

Tātou ki Uta

Coastal Reserves Management Plan

Early Engagement Report – July 2024

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



Ngā Ihirangi

Contents

Introduction

Engagement approach and methodology	3
Number of submissions	4
Key questions	4
What people said	4
Document structure	4

3 What we heard

By theme	3
Theme 1: Protecting the natural beauty and landscape	4
Theme 2: Ecosystems, wildlife, and nature	4
Theme 3: Climate change and resilience	4
Theme 4: Access, parking, and transport	4
Theme 5: Cultural and historical significance	10
Theme 6: Community engagement, partnership, and stewardship	11
Theme 7: Amenities and facilities	11
Theme 8: Behaviour and safety	12

Theme 9: Financial concerns	6
Theme 10: Coastal activities	6
By Location	6
Te Kopahou Reserve	7
Ōwhiro Bay	7
Island Bay	8
Houghton Bay and Princess Bay	8
Lyall Bay	9
Rangitatau Takiwā and Oruaiti Reserve	9
Eastern Bays	10
Mātai Moana	11
Ākau Tangi/Evans Bay	11
West Summary	11
Oriental Bay	12

Engagement and communication methods	25
Engagement objectives	25
Engagement methods	26
Let's Talk surveys and tools	26
Beachside chats	27
Stakeholder workshops	28
Displays in libraries and recreation centre	29
Schools	29
Research survey	29
Engagement promotion	29
Promotion Channels	30

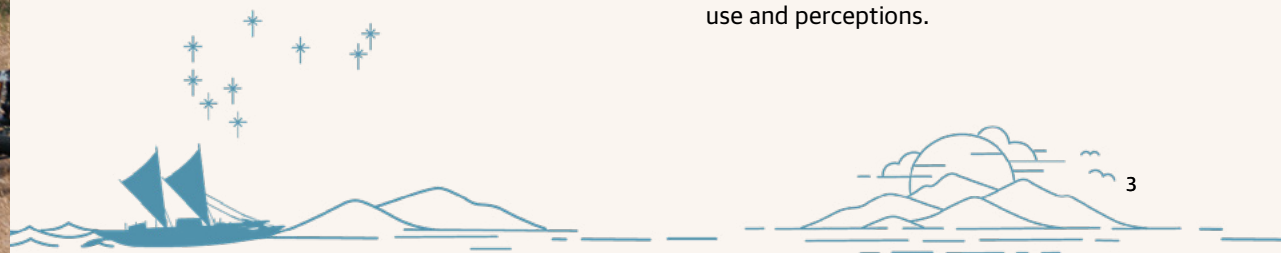
Introduction

This report presents the feedback and findings from the early engagement period of the Coastal Reserves Management Plan conducted between March and July 2024. The goal was to gather public ideas and feedback for the draft plan. The feedback received was thoroughly assessed, resulting in the identification of key themes.

Engagement approach and methodology

A hybrid engagement approach was used to target different audiences. Details are provided at the end of this document. The engagement approach included:

- **4-week public campaign using online engagement tools:** Map to pin comments, survey tools, and an interactive ideas tool.
- **8 in-person beachside chats:** Targeted beach users with a large-scale coastal model for interactive discussions.
- **5 community and advisory group workshops:** Engaged recreation groups, coastal residents, and environmental groups through three community workshops and the Youth Council and Environmental Reference Group.
- **In-person targeted engagement discussion:** With specific landowners, Council partners, and environmental organisations.
- **School feedback:** Gathered from children via Enviroschools programme.
- **Research survey:** Gathered representative feedback on coastal use and perceptions.



Number of submissions

A total of 3,016 pieces of feedback were received, including:

- 622 comments from beachside chat events.
- 10 direct emails, 18 general submissions, and 7 submissions from in-person stakeholder discussions.
- 448 comments on the online interactive map and engagement tools, and 64 from the priority emoji tool submissions.
- 649 comments from public workshops and advisory groups.
- 31 comments collected from feedback cards at libraries and Ākau Tangi.
- 17 summarised comments from 45 kids in 4 classes collected by EnviroSchools.
- 1,108 qualitative feedback points from 478 people participating in the research survey.

Key questions

The public was asked:

- How they use the coast.
- What they love and do not love about the coast.
- Ideas for improvements.
- Challenges and threats to consider.
- What priorities they support.
- Any other additional considerations for the Coastal Reserves Management Plan.

What people said

Public feedback on Wellington's coastal areas has highlighted several key themes that are crucial for the Coastal Reserves Management Plan. These include protecting the natural beauty and landscape, enhancing ecosystems and wildlife, improving access, parking, and transport, recognising cultural and historical significance, fostering community engagement, addressing climate change and resilience, upgrading amenities and facilities, and mitigating antisocial behaviour and safety concerns. Each theme encompasses various strengths, issues, and opportunities, reflecting the community's deep appreciation for the coast and their desire for sustainable and thoughtful management.

Document structure

This document summarises the public feedback by key themes, activities, and location. It concludes with detailed information on the engagement and communication methods.

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What we heard

By theme

Theme 1: Protecting the natural beauty and landscape

Strengths:

- **Scenic value:** Respondents cherish the coastal areas for their wild, rugged, and picturesque beauty, using terms like "untouched," "serene," and "stunning."

Issues:

- **Design and maintenance:** Concerns are raised about the aesthetic appeal of functional structures like seawalls and fences, which are often seen as eyesores. Inadequate maintenance affects the natural aesthetic and feeling of the place.
- **Development impact:** There is concern about future developments harming the natural environment and biodiversity. Ensuring new structures are both aesthetically pleasing, and durable is a key challenge.

Opportunities:

- **Ecological design:** Suggestions include integrating new structures with the natural landscape, limiting structures, using sustainable materials, and enhancing biodiversity through nature-based solutions like green seawalls.
- **Cultural integration:** Incorporating local art, reflecting cultural heritage, and fostering a sense of community pride through thoughtful coastal design.
- **Aesthetic consistency:** Others suggested there should be aesthetic consistency along the coast.



Theme 2: Ecosystems, wildlife, and nature

Strengths:

- **Biodiversity:** The coast's rich biodiversity and wildlife are celebrated, with opportunities to observe marine life and birds being highly valued.

Issues:

- **Pollution:** There was widespread dissatisfaction with the impact of pollution coming from stormwater, wastewater, and landfills, impacting human health, aesthetics, and wildlife.
- **Litter and rubbish:** Concerns about rubbish on our coastal areas not being collected or cleaned up and harming nature.
- **Invasive species:** Concerns were raised about the presence of invasive plants and pests threatening the coastal ecosystem. Other people raised biosecurity threats.

- **Dogs and wildlife:** Dogs disturbing wildlife, particularly nesting penguins, is a significant issue and one of the largest themes discussed. People said clearer communication and enforcement of dog restrictions are needed.
- **Poaching:** Illegal poaching of seafood is a concern, particularly around marine reserves and at Te Kopahou Reserve.

Opportunities:

- **Tackling invasive species** through measures like promoting predator control, restricting cats, addressing invasive species, protecting penguins at nesting season, and predator-free zones.
- **Natural habitats:** Protection and restoration of natural habitats like dunes, wetlands, estuaries, daylighting streams, fish passage, protecting seeps, and rock pools were seen by some as top priorities. People raised ideas about planting areas, support for threatened plants like Matagouri, and creating another Zealandia. Also, creating a coastal arboretum and support nurseries for propagation, seed banks and protecting habitats for seabirds. Other ideas include expanding marine reserve areas, implementing no-take zones to protect marine life and using cameras to protect the marine reserve from poachers.
- **Kororā:** Opportunities particularly around penguins included protecting penguins at nesting season, signage, tunnel routes for penguins and making penguins the iconic coastal species to represent conservation aspirations.
- **Stopping pollution:** Submitters said fix the pipes, use drain traps on stormwater outlets, and sweep streets on the coast more regularly so rubbish does not end up in the water.
- **Enforcement, signs, and awareness:** Another major theme was about enforcement and the Council doing more to ensure people are complying with rules.
- **Community involvement:** Engaging the community in activities like ocean clean-ups and protecting wildlife through education and improved signage. Others suggested community composting hubs and better recycling opportunities.
- **Enhanced monitoring:** Submitters suggested continuous monitoring of coastal health and ecosystem changes and that the council should support research into threatened and vulnerable species and utilise new technologies for this.

