



## Anna Bay, Fishermans Bay and Boat Harbour Dog off lead review

### Engagement Report – June 2021

#### Summary

Following a Notice of Motion at the 14 July 2020 Council meeting a review of the dog off lead areas for Anna Bay, Fishermans Bay and Boat Harbour was undertaken.

#### Project Description

Dog off lead areas and particularly on the beach are a polarising issue for some people in the community.

Part of this review included an early engagement campaign (Stage 1) designed to receive feedback from the community about the existing off lead areas and what people would like to see in the future. The engagement responses will inform the recommendations of the future council report.

#### Stage 1 – Early engagement campaign November – December 2020

An early engagement campaign was designed to receive feedback from the community about the existing off lead areas and what people would like to see in the future.

The approach of this engagement included an online survey, online mapping tool and two face to face community information and feedback sessions.

Overall, the engagement result was that most respondents did not want to lose the existing off lead areas and would like to see more off lead opportunities particular with beach access.

#### Stage 2 – Feedback on proposed changes May – June 2021

The engagement campaign during this stage was designed to determine the levels of community support about specific proposed dog off lead changes.

The proposed changes included:

##### **Birubi Beach, Anna Bay**

- Between May and September permit dogs off lead at all times (no time restrictions)
- Between October and April permit dogs off lead between 5pm and 9am

Note: Dogs are permitted on lead at all times but not within 100m of the beach patrol area

##### **Iluka Reserve and South Headland, Boat Harbour**



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- Adjust the designated off lead area to the clear and maintained portion of Iluka Reserve
- Permit dogs on lead on the remainder of the South headland

**Boat Harbour Beach, Boat Harbour**

- Allow dogs on lead to walk along the beach to access the headlands between 5pm and 9am with dogs prohibited at all other times

The findings from the survey relating to these options are contained in the Stage 2 Key Findings below.

**Engagement Approach**

The engagement approach aimed to:

- **Increase awareness** — helps to explain how feedback into council services can help refine current arrangements
- **Inform and educate** — the community about the review of the off leash areas
- **Enable community feedback** — to help direct the recommendations in the future council report



## Communications and Engagement Methods

COMMUNICATIONS METHODS STAGE 1		
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
<b>Project webpage</b>	EHQ project to host engagement tools and project documents	1300 visits
<b>EHQ newsletter</b>	Subscribers	1098 people
<b>Social Media</b>	Posts promoted the project, the drop ins and also to advertise the survey.	3 posts Total reach – 7,935 Engagement – 82 Link clicks – 150
<b>Site signage</b>	6 temporary signs on site	Unknown
<b>Print Media</b>	Media Release and Port Stephens Examiner article 'Have your say on dog review' 2 December 2020	Unknown

ENGAGEMENT METHODS STAGE 1		
DATE	METHOD	REACH
<b>Online Survey</b> Open 18 Nov – 16 Dec 2020	Gathered priorities, usage patterns and develops early ideas	210 surveys complete
<b>Online Map</b> Open 18 Nov – 16 Dec 2020	Individual comments with ability to like or dislike by others. Online mapping tool adds layer of transparency to community discussions and provides place based discussions	242 comments
<b>Drop in sessions</b> 3 Dec 2020	Discussion of background of project, timing and call to action for feedback	~40 attended at Boat Harbour ~60 attended at Birubi Beach SLSC
<b>Stakeholders meetings</b> 21 May 2021	Discussion of project and outcomes from engagement	8 groups

## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS METHODS STAGE 2		
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	REACH
<b>Project webpage</b>	Project information, survey and project documents	1,790 visits
<b>Direct emails</b>	Direct emails to participants in Stage 1 engagement, inviting them to complete survey	~269 emailed
<b>Social Media</b>	1 organic post and 1 paid post to advertise the survey	Organic post: Total reach 5,459 Engagement – 77 Link clicks – 460 Paid post: Total reach 10,080 Engagement – 239 Page views – 505
<b>Site signs</b>	6 temporary site signs	Not recorded
<b>Paid Ad – Port Stephens Examiner</b>	Advertisement in Port Stephens Examiner 1/6/2021	Not recorded
<b>Media Release</b>	Media release 'Council lets the dogs out at Birubi, Boat Harbour' 21 May 2021	Not recorded

ENGAGEMENT METHODS STAGE 2		
DATE	METHOD	REACH
<b>Online Survey</b> Open 21 May – 6 June 2021	Designed to determine level of support for the proposed changes.	764 surveys complete



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## Key findings - Stage 1

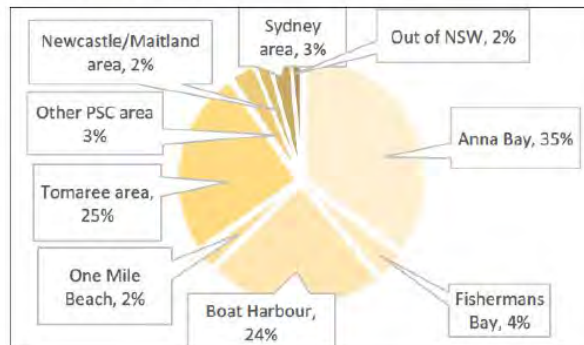
### Online survey responses (N=212)

#### Demographics

#### Q1: Please indicate your suburb (212 responses)

The suburb spread of survey respondents is shown below with approximately 65% of the respondents from the immediate local area of Anna Bay, Fishermans Bay, Boat Harbour and One Mile Beach.

