

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Hearings Committee will be held on:

Date: Thursday 26 September 2024
Time: 9.00 am Dog Control Bylaw
Venue: Council Chambers, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon,
Dunedin

Sandy Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Hearings Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson Cr Bill Acklin
Cr Carmen Houlahan
Cr Mandy Mayhem

Senior Officer Cazna Savell (Acting Manager Compliance Solutions)

Governance Support Officer Jennifer Lapham

Jennifer Lapham
Governance Support Officer

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Note: Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.

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DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.
2. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a) **Notes/Amends** if necessary the Elected Members' Interest Register attached as Attachment A; and
- b) **Confirms/Amends** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.

Attachments

	Title	Page
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Dog Control Bylaw Hearings Panel Interest Register As at 20 September 2024				
Councillors are members of all committees				
Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Cr Bill Acklin	Shareholder/Director	Dunedin Brokers Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	APRA - AMCOS	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Entertainer	Various functions	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Strath Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Casual Employee	Insulmax	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Craigieburn Reserve Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Carmen Houlahan	Owner	Residential Property - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Rental Property - North Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Part Owner	Adobe Group Ltd, Wanaka	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Rotary Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Institute of Directors	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Property Investors Association	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Gallery Acquisitions Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Creative Dunedin Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	KBCLR Family Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Theatre Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Mandy Mayhem	Chairperson	Waitati Hall Society Inc	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Blueskin News Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-ordinator	Waitati Market	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Co-ordinator	Emergency response group, Blueskin area	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	FENZ Local Advisory Committee for Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Waitati Music Festival Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Amenities Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin A & P Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Zone Representative and Board Member	Keep New Zealand Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Coastal Community Cycleway Network	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	West Harbour Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Disability Issues Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

PART A REPORTS

SPEAKING SCHEDULE AND LATE SUBMISSIONS REPORT

Department: Civic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Hearings Committee with a schedule of submitters wishing to present their views, in person, on the review of the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.
- 2 606 submissions have been received during the consultation period, for consideration by the Hearings Committee (the Committee). There were two late submissions, one received on 19 August (this submitter wishes to speak) and one on 2 September 2024.
- 3 The speaking schedule is attached (Attachment A). Please may change, and an updated version will be supplied at the meeting.
- 4 As this is an administrative report the Summary of Considerations is not required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a) **Notes** the speaking schedule for the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Policy Review.
- b) **Considers** whether to accept the two late submissions.

Signatories

Author:	Jennifer Lapham - Governance Support Officer
Authoriser:	Clare Sullivan - Manager Governance

Attachments

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⬇A	Speaking Schedule	8

DRAFT DOG CONTROL BYLAW AND POLICY SPEAKING SCHEDULE AS AT 26 SEPTEMBER 2024			
DATE	TIME	SUBMISSION	NAME
Thursday, 26 September 2024			
26-Sep-24	09:00 a.m.		
26-Sep-24	09:10 a.m.		
26-Sep-24	09:20 a.m.	1062947	Rhys Miller, Halo Project
26-Sep-24	09:30 a.m.	1052952	Kat Geeves, Trails on Trails Dog Adventures
26-Sep-24	09:40 a.m.	1062964	Kimberley Collins, Predator Free Dunedin
26-Sep-24	09:50 a.m.	1061274	Jodie Kitchingman
26-Sep-24	10:00 a.m.		
26-Sep-24	10:10 a.m.	1061879	Jane Davidson
10.20 AM - 10.40 AM		BREAK	
26-Sep-24	10:40 a.m.	1061573	Peter Gale
26-Sep-24	10:50 a.m.	1056493	Janet Ledingham, Armoana (Otago) Conservation Charitable Trust
26-Sep-24	11:00 a.m.	1061286	Josh Thomas Woof Ltd
26-Sep-24	11:10 a.m.	1053822	Megan Meade
26-Sep-24	11:20 a.m.	1062334	Ron Adams
26-Sep-24	11:30 a.m.	1062454	Justin Ragg Brighton Pony Club
26-Sep-24	11:40 a.m.	1062434	Aiesha Goswami
26-Sep-24	11:50 a.m.		
26-Sep-24	12:00 p.m.	1055470	Colin Weatherall via zoom
26-Sep-24	12:10 p.m.		
26-Sep-24	12:20 p.m.		
26-Sep-24	12:30 p.m.		

DRAFT DOG CONTROL BYLAW AND POLICY SPEAKING SCHEDULE AS AT 26 SEPTEMBER 2024			
DATE	TIME	SUBMISSION	NAME
Thursday, 26 September 2024			
12.40 PM - 1.30 PM		LUNCH BREAK	
26-Sep-24	01:30 p.m.	1062813	Chelsea McGaw Dunedin Forest and Bird
26-Sep-24	01:40 p.m.	1062856	Jo Clough The Dog Safe Workplace (via Zoom)
26-Sep-24	01:50 p.m.	1062460	Lisa Brown
26-Sep-24	02:00 p.m.	1056438	Geraldine Tait
26-Sep-24	02:10 p.m.	1062339	Kate Milne
26-Sep-24	02:20 p.m.	1062475	Francesca Bolgar (via Zoom)
26-Sep-24	02:30 p.m.	1062421	Rayond Beardsmore
26-Sep-24	02:40 p.m.	1062393	Eve Beardsmore
26-Sep-24	02:50 p.m.		
26-Sep-24	03:00 p.m.	1052700	Peter McCall

DRAFT DOG CONTROL BYLAW AND POLICY SPEAKING SCHEDULE AS AT FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024			
DATE	TIME	SUBMISSION	NAME
Friday, 27 September 2024			
27-Sep-24	09:00 a.m.	1062355	Carol Dempster
27-Sep-24	09:10 a.m.	1055585	Ruth-Ann Anderson
27-Sep-24	09:20 a.m.	1060886	Sallie Remon
27-Sep-24	09:30 a.m.	1062866	Sallie Remon on behalf President of the Taieri Canine Capers Dog Services (asked for extra time)
27-Sep-24	09:40 a.m.	1062475	Cheryl Wilson
27-Sep-24	09:50 a.m.		
27-Sep-24	10:00 a.m.	1062470	Peter Haslemore
10.15 AM - 10.30 AM		BREAK	
27-Sep-24	10:30 a.m.	1062433	Jamie Hughes Four Paws Outdoors
27-Sep-24	10:40 a.m.	1062470	Duncan Eddy, West Harbour Community Board
27-Sep-24	11:00 a.m.		
27-Sep-24	11:10 a.m.	1062354	M O'Brien
27-Sep-24	11:20 a.m.	1062377	Nicky O'Brien
27-Sep-24	11:30 a.m.	1062475	Francesca Bolgar (via Zoom)
27-Sep-24	11:40 a.m.	1052700	McKenzie-Lequeux
27-Sep-24	11.50 am		Submitter

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF DOG CONTROL BYLAW AND POLICY

Department: Customer and Regulatory

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 In August 2023, the Council resolved to commence review of the Dog Control Bylaw (the Bylaw) and Dog Control Policy (the Policy). The review must be carried out under requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) and the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
- 2 On 21 May 2024, the Customer and Regulatory Committee (the C&R Committee) approved a draft Dog Control Bylaw and draft Dog Control Policy, and adopted a statement of proposal for consultation purposes. Proposed changes to the Bylaw and Policy sought to improve opportunities for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners, protect wildlife and minimise the potential for danger, distress or nuisance, and make the Bylaw and the Policy clearer and simpler.
- 3 This report presents a summary of the 606 submissions received during the consultation period, for consideration by the Hearings Committee (the Committee).
- 4 There was good support for many of the proposals especially relating to specific locations such as the Octagon area (although views against this proposal were also strong). Views were more divided about proposals for:
 - Limiting the number of dogs a person may have in their charge in a public place
 - Coastal dune areas, and
 - The beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve.

