

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT ON SURVEY FINDINGS



South West Development Commission (November 2015)

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INTRODUCTION

After extensive planning and public consultation, a vision for transforming Bunbury's Waterfront was revealed to the public on 1 October 2015. The vision paints a picture of vibrant water's edge, with a lively marina featuring cafes and shops, greatly enhanced public open space and amenity, and a working harbour – all connected back to Bunbury's city centre.

What's envisioned:

- A high-quality, major waterfront destination for locals and visitors.
- New retail and commercial outlets, and residential and short stay accommodation.
- Landscaped community spaces, with a greater public access to the water.
- A thriving marine precinct that will accommodate local boating needs.
- The redevelopment of the Dolphin Discovery Centre into an iconic tourist destination with state-of-the-art facilities.
- The creation of hundreds of jobs through retail and marine ventures that will be established along the waterfront.

Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront Steering Committee tasked with coordinating the planning for the waterfront will consider the community feedback from the public consultation period and finalise the vision. The project will be referred to the Western Australian State Government for funding consideration.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The South West Development Commission (SWDC) in partnership with the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront Steering Committee formally released a vision for the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront on 1 October 2015.

The vision was unveiled at a Public Information Session at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre which was attended by over 200 people. The reaction to the plans presented on the night was overwhelmingly positive.



The formal public consultation comment period was open for 28 days commencing on 1 October 2015 and closing on 29 October, 2015. The SWDC coordinated the public consultation process.

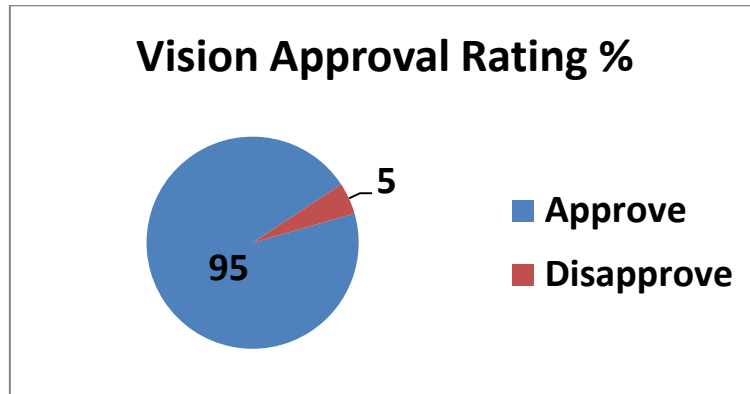
During the community consultation period display stands and information on Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront vision were located at various locations - Bunbury Tower, City of Bunbury, Bunbury Chamber of Commerce & Industries Chamber House, Bunbury City Library, Hon John Castrilli's office and SWDC Bunbury office.

Information and an 'on-line survey' were available to the public on the Commission's website at www.swdc.wa.gov.au. Hard copies of the survey were available at the Public Information Session and at all display stands located around Bunbury.