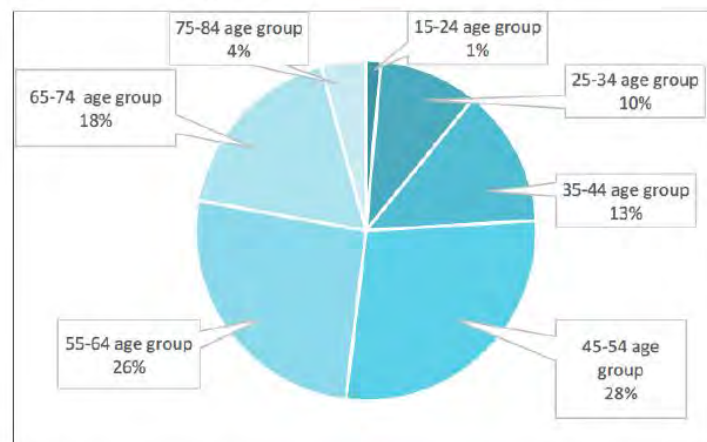
Chart Q1 – survey response by suburb



#### Q2. Please indicate your age group (210 responses)

There is a reasonable spread amongst most age groups. There was no data received for either the categories of 1-15 and 85+.

Chart Q2 - survey response by age group



**Q3: Do you own a dog? (210 responses)**

The majority of the responses at 82% were from dog owners. With non dog owners representing 18% of the survey responses.

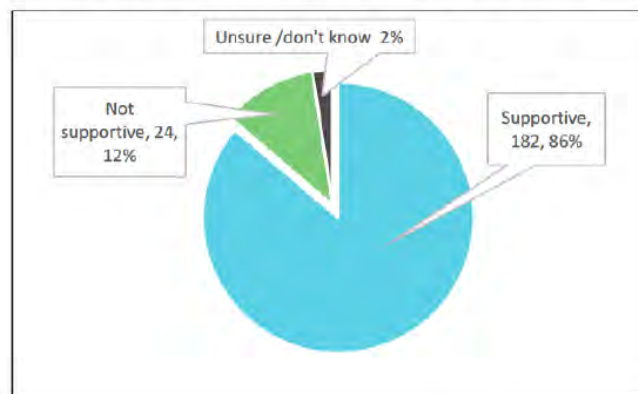
**Q4. If yes, how many? (149 responses)**

See Appendix 1A for verbatim responses.

**Q5. Are you supportive of dogs (off lead or on lead) in public spaces generally? (210 responses)**

The majority of responses were supportive of dogs off lead and/or on lead in public spaces at 86%. Correspondingly, there were 29 responses (14%) of people who were either unsupportive or unsure of dogs off lead and/or on lead in public spaces.

Chart Q5 - survey response – are you supportive of dogs in public spaces



Using the data from both Question 3 and Question 4 we can determine that just over half the non dog owners (55%) indicated that whilst they may not have a dog they were still supportive of dogs off lead and/or on lead in public spaces.

Conversely, just under half non dog owners (45%) indicated that they were not supportive of dogs either on lead or off lead on public land.

## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

**Q6. Tell us more about you (tick all that apply) (210 responses)**

Respondents were able to tick all responses that applied to them. The most selected response was 'a resident generally interested in planning for the area'.

Table Q6 - Survey response – user types

Response Type	Number
Are you a visitor (from outside of Port Stephens Council area) generally interested in the planning for the area?	14
Do you exercise your dog in an existing dog off lead area in Anna Bay/Fisherman's Bay/Boat Harbour?	148
Are you a resident generally interested in planning for the area?	157
Are you a resident living near existing dog off lead areas in Anna Bay/Fisherman's Bay/Boat Harbour	151
Do you exercise your dog in other public spaces?	122

**Q7. If you are a visitor – do you bring your dog when you visit? (3 responses)**

See Appendix 1A for verbatim responses.

**Q8. Where do you generally exercise your dog? (182 respondents)**

The majority of respondents (75%) exercised their dog at Birubi Beach, Anna Bay. Respondents were able to mention multiple locations in the open ended responses.

Chart Q8 - survey response – location for dog exercise



See Appendix 1A for full verbatim responses.

*Note - When coding the open text answers for this survey question, it was assumed that the respondent was referring to off lead locations rather than on lead when recording locations, unless text directly specified on lead.*

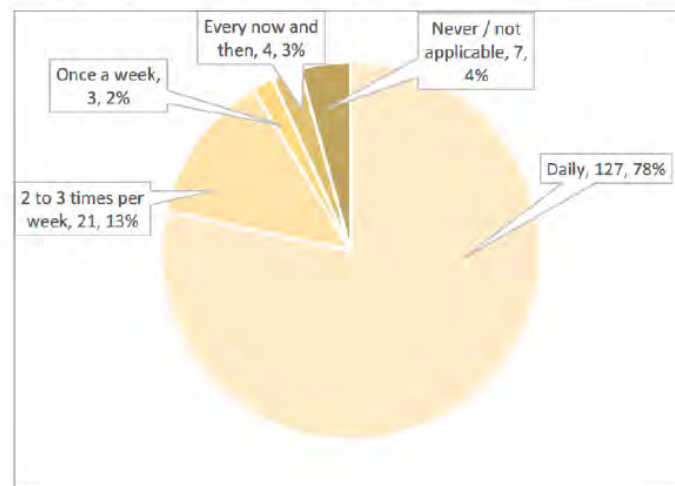
Some of the responses indicated that people are taking dogs to areas where dogs are currently prohibited. This indicates that people are likely unaware that these areas are prohibited to dogs. See for example the following verbatim comments:

- 'Nelson Bay marina foreshore'
- 'Semi-fenced sports grounds'
- 'State forests on lead'
- 'Parks all around PS'
- 'Oval'
- 'Walk around Boat Harbour, leash free and I do take my dogs late in evening or early morning to Boat Harbour beach'

**Q9. On average how often do you exercise your dog in public spaces (eg. footpaths, parks, beaches, off lead areas)? (162 responses)**

The majority of responses indicated either daily (78%) or 2 to 3 times per week (13%) – lucky dogs!

