

Venus Bay Community Report

Meeting notes from the Community Workshop
held Wednesday 2 November 2016

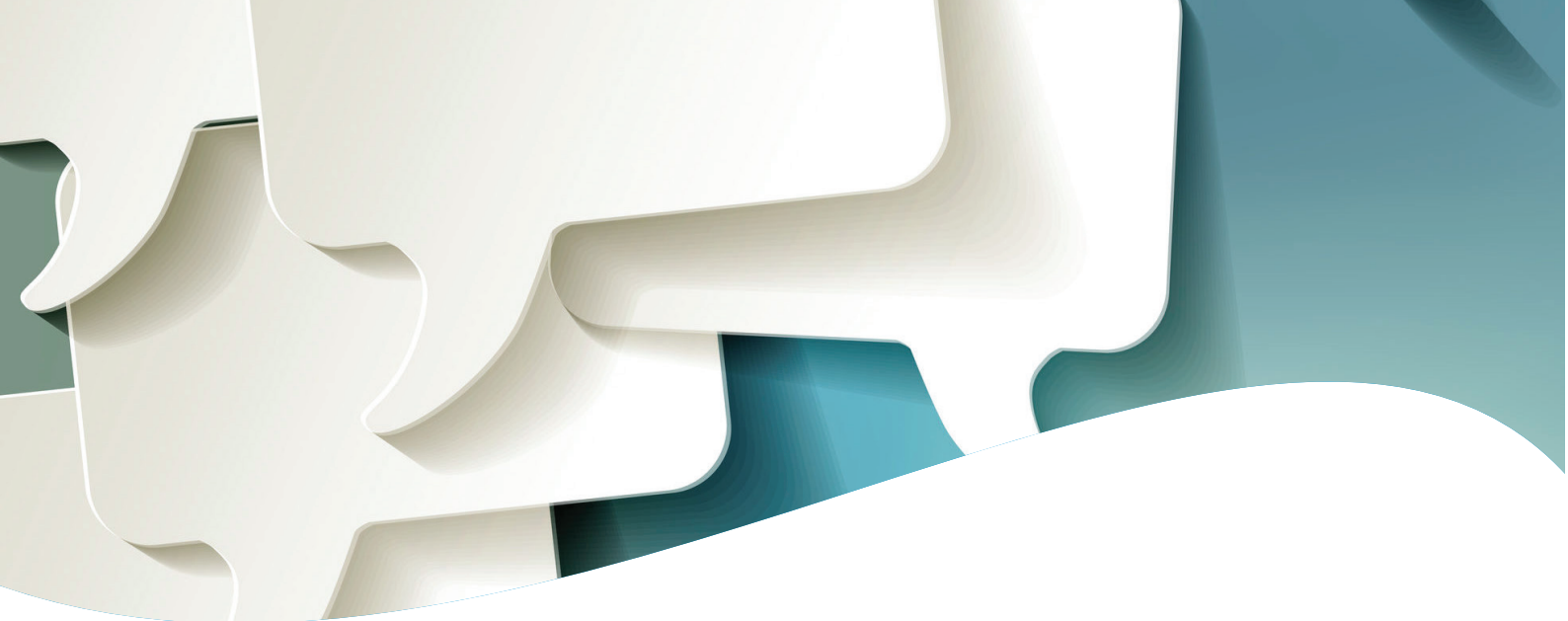


participate



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Introduction

South Gippsland Shire Council budgeted \$400,000 each to the towns of Foster, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Venus Bay for the community to allocate towards capital works for the 2017/18 program.

Residents were asked to vote on ideas pulled from their community plan and the Long Term Capital Works Program or provide ideas of their own on the Community Capital Works Allocation forum specific to their town.

oursay.org/southgippsland

Ideas that attracted a high amount of support online informed four community workshops hosted in each town in October/November 2016. [This report consolidates the data provided in the online forums and the verbatim community reports written by residents at the workshops.](#)

