

ITEM 7.4	UNLEASHED DOG EXERCISE AREAS, OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MAY AND JUNE 2017
REPORTING MANAGER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RESERVES
TRIM FILE REF	2017/246885
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Review of Unleashed Dog Exercise Areas on the Northern Beaches, Community Engagement Report, July 2017 (Included In Attachments Booklet)2 Map of the proposed Unleashed Dog Exercise Area, Avalon Beach Reserve, July 2017 (Included In Attachments Booklet)3 Map of the proposed timed restricted section of the Unleashed Dog Exercise Area, Lagoon Park, Queenscliff (Included In Attachments Booklet)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To report on the outcomes of community engagement undertaken in May and June 2017 on the four proposed new unleashed dog exercise areas and the adequacy of Lagoon Reserve, Queenscliff to continue functioning as an unleashed dog exercise area.

SUMMARY

At the meeting held 28 March 2017 Council considered a report on the review of the adequacy of unleashed dog exercise areas on the Northern Beaches. Council resolved to:

- Begin a public consultation process with a view to having the following reserves declared as unleashed dog exercise areas:
 - Warriewood Valley Detention Basin, Warriewood
 - Avalon Beach Reserve, adjacent to Central Road and west of the drainage canal, Avalon
 - Munnumba Reserve, Belrose
 - South Creek Reserve, Wheeler Heights
- Review the adequacy of Lagoon Reserve, Queenscliff to function as an unleashed dog exercise area and engage with the community with a view to possibly rescinding the declaration or introducing restricted hours of usage as used in some of council's other unleashed dog exercise areas.

Council at this meeting also resolved to approve increased funding for capital and management improvements to unleashed dog exercise areas across the LGA with the allocation of \$100,000 per year for the next four years in Council's annual budget for improvements.

In May and June 2017 community feedback was sought on the four proposed unleashed dog exercise areas and the adequacy of Lagoon Reserve to continue as an unleashed dog exercise area. Feedback received has been captured in a Community Engagement Report developed by Parkland Planners for Council (see attached report). 894 submissions and 4 petitions with a total of 712 signatories were received and more than 130 people attended a community drop-in session.

The majority of respondents were supportive of more and improved unleashed dog exercise areas and to retain Lagoon Reserve as an unleashed dog exercise area. However some residents living nearby to the existing unleashed dog exercise area at Lagoon Reserve were not supportive of retaining this area. Also, residents living nearby to the proposed new areas at Warriewood Valley Detention Basin, Munnumba Reserve and South Creek Reserve were generally not supportive of these new areas. In analysing the feedback regarding the proposed new areas, greater weighting has been given to responses from nearby residents as it appears that many of the respondents supporting the declaration of the new unleashed dog exercise areas are supportive of the concept of more unleashed dog exercise areas but may not actually use these particular areas.

Reasons for supporting unleashed dog exercise areas included; benefits to dogs and owners from regular exercise and social interaction and current overcrowding of existing areas. Reasons for not supporting unleashed dog exercise areas included regular conflicts with unleashed, uncontrolled dogs, ongoing impacts on amenity from for example persistent barking, increased demands for parking and less area for other recreational use.

The recommendation below is in response to the community feedback received.

RECOMMENDATION OF GENERAL MANAGER ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

That:

- A. Avalon Beach Reserve (north western section) is declared as an unleashed dog exercise area on a trial basis for 6 months and that a review of the trial be the subject of a future report to Council. Temporary fencing, signage and other requirements are to be installed and key stakeholders and nearby residents appropriately notified before implementation.
 - B. Lagoon Reserve is retained as an unleashed dog exercise area and
 - a) Timed restrictions apply, in the area from the western side of the playground to the eastern most part of the reserve, on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and public holidays as follows:
 - Friday 9pm to Saturday 9am (on leash)
 - Saturday 9pm to Sunday 9am (on leash)
 - Night before public holidays weekend restricted times apply - 9pm to 9am (on leash)
 - b) The timed restrictions are to be implemented following installation of signs and other required infrastructure and appropriate notification of key stakeholders and nearby residents.
 - c) A facility plan will be developed and implemented in response to operational issues raised during this community engagement including for signage. This plan is to be developed with key stakeholders and nearby residents.
 - d) An audit and analysis of the use of Lagoon Reserve is undertaken in 2017/18 and the findings to be considered for relevant policies and the facility plan.
 - e) Council's education and advice initiatives which support responsible dog ownership have a focus on Lagoon Reserve in 2017/18.
 - C. The Warriewood Valley Detention Basin, Munnumba Reserve and South Creek Reserve are not supported as unleashed dog exercise areas.
 - D. Community engagement is to be carried out with key stakeholders including the Manly Dogs and Pittwater Unleashed groups about upgrades to existing unleashed dog exercise areas
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and other initiatives to be undertaken in 2017/18.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