**Chart Q9 - survey response – frequency of dog exercise**





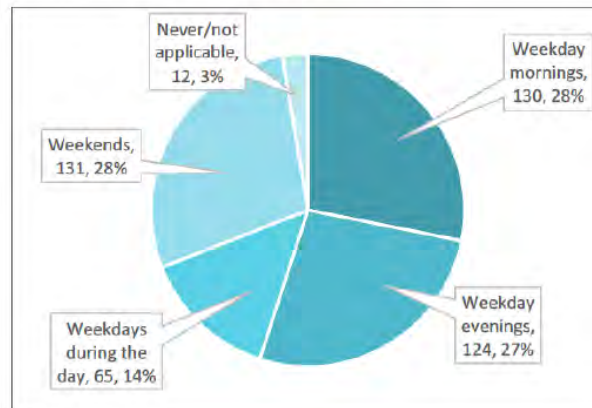
## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

**Q10. When do you exercise your dog in public spaces? (188 respondents)**

The multiple choice question allowed for multiple answers (462 responses in total).

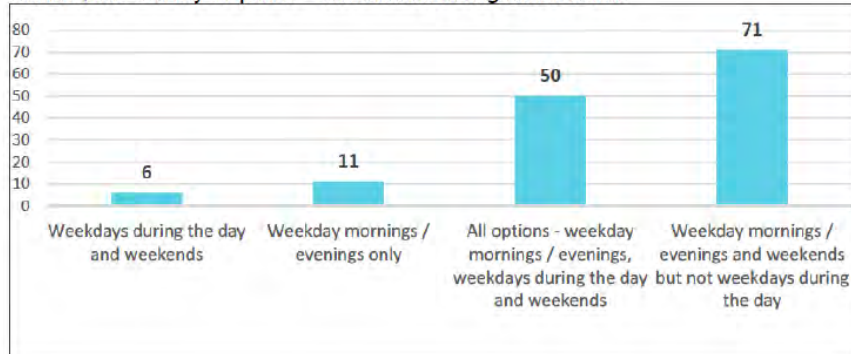
This data is useful to help understand some of the usage patterns. Responses were relatively equally spread across the options – indicating people taking advantage dog exercise areas at all times of the day and week.

**Chart Q10a - survey response – timing of dog exercise**



To get a better sense of when people are exercising their animals the above data was further analysed in an attempt to capture common patterns of usage across the multiple entries. The chart below captures the common combinations of usage across different time period – showing the most popular time period pattern is either 'weekday mornings / evenings' and 'weekends' but not 'weekdays during the day':

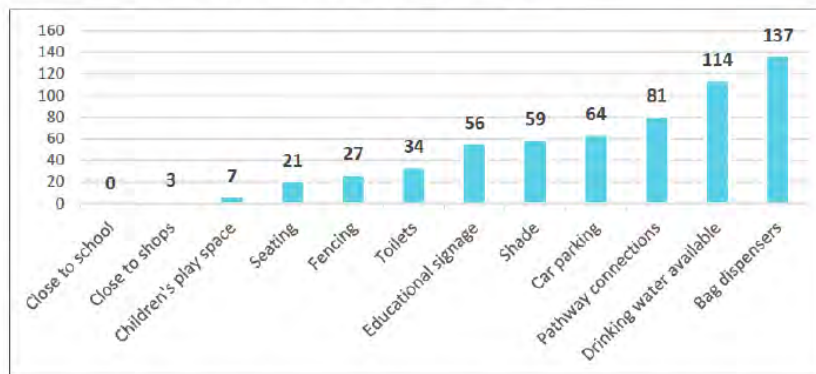
**Chart Q10b - survey response – combination of dog exercise time**



**Q11. What are the three most important features of an off lead area to you? (187 responses)**

This chart indicates that three most important features of an off lead area identified by respondents. The most popular response was 'bag dispensers' closely followed by 'drinking water available' and 'pathway connections'.

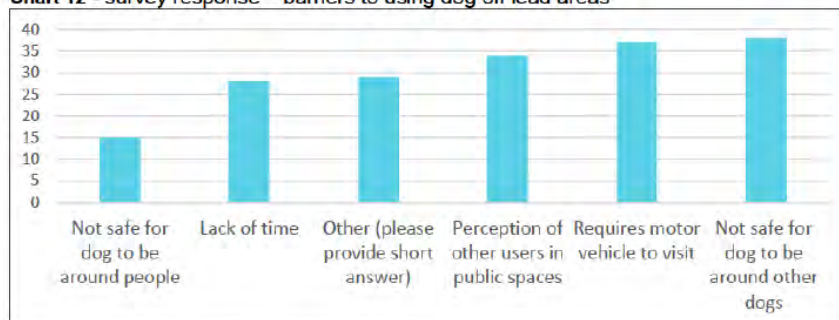
**Chart Q11 - survey response – features of an off lead area**



**Q12. What are the main reasons that would prevent you from using a dog off lead area? Select all that apply (142 responses)**

A number of barriers to using off lead areas were identified by users as shown in the graph below. The most popular reasons was 'not safe for dog to be around other dogs' (N=38) and 'requires a motor vehicle to visit' (N=37).

**Chart 12 - survey response – barriers to using dog off lead areas**



Some of the 'Other' text responses also indicated that there were other issues not identified which included:

- Overcrowding;
- Unsafe due to near traffic/quality of walking tracks;
- Lack of fencing
- Existing fenced areas are too small
- level of confusion and lack of understanding around where dogs are allowed and or not allowed

A full list of verbatim comments can be found at Appendix 1A.

