

COWIES CREEK

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The City invited the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Cowies Creek Stormwater Management Strategy project (Parts A & B).

They were asked to share personal memories, flood stories (photos, videos, newspaper cuttings or collected data, etc.), their hopes and local knowledge of the area; as well as responding to survey questions and provide feedback on a social map. The feedback will assist in developing flood modelling tools for the area.

Project background

Part A – Flood Study and Catchment Management Strategy – to determine the current flooding conditions in the catchment and to develop options to better manage the volume (amount) and safe conveyance (capture and movement) of stormwater that falls on the landscape.

Part B – Creamery Road Precinct Development Drainage Scheme – water infrastructure needed for the precinct in a future development stage to ensure waterway health is protected, flood risk is managed, community spaces are accessible, enough cool, green landscapes and open spaces are provided for community enjoyment.

A summary of the consultation process and feedback received is provided below:



35 DAYS
of engagement
(Round 1)



Suggestions
(comments) from the
public left online via
social map



17
Number of
people who left
feedback



690
Visitors to
the HYS
page



13
Flood
experiences
were shared



12
People
following
the project



The Stormwater Services
Strategy was downloaded
more than **800** times.



25
Letters delivered
to key
stakeholders

HOW WE ENGAGED

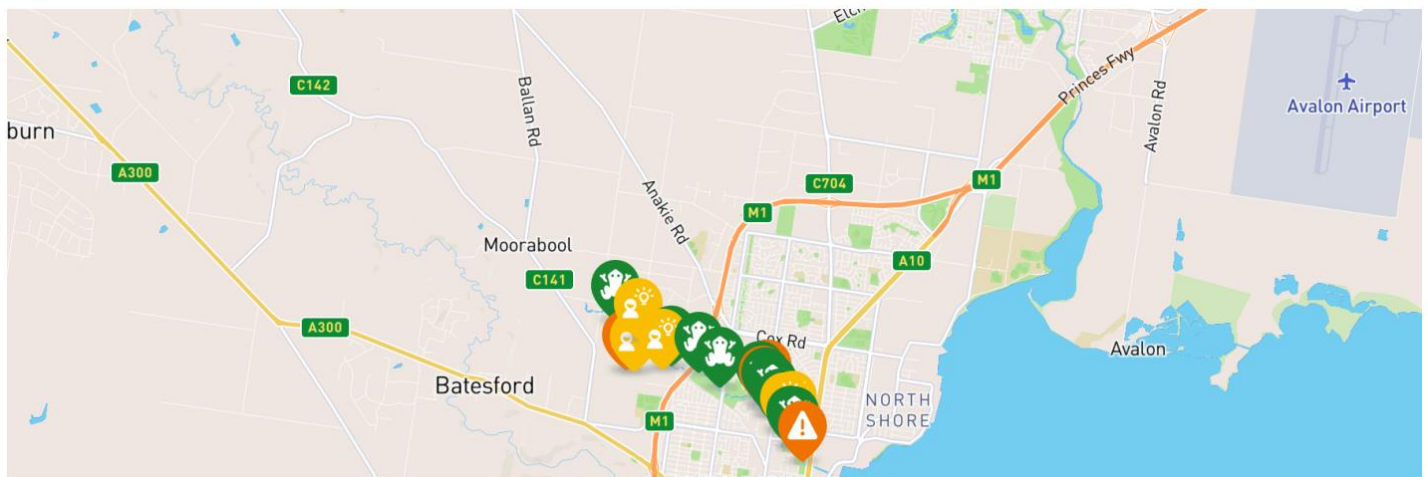
A Have Your Say project page was designed to share relevant information to encourage community feedback.

An online survey was available and was the core feedback tool for gathering community knowledge of the local area, 13 surveys were completed.

A Social Map was also available to gather further local insights to help inform our work on the geomorphology, environmental and cultural heritage assessments for the area. This knowledge will also help inform our designs and locations for future water-related infrastructure to protect existing values and / or enhance these values through our blue-green design options to integrate water safely and sustainably within the landscape. The community were asked to classify their responses into the four categories below:

- Past flood event
- Idea or opportunity
- Issue or concern
- Area of significance

19 contributions were received on the Social Map.



SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE HEARD

SURVEY

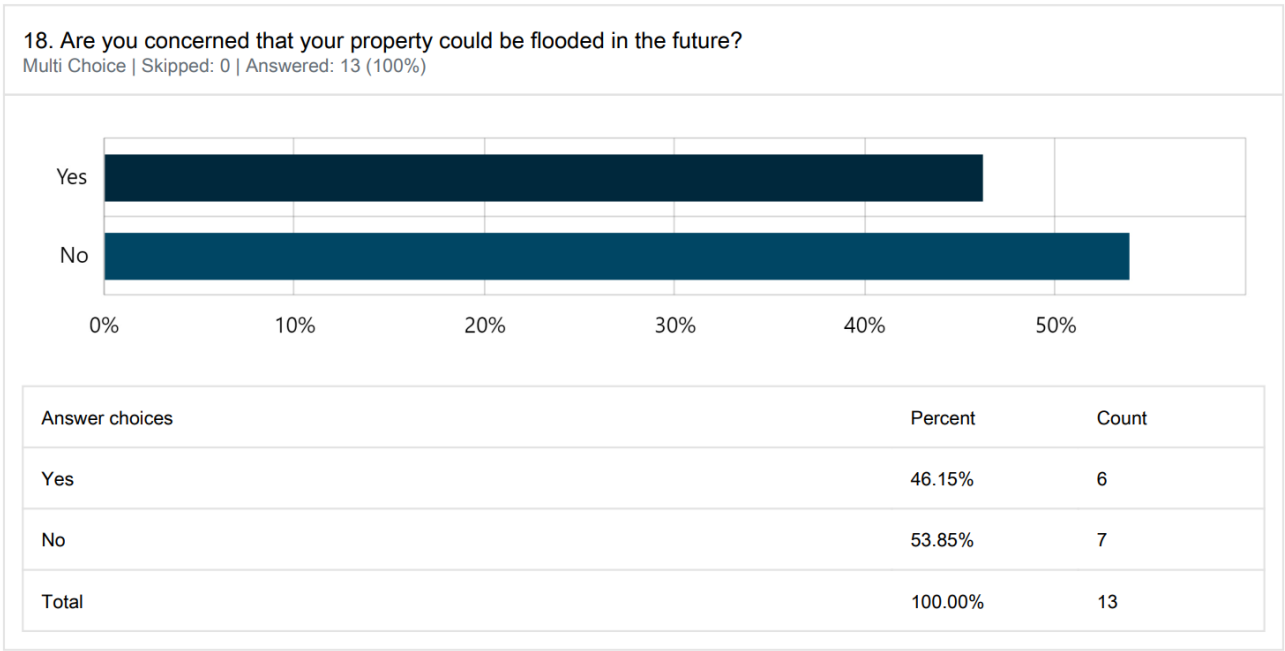
Of the survey respondents 54% were from Norlane, 23% from Lovely Banks, 8% Bell Post Hill and the remainder were made up from respondents in East Geelong and Hamlyn Heights. This data provided some insights into the location of the respondents.

53% of the survey respondents have lived at their current residence for than 10 years.

60% of the survey respondents responded with a yes to the question '*Have you seen flooding within the Cowies Creek catchment area, either around your property or any other location?*'

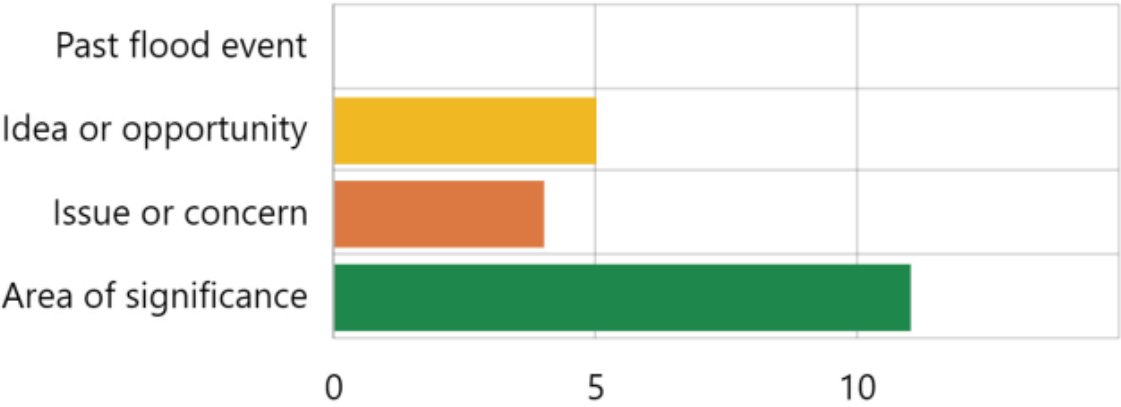
77% of the survey respondents said 'no' to having seen how flooding has negatively (or perhaps positively) impacted the creek environment (creek banks and vegetation) or wildlife habitats and populations in the area.

When asked if they were concerned that their property could be flooded in the future? 54% said no, 46% said yes.



SOCIAL MAP

19 responses were received via the Social Map. While most of the responses were in relation to ‘areas of significance’ (55%), 20% were in relation of ‘issues and concerns’ and a further 25% for ‘ideas and opportunities’.



Some verbatim comments for each category: -

Area of significance

“Growling grass frog sighting here, breeding area”

“Cowies Creek Area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Significance”

“Significant habitat for frogs, reptiles and particularly birds of prey hunting amongst the plains”

“Very significant area for bird life. Breeding, feeding grounds for over 80 bird species throughout the year, water quality has big implications for these populations”

Issue or concern

“Concern about the effect of increased run-off on creek erosion, and impact on ecology downstream from the development of the Creamery Rd precinct”

“Overflow from storm water retention pond caused significant erosion gully on southern side of pond washing sediment into creek bed. Yet to be remedied”

Idea or opportunity

“Storm water retention pond slow flow from gully that flows into creek here, in combination with revegetation along gully to mitigate existing erosion and reduce future erosion risk from increased peak flow events”

“Huge potential for enhancing riparian vegetation along creek line, with revegetation works. Multiple benefits including reduced erosion risk, increasing natural capital, enhancing public amenity, enhancing biodiversity. Could work with Friends of Cowies Creek for long term community engagement, with people living in the catchment already and those moving into the n/w growth areas. Potential to create corridor that connects to Moorabool River”

Past flood event

No comments received.

NEXT STEPS - ROUND 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City will be undertaking Round 2 engagement with the community and stakeholders in early 2023 to provide residents and local businesses in the area the opportunity to view a flood extent map.

The community will be able to view how their property is affected in the 1% and 10% AEP ([Annual Exceedance Probability](#)) peak flood map results. The aim is to help the community to gain further understanding of flooding and flood risk in the catchment. The City will garner feedback on flood prone areas to help confirm our flood modelling.

The engagement will also seek to gain feedback on proposed options. Three mitigation options, their locations and results will be posted online.

It also aimed to highlight the importance of catchment-wide mitigation prioritisation.

Community members will be provided with multiple ways to engage with the City, online and over the phone.