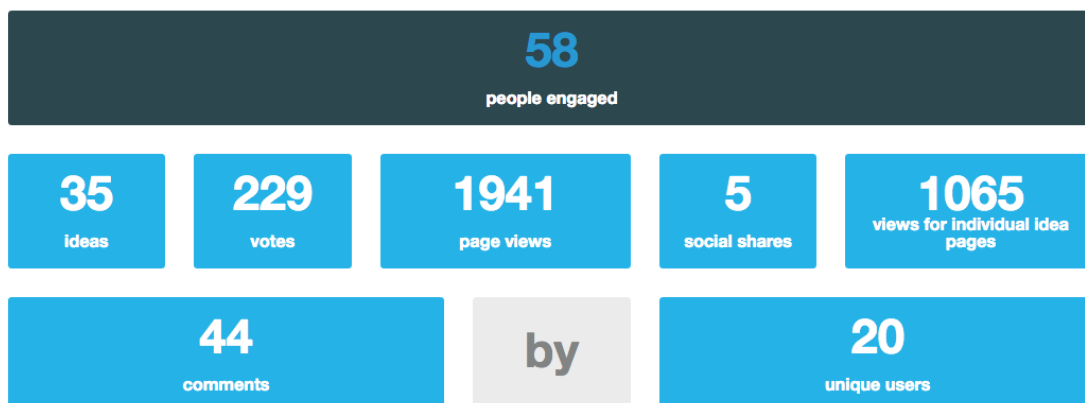
Engagement Process

Below is a data summary of the Venus Bay Community Capital Works Allocation forum once voting had closed. oursay.org/southgippsland/venusbay

