

# REPORT ON THE FIRST COASTAL WORKSHOP

11 April 2012



Photo: Paul Macdonald

## TREASURING OUR COAST



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## CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
Document purpose	1
<b>2. ABOUT THE COASTAL WORKSHOPS</b>	<b>3</b>
Coordination of workshop	3
Program	3
<b>3. FEEDBACK: COASTAL VISIONS</b>	<b>4</b>
Preserving our coast	5
Sharing our coast	7
Accessing our coast	9
Managing our coast	9
<b>4. FEEDBACK: WORKSHOP DELIVERY</b>	<b>11</b>
Overall assessment	11
Satisfaction of workshop aspects	12
What worked well	13
Suggestions for future workshops	14
<b>5. CONCLUDING REMARKS</b>	<b>15</b>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Treasuring our Coast workshops were endorsed by Council at the General Council meeting on 26 July 2011, as a means of increasing awareness of Marion's coastal environment.

The City of Marion has committed to delivering two Coastal Workshops per year (every six months).

The workshops focus discussion on coastal issues relevant to the City of Marion Strategic Plan, including looking at coastal matters using a sustainability approach (social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects).

The aim of the workshops is to:

- › increase awareness of coastal issues and identify priorities for future work
- › engage the community and encourage active involvement in coastal issues/ management
- › support collaboration between government and Council partners
- › support collaboration with community and between community groups
- › identify trends and seek ideas and priorities of participants.

## Document purpose

This report presents the feedback that was provided at the 11 April 2012 workshop. The report's purpose is:

- › to facilitate communication on workshop participants' coastal vision to:
  - › City of Marion Elected Members
  - › City of Marion staff members
  - › workshop participants
  - › general public
- › to provide input into the City of Marion's:
  - › Strategic Plan Review
  - › Coastal Management Study
  - › Heron Way Master Plan
  - › Structure Plan
  - › Environmental Communications and Engagement Plan
- › to assist to continually improve the workshops.

This report provides transparency in the engagement process, by showing workshop participants what is being communicated across Council. It will also assist (but not complete) the communication loop, by providing the City of Marion with a document to guide responses to workshop participants' input.

Further feedback from the City of Marion that provide a response to the community visions outlined in this document, will in future close the communication loop.

This report provides **transparency** in the **engagement process**, by showing workshop participants what is being **communicated** across Council.

# 2. ABOUT THE COASTAL WORKSHOP

**The first Treasuring our Coast workshop was held at the Marion Cultural Centre on 11 April 2012, from 5.30 pm to 8 pm.**

Over 50 people attended, including:

- › community members (26+)
- › members of Friends Groups, including Hallett Cove, Lower Field River, Marino Conservation Park, Warriparinga, Glenthorne
- › Coast Protection Board staff
- › Adelaide and Mount Lofty Natural Ranges Resources Management Board staff
- › City of Marion Elected Members (4)
- › City of Marion staff (11+), assisted during event.

## Coordination

The Coastal Workshop was overseen by a Steering Committee, which is responsible for guiding, coordinating, integrating and continuously improving the Treasuring our Coast workshops. The Steering Committee includes a number of City of Marion staff with either environmental, cultural or community development roles. A Working Group was also formed, which was responsible for planning and rolling out the workshop.

The City of Marion Environmental Sustainability team was the main point of contact for the workshop.

## Program

After the Kaurna Welcome to Country by Jamie Goldsmith, the City of Marion's Deputy Mayor David Speirs welcomed participants and introduced the two speakers.

**Chris Daniels, Professor of Urban Ecology, University of South Australia; and Director, Barbara Hardy Institute**

Chris spoke on Adelaide's coasts and how they work. Marion's 7.2 km of coastline is part of the 200 km Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges coast.

The coast connects with many other ecosystems, and provides both a habitat and nursery for fish and crustaceans. It also provides a habitat for birds, cycles nutrients and controls disease. Human functions include tourism, recreation, fishing, living, waste management, stormwater management and commercial fishing and harvesting.