In response to requests from the community, Council resolved at its meeting held 9 August 2016 to conduct a review of the adequacy of current off leash dog areas and present the results back to Council. A review was then undertaken that involved:

- Background research including; a literature review, statistical analysis of Council data, comparison with some other local government areas and internal consultation.
- An audit of existing unleashed dog exercise areas on the Northern Beaches.
- Discussions with key user groups including; Manly Dogs, the Manly and District Dog Obedience and Training group, Pittwater Unleashed and some sports groups that use sportsfields that are also unleashed dog exercise areas.
- Analysis of the background research, audit and feedback.

The findings of this review were reported to the Council meeting held 28 March 2017. At this meeting, Council resolved to:

- Prepare an integrated policy for unleashed dog exercise areas and dog management.
- Endorse development and implementation of education and training programs.
- Begin a public consultation process with a view to having the following reserves declared as unleashed dog exercise areas:
 - Warriewood Valley Detention Basin, Warriewood
 - Avalon Beach Reserve, adjacent to Central Road and west of the drainage canal, Avalon
 - Munnumba Reserve, Belrose
 - South Creek Reserve, Wheeler Heights
- Review the adequacy of Lagoon Reserve, Queenscliff to function as an unleashed dog exercise area and engage with the community with a view to possibly rescinding the declaration or introducing restricted hours of usage as used in some of council's other unleashed dog exercise areas.

In May and June 2017 community feedback was sought on the four proposed new unleashed dog exercise areas and the adequacy of Lagoon Reserve to continue functioning as an unleashed dog exercise area. Community engagement involved:

- An online feedback form available on Council's website via Your Say Northern Beaches.
- Seven community drop-in sessions.
- Written submissions to Council.

Council reports, maps of the unleashed dog exercise areas and a project overview were all made available on Council's website. Community engagement opportunities were publicised on Council's website and social media and widely promoted through local media. E-mails were also sent to; key stakeholders, people who registered an interest and to the Northern Beaches What's On registered members. Letters were also sent to nearby residents.

Community Feedback

Community feedback received has been captured in a Community Engagement Report developed by Parkland Planners for Council (see attached). A summary of responses is outlined below:

- 870 responses to the Your Say Northern Beaches online feedback form
- 24 submissions sent directly to Council and not via Your Say Northern Beaches
- 4 petitions with a total of 712 signatories.
 - *Retain Manly Lagoon as an unleashed dog exercise area*, 381 signatures.
 - *Keep Queenscliff Lagoon Park as an unleashed dog area*, 275 signatures.
 - *Manly Lagoon Petition for the Restriction of Dog Off-Leash Areas*, 28 signatures.
 - *Opposition to the proposed new unleashed dog exercise area at Munnumba Reserve*, 28 signatures.
- Over 130 people attended a community drop-in session

Analysis of the 870 responses to the online feedback form indicated that about 90% of respondents were supportive of establishing new unleashed dog exercise areas, and 10% were not supportive.

1. Reasons for supporting new unleashed dog exercise areas included:

- Conflict between dogs and with other open space users would be reduced.
- The community building aspect of owning a dog through meeting, interacting and forming friendships with other dog owners at unleashed dog exercise areas.
- Dogs are beneficial to people; exercising dogs is part of a healthy lifestyle, children learn about responsibility and dogs provide companionship particularly for older people.
- Dogs require safe off-leash exercise opportunities in urban areas. Unstimulated and bored dogs can cause nuisance.
- Some respondents who didn't own dogs recognised the need to exercise dogs so they don't become a nuisance.
- People are increasingly living in apartments with either no private open space or a small courtyard/backyard which is too small to exercise a dog. There is a need for places to exercise a dog near to where people live.
- There are not currently enough unleashed dog exercise areas for the high and increasing population of dogs on the Northern Beaches.
- Existing unleashed dog exercise areas are overcrowded, overused and not well distributed.
- An unleashed dog exercise area facilitates more acceptable behaviour from dogs and promotes responsible dog ownership.

