

Careel Bay dog off-leash area community feedback and Council response summary – August 2018

Council received 70 submissions in response to the public exhibition of the proposed enhancements to this dog off-leash area.

The feedback we received related broadly to the Careel Bay project and also to dog walking across the Northern Beaches.

Summary of feedback and ideas received about the dog-off leash area at Careel Bay	Council's Response
Restrict dog access to bushland and the foreshore. Prevent dogs off-leash outside the park. Fence off the 'wetland' area.	Fencing will be installed from 22 August 2018 and will restrict dog access to nearby bushland, the foreshore and the 'wetland' area.
Fencing to be; a sympathetic design, close the to ground so small dogs cannot escape, yet accommodates wildlife corridors and fencing along Etival Street.	Fencing has been designed to prevent 'small' dogs escaping and to accommodate wildlife access. The existing fence along Etival Street will be upgraded.
Some support for the small dog area and to be relocated to another part of the off-leash area with seating, tap and higher fence.	A small dog area will be installed and located at the south western part of the dog off-leash area. A new platform seat will be located within the small dog area. A tap will be located outside the small dog area fence (which will be slightly higher).
Improve the grass areas.	Some new turfing and irrigation will be installed from 2019/20 to improve the quality of the grass in the dog off-leash area.
Improved maintenance for the off-leash area particularly for the grass areas and any new turfing.	Maintenance for the dog off-leash area will be increased in frequency and quality from 2018/19. No change to the plan.
Separate the off-leash area and the sports field with a fence.	A fence to separate the dog off-leash area and the adjacent sports field is not included in the enhancements at this time. Council will work with the sports groups that use this field to clarify their needs and re-visit this idea with all users at a later date.
A range of traffic and parking ideas were raised including requests for; timed parking, 90 degree angled parking, parking for boats and trailers, parking for off-leash area users, speed limitation.	These traffic and parking ideas are beyond the scope of this project, but will be investigated further. No change to the plan.
The off-leash area prevents access for other activities.	Council supports the retention and enhancement of this dog off-leash area. There are a limited number of off-leash areas on the Northern Beaches with a growing demand for more. There is a sports field adjacent to this off-leash area available for casual use when not in formalised sporting use. No change to the plan.
Selective planting to screen fencing.	Where practicable and as budgets allow, Council will consider selective planting to enhance the aesthetics of the park.
Etiquette signage.	Signage in the dog off-leash area will be reviewed, upgraded and replaced as required in 2018/19. Etiquette signage will be installed.
Summary of feedback and ideas received about dog-off leash areas in general	Response
Allow dogs on beaches and access to water for swimming (45 responses), timed beach access (15 responses). No access to beaches (2 responses).	Council has resolved to investigate the possibility of trialling a dog off-leash area at Station Beach (Palm Beach). View the Council minutes from 26 June, item 12.4 page 20 for more information
More off-leash areas (12 responses).	Council has resolved to investigate the provision of more dog off-leash areas. See Council minutes from 27 February, item 9.6, page 18 for more information
Responsible dog ownership and citizen rangers.	Community education initiatives will be considered for the 2019/20 Council budget.
Are there alternatives to plastic dog bags?	Alternative dog bag options will be explored.
Pick up after your dog.	Signage will be improved for all dog off-leash areas and improvements made as required and when budget is available.
Drainage around taps in off-leash areas is required.	Drainage around taps for all dog off-leash areas will be investigated and improvements made as required and when budget is available.
Professional dog walkers – sometimes are not in control of their dogs.	The policy and guidelines governing professional dog walking on the Northern Beaches is under review.