The most common topic for comment was the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person may have in their charge in a public place, with many submitting pro formas that were concerned about the impact such a proposal might have on professional dog walking businesses. Other popular topics for comment were the proposal to allow dogs in the Octagon and surrounding areas where they are currently prohibited, and the proposal to change the rule at the beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve.

- 5 Fifty submitters have indicated that they wish to be heard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a) **Consider** the submissions on the review of the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.

- b) **Make** recommendations to the Council on the review of the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.

BACKGROUND

Dog Control Act 1996

- 6 The Act requires that territorial authorities must have a policy on dogs which details:
- the outline, nature and application of any dog control bylaw
 - the public places where dogs are to be controlled and how they are to be controlled
 - any designated dog exercise areas, and
 - whether menacing dogs are to be neutered.
- 7 In adopting the Policy, the Council must have regard to:
- the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally
 - the need to avoid danger from dogs having uncontrolled access to public places frequented by children
 - the importance of public use of public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs, and
 - the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and dog owners.
- 8 Dog control bylaws are required to give effect to the mandatory Dog Control Policy. Bylaws cannot be inconsistent with the Policy.
- 9 The Act states that any territorial authority may, in accordance with the LGA 2002, make dog-control bylaws for the following purposes:
- a) prohibiting dogs, whether under control or not, from specified public places
 - b) requiring dogs, other than working dogs, to be controlled on a leash in specified public places, or in public places in specified areas or parts of the district
 - c) regulating and controlling dogs in any other public place
 - d) designating specified areas as dog exercise areas
 - e) prescribing minimum standards for the accommodation of dogs
 - f) limiting the number of dogs that may be kept on any land or premises
 - g) requiring dogs in its district to be tied up or otherwise confined during a specified period commencing not earlier than half an hour after sunset, and ending not later than half an hour before sunrise

- h) requiring the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner to immediately remove the faeces
- i) requiring any bitch to be confined but adequately exercised while in season
- j) providing for the impounding of dogs, whether or not they are wearing a collar having the proper label or disc attached, that are found at large in breach of any bylaw made by the territorial authority under this or any other Act
- k) requiring the owner of any dog (being a dog that, on a number of occasions, has not been kept under control) to cause that dog to be neutered (whether or not the owner of the dog has been convicted of an offence against Section 53 of the Act)
- l) any other purpose that from time to time is, in the opinion of the territorial authority, necessary or desirable to further the control of dogs.

DISCUSSION

Community engagement

Early engagement

- 10 Early engagement was carried out during November 2023 to inform any proposed changes to the Bylaw or the Policy. Questions focussed on rules about some specific locations, satisfaction with controls and more general questions. Methods included circulating a web survey to key stakeholders via email, publication in “FYI”, media release, advertisements on Dunedin City Council’s (DCC) social media page, and a People’s Panel survey. Results of the early engagement were reported to the C&R Committee on 21 May 2024.
- 11 Staff also researched other councils’ approaches to dog control best practice. Proposed updated bylaw and policy documents were then drafted along with a statement of proposal that detailed proposed changes, reasons for the proposals, and an analysis of options, as required by the LGA.

Special consultative procedure

- 12 Consultation on proposed changes was then carried out from 10 June 2024 until 21 July 2024, using the special consultative procedure.
- 13 Engagement methods included sending information to dog owners, advertising on the DCC website, social media pages, on the Otago Daily Times noticeboard and in The Star, a media release, and “FYI” article. Key stakeholders were advised of the review and invited to comment. Stakeholders include the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Community Boards, rūnaka, Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust, Wildlife Hospital, Department of Conservation, Blind Foundation, the Police, surf lifesaving clubs, Athletics Otago, bird clubs, dog owners and non-dog owners.
- 14 Results of early engagement, consultation documents, and public submissions can be found at www.dunedin.govt.nz/dogs-bylaw.

Results of consultation

- 15 Key findings from the survey are:

- There was good support for most of the proposed changes with two thirds or more supporting changes relating to:
 - Octagon, Princes St and George St between Exchange and Knox Church
 - King Edward St and South Dunedin between Hillside and Macandrew Roads
 - Ross Creek tracks
 - Te Rauone Beach
 - Pūrākaunui Beach
 - Mosgiel Memorial Garden track
 - Woodside Glen unformed legal roads
 - Fraser Gully Recreation Reserve track
 - Jubilee Park tracks
 - Bethunes Gully picnic area
 - McGouns track
 - Allowing some dogs to be exempt from restrictions with permission
 - Playgrounds definition
 - Removing the requirement to display a dog poo bag, and
 - Right of review for dog owners.
- Views were more divided about proposed changes for:
 - Limiting the number of dogs a person may have in their charge in a public place
 - Coastal dune areas
 - Beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve, and
 - Caledonian Grounds.
- The most common topics for comment were:
 - Limiting the number of dogs a person may have in their charge in a public place
 - Octagon, Princes St and George St between Exchange and Knox Church
 - Beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve, and
 - Minimising the potential for danger, distress or nuisance.

16 See Attachment A for full results of the consultation. Comments for each topic are available to the Council via Squiz Consult, and to the public via the Dunedin City Council website.

Social media feedback

- 17 Information about the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy review was posted on the DCC Facebook and Instagram pages several times during the consultation period (10 & 21 June, and 1, 11 & 18 July). Posts provided links to further information that included the submission form. A total of 30,054 users and 1,363 engaged with the content (i.e. liked, shared, reacted or commented). 1,221 users clicked on the link to find out more about the consultation.
- 18 The main topics discussed in the social media chat were dogs in the central business district, responsible dog ownership, limiting dog numbers and Westwood Beach.

For noting

- 19 Feedback during the consultation brought to our attention a number of off leash areas that were inadvertently omitted from Schedule C of the proposed Dog Control Policy (designated dog exercise areas and other public places where dogs are allowed off leash). These have been added to the proposed Policy schedule and are highlighted in Attachment B.

- 20 A lead in time of several months is recommended for the date of effect to allow time to update signage etc, as needed, for any changes to rules.

OPTIONS

- 21 There are no options with this report as its purpose is to present a summary of submissions.

NEXT STEPS

- 22 Next steps are for the Committee to consider consultation results, hear the submitters and make recommendations to the Council regarding the bylaw and policy review.

Signatories

Author:	Anne Gray - Policy Analyst Cazna Savell - Animal Services Team Leader
Authoriser:	Ros MacGill - Manager Compliance Solutions Paul Henderson - General Manager Customer and Regulatory (Acting)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Results of Dog Control Bylaw and Policy review consultation	18
↓B	Proposed Dog Control Policy	30

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS
Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities and promotes the social and environmental well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Review of the bylaw and policy contributes to priorities of 'safe people' in the Social Wellbeing Strategy, 'healthy environment' in Te Ao Tūroa, and 'treasuring parks' and 'open spaces supporting communities to thrive' in the Parks and Recreation Strategy.

Māori Impact Statement

Local rūnaka were identified as stakeholders for this review.

Sustainability

The proposed Bylaw and Policy contribute to environmental sustainability generally as they aim to minimise potential for danger, distress or nuisance to the community.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for these strategies and plans. Timing of consultation was planned so as not to confuse other engagement and consultation processes.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications. It is expected that any changes to the bylaw and policy will be administered within existing operational budget.