The benefits of owning a dog and dog exercise areas were also outlined in the report to Council 28 March 2017, including that:

- Owning a dog increases the likelihood of achieving recommended levels of exercise.
- People walking a dog are more likely to have conversations with other people whilst children with pets have been shown to have higher self-esteem and are less likely to be overweight.
- The benefit of pets for companionship particularly older people has also long been recognised.
- Having well designed and maintained dog exercise areas provides dogs and their owners with opportunities to exercise and socialise.
- Regular off-leash exercise helps dogs relieve boredom and release pent-up energy. It may also reduce unwanted behaviour.

2. Reasons for not supporting new unleashed dog exercise areas included:

- Repeated, regular conflicts with unleashed dogs such as; being chased and threatened, persistent barking, stepping in dog faeces and verbal abuse from dog owners.
- That some dog owners; ignore signs restrictions, don't control their dog, take dogs into prohibited areas, cause conflicts with other users and wildlife, have dogs that are not trained and do not obey instructions, do not put their dog on a lead in places where they should be on a lead.
- Impacts on public health from dog faeces and urine.
- Unleashed dog exercise areas alienate space from other users.
- There are enough unleashed dog exercise areas.

Some of the issues highlighted in the community feedback were also identified in consultation undertaken for the report to Council 28 March 2017, including the impacts on public health and dog owners not always complying with restrictions and conditions of use of unleashed dog exercise areas.

Some respondents also offered their views on locations for other unleashed dog exercise areas particularly access to beaches. The Administrator has determined that consideration of access to beaches is not the subject of this review and community engagement.

Desirable features of unleashed dog exercise areas were also put forward by some respondents. These ideas will be considered in the ongoing program to upgrade existing areas.

Council recognises both the benefits of unleashed dog exercise areas to community well-being and the importance of managing impacts on the amenity of nearby residents and other park users. In response to the community feedback Council will continue to support, promote and reinforce responsible pet ownership in a positive way through education and information and to deliver a consistent integrated approach to carrying out Council's responsibilities.

In regards to the matter of persistent barking, Council supports a proactive approach including:

- Providing community education and training for dog owners.
- Investigating reports of persistently barking dogs and taking appropriate action to remove nuisance caused by barking.

Council has already committed to improving existing and considering new unleashed dog exercise areas, developing education and advice initiatives which support responsible dog ownership and to implementing a single consistent approach to managing unleashed dog exercise areas and pets. These initiatives will be developed and implemented from 2017/18 and in partnership with key stakeholders. Other initiatives in 2017/18 include:

- Creation of a new position whose role includes; patrolling and regulating dog related matters, delivering education programs, advising dog owners of their responsibilities and community liaison. It is envisaged that there will be on-site visits to unleashed and dog prohibited areas to meet users and residents, to discuss issues and answer questions and provide for example free microchip checking.
- Provision of education opportunities for non-pet owners and children about animal behaviour and safety around other people's pets.

Analysis of the four proposed new unleashed dog exercise areas is outlined below:

Between 80 and 90% of respondents to the online feedback form were supportive of each of the four proposed unleashed dog exercise areas. Whilst supporting the principle of new unleashed dog areas some respondents stated that they had no intention of using the area.

Council's recommendations have been developed following consideration of the feedback received for each of the locations.

In analysing the feedback regarding the proposed new areas, a greater weighting given to responses from nearby residents who will be impacted most, as it appears that many of the respondents supporting the declaration of the new unleashed dog exercise areas are supportive of the concept of more unleashed dog exercise areas but may not actually use these particular areas.

1. Warriewood Valley Detention Basin

The table below summarises the comments from 5 people that made positive comments and 8 people that made negative comments in relation to this location.

