

# GREEN HILL LAKE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

*We asked the question and here is what you said*

## Responses:

- 103 On-line surveys completed.
- 36 Paper-based surveys completed.
- 67% Of respondents use the lake once a month or more.
- 30% Of those who responded their most common use of the area is for walking.
- 62% Of respondents believe that people do not necessarily camp near amenities.
- 78% Of respondents live in Ararat.

## Key Messages

What impact would restricting vehicle access beyond the Lions Park shelter have on people's use of Green Hill Lake?

- People are concerned that the side of the lake closed off will be inaccessible to pedestrians and not maintained to a level that walkers and cyclers could continue to use it.
- A strong theme was that people wish to have unrestricted access to all of the lake
- Some users felt it would not impact their access to walk the lake and that this would be a good thing just while the lake is empty.
- There are concerns about less mobile people not being able to access the far end of the lake
- People said they like to use the quieter side of the lake for a range of purposes including walking, cycling, walking dogs, bird watching, accessing the second boat ramp, picnics and just to take in the scenery in a quiet space.
- There are concerns a fence would limit the number of visitors able to camp which would impact on the economic benefits to Ararat. It would also potentially restrict their ability to be more spread out for better privacy.
- Some people felt that keeping free access and having people accessing all areas of the lake may reduce "hoon" behaviour.
- There is some concern about potential fire danger for those accessing the area on foot.

If Council were to limit vehicle access, where would be the best placement of a fence/gate?

- Many said there is no good place for a fence.
- Those who did make a suggestion ranged from between the Lions Club shelter to half way to the second amenities block.
- Council could fence off side tracks that get boggy.

## Other comments and ideas

- Some felt it could make the area safer for pedestrians.
- Some felt it would be less safe as a more isolated area.
- Suggestions that a designated walking and cycling track be developed.
- Extend cemetery creek track to link with the lake, aeromodellers and the Ararat Motorbike club.
- Could increase signage regarding areas of environmental significance.
- Make more improvements to the lake such as digging the boat ramp out further to improve access, sealing the road from the highway to the boat ramp, cleaning up the foreshore for skiers.
- Council and Community should be working together to deepen the lake while it is empty.
- The lake needs better run offs and a sustainable water option.
- More seats, picnic tables, and playground at the far end of the lake.
- It was suggested that the fence/gate would become the infrastructure that needed maintenance instead of the road – nil benefit.
- Some are concerned that this will signal a loss of the second toilet block and other infrastructure at the lake.
- People not obeying rules could find a track way around the fence.
- Walkers and cyclists like to use the road as a path – they would like this to continue to be maintained.



Ararat Rural City