

Recovery Survey Report - Appendices

Wye River and Separation Creek Recovery Group

11 March 2016



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Appendix A: Notes on methodology

The survey was distributed via email, community newsletters and Facebook. 139 comprehensive responses were received from members of the Wye River and Separation Creek community by the closing date. Many members of the community have expressed their views. The survey reached many who could not be present in Wye River and Separation Creek. Respondents came from across Australia and some internationally.

The survey asked respondents to rate the importance and priority of a set of suggested projects and gave the opportunity to suggest their own ideas for the future. The responses to these questions form the quantitative and qualitative components of this report.¹

The set of projects included in the survey came from conversations in the community, and is not exhaustive. The survey has brought to light a range of projects that are valued by members of the community.

Respondents were asked to supply names to validate responses, however responses have been kept anonymous. Many incomplete responses were received but some were duplicates.

Applying weights to the preferences (Table 1) and summing the weightings gives an indication of the community sentiment about these projects (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

Table 1: Weightings applied to preferences to calculate preference score

Preference	Weight
1	9
2	8
3	7
4	6
5	5
6	4
7	3
8	2
9	1
No expressed preference	0

¹ Fifteen responses (of 139) were recorded before the options of “Underground power-lines in areas where feasible, such as the town centre” and “Additional walks through the bush marked out and maintained” were added to the survey.

Appendix B: Detailed Results

In order to capture the full scope of the feedback, dominant themes summarise and synthesise the comments. Select quotes in bullet points illustrate the feedback in the words of community members. Some quotes have been edited to assist legibility. The numbers of comments within each theme give a general indication of the level of support for the theme. Short summaries indicate themes in which the views of community members diverged.

The key messages of the feedback are summarised under the following themes:

- Assistance for people who lost their homes
- Assistance for businesses
- Environmental protection
- Fire safety
- Maintenance and clearing of land
- Memorials
- Phone and internet
- Powerlines
- Public amenities
- Responsibility for projects
- Roads and parking
- Survey feedback
- Volunteers
- Water
- Walks
- Wellbeing

Table 2 summarises the key themes and messages from the feedback.

Table 2: Key themes and messages from qualitative feedback

Themes	Messages
Assistance for people who lost their homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The recovery should prioritise assisting people who lost their homes• Projects were suggested to assist people who lost their homes
Assistance for businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is necessary to support local business

Themes	Messages
Environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting against erosion is urgent Without intervention, the community will lose the opportunity to recreate the landscape Tree lopping is necessary Controlling weeds enables the recovery of local wildlife and improves the area for locals and visitors Replanting vegetation would stabilise the soil and beautify the area Education about vegetation assists fire readiness Other environmental concerns
Fire safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects are needed to improve the community's readiness for fire
Maintenance and clearing of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land should be regularly cleared so it does not feed bushfire
Memorials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorials were suggested to commemorate the tragedy
Phone and internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving phone reception is vital for communication in a crisis Connecting to the NBN is a priority
Powerlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burying power lines underground could make the community safer in the future
Public amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an opportunity to improve public amenities The playground could be improved Public toilets could be improved
Responsibility for projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other agencies may be responsible for a number of the suggested projects
Roads and parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are opportunities to improve accessibility Roads require repair and maintenance Some roads could be widened to assist safer access Signage on roads could be improved New solutions for parking are needed
Survey feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive feedback The survey options were limited The survey had the wrong priorities The survey was poorly timed
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community volunteers could be better utilised and supported
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water management should be improved

Themes	Messages
Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paddy's Path should be improved• Paddy's Path should be restored without a sculpture• Pedestrian access through the area should be improved through walks• There is an opportunity to build new bush walks• The river walk should be extended
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for the wellbeing of community members is important in the recovery

1.1 Assisting people who lost their homes

The recovery should prioritise assisting people who lost their homes

12 comments

Comments suggested that donated funds should be prioritised towards assisting people who lost their homes.

- Money should primarily be spent on assisting people who lost their homes, and fixing the areas destroyed or damaged.
- We are accountable to donors to spend donated money for the purposes for which it was donated - assisting victims of the bushfire and repair of damage done by the bushfire.
- Our house was destroyed after being in our family for 4 generations. The house was never rented out as a source of income because it was filled with family photos and memories ... Sadly none of the suggested recovery activities will assist us or others in our situation to re-build.