Comments	Council responses
<p>1. Negative comments include:</p> <p>a) Potential conflict between dogs and pedestrians along pathways.</p> <p>b) Limits the informal open space and recreation area for those living nearby.</p> <p>c) It is small, limited parking.</p>	<p>1. (a) There is a potential risk of conflict between unleashed dogs and pedestrians without fencing.</p> <p>1. (b) Fencing would segregate users, reduce open space for informal and passive recreation and impact the effectiveness of this area for flood mitigation.</p> <p>1. (c) There is some on-road parking nearby that is limited particularly during the week and times when local businesses are operating.</p>
<p>2. Positive comments include:</p> <p>(a) The increasing population in Warriewood Valley requires an unleashed dog exercise area.</p> <p>(b) It is; safe for dogs being away from the road, quiet and less busy area.</p>	<p>2. (a) Currently there are unleashed dog exercise areas at Progress Park, North Narrabeen and at Rowland Reserve, Bayview. There may need to be a further review as the population density increases.</p> <p>2. (b). Nearby residents indicate that the use of this small park as an unleashed dog exercise areas would compromise the use for families with small children.</p>

Recommendation:

Upon consideration of the community feedback particularly the opposition from nearby residents it is recommended that the Warriewood Valley Detention Basin is not supported as an unleashed dog exercise area. While the majority of respondents supported the proposal it appears that these are largely supportive of the concept of more unleashed dog exercise areas but may not actually use these particular areas. There may need to be a further review of this park as the population density increases.

2. Avalon Beach Reserve

The table below summarises the comments received from 5 people that made positive comments and 54 people that made negative comments in relation to this location.

Comments	Responses
<p>1. Negative comments include:</p> <p>a) Reserve is used by Maria Regina Primary School and other local schools for netball, other sport and play.</p> <p>b) Poor drainage results in muddy conditions and a dustbowl in dry weather.</p> <p>c) Close to the busy road, beach, skatepark, swings and well used pathways (yellow brick road), unleashed could spill over into adjoining area – there is potential for conflict.</p> <p>d) Too small, lack of parking.</p>	<p>1.(a). Netball courts are located at the southern end of this reserve. The northern part of this reserve could be used as an unleashed dog exercise area without encroaching on the current netball space. A fence would be required to separate the two uses.</p> <p>1.(b). If approved as an unleashed area appropriate maintenance would be required.</p> <p>1.(c). If approved as an unleashed area, potential conflicts would be minimised by fencing.</p> <p>1.(d). There is some parking available south of the park near the surf live saving club.</p>
<p>2. Positive comments include:</p> <p>(a) Avalon needs an unleashed dog exercise area and there are only two unleashed areas between Mona Vale and Palm Beach.</p> <p>(b) It is not high value public space.</p> <p>(c) It is accessible for families with children and dogs, an underused space and not a through pedestrian route.</p>	<p>2. (a). There are only two unleashed areas between Mona Vale and Palm Beach at Dearin Reserve, Newport and Hitchcock Park, Careel Bay.</p> <p>2. (b). The northern section of this park is not well used as it is not used for sport, informal or community activities as there are other more suitable parks nearby. Fencing would have a negative impact on this type of use.</p> <p>2. (c). The northern section of this park is accessible to a pathway that links to the pathway network that connects to nearby beach areas, public amenities, car parks and other facilities.</p>

Recommendation:

Upon consideration of the community feedback it is recommended that the north western section of the Avalon Beach Reserve is declared as an unleashed dog exercise area on a trial basis for 6 months and that a review of the trial is the subject of a future report to Council. Temporary fencing, signage and other requirements are to be installed and key stakeholders and nearby residents appropriately notified before implementation.

3. Munnumba Reserve

The table below summarises the comments received from 3 people that made positive comments and 18 people that made negative comments in relation to this location.

A petition was also submitted which strongly opposed this proposal, with 28 signatures from nearby residents. There are homes located on three of the four sides of this reserve. In analysing the feedback greater weighting has been given to responses from residents who live adjoining or close to the reserve who would be directly impacted.