#### **Data handling of open text/comments**

The final two questions in the survey were open text questions:

- How would you improve the off lead areas in Anna Bay/Fishermans Bay/Boat Harbour? (176 individual responses)
- Do you have any other comments? (125 individual responses)

There was also further comments received from the online mapping tool and written correspondence received:

- Online mapping tool (242 individual responses)
- Written correspondence (12)

These 4 sources of data provided a total of 555 individual comments.

These comments have been assessed against a project code frame to support quantitative analysis. The code frame used can be viewed at Appendix 1A. The nature of most comments meant that many (86%) of the individual comments had multiple codes assigned, providing a grand total of 642 comments. The code themes and their order of comments are summarised below.

The top themes for the comments were:

1. **General support for off leash areas:** Includes general support / satisfied with existing off leash areas and timing including existing prohibited areas
2. **Compliance:** Better education and regulation of existing rules, including calls for extra enforcement.
3. **More off lead areas:** General call for more off lead areas (fenced or unfenced) especially those with access to water.

A full list of verbatim responses at Appendix 1A.

**Chart Q13 and 14** – Open ended survey question





KEY THEMES IN ORDER OF FREQUENCY		
THEME BY SUBJECT	COUNT	%
General support for off leash areas: Includes general support / satisfied with existing off leash areas and timing including existing prohibited areas	104	16%
Compliance: Better education and regulation of existing rules includes calls for extra policing	70	11%
More off lead areas: General call for more off lead areas (fenced or unfenced) especially those with access to water	69	11%
Signage: Better and clearer signage	50	8%
No off lead areas: General call to remove off lead access unless in a fenced area or well away from other users; includes calls to keep dogs on lead only; includes misuse of prohibited areas.	46	7%
Dog waste in general – includes restocking of waste bags, more bins, failure to pick up dog waste or littering	37	6%
Personal and animal wellbeing – general comments about benefits of dog ownership / off leash areas / animal health	26	4%
Maintenance - better access and improved walking pathways, water for dogs; seating etc	20	3%
Personal choice - do not like dogs or want dogs in public places; fear of dogs	18	3%
Miscellaneous: comments not relevant to this review	16	2%
THEME BY LOCATION	COUNT	%
Birubi – extend / change existing timing restrictions	49	8%
Boat Harbour general– allow dogs on Boat Harbour beach with timing restrictions	45	7%
Birubi - access to beach for dog to swim at all times / remove timing restrictions	38	6%
Boat Harbour – allow dog on lead access on beach	23	4%
Other locations – not part of this review ie. Fingal Bay, Bagnalls Beach or Shoal Bay	23	4%
Other locations – not Council controlled/managed ie. Fishermans Bay Beach, One Mile Beach etc.	8	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Key insights – Stage 1

The following information draws some key insights from the themes identified in the previous table. These insights contain a number of codes/themes grouped together, refer to Appendix 1A for codeframe reference.

### 1. Support for not changing areas (relevant to Code 20 and 4)

There was a lot of comments expressing concern that the review would mean a loss of dog off lead access. This concern also prompted comments around how important having off lead areas particularly on the beach for both personal and animal wellbeing.

The comments showed that there was confusion as to the purpose of the review and also expressed a lack of trust in Council in general.

*"There are rumours that members of the council are out to decrease both time and space off lead. This is very worrying on so many levels. As ratepayers we rate above tourists (I know how vital they are). I am happy with harsher penalties and greater patrolling to stop any dog owner not doing the responsible thing."*

There was an underlying thread within comments that dog off lead areas are beneficial for people and dogs alike.

*"Offleash dog areas are very important for local communities. They provide many benefits including not only direct benefits of physical exercise for the dog and owner but also many social benefits such as spending time with family and friends, interacting with people in the community that you would otherwise not see. I find that most pet owners are very responsible and any threat (e.g wildlife disturbance from dogs scaring birds) is a minimal impact compared to many other threats in the marine environment. The many positive benefits of having these offleash areas far outweighs any costs."*

### 2. Suggested changes to off lead areas (Relevant to Codes 21, 22, 23, 26, 27)

There were a lot of general calls to have more off lead areas (fenced or unfenced) especially with access to the beach/water. For example:

- *More off-lead parks (contained), and more dog-friendly areas in general would be great. Right across Port Stephens.*
- *More off lead hours and more beach access areas*
- *Allow dogs on the beach*

There were some specific suggestions as well for areas which are currently not used as dog off lead including for example:

*That large piece of land on the corner of Gan Gan Road and Essington Way would make a great fenced in off lead area, gets lots of water on it after rain which would make it even more fun for the pooches.*



The majority of the specific suggestions for change were for Birubi and Boat Harbour. There were some suggestions associated with Fishermans Bay but these were few and primarily centred around getting access to the beach not the existing off lead area.

