

# Lake Bolac Foreshore Committee

## Summary of Engagement



## Background

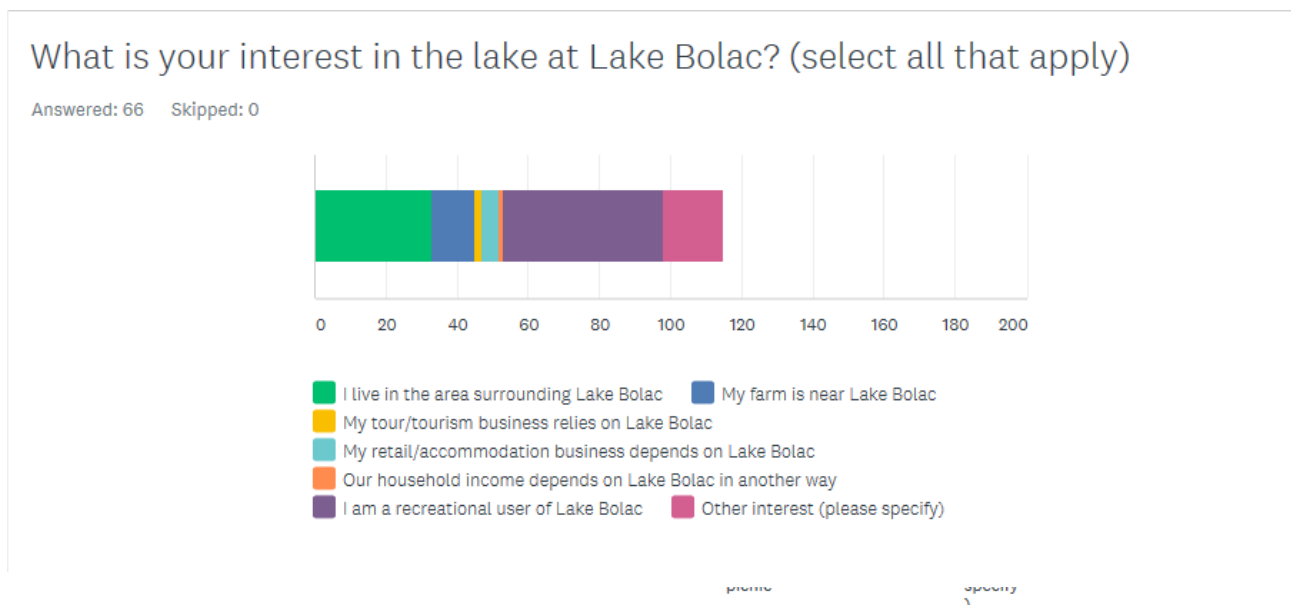
The Lake Bolac Foreshore Committee (LBFC) and City of Ararat approached the DELWP Grampians region office in August 2018 seeking guidance on possible engagement opportunities that could be undertaken to help the LBFC prioritise future actions at Lake Bolac and generate more volunteer support

## Information session

An information session was organised by LBFC and held on 18 September 2018. Speakers on the night included LBFC, Parks Victoria, DELWP, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group and Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre. More than 50 community members were in attendance. DELWP prepared an online survey that was launched on the night.

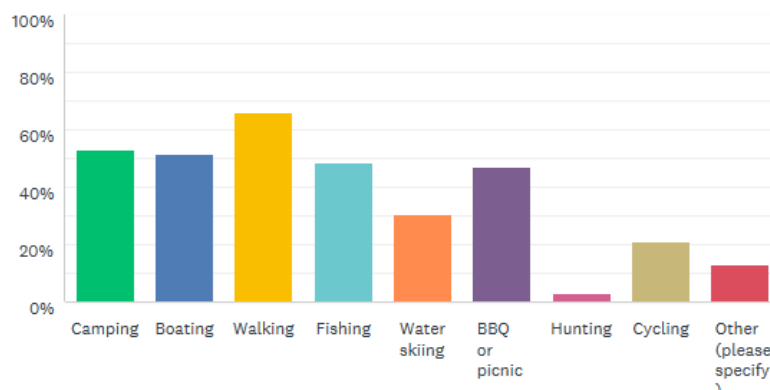
## Survey

66 people completed the survey and results are summarised below



If a recreational user, please select recreational activities you participate in at Lake Bolac from the list below:

Answered: 62 Skipped: 4



### **Thinking about Lake Bolac I like...**

*'Tranquil, peaceful, relaxing'*

*'Natural setting and views'*

*'Fishing and/or boating'*

*'Friendly community'*

*'Indigenous history and sacred significance'*

*'Family friendly'*

*'Birds, wildlife, native vegetation'*

*'Camping on the water's edge'*

*'Attracts visitors but is relatively undiscovered'*

### **At Lake Bolac I wish...**

*'Solution to midgee problem'*

*'Better toilets and facilities eg. BBQ, jetty, beach'*

*'Stocked with better eating fish eg. Redfin'*

*'More camping spots'*

*'More funding and resourcing  
eg. More volunteers'*

*'There was more water, drought-proof'*

*'Road, walking and/or cycling path  
all the way around'*

*'Duck shooting could be banned'*

*'Commercial opportunities eg. Café'*

### **Regarding Lake Bolac I wonder...**

*'How the community could grow and thrive'*

*'How we can increase environmental  
water flows'*

*'Why it isn't more popular with visitors'*

*'If there is an environmental  
solution to the midgee problem'*

*'When it will next dry up'*

*'About the lake's history and Indigenous  
heritage'*

*'If the boat shed could be improved and  
better utilized'*

*'How we can all work together to  
deliver on community expectations'*

### **Other thoughts.....**

*'The Committee of Management does a fantastic job'*

*'Possibility for a sculpture or art trail  
and Indigenous interpretation'*

*'Community members could form a  
cooperative or each donate a tree'*

*'We need a united community effort to promote  
and support more active lifestyles around the lake'*

*'A serious research project into siltation  
and stream flows is warranted'*

*'We need to look after the eels'*

## Community workshop

A community workshop was held on 30 October 2018 to further explore community aspirations for Lake Bolac and to help determine priorities for future action. More than 20 people were in attendance.