Some threats that Chris spoke about, before calling on collaborative effort to address the issues, were erosion, pest invasion and high nutrient levels in the water.

**Alex Gaut, Biodiversity Program Manager, Conservation Council of SA**

Alex's presentation focussed on the uniqueness of South Australia's coastal waters and marine species. Up to 85% of South Australian marine species are endemic (unique to the area).

This is very significant when compared to the Great Barrier Reef, which only has 15% endemic species. Geographically, South Australia is at the centre of both eastern and western oceanographic influences, contributing to the high endemism, and has more than 150 offshore islands that still have intact and diverse marine ecosystems. South Australia's gulfs are two of very few (possibly only three) reverse estuaries on the planet with unique hypersaline habitats at the apex of each gulf.

## Coastal visioning

The speakers were followed by a Coastal Visions activity and brief reporting back to the overall workshop group. More information on this is provided on page 4.

## Children's activities

Activities for children over six years had also been prepared to provide them with a chance to have their say about Marion's coastal vision. At least three children were expected to attend the workshop, however none came on the night. Planned activities had included craft and sand sculpting (with sand, rocks, seashells and plastic sea creatures) to allow children to create their own coastal vision impressions. Butchers paper was also available for children to record their pictorial and written visions.

**The workshop program is provided in Appendix 1.**

# 3. FEEDBACK: COASTAL VISIONS

The Coastal Visions activity encouraged participants to discuss their ideas, views and aspirations on Marion's coast, with others at their table.

Four questions were posed to participants to guide the discussions:

- › In 30 years, what do you want to see?
- › What needs to be done to make your vision a reality?
- › Who needs to do it?
- › How can the coastal workshops help this to happen?

The top three issues that were identified at each table were then reported back to the overall workshop group through 'One Minute Wonder' reports.

Four themes emerged from the workshop:

- › Preserving our coast
- › Sharing our coast
- › Accessing our coast
- › Managing our coast.

Each theme includes a number of topics, and are summarised on the following pages. Tables listing all topics and ideas relating to each theme have also been provided.