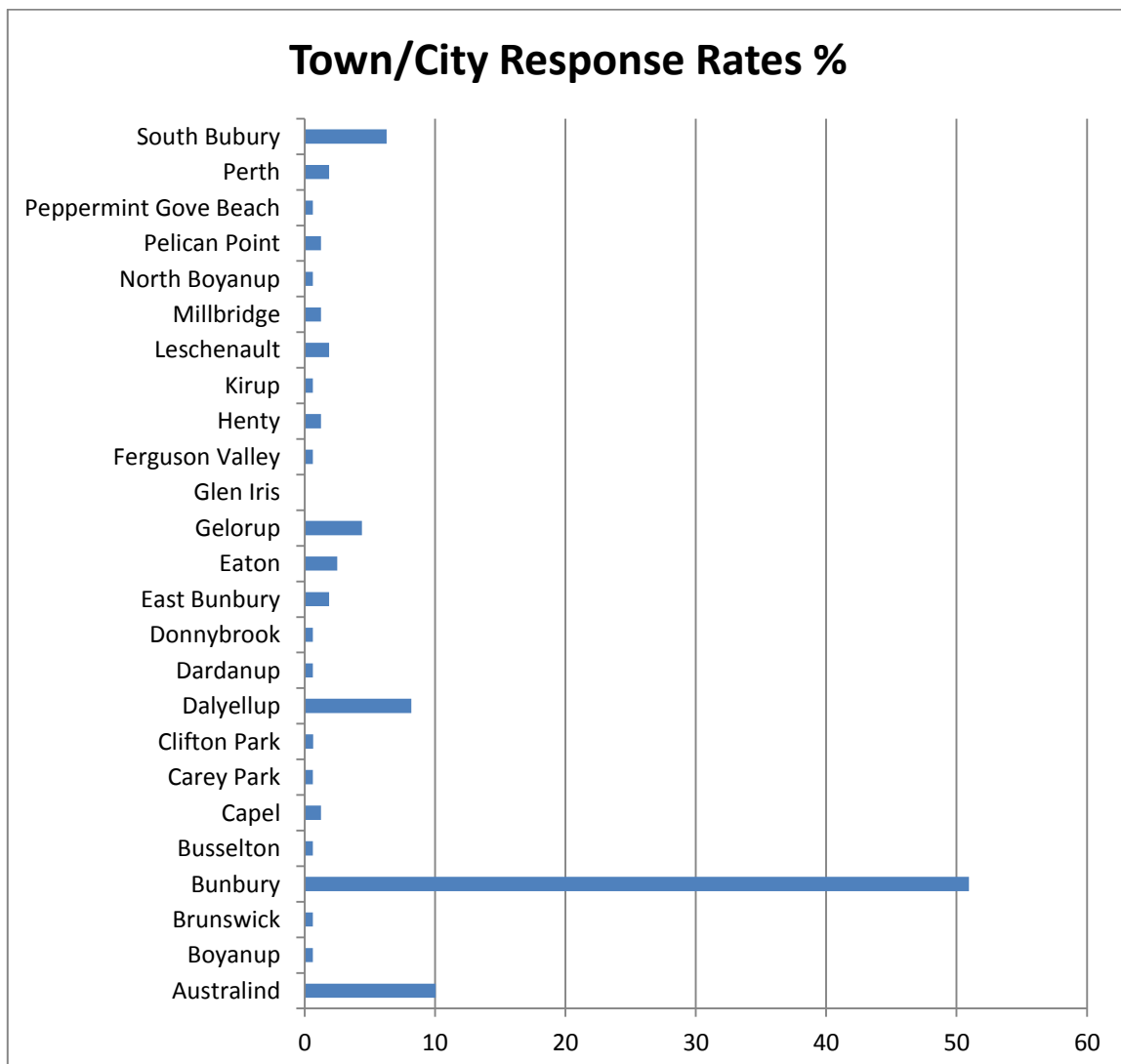
A presentation was made to business and industry representatives at a Bunbury Chamber of Commerce & Industries event on 21 October 2015. At this meeting over 70 people were informed of the vision for Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront.

FINDINGS

The community consultation closed on 29 October 2015 with the Commission receiving a total of 166 submissions (159 surveys and 7 written submissions). The submissions revealed 95% approval and 5% disapproval rating for Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront vision (see chart below).



The majority of the submissions were received from residents living in the Greater Bunbury area.



Survey Question Findings:

Q1. Have you seen the vision documents for transforming Bunbury's waterfront?

Response	%
Yes	97%
No	3%

Q2. What do you like best about the vision?

A selection of responses is shown below (see Appendix A for a full listing of responses, page 20):

Nice walkways and good sea walls
Tidy up the old port - turn it into a vibrant area.
The future jobs and prosperity created through tourism, hospitality and commercial boating industries.
The public access and the upgrade of Dolphin Discovery Centre.
Establishment of new marine facilities to create a new industry to the town and new tourism and hospitality options that will boost the local economy for foreseeable years. Increased public amenity and access to the marine environment. Upgraded Dolphin Discovery Centre to consolidate the key tourism icon attraction.
Creating public access and recreation spaces and facilities for the community and tourists. New commercial, marine, accommodation and hospitality businesses to attract people and trade.
The vision appears to be well planned and will see areas of the Bunbury waterfront not currently utilised to maximum potential developed to what would be expected to see residence and visitors have sites/services to draw them to the area.
The opportunities for additional investment and activity within the town that will come from it.
It looks at development of whole bay area from outer to inner harbour. The development of Dolphin Centre as a tourist focus. Easy access for cyclists and pedestrians.
Breakwaters, boating and marina infrastructure. Public promenade and parklands on Koombana Bay. Linking of all areas to CBD.