A number of comments reflected on which groups ought to be prioritised.

- Initiatives need to help local home owners, not visitors.
- Facilitate the rebuild of the communities in an effective and timely manner to the benefit not only of the residents but also all those you like to come to Wye River and Separation Creek on vacation or day trips.

Projects were suggested to assist people who lost their homes

6 comments

Project suggestions included

- Subsidise the cost of 10 nights of temporary accommodation for those who lost their home either in the caravan park or surviving holiday rentals.
- Ensure ongoing availability of the foreshore caravan park out of season for continued access/connectedness to the Wye community while we rebuild.
- Conduct research on affordable building solutions.
- Negotiate bulk buying on behalf of people who need assistance to re-build.
- Lobby government and council to provide assistance with regulatory planning requirements.
- Approach businesses and create a list of businesses that will offer discounts or assistance for the replacement of building materials and/or house contents (e.g. donations from Surf Shops of boogie boards, surfboards and wetsuits for kids)

1.2 Assistance for businesses

It is necessary to support local business

4 comments

A number of comments concerned the need to support local business. These were

- Business support is needed to ensure the pub and shop stay open.
- Other activities, such as temporary accommodation for home owners, also support local businesses.
- The Lions Club initiative is excellent and helps by keeping people connected to the community and supporting local business.
- There are 7 small businesses not covered by the \$1.4m allocated to rebooting tourism on the GOR - they need money to go towards covering the cost of lost tools and equipment so they can resume their business/livelihoods that make a significant contribution to the town's economy. Remember, they also employ people so it's imperative they be assisted to resume business. Having someone available to help property owners when they go back to sift through the rubble of their homes to recover some items. The proposed project to incorporate objects from people's homes into a sculpture/memorial needs to go to a local artist (there are 5) not fund an outsider. Keep the money and work here where it is needed.

1.3 Environmental protection

Protecting against erosion is urgent

6 comments

Comments included

- The main requirement is to stabilise slopes and protect against erosion URGENTLY before the spring rains occur.
- With the bare burned slopes, unless stabilized, once the rain comes, the North hill will end up in the Wye River. We need sediment control. The insurance companies probably are meant to do this but will be inadequate and won't be on the ground to do it until well after the clear up. Grocon don't stabilize, they clear up. Once heavy rain comes, there will be no clearing up or rebuilding - it will be impossible without stabilization of the ground.
- Improve and maintain damaged retaining walls
- Ensuring land stability and regeneration through mass planting

Without intervention, the community will lose the opportunity to recreate the landscape

2 comments

Some comments emphasised the importance of the appearance of the landscape to them.

- The first priority should be to return the area to the beautiful bush haven that it has always been
- An overall architecture and landscaping blueprint for rebuilding is needed. How do you recreate the beauty of areas like Iluka hill? There is a danger this could become an avenue of brick and glass beachside mansions with the newly opened up views of the ocean. This type of development will change the character and nature of the area more than anything - I personally wouldn't like Wye to become a little Lorne!

Tree lopping is necessary

2 comments

Two comments expressed the need for tree lopping – suggesting large scale tree lopping, and to trim back trees next to the surf club. Both comments rated this as highly important.

Controlling weeds enables the recovery of local wildlife and improves the area for locals and visitors

12 comments

Comments suggested the recovery presented an opportunity for weed removal.

- In some areas weeds have completely taken over
- The control of weeds is important to allow natural re-generation of native plants and wildlife.
- Eliminating blackberries, pittosporums, banana passionfruit, asparagus fern and agapanthus has to be a priority
- \$25,000 is probably not enough to combat the problem. There needs to be constant and ongoing work in that area.
- Something like removing weeds from Paddy's path could be more like "adopt a highway" - an easily accessible job done by locals in a longer time frame.

