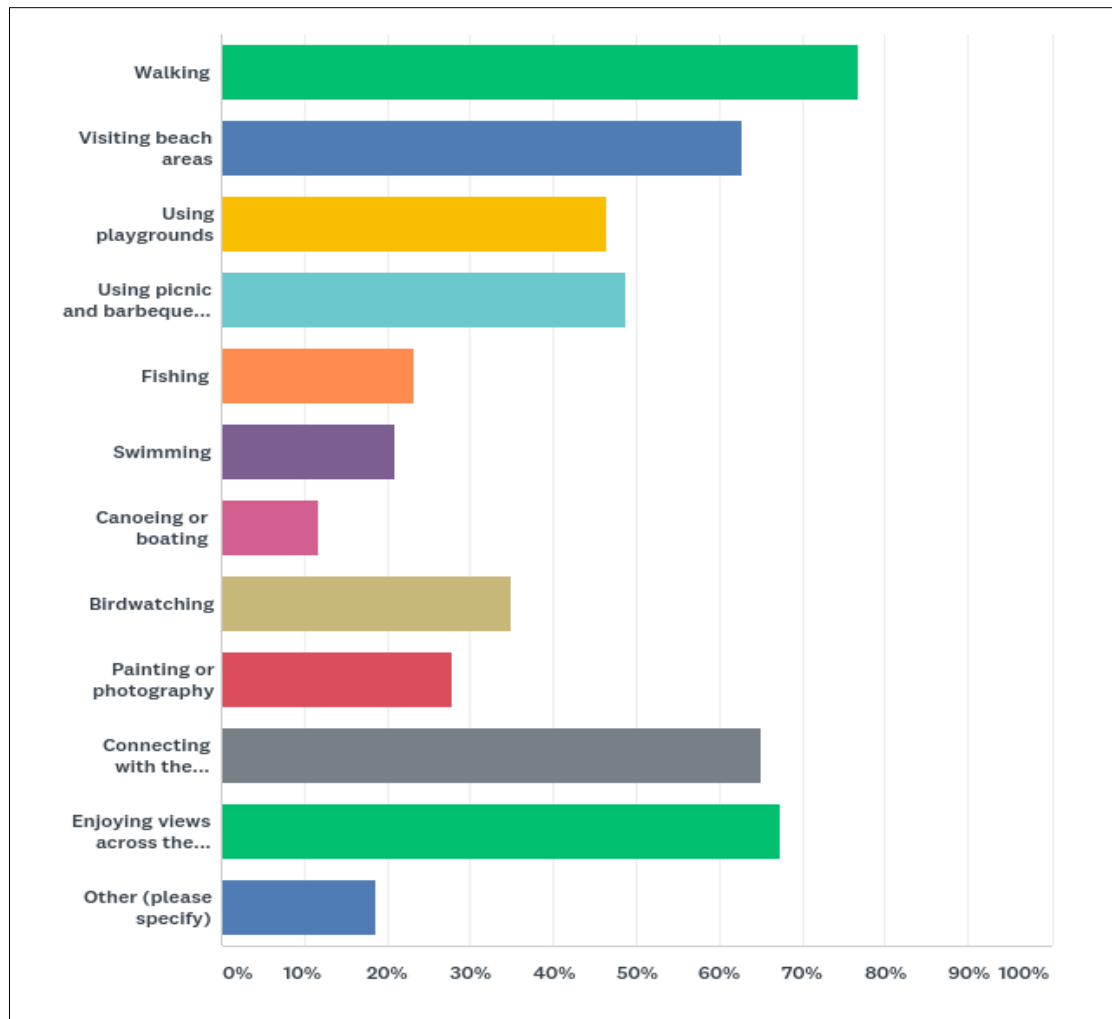


Table 3 – Which coastal sites are currently the most accessible to you?

## 5. Participation in activities along the Coast

The most common coastal activities enjoyed by respondents was walking (77%), enjoying views across the water (67%) and connecting with the natural environment (65%). Using playgrounds (46%) and picnic and barbeque facilities (49%) was also enjoyed by many of respondents. Visiting beach areas was enjoyed by 62% of respondents, while less people participated in water based activities including fishing (23%), swimming (21%) and canoeing or boating (12%).



*Table 4- What type of activities do you like to participate in along the Wyndham Coastline?*

## 6. Features or improvements that make coastal sites more accessible

Respondents indicated that sealed paths (67%), accessible public toilets (64%) and disabled car parking (50%) make coastal areas more accessible to them. A range of pathway improvements including gently graded paths (43%), boardwalks or jetties (33%) and tactile surface indicators (22%) were also considered to improve accessibility. The benefits of all abilities playground equipment was appreciated by 36% of respondents and widely supported in informal discussions.

