

12.2.3 Dogs On and Off Leash Areas

Report Type	Decision
City Plan Theme	Community Leadership
Report Author	Manager Community & Environmental Health, Community Development
Report Summary	This report seeks endorsement of the Community Engagement Plan for on and off leash laws for dogs on the beach and foreshore.
Attachments	1. Dogs on Beaches Community Engagement Plan [12.2.3.1 - 40 pages]

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves that:

1. The report of the Director Community Development titled "Dogs On and Off Leash Areas" be received and noted.
 2. The Dogs on Beaches Community Engagement Plan as provided in Attachment 1 is endorsed.
 3. Council endorses the engagement of an Independent Facilitator to coordinate and manage the Community Engagement Plan as provided in Attachment 1.
 4. A further report will be presented to Council seeking endorsement of options to undertake City-wide engagement.
-

Background

At its special meeting on 30 August 2022, Council resolved as follows:

2. *Resolution 12.2.1 Dogs On and Off Leash Areas of the Council meeting 9 August 2022, point 3 as listed below, be rescinded:*
3. *Pursuant to the power contained in Section 246(3)(e) of the Local Government Act 1999, and for the purposes of Clause 9.1 of the Dogs By-law 2022, the Council resolves that the following foreshore areas or public places are, with effect from 3 April 2023, 'Dog on Leash Areas' at all times:*
 - a. *The foreshore areas between Bower Rd, Semaphore South to Everard St Largs Bay as contained in Attachment 1;*
 - b. *All grass areas adjacent the foreshore areas as contained in Attachment 1; and*
 - c. *The North Haven Beach foreshore as identified in the map as tabled and attached to the minutes.*
3. *Pursuant to the power contained in Section 246(3)(e) of the Local Government Act 1999, and for the purposes of Clause 9.1 of the Dogs By-law 2022, the Council resolves that the entire foreshore is a 'Dog On-leash Area' between the hours of 10.00am and 8.00pm, on any day during the period of daylight savings.*

4. *A report be presented to Council in December 2022 outlining a plan for further community engagement, including proposed options, on leashing laws for dogs on the foreshore.*

Report

In early 2022 we engaged with our community regarding dog leash rules across reserves, beaches, and foreshore areas. We received 685 contributions with recommendations presented to Council in August 2022.

However, elements of Council's initial decision were rescinded on 30 August 2022. The decisions rescinded relate to dog leash rules along beaches whereby community expressed concerns and it was identified that due to a technical error in the distribution of this information, a proportion of registered dog owners were not notified of the opportunity to contribute to the community consultation process.

Given the complexity of this topic and the high level of sensitivity across the community, there is a community expectation of broad communication and awareness of the process and opportunities to participate in the engagement process.

The outcome has the potential to affect the daily lives of many within our community and the sense of safety, comfort and enjoyment of our beach and foreshore spaces and, as a result of this, the engagement process needs to work through the diversity of views in the community and where possible resolve a fair and balanced solution. Consistent with the City of PAE Communications and Engagement Framework 2022-2025 (Participate PAE), a greater degree of transparency, connection and inclusion is important to a successful decision-making process informed and influenced by community participation.

Key considerations for developing the engagement approach are the Participate PAE guiding principles – Transparency, Connection, Accessibility and Inclusivity, and the South Australian Government's Better Together principles. In line with the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation, as referenced in the Participate PAE Framework, and based on the high level of public impact, there is a greater need to collaborate and partner with stakeholders in all aspects of decision making. This includes deliberating on and considering alternatives and identifying a preferred solution.

Council staff assessed engagement options and recommend the engagement approach for developing the leashing rules to be considered, assessed, and tested in collaboration with a diverse representation of people with a variety of perspectives, before undertaking engagement with the broader community.

It is recommended that this is undertaken by an independently facilitated deliberative process with community stakeholders.

To assist with developing the engagement approach, Becky Hirst Consulting was engaged to further develop the Dogs on Beaches Community Engagement Plan "the Plan" (**refer Attachment 1**).

This plan outlines the engagement approach of using an independent facilitator to work with a Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group to develop options for rules regarding dogs on the beach. The group's role will be to:

- Share and consider a variety of perspectives regarding dogs on beaches and foreshore;

- Review relevant research and previous engagement results and request further information, knowledge and expert advice from the organisation as required;
- Develop options for rules regarding dogs on beach and foreshore, ready to be taken to broader community engagement;
- Provide guidance to the Council regarding the planned broad community engagement process undertaken that will seek feedback on the option/s developed by the group;
- Analyse feedback received from the broader community consultation process;
- Refine the option/s as necessary;
- Reach a consensus on the preferred option(s) for rules for the beach and foreshore to be submitted to Council as a recommendation.

The Plan considered a report received from the stakeholder group *The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula* who were formed after the Special Council Meeting on 30 August 2022. Their comprehensive submission includes valuable feedback that was used to ensure the next phase of community engagement is delivered in a way that is fair, thorough and robust

It is recommended that Council endorses the Dogs on Beaches Community Engagement Plan (**refer Attachment 1**).

Should the Plan be endorsed, a procurement process will be undertaken to engage the independent facilitator to assist in delivering on the Plan. This will ensure we provide best value for money and an open and transparent procurement process in accordance with our procurement policy.

An independent facilitator will be engaged and broad communications promoting the upcoming engagement process will commence in January/February 2023. Elected Members will be provided with updates on the progress of the Plan.

City Plan Relationship

Community – By finding rules that support all users of the beach, both dog and non-dog owners will create a sense of safety, comfort and enjoyment of our beach and foreshore spaces.

Leadership – Through a robust and meaningful community engagement that creates opportunities for involvement and collaboration, will support that we are an innovative, collaborative and high performing leader in Local Government.

Legislative Context and Related Policies

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and City of PAE By-law No 5 of 2022 – Dogs provides Council with the legislative framework to declare areas of Local Government Land or foreshore as dog on leash areas.

City of PAE Communications and Engagement Framework 2022-2025 (Participate PAE) provides the framework for our community engagement approach.

Stakeholder Engagement

The community engagement plan outlines examples of the various methods that will support engagement with the community including:

- Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group;

- Video messages shared on website and social media;
- Email to Have your Say PAE subscribers, including all previous contributors to the Pups in Public Places engagement process;
- Email to all registered dog owners;
- Letterbox drop to all residents on LeFevre Peninsula;
- Pop-up engagement on beach/foreshore reserves at various times across different days;
- Active outreach, going to communities/stakeholders who require extra support;
- Signage at key location along the beaches and foreshore areas including QR codes linking to the video messages;
- Articles in PAE today.

The independent facilitator will be responsible for the recruitment and selection process associated with the working group membership and facilitation of the working group. Council staff will be responsible for co-ordination and management of all other phases as outlined within the Plan.

Risk Management

There is a risk that if the engagement is not undertaken in line with our Communications and Engagement Framework and as identified in the Plan that the engagement process may be deemed by community to lack a level of rigour that supports and validates decision making. The Plan outlines several risks associated with the approach and a number of mitigation strategies to address the risk.

Financial Management

Financial costs associated with delivering the Plan will be managed in line with the budget review process.

Environmental and Social Impacts

Research shows that dogs can improve our physical and social benefits including enhanced interpersonal relationships and positive moods, improved stress relief and overall physical and mental health improvement. Whilst it is important that dogs can be on the beach in both an off-leash and on-leash capacity, it is critical that we consider the impact that dogs can have on people who may have a fear or anxiety around dogs in public places. By considering and balancing the needs of both dog and non-dog owners, the beach can be shared and enjoyed by all.

Pups in Public Places

Finding the balance – rules for dogs on beaches

Dogs on Beaches Community Engagement Plan

January – October 2023

Prepared by Becky Hirst Consulting on behalf of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield

1 December 2022

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In early 2022 we engaged with our community about dog leash rules across reserves, beaches, and foreshore areas to inform Council decision making.

However, elements of Council's decision relating to dog leash rules along beaches were rescinded due to community concerns about, due to a technical error, a proportion of registered dog owners not being notified of the opportunity to contribute.

Council resolved that this new community engagement plan be presented at the December 2023 meeting.

This plan outlines our approach for additional community engagement regarding dog leash rules on beaches and foreshore areas.

This has presented us with an opportunity to not only undertake an additional phase of community engagement regarding rules for dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves, but to actively demonstrate our commitment to genuine community engagement that pushes us beyond business-as-usual consultation.

There is expectation of broad communication and awareness of the engagement process by both Council and the community. In addition to this, there must be genuine opportunities for people who are affected by or interested in the outcomes of our decision-making process to participate meaningfully in it.

This engagement process is about finding a balance of all the different and varied perspectives regarding dogs on beaches. It is also about finding a balance between working on some deep, deliberative engagement with key people and groups as well as ensuring that the broader community who are interested in or affected by our decisions, can be involved.

This plan takes into consideration how key people, groups and communities will be involved, as well as the complexity and sensitivity of the issue and the high level of community interest in the project.

1.2 Our Engagement Purpose and Guiding Principles

The Participate PAE *Communications and Engagement Framework 2022-2025*ⁱ was endorsed by Council on 12 July 2022. The Framework states that community engagement is about providing genuine opportunities for the City's diverse communities to meaningfully contribute to the decisions that affect their wellbeing.

Council's guiding principles are transparency, connection, and accessibility. This includes ensuring the community has trust and confidence; building meaningful relationships with our

community; and giving everyone a voice on issues that matter to them. Our intended approach works towards all of these principles.

1.3 South Australian Government's Better Together Principles

Better Togetherⁱⁱ provides a set of principles to guide government agencies towards best practice community engagement acknowledging the complexity, breadth and variety of engagement activity required.

Whilst local government isn't an agency of state government, the Better Together principles provide a solid framework to plan robust and meaningful community engagement.

The 6 principles are -

1. We know why we are engaging
2. We know who to engage
3. We know the history
4. We start together
5. We are genuine
6. We are relevant and engaging

To ensure best practice community engagement is achieved, these principles have been used to shape this engagement plan.

1. Why are we engaging?

2.1 Our engagement objectives

We are engaging with our community –

1. **To inform our decision-making regarding rules for dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves.** This is a complex and sensitive issue in which community insights and lived experiences are likely to be highly valuable in helping us make the right decisions to find a balance for different users.
2. **To build understanding that there are a variety of perspectives that need to be considered when making decisions regarding rules for dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves.** We hope that this engagement process will help to facilitate a process of collective thinking about a complex challenge within our community.
3. **To seek to introduce greater involvement of local people, groups and communities to develop an improved understanding of community needs and preferences.** Getting the process right is critical in building trust and confidence within our community, demonstrating our genuine desire to undertake meaningful engagement.

2.2 Complexity and sensitivity

Managing dog on-leash and off-leash use of community open spaces can be a very challenging, complex, and sensitive topic for Councils and communities.

The outcome has the potential to affect the daily lives of many people within our community and the sense of safety, comfort and enjoyment of our beach and foreshore spaces.