Significance

This decision is considered low-medium in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. As expected, there is strong interest in the review with some divided views amongst the community.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement – external

Early engagement was carried out during November 2023 to inform any changes to the Bylaw or the Policy. Methods included circulating a web survey to key stakeholders via email, publication in “FYI”, media release, advertisements on Dunedin City Council’s (DCC) social media page, and a People’s Panel survey.

Consultation on proposed changes was then carried out from 10 June 2024 until 21 July 2024, using the special consultative procedure. Engagement methods included sending information to dog owners, advertising on the DCC website, social media pages, on the Otago Daily Times noticeboard and in The Star, a media release, and “FYI” article. Key stakeholders were advised of the review and invited to comment. Stakeholders include the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Community Boards, rūnaka, Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust, Wildlife Hospital, Department of Conservation, Blind Foundation, the Police, surf lifesaving clubs, Athletics Otago, bird clubs, the People’s Panel, dog owners and non-dog owners.

Engagement - internal

There has been internal engagement with In-House Legal Counsel, Parks and Recreation, Business Information Services, Communications and Marketing, the Web team and Governance.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified legal or health and safety risks with this proposal. The draft Bylaw and Policy have had external legal review.

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interest.

Community Boards

Community Boards are identified as key stakeholders and were engaged with as part of this review.



Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Review – results of consultation

Introduction

Formal consultation on the review of the Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy was open from Monday 10 June 2024 until midnight on Sunday 21 July 2024. The consultation was advertised in Dunedin City Council's FYI, Otago Daily Times, The Star, via social media and a media release. It was also sent to stakeholders such as Community Boards, SPCA, dog clubs and the Department of Conservation (DOC), rūnaka, as well as all those who expressed interest following the early engagement.

There were 606 submissions. These included 30 from organisations such as professional dog walking companies (eight), DOC, Halo Project, Predator Free Dunedin, Disabled Persons Assembly, SPCA, Health NZ – Te Whatu Ora, NZ Seal Lion Trust, Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust, pony and dog clubs, and Safekids Aotearoa.

Key findings

Some key findings from the survey are:

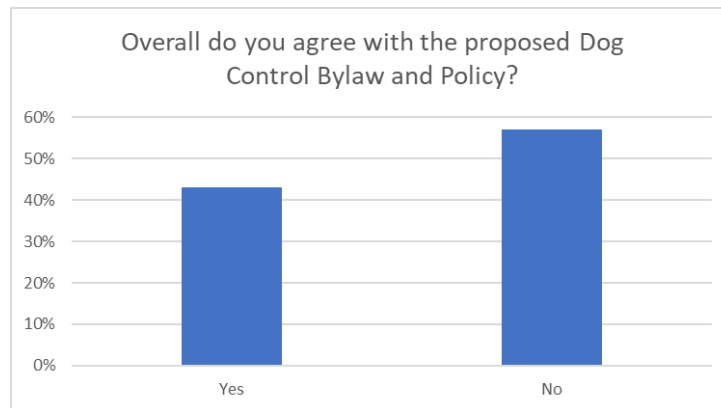
- There was good support for most of the proposal with two thirds or more supporting proposals for:
 - Octagon, Princes St and George St between Exchange and Knox Church
 - King Edward St and South Dunedin between Hillside and Macandrew Roads
 - Ross Creek tracks
 - Te Rauone Beach
 - Pūrākaunui Beach
 - Mosgiel Memorial Garden track
 - Woodside Glen unformed legal roads
 - Fraser Gully Recreation Reserve track
 - Jubilee Park tracks
 - Bethunes Gully picnic area
 - McGouns track
 - Exempting dogs from restrictions with permission
 - Playgrounds definition
 - Removing the requirement to display a dog poo bag, and
 - Right of review for dog owners.
- Views were more divided about proposals for:
 - Limiting the number of dogs a person may have in their charge in a public place
 - Coastal dune areas
 - Beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve, and
 - Caledonian Grounds
- The most common topics for comment were:
 - Limiting the number of dogs a person may have in their charge in a public place
 - Octagon, Princes St and George St between Exchange and Knox Church
 - Beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve, and

- Minimising the potential for danger, distress or nuisance.

Submission comments are available to the Council via Squiz Consult, and to the public via the Dunedin City Council website. Note that percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

General support

We asked 'Overall, do you agree with the proposed Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy?'



There were 528 responses to this question with 57% disagreeing overall and 43% agreeing.

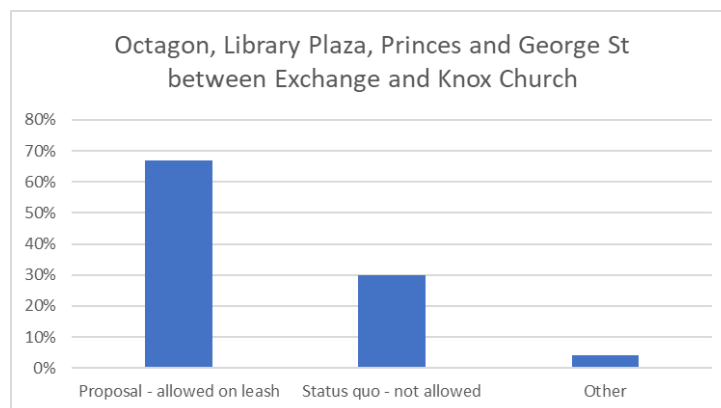
We asked, 'Why/Why not?'. Comments for this question have been tagged to the relevant topic.

Improving opportunities for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners

We asked about proposals for specific locations to improve opportunities for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners. For each proposal there were three options:

1. Proposed change
2. Status quo
3. Other

Octagon, Library Plaza, Princes and George St between Exchange and Knox Church

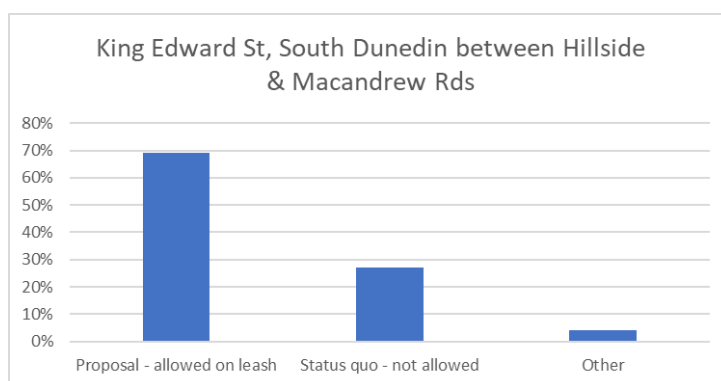


There were 430 responses to this question with 67% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs on leash but not allowed to be left tied up and unattended, and 30% selecting the status quo that dogs are prohibited in this area. 4% chose 'other'.

A summary of comments is:

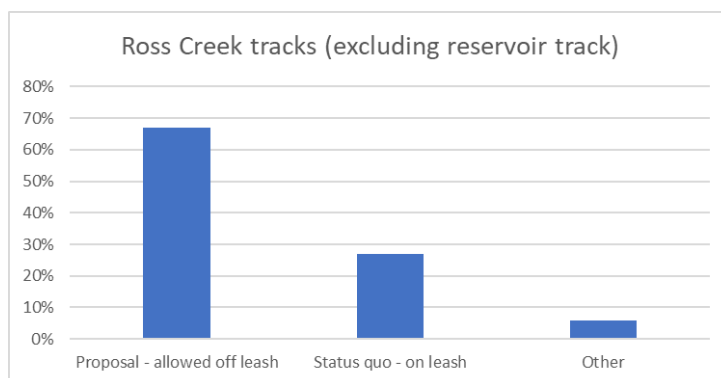
Topic	Number of comments
Against dogs being allowed in Octagon, CBD etc	56
For dogs being allowed in Octagon, CBD etc	36

King Edward Street, South Dunedin between Hillside and Macandrew Roads



There were 413 responses to this question with 69% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs on leash but not allowed to be left tied up and unattended, and 27% selecting the status quo that dogs are prohibited in this area. 4% chose 'other'. There were three comments about this topic.

