

# Phillip Island (Millowl) Wildlife Plan Community Consultation Report Summary

## THANK YOU FOR HAVING YOUR SAY

We opened the Draft Phillip Island (Millowl) Wildlife Plan for public feedback between 10 November 2020 and 17 January 2021.

This is the summary of that feedback. The complete report is available on the Engage Victoria website here: [engage.vic.gov.au/development-phillip-island-millowl-wildlife-plan](https://engage.vic.gov.au/development-phillip-island-millowl-wildlife-plan)

*Community ownership of the final Plan and involvement in wildlife conservation and management is critical to the Plan's success.*

*The feedback gathered through the public consultation was very valuable and will be used to review the draft Plan.*

*Thank you to the participants, who generously shared their time, research, values and ideas.*

## DEVELOPING THE DRAFT PLAN

The Phillip Island (Millowl) Wildlife Plan aims to bring all stakeholders and the community together to create a place-based approach to managing wildlife on Phillip Island. A Steering Committee including representatives from Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and local landholders oversaw the draft Plan's development in 2020.

The draft Plan aims to balance conservation, agriculture, cultural use, road safety, public health and tourism needs with those of Phillip Island's (Millowl) wildlife.

The Steering Committee and project team worked closely with the Traditional Owners, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, and key stakeholders and organisations including the local farming community, wildlife carers, tourism operators and other key committees values and ideas.

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

In November 2020, we released the draft Plan for public consultation on the Engage Victoria website. The community was given an opportunity to complete a survey and provide submissions through the Engage Victoria page. We also held two online stakeholder workshops. The public consultation period concluded on 17 January 2021.

We announced the release of the draft Plan for consultation on social media, in the local Phillip Island newspaper, through emails to stakeholders and on the Engage Victoria website.

There were approximately 200<sup>1</sup> direct participants and an estimated 30,000<sup>2</sup> people were reached through online and print media.

[1]. Based on the number of people who completed the survey, attended the consultation session or provided a separate submission. Some may have participated in both, so the number may include some duplication.

[2]. Approximation based on the recorded reach of posts on social media via analytics



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## WHO PARTICIPATED

**171** online surveys completed

**14** written submissions received

**17** people attended 2 online information sessions

Of the online surveys, 65% were Phillip Island residents and/or had direct connections to the Island through work (28%), owning a holiday or rental home on Phillip Island (16%) or owning a business (11%). A small proportion owned or managed a property or farm more than 5-acres on Phillip Island (2%).

We received 14 in-depth submissions from individuals and community groups regarding the draft Plan. Also, 17 community members attended the online consultation sessions to share their views on the draft Plan and ask further questions.

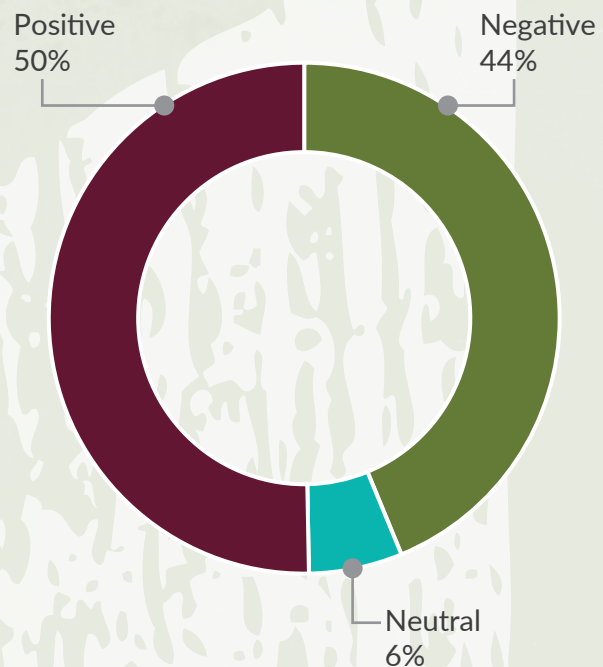
Millowl is the Bunurong name for Phillip Island. It is part of the Country recognised as being the traditional land and waters of the Bunurong People and is steeped in cultural history dating back tens of thousands of years. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live, work and learn, the Bunurong People. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

## WHAT WE HEARD

### OVERALL SUPPORT

Overall, **50%** of survey respondents supported the draft Plan while 44% were unsupportive and 6% were 'not sure/undecided'.

Through the survey, submissions and consultation sessions, the community expressed diverse views and ideas on what parts of the plan they supported and what parts they thought could be improved.



### FEEDBACK ON EACH STRATEGY

The draft Plan identifies strategies and actions that aim to balance the needs of wildlife with those of the community. It aims to 'achieve a sustainable population of native species that also allows social, economic and farming activities to continue on the Island'. All online survey participants were asked to what extent they thought each strategy in the draft Plan would help achieve that aim.

Online survey respondents also indicated how much they supported individual strategies and actions. Their responses are summarised in the following table.

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Strategy	Belief that strategies would achieve the aims of the plan (Required survey question with 171 respondents)	Level of support (Optional question with number of respondents varying from 61-63 depending on the strategy)
1. Build understanding of key wildlife populations and their impacts on agriculture, public health, conservation and tourism through research to inform evidence-based decision making and wildlife management practices	76% of the survey respondents believed this strategy would be effective to some extent or greater	55% of those that responded to this question (n=62) supported this strategy
2. Actively manage wildlife to balance conservation, natural and built environments, public safety, social and economic values on Phillip Island	60% of survey respondents believed this strategy would be effective to some extent or greater	57% of those that responded to this question (n=63) did not support this strategy
3. Support and value a viable agricultural industry on Phillip Island	69% of survey respondents believed this strategy would be effective to some extent or greater	41% of those that responded (n=61) supported it, 33% could "live with it" and 26% did not support it
4. Identify and support opportunities to incorporate Bunurong culture into the management of wildlife on Phillip Island (Millowl)	77% of survey respondents believed this strategy would be effective to some extent or greater	49% of those that responded (n=62) supported the strategy, while 35% did not
5. Promote positive attitudes and actions towards wildlife and nature through education and providing opportunities to access and experience wildlife and nature in a sustainable and ethical way	88% of the survey respondents believed this strategy would be effective to some extent or greater	87% of those that responded (n=63) supported the strategy

n = number of survey respondents

## WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- The public consultation period on the draft plan has now closed.
- The feedback will be reviewed and considered as we revise the draft Plan.
- Existing communication channels (e.g. emails to stakeholders, Engage Victoria website, social and local media) will be used to keep the community informed of any key project updates.
- The final plan is expected to be completed in June 2021.

Keep up to date at: [engage.vic.gov.au/development-phillip-island-millowl-wildlife-plan](https://engage.vic.gov.au/development-phillip-island-millowl-wildlife-plan)

Contact the project team: [swp@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:swp@delwp.vic.gov.au)

## TIMELINE