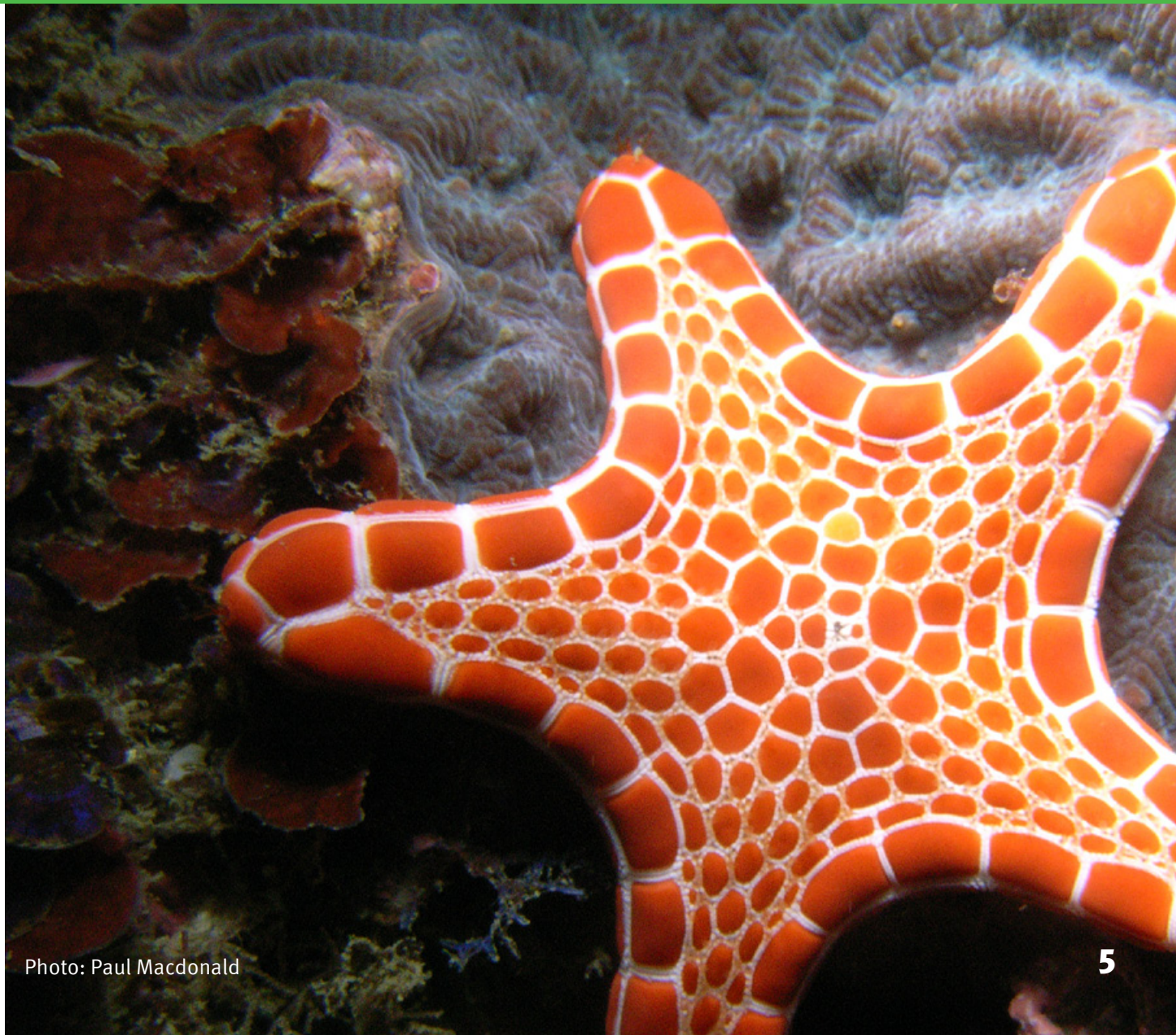


Photo: Paul Macdonald

Because our **natural environment** is **important**, development is encroaching and negatively impacting upon our **valued open space** and **natural systems**

### Preserving our coast

**The most prevalent theme that emerged from the Coastal Workshop was the desire to preserve and improve the coast. People valued the coast for its unique geology, ecology, open space and recreation.**

Breathing the fresh air, exploring, building sand castles and having freedom were some of the things people currently enjoyed about Marion's coast. They liked the views, surfing, fishing and kayaking. The ability to experience the feelings that come with being in wilderness and open space, the sense of isolation, as well as being able to sit at a café while listening to the sea. These are all the things that make Marion's coast special.

People wanted the coast to still be here in 30 years. They valued the ecological space and believed it was 'important to look after our marine life'. Suggested preservation measures ranged from improving the water quality of coastal waters to protecting the area from further development. Revegetation, preserving sea grasses and reducing the motor noise in the sea were also ideas. Additional visions included increasing the amount of sand at Kingston Park Beach, and improving the Hallett Cove Beach area and nearby reserves for recreational use.

Some people referred to Council's 'Broad Horizons, Bright Future' vision by relating it to the broad horizons of Marion coast. While some literally related 'broad horizons' to the environmental aspects of the coast, in that by looking at it you could see broad horizons, others related to it metaphorically. People recognised the coast's opportunity and potential in the same way the Council's vision recognised the opportunity and potential of the City of Marion council area.

However, people wanted the potential realised under certain circumstances – without encroachment of housing near the coast, by keeping vegetation low and attractive, as well as having low monumental displays. Retaining Heron Way and Grand Central Avenue reserves as green spaces was also important.