Many dog owners feel strong attachment to their ability to use community open spaces for dog off-leash exercise. Awareness of the effect this can have on other members of the community varies, as little research has been done on those who are fearful, vulnerable or uncomfortable around dogs in public places.

Through this community engagement process, Council hopes to find a solution that offers flexibility for all beach and foreshore reserve users to find public spaces that suit their various needs throughout the year.

The engagement process needs to work through the diversity and complexity of views in the community and where possible resolve a fair and balanced solution.

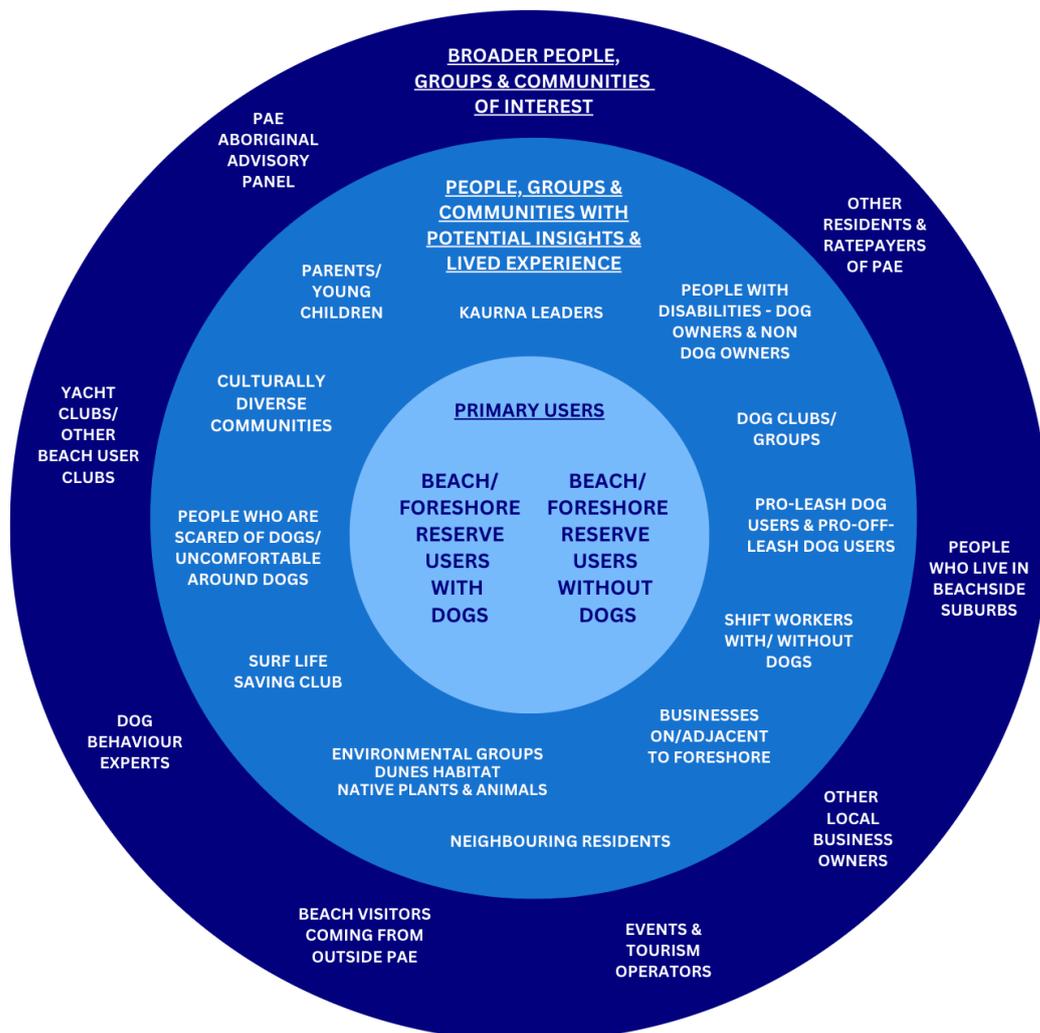
2. Who are we engaging?

There are a variety of perspectives that need to be considered when making decisions regarding rules for dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves.

The primary groups of people who will be directly affected by the decisions we make are **beach and foreshore reserve users with dogs**, and **beach and foreshore reserve users without dogs**.

This engagement process will also aim to seek out key people, groups and communities who might have **potential insights or lived experiences** to contribute to the process. We intend to work closely with these people throughout this engagement process, bringing them along on a journey of exploring and developing options, as well as helping to guide the overall engagement process.

In addition to this, we will undertake a comprehensive communication campaign targeting a **broader range of people, groups and communities** to ensure they are aware that there is an opportunity to contribute to our decision-making process by providing feedback on options that are developed.



3. What's the history?

4.1 Previous engagement undertaken

The Pups in Public Places consultation commenced on 9 February 2022 and closed on 27 March 2022, through Council's Have Your Say page.

Community engagement was undertaken through a range of channels, including –

- 8,672 emails sent to registered dog owners with an email address.
- 64 emails were sent to stakeholders of our public places, such as sporting clubs and other groups utilising our public spaces.
- 23 pop up sessions at 14 reserves and beaches across the Council were held.
- 2 social media posts.

This resulted in 4,235 views on Council's 'Have Your Say' community engagement Page from 2,683 visitors, with 685 actual contributions to the consultation.

The community feedback informed the proposed leashing rules for dogs on the foreshore which included the beaches and adjacent grassed areas, and for Council's reserves and open spaces across the City.

Following the announcement of the new rules for dogs on the foreshore, Council received feedback that not all registered dog owners received an email about the consultation.

After investigating further, we discovered that of the approximately 11,000 registered dog owners in Port Adelaide Enfield, only 8,672 had received the email.

The discrepancy in the number of emails sent was a result of an administrative error made through the process of preparing the dog owner information dataset. The impact of this error is that the information provided to Council to inform a decision on leashing rules was incomplete and did not meet the standard of community engagement committed to for this program.

At a Special Council Meeting held on 30 August 2022, it was recommended that the decision to implement dog on-leash and off-leash areas on the foreshore areas from the 3 April 2023 be revoked, subject to further community engagement outlined in this plan.

4.2 Lessons from the previous engagement process

As we plan an additional phase of community engagement, it is important that we reflect on feedback regarding our previous engagement activity on this topic. We can learn valuable lessons from this and use them to enhance our community engagement activity in the future.

Following the City of Port Adelaide Enfield's Special Council Meeting on 30 August 2022, a group of local Semaphore and Largs Bay residents formed a group called The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group. Their Facebook group includes 271 members (as at 29 November 2022) and is continually growing.

They have also held their own community meeting, with a focus on working through the key issues of the previous consultation, with 79 people in attendance. In addition to this, the group has undertaken a survey that was completed by 63 people, including 59 dog owners and 4 beach users who did not have dogs.

The Beach Dogs of Lefevre Peninsula community group wrote to Council on 17 November 2022 (see Appendix 7.1) with a summary of views and questions the group would like considered. They noted their particular concern regarding how the consultation process was carried out that resulted in a decision made by the Council at its meeting on 9 August 2022.

Their comprehensive submission includes valuable feedback that can be used to ensure the next phase of community engagement is delivered in a way that is fair, thorough, and robust. A summary of what we heard from this group and how we will take onboard their feedback in this engagement process can be found at Appendix 7.2.

The lessons learnt from the feedback received includes -

- Ensure clear information is provided to enable community members to make informed contributions to the process - the dilemma, the current rules, the process to date - for example we must be clear about whether we are intending to use the information to change the current rules.
- Include answers to FAQs from the community, using the questions asked by The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group as a starting point. This should include information about dog related incidents, what the current rules are, restrictions, and flexible arrangements currently in place. We will also include questions raised by The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group as part of the first workshop with the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group*.
- Incorporate subsequent draft options phase into next engagement process to enable feedback to occur.
- Ensure all beachside suburbs are included.
- Ensure that ample opportunity is provided to contribute, outside of typical workdays/hours.
- Ensure and that all registered dog owners are emailed with an invitation to participate in next engagement process.
- Include full transparency of all individuals and groups involved. This transparency will be particularly important when inviting people to participate in the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group*.
- Discuss this engagement plan with The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group prior to it going to Council on 13 December.
- Include The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group as a key stakeholder during engagement process.

4. How and when will we engage?

This Engagement Plan seeks to introduce greater involvement of local people, groups, and communities to develop an improved understanding of community needs and preferences.

This understanding is crucial to balancing the design of possible scenarios for rules for dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves. These scenarios must be developed, considered, assessed, and tested in collaboration with a diverse representation of people with a variety of perspectives before undertaking engagement with the broader community.

The following engagement approach has been developed to facilitate greater community involvement, transparency, and inclusion in the process. This section of the plan includes content that supports the Better Together principles *we start together, we are genuine, and we are relevant and engaging*.

A visual summary of our engagement approach



Our engagement approach

5.1 Engagement Phase 1: Acknowledging previous engagement undertaken

Timeframe: December 2022/January 2023

It is important to acknowledge significant engagement has already occurred on this topic.

In the first round of engagement, 512 contributions were made that specifically related to beach and foreshore conditions.

As valuable insights, these contributions will be fed into this engagement process for inclusion and consideration.

5.2 Engagement Phase 2: Broad communications regarding upcoming engagement process

Timeframe: January/February 2023

Given the significant previous engagement undertaken, and the rescinded aspects of Councils decision regarding dog leash rules on beaches, it will be important to undertake some broad communications regarding the planned engagement approach moving forward.

Key communication messages will include –

- We are committed to making the best decisions about rules for dogs on beaches. This includes considering a vast range of perspectives about beach and foreshore reserve use.
- Over the next X months, we will be convening a *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group*. The *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* will be the first of its kind here in Port Adelaide Enfield and will provide exciting opportunity for us to work directly with representatives from our diverse community to identify options for rules about dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves.
- Once this group has been formed and has worked with an independent facilitator to develop some options, we will be presenting these options to the broader community for your feedback.
- Make sure you register on Have Your Say PAE for updates direct to your inbox.
- And keep an eye in your mailbox when for when the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* seeks your feedback on the options they have come up with.
- We're trying this new approach as part of our commitment to genuine, high quality, contemporary community engagement.

Broad communication techniques will include (but not be limited to) –

- Video messages, shared on website and social media
- Email to Have your Say PAE subscribers, including all previous contributors to the Pups in Public Places engagement process
- Email to all registered dog owners
- Signage at key locations along the beaches and foreshore reserves, including QR codes linking to the video messages.
- Inclusion (where timing allows) in PAE Today.

This communication phase may also include the invitation to express an interest to be part of the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group*.

5.3 Engagement Phase 3: *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* – Workshops 1 & 2

Timeframe: March/April 2022

A pivotal step within our engagement process is that a *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* will be convened.

This group, made up of approximately 15-30 invited people representing a broad range of perspectives across identified groups, will play a vital role in working with us to find solutions.

During this phase, the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* will meet via two separate 2–3-hour workshops, held across two weekends.