**a) Birubi Beach suggested changes:**

**ai) Extend / change existing timing restrictions**

49 responses were received on this theme. Themes included:

- General support for extension without reference to any specific times
- Seasonal suggestions
- Weekend and weekday combinations

**Snapshot of responses**

- *Extend off leash till 9.30am and resume at 4.30pm in summer; Winter extend till 11am off leash and again from 3pm off leash!*
- *Standardised times for off leash dog walking 365 days of the year.*
- *The current hours make little sense. During busy periods, holidays, and weekends I have little issue, but midweek throughout the day when the beach is quietest dogs should be allowed offlead at their owners discretion.*
- *Birubi off lead before 10am and after 4pm all year round (no confusing time changes).*

**aii) Making a permanent off lead area with no time restrictions**

38 responses were received on this theme. There were two clear suggestions for potential areas that created active debate:

- **Little Beach (near Robinson Reserve) permanent off lead area** - This suggestion received 23 up votes and 20 down votes
- **Between patrolled area to 4WD track** - This suggestion received 8 up votes and 4 down votes

**Snapshot of responses**

- *I would like to have the area known as the Little Beach, as an Off lead area without time restrictions. Reasons: there are local residents that at this period whom are walking their dogs on little beach off lead outside the restrict times. I believe that this could be due to the fact that these residence do not have the opportunity to utilise the area during the correct times as they may have reasons eg, work (shift workers), single parent families etc with time constraints.*
- *Try and sit on the beach at Bagnalls or Horseshoe in Newie- can't do it. This would take Little Beach away from everyone, including dog owners, to sit and swim. I walk my dog every morning along morna and come back down to this area with the kids during the day. It's always been the kid swimming area. Locals know this. I think the restricted hours is a good balance for everyone.*
- *Please consider the area between beach access track and end of current off lead boundary as permanent off lead. Even in peak periods this part of the beach is less crowded and I'm sure most would be happy to walk this short distance.*



b) **Boat Harbour suggested changes:**bi) **Allow dogs off lead on Boat Harbour beach with timing restrictions.**

Example comments include:

- *A timed access for dogs to the beach would be wonderful. Most locals currently respectfully use the beach with their dogs anyway! [This suggestion received 36 up votes and 14 down votes.]*
- *I am very happy for dogs to be allowed off leash on beaches with restrictions. I believe that before 8am (or 9:00) and after 5pm (or 5:30 pm) is a good time for dogs to be allowed to run around off leash. Children are not normally on beaches early in the morning or late afternoon - so there would be less problem of a problem occurring. [This suggestion received 14 up votes and 9 down votes.]*

bii) **Allow dogs on lead on Boat Harbour beach primarily to access existing off lead area on Boat Harbour South Headland.**

Example comments include:

- *We are fortunate in Boat Harbour to have wonderful dog walking areas on the headland. It would be useful to be able to walk our dogs on the lead across the beach - with Birubi beach close by I don't think Boat Harbour needs to be an off-leash dog area. It is a small, family beach - often used by families with young children who want a safe and protected area for them to swim. We would like to support on-lead / traverse access. [This suggestion received 6 up votes and 5 down votes]*
- *I live on the north side of Boat Harbour, to access the south headland, I can walk across the beach, 230 metres from my door or via the streets, 700 metres. I have no interest in exercising my dog on the beach, I just want to reach the headland. The south headland should remain leash free. [This suggestion received 10 up votes and 1 down vote]*

4. **Improvements to Council managed supporting infrastructure (Relevant to Codes 1, 2, 3, 5)**

The following summary is focused on the supporting infrastructure which support dog off lead (and on lead) experiences in public spaces. This includes signage, compliance by Council rangers, issues relating to dog waste including the provision of waste bags and maintenance of parks and reserves.

There were a lot of comments related to improving aspects of the management.

For example:

**Compliance (70 comments)**

*Rather than restrict access to all, for the sake of the irresponsible few, target the individuals that do the wrong thing. (34 up votes; 0 down votes)*

*Saturday 28/11 around 10.15am, I sat on the beach in front of the Surf Club at Birubi for 20mins and counted 10 dogs, 6 off-leash and not under control, 4 even swimming between the flags right in front of the lifeguards, 2 very large dogs*





*excitedly jumping the waves right in the face of young children. Totally out of control! (7 up votes; 9 down votes)*

#### **Signage (50 comments)**

*I have no issue with the after hours off leash dog walking on Birubi Beach, however, I do have an issue with the large number of off dogs on the beach in the on leash hours. There are not enough signs and the signs are confusing. The signs show the on leash during daytime areas as off leash but with some text underneath that people may not notice. The signs should show the area as primarily ON LEASH and the rules should be enforced. A sign about dogs must be under voice control would be good.*

*You are so right with signage. When I first moved there I had no idea about the off leash times until a kind local let me know. Sometimes it's not people intentionally breaking the rules, it's just an unawareness. (1 up vote; 0 down votes)*

#### **Dog waste / dog waste bags (37 comments)**

*As a homeowner on the dog walking highway (ie the only paved footpath) I regularly have to clean dog poop off my lawn. Don't tell me all local dog owners do the right thing. They don't. (1 up vote; 0 down votes)*

*...Having poo bags available is a great service for those who forget to bring them and as a "reminder" to people to pick up after their furry friends...(4 up votes; 0 down votes)*

#### **Maintenance of parks and reserves (20 comments)**

*The blue metal on the pathway is an OH&S issue near the green seat [at Boat Harbour South Headland] is as it has separated and is very treacherous to walk on. There needs to be some more drainage on both sides of the parkland walkways and a footbridge on the left side as you go up the hill. (7 up votes; 0 down votes)*

There was also a call for greater education not just through compliance via Council Rangers but also through self regulation between dog owners. The following comment was part of an individual survey response and indicates that there is also conflict between dog owners and their use of the space:

*People with dogs on leads should not be encouraged to use off lead spaces if they cannot tolerate off lead dogs wanting to approach their on lead dog. This is a regular problem at Bagnalls.*

### **3. Areas outside of review scope (Relevant to Code 16, 17)**

A number of responses referred to non Council controlled areas not within the scope of this study, including:

- Birubi Beach (past the 3km sign)
- Fishermans Bay Beach
- National Park track areas,
- One Mile Beach, One Mile
- Kingsley Reserve Boat Harbour
- Worimi Conservation Lands



Concerns related to access to and from dog off lead areas, timed off lead areas and prohibited areas