Q3. Is there anything about the vision that you think could be improved?

A selection of responses is shown below (see Appendix B for a full listing of responses, page 26):

Possible water park at Koombana Beach aimed at teenagers similar that is offered at Hillarys boat harbour, Perth. This will increase adult traffic at cafes and retail venues and provide a much needed recreational facility for teens and above.
Ensure families are catered for throughout the development, e.g. toilet facilities etc. Ease of access to water sport areas, solar powered lighting so that the area is family friendly at night.
Stronger pedestrian and cyclist links to existing development. Consideration to accommodating future sporting events (e.g. triathlons).
Improve and provide more play areas it's great being able to let the kids have a play and then cool off in the water. Some 'gym equipment' along the beach/walkways.
We need to maximise tourist opportunities. You generally only get one go at this - need to make sure that we have the sustainable economics to ensure that what is being proposed will work
Breakwater most important. Each park needs a theme; just BBQ in all parks is very repetitive and uninspiring. Examples: 1) Park basketball court. 2) Waterspout playground. 3) Sensory playground 4) Discovery trail. 5) Exercise equipment. 6) Botanical garden etc.
Caravan and RV stop-over facilities with sewerage drop points.
At this point it seems to adhere to all age groups for better enjoyment of Bunbury. It will certainly bring visitors from all over. My main concern is to 'keep it real' so all types of people can take part in this wonderful enhancement.
Parking and traffic management.

Q4 Do you agree the vision for Casuarina Boat Harbour/Outer Harbour has the potential to provide the following:

Summary:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
A range of quality places and options to wine, dine and shop	87%
A destination for all seasons and a place to be enjoyed both night and day	88%
Facilities for locals and visitors (club facilities, change rooms, toilets and storage areas)	88%
Outdoor facilities, event spaces and family-friendly facilities and attractions	92%
Beach, swimming and water play areas	85%
Get people closer to the water – better views, boardwalks, cycle paths and landscaping	91%
Boating facilities	92%

Detailed Results:

Topic	Strongly disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
A range of quality places and options to wine, dine and shop	5%	8%	37%	50%
A destination for all seasons and a place to be enjoyed both night and day	6%	6%	37%	51%
Facilities for locals and visitors (club facilities, change rooms, toilets and storage areas)	3%	9%	34%	54%
Outdoor facilities, event spaces and family-friendly facilities and attractions	4%	4%	36%	56%
Beach, swimming and water play areas	7%	8%	34%	51%
Get people closer to the water – better views, boardwalks, cycle paths and landscaping	6%	3%	27%	64%
Boating facilities	4%	4%	34%	58%

Q5. Please rate your support for the following key features which are envisioned for Casuarina Boat Harbour/Outer Harbour:

Summary:

Topic	Important & Very Important
Shops	67%
Cafes/Restaurants	87%
Short stay accommodation	78%
Residential accommodation	56%
Tourism uses	96%
Public spaces for leisure/tourism	99%
Water-based activities	97%



An artist's impression brings to life the vision for Casuarina Boat Harbour.

Detailed Results:

Topic	Unimportant	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Shops	11%	22%	27%	40%
Cafes/Restaurants	2%	11%	24%	63%
Short stay accommodation	5%	17%	33%	45%
Residential accommodation	19%	25%	23%	33%
Tourism uses	1%	3%	22%	74%
Public spaces for leisure/tourism	0%	1%	17%	82%
Water-based activities	1%	2%	20%	77%

Q6. Do you agree the vision for the marine precinct at Casuarina Boat Harbour/Outer Harbour does the following:

Summary:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
Provides land use/infrastructure that enhances opportunities for new marine infrastructure	88%
Optimises the water-based location and good access to marine-related uses	89%
Creates sheltered waters for boat mooring, launching and pens	95%
Develops a boating hub for the community	90%
Provides opportunities to accommodate pilot boat facilities and sea rescue	91%
Provides trailer parking bays to service planned boat ramps	87%
Encourages and provides opportunities for commercial marine operations	84%
Establishes opportunities for marine-based employment	87%



This image indicates the development possible at Casuarina Boat Harbour.