Comments	Responses
<p>1. Negative comments include:</p> <p>(a) Potential conflict between dogs and pedestrians along the well-used thoroughfare in the park</p> <p>(b) It is a quiet, densely populated residential area with houses surrounding the perimeter of the proposed area. The proposed dog park will cause nuisance barking, disturbing local residents.</p> <p>(c) Limits the informal open space and recreation area for those living nearby. The reserve is too small.</p>	<p>1. (a).(c). There is a potential risk of conflict between unleashed dogs and pedestrians without fencing. Fencing would segregate users, reduce open space for informal and passive recreation.</p> <p>1. (b).(d). A new unleashed area in this park would increase the intensity of use of this park and impact on the amenity of adjoining residents including from noise from barking dogs and increased demand for parking.</p>

<p>(d) The proposed dog park will lead to an increase in traffic and will be dangerous for local residents walking and backing out of driveways. There is no off street parking which will cause an increase in congestion.</p> <p>(e) An unleashed area will have a negative effect on neighbouring house prices.</p>	
<p>2. Positive comments include:</p> <p>a) It is close to home.</p> <p>b) Provides another option for unleashed dog exercise in Belrose.</p>	<p>2. Upon consideration of the community feedback particularly from adjoining residents it is recommended that Munnumba Reserve is not supported as an unleashed dog exercise area.</p>

Recommendation:

Upon consideration of the community feedback particularly from adjoining residents it is recommended that Munnumba Reserve is not supported as an unleashed dog exercise area.

4. South Creek Reserve

The table below summarises the comments received from 10 people that made positive comments and 9 people that made negative comments in relation to this location.

Comments	Responses
<p>1. Negative comments include:</p> <p>(a) It is a quiet, less busy area.</p> <p>(b) The reserve is used for recreational activities by families such as for kicking balls, flying kites, children's birthday parties, playing volleyball and picnics. Conflicts between dogs and children would result, and droppings would be left.</p> <p>(c) The path and the reserve are used by elderly residents at the RSL Anzac Village at Narrabeen who would fear for their safety.</p> <p>(d) The bike path through the reserve is busy with cyclists passing through and children learning to ride bikes and scooters. Mixing dogs with children and cyclists will result in accidents. A fence along path would wreck the natural amenity.</p>	<p>1.(a). A new unleashed area in this park would increase the intensity of use of this park and impact on the amenity of nearby residents including from noise from barking dogs and increased demand for parking.</p> <p>1.(b), (c), (d) There is a potential risk of conflict between unleashed dogs and pedestrians and other uses, particularly considering the increasing high use of the path to access the Narrabeen Lagoon trail. A fence would be required to manage this risk. However, if fencing was installed to segregate the area from the Narrabeen Lagoon Multi Use trail there will be an impact on the aesthetic quality of the reserve and will limit access for other recreational use.</p> <p>Upon consideration of the community feedback particularly from nearby residents it is recommended that South Creek Reserve is not supported as an unleashed dog exercise area.</p>
<p>2. Positive comments include:</p> <p>(a) It is close to home, not close to a busy road, the park is already used as a dog play area</p> <p>(b) Dog owners use the connecting Narrabeen Lagoon walkway for on-lead walking, and the reserve can be used for off lead play.</p>	<p>2.(a). There is a potential risk of conflict between unleashed dogs and pedestrians and other users, particularly considering the increasing high use of the path to access the Narrabeen Lagoon Multi-use trail. A fence would be required to manage this risk. However, if fencing was installed to segregate the area from the Narrabeen Multi Use Trail there will be an impact on the aesthetic quality of the reserve and will limit access for other recreational use.</p>

In analysing the feedback greater weighting has been given to responses from nearby residents. While there was support for the proposal it appears that this is from respondents largely supportive of the concept of more unleashed dog exercise areas but may not actually use these particular areas.

Recommendation:

Upon consideration of the community feedback particularly opposition from nearby residents it is recommended that South Creek Reserve is not supported as an unleashed dog exercise area.

Analysis of the adequacy of Lagoon Reserve at Queenscliff to function as an unleashed dog exercise area.

89% of respondents were supportive of retaining the Lagoon Park unleashed dog exercise area and 81% of respondents were not supportive of restricted hours. However there was strong opposition to retaining the areas from local residents, particularly related to early morning noise and this has been taken into account when forming the recommendation on this area.

1. Retention of the unleashed area at Lagoon Reserve

The table below summarises the comments received from 295 people that made positive comments and 141 people that made negative comments in relation to this proposal.