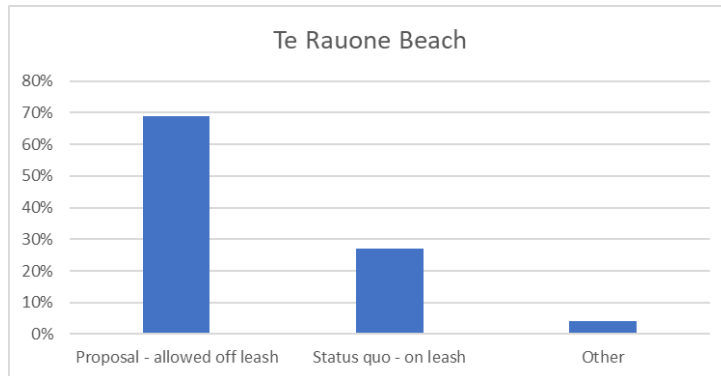
Ross Creek tracks



There were 420 responses to this question with 67% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs off leash on Ross Creek tracks, excluding the track around the reservoir. 27% selected the status quo

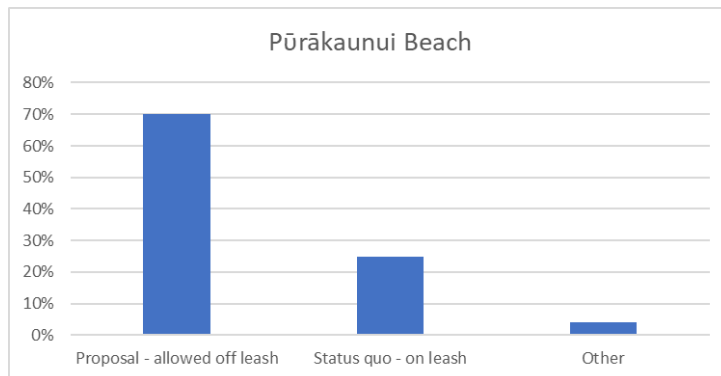
which is dogs on leash and 6% chose 'other'. There were 37 comments about this topic with mixed views.

Te Rauone Beach



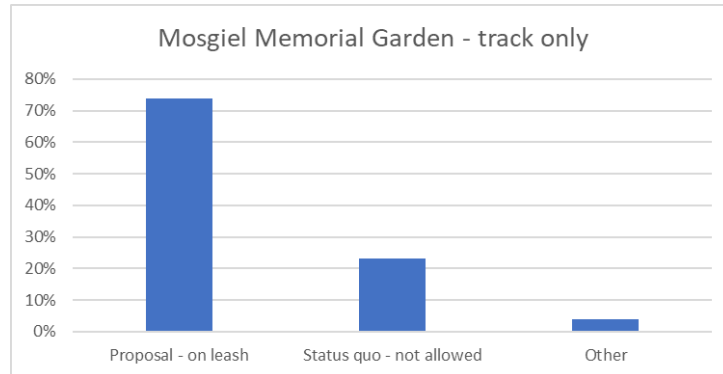
There were 399 responses to this question with 69% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs off leash, and 27% selecting the status quo of on leash. 4% selected 'other'. There were eight comments about this topic.

Pūrākaunui Beach



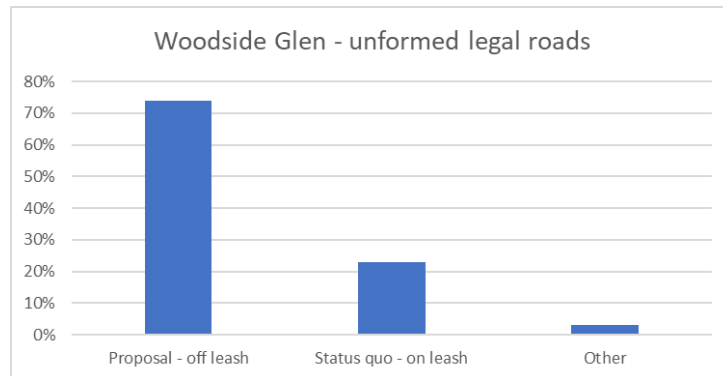
There were 410 responses to this question with 70% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs off leash, and 25% selecting the status quo that dogs are allowed on leash. There were 16 comments about this topic.

Mosgiel Memorial Garden – track only



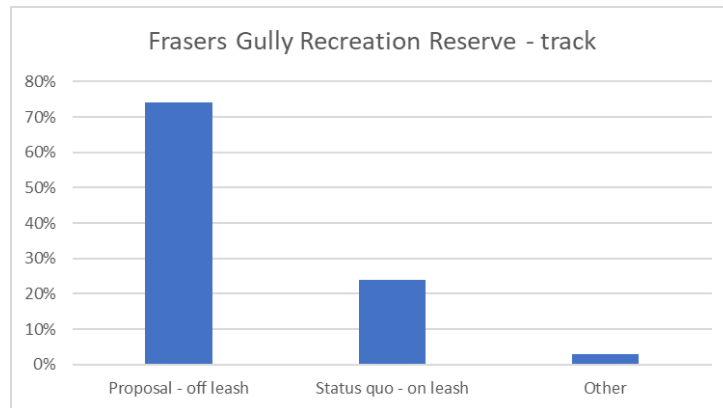
There were 397 responses to this question with 74% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs on leash on the track only, and 23% selecting the status quo that dogs are prohibited. 4% selected 'other'. There were two comments about this topic.

Woodside Glen – unformed legal roads



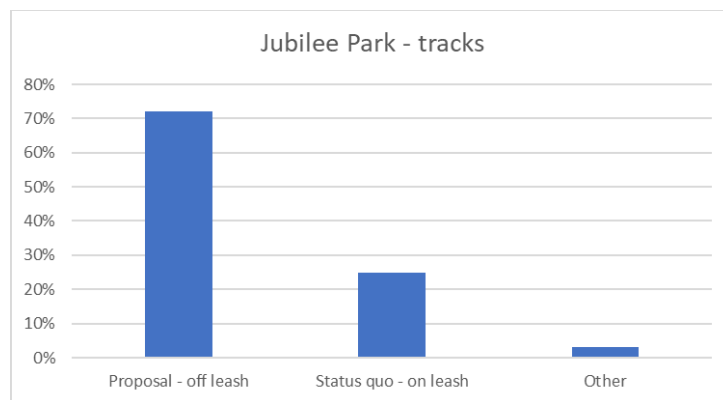
There were 401 responses to this question with 74% selecting the proposed option of making the unformed legal roads in this area off leash. 23% selected the status quo of on leash and 3% chose 'other'. There were 20 comments about this topic.