Feedback obtained during interactive session was in response to the following themed questions:

*When thinking about Lake Bolac, what actions could be taken to improve:*

- 1) the Lake Bolac Foreshore
- 2) the waters of Lake Bolac
- 3) the land around Lake Bolac

### Lake Bolac Foreshore (managed by Lake Bolac Foreshore Committee)

<b>Environmental</b>	Control Combungi	<b>Better manage Midgees due to the negative impacts on camping on both Foreshore and Caravan park and Bowls Club</b>
<b>Cultural</b>	Interpretive signage around lake (historic, social and environmental)	Interpretive maps to demonstrate camping options and where fire pits are located and other facility locations
<b>Social</b>	Walking and cycling track around the lake  Fishing facilities- cleaning stations, kitchen, shelters  Vehicle tracks- maintain and improve Improve all toilet blocks (especially at Picnic Point) and include disabled access  New toilet/shower blocks at Picnic Point	Formed car parking area at Boatshed opposite Caravan Park More shared shelters- BBQs, tables  Camping plan and capacity, site numbers Foreshore committee to look at partners to increase volunteer participation, ie- landmate
<b>Challenges</b>	Cost of mowing and weed control too much for volunteers	Are there cultural sites where camping currently occurs?

### Waters of Lake Bolac (managed by Parks Victoria)

<b>Environmental</b>	Infrastructure at outlet to limit water loss with strong North winds Sluice gate to control water early in the event of large rainfall/flood events  If lake dries again, take the opportunity to deepen areas to drought proof lake Floating islands/plants to absorb excessive chemicals which wash in from farmland Blue Green algae control Respect Salt Creek and Hopkins	Preserve the short-finned eel  <b>Acknowledge rights of Lake Bolac to environmental flows- all users of the flow to be allocated a supply</b> <b>Water based food web- ecology of water, midgee breeding, eel fishing</b> Support BBCAG to work with private landowners- riparian zones Reduce phosphorus <b>Research into water flow mapping of catchment to improve harvesting water in Lake Bolac</b>
<b>Cultural</b>	Explore possibility of 'cultural' and 'recreational' flows (CMA)	
<b>Social</b>	Pontoons or anchored platforms for swimming (eg Lake Boga) Resources for bird watching, eg- hides and nesting boxes Better fishing destination- more popular species and higher stocking rates	Have plan in place to do improvements when overflow is accessible Explore engineering controls to limit water loss due to weather and wind
<b>Challenges</b>	Rainfall is beyond our control- need to make the most of what we get	Water quality is not great- siltation in lake contributes to water quality, BGA and evaporation

## Land around Lake Bolac (managed by Parks Victoria)

<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Remove any dead cypress trees from South side and overflow</b>	Wattle control near water/beach East Beach conservation zone Encourage private landowners to plant native species and remove exotics to improve birdlife, habitats and shelter (upstream and downstream) Restrict 4WD access to sand dunes (East)	Nature trail Rabbit control needed
<b>Cultural</b>	Identification and protection of culturally significant sites		Indigenous culture trail
<b>Social</b>	More camping areas on South side- consider fees for use Update facilities to all areas  Changes to control South side  Pedestrian Bridge over Fiery Creek Keep Eel Festival  Encourage bird watching Exclude camping from Knights bridge to inlet (East side)		Parks Victoria- visitor numbers and area usage statistics/data More subdivision to allow more people to live here East Beach is neglected- improve management Exclude duck hunting Public art  Fire roads and tracks need maintenance
<b>Challenges</b>	Clarification needed of Crown Land boundaries and management areas		Public access arrangements to private land

## Actions and next steps

### Priority actions identified at workshop

Action	Total Votes Received	Lead
Remove any dead cypress trees from South side and overflow	7	Parks Victoria to investigate
Research into water flow mapping of catchment to improve harvesting water in Lake Bolac and better manage water quality	8	Beyond Bolac and GHCOMA to lead investigations
Better manage Midgees due to the negative impacts on camping on both Foreshore and Caravan park and Bowls Club	6	DELWP to lead investigating options of utilising knowledge of ARI/CSIRO/ Lake Boga and LBFC (Leo)
Upgrade facilities for recreational users of the foreshore	3+	LBFC (Mick) and Angling Club to investigate funding opportunities available through the VFA recreational fishing levy fund.

## Other feedback

The Victorian Government, through the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, disburses revenue derived from the sale of Recreational Fishing Licences to projects that will improve recreational fishing in Victoria. Funding for projects ranging between \$5,000 to \$100,000 is available. For more information, refer to [VFA.vic.gov.au](http://VFA.vic.gov.au).

Additional funding opportunities may be identified at [Grants.gov.au](http://Grants.gov.au) and [Vic.gov.au/grants](http://Vic.gov.au/grants)