Theme 3: Climate change and resilience

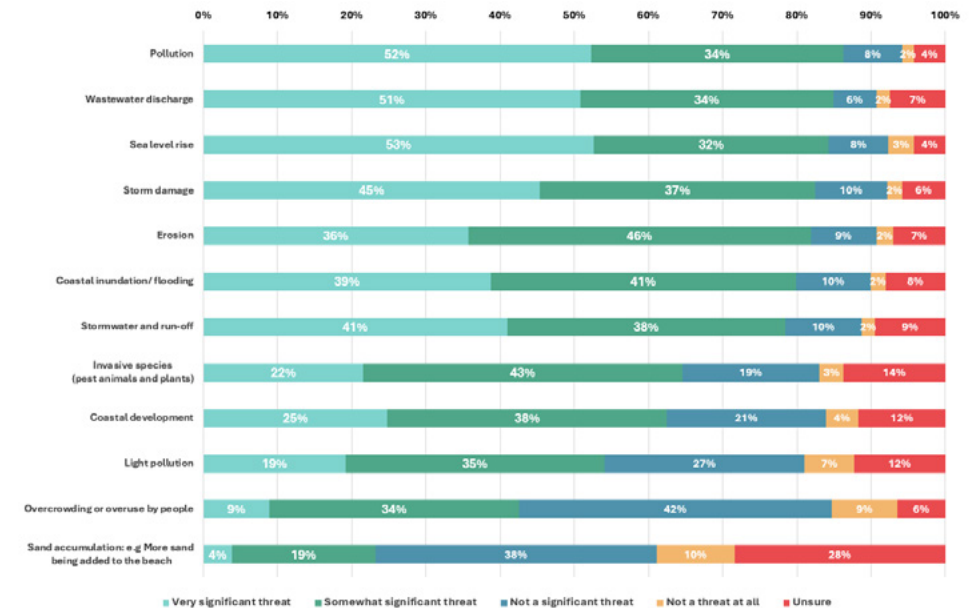
Issues:

- **Impacts of climate change:** Concerns about climate change impacts, including erosion, sea-level rise, storm surges, flooding, increased storm intensity and frequency were raised, as well as concerns about inadequate planning for these impacts.
- **Natural disasters:** Concerns about planning for tsunamis and earthquakes.

Opportunities:

- **Nature-based solutions:** Submitters suggested utilising nature-based solutions like dune restoration, seaweed restoration, beach nourishment, natural wave barriers, planting, and green infrastructure to enhance resilience. Some submitters said create living sea walls that provide habitat and buffers.
- **Other solutions:** Other submitters focused on enhanced storm warning systems, higher seawalls, incorporating stronger resilient designs into structures, managing retreat, and not wasting money on assets that will soon be inundated.
- **Community involvement:** A number of submitters stressed the importance of engaging the community in climate adaptation planning and implementation efforts.
- **Giving room for dunes:** A number of commenters suggested more space for dunes.

Figure 2: Perception of Coastal Threats, Research Survey 2024



Theme 4: Access, parking, and transport

Strengths:

- **Proximity and variety:** Easy access to diverse coastal areas is highly appreciated. The inclusivity of access and the variety of coastal experiences are significant positives.
- **Transport modes:** Convenient parking, diverse walkways, and cycle paths were praised.

Issues:

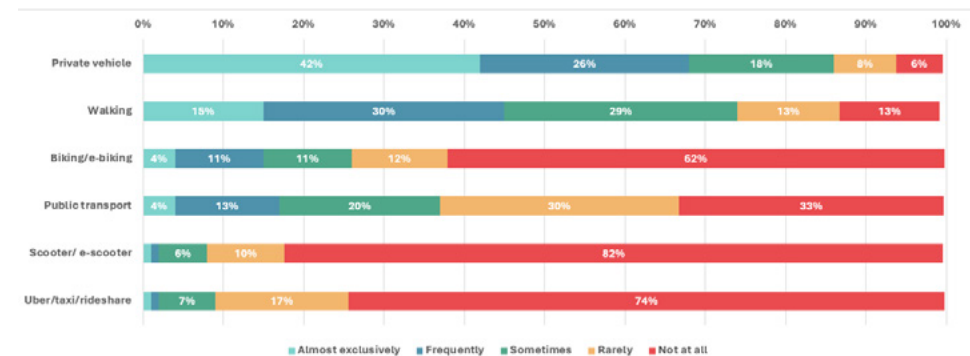
- **Walkways:** Erosion, narrow pathways, and the absence of walkways in some areas are major concerns for the community.
- **Parking:** Limited parking spaces, especially during summer peak times, and concerns about future changes affecting access were common complaints.
- **Public transport:** The community highlighted that poor or non-existent public transport options to key beaches limits their accessibility.
- **User conflicts:** Tensions between different user groups (eg, pedestrians, cyclists, drivers) were noted, especially regarding speed and safety.

- **Accessibility:** Several submitters raised that improving facilities and amenities for people with mobility disabilities was important with many areas seen as inaccessible.

Opportunities:

- **Improved transport options:** Suggestions include more frequent bus services, connected cycle paths, and increased parking spaces.
- **Pedestrian improvements and Car-free zones:** Several submitters suggested creating more pedestrian-friendly areas by restricting car access and controlling car speeds to support pedestrians. Others suggested doing more to manage user tensions to enhance the pedestrian experience. They also said improve walkways and connections through parks.
- **Accessibility improvements:** Some submitters said upgrade facilities to universal design standards and add features like beach mats for wheelchair users.

Figure 3: The Way People Access the Coast, Research Survey 2024



Theme 5: Cultural and historical significance

Strengths:

- **Cultural identity:** The coast is valued for its cultural and historical significance, with many respondents emphasising the importance of preserving these aspects. Coastal areas are seen as integral to the community's identity and heritage.

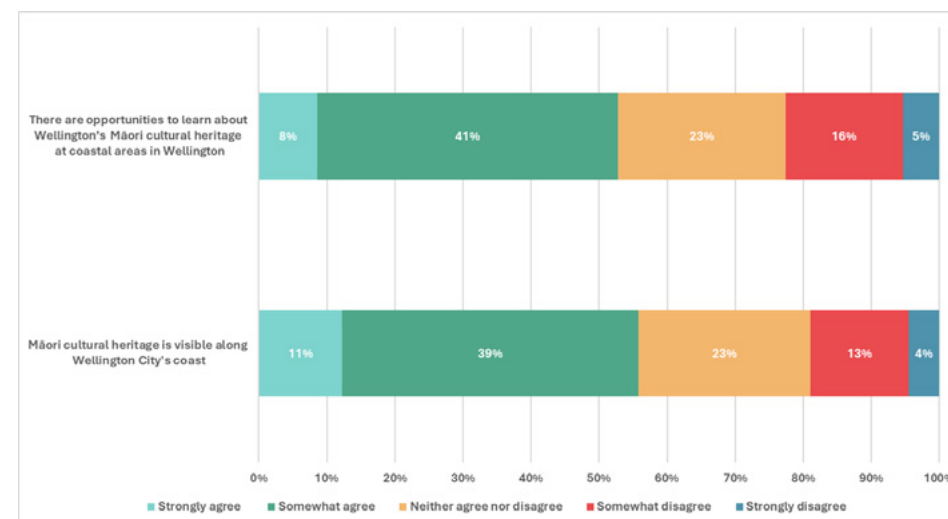
Issues:

- **Lack of recognition:** Some respondents feel cultural and historical significance is not adequately recognised or seen in the landscape. Some felt that Māori history was not recognised enough.

