

Attachment Folder

Item 8.1

Ordinary Meeting

Thursday, 11 December 2025

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| Sunshine Coast Regional Council | November 2025

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL DOG EXERCISE AREA REGIONAL PLAN & NETWORK BLUEPRINT

| Consultation Summary Report on Draft Plan



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Consultation Summary Report

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Prepared for Lat Studios on behalf of
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Executive Summary

Sunshine Coast Council (Council) commenced community consultation on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint (draft Plan) in early 2025. The consultation aimed to assess community values and gather insights and feedback to inform future planning and decision-making for dog exercise areas within the Sunshine Coast Council region.

Consultation on the draft Plan was conducted from 4 February 2025 to 7 March 2025. A broad engagement strategy was employed, including online surveys, website content, social media campaigns, targeted emails, face to face pop-up sessions and focus group sessions. The approach aimed to achieve diverse community representation and encourage meaningful participation.

Community consultation was promoted through a mix of digital, on-site, and direct engagement:

- Digital: Social media and the Have Your Say website reached over 50,000 impressions, with 26,000+ video views and 792 engagements. The Council eNewsletters drew 714 views.
- Direct Engagement: 18 pop-up sessions and 6,219 targeted emails to residents living within 500 metres of a current dog exercise area. There were also targeted emails to stakeholder groups.
- On-Site Promotion: 150 corflute signs with QR codes placed at key dog exercise areas.
- Media Coverage: Included radio (21), press (13), TV (2), online (8), and enquiries (6).

A total of 2,301 individuals completed the online survey, which featured targeted questions to capture community themes, aspirations, and values. It explored personal values (both through dog owners vs non dog owners), usage patterns, preferences for exercise areas, and provided opportunity to submit written feedback. Participants also shared suggestions for improvements, desired experiences, and infrastructure needs. Ranking tools were used to gauge levels of agreement or disagreement specific to the draft Plan, assess values associated with different dog exercise area types, and measure levels of support or non-support for proposed site-specific changes. Respondents could also provide open-ended feedback and anonymous demographic information.

Community Perspectives

The consultation revealed strong community interest in dog exercise areas, with majority of feedback coming from dog owners (78.4%) and residents of coastal communities (85.1%). While non-dog owners represented a smaller proportion of respondents (21.6%), their input provides a statistically valid representation of this community cohort.

A clear divide emerged between the two group profiles. Dog owners generally opposed increased restrictions and advocated for expanded off-leash areas, particularly along beaches and foreshores. This feedback reflected concerns about losing valued recreational spaces for exercising dogs and emphasised the importance of inclusive, accessible environments where dogs and their owners can enjoy outdoor activities.

In contrast, non-dog owners were more supportive of the draft Plan's overall vision and objectives. Concerns from this group included public safety, environmental protection, and the need for clearer regulation and enforcement in shared spaces. This group tended to favour tighter controls on dog access, especially in areas with high recreation use or ecological sensitivity. It is apparent that opinions varied significantly across specific questions, particularly between dog owners and non-dog owners. The consultation results highlight the challenge of balancing differing community needs. Moving forward, planning and policy decisions related to dog exercise areas will need to carefully consider both perspectives to ensure public spaces are welcoming, safe, and sustainable for all users.

Although there were divergent views, there was also some consistent agreement, for example, survey responses revealed overall support for the creation of new off-leash dog exercise areas, with 69.5% of participants either supporting or supporting with changes. Dog owners were notably more supportive of expansion compared to non-dog owners. In contrast, proposed restrictions and changes to beach and foreshore access received the least support, with 72.6% of dog owner respondents expressing opposition. The draft recommendations for sports fields (active playing surfaces) and environmental reserves (with high conservation values) received moderate support with 44.9% and 44.5%, respectively, of respondents either supporting or supporting with changes, while 29.3% opposed changes to sports fields active playing surfaces and 37% opposed changes to environment reserves. Up to 26% of respondents remained undecided across several areas, reflecting a diversity of views within the community and underscoring the importance of balancing the diverse community interests in future planning.

Emerging Themes

The consultation identified several recurring themes where feedback was most prominent:

- Social benefits
- Beach and foreshore provision
- Environmental protection
- Cultural heritage protection
- Monitoring
- Funding
- Education and training
- Decision making
- Responsibility / governance

Key Opportunities

The draft Plan outlines the strategic actions and goals for the next 20 years of dog exercise area planning. The community consultation has provided valuable insights that present several opportunities to refine and strengthen the draft Plan. These opportunities aim to better align the draft Plan with community values, address concerns, and support long-term strategic goals:

1. Enhance Beach and Foreshore Access Planning

- Reassess proposed restrictions in high-use coastal areas such as Stumers Creek including considering options available to better manage risks of dog access on environmental, social, cultural and management values, with the aim to minimise reductions to dog access in high use areas.
- Consider and assess seasonal or time-based access models to balance recreational use with environmental protection.
- Consider pilot programs (with community) to test shared-use arrangements with monitoring.

2. Expand and Diversify Off-Leash Areas

- Identify underutilised open spaces for potential conversion to off-leash areas.
- Prioritise areas with demonstrated community demand and accessibility.
- Recognise the extensive on-leash pathway network as existing exercise provision for dogs.
- Consider private/public partnerships and promotion for dog exercise commercial opportunities outside of council managed land.

3. Communication and Transparency

- Provide clear explanations of decision-making frameworks, including Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise weighting systems used to assess provision at different locations.
- Publish multi-criteria risk assessment results to build trust and understanding.
- Develop interactive maps and dashboards to show current and proposed dog exercise area locations and attributes.
- Recognition of social benefits within proposed Objectives of the draft Plan.

4. Strengthen Education and Awareness Programs

- Partner with local trainers, vets, and community groups to promote responsible dog ownership.
- Continue and expand campaigns on dog etiquette, environmental stewardship, and cultural sensitivity.
- Highlight the benefits of on-leash pathways and shared-use areas through signage and education.

5. Integrate Cultural Heritage Values

- Collaborate with Kabi Kabi (KKPAC) and Jinibara (JPAC) to embed cultural knowledge and interpretation into culturally significant areas.
- Include cultural education elements in signage and community programs.
- Recognise and protect culturally significant sites within the network.

6. Funding and Governance

- Provide transparent information on funding sources, including Council, developer contributions, and potential use of dog registration fees.
- Explore community co-investment models for infrastructure upgrades.
- Consider opportunities to enhance ongoing management and compliance enforcement.

7. Monitor and Evaluate Implementation

- Establish a framework for ongoing monitoring of dog exercise area usage, compliance, and environmental impacts.
- Use feedback loops to adapt and improve the network over time.

Several tables of data and graphs are presented within the report for analysis. The community consultation has resulted in ample feedback provided to Council and overall provided valuable insights to understand community values and consider any proposed changes to the draft Plan.

Next Steps

Community feedback will be used to refine the Draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint. The insights gathered highlight diverse views and priorities, which will inform adjustments to ensure the Plan reflects community values, balances interests, and supports long-term strategic goals.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

During the December 2023 Council Ordinary Meeting, Council adopted a Resolution that the “Chief Executive Officer plans to undertake, complete and report back to Council on a proposed region-wide dog exercise area plan and associated network blueprint”.

The purpose of the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint is to develop a guide for the spatial distribution and types of dog exercise areas across the Sunshine Coast region for the next 20 years. The Plan focuses on the current and future provision of dog exercise areas on Council owned, or controlled open space including recreation parks, beaches and foreshores, environment reserves and sports fields.

Development of the draft Plan has been based on analysis of current registered dog data and dog-ownership trends, projected registered dog populations, industry research, benchmarking, legislation, intended open space purpose, function and values, and prior community consultation. This identifies:

- The Vision and Objectives for the draft Plan
- Previous community values associated with provision of dog access across Council managed open space
- The types of dog exercise areas (DEAs) and desired standards of service, including levels of embellishment
- Facilities requiring upgrades
- The estimated number and size of future dog exercise areas
- Actions for Council to implement the Plan.

The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint has been informed by recent engagement with community groups, businesses and key stakeholders through a series of community focus group sessions prior to broader community consultation.

Between 4 February 2025 and 7 March 2025, Council undertook consultation across the whole community to seek feedback on the draft Plan. The purpose of the community engagement was to seek communities’ views and allow Council to hear feedback and consider any changes in preparation to finalise the Plan. This report summarises the community consultation undertaken and findings for the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

1.2 Summary of Engagement Activities & Participation

Consultation on the draft Plan was open from 4 February 2025 to 7 March 2025 and included the activities shown in the table below.

Table 1. Engagement Activities

Activity	Purpose	Participation
Have Your Say Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inform the community of the project, its scope and timeframes.Provide information on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint maps.Provide information on engagement opportunities and timeframes.	29,028 views 16,683 visits
Survey (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Allow community to provide feedback on importance of key values, the contents and proposed recommendations and actions within the Plan.Ascertain level of support for the draft Plan Vision and Objectives, location and design, site assessment criteria, and future network provision.Invite feedback on any gaps, possible inclusions and or any aspects that could be strengthened.	2,301 responses
Targeted emails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inform interested stakeholders from previous related projects, community group registers, animal management groups, environmental and conservation groups, and sports clubsInform residents that live in close proximity to key dog exercise areas.Provide information on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.Provide information on engagement activities and timeframes.Invite residents to pop-up sessions	6,219 residents living within 500m of a current Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) Additional emails sent to interested stakeholders and community focus group members
Direct Emails Received by Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Individual emails sent to Council with feedback.	216 direct emails
Submissions Received by Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Individual or community group representatives provided written submission to Council detailing feedback and requested changes.	6 written submissions

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Activity	Purpose	Participation
Focus Groups Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present information on the draft Plan. Allow focus group participants to provide feedback on contents and proposed recommendations and actions. Ascertain level of support for the draft Plan Vision and Objectives, location and design, site assessment criteria, future network provision. Invite feedback on any gaps, possible inclusions and or any aspects that could be strengthened. Membership of up to 50 community representatives. 	9 focus groups sessions scheduled
Pop-up Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on the draft Plan at the following pop-up locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muller Park, Bli Bli - 6 February 2025 Quota Park, Nambour - 6 February 2025 Maleny Library, Maleny - 7 February 2025 Russell Family Park, Montville - 8 February 2025 Viridian Circuit Park, Birtinya - 11 February 2025 Grahame Stewart Park, Currimundi - 11 February 2025 Village Green Boulevard Park, Palmview - 12 February 2025 North Shore Road Park, Twin Waters - 18 February 2025 Elizabeth Daniels Park, Buderim - 18 February 2025 Stumers Creek Park, Coolum - 19 February 2025 Cotton Tree Park (Maroochydore Rotary Park) - 19 February 2025 Mill Park, Beerwah - 20 February 2025 Maroochy Lions Park, Maroochydore - 21 February 2025 Buderim Village Park, Buderim - 23 February 2025 Moffat Beach Park, Moffat Beach - 24 February 2025 Woorim Park, Golden Beach - 25 February 2025 	18 pop-up sessions

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Activity	Purpose	Participation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bulcock Street Precinct, Caloundra - 26 February 2025○ Ballinger Beach Park, Currimundi - 26 February 2025● Invite community to ask questions and provide feedback on the draft Plan.	
Petitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 4 x Petitions to Council received and tabled at Ordinary Meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 x Stumers Creek○ Moffat Beach Headland○ Ballinger Beach	

1.3 Engagement Promotion

The following communication methods were used to promote the community consultation for the draft Plan:

- Social media posts including Council's Have Your Say website.
 - 50,372 impressions, 26,231 video views, total engagements 792.
- 18 Pop-up sessions.
- Targeted emails to 6,219 surrounding residents within 500m of existing dog exercise areas.
- Emails to stakeholder groups (e.g. sports clubs, community networks, known dog businesses, environment groups).
- 150 corflute signs with QR codes were deployed at designated fenced DOLAs and beach and foreshore locations.
- Media coverage including, enquiries (6), radio (21), press (13), TV (2), Internet (8).
- 2 articles in Council's eNewsletters (total of 714 views).

2.0 Focus Group Meetings

2.1 Purpose & Participation

The purpose of the focus group meetings was to test the findings and actions identified in the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint. Specifically, the focus groups aimed to capture feedback on the following:

- The Vision and Objectives
- DEA Site Assessment Criteria
- Key strategic recommendations for the future Network Blueprint
- Identify opportunities to improve the draft Plan following community engagement feedback

In late 2024, prior to commencement of the community survey, four focus group sessions were held to help inform development of the draft Plan, across the following interest groups:

- Natural Environment
- Dog-related Businesses and Community Organisations, Access and Inclusion
- First Nations (1x Kabi Kabi group, 1x Jinibara group).

In 2025, during and after the survey consultation period, a further five focus group sessions were held. This helped to present draft findings and test the results with key stakeholders.

This report summarises information from focus group meetings conducted in 2025.

Table 2 presents the timetable of all focus group sessions during development of the Plan.

Table 2. Draft DEA Regional Plan and Network Blueprint Focus Group Sessions

Focus Group		Method	Date	Time	Venue
1	Natural Environment	In Person	9 September 2024	9.00am - 11.00am	Venue 114
2	Dog-related Businesses and Community Organisations, Access and Inclusion	In Person	9 September 2024	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Venue 114
3	Kabi Kabi Group (KKPAC)	In Person/Teams	1 October 2024	1.00pm - 3.00pm	City Hall Maroochydore/ Teams
4	Jinibara Group (JPAC)	In Person/Teams	16 October 2024	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Woodford
5	Natural Environment	In Person	13 February 2025	9.00am - 11.00am	Venue 114
6	Dog-related Businesses and Community	In Person	13 February 2025	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Venue 114

Focus Group	Method	Date	Time	Venue
Organisations, Access and Inclusion				
7 Jinibara Group (JPAC)	In Person	1 April 2025	10.30am - 12.00pm	The Gantry D'Aguilar National Park
8 Kabi Kabi Group (KKPAC)	In Person/Teams	8 May 2025	11.00am - 3.00pm	City Hall Maroochydore/ Teams
9 Community Engagement Summary Focus Group Session	In Person	17 July 2025	9.00am - 12.00pm	Venue 114

2.2 Key Findings

The following provides some example feedback and a summary of feedback on the draft Plan captured through Mentimeter a feedback collection tool, used at the Focus Group Sessions held on 13 February 2025:

- “A full respectful discussion looking to bring community together to ensure the best opportunity for dog owners and protect the environment. The staff have done a thorough study”.
- “Education of the plan and the ability to promote the benefits overall to the community whether they be dog owners or not”.
- “Really good discussion on the strategies for improving owner knowledge and skills. Supportive of access to training even if registration fees have to increase. Offer of training voucher with Registration”.
- “There is a great Plan in progress, and I feel the council are proactive in trying to implement a future plan for all concerned”.
- “I respect and appreciate the huge amount of listening and work gone into one small, but vitally important and very complex part of the region’s open spaces planning. Dogs and owners will be forever grateful”.

The following captures feedback and suggested improvements to refine the final Plan.

Monitoring and Funding

- Monitoring and reporting on the process and transparency is needed.
- Questions in relation to how the Plan will be funded (e.g. developers, community), the cost implications and whether Council will commit funding to support dog parks/exercise areas.
- Suggestion that registration fees are increased which could potentially contribute to services, facilities, education and training.

Further explanation needed for Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA)

- Workshop participants requested a more detailed explanation of how the assessment criteria tool was created and the weightings given to the different components.

- Suggestions to present the weightings in a table of its own with explanation.
- Description of how the assessment tool is applied and who has final decision-making authority.
- The Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Assessment was supported and acknowledged as a good framework to assess values and understand impacts/risks on values and management for sensitive locations.

Education and compliance

- Opportunity for Council to collaborate more with key stakeholders including community and dog training businesses in educating community in responsible dog ownership.
- Suggestion that a permanent ranger is needed to ensure compliance with dog regulations.
- View that increased fines are not suitably explained to community when being issued.
- Improved signage and compliance/enforcement need to be established to preserve Environment Reserves.
- Key focus on education and training:
 - Educational evenings, webinars with professionals i.e. dog trainers.
 - Adopt a dog training program, similar to those already delivered by existing providers, which has a set of standards for clients to pass.
 - Educational brochures that can be distributed by vets, pet shops, etc.
 - Council to consider providing discounts on dog registrations where owners have undertaken accredited dog training with a certified trainer.
 - Provide links to dog trainers and discounts when registering a dog.
 - Target a younger audience to educate them on responsible dog ownership e.g. get Robert Irwin on the video to help promote the importance of protecting wildlife from dogs.
 - Expand creative education campaign.
 - Look at programs such as *Chat Before You Pat* and *Leave It*.
 - Visual signage, social media posts and maps.
- Consider using Jinibara and Kabi Kabi Rangers on ground to assist with compliance and education, but need the right information so message is consistent with Council.
- Suggestion for information to be made public around how compliance data has informed risk assessments.
- Suggestion for further data collection to inform future recommendations.

Dog Parks and Beaches

- Suggestion that the more restricted the area the more noise, unacceptable behaviour etc. for example dogs on beaches are better behaved than dogs interacting in confined dog parks due to their natural instincts.
- Some individuals were of the view that the current access to dog off-leash beaches should remain unchanged.
- Views that beaches offer a different experience, often positive and more active which is important.
- There is a view that beaches are safer than creeks/reserves (due to snakes etc.).

- Rather than banning dogs in areas, restricting dogs from being in the dunes currently works well.
- Need a balance between off-leash park space for obedience training and off-leash beach areas.
- Suggestion if there may be a possibility for timed bookings or allocations in popular dog parks to reduce conflict.
- Challenge around managing conflicts in dog parks (requires behaviour training).
- View from some that the proposed size of local DOLAs may only be suitable for small dogs.
- Council's ability to secure open space is a large consideration.
- Cotton Tree requires greater opportunities for dog access.
- Suggestion for information to be made public around how environmental and cultural risk assessments were informed.

Environment Reserves

- Support for protecting environmental values.
- Currently Council only prohibits dogs in 8 environmental reserves, recognition that there is a need to place prohibition in more reserves which the Plan aims to achieve.
- Bunya dieback is a major issue on Jinibara country (spreading of Phytophthora disease that are killing the bunya trees) – 'how can we reduce risks of dogs and people transporting disease in sensitive areas/conservation areas?'.
- Need cleaning stations for both humans and dogs where they access environment reserves e.g., use of corralling and fencing methods, need to work with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) as well, this is a priority for JPAC.
- Increased education on impacts to environmental and cultural values of dog and human access e.g. importance of the Bunya trees as food source etc.
- Believe that prohibited areas for dogs may assist with managing Phytophthora disease and is supported by JPAC.
- Need to protect vulnerable species such as the water mouse, nesting turtles, and shorebirds.
- Suggestion for a similar program like Land Care Groups e.g. would Council support community working groups to help maintain DEAs in bushland reserves, if so, can that increase the allowable areas for dogs?
- Suggestion for information to be made public around how environmental risk assessments were informed.

Alternative Sites and Standards

- Recognise on-leash pathway network as existing exercise provision and consider education opportunities to highlight on-leash benefits.
- Opportunity for DOLAs in underutilised spaces e.g. Caloundra airport mown areas, other mown areas, powerline easements.
- Consideration for more locations but with a lower standard for DOLAs e.g. could there be an additional category of dog parks with minimal embellishments that is low cost providing more access?

- Careful consideration for the location of new DEAs and dog sensitivity. e.g. distance from busy roads and high noise areas to reduce reactive behaviour requiring management and interaction by Council officers.

Responsibility/Governance

- Suggestion to include a column in the draft Plan to indicate who is responsible for the delivery of the actions.
- Need actions around who is looking for the future acquisitions of land.
- Sunshine Coast Council relationship with Queensland Parks and Wildlife particularly environmental matters - this needs to be clear, so people know who to speak to about certain matters.

Dog Numbers

- Consideration of limiting the number of dogs on private property – current local laws is for 2 dogs – more than 2 dogs require a permit. Breeders and rescuers may have more with special permit.
- Council noted that State and local mandates regulate the number of dogs allowed and there is no intention from Council to limit dog numbers from what is in place now.

Cultural Heritage Values

- In addition to cultural feedback received from JPAC against Environment Reserves, also consider opportunity to be part of a forum with sections of community and Council to facilitate, engage and talk about what is important to KKPAC people in a controlled and managed discussion.
- Understand what KKPAC do on daily basis – protect country and heritage, this can be an education piece about KKPAC interests and values.
- Cultural heritage needs to be a continuation of environmental laws.
- Powerful story line for KKPAC, women's healing place, silence about listening to what is around, listening to ancestors, being in areas of high cultural significance.
- Cultural values are special, and it is important to ensure best possible outcome by mitigating impacts that have occurred, working together to ensure rich legacy for everyone.
- Suggestion for information to be made public around how cultural heritage risk assessments were informed.

Key Locations – Cultural Values

- Stumers Creek – Acknowledgement and concerns raised by KKPAC on how Stumers Creek location has been impacted by dogs and that it holds high significance as a cultural site for KKPAC.
- Muller Park dog park – Acknowledgement by KKPAC of the cultural significance of the site and not appropriate to have dog park near cultural site, this resulted in the dog park being moved 30 meters. This is a good example of protecting cultural heritage.
- All rocky headlands on the Sunshine Coast are important to Kabi Kabi dreamtime story. KKPAC have provided feedback that recommended prohibition of dogs on Rocky Headlands to protect tangible and intangible cultural values.

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- Mouths of rivers/creeks have high cultural significance to Kabi Kabi KKPAC and there was significant concern about the impacts of dogs to cultural and environmental values in these areas. Stumers Creek, Maroochy River North Shore, Mooloolah River/Pt Cartwright and Currimundi Creek were identified as specific concerns to KKPAC.

3.0 Community Survey

3.1 Purpose

The specific aims of the survey were to:

- Provide information on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.
- Allow community to provide feedback on the content, proposed recommendations and actions.
- Ascertain the level of support for the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint Vision, Objectives, infrastructure design, site assessment criteria and future network provision.
 - Specifically, the level of agreement with the proposed amendments to sports fields, amendments to environment reserves, amendments to beaches and foreshores and the proposed 19 additional dog exercise areas.
- Invite feedback on any gaps, possible inclusions and any aspects that could be strengthened.

The survey questions are provided in Appendix A - Survey.

3.2 Participation

A total of 2,456 survey responses were received, however of this number, 155 responses were deemed duplicates¹ and have been removed from the data results (2,301 survey responses were deemed valid).

The following is observed in relation to survey respondents:

- A large proportion of respondents (85%) reside in coastal suburbs.
- Over half of survey responses were from women (60.7%).
- Around 27.9% of survey respondents were aged between 35 and 49 years.
- Around 3.1% of survey respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- The majority of respondents (97.5%) live on the Sunshine Coast.
- A large proportion of respondents (78.4%) owned a dog.
- 21.6% of respondents did not own a dog.
- Of those that responded to the survey, 57.3% indicated that they are users of parks and beaches, 19.2% indicated that they are environmentalist/conservationist and 17.7% indicated that they are a parent/carer of young children.

¹ Responses were deemed duplicate where there was identical replicate survey responses, submitted within minutes of each other from identical IP addresses.

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Figure 1. Coastal Suburb, Hinterland Suburb, Outside Local Government Area (LGA)

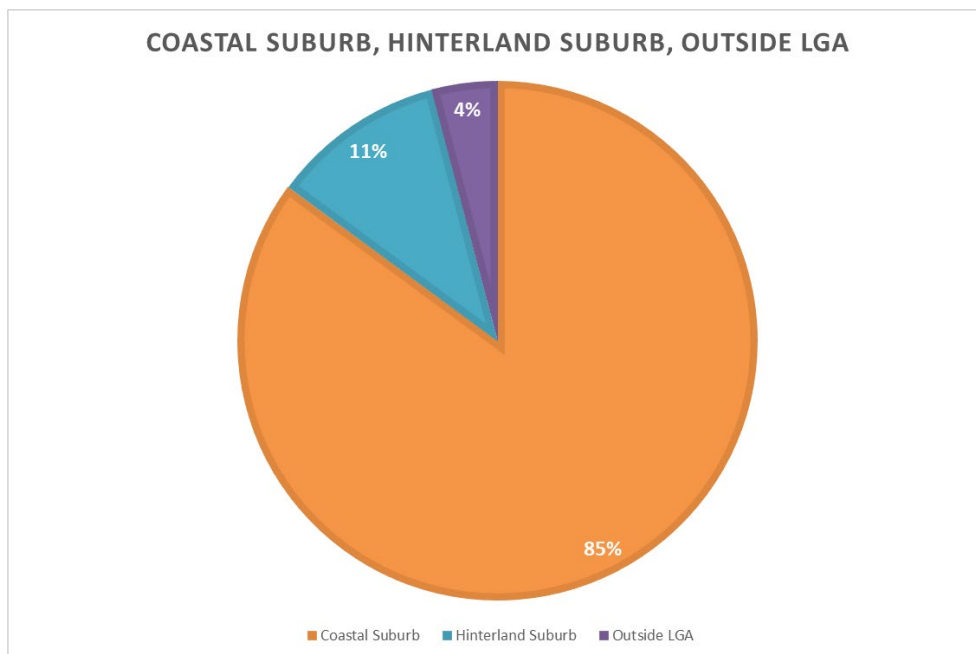
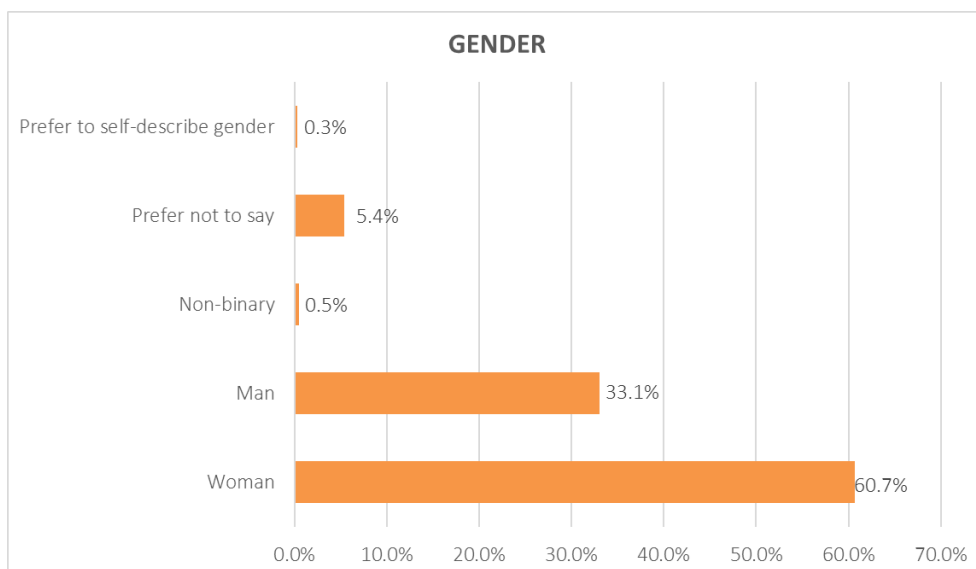


Figure 2. Gender



Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint

Figure 3. Age Group

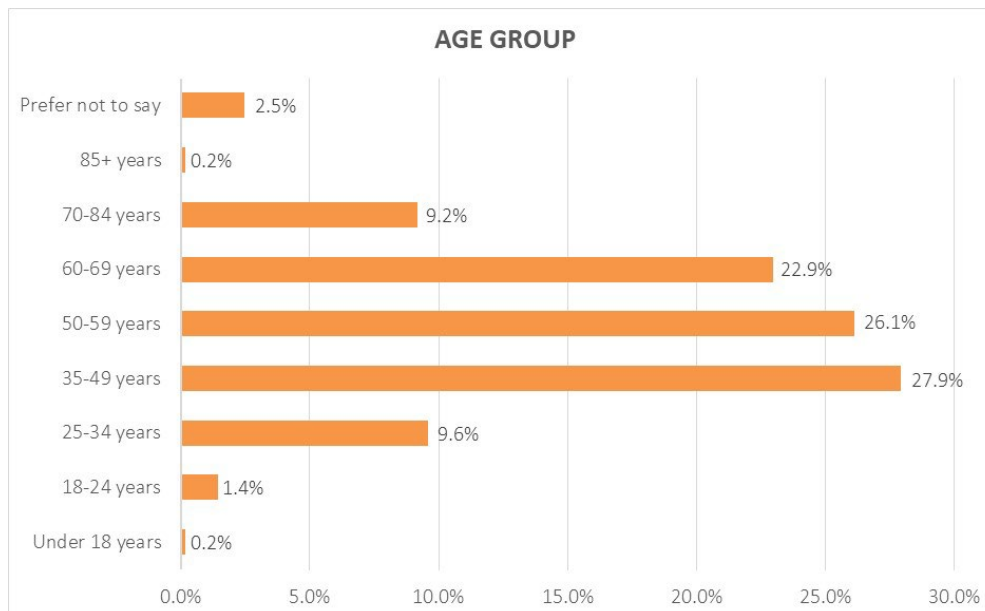
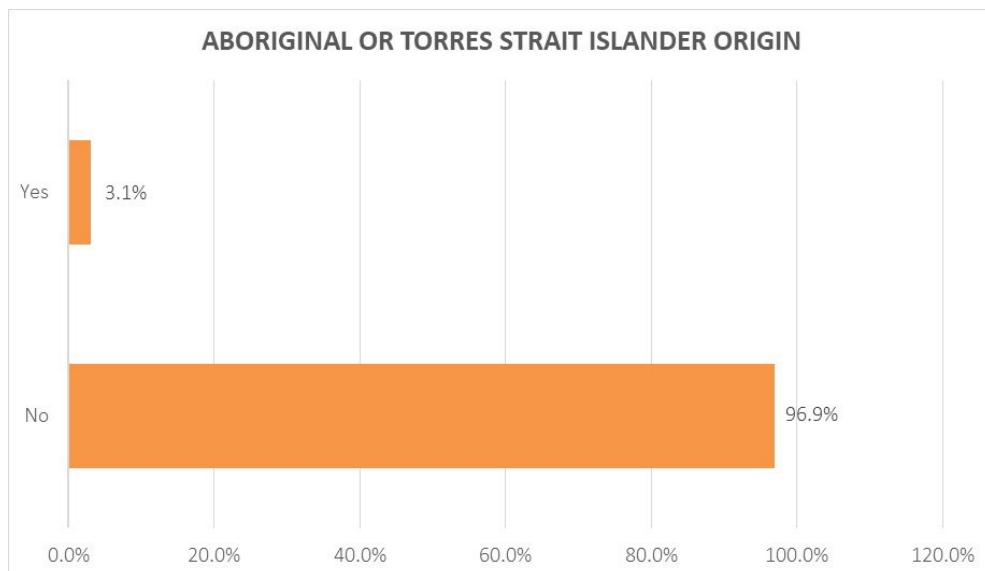


Figure 4. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Origin



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Figure 5. Own a Dog

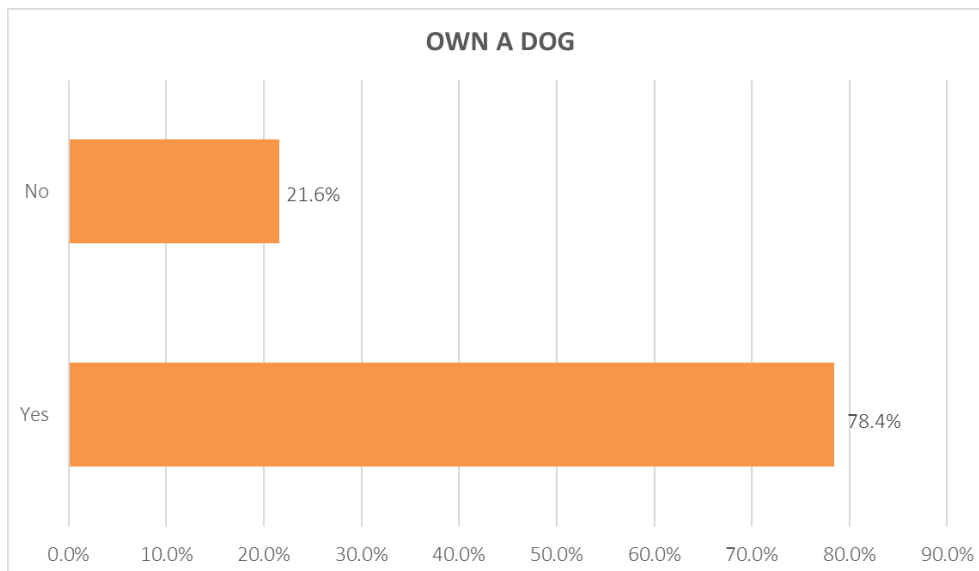
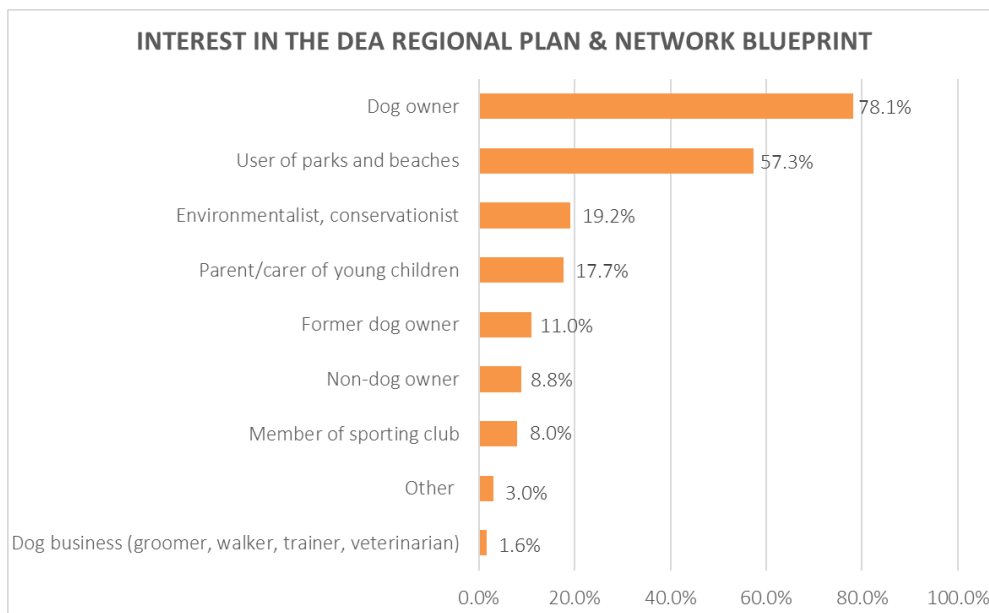


Figure 6. Interest in the DEA Regional Plan & Network Blueprint



Note: More than one response allowed.

3.3 Key Findings

The following survey results are categorised by responses from dog owners and non-dog owners. Although non-dog owners comprised 21.6% of total respondents, this proportion is considered a statistically valid representation of this group.

Community feedback regarding dog access has revealed a significant divide between key demographic groups, both of which are well-represented within the community. With approximately 40% of households owning a dog, this issue continues to generate strong and often opposing views. To ensure the draft Plan reflects a balanced and inclusive approach to dog provision across council-managed open spaces and aligns with the vision and objectives, it's important to consider the perspectives of both dog owners and non-dog owners. This helps to promote shared use and enjoyment of public spaces.

3.3.1 Visit to a dog exercise area on the Sunshine Coast

Survey respondents were asked *"Have you visited a dog exercise area on the Sunshine Coast?"* and of those that responded (n=2,278), 91.6% indicated 'yes' and 8.4% indicated 'no'. Of those that indicated 'no', a large proportion (51.1%) did not visit a dog exercise area because they 'do not think dog exercise areas are safe'. A large number of respondents (40.6%) indicated 'other' with the top mentions including 'do not have a dog' and 'dog exercise areas are too small'.

Figure 7. % of Respondents who have visited a Dog Exercise Area on the Sunshine Coast

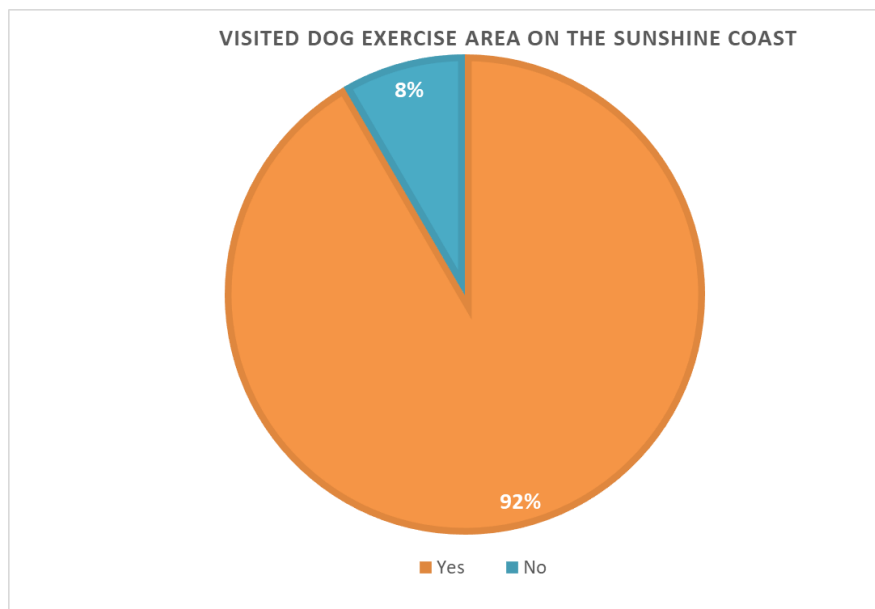
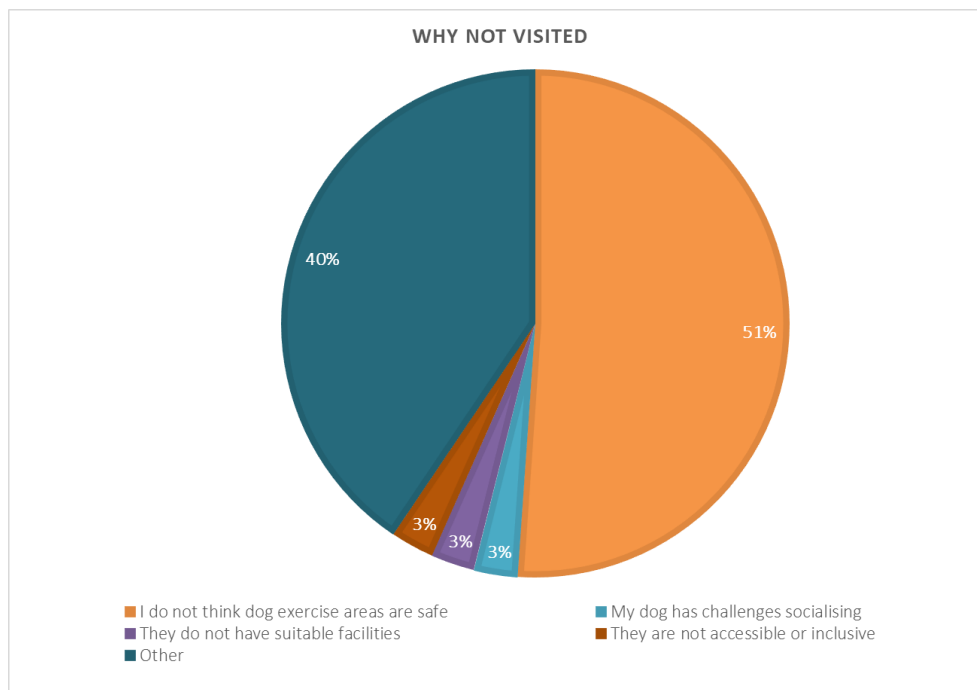


Figure 8. Reasons why Respondents have not Visited a Dog Exercise Area on the Sunshine Coast



3.3.2 Accessibility and Inclusiveness of Existing Dog Exercise Areas Across the Region

Survey respondents were asked *“Do you find existing areas across the region to be easily accessible and inclusive?”* and of those that responded (n=2,046), 69.4% indicated ‘yes’ and 30.6% indicated ‘no’ (refer to Figure 9). Respondents were also invited to provide detailed feedback on how accessibility and inclusivity could be improved at dog exercise areas. The feedback is summarised in Table 3 below for dog owners and non-dog owners. The following is noted:

Overall Feedback

- Dog Owners appreciated the variety of exercise areas, social and physical and mental health benefits, and features such as ramps, pathways, water stations, seating, shade, fencing, and calm swimming zones. Tourism and local business support were also noted.
- Non-Dog Owners echoed similar sentiments, valuing the abundance of designated areas, responsible ownership, and safe off-leash beaches like Stumers and North Shore.
- Dog Owners raised concerns about limited and inaccessible off-leash areas, loss of beach access, and inadequacies in fenced parks (e.g. size, amenities, maintenance).

- Non-Dog Owners cited irresponsible ownership, safety concerns for vulnerable users, environmental impacts, and poor upkeep of fenced parks.

Figure 9. Assessment of Whether Respondents consider Existing DEAs are Accessible and Inclusive

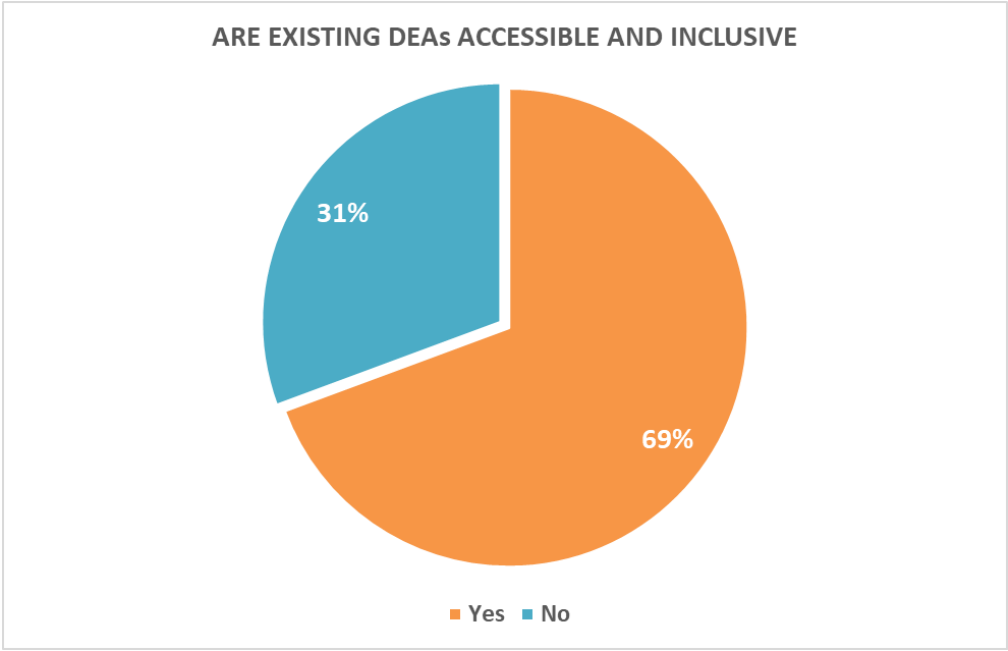


Table 3. Summary of feedback on accessibility and inclusiveness by dog owner vs non-dog owner

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility & Inclusivity – Frequent praise for accessible entrances, ramps, benches, and pathways making areas inclusive for individuals with mobility challenges, elderly, families with young children, and people with disabilities. • Abundance of Off-Leash Areas – There is widespread appreciation for the variety of off-leash (and on-leash) dog exercise areas across beaches, parks, and riverbanks, offering freedom for dogs to run and explore. • Social & Community Hub – Dog exercise areas serve as important community spaces where owners and their pets meet, socialise, make new friends, and foster a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. • Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing – Participants emphasise the therapeutic and emotional benefits of dog exercise areas, noting improvements in anxiety, depression, loneliness, and overall mood. • Physical Health & Exercise – Feedback highlights the value of dog exercise areas in promoting physical activity and fitness for both dogs and their owners through running, walking, and play.

