



2019 Walkerville South Safety Trial Stakeholder and Community Evaluation Survey

Prepared for
Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

Prepared by
ROKC Group Consulting

February 2019

Walkerville South Safety Trial Evaluation Report

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1. Executive Summary

Overall there was an extremely positive response to the safety trial with the vast majority of people acknowledging that Walkerville South beach was made much safer with the absence of vehicles during this busy time.

There is an acknowledgement across all stakeholders that the beach is getting increasingly busy and whilst there have not been any major incidents in the past, there is increasing concern that given the limited space on the beach there are clear risks associated with vehicle movement amongst large numbers of beachgoers, especially given the number of families with young children on the beach.

Whilst there was very strong support for the closure to vehicles over the busy summer holidays, there was a more mixed view about the need for this at other times such as Easter and long weekends. Whilst many fully supported the closure of the beach to vehicles during all peak periods, some believed this was potentially less necessary as the beach tends to be quieter at these times and therefore the risks are somewhat reduced.

There was a feeling amongst some that communication about the trial could have been improved, both through consultation and signage, and a view that should this initiative continue in the future, there is a clear need for more signage and road sign posting to ensure boat owners are fully aware of the closure before arriving at Walkerville South beach.

Although there was very wide agreement that the beach was safer for beachgoers, concern was raised by some boat owners that the closure of Walkerville South has resulted in reduced safety for boaters, due to the more difficult launch and retrieval conditions for boats at Walkerville North

2. Background

During Summer 2018/2019 The Walkerville Reserve Committee of Management has undertaken a safety trial at Walkerville South beach which has involved the closure of the beach to all recreational vehicles during the busy summer holiday period.

The aim of the safety trial was to create a safer environment for all beach users by eliminating vehicle movement on the beach.

This trial was undertaken for a number of reasons.

Firstly, increasing concern within the community about the safety of the beach in peak periods due to extensive vehicle movement existing alongside beach users and families, particularly those with young children, and increasing reports of risky vehicle behaviour.

Secondly, in response to comments made in the Coastal Boating Strategy and Management plan, see below

The Gippsland Boating Coastal Action Plan 2013 raised a potential safety issue due to there being a short section of concrete ramp across part of the beach. It notes significant conflicts between boat users and other foreshore users arise from extremely limited space to improve car parking, turnaround areas and other onshore facilities. Boating safety was highlighted as an issue by both stakeholders and community groups in this area. The action plan recommends repairs to improve safety.

The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Coastal Management Plan 2014 acknowledges the Walkerville South beach as one of the safest ocean beaches in Gippsland which is popular with families. The management plan identifies a potential problem with demand for access and parking exceeding capacity leading to potential risk to foreshore users. It also states the safety issue where boats are in close proximity to people in the water and recommends action be taken to assess the risk and manage boating activities to minimise the risks, particularly on busy days. It suggests prohibiting boats from the beach during Christmas holidays and busy holiday weekends.

Thirdly, a desire to explore how the beach continues to remain safe in busy periods given the clear increase in the numbers of people using the beach over recent years, due to increased tourism in the South Gippsland area.

The Safety trial involved the installation of bollards on the boat ramp to prevent vehicle access between December 26th 2018 and January 31st 2019

The ROKC Group has been commissioned to undertake a survey to evaluate the trial. It has been engaged to gain feedback and canvas public opinion across all stakeholders and community groups to ensure feedback from all interested parties is taken into account in evaluating the trial

3. Objectives

- To gain feedback from the community and stakeholder groups to allow a thorough evaluation of the 2018/2019 safety trail
- To allow decisions about the future implementation of this initiative to be informed by public opinion

4. Methodology

The evaluation of the trial involved gaining and reviewing feedback and opinion across a wide cross section of stakeholders including:

Local Residents
Holiday Home Owners
Holiday makers/ Day trippers
Boat owners
Campers
Local community groups and associations

Whilst this was a qualitative survey, the intention for this sample was to ensure it represented a broad cross section of the community and provided an opportunity for all points of view to be heard. Importantly the survey took into account the opinions and views of people both with and without boats (boat owners made up 41% of telephone interviews) and only included individuals who had experience of the beach before the trail and were able to make comparisons between this year and previous years.

The evaluation was conducted via

- On beach observations and interviews with beachgoers in early January – 30 interviews (included 6 boat owners)
- Telephone interviews with local residents, holiday home owners etc – 39 interviews (included 16 boat owners)
- Telephone interviews with representatives of local community groups including the Walkerville Ratepayers Association, Venice Bay Lifesavers Club, and the Bluewater Fishing Club
- Telephone interviews with car park attendants to get feedback on public response and reaction

- Review of email feedback and submissions received by the Foreshore Committee from individuals and community groups/associations including Fish, BIAV and Walkerville Campers Association

5. Results and Feedback

a. Overall Feedback on Safety

There was very strong agreement across all stakeholders that the Walkerville South beach was much safer during the period of the trial with 89% of those surveyed believing this to be the case.

In addition, 64% of individuals providing email feedback were supportive of the initiative.

Safety improvements highlighted were

- Significantly safer environment for families on the beach, especially those with young children. It was noted by many that Walkerville South is a very family friendly beach due to its sheltered nature and calm water and is therefore very popular with families with smaller children. It is also recognised to be a relatively small beach making the coexistence of lots of vehicles and beachgoers risky during very busy periods.

It was also noted by many that the issue is not solely around boat launching but also people ignoring signage and driving on the beach to drop off and pick up equipment and belongings, often through groups of beachgoers.

- Improved safety in the water for swimmers with the absence of boat launching and retrieval and also the absence of other powered watercraft such as jet skis
- Improved safety due to the absence of activity involved in retrieving 'bogged' trailers and boats which often involves the use of taut ropes for towing etc
- Improved safety on the road and in the car park with less vehicles and less manoeuvring of trailers

The feedback also highlighted other benefits to this initiative alongside the safety improvements. These included:

- Reduction in congestion and traffic on the road and in the car park area

- Less crowded beach overall
- Significantly increased area for beachgoers to use making the overall experience more relaxing and enjoyable. This is felt to be particularly relevant as the beach is quite small
- Enhancement of the natural beauty of the beach with no vehicles on it and the beach becoming more peaceful and pristine.
- Quieter and more enjoyable environment with no power boats and jet skis
- No fish remains on the beach as a result of fish cleaning etc

Although there was strong agreement about safety improvements overall, 11% of the sample who did not consider the trial to be improving beach safety. The key reason given for this was a view that over many years there have been no safety issues at Walkerville South beach, and that beachgoers and boat launching/retrieving has coexisted very successfully in previous years.

b. Boat Owner specific feedback

Whilst most boat owners acknowledged the closure of the ramp at Walkerville South caused them some inconvenience, most still acknowledged that during very busy periods the beach itself is likely to be safer with no vehicles moving on it.