Opportunities:

- **Heritage integration:** Submitters suggested incorporating cultural and historical elements into design and development plans to enhance community identity and pride.
- **Educational programmes:** Submitters stressed promoting awareness and appreciation of the coast's cultural and historical significance through educational initiatives and interpretive signage.
- **Inclusion of Māori culture and mātauranga:** Some ideas from the community include rongōa gardens, pā harakeke, more pou, renaming places, incorporating mātauranga and better support for rāhui.
- Other submitters stressed **recognising the role of mana whenua** and ensuring they are involved in all aspects.

Figure 4: Perception of the visibility of Māori culture in coastal areas



Theme 6: Community engagement, partnership, and stewardship

Strengths:

- **Active community:** The community is actively engaged in coastal stewardship, with many participating in clean-ups, restoration projects, supporting recreation activities, and advocacy efforts with strong volunteer networks.

Issues:

- **Limited resources:** Submitters raised that community efforts are often hampered by limited resources and support from local authorities.
- **Sustaining engagement:** Submitters raised that maintaining long-term community engagement and participation in coastal management is challenging.

Opportunities:

- **Collaborative projects:** Submitters suggested encouraging collaborative projects between local authorities, community groups, and stakeholders to enhance coastal stewardship.
- **Enhanced support:** Submitters also suggested providing more resources and support for community-led initiatives.

Theme 7: Amenities and facilities

Strengths:

- **Appreciation:** There was positive feedback about many well-maintained toilets and changing rooms at popular locations. There was also appreciation for picnic tables, seating, and existing playgrounds.

Issues:

- **Toilets, shower, changing rooms, drinking fountains:** Several submitters raised issues with gaps in facilities, gaps in capacity, maintenance concerns, and safety issues.
- **Play areas:** Several submitters requested more interactive and larger play spaces
- **Other amenities:** Other requests included the need for repairs, additional seating, shaded areas, and more bins.

Opportunities:

- **Provide more and fill gaps:** Submitters said to increase the number of toilet and changing room facilities in underserved areas. Install more solar showers and drinking fountains. Increase the number of benches, picnic tables, and shaded seating. Enhance rubbish management with more bins and recycling options. Install more public BBQ facilities.
- **Maintenance:** Submitters said improve cleanliness, maintenance, and security.
- **Inclusive:** Other submitters said add unisex, accessible, and environmentally friendly facilities.
- **Play:** Other submitters said create more family-friendly activities and spaces. Introduce new features like flying foxes, swings, slides, and water play areas.
- **Shade and shelter:** Other submitters said develop sheltered picnic areas for all weather conditions.

Theme 8: Behaviour and safety

Strength:

- **Freedom:** People liked the freedom and unregulated nature of the coast, to enjoy it in the way they want to, whether that is having parties, bonfires, 4WD access, or making art.

Issues:

- **Safety concerns:** Submitters raised concerns with theft, vandalism, graffiti, dumping, harassment, particularly in poorly lit areas and at Te Kopahou Reserve.
- **Lighting:** Submitters said inadequate lighting is causing safety concerns, conflicting with other submitters desire for dark areas for stargazing and wildlife.
- **Fire risks:** Other submitters raised that unmanaged campfires could cause significant environmental damage.

Opportunities:

- **Security measures:** Submitters raised ideas to install CCTV cameras, conduct regular ranger patrols, and implement fire risk indicators, and to include a large fire ban signs with fines.
- **Enhanced lighting:** Other submitters suggested improving lighting along coastal paths and parking areas for safety.
- **Community engagement:** Other submitters suggested increasing awareness campaigns about fire safety and general responsible behaviour on the coast.

Theme 9: Financial concerns

- **Financial concerns:** Several submissions highlighted concerns over the high rates and the need for the Council to manage within a budget, focusing on essential services. Some suggested focusing on fixing the pipes.



Theme 10: Coastal activities

Submitters expressed that the Wellington coast is highly valued for its wide range of activities and recreational opportunities, offering something for everyone. Key themes around each activity area are summarised here:

Passive recreation and relaxation

- **Relaxation and connection:** The coastal environment is valued for relaxation, rejuvenation, and inspiration. It is loved for opportunities to relax and explore nature. Popular activities include watching waves, watching planes, exploring rock pools, skimming stones, and observing wildlife. Submitters suggested including more picnic areas, seating, and designated dark sky areas for stargazing.

Recreation

- **Walking, running, and trails:**

Submitters love the coast for its scenic routes and exercise opportunities. Challenges raised include narrow walkways and conflicts with cyclists. Suggestions include widening paths, creating separate lanes, and better maintenance. Also, a number of new tracks were suggested around Te Kopahou, Oku reserve and Mātai moana area.

- **Cycling:** Submitters enjoyed the coast for scenic and accessible routes. Issues involve conflicts with pedestrians and safety concerns. Suggested enhancements include dedicated cycling lanes and improved signage.
- **Swimming:** Submitters praised the community spirit of the swimming community and the accessibility to swimming in Wellington. Key challenges are water pollution and safety concerns. Suggested improvements include more lifeguard presence, solar-heated showers, outdoor lanes, year-round access to swimming facilities, and better water quality communication.

- **Dog walking:** Submitters valued the coast for dog walking opportunities and with it the social interaction and exercise. Concerns include impact on wildlife, inconsistent signage, and lack of enforcement. Suggestions include more dog waste bins, water bowls, and designated fenced off-leash areas.
- **Surfing and wind surfing:** Submitters raised that they loved Wellington's coast for accessible surfing spots. Key challenges were water quality and threats from airport expansion. Suggestions include creating artificial reefs, better facilities, and support for improved surf etiquette.
- **Boating and waka ama:** Submitters raised that the coast was appreciated for access to water sports. Challenges include noise, safety, and the need for ramp upgrades. Suggestions include improving facilities and adding boat storage.

- **4WD adventures:** Submitters raised that the coastal areas benefitted 4WD drivers and was enjoyed for recreational access to remote areas. Concerns included environmental impact from 4wd and safety issues. Suggestions include controlled access and enhanced enforcement.
- **Horse riding:** Submitters valued access to the coast for horse riding for its therapeutic benefits and exercise. Requests include better beach access and separation from off-leash dog areas.
- **Mountain biking:** Submitters enjoy the coast for Mountain Biking for its thrill, fitness, and access to scenery. Concerns include trail conflicts with other trail users, and environmental impact. Suggestions include new trails and better connections.
- **Skate/rollerblading/ scooting:** Some submitters raised that they enjoy the coast for skate/scooting/rollerblading and the recreation and fitness elements to these activities. Concerns include conflicts with pedestrians. Suggestions include improved surfaces, more skate parks, and better lighting.

Fishing, foraging, and collecting kai

- Fishing and collecting kai:** Submitters cherished the coast for sustenance and tradition. Other submitters raised concerns about pollution from fishers, poaching, commercial fishing, and lack of infrastructure for fishing. Suggestions include more fishing piers/access to wharves, bait boards, education on sustainable practices, better support for Rāhui, and controlled access to marine reserves.
- Foraging:** Some submitters raised a passion for collecting items for use or decoration from the coast such as sea-glass, seaweed, flax, rocks, and materials.

Commercial activities and amenities

- Cafes and food trucks:** Several submitters expressed a desire for cafes and food trucks to enhance their coastal experience. Others were strongly concerned about over-commercialisation. Suggestions include more cafes, food trucks, and better infrastructure to support these activities.
- Events and rentals:** Other submitters raised requests for more public events and equipment rentals like surfboards and kayaks to boost recreational use.