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities & Amenities – Key amenities such as car parking, water stations, seating, shade, and sanitary facilities are frequently mentioned as important contributors to a comfortable and functional environment. • Safety & Security Users appreciate safety features like fencing, double-gated access, and calm swimming areas that provide a secure environment for dogs, children, and those with mobility aids. • Environmental & Natural Features – The natural settings—such as calm creeks, protected shallows, creek mouths, and lakes—are valued for offering varied terrain and gentle conditions ideal for dogs and families. • Economic & Tourism Impact Dog-friendly spaces drive visitation and support local businesses, drawing both residents and tourists who contribute to the regional economy. • High Satisfaction & Positive Sentiment – A strong sense of contentment prevails, with many commenters expressing that the current arrangements are ideal, require no changes, and are loved by the community. • Suggestions for Further Enhancements – While largely satisfied, users offer specific ideas for improvements—ranging from better pathways and signage to enhanced seating, lighting, and sensory considerations. • Clear Zoning & Signage – The clarity and placement of on-leash/off-leash boundaries and signage are highlighted as effective in guiding user behaviour and maintaining a harmonious environment. • Limited Off-Leash Areas – Feedback suggested there are insufficient designated off-leash areas on beaches and in parks, forcing dog owners to travel long distances to exercise their pets and causing overcrowding in the few available spots. • Accessibility Challenges for Elderly and Disabled – Many off-leash and beach access points are difficult or impossible to reach for elderly, injured, or mobility-impaired users, due to soft sand, steep dunes, creek crossings, and lack of nearby parking or paths. • Small, Overcrowded Dog Parks – Most fenced dog parks and exercise areas are too small to safely accommodate the number of dogs, leading to overcrowding, territorial behaviour, and degraded ground conditions. • Lack of Maintenance and Amenities – Designated dog areas often lack basic facilities and upkeep—there is little shade, seating, water, waste disposal, proper fencing, or regular cleaning—making them uncomfortable and unhygienic. • Safety and Dog Behaviour Issues – Enclosed or overcrowded areas increase risks of dog fights, attacks, and anxiety, while uncontrolled dogs in mixed-use spaces create hazards for other dogs, children, and vulnerable users. • Restrictive Policies and Enforcement – Local regulations and their enforcement are viewed as overly punitive and inconsistent, fostering fear of fines and a perception that the Council is unfriendly or discriminatory toward dog owners. • Confusing Signage and Boundaries – Inadequate, unclear, or poorly placed signs lead to confusion about where dogs are allowed, resulting in unintentional infringements and frustration among users. • Reduction in Beach Access Over Time – Respondents note a continual loss or time-restricted access to dog-friendly beach stretches, undermining long-standing community spaces where dogs could roam freely. • Limited Enrichment and Variety – Many designated exercise areas lack engaging features such as walking trails, varied terrain, or water access, making them unstimulating and boring for both dogs and owners. • Parking and Transportation Challenges – Poorly located dog exercise areas, limited parking, overcrowded car parks, and lack of public transport force many users to drive long distances or abandon visits.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Accessibility & Inclusivity - Facilities are largely barrier-free, offering flat terrain, accessible gates, and features that enable wheelchair users, seniors, and others with mobility or communication challenges to fully participate. • Off-Leash Beach Areas - Designated off-leash beaches—particularly Stumers and North Shore—provide safe, expansive zones for dogs and owners, supporting both on-lead transition areas and off-lead play. • Open & Spacious Environment - Wide, natural areas with ample room reduce overcrowding and territorial behaviour, allowing dogs to run, play, and exercise freely. • Positive Dog-Friendly Atmosphere - A joyful, welcoming vibe arises from well-behaved dogs, engaged owners, and the sheer delight of onlookers, fostering a strong sense of community. • Perceived Adequacy of Existing Facilities - Many users feel current dog exercise areas are already inclusive, accessible, and well-functioning, with no additional improvements necessary. • Abundance & Variety of Dog Exercise Areas - The region offers a broad selection of dog exercise areas—more than neighbouring councils—ensuring ample options for different preferences. • Multi-Terrain & Water Access - Beyond beaches, dogs and owners enjoy creeks, rivers, and joint-friendly swimming spots, offering diverse environments and year-round safe use. • Responsible Dog Ownership & Compliance - Owners generally follow rules—keeping dogs on-leads where required, maintaining control, and picking up waste—ensuring a safe, clean environment. • Community & Socialisation - Dog exercise areas serve as social hubs where people and pets connect, share experiences, and build community bonds. • Lack of Dog Control and Owner Responsibility - Frequent complaints about dog owners' failure to maintain effective control of their pets, leading to unsafe and uncomfortable situations for other users of shared spaces. • Dog Waste and Hygiene Issues - Recurring frustration over unsanitary conditions caused by dog waste and urine in public areas, including improper cleanup by owners and resulting health hazards. • Safety Concerns for Vulnerable Users - Frequent reports of unsafe interactions where dogs chase, bite, knock over, or otherwise threaten children, the elderly, and people with reduced mobility. • Accessibility and Inclusivity Challenges - Common feedback highlights that off-leash and on-leash areas are often inaccessible to the elderly, people with disabilities, families with young children, and non-dog owners, due to distance, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate consideration for diverse needs. • Weak Enforcement of Leash Regulations - Persistent concerns about lack of visible enforcement of leash rules, leading to widespread non-compliance and frustration among both dog owners and other users. • Environmental and Conservation Impacts - Frequent worries about dogs disturbing native flora and fauna, polluting waterways, and degrading environmentally sensitive areas. • Overcrowding and Overuse of Shared Spaces - Repeated feedback that popular off-leash areas are overwhelmed by too many dogs and vehicles, leading to chaotic, congested environments. • Unwelcoming Behaviour and Owner Aggression - Many non-dog users report feeling intimidated by dog owners' rude, aggressive, or dismissive responses when concerns are raised, creating a hostile atmosphere. • Inadequate Infrastructure and Facilities - Frequent mentions that dog exercise areas lack essential infrastructure such as fences, shade, size, seating, parking, and maintenance, limiting usability and comfort. • Policy and Planning Concerns - Recurring feedback on perceived inequities and negative impacts arising from proposed or existing dog area zoning, boundary changes, and resource allocation decisions.

3.3.3 Experience and Supporting Infrastructure

Survey respondents were asked *“When visiting a dog exercise area, what type of experience and supporting infrastructure are you seeking?”* (n=1,913), respondents were asked to select their top 5. Table 4 provides a summary of the responses in order of priority, and the following is noted:

- Of the top 5 priorities of respondents, ‘Safe social interaction for dog’, ‘dog bag dispenser’, ‘drinking water’, and ‘safe interaction for humans’ were selected most often.
- The number of responses prioritising unfenced and fenced areas was very similar, ranking 9th and 10th respectively.
- ‘Lighting’ received the lowest number of responses.

Table 4. Experience and Supporting Infrastructure Ranking

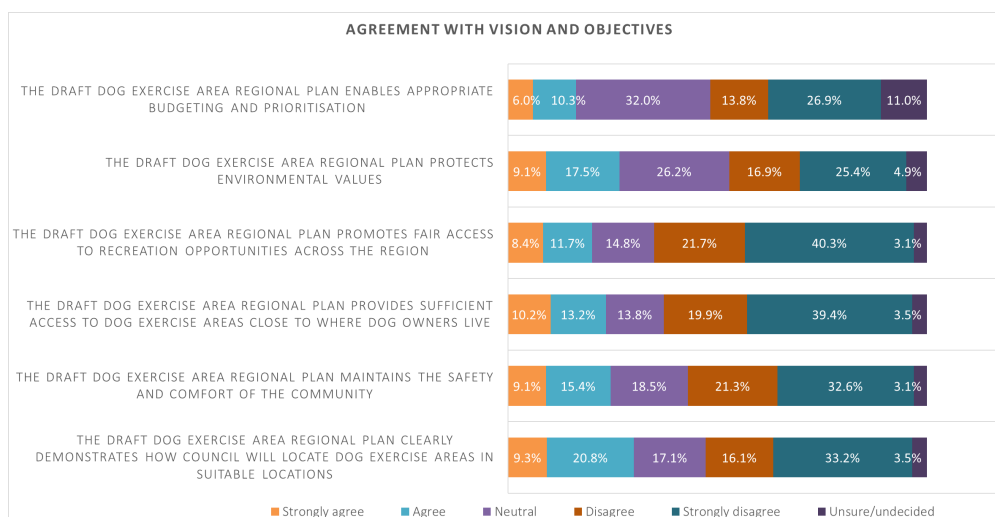
Priorities	1	2	3	4	5	Count of responses
Safe interaction for dog	60.3%	21.0%	7.4%	5.7%	5.6%	1,293
Dog bag dispenser	14.7%	21.0%	29.8%	18.4%	16.1%	1,130
Drinking water	4.2%	21.5%	28.4%	27.6%	18.3%	918
Safe interaction for humans	32.1%	41.5%	9.3%	8.8%	8.4%	873
Parking	6.0%	13.1%	22.6%	28.1%	30.1%	810
Dog water play	24.9%	17.5%	17.8%	16.9%	22.9%	668
Shade	13.9%	21.7%	24.0%	19.5%	21.0%	642
Dog wash down facility	4.6%	13.7%	21.8%	28.4%	31.5%	542
Unfenced	29.5%	19.6%	18.3%	17.9%	14.7%	525
Fenced	17.3%	17.3%	25.8%	21.9%	17.7%	462
Toilets / amenities	1.7%	7.9%	20.6%	28.3%	41.5%	407
Separated small dog large dog areas	11.1%	17.4%	20.0%	26.7%	24.8%	270
Turf area for dog play	6.2%	13.8%	18.6%	30.0%	31.4%	210
Seating	2.9%	14.8%	25.8%	27.8%	28.7%	209
Pathways	4.3%	13.0%	19.0%	27.2%	36.4%	184
Educational and way-finding signage	8.1%	21.5%	23.8%	25.6%	20.9%	172
Quiet area for sniff zones	1.0%	15.7%	17.6%	30.4%	35.3%	102
Dog agility equipment	5.3%	7.4%	22.1%	31.6%	33.7%	95
Lighting	0.0%	7.5%	5.7%	43.4%	43.4%	53

3.3.4 Agreement with the vision and objectives of the draft Plan

Survey respondents were asked *“To what extent do you agree with the vision and objectives of the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan?”* (n=2,301). Figure 10 provides a summary of all responses; Figure 11 provides a summary of responses from non-dog owners and Figure 12 provides a summary of responses from dog owners. The following is noted:

- There is a clear divide between dog owners and non-dog owners where there is a high level of disagreement (disagree/strongly disagree) amongst dog owners with all vision and objectives of the draft Plan, and high levels of agreement with all vision and objectives of the draft Plan amongst non-dog owners.
- Amongst non-dog owners there were balanced views (similar proportions for agreement and disagreement) on the following vision and objectives:
 - *The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan maintains the safety and comfort of the community – 40.8% (agree/strongly agree) and 39.8% (disagree/strongly disagree)*
 - *The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan protects environmental values – 38.7% (agree/strongly agree) and 39.6% (disagree/strongly disagree)*
- Amongst dog owners, there is strong disagreement that *‘The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan promotes fair access to recreation opportunities across the region’* and *‘The draft Plan provides sufficient access to Dog Exercise Areas close to where dog owners live’* (top two points of disagreement).

Figure 10. Agreement with Vision and Objectives – All Response



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Figure 11. Agreement with Vision and Objectives – Non-Dog Owners

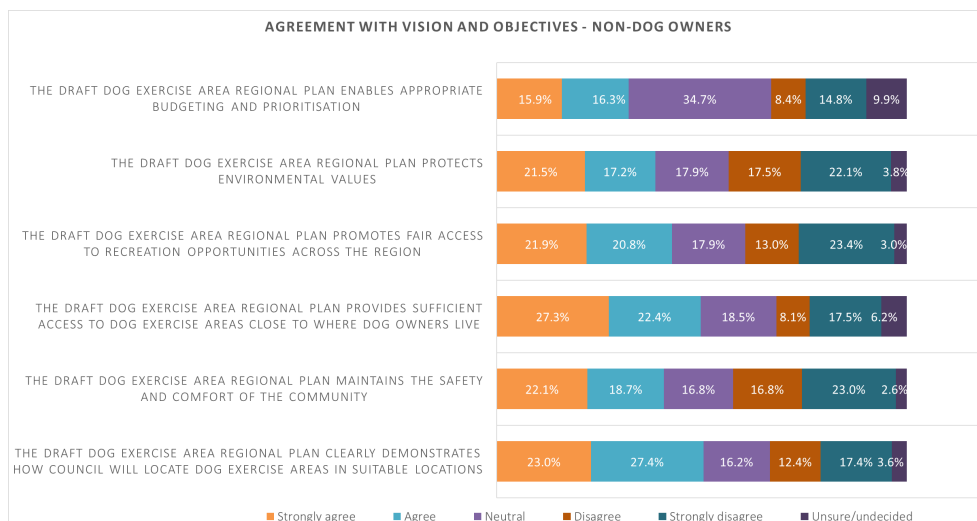
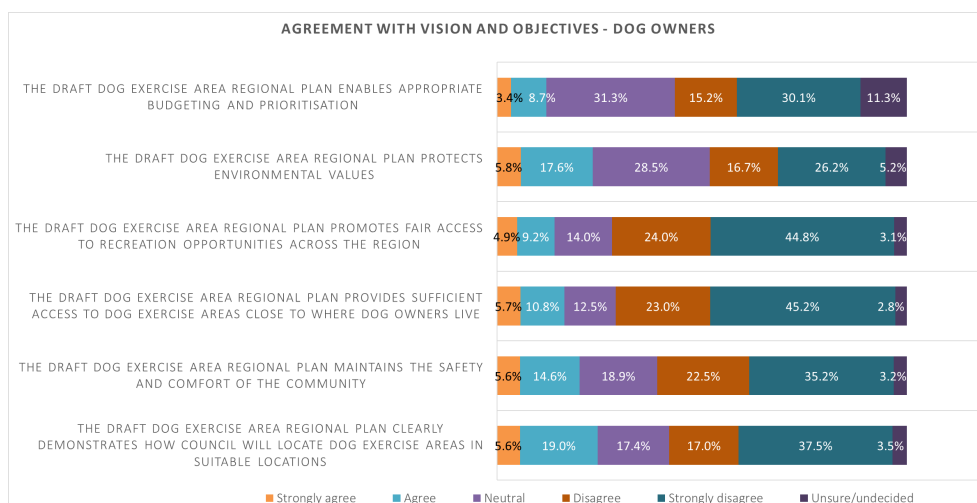


Figure 12. Agreement with Vision and Objectives – Dog Owners



Respondents were asked to provide further comments and details about their responses, and these have been captured in Table 5 for dog owners and non-dog owners.

Table 5. Feedback/comments in relation to vision and objectives

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Objective - The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan clearly demonstrates how Council will locate Dog Exercise Areas in suitable locations	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of Stumers Creek Off-Leash Area - Many respondents emphasise that Stumers Creek is an ideal off-leash location with calm, safe waters and strong community value—and should remain unchanged. • Maintain Existing Off-Leash Boundaries - Many respondents feel that the current network of off-leash areas is satisfactory as is, and that no adjustments to existing boundaries are needed. • Therapeutic & Health Benefits of Calm-Water Areas - Calm-water locations like North Shore and Stumers Creek are highlighted for their therapeutic value—supporting dog swimming therapy, older dogs, and owners with mobility issues. • Support for Council's Plan & Process - Respondents praise the Council's comprehensive, methodical approach to identifying and planning Dog Exercise Areas, finding the framework clear and justified. • Expansion of Off-Leash Areas & Fenced Dog Parks - There is demand for additional designated off-leash spaces—particularly fenced suburban parks in areas such as Marcoola, Mudjimba, Coolumb, and Buderim—to complement beaches. • Economic, Tourism & Residential Attraction of Dog-Friendly Areas - Off-leash beaches and parks attract tourists, drive economic benefits, and even influence residential choices—some people choose to live or buy dogs based on nearby dog areas. • Community Building & Mental Health Benefits - Dog exercise areas are valued as community hubs that foster social interaction, inclusivity, and mental wellbeing—especially for families, remote workers, and isolated individuals. • Characteristics of Ideal Dog Exercise Areas: Spaciousness, Variety, Amenities & Accessibility - Ideal locations are described as wide, generous beaches or parks with ample space to avoid conflict, plus key amenities—parking, toilets, shade—and accessibility for all ages and abilities. • Shared Use & Minimal Conflict Between Dog and Non-Dog Users - Feedback highlights harmonious sharing of spaces between dog owners and non-dog users, including families with children, with few reported conflicts. • Dogs' Fundamental Need for Off-Leash Freedom & Movement - Many comments stress that dogs require freedom to run, explore, and enjoy natural settings off a lead—essential for their wellbeing. • Reduction of Off-Leash Beach Areas - Frequent concern about significant removal or reduction of existing off-leash beach areas without equivalent replacements, negatively impacting dog owners. • Inadequacy of Fenced Dog Parks - Dog owners argue that new fenced parks are constrained, unengaging, prone to pests and conflicts, and cannot replace open beach spaces. • Safety and Accessibility Concerns - Proposed adjustments to off-leash areas, especially north of Stumers Creek, are seen as dangerous and often inaccessible due to tides, rocks, creek flows and unclear crossings. • Poor Communication and Clarity of Plans - Feedback highlights that maps are too small, documents too lengthy and complex, and there is a lack of clear, concise summaries of the proposed changes. • Unsubstantiated Environmental Justifications - Owners challenge the environmental and heritage reasons given for restrictions, citing a lack of evidence and warning of worse impacts if dogs are crowded into smaller zones. • Impact on Vulnerable Users - Proposed changes would disproportionately affect elderly, families with young children, people with disabilities and those who rely on easy beach access for safe exercise.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Research and Consultation - Positive recognition of the thorough, inclusive research and stakeholder consultation undertaken by the Council in developing the draft Plan. • Broad Support and Agreement - Expressed general support and agreement with the draft Plan's principles, vision, and overall direction. • Perceived Adequacy of Space and Facilities - Comments that the Plan provides sufficient space and facilities for dog exercise, appropriate for current dog populations. • Off-Leash Area Enhancement - Support for expanding or retaining off-leash exercise zones, particularly away from beaches and park/picnic areas. • Dedicated Fenced Dog Parks - Advocacy for designated, fenced dog parks as safe and contained areas for dogs to exercise. • Unleashed Dog Beaches - Appreciation for designated dog beaches and the demand for off-leash beachfront areas for dogs. • Specific Location Suggestions - Recommendations for precise areas—such as riverbanks, old runway sites, and north of Stumers Creek—for off-leash or exercise zones. • Safety and Family-Friendly Regulations - Emphasis on on-leash rules or dog-free zones at family-oriented beaches to ensure child and public safety. • Balanced and Compromising Approach - Recognition of the Plan's balanced, comprehensive strategy that accommodates both dog owners' needs and wider community interests. • Resistance to Changes in Existing Off-Leash Beach Areas - Opposition to reducing, relocating, or restricting long-standing off-leash beach zones (particularly Stumers Creek/Coolum), seen as valuable community assets and traditions. • Equitable Distribution of Dog Exercise Areas - Concerns that the Plan concentrates off-leash zones in a few beach locations rather than distributing accessible areas near residential communities. • Accessibility and Inclusivity Issues - Current off-leash areas on soft sand beaches exclude elderly, disabled, or low-mobility users who need flat, paved paths and easy access. • Safety and Access Logistics - Physical access issues—unsafe creek crossings, limited parking, poor signage/maps—make proposed changes impractical or risky.
Objective - The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan maintains the safety and comfort of the community	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-Leash Areas for Well-Being and Community - Feedback highlights that off-leash spaces are vital for physical and mental health of both dogs and owners and foster social connections and community well-being. • Safety and Harmony in Dog-Friendly Spaces - Many respondents note that off-leash beaches are well-managed, with minimal conflicts, safe interactions, and positive experiences for dogs, owners, and other beachgoers. • Education, Signage, and Enforcement Strategies - Suggestions to enhance on-site management through clear signage, educational campaigns, provision of bins and bags, ranger patrols, human training, and reasonable enforcement rather than blanket restrictions. • Infrastructure and Facility Design - Feedback on designing dog exercise areas, including preferences for fenced vs unfenced spaces, separation of small and large dogs with screens, provision of exercise equipment, and adequate space to minimise triggers and conflicts. • Expansion of Off-Leash Trails and Facilities - Calls for increasing the number and size of off-leash areas and trails to alleviate congestion, reduce conflicts, and provide more exercise opportunities for dogs outside of protected or crowded zones. • Environmental and Wildlife Protection - Emphasis on balancing off-leash dog access with conservation, ensuring dogs stay off dunes and wildlife habitats through fencing, pathways, and responsible management.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Dog Waste Management - Calls for more disposal facilities, free dog bags, bins, and encouragement of owners to pick up after their dogs to maintain cleanliness and hygiene in public spaces. • Inclusive Shared Enjoyment for Dog Owners and Non-Dog Owners - Feedback notes that off-leash beaches are enjoyed by dog owners and non-dog owners alike, creating welcoming community spaces where people without dogs also partake in leisure and social activities. • Negative perception of fenced dog parks - Feedback criticises enclosed dog parks as too small and stressful, attracting poorly supervised dogs and leading to conflicts and an unsafe environment for both dogs and owners. • Preference for open, unfenced dog exercise areas - Respondents highlight off-leash beaches and natural open spaces as superior, providing room for dogs to roam freely, responsible owner behaviour, and a calm, safe environment without confinement. • Concerns about reduced off-leash beach access - Concerns that shrinking off-leash beaches in size, location, or time slots will compress dogs and people into tighter spaces, increasing crowding, conflicts, and reducing community safety and comfort. • Accessibility and safety issues at Stumers Creek - Many highlight that forcing users to cross Stumers Creek to reach off-leash zones poses hazards and exclusion for elderly, disabled, families and small dogs, making access impractical and unsafe. • Enforcement and compliance concerns - Comments reflect mixed views on Council policing—many call for more rangers and education to enforce existing rules, while others decry excessive fines and revenue-driven over-policing. • Hygiene and disease risks - Respondents worry about uncollected dog waste, inadequate maintenance, and increased disease transmission (e.g., worms, parvovirus) in confined exercise areas. • Safety concerns over dog attacks and aggression - Multiple reports of personal or witnessed attacks describe heightened aggression in confined areas, dogs trampling children or owners, and increased risk of injury in both parks and beaches. • Community and mental health benefits of off-leash areas - Respondents value open off-leash beaches for fostering social interaction, community cohesion, and mental well-being, often serving as key weekly connection points.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated Off-Leash Dog Areas - Many respondents advocate for the creation of fenced, dedicated off-leash dog parks and beaches, providing safe, clean spaces for dogs to exercise and socialise while reducing conflicts in shared public areas. • Social and Emotional Benefits of Dogs in Public Spaces - Many participants express joy and social connection from interacting with dogs and observing them in public settings, highlighting benefits for both dog owners and non-dog owners alike. • On-Leash Requirements for Public Beaches and Parks - Frequent feedback supports strict leash rules for dogs in most public areas, suggesting leash lengths and enforcement to ensure control and reduce interference with other users. • Dog Owner Responsibility and Training - Many respondents affirm that most dog owners act responsibly by controlling their dogs and cleaning up after them, and some suggest training for owners to further improve compliance and reduce issues. • Recommendations for Council Regulations and Infrastructure - propose specific actions for policymakers, such as fencing designated off-leash areas, restricting dog access to certain beaches, and constructing additional parks to address community concerns. • Balancing Dog and Non-Dog User Spaces - Some feedback emphasises the importance of allocating distinct zones for dog activities, ensuring that non-dog owners can still enjoy public spaces without being encroached upon by dogs. • Preference for Dog-Free Beach Zones - A segment of respondents supports completely dog-free beach areas or water zones to safeguard swimmers and families, and to maintain a clean and undisturbed environment.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irresponsible Owner Behaviour & Rule Violations - Feedback that owners frequently ignore leash rules, allowing dogs to run uncontrolled in prohibited areas, and often fail to clean up after them. • Safety Concerns & Negative Interactions - Numerous reports of dogs attacking, chasing, or knocking down people—particularly children and elderly—causing fear, injuries, and traumatic experiences. • Concerns About Dog Waste and Hygiene in Public Areas - Multiple respondents worry about dog faeces and urine contaminating beaches and waterways, leading to unhealthy and unpleasant conditions for families and other visitors. • Public Safety Risks Posed by Uncontrolled Dogs - Numerous comments cite concerns about uncontrolled dogs harassing or injuring beach visitors, especially children, and emphasise the need for measures to mitigate potential hazards in shared spaces. • Insufficient Enforcement & Monitoring - Lack of adequate Council presence, rangers, and enforcement leads to widespread non-compliance with leash and cleanup regulations. • Rights & Equity for Non-Dog Owners - Non-dog owners feel their rights to enjoy public spaces safely and comfortably are compromised by dogs and owners occupying and dominating these areas. • Overcrowding of Off-Leash Areas - Existing off-leash zones have become overcrowded with too many dogs in limited spaces, exacerbating safety, control, and comfort issues. • Inconsistent Regulations & Confusing Signage - Variations in leash rules, off-leash timings, and signage across locations create confusion for residents and visitors about where dogs are permitted. • Scepticism Towards Dog Parks & Fenced Areas - Many believe dog parks and fenced runs are ineffective or unsafe, leading to disease spread, increased aggression, and small enclosures unsuitable for dog exercise. • Demand for Stricter Regulations & Enforcement - Calls for reducing off-leash areas, mandating on-leash everywhere, instituting more fines, and redefining zones to ensure public health, safety, and comfort.
Objective - The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan provides sufficient access to Dog Exercise Areas close to where dog owners live	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain & Expand Off-Leash Beach Access - Many respondents emphasise the need to keep existing off-leash beach areas open and, in many cases, increase the total accessible shoreline for dogs, ensuring no net loss of freedom for pet owners. • Accessibility & Amenities for All Users - Respondents highlight the importance of physical infrastructure—ramps, parking, toilets, shade, seating and drinking taps—to make off-leash areas welcoming and usable by people of all ages and abilities. • Demand for New Dog Exercise Areas & Parks - As the dog-owning population grows, many call for additional dedicated off-leash parks and beach areas in locations like Alex/Mooloolaba, Kenilworth, Eumundi and other suburban communities. • Dog-Friendly Lifestyle & Community Identity - Off-leash beaches are integral to local lifestyle and identity; many residents moved to (or visit) the Sunshine Coast specifically because of its dog-friendly culture and natural settings. • Preservation of Current Off-Leash Beach Areas - There is widespread opposition to any reduction or removal of existing off-leash beach areas (especially at Stumers Creek, Ballinger Beach and Moffat Beach). Many respondents stress that current arrangements work well and that shrinking these spaces will significantly harm both owners and dogs. • Demand for Additional Off-Leash Spaces - Many dog owners point out that the Sunshine Coast's dog population is growing, and that more off-leash areas are needed, not fewer. They call for expansion of spaces across suburbs to meet current and future demand. • Local Equity in Dog Exercise Facilities - Feedback highlights uneven distribution of dog exercise areas. Suburbs such as Caloundra, Maleny/Witta, Kings Beach, Buderim,

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	Eumundi and Palmview are described as under-served and demand local, district and regional DOLAs that match population needs.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived Sufficiency of Existing Off-Leash Areas - Belief that current off-leash provisions in regions like North Shore/Mudjimba, Currimundi, Buddina and Catchment Urban G are adequate, with no need for additional zones. • Local Community Focus - Emphasis on prioritising local dog-owning residents—rather than tourists—in beach policy decisions. • Responsible Leashed Dog Exercise - Recognition that designated off-leash areas complement, rather than restrict, responsible on-leash exercise throughout beaches and neighbourhoods. • Alignment with rising dog ownership and population growth - Feedback notes growing dog ownership rates and population increases, calling for exercise areas to scale accordingly rather than shrink. • Insufficient supporting information and poor communication - Complaints about lack of detailed maps, unclear rationale, and inadequate consideration of existing usage in the plan documentation.
Objective - The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan promotes fair access to recreation opportunities across the region	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced Access & Shared Use - Implement time-shared or scheduled access and ensure fair use between dog owners and non-dog users, highlighting that non-dog recreational spaces are available. • Health & Well-Being Benefits - Dog exercise areas improve mental and physical health for owners, reducing health costs and encouraging regular activity. - Frequent feedback highlights that off-leash beach areas provide significant mental, physical, and emotional health benefits for both dog owners and their pets, encouraging exercise, reducing isolation, and supporting overall well-being. • Community & Social Cohesion - Off-leash spaces serve as community hubs, fostering social interaction, reducing isolation, and strengthening neighbourhood connections. • Accessibility & Inclusivity - Design features like ramps and nearby facilities enable seniors, disabled individuals, and families with toddlers to use dog-friendly spaces safely. • Variety of Off-Leash Options - Provide specialised zones for different dog needs, including small or nervous dogs, ensuring all can exercise comfortably. • Value of Specific Dog-Friendly Locations - Recognise the unique benefits of established sites like Stumers Creek, Mudjimba, and Point Cartwright for diverse community needs. • Responsible Dog Ownership & Education - Promote responsible ownership, public education, and self-regulation to ensure harmonious shared use of dog spaces. • Dogs as Integral Family Members - Acknowledges that dogs are part of the family unit, and owners want their pets included in everyday recreational activities. • Adoption of Best Practices from Other Regions - Refer to successful models in Melbourne, WA, and NT as examples for designing and managing dog-friendly spaces. • Unfairness and Discrimination Against Dog Owners - Many residents feel that the Council's proposals disproportionately target and exclude responsible dog owners, treating them inequitably despite their status as rate-paying, registered community members. • Impact on Vulnerable Groups and Accessibility - Proposed changes are seen to disproportionately harm elderly, disabled, and mobility-restricted residents who rely on accessible off-leash beach entry points—such as disability ramps and calm creek areas—for safe recreation with their dogs. • Advocacy for Balanced, Inclusive Policy and Coexistence - Calls for an evidence-based, balanced policy that respects both dog owners and other community members, promoting shared spaces, coexistence, and mutual respect rather than exclusion.

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced & Equitable Planning - The plan is praised for its fairness and balanced approach in catering to both dog owners and non-dog owners, ensuring rights and interests are equitably represented. • Inclusive Off-Leash & Community Interaction - Off-leash areas are highlighted as inclusive spaces that foster community interaction and enjoyment for both dog owners and non-owners alike. • Community Wellbeing & Tranquil Environment - Feedback emphasises the mental health benefits, overall happiness, and calm, tranquil setting these spaces provide for individuals of all ages. • Dedicated & Shared Space Management - Comments support the strategic designation of dedicated and shared zones, along with managed access or prohibitions, to balance dog exercise needs with environmental protection. • Equitable Distribution of Off-Leash Areas - Concerns that off-leash areas are unevenly allocated across regions and housing types, creating unfair access for non-dog owners and residents without private yards. • Community Division between Dog Owners and Non-Dog Owners - Frustration over framing dog owners against non-dog owners, which many feel fosters unnecessary conflict and erodes community unity. • Safety and Accessibility Concerns for Vulnerable Users - Feedback highlights safety risks and physical access barriers posed by off-leash zones for families, seniors, disabled, and other vulnerable groups. • Health, Wellbeing, and Community Cohesion from Off-Leash Areas - Many comments emphasise the mental, physical, and social benefits of off-leash areas for dog owners and families, including stronger community bonds.
Objective - The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan enables appropriate budgeting and prioritisation	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable, Incremental Dog Infrastructure Solutions - Feedback emphasises low-cost enhancements—converting existing spaces, adding small enclosures, signage, and bag dispensers—to avoid expensive new builds. • Economic Benefits and Budget Prioritisation - Multiple comments highlight the cost savings and high utilisation of dog-friendly beaches and parks, urging prioritisation of funding to support the majority of dog owners. • Support for the Plan and Operational Resourcing - Many praised the comprehensiveness of the proposed plan and called for operational support such as increased ranger patrols to ensure effective implementation. • Projected Growth-Driven Demand - Feedback highlights expected increases in dog ownership and densification in certain regions, reinforcing the need for forward-looking infrastructure planning. • Budget & Financial Prioritisation - Frequent concerns about the cost of the proposed dog parks and related initiatives, with calls to reallocate limited ratepayer funds to higher-impact areas. • Education & Enforcement for Responsible Dog Ownership - Calls for proactive owner education and sufficient ranger enforcement rather than punitive fines and blanket restrictions. • Misaligned Council Priorities - Concerns that the Council is focusing on dog parks at the expense of more pressing issues like homelessness, roads, and essential public services. • Revenue Raising Through Dog Fines - Belief that the Council's tightened regulations and increased fines are motivated more by revenue generation than genuine animal management. • Lack of Budget & Implementation Details - Frustration over the absence of cost estimates, priority ranking, and implementation timelines for the new dog exercise areas in the draft Plan.

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access Fees and Licensing for Dog Owners - Feedback advocates implementing direct fees or paid licenses for dog owners (and visiting fees for their guests) to access sites and parks. The revenue would cover extra cleanup, bags, garbage removal, and dog management staff, mirroring models like Canada's national parks. • Budget Transparency and Cost Details - Stakeholders frequently note the plan provides no specific budget figures, lacks clear cost estimates for new dog parks and has little transparency in how funds will be allocated or prioritised. • Funding Fairness and User-Pays Principle - Concerns that non-dog-owners are subsidising facilities while dog owners pay low registration fees; calls for cost equity and user-pays funding through increased registration and penalties. • Wasteful Spending on Dog Facilities - Many believe current and proposed dog parks and exercise areas represent an inefficient use of taxpayer money, with facilities often underused and funded at the expense of other priorities. • Excessive Expansion of Fenced Dog Parks - Feedback indicates too many new fenced parks are planned, consuming land and resources, and stakeholders suggest retaining existing off-leash areas instead of creating more. • Lack of Trust in Government Implementation - A prevailing scepticism that government will deliver on the draft Plan's promises, with worries that budgets change, proposals are not enacted, and there is no solid evidence base.
Objective - The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan protects environmental values	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Dog Owner Behaviour - Most dog owners consistently pick up waste, use provided bags and actively maintain the cleanliness and wellbeing of beach environments. • Need for Improved Signage, Education, and Enforcement - Calls for more effective signage, educational campaigns, and ranger patrols to guide dog owners and the public on environmental rules and seasonal restrictions. • Protection of Sensitive Wildlife and Habitats - Support for fencing, restricted access, and prohibited areas to safeguard nesting shorebirds, turtles, migratory and endangered species and preserve natural heritage zones. • Seasonal and Temporal Access Restrictions - Suggestions for seasonal or timed off-leash allowances to protect wildlife during critical periods while still accommodating dog owners at other times. • Infrastructure and Facility Improvements - Calls for improved physical infrastructure, such as safe access paths, water stations, bag dispensers, and better-managed car park entries to enhance user experience and safety. • Other Environmental Threats Perceived as More Significant than Dogs - Observations that human activities, farming, mining, plastic pollution, and feral cats pose greater risks to wildlife and habitats than well-managed off-leash dogs. • Desire for Balanced Approach between Recreation and Conservation - Calls to find an equitable balance that supports dog owner's recreational needs while ensuring robust protection of environmental values. • Lack of Evidence & Transparency - Frequent complaints that the Council's environmental justification for dog restrictions is unsubstantiated, lacking site-specific data or measurable evidence. Community demands clear statistics, studies, and transparency in decision-making. • Minimal Environmental Impact from Off-Leash Dogs - Observations that off-leash dogs and their owners cause negligible environmental harm; wildlife continues to use the beaches and dunes remain intact. • Community Wellbeing & Access Impact - Concerns that reducing or removing off-leash areas harms dog owners' mental, physical, and social wellbeing, undermining places for exercise, free play, and community connections. • Hygiene & Waste Management Issues - Complaints about dog excrement smell, uncollected waste left on beaches, and concerns for public health and beach cleanliness.

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Protection Advocacy - Voices supporting stricter off-leash restrictions to protect shorebirds, turtles, dune vegetation, and other native wildlife from disturbance and harm by uncontrolled dogs. • Alternative Management & Balanced Solutions - Suggestions for targeted, less restrictive measures – such as signage, fencing, on-leash corridors, and seasonal closures – to balance dog access with environmental protection. • Displacement & Environmental Trade-offs - Concerns that shrinking off-leash zones will displace dogs to fewer areas, increasing travel distances, parking pressure, and environmental stress in concentrated or alternative sensitive habitats. • Recognition of Responsible Dog Owners - Highlighting positive contributions of conscientious dog owners – picking up litter, controlling pets, and supporting environmental cleanliness – arguing they deserve continued access and trust.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental & Wildlife Protection - Frequent concerns about dogs disturbing sensitive habitats, native species, and shorebird populations, leading to calls for prohibitions and habitat restrictions. • Dog Waste Management & Cleanliness - Repeated feedback highlights issues with dog waste pollution on beaches and waterways, urging better cleanliness measures and dismissing careless behaviour. • Dog Area Zoning & Leash Policies - Diverse opinions on-leash requirements and off-leash access, with calls for designated areas, limited off-leash zones, and ensuring dog areas don't compromise overall open space. • Balancing Dog Freedoms & Environmental Needs - Support for the Council's approach to balance human and dog recreational freedoms with the protection of the natural environment and wildlife. • Infrastructure & Enforcement Measures - Suggestions for improved facilities like fencing, waste bins, and increased dog patrols to enforce rules and protect sensitive areas. • Human Health & Recreation Benefits of Dog Access - Highlighting the importance of off-leash dog beaches as spaces that promote mental and physical well-being for both dogs and their owners. • Specific Site & Reserve Proposals - Proposal for certain areas to be formally designated as reserves or have restricted dog access to protect wildlife and maintain cleanliness. • Wildlife Disturbance and Habitat Disruption - Frequent reports that off-leash dogs chase and harass native birds and terrestrial wildlife, leading to declines in local species and stress or injury to animals. • Marine Turtle Nesting Habitat Protection - Concerns that dogs on beaches threaten critically endangered marine turtle nests and hatchlings, with calls for stricter leash rules or complete bans in nesting areas. • Dog Waste Pollution and Public Health Concerns - Recurring complaints about dog faeces and urine fouling beaches, paths and waterways, causing foul odours, health hazards, and deterring public use. • Off-Leash Access in Environmentally Sensitive Areas - Frequent opposition to allowing dogs off-leash in conservation reserves, dunes, beaches and other wildlife habitats, citing incompatibility with ecosystem protection. • Inadequate Enforcement and Signage - Feedback highlights poor policing and insufficient or unclear signage, resulting in widespread non-compliance with leash rules and ongoing environmental harm. • Perceived Prioritisation of Dog Owners over Environmental and Public Interests - Sentiments that Council policies and plans favour dog ownership and recreation at the expense of environmental protection and non-dog-owning community members. • Conservation Reserve Integrity and Funding Misalignment - Criticism that using Environmental, Bushland and Conservation Reserves for dog exercise contradicts their original purchase purpose and misuses Environment Levy funds intended for preservation.

3.3.5 Dog Exercise Areas Values

Survey respondents were asked to rank 10 values for three different dog exercise area typologies (parks and gardens, environmental reserves, and beaches and foreshores) in order of importance (1 being high importance, 10 being low importance) in relation to how each *'value will inform how Council assesses the suitability of Dog Exercise Areas in parks and gardens, environmental reserves and beaches and foreshores'*. The purpose of this question was to seek feedback and improve understanding from the community on the ranking/importance of values to inform refinement of the values and objectives of the Plan and associated Pairwise analysis and multi-criteria risk assessment processes.

Parks and Gardens

Figure 13, Figure 14 and Figure 15 provide a summary of the responses for **'parks and gardens'** and the following is noted:

- The top 3 most important values for all respondents included, 'recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets' (66.6%), 'safety for community members' (58.5%) and 'safety for dogs' (51.5%).
- The top 3 values that are considered to be low or not of importance for all respondents included, 'cultural heritage' (20.5%), 'ability to safely and effectively manage compliance' (15.1%) and 'amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)' (13.4%).
- The top value for non-dog owners is 'safety for community members' (78.9%) followed by 'environmental protection' (71.5%) and the value that is considered low or not of importance is 'recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets' (19.4%).
- Dog owners valued 'recreation opportunities for dog owner and their pets' the most, with 76.5% of dog owners indicating that this is very important. Dog owners also value 'safety for dogs' (57.7%) and 'safety for community members' (53.0%).