Most also acknowledged that as there are launching facilities at North Walkerville, there is still an option for using a boat in the Walkerville area.

There were however a number of concerns raised about the safety of launching and retrieving a boat at Walkerville North particularly during specific tidal and weather conditions, and also for smaller boats. Walkerville South boat ramp, on the other hand, is perceived to be a much safer place to launch and retrieve boats.

Some boat owners also felt that the safety issue on the beach was less around boat launching but rather about other vehicles disobeying signs and driving on to the beach to drop off and pick up beach equipment. To make matters worse these vehicles also often drive along the beach through groups of beachgoers rather than staying to the north side of the ramp where boat trailers parking has previously been permitted.

Boat owners also questioned whether the ramp closure could be more flexible, allowing boat access early in the morning and later in the evening when the beach has very few people on it.

c. Specific Community Group feedback

Interview Responses

The representatives of community groups spoken to (Walkerville Ratepayers, Blue Water Fishing Club and Venus Bay lifesavers) were generally supportive of the trial objectives to improve safety (although were unaware of any previous safety incidents that might have instigated the trial) and believed the ramp closure in busy peak periods would improve safety for beachgoers. They did however raise a number of issues and concerns about the trial

- Concern about increased traffic and congestion at North Walkerville when Walkerville South ramp is closed
- Questions over whether the parking facilities at North Walkerville were sufficient given the additional traffic/use. This is felt to be further impacted by vehicles without trailers parking in designated trailer parking spaces
- Concerns about the safety of launching and retrieving boats at North Walkerville in rough weather and high swells
- Lack of consultation with stakeholders prior to the trial
- The Venus Bay Lifesavers raised specific issues regarding the need for access to the beach at all times in the case of an emergency, and also access for training and Nippers on the rare occasions that conditions are too rough at Venus Bay. Whilst they understood the rationale for closing the ramp from a recreational perspective, they highlighted the need for a different approach for the emergency services

Review of submissions

BIAV

The submission by BIAV stated that whilst on the surface it is a good idea to separate boats from swimmers, they raised concerns about traffic flow and parking capacity at Walkerville North boat ramp. BIAV was also cautious about any ramp closure as they believe trailer boat water access is already below required levels. They requested that the Management Committee explore other options to safely accommodate, and separate, swimmers and boats.

The submission by the Campers Association suggested restricting the use of the ramp for the launch of sail and human powered craft and providing education and signage to advise that the South ramp is not available for the launch of power boats in peak season, and only available for retrieval when conditions are not suitable at North Walkerville.

d. Suggestions for consideration going forward

In gaining feedback on the trial a number of suggestions were made about potential ways to maintain the safety benefits achieved but also allow boat usage at Walkerville South at less busy times. The suggestions included:

- Ramp being open for launching and retrieval early in the day and also in the evenings when the beach is much quieter. The ramp could be then closed before the beachgoers start to arrive and opened again in the evening when most beachgoers have left.
- Ramp closure is restricted to Summer holiday period when there is felt to be most risk, and closure at other peak periods, such as Easter and long weekends, is further reviewed to take into account how busy the beach is likely to be. It is however felt to be very important to be explicit about closure dates for the full year and ensure this is fully communicated
- Greater 'policing' of non- boat related vehicles driving on the beach. The disregard for the current rule is felt to be a real issue for many. It was suggested that there is a need for even clearer signage and also a mechanism for people to report those who continue to drive on the beach to drop off belongings
- Greater signage and signposting overall to ensure people are fully aware of the closure in time to divert to North Walkerville. Also, a request for signs at North Walkerville to inform people that they are not allowed to drive along the beach to Walkerville South
- Designate The Buff (Gap) a no swimming zone and introduce signage and floating buoys so that boaters can safely retrieve boats without worrying about swimmers.
- Bollards placed further down the ramp as current positioning felt to restrict manoeuvrability which leads to congestion

6. Conclusion and considerations

Having fully considered all the feedback it can be concluded that there is strong endorsement and support for the closure of the Walkerville South boat ramp, in the peak Summer holiday period, to improve the safety of the beach. There was a very widely held view that the beach was safer for beachgoers this summer compared to previous years

Further consideration should be given to closure at other times.

Consideration should also be given to other issues and ideas suggested by the various stakeholders and the community

7. Appendices

a. Community Feedback on other areas

Need for a designated fish cleaning spot at North Walkerville away from swimming area. Fish cleaning is currently attracting stingrays to the swimming area making it unsafe for swimming.

Question around whether there are plans to replace or repair the walkway that has been washed away between Bird Rock and Main Beach

Reduce speed limit on the road, 40km/hr felt to be quite high when the road also has people walking on it.

Toilets at Walkerville South need better maintenance. Septic tanks are smelling and the smell drifts to the beach

Addition of 'line boxes' at both North and South Walkerville beaches so that fishermen have a safe place to dispose of line and lures that are often left on the beaches

Traffic management felt to be a problem for some in busy periods despite efforts of parking attendants.

Drones should be prohibited in the area. Signage needed to ban the use of drones

b. Photos shared by survey respondent to show beach environment during and prior to trial





c. Copies of Written submissions reviewed

i. Letter from Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body



Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management
Email: admin@walkervilleforeshore.com.au

RE: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SOUTH WALKERVILLE BOAT RAMP

On behalf of 838,000 Victorian recreational fishers, VRFish is alarmed at the announced closure of the South Walkerville Boat Ramp over summer.

The lack of consultation with recreational fishers on the proposed closure does nothing but fuel further angst and unnecessary conflict. Feedback from fishers that use the site confirms that both boaters and beach goers can co-exist safely at the site and have done so for decades. In fact, we can report high awareness and respect for all users. No reports of an incident or near-miss were been reported.

We are perplexed as to what the objectives of a safety trial are, and in particular, what risk assessment process was employed by the committee to arrive at the position that boating access must be eliminated. Furthermore, did this risk assessment take into account increasing the safety risk of fishers launching or retrieving vessels at North Walkerville Ramp under different ocean conditions?