Frasers Gully Recreation Reserve – track



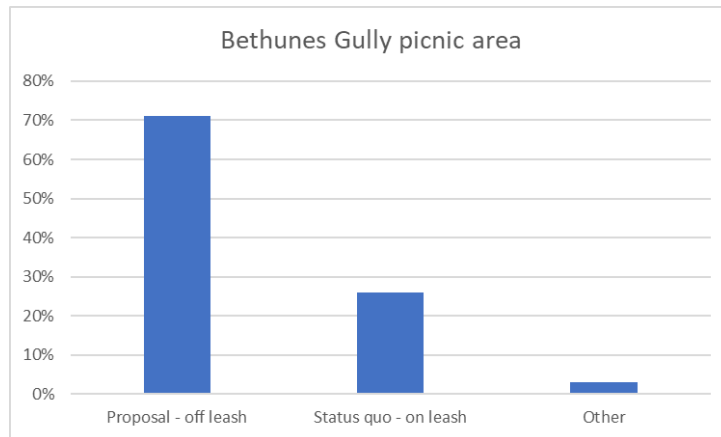
There were 403 responses to this question with 74% selecting the proposed option of making the track off leash. 24% selected the status quo of on leash and 3% chose 'other'. There were five comments about this topic.

Jubilee Park tracks



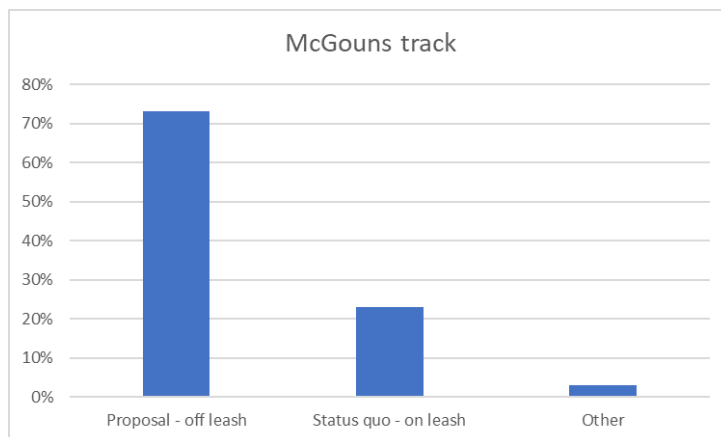
There were 397 responses to this question with 72% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs off leash on these tracks. 25% selected the status quo that dogs must be on leash on the tracks and 3% chose 'other'. There were two comments about this topic.

Bethunes Gully picnic area



There were 396 responses to this question with 71% selecting the proposed option of allowing dogs off leash in this area. 26% selected the status quo of on leash for the picnic area and 3% chose 'other'. There were 10 comments about this topic.

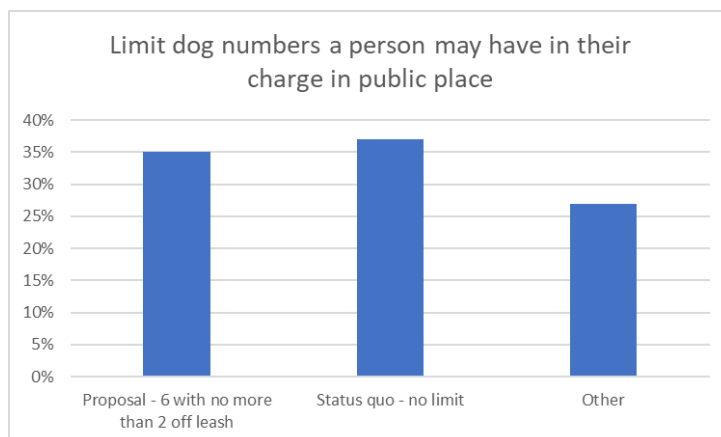
McGouns track



There were 392 responses to this question with 73% selecting the proposed option to allow dogs off leash on this track, and 23% selecting the status quo of on leash. 3% chose 'other'. There were four comments about this topic.

Minimising potential for danger, distress or nuisance

Limiting dog numbers a person may have in their charge in public places



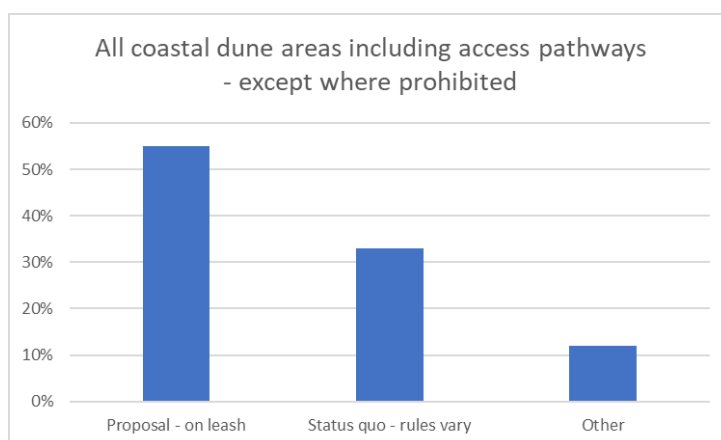
There were 432 responses to this question and responses were split. 35% selected the proposed option to limit dog numbers a person may have in their charge in a public place to six with no more than two off leash at any time. 37% selected the status quo of no limit and 27% chose 'other'.

There were 272 comments about this topic. These included 131 mostly customers of professional dog walking businesses using pro formas, as well as general comments both for and against. The biggest concern was the impact the proposal could have on dog walking businesses and many suggested alternative ways to manage issues, for example a permit or licence for businesses.

A summary of comments is:

Topic	Number of comments
Pro formas - against limiting dog numbers	131
General – against limiting dog numbers	126
For limiting dog numbers	15

Coastal dune areas



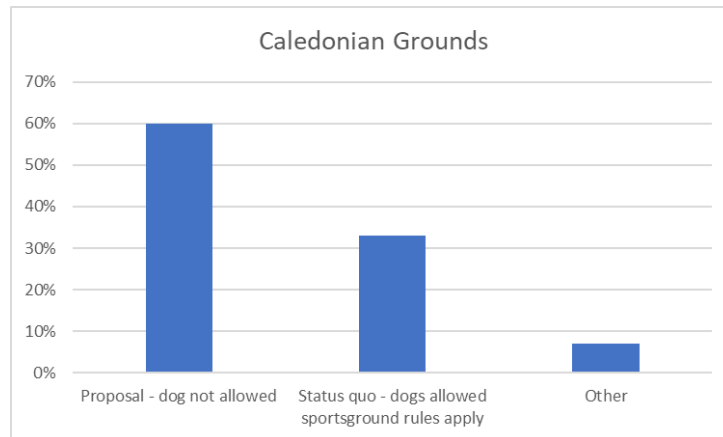
There were 419 responses to this question with 55% selecting the proposed option that all dogs must be on leash in all coastal dune areas including access pathways (except where dogs are prohibited). 33% selected the status quo which is for varied rules depending on the location, and 12% chose 'other'. There were 32 comments about this topic with mixed views.

Beach adjacent to Westwood Recreation Reserve



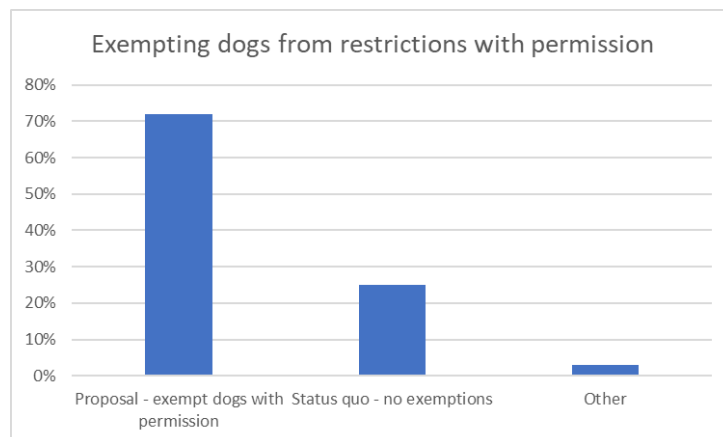
There were 423 responses to this question with 49% selecting the proposed option that dogs must be on leash at this beach, 39% selecting the status quo of dogs off leash, and 12% choosing 'other'. There were 71 comments about this topic with mixed views.