Replanting vegetation would stabilise the soil and beautify the area

9 comments

Replanting would

- stabilise the soil and encourage the wildlife to return
- and beautify the area and restore it back to its previous state

Comments recommended replanting with indigenous and fire-retardant species of plants, but acknowledged the complexity in choosing appropriate plants. Comments included

- It is important to have easy information on what fire-resistant indigenous species would be appropriate. The existing CFA guide is very general with too much to choose from.
- Bush fire management consultants could advise the community on appropriate re-plantings
- I'm opposed to the removal of non-invasive exotic trees in Harrington Park. My father's memorial seat rests under a beautiful old oak tree. Not only would removal of the tree be detrimental to the landscape and destabilise the soil on this steep site, it would be very traumatic to our family, especially my mum and my kids. They've not met my dad and the seat in Harrington Park under the big oak has been their only connection to him.
- It is likely to be a long wait until the lost properties are rebuilt and planting can start

Specific suggestions for replanting included

- Replant the dune area of Foreshore Caravan Park with more fire retardant shrubs
- A tree planting day - eucalypts for the koalas

Education about vegetation assists fire readiness

7 comments

Comments outlined a range of ways education about the environment can help protect against fire.

Comments included

- Consideration should be given to educating people in landscaping and planting to reduce fire risk. Knowledge of plants which contribute to increased possibility of houses surviving a fire front is important
- It is important that we learn from the 2009 bushfire experience. Deciduous trees and plantings were identified as a significant protective element in the face of a fire front. Using such plantings only within the town area of Wye River and Separation Creek should be considered.
- Guidance could be provided (website, maybe plus pamphlet) on recommended replanting choices and weed control
- Education could be provided about the identification and preservation of indigenous Wye plants and fauna.

Other environmental concerns

2 comments

Two environmental concerns raised do not fit with the above categories. These were:

- To manage feral animals in the Wye River and Separation Creek Community. There are dead birds all around my property from feral cats before and now after the fire!
- Should suggest a trust for ongoing difficulties such as the constant pollution and nutrients into the river as many septic systems are not working well

1.4 Fire safety

Projects are needed to improve the community's readiness for fire

7 comments

Comments identified projects to improve fire safety. These were

- An overall plan to protect life and property
- A fire siren for separation creek (2 comments)
- Installation of Electronic Fire Rating Sign
- A diesel pump and agricultural sprinklers in town near bridge
- Continued and expanded fire education over summer with tourists and caravan parks
- Fire-fighting Water supply for Separation Creek because the creek rarely flows in summer. This is feedback from CFA volunteers who fought the fire

One comment noted

- Other projects could be considered which would reduce the possibility of future bushfires impacting the town

1.5 Maintenance and clearing of land

Land should be regularly cleared so it does not feed bushfire

8 comments

Comments stressed the importance of property owners clearing their property of leaf and bark litter. Comments include

- Ensure ALL property owner rid their land of weeds that are potential fire hazards
- It's important for holiday makers to keep their properties cleared so regular visits throughout the year are important. Ensuring that ALL residents and part timers have our fire plan and evacuation procedures ALWAYS posted in view in their homes is WHY (ha!) we were so safe.
- Maintain this community land in a state that does not feed bushfire as a result of total neglect as per the last 32 years of my watch. I have maintained a large section (solo) for the last 20 plus years and this section did not fully burn.

Some comments suggested ways to ensure properties are kept clear:

- Annual Collection of Garden Rubbish(larger items) in Spring (so residents maintain properties better)
- A newsletter could go out quarterly with all the info-drop into P.O.boxes at store
- Is anyone ever fined for not clearing their block? CFA must clear them and then fine people. This would only have to happen once and people would get the message.

1.6 Memorials

Memorials were suggested to commemorate the tragedy

3 comments

Suggestions for memorials were

- Creating sculptures from burnt stuff
- A plaque commemorating the achievements of everybody involved in that while 116 houses were destroyed, there was no loss of life.
- Name a street, building, track or sculpture after Roy Moriarty.

1.7 Phone and internet

Improving phone reception is vital for communication in a crisis

4 comments

One comment rated improving mobile phone reception as highly important

- Action to improve the mobile phone reception – non-existent for non-Telstra customers - this is vital for critical fire and other messaging

Two other comments identified improving phone reception as a priority

One comment suggested a repositioning of Telstra facility on the point to somewhere less visible

Connecting to the NBN is a priority

3 comments

Three comments identified connecting to the NBN as a priority

1.8 Powerlines

Burying power lines underground could make the community safer in the future

17 comments

Fourteen comments raised burying power lines underground as highly important.

- Undergrounding the powerline at least in the town centre would be a lasting improvement for the town.
- All are important, however I feel underground power lines are a must.
- I know it's probably not going to happen to have underground power but it would be my number one choice out of those listed.
- Major infrastructure projects such as putting powerlines underground can only usually be done at times like this, where the opportunity, funding, motivation, access to property all converge at the one time. If it is not tackled now, then it may never be tackled. This is a proposal which will beautify the area and also hopefully make the place safer for the future. The fact that it is difficult is not an excuse for not doing it.