We will not accept any form of access closure to the South Walkerville Boat Ramp. We strongly recommend that the on-site sign is removed and a pragmatic discussion follows that allows all water users to use the site safely and equitably during peak times. Our Executive Officer, Mr. Michael Burgess can be contacted about this important matter on 5221 1104 or eo@vrfish.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

3 December 2018

**Let's make fishing
better, for everyone.**



ii. Position Statement from BIAV

Position Statement

Proposed Closure of Walkerville South Boat Ramp

Updated: July 2018

Outline:

- The Walkerville Foreshore Committee is the government (DELWP) appointed committee of management for the Walkerville coastal precinct. As well as the coastline, beaches, boat ramps and other coastal infrastructure, the committee manages the camp ground within the precinct.
- The Walkerville Bluewater Boating and Angling Club is the local club that predominately uses the local boating facilities and infrastructure.
- BIAV understands, from discussions and emails with both Walkerville Foreshore Committee and the Walkerville Bluewater Boating and Angling Club, that there is a proposal by the committee to close the Walkerville South boat ramp during peak periods. This was also published in the committee's newsletter late in 2017. Peak periods would relate primarily to the Christmas through to Australia Day period, and also Easter.
- BIAV understands that the Walkerville North boat ramp has recently undergone funded work, by government and the committee, including an extensive rock wall being erected for protective purposes.
- There is some conjecture however, as to the value of the overall upgrade, as vehicle flow and parking capacity may have been diminished in the process.

The club's position –

On 20/7/18 the club posted on its Facebook page its formal position with regard to the proposed closure. In part the club's position is as follows -

It has been announced that the Walkerville Foreshore Committee plan to close the boat ramp at South Walkerville during peak times i.e. Christmas & Easter. While on the surface this seems to be a good idea to separate boats from swimmers, the reality is, the redevelopment at Nth Walkerville means car and trailer parking has been severely reduced, closing Sth Walkerville would only make the situation worse. The position of the committee of the Walkerville Blue Water Boating & Angling Club is that South has to remain open at all times.

[Click here to see the club's Position in full](#)

BIAV Actions

- BIAV is very cautious with regard to any boat ramp closure as trailer boat water access is already well below required levels.
- BIAV supports the club's position until such time that it can be demonstrated that traffic flow and parking capacity at Walkerville North boat ramp has been at least maintained, however ideally enhanced.
- BIAV's position is to keep the Walkerville South boat ramp open at this stage, and for the committee to explore other options to safely accommodate, and separate, swimmers and boaters.

iii. Email correspondence from Venus Bay SLSC

From: Craig Watson <craig@watsoncollard.com.au> **Sent:** Thursday, 15 November 2018 10:40 AM **To:** Bill & Deb Bray <bray@tpg.com.au>; admin@walkervilleforeshore.com.au **Cc:** Paul Hoffman <paul@ardent.com.au> **Subject:** Venus Bay SLSC & Walkerville South

Good Morning Bill and the Walkerville Foreshore Committee
I just wanted to reach out to you prior to summer and make sure we all are on the same page.
I see that the decision to conduct a **Vehicle Safety Trial** at Walkerville South, banning recreational vehicles from the beach and ramp from 26/12/18-31/1/19.

As a collective, we understand the reasoning behind this trial.

As you are aware, the Venus Bay SLSC has made limited use of the Beach at Walkerville South for Nippers & Training when the weather has dictated. In fact last summer we did not use Walkerville South at all. We are very respectful and aware that we do not use the beach wherever possible.

However, occasionally the surf and beach conditions at Venus Bay are such that we can not conduct our activities there. and all activities require a minimum level of water safety

We would like to be considered for the following exemption:

- VBSLSC will have access to the ramp and beach at Walkerville South during the dates covered by the **Vehicle Safety Trial** to launch lifesaving craft (including IRB & Surfboat).
- VBSLSC will notify (in advance wherever possible) of their intention to launch craft in this capacity.

As we did not use Walkerville South for Nippers or Award Training activities last season we do not envisage much usage at all.

The VBSLSC understands the reasons supporting the trial and ask for exemption based on our requirement to meet minimum emergency service and surf lifesaving compliance.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you could respond in relation to our requested exemption by Friday 23rd November that would be appreciated so that we can ensure we have our compliance commitments covered for the summer.

Yours in Lifesaving

Craig

Craig Watson
President Venus Bay SLSC

15/11/18 BB
Evening Craig,

I tried calling the other week to inform the club of our safety trial at Walkerville South over January 2019 but got no answer.

Thank you for your email, we appreciate your concerns and your understanding of our problem we have with vehicles on the beach at South over the peak holiday period.

The restriction to accessing the beach will be with locked bollards half way down across the ramp. Leaving room to unload and a width that should be enough for IRB's to unload and get

into the water. The surf boat may be an issue . I am sure we will have some that will say why does the surf club access and we don't?
We welcome your feedback to the trial if the club comes to Walkerville this summer.

I think you have a special case ,as training is absolutely necessary for your members and being able to use a rescue craft.

We still would like your club to give us as much notice as possible and require activities to take place to the North of the ramp, leaving the South side to others.

The access if needed will come from a key or code that will be available from the Ranger or those on duty managing parking etc.

Our new Rangers are Paul and Sarah ,email above and Paul's number 0411080521.

Regards Bill Bray.
Walkerville Foreshore Committee.

15/11/18 Craig

Hi Bill

Thank you so much for coming back to me.

We really appreciate your position and look forward to our continued positive relationship.

We don't envisage having to use the beach much (if at all) and we will definitely give you and the rangers as much advance notice as possible.

If we do need to use the beach we commit to using the area north of the ramp.

Again if we do need to come down we will ensure it is as early in the day as possible too, ensuring minimal disruption to other beach users.

We will liaise directly with Paul and Sarah if we need help with the bollards.

Thanks again and I look forward to a wonderful (stress-free) summer for all of us.