Online Forum Statistics

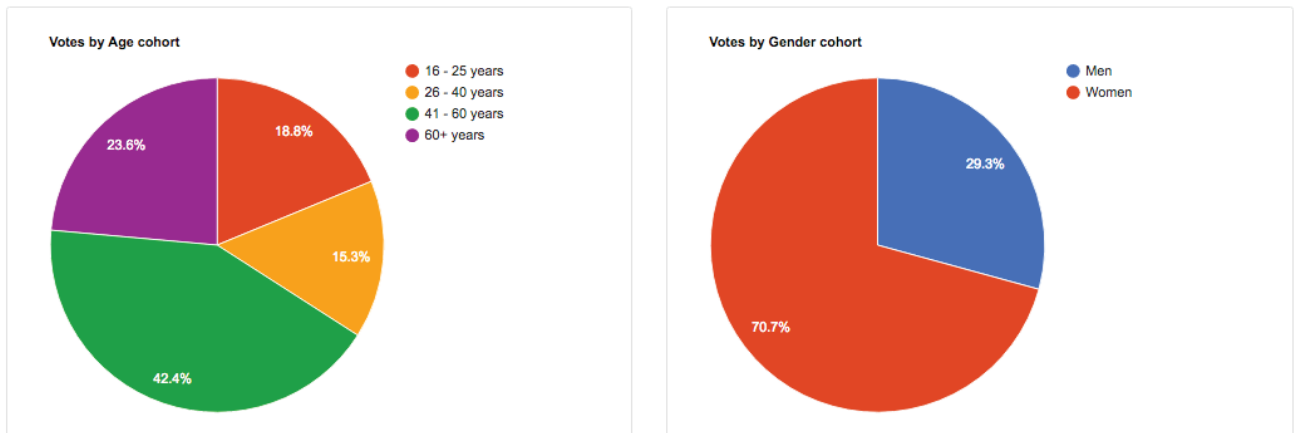
Venus Bay Community Capital Works

31 August 2016 - 20 September 2016

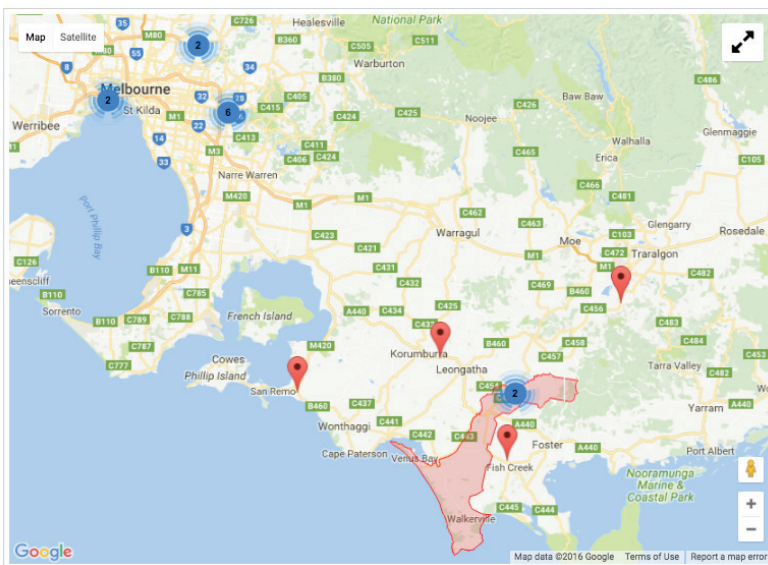


Age Cohort and Gender by Votes

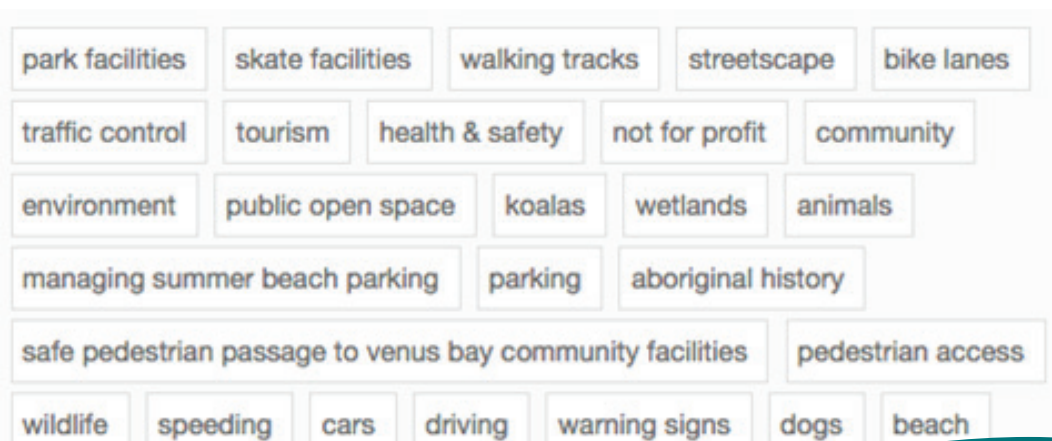
Total engaged Ideas Votes



Ideas Posted by Location



Trending Topics and Themes



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Community Recommendations

All recommendations include notes written directly by the community at their workshop:

Lifesaving Club

Extend VB Lifesaving Club to include better public toilet facilities. There are 1000's of people who use the beach during summer and the toilets are dirty, old & inadequate. By extending the existing clubhouse there can also be coffee shop/ refreshment facilities to support the demand from beach users.

What Can Council Do to Deliver this?

- *Project not on Council land. Not Council-owned building. Land could be problematic. Could consider the positive vote. Should be about safety, not money. Community need the better facility, especially toilets. Dangerous beach*
- *Not on council land, Parks Victoria land*
- *Acknowledge it is a community facility*
- *Improves amenity and safety*
- *Improve tourism and business as attract people to the area*
- *Council land projects not according to Council Directive*
- *May not respond to the idea as not council land*
- *Hoping that new council members will support the idea*
- *Council should support this worthwhile cause and should commence negotiations with Parks Victoria*

What Can Community Do to Deliver This?

- *Would be very supportive. Top priority project. Council could work with Parks Victoria to enable*
- *Community would support*
- *Understand the issues it would address*
- *Support from business community*
- *No down side*
- *Respect local business in terms of coffee etc café idea*
- *Would help ease parking at shop if you could get food at beach*
- *Huge support*
- *Needed by the community and are behind the idea = provide summer employment*
- *Hub of community in summer*
- *Positively! It is a very important facility for Venus Bay, Residents & Visitors*



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Community Recommendations

Environment Protection

Help us recover from the loss of our township Open Spaces.

- 1. Mass planting of our gorgeous indigenous trees and shrubs on all streets and public open spaces, to provide habitat for our KOALAs, kookaburras, rosellas etc and our ground dwelling friends, echidnas, blue tongue lizards etc.*
- 2. Develop Van Cleef Reserve: More habitat trees and nesting boxes, defined walking paths, information bollards, and a tower to see the inlet*
- 3. A board walk above our precious wetland, from the Jetty to Doyles Road. I cant even guess the number of frog species at the moment - the orchestra is deafening. Do you know some birds come all the way from Siberia to our wetlands. It is world class and it could be better.*
- 4. Sculptures and more benches, made by our local artists, at every beach, at the shopping centre, between estate 1 and 2. Quirky - some simple, some elaborate.*
- 5. Buy more wetland land - currently for sale.*

What Can Council Do to Deliver this?

