

TWO NEW DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS FOR WYNDHAM

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



December 2023

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

In 2022 Council endorsed the Wyndham Dog Off-leash Plan. This plan guides the future provision of dog friendly spaces across the municipality to ensure an even distribution accessible to all dog owners.

The consultation for the proposed fenced dog off-leash areas at Cambridge Reserve, Hoppers Crossing and Alcock Road Reserve, Truganina is part of the continued implementation of Wyndham's Dog Off-leash Plan.

Consultation on the two locations was held from 30 October to 27 November 2023 to receive feedback on the proposed designs and locations.

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

METHODOLOGY:

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

Community engagement activities / tools	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
The Loop project page	1,116 page views 563 visitors
Online Survey	101 contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64: Hoppers Crossing Dog Off-leash Area Survey 37: Truganina Dog Off-leash Area Survey
Pop up engagement	Truganina Dog Off-leash Area Face-to-Face consultation on Friday 17 November 2023, 4pm – 6pm: 3 attendees Hoppers Crossing Dog Off-leash Area Face-to-Face consultation on Saturday 25 November 2023, 11am – 1pm: 3 attendees
Add any other engagements you had with stakeholders here	Emails sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Truganina Lions Soccer Club Cambridge Tennis Club

Communications / marketing activities	
Method / technique	Stakeholders engaged
Online promotion (social media)	Social Post 1: 4 November 2023 Link Clicks: 53 Engagements: 264 Reach: 6,771 Instagram Post: Likes: 18 Paid Social Post: Link Clicks: 194

	<p>Engagements: 229</p> <p>Reach: 6,910</p>
Letters to Residents	<p>Truganina Dog Off-leash Area: Letters sent to residents within a 400m radius.</p> <p>Hoppers Crossing Dog Off-leash Area: Letters sent to residents within an 800m radius.</p>



WHO WE HEARD FROM:

The below tables highlight who we heard from in our community during our engagement process.

Hoppers Crossing Dog Off-leash Area

Age Group

15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39
1.56%	4.69%	7.81%	9.38%	10.94%
40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64
12.5%	17.19%	6.25%	14.06%	6.25%
65-69	70-74	75-79		
3.13%	4.69%	1.56%		

Gender

Female	Male	Prefer not to say	Other Identity
62.5%	34.38%	1.56%	1.56%

Suburb

Hoppers Crossing	Manor Lakes	Point Cook	Tarneit	Truganina
78.13%	1.56%	3.13%	3.13%	3.13%
Werribee	Werribee South			
9.38%	1.56%			

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

Yes	No
9.38%	90.63%

Truganina Dog Off-leash Area

Age Group

20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
2.7%	10.81%	16.22%	27.03%	18.92%
45-49	50-54	55-59	70-74	
5.41%	8.11%	8.11%	2.7%	

Gender

Female	Male	Prefer not to say
32.43%	64.86%	2.7%

Suburb

Hoppers Crossing	Point Cook	Tarneit	Truganina	Werribee
2.7%	2.7%	5.41%	83.78%	2.7%
Werribee South				
2.7%				

Do you speak a language other than English at home?