Maintain the coast as  
somewhere to hear the  
**sound of nature**,  
and as an area for  
**passive** and **safe**  
**recreation**

Improve  
**Hallett Cove**  
**Beach area**  
and **reserves**

Photo: Dave Muirhead  
Hallett Cove



**Table 1: Preserving our coast themed visions**

Topic	Ideas
Valuing and preserving what we already have	Valuing and preserving uniqueness of area In 30 years – coast still to be here, Marino Rocks as it is now down to Hallett Cove cliffs
Conservation parks	Extending Hallett Cove Conservation Park to the cliffs and sea
Revegetation and biodiversity	Preserve and improve vegetation Seek opportunities for Port Stanvac to contribute to protection, regeneration and biodiversity of the area Refrain from planting feral flora Preserve and improve ecological open space Encourage replanting of natural areas along the coast Ensure dogs do not enter the conservation parks or beach Revegetate Field River's habitat Consider the impact of the Southern Expressway duplication on the Field River habitat Continue to retain terrestrial biodiversity – rare plants, visible for children Encourage indigenous species
Marine life	Action the Adelaide Coastal Water Study, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› preserving sea grasses and encouraging revegetation</li> </ul> Reduce the motor noise in the sea to protect dolphins Ensure overfishing does not occur
Water quality	Reduce the nutrient loads into the gulf Divert stormwater from sea, such as into wetlands for natural treatment before being discharged into the sea
Geology	Value and preserve the geological aspects Initiate legal protection for Hallett Cove's geological features

**Note:** Shaded items indicate visions that were deemed most important and were reported at the workshop as a 'table's top three issue' during the One Minute Wonder exercise.

Topic	Ideas
Recreational and open space	Improve amenity, presentation of area More open space for visitors, to help take pressure off beaches Improve reserve for Hallett Cove Beach Seek Council Resolution to ensure low vegetation and low monuments for deceased people (memorials) at Grand Central Avenue Designate an area that includes the sea (1.5 km from shore) and land, which is formally protected from commercial exploitation, to allow recreation (such as fishing) and conservation Maintain the coast as somewhere to hear the sound of nature, and as an area for passive and safe recreation Use hot Summer nights to bring the community together and use open space Use low and attractive vegetation Support for permanent and temporary public art
Development	Consider the effect of land development on the sea Initiate the coastal equivalent of the Hillsface Zone Refrain from encroachment of houses near the coast, especially on green areas such as Heron Way and Grand Central Ave reserves
Waste	Continue to manage waste Resurrect awareness of waste issues on the coast Café owners and their patrons taking responsibility of their surroundings
Sand	Preserve the sand on the beach and dunes Increase the amount of sand at Kingston Park Beach (consider break waters, reinstating the northerly sand drift, pipeline around O'Sullivan Beach, or drifting from Maslin Beach) Purchase houses on the coast to make way for dunes to reform
Climate change	Address the vulnerability to sea level rise Use biological solutions to address climate change, such as using reed beds instead of concrete walls
Pollution	Improve pollution control and management

# Capitalise on **environmental tourism** opportunities

Photo: Paul Macdonald



Establish an  
**Interpretive Centre**  
to **engage children**  
in the area's history and  
marine life

## Sharing our coast

Participants saw opportunities to share their coast through education and tourism, as well as a need to ensure it would still be there to share with future generations. People envisioned that through sharing the coast with others, its unique values would also be enjoyed, respected and promoted.

### Education

An idea that was popular amongst participants was the establishment of an Education / Interpretive Centre in 2013. It was suggested the centre could be similar to the Living Kaurua Cultural Centre, where it may take children on an educational journey through the natural history of the area. It would showcase the coast's unique marine life, and be promoted through signage in the area.

Participants also wanted to see the public educated on biodiversity, waste, marine life and on the damage caused by fossicking on the beach.

### Tourism

Ideas for tourism were shared at the workshop, which were also seen as educational and funding opportunities. Participants warned they didn't want 'another Glenelg', and pointed to the uniqueness of the area, the geology and the marine life as drawcards. One idea was to use glass-bottom boats to show people the marine life.