- *Easy for Council to support*
- *Not council land, Not supported by DELWP*
- *Not infrastructure. Maintenance an issue. Would be expensive. Could increase Arts budget instead*
- *Do not sell POS*
- *Relatively easy and not costly for idea 1 and 2*
- *Could be already allocated to council work plans anyway*
- *They would be happy to use our money for something they should be doing anyway*
- *Where did this money come from and does it save council money from being spent on regular projects like maintaining parks and gardens*
- *Could buy a lot of art point 4 with this money and support local artists*
- *Council should plant*
- *Regulate mowing, maintenance, clearing formalize paths, nesting boxes - crumbling infrastructure, beautify around the existing tower*
- *No to boardwalk, Not major priority*
- *They should be in agreement*
- *We don't think they would agree with that idea*

What Can Community Do to Deliver This?

- *Positive*
- *Positive Volunteer labour would involve community*
- *Environmental issues a concern. Not supported Rubbish. Feral animals, weeds, pristine saltmarsh, acid sulphate soil*
- *Why should this money be used for this, it should be council responsibility anyway*
- *Need home for native nursery, could buy land with this money*
- *Boardwalk could be contentious as should be kept pristine*
- *Has been a hot topic for a long time, so would address this*
- *Community could opposed...its not a necessity, could be invisible*
- *Could buy some of the open spaces that are on the chopping block*
- *Volunteers already do work*
- *They would like all the ideas except the boardwalk*



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Community Recommendations

Bike Lane

Extend the bike lane on Lees Road back to Inverloch – Venus Bay Road and towards the estate at Point Smythe. This will create a connection between all three estates in Venus Bay.

What Can Council Do to Deliver this?

- By narrowing the road and calming measures at Point Smythe no need for bike path*
- Easy but not enough money to do the whole track*
- Could only get one section with this money...would not connect the estates*
- Could still seal it but not used as dedicated bike lane*
- Council owns road from first to second estate...could be used to accommodate a bicycle path*
- Who would maintain? Would there be ongoing funds required for maintenance?*
- Shoulder on road for bikes – needed*
- Council will respond in a favourable – but too expensive*
- Bike racks at each beach access – help with car parking issues*
- We don't think the Council would look favourably on this idea*

What Can Community Do to Deliver This?

- *Bike paths are popular*
- *Decrease car use*
- *Promote sustainable transport*
- *Could narrow the road and use part as bicycle track*
- *Many roads don't have a shoulder, part of a bigger picture*
- *Community would be confused about who owned the road, and would perceive it costs a lot of money for not much*
- *Encourage exercise and social engagement*
- *Might only suit a portion of population*
- *Many of the residents are older and don't ride a bike*
- *Fully support – feel safer on road – encourage more bike riders*
- *We think the money would be spent better elsewhere*



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Community Recommendations

Tarwin Lower - River Drive

For Tarwin Lower - River Drive. Open up area on banks of river so water can be seen, install a pier/dock, install new picnic tables, further street scaping which would include flower beds or even veggie plots, and act to slow traffic. This will transform town and encourage further retail businesses and tourism.

What Can Council Do to Deliver this?

- *DELWP land*
- *Environmental study would be necessary*
- *Not within the scope of the project...Venus Bay project*
- *Belongs to crown, DELWP authority*
- *Might be complications due to authority and overlays*
- *In the council plan anyway*
- *Affected by tidal movement*
- *In a flood plain*
- *Draining 310 square miles of farmland...existing flood level signs indicate potential flooding*
- *Water may have contaminants/poison*
- *Who would pay for ongoing maintenance?*
- *In pipeline – bring forward*
- *Sympathetic to environment*
- *Needs better maintenance on track*
- *They have it as a project already, unbeknown to us, so therefore they would like it because they wouldn't have to spend their money*

What Can Community Do to Deliver This?

