



35 Years of Community Viewpoints: The longitudinal results of AIDA questionnaires from 1983 to 2020

This summary sets out the main results of five of AIDA's periodic community questionnaires on environmental, planning and development opinions concerning the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View district over the past 35 years, following the Ash Wednesday bushfire. Unfortunately the results of a sixth, 1996 questionnaire, appear not to have survived. Each of the questionnaires was far-sightedly planned to include many of the same or closely similar questions, so that a perspective on individual opinions over time might be obtained. This longitudinal analysis is the result.

Questions addressed to AIDA members, or in the case of 1990 and 1996 all local ratepayers, and in 2020 to other residents also, had multiple choice responses. This analysis only reports on the single choice, or in some cases the main choices, receiving the highest response. This can lead to non-strictly comparative cases as e.g. in Q6 where the question has changed to the relative support for each category rather than the earlier survey's reporting of absolute support. Also, as indicated, over time a few questions have been discontinued and others are new.

The responses reveal a remarkable depth and consistency of opinions in our district over time. Importantly, they also show that there is no appreciable difference between the general community opinions of 1990 and 1999 and the largely AIDA-member opinions of 1983, 2015 and 2020, so they also can be taken to represent general community views.

Long-term opinions are highlighted in:

- Red, for those now favoured by over an extraordinary 90% of respondents!!
- Orange, for those favoured by 70%-89% of respondents!
- Yellow, for those favoured by 50%-69% of respondents,
- Lime, for those opinions still the predominant view, but favoured by less than 50% of respondents.

The results of the 1983 questionnaire that are difficult to read in the surviving copies are shown with a question mark.

Questions	Year of Questionnaire									
	Dec 1983 275 Respondents (AIDA only)		Oct 1990 599 Respondents (whole district)		Oct 1999 1701 Respondents (whole district)		Feb 2015 290 Respondents (AIDA)		Dec 2020 398 Respondents (AIDA+)	
1. Aireys Inlet to Eastern View has developed significantly over the past 30 years. Do you wish to see further development?	-	-	Minor	59%	Minor	65%	Minor	64%	Minor	72%
2. Should the area be promoted for more tourist development?	-	-	No	51%	Low key	56%	Low key	56%	Low key	66%
3. Which terms do you most associate with the Aireys district?			The most common choices:	1. Natural beauty and serenity 2. Outdoor Life 3. A retreat from the pressures of 4. Connected community 5. Well being				94% 82% 67% 60% 60%		
4. Should residential development should be limited to the existing approved residential areas?	-	-	Yes	90%	Yes	91%	Yes	95%	Yes	87%
5. Should the area be conserved for its natural beauty and serenity as an alternative to big city living?	?	?	Entirely	80%	Entirely	80%	Entirely	92%	Entirely	82%
6. Do you support the development in the area of:										
• More restaurants and food services	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	46%	Yes	44%
• More shops and retail outlets	No	61%?	No	64%	No	62%	No	66%	Yes	21%
• Light industrial activities within defined commercial areas	No	75%?	No	80%	No	80%	No	72%	Yes	16%
• Recreational activities	Yes?	46%	Yes	57%	Yes	58%	Minor	51%	Yes	81%
• Tourist developments	No	72%?	No	70%	No	60%	No	55%	Yes	20%
• Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	No	61%	-	-

Dec 1983	Oct 1990	Oct 1999	Feb 2015	Dec 2020
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7. Aireys Inlet to Eastern View has some special environmental controls not applying elsewhere. Do you support them?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the night sky, by limiting street lighting, illuminated advertising and private external lighting 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Working well	62%	Strongly support	84%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of neighbourhood character, including environmental protection, by controls on house design and site development 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Needs more	58%	Strongly support	82%

8. There is a variety of opinions on some local issues. What do you think about

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of housing for older persons, close to the shops? 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approve	75%	Important	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrians sharing local streets with cars? 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approve	73%	Very important	36%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturally vegetated residential roadsides? 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approve	92%	Very important	52%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsealed local streets? 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approve	74%	Very important	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate roadside foot paths? 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Disapprove	43%	Low priority	33%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling the amount and style of signage around town? 	-	-	-	-	-	-	Approve	75%	Very important	53%