**Table 2: Sharing our coast themed visions**

Topic	Ideas
General education	<p>Education on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› how to protect marine life and coastal environment (including geology)</li> <li>› the dangers of cigarette butts in the marine environment</li> </ul> <p>Education on biodiversity, waste (through using signage for example), landscaping</p> <p>Create a DVD on Marion's coast</p> <p>Seek a financial return on education to encourage thinking on how land and sea are used</p> <p>Undertake capacity building activities</p>
Education / Interpretive Centre	<p>Establish an Education / Interpretive Centre in 2013 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› engages children (including school groups) in the area's history and marine life</li> <li>› is driven by the community</li> <li>› is managed by coastal Councils</li> <li>› provides Council workshops</li> <li>› is promoted with signage throughout the area</li> </ul>
Education for children / school groups	<p>Discourage fossicking on the beach</p> <p>Hold Reef Watch activities during school holidays</p> <p>Hallett Cove school groups to continue</p> <p>Create and implement 'Grandma's Beach', such as a group of older women / grandmothers who teach young children / grandchildren about the beach, this may also encourage connecting with grandchildren in a fun and learning way</p>
Ecotourism	<p>Use ecotourism as an educational opportunity</p> <p>Promote our unique values and don't create another Glenelg</p> <p>Capitalise on environmental tourism opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› taking people in glass-bottom boats to see marine environment (similar to Barrier Reef)</li> <li>› snorkelling from boats at local reefs, for all seasons</li> </ul>

Topic	Ideas
Education for visitors and tourists	Provide information to tourists at the Caravan Park, for example through a school holiday education program, crab collectors, marine educator Peter Hoskin
Education for residents	<p>Educate new people in Marion, for example through their first rates notice, or an invitation to a talk on local biodiversity, resources and values</p> <p>Educate residents to grow indigenous species instead of potentially invasive garden species</p>
Coastal Workshops	<p>Involve school groups in workshops</p> <p>Incorporate materials from previous workshops into future workshops</p> <p>Possible future workshop topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Education / Interpretive Centre</li> <li>› Good coastal stewardship</li> <li>› Environmental tourism</li> <li>› More sand for Kingston Park / Marino Beach</li> <li>› Organising a community event, such as a meeting on the beach to do practical things</li> <li>› Each 'Friends of ...' sharing their vision - activities</li> <li>› Workshop on beach, e.g. Reef Watch</li> <li>› Sustainability as a central theme</li> <li>› Looking after our rivers and wetlands, will in turn look after what goes out to sea</li> <li>› Have a speaker on the geology of the conservation parks</li> </ul>

**Note:** Shaded items indicate visions that were deemed most important and were reported at the workshop as a 'table's top three issue' during the One Minute Wonder exercise.

# Driven by the community, for the community

## Accessing our coast

**Being able to access coastal areas was also important for participants.**

Some participants wanted to see the Marino Boat Ramp repaired, as well as a walking ramp installed for walkers and people entering the sea (such as for swimming or canoeing). Creating a boardwalk that extends along the entire coast was also suggested.

**Supportive and collaborative**  
effort, where  
**accountability** is  
clear

## Managing our coast

**A supportive and collaborative approach to managing the coast was suggested as a way to ensure the coast was preserved and improved. People wanted to see accountability, while recognising that Council was not solely responsible. They wanted efforts to be driven by the community, for the community.**

Numerous organisations, groups and individuals were mentioned during the workshop who impact on the coast to some degree (positively or negatively), including Local, State and Federal Governments, community groups, general public, specialists, and local businesses and industry. Participants wanted to see a situation where parties worked together in a supportive and collaborative way.

It was suggested to ensure coastal planning is effective, and that KPIs for the gulf be considered. Undertaking an evaluation of coastal management processes and progress, and communicating these back to community and staff was also put forward.

In terms of funding, people visioned equitable access to funding for all Councils, and more money for projects that encourage sustainability. The idea of introducing a levy was raised, as was reprioritising the allocation of funds.



Photo: Dave Muirhead

**Table 3: Accessing our coast themed visions**

Topic	Ideas
Marino Boat Ramp	Repair ramp to ensure safety for swimmers entering the sea Install a walking ramp no more than two metres for kayaks, canoes, swimmers and walkers Install temporary art work
Walking	Install a boardwalk along the entire coast Conduct more walks at Hallett Cove in a similar way to 2011 walks, via the library

**Note:** Shaded items indicate visions that were deemed most important and were reported at the workshop as a ‘table’s top three issue’ during the One Minute Wonder exercise.