Figure 13. Parks and Gardens Values – All Responses

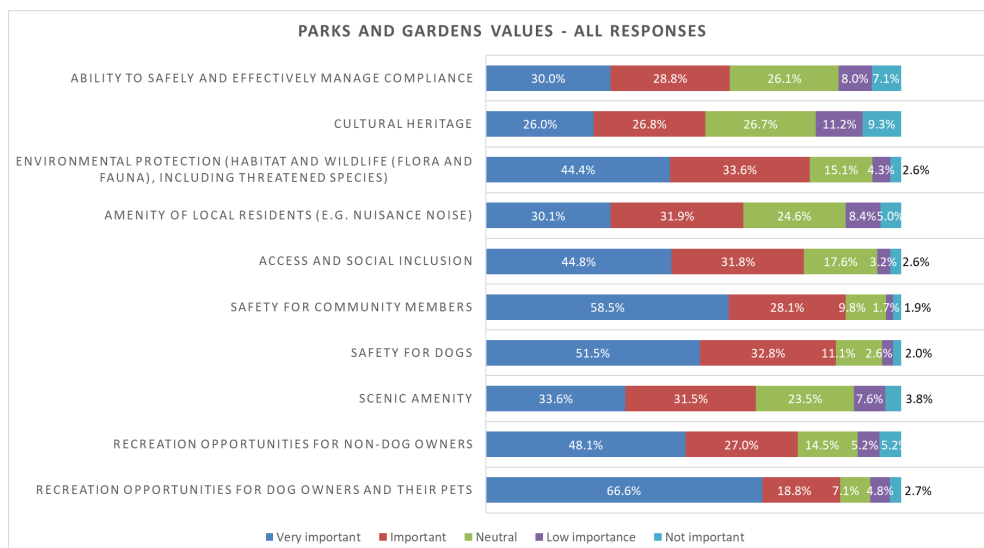


Figure 14. Parks and Gardens Values – Non-dog Owners

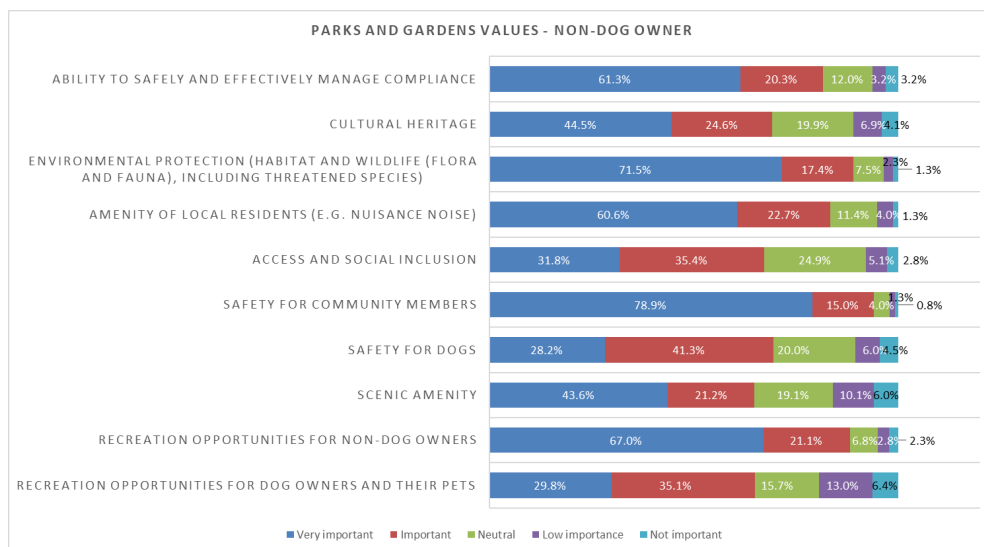
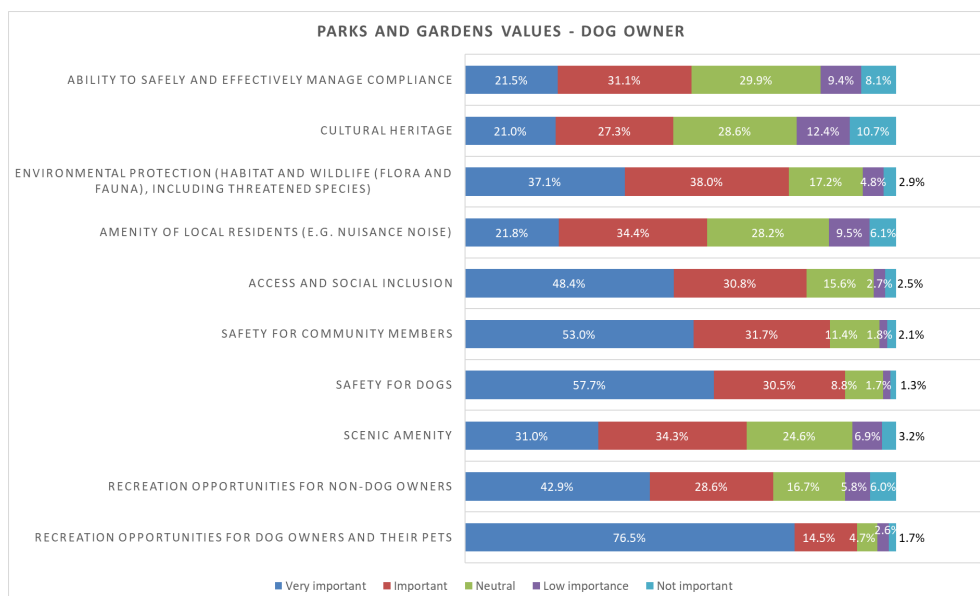


Figure 15. Parks and Gardens Values – Dog Owner



Environment Reserves

Figure 16, Figure 17 and Figure 18 provide summaries of the responses for ‘environment reserves’ and the following is noted:

- The top 3 most important values for all respondents include, ‘recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets’ (54.6%), ‘safety for community members’ (51.0%) and ‘environmental protection’ (50.5%).
- The top 3 values that are considered low or not of importance for all respondents include, ‘cultural heritage’ (19.2%), ‘amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)’ (16.9%) and ‘ability to safely and effectively manage compliance’ (15.3%).
- The top value for non-dog owners is ‘environmental protection’ (75.6%) followed by ‘safety for community members’ (68.7%) and the value that is considered low or not of importance is ‘recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets’ (41.0%).
- Dog owners valued ‘recreation opportunities for dog owner and their pets’ the most, with 64.1% of dog owners indicating that this is very important. Dog owners also value ‘safety for dogs’ (48.5%) and ‘safety for community members’ (46.1%).
- Values considered low or not of importance for dog owners include ‘cultural heritage’ (21.8%), ‘ability to safely and effectively manage compliance’ (17.8%) and ‘amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)’ (19.5%).

- Values considered low or not of importance for non-dog owners include 'recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets' (41%), 'safety for dogs' (25%) and 'access and social inclusion' (11.1%).

Figure 16. Environment Reserves Values – All Responses

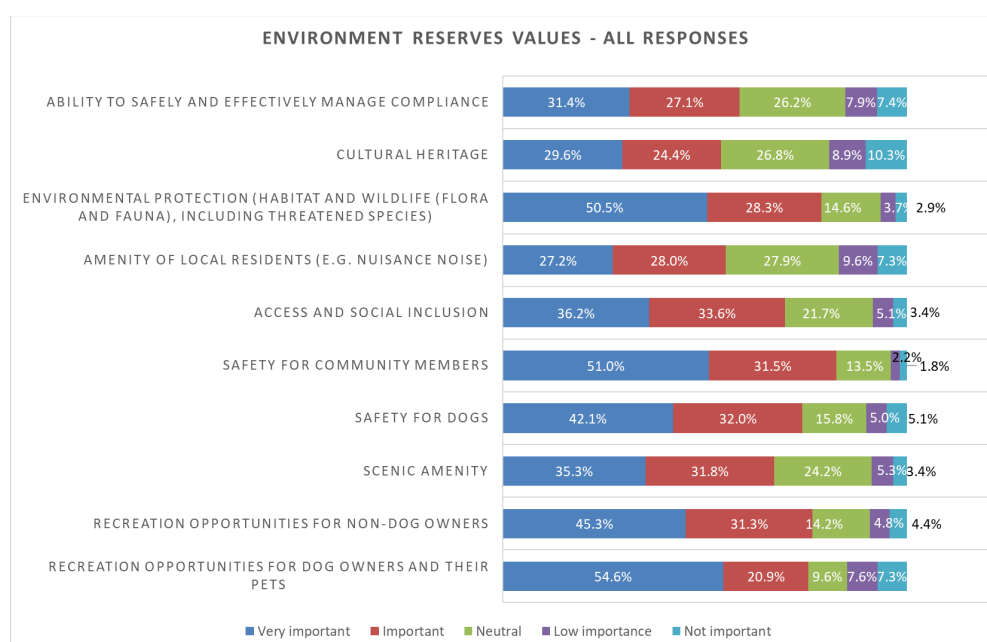


Figure 17. Environment Reserves Values – Non-Dog Owners

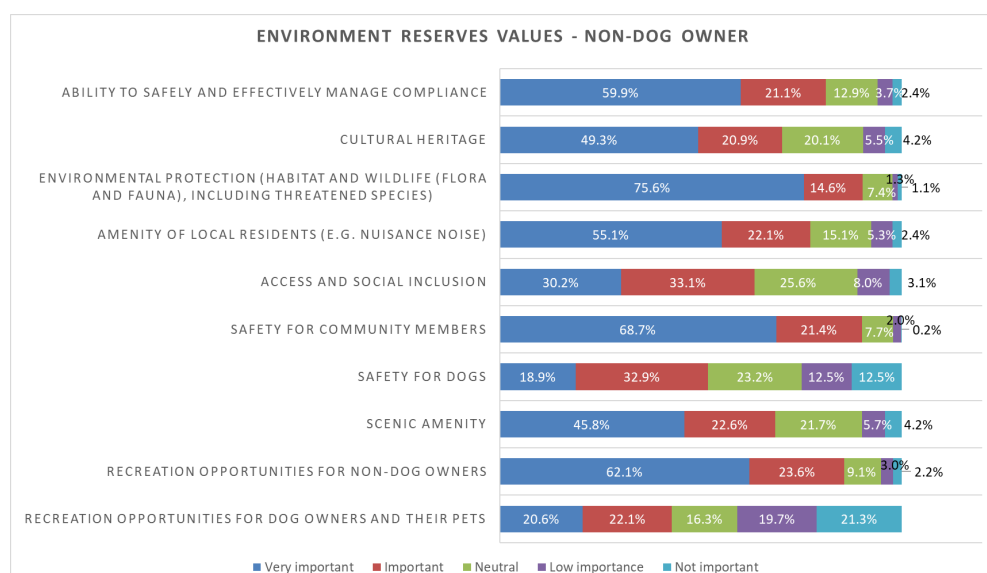
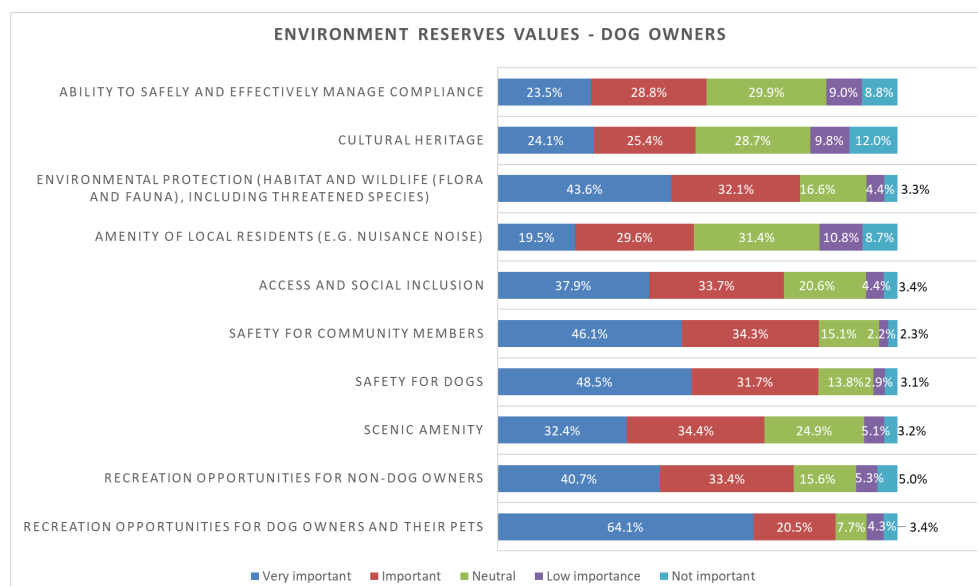


Figure 18. Environment Reserves Values – Dog Owners



Beaches and Foreshores

Figure 19, Figure 20 and Figure 21 provide summaries of the responses for ‘beaches and foreshores’ and the following is noted:

- The top 3 most important values for all respondents included, ‘recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets’ (72.9%), ‘safety for community members’ (57.0%) and ‘recreation opportunities for non-dog owners’ (49.9%).
- The top 3 values of low or not of importance for all respondents included, ‘cultural heritage’ (22.0%), ‘amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)’ (17.4%) and ‘ability to safely and effectively manage compliance’ (16.7%).
- The top value for non-dog owners is ‘safety for community members’ (78.7%) followed by ‘environmental protection’ (72.9%) and ‘recreation opportunities for non-dog owners’ (72.9%) and the value considered low or not of importance is ‘recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets’ (33.6%).
- Dog owners valued ‘recreation opportunities for dog owner and their pets’ the most, with 84.5% of dog owners indicating that this is very important. Dog owners also value ‘safety for dogs’ (56.1%) and ‘safety for community members’ (50.7%).
- Values considered low or not of importance for dog owners include ‘cultural heritage’ (24.3%), ‘ability to safely and effectively manage compliance’ (19.5%) and ‘amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)’ (19.9%).
- Values considered low, or not of importance, for non-dog owners include ‘recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets’ (33.6%), ‘safety for dogs’ (16.5%) and ‘scenic amenity’ (12%).

Figure 19. Beaches and Foreshores Values – All Responses

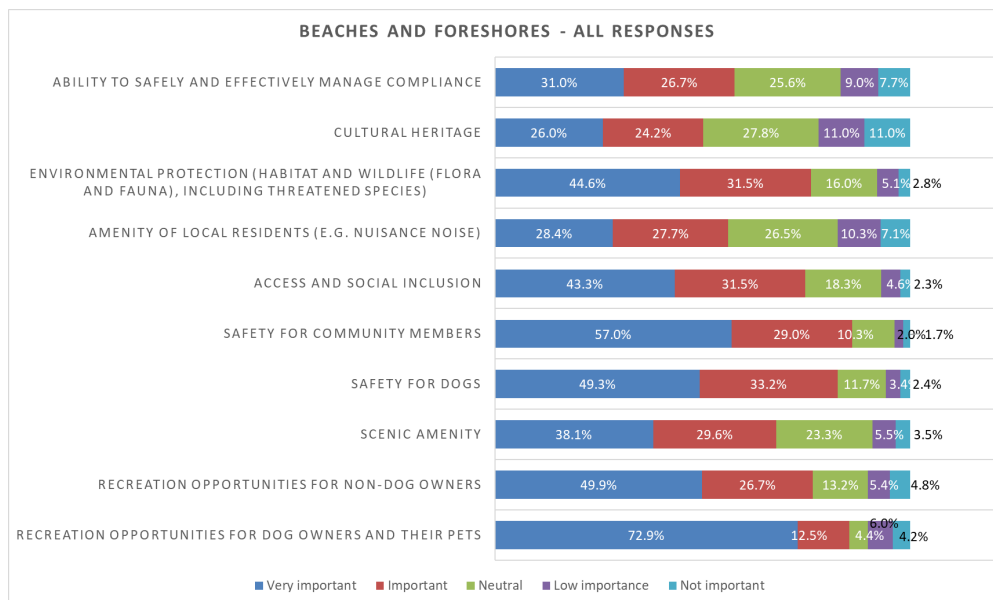


Figure 20. Beaches and Foreshores Values – Non-dog Owner

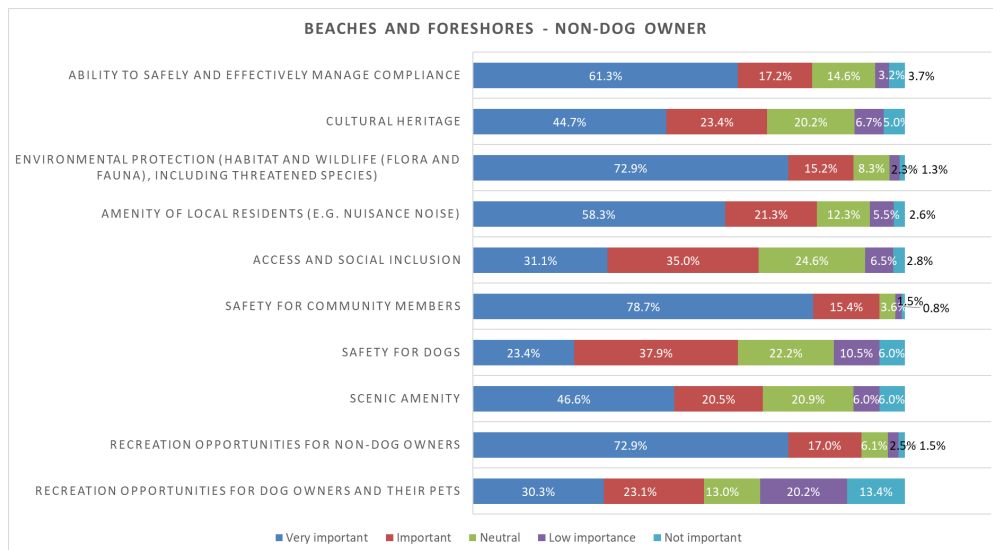
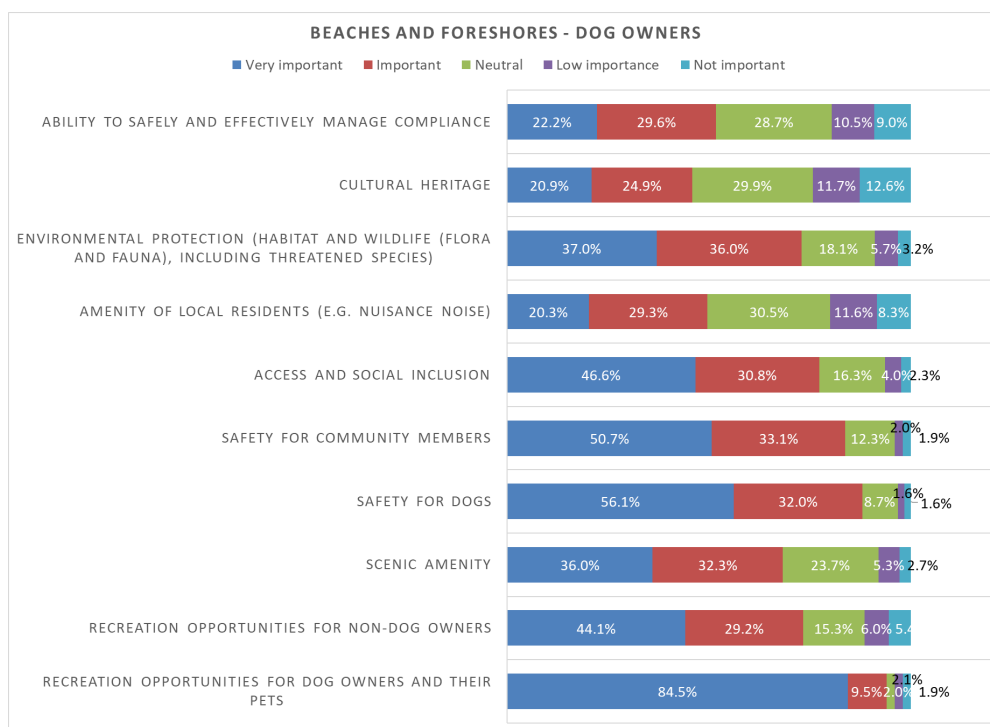


Figure 21. Beaches and Foreshores Values – Dog Owner



3.3.6 Support for Proposed Amendments

Survey respondents were asked *“To what extent do you support the proposed changes in the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan?”* (n=2,301). Figure 22, Figure 23 and Figure 24 provide summaries of the responses, and the following is noted:

- **Sports Fields:**
 - When considering all responses, there are more people that support proposed changes to ‘sports fields’ (28.4% with 16.5% supporting but with changes) than those that do not support (29.3%), there is also a relatively high proportion of respondents that are unsure/undecided (25.8%).
 - There is more support for proposed changes to ‘sports fields’ from non-dog owners (42.4%) than dog owners (24.6%).
 - There is a similar proportion of non-dog owners (14.3%) and dog owners (17.2%) who support amendments to ‘sports fields’ with changes.
- **Environment Reserves:**
 - When considering all responses, there are more people that support changes to ‘environment reserves’ (44.5% with 20.0% supporting but with changes) than those that do not support (37.0%). Around 18.5% of all respondents were unsure/undecided.

- There is more support for proposed changes to ‘environment reserves’ from non-dog owners (43.3%) than dog owners (19.3%).
- There are more dog owners (21.3%) who support amendments to ‘environment reserves’ with changes than non-dog owners (15.4%).
- **Beaches and Foreshores:**
 - When considering all responses, proposed amendments to ‘beaches and foreshores’ is not supported (65.9%) with only 28.9% support/support with changes, with 5.2% unsure/undecided.
 - There is more support for proposed changes to ‘beaches and foreshores’ from non-dog owners (34.3%) than dog owners (11.1%).
 - There are more non-dog owners (17.4%) who support amendments to ‘beaches and foreshores’ with changes than dog owners (11.7%).
- **New Dog off-leash Areas:**
 - When considering all responses, there is a majority support for the proposed ‘19 new dog off-leash areas’ with around 69.5% of respondents indicating support/support with changes, whilst 8% were unsure/undecided.
 - There is more support for ‘new dog off-leash areas’ from dog owners (47.8%) than non-dog owners (37.2%).
 - There are more dog owners (25.0%) who support amendments for ‘new dog off-leash areas’ with changes than non-dog owners (20.4%).

Figure 22. Support for Proposed Amendments to Dog Exercise Areas – All Responses

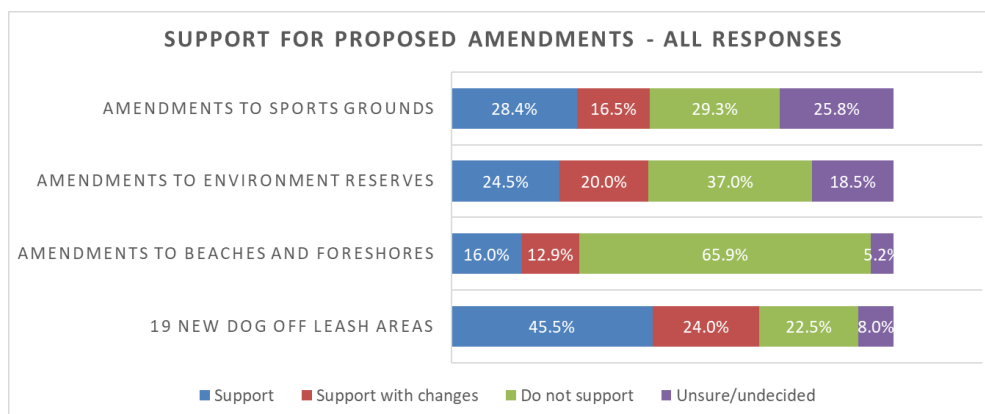


Figure 23. Support for Proposed Amendments to Dog Exercise Areas – Non-Dog Owner

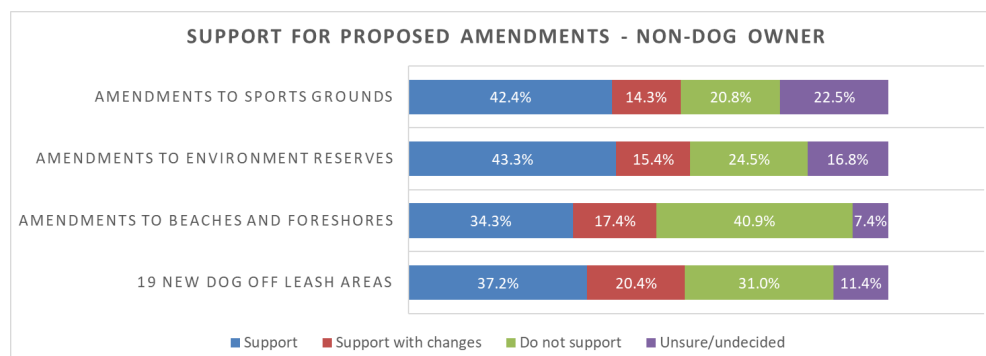
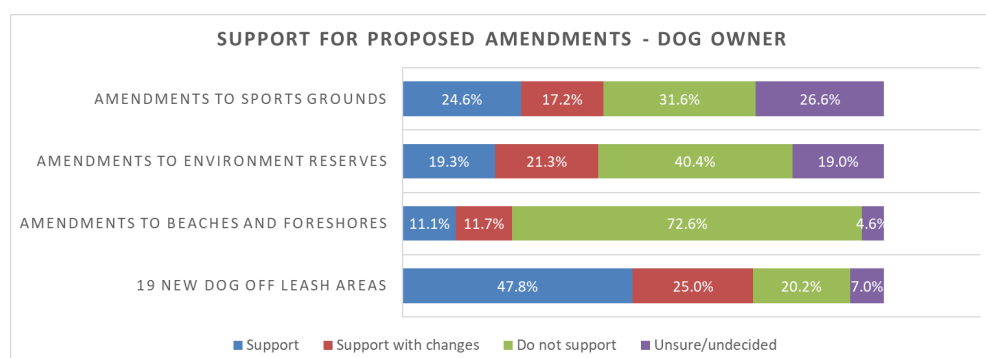


Figure 24. Support for Proposed Amendments to Dog Exercise Areas – Dog Owner



Respondents were asked to provide further comments and details about their responses, and these have been captured in Table 6 for dog owners and non-dog owners.

Table 6. Feedback/comments in relation to proposed amendments

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Beaches & Foreshores	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-Leash Beach Access - Feedback overwhelmingly calls for preserving and expanding off-leash beach areas for dog exercise, arguing against any reduction in access. Physical and Mental Health Benefits - Many comments highlight the mental and physical health benefits for dog owners and their pets when exercising together on beaches. Accessibility for People with Disabilities - Feedback underscores the importance of maintaining accessible beach entry (e.g., ramps and boardwalks) so people with disabilities and limited mobility can enjoy off-leash areas. Tourism and Economic Value - Many comments point out that dog-friendly beaches attract tourists, drive visitation, and support the local economy.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and Wildlife Considerations - Some feedback emphasises protecting shorebird habitats, water quality, and proper waste management, with suggestions for seasonal or spatial restrictions. • Timeslot and Location Controls - Several suggest allowing off-leash access only during specified time windows or in designated zones to reduce user conflicts. • Safety and Negative Interaction Concerns - A minority of feedback expresses safety and cleanliness concerns, advocating on-leash requirements due to incidents with children, fights, and waste. • Infrastructure and Facilities - Feedback calls for improved beach infrastructure such as multiple access points, dog wash stations, water supplies, and parking to support dog owners. • Opposition to Reduction of Off-Leash Beach Access - Dog owners overwhelmingly object to any reduction or removal of existing off-leash beach areas, arguing these changes unfairly limit their pets' freedom and diminish community amenity. • Preservation of Stumers Creek as Off-Leash Area - Stumers Creek's calm waters and open space are highly valued by dog owners as a unique off-leash destination; any proposal to convert it to on-leash is met with strong resistance. • Accessibility Concerns for Elderly and Disabled - Proposed changes threaten access for older people, those with disabilities or small children who rely on close, easily navigable off-leash beach entry points. • Environmental Impact Arguments - Many dog owners dispute environmental claims, noting that humans cause more damage than dogs and that blanket bans are misguided or inconsistent. • Community and Economic Contributions of Dog Beaches - Off-leash beaches are seen as vital to community life and local economies, drawing residents and tourists who support nearby businesses and property values. • Safety, Overcrowding, and Congestion Concerns - Reducing the size or number of off-leash beach areas is expected to concentrate users into smaller zones, heightening congestion, parking issues and safety risks. • Dog Parks are Inadequate Replacements - Stakeholders argue that fenced or enclosed dog parks cannot substitute for open beach environments, which offer more space, natural terrain and freedom.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Leash & Prohibition Policies - Frequent calls to require dogs to be on leash or prohibited entirely on public beaches, reducing or removing off-leash areas to protect wildlife and beachgoers. • Enforcement & Compliance - Demand for stronger patrolling, visible fines, and surveillance to ensure dog owners adhere to leash rules, remove waste, and respect designated zones. • Environmental Protection - Emphasis on safeguarding sensitive natural habitats like dunes, nesting birds, turtles, sacred cultural sites, and rocky foreshores by restricting dog access. • Signage Clarity & Public Education - Need for clear, unambiguous signage and educational initiatives at beaches and parks to inform locals and tourists about on/off-leash boundaries and rules. • Dog-Free & Human-Only Zones - Support for establishing dedicated beaches and recreational areas exclusively for people without dogs, ensuring safe and clean spaces for non-dog owners. • Alternative Off-Leash Facilities - Suggestions to create well-planned, fenced, or remote dog exercise areas away from beaches and sensitive ecosystems to accommodate dog owners. • Scheduled & Rotational Access - Proposals for time-based or rotating off-leash beach access (e.g., early mornings, specific hours) to balance dog exercise needs with public use.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance of Access & Recognition of Responsible Dog Owners - Calls for fair beach access proportional to dog ownership and acknowledgment of responsible owners who control and clean up after their pets. • Opposition to Off-Leash Dogs on Beaches - Many respondents strongly oppose any off-leash dog areas on beaches, advocating for complete prohibition or strict on-leash policies to ensure safety and comfort. • Enforcement Gaps and Rule Non-Compliance - Numerous comments highlight insufficient monitoring, lack of enforcement officers, and poor adherence to leash and waste pickup rules, leading to widespread non-compliance among dog owners. • Environmental Impact on Wildlife and Dune Ecosystems - Concerns focus on dogs disturbing turtle hatchlings, migratory birds, dune vegetation, and local wildlife such as kangaroos, potentially causing habitat damage and species decline. • Public Health and Hygiene Risks from Dog Waste - Frequent reports of dog urine smells, faeces on sand and pathways, and potential zoonotic disease transmission underscore public health and cleanliness concerns. • Safety Hazards Posed by Uncontrolled Dogs - Off-leash and unrestrained dogs have caused physical injuries, bites, and frightening experiences for beachgoers, children, and wildlife, leading to calls for stricter controls. • Infrastructure and Accessibility Challenges - Insufficient parking, lack of restrooms, hazardous creek crossings, and conflicts with patrolled and family-friendly areas reduce safe and convenient access to designated dog beach zones. • Balancing Interests of Dog Owners and Non-Dog Owners - Calls for Council policy to equitably consider both dog owners' needs and non-dog owners' rights, ensuring fair allocation of beach space and preventing one group from dominating decision-making.
New Dog Parks	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised Gaps in Off-Leash Provision - Many specific communities (e.g., Maleny, Eumundi, Coolumb) lack or have insufficient nearby off-leash areas, prompting calls for targeted facility additions. • Demand for Fenced & Segregated Dog Parks - Frequent requests for fully fenced parks with separate zones for large and small dogs to ensure safety and containment. • Desire for Natural, Unfenced Off-Leash Spaces - Many owners prefer large, open, natural environments like beaches and bush trails where dogs can run freely without confinement. • Need for Enhanced Dog Park Amenities - Calls for additional features such as agility equipment, water play areas, seating, shade and washdown stations to improve dog park usability and stimulation. • Need for Clear Signage, Regulation & Owner Education - Request for improved signage, enforcement of current rules, training classes and licensing to promote responsible pet ownership and reduce conflicts. • Proactive Planning for Projected Dog Population Growth - Many comments stress the need to upscale off-leash facilities in line with forecast increases in dog ownership, to avoid future shortages. • Accessibility for Elderly, Disabled & Apartment Dwellers - Feedback underscores the need for nearby, easily accessible dog areas, especially for seniors, people with mobility issues and residents without private yards. • Social & Mental Health Benefits of Dog Exercise Areas - Many note the positive impact of dog parks on mental wellbeing and community cohesion, highlighting social interaction and loneliness reduction. • Inadequate Provision of Off-Leash Dog Areas - Many respondents indicate that current off-leash areas are insufficient in number and size, and express concern over potential reductions to existing spaces. • Opposition to Fenced Dog Parks - Negative sentiment toward fenced dog parks, viewed as hazardous, unsanitary, unnatural, and promoting aggression and disease.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcrowding and Space Constraints - Concerns that decreasing space and consolidating dog exercise areas will lead to overcrowding, increased conflicts, and safety issues for both dogs and people. • Call for Enforcement and Education Instead of Restrictions - Calls for better policing of irresponsible dog owners and educational initiatives rather than imposing blanket restrictions on the majority of users. • Lack of Transparency and Evidence - Criticism that the Council's plans lack clear evidence and justification, with calls for data disclosure and genuine community consultation. • Cost Concerns and Waste of Public Funds - Frequent complaints about the high cost of creating and maintaining fenced dog parks, viewed as poor use of ratepayer money when existing areas suffice. • Impact on Dog and Owner Wellbeing - Concerns that limited off-leash access and restrictive environments will negatively affect the physical and mental health of dogs and their owners. • Accessibility and Location Issues - Feedback on new proposed dog areas being out of walking distance or poorly located, forcing reliance on cars and limiting non-driving residents' access. • Perceived Anti-Dog Owner Bias - Perception that the Plan unfairly targets dog owners, treating them as second-class citizens compared to non-dog users.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenced and Enclosed Dog Parks - A strong preference for off-leash dog areas to be securely fenced or enclosed to ensure safety and control. • Location Separation from Beaches and Popular/Public Areas - Feedback emphasising that dog areas should be situated away from beaches, environmental parks, and high-traffic public or family-friendly spaces to reduce conflicts. • Enforcement and Monitoring of Leash Rules - Calls for consistent enforcement, patrolling, and policing of leash regulations in and around dog exercise areas to promote compliance. • Infrastructure, Site Design, and Maintenance - Requests for well-designed dog areas with adequate facilities (e.g., entry points, parking, waste management) and proper maintenance to enhance user experience. • Accessibility and Distribution for Urban Growth - Highlighting the need for more local dog areas as population and pet ownership rise, particularly in areas with smaller residential lots and limited backyard space. • Safety and Controlled Environments - Emphasis on creating secure spaces to ensure both dogs and the public are safe, minimising aggression, swarming, and uncontrolled interactions. • Social and Health Benefits of Dog Parks - Recognition of exercise areas contributing to physical health, social connectivity, mental well-being, and therapy for various community groups. • Environmental Protection - Desire to protect sensitive ecosystems by avoiding environmentally significant areas and locating dog parks in lower-impact sites. • Segregation by Dog Size and Area Capacity - Calls for dedicated zones by dog size and appropriate sizing or density planning to reduce conflict and promote positive social interaction. • Opposition to expanding off-leash areas - Resistance against creating additional off-leash or dog exercise areas, noting that existing spaces are sufficient and opposing any amendments to increase them. • Financial burden and fairness concerns - Criticism of the cost of building and maintaining new dog facilities, arguing it's unfair for non-dog-owning ratepayers to subsidise them. • Inadequate facility design, size, and maintenance - Feedback highlighting that current or proposed fenced dog parks are too small, poorly maintained, and lack amenities like parking or proper landscaping.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irresponsible dog owner behaviour - Complaints about dog owners not picking up waste, failing to supervise or exercise dogs properly, resulting in unsafe or unsanitary environments. • Lack of consultation and perceived bias - Criticism that planning favours dog owners without sufficient community or stakeholder consultation, suggesting biased decision-making. • Alternative solutions over park expansion - Suggestions to focus on owner education, leash enforcement, and better compliance measures instead of creating new off-leash zones. • Preservation of natural open spaces - Opposition to replacing natural areas with constructed dog parks, urging to maintain existing open green spaces for general public use. • Equity concerns across pet and non-pet owners - Arguments that dog owners receive disproportionate public resources compared to non-dog owners and owners of other pets, challenging the special treatment of dogs. • Owner suitability and dwelling considerations - Recommendations to impose ownership restrictions based on dwelling size, breed suitability, and owner capacity rather than expanding public dog facilities.
Environment Reserves	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded On-Leash Access to Conservation Areas - Feedback calls for more on-leash access within environmental reserves and natural areas, with dog owners seeking designated on-leash paths to maintain connectivity without harming habitats. • Environmental Conservation and Wildlife Protection - Emphasis on the importance of conserving native species, habitats, and endangered wildlife, with many advocating for strict no-dog zones in sensitive areas. • Enforcement, Compliance Checks, and Ranger Presence - Numerous suggestions for better enforcement of existing rules through warnings, fines, employing rangers, and more frequent compliance checks to deter irresponsible behaviour. • Signage, Education, and Communication of Regulations - Calls for clearer signage, public education campaigns, and transparent communication of plan changes and maps to ensure dog owners understand and follow area-specific rules. • Responsible Dog Ownership Practices - Feedback highlights the role of responsible behaviour—staying on paths, keeping dogs leashed, cleaning up waste—to minimise environmental and community impacts. • Seasonal and Localised Access Restrictions - Suggestions to use seasonal or area-specific closures (e.g., turtle nesting seasons) rather than blanket bans, allowing more flexibility while still protecting sensitive habitats when needed. • Balancing Community Needs with Conservation Values - Many advocate finding a fair balance between dog owner needs and the protection of the natural environment, recognizing that both community wellbeing and wildlife conservation are important. • Dog Owners as Environmental Stewards - Assertions that responsible dog owners actively care for the environment by picking up litter, removing weeds, and reducing congestion on fragile paths. • Collaboration with Park Authorities and Best Practices - Suggestions to partner with national/state parks and learn from other regions that allow controlled off-leash access to trails, implementing best practices and partnerships to expand dog-friendly areas. • Social and Health Benefits of Dog Walking - Emphasis on the physical, mental, and social well-being of dog owners, including inclusion of families, elderly, and people with disabilities. • Maintenance of Current Dog Access - Opposition to any reduction or change to existing dog access areas; a desire to keep current off-leash and on-leash provisions unchanged.

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns About Environmental Damage from Dogs - Worries that dog waste, damage to flora, water degradation, and disease transmission threaten sensitive natural areas. • Public Safety and Amenity Concerns - Concerns about unpredictable or aggressive dog behaviour, noise, dog fights, and waste left in shared spaces, negatively affecting other users' experiences. • Off-Leash Exercise and Hiking Opportunities - Many dog owners express frustration over limited off-leash areas in bushland and trails and request more opportunities for off-lead hiking and bushwalking beyond fenced parks. • Demand for Evidence-Based Environmental Justification - Calls for clear data and scientific studies to substantiate claims of environmental harm before imposing dog access restrictions. • Advocacy for Alternative Management Measures - Suggestions to use education, signage, targeted restrictions, fines, and patrols instead of blanket bans on dog access. • Perceived Policy Unfairness and Revenue Motives - Criticism that dog registration fees fund the Council, yet dog owners face new restrictions and fines, while other polluters go unchecked. • Impracticality of Leash Requirements - Concerns that on-leash rules are overly restrictive, cumbersome, and unsafe for dogs and owners in certain environments. • Opposition to Fenced-in Dog Parks - Resistance to proposals for fenced dog areas, seen as unnatural, risking dog fights, disease spread, and appearing as 'prisons'. • Protect Access to Key Local Dog Walking Sites - Specific objections to restricting dog access at popular local trails and reserves such as Maleny, North Shore, and Stumers Creek.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife and Habitat Disturbance - Frequent concerns about dogs disturbing and harming native wildlife, including feeding water birds, migratory shorebirds, loggerhead turtles, and ground-dwelling species, leading to habitat degradation. • Leash Regulations and Dog Control - Regular calls for mandatory on-leash requirements in public and environmentally sensitive areas to minimise disturbance to wildlife and reduce negative interactions with other users. • Prohibition of Dogs in Sensitive Environmental and Conservation Areas - Support for completely banning or curtailing dog access in key conservation zones—national parks, wildlife reserves, beaches, and bushland—to protect biodiversity and prevent degradation. • Designated Off-Leash Areas and Dog Exercise Zone Planning - Suggestions to establish well-planned, mainly fenced off-leash dog areas (DOLAs) and adjust existing zones to separate dog exercise from ecologically fragile or protected environments. • Enforcement, Education and Compliance Measures - Calls for stronger enforcement—including patrols, clear signage, fines—and public education campaigns to improve adherence to dog rules and protect people and wildlife. • Call for Stronger Environmental Impact Assessments & Mitigation Strategies - Feedback requests that planning for dog areas include rigorous environmental impact assessments and mitigation measures to safeguard sensitive ecosystems and native fauna. • Cultural Attitudes and Prioritisation - A desire to shift local culture so that human recreation and protection of native wildlife take priority over unrestricted dog access. • Opposition to Dog Access in Environmental Reserves & National Parks - Opposition to any dog access in environmental reserves and national parks, citing wildlife protection and the belief that these areas should be preserved from dogs entirely. • Wildlife Disturbance and Species Threat from Dogs - Feedback highlights instances of dogs disturbing or harming wildlife, including chasing, predation of native species, and threats to endangered birds and turtle hatchlings. • Lack of Enforcement and Compliance with Dog Regulations - Concern over inadequate policing and enforcement of dog area rules, leading to frequent rule-breaking and ineffective seasonal bans.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Waste and Hygiene Concerns - Residents express frustration with dog faeces in public spaces, polluting paths and sensitive habitats, harming native species, and undermining recreational enjoyment, highlighting health hazards and the irresponsibility of owners who fail to pick up after their pets. • Public Health and Safety Concerns - Concerns regarding health risks to families and children in water areas, incidences of dogs chasing wildlife or people, and potential dog attacks when unrestrained. • Public Safety and Comfort for Non-Dog Owners - Feedback emphasises the need for public spaces where non-dog owners, especially families with children, can feel safe and comfortable without interference from dogs or irresponsible owners. • Rebalancing Public Space Privileges Against Dog Owners - Some respondents call for shifting priorities away from dog owners towards other residents and visitors, arguing that dogs have received disproportionate access to natural areas. • Perceived Minimal Environmental Impact & Advocacy to Retain Current Access in Specific Areas - Some comments argue that certain natural zones experience minimal impact from dogs and should remain unchanged, highlighting owner responsibility and low population in these areas.
Sports Fields	
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of Existing Maleny Showgrounds Dog Exercise Area - Feedback emphasised the importance of maintaining the current unfenced dog exercise area within the equestrian section of the Maleny Showgrounds in the new proposal, citing its alignment with assessment aims and community value. • Extended Off-Leash Time Windows and Family-Friendly Access - Several comments highlighted that the current limited off-leash hours (e.g., 4am–8am) are unsuitable for many families and suggested extending off-leash availability, as well as allowing dogs to accompany families to sports events and training. • Fencing Infrastructure Improvements - Feedback called for more parks and oval areas to be fully fenced, acknowledging recent fencing projects like Coochin Park while requesting similar measures at Currimundi cricket oval, Grahame Stuart Park, and others to improve safety. • Social and Familial Role of Dogs at Community Events and Gatherings - Bringing dogs to sports events foster community bonds and supports social inclusion for families, elderly, disabled individuals, and others who view pets as integral members sharing in local activities. • Support for Dog Sports Clubs and Training Facilities - Many respondents noted the growth of dog sports, the need for dedicated, funded venues, and supported opening sports grounds to local dog training businesses and clubs that responsibly manage dog exercise and foster community. • Shared Use of Underutilised Sports Grounds for Dog Exercise - Many respondents noted that sports fields, often unused outside peak sporting activities, could efficiently serve as dog exercise areas (on or off-leash) with proper controls, leveraging existing infrastructure and potentially reducing costs of new facilities. • Opposition to Proposed Amendments Restricting Dogs from Sports Grounds - Many dog owners strongly oppose the proposed changes that would ban or limit dog access on sports grounds, viewing them as unnecessary, overly restrictive, and punitive toward responsible pet owners. • Importance of Sports Grounds for Dog Exercise, Training, and After-Hours Use - Sports fields provide much-needed open space for dogs to exercise, train on long-lines, and roam safely when games are not in session, offering flexibility that dedicated off-leash areas lack. • Inadequacy of Alternative Dog Facilities (Fenced Dog Parks) - Fenced or purpose-built off-leash areas are criticised for poor conditions—such as mosquito infestations, swamp-like terrain, lack of space, and heightened reactivity—making them less desirable than open sports fields.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns Over Dog Waste and the Call for Evidence-Based Solutions - While some fear dog waste on sports fields poses health hazards, many owners argue that irresponsible behaviour by a few shouldn't lead to blanket bans and question whether evidence supports such restrictions. • Satisfaction with the Status Quo: Belief that current dog access balances needs - Some community members feel the existing mix of dog-friendly and non-dog areas is appropriate and that further restrictions would disrupt an already balanced system without addressing real issues.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete dog ban at sports grounds - Feedback advocating for a total prohibition of dogs on sports grounds due to overcrowding and safety concerns. • Safety concerns in recreational areas - Frequent worries about dogs posing physical danger to park and sports field users, including children and wildlife, when roaming freely in shared spaces. • Calls for dog-free community and sporting areas - Demands to ban dogs from sports fields, reserves, and community recreation areas to ensure these spaces serve all residents without dog-related hazards or disruptions. • Clear, time-based dog access policy - Suggestions and concerns about clarifying when dogs are allowed in sports grounds, proposing time-limited access during non-peak hours and practical resource use. • Negative impact on non-dog owners' recreational experience - Comments on how dog presence, fouling, and disruptive behaviour diminish enjoyment of parks and picnics, with concerns about uncollected waste, bag disposal, and unpleasant smells interfering with leisure activities. • Opposition to restrictions limiting dog owners' freedom - Frustration that new proposals would unjustly limit dog owners' rights to use public spaces, viewing the changes as punitive, unnecessary, and a threat to current freedoms.