Caledonian Grounds



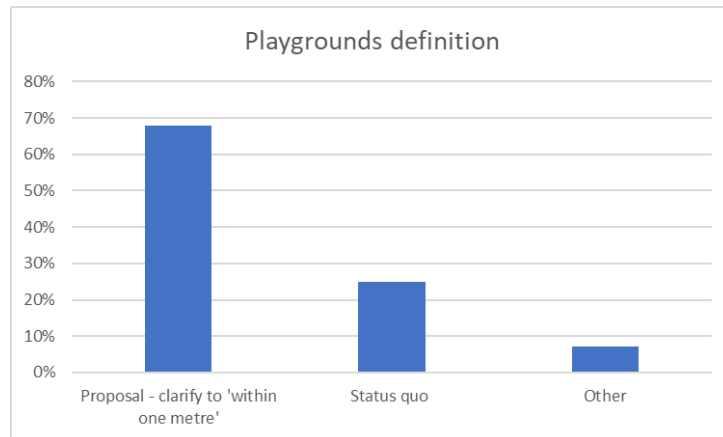
There were 373 responses to this question with 60% selecting the proposed option to prohibit dogs from the Caledonian Grounds. 33% selected the status quo which the rules for sportsgrounds, and 7% chose 'other'. There were seven comments about this topic.

Exempting dogs from restrictions with permission



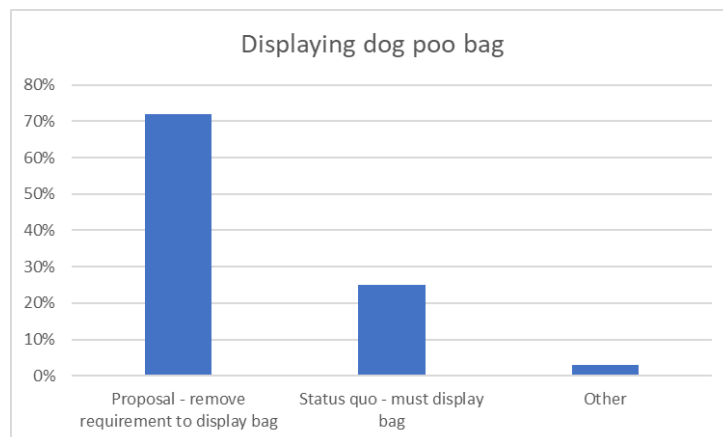
There were 373 responses to this question with 72% selecting the proposed option to allow for exempting dogs from restricted areas with written permission from the Council. 25% selected the status quo, and 3% chose 'other'.

Playgrounds definition



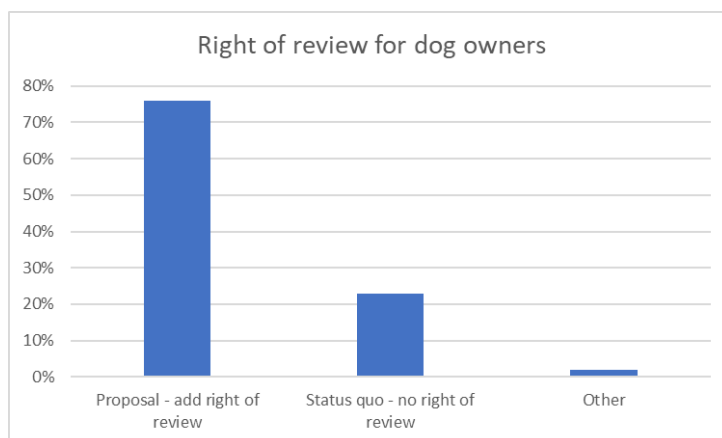
There were 376 responses to this question with 68% selecting the proposed option to clarify the playground definition by adding 'within one metre' to the definition. 25% selected the status quo, and 7% chose 'other'. There were 15 comments about this topic.

Displaying dog poo bag



There were 397 responses to this question with 72% selecting the proposed option to remove the requirement for dog owners to display a dog poo bag. 25% selected the status quo, and 3% chose 'other'.

Right of review for dog owners




There were 377 responses to this question with 76% selecting the proposed option to add a right of review for dog owners – that an owner affected by a decision made under the bylaw may apply in writing to the Chief Executive for a review of the decision within 14 days of receiving notification of the decision. 23% selected the status quo, and 2% chose 'other'.

Other comments

We asked, Do you have any other comments to make about the proposed Dog Control Bylaw and Dog Control Policy?

There were 218 comments about general topics including, for example, about some other locations and enforcement.

DOG CONTROL POLICY 2025				 DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti
Approved by:	Council			
Sponsor:	General Manager Customer and Regulatory			
Department responsible:	Compliance Solutions (Animal Services)			
Date approved:	TBC	Date of effect:	TBC	
Next review date:	TBC	Reviewed:	TBC	

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Context

There are around 19,000 registered dogs in Dunedin, with many dogs considered part of the family. It is important that Dunedin has a range of public places that are accessible for dogs and their owners for fun and recreation. We also acknowledge the reality that dogs can cause problems (such as barking), can cause injuries such as bites, and can even cause death (such as to protected wildlife or other animals).

Good dog ownership can prevent many problems, but we are also aware that dogs can be unpredictable, so we need to minimise risk with reasonable regulatory controls. This policy aims to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the importance of minimising the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

In carrying out its legislative obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act), the Dunedin City Council's (the Council's) approach to dog control is to provide a cost effective, professional service through education, monitoring, compliance and enforcement.

NOTE that the Department of Conservation (DOC) has its own rules about dog access on public conservation land managed by their Department. For more information on these rules please contact DOC directly. On beaches where it may be confusing whether DOC or the Council has control, DOC agrees that the bylaw will apply. These beaches are specified in the Dunedin Dog Control Policy, Schedule A.

1.2 Reason for the policy

The Act requires every territorial authority to adopt a policy on dog control matters and to develop a bylaw to give effect to its policy. The Dunedin Dog Control Bylaw **YEAR** has been developed alongside this policy.

1.3 Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- outline how the Council addresses requirements set out in the Act
- balance regulatory controls to allow for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs to people, other animals or protected wildlife
- encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership through education.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw **YEAR** and the Act. This policy summarises some provisions in the Act, but may not describe or set out a provision of the Act in full. If any summary does not cover every matter discussed in a section, or leads to an inconsistency between the policy and the requirement of the Act, the Act will prevail.

1.4 Review of policy

This policy must be reviewed at least every ten years, together with the Dog Control Bylaw.

Section 2: Dog Control Bylaw

Under the Act councils are required to develop a dog control policy and must develop a bylaw to give effect to the matters covered by the policy. The Act requires a dog control policy to set out the nature and application of its associated bylaw. A dog control bylaw must not be inconsistent with the policy.

2.1 Nature and application of the bylaw

The Dunedin Dog Control Bylaw **YEAR** applies to all dog owners in Dunedin, and:

- promotes responsible management of dogs in public places
- provides for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners
- minimises the potential for danger, distress or nuisance from dogs to the community, animals and wildlife.

The Dog Control Bylaw covers the following:

- control of dogs in public places
- prohibiting dogs from specified public places or categories of public places
- requiring dogs to be on a leash in specified public places or categories of public places
- exempting certain types of dogs in certain situations
- designating specified areas as dog exercise areas
- placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be kept on properties
- placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be on leash and off leash
- placing limitations on the housing, movement and transportation of female dogs in season while requiring them to be adequately exercised
- placing limitations on travel of infectious or diseased dogs
- requiring dog owners to remove and dispose of any fouling (dog faeces) that their dog produces
- addressing nuisance from dogs.