Regards
Craig

iv. Walkerville Campers Association submission (page 6)

WALKERVILLE CAMPERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Storage During all school holidays, public holiday weekends the full overnight rate will apply. Outside these times applicable rate was charged such as \$8:00 per night for powered sites and \$7:00 per unpowered.	After April 30 th 2019 storage will no longer be applicable. Campers no-longer intending on leaving caravans between breaks, this will reduce income to the park.	During all school holidays, public holiday weekends the full overnight rate will apply. Outside these times applicable rate was charged such as \$8:00 per night for powered sites and \$7:00 per unpowered.
South Boat Ramp Used by very limited power boats per day (typ 2-3) over the peak season. Open to Sail craft (per the management plan) and Kayak users. No data given as to any accidents or close calls.	Closed to all users. Can be opened in case of emergency. Who has the key and time taken in case of emergency? One woman has broken a finger and requiring ongoing treatment in handling a kayak. Appears boating and fishing bodies were not consulted. Required in case of high tide and poor conditions at North Ramp, not sure if this defines an emergency.	Reopen ramp. Use education (see newsletter comments) and signage etc. advising that South Ramp is not available for power boats to be launched in peak season, and only available for retrieval when conditions are not suitable at North. Note in these cases it is very unlikely anyone will be swimming. Ramp is available for sail and human powered craft and local cray fish-man. The Buff (Gap) is deemed a no swimming zone with signage and floating buoys so boaters can safely retrieve boats without worrying about swimmers & divers. See attachment 2. Note one family set up a shade tent in the middle of this area over summer causing major issues for boaters.

v. Email correspondence received by Foreshore Committee

1 JS

Hi there,

I was at the beach yesterday and saw your sign regarding the boat ramp closure and I can't express to you just how pleased I am that this is occurring.

In recent years I've been noticing an increasing amount of people who, for one reason or another, are simply choosing to drive on the beach to pick up or drop off both people and beach equipment. Often driving through quite crowded areas.

While I'm a bit sad that I won't be able to launch my catamaran off the beach during this period, it's a small price to pay to ensure the beach remains safe and enjoyable for all.

Thanks,

2 CS

Hi there,

Just a quick note to let you know that I'm very much in favour of the banning of cars on Walkerville South beach over the coming summer. Last year I saw a number of potentially dangerous incidents there, and with so many kids around at that time of year, it makes a lot of sense to get rid of an unnecessary threat to their (and everyone's) safety.

Best wishes,

[Cara Schultz](#) | Communications Editor
(Mon, Wed-Fri)

BirdLife Australia
Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

3 MB 18/12/18

Just wondering if we are still able to drop off items such as kayaks as in previous years?

Regards

Hi,

Thank you for your email. Yes, you will certainly be able to drop off items such as kayaks. The bollards will be placed well down the ramp which will allow drivers to reverse their cars down to a drop off point, near the beach.

I hope this allays your concern.

There will be more information on the website very shortly.

Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management
admin@walkervilleforeshore.com.au

24/12/18

That's great, thank you very much.

Regards

4 AL 27/12/18

Today was my first day at Walkerville South with the bollards in place and I loved it. The beach has been transformed into the perfect family beach. No cars, no boats, no jet skis and no trailers. It was really lovely seeing the beach full of happy relaxed families and great to see people enjoying the space previously taken up by boat trailers. Congratulations on a great initiative, I hope it becomes a permanent policy.

5 SJ&ZM 27/12/18

Hi foreshore committee,

I would like to send this email of support for the "no vehicle on the beach" trial that commenced yesterday at Walkerville sth. We have been coming here for yrs and the one drawback has been the vehicles (not just boat drop offs) on the beach and the interaction with people, especially children. The trial made yesterday more relaxing, seemed to allow people to use the entire beach and not just the southern end and as a whole the feel seemed more family friendly and calm as children were able to run and play as they pleased and where they pleased. This is in contrast to Christmas Eve where cars were across the beach (including south of the ramp) just picking up beach gear, and towards the end of the day after people had had some drinks you had to be cautious. We do have a holiday house up the hill and although only a small sample size, the road users seem to have slowed down a bit too which is great. Ideally for us the trial would be permanent. Keep up the great work. If u wish to discuss further don't hesitate to email or call

6 ML 28/12/18

Subject: Ramp closure

Dear Admin

I am making this comment as a boat owner, fisherman and general user of the Walkerville South beach the closure of the ramp is a fantastic idea, it makes the beach so much safer to use and puts less pressure on the beach (trailer parking and driving on the sand) on the small carparking area and makes this area more family friendly.

We have been going to Walkerville for a number of years and have seen some shocking displays of total disregard for other users of the beach when retrieving boats.

Regards

7 JL 28/12/18

Subject: Walkerville South beach closure

We spent the afternoon at Walkerville South beach today. There was lots of room because the area previously used for trailer parking was available for beachgoers. There were no cars to dodge, no boats to avoid, and only one embarrassed dog owner who won't bring his dog again. There were no large parties with loads of gear, lots of human powered watercraft and the parking seemed very orderly.

It short- it was fabulous.

8 ZM 2/1/19

Subject: Closure of Walkerville South boat ramp

Dear Members of Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management

Thank you so much for closing the beach at Walkerville South to cars over the Summer holiday period.

We have a holiday house at Walkerville South, so frequent the beach here often, and the presence of cars on the beach is a huge concern to me. Closing the boat ramp has improved our experience at Walkerville South beach beyond words. Even on busy days over the last week, the beach has felt less crowded because people can now safely sit and swim on both sides of the boat ramp, whereas in past Summers, the beach to the South of the ramp has been packed and the Northern side empty because of cars frequently driving on that side to pickup or drop off boats.

More importantly, the beach now feels safer for the many many young children who have been there over the last week, including our own. In my view, cars on Walkerville beach present a very significant safety issue for beach users, in particular small children. As recently as 23 December this year, I witnessed a car and boat pull up about 2 metres from a toddler who was sitting alone in the sand on the Southern side of the boat ramp. There were two other cars on the Northern side of the ramp at the time, so rather than wait on the road, the car drove down and parked on the southern side of the ramp. I couldn't believe how close the car parked to a small child.

In my view, a major issue with the boat ramp at Walkerville South is that cars do not just stick to the Northern side of the ramp. The photos that I have taken over the last year show how frequently cars drive right across the beach to the rock wall on the Southern side of the beach. I've seen people do that to pick up their belongings, but also sometimes they just park and sit in their car. Cars should simply not be able to do that. It is an accident waiting to happen.

I am extremely grateful for your decision to close the boat ramp during January. I would love to see the boat ramp at Walkerville South permanently closed. Cars on a beach that is so popular with families of young children is simply not safe.

Thanks and kind regards

11 June 2018: (photos supplied on email)

25 August 2018:

6 Oct 2018:

23 Dec 2018 (Northern side of ramp, but there just to unload seats and gear, not to launch or collect a boat):

8 PG 4/1/19

To: Admin

Subject: Walkerville South beach vehicle access

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your safety trial.

I would like to register my overall support for the trial. The restriction has provided a safer (and quieter) beach experience for families, especially those with young children and has also freed up parking adjacent to the beach. Not only has it made the beach safer by eliminating vehicles, it has also reduced the use by boats to this wonderful children's swimming beach.