3.3.7 Additional Comments

Respondents were asked *“Do you have any further comments or ideas to share on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint?”* Additional feedback/comments have been summarised into key themes and are captured in Table 7.

Table 7. Additional feedback/comments

Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety & Personal Comfort - Many dog owners express concerns about personal safety and comfort, citing incidents of dogs running up, jumping, aggressive behaviour, and the fear of being knocked over or accosted. • Environmental & Wildlife Protection - Many respondents emphasise the need to protect native fauna and sensitive habitats from dog disturbances, urging no-dog zones and restrictions to safeguard turtles, shorebirds, and dune ecosystems. • Responsible Dog Ownership & Cleanliness - Many comments highlight frustration with dog owners failing to pick up after their pets, advocating for greater personal responsibility and cleanliness to maintain public spaces. • Enforcement & Regulatory Compliance - Many respondents call for stricter enforcement of dog rules through heavier fines, increased ranger patrols, and stronger compliance measures to deter irresponsible behaviour.

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Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leash Policies & Zoning Restrictions - Many comments advocate for clear zoning of on-leash versus off-leash areas, especially mandating leash use on beaches and in busy public spaces to enhance safety and comfort. • Support for the Draft Dog Exercise Area Plan - Many respondents express strong backing for the proposed plan, praising its thoughtfulness, balanced approach to safety, and environmental considerations. • Council Communication & Plan Quality Appreciation - Many users commend the clarity and quality of the draft Plan, praising the Council's data-led, thorough approach and inclusive consultation process. • Opposition to Additional Dog Areas - A significant portion of feedback rejects the expansion of off-leash areas or new dog parks, asserting existing spaces are sufficient or excessive. • Dog Exercise Area Design & Amenities - Feedback highlights the importance of well-designed exercise areas with adequate amenities—fencing, shade, seating—and features like size segregation to enhance usability and safety. • Social & Mental Health Benefits - Some feedback emphasises the positive impact of dog exercise areas on mental health, reducing social isolation, and fostering community engagement. • Preserve Existing Off-Leash Beaches - Opposition to any reduction or alteration of current off-leash dog beach and foreshore areas, with frequent calls to maintain the status quo at key locations. • Expansion of Off-Leash Dog Areas - Frequent requests for additional and diverse off-leash spaces across beaches, parks, and trails to accommodate a growing dog population and reduce travel. • Mental Health and Community Cohesion - Dog exercise areas are seen as vital contributors to personal well-being, social interaction, and community bonds; restrictions are viewed as threats to mental health and social harmony. • Economic and Tourism Impact - Off-leash dog areas are highlighted as drivers of tourism, local business income, and property values; limiting access is seen as risking visitor numbers and economic benefits. • Lack of Consultation and Transparency - Council's engagement process is criticised for inadequate community consultation, poor communication, opaque plans, and insufficient transparency toward dog owners. • Environmental Concerns Lacked Evidence - Repeated challenges to Council's environmental justifications (e.g., shorebirds, nesting habitat), citing lack of evidence and contrast with other permitted developments. • Unsuitability of Fenced Dog Parks - View that fenced dog parks are poor substitutes for open beaches due to limited size, overcrowding, disease risk, and negative impacts on dog behaviour. • Excessive Fines and Enforcement - Criticism of harsh enforcement measures, excessive fines (e.g., \$806 penalties), perceived revenue-raising motives, and inconsistent ranger presence. • Accessibility and Inclusivity Issues - Concerns that proposed restrictions disproportionately impact elderly, disabled, and families with young children by creating unsafe or inaccessible off-leash areas. • Misplaced Council Priorities and Spending - Views that Council is misallocating resources on secretive plans and consultants for dog exercise areas instead of addressing pressing issues like housing, infrastructure, and core community needs.
Non-dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Harassment by Uncontrolled Dogs - Frequent reports of off-leash dogs engaging in aggressive behaviour such as chasing, biting, jumping on people, causing fear and safety hazards for beach users, particularly families and children. • Dog Waste and Hygiene Issues - Widespread concern about dog faeces, urine, and waste bags littering beaches, creek outlets, dunes, and parks, creating unsanitary conditions, foul odours, and health hazards.

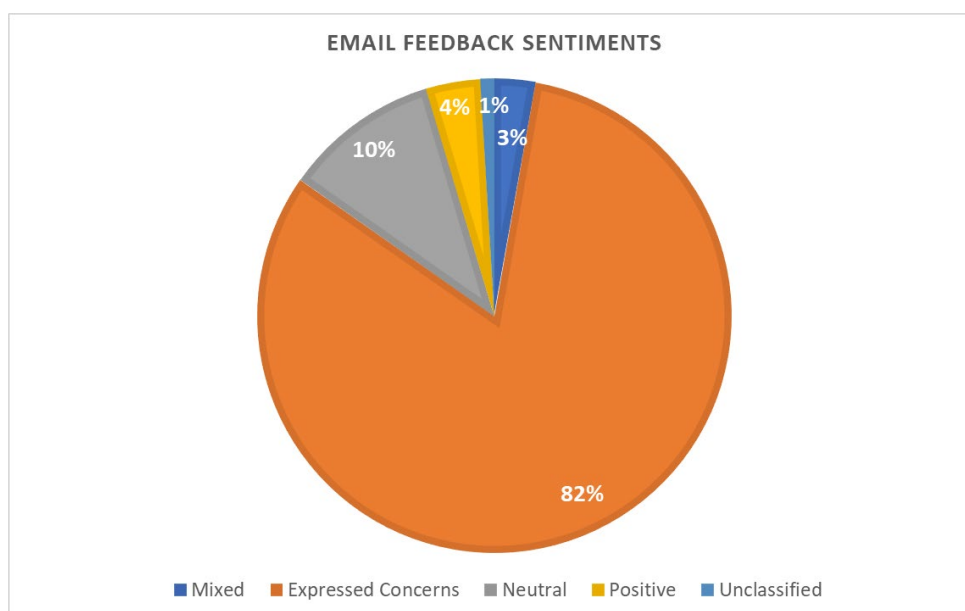
Group	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Impact on Wildlife and Ecosystems - Dogs disturbing fragile dune ecosystems, eroding dunes and trampling native vegetation, preying on or disrupting wildlife including turtle and shorebird nests, and harming overall biodiversity. • Inadequate Enforcement of Regulations - Observation that existing dog management rules are poorly enforced, with minimal policing or presence of control officers, leading to widespread non-compliance and calls for stronger enforcement and visible fines. • On-Leash vs Off-Leash Zoning and Access Distribution - Debate over the allocation of beach space between dogs and people, with calls to reduce off-leash areas (DOLAs), expand on-leash or dog-free zones, and ensure fair access for non-dog owners. • Dog Owner Responsibility and Education - Advocacy for improved owner education, accountability, and training to ensure owners keep dogs under control, clean up after them, and respect public and environmental spaces. • Infrastructure Needs: Fencing, Facilities, and Signage - Requests for physical infrastructure improvements such as fenced off-leash areas, protective dune fencing, water taps and showers for dogs, and clear signage to manage dog access and protect sensitive zones. • Community Division and Dog Owner Dominance - Tension between dog owners and non-dog owners, with non-dog owners feeling marginalised, believing dog owners have disproportionate influence and show little empathy or respect. • Health and Food Safety Concerns - Concerns about dogs being allowed in proximity to food preparation and service areas, raising hygiene and disease transmission risks in restaurants, cafes, and dog parks. • Supportive Feedback for draft Plan - Expressions of appreciation and endorsement of the Council's draft dog management plan, commending the environmental considerations and proposed public safety measures. • Expansion and Preservation of Off-Leash Areas - Frequent appeals to protect current off-leash beaches and parks, oppose restrictions, and create additional or extended off-leash areas and times to accommodate dog owners. • Site-Specific Off-Leash Area Proposals - Consolidates feedback centred on specific locations (e.g., Stumers Creek, Ballinger Beach, Point Cartwright) where participants request to maintain, restore, or adjust off-leash access. • Critique of Council's Consultation, Transparency, and Decision-Making - Expresses distrust in the Council's processes, criticising short consultation periods, perceived bias, predetermined outcomes, and lack of transparency in planning. • Debate Over Environmental Impact Justifications - Challenges the environmental rationale used to justify dog area restrictions, calling for solid evidence, pointing out minimal dog impact, and highlighting other sources of pollution. • Calls for Improved Enforcement and Recognition of Responsible Ownership - Highlights concerns over insufficient enforcement and signage, stressing that responsible dog owners should not be penalised for the actions of a few irresponsible owners. • Social and Mental Health Benefits of Dog-Friendly Public Spaces - Underlines the social and mental health benefits of dog-friendly public spaces, emphasising community interaction, stress relief, and importance for vulnerable groups like the elderly and disabled. • Accessibility and Safety Concerns Related to Proposed Changes - Raises issues around increased distance, dangerous creek crossings, parking limitations, and emergency access caused by relocating or restricting off-leash areas. • Desire for Enhanced Dog-Related Facilities and Amenities - Requests for enhanced amenities such as dog cafes, picnic seats, BBQ facilities, drinking taps, and shaded areas to improve dog exercise locations and visitor comfort. • Criticism of Council Resource Allocation and Priorities - Feedback that the Council is misallocating resources on consultants, planning tools, and fences rather than addressing more pressing issues or delivering effective compliance.

4.0 Submissions & Emails

4.1 Participation

The report has analysed 216 emails that were received from community members. Figure 25 provides a breakdown of the feedback sentiments. As can be seen, a large proportion of emails (82% or 177) were received from community members expressing concerns. A summary of the key findings is noted below.

Figure 25. Email Feedback Sentiments



4.2 Key Findings

Common themes from the email feedback are shown in the table below with corresponding sentiments for each. The top three common themes mentioned included opposition to off-leash reductions and beach access restrictions (22%), concerns about consultation and transparency (13%) and the need to maintain or expand off-leash areas (11%).

Table 8. Summary of email feedback sentiments by theme and sentiments

Theme	Total Mentions	Mixed	Expressed Concerns	Neutral	Positive
Accessibility & inclusion	4%	0%	93%	7%	0%
Balanced or compromise approach	5%	0%	94%	3%	3%
Community & economic well-being	7%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Concerns about consultation & transparency	13%	0%	89%	11%	0%
Council decision-making & survey bias	6%	3%	97%	0%	0%
Dog ownership & positive off-leash experiences	6%	0%	85%	0%	15%
Environmental impact concerns	9%	2%	90%	8%	0%
Need to maintain or expand off-leash areas	11%	1%	85%	9%	5%
Opposition to off-leash reductions & beach access restrictions	22%	1%	93%	1%	4%
Parking & emergency access	4%	0%	93%	3%	3%
Signage & communication gaps	4%	0%	64%	29%	4%
Stumers creek safety & access	8%	0%	98%	0%	2%

A detailed summary of each theme in the emails is included in Table 9. Feedback included concerns over changes to beach access and the impact this would have on health and wellbeing of humans and dogs. Concerns also raised in relation to impacts of dogs on the environment and wildlife. Additional concern regarding the evidence base of data and research on environmental impacts. Unclear signage and safety for dogs in fenced areas was also raised as concerns.

Other feedback received including support for prioritising environmental concerns. Other sentiments captured included many dog owners actively participating in community clean-up efforts and contributing to environmental stewardship by removing rubbish and protecting wildlife.

Table 9. Summary of email feedback key points by theme

Theme	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Accessibility & Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on elderly, the necessity of flat, easy-access areas, and the discrimination that could result from the proposed changes. Safety concerns are raised about crossing the creek (Stumers), and there is a request for additional accessible parking.

Theme	Key Feedback/Sentiments
Balanced or Compromise Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need for a balanced approach that considers the interests of different beachgoers, the practicality of access restrictions, and the importance of environmental protection. Confusion over terms used in the draft Plan, and the perception that proposals may be biased against dog owners. Emphasis on maintaining community access while ensuring environmental safety and accommodating the growing dog ownership population. Requests for keeping certain areas open for off-leash activities or for implementing time-based restrictions that would permit off-leash access during less busy hours.
Community & Economic Well-Being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern over the potential changes from off-leash to on-leash access to Stumers Creek, emphasising the importance of this area for mental health, community well-being, and social interaction. Concerns related to economic and tourism aspects in Coolum Beach, with a particular focus on the implications of local-law changes affecting local businesses and the community.
Concerns about Consultation & Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissatisfaction with the lack of genuine inclusion of dog owners in the planning stages, leading to a misunderstanding of the community's needs and potential disregard for their concerns. The consultation documents are described as lengthy and difficult to read, with summaries that lack detail, contributing to a lack of accessibility and inclusiveness. Sentiment that Council has made decisions without proper consultation, particularly regarding signage and the potential closure of dog areas, which is seen as rendering the process ineffective. Concerns over the lack of transparency, inclusivity, and accessibility in the consultation process. Sentiment that Council has not provided sufficient opportunities for informed participation, with requests for more after-hours sessions, longer consultation periods, and the inclusion of diverse feedback mechanisms.
Council Decision-Making & Survey Bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissatisfaction with Council's decision-making process regarding the management of open spaces, specifically the reduction of off-leash dog areas. Opposition to the changes, scepticism about Council's consideration of dog owners' concerns. Dissatisfaction with the survey construction and results Concerns and suggestions regarding the budgeting and financial disclosure of the project.
Dog Ownership & Off- Leash Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of frustration over the lack of representation and input from dog owners in the decision-making process. Suggestion that dog owners actively participating in community clean-up efforts and contributing to environmental stewardship by removing rubbish and protecting wildlife. Concerns about dog waste management, with some owners not picking up after their pets or leaving bagged waste on the beach. Issues with dog control, such as dogs knocking down people, intimidating beach visitors, and causing safety concerns, especially at Wurtulla Beach and around the Currimundi lake mouth.

Theme	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions for a balanced approach to maintain off-leash dog areas while addressing these concerns, and for education to address issues with dog poo rather than imposing restrictions. Feedback highlights the various benefits that beach access provide, including physical and mental stimulation for both dogs and owners, health benefits, opportunities for social interaction, and bonding.
Environmental Impact Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns on environmental impact of dogs in natural areas, beaches and rocky foreshores. It was the view of some that responsible dog ownership can minimise environmental impact, and that dogs may not be as harmful to the environment as portrayed. Questioning the evidence used to justify restrictions on dog access due to environmental concerns.
Need to Maintain or Expand Off-Leash Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community's opposition to proposed changes to dog off-leash areas, particularly at Stumers Creek and other beaches. Sentiment against more restrictive rules, fines, and the creation of fenced dog parks, which are seen as inferior to beaches. Concerns and demands regarding off-leash dog areas, particularly on beaches. Dissatisfaction with Council's previous decision to remove off-leash access at La Balsa/Point Cartwright Sentiment against the proposed changes to off-leash beach access at Stumers Creek and other areas More information on accessible off-leash areas for people with mobility challenges. Community's desire to maintain and potentially expand the existing off-leash areas for dogs. Some support for changing certain areas to on-leash due to safety concerns, such as personal experiences of being bitten by dogs. Inadequacy of Council's draft blueprint plan in providing a variety of spaces suitable for dogs of different sizes and the need for water activities. Eumundi district and Peregrine Springs are mentioned as lacking planned dog exercise areas, and there is a call for immediate action rather than adhering to a proposed five-year plan.
Opposition to Off-Leash Reductions & Beach Access Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentiment that these areas are essential for both local and visiting community members, and that the proposed changes could negatively affect the quality of life for dogs and their owners, especially those with mobility issues. Feedback suggests a collective opposition to the proposed changes and a desire for more, not fewer, dog-friendly areas to accommodate the growing population and number of dog owners. There is a fear of a hidden agenda behind the changes, and a belief that the proposed reductions are not in the best interest of the local community. Concerns about the impact on safety, accessibility, and the potential for increased conflict and overcrowding in the remaining areas. Concern that the draft Shorebird Conservation Plan proposes to restrict access to public beaches and to close or restrict off-leash dog beaches. Concerns about the

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Theme	Key Feedback/Sentiments
	<p>potential impact on tourism, as visitors with dogs may reconsider their holiday plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for clear information on current and proposed beach access rules, and a suggestion for a seasonal approach to dog access on beaches. Fear of increased isolation for vulnerable populations if access to these areas is restricted. Concern over the effectiveness and necessity of on-leash regulations, with many respondents citing personal experiences of dog attacks even with leashed dogs or questioning the need for such rules during quiet times. Fear that enforcing leash rules could lead to more dog fights and behavioural issues, which could be used to justify further restrictions on dog owners.
Parking & Emergency Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of accessibility parking- request for additional disabled parking. Risk of overcrowding due to parking constraints. Sentiment that the current Plan fails to adequately address parking and emergency access issues.
Signage & Communication Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage and information clarity at various access points, particularly at Coolum access point and Currimundi lake access for dogs. Proposal for Council to erect warning signs about possible bird presence instead of prohibiting dog access to areas. Request for improved signage that delineates on and off-leash sections and informs non-dog owners about dog etiquette and behaviour.
Stumers Creek Safety & Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the safety and accessibility of the area, especially for elderly, disabled residents, and families with young children. Concerns about the practicality of the Plan, including the risks associated with crossing the creek, the lack of parking and emergency access, and the potential for overcrowding and safety issues. Community's deep connection to Stumers Creek, which is seen as an important social space that fosters well-being, social interactions, and serves as a hub for various community members, including dog owners, the elderly, and those recovering from trauma.

5.0 Key Observations / Opportunities

Key information raised by the community is summarised in the Tables 10-19 below with corresponding opportunities for the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint. Key themes include the following:

- Environmental Impact
- Beaches and Foreshore Access
- Sports Fields
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Community and Well-Being
- Signage and Communication
- Dog Parks Amenities and Features
- Parking and Infrastructure
- Regulations and Enforcement
- Responsible Dog Ownership

ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

Table 10. Environmental Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
General Environmental Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns on environmental impact of dogs in various natural areas, beaches and foreshores.• Concerns about dogs chasing wildlife, causing disturbances, and the lack of control by their owners.	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108; Strategic Action 5, PG 109 – 112)
Data and Evidence Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perceived lack of evidence regarding the impact on shorebirds with data referenced in the Plan• Questioning the evidence used to justify restrictions on dog access due to environmental concerns.• Call for current evidence-based studies and impact assessments to substantiate the claims made in the report.	Addressed in draft: (Desired standards of service, PG 43, Strategic Action 4, PG 107 – 108), and existing reference to Existing Federal and State legislation). Consider including annual shorebird survey reports in references of Plan.
Protect Shorebird Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effectiveness of prohibiting dogs from areas identified as shorebird habitat.	Addressed in draft:

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Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
		Assessed through Multi-Criteria Risk Assessments and Pairwise analysis. (Desired standards of service, PG 43, Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108; Strategic Action 5, PG 109 – 112) Shorebird Conservation Plan provides direction on shorebird conservation outcomes. Consider including annual shorebird survey reports in references of Plan.
Protection of Highly Sensitive Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions for compromise, such as on-leash or time-restricted access, are common, reflecting a desire for balanced solutions. Dogs should be on-lead in environmental reserves with some supporting complete bans, whilst others suggest that on-leash is sufficient. Prohibited areas for dogs may assist with managing biosecurity management such as Phytophthora disease (Bunya dieback). 	Addressed in draft: Assessed through Multi-Criteria Risk Assessments and Pairwise analysis. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108; Strategic Action 5, PG 109 – 112)

BEACHES AND FORESHORE ACCESS

Table 11. Beaches and Foreshore Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Maintenance and Expansion of Off-leash Areas (Beaches)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community desire to maintain and potentially expand off-leash beach areas for dogs. Some have expressed a preference for beach access over fenced parks. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings in the Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments to provide dog off-leash access to beach locations where deemed suitable through MCRA. Review at 5-year intervals. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
Overcrowding due to proposed reductions to beach access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about overcrowding at dog-friendly beaches if access is reduced elsewhere. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
		community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments to provide dog off-leash access to beach locations where deemed suitable through MCRA. Review at 5-year intervals. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
High Value of Beach for Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community sentiment valuing the presence of dog-friendly beaches as part of a lifestyle that includes enjoying outdoor spaces with pets. Desire for more natural off-leash areas, such as dams, rivers, and beaches, indicating a preference for environments that allow dogs to engage in more instinctual behaviours. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments to provide dog off-leash access to beach locations where deemed suitable through MCRA. Review at 5-year intervals. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
Reducing Beach Access due to Environmental and Safety Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricting dog access from some beaches due to environmental concerns and the need for conservation. Consideration for the safety of beachgoers, particularly children e.g. fear of being chased by dogs. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments to provide dog off-leash access to beach locations where deemed suitable through MCRA. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
Stumers Creek/Coolum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentiment against the proposed changes to existing off-leash beach areas like Stumers Creek. Opposition to reducing off-leash beach areas, with emphasis on the community and mental health benefits of the current setup. Recognition of Stumers Creek's role in local tourism and its economic benefits to the community. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments to provide dog off-leash access to beach locations where deemed suitable through MCRA.

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Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Rocky Foreshores and Headlands (Moffat Headland, Caloundra Headland, Point Perry, Point Arkwright, Alexandra Headland and Point Cartwright)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the prohibition of dogs in these areas, with some arguing that dogs do not harm the environment, wildlife, or rocky platforms. Opposition to reducing off-leash and on-leash dog areas, particularly at Moffat Headland. Mixed opinions on environmental concerns, with some advocating for stricter restrictions and others questioning the impact of dogs compared to human activities. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments, where deemed suitable through MCRA. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
Golden Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for more off-leash dog areas, particularly for swimming and in less crowded or less environmentally sensitive areas. 	Considered in draft Plan, however State Marine Park regulations apply. (Section 11 PG 40 – 49)
Mudjimba South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some concerns about dune erosion, wildlife harm, and limited space during high tide. Feedback expressing support for the additional off-leash area as a compromise for the seasonal restriction at a section of North Shore. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments, where deemed suitable through MCRA. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
Currimundi to Ballinger Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to reducing off-leash areas. Concerns about overcrowding and increased pressure on Ballinger Beach due to the closure of other off-leash areas like Point Cartwright. Opposition to restricting dog access, particularly at access points 261 and 262, due to the impact on elderly and disabled individuals who rely on the disability ramp. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments, where deemed suitable through MCRA. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)
North Shore/Mudjimba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to proposed restrictions on dog access, citing lack of evidence for environmental impact, particularly on shorebirds. Mixed opinions on environmental concerns, with some supporting seasonal closures for shorebird protection and others questioning the validity of such measures. Recognition of North Shore as a safer and more accessible area compared to open beaches, particularly for vulnerable groups. Opposition to reducing off-leash areas. Environmental concerns, such as the impact on nesting shorebirds and turtles. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments, where deemed suitable through MCRA. (Strategic Action 4, PG 107-108)

SPORTS FIELDS

Table 12. Sports Fields Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Shared Use/ Off-limits to Dogs due to Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View that sports grounds are an underutilised space with perception that sports fields are empty during the day, consideration for shared use with dogs outside of sports time/peak sports season. Mixed views regarding whether dogs should be allowed on sports grounds on-lead or off lead. View that sports grounds should be off limits to dogs for health and safety reasons including irresponsible dog owners. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 3, PG 107)</p> <p>Currently proposed for dogs to be permitted on-leash in common or surround areas only and prohibited from the active playing surface.</p>

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

Table 13. Accessibility and Inclusion Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Need for Accessible Beach Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that beaches and dog-friendly areas are accessible to individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and those with mobility challenges e.g. availability of ramps and flat entries. 	<p>Consider reference in draft Plan to expand information on disability access to beaches, Section 11, PG 41</p>
Dog parks within Walking Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need for these areas to be accessible by walking, especially for those without personal transport. The need to elaborate on the opportunity the community has to walk their dog on-leash using the network of approximately 1,600km of pedestrian footpaths. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p> <p>Consider update to Plan to expand on description of on-leash pathways (Section 9 PG 32).</p>
Elderly and Disabled Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current draft Plan could further consider the needs of elderly, disabled, and dog owners, especially with the proposed removal of off-leash areas and accessible ramps. 	<p>Consider including reference in draft Plan to expand information on disability access to beaches, Section 11, PG 41.</p>
Accessibility for Elderly Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on elderly dogs, the necessity of flat, easy-access areas. 	<p>Consider reference in draft Plan to expand information on disability access to beaches, Section 11, PG 41.</p>

COMMUNITY AND WELL-BEING

Table 14. Community and Well-being Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Mental Health and Community Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern over the potential loss of access to Stumers Creek, emphasising the importance of this area for mental health, community well-being, and social interaction. 	Consider update to Pairwise weightings and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment based on community feedback on values and site-specific information. Opportunity to consider amendments, where deemed suitable through MCRA.
Economic/Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic and tourism aspects in Coolum/Stumers Beach. Negative consequences of proposed reductions to dog access at Stumers Beach, which is seen as a key attraction and differentiator for the area. 	Consider including tourism and economic benefits as part of the draft Plan in Section 6 Dog off-leash areas.

SIGNAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Table 15. Signage and Communication Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Need for Improved Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the clarity and adequacy of current signage, which has led to confusion and difficulty in navigating to specific areas such as new exercise zones, off-leash dog parks, and beach entry points. 	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 7 PG 113-114)
Better communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better communication through signage, maps and online platforms to help dog owners navigate these spaces. 	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 7 PG 113-114)

DOG PARKS AMENITIES AND FEATURES

Table 16. Dog Parks Amenities and Features Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Inadequate Dog Park Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for more designated spaces where dogs can be off-leash, both fenced and unfenced, to accommodate the growing number of dog owners and the increasing dog population. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Lack of dog exercise areas in Eumundi & Coolum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of dog exercise areas in Eumundi, with many residents expressing frustration and disappointment. Growing population and increasing number of registered dogs are frequently cited as justifications for new facilities. 	<p>Consider opportunity for a DEA in the Eumundi and Coolum areas.</p>
Some Dog Parks Not Suitable for Bigger Breeds of Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentiment is that dog parks are not suitable for some breed of dogs that like to run and therefore preference to open space like beaches. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>Local DOLAs are ideally 3,000 – 4,000m² with provision for smaller DOLAs where no suitable space is identified (e.g. in coastal urban corridor). District DOLAs are proposed to be 10,000m² (Section 11 PG 40 - 49)</p>
Size of Local and District DOLAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that the proposed sizes for dog parks (District and Local DOLAs) are not large enough resulting in high concentration of dogs in a small, confined area leading to potential issues. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>Local DOLAs are ideally 3,000 – 4,000m² with provision for smaller DOLAs where no suitable space is identified (e.g. in coastal urban corridor) District DOLAs are proposed to be 10,000m² (Section 11 PG 40 - 49)</p>
Alternative Sites and Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration for more locations but with a lower standard for DOLAs. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Section 11 PG 48)</p>
Dog Parks Should Not Replace Beaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fenced dog parks are not an adequate alternative to natural, open spaces like beaches and bush trails. Perception that dog parks are being used as a replacement for beach and foreshore access. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Executive Summary PG 6-7, Section 2 PG 15, and Section 11 PG 40) provides for a diversity of DOLA's).</p>
Dog Waste Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the lack of adequate facilities for the disposal of dog waste, including 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p>

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Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
	insufficient numbers of waste bags, disposal bins, and dog wash stations.	(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)
Dog Park Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints about the maintenance of these facilities, with reports of bins not being regularly refilled or cleaned, leading to overflow and unpleasant. Problems with gate maintenance, with some gates not locking or staying closed properly. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Dog Park Safety and Overcrowding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern for safety of small dogs. Overcrowding in dog parks and exercise areas has been mentioned, leading to tension and potential dog fights. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>Local DOLAs are ideally 3,000 – 4,000m² with provision for smaller DOLAs where no suitable space is identified (e.g. in coastal urban corridor)</p> <p>District DOLAs are proposed to be 10,000m² (Section 11 PG 40 - 49)</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Insufficient Shade and Seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for sun protection, shelter from bad weather, and comfortable seating, particularly for individuals with mobility issues and older dog owners. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Drinking Fountains with Dog Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More water bowls that can be emptied and cleaned, as well as designated places to wash them. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Dog Wash Stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for improved and increased dog wash stations at beach locations. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Inadequate Park Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved lighting at park entrances, additional lighting throughout parks, well-lit paths for safety during non-peak hours, and specifically, the provision of adequate lighting in dog parks to allow for nighttime activities such as walks and play sessions. 	<p>Addressed in draft:</p> <p>(Strategic Action 1 PG 102-103; Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)</p>
Dog Parks Flood-Prone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility of dog parks during and after rainy days, with specific instances of flooding leading to unusable conditions. 	<p>The Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme sets the criteria for flood immunity of open space for future recreation areas.</p> <p>Addressed in draft Plan (Section 11, PG 43 for certain sites)</p>

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Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
		Strategic Action 2 PG 104 – 106)

PARKING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Table 17. Parking and Infrastructure Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Changes to draft Plan
Insufficient Parking Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient parking availability at Stumers Creek and other locations. 	Further consideration by Council. Out of scope of Plan.
Need for More Car Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frustration over the lack of adequate parking facilities, which becomes especially problematic during peak times such as weekends and holidays. 	Further consideration by Council. Out of scope of Plan.
Illegal Parking and Campers Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems caused by overnight camper vans and camping in car parks designated for other uses, such as access to dog off-leash areas. Need to increase monitoring, enforcing rules, and potentially increasing staff to manage the situation. 	Further consideration by Council. Out of scope of Plan.

REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Table 18. Regulation and Enforcement Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Stricter Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about the lack of enforcement and the need for stricter measures to ensure dog owners comply with the rules. 	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 7 PG 113-114)
Increasing Patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Council visits, monitoring by Council employees, and increased patrols, especially during peak times. Need for more ranger presence during holidays and peak times when rule-breaking is more prevalent. 	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 7 PG 113-114)
Fairness and Over Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns have been raised about the fairness of the rules and the perceived over-policing by Council rangers. 	Further consideration by Council. Out of scope of Plan.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Table 19. Responsible Dog Ownership Opportunities

Issue/Concern	Details	Opportunities
Promote Dog Owner Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Need for better education and training for dog owners to ensure responsible pet ownership.Investment in pet ownership training programs, to support better understanding of responsibilities in public spaces.	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 7 PG 113-114)
Irresponsible Dog Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Concerns about dog owners not adhering to leash laws, failing to pick up after their pets, and allowing their dogs to roam freely in on-leash areas.	Addressed in draft: (Strategic Action 7 PG 113-114)

6.0 Appendix A – Survey

Draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint Survey

Council is seeking your feedback on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint. You can provide feedback by completing this survey. The survey will take around 15 minutes to complete. A copy of your submission will be provided upon completion of the survey. Your contribution is appreciated and your privacy protected.

Feedback on the draft Plan

Before providing feedback, please review the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

01. What is your interest in Dog Exercise Areas? **Required**

Please select all that apply.

Select all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog owner
<input type="checkbox"/> Former dog owner
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-dog owner
<input type="checkbox"/> User of parks and beaches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dog business (groomer, walker, trainer, veterinarian)
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of sporting club
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/carer of young children
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmentalist, conservationist
<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="text"/>

02. Do you currently own a dog?

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> Yes

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<input type="radio"/> No

03. Have you visited a dog exercise area on the Sunshine Coast?

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No

04. If you don't visit dog exercise areas, what is the primary reason?

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> I do not think dog exercise areas are safe
<input type="radio"/> My dog has challenges socialising
<input type="radio"/> They do not have suitable facilities
<input type="radio"/> They are not accessible or inclusive
<input type="radio"/> Other
<input type="text"/>

05. Please provide your thoughts on how accessibility and inclusivity could be improved.

Please include details about any dog exercise areas where you have experienced access issues.

--

06. Do you find existing dog exercise areas across the region to be easily accessible and inclusive?

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No

07. Please provide your thoughts on how accessibility and inclusivity could be improved.

08. When visiting a dog exercise area, what type of experience and supporting infrastructure are you seeking?

Please select your top 5 priorities. If you are using a PC/laptop, please drag your selection to the numbered boxes on the right of screen.

Select 5 answers	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe interaction for dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe interaction for humans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shade
<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational and way-finding signage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seating
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog bag dispenser
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drinking water
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fenced
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unfenced
<input type="checkbox"/>	Separated small dog large dog areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Toilets / amenities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog wash down facility
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pathways
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turf area for dog play

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Quiet area for sniff zones
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog agility equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog water play

09. To what extent do you agree with the vision and objectives of the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan?

IMPORTANT: Council requires sufficient information to fully understand how the draft Dog Exercise Area Plan can best align with our region's environmental, cultural and community values. You will be required to provide further details about your response.

The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan clearly demonstrates how Council will locate Dog Exercise Areas in suitable locations	
<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	Agree
<input type="radio"/>	Neutral
<input type="radio"/>	Disagree
<input type="radio"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/>	Unsure/undecided
The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan maintains the safety and comfort of the community	
<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	Agree
<input type="radio"/>	Neutral
<input type="radio"/>	Disagree
<input type="radio"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/>	Unsure/undecided
The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan provides sufficient access to Dog Exercise Areas close to where dog owners live	
<input type="radio"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/>	Agree
<input type="radio"/>	Neutral
<input type="radio"/>	Disagree
<input type="radio"/>	Strongly disagree

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<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided
The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan promotes fair access to recreation opportunities across the region
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/> Agree
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Disagree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided
The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan protects environmental values
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/> Agree
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Disagree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided
The draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan enables appropriate budgeting and prioritisation
<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree
<input type="radio"/> Agree
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Disagree
<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided

10. Please provide further comments or details about your response.

Please include all relevant comments and information about your level of agreement with the vision and values in the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan

11. The following values will inform how Council assesses the suitability of Dog Exercise Areas in parks and gardens.

Please rate the importance of these values.

Recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Recreation opportunities for non-dog owners
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Scenic amenity
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Safety for dogs
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Safety for community members
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral

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<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Access and social inclusion
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Environmental protection (habitat and wildlife (flora and fauna), including threatened species)
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Cultural heritage
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Ability to safely and effectively manage compliance
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral

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<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important

12. The following values will inform how Council assesses the suitability of Dog Exercise Areas on beaches and foreshores.

Please rate the importance of these values.

Recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Recreation opportunities for non-dog owners
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Scenic amenity
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Safety for dogs
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Safety for community members

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<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Access and social inclusion
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Environmental protection (habitat and wildlife (flora and fauna), including threatened species)
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Cultural heritage
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Ability to safely and effectively manage compliance

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<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important

13. The following values will inform how Council assesses the suitability of Dog Exercise Areas in environment reserves.

Please rate the importance of these values.

Recreation opportunities for dog owners and their pets
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Recreation opportunities for non-dog owners
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Scenic amenity
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Safety for dogs
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral

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<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Safety for community members
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Access and social inclusion
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Amenity of local residents (e.g. nuisance noise)
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Environmental protection (habitat and wildlife (flora and fauna), including threatened species)
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Cultural heritage
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral

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<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important
Ability to safely and effectively manage compliance
<input type="radio"/> Very important
<input type="radio"/> Important
<input type="radio"/> Neutral
<input type="radio"/> Low importance
<input type="radio"/> Not important

Before responding to the following question, please refer to the [executive summary](#) of the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint for details on the key recommendations.

14. To what extent do you support the proposed changes in the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan?

IMPORTANT: Council requires sufficient information to fully understand how the draft Dog Exercise Area Plan can best align with our region's environmental, cultural and community values. You will be required to provide further details about your response.

19 new dog off-leash areas
<input type="radio"/> Support
<input type="radio"/> Support with changes
<input type="radio"/> Do not support
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided
Amendments to beaches and foreshores
<input type="radio"/> Support
<input type="radio"/> Support with changes
<input type="radio"/> Do not support
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided
Amendments to environment reserves
<input type="radio"/> Support
<input type="radio"/> Support with changes
<input type="radio"/> Do not support
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided
Amendments to sports grounds

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<input type="radio"/> Support
<input type="radio"/> Support with changes
<input type="radio"/> Do not support
<input type="radio"/> Unsure/undecided

15. Please provide further comments or details about your response.

Please include all relevant comments and information about your level of support for the proposed changes in the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan.

--

16. Do you have any further comments or ideas to share on the draft Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint you would like to share?

--

17. If you have any other information, documents or images you would like to share relevant to your comments, please upload them here.

Attach and submit documents with this form

Tell us a little bit about you

18. Are you a resident of the Sunshine Coast?

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> Yes
<input type="radio"/> No

19. Suburb **Required**

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint

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20. Postcode **Required**

Maximum of 4 characters

21. What is your gender? **Required**

Select one answer only	
<input type="radio"/> Woman	
<input type="radio"/> Man	
<input type="radio"/> Non-binary	
<input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say	
<input type="radio"/> Prefer to self-describe gender	
<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr></table>	

22. Which age group are you in? **Required**

Select one answer only
<input type="radio"/> Under 18 years
<input type="radio"/> 18-24 years
<input type="radio"/> 25-34 years
<input type="radio"/> 35-49 years
<input type="radio"/> 50-59 years
<input type="radio"/> 60-69 years
<input type="radio"/> 70-84 years
<input type="radio"/> 85+ years
<input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say

23. Do you identify as a person with disability? **Required**

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24. To receive a copy of your submission and future updates on this project, please provide your email address.

Please note: The risk assessment documents contain complex tables, technical terminology, and detailed assessment data that may be difficult to navigate and interpret, particularly for users relying on screen readers or other assistive technologies. We acknowledge that this format may present accessibility challenges. If you require assistance accessing or understanding the content, please contact us for support.

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045	DEA site assessment criteria	SPORTS FIELDS
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Assessment and Governance

The purpose of the analysis is to evaluate the suitability of Sports Fields for use for dog exercise by assessing the impact of dog access (individually on-leash and off-leash) against the open space values.

Each type of open space is weighted against the purpose and function of the site / location. Thus supporting appropriate consideration for primary values.

The assessment is undertaken and acknowledges the benefits of dog ownership to the community including companionship, wellbeing, social interaction and physical exercise.

A **Pairwise Assessment** (nationally recognised assessment) method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation. Following the Pairwise assessment, a **Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA)** is undertaken to assess the risks associated with dog access (on and off leash) against the values identified for a specific location or type of open space. The MCRA applies the percentage weightings for each value identified through the pairwise assessment, and the assessment considers the specific site context and associated values, management intent, legislative and policy context, council staff knowledge regarding management of the site and feedback from the community during the consultation on the Plan, in relation to each site being assessed.

A Risk Assessment Panel of Sunshine Coast Council Officers has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities by undertaking a Pairwise Assessment and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the assessment. The Branch Manager for a specific team can delegate the responsibility to other team members where specific expertise is required

The Integrated Open Space Team (IOST) working group may be considered as a request for feedback on significant locations or future dog off leash locations. Design and Placemaking are responsible for design and delivery of new Dog Exercise Areas (DEAs). As such consultation with relevant teams occurs during the design process.

There is a number of federal and state pieces of legislation that may apply to the values found on the site, these include:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)
- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 2013 (Section 19 Freedom of Movement) (Section 28 Cultural Rights)
- Land Act 1994
- Local Government Act 2009

When assessments are undertaken, priority consideration to Federal, State and Local legislative and policy frameworks. These are generally applicable to environment, cultural, access and inclusion, public safety and workplace health and safety legislation.

