

Appendix H

Comments on the Draft Report

Appendix H - Comments on the Draft Report

As part of garnering comments and feedback on the Draft Report, GHD prepared a Comment Form questions for residents and ratepayers to complete and submit back. The questions and their results are described below.

Question 1. Did you participate in the Willingness Study, such as attending a workshop, completing a workbook, or filling the online survey?

Yes 24

No 2

Question 2. Does the Draft Report accurately capture the comments you provided?

Yes 16

No 2

N/A 8

Question 3. If no, what would you like to change? Please specify which section of the appendices you contributed to and would like to see changed.

Comment Received	Consideration of Comment
<p>Thank you for allowing us to finally place our issues on the table at the drop-in meeting. It was refreshing to note that you were accommodating. We certainly have had our issues with the council; they will not listen to anything we say. So you are the first. People came frustrated and you cleared the air.</p> <p>We just hope that the council will not throw this aside as they have so many other surveys.</p>	<p>Similar comments were raised during the various consultation activities for the Willingness Study. These sentiments are reflected in Section 3.2.</p> <p>This Final Report will be submitted to Council for their review and consideration at the November 9, 2021 Council meeting.</p>
<p>After paying for the Study, Council needs to abide by the results. Any comments that were submitted should not be removed from the Draft Report.</p>	<p>This Final Report will submitted to Council for their review and consideration at the November 9, 2021 Council meeting.</p> <p>No comments submitted as part of the Willingness Study have been removed.</p>
<p>In the bar graph of dislikes, the results are not a true indication of the actual feeling of the respondents because it does not give a rating or scale of the how strongly they dislike a process. For example, do they on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) <i>dislike</i> referendum.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Comments on why participants preferred or disliked each process is summarized in Section 3.3.1 as well as in the Appendices.</p>
<p>Continued concern with bribery by the NWMO, that Council should not have the final decision as it is too big of a decision for just council to decide and that there are no valid concerns of referendum in the Draft Report.</p>	<p>Similar sentiments were raised during the various consultation activities for the Willingness Study. These sentiments are reflected in Section 3.2.</p>

Comment Received	Consideration of Comment
<p>Concern Council will not take the results of the Willingness Study seriously because of dismissal of other community surveys and petitions.</p> <p>Referendum should be its own ballot to allow Council to focus on things other than the DGR.</p>	<p>Similar sentiments were raised during the various consultation activities for the Willingness Study. These sentiments are reflected in in Section 3.2.</p>
<p>Overall, I think this report reflects the views of the residents who took part in the process.</p> <p>I do have some concerns about how the graphs represent the information gathered. The graph displaying which method people prefer is shown using a scale of increments of 20 but the graph showing what people do not want is scaled using increments of 10. This results in a visual display that looks like the people in favour and against a referendum are closer than the numbers actually indicate. For the final report, both graphs should use the same scale to provide an accurate visual.</p> <p>I also question the category included in the "what processes do you not like" graph labelled "anything but a referendum." The people who said no to everything just recorded under the "anything but" heading, or are they also included in each of the other headings?</p> <p>I feel that people who said only a referendum should be counted as a no under each other heading because they are saying no to advisory, no to community engagement sessions, no to community panel, no to opinion polls and surveys, and no to vote of the council. By placing "no to everything but a referendum" in a separate category it incorrectly gives the impression that not a referendum is the second-highest response. Since</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Figure 3.2 – What Processes do you Dislike has been revised to address this comment as follows:</p> <p>The scale now matches the scale in Figure 3.1</p> <p>Responses of “everything but a referendum” have been added in a separate stacked colour</p> <p>As requested, this information has been redacted to remove personally identifiable information.</p>

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<p>the NWMO and the council will be looking for a way to deny a referendum as a choice it is very important that the truth be represented clearly.</p> <p>Commenter noted additional redaction needed.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to all sides and I hope the results will be presented in a clear way that will not allow the council (NWMO) to manipulate the results.</p>	
<p>I attended a session with myself and two other South Bruce residents. However, I did have a municipal staff member who joined my group which I felt overall was very inappropriate.</p> <p>I wish at the time I had spoken up about that because I thought that it was slightly an intimidation factor to have someone who works for the Municipality hearing exactly what I have to say and have the ability to then discuss it with councillors and the Mayor. They were basically getting an inside scoop on what the report could entail.</p> <p>I thought municipal staff were to be removed from this process as per the rules of engagement with GHD?</p> <p>I was glad to see the referendum as the largest decision-making method discussed and preferred by participants because I reiterated that request in my session.</p> <p>I did however feel that the GHD representative pushed the idea aside when I brought it up the first time in our meeting. They mentioned the parameters by which a referendum would have to take place and basically</p>	<p>GHD was retained by the Municipality to undertake the Willingness Study. The role of the Municipality was to welcome participants and listen to their input. As noted in Section 2.2, Municipal staff did not contribute to the discussion. When participants asked that Municipal staff not attend the workshop, Municipal staff respectfully left the workshop.</p> <p>As noted in Section 2.1 the facilitators do not have vested interest in the outcome and it was not our intention to push any ideas aside. We apologize if we gave the appearance that we were. We have noted your preference for a referendum.</p> <p>The error in the report was addressed.</p>