Clear signposting may be useful on the turn-off to Walkerville South that vehicle access/boat access is limited to Walkerville North beach.

Kind regards,

9 PV 5/1/19

To: Admin

Subject: Traffic trial

Hi

I have just come back from a week holidaying at North Walkerville. I thought I would provide some feedback on the traffic trial at South Walkerville.

Firstly, the works at the south end of Nth Walkerville with extra car parks and the two roundabouts are excellent. The extra seats and concrete steps with handrails are good too. As someone with a mobility disability, the handrails made it easy to use these steps to access the beach.

The traffic control at Sth Walkerville is also good. That road is difficult to navigate when cars are parked on one side of the road. Not allowing beach access for cars and boat launching was also great.

I wonder if maybe there should be a disabled car parking space at the small car park at Sth Walkerville?

Is it also possible to have a larger car park at the top at Sth Walkerville?

Thanks

10 SJ 7/1/19

Admin

I would just like to say that it's lovely to see people spread out all over the beach at south walkerville, it is now a totally safe beach for young children, which makes walkerville a special place. Also love the painting on the steps and so must all the people who have taken photos of it in the last week.

Thank you

11 SA 8/1/19

Dear Sir/Madame ,

Congratulation and well done, finally some common sense regarding the vehicles entering the beach at Walkerville south. People and vehicles on the beach dont mix.
 We were visiting our niece at Walkerville south on boxing day and were delighted to see that the vehicle access was controlled. Once again well done.

12 A&GW 7/1/19

Admin

A great move installing the bollards at Walkerville North. Much safer and more beach available.

13 DP 10/1/19

Subject: boat ramp closure trial

Hi

Congratulations on this great initiative. As a regular user of the beach with young children I believe you have created a far safer and more pleasant environment. Having cars on the beach significantly reduces the amenity of this wonderful place and in my opinion poses an unacceptable safety risk. I should add that many people other than those with boat trailers regularly drive on the beach and not just in the designated area to the north of the ramp.

Please make the ramp closure an ongoing management policy during peak season and consider extending the closure period to include other busy periods.

14 JD 11/1/19

To: Admin

Subject: Bollards

I would like to see the bollards remain in place permanently.

Over the last couple of summers I've noticed an increase in thoughtless people using both beaches as a thoroughfare and a car park. And having people direct parking at the South Beach after Christmas was appreciated. Made for much pleasanter experiences at the beach.

Regards

15NM

I want to congratulate you for making the bold and sensible move to close off Walkerville South beach to vehicles over this Christmas period.

Over the years we have fallen in love with this beach, as have our children and grandchildren. The one downer has been people driving vehicles on to the beach to offload equipment etc changing the relaxed atmosphere into one of watchful anxiety. We feel vehicles on the beach is quite antagonistic to the unique charm of this precious area. I hope you manage to take on the vested interests that feel a sense of entitlement to continue behaving as they did before this beach was such a recognised and popular venue.

Yours sincerely,

16 PR 4/1/19

As a resident of Walkerville South I would like to comment on the new 40kmh speed restriction put in place as part of the general upgrades for beach access.

It has resulted in benefits to us all.

The best being the noise levels have dropped (starting at 4.30 am) due to the absence of, or reduced heavy vehicle and boat trailers passing by all day.

In regard to the trial closure for beach access of power boats to the Walkerville South beach I see it as a success.

Having young children on the beach, constant concern was always present for their safety, with large vehicles towing or dragging trailers and power boats weaving between swimmers to get positioned for launch or retrieval was a recipe for an eventual injury or worse to occur.

Beach goers now have almost twice the sand area to enjoy with boat trailers having been removed from beach parking.

I congratulate the Walkerville Foreshore Committee on this project and with others hope it can be extended into the future.

16 JH 23/1/19

Subject: Bollard Trial

I am writing to express our support for the recent bollard trial at Walkerville South.

All my family have expressed relief that the beach has been vehicle free, making the beach a much safer place for families.

In addition, the beach has been experienced as a much more relaxing place, where people can fully enjoy the ambiance, the water and the magnificent view without having to keep one eye out for vehicles.

Thank you to the committee for organizing the trial.

Happy camper - number 17 CT 24/1/19

Subject: Walkerville South Boat Ramp Closure - Thank You

Dear Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management,

This is a quick email to thank you for your proactive approach regarding the temporary closure of the boat ramp at Walkerville South during the peak holiday season this year. The closure has resulted in a much more pleasant environment at Walkerville South.

As Walkerville locals, we encourage the Committee to consider putting the closure in place for all future peak holiday periods, including long weekends and Easter, and believe it has the following benefits:

- 1) An absence of cars and boats on the beach is much safer for all beach-goers, particularly small children;
- 2) The absence of boat trailers on the beach frees up valuable beach space for families to enjoy;
- 3) In the past, fisher-people have often cleaned their fish on the beach at Walkerville South. We have greatly enjoyed the absence of fish carcasses on the beach this summer!;
- 4) The safety of driving on the unsealed portion of road to and from Walkerville South is vastly improved when boat launching is prohibited.

The recent works at Walkerville North are also valued and appreciated by our family. Thank you again for your proactive approach to managing Walkerville.

Kindest regards

1 MMcC 9/11/18

Hi I read your notice stating that the walkerville south beach will be closed to launching and retrieving of boats to conduct a safety trial. As a user (during that time) of both the beach for swimming and also launching and retrieving my boat, can you outline the current safety concerns that have lead to this closure, and any incidents that have occurred in the past that have lead to having a safety trial closure?.

Also, can you provide the relevant legislation that relates to yourselves in regards to being able to open and close public roads? I would be interested to know whether your committee of management are legally allowed to open and or close roads, intersections etc that allow public to access the beach.

2 DA 10/11/18

Dear Bill

I have endeavoured to send this attachment to the email address at the bottom of the sign at Sth.
It is a dud. (the email arrived so, I suspect, not a dud)

2.1 DA 10/11/18

The Administrator. Walkerville Reserve Committee of Management

Dear Administrator, The photo below. Is of a sign posted at South Walkerville recently.

The first paragraph from this sign is:- The Walkerville Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management wishes to advise that a Safety Trial is being undertaken at Walkerville South being during the summer 20018/2019.

The second paragraph, The Walkerville South beach will be closed to recreational

vehicles entering the beach via the ramp from the 26th December 2018 to the 31st of January 2019.