- Risk Assessment Panel Membership**
- Manager Parks and Gardens
 - Coordinator Business and Technical
 - Manager Environmental Operations
 - Coordinator Coastal Lakes and Wetlands
 - Manager Regulatory Response Services
 - Coordinator Response Services
 - Senior Open Space & Recreation Planner
 - Governance Liaison Officer
 - Community Planning and Engagement Officer
 - Sport Development Officer

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045			DEA site assessment criteria				SPORTS FIELDS			
Criteria Definitions										
Pairwise Assessment Weighting	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
	4	2	16	9	20	13	7	18	11	
Total Grouped Weightings	Environment 4% Cultural Heritage 2%		Social 64%				Management 29%			
Criteria	Environmental Values	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Sports and Recreation Values	Scenic Amenity Values	Public Safety	Access and Inclusion	Impact on Residents	WHS	Ability to enforce	
	Native habitat values Is the site known to include habitat, nesting or foraging areas for native flora, fauna e.g. - nesting or foraging birds - macropods using the site for foraging or connecting habitat - other native species using the sports field or adjacent area for habitat	Does the site include known cultural heritage sites? Do Kabi Kabi / Jinibara people support the proposed land use? Where cultural values are not able to be effectively managed, alternative sites are investigated?	Is the site used for other recreation types? How does the provision for access for dogs impact sport and recreational uses for the site? - Sporting codes - Competition and training practice - Kick and throw - Play space - Passive / tranquil activities Is the land designated for sport and recreation purposes?	Does the DEA adversely impact or cause: - views / visual clutter - tranquillity - noise and ambience - opportunities for observing nature - damage and disruption - animal waste accumulation	Does provision of dog access to the site impact public safety caused by - fear - intimidation or discomfort - risk of bites or dog attack - mobility barriers (physical, visual, sensory, psychological) - overall sense of safety - path user conflict / disrupt flow of traffic - animal waste accumulation	Does provision of dog access to the site impact inclusion caused by - Current level of use by the community for sporting, recreational and social activities - Equitable and inclusive access to the site - Accessibility of site for the community to participate in sporting and social gatherings and passive and active recreation activities	Does the provision of dog access adversely impact local residents? - noise - car parking availability - traffic and congestion - lighting - odours	Does the proposed DEA expose council employees to increased risks? - accessibility - visual surveillance - exposure to hazardous conditions including sport and recreation volunteers and contractors - isolated or remote areas	How easy or difficult is it to enforce the Local Law? - clarity of boundaries (signage identifying restricted or controlled areas) - simplicity of enforcement area (signage) - multiple functions i.e. Playgrounds, BBQ, shelters (dogs prohibited) - clear sightlines / visibility - physical boundaries - potential for non-compliance and subsequent confrontation - isolated or remote areas	
Dog Access Impact	Score									
Very High Impact	-2	Very high impact on Environmental values	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Very high impact on sports and recreation values	Very high impact on scenic amenity	Very high impact on public safety	Very high impact on access and inclusion	Very high impact on local residents	Catastrophic consequences to workers	Very difficult to enforce
High Impact	-1	High impact on Environmental values	High impact on Cultural Heritage	High impact on sports and recreation values	High impact on scenic amenity	High impact on public safety	High impact on access and inclusion	High impact on local residents	Major consequences to workers	Difficult to enforce
Moderate	0	Moderate impact on Environmental values	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Moderate impact on sports and recreation values	Moderate impact on scenic amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate impact on local residents	Moderate consequences to workers	Moderately difficult to enforce
Low Impact	1	Low impact on Environmental values	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact on sports and recreation values	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact on public safety	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low impact on local residents	Minor consequences to workers	Easy to enforce
No Impact	2	No impact on Environmental values	No impact on Cultural Heritage	No impact on sports and recreation values	No impact on scenic amenity	No impact on public safety	No impact on access and inclusion	No impact on local residents	Insignificant consequences to workers	Very easy to enforce

Sunshine Coast Council
 Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan
 and Network Blueprint 2025–2045

DEA site assessment criteria

SPORTS FIELDS

Pairwise Comparison

The Pairwise comparison framework considers the importance of a value compared to another value with consideration of the impact of dog access. Where one value is ranked higher than the other, the higher value 'letter' is entered as the outcome. For example Environment 'A' is ranked higher than Cultural 'B', as Sports Fields are not typically places of cultural significance. The designated land use and function and purpose of open space has been considered in the ranking of values - in this scenario - Sport and Recreation, with consideration for any relevant legislation policy, management intent and purpose. Feedback from Community Consultation on ranking of priority values has been considered in the below weightings.

		Environment	Cultural	Sports and Recreation	Scenic Amenity	Public Safety	Access Inclusion	Resident Impact	WHS	Ease to Enforce			
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Occurrence + 1	Weight (%)	Group Weights (%)
Environment	A		A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	2	4	4
Cultural	B			C	D	E	F	G	H	I	1	2	2
Sports and Recreation	C				C	E	C	C	H	C	7	16	65
Scenic Amenity	D					E	F	D	H	I	4	9	
Public Safety	E						E	E	E	E	9	20	
Access Inclusion	F							F	H	F	6	13	
Resident Impact	G								H	I	3	7	
WHS	H									H	8	18	29
Ease to Enforce	I										5	11	
		Total									45	100	100

Definitions: WHS Workplace Health and Safety
 Occurrence + 1 Each value automatically counts as 1, and increases if occurs more often

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045			DEA site assessment criteria		SPORTS FIELDS																							
Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA)																												
Item	Site Location	DEA Management	Environment 4%			Cultural Heritage Assessment 2%			Social 65%								Management 29%					Total Impact				Human Rights		
			Environment Values	Score	Moderated Environment Score	Cultural Heritage Assessment	Score	Moderated Cultural Heritage Score	Sport and Recreation Values	Score	Scenic Values	Score	Public Safety	Score	Access Inclusion	Score	Impact on Residents	Score	Moderated Social Score	WHS	Score	Ease to Enforce	Score	Moderated Management Score	Total Moderated Score	Comment	Group Assessment Recommendation	Assessment Required Yes/No
1.0 Sports Fields																												
1.1	All Sport Fields	On leash	Low impact on habitat values	1	0.04	No impact on Cultural Heritage	2	0.04	high risk impact on recreation values	-1	Moderate impact on scenic amenity	0	High risk impact on access and safety	-1	High impact on access and inclusion	-1	Low risk impact on local residents	1	-0.42	Moderate consequences to workers	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	0	0	-0.34	<p>The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using Pairwise and MCRA methodologies, the evaluation identified that the following criteria returned results above moderate risk thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sport and Recreation, and Access and Inclusion Values due to conflict with dogs and sporting events and usage of the playing surface designed for singular use sporting activities.• Public Safety concerns with aggressively behaved dogs towards each other and community members in particular children and health issues relating to contact with accumulated animal waste. <p>This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing dogs on-leash in sports fields. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs on sports fields is supported by this risk profile.</p>	Dogs Prohibited	Yes
1.2	All Sport Fields	Off leash	Low impact on habitat values	1	0.04	No impact on Cultural Heritage	2	0.04	Very high risk impact on recreation values	-2	High risk impact on scenic amenity	-1	Very High risk impact on access and safety	-2	Very high impact on local residents	-2	Moderate risk impact on local residents	0	-1.07	Major consequences to workers	-1	Very difficult to enforce	-2	-0.4	-1.39	<p>The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using Pairwise and MCRA methodologies, the evaluation identified that the following criteria returned results above moderate risk thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sport and Recreation, and Access and Inclusion Values due to dogs accessing sports fields and conflicting with the singular use by means of presence of urine and faeces and general safety conflict concerns when dogs are present off-leash at sporting events is a consistent issue for clubs trying to manage their lease areas.• Scenic Values, due to animal waste accumulation and noise issues with barking.• Public Safety, where there is substantial evidence from 24 sporting clubs stating they experience ongoing issues with dog faeces left on playing surfaces. <p>Public safety concerns with aggressively behaved dogs towards each other and community members in particular children and health issues relating to contact with accumulated animal waste, e.g. the Sunshine Coast hosted an U16 Girls Hockey State Championships and there was so much faeces present on the playing surface that the tournament director requested poop bags be provided at each field and several volunteers poo scouting each day of the three-day tournament as the faeces was everywhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workplace Health and Safety, due to health and safety risks for club members, volunteers and grounds maintenance staff, and field maintenance impacts including equipment damages.• Ability to Enforce due to the difficulties in managing non-compliance and subsequent confrontation with dogs and owners. <p>This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing dogs off-leash in sports fields. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs on sports fields is supported by this risk profile.</p>	Dogs Prohibited	Yes

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045	DEA site assessment criteria	BEACHES AND FORESHORES
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Assessment and Governance

The purpose of the analysis is to evaluate the suitability of Beaches and Foreshores by assessing the impact of on-leash dog access on the values of the site area.

Each type of open space is weighted against the purpose and function of the site / location. Thus supporting appropriate consideration for primary values.

The assessment is undertaken and acknowledges the benefits of dog ownership to the community including companionship, wellbeing, social interaction and physical exercise.

A **Pairwise Assessment** (nationally recognised assessment) method whereby values are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation. Following the Pairwise assessment, a **Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA)** is undertaken to assess the risks associated with dog access (on and off leash) against the values identified for a specific location or type of open space. The MCRA applies the percentage weightings for each value identified through the pairwise assessment, and the assessment considers the specific site context and associated values, management intent, legislative and policy context, council staff knowledge regarding management of the site and feedback from the community during the consultation on the Plan, in relation to each site being assessed.

A Risk Assessment Panel of Sunshine Coast Council Officers has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities by undertaking a Pairwise Assessment and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the assessment. The Branch Manager for a specific team can delegate the responsibility to other team members where specific expertise is required.

The Integrated Open Space Team (IOST) working group may be considered as a request for feedback on significant locations or future dog off leash locations. Design and Placemaking are responsible for design and delivery of new Dog Exercise Areas (DEAs). As such consultation with relevant teams occurs during the design process.

- There is a number of federal and state pieces of legislation that may apply to the values found on the site, these include:
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
 - Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)
 - Nature Conservation Act 1992
 - Disability Discrimination Act 1992
 - Work Health and Safety Act 2011
 - Human Rights Act 2013 (Section 19 Freedom of Movement) (Section 28 Cultural Rights)
 - Land Act 1994
 - Local Government Act 2009

When assessments are undertaken, priority consideration to Federal, State and Local legislative and policy frameworks. These are generally applicable to environment, cultural, access and inclusion, public safety and workplace health and safety legislation. The assessment considers reference to Queensland Government published Guidelines for Local Government dog off leash areas in State Marine Parks.

- Risk Assessment Panel Membership**
- Manager Parks and Gardens
 - Coordinator Business and Technical
 - Manager Environmental Operations
 - Coordinator Coastal Lakes and Wetlands
 - Manager Regulatory Response Services
 - Coordinator Response Services
 - Senior Open Space & Recreation Planner
 - Governance Liaison Officer
 - Community Planning and Engagement Officer
 - Sport Development Officer

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045			DEA site assessment criteria			BEACHES AND FORESHORES									
Criteria Definitions															
Rocky Foreshores															
Pairwise Assessment Weighting	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	11	15	15	11	4	18	7	2	11	6					
Total Grouped Weightings	Environment 26%		Cultural Heritage 15%		Social 42%		Management 17%								
	Shorebird Habitat Values		EVNT Habitat Values		Aboriginal Cultural Heritage		Recreation Values		Scenic Amenity Values		Public Safety	Access and Inclusion	Impact on Residents	WHS	Ease to Enforce
Sandy Beaches and Foreshore															
Pairwise Assessment Weighting	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
	11	11	14	14	9	3	17	6	1	9	5				
Total Grouped Weightings	Environment 35%			Cultural Heritage 14%		Social 36%			Management 14%						
Criteria	Shorebird Habitat Values	Marine Turtle Habitat Values	EVNT Habitat Values	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Recreation Values	Scenic Amenity Values	Public Safety	Access and Inclusion	Impact on Residents	WHS	Ease to enforce				
	Is the site within a 300m buffer of mapped shorebird: - Roost sites - Feeding Areas - Nest sites - Nationally or internationally significant number of shorebirds - EPBC listed species	Is the site mapped as sea turtle nesting area? Are there recorded presence of EPBC listed turtle species? Does the site contain MSES habitat: - sea turtle nesting area?	Is the site known to include EVNT listed flora, fauna, habitat or ecological communities? Does the site contain Matters of State or National Environmental Significance or habitat? - vulnerable or endangered - special least concern animal	Does the site include known cultural heritage sites? Do Kabi Kabi people support the proposed land use? Consider: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Native Title Act	Is the site used for other recreation types? - Coastal Pathway - Kick and throw - Playspace - Picnic - Passive / tranquil activities - Water sports/activities - Organised sports, recreation activities or events - Surf lifesaving activities	Does provision of dog access adversely impact or cause: - views / visual clutter - tranquillity - noise and ambience - opportunities for observing nature - damage and disruption - animal waste accumulation	Does the provision of dog access impact public safety to the area caused by: - fear - intimidation or discomfort - risk of bites or dog attack or collisions - mobility barriers (physical, visual, sensory, psychological) - overall sense of safety - path user conflict / disrupt flow of traffic - animal waste accumulation - public health impacts	Does the provision of dog access impact: - Current level of use by the community for recreational activities - Accessibility of site for the community - Impacts on opportunities for social interaction	Does the provision of dog access adversely impacted adjacent residents? - noise - car parking availability - traffic and congestion - odours	Does the provision of dog access expose council employees to increased risks in managing the site? - accessibility - visual surveillance - exposure to hazardous coastal conditions - including volunteers and contractors - isolated or remote areas - unstable surfaces (rocky foreshores)	How easy or difficult is it to enforce the Local Law? - clarity of boundaries (signage identifying restricted or controlled areas) - simplicity of enforcement area - multiple functions ie BBQ shelters (dogs prohibited) - clear sightlines / visibility - physical boundaries - potential for non-compliance and subsequent confrontation - isolated or remote areas				
	Dog access areas should not be placed near high value shorebird habitat where it is likely to disturb shorebirds.	*This value is only assessed for sandy beaches and foreshore areas where turtle nesting habitat is present.	Does the site contain MSES regulated vegetation? - endangered or of concern - essential habitat		Are the existing recreation types compatible with Dog Exercise provision? Does dog access impact current and future recreation opportunities?										
	Dog Access Impact	Score													
Very High Impact	-2	Very high impact on shorebird habitat	Very high impact on turtle habitat	Very high impact on EVNT habitat values	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Very high impact on recreation values	Very high impact on scenic amenity	Very high impact on public safety	Very high impact on access and inclusion	Very high impact on local residents	Catastrophic consequences to workers	Very difficult to enforce			
High Impact	-1	High impact on shorebird habitat	High impact on turtle habitat	High impact on EVNT habitat values	High impact on Cultural Heritage	High impact on recreation values	High impact on scenic amenity	High impact on public safety	High impact on access and inclusion	High impact on local residents	Major consequences to workers	Difficult to enforce			
Moderate	0	Moderate impact on shorebird habitat	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Moderate impact on EVNT habitat values	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate impact on scenic amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate impact on local residents	Moderate consequences to workers	Moderately difficult to enforce			
Low Impact	1	Low impact on shorebird habitat	Low impact on turtle habitat	Low impact on EVNT habitat values	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact on recreation values	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact on public safety	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low impact on local residents	Minor consequences to workers	Easy to enforce			
No Impact	2	No impact on shorebird habitat	No impact on turtle habitat	No impact on EVNT habitat values	No impact on Cultural Heritage	No impact on recreation values	No impact on scenic amenity	No impact on public safety	No impact on access and inclusion	No impact on local residents	Insignificant consequences to workers	Very easy to enforce			
Definitions:	MSES EPBC EVNT WHS Occurrence + 1	Matters of State Environmental Significance Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened Workplace Health and Safety Each value automatically counts as 1, and increases if occurs more often													

Sunshine Coast Council	DEA site assessment criteria	BEACHES AND FORESHORES
Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045		

Pairwise Comparison

The Pairwise comparison framework considers the importance of a value compared to another value with consideration of the impact of dog access.

Where one value is ranked higher than the other, the higher value 'letter' is entered as the outcome.

For example Public Safety 'G' is ranked higher than Scenic Amenity 'F', with consideration for the relevant legislation, and other relevant policy and management considerations.

The designated land use and function and purpose of open space has been considered in the ranking of values - in this scenario - Beaches and Foreshores, with consideration for relevant legislation, policy, management intent and purpose.

Feedback from Community Consultation on ranking of priority values has been considered in the below weightings.

Sandy Beaches and Foreshore

		Shorebird Habitat	Turtle Habitat	EVNT Habitat	Cultural	Recreation	Scenic Amenity	Public Safety	Access Inclusion	Resident Impact	WHS	Ability to Enforce				
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Occurrence + 1	Weight (%)	Group Weights (%)	Groups
Shorebird Habitat	A		A	C	D	A	A	G	A	A	A	A	7	11	35	Environment
Turtle Habitat	B			C	D	B	B	G	B	B	B	B	7	11		
EVNT Habitat	C				D	C	C	G	C	C	C	C	9	14		
Cultural Heritage	D					E	D	G	D	D	D	D	9	14	14	Cultural
Recreation	E						E	G	E	E	J	E	6	9	36	Social
Scenic Amenity	F							G	H	F	J	K	2	3		
Public Safety	G								G	G	G	G	11	17		
Access and Inclusion	H									H	J	H	4	6		
Resident Impact	I										J	K	1	1		
WHS	J											J	6	9	14	Management
Ability to Enforce	K												3	5		
													Total	65	100	100

Rocky Foreshores

The below scoring is adjusted to not consider turtle habitat values, as turtles are not present on rocky foreshores.

		Shorebird Habitat	Turtle Habitat	EVNT Habitat	Cultural	Recreation	Scenic Amenity	Public Safety	Access Inclusion	Resident Impact	WHS	Ease to Enforce				
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	Occurrence + 1	Weight (%)	Group Weights (%)	Groups
Shorebird Habitat	A			C	D	A	A	G	A	A	A	A	6	11	26	Environment
Turtle Habitat	B															
EVNT Habitat	C				D	C	C	G	C	C	C	C	8	15	15	Cultural
Cultural Heritage	D					E	D	G	D	D	D	D	8	15		
Recreation	E						E	G	E	E	J	E	6	11	42	Social
Scenic Amenity	F							G	H	F	J	K	2	4		
Public Safety	G								G	G	G	G	10	18		
Access and Inclusion	H									H	J	H	4	7		
Resident Impact	I										J	K	1	2		
WHS	J											J	6	11	17	Management
Ease to Enforce	K												3	6		
													Total	54	100	100

Definitions:

EVNT
WHS
Occurrence + 1

Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened
Workplace Health and Safety
Each value automatically counts as 1, and increases if occurs more often

[illegible]

6.5	Stumens Creek - creek area in front of car park - lined off beach from - Barn, all days	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Extreme shoreland habitat - low frequency	0	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency Unlikely to nest in creek	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.25	Very High impact on Cultural Heritage	Kah Kahi Feedback identified significant cultural heritage values present at Stumens Creek (see impact for open beach)	-2	-0.28	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	High impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, high traffic area in front of car park - increases risk of conflict with off-beach activity	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.10	Major consequences to workers	WHS incidents recorded in this location, some isolated/remote areas	-1	Difficult to enforce	Multiple entry/exit points, sometimes challenging terrain within creek, off-beach presents increased compliance challenges. May present additional challenges for enforcement with limited staff.	0	-0.14	0.20	Risk not acceptable	Timed off beach for this area not recommended	No pending final recommended action
6.6	Open beach - southern side of Stumens Creek to BA 72	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.14	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Kah Kahi Feedback identified significant cultural heritage values present at Stumens Creek (see impact for open beach)	0	0.00	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	Moderate use/violation area, multiple recreational users, high traffic area in front of car park - increases risk of conflict with off-beach activity	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.00	Moderate consequences to workers	WHS incidents recorded in this location, some isolated areas	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	Multiple entry/exit points, off-beach presents increased compliance challenges.	0	0.00	0.10	Marginal acceptable - consider further controls to manage risk in this section (location, signage, training, increased compliance, community group engagement)	Off-beach acceptable (except) south of creek	No pending final recommended action
6.7	Stumens Creek - creek area and open beach south to BA 72 - lined off beach from - Barn, all days	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.14	Very High impact on Cultural Heritage	Kah Kahi Feedback identified significant cultural heritage values present at Stumens Creek (see impact for open beach)	-2	-0.28	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	High impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, high traffic area in front of car park - increases risk of conflict with off-beach activity	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.10	Major consequences to workers	WHS incidents recorded in this location, some isolated/remote areas	-1	Moderately difficult to enforce	Reasonable access available from carpark, known non-compliance in carpark - creek interface. Sometimes challenging terrain within creek, off-beach presents increased compliance challenges.	0	-0.09	0.20	Risk not acceptable	Timed off beach for this area not recommended	No pending final recommended action
6.8	BA 67 to 72 - lined off beach from - Barn, all days	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Moderate impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.00	Very High impact on Cultural Heritage	Kah Kahi Feedback identified significant cultural heritage values present at Stumens Creek (see impact for open beach)	-2	-0.28	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	High impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, high traffic area in front of car park - increases risk of conflict with off-beach activity	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.10	Major consequences to workers	WHS incidents recorded in this location, some isolated/remote areas	-1	Difficult to enforce	Reasonable access available from carpark, known non-compliance in carpark - creek interface. Sometimes challenging terrain within creek, off-beach presents increased compliance challenges.	0	-0.14	0.27	Risk not acceptable	Timed off beach for this area not recommended	No pending final recommended action
6.9	Creek area in front of carpark (not including open beach at creek entrance)	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency	0	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Moderate impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.11	Very High impact on Cultural Heritage	Kah Kahi Feedback identified significant cultural heritage values present at Stumens Creek (see impact for open beach)	-2	-0.28	High impact on recreation values	Increased potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	High impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	High impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, high traffic area in front of car park - increases risk of conflict with off-beach activity	High impact on access and inclusion	High use area, potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.34	Major consequences to workers	WHS incidents recorded in this location, some isolated/remote areas	-1	Moderately difficult to enforce	Reasonable access available from carpark, known non-compliance in carpark - creek interface. Sometimes challenging terrain within creek, off-beach presents increased compliance challenges.	0	-0.09	0.60	Risk not acceptable. Recommend on beach provision only to this area to effectively manage identified risk of off-beach activity in this area.	Recommend on beach to creek area in front of carpark	No pending final recommended action
7.0	Open beach in front of carpark (not including creek in front of car park)	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency	0	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Moderate impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.25	High impact on Cultural Heritage	Kah Kahi Feedback identified significant cultural heritage values present at Stumens Creek (see impact for open beach)	-1	-0.14	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	Moderate use/violation area, multiple recreational users, high traffic area in front of car park - increases risk of conflict with off-beach activity	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.00	Major consequences to workers	WHS incidents recorded in this location, some isolated/remote areas	-1	Difficult to enforce	Reasonable access available from carpark, known non-compliance in carpark - creek interface. Sometimes challenging terrain within creek, off-beach presents increased compliance challenges. May present some challenges for enforcement with limited staff.	0	-0.09	0.00	Marginal acceptable - consider further controls to manage risk in this section (location, signage, training, increased compliance, community group engagement)	Recommend off beach (with consideration for additional controls to manage risk)	No pending final recommended action
7.1	291 to 295	on beach	High impact on shoreland habitat	Shoreland habitat present - marine park and BMWSB wetland	-1	Low impact on turtle habitat	Nesting observed in 2023 season	Moderate impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.00	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Cultural values associated with National Park and Marine Park	0	0.00	Moderate impact on recreation values	High use area, many recreational users, moderate potential for conflict with on-beach dogs	Low impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	High recreational use area, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	High recreational use area, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.00	Moderate consequences to workers	Limited access to rock shelf area (291 to 295), moderate use area. Challenges with National Park boundaries. Off-beach not recommended due to National Park boundary and difficulty in managing compliance at this location.	0	0.00	0.00	Consider removing dog access to rock shelf area (291 to 295)	Recommend change to reduce on beach area to between 291 to 295 (to do so to off-beach area rock shelf from 291 to 295 is a prohibited sign from 291 to 295)	No pending final recommended action			
7.2	291 to 295	off beach	Very high impact on shoreland habitat	Shoreland habitat present - marine park and BMWSB wetland - greater risk off beach	-2	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Nesting observed in 2023 season	Very high impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	0	-0.40	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Cultural values associated with National Park and Marine Park	-2	-0.40	High impact on recreation values	High use area, potential for very high conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	High impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Very high impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	High impact on access and inclusion	High recreational use area, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.40	Major consequences to workers	Limited access to rock shelf area (291 to 295), moderate use area. Challenges with National Park boundaries. Off-beach not recommended due to National Park boundary and difficulty in managing compliance at this location.	0	-0.14	0.20	Risk for off-beach access not acceptable due to significant environmental and social risks. High recreational use and high environmental values present. Off-beach challenging to enforce and known non-compliance at this location.	Risk not acceptable - off beach not recommended	No			
8.1	251 to 262	on beach	Low impact on shoreland habitat	Low impact	1	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.20	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Cultural values associated with Cordell Creek and Anne St rock shelf	0	0.00	Low impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Low impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Low impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Low impact on access and inclusion	High recreational use area, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.37	Major consequences to workers	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	1	Easy to enforce	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	1	0.14	0.00	Acceptable risk	On-beach acceptable	N/A
8.2	251 to 262	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - higher risk for off beach	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.14	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Cultural values associated with Cordell Creek and Anne St rock shelf	0	0.00	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	High impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	High impact on access and inclusion	Potential issues with dogfish and Anne St access and inclusion of residents	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.25	Moderate consequences to workers	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	0.00	0.11	Risk is not acceptable, mainly associated with proximity to bathing (recreational) area and potential for conflict. Consider minor adjustments to off-beach area or alternate controls to reduce non-compliance, conflict in higher use area and reduce overall risk.	Off-beach acceptable (except)	N/A
8.3	Reduced off beach area - 251 - 262 (Barn St to Southern St)	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency higher risk for off beach	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.14	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Cultural values associated with Cordell Creek	0	0.00	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	0	0.00	Moderate consequences to workers	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	0.00	0.14	Risk is tolerable (except) - change to risk rating following pathway assessment options. Consider minor adjustments to off-beach area or alternate controls to reduce non-compliance, conflict in higher use area and reduce overall risk.	Off-beach acceptable (except)	N/A
8.4	251 to 262 south of 181 (Bathing reserve boundary)	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency higher risk for off beach	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.14	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Cultural values associated with Cordell Creek and Anne St rock shelf	0	0.00	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	Low impact on access and inclusion	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	0	0.00	Moderate consequences to workers	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	0.00	0.14	Risk is tolerable (except) - change to risk rating following pathway assessment options. Consider minor adjustments to off-beach area or alternate controls to reduce non-compliance, conflict in higher use area and reduce overall risk.	Off-beach acceptable (except)	No
9.1	BA 127 - 130	on beach	Low impact on shoreland habitat	Low impact	1	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.20	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Open beach, low risk of impacts on cultural heritage. Off-beach presents elevated risk.	1	0.14	Low impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Low impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Low impact on public safety	Low use/violation area, low risk of impacts on access and inclusion with off-beach activity	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	1	0.27	Moderate consequences to workers	Low use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	Easy to enforce	Low use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	0.00	0.00	Current provision is on beach	On-beach acceptable	No
9.2	BA 127 - 130	off beach	Moderate impact on shoreland habitat	Open beach shoreland habitat - low frequency higher risk for off beach	0	Moderate impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency	Moderate impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	0	0.00	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Open beach, low risk of impacts on cultural heritage. Off-beach presents elevated risk.	0	0.00	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate potential for conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	Moderate impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Low impact on public safety	Low use/violation area, low risk of impacts on access and inclusion with off-beach activity	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	Low impact on local residents	Low Impact	0	0.25	Moderate consequences to workers	Low use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	Low use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	0.00	0.25	Risk is tolerable. Consider additional management controls to manage off-beach.	Off-beach acceptable	No
10.1	Cotton tree and grassy area (north of BA 142)	Timed off beach access - weekdays	Low impact on shoreland habitat	Highly disturbed - minimal suitable habitat	1	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency, high disturbance	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.20	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	1	0.14	Very high impact on recreation values	High use area, potential for very high conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	High impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Very high impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	High impact on access and inclusion	High use area, potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Moderate impact on local residents	Low Impact	0	-0.62	Major consequences to workers	Beach maintenance activities, dogfish and debris on beach, high use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	-1	Difficult to enforce	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	-0.09	0.22	Not recommended due to high conflict with other users. Consider additional management controls to manage risk in this section (location, signage, training, increased compliance, community group engagement).	No change recommended (dog on beach access continues)	No (no change)
11.1	131 - 132 - 136 (Alone Beach)	Timed off beach access - weekdays	Low impact on shoreland habitat	Highly disturbed - minimal suitable habitat	1	Low impact on turtle habitat	Turtle resting habitat present - low frequency, high disturbance	Low impact on CNET habitat values	Low Impact	1	0.20	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	1	0.14	Very high impact on recreation values	High use area, potential for very high conflict with dogs off-leash on other recreational users	High impact on recreation values	0	on some amenity	Very high impact on public safety	High use/violation area, multiple recreational users, adjacent potential for conflict between dogs and other users	High impact on access and inclusion	High use area, potential for impacts on access and inclusion for other users	Moderate impact on local residents	Low Impact	0	-0.62	Major consequences to workers	Beach maintenance activities, dogfish and debris on beach, high use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	-1	Difficult to enforce	High use area, multiple entry/exit points, beach accessible at most times, low risk of conflict with off-beach dogs.	0	-0.09	0.22	Not recommended due to high conflict with other users. Consider additional management controls to manage risk in this section (location, signage, training, increased compliance, community group engagement).	No change recommended (dog on beach access continues)	No (no change)

[illegible]

<div>Sunshine Coast Council</div> <div>Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045</div>	DEA site assessment criteria	ENVIRONMENT RESERVES
<div>Assessment and Governance</div> <p>The purpose of the analysis is to evaluate the suitability of Environment Reserves by assessing the impact of on-leash dog access on the values of the reserve.</p> <p>Each type of open space is weighted against the purpose and function of the site / location. Thus supporting appropriate consideration for primary values.</p> <p>The assessment is undertaken and acknowledges the benefits of dog ownership to the community including companionship, wellbeing, social interaction and physical exercise.</p> <p>A Pairwise Assessment (nationally recognised assessment) method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation. Following the Pairwise assessment, a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) is undertaken to assess the risks associated with dog access (on and off leash) against the values identified for a specific location or type of open space. The MCRA applies the percentage weightings for each value identified through the pairwise assessment, and the assessment considers the specific site context and associated values, management intent, legislative and policy context, council staff knowledge regarding management of the site and feedback from the community during the consultation on the Plan, in relation to each site being assessed.</p> <p>A Risk Assessment Panel of Sunshine Coast Council Officers has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities by undertaking a Pairwise Assessment and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the assessment. The Branch Manager for a specific team can delegate the responsibility to other team members where specific expertise is required</p> <p>The Integrated Open Space Team (IOST) working group may be considered as a request for feedback on significant locations or future dog off leash locations. Design and Placemaking are responsible for design and delivery of new Dog Exercise Areas (DEAs). As such consultation with relevant teams occurs during the design process.</p> <p>There is a number of federal and state pieces of legislation that may apply to the values found on the site, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)Nature Conservation Act 1992Disability Discrimination Act 1992Work Health and Safety Act 2011Human Rights Act 2013 (Section 19 Freedom of Movement) (Section 28 Cultural Rights)Land Act 1994Local Government Act 2009 <p>When assessments are undertaken, priority consideration to Federal, State and Local legislative and policy frameworks. These are generally applicable to environment, cultural, access and inclusion, public safety and workplace health and safety legislation.</p> <p>Environment Reserve Assessment Conditions</p> <p>Off-leash access is not currently provisioned in Environment Reserves - only on-leash access can be considered for suitability</p> <p>Conservation and Nature Reserves</p> <p>All Environment Reserves classified as Conservation and Nature Reserves (highest conservation values) are recommended for dog prohibition - no MCRA is required for these reserves</p> <p>Bushland Reserves - B1 Biodiversity Rating</p> <p>This process provides an assessment framework for Bushland Reserves with a B1 biodiversity rating (high biodiversity values), established through undertaking an MCRA <i>where dog walking is known to occur</i> . The MCRA considers environmental, cultural, social and management values and threats and provides a consistent approach to inform compatibility of dog on-leash access. Further prioritisation of Bushland Reserves has been undertaken to consider risk likelihood and consequence of dog access and ability to effectively undertake compliance, with high, medium and low priority identified for implementation of local law changes in the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan where reserves are recommended for dog prohibition. Where no formal recreational access is provided in a Bushland Reserve the MCRA is not required and dog prohibition is recommended as the default position.</p> <p>Risk Assessment Panel Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Manager Parks and GardensCoordinator Business and TechnicalManager Environmental OperationsCoordinator Coastal Lakes and WetlandsManager Regulatory Response ServicesCoordinator Response ServicesSenior Open Space & Recreation PlannerGovernance Liaison OfficerCommunity Planning and Engagement OfficerSport Development Officer		

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045			DEA site assessment criteria				ENVIRONMENT RESERVES							
Criteria Definitions														
Pairwise Assessment Weighting	% 13	% 11	% 10	% 14	% 14	% 4	% 3	% 8	% 5	% 1	% 9	% 8		
Total Grouped Weightings	Environment 48%				Cultural Heritage 14%	Social 21%								
Criteria	Koala Habitat Values	Macropod Habitat Values	Riparian Habitat Values	EVNT habitat values	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Recreation Values	Scenic Amenity Values	Public Safety	Access and Inclusion	Impact on Residents	WHS	Ease to enforce		
	Is the reserve mapped as Koala habitat? Has the presence of Koalas been confirmed for the reserve? Consider: EPBC Act Nature Conservation Act SCC Koala Conservation Plan	Does the reserve support macropod habitat? Has the presence of macropods been confirmed for the reserve? Is the reserve an important macropod movement corridor? Consider: Nature Conservation Act SCC Macropod Conservation Plan	Is there identified waterways/riparian habitat/corridors within the reserve based on State mapping? Consider: EPBC Act Nature Conservation Act Environment and Liveability Strategy	Is the site known to include EVNT listed flora, fauna or ecological community? Does the site contain Matters of State or National Environmental Significance or habitat? - vulnerable or endangered -special least concern animal Does the site contain Matters of State Environmental Significance regulated vegetation? - endangered or of concern - essential habitat	Does the site include known cultural heritage sites? Do Kabi Kabi people support the proposed land use? Consider: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Native Title Act	Does the reserve support recreation offerings? - Walking or multi-use trails - Nature play - Other nature based recreation - Picnic - Passive / tranquil activities Are the existing recreation types compatible with Dog Exercise? Is there an important trail connection between two communities (consider retaining trail as on-leash)?	Does provision of dog access adversely impact or cause: - views / visual clutter - tranquility - noise and ambience - opportunities for observing nature - damage and disruption to the reserve amenity - animal waste accumulation	Does the provision of dog access impact public safety to the reserve caused by - fear - intimidation or discomfort - risk of bites or dog attack - mobility barriers (physical, visual, sensory, psychological) - overall sense of safety - path user conflict / disrupt flow of traffic - animal waste accumulation - public health impacts	Does the provision of dog access impact: - Current level of use by the community for recreational activities - Is the reserve important for social access/inclusion for the activity of on-leash dog walking - Equitable and inclusive access to the reserve - What is the land designation? Does it support access for dogs on-leash	Does the provision of dog access adversely impacted adjacent residents? - noise - car parking availability - traffic and congestion - lighting - odours	Does the provision of dog access expose council employees to increased risks in managing the site? - accessibility - visual surveillance - exposure to hazardous conditions including volunteers and contractors - isolated or remote areas	How easy or difficult is it to enforce the Local Law? - clarity of boundaries (signage identifying restricted or controlled areas) - simplicity of enforcement area - multiple functions i.e. BBQ shelters (dogs prohibited) - clear sightlines / visibility - physical boundaries - potential for non-compliance and subsequent confrontation - isolated or remote areas		
Dog Access Impact	Score	Very high impact on koala habitat	Very high impact on macropod habitat	Very high impact on riparian habitat values	Very high impact on EVNT habitat values	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Very high impact on recreation values	Very high impact on scenic amenity	Very high impact on public safety	Very high impact on access and inclusion	Very high impact on local residents	Catastrophic consequences to workers	Very difficult to enforce	
Very High Impact	-2	High impact on koala habitat	High impact on macropod habitat	High impact on riparian habitat values	High impact on EVNT habitat values	High impact on Cultural Heritage	High impact on recreation values	High impact on scenic amenity	High impact on public safety	High impact on access and inclusion	High impact on local residents	Major consequences to workers	Difficult to enforce	
High Impact	-1	Moderate impact on koala habitat	Moderate impact on macropod habitat	Moderate impact on riparian habitat values	Moderate impact on EVNT habitat values	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Moderate impact on recreation values	Moderate impact on scenic amenity	Moderate impact on public safety	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Moderate impact on local residents	Moderate consequences to workers	Moderately difficult to enforce	
Moderate	0	Low impact on koala habitat	Low impact on macropod habitat	Low impact on riparian habitat values	Low impact on EVNT habitat values	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact on recreation values	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact on public safety	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low impact on local residents	Minor consequences to workers	Easy to enforce	
Low Impact	1	No impact on koala habitat	No impact on macropod habitat	No impact on riparian habitat values	No impact on EVNT habitat values	No impact on Cultural Heritage	No impact on recreation values	No impact on scenic amenity	No impact on public safety	No impact on access and inclusion	No impact on local residents	Insignificant consequences to workers	Very easy to enforce	
No Impact	2													
Definitions:	EPBC EVNT WHS SCC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened Workplace Health and Safety Sunshine Coast Council												

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045	DEA site assessment criteria	ENVIRONMENT RESERVES
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Pairwise Comparison

The Pairwise comparison framework considers the importance of a value compared to another value with consideration of the impact of dog access. Where one value is ranked higher than the other, the higher value 'letter' is entered as the outcome. For example Koala Habitat 'A' is ranked higher than Macropod Habitat 'B', with consideration for the relevant legislation, as Koalas are classified as endangered, with high level of risk of dogs to Koalas when interacting in an area of open space, and consideration for other relevant policy and management considerations. The designated land use and function and purpose of open space has been considered in the ranking of values - in this scenario - Environment Reserves, with consideration for relevant legislation, policy, management intent and purpose. Feedback from Community Consultation on ranking of priority values has been considered in the below weightings.

