

June 2022

TRIM Reference: D-22-067478



Drummond Cove Coastal Recreation Facilities Survey Report



Background

For many years the Drummond Cove community has been requesting the existing informal boat launch located on the south side of the John Batten Community Hall be upgraded to a boat ramp.

In 2016, following the closure of Whitehill Road between the Community Hall and Drummond Cove Road due to coastal erosion, the City investigated a boat launching facility for this area. The Drummond Cove Boat Launching Facility Concept Design Report is available on the City's website [here](#)

In 2021, the State Government allocated \$3.2 million in the 2021/2022 WA State Budget to manage coastal erosion at Drummond Cove and improve community recreation facilities, and began further investigations into potentially constructing a boat ramp to the north of the Community Hall.

These initial investigations, undertaken by the State Government, and the preliminary data collected during the investigation, suggested a rock wall would be required to protect a boat ramp from swell, surge and storm action.

As the estimated cost to build the required infrastructure exceeds the State Government funding allocated towards coastal projects in Drummond Cove, the decision was made to engage the community on whether or not the funding should be used to progress a boat ramp or if it should be used for other coastal recreation facilities in the suburb.

The City partnered with the Drummond Cove Progress Association (DCPA) to conduct a community survey. The opportunity for the community to have their say was promoted via a media release and a social media campaign. The DCPA also letter box dropped a flyer promoting the survey to Drummond Cove residents. The survey was available both online and in hardcopy.

Survey Results at a Glance

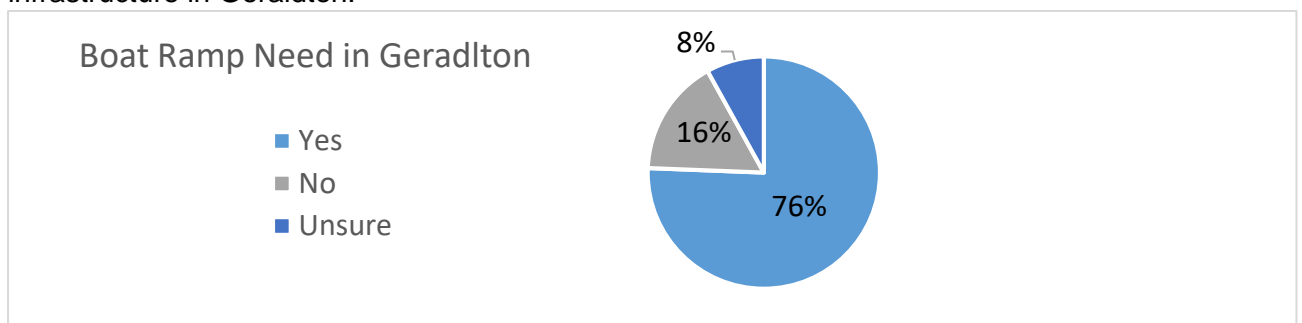
The survey was open for three weeks from 10 May to 30 May 2022 in which 447 people took the opportunity to have their say on coastal recreation facilities in Drummond Cove.

The majority of survey respondents said:

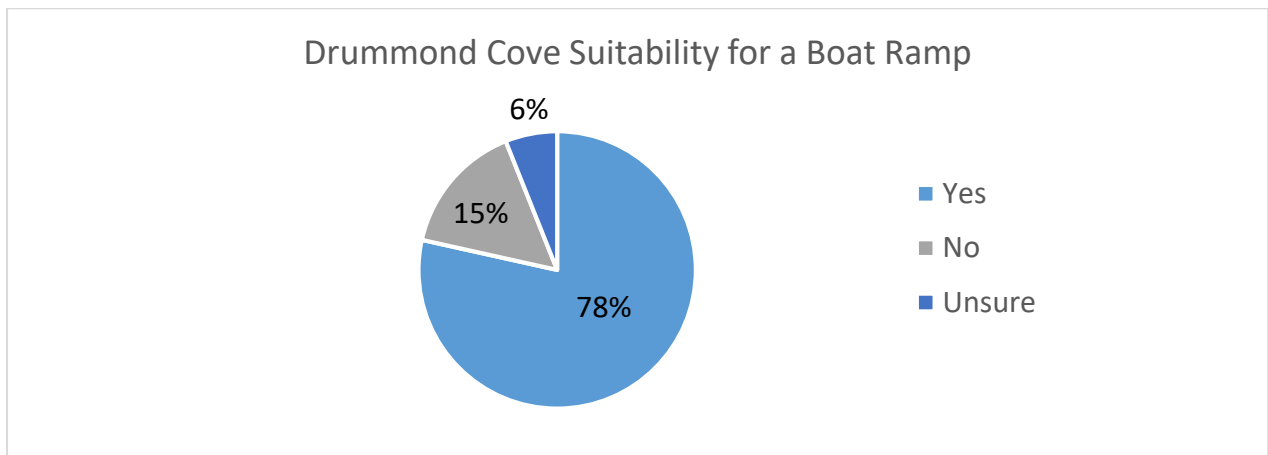
- There is a need for additional boating infrastructure in Geraldton;
- Drummond Cove is a suitable place for a boat ramp;
- A boat ramp in Drummond Cove would be used;
- The priority for the Drummond Cove Foreshore is a boat ramp; and
- Supported reconnecting Whitehill Road with Drummond Cove Road as part of any future project.