**Table 4: Managing our coast themed visions**

Topic	Ideas
Funding	Ensure there is equitable access to funding for all Councils Evaluate economic requirements to transform present situation Plan to reprioritise economic allocation Funding into projects to encourage sustainability Introduce a levy
Accountability, collaboration, stewardship	Assign accountability for Gulf – who is accountable? Foster good coastal stewardship, including of the sea, the sand and to control pollution Driven by the community and for the community Coordinated approach to coastal management Ensure coastal Councils and State Government (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) work together to achieve accountability Encourage action and accountability from community groups and the public who use the coast Encourage a coast where people support each other and their surrounds Encourage strong community groups to work with Council and government Coastal management is not only in the hands of Local Government. The team includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› coastal Councils, State Government, Federal Government</li> <li>› ‘Friends’ groups</li> <li>› volunteers</li> <li>› general public / community members</li> <li>› specialists (such as Tony Flaherty, sea grass revegetation program)</li> <li>› local businesses and industry</li> </ul>
Planning	Ensure coastal planning is effective Consider developing KPIs for the gulf (similar to the Council’s Greenbelt KPIs) Undertake an audit or evaluation of coastal management process and progress and communicate back to community and staff

# 4. FEEDBACK: WORKSHOP DELIVERY

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked for feedback on the overall workshop via a feedback form. Some feedback was also received through email correspondence.

## Overall assessment

Participants overwhelmingly enjoyed the workshop. When asked what their overall assessment of the event was, over 90% of respondents provided a 'very good' or 'good' score (Figure 1).