		Koala Habitat	Macropod Habitat	Riparian Habitat	EVNT Habitat	Cultural	Recreation	Scenic Amenity	Public Safety	Access Inclusion	Resident Impact	WHS	Ease to Enforce					
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	Occurrence + 1	Weight (%)	Group Weights (%)	Groups	
Koala Habitat	A		A	A	D	E	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	10	13	48	Environment	
Macropod Habitat	B			B	D	E	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	9	11			
Riparian Habitat	C				D	E	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	8	10			
EVNT Habitat	D					E	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	11	14			
Cultural Heritage	E						E	E	H	E	E	E	E	11	14	14	Cultural	
Recreation	F							F	H	I	F	K	L	3	4	21	Social	
Scenic Amenity	G								H	I	G	K	L	2	3			
Public Safety	H									H	H	K	L	6	8			
Access and Inclusion	I										I	K	L	4	5			
Resident Impact	J												K	L	1	1	17	Management
WHS	K													K	7	9		
Ease to Enforce	L														6	8		
		Total												78	100	100		
Definitions:		EVNT	Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened															
		WHS	Workplace Health and Safety															
		Occurrence + 1	Each value automatically counts as 1, and increases if occurs more often															

Sunshine Coast Council
Dog Exercise Areas Regional Plan
and Network Blueprint 2025–2045

DEA site assessment criteria

ENVIRONMENT RESERVES

Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA)
Off-leash access is not prioritised in Environment Reserves - only on-leash access is considered in each of the below assessments:

Site	Site location	DEA management	Environment												Cultural Heritage												Social												Management												Total Impact		Notes/Flags
			Known habitat values	Comments	Score	Managed habitat values	Comments	Score	Reptile habitat values	Comments	Score	ENDT habitat values	Comments	Score	Mediated Environment Score	Cultural Heritage Values	Comments	Score	Mediated Cultural Heritage Score	Recreation Values	Comments	Score	Scenic Aesthetics Values	Comments	Score	Public Safety	Comments	Score	Access and Inclusion	Comments	Score	Impact on local residents	Comments	Score	Mediated Social Score	Notes	Comments	Score	Mediated Management Score	Total Mediated Score	Comments	Group Assessment	Assessment Required										
1.0 Reserve																																																					
1.1	Western trail network (Stratford Carpark)	on-leash	Very high impact on leach habitat	Connection pathway with Verrillville and Cummins to Tweedville. Reserve is open to access leach population increases through revegetation works. Known leach present on site in off areas.	-2	Very high impact on managed habitat	Swamp wetlands and kangaroos, open grassland - some road clearances	-2	High impact on reptile habitat values	Wildlife and off-leash activity to be monitored within reserve areas	-1	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	A number of ENDT species present, high value habitat	0	-0.18	High impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural values and recent addition of site with daily life	-0.14	High impact on Recreation Values	Off-leash dog conflict potential, off-leash activity, potential for off-leash dog conflict, off-leash dog activity	0	High impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Management with objectives of reserve activation, bushwalking	0	Moderate impact on Public Safety	Potential conflict with visitors and use of car park if dog access is provided, impact on adjacent residents	0	High impact on Access and Inclusion	Management with objectives of reserve activation and bushwalking	0	Moderate impact on local residents	Potential for increased off-leash dog activity, impact on adjacent residents	0	-0.12	Moderate consequences to workers	Isolated reserve, limited public access, no playground or safety facilities	0	Moderately difficult to enforce	Single reserve trail entry point, isolated location	0	-0.04	Dog access not consistent with existing and future activation objectives with consideration for this area and associated risks	Prohibit dogs in this area of reserve due to risks to environmental, cultural and social values	Yes									
1.2	Eastern trails	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Identified leach in this area, moderate population. Different habitat types present.	0	Low impact on managed habitat	Swamp wetlands and kangaroos, some grassland	0	Low impact on reptile habitat values	Difficult to access creek, swampy, little ability to get off track	0	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	A number of ENDT species present, high value habitat	0	0.21	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	0.14	Low impact on Recreation Values	Low impact	1	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Low impact	1	Low impact on Public Safety	Low impact	1	Low impact on Access and Inclusion	Low impact	1	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.21	Moderate consequences to workers	Multiple reserve trail entry points, some high-traffic reserve	0	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entry points, some high-traffic reserve	-1	-0.08	0.48	Continue to enforce dog access to reserve trail network	Retain current status - on-leash access on trails	No								
2.0 Suburban Parkways - Matthews Trail																																																					
2.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat impeded as parking lot connected, lower density populations in this area	1	Low impact on managed habitat	Reserve contains wetlands, off-leash dog activity, no off-leash dog activity	1	Low impact on reptile habitat values	Some creek/bushland, some grassland, some off-leash dog activity	1	Low impact on ENDT habitat values	Some ENDT species present, low value habitat	1	0.48	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	1	Low impact on Recreation Values	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Historical features, managed community group	0	Low impact on Public Safety	Low impact	1	Low impact on Access and Inclusion	Limited visibility, off-leash dog activity	0	Low impact on local residents	Some impact of car parking area, but considered low due to distance from residences and relatively low use	1	0.14	Moderate consequences to workers	Isolated reserve, limited public access, no playground or safety facilities	0	Difficult to enforce	Two main reserve trail entry points, isolated location	0	0	0.4	Low visibility to public. High use to this reserve, likelihood of off-leash dog activity, potential for use of beach. Consideration for use of beach. Consideration for use of beach.	Retain current status - on-leash access on trail	No								
3.0 Reserve Forest Environment																																																					
3.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	High impact on managed habitat	Managed habitat and minor present - high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash	-1	High impact on reptile habitat values	Bed watching group and minor present - high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash	-1	High impact on ENDT habitat values	A number of ENDT species present, high value habitat	-1	-0.22	High impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural values in this area, including in this area	-0.14	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Bed watching group and minor present - high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Bed watching group, managed habitat	0	Low impact on Public Safety	Most of reserve is low use	1	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Minorly off-leash dog activity, off-leash dog activity	0	Low impact on local residents	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	0	0.12	Major consequences to workers	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	-1	-0.17	-0.41	High environmental and cultural values, potential for use of beach. Consideration for use of beach. Consideration for use of beach.	Prohibit dogs within the reserve outside of main trail due to high environmental and cultural values within reserve.	Yes											
3.2	Main trail	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on managed habitat	Managed habitat and minor present - high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off	0	Low impact on reptile habitat values	Bed watching group and minor present - high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash	0	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	A number of ENDT species present, high value habitat	0	0.23	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural values in this area, including in this area	0	High impact on Recreation Values	Bed watching group and minor present - high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Bed watching group, managed habitat	0	Moderate impact on Public Safety	Highly used for trail, including for trail	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Connecting trail	0	Low impact on local residents	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	0	0	0.23	Major consequences to workers	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	0	0	0.23	Connecting pathways between trail connections. Risk is acceptable when on-leash access is maintained and communicate with community at this location	Allow dog on-leash access along main connecting trail	No										
4.0 Lake Weyba Environment																																																					
4.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat present	0	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	High impact on reptile habitat values	Dog access to lake and ponds presents risk of disturbance of sensitive fauna	-1	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	Some ENDT species present	0	0.01	High impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural values within Lake Weyba area	-0.14	High impact on Recreation Values	Very narrow trails along lake, known and observed conflict with dog walkers and other users, observed non-compliance with off-leash activity according to reserve	-1	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	This trail, significant natural amenity value in this area	0	Moderate impact on Public Safety	This trail, known conflict and non-compliance on-leash	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	This trail, known conflict and non-compliance which can impact access and inclusion for other users, particularly on-leash	0	Moderate impact on local residents	Some parking impacts near residential areas. Potential noise impacts.	0	-0.04	Major consequences to workers	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated, rough terrain	-1	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated and remote location	-1	-0.17	-0.34	Allow dog on-leash access to this trail, excluding connecting section of lake trail. Prohibit dog access to lake trail and build-out areas of reserve due to environmental and cultural values, conflict with other users. Trail to increase and encourage public use	Allow dog on-leash access to this trail, excluding connecting section of lake trail. Prohibit dog access to lake trail and build-out areas of reserve due to environmental and cultural values, conflict with other users. Trail to increase and encourage public use	Yes								
4.2	Lake trail	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat present	0	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	High impact on reptile habitat values	Dog access to lake and ponds presents risk of disturbance of sensitive fauna	-1	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	Some ENDT species present	0	0.01	High impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural values within Lake Weyba area	-0.14	High impact on Recreation Values	Very narrow trails along lake, known and observed conflict with dog walkers and other users, observed non-compliance with off-leash activity according to reserve	-2	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	This trail, significant natural amenity value in this area	0	High impact on Public Safety	This trail, known conflict and non-compliance on-leash	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	This trail, known conflict and non-compliance which can impact access and inclusion for other users, particularly on-leash	0	Moderate impact on local residents	Some parking impacts near residential areas. Potential noise impacts.	0	-0.19	Major consequences to workers	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	0	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated and remote location	0	-0.09	-0.41	Prohibit dog access to lake trail due to environmental and cultural values, conflict with other users. Trail to increase and encourage public use	Consider prohibiting dog access to lake trail due to environmental and cultural values, conflict with other users. Trail to increase and encourage public use	Yes								
4.3	Fire trails	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat present	0	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	Low impact on reptile habitat values	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	Some ENDT species present	0	0.21	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact if dog access confined to fire trails	0.14	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Wider trails creating less conflict between users, observed non-compliance	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Low impact	1	Low impact on Public Safety	Low impact	1	Low impact on Access and Inclusion	Low impact	1	Low impact on local residents	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated, rough terrain	0	0.17	Major consequences to workers	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated and remote location	0	0.09	0.43	Continue to allow dog on-leash access to this trail, outside of main lake trail	Continue to allow dog on-leash access to this trail, outside of main lake trail	No											
5.0 Lower Mitchell River Environment Reserves																																																					
5.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	High impact on managed habitat	Managed habitat and minor present - known non-compliance with off-leash and high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash. Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	-1	Moderate impact on reptile habitat values	Reserve includes Managed habitat - known non-compliance with off-leash and high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash. Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	-1	High impact on ENDT habitat values	Contains other areas for ENDT species, long period of off-leash dog activity, high risk of dogs chewing through in open areas if allowed off-leash. Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	-1	-0.12	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Known significant cultural heritage values in this area, including in this area	-0.28	Low impact on Recreation Values	Very narrow trails along lake, known and observed conflict with dog walkers and other users, observed non-compliance with off-leash activity according to reserve	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Low impact	1	Low impact on Public Safety	Low impact	1	Low impact on Access and Inclusion	Minorly off-leash dog activity, off-leash dog activity	0	Low impact on local residents	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	0	0.21	Major consequences to workers	Large areas of open grassland and forest, isolated and remote location	0	0.21	0.12	Significant environmental and cultural values. Management prohibition of dogs from reserve. Dog walking not allowed along Clearys Rd. Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	Prohibit dogs within reserve area due to significant cultural heritage values and environmental values	Yes											
6.0 Maling Community Precinct - Riparian Reserve																																																					
6.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat present	0	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	Very high impact on reptile habitat values	Known dog incidents to riparian area/water	-2	High impact on ENDT habitat values	Riparian habitat. Known dog incidents to riparian area/water	-2	-0.37	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	On-leash creek - known cultural heritage values	0	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Conflict with other users, mostly with trails, but only in some locations	0	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Moderate impact on Public Safety	Known mostly associated with off-leash behaviour (non-compliance)	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Impacts on other users and on access and inclusion due to non-compliance	0	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.01	Moderate consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated and remote location	0	0	-0.36	Significant non-environmental values and known impacts from non-compliance, particularly in riparian areas (glacier habitat).	Prohibit dog access within reserve area outside of defined pathway network. Increase surveillance activities due to known impacts and non-compliance with off-leash activity. Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	No (no defined trails impacted)								
6.2	Recreation trails	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat present	0	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	High impact on reptile habitat values	Known dog incidents to riparian area/water	-1	High impact on ENDT habitat values	Riparian habitat. Known dog incidents to riparian area/water	-1	-0.13	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	On-leash creek - known cultural heritage values	0	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Conflict with other users, mostly with trails, but only in some locations	0	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Moderate impact on Public Safety	Known mostly associated with off-leash behaviour (non-compliance)	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Impacts on other users and on access and inclusion due to non-compliance	0	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.01	Moderate consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated and remote location	0	0	0.02	High use of pathways network for fishing community. Regular observations and reports of non-compliance (dog off-leash activity). Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	Continue to enforce dog access to riparian area and associated risks	No								
7.0 Mountain Creek Conservation Area																																																					
7.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on reptile habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	High impact on ENDT habitat values	ENDT species present. Potential for impact where on-leash dog access is provided	-1	0	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	0.14	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Conflict with other users, mostly with trails, but only in some locations	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Low impact	1	Low impact on Public Safety	Mostly with trails and minor impact on public safety for on-leash activities	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Conflict with wheeled users	0	Moderate impact on local residents	Parking adjacent to residences.	0	0.11	Moderate consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Difficult to enforce	Some isolated areas along path network. Difficult to enforce with multiple entry points	-1	-0.08	0.37	Risk is acceptable when confined to defined trails.	Retain on-leash access for defined walking and the trails only. Continue to enforce any changes and associated risks	No								
7.2	Males trail (junction)	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on reptile habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	ENDT species present. Potential for impact where on-leash dog access is provided	0	0.24	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	0.14	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Conflict with other users, mostly with trails, but only in some locations	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Low impact	1	Low impact on Public Safety	Mostly with trails and minor impact on public safety for on-leash activities	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Conflict with wheeled users	0	Moderate impact on local residents	Parking adjacent to residences.	0	0.11	Moderate consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Difficult to enforce	Some isolated areas along path network. Difficult to enforce with multiple entry points	-1	-0.08	0.41	Connecting off-leash between trail connections. Risk is acceptable when on-leash access is maintained and communicate with community at this location	Retain on-leash access for defined walking and the trails only. Continue to enforce any changes and associated risks	No								
7.3	Eastern reserve area (backland (no trail))	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on managed habitat	Managed habitat present	0	Moderate impact on reptile habitat values	Large portion of Eastern Reserve (2022/23) is low-leash	0	Very high impact on ENDT habitat values	ENDT species present. Potential for impact where on-leash dog access is provided	-0.15	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Adjacent to National Park with known cultural values in reserve	0	0	Low impact on Recreation Values	No formal trail network present	1	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Open areas of bushland, high potential for off-leash activity and viewing areas on Dunstan Rock	0	Low impact on Public Safety	No formal trail network present	0	Low impact on Access and Inclusion	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.18	Major consequences to workers	Hard to access areas, isolated location, dense vegetation	-1	Very difficult to enforce	Very hard to access, isolated location, no defined trail	-2	-0.25	-0.21	Adjacent to National Park, high value habitat in this area - potential access to reserve area	Prohibit dogs	No (no access to site currently)										
8.0 Stratten Creek Environment Reserve																																																					
8.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Low impact on leach habitat	Low impact	1	Low impact on managed habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on reptile habitat values	Riparian habitat present throughout reserve	0	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	ENDT species present in reserve	0	0.28	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural heritage values in reserve	0	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Multiple users of trail network within reserve, potential for some conflict	0	Low impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Some impact on natural amenity values with dog walking	0	Low impact on Public Safety	Mostly with trails and minor impact on public safety for on-leash activities	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Multiple users of trail network within reserve, potential for some conflict	0	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.12	Moderate consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entry points, isolated location	-1	-0.08	0.38	Well used trail network adjacent to residential areas with some off-leash activity. Known can be dog walking on Clearys Rd and in reserve	Retain on-leash access. Continue to enforce any changes and associated risks	No								
9.0 Ben Bennett Bushland Park																																																					
9.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	No impact on leach habitat	No impact	2	No impact on managed habitat	No impact	2	Moderate impact on reptile habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	ENDT species present	0	0.40	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural heritage values in reserve	0	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Highly used for nature-based recreation and connecting paths network. Potential for conflict with dog walking	0	Moderate impact on Scenic Aesthetics	Significant natural amenity value may be impacted by dog walking	0	Moderate impact on Public Safety	Highly used trails for nature-based recreation and connecting paths network. Potential for conflict with dog walking	0	Moderate impact on Access and Inclusion	Highly used trails for nature-based recreation and connecting paths network. Potential for conflict with dog walking	0	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.01	Moderate consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway network with some vegetation in some sections	0	Difficult to enforce	Multiple reserve trail entries, isolated and remote location	0	0	0.40	Regular urban reserve for nature-based recreation, dog walking, connecting trails. Significant cultural and heritage values in reserve	Retain on-leash access. Continue to enforce any changes and associated risks	No								
10.0 Dunstan Rock Bushland Reserve Network																																																					
10.1	Entire reserve	on-leash	Moderate impact on leach habitat	Roads habitat present	0	Moderate impact on managed habitat	Managed habitat present	0	Low impact on reptile habitat values	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on ENDT habitat values	ENDT species present	0	0.1	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Known significant cultural heritage values in this area, including in this area	-0.28	Moderate impact on Recreation Values	Potential for conflict with other wildlife users	0	High impact on Scenic Aesthetics	High potential for off-leash activity and viewing areas on Dunstan Rock	0	Low impact on Public Safety	Low impact	1	Low impact on Access and Inclusion	Low impact	1	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.11	Catastrophic consequences to workers	Low use, isolated, rough terrain and multiple entry points, steep drop-offs	-2	-0.34	-0.41	Potential to remove dog access from Dunstan Rock and surrounding bushland areas	Prohibit dogs outside of access tracks/trails due to significant cultural heritage values and management impacts	Yes											

10.2	Vehicle access tracks	on beach	Moderate impact on beach habitat	Kiaka habitat present	0	Moderate impact on macroalgal habitat	Macroalgal habitat present	0	Low impact on riparian habitat values	Low impact	1	Low impact on EENT habitat values	Low impact	1	0.24	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural heritage values in surrounding area, lower risk if dog access confined to vehicle access tracks	0	0	Low impact on recreation values	Low impact	1	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact	1	Low impact on public safety	Low impact	1	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low impact	1	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.21	Moderate consequences to workers	Low use, isolated, rough terrain and multiple entry points	0	Difficult to enforce	Low use, isolated, rough terrain and multiple entry points	-1	-0.08	0.37	Low use and acceptable risk when dog access confined to vehicle access tracks	Retain on beach access as defined access trails only if feasible	No
Lowerough Creek West Environment Reserve																																														
11.1	Driveway reserve	on beach	No impact on beach habitat	No impact	2	Moderate impact on macroalgal habitat	Macroalgal habitat present	0	Moderate impact on riparian habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	Moderate impact on EENT habitat values	EENT species present	0	0.26	Low impact on Cultural Heritage	Low impact	1	0.14	Moderate impact on recreation values	Potential for conflict with other trail/beach users	0	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on public safety	Potential for conflict with other trail/beach users	0	Low impact on access and inclusion	Low impact	1	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.09	Major consequences to workers	Multiple resource entry points, isolated in some sections	-1	Difficult to enforce	Multiple resource entry points, isolated in some sections	-1	-0.17	0.32	Well used trail network adjacent to residential community. Risk is currently manageable	Retain on beach access. Continue to assess any changes and associated risk	No
Glenhouse Mountain Environment Reserve																																														
12.1	Driveway reserve	on beach	Moderate impact on beach habitat	Kiaka habitat present	0	Low impact on macroalgal habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on riparian habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	Very high impact on EENT habitat values	MSEI wildlife habitat and registered vegetation. Trail includes access to National Park	-2	-0.17	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural heritage sites/values	-2	-0.28	Very high impact on recreation values	Adjacent to National Park and includes trail connecting National Park trail	-2	High impact on scenic amenity	High impact on other users of reserve for nature based recreation purposes	-1	High impact on public safety	Narrow track and potential for conflict with dog walkers	-1	High impact on access and inclusion	Adjacent to National Park and includes trail connecting National Park trail	-1	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	-0.23	Major consequences to workers	Low use, isolated, rough terrain and multiple entry points	-1	Difficult to enforce	Low use, isolated, rough terrain and multiple entry points	-1	-0.17	0.05	High value habitat, significant environmental risk for dog access outside of connecting trail	Prohibit dogs outside of connecting access tracks/trails due to environmental and cultural values, adjacent to National Park	Yes
12.2	Connecting tracks (Shan Ave to Pukerua Bay)	on beach	Low impact on beach habitat	Kiaka habitat present - low risk if dog access confined to trail network	1	Low impact on macroalgal habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on riparian habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	Moderate impact on EENT habitat values	MSEI wildlife habitat and registered vegetation. Trail includes access to National Park. Lower risk where dog access confined to vehicle access tracks	0	0.24	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural heritage values in area, lower risk if dog access confined to vehicle access tracks	0	0	Moderate impact on recreation values	Potential for conflict with other trail/beach users	0	Moderate impact on scenic amenity	Moderate impact on scenic amenity of other users of trail network	0	Moderate impact on public safety	Wider track and less chance of conflict	0	Moderate impact on access and inclusion	Multiple users of trail network within reserve, potential for some conflict	0	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	0.01	Major consequences to workers	Mostly accessible pathway connection with some isolation. Possible surveillance in some sections	-1	Moderately difficult to enforce	Mostly accessible pathway connection with some isolation. Possible surveillance in some sections	0	-0.09	0.16	Connecting pathway between two communities. Risk is acceptable when confined to main connecting trail	Retain dog access on the connecting trails only	No
12.3	Mt Ngungun trail	on beach	Moderate impact on beach habitat	Kiaka habitat present	0	Low impact on macroalgal habitat	Low impact	1	Moderate impact on riparian habitat values	Riparian habitat present	0	Very high impact on EENT habitat values	MSEI wildlife habitat and registered vegetation. Trail includes access to National Park	-2	-0.17	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Known cultural heritage sites/values	-2	-0.28	Very high impact on recreation values	Adjacent to National Park and includes trail connecting National Park trail	-2	High impact on scenic amenity	High impact on other users of reserve for nature based recreation purposes	-1	High impact on public safety	Narrow track and potential for conflict with dog walkers	-1	High impact on access and inclusion	Adjacent to National Park and includes trail connecting National Park trail	-1	Low impact on local residents	Low impact	1	-0.23	Major consequences to workers	Connecting trail into National Park - potential for conflict with dog access liability for entrance to national park	-1	Very difficult to enforce	Connecting trail into National Park - potential for conflict with dog access liability for entrance to national park	-2	-0.25	-0.03	Connecting trail into National Park - potential for conflict with dog access	Prohibit dogs outside of connecting access tracks/trails due to environmental and cultural values, adjacent to National Park	Yes

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045	DEA site assessment criteria	POINT CARTWRIGHT
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Assessment and Governance

The purpose of the analysis is to evaluate the suitability of Point Cartwright for use for dog exercise by assessing the impact of dog access (individually on-leash and off-leash) against the values of the site. This assessment is focused on the Internal Point Cartwright Reserve area with District Recreation Park overlay (Area 4), shown below.

Each type of open space is weighted against the purpose and function of the site / location. Thus supporting appropriate consideration for primary values.

The assessment is undertaken and acknowledges the benefits of dog ownership to the community including companionship, wellbeing, social interaction and physical exercise.

A **Pairwise Assessment** (nationally recognised assessment) method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation. Following the Pairwise assessment, a **Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA)** is undertaken to assess the risks associated with dog access (on and off leash) against the values identified for a specific location or type of open space. The MCRA applies the percentage weightings for each value identified through the pairwise assessment, and the assessment considers the specific site context and associated values, management intent, legislative and policy context, council staff knowledge regarding management of the site and feedback from the community during the consultation on the Plan, in relation to each site being assessed.

A Risk Assessment Panel of Sunshine Coast Council Officers has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities by undertaking a Pairwise Assessment and Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the assessment. The Branch Manager for a specific team can delegate the responsibility to other team members where specific expertise is required.

The Integrated Open Space Team (IOST) working group may be considered as a request for feedback on significant locations or future dog off leash locations. Design and Placemaking are responsible for design and delivery of new DEA. As such consultation with relevant teams occurs during the design process.

There is a number of federal and state pieces of legislation that may apply to the values found on the site, these include:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)
- Nature Conservation Act 1992
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Human Rights Act 2013 (Section 19 Freedom of Movement) (Section 28 Cultural Rights)
- Land Act 1994
- Local Government Act 2009

When assessments are undertaken, priority consideration to Federal, State and Local legislative and policy frameworks. These are generally applicable to environment, cultural, access and inclusion, public safety and workplace health and safety legislation.

The assessment also considers the independent consultant reports commissioned to support the development of the Point Cartwright Master Plan Report. These included the:

- Cultural Values Report
- Environmental Values Report
- Recreation Values Report

Risk Assessment Panel Membership

- Manager Parks and Gardens
- Coordinator Business and Technical
- Manager Environmental Operations
- Coordinator Coastal Lakes and Wetlands
- Manager Regulatory Response Services
- Coordinator Response Services
- Senior Open Space & Recreation Planner
- Governance Liaison Officer
- Community Planning and Engagement Officer
- Sport Development Officer



Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045			DEA site assessment criteria		POINT CARTWRIGHT																
Criteria Definitions																					
Pairwise Assessment Weighting		%		%		%		%		%											
		18		13		16		4		18											
Total Grouped Weightings		Environment 18%		Cultural Heritage 13%		Recreation Values		Scenic Amenity Values		Social 51%											
Criteria		EVNT habitat values Is the site known to include EVNT listed flora, fauna or ecological community Does the site contain MNES/MSES habitat - vulnerable or endangered -special least concern animal Does the site contain MSES regulated vegetation - endangered or of concern - essential habitat		Shorebird habitat values Is the site within a 300m buffer of mapped shorebird: - Roost sites - Feeding Areas - Nest sites - Important numbers of shore birds - Endangered or vulnerable species Dog off-leash areas must not be placed near high value shorebird habitat where it is likely to disturb shorebirds. Turtle habitat values Is the site a mapped as sea turtle nesting Are there recorded EPBC listed species Does the site contain MSES habitat - vulnerable or endangered -special least concern animal -sea turtle nesting area		Koala habitat values Is the reserve mapped as Koala habitat? Has the presence of Koalas been confirmed for the reserve? Macropod habitat values Does the reserve support macropod habitat? Has the presence of macropods been confirmed for the reserve? Is the reserve an important macropod movement corridor?		Does the site include known cultural heritage sites? Do Kabi Kabi / Jinibara people support the proposed land use? Where cultural values are not able to be effectively managed, alternative sites are investigated?		Is the site used for other recreation types? How does the provision for access for dogs impact recreational uses for the site? May have to consider on leash and off leash individually. - Coastal Pathway - Kick and throw - Play space - Picnic - Passive / tranquil activities Is the land designated for recreation purposes?		Does the DEA adversely impact or cause: - views / visual clutter - tranquility - noise and ambience - opportunities for observing nature - damage and disruption - animal waste accumulation Does provision of dog access to the site impact public safety caused by - fear - intimidation or discomfort - risk of bites or dog attack - mobility barriers (physical, visual, sensory, psychological) - overall sense of safety - path user conflict / disrupt flow of traffic - animal waste accumulation		Does provision of dog access to the site impact inclusion caused by - Current level of use by the community for social and recreational activities - Equitable and inclusive access to the site - Accessibility of site for the community to participate in social gatherings and passive and active recreation activities (including relaxation and spiritual or cultural practices)		Does the provision of dog access adversely impact local residents? - noise - car parking availability - traffic and congestion - lighting - odours		Does the proposed DEA expose council employees to increased risks? - accessibility - visual surveillance - exposure to hazardous conditions - including sport and recreation volunteers and contractors - isolated or remote areas		How easy or difficult is it to enforce the Local Law? - clarity of boundaries (signage identifying restricted or controlled areas) - simplicity of enforcement area - multiple functions i.e. Playgrounds, BBQ, shelters (dogs prohibited) - clear sightlines / visibility - physical boundaries - potential for non-compliance and subsequent confrontation - isolated or remote areas	
Dog Access Impact		Score																			
Very High Impact		-2		Very high impact on Environmental values		Very high impact on Cultural Heritage		Very high impact on recreation values		Very high impact on scenic amenity											
High impact		-1		High impact on Environmental values		High impact on Cultural Heritage		High impact on recreation values		High impact on scenic amenity											
Moderate		0		Moderate impact on Environmental values		Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage		Moderate impact recreation values		Moderate impact on scenic amenity											
Low Impact		1		Low impact on Environmental values		Low impact on Cultural Heritage		Low impact on recreation values		Low impact on scenic amenity											
No Impact		2		No impact on Environmental values		No impact on Cultural Heritage		No impact on recreation values		No impact on scenic amenity											
Definitions:		EPBC EVNT MNES MSES WHS		Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Endangered, Vulnerable and Near Threatened Matters of National Environmental Significance Matters of State Environmental Significance Workplace Health and Safety																	

Sunshine Coast Council
 Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan
 and Network Blueprint 2025–2045

DEA site assessment criteria

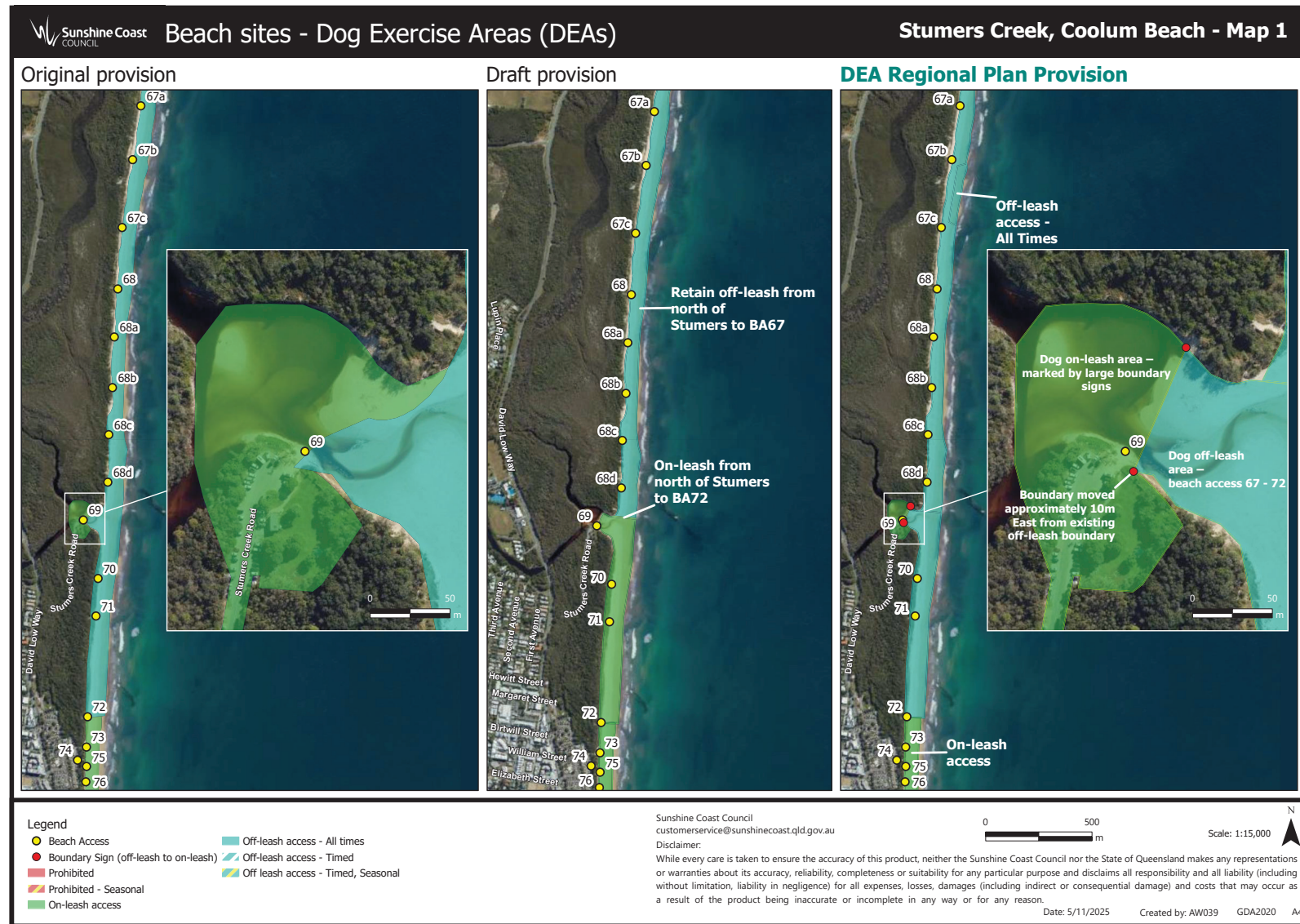
POINT CARTWRIGHT

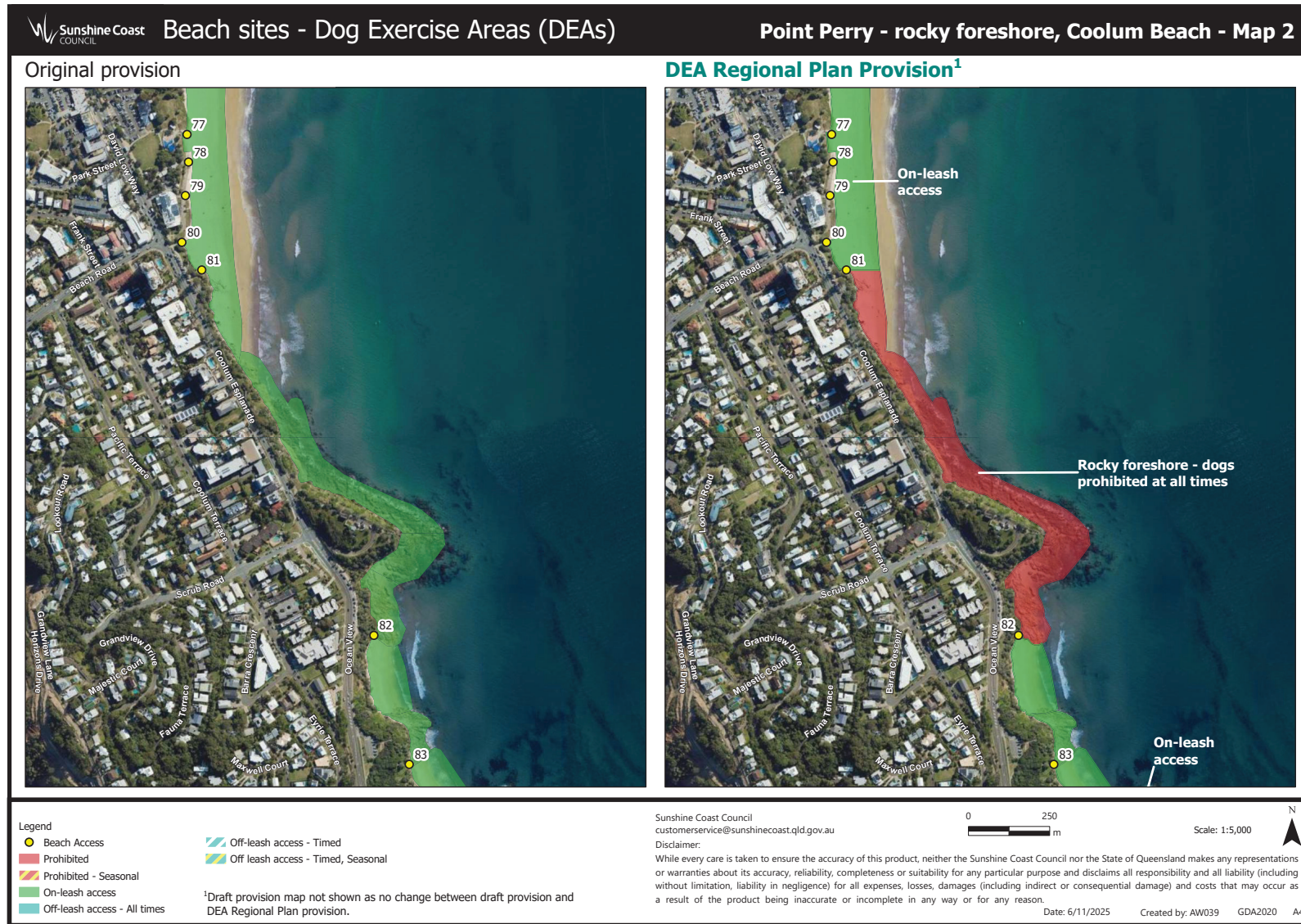
Pairwise Comparison

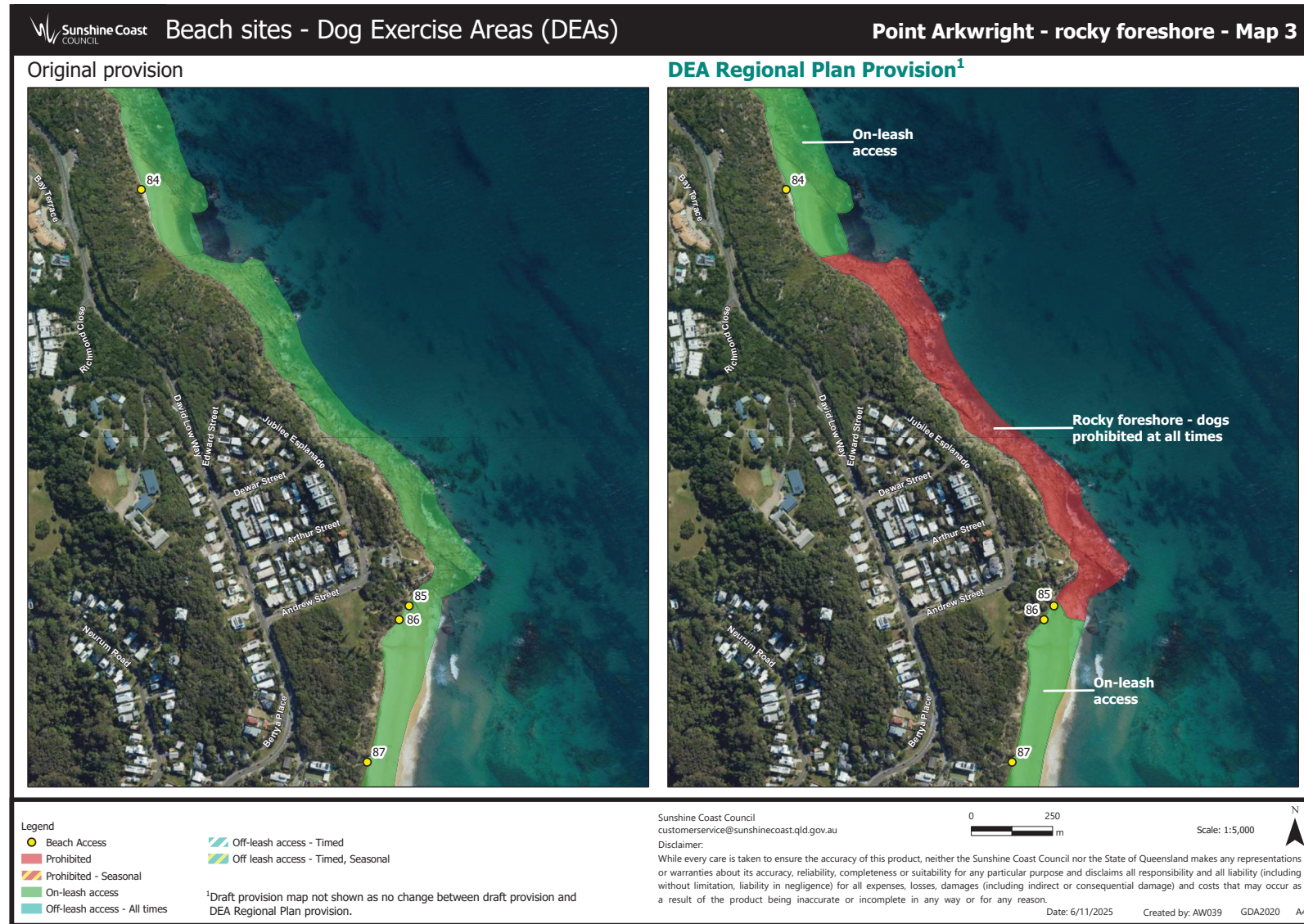
The Pairwise comparison framework considers the importance of a value compared to another value with consideration of the impact of dog access. Where one value is ranked higher than the other, the higher value 'letter' is entered as the outcome. For example Public Safety 'E' is ranked higher than Scenic Amenity 'D', with consideration for the relevant legislation, and other relevant policy and management considerations. The designated land use and function and purpose of open space has been considered in the ranking of values. Feedback from Community Consultation on ranking of priority values has been considered in the below weightings.

		Environment	Cultural	Recreation	Scenic Amenity	Public Safety	Access Inclusion	Resident Impact	WHS	Ease to Enforce			
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Occurrence + 1	Weight (%)	Group Weights (%)
Environment	A		A	A	A	E	A	A	A	A	8	18	18
Cultural	B			B	B	E	B	B	H	B	6	13	13
Recreation	C				C	C	C	C	C	C	7	16	51
Scenic Amenity	D					E	F	D	H	I	2	4	
Public Safety	E						E	E	E	E	8	18	
Access Inclusion	F							F	F	F	5	11	
Resident Impact	G								H	I	1	2	
WHS	H									I	4	9	18
Ease to Enforce	I										4	9	
		Total									45	100	100

Sunshine Coast Council Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025–2045				DEA site assessment criteria												POINT CARTWRIGHT																																
Item	Site Location	DEA management	Environment M1				Cultural Heritage Assessment L1				Recreation				Scenic Values				Public Safety				Access Inclusion				Impact on Residents				Moderated Score				Management M2				Moderated Management				Total Moderated		Total Impact		Human Rights	
			Environment Values	Comment	Score	Moderated Environment Score	Cultural Heritage Assessment	Comment	Score	Moderated Cultural Heritage Score	Recreation Values	Comment	Score	Scenic Values	Comment	Score	Public Safety	Comment	Score	Access Inclusion	Comment	Score	Impact on Residents	Comment	Score	Moderated Score	M2	Comment	Score	Easy to enforce	Comment	Score	Moderated Management Score	Total Moderated Score	Comment	Group Assessment	Assessment Required Yes/No											
1.0 Internal Point Cartwright Reserve areas with District Park overlay																																																
1.1	Internal Point Cartwright Reserve areas with District Park overlay	On-leash	Moderate impact on habitat values	Dogs restrained on-leash will inhibit their ability to enter littoral rainforest and coastal view thresholds and come in contact with shorebirds.	0	0	Moderate impact on Cultural Heritage	Registered Cultural heritage site. Dogs restrained on-leash will have less impact on flora and fauna than when off-leash.	0	0	Low impact on recreation values	Dogs restrained on-leash will have less impact on various recreational uses of the open space areas.	1	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact on scenic values	1	Low impact on access and safety	Dogs restrained on-leash will have less impact or conflict with other users such as people without dogs, elderly pedestrians and bike and scooters.	1	Low impact on local residents	Similar to recreation values, dogs restrained on-leash will have less impact or conflict with other users, such as people without dogs, elderly pedestrians and bike and scooters.	1	No impact on local residents	Considered no impact on local residents as this portion of open space is not located near residential areas.	2	0.53	Minor consequences to workers	Dogs restrained on-leash area would create a minor element of risk for compliance staff.	1	Moderately difficult to enforce	The location is moderately difficult to enforce compliance for dogs on-leash due to a lack of physical / clear boundaries between the on-leash and prohibited spaces.	0	0.09	0.62	The risk assessment identified that there were no scores below one which indicates acceptable risk levels. Using Pairwise and MCA methodologies, the evaluation of Environment, Cultural Heritage, and Ability to enforce the local law, all returned results of moderate risk. This collectively indicates an acceptable risk associated with allowing dogs on-leash in this location. Consequently, the recommendation to permit dogs on-leash is supported by this risk profile.	Supported	No Human Rights Assessment already carried out during development of La Bata Point Cartwright Master Plan.											
1.2	Internal Point Cartwright Reserve areas with District Park overlay	Off-leash	Very high impact on habitat values	High risk of unauthorised dog access into adjacent to R12.2.2 which forms part of the littoral rainforest and coastal view thresholds of western Australia threatened ecological community (TEC). recorded bird deaths by dog faecal contamination Refer to environment assessment report for Pt Cartwright	-2	-0.36	Very high impact on Cultural Heritage	Registered cultural heritage site High impact on flora, fauna and dog waste in adjacent site Refer to cultural heritage assessment report for Pt Cartwright	-2	-0.36	High impact on recreation values	High impact on other recreation uses, providing open space, passive recreation. Could be mitigated with fenced area, but fencing creates exclusive use and visual impact in high profile scenic reserve. Refer to recreation report Pt Cartwright	-1	Low impact on scenic amenity	Low impact on scenic values	1	High impact on access and safety	Freedom of movement for people without dogs Shared high use pathway as it forms Coastal Pathway and many impacts with bikes, scooters, elderly etc	-1	High impact on local residents	Similar to recreation values there is high impact on other recreation uses, providing open space, passive recreation. Could be mitigated with fenced area, but fencing creates exclusive use and visual impact in high profile scenic reserve.	-1	No impact on local residents	Considered no impact on local residents as this portion of open space is not located near residential areas.	2	-0.37	Moderate consequences to workers	Exposure to off-leash area would create an element of risk for compliance staff.	0	Difficult to enforce	The location is difficult to enforce due to a lack of physical / clear boundaries between potential off-leash area and on-leash or prohibited spaces.	-1	-0.99	-1.08	The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using Pairwise and MCA methodologies, the evaluation of Environment and Cultural, Recreation Values, Public Safety, Access and Inclusion, and Ability to enforce all returned results above moderate risk thresholds. This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing dogs off-leash in this location. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs off-leash is supported by this risk profile.	Not supported	No Human Rights Assessment already carried out during development of La Bata Point Cartwright Master Plan.											
Definitions:			MCA R1 TEC	Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment Regional Ecosystem Threatened Ecological Communities																																												