Detailed Survey Responses

The majority of respondents, 76% or 338 persons, said there is a need for additional boating infrastructure in Geraldton.



In regard to Drummond Cove being a suitable location for a boat ramp the majority of respondents, 78% or 350 persons, said Drummond Cove is a suitable location for a boat ramp.



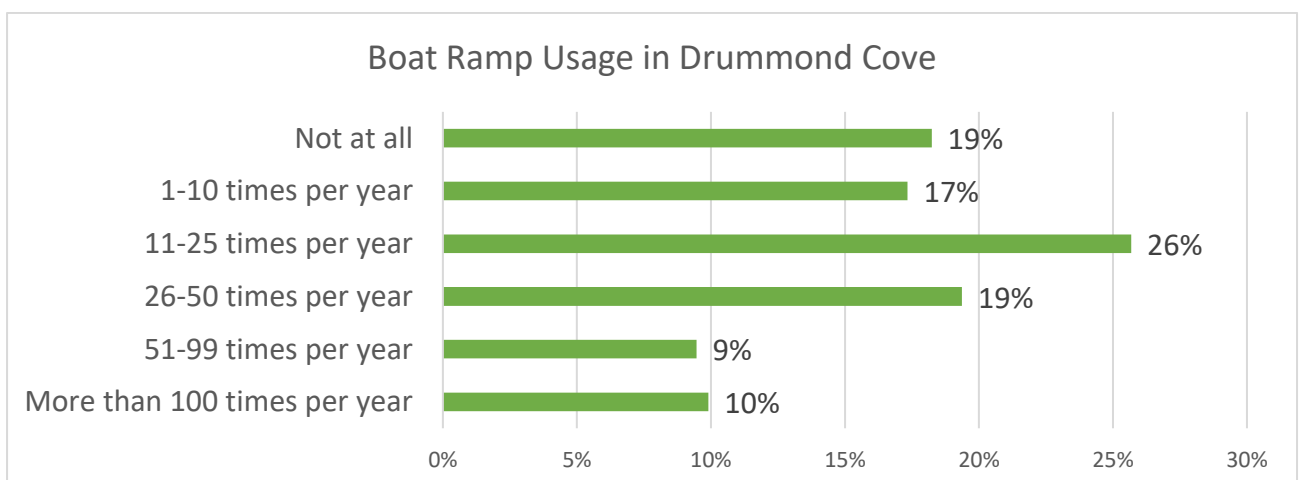
In regard to Drummond Cove being a suitable location for a boat ramp 216 of the 447 respondents commented on the question.

Of the 216 comments received, the majority of these comments, 63%, cited a boat ramp would provide the following benefits to the community:

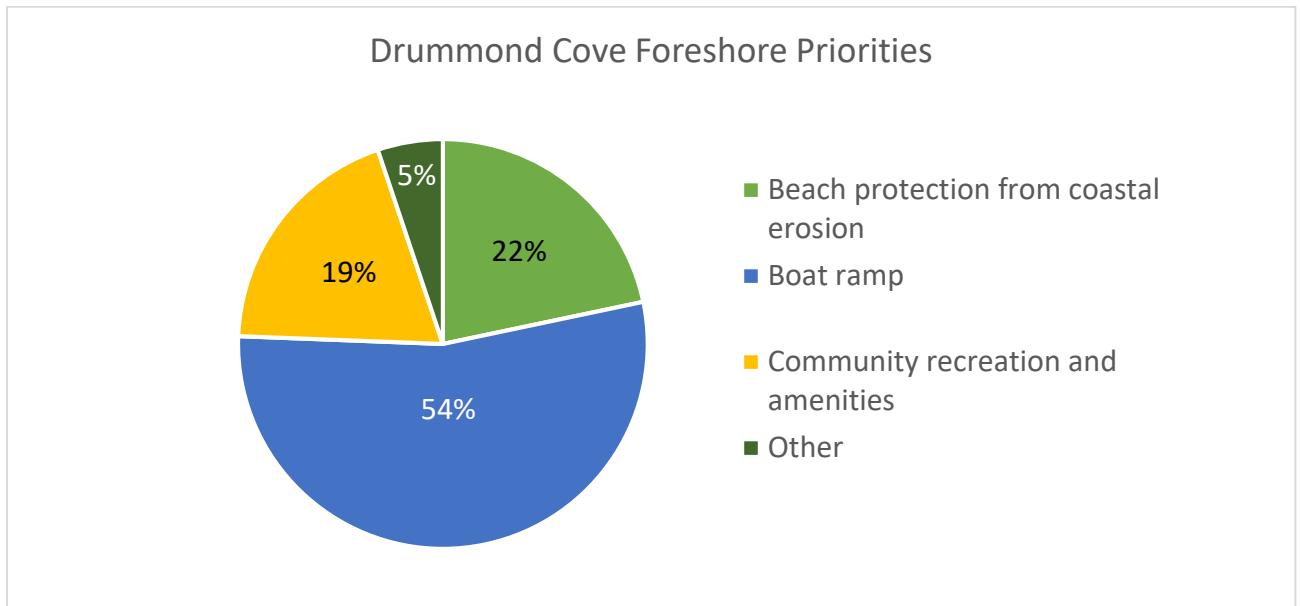
- Reduce congestion at the existing ramps in the CBD;
- Save time and fuel required to drive to the CBD to launch/retrieve a boat (approx. 25km round trip);
- Save time and fuel required for a round trip by boat between Drummond Cove and the CBD;
- Improve safety by enabling quick retrieval of boats during weather events; and
- Improve safety by reducing the number of unsafe beach launches.