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<p>that it was not a good idea. That did not give me a great feeling that GHD was impartial in the process.</p> <p>I do feel that this report will not make much of a difference. I have written letters many times to Council which have been ignored and then forwarded to the CLC then ignored again. The CLC members are all those in favour of the proposed DGR. The community members who show up to learn about this process as those that do not support it. And I am tired by the many many comments from Councillors and the like that say we are not 'educated' in this matter when those opposed have stated facts to them and the CLC that they did not even know.</p> <p>Theme 6 as referenced in the report is another large concern. This has absolutely divided the community.</p> <p>I have a hard time participating in anything the municipality puts on for events because I have a huge mistrust for our elected officials and that spills over to other Municipal staff. I will forever be changed by this experience, and it has changed my sense of what a community should do for its citizens. I feel it has ruined our community. We have a homecoming in two years in Mildmay and there is a call for volunteers to help plan it (many people are needed to make it work well). I had considered it, but I can't in good conscience participate in knowing that by that point, a decision could be made in favour of this proposed DGR.</p> <p>I did also noticed a report error.</p>	
<p>GHD has done an excellent job bringing the engagement draft report to the community. I am pleased to see the results of the willingness study</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments on the Draft Report and for your participation in the Willingness Study.</p>

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<p>presented in a manner that is clear, concise, and represents my comments accurately. The bar graphs used to represent the data visually was a great feature as it helped me understand the popularity of different processes relative to one another. I am looking forward to the final report.</p>	
<p>With a referendum being the most supported means of determining willingness, I am interested to know successful strategies to having a strong turn out for a referendum. While one of the best ways to get a turn out might be to hold it during the next municipal election, this would also create a scenario where we both have a referendum, and also have the DGR become an election issue.</p> <p>I would like to see council continue to investigate how a referendum can be successfully held along with when the best timing would be for such a decision.</p> <p>For some, that answer is clear and they are ready to decide now. For others, they want a lot more information as to how this project will affect the community. I think is very important that the municipality begin answering those questions so that in a short period of time, we can have more people who feel they are ready to cast a vote. It will be very unfortunate if the referendum is held with a population that doesn't feel it is ready to make that decision.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Your additional comments have been included in this Final Report for consideration by Council.</p>
<p>I don't find this document very positive and only one sided. There were lots of positive comments at the workshop that I attended that seem to be</p>	<p>GHD reached out to speak further with the participant about what comments were missed or what additional comments could be added. No response was received in advance of finalizing this report.</p>

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<p>missing. It seems like this document was written by an anti DGR group. Disappointing.</p> <p>229 individual residents and ratepayers who participated in the consultation activities, of which 21 individuals participated in multiple ways - for example, participating in a workshop and submitting a workbook." My recommendation: I think there should be something in here about how many residents were eligible to take part in the study. What percentage of residents took part in the study</p>	<p>According to the 2016 Census, there are a total of 5,639 residents in South Bruce.</p>
<p>Just thinking of the results. And a referendum makes sense, but I do not know if only South Bruce resident should be able to vote. There are people in other neighbouring communities who are closer to the site then some residents of South Bruce. I think it should be a much bigger area who should be able to vote. how big of an area I do not know, but it should not be up to only South Bruce residents.</p>	<p>Similar comments were raised and are summarized in Section 3.</p>
<p>I attended the drop-in review session and was very pleased to hear that you will be making the changes that were suggested by our group. The Draft Report states very clearly that most people would like to see a referendum which makes me happy.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments on the Draft Report and for your participation in the Willingness Study.</p>

Question 4. Do you have any comments on the summary section of the Draft Report? If so, please be specific as to which item you are referring to.

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<p>Total report should be available to hand out.</p>	<p>Although a full printed copy was not made available to all residents because of the number of pages in the Report, a print copy was available for review at the following locations: South Bruce Municipal Office, Mildmay Library, Teeswater Library, Formosa Recreation Centre, the Belmore Community Centre and online for download. In addition, when requested, the Municipality printed a mailed a copy of the main Draft Summary Report to residents.</p>
<p>Would like to know what area of South Bruce respondents came from. Please combine the two graphs together.</p> <p>Didn't notice comments of the "cons" for project coming - only want "pro" notes. How do we know this study will not be ignored?</p>	<p>Respondents came from communities throughout South Bruce.</p> <p>Figure 3.2 – What Processes do you Dislike has been revised to address this comment as follows:</p> <p>The scale now matches the scale in Figure 3.1</p> <p>Responses of “everything but a referendum” have been added in a separate stacked colour</p> <p>Similar comments were raised during the various consultation activities for the Willingness Study. These sentiments are reflected in Section 3.2.</p>
<p>I feel it is incredibly important to emphasize that only 229 people participated in this process, out of around 5000 residents. That is extremely low turnout. Should such a small group make a decision for the entire community? I also feel that those who choose not to voice an opinion need to be represented and included in the overall acceptance or rejection of the project.</p>	<p>Comment noted</p> <p>Similar comments were raised during the various consultation activities for the Willingness Study. These sentiments are reflected in Section 3.2.</p>