In view of the above statement, It is generally known that there is a ban on vehicles on the beach and has been for many years.

There are members on your Foreshore Committee that are well aware of the above existing ban. There are signs at both North and Walkerville to that effect...

This ban of many years is primarily to prevent vehicle access along the beach between North and South Walkerville.

The ban excluded vehicles launching and retrieving boats at both North and South Walkerville. Current Signs at North and South Walkerville are to that effect. This exclusion for boaters has been in place as long as boaters have launched and retrieved boats at Walkerville North and South.

The wording of the above sign is misleading and is giving the public the impression that it only applies to other vehicles, such as motor bikes., dune buggies or RV'S joyriding up and down the beach. There have never been such problems.

Your Mr Bray is on record at the last Walkerville Ratepayers AGM saying that the

Foreshore Committee wanted to close Walkerville South to boaters over the holiday months. Why didn't the Foreshore Committee have the courage to put that on the sign ? This leads to the following queries.

☐☐What is the real purpose of this Safety Trial?



What benefits is expected to flow from any such Trial?

Has this trial been discussed / approved with DELWP, Shire and the Boat Club.?

How is this Safety Trial to be conducted..?

By closing access ramp with bollards, boom gate?

By electronic surveillance. ?

Monitored by ranger or others, and if so what qualifications will be required that ensues a fair and unbiased report..?

Will this monitoring be conducted 24 hours a day for the selected period?

What data will be collected and recorded..?

Will any such data be freely available to the public?

Please explain exactly how the prevention of boater s launching and retrieving boats at Walkerville South is expected to have an effect on this trial if they are not part of such safety trial.

Or does the Foreshore Committee believe that not being allowed to launch and recover boats will somehow be considered to be part of a safety trial by being excluded.????

Does this mean the trial will be deemed a success if there are no safety issues involving boaters.? Obviously it will be a greater success if boaters are absent!!

This is a blatant case of never conducting a trial/survey etc until being sure of the outcome.!!

If the above is not so:-

???"Does this mean that there is a data base and record of safety issues at Walkerville South caused by boaters? That can be used to provide a comparison. If so please supply full details.

???"Is there any data base or record of safety issues caused by other users of South Walkerville? If so please supply full details.

???"Has there been an increase and record kept of any recent safety Issues, caused by boaters or any users at South Walkerville.? If so please supply full details.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

3 RS 10/11/18

Subject: South boat ramp closure

As a resident of Walkerville (10 McNeil crt)I am protesting against the restrictions placed on accessing the beach boat ramp at south Walkerville.

I think you will find you have no legal right to close this ramp under the disguise of a safety trial.

There's just as much risk to pedestrians on the road and car park from cars as there is on the beach.

Give me evidence of any injury on the ramp perpetrated by boat launching activity and fishermen.

We have a precedent as we have been launching here for 30 years and are residents of the area.

This is just more nanny state restrictions by over zealous committee members.

Was it put to a democratic vote seeking approval from other rate payers ?

We purchased property in the area so we could use and enjoy the environment NOT to be locked out from it.

I expect a response justifying this stupid initiative

4 JP 10/11/18

Subject: Walkerville south safety trial.

To whom it may concern.

I have just been informed of the safety trial by locking out access to boat launching and retrieving at the Walkerville south site. I fail to see how this will make me as a boater a regular user of the area any safer.

There is times when Walkerville south is the only safe option to use. When the tide is high and wind coming from south or south easterly Walkerville north ramp can be hard and dangerous to use. On these occasions we always drop someone on the beach and have them drive around to Walkerville South to retrieve the boat. (it's a lot easier to get a straight run with the trailer there).

As it is currently I don't recall ever having an issue with bathers at the south ramp even at the busiest of times. I think most boaters show courtesy in this area and it's more regular to be approached afterwards by the parents of children asking to see the days catch.

I'm definitely curious to know of any incidents that may have occurred at Walkerville South to maybe assist with any ideas or real solutions to the problem, as I believe this "safety trial" is about to force many boaters to take risks that may be unnecessary to comply with the rules being imposed.

I look forward to any reply.

Thanks in advance

5 BK 16/11/18

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my most sincere concerns over the proposed plans to close the boat launching ramp and beach access used by so many recreational fishers over the summer months.

This ramp is a premiere location for access of small to medium trailer boats in the Gippsland district and something hundreds of law abiding, tax paying boaters look forward to using all year round. The closure of this ramp during the prime fishing and weather months would not only mean the loss of tens of thousands of dollars in tourism but it would also take away from the Victorian recreational angling community in a large way.

I not only speak for myself but the wider fishing and boating community when I say we are against this proposed lockout and it is just another step in an already over policed and over controlled state that is doing everything it can to take away the rights of those who actually respect, look after and enjoy the outdoors and all it has to offer.

I hope this does not fall on deaf ears.
Kindest regards,

6 SP 16/11/18
Hi,

I am writing in regards to the safety closure of walkerville south to recreational fishers launching their boats.
When launching at walkerville south I always try to respect beach goers and travel slowly while on the beach. From all the times i have launched there, i have noticed that all the recreational fisherman that launch there have been respectful of the area both in the carpark and navigating on the beach.

Walkerville south is the best option for launching the boat when fishing offshore especially in comparison to launching at shallow inlet and crossing the bar (which is much more dangerous) or when the parking is full at walkerville north.

I would hope there are other options/initiatives that could be trialled to allow everyone to enjoy the area safely and not have to restrict access to vehicles.

Some suggestions i have are;

- Have a tractor launching service for a nominal (and reasonable) fee, where the tractor would be the only vehicle allowed on the beach.
- Having a roped off pathway on the beach (with signage) where vehicles are only allowed to travel to and from the launching area.
- During the peak holiday times, have a traffic controller that would guide both vehicles and beach goers to ensure safe transit around the beach.

If you would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact me via email

Thanks,

7 RT 27/11/18

Dear Foreshore Committee,

Please find attached a letter regarding the proposed closure of the South Walkerville Boat Ramp. I am quite concerned about this issue and have stated reasons for my position in the attached letter.

Yours Sincerely,

7.1 27/11/18

Dear Administrator,

I was down at Walkerville South recently and saw the sign the foreshore committee has erected regarding the closing of the boat ramp over the summer. This sign is very misleading, as it says that the ramp is closed to recreational vehicles. This I assume is motor bikes, dune buggies, jet skis and the like. When in actual fact Mr Bill Bray is on record at the ratepayer's AGM saying that they would be putting bollards up to stop fishermen from entering the beach. This is a designated public launching ramp, and should not in any shape or form be allowed to be closed. The committee members should already be aware that recreational vehicles are not allowed on the beach (only those launching and retrieving boats). Is the statement from Bill at the ratepayer's AGM the only statement to key stakeholders? He basically told us that this is the way it's going to be done. Has any other group been consulted?