Role & responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* during this phase of engagement will be to work with an independent facilitator to –

- **Share and consider a variety of perspectives** regarding dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves. This will include inviting experts and groups with lived experiences to make submissions to present to the group.
- **Review relevant research and previous engagement results, and request further information, knowledge, and expert advice** from the organisation and external experts, as required.
- **Develop options for rules regarding dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves**, ready to be taken to broader community consultation. These will be submitted to Council for endorsement prior to commencing city-wide engagement in Phase 4.

- **Provide guidance to the Council regarding the planned broad community engagement process** undertaken that will seek feedback on the option/s developed by the Community Working Group.

Membership

The membership of the *Dogs on Beaches Working Group* will be critical to get right, and full transparency by Council regarding its formation will be essential.

Upon agreement of this approach, our community engagement team will work with an independent facilitator to develop a Recruitment & Selection Process Plan.

To achieve a representative group of people from the wide range of perspectives that must be considered, the Recruitment & Selection Process Plan will list the people, groups and communities with potential insights and lived experience in section 3 of this engagement plan.

Key people, groups, and communities will be invited to express an interest to participate in the *Dogs on Beaches Working Group*. In addition to this, we will provide opportunities for members of the public to express an interest in being involved, collecting information during their expression of interest process which of the selection criteria they meet.

Participants of the Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group may be selected by community groups who will be invited to select a representative, by direct invitation, or by the public expression of interest process.

The final selection process will be undertaken by the independent facilitator using the agreed selection criteria.

Honorarium payment

An honorarium for participants is an important factor in implementing the principle of inclusion. The purpose of this payment is twofold. Firstly, it recognises the time that people are taking away from their everyday lives, hence recognising the commitment to do this work on behalf of their community. Secondly, it covers the costs that might be involved, such as childcare and transportⁱⁱⁱ.

It is suggested that participants of the Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group receive an honorarium fee of \$50 per workshop that they attend.

5.4 Engagement Phase 4: City-wide Community Engagement

Timeframe: May/June 2023

During engagement phase 3, the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* will have worked with an independent facilitator to develop options for rules regarding dogs on beaches and foreshore reserves.

In collaboration with key staff and technical experts, the group will decide which option/s will be presented to the wider community for feedback.

Engagement Phase 4 will see a mass communication campaign undertaken to invite a broad range of people, groups, and communities of interest to provide feedback on the options developed by the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group*.

This engagement phase will include a combination of written, digital and face to face, engagement in line with best practice contemporary engagement, plus communications activities and outreach to communities who need support or encouragement to participate.

Engagement activities will be supported by an inclusive communications process including mailouts, electronic communications and publications.

Broad communication and engagement techniques will include (but not be limited to) –

Print engagement	<u>Print communication tools</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage at key locations along the beaches and foreshore reserves, including QR codes linking to the video messages. • Inclusion (where timing allows) in PAE Today
	<u>Print communication/participation tools</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letterbox drop flyer/postcard to all LeFevre Peninsula residents/ratepayers with survey form (including QR code link to online survey/discussion forum). • Written submissions welcomed.
Digital engagement	<u>Digital communication tools</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email to all registered dog owners with details of how to provide feedback. • Video messages shared on website and social media. • Email to Have your Say PAE subscribers, including all previous contributors to the Pups in Public Places engagement process, with link to online survey/discussion forum. • Video used to unpack engagement purpose, stories of different users and options being presented for feedback.

	<p><u>Digital participation tools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey form • Mapping tool to show proposed options in detail • Make use of translation and accessibility tools.
Face to Face engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-up engagement on beach/foreshore reserves at various times across different days – use of iPads to complete surveys, displays of option/s. • Active outreach, going to communities/stakeholders who require extra support.

5.5 Engagement Phase 5: *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group – Workshop 3*

Timeframe: June/July 2023

Engagement Phase 5 will be the reconvening of the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* to be presented with the contributions received through the broad community engagement process.

Role & responsibilities

Through a 3-hour workshop, held on a weekend, the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* will again work with an independent facilitator to -

- **Analyse feedback** received from the broader community consultation process. The group will be presented with all raw data received and will collate it into themes, discussing what emerges or arises as they undertake the analysis together.
- **Refine the option/s as necessary.** Depending on what the group hears via the community feedback, they will refine the options as necessary. This is likely to include further deliberation as a group to find the preferred option to present to Council.
- **Reach a consensus** on the preferred option/s for rules for dog on-leash and off-leash areas along our beaches and foreshore reserves to be submitted to Council as a recommendation.

It is important to note that the final decision-making responsibility lies within the Council chamber. However, it is anticipated that the recommendations made by the Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group will carry significant influence, particularly given the comprehensive and in-depth engagement process undertaken to reach the recommendation.

5.6 Engagement Phase 6: Communication of final decision

Timeframe: August/September 2023

Once the final decision has been made by Council, there will be a final communication phase where the outcomes of the process are shared.

Broad communication techniques will include (but not be limited to) –

- Video messages shared on website and social media.
 - Email to Have your Say PAE subscribers, including all previous contributors to the Pups in Public Places engagement process.
 - Email to all registered dog owners.
 - Engagement summaries on Have your Say PAE and close the loop.
 - Signage at key locations along the beaches and foreshore reserves, including QR codes linking to the video messages.
 - Inclusion in PAE Today.
-

5.7 Engagement Phase 7: Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group – Workshop 4

Timeframe: September/October 2023

We will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement process by bringing together the Dogs of Beaches Community Working Group for a final workshop. This workshop will focus on both evaluation but also serve as a celebration of outcomes achieved.

Through a 1.5-hour workshop, held on a weekend, the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* will work with an independent facilitator to evaluate the overall engagement process, including reflection on the *Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group* process.

The workshop will include considering outputs delivered, any impacts made, and outcomes achieved. We will be asking, “Did we fulfil our intended purpose, a balanced recommendation(s) to Council for dog rules on beaches and the foreshore reserves informed by community?”

The outcomes of this final workshop will help inform future community engagement processes undertaken by Council.

6. Risk mitigation

For community engagement to be effective, it is important to identify any risks associated with our proposed approach.

Risk	Mitigation strategy
Distrust in process – formation of Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group being ‘rigged’, being dominated by Council staff, not having any real influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilisation of an independent facilitator to lead the selection and workshop process. • Clear Recruitment & Selection Process Plan developed and shared publicly. • Commitment from Council to the roles and responsibilities of the Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group demonstrated through trusting their contributions and respecting their recommendations.
Don’t reach the right people to be involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake thorough process to develop Recruitment & Selection Process Plan for Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group. • Carry out an inclusive communication and engagement process, using print, digital and face-to-face tools and techniques.
Confusion about purpose of engagement – why are we telling you this again? Isn’t this decision already made?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad and inclusive early communications about the reasons for the additional engagement. • Use clear language to explain exactly what is and isn’t already decided and how community contribution can influence the final decision.
Important people, groups or communities are left out of engagement process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure datasets are complete before e-mails sent. • Ensure Recruitment & Selection Process Plan includes thorough list of people, groups and communities to be invited to express an interest to be involved with the <i>Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group</i>.
Frustration felt if <i>Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group</i> expressions of interest outnumber the number of participant places available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure selection process is clearly explained • Once a criteria allocation is met, surplus participants will be redirected to another way to be involved – possibly a role in helping to promote the broader community engagement phase.

7. Appendices

7.1 Submission from The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Community Group regarding PAE Consultation on Pups in Public Places



Kerryn Southern
57 Esplanade
SEMAPHORE SA 5019
Email: kerryn.southern@internode.on.net

17 November 2022

Mr Brenton Thomas
City of Port Adelaide Enfield
PO Box 110
PORT ADELAIDE SA 5015

Dear Mr Thomas,

RE: SUBMISSION FROM THE BEACH DOGS OF LEFEVRE PENINSULA COMMUNITY GROUP REGARDING PAE CONSULTATION ON PUPS IN PUBLIC PLACES

Please find attached a report to the City of Port Adelaide Enfield (PAE) regarding the PAE Consultation of Pups in Public Places – Submission from the Beach Dogs of Lefevre Peninsula Community Group (the community group).

The Have Your Say City of PAE website – Pups in Public Places states PAE staff will be preparing a report outlining the proposed community engagement plan for dogs on the beach including the scope of engagement with both dog owners and non-dog owners to be presented to the Council meeting on 13 December 2022 and further engagement will occur with the community around dog on-leash and off-leash rules along our beaches and foreshore reserves during 2023.

Our community group provides the attached submission to PAE for consideration when preparing your report for a proposed community engagement plan. Page 8 of the attached submission provides a summary of views and questions our group would like considered and requests you provide a response to the groups specific queries. In particular, we request that PAE ensure our community group is included as a key stakeholder and we receive regular updates and contact as part of any future decision making and/or consultation processes concerning dogs on and off-leash areas in the PAE beach and foreshore areas.

We will also be presenting this submission to Council at its meeting on 13 December 2022 and will be seeking to present a deputation at this meeting.

We are eager to engage with you in relation to our submission and would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to further discuss the issues and questions raised in our submission at a time that is mutually suitable to you and our community group.

If you wish to discuss the submission, please feel free to contact me on
kerryn.suthern@internode.on.net or 0421 973 745.

Kind regards



Kerryn Suthern

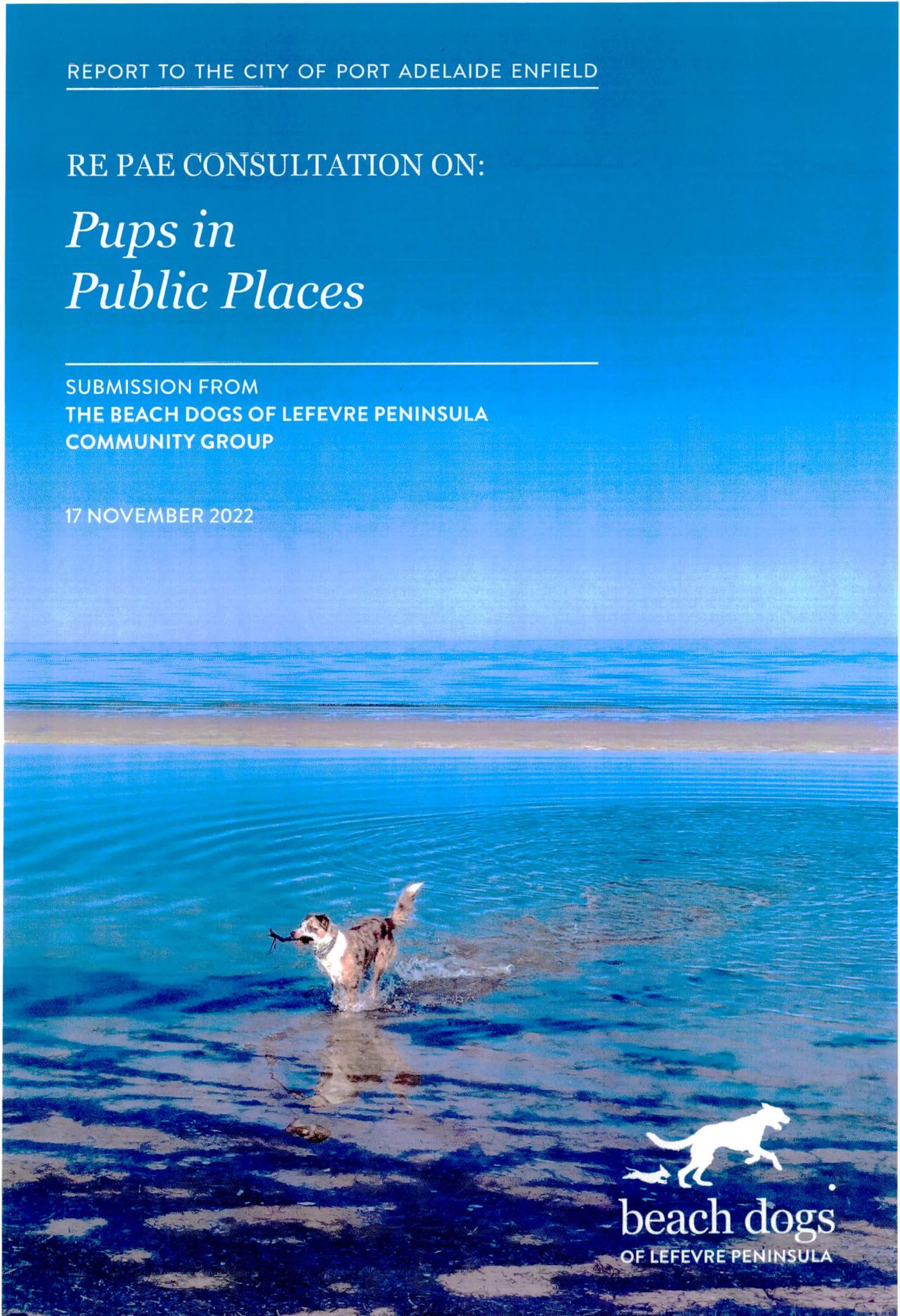
REPORT TO THE CITY OF PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