Community members also commented on where underground power lines should run, including:

- at least in the town centre
- the whole of Wye not just the town centre (2 comments)
- the entire area of Wye & Sep (2 comments)
- underground power lines going up and around the Boulevarde

One comment raised concerns with the costs of putting powerlines underground.

- Last time I got a quote for putting the powerlines underground (5 years ago) it was \$40,000 a pole. This survey is based on financial non-equivalents, considering a few noticeboards may only cost a thousand. The poles also only benefit a few seemingly too. From previous research, you can't just get rid of the ones in the centre of town, you need to take out several besides the obvious ones, at a guess a minimum of probably 6-8, I think with \$240-320,000 minimum cost this idea needs more explanation. Of course if you could lobby Powercor to do it for nothing-fabulous!

One comment raised environmental concerns with underground powerlines

- Burying power lines further up would be a massive problem environmentally to already destabilized ground.

1.9 Public amenities

There is an opportunity to improve public amenities

25 comments

Some respondents saw building amenities as an important aspect of recovery efforts.

- I think if funds are available for additional projects, they should be focussed on improving amenities/enjoyment for tourists so local businesses benefit.

Community members suggested a raise of possible projects, including

- Basketball ring (6 comments)
- Improving community barbeques (3 comments)
- a little free library of books as part of this notice board (just big enough for 20-30 books people could help themselves to) (2 comments)
- Skate park (2 comments)
- Creating an outdoor cinema in Harrington park
- Repurposing one of the petanque courts in Harrington park
- Tennis court
- Boat ramp
- Exercise circuit
- Wye River Botanical Garden and walkway created on the community land between Karingal Drive
- Upgrading camp kitchen
- Footy field and clubrooms option revisited at the back of the caravan park.
- Enhancing the availability and use of the SLSC facilities for community events

The playground could be improved

11 comments

Eleven comments expressed that the playground should be upgraded.

Comments that explained how the playground could be improved included

- catering for a variety of ages rather than just really young children (2 comments)
- Restore play equipment and add handball court/basketball hoop and maybe even a flying fox.
- Protected by a shade sail, to attract families to the area & spend some time together outside being active
- Monkey bars
- Basic fitness equipment, like bars
- My main concern is that whatever is done or designed have multi-time, multi-group flexible creative design. For instance, the playground area. Consider the design to not only be a playground for young children, but at night teenagers use it. Teenage play areas are now being developed all over the world. The designs often create interesting shapes to sit and hang around. A smart designer could make this have a multi-use place for teenagers at night, families for lunch.

Public toilets could be improved

5 comments

Five comments expressed that public toilets ought to be improved with proper signage, a 21st century facility, more efficient, less water use, and more easily cleaned. Two comments suggested the beach and foreshore area requires a public toilet.

1.10 Responsibility for projects

Other agencies may be responsible for a number of the suggested projects

9 comments

A number of comments raised concerns that some of the suggested projects were better handled by other agencies. These included

- By using money on things like emergency management for volunteers, you are letting the appropriate agencies off the hook. Same goes for developing a plan to control regrowth of weeds - COS and DELWP already have allocated budgets. New community notice boards? were the old ones burnt? or are you being opportunistic? Improve beach access - isn't that OCC responsibility?
- Access to Emergency Management courses for volunteers is rated lowest because this should just happen as part of EMV's charter and not be seen as an optional future project.
- Weed management and powerlines should not be coming out of this funding. We need to be mindful of what activities are the responsibility of the Shire, Powercor etc.. These need to be addressed separately and the agencies held accountable (e.g. local road maintenance and Vic Roads for the foliage such as blackberries on either side of the ocean side of the road)
- Most of the activities are what I would expect to be completed as a component of the \$4,000 in rates I pay each year.
- Some of these options are already under the responsibility of existing bodies such as the Shire, State Government and the Foreshore Committee.
- As stated by others many of the above are projects that should be undertaken by the Shire or Community Groups.
- The above list is superficial 'beautification' which we all pay for through our rates and other government subsidies/grants.

Comments also raised concerns that donated funds would not be appropriately allocated.