- *Environmental concerns*
- *Levee bank along river proposed*
- *Might be community opposition, don't want the river exposed or damaged*
- *They might like to access the river more*
- *Would create more of a presence of nature in the town*
- *Bring forward project*
- *Build boardwalk*
- *Street scaping*
- *Friends of River Bank group should be established*
- *It does need to be cleaned up and the introduced plants need to be eradicated, a fish creek path would be good.*



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Community Recommendations

Dog Park

A new off lead dog park in Venus Bay or Tarwin Lower to help encourage dog owners not to let their dogs off on the beach. Too many dog owners are ignoring the regulations and letting their dogs run all over the dunes endangering the vulnerable shore birds. Perhaps if there was a good alternative for off lead dog time fewer owners would ignore the directions to keep dogs on leads on the beach.

What Can Council Do to Deliver this?

- *Note here council could create an off lead dog area in Tarwin Lower*
- *Note here space is limited*
- *All open parks in South Gippsland is dog off lead area*
- *Beach is not in the council realm*
- *They could purchase an area/block for this purpose*
- *Could agree to keep some existing space for this purpose*
- *Purchase an open space to establish an off lead oval*
- *We don't think they would care*
- *Oval would be necessary or buy part of farm. Rezone land*

What Can Community Do to Deliver This?

- *Would reduce conflict between residents*
- *Would help protect Hooded Plovers*
- *Depends whether you have a dog*
- *Could be apathetic*
- *How would it affect neighbours*
- *Maintaining block, poo bags*
- *Lots of money for little community gain considering that all open space is off lead anyway*
- *People won't comply anyway*
- *Won't put dog in car to drive to park (but they will to the beach)*
- *Need an oval to exercise dogs – throw balls etc*
- *Want an area between beach 3 & 4 for dogs allowed off leads all year round*
- *The community would love it*



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COMMUNITY

Emerging Trends

Care for the environment | Need for facilities | Lack of space for infrastructure | Sections of community have different needs | Numbers of people have increased | Obvious idea that would suit most people is the club house/toilets | Provide community rubbish facility/Skip outside the tip to cater for hours not open | Skate park precinct, Skate park for kids (best site next to community centre near play ground | Dumpster on the way out of Venus Bay for visitors and non permanent residents to dispose of rubbish – take out the summer bins | Provide safe walking area on side of Canterbury and Lees Road - shared walk/riding area along the roads | Improved visibility wild life signs | Dog poo bags dispensers in car parks and popular areas | Improved facilities and beautification of the area whilst maintaining the natural beauty and indigenous environment thus encouraging more flora and fauna, which is a big drawcard in tourism for this area | We feel the surf lifesaving club is an important part of this community and warrants money being spent on it, they save people | A skate park for the kids would be good too