RE PAE CONSULTATION ON:

*Pups in
Public Places*

SUBMISSION FROM
THE BEACH DOGS OF LEFEVRE PENINSULA
COMMUNITY GROUP

17 NOVEMBER 2022



1. Beach Dogs of Lefevre Peninsula Community Group

FOLLOWING THE PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD COUNCIL (THE COUNCIL) SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 30 AUGUST 2022 A GROUP OF LOCAL SEMAPHORE AND LARGS BAY RESIDENTS FORMED A LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP, THE BEACH DOGS OF LEFEVRE PENINSULA COMMUNITY GROUP (THE COMMUNITY GROUP).

Our community group includes a total of 264 Facebook members (continually growing) who are concerned about the process to date that has taken place in relation to the City of Port Adelaide Enfield (PAE) *Consultation on Pups in Public Places*. We are specifically concerned about how the consultation process was carried out resulting in a

decision made by the Council at its council meeting on 9 August 2022 to change the *PAE By-Laws – Dogs*. The decision included to make an on-leash at all times area on the foreshore, stretching over 3kms, from Bower Rd, Semaphore South to Everard St Largs Bay; and all grass areas adjacent the foreshore areas..

Our group is strongly opposed to this proposed change and this report provides the reasons why we are opposed to it including our concerns in relation to the consultation process to date and finally a summary of what we would like to be considered by PAE before any further consultation is to proceed.

2. Community Engagement Meeting

OUR COMMUNITY GROUP RECENTLY HELD A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON 12 OCTOBER 2022. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE SEMAPHORE BOWLS CLUB AND A TOTAL OF 79 PEOPLE ATTENDED, MOSTLY LOCAL RESIDENTS.

The focus of the meeting was to work through the key issues of the consultation. The main issue being in relation to dog off and on-leash arrangements on the PAE beach and foreshore areas to provide meaningful feedback to PAE and PAE Council for consideration before PAE proceeds with any further consultation or decision making in relation to this issue.

We believe that our group is a key stakeholder in this process given the number of members, many of which are local residents and dog owners of the PAE beach and foreshore areas.

SUMMARY OF MEETING OUTCOMES:

A total of 79 people attended the meeting, mostly dog owners that live in the Semaphore Ward but some who live outside of the Semaphore Ward and the PAE Council and also enjoy walking their dogs on our local beaches.

Three questions were posed to those in attendance and groups collaborated to provide their feedback.

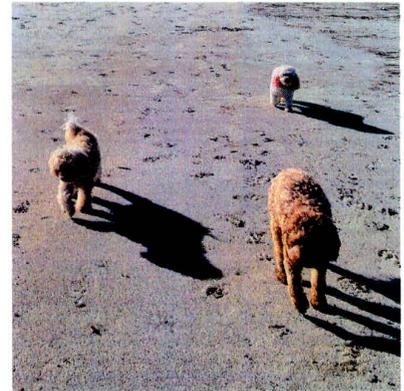
KEY RESPONSES TO THE THREE QUESTIONS INCLUDE:

a. Current Dog By-Law Arrangements:

Based on the current arrangements stipulated by the Council at its meeting dated 30 August 2022 that:

“The entire foreshore is a ‘Dog On-leash Area’ between the hours of 10.00am and 8.00pm, on any day during the period of daylight savings.”

Current arrangements and restrictions are generally considered appropriate and should remain, they are simple and well understood and are generally adhered to. During the winter months there are very few people on our beaches, the ones that do go during these months are usually walking their dogs. If PAE makes a blanket ban on dogs-off-leash at all times from Semaphore South to Largs Bay most of these people will have to go else where to walk their dogs off-leash leaving our local beaches abandoned. These restrictions are unfair to the local residents who use these beaches which are easily accessible at the moment to walk their dogs off-leash under the current arrangements every day, all year round.



“ A quiet morning, myself and my 3 dogs and one other person with a dog on the North Haven beach this morning 8:15am. I would say 95% of the people who walk their dogs off-leash on this beach before 10am are all local people ... and all our dogs know each other. I’ve never had trouble in the 12 years I’ve walked here daily.

ELLA MAYNARD

Current arrangements support community connection, including socialising, mental wellbeing and healthy exercise for both dogs and owners. Dogs off-leash at appropriate times are actually safer for both dogs and people as dogs on-leash can become frustrated and anxious.

b. Zones:

People generally don't want zones, however would be open to current arrangements with an additional 24/7 off-leash area at all times.

c. Alternative options:

PAE could become a leader in best practice for dogs in the community by introducing education programs on what the by-laws are, what effective control means, safe programs for people/children interacting with dogs, dog registration discounts for trained dogs and eye catching fun signage. PAE needs to be able to enforce current by-laws appropriately before making

any additional changes with further restrictions that will require enforcement action.

“ PAE could become a leader in best practice for dogs in the community by introducing education programs on what the by-laws are, what effective control means, safe programs for people/children interacting with dogs, dog registration discounts for trained dogs ...

SOME QUESTIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

Why did the council decide to make changes to the by-laws?

Why were so many residents unaware that Council intended to make these changes or of the consultation?



How many incidents involving dogs being aggressive have been reported along the beach and foreshore area in PAE?

Who are the changes for, local residents or non-locals?

General confusion around the consultation process including what is the difference between the beach and the foreshore?

2a. Community Engagement Meeting: Survey Results

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF BEACH USERS ABOUT PROPOSED CHANGES TO DOGS ON AND OFF-LEASH ON THE NORTH HAVEN, LARGS, SEMAPHORE AND SEMAPHORE SOUTH TO THE BREAKWATER BEACHES

A survey was developed by a volunteer of the community group in consultation with beach users and was informed by people who attended the community meeting. The survey was distributed at that meeting and was also made available to the Facebook group 'Beach dogs of Lefevre Peninsula'.

The survey was completed by 63 people, 59 dog owners/walkers and 4 beach users who did not have dogs.

Survey highlights include that 100% of dog walkers who use the beach during the winter season walk their dogs off-leash. If they were required to travel to one of the two proposed off-leash areas in order to have their dogs off-leash, 55% said they would be unable to do so. Reasons for this included problems with access to the beaches due to soft sand/seaweed or long access paths,

no access to a car, concerns about the environmental impact of having to drive and lack of amenities such as toilets or cafes.

Comments about the impact on peoples lifestyle centred around physical and mental health, loss of the community many have built up with fellow dog walkers over many years and the negative impact on cafes due to reduced usage. People used terms such as 'devastated', 'bereft', 'massive impact'.

Preferred options were overwhelmingly to keep the rules as they are. Both dog owners and non-dog owners commented that the rules provide a balance to beach users and pointed out that the beaches are largely empty during the winter and cooler months except for dog walkers. Full details of

the data obtained as part of the survey including additional comments can be found in **Attachment A** on page 9 of this report.

“ (the off-leash area is) too far for me to drive. I would go to a beach in the Charles Sturt area and spend my money there too.

ANON, COMMUNITY SURVEY

“ Mentally and socially (beneficial) for both my dog and myself. We have made so many friends on the beach through walking our dogs. To lose this would be devastating. Walking every day has given us a sense of community.

ANON, COMMUNITY SURVEY

3. City of Port Adelaide & Enfield (PAE) Consultation on Pups in Public Places

IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2022, THE PAE OPENED CONSULTATION THROUGH ITS *HAVE YOUR SAY* WEBSITE (THE WEBSITE) ASKING PEOPLE TO PROVIDE IDEAS AND FEEDBACK TO HELP PAE TO GET THE BALANCE RIGHT AND DETERMINE WHICH OPEN PUBLIC AREAS SHOULD BE ON-LEASH, OFF-LEASH OR DOG PROHIBITED.

The website stated, “We’re looking to balance the needs of all users of our open spaces and give dog owners flexibility to find the open spaces that best suit their dog’s needs”. The engagement was open to anyone who uses or visits our wonderful open spaces – not just residents and/or dog owners.

The website states that consultation during this period included holding 23 pop-up community engagement events.

The community group considers there were some significant problems associated with the consultation including the following:

Nowhere on the website or as part of the survey was there mention of the current *PAE By-Laws – Dogs*, what the current restrictions are that are in place and where, or the intention that PAE may be changing the By-Laws as a result of the consultation process. The information provided on the website was both inadequate and misleading from this perspective, leading those who did participate in the survey to believe this was just a general survey to gather information, not to lead to a decision to change the current *PAE By-Laws – Dogs*.

If this had been made clear, then the way people responded to the survey may have been quite different. There was no subsequent draft proposal put forward before a decision was made following the consultation which would normally be the next step as part of community consultations to allow stakeholders to understand and approve of the way in which the information gained is being used.