To label this program a safety trial is deceiving the public. I am unaware of any safety issues on the beaches at Walkerville. How can any result from this study have any influence when there are no figures or incident reports to compare it with? If the trial finds no safety problem because there aren't any boats being launched on the beach will it be deemed a success? On the other hand, does it become a failure as there was no one on the beach to study? How will it be monitored? Would a ranger be employed to monitor the area or electronic surveillance be used? If rangers are used would they have the necessary qualifications to be able to keep records that can be distributed to all interested parties? These interested parties would include the ratepayers, DELWP, VRFish, council, fishermen in the caravan park and the boat club. How would the exclusion be covered 24 hrs a day?

I am sure the park users won't be happy to see South closed, as well as the reduced parking at North Walkerville. Not to mention the people that come to the area from afar to go fishing for the day and then suddenly find these changes. These people all know that the ramp is public access and without an official notice from DELWP or some other government body they will be annoyed. I hope Bill or other members of the committee intend to make themselves available to explain it all to them.

I have been going to this area for 41 years now and I have never seen or been involved in a safety incident with anyone on the beach (anyone that is on the beach or in the water swimming). At times when the sea conditions change these people are all too willing to help the boats get off the water. I myself have been in a situation more than once where I haven't been able to safely retrieve my boat at Walkerville North and have had to get my ute around to Walkerville South to get it off the water. I have also witnessed and helped others in the same situation without even having been on the water myself. Fishermen and swimmers alike respect each other when using this beach.

Decisions to change retrieving boats are made on the spot, not decided before you get out on the water. The safety of the people with me and my equipment is far more important than the whim of those who don't want a certain element of people on the beach. Is the foreshore committee going to take the blame if someone is injured or equipment lost when such an event arises? This would come under duty of care towards the lives involved in such an activity. Bill said at the ratepayer's AGM that the bollards would be put in place to stop vehicles going on to the beach, and if there was an emergency these could be removed. He said that a key would be available in an emergency. But who will be responsible for that key? If there is an emergency the key would be needed immediately. There are some fishermen who go out at night. If there is an emergency who would unlock the bollards then?

Who will be funding all these changes? Will this come out of the fees of the people who come to the caravan park to go fishing, and will they return in the future? Recently I was shown an article on the VRFish Facebook page. On writing this letter I checked this page again. There are now over 200 comments and 100 shares. All the responses are negative. It would be in your interest to look at this and take notice of the public response. They are not very happy.

I have discovered on the website of the Boating Industry Association of Victoria a Position Statement (titled 'Proposed Closure of Walkerville South Boat Ramp'). This statement was updated in July and says that they are very cautious of any boat ramp being closed, as trailer boat water access is already below required standards. They state that on the Walkerville Blue Water Boating and Angling club Facebook page it says South Walkerville should be left open at all times. On BIAV's website they say that parking at North Walkerville has been severely reduced, and that closing South Walkerville will only make the situation worse. BIAV's position is to keep the boat ramp open at this stage, and for the Foreshore Committee to explore other options to safely accommodate swimmers and boaters.

In the past my family, friends and other like-minded families have enjoyed fishing at Walkerville. We would like to continue to do so in the future (with the next generation – our grandchildren). We would like answers to our current concerns. Your committee need to listen to the public and actively address the opinions of all stakeholders – fairly and openly (not behind closed doors).

Yours Sincerely,

I have also sent a copy of this letter to the Walkerville Ratepayers Association, the Blue Water Boating and Angling Fishing Club, VRFish, South Gippsland Council, DELWP, the three local papers and our local council member.

8 DL 25/12/18

Dear Foreshore Committee,

I am a house owner in Prom Views, have been there grown from with kids who have grown from about 4 and 7 years old to 15 and 18. I own a small tinny which we regularly use at Walkerville, and am disappointed that I won't be able to launch it at South this summer. (These days with kids sport and so on our summer is basically the summer school holidays, and that's almost the only time we are there as there are often other things on during the other school holidays. For us, Walkerville is nowadays largely one big month.

I'm not one who's supported the idea of big works and formal concrete boat ramp/breakwall at north: I've always loved that both north and especially south suit small boats and don't act as a magnet for day trippers with big boats across Gippsland and beyond. It's why I bought a 13 ft tinny – a bigger boat would be a hindrance for single handed beach launching.

A 'trial' implies there's a hypothesis that is being tested, and will be monitored. What is the hypothesis and what measures will be monitored to evaluate 'success' or otherwise? How will a decision be made about future years?

Also, what specific concerns precipitated this decision?

I try to launch at north – I'd frankly rather launch there as it's closer. However, there are factors against it – in the top third or so of the tide you can't drive to the launch area at the south end of the rock-strewn beach, and right at the top of the tide you can't access the near (north) end of the beach either. The near end of the beach picks up more swell than the far end (or Walkerville South), and has embedded rocks that I've scraped my tinny on, especially because of the extra swell compared with South, which drags your boat around scraping it on rocks. This means that it's more dangerous to launch at north than at South unless it's a flat sea and lowish tide. It's also much more dangerous to launch and retrieve in low light, because at the rocks. I've been promising my son we'd run around towards liptrap with hoop nets to try and get a cray one of these days – to have any chance this is really a last-light proposition. If I try that, we'll have to run the increased risk of striking rocks when retrieving, which would be a nil risk at South. How are safety factors like these being accounted for in the 'safety trial'?

Mostly when I launch at South, it's early in the morning or late in the evening (this avoids the hassle of trying to drive down and park when it's busy, plus summer hot days are not much fun in the tinny, if you ask me – too hot and too much sunburn until the sun is low). So normally I launch at 7 ish and am out by 10-11, or launch at 7 ish at night for a quick hour or two after an early dinner. Even on busy days it's quiet, especially after everyone's gone home in the evening. I'm usually launching with only a few groups left and am often the last person on the beach, alone if my son isn't with me. I love it – coming in in virtual dark to a deserted beach, safe and easy sand-only retrieving with not a rock in sight. Nothing but the moored cray boat and a bit of moonlight – it really is secret beach and you feel like some whisky smuggler. But not any more.... What safety risks are being obviated by the trial preventing me from doing that? Practically nil, it would seem to me. That coming in at dark after a quick session after dinner is far less appealing at North, because of the rocks. As well, if launching retrieving at the far end (if there are small waves at the north end), that last light scenario also loses appeal because of the several hundred metre walk across a rocky toe-stubbing beach to-and-from the parking area. At South, when I go 7-9 pm, hardly anyone's there, so I can park virtually anywhere on the road. I also have a couple of sit-on-top kayaks which are too heavy for a single person to drag up and down the ramp (plus they'd scrape on the rough concrete) – these are most easily dragged onto the beach on a small trailer. I guess that's now not possible to do on a deserted late evening at South, as well.