Also a petition with 656 signatures was supportive of retaining this unleashed area and a petition with 28 signatures was not supportive.

Comments	Responses
<p>1. Negative comments include:</p> <p>a) Dogs barking continuously from early morning and throughout the day.</p> <p>b) Dog poo is not picked up</p> <p>c) Abuse or indifference from dog owners when undesirable behaviour of their dogs is called out.</p> <p>d) Dogs running across the path of cyclists, joggers and skaters. Dogs are not under effective control. Fights between dogs.</p> <p>e) Residents have requested a fence on the northern bank to prevent dogs from being on the northern bank.</p> <p>f) Erect a fence at the point between the onleash and offleash areas at Lagoon Park.</p> <p>g) Consider the narrow bottleneck at the playground is too congested for dogs, children, picnickers, cyclists, pedestrians and training groups.</p> <p>h) Use by dogs is eroding the sand bank along the lagoon.</p>	<p>1. (a) Council supports a proactive approach to matters such as barking including; providing community education and training for dog owners, investigating reports of persistently barking dogs and taking appropriate action to remove any nuisance caused by barking. In response to feedback it is proposed that timed restrictions apply, in the area from the western side of the playground to the eastern most part of the reserve, on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and public holidays as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 9pm to 9am (on leash) - Saturday 9pm to 9am (on leash) - Night before public holidays weekend restricted times apply - 9pm to 9am (on leash) <p>1. (b), (c), (d) Pet owners have an obligation to care for their pets as well as a duty to ensure their dog's activities don't unreasonably disturb neighbours or affect the environment. Council will consider these issues in the development of an integrated policy and education and advice initiatives which support responsible dog ownership. It is proposed that Council's education initiatives in 2017/18 have a focus on this reserve.</p> <p>1 (b), (e), (f), (g), (h) A facility plan is proposed to be developed and implemented that considers the issues raised during this community engagement e.g. dog tidy bags for disposing of dog poo, fencing (including in the reserve and across the lagoon) and fence re-alignment to manage user interactions, educational and information signage. Environmental impacts will be considered through the plan that will be developed with key stakeholders and nearby residents.</p>
<p>2. Positive comments include:</p> <p>a) Dog owners like to socialise at Lagoon Park, creating a sense of community.</p> <p>b) People living in units in Queenscliff need an unleashed dog exercise area.</p> <p>c) It is close for local residents who don't have a car.</p> <p>d) The restrictions at LM Graham Reserve has placed more pressure on Lagoon Park.</p> <p>e) Nearby Hinkler Park gives access to water, but it is hard to get to, small, uninteresting, can quickly become overcrowded with professional dog walkers, and is not a natural meeting point like Lagoon Park. Lagoon Park is a</p>	<p>2 (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l) Upon consideration of the community feedback it is proposed that Lagoon Reserve is retained as an unleashed dog exercise area.</p> <p>2. (m), (n), (o), (p) A plan is proposed to be developed and implemented that considers the issues raised during this community engagement e.g. dog tidy bags for disposing of dog poo, fencing (including in the reserve and across the lagoon) and fence re-alignment to manage user interactions, educational and information signage. The plan would be developed with key stakeholders and nearby residents.</p>

<p>nearby alternative if Hinkler Park becomes overcrowded.</p> <p>f) Removal or restriction of Lagoon Park as an unleashed dog exercise area will place pressure on Hinkler Park, and dogs are likely to be taken onto Manly Beaches.</p> <p>g) It is a large area, so overcrowding is not an issue.</p> <p>h) It has been an unleashed dog exercise area for many years.</p> <p>i) The inappropriate behaviour by a few dogs and dog owners should not penalise others.</p> <p>j) It is one of the few unleashed dog exercise areas in the Manly area where dogs are allowed in water or on a beach.</p> <p>k) The reserve is part of a circular walking route which can start and finish along the waterfront.</p> <p>l) The vast majority of dog owners are responsible.</p> <p>m) Fence along the sand between the bridge and the far end of the playground.</p> <p>n) Provide two separate paths – one for pedestrians and dog walkers and one for cyclists and joggers bypassing the unleashed area.</p> <p>o) Place signage about shared area and no dogs allowed on the northern bank.</p> <p>p) Signs about education and respect for other users, for example surfing signs.</p>	
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2. Restricting hours of use of the unleashed area at Lagoon Reserve

The table below summarises the comments received from 16 people that made positive comments and 40 people that made negative comments in relation to this proposal.