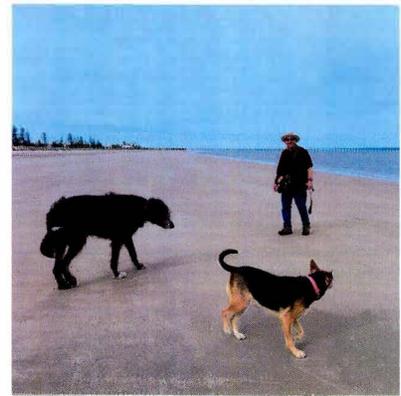
There were only five “pop-ups” in total held in the beach and foreshore area including Semaphore foreshore (one

2-hour session on a Saturday and one 90-minute session on a Tuesday), Largs Bay Foreshore (one 2-hour session on a Sunday and one 1-hour session on a Friday) and Taperoo Reserve (one 1-hour session on a Friday) with none at all held in the North Haven area. It is important to note that the residents who live in the consultation areas where the PAE proposed changes were to occur were actually only afforded 5 pop-ups, which included 3½ hours on work days during hours most people would not be available as they would be working.

The website also states that the consultation included PAE emailing 8672 registered dog owners in PAE and an on-line survey and interactive map on the *Have Your Say* website.



“ Not a soul on the beach this morning. What explanation or logic is behind the idea of having dogs on leash 24/7 all year? JILLIY ROO



“ How do we help people follow the rules? I think we need a mixture of compliance and enforcement. I support beach patrols by PAE council. What I don’t support is draconian changes to rules that are supposed to address compliance. We need to support compliance to current rules, full stop. MARGARET WALKER

The most recent information on the City of PAE Annual Report 2021-22 indicates a total number of 18,784 dogs are registered in the PAE council area. Why did PAE decide to email only around 40% of the registered dog owners, focussing on those in suburbs beginning A-O? By doing this PAE not only did not email nearly 60% of the registered dog owners in PAE but totally omitted emailing residents living in the Semaphore South, Semaphore, Taperoo and North Haven areas. Even if the omission of suburbs beginning N-Z was a mistake by PAE surely the realisation that only 40% of PAE registered dog owners were contacted, should have been noticed? Many people in our community group advised that although they are dog owners in the A-O area that they still did not receive the consultation email.



“ There are a lot of working dogs that make of use of the beach everyday. How will the council deal with all the barking dog complaints in neighbourhoods when these local dogs will no longer be able to get adequate exercise?”

KATRINA ALLIAN

Following the Council’s proposal to make changes to the by-laws at its meeting dated 9 August, which affected the Semaphore South, Semaphore, Largs Bay, Taperoo

and North Haven foreshore areas, PAE subsequently received many complaints from the residents of these communities due to being completely unaware of the consultation or the council’s sudden decision which had a direct impact on them. Following this PAE updated the *Have Your Say* website which now states “following the announcement of the new rules for dogs on beaches, Council received feedback that not all registered dog owners had received an email about the consultation as intended and provided a link to a statement from the Mayor of PAE apologising for the mistake”.

Due to the significant oversight by PAE in the handling of the consultation process, Council was forced to hold a special council meeting on 30 August 2022. A total of around 28 confused and upset local residents attended this meeting. The Council rescinded aspects of the Council Decision relating to dog leash rules along beaches, subject to further community engagement and also resolved that, and in accordance with previous PAE By-Laws – Dogs:

“The entire foreshore is a ‘Dog On-leash Area’ between the hours of 10.00am and 8.00pm, on any day during the period of daylight savings. A report be presented

to Council in December 2022 outlining a plan for further community engagement, including proposed options, on leashing laws for dogs on the foreshore.”



“ It was brilliant down the beach this morning. Lots of dogs having a ball. I heard one guy saying we have to be wary as there are kids up ahead and then put his dog on the lead. There are lots of sensible people out there. Pity a few spoil it for the majority.” SUZI Q

4. Key Stakeholders

IN ITS DECISION REPORT (12.2) TO COUNCIL ON 9 AUGUST 2022, PAE INDICATED THAT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS INCLUDED A SIGNIFICANT STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE ON AND OFF-LEASH REVIEW.

This included 64 emails to stakeholders of our public places, such as sporting clubs and other groups utilising out public places. Our community group requests to receive further information from PAE in relation to the names of the stakeholder groups that were contacted.

We request that PAE ensure that our community group is included as a key

stakeholder from here on and that we receive regular updates and contact as part of any future decision making and/or consultation processes concerning dog on and off-leash areas in the PAE beach and foreshore areas. In particular, if PAE is considering making any changes to the PAE Dog By-Laws that we are advised before any decisions are made.

THE BEACH DOGS OF LEFEBVRE PENINSULA COMMUNITY GROUP

contact

Ms Kerryn Suthern

email

kerryn.suthern@internode.on.net

mobile

0421 973 745

5. The City of PAE People, Pets and Places Animal Management Plan 2018-2023

THE PAE PEOPLE, PETS AND PLACES ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-2023 (THE PLAN) PROVIDES NINE KEY INITIATIVES INCLUDING SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY PAE DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PLAN FROM 2018-2023.

Some of the initiatives relevant to the issue of on and off-leash include:

Initiative 1:
Dogs in Public Places

Initiative 2:
Supporting Amenities & Services

Initiative 5:
Benefits of Pet Ownership

Initiative 6:
Wandering Dogs

Initiative 8:
Dog attacks & Harassment

Some of the many actions referred to in the Plan relating to these initiatives include:

- Community engagement and education programs
- Development of guidelines and information for community to encourage responsible pet ownership
- Development of a web-based brochure on Good Dog Etiquette for Public Places,
- Promotion of the benefits of pet ownership
- Develop a targeted campaign to address the issue of dogs rushing up to people and other dogs in public places through: identifying target groups and locations, key messages, time for release and measures of success.

There were three actions relating to the management of dogs in public places and specifically in relation to dogs on beaches which included:

- Review off-leash and on-leash signage to ensure rules are clear and easy to follow.

- Undertake Council patrols to monitor dog owners compliance with legislation and local laws. This could include increasing patrols on the beach, foreshore and car parks near the beach with data captured and evaluated.
- Undertake a targeted assessment of on-leash and off-leash areas. This investigation may consider the investigation for a 24/7 off-leash dog beach and the identification and assessment of potential sites.

Nowhere in the Plan was it mentioned that PAE would need to change existing *PAE By-Law No. 5 of 2015 – Dogs*.

Our community group is interested in what PAE activities have been implemented during the period of the Plan to deliver the actions and initiatives within the plan which mainly focus on areas of community engagement, education, guidelines, information and monitoring dog owner compliance under the *PAE By-Law No. 5 of 2015 – Dogs* and in particular the following section:

Part 1 - 10. Dogs on Foreshore

Subject to Clause 11, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on any day during the period of daylight savings, a person must not cause or permit any dog under that person's control, charge or authority (except an assistance dog that is required to remain off-lead in order to fulfil its functions) to be or remain on the foreshore, unless the dog is restrained by a strong leash not exceeding two meters in length, and either tethered securely to a fixed object, or held by a person capable of controlling the dog and preventing it from being a nuisance or a danger to other persons.



“ I try and do the right thing and that includes standing up when I see people trying to be divisive. This seems to have turned into another them and us thing. If you agree that dogs should have some time off-lead on the beach you're painted as ‘one of those people’. We have enough of that going on in the world, trying to pit people against each other. Many different types of people live in this community. Rather than say no dogs anytime, or dogs off-lead all the time, can't we find a way to make it work for everyone and focus on the actual problem which ... is people who don't do the right thing - manage their dogs well.

RACHEL DE SAIN



Our community group would like to understand what actions PAE have put in place to achieve the initiatives and actions of the Plan and how these were taken into consideration as part of the consultation process.

We are concerned that reliance on the *Have Your Say* website resulted in a leap from understanding, education and information to increasing restrictions

6. Request for information on dog related incidents in PAE

AS NOTED ABOVE, AT OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING A NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS QUERIED HOW MANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING DOGS BEING AGGRESSIVE HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALONG THE BEACH AND FORESHORE AREA IN PAE.

On 26 September 2022 a member of our group, Ms Kerryn Suthern, wrote to PAE requesting information regarding the total number of reported dog related incidents/attacks within the PAE including specific information. Ms Suthern received a follow up email from PAE on 16 October advising that she would have to request the information via Freedom of Information at a cost of \$39 and would need to put in an application. She was also advised that it

on dogs on-leashes in the Semaphore Ward, requiring greater enforcement action.

It would also be appreciated if PAE could explain how the Council decision of 9 August supports initiatives 1, 2, 5 and 8 of the Plan. Where is the evidence that supports that this decision achieves any of the actions within the Plan?

would be easier to request information from the last 12 months than previous 5 years as requested in her letter. If PAE are basing their changes partly on information relating to "dog attacks" on either people or other animals then PAE must have this information readily accessible.

On 26 October 2022 Ms Suthern emailed PAE advising she had lodged the FOI application and fee for her request and would be satisfied to receive the information requested for the past 12 months as suggested by PAE. Ms Suthern is currently awaiting receipt of this information which she will make available to the community group to assist us in understanding if there is any evidence in relation to any issues with dogs off-leash on beaches and the foreshore.

“ Off-leash exercise ... is so important for our dogs. These spaces seem to be few and far between, I would hate to lose one of our most favourite spots for decompression walks ... a term coined by Sarah Stremming who is a dog trainer in the USA. She is a strong advocate for off-leash exercise as it is an important part for maintaining our dog's wellness. BRONWEN WILLS



“ I walk my dog on the beach and have never observed an attack the entire 30+ years I have lived in this council area (Semaphore/Largs).

ANON, COMMUNITY SURVEY

“ ... never experienced an attack at the beach. Attacks usually occur at dog parks as they are full of aggressive dogs and their owners. I refuse to use them. Semaphore beach is the first place I brought my dog as a pup and he has made friends at the beach, dogs and humans. We would both be devastated if we could not be free. ANON, COMMUNITY SURVEY

“ I have never observed a dog attack at the beach or the foreshore in the past 5 years. Most off-lead people and dogs use the same area 1-6 times a week so you get to know the people and their dogs. The only people who potentially have no idea are people who frequent the beach once in a blue moon.

ANON, COMMUNITY SURVEY

7. Summary

The Beach Dogs of Lefevre Peninsula Community Group considers the consultation process to date i.e., “PAE Consultation on Pups in Public Places” and in particular dogs on beaches and foreshore areas in PAE has been:

- Grossly inadequate in engaging the local residents of the area
- Has not contained enough information or background details e.g., what the current by-laws are, restrictions, flexible arrangements currently in place etc.
- Has been misleading in relation to the intent of the consultation e.g., to change the current by-laws.