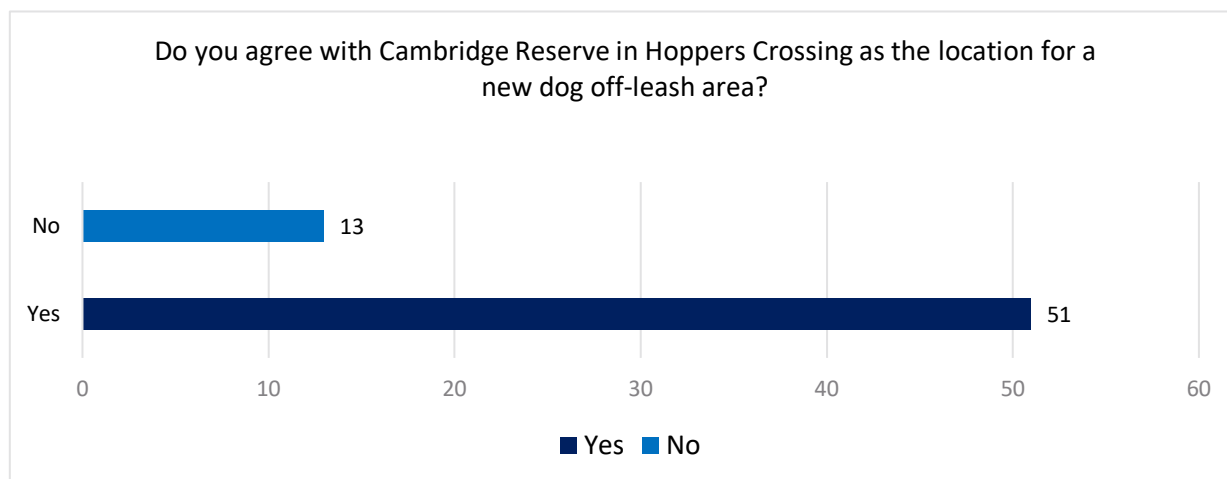
Yes	No
43.24%	56.76%

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

Hoppers Crossing Dog Off-leash Area



Figure 1.0. Cambridge Reserve Fenced Dog Off-leash area – Updated concept design.



We Asked	You Said	Council response
Do you agree with Cambridge Reserve in Hoppers Crossing as the location for a new dog off leash area? (Yes or No)	80% of community feedback expressed excitement and support for the proposed fenced dog off-leash area at Cambridge Reserve.	
	Fantastic idea for all the dog owners in the area to have a dedicated area for their four-legged friends	Council will continue with the design and delivery of the project.
	20% of respondents (13) were not supportive of the location and/or aspects of the design and provided the following feedback on why.	
	Many of us residents and our children use that area to walk through to other places such as the park or school. Most of the time kids walk on their own especially when going to and from school. Currently the area is safe but if it turns into a dog off-leash area, we can say goodbye to those days	The proposed off-leash area will be surrounded by a 1.2m fence. All dogs entering and exiting the off-leash area must be on a lead when in the rest of the reserve. This will ensure that school children will not be confronted by any off-leash dogs.
	Cambridge Primary school is nearby	The dog off-leash area will be enclosed by 1.2m fence. All dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the area.
	Please put more signs and educate the dog owners to collect the litter and keep dogs on leash	New off-leash regulatory signage, as well as dog park etiquette' is included as part of the project's delivery.
	Not enough parking	Limited off-street car parking is provided adjacent to the tennis courts and playground. The Wyndham Dog Off-leash Plan seeks to provide fenced off-leash areas in local neighbourhoods for use primarily by local residents. As the network of off-leash parks grows, it is expected that less people will be required to drive to access them.
	This is too close to the back of houses and the tennis courts	The perimeter fence will be 10m from the back of residential properties. This buffer will ensure that dogs in the facility do not disturb abutting residents or their dogs. The perimeter fence will be 18m away from the tennis courts with sufficient room for a new footpath and landscaping.
	And honestly 3000m ² is small	The Wyndham Dog Off-leash Plan, that requires that fenced dog off-leash parks be a minimum of 3,000 square metres. Larger off-leash areas are available in other parts of Wyndham including fenced and un-fenced areas at Presidents Park and the un-fenced area

		in the drainage reserve to the immediate south of this proposed site.
	Why not do it closer to Heaths Rd side where dogs are currently off-leash without a fence	<p>The current off-leash area near Heaths Road will remain for use by dog owners who wish to use unfenced areas.</p> <p>It is not possible to fence this area as it is a drainage reserve and can flood in the wetter months.</p>
	I like how it's a relaxing walk. It will be too busy / noisy.	The proposed fenced area has been located away from the main walking trails, playground, and informal ovals to minimise disturbance of other park users.
	<p>Dog parks already in existence are full of unruly dogs with poor manners and zero recall.</p> <p>I have NEVER seen rangers patrolling these areas and untrained dogs is getting worse.</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of all dog owners to ensure their dogs comply with the conditions of entry at the individual fenced dog off-leash areas. These conditions are displayed at each facility.</p> <p>Council rangers patrol areas of known high non-compliance.</p> <p>If you witness an owner not complying with an on lead area you can lodge an online request https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/animal-complaints-pests/dogs-being-walked-off-lead</p> <p>Or call 1300 023 411 and provide as much detail about the owner, dog and incident as possible.</p>