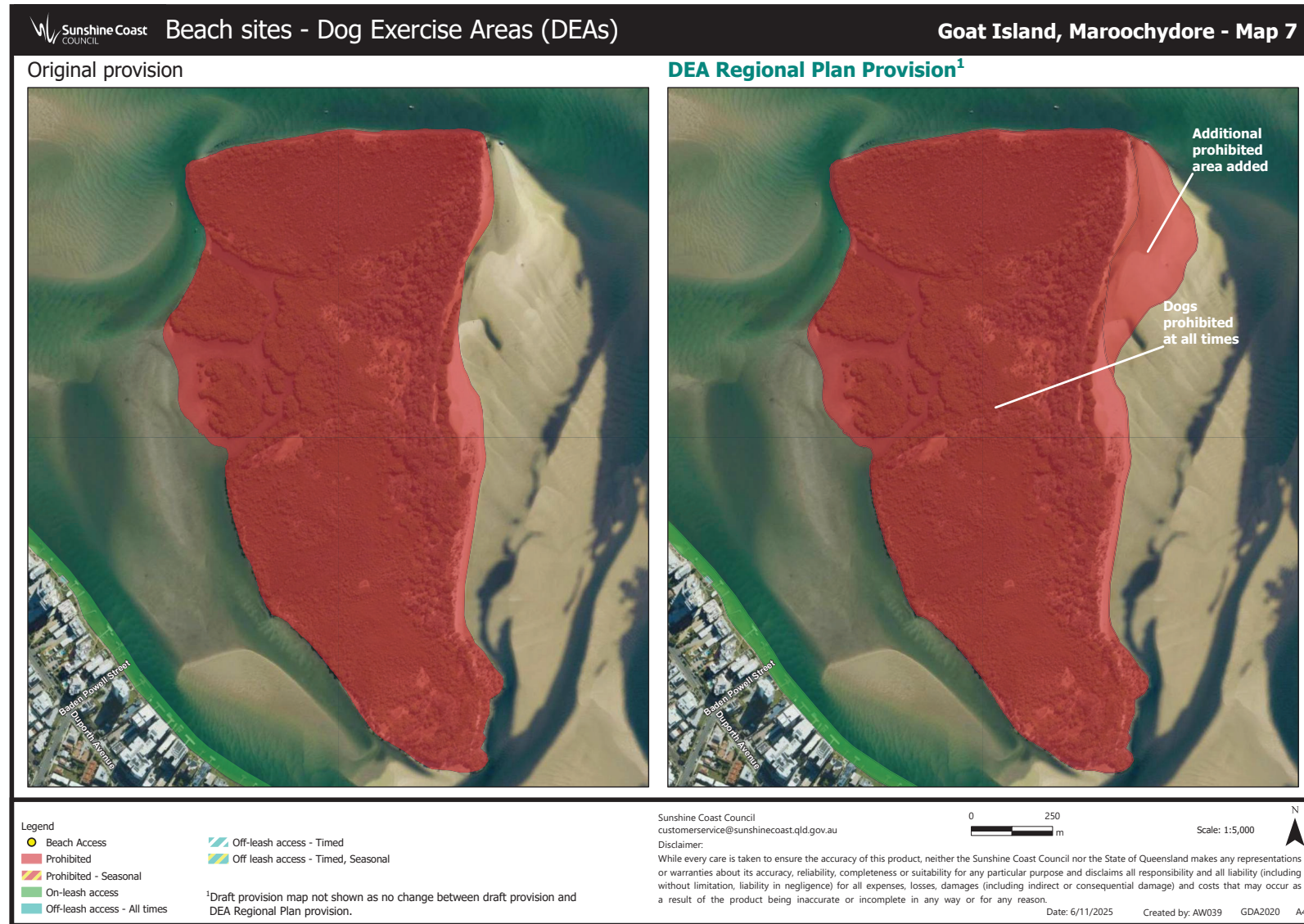




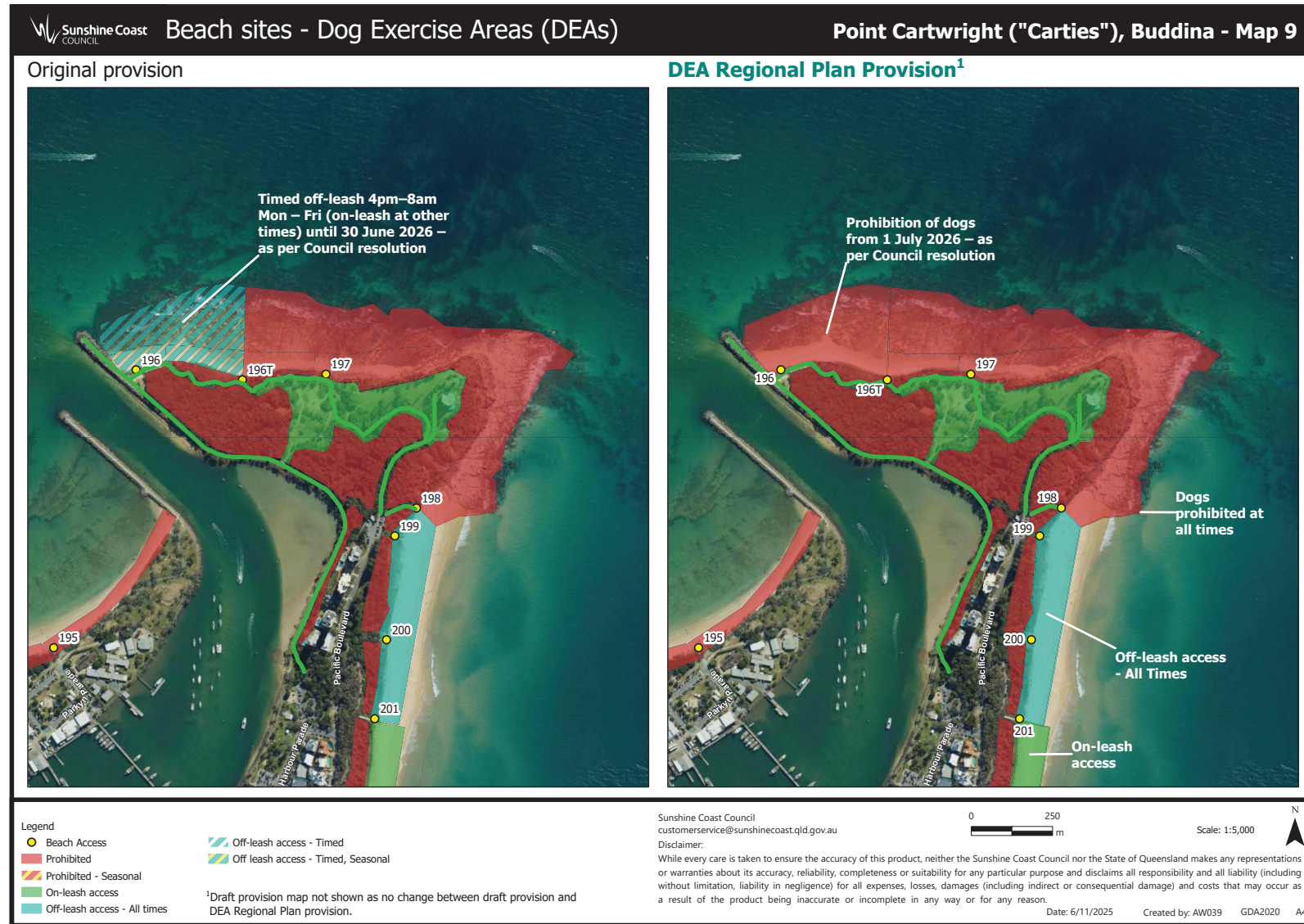


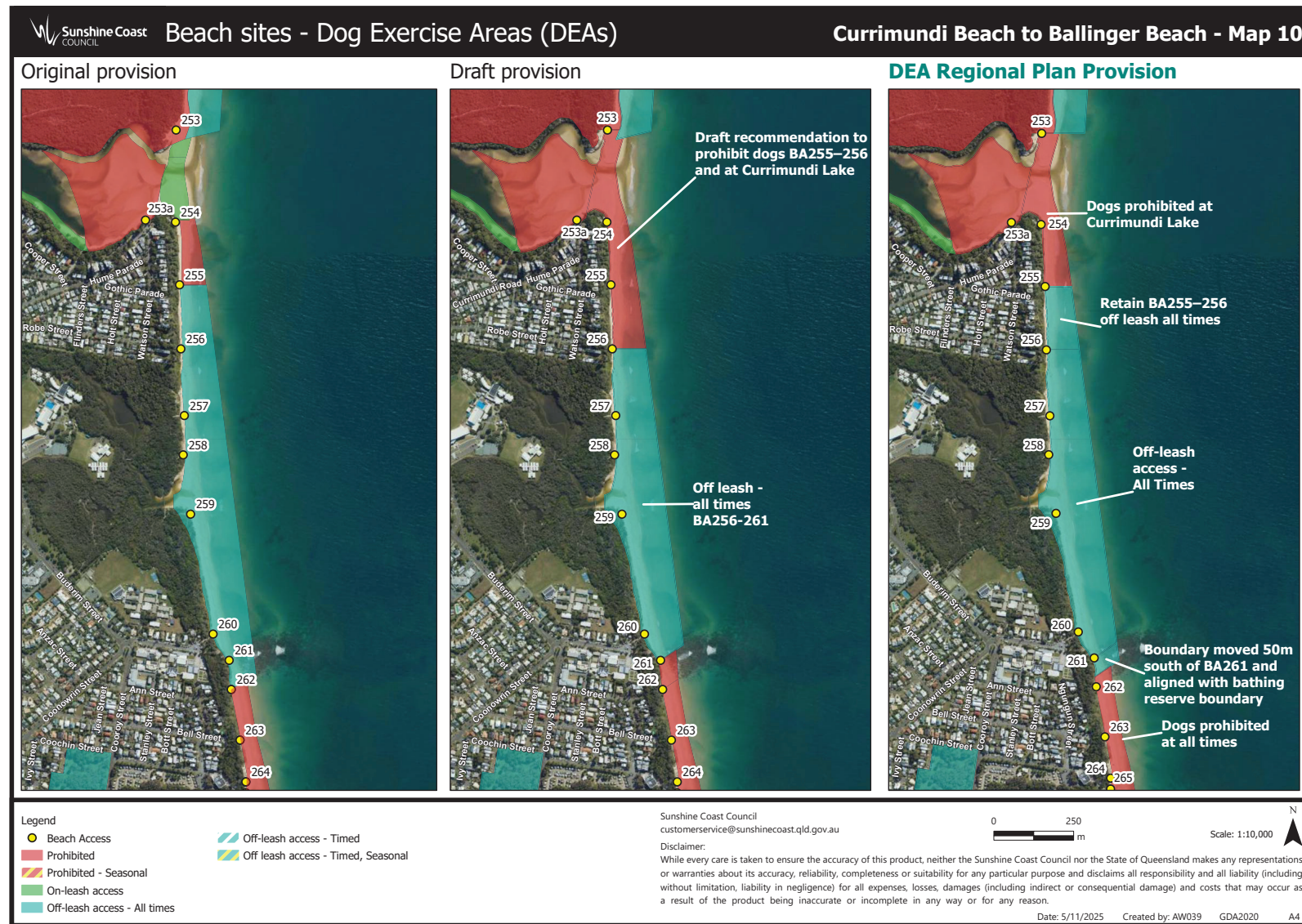


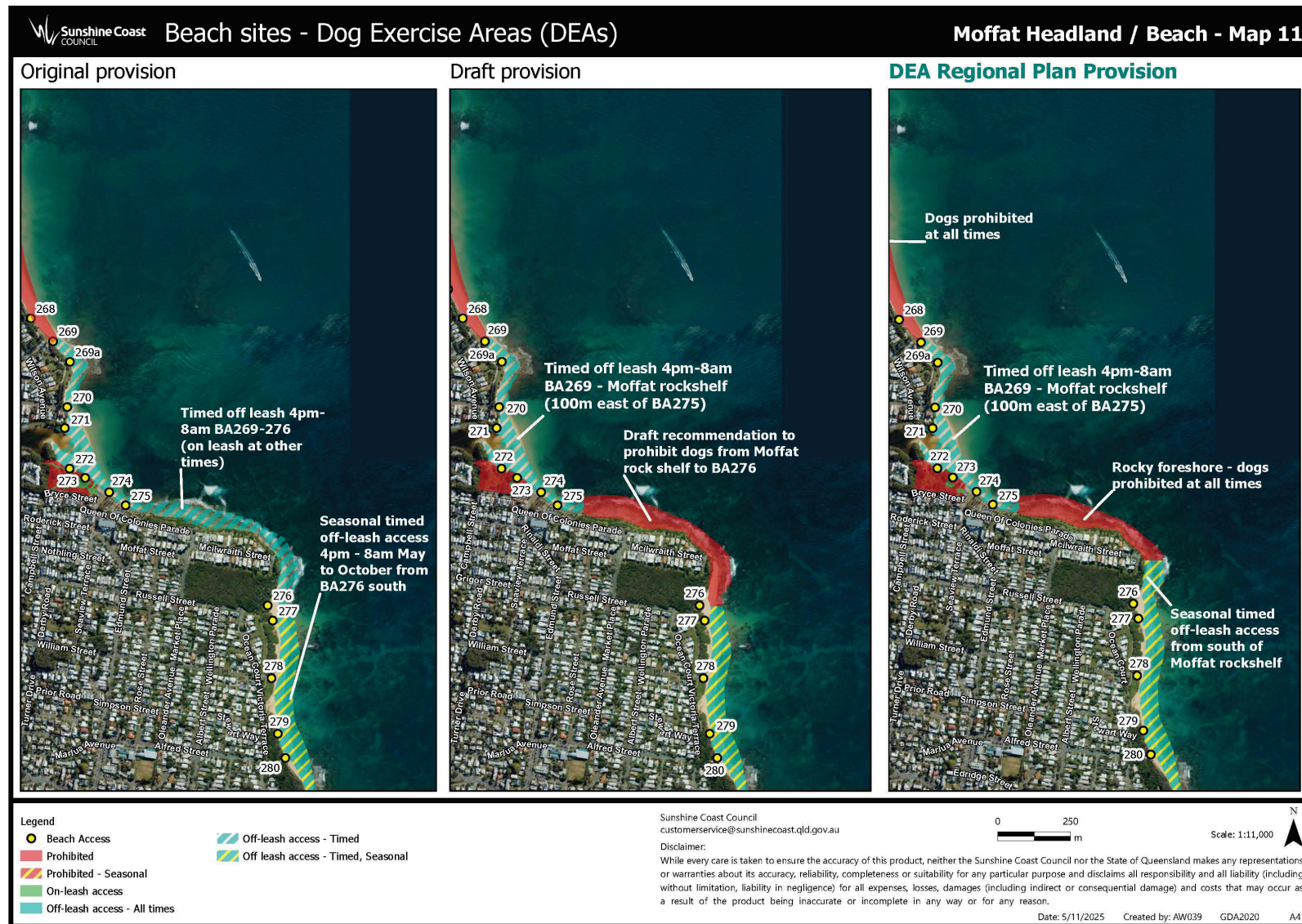


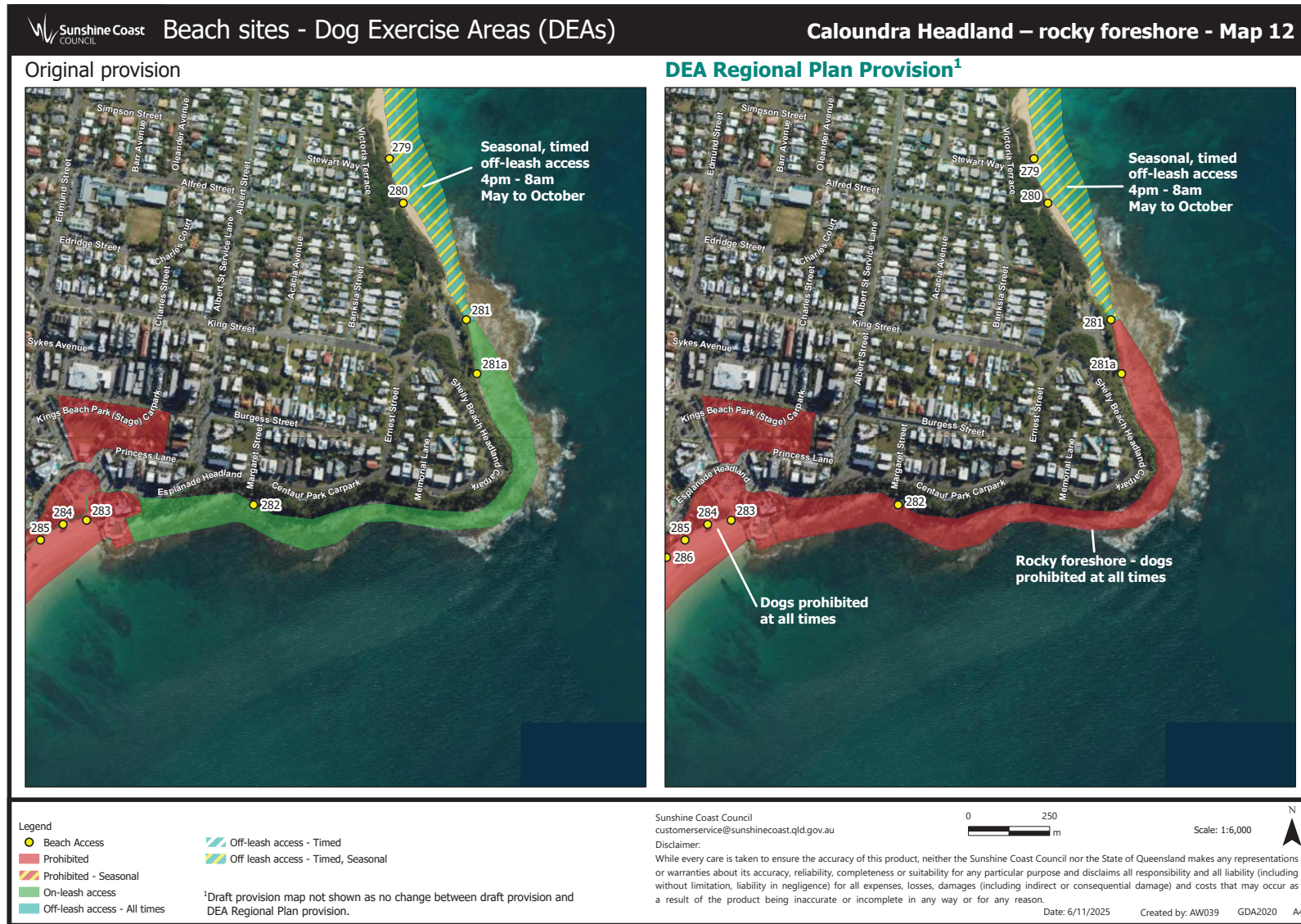
















DOG EXERCISE AREA (DEA) Regional Plan Human Rights Assessment August 2025

Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act) requires local governments to give 'proper consideration' to human rights in actions and when making decisions, and to act and make decisions that are compatible with human rights. An action or decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain 'compatible with human rights' when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom (see section 13 of the Act).

In accordance with this legislative obligation, Council has applied a human rights lens to its actions and decisions concerning Dog Exercise Areas (DEAs), specifically in the context of developing a DEA Regional Plan. This document outlines the Human Rights Assessment undertaken to inform consideration, and any approval or endorsement of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint. Human rights assessments will also be completed for any proposed decisions or actions contained within the DEA Regional Plan which are identified as engaging human rights.

The lead Project Team collaborated with the Governance Process and Policy Team to ensure a thorough and compliant assessment process. To support this process, the Queensland Human Rights Commission's 'Assessing for compatibility with human rights' flowchart was employed.

Human Rights engaged

The assessment considered the following human rights:

- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)
- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

What is the objective of the DEA Regional Plan and Network Blueprint?

A network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

Will the proposed plan limit any of the rights in the Act? - Yes.

As the DEA Regional Plan includes content regarding the prohibition or conditional access to certain places based on being in possession of property (dogs), the DEA Regional Plan may be seen to have a limiting impact on freedom of movement and property rights, in particular. Protection of families and children, cultural rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander people, liberty and security of persons, and recognition and equality before the law are all engaged by the Plan's content. In some instances, this engagement may be a positive contribution to the realisation of these rights. In some instances, individuals may perceive a limitation to these rights, based on the contents within the Plan.

Is it Lawful? - Yes.

The making of a Regional Plan in relation to DEAs is within a local government's powers to do. Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) states a local government has the power to do anything that is necessary or convenient for the good rule and local government of its local government area. To ensure the system of local government is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable, Council has an obligation under the *Local Government Act* to act in accordance with the local government principles, which are:

- (a) transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) ethical and legal behaviour of councillors, local government employees and councillor advisors.

The key State legislation relevant to the management of domestic dogs in open space is the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld). This Act provides for the identification, registration, effective management and responsible ownership and breeding of dogs in Queensland.

Council's local laws work together with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld) to regulate and address the management of domestic animals within the region. The purpose of Council's *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* is to assist the local government in the management of animals (including domestic dogs) by:

- minimising the risk to community health, safety and amenity
- reducing environmental harm or environmental nuisance
- supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community.

The *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* outlines additional requirements for the management of animals (including domestic dogs) within the region. This includes identifying public places where animals are excluded, and designation of places as Dog Off Leash Areas (DOLAs).

Is there a Purpose? - Yes.

The Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025 is an inclusive framework that supports the planning and delivery of DEAs. Delivery of a regional plan of this kind seeks to ensure equitable and well considered service provision of DEAs across the region.

These areas service users' needs and align with our region's environmental and community values as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019 - 2041.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) provides strategic pathways to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041. The development and implementation of this Plan is identified as task 11.6, and is required to deliver the 'expanding our greenspace' transformational action to:

“Develop and implement a dog exercise area plan and associated network blueprint”.

Part C: Network Plan of the ELS contains the Desired Standards of Service (DSS) and Network Blueprints for Council owned and managed environment reserves and open space assets and infrastructure within the region. This includes requirements for DOLAs, and the identification of dogs prohibited areas.

Is it Rational? - Yes.

The development of the DEA Regional Plan and Network Blueprint aligns with the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019 - 2041 and the Environment and Liveability Strategy and was developed in line with a robust governance framework. The Plan's focus is planning for anticipated growth in dog registration numbers throughout the Sunshine Coast over the next 20 years to determine appropriate provision of DEAs.

The vision and objectives of the Plan have been developed in consultation with the community including engagement with focus groups consisting of Sunshine Coast wide representative groups. The following five targeted groups were invited to assist in determining the values and principles used to guide future DEA planning.

- Natural Environment Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on ecological values
- Access and Inclusion Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback regarding social and accessibility values
- Dog related Business and Community Organisation Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on animal welfare values
- First Nations Kabi Kabi Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on cultural heritage and values
- First Nations Jinibara Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on cultural heritage and values

The Focus Groups determined the vision for the DEA network as:

A network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

The Project Team also worked with relevant internal branches to utilise existing networks to identify subject matter experts to participate in development of the draft Plan through these focus groups.

The Plan's development process sought to ensure that the actions recommended in the plan seek to effectively achieve the purpose of the Plan.

Is it Necessary? - Yes.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide long-term strategic direction to accommodate the projected growth in registered dogs. The Plan seeks to support the health, wellbeing and vitality of dogs, dog owners, the environment and our wider community while enhancing the liveability of the region.

Development of the Plan has been based on analysis of current data and dog ownership trends, industry research, and consultation on community and Council values. The Plan

provides a coordinated approach that identifies:

- the types of DEAs Council will provide in the future and DSS, including levels of embellishment
- facilities requiring upgrades to meet the proposed DSS
- the estimated number and size of future DEAs across the region required to address identified deficiencies (with consideration of needs of the wider open space network)
- actions that Council needs to take now to support the delivery of the Plan.

There is a need to provide adequate provision for current and future growth of DEAs which guides recreational use for all users, including dogs and dog owners. The Plan's focus is planning for anticipated growth in dog registration numbers throughout the Sunshine Coast over the next 20 years to determine logical and appropriate provision of DEAs.

Development of a regional plan to guide service provision of DEAs into the future is not an excessively restrictive action, as it is not the instrument which will be relied upon to affect a prohibition or restriction on movement with property. Such requirements would be required to be made through a local law amendment process, which is a highly restrictive action. Nevertheless, in the interests of practicality, consideration of the least restrictive ways to achieve the outcome sought has been a requirement of this project, and will be required should a local law amendment process progress.

In assessing suitability for proposed amendments to current dog off-leash arrangements a Multi Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) which includes a Pairwise assessment has been carried out. A Pairwise assessment is a nationally recognised assessment method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation.

A panel has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the MCRA and Pairwise assessment.

Is it Fair and Balanced? - Yes.

The Plan seeks to balance the needs of dogs and their owners with other community values, in particular through the following five objectives:

1. **To provide sufficient access to DEAs close to where dog owners live:** the Plan seeks to ensure that all dog owners have adequate access to the DEA network, including a DOLA within a reasonable travel distance from their home.
2. **To promote fair access to recreation opportunities across the region:** to provide an appropriate balance between the needs of dog owners and increasing community demand for other outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor open space, including informal greenspace.
3. **To protect environmental values:** to protect significant environmental values, including our region's cultural values, landscapes, habitats and wildlife.
4. **To maintain the safety and comfort of the community:** to ensure DEAs are safe for dogs and their owners and by ensuring access to dog-free areas, recognising that not

all users of the open space network own or appreciate the presence of dogs in public spaces.

5. **To enable appropriate budgeting and prioritisation:** to enable the efficient and fair allocation of Council's capital works and maintenance budgets.

The Plan identifies key typologies for DEAs being Council Wide, District and Local and has identified DSS for considering where DEAs are placed in accordance with spatial dog registration numbers and accessibility catchments.

Council commenced community consultation on the draft Plan in early 2025. The consultation aimed to assess community values and proposed changes to dog exercise provision. This was to gather insights and feedback to inform future planning and decision-making within the Sunshine Coast Council region.

Consultation on the draft Plan was conducted from 4 February to 7 March 2025. A broad engagement strategy was employed, including online surveys, website content, social media campaigns, targeted emails, face to face pop-up sessions and focus group sessions. The approach aimed to achieve diverse community representation and encourage meaningful participation.

Assessment Outcome -

A comprehensive assessment of the DEA Plan has concluded that it is compatible with the Human Rights Act 2019 (QLD).

Although the Plan involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The Plan is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.



Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility

In applying section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act), this statement of compatibility is provided with respect to the proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces under strategic action 3.1 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The **proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces** is considered to be compatible with the human rights protected by the Act.

Date of assessment: 12 September 2025
Completed by: Manager Parks and Gardens, in consultation with Manager Sport & Community Venues
Reviewed by: Governance Policy & Project Officer (17 October 2025)

Review based solely on the information provided. The reviewer has not independently verified the data and cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

Human rights assessment – the process:

The Act requires local governments to give 'proper consideration' to human rights when making decisions. The Act also requires local governments to make decisions which are 'compatible with human rights'. A decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain 'compatible with human rights' when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Section 58 of the Act requires Council to act and make decisions in a way compatible with human rights. The process undertaken to assess human rights compatibility is guided by the Act and includes:

- Identifying which human rights may be affected by the decision;
- Considering the impact of the decision on those rights;
- Identifying countervailing interests or obligations; and
- Balancing the competing interests.

Section 58 of the Act provides:

- (1) *It is unlawful for a public entity—*
- (a) *to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights; or*
- (b) *in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.*
- ...
- (5) *For subsection (1)(b), giving proper consideration to a human right in making a decision includes, but is not limited to—*
- (a) *identifying the human rights that may be affected by the decision; and*
- (b) *considering whether the decision would be compatible with human rights.*

Section 13 of the Act includes (at subsection (1)) the basic test for determining if a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable (and therefore still compatible with the Act). Section 13 provides:

- (1) *A human right may be subject under law only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.*
- (2) *In deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable as mentioned in subsection (1), the following factors may be relevant—*
- (a) *the nature of the human right;*

Proposal to prohibit dogs from active sports field playing surfaces
– Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) – Assessment of Compatibility – as at 17 October 2025 -
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- (b) the nature of the purpose of the limitation, including whether it is consistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;*
- (c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose, including whether the limitation helps to achieve the purpose;*
- (d) whether there are any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose;*
- (e) the importance of the purpose of the limitation;*
- (f) the importance of preserving the human right, taking into account the nature and extent of the limitation on the human right;*
- (g) the balance between the matters mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f).*

Taking a wide interpretation when identifying relevant human rights and defining any impact on those rights, is supported by *Waratah Coal Pty Ltd v Youth Verdict Ltd & Ors (No 6)* [2022] QLC 21, where the Land Court commented that "Human rights should be construed in the broadest possible way before consideration is given to whether they should be limited".

All human rights perceivably relevant are properly considered, and that consideration is documented below. As the nature and importance of both the human right, and the purpose of the limitation are considered and balanced, there is no significant risk that taking a wide perspective of relevant human rights will result in a distorted consideration or decision.

Where relevant information or context has not been available, this assessment may not reflect the full scope of human rights impacts. Conclusions drawn are limited by the available material.

The decision or action:

Proposal to prohibit dogs from Council owned or controlled active sports field playing surfaces under strategic action 3.1 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The purpose:

To:

- address the challenges presented by dogs on active sports field playing surfaces
- achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose
- enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and
- support public health, safety and wellbeing.

Context:

The proposed prohibition of dogs from sports field active playing surfaces arises from the need to manage competing uses of public space in a manner that is safe, equitable, and environmentally responsible. Sports fields are purpose-built and maintained for organised sporting activities, where close human interaction with the active playing surface is frequent and essential. Exercising dogs (on or off leash) introduces variables that are incompatible with the intended function of these grounds, including risks of contamination, surface degradation, and physical injury.

In considering this proposal, public authorities must balance their dual obligations: to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, and to take reasonable and justifiable actions in pursuit of legitimate objectives such as public safety, environmental protection, and good governance. The application of the Human Rights Act requires a careful assessment of the rights potentially impacted, alongside the rationale for any limitations imposed.

Current settings are that dogs are prohibited off-leash but allowed on-leash on active playing surfaces at the more than 64 sports field sites throughout the region. The prohibition is recommended as a proportionate response to recurring issues including hygiene concerns, injury risks, and conflict between user groups. It aims to provide clarity in the management of shared spaces, reducing ambiguity for both dog owners and sporting organisations, and fostering harmonious coexistence.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders, including community focus groups and technical experts, has informed the scope of the proposal and the identification of alternative dog exercise areas. By adopting a regional, plan-led approach, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, which seeks to provide a network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

In assessing suitability for proposed amendments to current dog off-leash arrangements, a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) which includes a Pairwise assessment has been carried out. A Pairwise assessment is a nationally recognised assessment method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation.

A panel has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the MCRA and Pairwise assessment.

The panel assembled to undertake a MCRA on the proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces. The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using Pairwise and MCRA methodologies, the evaluation of Sport and Recreation Values, Public Safety, and Access and Inclusion all returned results above moderate risk thresholds for dog access both on and off-leash. This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing

Proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces
– Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) – Assessment of Compatibility – as at 17 October 2025 -
This document is intended to be read in the context of its whole. Page 3

dogs on and off-leash on sports field active playing surfaces. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs on sports fields is supported by this risk profile.

The proposal forms part of a broader regional plan framework and is designed to ensure that any restriction is both necessary and proportionate. It reflects statutory obligations and principles of sound governance, while recognising the availability of more appropriate alternatives for dog exercise. Controls on incompatible activities are essential to maintain sports field surfaces in optimal condition and to support their continued use for their primary sporting activity purpose.

Findings of this human rights assessment:

Assessment

The assessment identifies that the following rights are relevant:

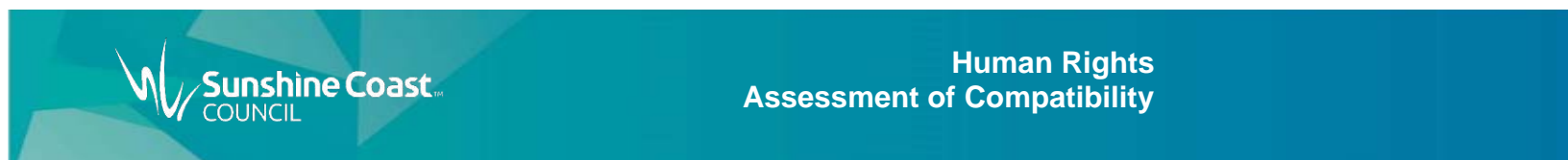
- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)
- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

The assessment identifies that the proposal seeks to contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of some of these rights and results in the limitation of some of these human rights, particularly in relation to freedom of movement and property rights. All perceivable limitations are considered to be reasonable and demonstrably justified. Therefore, the proposal to prohibit dogs from Council owned or controlled sports field playing surfaces is considered to be compatible with the rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).

Document use

This document is intended to be read in whole. Readers should not seek to interpret parts of this document outside of the document's broader context.

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
1	Freedom of movement <i>Section 19 of the Act states:</i> <i>Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it and has the freedom to choose where to live.</i> The Queensland Human Rights Commission notes that this right is engaged in policy that limits the ability to move through, remain in, enter or leave areas of public space, including that which restricts access to areas of environmental or cultural significance. The United Nations Human Rights Committee states that laws authoring limits to movement should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use precise criteria - not give unfettered discretion - be necessary to protect the purpose - be least intrusive option - be proportionate to the interest protected. 	The proposal seeks to prohibit people moving through public space (Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces) when in possession of property (dogs). Council does not have meaningful data on the current usage of sports field playing surfaces for the purpose of dog exercise and therefore cannot quantify the extent of the application of the limitation.	To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. The proposed limitation on the freedom of movement to prohibit dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose.	Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability.	The importance of the purpose is compelling as it aims to ensure sport fields can be used for their intended primary purpose of sporting activity (and associated maintenance requirements) with reduced risk of hygiene and safety concerns. Although the Plan including the proposed amendment to sports field access for dogs involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic action 3.1 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable? The effectiveness of dog prohibition to the purposes sought is key to whether this represents a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable limitation. The limitation's effectiveness will be reliant on enforcement to establish community behaviour change ahead of delivery of suitable alternative facilities.	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose? The limitation by prohibiting movement when in possession of a dog will have a direct impact on the challenges caused by dog presence on a sports field active playing surface and will reasonably result in improved hygiene and achievement of the purpose of the limitation. The panel assembled to undertake a MCRA on the proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces. The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using		

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
			Pairwise and MCRA methodologies, the evaluation of Sport and Recreation Values, Public Safety, and Access and Inclusion all returned results above moderate risk thresholds for dog access both on and off-leash. This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing dogs on and off-leash on sports field active playing surfaces. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs on sports fields is supported by this risk profile.		
2	<p>Property rights</p> <p>Section 24 of the Act states:</p> <p><i>(1) All persons have the right to own property alone or in association with others.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property.</i></p> <p>Under the common law, a domesticated animal is the property of its owners and legally classified as property. This is also reflected in various pieces of federal and state legislation.</p> <p>The term 'deprived' is not defined in the Act but is considered by Queensland Human Rights Commission resources to include the substantial restriction on a person's use or enjoyment of their property.</p> <p>Deprivation of property must not be arbitrary, which means limitations on property rights must be proportionate to the aim sought, and not unpredictable or unreasonable.</p>	<p>Prohibiting dogs from public space has the effect of restricting a person's use or enjoyment of their property (a dog).</p> <p>Where the regulation was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the broader circumstances, it is unlikely this impact would be considered arbitrary.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. The proposed limitation on the freedom of movement to prohibit dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose.</p>	As above.	As above.
		<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The concept of human dignity may raise an expectation that if given the provision of the resources (such as dog hygiene bags) and public education, responsible pet ownership standards can be met without the need to employ the</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>The limitation by prohibiting movement when in possession of a dog will have a direct impact on the challenges caused by dog presence on sports field active playing surfaces and will reasonably result in improved hygiene and</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
		more restrictive dog (property) regulation. However, given the primary purpose of a sports field active playing surface necessitates frequent and sometimes intensive human interaction with the playing surface, prohibition is reasonable and necessary to improve hygiene, reduce risk and address maintenance and management concerns.	achievement of the purpose of the limitation.		
3	<p>Protection of families and children</p> <p>Section 26 (1) and (2) of the Act states:</p> <p><i>Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State.</i></p> <p><i>Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.</i></p> <p>This means, inter alia, all decisions affecting a child, and the best interests of the child, shall be a primary consideration.</p> <p>Past Community consultation confirms that many would consider their dog to be an integral part of their family unit. The purpose of Local Law No. 2 includes "supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community". Past Community consultation feedback indicates support for the expectation that pets are a part of the family unit.</p>	<p>This right provides a lens to consider animal management regulation from the perspective of its impact on families with dogs, and the experience of children, both who are currently utilising sport field active playing surfaces with dogs, and those using these facilities without dogs, particularly when using these facilities for their primary intended purpose of sporting activity.</p> <p>Regulation which seeks to minimise interactions between children and dogs may be seen to enhance a child's right to security of person.</p> <p>Conversely, prohibiting dogs limits a family unit's ability to use a public space for leisure and exercise activities intact, which may otherwise contribute to their family unit's wellbeing and connectedness.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. The proposed limitation on the freedom of movement to prohibit dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose. The purpose is consistent with the enhancement of the protection of families and children to participate safely in sporting activities occurring on sports field active playing surfaces.</p>	As above.	As above.
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?		
		The limitation to protection of families and children is proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with	Impacting the protection of families and children using these facilities to exercise dogs is required to facilitate achievement of the decision's purpose. The recommended prohibition is		

Proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
		advancing of protection of family and children who are utilising the sporting facilities for their primary intended purpose.	scoped to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to the relevant playing surfaces.		
4	<p>Liberty and security of person</p> <p><i>Section 29 – (1) of the Act states:</i> <i>Every person has the right to liberty and security.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission states the right of security applies independently of the right to liberty and applies whether or not a person is detained. This means, the right of security of a person could be interpreted to imply an obligation that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the physical safety of those who are in danger of physical harm. This includes freedom from injury to the body and mind.</p>	<p>One purpose of animal management regulation is to reduce the fear and risk of animal attacks on people. Prohibiting dogs in public areas may contribute to an enhancement of the right to security of person. Improved hygiene and reduced sports field ground disturbance may also contribute towards the realisation of security of person in that it can contribute to reduced illness and injury risks.</p> <p>Freedom of movement and property rights may be considered limited for those with dogs, in the protection of the right to security of person.</p> <p>The right to liberty and security of person is not considered limited by the proposed decision. While it could be perceived that removal of an opportunity to exercise a dog in a public space may be seen to reduce access to a wellbeing improving activity, the proposed decision is within the context of a broader regional plan which includes other appropriate offerings for dog exercise areas.</p>	As above.	As above.	As above.
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?		
		It is difficult to quantify any perceivable limit to security of persons by the proposed decision.	Any perceivable limit to the right of liberty and security of persons is balanced by the enhancement of this right delivered through removing barriers to sports field active playing		

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
			surfaces being used for their primary purpose.		
5	<p>Recognition and equality before the law</p> <p>Section 15 (2) and (3) of the Act states:</p> <p><i>(2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.</i></p> <p>This means the human rights protected by the Act cannot be limited in a discriminatory way. People with disability, including people with impairments to mobility, have the right to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.</p> <p>These rights impose a correlative duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a negative obligation not to discriminate, and b) a positive obligation to protect against discrimination. <p>The term 'discrimination' includes direct and indirect discrimination as defined in the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i> (Qld), which includes the protected attributes of age and impairment.</p>	<p>Sports fields may in some instances be considered to be an easy-to-access place to undertake dog exercise activity for those with limited mobility.</p> <p>As a consistent prohibition setting is being recommended for all sports field active playing surfaces any impact in terms of removal of accessible dog exercise areas is unable to be assessed. However, there are currently 49 alternative dog exercise areas throughout the region for the community to exercise their dogs and the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint has recognised opportunities to provide an additional 22 sites over the next 20 years. Accessibility for people with a disability has been at the forefront of consideration when developing the Plan.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. Any possible proposed limitation on recognition and equality before the law through the prohibition of all dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose.</p>	As above.	As above.
		<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>In the absence of this issue being quantified, it is difficult to assess the reasonableness of the limitation through this lens. However, it is noted that section of the Act seeks to achieve equal protection of the law and the proposal seeks to improve consistency between all like sports fields in the region.</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>There is no relationship between removing easy to access facilities for dog exercise and the limitation's purpose.</p> <p>The recommended prohibition is however scoped to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to the relevant playing surfaces.</p>		

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In applying section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act), this statement of compatibility is provided with respect to the proposal to prohibit dogs from sections of beach and foreshore under the management control of Sunshine Coast Council, under strategic action 4 of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint (the Plan).

The proposal to prohibit dogs from areas of beaches and foreshores is considered to be compatible with the human rights protected by the Act.

Date of assessment: 22 October 2025
Completed by: Manager Environmental Operations
Reviewed by: Governance Policy & Project Officer (31 October 2025)

Human rights assessment – the process:

The Act requires local governments to give ‘proper consideration’ to human rights when making decisions. The Act also requires local governments to make decisions which are ‘compatible with human rights’. A decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain ‘compatible with human rights’ when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Section 58 of the Act requires Council to act and make decisions in a way compatible with human rights. The process undertaken to assess human rights compatibility is guided by the Act and includes:

- Identifying which human rights may be affected by the decision;
- Considering the impact of the decision on those rights;
- Identifying countervailing interests or obligations; and
- Balancing the competing interests.

Section 58 of the Act provides:

(1) *It is unlawful for a public entity—*

(a) to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights; or

(b) in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.

...

(5) *For subsection (1)(b), giving proper consideration to a human right in making a decision includes, but is not limited to—*

(a) identifying the human rights that may be affected by the decision; and

(b) considering whether the decision would be compatible with human rights.

Section 13 of the Act includes (at subsection (1)) the basic test for determining if a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable (and therefore still compatible with the Act). Section 13 provides:

(1) *A human right may be subject under law only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.*

(2) *In deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable as mentioned in subsection (1), the following factors may be relevant—*

(a) the nature of the human right;

(b) the nature of the purpose of the limitation, including whether it is consistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;

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- (c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose, including whether the limitation helps to achieve the purpose;*
- (d) whether there are any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose;*
- (e) the importance of the purpose of the limitation;*
- (f) the importance of preserving the human right, taking into account the nature and extent of the limitation on the human right;*
- (g) the balance between the matters mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f).*

Taking a wide interpretation when identifying relevant human rights and defining any impact on those rights, is supported by *Waratah Coal Pty Ltd v Youth Verdict Ltd & Ors (No 6)* [2022] QLC 21, where the Land Court commented that "Human rights should be construed in the broadest possible way before consideration is given to whether they should be limited".

All human rights perceivably relevant are properly considered, and that consideration is documented below. As the nature and importance of both the human right, and the purpose of the limitation are considered and balanced, there is no significant risk that taking a wide perspective of relevant human rights will result in a distorted consideration or decision.

The decision or action:

Proposal to prohibit dogs from areas of beaches and foreshores under strategic action 4 of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The purpose:

To ensure dog exercise areas are suitably located and:

- improve the compatibility of the DEA network with the needs of other recreational users
- enhance the compatibility of the DEA network with the environmental and social values of our beaches and foreshores (including implementation of the Shorebird Plan), and
- ensure that the DEA network is compatible with the cultural values of our landscape.

Context:

The proposed prohibition of dogs from certain beach and foreshore locations arises from the need to manage competing uses of public space in a manner that effectively manages the risk of dog access to the community values identified through the development of the Plan. Beaches and foreshores are managed by Council for a range of values, and in compliance with a various legislation (outlined in the Plan). Managing risk of dog access to environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, public safety and workplace health and safety values is considered through the Plan using a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Analysis, to support a consistent and values-based assessment process, specific to the values identified for beaches and foreshores, and with consideration for compliance with relevant legislation. Exercising dogs (on or off leash) introduces variables that may be incompatible with the values (and risks to those values) for beach and foreshore locations.