We do not agree with the resulting decision made by the Council to change the PAE By-Laws – Dogs as follows:

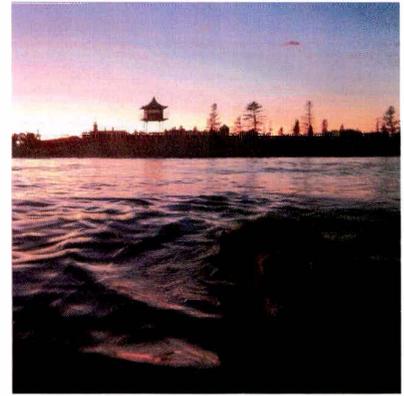
“Pursuant to the power contained in Section 246(3)(e) of the Local Government Act 1999, and for the purposes of Clause 9.1 of the Dogs By-law 2022, the Council resolves that the following foreshore areas or public places are, with effect from 3 April 2023, ‘Dog on-Leash Areas’ at all times: a. The foreshore areas between Bower Rd, Semaphore South to Everard St Largs Bay; and b. All grass areas adjacent the foreshore areas”

We request for consideration of and a response to the community groups queries within this report including:

- a. Our community group is strongly opposed to the proposed changes for the reasons provided in this report, we anticipate PAE to not only take note of the community groups opposition but to respond as to how this change provides an actual positive difference to all PAE residents.
- b. We request PAE ensure that our community group is included as a key stakeholder and that we receive regular updates and contact as part of any future decision making and/or consultation processes concerning dogs on and off-leash areas in the PAE beach and foreshore areas. In particular, if PAE is considering making any changes to the PAE Dog By-Laws that we are advised before any decisions are made.

making any changes to the PAE Dog By-Laws that we are advised before any decisions are made.

- c. Our community group requests to receive further information from PAE in relation to the names of the other stakeholder groups that were contacted during the consultation e.g., sporting clubs and other groups utilising our public places.
- d. PAE to note the key responses to the three questions provided to participants at the community groups at the Community Engagement Meeting held on 12 October 2022 as well as the questions raised by participants at the meeting and provide a response.
- e. PAE to note the significant issues raised in this report associated with the consultation process to date and provide a response as to how PAE can address issues raised in relation to:
 - Inadequate engagement with local residents of the area
 - Improved background information to inform people what the current by-laws are, current restrictions, current flexible arrangements in place, benefits of pet ownership within the community etc.
 - What the actual problem is from an evidenced based perspective rather than a few anecdotal comments.
 - Be transparent in relation to the intent of the consultation e.g., is PAE intending to use the information to change the current by-laws.
- f. Our community group is interested to find out more about implementation of activities from the PAE People, Pets and Places Animal Management Plan 2018-2023 to deliver the actions and initiatives within the plan including community engagement, education, guidelines, information and monitoring dog owner compliance under the PAE By-Low No. 5 of 2015 – Dogs.
- g. Our community group would like to understand how initiatives and actions of the Plan were taken into consideration as part of the consultation process, not just the *Have Your Say* website which resulted in a leap from understanding, education and information to increasing restrictions on dogs on-leashes.
- h. It would also be appreciated if PAE could explain how the Council decision on 9 August 2022 supports initiatives 1, 2, 5 and 8 of the Plan. Where is the evidence that supports that this decision achieves any of the actions within the Plan?
- i. We request that PAE fast track the information requested by Ms Kerry Suthern in her letter to Council dated 26 September and subsequent email dated 26 October requesting information regarding the total number of reported dog related incidents/attacks within the PAE including specific information which our group considers is highly relevant to any decisions made in relation to changes to dog by-laws. If this is not fast tracked then PAE should delay any further discussions until this information is provided to ensure that all stakeholders are given the opportunity to respond to PAE.
- j. Consideration of the results of the survey under Attachment A in any future consultation.



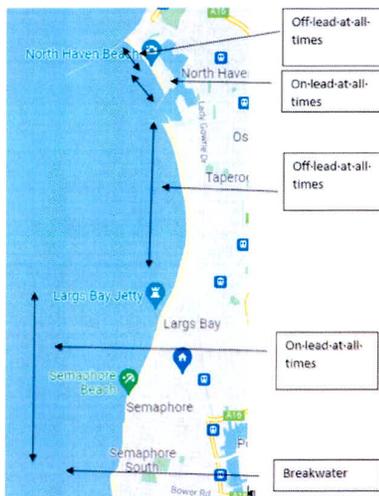
“ Early start this morning and a quick swim with my dogs, can’t do that on leash, can we!?” CHRISTOPHER MORRIS

Attachment A

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF BEACH USERS ABOUT PROPOSED CHANGES TO DOGS ON AND OFF-LEASH ON THE NORTH HAVEN, LARGS, SEMAPHORE AND SEMAPHORE SOUTH TO THE BREAKWATER BEACHES

DOGS ON AND OFF-LEASH

In August 2022 the Port Adelaide Enfield Council announced changes to on and off-leash rules that had been voted in by council, intending to implement them at the end of daylight saving in 2023. The changes were, no off-leash allowed at any time, all year, between Largs Bay public boat ramp adjacent to the Largs Bay Sailing Club and the Port Malcolm breakwater, and the Southern two thirds of North Haven Beach. Off-leash at any time north of the Largs Bay public boat ramp, and the Northern one third of North Haven Beach. (See map below).



The change came as a shock to the dog owner population, many of whom regularly walk on the beach with their dogs off-lead without experiencing any problems. The Council conducted a survey before the changes were announced but many people either never received it, or found it ambiguous. A total of 510 people responded to the questions about dogs on beaches. The population of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield as of the 2021 census is 132,400. The respondents therefore 'represent' less than 1% (precisely 0.39%) of the

total population. The survey did not say anything about the changes they subsequently brought in.

This survey was intended to gather empirical evidence about beach use now (from both dog owners and non-dog owners) and the likely impact of the changes on future usage.

The survey was developed in consultation with beach users and was informed by people who attended a community meeting at the Semaphore Bowling Club on 12/10/2022. The survey was distributed at that meeting and was also made available to the Facebook group *Beach dogs of Lefevre Peninsula*. There was no attempt to distribute the survey more widely as it was intended to be small scale (collated by a volunteer) and indicative, rather than statistically significant. The survey was available for completion between 12/10/22 and 6/11/22 inclusive.

THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED BY 63 PEOPLE, 59 DOG OWNERS/ WALKERS AND 4 BEACH USERS WHO DID NOT HAVE DOGS.

Survey Results

DOG OWNER OR DOG WALKER

1. WINTER BEACH USAGE

During the winter, May to September, dogs are not required to be on a lead at any time.

How often do dog owners currently bring their dogs to the beach?

- 86% bring their dogs to the beach daily or between 4 and 6 days a week.
- 13% bring their dogs between 1 and 3 days a week
- 2% bring their dogs less often than weekly

100% of respondents said they allow their dogs to be off-leash while on the beach

If dogs were required to be on a lead at all times during the winter how often would dog owners would visit the beach?

- 16% would bring their dogs to the beach daily or between 4 and 6 days a week.
- 10% would bring their dogs between 1 and 3 days a week
- 74% would bring their dogs less often than weekly

2. SUMMER BEACH USAGE

During daylight saving (October to April) dogs are required to be on a lead between 10am and 8pm

How often do dog owners currently bring their dog to the beach before 10am and after 8pm?

- 85% bring their dogs to the beach daily or between 4 and 6 days a week.
- 12% bring their dogs between 1 and 3 days a week
- 3% bring their dogs less often than weekly

100% of respondents said they allow their dogs to be off-leash while on the beach before 10am and after 8pm.

How often do dog owners bring their dog to the beach between 10am and 8pm during daylight saving?

- 56% never bring their dogs to the beach during these times
- 7% bring their dogs to the beach daily or between 4 and 6 days a week.
- 15% bring their dogs between 1 and 3 days a week
- 22% bring their dogs less often than weekly

If dog owners bring their dog to the beach do they allow them to be off-leash?

- 22% yes
- 78% no

3. ALL YEAR ROUND

If dog owners wanted to access the proposed off-lead beaches (North of the Largs Sailing Club and the first third of North Haven beach from the breakwater), would you be able to?

45% yes

55% no

If not, what are the reasons?

- I live nowhere near the proposed areas and I don't drive
- Unable to get there (2 respondents)
- Too far (2 respondents)
- No good access or parking, too much seaweed most times, no good place for swimming with dog or dog alone, too far from anywhere
- Too far from home
- I would have to drive a long way
- It is very important to the health of my dogs and myself to enjoy a walk. My dogs love to swim too. I'd need to drive to 'zoned' areas. Not practical
- I would not drive to the area. I walk from my house and their area is too far away
- I would have to drive to designated area rather than walk which has significant environmental factors and increased costs
- Unable to take dog in car. I walk a dog for an elderly man who can only walk short distances and can't drive
- Cannot drive (2 respondents)
- The beach access is difficult for me as long paths with soft sand are too exhausting
- Off-leash areas are too far away, walking periods could be too long - currently one hour, predicted increase to two hours. The zones would become congested
- Not comfortable putting someone else's dog in my car. Have never had to drive a dog around
- Too far for me to drive. I would go to a beach in the Charles Sturt area and spend my money there too

- Would have to drive. Wet sandy dog in car, inconvenient. I near the beach. Why should I have to drive to another beach?
- Too far to walk and too much time to do so due to work commitments
- A 4 km round trip is too far to let my dog off the leash. Defeats the purpose to drive to an off-leash beach when the beach is at the end of my street
- I would not travel further to take my dog due to the fact it provides no area for my dog to exit vehicle safely
- I walk to the beach and the distance would be too far
- I'd go to Grange Beach - local shops there will welcome extra dog walker
- It is too far to walk, we would have to drive, less exercise for us and our dog
- Currently it is convenient for us to walk to the beach from Hart Street
- It is too far to walk. By the time I got there I would be tired and ready to come home
- I would need to drive which is pointless as the idea is to walk your dog. I would go instead to council area south of Bower road so my dogs could get the exercise and socialisation they need
- If the beach is covered in seaweed (as is often the case north of Largs) I cannot manage. Also managing the track to North Haven can be too much for me
- Too far from home, time restrictions
- Don't always have access to vehicles, plus time constraints
- I would need to load the dog into car to access this stretch of beach. Too difficult and I have never had to do this as a resident of Semaphore for 50 years
- Work and too hot in summer during the day. Prefer going early as too busy on the beach later
- Too far to travel on foot. Opposed to increasing car usage - costly and environmentally unfriendly
- We walk from our house to the beach and those areas mentioned are too far away to walk

4. COMMENT ON THE IMPACT THE PROPOSED CHANGES MIGHT HAVE ON YOUR LIFESTYLE

- It would be pretty devastating actually. Semaphore Beach and my dogs are a huge part of my life
- I won't come to Semaphore often anymore. I'll go elsewhere. I live in Woodville, used to live in Semaphore, hence why I go back
- My dog's lifestyle would be impacted. He loves a run on the beach. If the Northern Largs area (were the only off-leash area), less business in the area for snack/breakfast for us
- Not my lifestyle but my dog's life style would be greatly impacted. Dogs need to run free - obviously under control
- She loves the beach and we would still come down but it wouldn't be the same. No frolicking with friends for her or for me. Ridiculous when Semaphore beach is almost deserted in winter. Dogs would not be adequately exercised and we would no longer be meeting our friends or our dog friends
- Less exercise
- Decreased mental and physical health due to restrictive proposal
- Unhappy owner and dog, reduced fitness, reduced ability to meet people
- Drive to area and increased costs
- Mental health, fitness
- I take my dog to the beach daily in summer. I would have to drive a 10km round trip to access off-lead area. Would also lose sense of community
- Destroy community
- I could not walk to the beach and would resent having to use a vehicle to gain access. I also imagine the off-leash areas would get crowded and pose a problem for the community living near these zones reducing their enjoyment of their local beach
- Both my dog and I would greatly miss the human and dog interaction. I would be bereft and not inclined to be obedient. In winter the beaches are empty except for the dog walkers. The idea that non dog walkers stay away because of the dogs is ridiculous

