

Hardwicke Bay Boat Ramp Car Park Upgrade

Community Feedback Report

Executive Summary

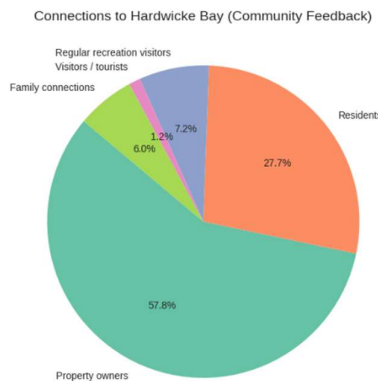
Community consultation on the Hardwicke Bay boat ramp car park upgrade was conducted over a period of two weeks with 84 responses received.

The feedback showed strong overall support, with safety and amenity improvements emerging as the most important priorities. While residents emphasise traffic safety and community pride, property owners lean toward amenities and environmental protection. The feedback highlights consensus on car park expansion, ramp safety, and memorial wall care, but reveals mixed views on toilets and clear opposition to BBQ facilities near the shelter.

Questions included in feedback survey included:

- Respondent's name
- Respondent's connection to Hardwicke Bay
- Frequency respondent used the boat ramp area
- Activities respondents participated in at the boat ramp area
- Why the respondent is interested in the proposed project
- What outcomes the respondent would like to see as a result
- Any concerns the respondent has regarding the proposed project
- Whether the respondent supports the proposed project

Participation Overview



- Property owners: 48 (≈58%)
- Residents: 23 (≈28%)
- Regular recreation visitors: 6 (≈7%)

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- Visitors / tourists: 1 (≈1%)
- Family connections (combined): 5 (≈6%)

The chart above shows that property owners and residents together make up over 85% of responses, while tourists and family connections are a small but important minority.

This breakdown highlights who is most invested in the upgrade: local stakeholders with ongoing ties to the bay dominate the feedback, while occasional visitors provide complementary perspectives.

Visit frequency patterns

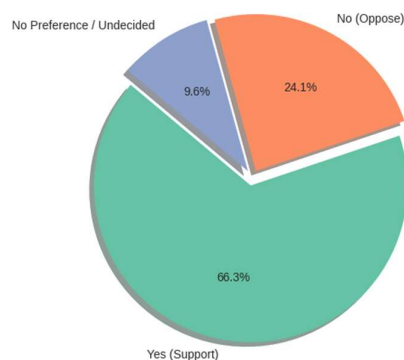
- Daily/Weekly: Mostly residents
- Monthly: Mostly property owners
- A few times a year: Shack owners, tourists

Activities mentioned

- Launching/retrieving boats, fishing
- Swimming and beach activities
- Sightseeing/walking
- Community events, sunset watching
- Kayaking

Overall Support

Community Support for Hardwicke Bay Boat Ramp Upgrade



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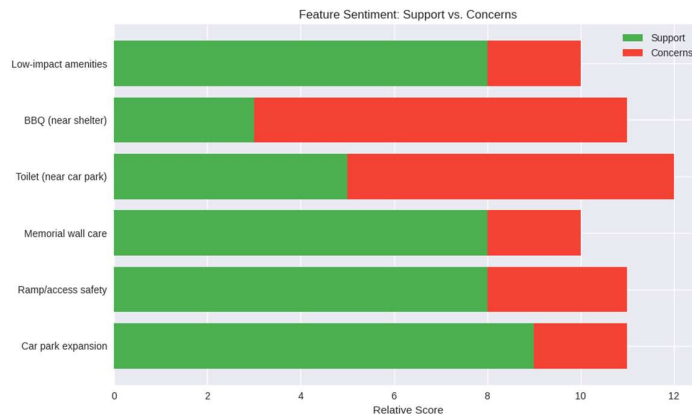
Community sentiment toward the upgrade is largely positive, with most respondents emphasising the need for better safety, organised parking, and improved amenities such as toilets and seating.

Supporters see the project as a way to enhance community pride and visitor experience. Those opposed raise concerns about environmental impact, traffic, and the proximity of new facilities to homes, particularly toilets and BBQs.

A smaller undecided group expressed the need for clearer details before committing. Overall, the feedback reflects a strong desire for functional improvements balanced with environmental and residential considerations.

The results make it clear that support is the majority view, but the opposition is significant enough to warrant careful design choices—especially around toilets and BBQ facilities.

Feature-Level Sentiment



The above chart compares support vs. concerns for each of the six key upgrade features.

The chart (above) shows:

- Car park expansion, ramp safety, memorial wall care, and low-impact amenities all have strong support with relatively few concerns.
- Toilet near the car park has a split sentiment – convenience for many, but strong opposition from nearby residents.
- BBQ near the shelter is the most divisive, with more concerns than support, mainly around rubbish, noise, and safety.

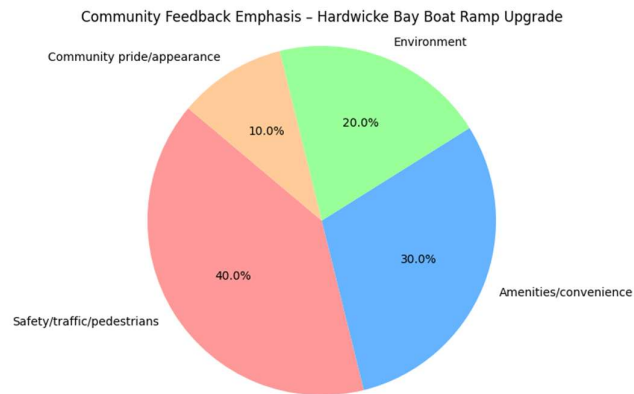
This makes it clear that core infrastructure improvements (car park, ramp, memorial wall) are broadly welcomed, while social amenities (toilet, BBQ) are the flashpoints for debate.