We Asked	You Said	Council Response
<p>What do you like about the concept plan for the Cambridge Reserve Dog Off Leash area?</p>	<p>Great spot, it's a dead space not used at all, good car parks close by. No other off-leash parks close by so we really need one in this reserve.</p>	<p>Comments Noted – these elements will be retained in the final design.</p>
	<p>It's a great area. Large enough for dog off leash area.</p>	
	<p>As a local to the Cambridge area where the proposed off lead dog park is being considered, I was very pleased. It would provide a great opportunity for locals to get their pets together in a controlled environment.</p>	
	<p>Fantastic idea for all of the dog owners in the area to have a dedicated area for their four-legged friends instead of just congregating on the oval and not letting the doggies be able to play with the other doggies.</p>	
	<p>Lots of trees for dogs to explore and not be focused on just other dogs. High fences are also important.</p>	
	<p>The agility equipment is a great addition for dog owners!</p>	
	<p>Its an excellent central spot for most dog owners in Cambridge Estate.</p> <p>It will also ensure dog owners don't let their dogs off leash in other areas of the reserve - such as the cricket grounds which currently serve this purpose illegally and that's definitely not appreciated by the community.</p>	

We Asked	You Said	Council Response
Is there anything we may have missed in the concept design or could do better?	Shelter from the weather for humans, rain and hot sun.	Perimeter tree planting will provide shade in summer. Permanent shelters from rain are not typically provided in off-leash parks.
	With a mulched area around the inside of the fence, what will stop dogs from digging holes and leaving a gap for dogs to get out.	It is expected that dog owners will stop their dogs from digging large holes along the fence line (and in the grass lawns). Holes under the fence, or in lawn areas should be reported to Council to rectify.
	I think a concrete path, looped around the whole area would be better.	Noted
	A public toilet for dog owners should be built.	A public toilet is located in the Cambridge Tennis Club Pavilion and can be accessed during daylight hours directly from the car park.
	Consider the residents that live in that area and use that area to walk with their kids to school, park and shops.	A new concrete path will be installed from Westmill Drive Reserve entry, past the dog off leash entry to the footpath along the tennis club.
	The water fountain should not be at the entrance as this causes issues when dogs crowd around entering/leaving the park, making it hard for others to get a drink and can cause issues.	The drink fountain has been relocated away from the entry gate. Refer to figure 1.0 for new location.
	Are there closing times?	There are no closing times, gates are not locked.
	Should not put in gravel, especially in the agility equipment zone	Compacted Granitic Sand will be used in the agility area to ensure a stable surface while meeting minimum maintenance requirements.
	Amount of seating is not clear.	Three seats will be located in the off-leash area.
	Separate big and small, medium dog areas into 2 parts.	Council's Dog Off-leash Plan, requires fenced areas to be a minimum of 3,000m ² . It is not possible to divide the proposed facility into two areas as these would be too small and create safety issues. Wyndham Council has two dog off-leash areas that cater for small/quiet dogs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levittown Rise, Werribee • Williams Landing Reserve Small/quiet dog areas are being considered on a site-by-site basis for future projects.
	The height of the fence? is this standard?	A standard 1.2m height fence will be provided. This is standard across Council's park network.
	Water - is it for humans and dogs?	The water fountain will be for humans and dogs.
	Will there be any lighting?	There is no lighting planned for this project.