Section 3: Obligations of dog owners

3.1 Overview

The Act sets out expectations placed on dog owners that are consistent across New Zealand. The Dunedin Dog Control Policy and Bylaw set out matters that are specific to the Dunedin district, such as public places where you can or cannot take your dog or must have it on a leash. All dog owners are required to understand the dog owner requirements and obligations set out:

- in the Act
- in the Dog Control Bylaw and
- in this Policy.

Dog owners should also be aware of animal welfare matters that are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and, in particular, by the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare, which sets out the minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of dogs. Animal welfare matters relating to companion animals are largely enforced by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

3.2 Dog Control Bylaw obligations of dog owners

Dunedin's Dog Control Bylaw requires dog owners to:

a) Keep dogs under control

Dog owners are required to keep their dog(s) under control at all times when in public places. This means the owner or person in charge must:

- be aware of where the dog is and what it is doing
- ensure their dog is responsive to commands
- ensure their dog is not creating a nuisance.

Explanation

When a dog is under control it means the dog is not creating any sort of nuisance to people, domestic animals or any other wildlife. Nuisance in this sense means things such as barking, rushing at, intimidating, attacking or otherwise causing injury, damage or harm. Going for a walk with your dog unrestrained (not on a leash) is fine in areas where there are no dog restrictions. However, the dog must still be under control. This means you can see the dog or are aware of what it is doing and you are close enough to prevent issues or quickly bring it to heel. Having your dog under control is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of others.

The Act requires all dog owners to carry a leash when taking their dog into a public place, whether or not the public place is a leashed area (section 54A). This is because unexpected situations may arise that require a dog to be leashed to keep the dog under control or to keep it safe. Another requirement in the Act is that the legal owner of a dog must be over the age of 16 (section 2). The owner or person in charge of a dog should also be physically capable of controlling the dog.

b) Carry the means of removing dog faeces in public places and remove dog faeces from public places

The dog owner or person in charge must carry a bag or other receptacle for picking up and removing any fouling (dog faeces) when in a public place (for example recycled or compostable bags, pooper scooper).

The person in charge must immediately remove any fouling that their dog produces and dispose of it in a hygienic manner (e.g. in a red wheelie bin or Council rubbish bin).

Explanation

A bag or other receptacle for picking up and removing dog faeces must be carried at all times when in public places with a dog. Dog toileting habits can be unpredictable and this requirement will prevent owners from being caught short. It is not an excuse to say you do not have a bag or other receptacle with you. Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasitic infection that can make other dogs or people unwell. It is also generally unpleasant and smelly. It is important that dog owners take responsibility for their dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places.

c) Other obligations

The dog owner or person in charge must also:

- ensure their dog does not enter into a prohibited area
- ensure their dog is not unattended in a designated dog exercise area
- ensure their dog, if infectious or diseased, does not enter into any public place (other than when being taken directly to a veterinarian clinic)
- ensure their female dog, if in season, is confined to private property to minimise potential contact with other dogs
- ensure they have a permit to keep more than one dog over the age of three months, unless the premises are zoned rural or rural/residential
- ensure they have in their charge no more than six (6) dogs at any time in a public place and no more than two (2) dogs off leash in a public place at any time.

Section 4: Registration of dogs

All dogs must be registered in accordance with the Act. It is an offence not to register a dog that is over three months of age. It is an offence to knowingly provide false information on a dog registration application form. Registered dogs must always wear a registration tag. Please contact the Council if you need a replacement registration tag.

Explanation

Dogs are required to be registered for three reasons:

- *to keep an up to date record of all dogs and their owners*
- *to allow for the return of lost dogs, and*
- *to generate revenue for providing dog control services across the city.*

4.1 Dog registration classifications

The registration classifications are as follows:

- Standard dog registration
 - This is the default dog registration classification.
- Responsible dog owner registration

- This applies to dogs owned by people who have Responsible Dog Owner status (this is explained in the section below).
- Spayed/neutered dog registration
 - This can be applied for with a veterinary certificate which is held on file for subsequent registration years.
- Working dog registration
 - The definition for working dog is set out in the Act and generally means any dog carrying out functions and duties:
 - relating to farming, such as the herding of stock
 - under the direction of a government department or state employee undertaking responsibilities such as those relating to policing, defence, corrections, customs, security, biosecurity, pest management, emergency management or conservation, or
 - under the direction of a private security guard in the execution of their duties.
- Dogs classified as menacing
 - This applies to dogs classified as 'menacing' under the Act.
- Dogs classified as dangerous
 - This applies to dogs classified as 'dangerous' under the Act. The Act requires a higher registration fee to be paid for these dogs.
- Disability Assist Dogs
 - These dogs need to be registered but do not incur a dog registration fee
 - Disability Assist Dogs are generally dogs that are certified to assist someone with a visual, hearing, mobility or other disability.

4.2 Setting dog registration fees

Registration fees are set through the Council's Annual Plan process and are notified to all registered dog owners at registration time. The fees are listed on the Council website.

In considering dog registration fees, the Council will, in accordance with the Act:

- set a standard dog registration fee
- set a fee for Responsible Dog Owners that is less than the standard dog registration fee
- provide a discount for spayed/neutered dogs that is less than the standard dog registration fee
- set a fee for dangerous dogs that is 50% higher than the standard dog registration fee
- not set a fee for Disability Assist Dogs, and
- charge a penalty for the late registration of dogs i.e. an additional 50% of the registration fee.

Explanation

Registration fees are set by councils to take into account the cost of providing dog control services and aim to strike a balance between dog owners bearing the costs of dog control and the benefits to ratepayers of having safe and well controlled dogs in their community.

The Act requires that all money collected under the Act can only be spent on dog control matters.

4.3 Responsible Dog Owner status

To obtain Responsible Dog Owner status, a dog owner must apply for that status and meet the following criteria (as applicable):

- have been the registered owner of a dog and have resided in the Dunedin City District for at least 24 months, or previously held Responsible Dog Owner status in another district
- have paid dog registration fees on time for the last two years
- have all dogs owned by them microchipped in accordance with the Act, including providing the microchip number to the Council
- have a permit to keep multiple dogs on their property (if applicable)
- inform the Council of any dog registration or residential address changes, including information on the death, sale or transfer of any dogs, and including the birth of any pups
- have a property at which their dog(s) resides that is suitably fenced and gated to contain the dog(s) and that allows dog-free access to a door of the dwelling for authorised callers
- have complied with requirements of the Dog Control Act and the current Dog Control Bylaw and must not, in the last two years, have
 - had a dog that has been found at large, been uncontrolled, or been chased, returned or impounded by the Council
 - been issued with a warning notice or infringement notice for any dog-related offence
 - been prosecuted for any dog-related offence.

Owners of dogs classified as 'menacing' or 'dangerous' under the Act may be considered for Responsible Dog Owner status, provided all criteria are strictly met (where applicable). The granting and retention of the status is at the discretion of the Council.

Applications must be received and approved before 15 April in any year to enable the applicant to gain this status for the dog registration year commencing 1 July.

Any breach of the criteria of this policy will lead to the immediate withdrawal of Responsible Dog Owner status. Should status be withdrawn due to a breach, the owner may not apply for, or be considered for, the status again until two years after the date of withdrawal.

4.4 Registration and de-sexing (neutering) dogs

The Council encourages de-sexing by offering a discount on registration fees for castrated or spayed dogs. You must provide written proof of de-sexing along with your dog registration application form to apply for a reduced fee.