Included in these comment was reference to Council controlled areas, including:

- Fingal Beach
- Bagnalls Beach
- Shoal Bay

**Snapshot of comments:**

- *It's pretty clear reading comments on here that dog owners don't understand the signage or what areas are on/off leash areas and which areas are Tomaree / Worimi National Parks*
- *Places like the northern half of Fingal Beach are sparsely used, especially early and late. They should be accessible to dogs, even if it's in restricted hours and subject to permit.*
- *Please allow morning and evening dog access to Fingal Bay Beach.*

**5. Alternative opinions and survey bias (Codes 30 and 31)**

A total of 10% of responses commented they were not supportive of dogs off lead, or did not like dogs in general

Many of these comments related to equity of access to public spaces:

*The amount of off lead dogs in this park [Robinson Reserve] is ridiculous. I need somewhere for my two young children to play away from dogs. One has Aspergers and freaks out if dogs come near him. My local beach has become a no go zone due to rule breaking dog owners.*

*Please remove the dogs from beach [Birubi] altogether this is not something that is pleasant for anyone except the dog owner.*

Some of the community comments have indicated that they are aware of 'pro-dog' bias in the data received through the engagement process:

*Understand that data will be wrong as there is a big push for dog owners to get more freedom and they are very active. I have had door knocks and pamphlets telling us what to say.*



## Summary and key findings - Stage 2

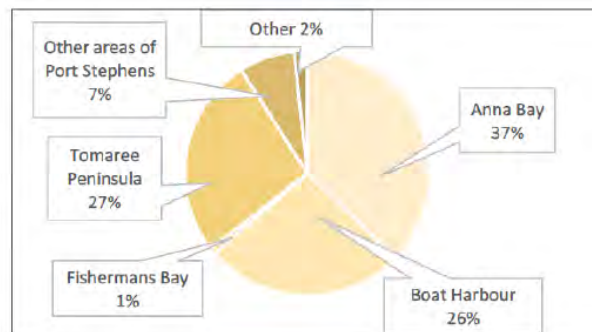
### Online survey responses

#### Demographics

##### Q1: Select your suburb (764 responses)

The suburb spread of survey respondents is shown below with approximately 64% of the respondents from the immediate local area of Anna Bay, Fishermans Bay, Boat Harbour and One Mile Beach. This is almost identical to Stage 1 responses.

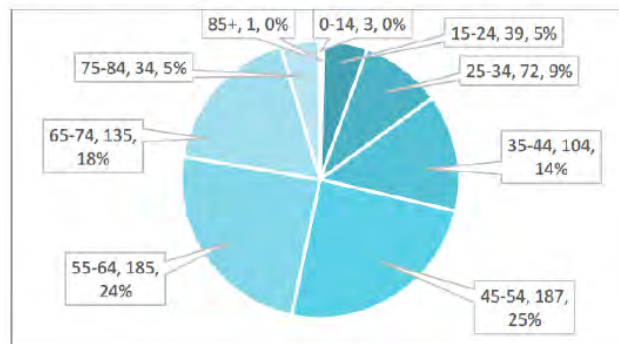
Chart Q1 – Suburb



##### Q2: Please choose your age bracket (760 responses – 4 skipped)

There is a reasonable spread amongst most age groups. There were minimal responses for the age categories of 1-15 and 85+. The spread of ages is comparable to those received in Stage 1.

Chart Q2 – Age bracket



**Q3: Do you own a dog (764 responses)**

These responses are very comparable to those received for Stage 1. The majority of respondents (79%) indicated they were dog owners and 19% indicated they did not own a dog. The other responses account for 2% and are shown in Appendix 2A.

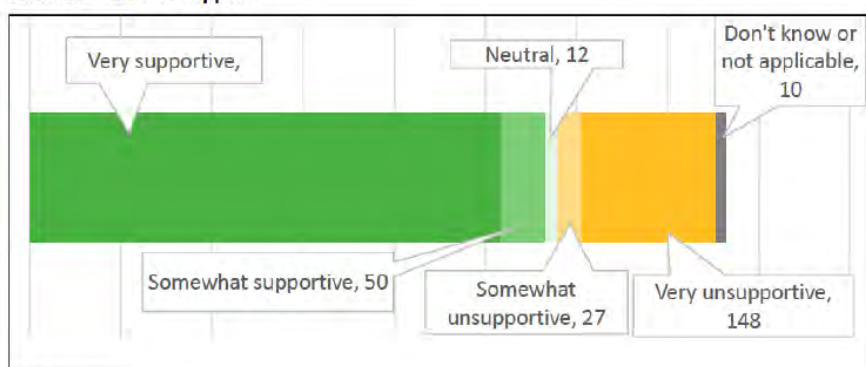
### Determining levels of community support for proposed changes

#### Birubi Beach, Anna Bay proposed changes

**Q4: Between May and September permit dogs off lead at all times (764 responses)**

The majority (74%) of respondents were supportive of the proposed change.