Figure 5: How often people visit coastal areas. Research Survey 2024

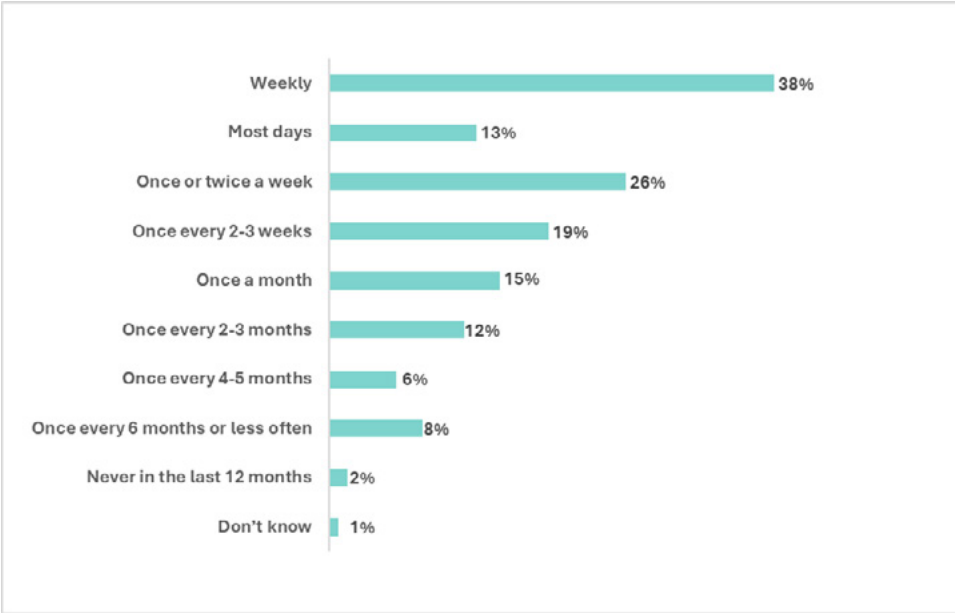
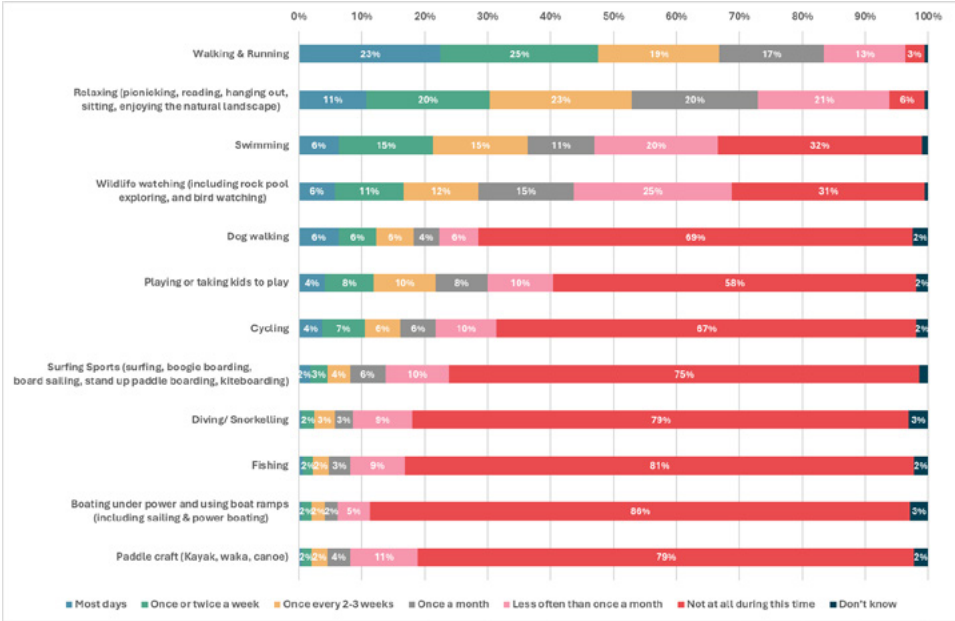


Figure 6: Regularity of Coastal Recreation Activities in Summer, Research Survey 2024



By Location

This section summarises themes at specific locations.

Te Kopahou Reserve

- **4WD access and management:** Concerns include environmental damage and safety issues. Suggestions: restrict or ban access, reduce hours, close gates, better enforcement, permits, and controlled entry points, ensuring access for bach owners and emergency services. Others say leave as is.
- **Coastal road:** Balance recreation access and environmental preservation. Mixed opinions on where the road should be maintained, and others suggested removing legal status of the road.
- **Dog management:** Issues with on-lead rule enforcement. Suggestions: better signage, significant fines, and banning dogs in certain areas.
- **Poaching:** Concerns about illegal poaching disrupting marine biodiversity. Suggestions: stricter monitoring, harsher penalties, surveillance, and educational programmes.
- **Freedom camping:** Concerns about environmental impact and littering. Suggestions: stricter regulations and better facilities
- **Protection for native plants and wildlife:** Emphasis on biodiversity protection for seal and seabird and invasive species management. Suggestions: monitor water quality, protect marine life, and establish buffer zones.
- **Community engagement and conservation:** Emphasise community and bach owner involvement in conservation with awareness campaigns and educational programmes.
- **Reserve designation:** Proposal to designate parts as scientific reserves for conservation research and education.
- **Cultural and historical interpretation:** Suggestions include educational signage, guided tours, cultural events, and art installations.
- **Bach owners:** Maintain access to properties and involve them in decision-making, emphasising their role in conservation and protection of this area.
- **Safety:** Concerns about safety and anti-social behaviour. Suggestions: emergency call boxes, low-impact lighting,, and better monitoring.
- **Fire ban:** Strong support for fire bans with clear signage, public awareness, and stricter enforcement.
- **Access, transport, and parking:** Request for better public transport and parking facilities to reduce congestion and ensure safety.
- **Shops and amenities:** Mixed opinions on adding cafes; support for coffee carts, more benches, picnic tables, and rubbish bins.
- **Tracks and trails for biking and walking:** Desire for dedicated bike and walking tracks and new trails around to Mākara, looped biking track to Brooklyn and up Karori Stream to Mākara Bike Park. Others suggested abandoning the Te Kopahou Track Plan.



Ōwhiro Bay

- **Resilience beach emergency:** Concern about beach erosion damaging properties during storms. Suggestions include better preventative sculpting of the beach, managed retreat, and nature-based solutions.
- **Speed management, traffic, and pedestrian amenity:** Concerns about high vehicle speeds and inadequate pedestrian infrastructure. Suggestions: reduce speed limits, add speed bumps, and improve footpaths for walkers and cyclists.
- **Dog management:** Issues with off-leash dogs. Suggestions: better signage and enforcement, some call for a total dog ban at Sirens Rock to protect penguins.
- **Ōwhiro Bay Boat Ramp:** Concerns about safety and usability. Suggestions: re-lay ramp at a steeper angle, extend concrete, and add a breakwater.
- **Diving:** Lack of facilities for divers. Suggestions: add restrooms, changing rooms, better parking, and steps at Sirens Rocks.
- **Water quality and pollution:** Concerns about pollution affecting swimmers and the environment. Suggestions: address pollution, clean up rubbish, and manage road run-off.
- **Invasive plants and species:** Issues with millipedes and invasive weeds such as asthma weed. Suggestions: better management of invasive species.
- **Sirens Rock sea wall:** Concerns about the unattractive sea wall. Suggestions: add planting to hide the wall and improve visual appeal.
- **Oku Street Reserve:** Concerns about maintenance and access. Suggestions: improve track maintenance, develop new loop tracks, enhance access from High Street and extend the Te Araroa Walkway to include Oku Street Reserve.
- **Rongōa forest:** Suggestion to add a Rongōa forest here.

