

Final design concept for Rhyll boat ramp upgrade ready



A final design concept for the Rhyll boat ramp upgrade has been developed to provide a better experience for boaters.

The final design concept has been informed by community feedback received as part of a consultation held between 22 November and 6 December 2019.

The final design concept proposes to upgrade the Rhyll boating facility by building a new three lane, all-tide access boat ramp, upgrading the existing pontoon, installing an additional pontoon, providing for separate sailboat access, improving traffic flow and pedestrian access.

Why is the Rhyll boating facility getting an upgrade?

The Victorian Government identified six facilities that need priority upgrades. This was based on advice from various stakeholders including the boating community. These locations were: Rhyll, Hastings, Mordialloc, Queenscliff, Point Richards and the Cowes Jetty.

These locations are popular boating facilities that need to meet future recreational boating demands and more pressure as Melbourne's population grows.

How has the community been involved in the project?

We developed and tested three upgrade concept designs with the community at a dedicated drop-in event and an online consultation between Friday 22 November and Friday 6 December 2019. This level of early engagement is unprecedented when it comes to upgrading boat ramps, and a key reason for holding it was because we wanted to involve the community from the outset.

The event and online consultation were promoted widely online and advertised in key local press. The event was attended by around 200 people and 153 people completed the online consultation and gave us written feedback.

We used all the feedback we received to inform the final design.

It's proposed that a reference group will be established in the future to help ensure ongoing community engagement during the Rhyll boating facility upgrade.

Is the community supportive of the final concept design?

The community supported elements of the three concept designs presented. However, feedback showed us that a small proportion of non-boating users have concerns with relocation of the playground, shipwrecks in the vicinity and concepts that identified relocating and sealing the existing slipway.

We have taken this into account and believe the final concept design accommodates many of the concerns raised during the consultation.

Will there be further opportunities to provide input on the Rhyll upgrade?

It's proposed that a reference group will be established in the future to help ensure ongoing community engagement during the Rhyll boating facility upgrade.

What do the next steps of the project look like?

We're about to engage a heritage consultant to undertake a maritime and aboriginal culture heritage impact statement. We will also be progressing a detailed design and the associated approvals to prepare for construction in 2021. In addition, we propose to establish a reference group to help ensure ongoing community engagement during the Rhyll boating facility upgrade.

When will the upgrade start?

Throughout the remainder of this year, we plan to undertake the necessary heritage impact statement, progress a detailed design and obtain approvals. We aim to start construction after peak boating season in 2021 (May – October).

Who will be managing the upgrade project?

Better Boating Victoria is partnering with Bass Coast Shire Council to deliver this upgrade.

How much is the project costing?

At this stage, the cost for the upgrade is unknown and will be informed by detailed design and approvals. However, it is estimated to be in the order of \$2 million. Further information will be provided when available.

How are you going to protect the marine environment during the upgrade?

Marine and Coastal Act 2018 consents and Parks Victoria works approvals will be required. It's anticipated the contractor appointed for the upgrade will be required to prepare an environmental management plan to ensure that the upgrade is undertaken in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Will we get regular updates to let us know where things are at?

There will be updates on the progress of the Rhyll boating facility upgrade project. Better Boating Victoria will work with Bass Coast Shire Council to ensure updates are promoted through our communications channels.

Why have you not provided any additional single car park spaces?

The existing footprint of the ramp is very constrained and it's not possible to provide for extra spaces without the loss of car-trailer parking.

Why are you not providing for extra car-trailer parking?

We tested the concept of providing extra car-trailer parking by relocating the slipway. As a result of the consultation process this option was not acceptable. However, overflow car parking has been identified in the final concept plan.

Will we lose water views from the angling club house with proposed tree planting near playground?

The proposed tree planting may act as a soft buffer in the vicinity of the playground. Options for landscaping, such as smaller shrubs will be explored during the detailed design phase to ensure that views won't be interrupted.

Can the community become more involved in the project?

It's proposed that a reference group will be established in the future to help ensure ongoing community engagement during the Rhyll boating facility upgrade. The process for how representatives will be appointed and the terms of reference for this group will be worked through soon.

Who will be responsible for maintaining this asset?

Management of the Rhyll boating facility is currently the responsibility of Bass Coast Shire Council.

Will the dingy and kayak launch ramp be sufficient to meet the needs of yacht club?

During consultation we've heard that yacht club members use the ramp and we've identified a smaller ramp to be constructed for their purposes – this will be refined during the detailed design process.

Where will the fish cleaning table go?

We will work with the Victorian Fisheries Authority to identify the best location for the fish cleaning table.

Why are you still proposing to move the playground?

We have proposed to improve the flow in the car park, provide rigging and derigging areas, and not lose any existing car-trailer parking. To achieve this, it is proposed to move the playground slightly. However, this action is dependent on the outcome of the maritime heritage impact statement. We propose to only move the playground if it will not impact maritime heritage.

What about the impacts to the local shipwrecks?

We will engage a heritage consultant to undertake a maritime heritage impact statement. This will be used to inform detailed design and associated approvals to ensure the maritime heritage is protected.

Need more information?

Find out more about the Rhyll boat ramp upgrade here:

<https://betterboating.vic.gov.au/news/final-concept-design-for-rhyll-upgrade-is-ready/>