Chart Q4 – level of support



Q4 Data table

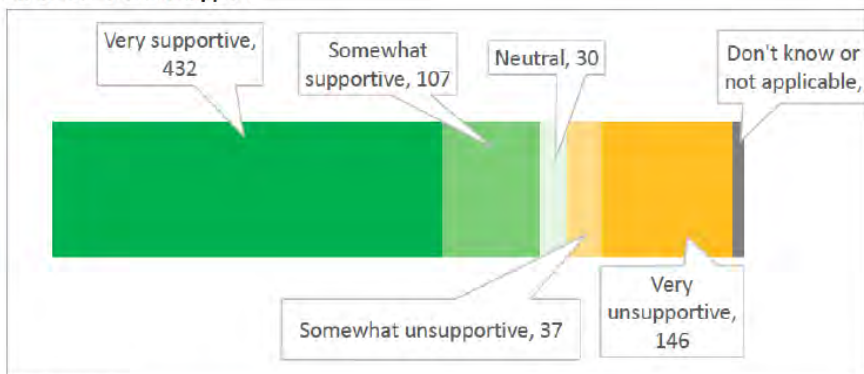
Support level	Responses	%
Very supportive	517	68%
Somewhat supportive	50	7%
Neutral - neither supportive or unsupportive	12	2%
Somewhat unsupportive	27	4%
Very unsupportive	148	19%
Don't know or not applicable	10	1%

**Birubi Beach, Anna Bay proposed changes**

**Q5: Between October and April permit dogs off lead between 5pm and 9am (764 responses).**

The majority (71%) of respondents were supportive of the proposed change.

**Chart Q5 – level of support**



**Q5 Data table**

Support level	Responses	%
Very supportive	432	57%
Somewhat supportive	107	14%
Neutral - neither supportive or unsupportive	30	4%
Somewhat unsupportive	37	5%
Very unsupportive	146	19%
Don't know or not applicable	12	2%

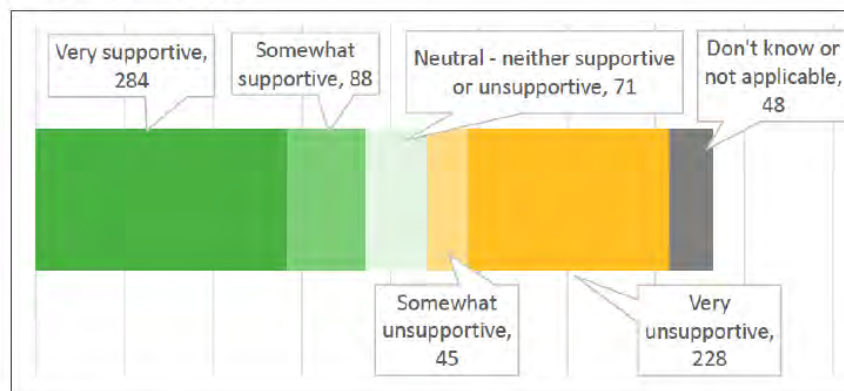


### Iluka Reserve and South Headland, Boat Harbour proposed changes

#### Q6: Adjust the designated off lead area to the clear and maintained portion of Iluka Reserve (764 responses)

The level of support was relatively evenly spread with 49% of respondents supportive and 36% unsupportive of the proposed changes.

Chart Q6 – level of support



Q6 Data table

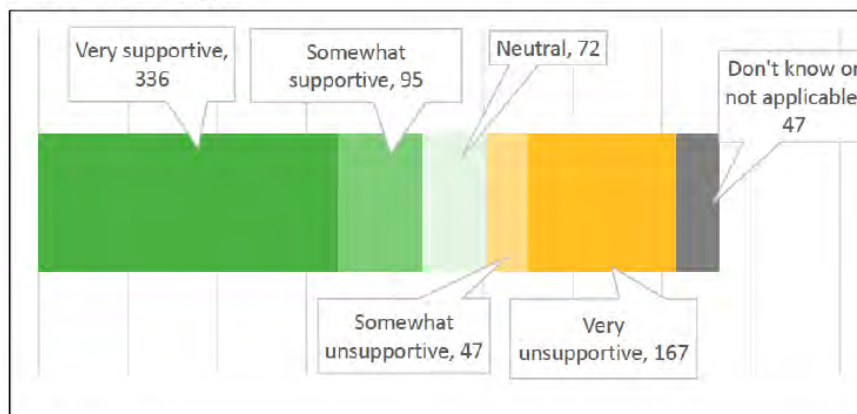
Support level	Responses	%
Very supportive	284	37%
Somewhat supportive	88	12%
Neutral - neither supportive or unsupportive	71	9%
Somewhat unsupportive	45	6%
Very unsupportive	228	30%
Don't know or not applicable	48	6%

### Iluka Reserve and South Headland, Boat Harbour proposed changes

#### Q7: Permit dogs on lead on remainder of the South headland (764 responses)

Just over half (56%) of respondents were supportive of the proposed change.

Chart Q7 – level of support



Q7 Data table

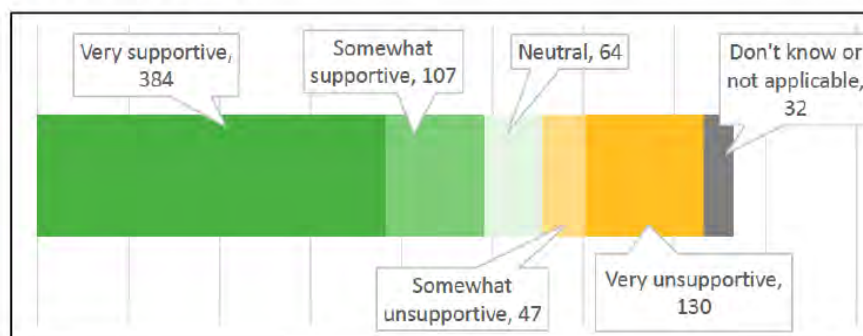
Support level	Responses	%
Very supportive	336	44%
Somewhat supportive	95	12%
Neutral - neither supportive or unsupportive	72	9%
Somewhat unsupportive	47	6%
Very unsupportive	167	22%
Don't know or not applicable	47	6%

### Iluka Reserve and South Headland, Boat Harbour proposed changes

**Q8: Allow dogs on lead to walk along the beach to access the headlands between 5pm and 9am with dogs prohibited at all other times (764 responses)**

The majority (64%) of respondents were supportive of the proposed change.