**90%** of respondents said the overall workshop was either **'very good'** or **'good'**

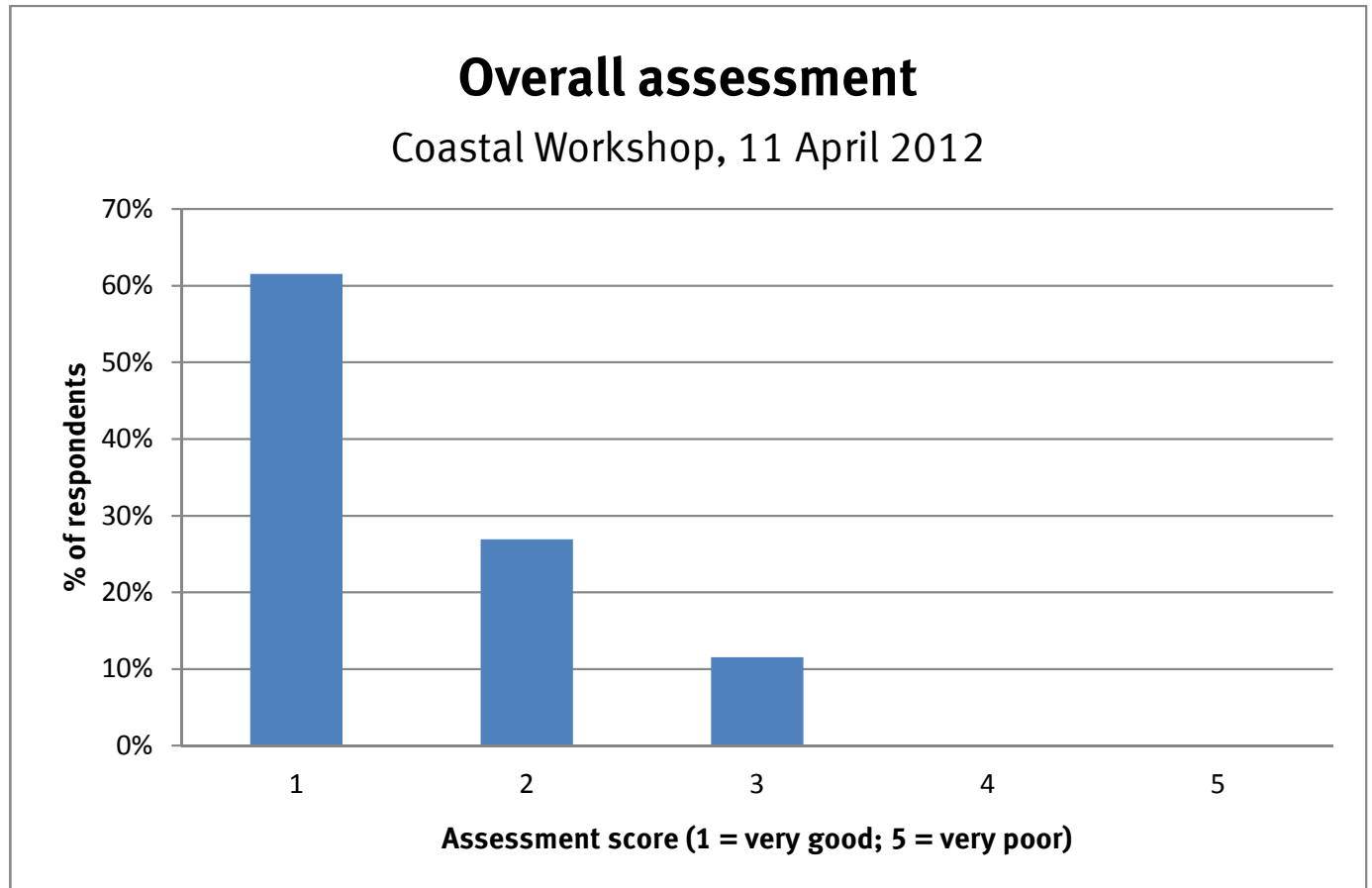


Figure 1: Workshop participants' assessment of the Coastal Workshop

## Guest speakers were the **best part** of the workshop

### Satisfaction levels of workshop aspects

Following the overall assessment, participants were asked to rate their satisfaction level with various aspects of the workshop, including:

- › guest speakers
- › opportunity to participate
- › venue and facilities
- › catering
- › length / timing of the event
- › registration process.

Participants had the opportunity to provide a score between 1 and 5 (1 = very satisfied; 5 = very dissatisfied). All scores were then calculated and converted to a score of 100, to assist with ease in comparison. This included totalling the scores, transposing from the highest possible score, and then converting to a common denominator.

As shown in Figure 2, results show that 'guest speakers' received the highest satisfaction level, with a score of 79 (out of 100), followed by 'catering' (76/100) and the 'registration process' (75/100). 'Opportunity to participate' and the 'venue and facilities' were equally enjoyed (74/100), and the 'length and timing of the event' following closely at 73/100.



Figure 2: Workshop participants' satisfaction scores of various workshop aspects

## What worked well

Following the satisfaction rating, participants were asked to provide comments on what they liked best about the workshop.

The quality and credibility of both the guest speakers was predominantly reported to be what people liked best:

*'Both the guest speakers, Chris Daniels and Alex Gaut, are passionate about their subjects. They take one from a general wish to protect our coastline, for everyone's continuing enjoyment, to a much more informed view of why this is so important.'*

*'The second guest speaker was so full of information it was a pleasure to watch.'*

Having the chance to collaborate with likeminded people and generate ideas was also enjoyed. People appreciated the opportunity to get involved and express their views, as well as listening to the views of others. Being touched by other people's enthusiasm, watching participants get involved and recognising that others have a genuine environmental concern, were all positive experiences generated through the workshop.

Some comments of what people liked about the workshops included:

*'The feedback from participants and their genuine concern for their environment.'*

*'Mixing with different people of similar concerns.'*

*'Ideas generated.'*

People were also pleased that the coast was on the Council's agenda, and that the workshop had been a Council initiative:

*'It's good that the Council is working on this.'*

*'[I enjoyed the fact that this event was] created by the Council.'*

Others enjoyed the overall event and stated that the workshop as a whole was what they liked best:

*'All very good.'*

*'The whole event.'*

Other feedback provided through email pointed favourably towards the catering and backup facilitation tools (ie butchers paper).