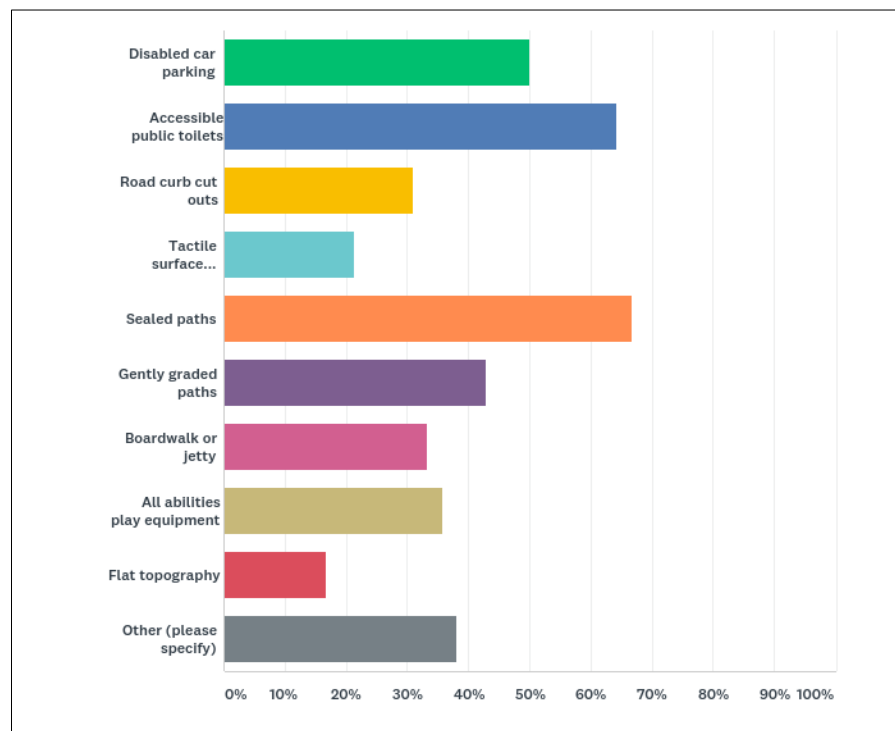


Table 5 : Which features or improvements would make coastal sites more accessible for you?

## 7. Open question responses

The survey and mapping exercise included three open questions designed to identify what would make the coast more accessible and increase frequency of visits. These included:

- *What would make the Wyndham Coastline more accessible to you? (Mapping Exercise)*
- *What access improvements would encourage you to engage in activities along the Coastline more often?*
- *Do you have any other suggestions for improving community access to coastal areas within Wyndham?*

The table summarizes suggested improvements and interventions and calculates the number of comments received under each category. The themes of Paths (25 comments) and Getting to The Coast (24 comments) generated the highest number of comments. The Park Facilities (16 comments) and Playgrounds (12 comments) themes also generated a significant number of comments and suggestions for improvements.

Theme	Suggested improvements or interventions	Number of comments
<b>Paths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More accessible paths</li> </ul>	9
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove steps and stairs</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More sealed paths</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the Bay Trail</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more bike paths</li> </ul>	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide beach matting or other accessible beach path</li> </ul>	6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Getting to the coast</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More disabled car parking</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More car parking</li> </ul>	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More frequent bus services to the coast</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better wayfinding road signage to the coast</li> </ul>	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade roads leading to the coast</li> </ul>	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide all abilities playground equipment</li> </ul>	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide safe, low play equipment for vision impaired kids</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully fenced playground for autistic children near the water</li> </ul>	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Park Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All terrain wheelchairs</li> </ul>	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing Places toilets required</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean up public toilets</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more shade</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop more accessible places and piers for fishing</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more bins</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dog poo collection bags</li> </ul>	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Activation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More programs and events</li> </ul>	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More cafes and attractions</li> </ul>	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food vans</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop recognizable meeting points</li> </ul>	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the availability of accessible toilets</li> </ul>	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the accessibility of park facilities</li> </ul>	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Public safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make coastal areas feel safer</li> </ul>	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install security cameras</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install more security lighting</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make walking paths feel safer</li> </ul>	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

Table 6 : Summary of open question responses to accessibility questions