- Only activities related to repair of bushfire damage should be paid for with donated funds.
- Recovery is about helping this who have lost everything get back on track - not being opportunistic about doing projects that aren't the responsibility of this group.

1.11 Roads and parking

There are opportunities to improve accessibility

6 comments

A number of comments identified the need to improve roads to improve access for ambulances and fire trucks. Specific suggestions included

- ambulatory access to beach could be easily improved in both hamlets
- supporting the architects through emphasising the importance of access.
- getting driveway plans that suits CFA trucks
- Create an underpass for pedestrian access at Wye and Sep. Similar to the one at Fairhaven. This would make access to the beach safer.

Roads require repair and maintenance

12 comments

Several comments expressed the need to upgrade road surfaces with more bitumen roads, and to stabilise the roads and slopes along road reserves to prevent land slips.

Comments included suggestions of specific roads and areas that require repair. These were

- Sarsfield Street, Separation Creek (2 comments)
- High use residential roads
- Retaining walls along the roads within Wye River and Sep Creek

One comment expressed concern that road repair could exhaust donated funds

- Road improvement is always needed, but this big ticket item could exhaust all the available funds and then some. Also, without ongoing maintenance, we could be back where we started.

Some roads could be widened to assist safer access

4 comments

A number of comments suggested widening roads in Wye and Separation Creek to make them safer and allow greater traffic flow. Bass Ave was identified in particular as needing to be widened.

Signage on roads could be improved

2 comments

Two comments suggested improving street signage. Specific suggestions were

- Improve street name signage in North Wye
- Reduce the individual signs for rental properties around the streets.
- Create a central map in Sep and Wye that show streets and major locations. Perhaps this could be outside the store and in the car park at Sep. This signage could also provide visitors with some historical facts about the region and include old photos and suggested walks.

New solutions for parking are needed

4 comments

A number of comments identified the peak season parking problems. Specific suggestions were

- Create parking for visitors at or near the entrance to the Wye Valley Caravan Park. Maybe in the Winter months this space could be used for an Otways market and a venue for community gatherings.
- Create angle parking bay on the gully side of the Boulevard just up from the current community garden and ban parking on both sides of the Boulevard to allow safer pedestrian and vehicle access particularly over peak times
- No more allowing sites to be occupied for the entire holiday season. Maximum booking 2 weeks. No entitlement to a site just because there is a history of previous occupancy. For the duration of the recovery period priority should be given to those whose family holiday houses have been destroyed.

1.12 Survey feedback

Positive feedback

3 comments

A number of comments expressed positive reactions to the survey. Comments included

- These are all very good goals and I would love to see them all be implemented if possible.
- Thanks to Interim group so far and also Nous for pro bono; it's been an amazing response. Much, much appreciated.

The survey options were limited

5 comments

A number of comments expressed the concern that the options in the quantitative feedback section of the survey were limited. Comments included

- I think these options are too limited. Should group into prevention activities, recovery activities and community infrastructure.
- None of the real priorities are represented here

The survey had the wrong priorities

8 comments

A number of comments expressed the concern that the suggested projects demonstrated the wrong set of priorities. Comments included

- This list is irrelevant to the economic recovery of the coves.
- We believe the list to be a joke and superficial.
- You appear to have developed a 'wish list' and lost sight of what recovery actually is.
- I welcome surveys of this sort, given the tragedy that happened. As someone who lost a home, I am not sure this survey properly reflects the stated aim of 'recovery'. It appears to be more about additional measures, ie. as if the Christmas Day fire never happened!

The survey was poorly timed

2 comments

Two comments expressed concern about the timing of the survey. These were

- I am not sure why this survey has been sent out when the new committee has not been announced?
- This survey has gone to press too quickly and without careful design.

1.12 Volunteers

Community volunteers could be better utilised and supported

5 comments

Training for community volunteers should be a priority, particularly a first aid course (2 comments).

Other suggestions were

- More support and public image for the Volunteer Register
- A coordination / volunteer / loan type hub / forum / exchange. For example, you could borrow time, gear, knowledge: help replant my garden this week, when you're ready in 3 months vice versa, loan a chainsaw, whatever. This is already happening a bit informally with neighbours as you'd expect, but might not be available for all and a formal 'exchange' might help.
- Clean up working bee

1.13 Water

Water management should be improved

9 comments

Two comments identified drainage as needing improvement.