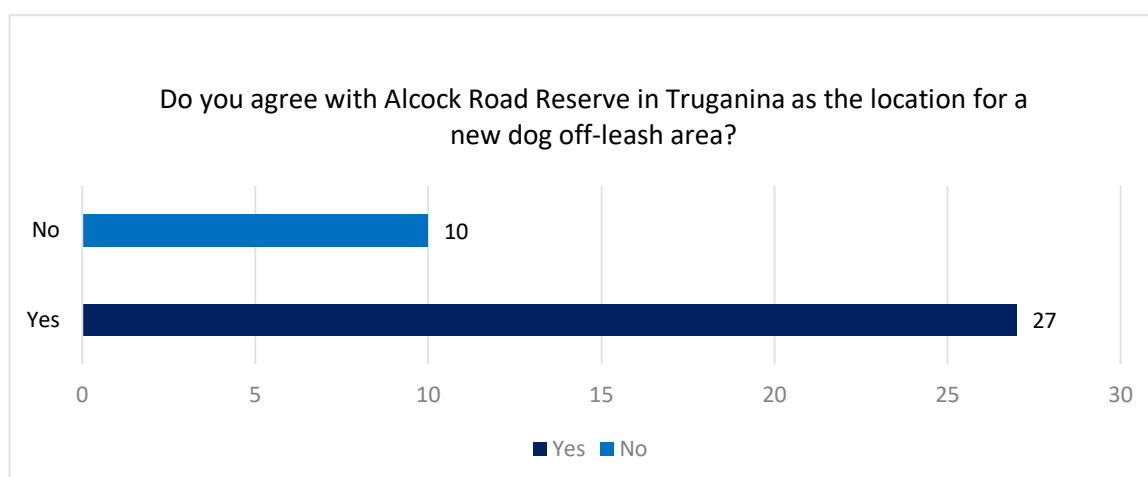
We Asked	You Said	Council Response
Any other comments you would like to add?	Will council officers regularly empty bins?	Yes – bins will be emptied regularly by the same trucks that empty the other park bins.
	Who will be monitoring the area to ensure no dogs are kept off leash outside the fenced in area?	Community members can log details about dogs off leash in areas that are not permitted by visiting Wyndham website: https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/animal-complaints-pests/dogs-being-walked-off-lead or call 1300 023 411 and provide as much detail about the owner, dog and incident as possible.
	Please make sure garden beds have (dog-friendly) indigenous plants.	All plant species used will be dog friendly, and indigenous where possible.
	I have a greyhound. By law they can only be off-leash in designated areas. Would this be considered a greyhound safe area?	This will not be a designated greyhound area. It is a Victorian Government legal requirement that all greyhounds are kept on a leash and muzzled when away from their property.
	Are cats intended to access this area too?	The fenced dog off-leash area is gazetted for dog use only. It is not intended for cat usage.
	Will the grass area have a sprinkler system	Yes, the grassed area will have an automatic sprinkler system.
	Fences just make the area more claustrophobic!	Fences are being kept to a maximum height of 1.2m to ensure that the off-leash area does not feel like a cage. There will be an 18m separation from the much taller tennis club fence.
	All dog parks should be muzzle compulsory.	Dog owners are responsible for ensuring that their animals use the facility in accordance with the <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> . The <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> requires Greyhounds, restricted breed dogs and declared dangerous dogs to be muzzled when off their own premises. Declared menacing dogs may also be required to wear a muzzle. There is no legislation to require muzzles on all dogs accessing an off-leash facility.
	I hope there will not be a lock on the gates	There are no locks on Council off-leash facilities. They can be used by the community at all times.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK:

Truganina Dog Off-leash Area



Figure 2.0. Alcock Road Reserve Fenced Dog Off-leash area – Updated concept design.



We Asked	You Said	Council Response
Do you agree with Alcock Road Reserve in Truganina as the location for a new dog off-leash area?	73% of community feedback expressed excitement and support for the proposed fenced dog off-leash area at Alcock Road Reserve.	
	It's a much-needed infrastructure for this area to allow safe play for the numerous dog who live in Albright, Elpis, Westbrook Estate, and surrounding areas.	Council will continue with the design and delivery of the project.
	27% of respondents (10) were not supportive of the location and/or aspects of the design and provided the following feedback on why.	
	I think there needs to be more off lead areas more central in Werribee.	Werribee is served by several unfenced off-leash areas. Planning for additional facilities is ongoing with several sites being considered in or around Werribee for funding in future years.
	Small kids will be playing here.	The proposed location is over 300m away from the playground in the reserve. The off-leash area will be enclosed by a 1.2m tall fence to prevent off-leash dogs from walking up to passers-by.
	This is very close to residential area / noise and disturbance to residents	The fenced area is set back from the park edge. It will be 26m from residential properties and separated from them by a road.
	Owners are not responsible, and we have seen few incidents already	It is the responsibility of all dog owners to ensure their dogs comply with the conditions of entry displayed at each fenced dog off-leash area. Please report irresponsible owners via the Wyndham website https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/caring-your-pets/dog-lead-areas or call 1300 023 411 and provide as much detail about the owner, dog and incident as possible
	Lack of amenities	The off-leash facility will be provided with bench seats, bins and dog waste bag dispensers, agility equipment and a drink fountain with dog bowl. Public 'amenities' (public toilets) are available at the reserve's sporting pavilion, closer to the playground.

