

Point Cook Homestead Toilet Facility

Community Engagement Summary

As part of a \$1.5 million precinct conservation and maintenance program for the historic Point Cook Homestead Precinct, the community were invited to provide feedback on the proposed concept designs for a free standing toilet facility that will service the park now, and as demand grows in the future.

How could the community provide feedback?

Consultation was open via Engage Victoria from Tuesday 10 December 2019 to Sunday 19 January 2020 (five weeks, six days). Participants could contribute in person or online:

Community drop in session

Parks Victoria Point Cook Depot
Tuesday 14 January 4pm – 7pm

Online

engage.vic.gov.au/point-cook-homestead-precinct-public-toilet-design

The consultation was promoted via email, social media, local media and through stakeholder networks.

Who provided feedback?

Parks Victoria received a total of 17 submissions during the consultation period. One community member attended the drop-in session. Of the people who submitted:

- 15 visited the park regularly
- 2 had never been to the precinct

Our respondents visited primarily for social activities, trail use and to admire nature.

What information was presented?

Proposed concept designs for the free standing toilet facility.

These designs included location, floorplan, elevations and renders, fitting and fixtures outlining the:

- location of the facility – within the precinct and in relation to nearby buildings
- access proposal – proposed paths and linkages to the toilet
- building design concept – what it will offer, what it will look like, and colours
- materials to be used – colours, images of items (such as hand basins, toilet pans), suggested substrates (samples of substrates were available at the drop-in session)
- concept rationale – what principles and guidelines were used to develop the proposed concepts – detailing universal design and Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) principles

What we asked?

The questions that were asked in the survey on Engage Victoria were:

- How will the proposed design complement the surrounding area – consider access and connectivity, shared use, safety and connections?

- What do you like about the proposed concept design for the new toilet facility?
- Do you have any ideas for how the design could be improved?
- What do you think about the proposed location for the new toilet facility?
- Do you think the proposed concept designs sits in harmony with its heritage surroundings?

What we heard?

Design: Overall feedback was supportive of the design. Feedback stated the concept design is well considered, clean, robust, and complementary to the surrounding environment. It is appropriate for the heritage nature of the site and sits well in the Precinct. The design is simple to maintain and has the ability to expand if required. It also allows for flexible operation. The design is considerate of, and provides for, the needs of visitors of varying abilities.

One submission was concerned that the concept design does not provide adequate shade or details regarding thermal index.

Access to the facility and interconnectedness with the precinct:

Respondents asked if there would be the provision of adequate space on pathways and on the apron around the toilet, and would there be appropriate connections to other areas of the Precinct.

Materials, fittings and fixtures: Overall feedback was supportive of the fitting and fixtures in line with the type of amenity and its surroundings.

One submission was concerned the fittings were similar to a prison facility.

Location: Overall, the proposed location for the toilet was found to be appropriate to the heritage nature of the site and in a good position for future use within the precinct.

Three submissions did not support the proposed location, as they believed it does not consider line of site, visibility and impacts upon open space for future use within the precinct.

Toilet labeling and inclusions: Overall the proposed labeling of toilets as unisex was endorsed. Feedback was that this would make it easier for families to use.

Of the 17 responses, only two were not in favour of the unisex labeling.

What next?

Detailed designs are now being prepared, that accommodate stakeholder feedback, and a Heritage Victoria permit application has been drafted. At the completion of the Heritage Victoria permit process, a contractor will be engaged and construction will commence. Completion is anticipated in late 2020.

Future use of the site, beyond the toilet, will be determined at a later date. Parks Victoria is planning to conduct an Expression of Interest to identify potential opportunities. If you would like to be notified when the expressions open, email engage@parks.vic.gov.au.