One comment suggested consideration of community or multiple community waste water disposal schemes.

Two comments suggested installing water tanks for drinking water and to gravity feed fire resistant sprinklers.

Another four comments expressed the need to secure town water. Specifically, comments suggested

- Removal of licences to draw water from the river, except for the CFA.
- The need for a permanent water supply for the 2 caravan parks, Pub and shop which would allow the water to remain in the River, rather than pumped out until it is almost dry, which should improve the health of the river. It will also provide safe drinking water all year round for visitors to our community.
- The private businesses in Wye drawing water from the river is of concern. The health of the river is important to the community as a whole.

1.14 Walks

Paddy's Path should be improved

9 comments

Community members identified Paddy's Path as

- an important piece of infrastructure which people use every day
- having historical significance

A number of comments expressed the need for Paddy's Path to be restored and maintained. Specific suggestions for improving Paddy's Path included

- Replacement of existing steps with those of shallower height, more easily managed by children, pushers, the elderly and incapacitated.
- The provision of side-ramps on steps for pushers, prams, wheelchair use.
- Better sign-posted
- Address fern infestation
- Address vine growth opposite the reeds in the river
- Solar lights or something similar along Paddy's Path so it can be used at night rather than a dangerous walk along the ocean road

One comment expressed the view

- Paddy's Path doesn't require enhancement- the views say it all!

One comment expressed support for a sculpture on Paddy's Path.

Paddy's Path should be restored without a sculpture

6 comments

Six comments expressed that Paddy's Path should be restored without a sculpture.

Pedestrian access through the area should be improved through walks

6 comments

A number of comments had specific suggestions for paths that could be joined to improve access. These were

- develop a walking track from Wye to Kennet river
- accessible pathways: means not needing to cross G.O.R. to get between Wye and Sep, no (or few) steps on Paddy's path
- pedestrian shortcuts down the hill to beach/store along public land (e.g. gully edge in Separation Creek). Like in Monaco for example, steps can cut the journey significantly (road remains for accessible-needs users). At the moment walking to beach can be 4-5x as long on road as the crow flies.
- footpath to link the rest of Separation Creek to Paddy's path, so people don't have to walk along the road
- improving walking access up the river
- create pedestrian access (not prams etc) from Karingal to Wallace then thru Harrington Park via the Boulevard

There is an opportunity to build new bush walks

19 comments

Many community members provided specific suggestions for new bush walks. These include

- the now-visible pony track from Sep to Jamieson could be made into a formal walking/cycling trail with information boards
- White Water walk between Wye and Kennett on the sea side of Great Ocean Rd (2 comments)
- Waterfall walk - link Lorne to the Great Ocean Walk in Apollo bay. It would pass over 30 waterfalls (2 comments)
- The fires have uncovered an old rail line/pony trail from Kennett right through to Jamieson. The development of a pedestrian/mountain bike trail would be a fantastic addition to the township. This trail may potentially continue all the way to Lorne - what a great link.
- New walking trails in North Wye - would be great to have a new trail in gully that goes up to Karingal Dr behind fire station
- Board walks built over the two rock areas between Wye and Sep - allowing people to walk from Sep beach to Wye beach with the fear of falling when negotiating the rock areas (2 comments)
- Hold meetings to discuss fire access tracks being taken further into the forest
- Clear the track to the Wye Falls and make a circuit walk (2 comments)

The river walk should be extended

7 comments

Seven comments suggested extending the River walk – one suggesting extending to the weir and one suggesting extending to the Big Tree.