Island Bay

- **Dune protection, sea wall, erosion, and resilience:** Concerns about coastal erosion and dune protection. Recommendations: plant native vegetation, restrict access to sensitive areas, remove the seawall and let the dunes meet the park and reroute the coastal road around the park.
- **Dog management:** Mixed opinions on off-leash areas versus wildlife impact, especially the impact on Little penguins. Suggestions: stricter regulations in sensitive areas, improved signage, and add a fenced dog park.
- **Beach maintenance and care:** Need for better beach maintenance and infrastructure. Suggestions: groom sand, clear debris, fix infrastructure, and address weed overgrowth.
- **Cultural and community Events:** Feedback: incorporate and celebrate cultural and historical aspects. Also continue to celebrate multicultural diversity and events like the Island Bay Fair and the Blessing of the Boats.
- **Swimming and facilities:** Concerns were raised about the need for better facilities for swimmers. Suggestions: add changing sheds, toilets, solar showers, and improve maintenance and access to public amenities including digging out sand from the entrance.
- **Marine Education Centre/Bait House:** Submitters raised support for the Marine Education Centre. Feedback: calls for increased funding and expansion to educate the public about marine life and conservation.
- **Significance of Taputeranga Island:** Submitters want increased awareness of the island's cultural significance. Suggestions: educate locals about Taputeranga's importance in tangata whenua narratives.
- **Shorland Park:** Feedback: praise for improvements and a suggestion for gates at entrances for extra safety.
- **Traffic and safety:** Concerns about road safety and infrastructure. Suggestions: lower speed limits, better pedestrian links and crosswalks, and improved cycling infrastructure.
- **Horse riding:** Some submitters were concerned about access for horse riding. Suggestion: allow horses on the non-dog side of the beach during off-season times.

Figure 7: Picture of Island Bay by Wellington East Girls College students



Houghton Bay and Princess Bay

- **Summer congestion at Princess Bay:** Submitters raised that overcrowding at Princess Bay during summer creates parking and congestion issues. Feedback: appreciation for the beach, demand for additional parking, public toilets, changing facilities, and bike racks.
- **Pollution, leachate, and rubbish at Houghton Bay:** Submitters raised that pollution from old landfill leachate at Houghton Bay poses health risks to the environment and people. Feedback: urgent action to address pollution, more rubbish bins, and do something about bonfire rubbish.
- **Pests, weeds, and planting:** Issues with pests, particularly rats, and invasive plant species. Feedback: better pest control, weed management, and targeted planting to protect native flora and fauna.
- **Launching facilities at Princess Bay:** Request for improved launching facilities.
- **Dune protection and drain issues:** Submitters raised issues with erosion of dunes and the stormwater drain causing erosion of the dune. Feedback: better dune protection and fix the drain infrastructure from eroding the beach.
- **Surfing at Houghton Bay:** Submitters raised the need for facilities for surfers. Feedback: calls to protect surfing spots and improve facilities such as public toilets and showers.
- **Diving in the area:** Submitters suggested the need for supporting dive infrastructure including more parking, showers, and taps to support diving.
- **Poaching concerns:** Submitters raised concerns with poaching on the edge of the marine reserve. Feedback: requests for cameras to monitor and protect the reserve and better enforcement.
- **Electric charging stations at Princess Bay:** Submitters said there was a lack of electric car charging facilities. Feedback: suggestion to install charging stations at Princess Bay to reduce carbon impact.
- **Cycle and footpath safety and traffic bottlenecks:** Concerns were raised about inadequate infrastructure leading to dangerous situations. Feedback: calls for safe cycling paths, widened footpaths, better street lighting, traffic management improvements, speed changes, and warning signs.
- **Public transport:** Submitters raised there are limited public transport options along this part of the coast. Suggestion: better public transport.

Figure 8: Princess Bay Beach, Picture by Wellington East Girls College Student



Lyall Bay

- **Kororā and wildlife:** Submitters raised the importance of protecting local wildlife, especially Little penguins, from dogs and human activity. Suggestions: more signage, dog restrictions at certain times, and employing wildlife ambassadors.
- **Impact of Wellington Airport expansion:** Concerns were raised about environmental and recreational impacts of the airport's potential expansion, particularly the impact on the surf break. Feedback: opposition to the expansion to protect the environment and recreational areas.
- **Surfing:** Submitters raised the need for improved surfing conditions and facilities. Suggestions: artificial reef, better safety signage, improved access, and more infrastructure like showers and toilets.
- **Coastal resilience, erosion, and dunes:** Submitters raised concerns about coastal erosion and dune protection. Feedback: use signage and barriers to protect dunes, manage sand movement, stabilise sand through vegetation, and consider relocating or realigning Lyall Bay Parade to expand the dune systems.
- **Commercial activities:** There were mixed opinions on commercial development. Some support expanding local business and tourism in Lyall Bay, while other submitters want to preserve the natural environment and local culture.
- **Public toilets and showers at surfers' corner:** Submitters raised the need for public amenities. Requests: new public toilets, showers, and other facilities for surfers, dog walkers, and visitors.
- **Enhancing the visitor experience:** Suggestions: additional drinking fountains, increased playground size, seating, rubbish bins, BBQs, and shaded areas.
- **Dog walking and management:** Submitters said we need to balance dog access with wildlife protection and cleanliness. Feedback: appreciation for the dog-friendly environment, better boundary signage, and managing dog access to protect wildlife.
- **Horse riding:** Some submitters raised access for horse riding. Suggestion: allow horses on the non-dog side of the beach during off-season times.

Figure 9: Pictures of Lyall Bay, by Wellington East Girls College Student



Rangitatau Takiwā and Oruaiti Reserve

- **Environmental preservation and wildlife protection:** Submitters raised the importance of protecting local wildlife and plants. Feedback: Ban dogs to protect wildlife, increase signage for penguins, continue plant regeneration, enforce dog management rules, and designate dog-free zones. However, some submitters also said they love walking their dogs in the area.
- **Coastal walkway and Eastern Walkway:** Submitters said improve the quality, accessibility, and maintenance of the coastal walkway. Feedback: create a continuous walkway around the south coast, remove bollards, support running track, widen paths, clear vegetation, and provide clearer signage. Improve access to the Pā site. Enhance the walking experience.
- **Cycle path:** Some submitters said improve safety for cyclists including recommending a two-way cycleway on the outside of the road.
- **Public toilets and drinking fountains:** Submitters raised the lack of amenities in the area. Feedback: request for restrooms with a major gap between Seatoun and Lyall Bay and requests for drinking fountains.
- **Tarakena Boat Ramp:** Submitters raised issues with the functionality and safety. Feedback: upgrade the ramp for larger boats, extend concrete, and improve parking.
- **Anti-social behaviour and dumping:** Submitters suggested pollution, rubbish, and antisocial behaviour were issue here. Feedback: better enforcement to prevent dumping and camping, increase ranger authority to fine offenders, and install a rubbish bin near the beach.
- **Moa Point sewage outflow:** There is strong opposition to unconsented sewage discharges, with calls for alternatives to protect beaches and marine life.
- **Nude beach/naturism:** Some submitters said there should be recognition and management of Breaker Bay as a nude beach. Feedback: make it official with proper signage, improve the pathway, but other submitters suggested we needed to address inappropriate behaviour.
- **Diving and snorkelling:** Submitters said we need to consider access and facilities for divers. Feedback: improve access and create paths.