Detailed Results:

Topic	Strongly disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
Provides land use/infrastructure that enhances opportunities for new marine infrastructure	2%	10%	40%	48%
Optimises the water-based location and good access to marine-related uses	5%	6%	37%	52%
Creates sheltered waters for boat mooring, launching and pens	1%	4%	34%	61%
Develops a boating hub for the community	2%	8%	35%	55%
Provides opportunities to accommodate pilot boat facilities and sea rescue	3%	6%	40%	51%
Provides trailer parking bays to service planned boat ramps	3%	10%	43%	44%
Encourages and provides opportunities for commercial marine operations	1%	15%	39%	45%
Establishes opportunities for marine-based employment	1%	12%	41%	46%

Q7. Please rate your support for the following key features envisioned for the marine precinct:

Summary:

Topic	Important & Very Important
A new breakwater	88%
Boat launching facilities including boat ramp lanes and trailer bays	84%
Boat pens	83%
Marine infrastructure including dry boat storage, boat lifter, onshore vessel parking, maintenance areas and commercial/charter jetty	83%



Detailed Results:

Topic	Unimportant	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
A new breakwater	4%	8%	30%	58%
Boat launching facilities including boat ramp lanes and trailer bays	3%	13%	33%	51%
Boat pens	3%	14%	32%	51%
Marine infrastructure including dry boat storage, boat lifter, onshore vessel parking, maintenance areas and commercial/charter jetty	5%	12%	28%	55%

Q8. Do you agree the vision for Koombana Bay does the following:

Summary:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
Creates a foreshore gateway	87%
Creates an accessible and connected waterfront	89%
Provides open space	88%
Provides public access	88%
Provides space for community events	86%
Improves the tourism appeal of Bunbury	90%



Koombana Bay foreshore could be rejuvenated.

Detailed Results:

Topic	Strongly disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
Creates a foreshore gateway	3%	10%	41%	46%
Creates an accessible and connected waterfront	4%	7%	37%	52%
Provides open space	4%	8%	40%	48%
Provides public access	3%	9%	39%	49%
Provides space for community events	3%	11%	38%	48%
Improves the tourism appeal of Bunbury	2%	8%	25%	65%

Q9. Please rate your support for the following key features envisioned for Koombana Bay Foreshore:

Summary:

Topic	Important & Very Important
Existing footbridge upgraded to a landmark arrival bridge connecting Koombana Bay foreshore to Koombana North and Marlston Waterrfront precinct	86%
Shared path connecting to the Bunbury network	93%
Railway heritage walk	58%
Amphitheatre	68%
Foreshore promenade and parkland	96%
Café and amenity buildings	91%
Playground	90%
Improved car parking areas	91%
Facilities for locals and visitors (change rooms and toilets)	96%



An amphitheatre is proposed for Koombana Bay foreshore.

Detailed Results:

Topic	Unimportant	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important
Existing footbridge upgraded to a landmark arrival bridge connecting Koombana Bay foreshore to Koombana North and Marlston Waterfront precinct	6%	8%	26%	60%
Shared path connecting to the Bunbury network	2%	5%	31%	62%
Railway heritage walk	15%	27%	34%	24%
Amphitheatre	7%	25%	36%	32%
Foreshore promenade and parkland	1%	3%	33%	63%
Café and amenity buildings	0%	9%	36%	55%
Playground	2%	8%	32%	58%
Improved car parking areas	3%	6%	38%	53%
Facilities for locals and visitors (change rooms and toilets)	0%	4%	30%	66%

Q10. Do you agree the vision for development of the Dolphin Discovery Centre does the following:

Summary:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
Improve on the current facility	88%
Creates an iconic destination with state-of-the-art facilities	82%
Works with the planned redevelopment of Koombana Bay foreshore to create a tourism precinct	85%
Acts as a key entrance statement for the city	74%



A glimpse of what the Dolphin Discovery Centre could look like if redeveloped.