Comments	Responses
<p>1. Negative comments include:</p> <p>a) Some people want to exercise their dog whenever they please and not be restricted by times. Similarly others want the lagoon to remain open 24 hours a day 7 days a week.</p> <p>b) Restricted hours will concentrate use, resulting in overcrowding.</p> <p>c) People don't work 9am-5pm anymore. Some people cannot fit in with restricted times.</p> <p>d) Restricted hours will be impractical and difficult to control. People will ignore the time restrictions.</p> <p>e) Rangers need to be there to enforce the restricted hours.</p> <p>f) Proposed restricted hours are not known, and need to be made clear before people can comment.</p> <p>g) There are so few local areas for dogs to swim.</p>	<p>1. 2. Upon consideration of the community feedback it is proposed that Lagoon Reserve is retained as an unleashed dog exercise area and that:</p> <p>Timed restrictions apply, in the area from the western side of the playground to the eastern most part of the reserve, on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and public holidays as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 9pm to 9am (on leash) - Saturday 9pm to 9am (on leash) - Night before public holidays weekend restricted times apply - 9pm to 9am (on leash) <p>The timed restrictions to be implemented following installation of signs and other required infrastructure and appropriate notification of key stakeholders and residents via for example social media, Council's website, letterbox drop and local media.</p> <p>A facility plan is proposed to be developed and implemented that considers the issues raised during this community engagement e.g. information signage about timed restrictions. The plan would be developed with key stakeholders and nearby residents.</p>
<p>2. Positive comments include:</p> <p>a) Gives neighbours some quiet time from dogs barking.</p> <p>b) Any time restrictions would need to be clearly communicated, and not disadvantage people who can only exercise</p>	<p>It is also proposed that Council's education and advice initiatives which support responsible dog ownership have a focus on Lagoon Reserve in 2017/18 and an audit and analysis of use be undertaken in 2017/18 and the findings to be considered for relevant policies and the facility plan.</p>

<p>their dogs outside normal working hours.</p> <p>c) Limited times are preferable to losing the unleashed dog exercise area altogether (neutral respondent).</p>	
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Upon consideration of the community feedback it is recommended that Lagoon Reserve is retained as an unleashed dog exercise area and that:

Timed restrictions apply, in the area from the western side of the playground to the eastern most part of the reserve, on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and public holidays as follows:

- Friday 9pm to Saturday 9am (on leash)
- Saturday 9pm to Sunday 9am (on leash)
- Night before public holidays weekend restricted times apply - 9pm to 9am (on leash)

The timed restrictions are to be implemented following installation of signs and other required infrastructure and appropriate notification of key stakeholders and nearby residents.

- A facility plan will be developed and implemented in response to the operational issues raised during this community engagement including for signage. The plan is to be developed with key stakeholders and nearby residents.
- An audit and analysis of use is undertaken in 2017/18 and the findings to be considered for relevant policies and the facility plan.
- Council's education and advice initiatives which support responsible dog ownership have a focus on Lagoon Reserve in 2017/18.

CONSULTATION

This proposal has been the subject of significant community consultation as outlined in the attached community engagement report.

In addition, there is \$100,000 available in the 2017/18 budget to upgrade existing unleashed dog exercise areas. Community engagement will be carried out with key stakeholders including the Manly Dogs and Pittwater Unleashed groups about priorities for these upgrades and other initiatives outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funds are available from the 2017/18 budget for establishing the Avalon Beach Reserve unleashed dog exercise area and the time restricted section of the Lagoon Reserve unleashed dog exercise area

SOCIAL IMPACT

Council recognises both the benefits of unleashed dog exercise areas to community well-being and the importance of managing impacts on the amenity of nearby residents and other park users. In response to the community feedback Council will continue to; investigate opportunities for new and improved unleashed dog exercise areas, to support, promote and reinforce responsible pet ownership in a positive way through education and information and to deliver a consistent integrated approach to carrying out Council's responsibilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The development and implementation of initiatives and recommendations in this report will include detailed assessment of environmental impacts.