9. Do you support the development of conservation zones within the area for:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine rock platforms and beach zones? 	-	-	Yes	87%	Yes	89%	Yes	90%	Yes	93%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal sand dunes? 	-	-	Yes	91%	Yes	93%	Yes	93%	Yes	92%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands and natural waterways? 	-	-	Yes	89%	Yes	93%	Yes	94%	Yes	93%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal heathlands? 	-	-	Yes	89%	Yes	90%	Yes	92%	Yes	91%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native forests? 	-	-	Yes	91%	Yes	92%	Yes	94%	Yes	92%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban conservation zones with restrictive controls on private land? 	-	-	Yes	65%	Yes	69%	Yes	76%	Yes	66%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural conservation zones restricting development on private rural land? 	-	-	Yes	69%	Yes	72%	Yes	76%	Yes	70%

10. Do you support further recreational development within the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View area?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking tracks 	-	-	Yes	88%	Yes	88%	Yes	89%	Yes	93%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle tracks 	Yes	50%	Yes	67%	Yes	74%	Yes	66%	Yes	72%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse riding trails 	Yes	43%	Yes	53%	Yes	44%	No	58%	No	53%

10. Continued — Do you support further recreational development within the Aireys Inlet to Eastern View area?

	Dec 1983	Oct 1990	Oct 1999	Feb 2015	Dec 2020
• Horse riding trails	Yes 43%	Yes 53%	Yes 44%	No 58%	No 53%
• Defined non-motorised trail bike tracks	No ?	No 74%	No 67%	No 74%	Yes 52%
• Defined motorised trail bike tracks					No 77%
• Boating facilities on the Painkalac Creek	No 53%	No 57%	- -	- -	No 52%
• Golf course	Yes 56%	No 45%	No 63%	No 91%	No 100%
• Sports oval	Yes 35%	No 45%	No 49%	No 59%	No 46%
• Indoor sports facility	No ?	No 53%	No 54%	No 58%	No 48%
• Tennis	- -	Yes 59%	Yes 45%	No 58%	Yes 53%
• Bowling green	No 58%?	No 44%	No 53%	No 66%	Yes 41%
• Other developments	- -	- -	- -	No 54%	- -

11. Which additional tourism development would you favour in our part of the Great Ocean Road?

• A major tourist information or 'discovery' centre	No 53%	No 54%	No 55%	No 76%	No 70%
• Expansion of hotel or motel accommodation	No 65%	No 78%	No 55%	No 85%	No 77%
• Other commercial services for tourists	- -	- -	- -	- -	No 73%
• More private camping ground facilities	No 65%	No 72%	No 71%	No 75%	No 68%
• Provision of public camping ground facilities	No 72%	No 74%	No 72%	No 65%	No 57%
• Parking and traffic management controls (in peak season)	Don't know 39%?	Yes 47%	Yes 73%	Yes 72%	Good idea 48%
• Alternative routes for through traffic	Don't know 55%	Yes 47%	Yes 58%	Yes 65%	Good idea 42%
• Other	- -	- -	- -	Don't know 69%	- -

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12. Do you see the need for planning or infrastructure improvements in the area for:

• Sewerage?		No 46%	No 56%	No 60%	Yes / No 44%
• Drainage?	No 55%	Yes / No 43%	No 42%	No 43%	Good idea 48%
• Town Water supply?	- -	- -	- -	No 61%	Good idea 44%
• Street construction?	No 66%	No 66%	No 54%	No 70%	No 61%
• More pedestrian crossings	- -	Yes 47%	Yes 62%	Yes 51%	No 46%
• Street lighting?	No 61%	No 64%	No 57%	No 82%	No 82%
• Public rubbish collection?	No 43%	- -	- -	- -	Good idea 47%
• Fire reduction?					Priority 50%
• Fire protection	Yes 71%	Yes 65%	Yes 60%	Yes 67%	Priority 48%
• Community fire shelters?					
• Emergency access / escape routes	- -	- -	- -	Yes 75%	Priority 57%
• Better telecommunications infrastructure, including for mobile phones and tablets?	- -	- -	- -	Yes 72%	Priority 46%
• Siting and design controls that aim to improve the visual and environmental impacts of future development?	- -	Yes 75%	Yes 82%	Yes 91%	Priority 59%
• Conservation of the natural environment within the residential township areas?	? ?	Yes 85%	Yes 85%	Yes 87%	Priority 100%
• Are the costs of providing these services major consideration in your answers above?	No 69%	- -	- -	- -	- -

13. In just a few words, what single thing do you like best about the physical environment and enjoyment of Aireys Inlet to Eastern View?	398 free text responses analysed
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14. In just a few words, what do you see as the biggest future threats to our environment and living conditions?	398 free text responses analysed
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15. In just a few words what do you see as the top priorities for the district, in the post COVID recovery period?	398 free text responses analysed
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16. Do you feel well informed about things that are happening around the district?	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes 76%
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17. What is your main source of information for what is happening around the district?	-	-	-	-	-	-	Word of mouth 69%
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18. In just a few words what practical actions could be taken to increase community connection and involvement in decisions affecting our future?	398 free text responses analysed						
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19. What events and activities in the district would make you feel the town is thriving?