Detailed Results:

Topic	Strongly Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
Improves on the current facility	3%	9%	33%	55%
Creates an iconic destination with state-of-the-art facilities	3%	15%	29%	53%
Works with the planned redevelopment of Koombana Bay foreshore to create a tourism precinct	5%	10%	35%	50%
Acts as a key entrance statement for the city	6%	20%	29%	45%

Q11. Do you have any other comments on the vision for transforming Bunbury’s waterfront?

A selection of responses is shown below (see Appendix C for a full listing of responses, page 32):

<p>This will provide the next major transformation of the city connecting contemporary facilities of a world standard to our key competitive advantage - our waterways. It will help establish us as a tourism destination, reinvigorate the CBD and provide significantly improved amenity for residents.</p>
<p>I believe this is a fantastic opportunity to put Bunbury on the map. We need to proceed immediately, create employment and some certainty in the economic climate.</p>
<p>Incorporate sufficient water depths for large deep keel boats (yachts) and maintain those depths. Supply sufficient large berths (pens) for catamarans. Include boat sullage pump out facility to maintain water quality in the bay and make sullage tank use compulsory.</p>
<p>Please leave foreshore in Koombana Bay for families and volleyball - a new kiosk - more tables & chairs, family friendly area.</p>
<p>This project will bring Bunbury into the tourism spotlight and give the residents a strong sense of ownership and pride. The (WA and Commonwealth) Government should place this as an high level iconic project and industry should also be approached to participate. Well done you!!</p>
<p>It’s time to become more up to date with the rest of WA and we have such a beautiful city that we can take advantage of and have potentially outdoor marine entertainment areas that rival the other big city's. Bunbury needs more things for its residents.</p>
<p>Koombana Bay breakwater will be utilised by many public promenading and enjoying being closer to marine activities & will help prevent the continuing erosion of our safe sandy beaches. Following the success of similar projects (Fishing Boat Harbour) in Fremantle & in the Eastern States and USA I have seen a terrific opportunity for Bunbury to attract visitors and to give the people of Bunbury and greater region an awesome waterfront facility. 10/10!</p>

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the feedback received from the public consultation period there is high support and an indication of strong community endorsement that the project proceeds. The submissions revealed 95% approval for Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront vision.

Survey feedback indicated the following key results:

Casuarina Boat Harbour/Outer Harbour:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
High responses:	
Outdoor facilities, event spaces and family-friendly facilities and attractions	92%
Boating facilities	92%
Get people closer to the water – better views, boardwalks, cycle paths and landscaping	91%
Lowest response:	
Beach, swimming and water play areas	85%

Topic	Important & Very Important
High responses:	
Public spaces for leisure/tourism	99%
Water-based activities	97%
Tourism uses	96%
Cafes/Restaurants	87%
Lowest response:	
Residential accommodation	56%

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
High responses:	
Creates sheltered waters for boat mooring, launching and pens	95%
Provides opportunities to accommodate pilot boat facilities and sea rescue	91%
Develops a boating hub for the community	90%
Lowest response:	
Encourages and provides opportunities for commercial marine operations	84%

Marine Precinct:

Topic	Important & Very Important
High responses:	
A new breakwater	88%
Boat launching facilities including boat ramp lanes and trailer bays	84%
Lowest response:	
Boat pens	83%
Marine infrastructure including dry boat storage, boat lifter, onshore vessel parking, maintenance areas and commercial/charter jetty	83%

Koombana Bay:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
High responses:	
Improves the tourism appeal of Bunbury	90%
Creates an accessible and connected waterfront	89%
Provides open space	88%
Provides public access	88%
Lowest response:	
Provides space for community events	86%

Topic	Important & Very Important
High responses:	
Facilities for locals and visitors (change rooms and toilets)	96%
Foreshore promenade and parkland	96%
Shared path connecting to the Bunbury network	93%
Café and amenity buildings	91%
Improved car parking areas	91%
Playground	90%
Lowest response:	
Railway heritage walk	58%

Dolphin Discovery Centre:

Topic	Agree & Strongly Agree
High responses:	
Improve on the current facility	88%
Creates an iconic destination with state-of-the-art facilities	82%
Works with the planned redevelopment of Koombana Bay foreshore to create a tourism precinct	85%
Lowest response:	
Acts as a key entrance statement for the city	74%