ocean grove principal pedestrian network(OGPPN)

Intention to declare – engagement summary

|  |
| --- |
| community engagement – intention to declare submission feedback summary |

**Project Outline**

The Ocean Grove Town Centre Urban Design Framework adopted by Council in June 2014, recommended that a

Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) be developed to create a network of paths connecting activity centres, sport facilities

and schools.

Community engagement was undertaken in 2016 and again in 2019-20 to confirm the locations of priority footpaths and

gain an indication on support for a cost sharing model to fund the PPN. In 2019-20, 591 respondents (57%) were in favour

of connecting the footpath network. Of these, 66% requested the 22.8km network (instead of the 11.3km network) and 63.8% preferred an equal share funding model.

The total scheme is estimated at $6.34 million (excluding the shared path upgrades) with contribution from property owners totalling $3.17 million based on an apportionment of cost of equal share across rateable properties. The proposed cost for each property is estimated at $507.

People were invited via a letter and public notice advertised on 24 April 2021 to make submissions on the proposed Intention to Declare scheme and the Ocean Grove PPN.

**Summary**

The following forms of engagement were used during the Intention to Declare period:-

* The Council meeting on 23 March 2021 when Intention to Declare a special rate (Scheme) was carried.
* Press release in the Voice on Wednesday 24 March 2021 to inform residents of the outcome from the Council meeting.
* Public Notice of the Intention to Declare the Scheme was advertised in the Geelong Advertiser on Saturday 24 April 2021.
* Letters sent to property owners within the Scheme with a copy of the public notice on 22 April 2021.
* Submission period closed Friday 24 May 2021.



**298**

Number of people to leave feedback

**28 DAYS**   
of engagement (Intention to Declare)

People following the project webpage

**177**

|  |
| --- |
| what we heard – MAIN themes and comments |

1. ***We already pay rates, why should we have to pay an additional cost for this Special Rate and Charge Scheme?***

Many of the footpaths built in the City, have been funded through a Special Rates and Charge scheme. Once the footpath is constructed, the City maintains and replaces these from rates collected. Annual rates do not fund projects where the local community special benefit exceeds the benefit to the wider City of Greater Geelong community.

The annual rates collected help the City to deliver a diverse range of community and business services such as:

* Waste management
* Recreation and sports facilities
* Family services
* Maintaining parks and reserves
* Community care
* Arts, culture and libraries
* Transport and related infrastructure maintenance

Although rates help to fund the maintenance and repair of existing City infrastructure such as roads and footpaths, it does not cover the construction costs of delivering extensive new works such as the OGPPN.

### **How will the proposed network deal with existing trees on nature strips?**

We understand that that there are many established trees that are important to the community, so have developed the preliminary footpath designs to keep tree removal to a minimum. Any removed trees will be replaced.

### **In live in a unit block, where each unit will be paying as much as my neighbour who has one dwelling. How is this fair?**

The scheme cost apportionment has been calculated on access benefit rather than the length/frontage of a property adjacent to the proposed footpath.

This cost share method aligns with the majority feedback received in 2019/20 engagement, where all properties contribute the same amount. The access benefit is the same irrespective of property size and distance to any of the proposed paths under the scheme.

### **I can’t afford to pay the Special Rate/Charge?**

The proposed construction timeframe for the footpath delivery is 3-4 years once the scheme is declared by Council, and ratepayers will be invoiced at the commencement of construction works.

There are 4 payments options:

* Pay in full within 28 days (interest free)
* Pay in 2 quarterly instalments over 6 months (interest free)
* Pay in 8 quarterly instalments over 2 years
* Pay in 20 quarterly instalments over 5 years

If, when this time comes, you are experiencing financial hardship, you can approach our Finance Department to arrange a payment schedule that suits your individual needs.

### **I have safety concerns about the addition or omission of a footpath. Has the safety of pedestrians and cyclists been considered?**

The proposed OGPPN network of footpaths and shared paths an improvement to the existing conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.

Additional crossings, such pedestrian refuges to better protect pedestrians and cyclists as they cross busier streets (e.g. Presidents Avenue) are included in the project.

1. ***Begola Wetlands – has this path now been removed from the scope?***

The 2015 consultation proposed a shared path through the Begola Wetlands and was included in the Intention to Declare consultation to further understand the community’s desire for this path. Following the recent consultation and community feedback, the proposed path does not improve connection to the wider network and was removed from the scheme for there are other existing and proposed footpaths that better connect the community.

|  |
| --- |
| Next Steps |

The engagement period for submissions is now closed and the City is preparing for the Submissions Review Panel meeting in July 2021. This summary will be provided as part of the submission report to the Submission Review Panel.