Of the 216 comments received, a minority of respondents cited potential impacts a boat ramp would have on the community, with 8% of comments stating if a boat ramp were built traffic in the suburb would increase and the amount of public open space on the Foreshore would be reduced and 4% of comments stating a boat ramp would impact the ocean environment.

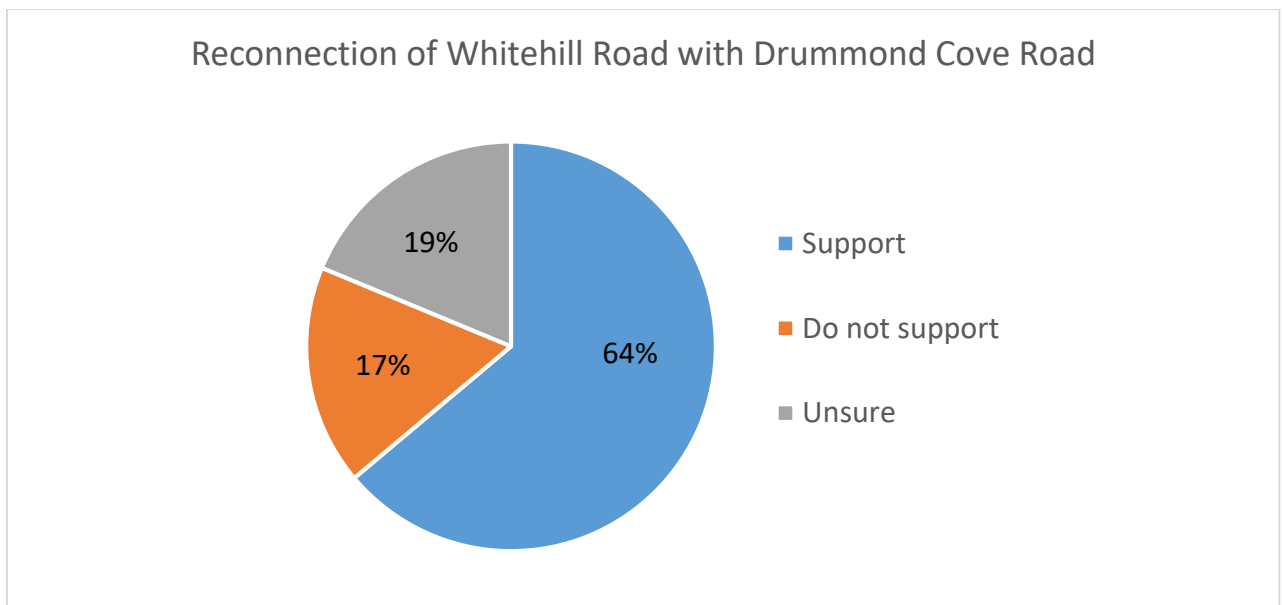
The majority of respondents, 81% or 363 persons, said that if a boat ramp, which would include sufficient trailer parking and lighting were built, they would use it.



The majority of respondents, 54% or 241 persons, said their priority for the Drummond Cove Foreshore was a boat ramp. Of the 5% of respondents, who chose 'other', 11 persons said all three options (erosion protection, a boat ramp and recreational facilities) should be built.



The majority of the 447 respondents, 64% or 286 persons, said they supported reconnecting Whitehill Road with Drummond Cove Road as a part of any future project.



In regard to re-establishing road connectivity, 172 of the 447 respondents commented on the question. Of these 172 persons, 64% or 110 persons, said reconnecting Whitehill Road would provide better connectivity for residents living on either side of the closed section, re-establish direct access to the northern beaches and enable vehicular access to the fenced foreshore. Whereas 14 of the 172 persons who provided comment said the fenced area should be left as is and six persons said reconnecting the road would increase traffic and hooning in the area.

Additional Survey Comments

Survey respondents also had the opportunity to provide additional comments regarding recreational facilities on the Drummond Cove Foreshore in which 219 of the 447 respondents commented. The most reoccurring responses have been themed into the following six categories below.