Our kids grew up walking along all the beaches down there, including South. I can honestly say we've never had any safety concerns with boat traffic, including the launching and retrieving by use of cars.

What I **have** seen, and last summer the most ever by far, is people clearly unfamiliar with the beach setting up camp **in front of parked trailers and/or the spaces for the trailers**. This is like choosing to have a picnic in a parking bay! Even on a busy day, these people could have picked a spot just 30 more metres towards the kiln or at the south end of the beach, but no, right in front of the trailers they choose to sit and spread out. This has meant I've seen people trying to get or drop off their trailer, having to reverse through sunbathers etc. There's a root cause for that particular safety issue – **arrant stupidity** (perhaps signage about keeping the area clear might have prevented the issue).

We often take visitors (my daughter's 5 friends last summer, my son has 5 friends coming this year) by tinny around past diggers to a secluded beach off the Landy farm. Or out for a snorkel at Bird rock from the tinny. This is most convenient from a base camp at South – some kids are sunbaking, some are snorkelling, some might be drifting for a flathead out in the tinny. This can be done from North, but it's not such a great location for that. I can ferry them around back and forwards, but this is much more easily done from South.

As I say, I try and launch at North when it's safe to. The fact that I launch more than 50% of the time at South means I'll be compromising my own safety at North, or just not going. This makes Walkerville far far less appealing than it's been, for me.

None of this even contemplates the increased congestion that will now flow to North!

The kids have been agitating for a move to Sandy Point, as the main thing we do on hot sunny days is surf at Sandy when it's bedlam at South, and with the surf club there's a bit more of a social scene for teens. One big plus for me about Walkerville has always been the access to be able to launch/retrieve a tinny single handed in most weather. That now reduces by about 50%, I reckon.

Thanks for reading.

9 DO 27/12/18

Hi

went to go for a swim yesterday afternoon. drove to south walkerville and the traffic controllers told us south was full and not parking was available. then told us to go swim at north.

1. we thought this (bad) idea was to separate the swimmer's from the boats and sending people to swim at north goes against this methodology.!

(there are some days where the wind can change and at full tide, north is not safe to retrieve boats and north is the only option. this is no longer available and is now a safety hazard. boats could be damaged or worst

some one could be caught between a boat and trailer without the safer option.)

2. in speaking to others the left side of the road was completely where we have parked for 50 yrs and never had a issue , so why couldn't we park there..

thanks

10 DL 9/1/19

Admin

Hi Admin,

Here's a further example. Last Sat night, 5.49 pm. A nice weather - cool but not cold day. Surfable waves (this pictured was one that happened to come through when I went down there – some even bigger sets broke through just before and just after). This was at the south end of North Walkerville in the “protected” launch area. This was low tide, so the waves coming through where you would have to motor out were surging about 12 inches over rocks – not very appealing to motor out in. The waves at the north end of the launch area (where the ramp hits the beach) were shoulder high dumpers during sets – I wouldn't let a bunch of 15 year olds (my son and his visitors from Melb) launch a kayak there, or at the pictured area where if they were knocked off they'd be washed on rocks not sand like is at South. In fact we dragged the kayaks all the way to South where it was much safer to launch. I of course couldn't drive the tinny to south, so I took it back up to our house and did not launch it at all. There were people surfing small knee high waves along the rocks at South, but only about 10 people sitting on the beach, a few more walking around the Bird rock area. Absolutely no safety issue caused by launching at South, - there were still waves coming in at South (nowhere near as big as the dumpers at the north end of North, similar to those amongst the rocks at the south end of North (pictured). The big difference at South is it is an very even sand bottom – if you launched between sets you could easily motor out before the next set with no fear of striking rocks during motoring out of if the tinny got pushed around by a wave before you launched. And you can retrieve easily at south with a small wave too – run up on the nice even sand and drag tinny up the pure sand with the next wave – I've done this plenty of times at South - not so easy with rocks at North.

So I would have launched a tinny – and had visitors pleading with me as they really wanted to go out - but didn't because of this ban. I could have been swayed and maybe it would have been OK at North, but it was a risk launching at North, caused by the decision to ban. I would have launched at South.

In fact it got easier later as the swell dropped, but by that stage we had given the tinny away. At least they had some fun with the kayaks (albeit having to drag them to south over the sand in order to safely launch). I could have driven the kayaks to South, but they are heavy doubles, far easier to drag than carry, ideally you drop them off a trailer on the sand and then drag them – you don't do your back this way. You might having to cart them from the road but not the beach at South.

Can you explain who/what was being protected in this instance – there was not a soul in the (past years) trailer parking area at South, and only about 10 cars parked at South on a fine Saturday evening in the middle of school holidays!

Regards,

11 MJ 16/1/19

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my disappointment in the management of the closure to Walkerville South Boat Ramp.

I completely understand why this was done. I have witnessed first hand many times while trying to retrieve my boat children or ignorant adults put themselves in harms way.

However by shutting access to boat launching at Walkerville South you have put those using boats at risk forcing them to launch from Walkerville North where you must deal with a cross directional tide and more importantly the rocks that become exposed at low tide and rock-wall that you are required to travel parallel along to keep your boat in an adequate depth of water.

It is now impossible to launch at night and very difficult in low light conditions due to the risk of hitting rocks which I can attest to first hand as we recently tried launching at first light and hit a submerged rock. Fortunately for the committee no one was hurt nor was the hull of the boat punctured just badly dented. If the Foreshore committee continues with these recent changes, improvements must be made to the launch site at Walkerville North or someone will be seriously injured/killed and damage to both car and/or boats will continue.

I look forward to your reply

Kind regards

Individual responses from telephone and beach interviews have not been included in the report in line with participation conditions.

In order to ensure full disclosure of views and opinions respondents were informed that all individual opinions and responses would be kept confidential and that survey findings and results would be reported in aggregate.