

POINT COOK DOG OFF LEASH AREA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Wyndham Dog Off-Leash Plan was endorsed by Council in February 2022. Throughout the development of the plan, Council heard from the community in Point Cook that an additional dog park was needed due to the high number of registered dogs within the area.

As such, Council identified Sidney Nolan Reserve as a potential site due to its central location and proximity to registered dogs.

Between the 19th April and 30th May Council went out for consultation on the proposed site.

The purpose of the engagement was to understand if the community supported the proposed location and seek feedback on why or why not.

A summary of the consultation process and feedback is provided below.



METHODOLOGY:

The below table outlines the various methods and techniques used to engage with the community.

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Project page on The Loop	1,571 total visitors to the page 2,883 page views
Online survey	191 surveys completed by 172 contributors
Direct contact from residents	7 direct emails, 1 phone call.
Other engagement	Council staff have met directly with the Harrison Ward Councillors to discuss the proposal.

Communications / marketing activities	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Online promotion (Facebook)	Post one: Reached: 19,082 Engagements: 1,613 Clicks through to website: 268 April 19, 2022
	Post two: Reached: 4,432 Engagements: 41 Clicks through to website: 12 May 2, 2022
	Post three: Reached: 4,532 Engagements: 42 Clicks through to website: 12 May 20, 2022

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

The following feedback will help to finalise the location of a new dog off leash area in Point Cook.

We Asked	You Said	We did / we will
Do you agree with Sidney Nolan Park in Point Cook being selected as a new dog off leash area?	<p>Yes – 44 (23%) No – 147 (77%)</p> <p>Additionally, Council received 7 direct emails against the proposal.</p>	Council have considered the feedback and have selected an alternative site, The Strand Park for a dog off leash park.

We Asked	You Said	We did/ we will
Why or why not?	<p>A range of feedback was received on the proposed location at Sidney Nolan Park. The key themes and concerns are detailed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reserve is too small and narrow 2. It will impact on the landscape amenity of the park 3. The park is well utilised by young families 4. The park is well utilised by elderly residents 5. It is unsafe and too close to the playground 6. The path within the reserve is used by residents as a walk to school pick up point 7. Too close to housing to the north of the reserve 8. Bronhill Vista is a busy traffic thoroughfare 	<p>Council utilised the feedback provided for Sidney Nolan Park to ensure the new location at The Strand Park addresses the concerns of the community.</p> <p>The Strand Park was selected for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) It is a larger reserve with more space for a dog off leash park b) The dog off leash area will not overwhelm the reserve c) There is less impact on the landscaping and amenity of the reserve d) There is greater separation to residential housing e) There is a larger distance between the playground and the proposed dog off leash area f) There is more parking available

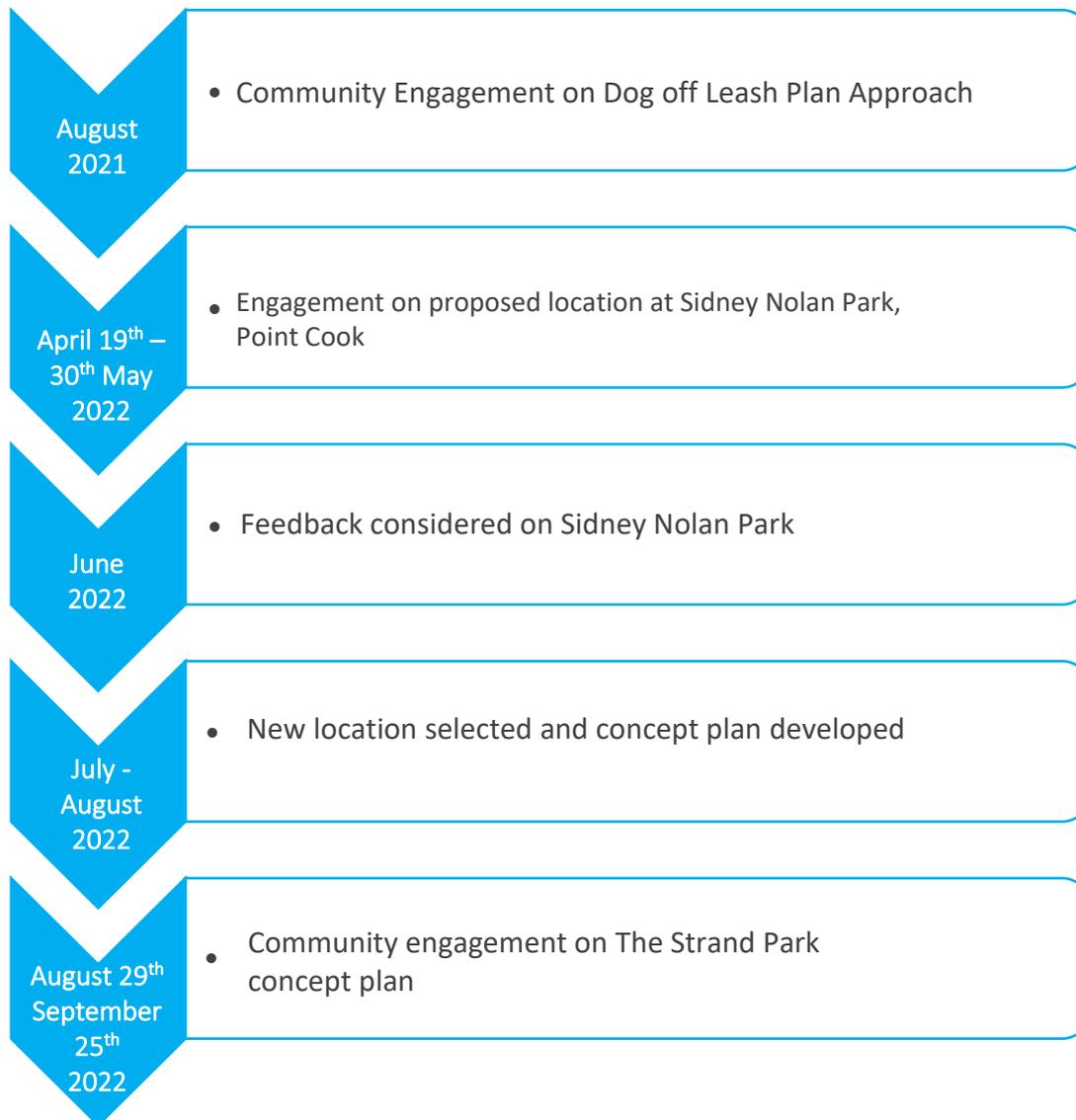
NEXT STEPS:

Council have developed a concept plan for the new location at The Strand Park.

Consultation on the concept plan will occur from 29th August through to 25th September 2022.

Subject to the outcomes of consultation, the fenced dog off-leash area at The Strand Park, Point Cook will be constructed by the end of June 2023.

STAGES OF THE PROJECT



HOW CAN PARTICIPANTS STAY INVOLVED/INFORMED?

Participants can stay informed by visiting the Loop page and selecting to “Follow” the project. Updates will be posted on The Loop and the project timeline will be updated to reflect project status.

Participants can also stay informed with updates available on Council’s Capital Works Dashboard www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/capitalworksdashboard