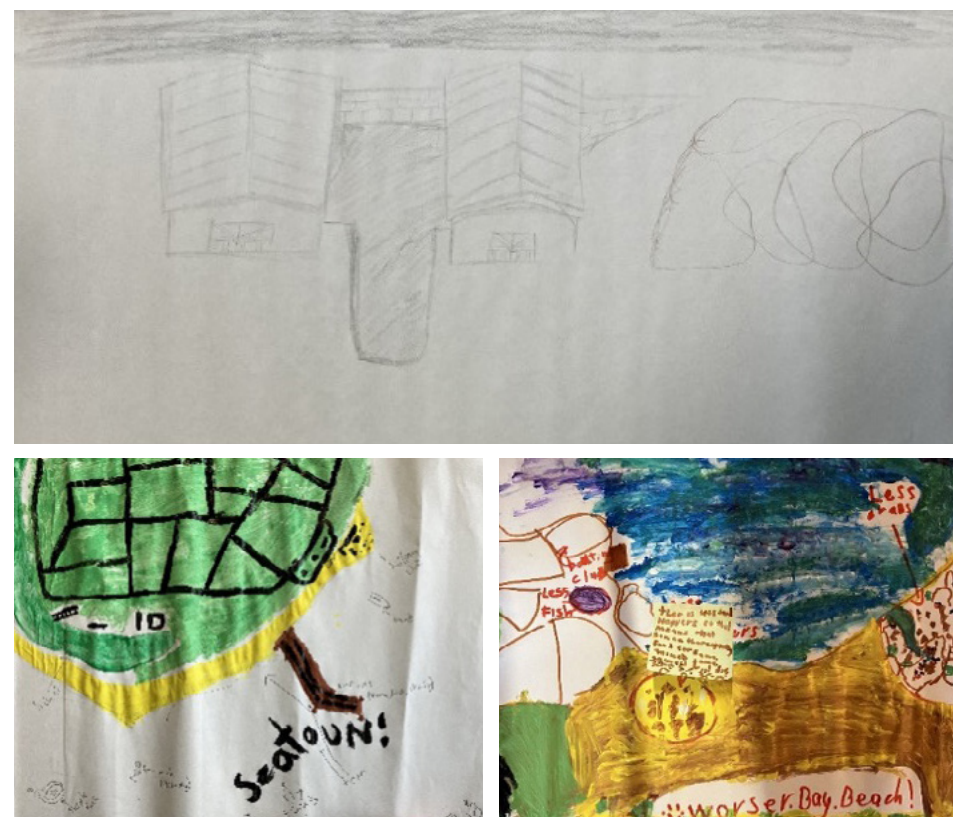
- **Erosion and large swells:** Submitters said coastal erosion and large swells are a major hazard in Breaker Bay and Moa Point. Feedback: implement early warning systems and protective measures against erosion.
- **Historical and cultural significance:** Submitters said celebrate Māori history. Feedback: there is appreciation for Māori historical recognition at Oruaiti Reserve, request similar recognition in other areas, provide more information about the pā and gun emplacements, provide more pou and enhance educational value.
- **Changing rooms and toilets:** Submitters raised cleanliness and availability issues. Feedback: improve cleanliness and security, keep facilities open year-round for ocean swimmers.
- **Parking facilities:** Submitters said the parking is too narrow at Scorching Bay. Feedback: calls for expanding and redesigning car parks.
- **Seatoun Wharf:** Submitters requested enhancing the wharf experience. Suggestions for better jumping platforms and safety improvements.
- **Worser Bay Boat Club proposals:** A proposal to enhance facilities and environmental engagement at Worser Bay. The submission included storage space for waka hourua, community aquaculture containers, dune regeneration, and cultural storytelling enhancements.
- **Worser Bay dunes tensions:** Submitters raised the need to balance dune protection with recreational access. Feedback: importance of protecting dunes, educating the public and managing sand encroachment on lawn and boat access.
- **Scorching Bay stream:** A submitter raised wanting to make the stream more visible. Feedback: desire to highlight the stream and wetlands.

Eastern Bays

- **Love for Scorching Bay:** Submitters said we should maintain Scorching Bay as a cherished destination. Feedback: praise for recreational opportunities, swimming conditions, and atmosphere.
- **Upgrading play areas:** Submitters raised the need for better playgrounds at Scorching Bay, Churchill, and Worser Bay. Feedback: requests for upgraded equipment, new features, shade options, water facilities, and fenced dog parks.

- **Wildlife protection:** Feedback: protect penguins, manage dogs and plant more threatened plants, control roaming dogs, and support wildlife habitats.
- **Seatoun Beach and sand movement:** Submitters raised the need to addressing sand erosion and accumulation. Feedback: suggestions for sea walls, dune regeneration, moving the road and managing sand movement to protect properties.
- **Karaka Bay access and amenities:** Submitters requested improving public access and amenities to increasingly popular spots. Feedback: better access, steps down to sealing car parks, providing bins, installing steps down to a beach, adding a snorkelling trail, and bike racks.
- **Pontoon:** Feedback to add a pontoon at Worser Bay to enhance swimming.
- **Seatoun Boat Ramp:** Submitters requested upgrading the boat ramp. Feedback: calls for improvements to accommodate larger boats and ensure safer access.
- **Fenced dog exercise areas:** Submitters stressed the lack of fenced dog areas. Suggestions for fenced dog parks at Worser Bay and Churchill Park.
- **Interpretation and cultural installations:** Submitters suggested enhancing cultural and historical understanding. Feedback: creative interpretation options, QR codes for audio descriptions, and cultural markers.
- **Seaweed restoration at Worser Bay:** Submitters were concerned about the loss of seaweed and marine life. Feedback: support for seaweed restoration, protecting fisheries, and establishing small marine reserves.

Figure 10: "Twin Sheds" near Karaka Bay, picture by Wellington East Girls College student, "Seatoun" by Seatoun School student and "Worser Bay" by Worser Bay School student



Mātai Moana

- **Changing the coastal road to be more pedestrian friendly:** Submitters suggested enhancing pedestrian safety and recreational use. Feedback: create a shared cycle/walking path, close the road between Scorching Bay and Shelly Bay at night or altogether, make the road one-way with a walkway/cycleway, implement car-free days, add speed bumps, add a footpath, and reduce speed limits.
- **Amenities and toilets:** Submitters requested enhancing amenities along the coastal road. They said there was a lack of facilities. Feedback: requests for more benches, picnic tables, seating, and requests for installing toilets, particularly at Shelly Bay.
- **Track connections:** Submitters suggested improving track connections between Shelly Bay and Scorching Bay and to the pā sites. Develop walking and running tracks through the bush, over Mount Crawford, and enhance existing paths.
- **Environmental protection and wildlife:** Submitters said improve habitat restoration and conservation efforts. Feedback: block off areas from vehicle access, replant with native plants, manage dog access to protect Little penguins and other wildlife. Add diving petrel boxes and establish nest sites.
- **Freedom camping:** Submitters were concerned about the environmental impact and management of freedom camping. Feedback: better management of campers, establish formal camping facilities, and prevent overnight stays.
- **Diving and parking:** Submitters stressed the need for access to diving locations and parking facilities. Feedback: support for maintaining and enhancing access to dive sites and protecting parking facilities.
- **Connection with heritage park and places of significance for mana whenua:** Submitters said we need to preserve and promote cultural heritage. Feedback: strong support for creating a regional heritage park, integrating mana whenua perspectives, and preserving historical and pā sites along the Miramar Peninsula.
- **Mahanga Bay:** Submitters suggested enhancing recreation and conservation here. Feedback: add signage about NIWA aquaculture, create a reef for marine life, install penguin signage, and secure the carpark with CCTV.
- **Kau Bay:** Submitters raised issues with dumping and tree damage. Feedback: address dumping, protect trees, and support rock climbing activities.
- **Shelly Bay ideas:** Submitters said improve recreational access and facilities. Feedback: create an artificial beach, build a bike park, restore the wharf, establish a camp area, and enhance ferry links and recreational opportunities.
- **Bus access:** Submitters raised that there is limited bus access. Feedback: requests for improved bus routes to better access the Miramar Peninsula.
- **Carter Park:** Submission raised user tensions between dog walkers, bikers, and walkers. Feedback: separate activities to reduce conflicts and improve the experience for all users.