Arts/cultural festivals	-	-	-	-	-	-	The same 61%
Production/growing of local specialty ("Aireys") produce - for local consumption and/or distribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	More 56%
Events focused on nature observation (e.g. night-time star gazing; bird watching/photography..)	-	-	-	-	-	-	More 62%
Indigenous tours (history, flora/fauna..)	-	-	-	-	-	-	More 67%
Sports and Recreation-based events (bike; walking etc)	-	-	-	-	-	-	The same 58%
"Green' infrastructure for the district (e.g. water saving; renewable energy supply; environmental start-ups hub)	-	-	-	-	-	-	More 67%

20. How concerned are you about particular effects from major tourism development elsewhere along the GOR (for example, from the Eden project proposed for the old Alcoa mine in Anglesea)?

Increased traffic along the Great Ocean Road	-	-	-	-	-	-	High concern 75%
Competition between current (diverse, small, local) hospitality businesses and large resort-like developments	-	-	-	-	-	-	High concern 64%
Risk to life from disastrous events (such as fire, storms flooding) at peak visitor times	-	-	-	-	-	-	High concern 77%
Effects on land value - house prices	-	-	-	-	-	-	Low concern 45%

21. Do you see the need for planning or infrastructure improvements in the area?	-	-	No 54%	Limited only 52%	No 51%	
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22. Should the special environmental qualities of the area be protected and conserved?	-	-	-	-	-	Entirely 94%
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23. Do you see the need for planning or infrastructure improvements in the area for:

• Rubbish collection for weekenders?	-	-	Yes 57%	Yes 60%	No 45%	
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24. Do you want to see the development of improved public facilities in any of the following areas?
e.g. car parking, toilets, picnic and play facilities

• Sunnymead Beach	No 53%?	No 61%	No 54%	No 60%
• Sandy Gully Beach	No 63%?	No 60%	No 55%	No 64%
• Steppe Beach	- -	- -	- -	No 68%
• Aireys cliff tops & Lighthouse	? ?	No 68%	No 62%	No 73%
• Painkalac Creek mouth & beach	? ?	No 64%	No 57%	No 76%
• Painkalac Creek flats downstream from the Great Ocean Road Bridge	No 64%	- -	- -	- -
• Painkalac Creek flats upstream from the Great Ocean Road Bridge	No 65%	- -	- -	No 75%
• Fairhaven beach	No 55%	No 63%	No 55%	No 59%
• Moggs Creek/Eastern View beaches	No 80%	- -	- -	- -
• Moggs Creek beach	- -	No 65%	No 61%	No 68%
• Great Ocean Road Memorial Gateway	- -	- -	- -	No 55%
• Eastern View beach	- -	No 66%	No 59%	No 69%
• Angahook Forest Park	No 56%	- -	- -	- -
• Angahook-Lorne State Park	- -	No 63%	No 60%	- -
• Great Otway National Park	- -	- -	- -	No 58%
• Within Aireys Inlet	No 58%	No 58%	No 46%	No 48%
• Within Fairhaven	No 63%	No 60%	No 54%	No 62%
• Within Moggs Creek / Eastern View township	No 65%	- -	- -	- -
• At Moggs Creek	- -	No 61%	No 58%	No 67%
• At Eastern View	- -	No 63%	No 57%	No 67%
• Other areas	- -	- -	- -	Don't know 46%

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25. Demographic Profile

• Are you a permanent resident of Aireys Inlet / Eastern View?	? ?	- -	- -	- -	Yes 47%
• Are you a semi-permanent resident of Aireys Inlet / Eastern View?	? ?	Week-end 59%	- -	Week-end 46%	Yes 38%
• Are you a temporary visitor to the district?	? ?	- -	- -	- -	Yes 4%
• Is your family ratepayers in the Surf Coast Shire?	- -	Yes 99%	Yes 99%	Yes 96%	Yes 52%
• Are you a member of the Aireys Inlet and District Association (AIDA)?	- -	- -	No 54%	Yes 91%	Yes 42%
• Are you a member of another district organisation?	- -	- -	- -	- -	Yes 20%
• What age are you?	? ?	- -	- -	Over 65 55%	Over 65 41%
• Do you have children living at home?	? ?	- -	- -	- -	No 68%