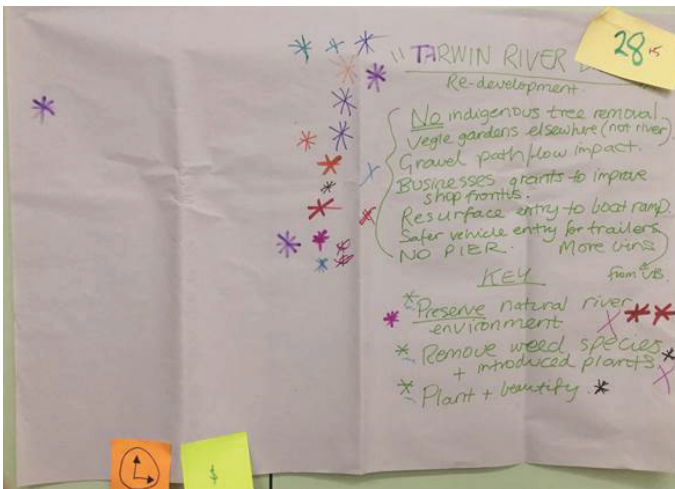
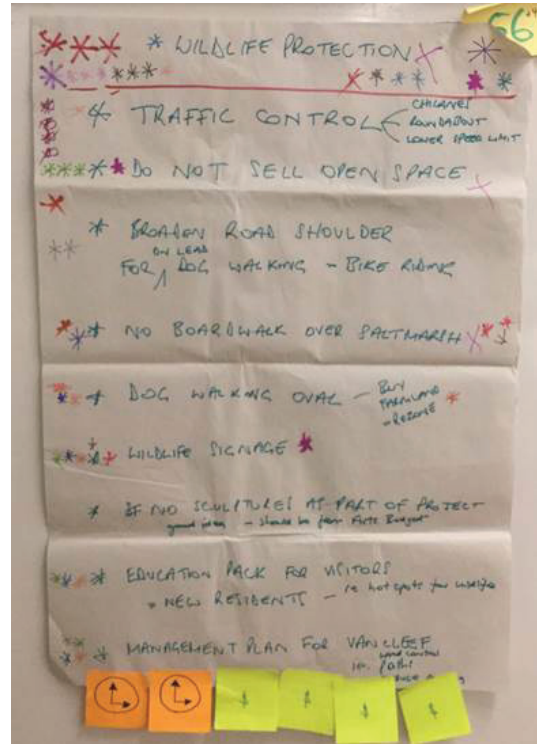
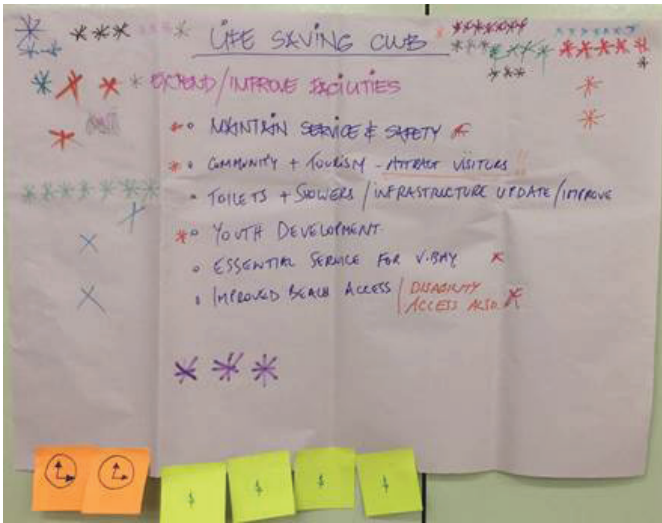
Community Recommendation

Participants recommended that \$200,000 is allocated to upgrading the Venus Bay Lifesaving Club and \$200,000 is allocated to wildlife and environment protection including the planning of Van Cleef Reserve.

As the Venus Bay Lifesaving Club project was slightly out of the project guidelines (as part of the land chosen and the infrastructure required is not Council owned) participants were happy for \$150,000 to be allocated to a skate park facility and \$50,000 to public bins if the first option is not feasible.

Results of Art Gallery Voting by Participants

The pictures below demonstrate the voting spread once projects were refined at the workshop.



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13 19

outdoor
 Skate park / Youth Precinct

Develop area for ~~you~~ recreation for young folk (in particular) due to isolation

- skate area/ **
- basketball hoop
- bmx bike area
- shelter/shade etc.

customers/visitors

- social engagement ~~at~~ links across community
- recreation options/entertainment
- mental/physical wellbeing
- response to isolation
- local accessibility (can't drive, no transport)

↑ ↓ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

BIKE LANE 8 17 17

REMOVE - NEED WALKING/BIKE MOUNTAIN ON CHANGING LANE

BIKE LANE X ** * SHOULDER X
 SECOND ESTATE → TAKE SIGNAGE

X = NO BIKE
 ✓ = PATH
 JUNCTION

Woolway Path

OUTLOOKS
 Public continuation

↑ ↓ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

32

***** BINS *****

LARGER
 → COMMUNITY RUBBISH + RECYCLE BINS

*** SURROUNDED BY WOODEN FENCES

* LIKE THEY DO IN ANGLES

X → SUGGESTION WAS A COUPLE OF DUMPSTER BINS SIMILAR TO SANDY POINT

* ALSO A BIN AT THE TIP *

↑ ↓ \$

Additional Voting

In addition to the votes provided in the art gallery the following votes were also collected online to finalise the recommendation:

- Venus Bay Lifesaving Club - 311
- Bike Lanes - 71
- Skatepark - 32
- Wildlife Protection - 28 Open Space - 8
- Tarwin River - 20
- Public Bins - 8
- Dog Walking - 4



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