

Stakeholder update

Dromana Pier Concept Plan - Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Key stakeholders met on Tuesday 25 February 2020 to discuss the current value and future aspirations for Dromana Pier. A broad range of ideas were raised, which will inform development of two new concepts for a future pier.

Stakeholder workshop

Parks Victoria and Cardno Victoria Pty Ltd held a stakeholder workshop at Dromana Bay Life Saving Club on 25 February 2020. The aim of the workshop was to identify the current community, economic and environmental values and future aspirations for the pier. Attendees included representatives from:

- Mornington Peninsula Shire (officers and councillor)
- Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management
- Dromana Bay Life Saving Club
- Life Saving Victoria
- The Association for Building Community in Dromana
- Department of Transport
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

What we heard

Current value of Dromana Pier

- Dromana Pier is a highly valued asset to the community, being a focal point of the town.
- The current alignment of Dromana Pier with Pier Street makes the pier unique and highly accessible.
- Key recreational activities currently include walking along the top of the pier, fishing and snorkelling.
- The pier is part of Dromana's visual identity.
- Dromana Pier offers spectacular views from the end of the pier across the water, foreshore and to Arthurs Seat and Mount Martha, unobscured by tall buildings.

Issues identified with the current pier

- Shallow water prohibits access by keel boats or larger commercial vessels.
- The pier is a barrier to Dromana Bay's Surf Life Saving vehicle travelling along the beach.
- While Dromana is a popular tourist destination, the pier itself does not bring economic value to the community.
- Car parking in Dromana is at capacity, particularly during peak periods.

Future aspirations for Dromana Pier

- Create a point of interest at the end of the pier, offering a destination drawing people out onto the pier. Consider commercial opportunities on the pier, but not at detriment of existing businesses in Dromana.

- Improve facilities for fishing, such as rod holders, seating and shelter. Fish cleaning stations are not supported as they are likely to have a negative impact on swimming and walking on the pier.
- Improve ability to move along the beach, either through ramps up and down from the pier or increased height of the pier to allow vehicles and pedestrians to walk under the structure.
- Create better separation between different uses of the pier (e.g. fishing and walking). Consider a wider pier.
- Lengthen the pier and install artificial reefs or underwater gardens to better support fishing, swimming and snorkelling.
- Consider an extension of the pier to support ferry berthing to transform Dromana into a transport hub. Concern that this will impact on car parking.
- Improve lighting. Consider opportunity to create architecturally appealing infrastructure or a night-time attraction through creative lighting.
- Use of universal design principals and more frequent seating to support visitors with limited mobility. Go 'above and beyond' disability access standards.
- Improve signage or create artistic installations along the pier to celebrate the cultural significance of the area.
- Improve signage to better communicate 'no jumping or diving' regulations and risks of diving into shallow water.

Next steps

Using the ideas generated at the stakeholder workshop, Cardno Victoria Pty Ltd will create three concept options to repair or rebuild Dromana Pier. The first option will be a 'base case' repair of the pier in its current configuration. Two additional pier replacement concepts will be developed considering the community's future needs and aspirations.

Parks Victoria anticipates these options will be ready for public comment by April 2020.

At this point, Parks Victoria is investigating the best concept for replacement to weigh against repair of the pier. There is no commitment from Parks Victoria or Government to implement the results of the investigation. Concept design is the first stage in a long-term project to guide decisions for the future of Dromana Pier.