Explanation

Your dog should be de-sexed unless it is intended for breeding. De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, rehomed or destroyed and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns. The Council may offer a subsidised dog de-sexing service where possible and where there is an identified need.

4.5 Changing dog ownership

Where the ownership of a dog changes, the registration continues, and both the old owner and the new owner must advise the Council.

4.6 Transferring dog registration between districts

When a registered dog moves to a different council district, the registration will go with it. Owners of dogs transferring must advise both councils of the dog's move in writing and within six months of the move. The owner should take the dog registration tag to their new local council office so it can be swapped for a registration tag for the new area at no charge. The dog does not have to be re-registered in the new area until the next registration year.

4.7 Refunding registration fee if dog dies

The Council will refund the applicable portion of a dog registration fee in the event of the death of a dog. The owner must apply for the refund and provide evidence of the dog's death with a veterinary certificate. Refunds apply from the date the application is received (not from the date your dog died).

Section 5: Microchipping your dog

Except for working dogs, all dogs in New Zealand first registered after 1 July 2006 must be implanted with a microchip.

Owners must supply the dog's microchip information to the Council so it can be recorded in the National Dog Database. You can do this by providing a vet's certificate which includes the number.

Explanation

Dog registration and microchipping are two separate processes. You must register your dog every year but only need to microchip your dog once. A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted in a dog's back towards the neck, generally by a qualified person such as a veterinarian. Microchipping is a more permanent way of identifying a dog than collars and tags which can be lost or removed. It enables a dog to be linked to its owner. It can also identify a dog which has been aggressive and classified as dangerous or menacing.

The National Dog Database is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs and holds details of all microchipped dogs in New Zealand, their owners and any infringements that may have been issued against the owner.

Section 6: Prohibited and leashed areas

Dogs may be prohibited from public places or required to be on a leash in public places. If a public place is not listed in this policy, then dogs are allowed there on leash. Dogs on leash and under control is the default classification in Dunedin.

Explanation

Dogs are prohibited in certain areas to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs. For example, playgrounds are designed for the use and enjoyment of children and ensuring dogs are not in playground areas makes them safer for children to use.

6.1 Prohibited areas

Public places where dogs are prohibited are listed in Schedule A to this Policy. Some are general areas such as those listed below and some are more specific locations.

Dogs are prohibited in the following **general** areas:

- all Council children's playgrounds - this means within any fenced playground area, on any specially surfaced playground area, within one metre of any fenced or surfaced playground area and within one metre of any playground equipment where there is no fence or special surface
- all Council skateparks – this means all skatepark surfaces and within one metre of the perimeter of any skatepark
- all marked playing surfaces at Council owned sports grounds (excluding Council owned golf courses)
- designated safe swimming beach areas marked by lifeguards with the placement of flags (unless otherwise specified)

Dogs are also prohibited in other **specific** locations that are also listed in Schedule A to this Policy.

The Council may from time to time put in place a temporary dog prohibition where, in the opinion of the Council, there is or is likely to be harm to people or animals. The Council will take reasonable steps to notify the public of any temporary prohibited area and these may include advertising on the Council website, social media or newspaper.

Explanation

The Council works with the Department of Conservation when making temporary restrictions, for example at times and places animals are nesting.

6.2 Leashed areas

There are some places where dogs must be on a leash and under control. If a public place is not listed in this policy, then the default is that dogs are allowed there on leash and under control. On leash areas are listed in Schedule B to this Policy.

Unless specified elsewhere, dogs must be on a leash:

- on all roads and footpaths
- at all cemeteries
- on all sports grounds that surround marked playing areas when games are being played (allowed off leash when games are not being played and always prohibited on all marked playing fields)
- on Te Aka Ōtākou – Dunedin's shared harbour/peninsula pathway
- within 20 metres of protected wildlife

- on all beaches unless otherwise specified
- on all coastal dune areas including access pathways (except in a prohibited area, where no dogs are allowed)
- on commercial areas such as the central business district (in addition, dogs in these areas must not be left tied up and unattended)
- at all public places not listed elsewhere in this policy or schedules to the policy.

Explanation

These places are shared spaces where there may be vehicles, bicycles, children and wildlife. On leash protects both the dog and other users of these areas. Consider the appropriate length of leash for the circumstances, for example use a shorter leash for busy shared spaces.

6.3 Exemptions to prohibited and leashed areas

Dog controls for prohibited and leashed areas do not apply to:

- working dogs (where a working dog is under the control of its owner while that dog is being worked or while it is being taken to and from its work)
- any dog where an exemption has been granted by the Council (for example, an exemption may be given where a dog is similar to a working dog, but does not meet that definition, such as a dog in training to be a working dog or a dog owned by a volunteer and used for pest control purposes).

Section 7: Dog exercise areas

The Council recognises the importance of the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners, and aims to provide opportunities for dogs and their owners to access many different public places across Dunedin. There are parks, reserves, sections of coastline and beaches that allow the opportunity to exercise dogs off leash. These are listed in Schedule C. The Council also has designated dog exercise areas that are safe places to exercise dogs. These are fenced with agility equipment. Dogs must be under control but can be off leash in these areas.

Designated dog exercise areas are also listed in Schedule C and are at:

- Cemetery Road – East Taieri
- Cemetery Road – East Taieri – small breed dog exercise area
- Forrester Park – Norwood Street
- Forrester Park – Norwood Street – small breed dog exercise area
- Kew Park – corner of Easter Crescent and Forbury Road
- Rotary Park – Highcliff Road
- Shand Park – Brighton Road, Green Island
- Shand Park – Brighton Road, Green Island – small breed dog exercise area*
- Wakari Reserve.

*A small breed dog exercise area is for dogs weighing no more than eight kilograms.

Section 8: Permit for more than one dog

Owners of more than one dog over the age of three months must obtain a permit to keep the dogs on any property unless the premises are zoned Rural or Rural/Residential in the operative Dunedin City District Plan.

A permit may be granted, have conditions imposed, or be refused at the full discretion of the Council. Considerations include, but are not limited to adequate fencing, the size, location and nature of the premises, dog-free access to the house, and compliance with the Dog Control Bylaw. The process is set out in the Dog Control Bylaw.

The fee for a permit shall be payable in addition to the registration fees payable under the Act. The permit fee is set through the Annual Plan process.

Explanation

The purpose of the permit is to minimise the potential for issues associated with having too many dogs on small properties and where neighbours are close by. Considerations relate largely to the Dog Control Act and Animal Welfare Act obligations. If a permit is not granted, then the dog/s must be removed.

Section 9: Limit on dog numbers in public places

An owner or person may have no more than six dogs under their control in a public place at any time and no more than two of those dogs may be off leash at any time. All dogs must be under the control of the owner at all times.

Section 10: Other owner responsibilities

10.1 Barking dogs

When the Council receives a complaint about a barking dog it will investigate, and if necessary, work with the dog owner to understand the extent of the barking, and reasons for it, before encouraging solutions.

If the barking continues to be persistent and loud, a dog abatement notice may be issued under the Act. If this notice is not complied with, an infringement notice may be issued. Complaints about barking may also impact on the dog owner's ability to have Responsible Dog Ownership status or to hold a permit for more than one dog. Dogs are also able to be seized due to loud and persistent barking.

Explanation

Different things can cause a dog to bark and it often happens when the owner is absent. Common reasons are:

- *Protective aggression where dogs bark at people or animals they think are invading their territory*
- *Stimulus barking where dogs bark at sound or movement*
- *Separation anxiety if dogs are feeling lonely*
- *Social situations where dogs bark to communicate.*