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Motivations and Concerns

- **Motivations:** Safety, accessibility, environmental protection, community pride
- **Concerns:** Traffic/noise, maintenance, loitering, environmental degradation



The chart above shows the emphasis of community feedback themes (Safety vs. Amenity and related categories).

- Safety/traffic/pedestrians: 40%
- Amenities/convenience (toilets, bins, showers): 30%
- Environment (dunes, shorebirds, rubbish): 20%
- Community pride/appearance: 10%

The chart makes clear that safety is the dominant concern, followed closely by amenities and convenience, while environmental protection and community pride are smaller but still significant themes.

The feedback shows that safety is the dominant theme (40%), with strong concerns about tractors, vehicles, and pedestrian conflicts. Amenities and convenience (30%) are the next priority, reflecting calls for toilets, bins, and showers. Environmental protection (20%) and community pride/appearance (10%) round out the discussion, highlighting the balance between practical improvements and preserving Hardwicke Bay's character.

This breakdown highlights that while people value new facilities, safe design and traffic management must be the top priority. Amenities should be added carefully, with environmental and community values respected.

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Respondent Group	No	No pref	Yes	Total
Family connection	1			1
Family member of a permanent resident			1	1
I am a resident of Hardwicke Bay	4	2	17	23
I am a visitor / tourist			1	1
I own a property in the area	17	2	30	49
I visit regularly for recreation	3		3	6
In-laws have a place we stay at			1	1
Shack owners who visit fortnightly		1		1
We own a shack in Hardwicke Bay			1	1
Total	25	5	54	84

Property owners are the largest group, with a majority in favour but also the highest number of “No” responses.

- Residents show strong support but a notable minority of opposition.
- Recreation visitors are supportive, though a third expressed concerns.
- Tourists (small sample) unanimously supportive.
- Family connections are mostly supportive, but a significant portion undecided.

Preferred Improvements

- Car park resurfacing and line marking
- Ramp widening and retaining wall
- Respectful memorial wall relocation
- Low-impact amenities (seating, bins, showers, drinking fountain)
- Signage and speed control

Free Text Response Summary

1. Safety & Traffic

- Key Concerns:
 - Risk of accidents with tractors, trailers, and pedestrians sharing space.
 - Need for clearer line marking, speed limits, and traffic flow signage.
 - Calls for a dedicated pedestrian path to separate foot traffic from vehicles.

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- Representative Sentiments:

“Children and pedestrians are at risk with tractors reversing.”

“Line marking and speed signage would make the car park safer.”

2. Amenities & Convenience

- Key Concerns:

- Strong demand for toilets, but divided opinions on placement (near car park vs. away from homes).
- Requests for bins, showers, seating, and shade structures.
- Opposition to BBQs near the shelter due to noise, loitering, and proximity to residences.

- Representative Sentiments:

“We need toilets, but they must be managed properly—cleaning, lighting, locking.”

“BBQs will encourage late-night gatherings and noise.”

3. Environment

- Key Concerns:

- Protecting dunes, shorebirds, and natural habitats.
- Better rubbish management and relocation of fish-cleaning stations.
- Calls for low-impact amenities that don’t harm the environment.

- Representative Sentiments:

“The dunes and shorebirds must be protected.”

“Bins and fish-cleaning areas need to be managed to prevent rubbish and smells.”

4. Community Pride & Appearance

- Key Concerns:

- Respectful treatment of the memorial wall, with suggestions for relocation and landscaping.
- Desire for beautification through trees, native plants, and town branding signage.

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- Emphasis on tidiness and maintenance to reflect community values.
- Representative Sentiments:
 - “The memorial wall must be treated with dignity.”
 - “Landscaping and signage will make the area welcoming.”

5. Other Themes

- Tourism & Accessibility: Calls for improvements that make the bay more attractive to visitors while ensuring accessibility for all.
- Maintenance & Management: Concerns about ongoing upkeep—cleaning, lighting, and enforcement of rules (e.g., camping, loitering).
- Noise & Social Behaviour: Fears that new amenities could encourage antisocial behaviour if not managed properly.

The free-text responses reveal a balance between enthusiasm for upgrades and caution about impacts. Safety and car park organisation are the strongest consensus points, while amenities (especially toilets and BBQs) generate the most debate. Environmental protection and community pride are recurring values, showing that residents and property owners want improvements that enhance functionality without compromising character or heritage.

Key Findings

- Overall Support: 55 respondents support the upgrade, 20 oppose, and 8 are undecided.
- Stakeholder Connections: Majority of feedback came from property owners (58%) and residents (28%), with smaller input from recreation visitors, tourists, and family connections.
- Feature Sentiment:
 - Strong support for car park expansion, ramp safety, and memorial wall care.
 - Mixed views on toilets (concerns about location, management, and impact).
 - Opposition to BBQs near the shelter due to noise, loitering, and proximity to homes.

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Recommendations

- Safety-first layout: redesign car park with marked bays and pedestrian paths
- Respectful memorial wall relocation: consult families, ensure dignity
- Low-impact amenities: seating, bins, showers, drinking fountain
- Toilet location diligence: weigh convenience vs. resident concerns; robust management plan if built
- BBQ caution: consider omitting or relocating
- Environmental and operational management: signage, bin collection, seasonal traffic measures

Conclusion

The consultation demonstrates a clear mandate for functional improvements that enhance safety and usability, balanced with environmental stewardship and respect for community values. The strongest consensus lies in car park organisation, ramp safety, and memorial wall care, while contested amenities (toilets and BBQs) require careful design and management to address resident concerns.