- We would be forced to go to an off-leash beach. This means we would lose contact with the many friends we and our dog have made and we would have to travel further as well
- Might cause a breakdown in current friends/acquaintances due to mismatch of schedules. Older friends who don't drive would not be able to reach the zones
- Dog denied access. How does the council plan to police this? I have never in the past 15 years seen an inspector. Your time would be better spent policing those people who don't pick up after their dog. I can't wait for a different council, especially a different Mayor. This council does not have Semaphore residents best interests
- I get to meet the same dogs and their owners and have a chat. All the dogs are 100% friendly
- Having to keep the dog on the lead would detract from my enjoyment
- Would affect my mental and physical health and that of my dog
- My dogs have been coming to the beach every day of their lives. I would be really upset to have to change
- It would have a negative impact on our lifestyle and mental health
- Not suitable for elderly, people with mobility issues, lack of facilities around dog users. No bags close to the beach for poo. Limited toilet facilities
- No more beach walks. Beach time is my and my dogs socialisation time, exercise time. In the last two years I walk between 6 and 8 daily. The same people are always there. No children and no visitors
- I would need to drive to the beach
- Highly inconvenient and too far away
- It would make a huge impact. My dog is a young working dog and needs to be able to run and swim. Also as a senior I need easy beach access not a 2km walk each way and I do not want to drive
- Reduced mental health and stimulation for myself and dogs. Increase in petrol usage - cost of living pressures. Dog is familiar with current area and would be unsure and anxious in different surroundings
- Mentally and socially for both my dog and myself. We have made so many friends on the beach through walking our dogs. To lose this would be devastating. Walking every day has given us a sense of community
- We would have to drive to the beach. This is both a traffic nuisance and polluting. We would lose touch with our neighbours with whom we regularly chat along the way
- My dog requires exercise every day. I have to walk for hours on lead to achieve what an hour off-lead can do. Let alone my socialising with other dog walkers and mental health and well being the beach provides
- Taking my dog to an off-leash beach - would depend on the number of dogs in the area
- Mental health. Less physical activity
- Change in lifestyle for the worst. Need to drive. Less contact with members of the community
- My health, watching my dog enjoy the beach off the lead gives me great joy
- Personal fitness and mental health adversely affected. Dog fitness adversely affected
- Will impact social life and health issues, also local shops. Dog owners and dogs are welcome in coffee shops and the dogs are catered for
- More of an effort to get to off-leash area, less exercise for us and our dog, bad physically and mentally
- Less exercise, less enjoyable and less quality of life
- I would probably walk a lot less so it would impact on my fitness and my dog's fitness as well
- My day starts with at least an hour on the beach. This is good for my mental and physical health. My dogs are well trained and under control. All this would stop. You cannot exercise a working dog on a lead. The beach is the only safe environment. Dog parks are not the answer as they are visited by owners who do not pay attention and their dogs are not trained and the space is too limited for proper exercise
- They would make a huge difference from a physical mental health and social point of view
- Would mean I needed to drive to the beach instead of walking
- Massive. Walking my dog off-lead is a joy, good exercise for myself and him also friendships and mental health
- Diminish our enjoyment of Semaphore and the reason we enjoy living here. Significantly reduce exercise and mental wellbeing for both myself and my dog. Would significantly reduce use of local cafes and shops
- Have a ball-chasing energetic dog so would be forced to exercise him on the local oval
- Will have a negative impact on my lifestyle. I spend every morning on the beach with my dogs, mostly at North Haven. Walking my dogs has a positive effect on me, relaxing and enjoyable
- We would have to drive to Largs North which may stop us from walking the dog as frequently
- Significant negative impact on mental wellbeing and physical health for me, my family and our dog. Disruption to community cohesion.
- Disastrous effect on my health and wellbeing and of my dog
- I would certainly almost completely stop using the beach and would consider driving to another council area to use their beach to give my dogs off-lead time. Dog parks are not suitable for my dogs. We only moved to the area in 2022 and walking at the beach has been a great way to meet people and learn more about the area and which local businesses to use, etc. This will be diminished greatly
- The little NH beach is mostly frequented by us who live on the beach and in 12 years I have had no problems as 95% of dogs/owners know each other. The proposed off-leash section is incorrect. From the SLS club and north is where most visitors go to swim, all windsurfers, fishermen on the rocks, viewing ships going in and out. No parking for tourists at southern end of beach anyway
- What is wrong with the way it is? In summer before 10 and after 8pm especially on NH beach is mainly frequented by locals

5. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR RULES ABOUT DOG WALKING ON OUR BEACHES?

- No need for change / Keep the current rules (19 respondents)
- Keep as is, even shorten time for on-leash between 10 and 8 from 1 December to 1 April
- I think the current by laws work well. I'd be happy to keep current bylaws plus allow leash free all year from Largs Pier to North Haven
- Keep as is - fair to all parties
- Restricted summer hours as they are now, but run from November to end of March. Sept and Oct the beach is not heavily populated
- Leave as is. Consider adding additional months to winter time rules such as October, November and April as no one other than dog owners there most months
- Current laws are great. Change the 10am - 8pm on-leash time to Dec 1st to March 31st only
- Restrictive hours suit all
- Leave the current by laws as they are
- Leave as it is or allow off-lead all year round 24 hours a day
- Current by laws is my preference. Could consider summer only for on-leash between 10am and 8pm
- No change to current rules that are fair and work for everyone
- Prefer status quo. During daylight saving, possibly a dogs on lead rule between 50-100 metres each side of jetties
- Happy as is. Or winter on lead 10 - 7, summer - status quo
- More responsible dog owners who pick up poo
- Rules stay as they are. In winter we dog walkers are usually the only ones on the beach. It is important social interaction for dogs and owners. If you want residents to stay active and spend money in the area the dog walking on the beach is an essential part of the deal.
- Things to stay the same - maybe include the 24/7 off-leash area to accommodate shift workers
- Foreshore on leads, beach keep as is
- No restrictions all year round, no zones
- For those with effective control I say off-leash at all times. I'd encourage public education and broader use of colour coded collars/harnesses indicating sociability of the dog. Green AOK, Yellow, nervous, caution, Red, don't approach.
- I would prefer the rules to stay as they are. They work just fine. There are plenty of hours in daylight saving for people to be on the beach when dogs are required to be leashed
- I like the current system. Perhaps make time from 10am to 7pm to allow us to enjoy a bit of daylight. Use common sense to take dog off-lead if the beach is vacant due to inclement weather
- No change to current rules please
- Leave them as they are and create a 24/7 off-leash area for shift workers
- Happy with the rules as they are. Perhaps restricting evening off-leash at night around Semaphore jetty but leave everything else as is - as they have been for years and everyone is happy
- Leave as is - it works
- Leave as is. Add an area where dogs can be off-leash all the time that will decompress the use of the most popular areas
- Dogs off-leash. No bikes on beach an option
- No changes to rules. Dog walkers continually pick up rubbish discarded on beach by infrequent users
- 3 months of present restrictions, no present daylight saving rules. At the moment to obey rules at night we have to walk in the dark
- I prefer the daylight saving rules to stay in place, perhaps ending at 7pm so dog owners could walk in the daylight
- The current arrangement is an acceptable compromise. Dogs are meant to be under effective control at all times. This should allow control of problem dogs and I would welcome the council reinforcing this requirement
- No changes to existing rules, plus add an off-leash area to use during daylight saving
- Keep as is. It works fine 99.9% of the time so why change?
- Keep them as they are, although 8pm is too late during Oct/Nov as it is dark on the beach, not yet summer so cold
- Keep the rules the same. Local dog owners use the current rules to meet up and this creates a strong sense of dog community
- Remain as they are plus the addition of one beach being off-lead year round as I can see this being beneficial to shift workers and provides options based on the weather
- Leave the rules as is. Why do people whose dogs must be on a lead come to off-leash areas? Torture for the dogs. Why are the majority of good dog walkers penalised by the minority of irresponsible dog owners

“ Dog walkers along the Semaphore Beach provide a service to the community ... the majority gather up rubbish every morning left by visitors to the beach the day before.

EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO COUNCIL

6. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE UNWRITTEN RULE/ETIQUETTE OF KEEPING YOUR DOG AWAY FROM ANOTHER DOG THAT IS ON A LEAD UNLESS THE OWNER GIVES PERMISSION FOR YOUR DOG TO APPROACH?

98% yes

1% no

Do you adhere to this rule?

100% yes

Do you observe this rule ignored by other dog walkers?

Percentage of the respondents who observed the rule being ignored:

13% daily or between 4 and 6 days a week.

11% between 1 and 3 days a week

76% less often than weekly

7. THE COUNCIL IS CONCERNED ABOUT DOG ATTACKS, BOTH AGAINST PEOPLE AND OTHER DOGS.

How often have you observed a dog attack in the last year? Please comment and/or describe

- Never (21 respondents)
- No, I have never in 15 years of walking observed anything I can designate as an attack
- When I go to the beach it is very early and very quiet so haven't seen any attacks, also go in winter when there's no one on the beach
- I walk my dog on the beach and have never observed an attack the entire 30+ years I have lived in this council area (Semaphore/Largs)
- Never - been walking our dog for 2 years on Semaphore beach, never encountered or seen a dog attack
- Do you mean on the beach? Never seen a dog bite a person. Haven't seen a serious fight. My dog was set upon by another dog but no injury to either dog
- I have not seen one
- Never - I walk daily at 6.30. In winter hardly see any others, in summer a few more, all same dog walkers and owners

- I have not observed dog attacks, only joyful gatherings of exuberant dogs
- I have seen dogs on leads that need to be kept on lead by considerate owners
- We have seen no dog attacks in the last year. The dogs are actually happier and more relaxed when off-lead
- No dog attacks observed this last year. Councils should publish this data so all dog owners are aware of increased instances (with consideration of privacy issues)
- Never, nor do I believe the council is aware of any
- Never experienced an attack at the beach. Attacks usually occur at dog parks as they are full of aggressive dogs and their owners. I refuse to use them. Semaphore beach is the first place I brought my dog as a pup and he has made friends at the beach, dogs and humans. We would both be devastated if we could not be free.
- No attacks witnessed
- I have not seen a dog attack in the past year
- We walk from Union Street to the paved path south of Point Malcolm and back every day and have never witnessed any aggressive behaviour from a dog
- In my experience it is extremely rare. I have observed a distressed dog that was anxious and afraid of other dogs. Happy dogs and owners interact without a problem. A huge opportunity to educate about fear of dogs, safe ways to approach, etc, exists especially for children and people from non-English speaking backgrounds. With the right leadership, attitudes, resources and support the whole community could embrace dogs as active and positive participants in our lives
- Have not observed any attack by a dog on a human or other dogs in the last 13 years since I've lived in Semaphore
- I haven't observed any attack by a dog in the last year
- I have never observed a dog attack at the beach or the foreshore in the past 5 years. Most off-lead people and dogs use the same area 1-6 times a week so you get to know the people and their dogs. The only people who potentially have no idea are people who frequent the beach once in a blue moon.
- None in the last year. Only twice in 9 years
- I have never seen a dog attack in 13 years of daily walking on the beach
- No major attacks - maybe some push and shove
- Never observed an attack on beach in 2 years
- Not observed any dog attacks for several years
- None over past few years
- I have not observed a dog attack at the beach. There is an occasional set to in the street, mostly with dogs sitting at cafes with their owners
- Have not witnessed an attack in the past year. My dog was attacked 4 years ago. Aggressive dog, feral owner, not a regular or a local. Have not seen this person since
- None in the last year
- I have witnessed a couple of minor scuffles between dogs. Nothing I would describe as an attack
- Not one serious dog altercation over estimated 150 uses this year. The odd grumpy dog bark or growl but no serious escalation
- I have never seen a dog attack at the beach. I would be concerned about more dog attacks if the make the off-leash area smaller at North Haven
- Never in last several years
- Not once in the last year have I seen a dog attack on the beach
- Not one in 12 years on the little NH beach
- Never been attacked or seen one but only walk my dog on my NH beach

NON DOG OWNER

Surveys were received from 4 non dog owners/walkers

1. WINTER BEACH USAGE

During the winter, May to September, dogs are not required to be on a lead at any time.