Ākau Tangi/Evans Bay West Summary

- **Safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists:**

Submitters raised improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. Feedback: finish bike and walking paths, add raised crossings, better lighting, and improved access points. Emphasis on completing pathways for safe and enjoyable coastal access.

- **Penguin protection:** Submitters raised safeguarding kororā from dogs and human activities. Feedback: specific measures to protect penguins, especially around the breakwater next to Evans Bay where penguins have died.

- **Amenities and infrastructure at Cog Park, Hataitai Beach, and Balaena Bay:** Submitters suggested enhancing facilities for recreational activities. Feedback: additional amenities like pontoons, bike locks, kiosks, benches, BBQs, and lockers. Expand the sand area at Hataitai Beach and improve changing room conditions.

- **Evans Bay Marina Boat Ramp:** Submitters raised enhancing safety and usability. Feedback: better facilities including floating pontoon wharfs,

improved ladders, rubbish bins, and fish filleting stations. Fence the boat ramp from dogs to protect penguins.

- **Freedom camping and car parking:** Submitters suggested managing demand and environmental impact of freedom camping. Feedback: introduce paid campsites, designated parking areas, and restrictions on overnight parking.
- **Cog Park:** Submitters raised improvements to the park. Feedback: improve the dog park, ensure no loss of carparks due to cycling lanes, and enhance jetties/wharves/slipways. There was also appreciation for historical information in the area.
- **Rubbish and litter:** Submitters stressed there is a lot of rubbish, particularly Cobham Drive. They said keep coastal areas clean. Suggestions: more bins, better education to reduce littering, and strategies to clean beaches of plastics and human debris.
- **Concern about development:** Submitters were concerned about overdevelopment and its environmental impact. Feedback: emphasise sustainable development that preserves natural beauty and considers habitats. Specific concerns were raised about previous Cobham Drive work impacting penguin habitats.

- **Māori history interpretation:**

Submitters suggested enhancing cultural and historical understanding. Feedback: incorporate more Māori history information along Evans Bay and Cobham Drive walkways and beachfronts.

- **Erosion at Little Karaka Bay:**

Submitters suggested addressing erosion issues. Feedback: requests for action to mitigate erosion at Little Karaka Bay.

- **Coastal seeps in roundabout:**

Submitters suggested to utilise unused areas in roundabouts for threatened habitats like coastal seeps.

Figure 11: Picture of Hataitai Beach by Wellington East Girls College students



Oriental Bay

- **Changing sheds and public toilets:** Submitters suggested the need for upgrades. Feedback: improve odours, lighting, and add more toilets at Freyberg Beach.
- **Band rotunda:** Submitters suggested restoration and functional improvement. Feedback: restore as a viewing/resting area or transform into a versatile event platform with electricity supplies and mounts for stalls.
- **Swimming and additional facilities:** Submitters suggested support for swimming activities. Feedback: more lockable lockers, solar-heated showers, and improved swimming pontoons.
- **Sand maintenance:** Submitters suggested to maintain the beach attractiveness. Feedback: continue to periodically add fresh sand to the main beach and maintain existing sandy areas.
- **Clean up the rubbish:** Submitters raised managing rubbish and cleanliness. Feedback: better rubbish management, more bins, and tools like tongs for collecting trash.
- **Disability access, beach mats, and handrails:** Submitters suggested improving accessibility for people with disabilities. Feedback: accessible beach mats, better handrail placement, and ensure the lift at Freyberg Pool is operational.
- **Tensions between cyclists, pedestrians, and scooters on Oriental Parade:** Submitters suggested consideration of safety and space allocation on shared paths. Feedback: better segregation, clearer guidelines, speed limits for cyclists and scooters, and pedestrian-only areas on weekends.
- **Shelter and shade:** Submitters raised the need for sheltered areas. Feedback: create shaded areas, improved seating with protection from elements, and plant more trees for natural shelter.
- **Nature support:** Submitters raised preserving and enhancing natural habitats. Feedback: create artificial rock pools, support mussel habitats, and protect penguins and other wildlife.
- **Play area and fitness equipment:** Submitters raised the need to upgrade the playground at Oriental Bay and add calisthenic bars for fitness activities.
- **Culture, education, and art:** Submitters suggested enhancing cultural and educational elements. Feedback: incorporate more information about Māori history and local nature.
- **User tensions in the water:** Submitters raised conflicts between different water activities. Feedback: restrict activities like spearfishing and boating, make Oriental Bay dog-free to protect wildlife and enhance family safety.
- **Parking and congestion:** Submitters raised traffic congestion and parking issues. Feedback: more parking meters, restrict overnight campervans, maintain current parking spaces to manage congestion and support visitor access.

Figure 12: Oriental Bay, Picture by Wellington East Girls College student



Engagement and communication methods

Engagement objectives

In the pre-engagement stage of developing the Coastal Reserves Management Plan, we sought to notify, brainstorm, and collect ideas from the public to help inform the development of the new plan. More specifically, the pre-engagement objectives were:

- To understand a wide range of community views about the future of Wellington's urban coast, particularly around coastal and ocean recreation, coastal adaptation, environmental protection, cultural needs, coastal access/accessibility.
- To seek inspirational and creative ideas and solutions for Wellington's urban coast, as a whole and in specific coastal areas.
- To understand community priorities around coastal reserves.
- To fulfil our obligations under the Reserves Act. Section 41(5) of the Reserves Act requires councils to notify their intention to review reserve management plan and invite people and organisations interested to send to the administering body at its office written suggestions on the proposed plan within a time specified in the notice. This feedback must then be considered in developing the plan.



Engagement methods

To gather feedback effectively a mixed approach to public engagement was used. The following section summarises the different methods and different ways that people could provide feedback.