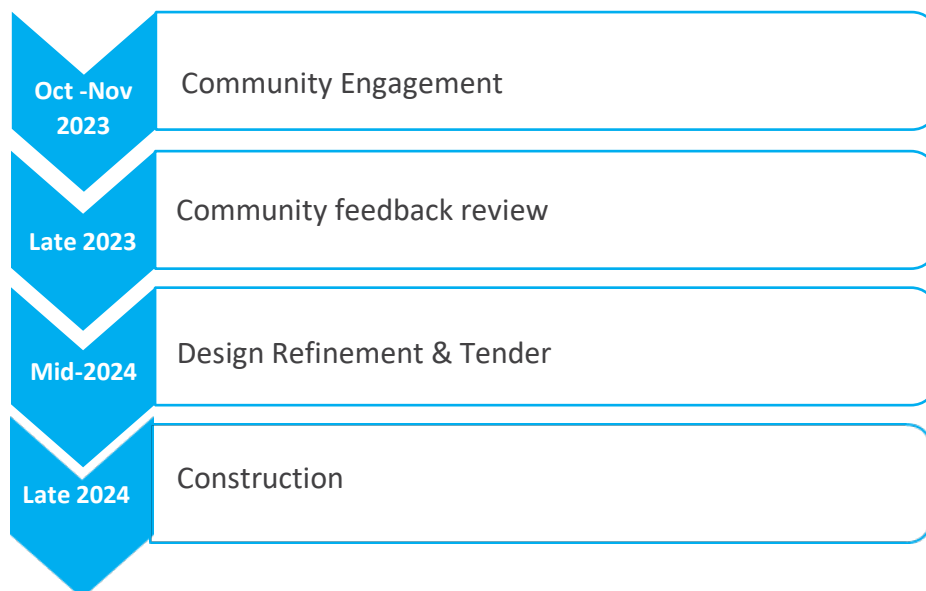
We Asked	You Said	Council Response
What do you like about the concept plan for the Alcock Road Reserve Dog Off-leash area?	Drinking fountain, one for humans and one with a dog bowl at the bottom to collect unused water from humans is a great idea.	Comments Noted – these elements will be retained in the final design.
	It is a much-needed facility in the proximity or else closest would be about 4-5km/10mins drive away.	
	I like the high fences and trees for dogs to explore.	
	Double gate and fence is high enough.	
	A nice wide space.	
	That I have a place to bring my dog for walks.	
	Love that it's away from the main road.	
	A well-maintained dog park but also a safe park for people to enjoy their time for other activities without any inconvenience for people without dogs.	

We Asked	You Said	Council Response
Is there anything we may have missed in the concept design or could do better?	If you could separate big and small, medium dog areas into 2 parts.	<p>Council's Dog Off-leash Plan, requires fenced areas to be a minimum of 3,000m². It is not possible to divide the proposed facility into two areas as these would be too small and create safety issues.</p> <p>Wyndham Council has two dog off-leash areas that cater for small/quiet dogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levittown Rise, Werribee • Williams Landing Reserve <p>Small/quiet dog areas are being considered on a site-by-site basis for future projects.</p>
	I'd really like to see an option for greyhounds due to their connection to Werribee Racecourse.	<p>This will not be a designated greyhound area.</p> <p>It is a Victorian Government legal requirement that all greyhounds are kept on a leash and muzzled when away from their property.</p>
	You have missed mentioning if there is going to be seating in this park.	Three bench seats will be located inside the off-leash area.
	Shaded areas for pet owners and pets.	Existing trees on the site are being retained where possible and additional trees are being planted to provide more natural shade.
	Maybe some trees along the fence line near the railway tracks to act as a buffer	Comment noted – to be considered by Urban Forest Team as part of future reserve planting.
	In all dog parks the worst managed area is the water fountain.	The drink fountain is being installed on a concrete pad that slopes away from the park towards garden beds with extra drainage to catch excess water.

We Asked	You Said	Council Response
Any other comments you would like to add?	Make sure dogs are walked in leashed. No walking to this area unleashed.	<p>New regulatory and behavioural etiquette signage will be installed in the reserve as part of the project.</p> <p>Council rangers patrol areas of known high non-compliance.</p> <p>If you witness an owner not complying with an on lead area you can lodge an online request https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/animal-complaints-pests/dogs-being-walked-off-lead</p> <p>Or call 1300 023 411 and provide as much detail about the owner, dog and incident as possible.</p>
	Can we ensure the water fountain has a dog bowl which can be inverted and emptied to avoid stale water?	The drink fountain will include a tippable dog bowl with grated stormwater drain.
	And add bins for dog waste.	Dog waste bins and poop bag dispensers will be provided at both entry points.
	All parks should be muzzle only.	<p>The <i>Domestic Animals Act 1994</i> requires Greyhounds, restricted breed dogs and declared dangerous dogs to be muzzled when off their own premises. Declared menacing dogs may also be required to wear a muzzle.</p> <p>There is no legislation to require muzzles on all dogs accessing an off-leash facility.</p>

NEXT STEPS:

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.