People enjoyed  
**collaborating** with  
**likeminded people**  
and **generating**  
**ideas**

People  
**appreciated**  
**the Council's**  
effort in running  
the workshops

## Suggestions for future workshops

**Finally, participants were asked to provide comment on what could have been better, and if they had any suggestions for future workshops.**

Having more time for discussion and questions for the speakers was most commonly reported as an area that could be improved. People wanted a chance to talk with the speakers and each other, to workshop and discuss particular proposals.

*‘It was a shame that the night was structured in such a way that there was not time for more discussion with the speakers about their presentations.’*

*‘Opportunity to discuss [a] particular proposal. Lot of waffle about general ideas rather than achievable actual projects.’*

Similarly, one person felt restricted by time as it didn’t allow for all of the ideas from each table to be heard during the ‘One Minute Wonder’ session.

*‘Limiting the ideas of the tables to three items or one minute is too restricting - we need all the ideas!’*

Keeping people focussed on the Coastal Vision activity (instead of focussing on smaller issues), and ensuring each person reported back to the group within their specified timeframe, were other issues raised by one of the participants.

The timing of the workshop was also questioned (5.30 pm to 8 pm), with two people suggesting the timeslot would make it difficult for families to attend. It was suggested to use a different time slot to encourage children’s attendance . Inviting senior school students to the workshops was also proposed.

Other suggestions included involving local State politicians, and seeing a timetable for action that involved Federal, State and Local Governments, as well as volunteers. One person wanted to see a commitment from Council for infrastructure redesign, and feedback at the next workshop on how ideas from the previous workshop have been actioned.

Ideas for future workshop topics were also provided in this section. They have been reported in Table 2, ‘Sharing our coast themed visions’.

Some people wanted  
**more time** to  
**talk** about **ideas**

People want  
**feedback**  
on workshop  
**outcomes** and  
how they translate into  
**action**

# 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Participants visioned ....  
**community driven,**  
**collaborative** action  
to **preserve** and improve  
the coast. A **safe** and  
**accessible** coast that is  
shared through **education**  
and **tourism**. Where  
**funding** opportunities are  
**equitable** and capitalised  
on, and **accountability** is  
clear.

The first Treasuring our Coast workshop  
was successful in reaching its aim to:

- › increase awareness of coastal issues and identify priorities for future work
- › engage the community and encourage active involvement in coastal issues/ management
- › support collaboration between government and Council partners
- › support collaboration with community and between community groups
- › identify trends and seek ideas and priorities of participants.

Awareness of coastal issues was raised through speaker presentations and workshop participation. Listening to the speakers and becoming more aware of Marion's coast rated extremely high in terms of satisfaction levels.

Priorities for future work were also identified through the Coastal Vision and One Minute Wonder exercises. Four themes for future work emerged from the workshop, including:

- › **Preserving our coast:** valuing, preserving and improving what we already have. This included the conservation park, revegetation, biodiversity, water quality, geology, recreational and open space, and being mindful of future development.

- › **Sharing our coast:** creating and capitalising on education and tourism opportunities to share the coast with others, and to educate people about the coast.
- › **Accessing our coast:** repairing Marino Boat Ramp and creating better access for walking.
- › **Managing our coast:** equity in funding to all coastal Councils, assigning coastal accountability, and seeking collaboration and good coastal stewardship. Having a coordinated approach to management that is driven by the community, for the community.

Furthermore, feedback on the workshop delivery was very positive, with participants indicating a very high assessment level of the event overall. The speakers were consistently reported as the most enjoyed aspect of the workshop, and having the chance to collaborate with likeminded people and generate ideas was also enjoyed.

Feedback on how to improve the workshops will be incorporated into future workshop planning. This includes comments on timing, keeping participants focussed, accessibility for and inclusion of children, and providing feedback from previous workshops.