1.15 Wellbeing

Support for the wellbeing of community members is important in the recovery

4 comments

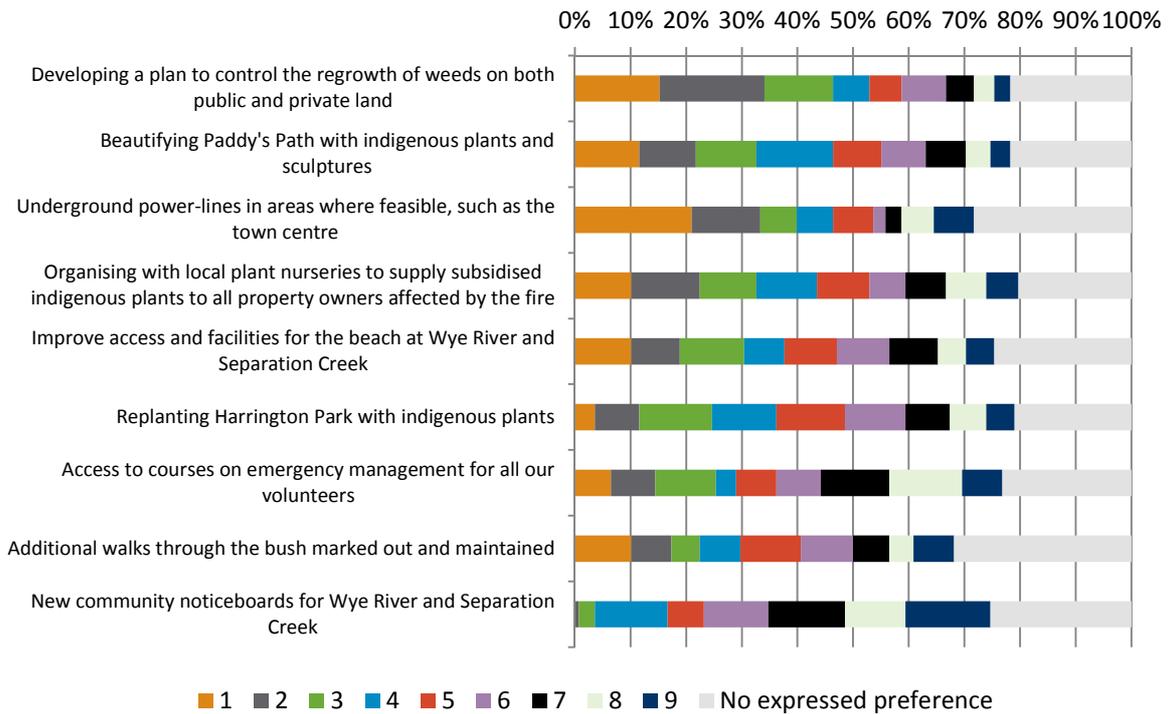
Specific suggestions were

- A one stop shop at Wye for wellbeing activities for community as recovery takes at least 18 months
- Our Community desperately needs a 'wellness' place so individuals can get help now that 'reality' is hitting.
- It would be great if short holidays could be arranged for people here who are struggling.

Appendix C: Additional charts

Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of preferences across the suggested recovery projects. Underground power-lines received the highest number of first preferences, with over 20% of respondents selecting as first preference. Developing a plan to control the regrowth of weeds also had broad support, with over 50% of respondents selecting the project as their first, second, third or fourth preference.

Figure 1: Distribution of preferences across recovery projects



Appendix D: Survey Questions

Wye River Separation Creek Interim Recovery Group Survey

1) What is your name?*

2) Please rank in order of priority the following suggested recovery activities that are important to you.

_____ Beautifying Paddy's Path with indigenous plants and sculptures

_____ Replanting Harrington Park with indigenous plants

_____ Organising with local plant nurseries to supply subsidised indigenous plants to all property owners affected by the fire

_____ Access to courses on emergency management for all our volunteers

_____ New community noticeboards for Wye River and Separation Creek

_____ Developing a plan to control the regrowth of weeds on both public and private land

_____ Improve access and facilities for the beach at Wye River and Separation Creek

_____ Underground power-lines in areas where feasible, such as the town centre

_____ Additional walks through the bush marked out and maintained

Comments:

3) Please rate the importance of the following suggested recovery activities to you on a scale of 0 to 5 (where 0="Not at all important" and 5="Highly important").

Beautifying Paddy's Path with indigenous plants and sculptures

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Replanting Harrington Park with indigenous plants

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Organising with local plant nurseries to supply subsidised indigenous plants to all property owners affected by the fire

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Access to courses on emergency management for all our volunteers

0 _____ [] _____ 5

New community noticeboards for Wye River and Separation Creek

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Developing a plan to control the regrowth of weeds on both public and private land

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Improve access and facilities for the beach at Wye River and Separation Creek

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Underground powerlines in areas where feasible, such as the town centre

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Additional walks through the bush marked out and maintained

0 _____ [] _____ 5

Comments:

4) Do you have any other suggested recovery projects for the benefit of the whole community?

Please rate the importance of any suggested recovery activities on a scale of 0 to 5 (where 0="Not at all important" and 5="Highly important").

Thank You!