In considering this proposal, public authorities must balance their dual obligations: to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, and to take reasonable and justifiable actions in pursuit of legitimate objectives such as public safety, environmental and cultural heritage protection, social, recreational and accessibility outcomes, and good governance. The

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application of the Human Rights Act requires a careful assessment of the rights potentially impacted, alongside the rationale for any limitations imposed.

In some locations, dog prohibition is recommended as a proportionate response to recurring issues, including impacts to sensitive environments, cultural heritage, other recreational uses and users, accessibility, public safety and workplace health and safety (for council staff, contractors and volunteers). It aims to provide clarity in the management of beaches and foreshores, reducing ambiguity for users of these spaces.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders has occurred through the development of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, including through stakeholder input into the design of the plan via Community Focus Groups, engagement with Traditional Custodians, and broad community consultation on the draft Plan. This has informed the scope of the proposal to prohibit dogs from identified areas of beaches and foreshores, and the identification of alternative dog exercise areas across the Sunshine Coast Council region. By adopting a regional, plan-led approach, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, which seeks to provide a network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment, culturally sensitive landscapes and fair and equitable recreational access for all of the community.

The proposal forms part of a broader regional plan framework and is designed to ensure that any restriction to dog access is both necessary and proportionate. It reflects statutory obligations and principles of sound governance, while recognising the availability of more appropriate alternatives for dog exercise. Controls on incompatible activities are essential to enable balanced management of Council managed open space.

Current state and strategic alignment:

Under Local Law 2, Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011, Schedule 4, dogs (all animals) are currently prohibited (unless a sign permits the animal) at:

- beach and foreshore - any part of the foreshore or seashore that is under the local government's control, including bathing reserves
- park/reserve - any park or reserve that adjoins a part of the foreshore or seashore that is under the local government's control

Currently Council allocates 16.9km of off-leash and 22km of on-leash beach and foreshore provision for dogs on Council managed coastline. 9km of beach and foreshore prohibits dog access. The Plan proposed to amend this provision to improve management of risk to environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, public safety and workplace health and safety values and improve compliance with relevant legislation.

As outlined in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy, Part C, Council has a role in the management of Coastal areas. Coastal Desired Standards of Service (DSS) outline requirements for the integration of coastal management principles with planning, management and servicing of all public lands within the Queensland Coastal Zone, with particular focus on coastal foreshores and the adjacent dunes. The Coastal DSS provide guidance on coastal management services necessary to:

- protect, improve and maintain the natural functions and values of the coast and uses that these support
- maintain and/or enhance coastal processes, particularly the stability of the foreshore system, and
- manage our built assets.

ELS Guidelines (Coastal) – planning and management

The following guidelines inform the broad fundamental requirements for coastal management on the Sunshine Coast and should be applied holistically in the planning, management and servicing of all public lands within the Queensland Coastal Zone, with a focus on the Queensland State Government 2100 Coastal Hazard Area.

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Coastal water quality, landforms and physical coastal processes

- Water quality, and the long-term stability of dunes and other coastal landforms are preserved and physical coastal processes including erosion, accretion and the movement of sediment are able to occur without interruption.

Nature conservation

- Matters of environmental significance are conserved by avoiding impacts or where impacts cannot be avoided, residual impacts are mitigated through rehabilitation measures

Indigenous cultural heritage

- Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders are the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of their cultural heritage; their connection to coastal and marine resources should be maintained and enhanced.

Public access and enjoyment of the coast

- Public access and use of the coast is maintained or enhanced for current and future generations.

Management planning

- Managing and using coastal land is planned, monitored, reported on and reviewed to achieve continuous improvement in management outcomes.

Knowledge sharing and community engagement

- Knowledge of coastal resources and their management is shared with the community and the community is engaged in decision making processes and activities that affect them.

Planning

- Council's Strategic and Operational Planning:
 - incorporates the Coastal Management Principles
 - is consistent with National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (NRMCC 20061)
- Disaster management planning considers a range of coastal hazard scenarios.

Infrastructure

- Council assets support a coast dependent use and are subject to long-term coastal hazard adaptation planning.
- Council assets and activities are sufficiently resilient to the associated hazard/s.
- Council assets are designed and maintained to support the integrity of coastal values and sustainable uses.
- Council assets within the current climate Erosion Prone Area are subject to Shoreline Erosion Management Planning.

Land and infrastructure management and maintenance

- Maintenance and land management activities are carried out in a manner that does not impact on natural coastal processes or water quality.

Management of beaches and foreshores is also guided by Council's Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP), which provides an integrated, overarching strategic management framework to realise Sunshine Coast Council's vision for a healthy Coast, as outlined in our Environment and Liveability Strategy Part A: Strategic Directions (2023 edition).

Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy outlines a future state for the Coast where 'our coastal areas are healthy, resilient to climate change impacts and support sustainable use'. The HCMP furthers this vision, and seeks to ensure the Coast is:

a healthy, functional, and an adaptive coastal environment that contributes to the liveability of the Sunshine Coast and is enjoyed, cared for, and protected by all who live on or visit the Coast.

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Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP)

The HCMP objectives state that:

Implementation of the HCMP will achieve the vision for a healthy Coast by ensuring:

- natural coastal processes, landforms, habitats, vegetation, fauna and water quality of the Coast are respected and protected
- the Coast is a valued, healthy and sustainably managed asset that is adaptive to the increasing and changing pressures from climate change and a growing population
- the Coast is a shared asset that provides diverse and sustainable recreation experiences and supports equitable, safe and connected access for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- positive partnerships are built and maintained through ongoing engagement with residents, industry, government and the broader community
- the Coast supports opportunities for all people to connect with each other, their communities, their cultural heritage and the environment
- First Nations' values, connections, rights, aspirations and knowledge are recognised, respected and supported through their role as traditional custodians of the Coast
- coastal management and planning is based on the best available evidence.

Additional regulatory and policy context that informed the decision making for dog provision on beach and foreshores in the Plan can be found in Section 3 - *Regulatory context* and Section 4 - *Council's strategic framework*.

The proposed changes in the Plan to prohibit dogs from additional beach and foreshore locations are listed below:

Location	Description	Length of beach/foreshore	Key contributing risks (MCRA)
Point Perry rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited Beach access 81 - 82 Rocky foreshore	725m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Point Arkwright rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited Southern end of Third Bay to beach access 85 Rocky foreshore	750m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
North Shore, Twin Waters	Seasonal closure (dogs prohibited) within high-value migratory shorebird high tide roost area between October - April (as mapped) Sandy beach/river mouth	475m	Environmental, Cultural See MCRA for details
Goat Island	Dogs prohibited Sandbank and beach area on eastern side (outside of Conservation Park area) Sandy beach/island	400m	Environmental, Cultural See MCRA for details
Alexandra Corner	Dogs prohibited Beach access 163 - 164 Sandy beach	100m	Social, Safety, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Point Cartwright (Carties beach)	Dogs prohibited Beach access 196 - 196T (as per sunset clause from 1 July 2026 - Pt Cartwright Master	200m	Environmental, Cultural, Social, Safety, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details

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	Plan) Sandy beach and rocky foreshore		
Currimundi Beach - lake mouth	Dogs prohibited Beach access 253 - 253a/254 Sandy beach/creek mouth	300m	Social, Safety, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Ballinger Beach	Dogs prohibited 50m south of beach access 261 to 262 Sandy beach	50m	Social, Safety, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Moffat Headland rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited 100m east of beach access 275 to 150m north of beach access 276 Rocky foreshore	500m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Caloundra Headland rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited Beach access 281 - 283 Rocky foreshore	1175m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Happy Valley	Dogs Prohibited Beach access 291 - 293 Rocky foreshore	250m	Social, Safety, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details

Summary of changes - Beaches and Foreshores

The below table summarises the changes to the lengths of beach and foreshore for off-leash and on-leash dog access, and dogs prohibited for the 47.1km of Council controlled beaches and foreshores. For some locations where off-leash access is provisioned, this includes timed and/or seasonal access, with on-leash provision outside of these times. The seasonal prohibition at North Shore has been calculated as dogs prohibited in the below table.

	Off-leash	On-leash	Prohibited
Current provision	16.9 km	21.8 km	8.4 km
Proposed provision	16.4 km	17.9 km	12.8 km
Change	-0.5 km	-3.9 km	+4.4km
% of beach and foreshore provision - Current	36%	46%	18%
% of beach and foreshore provision - Proposed	35%	38%	27%

Findings of this human rights assessment:

Assessment

The assessment identifies that the following rights are relevant:

- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)

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- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

The assessment identifies that the proposal seeks to contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of some of these rights and results in the limitation of some of these human rights, particularly in relation to freedom of movement and property rights. All perceivable limitations are considered to be reasonable and demonstrably justified. Therefore, the proposal to prohibit dogs from identified Council managed beach and foreshore locations is considered to be compatible with the rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).

Document use

This document is intended to be read in whole. Readers should not seek to interpret parts of this document outside of the document's broader context.



Human Rights Assessment of Compatibility

What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
1	<p>Freedom of movement</p> <p>Section 19 of the Act states:</p> <p><i>Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it and has the freedom to choose where to live.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission notes that this right is engaged in policy that limits the ability to move through, remain in, enter or leave areas of public space, including that which restricts access to areas of environmental or cultural significance.</p> <p>The United Nations Human Rights Committee states that laws authoring limits to movement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use precise criteria - not give unfettered discretion - be necessary to protect the purpose - be least intrusive option - be proportionate to the interest protected. 	<p>Dog access to beach and foreshore areas on the Sunshine Coast is already subject to restrictions under the Subordinate Local Law 2, which states that dogs are prohibited unless a sign indicates otherwise.</p> <p>The recommendation to prohibit movement when in possession of property (dogs) for identified beach and foreshore locations is a limitation to freedom of movement.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to the values associated with beach and foreshore locations and ensure a balanced, consistent and well planned approach to managing dog access in these locations.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to prohibit dogs from beach and foreshore locations where the risk has been deemed unacceptable through the Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Analysis process for beaches and foreshores.</p> <p>This assessment considers relevant legislation, Council policy and community values (environment, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety, ability to manage compliance) in assessing risk of dog access to beach and foreshore locations. Prohibition is only recommended where the MCRA identifies the risk is unacceptable. The MCRA considers existing and alternate risk management controls that could be feasibly implemented to reduce the risk before recommending prohibition of dogs from an areas of beach or foreshore.</p>	<p>Increased education and compliance efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education and compliance alone are not reasonably available options to achieve the purpose with reliability.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to prohibit dogs from beach and foreshore locations where the risk has been deemed unacceptable through the Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Analysis process for beaches and foreshores.</p> <p>This assessment considers relevant legislation, Council policy and community values (environment, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety, ability to manage compliance) in assessing risk of dog access to beach and foreshore locations. Prohibition is only recommended where the</p>	<p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendment to implement additional prohibition of dogs from some areas of beach and foreshore, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic action 4 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>

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		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?	<p>MCRA identifies the risk is unacceptable, with off-leash and on-leash access continuing to be provided in locations where risk is deemed acceptable.</p> <p>The MCRA considers existing and alternate risk management controls that could be feasibly implemented to reduce the risk before recommending prohibition of dogs from an areas of beach or foreshore.</p>	
		<p>The Plan focuses on protection of environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values for beach and foreshore locations, recognising that a balance is required to ensure compliance with other legislation and support safe, fair and equitable access for all community members. The Plan recognises that dog access to open spaces is an important social and recreational activity, and that where the balance of values can be effectively managed dog access can be retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their freedom of movement was impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs. For these members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved freedom of movement.</p> <p>The effectiveness of dog prohibition to the purposes sought is key to whether this represents a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable limitation. The limitation's effectiveness will be reliant on enforcement to establish community behaviour change ahead of delivery of suitable alternative facilities. In implementing the proposed changes, Council intends to undertake community education through communications, media, signage, online mapping, local educational pop-ups, and annual training programs for dog owners.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.</p>	<p>Prohibition of domestic dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations has a direct relationship with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving the compatibility of the DEA network with the needs of other recreational users - enhancing the compatibility of the DEA network with the environmental and social values of our beaches and foreshores (including implementation of the Shorebird Plan), and - ensuring that the DEA network is compatible with the cultural values of our landscape. <p>Proposed changes to dog access at each identified location were developed through the MCRA and Pairwise Analysis process.</p>		

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2	<p>Property rights</p> <p><i>Section 24 of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>(1) All persons have the right to own property alone or in association with others.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property.</i></p> <p>Under the common law, a domesticated animal is the property of its owners and legally classified as property. This is also reflected in various pieces of federal and state legislation.</p> <p>The term 'deprived' is not defined in the Act but is considered by Queensland Human Rights Commission resources to include the substantial restriction on a person's use or enjoyment of their property.</p> <p>Deprivation of property must not be arbitrary, which means limitations on property rights must be proportionate to the aim sought, and not unpredictable or unreasonable.</p>	<p>Prohibiting dogs from public space has the effect of restricting a person's use or enjoyment of their property (a dog).</p> <p>Where the regulation was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the broader circumstances, it is unlikely this impact would be considered arbitrary.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The Plan focuses on protection of environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values for beach and foreshore locations, recognising that a balance is required to ensure compliance with other legislation and support safe, fair and equitable access for all community members. The Plan recognises that dog access to open spaces is an important social and recreational activity, and that where the balance of values can be effectively managed dog access can be retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs (property) from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, safety, accessibility, management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair and equitable provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed.</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>As above</p>	As above	As above

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		As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.			
3	<p>Protection of families and children</p> <p><i>Section 26 (1) and (2) of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State.</i></p> <p><i>Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.</i></p> <p>This means, inter alia, all decisions affecting a child, and the best interests of the child, shall be a primary consideration.</p> <p>Past Community consultation confirms that many would consider their dog to be an integral part of their family unit. The purpose of Local Law No. 2 includes "supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community". Past Community consultation feedback indicates support for the expectation that pets are a part of the family unit.</p>	<p>This right provides a lens to consider animal management regulation from the perspective of its impact on families with dogs, and the experience of children, both who are currently utilising beach and foreshore locations with dogs, and those frequenting these locations without dogs.</p> <p>Regulation which seeks to minimise interactions between children and dogs may be seen to enhance a child's right to security of person.</p> <p>Conversely, prohibiting dogs limits a family unit's ability to use a public space for leisure and exercise activities intact, which may otherwise contribute to their family unit's wellbeing and connectedness.</p> <p>The Plan identifies the importance of public safety when provisioning dog exercise areas and aims to achieve a balanced provision for both dog owners and non-dog owners over the next 20 years through the action plan and network blueprint, including consideration for balancing human rights in the making of the plan.</p>	As above	As above	As above
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its		

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			purpose?		
		<p>The Plan focuses on protection of environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values for beach and foreshore locations, recognising that a balance is required to ensure compliance with other legislation and support safe, fair and equitable access for all community members, including families and children. The Plan recognises that dog access to open spaces is an important social and recreational activity, and that where the balance of values can be effectively managed dog access can be retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their freedom of movement was impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs, including for families and children. For these members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved freedom of movement.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety (including families and children), management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair and equitable provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are</p>	<p>Impacting the protection of families and children frequenting these places to exercise dogs is required to facilitate achievement of the decision's purpose. The recommended prohibition of dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations is considered to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to those assessed as unacceptable risk through the MCRA and Pairwise Analysis process.</p>		

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		reasonable and justifiable.			
4	<p>Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples</p> <p>Section 28 states:</p> <p><i>(1) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinct cultural rights.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not be denied the right, with other members of their community –</i></p> <p><i>(a) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their identity and cultural heritage, including their traditional knowledge, distinctive spiritual practices, observances, beliefs and teachings; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect, develop and use their language, including traditional cultural expressions; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their kinship ties; and</i></p> <p><i>(d) to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which they have a connection under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of their land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.</i></p>	<p>One purpose of animal management regulation is to reduce the impact of domestic animals on cultural heritage and environmental values.</p> <p>Prohibiting dogs in beach and foreshore locations where high environmental and/or cultural heritage values (tangible or intangible) are known to be present may contribute to an enhancement of the right of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to conserve and protect the environment. Feedback was sought from Traditional Owners on their values, and impacts to those values of dog access across Council open spaces, and this has been considered in the assessment process and Plan recommendations.</p>	<p>The proposed prohibition of dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations seeks to achieve improved environmental and cultural heritage protection in locations where these values are present.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p> <p>The proposed amendment does not appear incompatible with cultural rights. Continued engagement with the Traditional Custodians, to ensure all recommendations appropriately respect and protect relevant cultural rights is recommended.</p>
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?		
		Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.	Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.		

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5	Liberty and security of person Section 29 – (1) of the Act states: <i>Every person has the right to liberty and security.</i> The Queensland Human Rights Commission states the right of security applies independently of the right to liberty, and applies whether or not a person is detained. This means, the right of security of a person could be interpreted to imply an obligation that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the physical safety of those who are in danger of physical harm. This includes freedom from injury to the body and mind.	An argument could be raised that some users of beach and foreshore areas may only feel safe using these places for exercise when accompanied by their dog, and could perceive the prohibition of dogs as an action decreasing their feeling of security of person, for example, a woman running on an isolated beach or foreshore at dawn or dusk with a dog. Conversely there may be some users of beaches and foreshores who may feel safer to enjoy a beach or foreshore should dogs be prohibited, if for example, they have a fear of dogs. In that scenario a person may feel an increased sense of security of person from the proposed restriction.	As above	As above	As above.
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable? In the context of a regional plan where other facilities exist to meet various community member needs, the limitation to security of person is likely to be considered proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with effectively managing the environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values of the community. Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their liberty and security of person was negatively impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs, including for families and children. For these members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved freedom of movement. Conversely, some members of the community indicated that exercising with their dog provided a sense of security. For these members, prohibition of dogs from identified areas of beach and foreshore may be considered to negatively	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose? In relation to security of person, the relationship between the recommendation's purpose and the perceivable limit to security of person is not a strong nexus. Noting that for some people the limitation may be perceived to have a positive impact on security of person and for others it may be perceived as negative. The Plan aims to provide a balance for all community members, including provision of dog access for beaches and foreshores that supports opportunities for security of person in accessing beach and foreshore locations for all community members.		

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		<p>impact their liberty and security of person.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety (including families and children), management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair and equitable provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.</p>			
6	<p>Recognition and equality before the law</p> <p>Section 15 (2) and (3) of the Act states:</p> <p><i>(2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.</i></p> <p>This means the human rights protected by the Act cannot be limited in a discriminatory way. People with disability, including people with impairments to mobility, have the right to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.</p> <p>These rights impose a correlative duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a negative obligation not to discriminate, and b) a positive obligation to protect 	<p>In relation to access to beach and foreshore locations where dog prohibitions are proposed, in a small number of locations persons with mobility impairment may reasonably consider their human rights have been limited in a discriminatory way, as the proposed prohibitions will have an impact on their inclusive participation in dog off-leash exercise activity.</p> <p>However, for the majority of beach and foreshore locations identified for dog prohibition the majority of these locations have limited or challenging access (rocky foreshores) and the provision of DDA compliant access infrastructure is highly restricted and generally not reasonably practicable to provide, thus limiting the impact of the restriction.</p> <p>Given the dynamic nature of our coastline, coastal hazards and coastal erosion risk, it is not feasible to provide an accessible beach location for off-leash dog activity.</p> <p>To deliver the infrastructure to support this, it would be in contravention to Council's Coastal Hazards Adaptation Strategy, planning policy and State</p>	<p>The proposed amendments to local laws seek to achieve improved environmental and cultural heritage protection, community safety, accessibility, and balanced social and recreational outcomes.</p> <p>These objectives are not inconsistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.</p> <p>The Plan aims to provide a balanced provision for dog access to public space, with opportunities for inclusion of all persons in common lifestyle activities which enhance wellbeing. This contributes to enhanced human dignity and equality.</p>	As above	<p>Preservation of the right to recognition and equality before the law (without discrimination) is particularly important where there is a lack of dog exercise opportunities within a reasonable distance of a person's place of residence, where dog restrictions are proposed. The Plan provides provision for 12 dog off-leash beach and foreshore locations as well as off-leash areas located in parks areas, with a network blueprint that aims to provide fair and equitable access from a spatial and infrastructure perspective. Council also provisions dog on-leash access in all recreation parks and footpath areas across the region unless otherwise signed, providing significant</p>

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<p>against discrimination.</p> <p>The term 'discrimination' includes direct and indirect discrimination as defined in the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i> (Qld), which includes the protected attributes of age and impairment.</p>	<p>planning codes.</p> <p>The only accessible beach facilities currently on the coast are provided under the accessible beach program, and are supported by surf lifesaving clubs at Coolum, Mooloolaba, Dicky Beach and Kings Beach to allow them to function effectively. These facilities require bookings to be made and the beach matting to be rolled out as needed by lifeguards to support access.</p> <p>As such, accessible dog off-leash areas should be provided through provision in parks and gardens areas, where the required infrastructure can be provided. This is identified in the draft DEA Regional Plan.</p>			<p>on-leash access opportunities across the region in areas more suitable for allowing dog access, with consideration for the community values assessed in the MCRA and Pairwise Analysis.</p> <p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendments to prohibit dogs from the identified beach and foreshore locations, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the Plan and assessment process confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic Action 4 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>In the context of a regional plan where other facilities exist to meet various community member needs, the limitation to recognition and equality toward the law is likely to be considered proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with effectively managing the environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values of the community.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their accessibility was negatively impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs, including for families and children. This is an important driver for existing dog prohibitions on beach and foreshore locations, which focus on restrictions in patrolled beach and high visitation areas, to support public safety outcomes and reduce risk of negative interactions with dogs. For these community members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>In relation to recognition and equality before the law, the relationship between the recommendation's purpose and the perceivable limit to recognition and equality before the law is not a strong nexus.</p> <p>Noting that for some people the limitation may be perceived to have a positive impact on accessibility to open space areas and for others it may be perceived as negative.</p> <p>The Plan aims to provide a balance for all community members, including provision of dog access for beaches and foreshores that supports balanced and appropriate access provisions for beach and foreshore locations for all</p>		

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		<p>provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved accessibility.</p> <p>Conversely, some members of the community indicated that exercising their dog at certain beach and foreshore locations was valued due to the perceived accessibility of that location, and that restrictions to that activity would have a negative impact. For these members, prohibition of dogs from identified areas of beach and foreshore may be considered to negatively impact accessibility.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety (including families and children), management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair, equitable and disability compliant access provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed and DDA compliant infrastructure can be reasonably practicably delivered.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.</p>	community members.		

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In applying section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act), this statement of compatibility is provided with respect to the proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves under strategic action 5 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The **proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves** is considered to be compatible with the human rights protected by the Act.

Date of assessment: 26 September 2025
Completed by: Manager Environmental Operations
Reviewed by: Governance Policy & Project Officer (17 October 2025)

Review based solely on the information provided. The reviewer has not independently verified the data and cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

Human rights assessment – the process:

The Act requires local governments to give ‘proper consideration’ to human rights when making decisions. The Act also requires local governments to make decisions which are ‘compatible with human rights’. A decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain ‘compatible with human rights’ when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Section 58 of the Act requires Council to act and make decisions in a way compatible with human rights. The process undertaken to assess human rights compatibility is guided by the Act and includes:

- Identifying which human rights may be affected by the decision;
- Considering the impact of the decision on those rights;
- Identifying countervailing interests or obligations; and
- Balancing the competing interests.

Section 58 of the Act provides:

- (1) *It is unlawful for a public entity—*
(a) to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights; or
(b) in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.

...

- (5) *For subsection (1)(b), giving proper consideration to a human right in making a decision includes, but is not limited to—*
(a) identifying the human rights that may be affected by the decision; and
(b) considering whether the decision would be compatible with human rights.

Section 13 of the Act includes (at subsection (1)) the basic test for determining if a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable (and therefore still compatible with the Act). Section 13 provides:

- (1) *A human right may be subject under law only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.*

(2) *In deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable as mentioned in subsection (1), the following factors may be relevant—*
(a) the nature of the human right;

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- (b) the nature of the purpose of the limitation, including whether it is consistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;*
- (c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose, including whether the limitation helps to achieve the purpose;*
- (d) whether there are any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose;*
- (e) the importance of the purpose of the limitation;*
- (f) the importance of preserving the human right, taking into account the nature and extent of the limitation on the human right;*
- (g) the balance between the matters mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f).*

Taking a wide interpretation when identifying relevant human rights and defining any impact on those rights, is supported by *Waratah Coal Pty Ltd v Youth Verdict Ltd & Ors (No 6)* [2022] QLC 21, where the Land Court commented that "Human rights should be construed in the broadest possible way before consideration is given to whether they should be limited".

All human rights perceivably relevant are properly considered, and that consideration is documented below. As the nature and importance of both the human right, and the purpose of the limitation are considered and balanced, there is no significant risk that taking a wide perspective of relevant human rights will result in a distorted consideration or decision.

Where relevant information or context has not been available, this assessment may not reflect the full scope of human rights impacts. Conclusions drawn are limited by the available material.

The decision or action:

Proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves under strategic action 5 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The purpose:

To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.

Context:

The proposed prohibition of dogs from certain high conservation value environment reserves for conservation purposes arises from the need to manage competing uses of public space in a manner that is environmentally responsible. Environment reserves are areas designated for the primary purpose of conservation. Exercising dogs (on or off leash) introduces variables that may be incompatible with the intended function of these reserves, including risks of contamination to the environment and risk to wildlife integrity.

In considering this proposal, public authorities must balance their dual obligations: to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, and to take reasonable and justifiable actions in pursuit of legitimate objectives such as public safety, environmental and cultural heritage protection, and good governance. The application of the Human Rights Act requires a careful assessment of the rights potentially impacted, alongside the rationale for any limitations imposed.

The prohibition is recommended as a proportionate response to recurring issues including impact to sensitive environments, flora and fauna. It aims to provide clarity in the management of reserves, reducing ambiguity for users of these spaces.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders has occurred through the development of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, including through stakeholder input into the design of the plan via Community Focus Groups,

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engagement with Traditional Custodians, and broad community consultation on the draft Plan. This has informed the scope of the proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves, and the identification of alternative dog exercise areas across the Sunshine Coast Council region. By adopting a regional, plan-led approach, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, which seeks to provide a network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

The proposal forms part of a broader regional plan framework and is designed to ensure that any restriction to dog access is both necessary and proportionate. It reflects statutory obligations and principles of sound governance, while recognising the availability of more appropriate alternatives for dog exercise. Controls on incompatible activities are essential to enable optimal condition for environmental conservation and to support these places being available for continued use for their primary purpose.

Current state and strategic alignment:

Dogs are currently allowed on-leash in all Council managed Environment Reserves, unless a local law is in place to prohibit dogs. Currently only eight environment reserves across the region (746 reserves in total) prohibit dogs under the local law.

As outlined in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS), Council has a role in the management of Environment Reserves to both protect and enhance the ecological values and provide opportunities in keeping with the natural setting for public access and enjoyment.

The ELS states that the primary purpose of environment reserves is to:

- protect biodiversity and enhance the site's environmental values and ecological functionality
- contribute to landscape connectivity and assist to consolidate habitat areas
- contribute to the landscape and character values of the Sunshine Coast
- **where appropriate**, provide suitable and safe public access.

Environment reserves can also provide a valuable secondary function as open space/recreation areas. Suitable functions should be determined by the capacity of the land to support suitable and safe public access without impacting on the environmental values of the site.

There are five categories of Environment Reserves outlined in the Environment and Liveability Strategy:

- Conservation Reserves
- Nature Reserves
- Bushland Reserves
- Natural Amenity Reserves
- Coastal Reserves

Under the Environment and Liveability Strategy - Desired Standards of Service; Conservation and Nature Reserves generally have the highest level of biodiversity, are ecologically sensitive environments and public access is generally limited by Council and managed through a permit process or formal arrangements, to conserve their significant ecological values.

As such, a recommendation of the Plan is that all Conservation and Nature Reserves prohibit dogs (and all domestic animals) to align with the purpose and function of the reserves and ensure the environmental values are effectively protected and maintained.

Bushland Reserves are generally greater than 20 hectares in size and are intended to protect and enhance the site's terrestrial, riparian and aquatic habitats, including various native plant and animal communities that contribute to functionality and habitat connectivity. Bushland reserves may have areas of degraded habitat that require rehabilitation/restoration to consolidate the reserve and build landscape connectivity. Bushland reserves are resilient to external impacts and may support public access and various sustainable nature-based activities.

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Council's Environmental Operations Branch undertake detailed assessments of each reserve's ecological values to inform its management. This assessment process provides a biodiversity score for each reserve, categorised as B1, B2 or B3, with B1 reserves having the highest ecological values.

It is recommended through the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan that Bushland Reserves with a B1 biodiversity rating are also recommended for prohibition of dogs. However, it is recognised that some existing Bushland Reserves also provide nature based recreational opportunities, which currently include on-leash dog access, and that prohibition of this activity may impact some users.

As such, further assessment was undertaken by the Project Team to inform recommendations for the Plan. This included the use of a Pairwise values weighting process and Multi Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) for relevant environment reserves, to evaluate whether the risk of dog on-leash access on environmental, cultural, social and management values was acceptable to allow dog access to continue. Where relevant this was considered across the entire environment reserve, and also assess for on-leash access to the defined recreational trails only, to try to limit access prohibitions where able.

The assessment identified 41 environment reserves where prohibition of dogs (and domestic animals) is recommended as a high priority, to be implemented in the first stage of local law changes associated with the Plan implementation (17 Conservation Reserves, 6 Nature Reserves and 18 Bushland Reserves (5 of these are only partial reserve prohibitions – continued access will be provided on connecting recreation trails)).

28 environment reserves were identified as medium priority (recommended for consideration for dog prohibition in 1-5 years), and 27 as low priority (consider for prohibition/re-evaluation at a future date (5+ years or where changes to values/risks are identified)).

The detailed recommendations are documented within the Plan and have been developed in consultation with community Focus Groups and technical experts.

Development of the recommendation for strategic action 5 in the Plan:

For Nature and Conservation Reserves, prohibition of dogs is recommended, without further assessment, due to the significant environmental values, legislative obligations, land tenure types and threats to the environmental values within these reserves. Limited recreational infrastructure is provided in these reserves, given the policy position of Council under the Environment and Liveability Strategy to limit public access to these reserves due to their significant ecological values and to minimise threats.

In assessing suitability for proposed amendments to current dog on-leash arrangements within high conservation value B1 Bushland environment reserves, a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) which includes a Pairwise assessment has been carried out for relevant reserves. A Pairwise assessment is a nationally recognised assessment method whereby values are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually, against a set of criteria to provide relative weightings of those values. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation.

A technical panel has been established to support current and future dog exercise access assessments based on open space type and site-specific locations. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the MCRA and Pairwise assessment.

The panel assembled to undertake a MCRA on the proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value B1 Bushland environment reserves, where formal recreational trail access is known to be present and used by the community for on-leash dog walking. The risk assessment identified that a Total Moderated Score (which considers the scores for all values with weightings applied) of below zero (negative score) indicate unacceptable risk levels and the prohibition of dogs would be recommended for the location assessed. Twelve Bushland Reserves were assessed with one recommending a full prohibition

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of dogs, seven recommending partial prohibition of dogs with some trail access retained for on-leash access, and five recommended to retain existing on-leash access to the reserve.

Findings of this human rights assessment:

Assessment

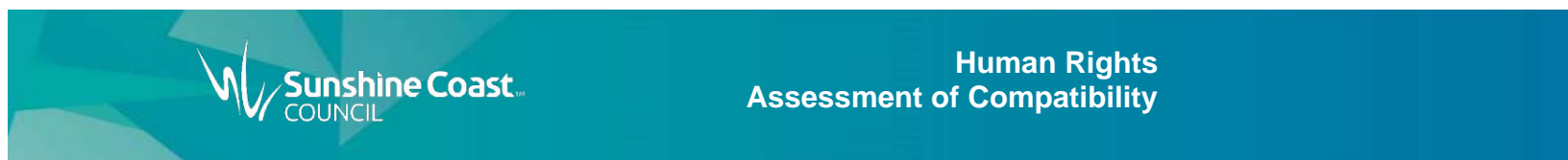
The assessment identifies that the following rights are relevant:

- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)
- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

The assessment identifies that the proposal seeks to contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of some of these rights and results in the limitation of some of these human rights, particularly in relation to freedom of movement and property rights. All perceivable limitations are considered to be reasonable and demonstrably justified. Therefore, the proposal to prohibit dogs from identified Council owned or controlled high conservation value Environment Reserves is considered to be compatible with the rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).

Document use

This document is intended to be read in whole. Readers should not seek to interpret parts of this document outside of the document's broader context.



What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>1</p> <p>Freedom of movement</p> <p>Section 19 of the Act states: <i>Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it and has the freedom to choose where to live.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission notes that this right is engaged in policy that limits the ability to move through, remain in, enter or leave areas of public space, including that which restricts access to areas of environmental or cultural significance.</p> <p>The United Nations Human Rights Committee states that laws authoring limits to movement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use precise criteria - not give unfettered discretion - be necessary to protect the purpose - be least intrusive option - be proportionate to the interest protected. 	<p>Movement in environmental reserves is already subject to restrictions to ensure these areas can be managed and maintained for their primary purpose of environmental conservation. As such, there is often minimal public trail infrastructure present.</p> <p>The recommendation to prohibit movement when in possession of property (dogs) through high conservation value environment reserves is a limitation to freedom of movement.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p>	<p>The status quo includes the offering of on-leash activity in the environment reserves identified for dog prohibition.</p> <p>Increased enforcement of the reserves is another way to achieve the purpose, noting that efforts have been made of this kind previously, with limited success due to the extensive environment reserve network and limited compliance resourcing available.</p>	<p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendment to high conservation value environment reserves for dog access, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic action 5 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>	<p>Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability.</p>	
	<p>The Plan focuses on protection of high value conservation environment reserves, recognising their significant ecological values and the sensitivity of the species and habitats they support. The Plan also recognises for the majority of the Council managed environment reserve network, where most of the recreational infrastructure is situated, that on-leash dog access is an important social and recreational activity, and that the balance of values within these reserves can be effectively managed and retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>The effectiveness of dog prohibition to the purposes sought is key to whether this represents a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable limitation. The limitation's effectiveness will be reliant on enforcement to establish community</p>	<p>Prohibition of domestic dogs from high conservation value environment reserves has a direct relationship with reserves being maintained and managed in a manner consistent with their designated purpose.</p>	<p>Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability.</p>	

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
		behaviour change ahead of delivery of suitable alternative facilities. In implementing the proposed changes, Council intends to undertake community education through communications, media, signage, online mapping, local educational pop-ups, and annual training programs for dog owners.			
2	<p>Property rights</p> <p>Section 24 of the Act states:</p> <p><i>(1) All persons have the right to own property alone or in association with others.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property.</i></p> <p>Under the common law, a domesticated animal is the property of its owners and legally classified as property. This is also reflected in various pieces of federal and state legislation.</p> <p>The term 'deprived' is not defined in the Act but is considered by Queensland Human Rights Commission resources to include the substantial restriction on a person's use or enjoyment of their property.</p> <p>Deprivation of property must not be arbitrary, which means limitations on property rights must be proportionate to the aim sought, and not unpredictable or unreasonable.</p>	<p>Prohibiting dogs from public space has the effect of restricting a person's use or enjoyment of their property (a dog).</p> <p>Where the regulation was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the broader circumstances, it is unlikely this impact would be considered arbitrary.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p>	As above	As above
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?		
		The concept of human dignity may raise an expectation that if given the provision of the resources (such as dog hygiene bags) and public education, responsible pet ownership standards can be met without the need to employ the more restrictive dog (property) regulation. However, given the primary purpose of highly sensitive environment reserves, this necessitates a high degree of care for the environment. As such, prohibition is considered reasonable and necessary to improve (/ remove barriers to) conservation efforts.	The limitation by prohibiting movement when in possession of a dog through a high conservation value environment reserve will have a direct impact on the challenges caused by dog presence in highly sensitive environmental reserves, and will reasonably result in improved conservation outcomes, and/or effective protection of the existing values.		

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
3	Protection of families and children Section 26 (1) and (2) of the Act states: <i>Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State.</i> <i>Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.</i> This means, inter alia, all decisions affecting a child, and the best interests of the child, shall be a primary consideration. Past Community consultation confirms that many would consider their dog to be an integral part of their family unit. The purpose of Local Law No. 2 includes "supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community". Past Community consultation feedback indicates support for the expectation that pets are a part of the family unit.	This right provides a lens to consider animal management regulation from the perspective of its impact on families with dogs, and the experience of children, both who are currently utilising environment reserves with dogs, and those frequenting these locations without dogs. Regulation which seeks to minimise interactions between children and dogs may be seen to enhance a child's right to security of person. Conversely, prohibiting dogs limits a family unit's ability to use a public space for leisure and exercise activities intact, which may otherwise contribute to their family unit's wellbeing and connectedness.	To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas. The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.	As above	As above
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?		
		The limitation to protection of families and children is proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with advancing protection of the environment for the longer term and is consistent with the land's primary intended purpose.	Impacting the protection of families and children frequenting these places to exercise dogs is required to facilitate achievement of the decision's purpose. The recommended prohibition is scoped to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to the highly sensitive environments.		

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<p>4 Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples</p> <p>Section 28 states:</p> <p><i>(1) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinct cultural rights.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not be denied the right, with other members of their community –</i></p> <p><i>(a) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their identity and cultural heritage, including their traditional knowledge, distinctive spiritual practices, observances, beliefs and teachings; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect, develop and use their language, including traditional cultural expressions; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their kinship ties; and</i></p> <p><i>(d) to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which they have a connection under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of their land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.</i></p>	<p>One purpose of animal management regulation is to reduce the impact of domestic animals on the environment.</p> <p>Prohibiting dogs in high conservation value environment reserves may contribute to an enhancement of the right of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to conserve and protect the environment.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p> <p>The recommendation is also intended to contribute to protection of cultural heritage values, which are known to be present within reserves where dog access prohibitions are recommended.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p> <p>The proposed amendment does not appear incompatible with cultural rights. Continued engagement with the Traditional Custodians, to ensure all recommendations appropriately respect and protect relevant cultural rights is recommended.</p>

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
5	<p>Liberty and security of person</p> <p>Section 29 – (1) of the Act states: <i>Every person has the right to liberty and security.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission states the right of security applies independently of the right to liberty, and applies whether or not a person is detained. This means, the right of security of a person could be interpreted to imply an obligation that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the physical safety of those who are in danger of physical harm. This includes freedom from injury to the body and mind.</p>	<p>An argument could be raised that some users of trails in environment reserves may only feel safe using these places for exercise when accompanied by their dog, and could perceive prohibition of dogs as an action decreasing their feeling of security of person, for example, a woman running isolated trails at dawn or dusk with a dog. Conversely there may be some users of reserves who may feel safer to enjoy a reserve should dogs be prohibited, if for example, they have a fear of dogs. In that scenario a person may feel an increased sense of security of person from the proposed restriction.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p>	As above	As above.
		<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
		<p>In the context of a regional plan where other facilities exist to meet various community member needs, the limitation to security of person is likely to be considered proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with advancing of protection of the environment for the longer term and is consistent with the land's primary intended purpose. The assessment process aims to minimise the extent of the restriction as much as possible, by focussing only on high conservation value environment reserves and where possible, retaining on-leash access to recreational trails, where the risks can be effectively managed.</p>	<p>In relation to security of person, the relationship between the recommendation's purpose (which primarily relates to environmental protection) and the perceivable limit to security of person is not a strong nexus. Noting that the primary purpose of these places is environmental conservation, with recreational purposes being a secondary use.</p>		

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6	<p>Recognition and equality before the law</p> <p>Section 15 (2) and (3) of the Act states:</p> <p><i>(2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.</i></p> <p>This means the human rights protected by the Act cannot be limited in a discriminatory way. People with disability, including people with impairments to mobility, have the right to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.</p> <p>These rights impose a correlative duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a negative obligation not to discriminate, and b) a positive obligation to protect against discrimination. <p>The term 'discrimination' includes direct and indirect discrimination as defined in the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i> (Qld), which includes the protected attributes of age and impairment.</p>	<p>In relation to access to recreational trails in environment reserves where dog access restrictions are proposed, most trails are categorised as Class 3 and 4 trails, with one DDA compliant trail at Doonan Creek Environment Reserve. This reserve has a landscape plan and activation of nature-based experiences and ecological restoration activities that are not compatible with provision of access for dogs, as they would present significant risk to the values and purpose of the reserve.</p> <p>A number of trails that were assessed provide relatively accessible, flat trail connections between residential areas and are highly utilised as connecting trails, including for on-leash dog walking activities. Risk assessment identified that for key connecting trails, on-leash dog access could still be provided. Persons with mobility impairment may reasonably consider their human rights (particularly property rights, freedom of movement, and protection of families and children) have been limited in a discriminatory way, as the regulatory efforts will have a disproportionate impact on their inclusive participation in dog off-leash exercise activity.</p>	<p>The proposed amendments to local laws seek to achieve improved environmental protection, community safety, amenity and cultural heritage protection.</p> <p>These objectives are not inconsistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.</p> <p>However, provision of public space with opportunities for seamless inclusion of all persons in common lifestyle activities which enhance wellbeing would contribute to enhanced human dignity and equality.</p>	<p>The status quo includes the offering of on-leash activity in the environment reserves identified for dog prohibition.</p> <p>Increased enforcement of the reserves is another way to achieve the purpose, noting that efforts have been made of this kind previously, with limited success due to the extensive environment reserve network and limited compliance resourcing available.</p> <p>Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability and advice of officers that increased enforcement and increased responsible pet ownership education has been unsuccessful in effecting behavioural change.</p>	<p>Preservation of the right to recognition and equality before the law (without discrimination) is particularly important where there is a lack of dog on-leash opportunities within a reasonable distance of the reserves where dog restrictions are proposed. Council allows dog on-leash access in all recreation parks and footpath areas across the region unless otherwise signed, providing significant on-leash access opportunities across the region in areas more suitable for allowing dog access, with consideration for protection of environmental and cultural values.</p> <p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendment to high conservation value environment reserves for dog access, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic Action 5 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>
		Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?		
		<p>The Plan focuses on protection of high value conservation environment reserves, recognising their significant ecological values and the sensitivity of the species and habitats they support. The Plan also recognises for the majority of the Council managed environment reserve network, where most of the recreational infrastructure is situated, that on-leash dog access is an important social and recreational activity, and that the balance of values within these reserves can be effectively managed and retained with considered management controls, while still providing public access to the recreation access infrastructure.</p>	<p>Prohibition of domestic dogs from high conservation value environment reserves has a direct relationship with reserves being maintained and managed in a manner consistent with their designated purpose.</p>		

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