Let's Talk surveys and tools

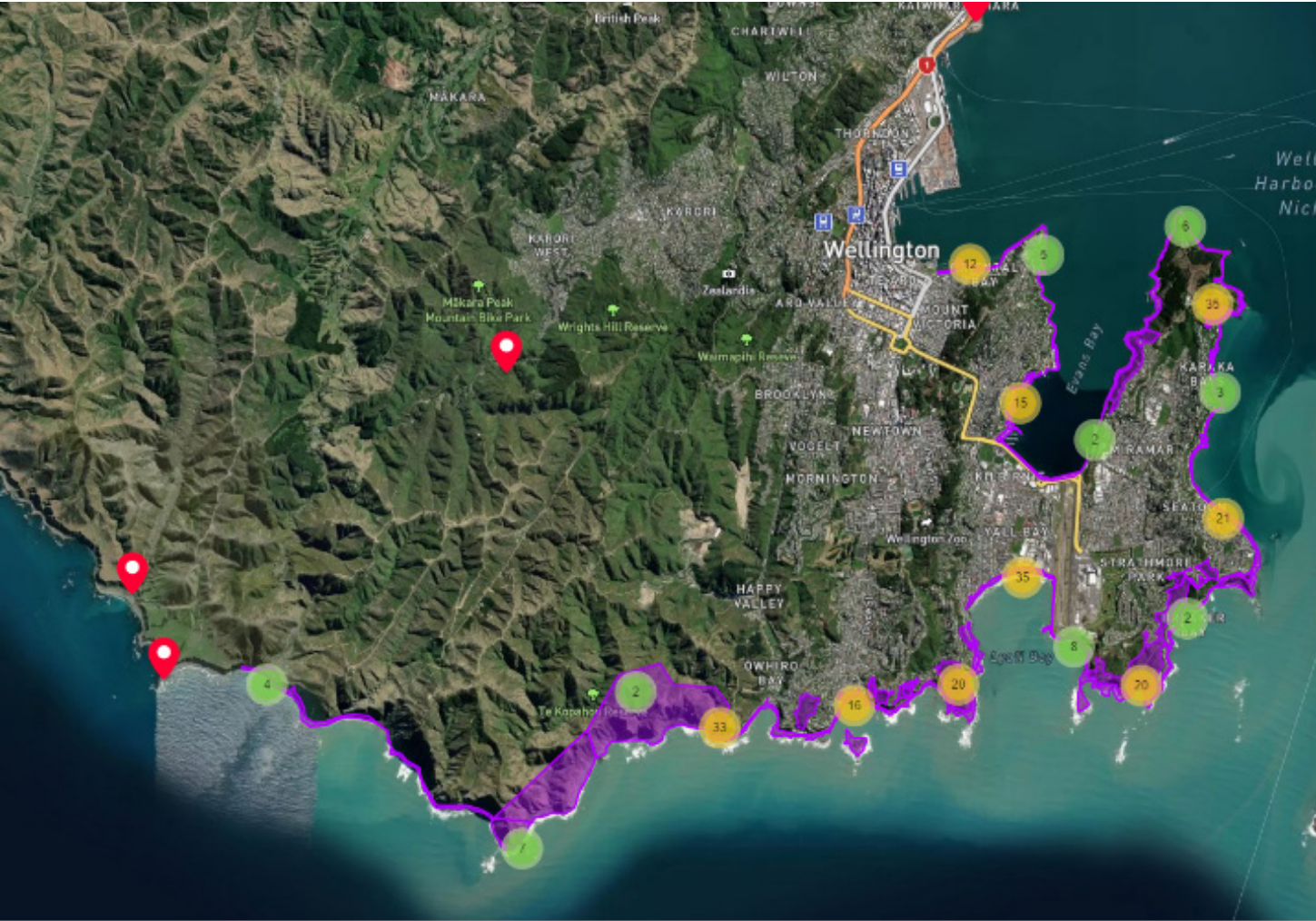
We utilised several online tools on the "Let's Talk" platform offering a variety of interesting ways to provide feedback and encourage idea generation.

Map tool – Pin your ideas and comments

We asked people to "Splash your ideas across our coastal map: Use the map tool to pin your comments and ideas on a specific spot along the coast."

This tool allowed participants to place pins on a coastal map to share their ideas and comments. It encouraged location-specific suggestions for coastal management and helped us understand community needs and ideas tied to specific geographic areas.

Figure 13: Map tool, Let's Talk



Ideas tool – Interactive SWOT Analysis

This interactive tool was designed to collect ideas around strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities for the coast. Participants could also view, comment on, and like each other's ideas, enabling interaction between the community and creating additional data for us. Some posted photos to illustrate their points. This tool can facilitate a dynamic exchange of ideas and encouraged community engagement through visual and interactive means.

We encouraged participation with the message 'Ideas ahoy! Use the ideas tool to tell us what you love or don't love about our coast, what challenges we need to consider, your ideas for improving our coastal spaces, and what we should include in the draft plan.'

We asked 5 questions:

- What do you love about Wellington's coastal parks and beaches?
- What don't you love about Wellington's coastal parks and beaches?
- What opportunities or ideas do you have to improve Wellington's coastal parks and beaches?

- What challenges or risks do we need to take into account when managing Wellington's coastal parks and beaches?
- What should we include in the draft Coastal Reserve Management Plan? Scroll for more questions!

Quick priority emoji survey

We also included a straightforward emoji survey designed to be a quick and easy option to check whether our proposed initiatives were aligned with community expectations. We asked, 'Are we setting sail in the right direction?' Respondents rated our proposed directions on seven key priorities areas. Participants could also suggest other priorities, generating valuable feedback.

General submission space or email responses

For those who preferred not to use the specific tools, we offered a general submission space for feedback as well as the option to email feedback direct to the project team. This ensured that everyone had a platform to voice their opinions and suggestions, regardless of their comfort with or desire to use the specific tools.

Beachside chats

We partnered with Massey University Design School to design and develop a model of Wellington's coast that was used as part of a series of beachside chats (8 total). The model helped draw public attention to our table and initiate location-based discussions about how people use the coast and what ideas, challenges, strength, weaknesses they could identify about the coast and how we manage it.

We asked people to write their response on the white board in an interactive way which supported creativity, and people could read and interact with what other people said. We also supported people to write responses to key questions and clip them on to the model where it applied.

Most of the beachside events were held at the end of the summer in March, at Scorching Bay, Worser Bay, Island Bay, Lyall Bay, Te Kopahou Reserve, Hataitai Beach and Wellington Waterfront markets. We also hosted a drop-in session at Oriental Bay in June. This represented a range of coastal areas in Wellington and targeted people using these coastal areas.

Figure 14: Beachside Chat Photo at Scorching Bay



Stakeholder workshops

We organised three targeted stakeholder workshops/seminars to gather in-depth feedback from key groups. These stakeholder workshops were integral to capturing diverse viewpoints and deepening our understanding of community and expert perspectives on coastal management. The workshops included:

A recreational group hui

We invited a broad range of groups involved with the coast recreation, from surfing to four-wheel driving, to waka-ama groups. This was an invite-only event, held in the evening and facilitated by an independent facilitator.

A 'living on the coast' hui

We invited residents' associations, schools, some business groups, and south coast bach owners. This was also an invite-only event.

An environmental workshop

We invited a broad range of environmental community groups and environmental experts. It was conducted over a full weekend day in July to allow for comprehensive discussion and collaboration. This event was developed in collaboration with Taranaki Whānui.

Figure 15: Recreation Hui, Public Engagement



Displays in libraries and recreation centre

We put interactive displays up at Te Awe Library and at Ākau Tangi with question/feedback cards and a box to submit their ideas.

Our other suburban libraries also held copies of the feedback cards and a summary document available for public use.

Schools

We worked with Enviroschools to gather feedback from kids, where they ran sessions at three schools; Wellington East Girls College, Seatoun School and Houghton Bay, and asked them questions that supported their curriculum goals about learning about the coast. The children drew pictures and provided feedback about what was important to them. They were asked:

- What was the natural ecosystem here in the times gone by?
- What sights, sounds and smells have vanished?
- In what ways is the land/sea around us now suffering or thriving?
- How might we better connect with the coastal areas around us?
- In what ways does this affect our hauora/wairua?
- What do we need to learn and do to be adequate kaitiaki of our coastlines?
- In what ways is our community already improving these important areas?

Research survey

Concurrent with the public engagement, we conducted a research survey targeting a diverse sample of Wellingtonians to reach those who might not typically engage with the Coastal Reserves Management Plan. The survey was distributed to a random sample of residents from the Capital Views panel and was supplemented by 100, 18-29 age group respondents from Dynata (A trusted supplier of sample for online market research studies). This survey aimed to gather a broad range of insights and experiences. The qualitative insights have been incorporated into the engagement summary.

Engagement promotion

The idea for our design collateral (posters, signage, social media tiles) was to use a relatable 'beach-based' tagline posed as a question to pique the interest of specific groups (eg recreational groups) but also familiar enough to reach a broad audience.

Promotion Channels

To encourage public participation, a variety of promotional channels were employed:

- Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram were utilised to promote the engagement and direct the public to the “Let’s Talk” webpage.
- Direct emails were sent to key stakeholder groups, community organisations and schools.
- A media release went out alongside a public notice in The Post.
- The engagement was shared in Council e-newsletters
- Displays were set up in libraries and Ākau Tangi
- We put up signage in coastal areas and distributed physical and digital posters to Council libraries, community centres, recreation centres, and pools.
- Community groups were also invited to share the “Let’s Talk” link and display posters in their spaces.

Figure 16: Pictures from the Engagement Promotion