Currently, do you visit the beach in the winter?

- **25%** do not visit 25%
- **0%** Daily or 4-6 days a week
- **50%** 1-3 days a week 50%
- **25%** Less often that weekly

If dogs were required to be on a lead at all times during the winter how likely is it that you would visit the beach

- **0%** Daily or 4-6 days a week
- **50%** 1-3 days a week
- **50%** Less often that weekly

2. SUMMER BEACH USAGE

During daylight saving (October to April) dogs are required to be on a lead between 10am and 8pm

Currently, do you visit the beach in the summer between 10am and 8pm during daylight saving?

- **25%** Do not visit
- **25%** Daily or 4-6 days a week
- **25%** 1-3 days a week
- **25%** Less often that weekly

Currently, do you visit the beach in the summer before 10am and/or after 8pm during daylight saving?

- **25%** Do not visit
- **25%** Daily or 4-6 days a week
- **25%** 1-3 days a week
- **25%** Less often that weekly

If dogs were required to be on a lead at all times during the summer how likely would you be to visit the beach before 10am and/or after 8pm?

- **25%** Do not visit
- **25%** Daily or 4-6 days a week
- **25%** 1-3 days a week
- **25%** Less often that weekly

3. PLEASE COMMENT ON THE IMPACT THE PROPOSED CHANGES MIGHT HAVE ON YOUR LIFESTYLE

- *I am in favour of current rules*
- *I'm not impacted by dogs either on or off-lead. That's not to say I'm a bit wary of big dogs if the owner is not close by*
- *I don't have a dog but I visit the beach at any time. Dogs off-lead don't worry me. I have never had a problem with them*

4. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR PREFERRED OPTIONS FOR RULES ABOUT DOG WALKING ON OUR BEACHES?

- *I am very happy for dogs to be off-leash during quiet times on the beach. Most owners are very responsible and it's lovely to see dogs enjoying themselves*
- *Current system works*
- *On-lead*
- *Same as now works well. Dog owners clearly enjoy the socialising and they have their dogs close to them. Having them on lead from 10am works well so families who don't want contact with dogs can enjoy the beach*

5. THE COUNCIL IS CONCERNED ABOUT DOG ATTACKS, BOTH AGAINST PEOPLE AND OTHER DOGS. HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU OBSERVED A DOG ATTACK IN THE LAST YEAR? PLEASE COMMENT AND/OR DESCRIBE

- *Never. It seems to be a rare occurrence*
- *None that I have seen*
- *None*
- *Never in 28 years have I seen a dog attack between Largs and Fort Granville*

“ I don't have a dog but I visit the beach at any time. Dogs off-lead don't worry me. I have never had a problem with them ANON, COMMUNITY SURVEY



Discussion

IMPACT ON DOG OWNERS/WALKERS

Both winter and summer dog walkers indicated that they would be materially affected by the proposed changes. Winter dog walking would drop from 86% walking on the beach daily or between 4 and 6 days a week to 16%. Dog walkers bringing their dogs less often than weekly would rise from 2% to 74%.

During summer currently 85% of dog walkers bring their dog to the beach before 10am and after 8pm. All these people allow their dogs off-leash.

If they were required to travel to one of the two proposed off-leash area in order to have their dogs off-leash, 55% said they would be unable to do so. Reasons for this included problems with access to the beaches due to soft sand/seaweed or long access paths, no access to a car, concerns about the environmental impact of having to drive and lack of amenities such as toilets or cafes.

Comments about the impact on their lifestyle centred around physical and mental health, loss of the community many have built up with fellow dog walkers over many years and negative impact on cafes due to reduced usage. People use terms such as 'devastated', 'bereft', 'massive impact'.

Preferred options were overwhelmingly to keep the rules as they are. Many people commented that the rules provide a balance to beach users, both dog owners and non-dog owners and pointed out that the beaches are largely empty during the winter and cooler months except for dog walkers. Comments were also made about dog parks not being the answer to off-lead exercise because of issues of overcrowding, poorly trained dogs and inattentive owners.

Respondents were overwhelmingly aware of the unwritten rules about putting their dogs on lead if another dog was approaching on lead and most people felt this rule was mostly adhered to.

The question about dog attacks attracted the most unanimous response of all. None of the respondents had observed an attack within the past year and many also reported that they had never seen an attack in many more than one year of beach walking with their dogs. Several respondents attributed this to the fact that many people walk their dogs at the same time each day, therefore both the owners and the dogs are familiar with each other. This point also relates to the importance of the community and social aspects of dog walking that is so highly valued.

IMPACT ON NON-DOG OWNERS/WALKERS

Only four surveys were returned from non-dog walkers/owners so results are limited. However it is interesting that none of the respondents indicated their beach usage would change with different rules, three out of four were happy with the current arrangements and none had observed a dog attack in the past year.

“ ... have (PAE) considered the environmental impact by creating an off-leash dog walking area that is only accessible to the majority of locals by getting in a car and driving there? Shouldn't local government be trying to reduce carbon emissions instead of contributing to it?

EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO COUNCIL



CONTACT:

Ms Kerryn Suthern
e kerryn.suthern@internode.on.net
m 0421 973 745

7.2 Lessons learnt - how we'll use The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula's feedback to engage better

Appendix 7.1 – Lessons learnt - how we’ll use The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula’s feedback to engage better

Feedback from The Beach Dogs of Lefevre Peninsula community group	Lessons learnt - how we’ll engage better next time
<p>“Nowhere on the website or as part of the survey was there mention of the current <i>PAE By-Laws - Dogs</i>, what the current restrictions are that are in place and where, or the intention that PAE may be changing the By-Laws as a result of the consultation process. The information provided on the website was both inadequate and misleading from this perspective, leading those who did participate in the survey to believe this was just a general survey to gather information, not to lead to a decision to change the current PAE By-Laws - Dogs.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all information is provided to enable community members to make informed contributions to the process. • Ensure crystal clear communication regarding the dilemma, the current rules, the process to date (e.g. Whether the City of Port Adelaide Enfield is intending to use the information to change the current by-laws). • Include answers to FAQs from the community, using the questions asked by The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group as a starting point (E.g. Statistics/information about dog related incidents in past X years, what the current by-laws are, restrictions, flexible arrangements currently in place etc.)
<p>“There was no subsequent draft proposal put forward before a decision was made following the consultation which would normally be the next step as part of community consultations to allow stakeholders to understand and approve of the way in which the information gained is being used.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate subsequent draft options phase into next engagement process to enable feedback to occur.
<p>“There were only five "pop-ups" in total held in the beach and foreshore area including Semaphore foreshore (one 2-hour session on a Saturday and one 90-minute session on a Tuesday), Largs Bay Foreshore (one 2-hour session on a Sunday and one 1-hour session on a Friday) and Taperoo Reserve (one 1-hour session on a Friday) with none at all held in the North Haven area. It is important to note that the residents who live in the consultation areas where the PAE proposed changes were to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure North Haven area included. • If face-to-face engagement occurs again, ensure ample opportunity provided outside of typical workdays/hours.

<p>occur were actually only afforded 5 pop-ups, which included 3½ hours on workdays during hours most people would not be available as they would be working.”</p>	
<p>“The website also states that the consultation included PAE emailing 8672 registered dog owners in PAE and an on-line survey and interactive map on the Have Your Say website. The most recent information on the City of PAE Annual Report 2021-22 indicates a total number of 18,784 dogs are registered in the PAE council area. Why did PAE decide to email only around 40% of the registered dog owners, focussing on those In suburbs beginning A-O. By doing this PAE not only did not email nearly 60% of the registered dog owners in PAE but totally omitted emailing residents living in the Semaphore South, Semaphore, Taperoo and North Haven areas. Even if the omission of suburbs beginning N-Z was a mistake by PAE surely the realisation that only 40% of PAE registered dog owners were contacted should have been noticed7 Many people in our community group advised that although they are dog owners in the A-O area that they still did not receive the consultation email.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ALL registered dog owners are emailed with an invitation to participate in next engagement process.
<p>“In its decision report to Council on 9 August 2022, PAE indicated that the consultation process included a significant stakeholder and community engagement program undertaken as part of the on and off-leash review. This included 64 emails to stakeholders of our public places, such as sporting clubs and other groups util sing out public places. Our community group requests to receive further information from PAE in relation to the names of the stakeholder groups that were contacted.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next engagement process to include full transparency of all individuals and groups involved. This transparency will be particularly important when inviting people to participate in the <i>Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group</i>.

<p>“We request that PAE ensure that our community group is included as a key stakeholder from here on and that we receive regular updates and contact as part of any future decision making and/or consultation processes concerning dog on and off-leash areas in the PAE beach and foreshore areas. In particular, if PAE is considering making any changes to the PAE Dog By-Laws that we are advised before any decisions are made.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this engagement plan with The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group prior to it going to Council on 13 December. • Include The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group as a key stakeholder during engagement process.
<p>Other suggestions were made in the report however because these were more relating to the topic of engagement rather than the engagement process itself, they haven’t been included above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include questions raised by The Beach Dogs of LeFevre Peninsula Group as part of the first workshop with the <i>Dogs on Beaches Community Working Group</i>.

Endnotes

ⁱ Participate PAE *Communications and Engagement Framework 2022-2025*, City of Port Adelaide Enfield, <https://haveyoursay.cityofpae.sa.gov.au/participate>

ⁱⁱ *Better Together Principles of Engagement Handbook*, Government of South Australia, <https://www.bettertogether.sa.gov.au/principles-overview>

ⁱⁱⁱ *Facilitating Deliberation – A Practical Guide*, Kimbra White, Nicole Hunter & Keith Greaves, MosaicLab 2022