Chart Q8 – level of support



Q8 Data table

Support level	Responses	%
Very supportive	284	50%
Somewhat supportive	88	14%
Neutral - neither supportive or unsupportive	71	8%
Somewhat unsupportive	45	6%
Very unsupportive	228	17%
Don't know or not applicable	48	4%

**Q9: Any other comments (short response)?**

See full list of verbatim response Appendix 2A.



## Appendix 1A – Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review – Engagement Report

Survey questions and answers, code frame used and online mapping tool comments

Q1: Please indicate your suburb (210 responses)

Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
1	Anna Bay
2	Fishermans Bay
3	Fishermans bay
4	ANNA BAY
5	Fishermans bay
6	2316
7	anna bay
8	Anna bay
9	Anna Bay
10	Soldiers point
11	Anna Bay
12	Anna Bay
13	birubi point
14	Anna Bay
15	NELSON BAY
16	Salamander Bay
17	anna bay
18	Boat Harbour
19	Hurlstone Park
20	Corlette

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Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
21	Fishermans Bay
22	Fingal Bay
23	Anna Bay
24	Corlette
25	SalaMANDER BAY
26	Salamander Bay
27	Anna bay
28	Salamander bay
29	Nelson bay
30	2315
31	Anna Bay
32	boat harbour
33	Anna Bay
34	FINGAL BAY
35	BOAT HARBOUR
36	SOLDIERS POINT
37	Anna Bay
38	Anna Bay
39	Boat Harbour
40	Salamander Bay
41	Boat Harbour
42	Anna bay
43	Anna Bay
44	Anna Bay
45	2316
46	Georgetown
47	Northmead

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
48	2315
49	Lane Cove
50	One Mile
51	Anna Bay
52	Boat harbour
53	Canberra
54	ONE MILE
55	Corlette
56	Salamander Bay
57	SALAMANDER BAY
58	Boat harbour
59	Salamander Bay
60	Anna Bay
61	Fingal Bay
62	Salamander Bay
63	ONE MILE
64	Anna Bay
65	Corlette
66	2316
67	Anna Bay
68	Nelson Bay
69	Anna Bay
70	ANNA BAY
71	3055
72	Fishermans Bay
73	Anna Bay
74	Corlette



Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
75	Boat Harbour
76	Boat Harbour
77	Fishermans Bay
78	Boat Harbour
79	Boat Harbour
80	Cottage Point
81	Anna Bay
82	Boat Harbour
83	BOAT HARBOUR
84	Boat harbour
85	boat harbour
86	Fisherman's bay
87	Boat Harbour
88	Nelson Bay
89	2315
90	Boat Harbour, NSW.
91	Boat Harbour
92	Corlette
93	Nelson Bay
94	corlette
95	Boat Harbour
96	Fishermans Bay
97	2324
98	Boat Harbour
99	Boat Harbour
100	Boat harbour
101	Boat Harbour

Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
102	2319
103	One mile
104	Anna Bay
105	2316
106	Boat Harbour
107	Anna Bay
108	Ann's Bay
109	boat harbour
110	Anna Bay
111	Corlette
112	Anna Bay
113	Anna Bay
114	Corlette
115	Boat Harbour
116	Anna bay
117	Anna bay
118	Anna Bay
119	SHOAL BAY
120	Anna Bay
121	Salamander
122	Boat Haarbour
123	Boat Harbour
124	Annandale
125	Nelson Bay
126	East Maitland
127	Anna Bay
128	2315

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
129	FINGAL BAY
130	Anna Bay
131	Anna Bay
132	Nelson Bay
133	Anna Bay
134	Bobs Farm
135	2316
136	Boat harbour
137	Nelson Bay
138	Nelson Bay
139	Boat Harbour
140	2316
141	Anna Bay
142	Corlette
143	Salamander Bay
144	Boat harbour
145	Boat Harbour
146	Salamander Bay
147	Nelson Bay
148	Anna Bay
149	Medowie
150	Raymond Terrace
151	Corlette
152	Boat harbour
153	Anna Bay
154	Anna Bay
155	Boat Harbour

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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
156	Soldiers Point
157	Anna Bay
158	Corlette
159	Salamander Bay
160	Boat harbour
161	Raymond Terrace
162	Fingal Bay
163	ANNA BAY
164	Anna Bay
165	Nelson bay
166	Anna bay
167	Anna Bay
168	Boat Harbour
169	Boat Harbour
170	BOAT HARBOUR, NSW 2316
171	Medowie
172	Fingal Bay
173	Anna Bay
174	Fingal Bay
175	2316
176	BOAT HARBOUR
177	Bobs Farm
178	Boat Harbour
179	Anna Bay
180	2316
181	Anna bay
182	Anna Bay

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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Response – Please indicate your suburb:	
183	One Mile Beach
184	Fingal Bay
185	Boat Harbour
186	Boat Harbour
187	Anna Bay
188	Newcastle
189	ANNA BAY
190	BOAT HARBOUR;NSW
191	Anna bay
192	Anna bay
193	boat harbour
194	boat harbour
195	Anna Bay
196	BOAT HARBOUR
197	Salamander Bay
198	MALLABULA
199	Boat Harbour
200	Anna Bay
201	Boat Harbour
202	East maitland
203	Anna Bay
204	Rydalmere
205	Anna Bay
206	Anna bay
207	Anna Bay
208	Anna Bay
209	Boat Harbour

210	Anna Bay
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Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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## Q2. Please indicate your age group (210 responses)

	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
1							65-74		
2							65-74		
3						55-64			
4						55-64			
5							65-74		
6						55-64			
7					45-54				
8					45-54				
9							65-74		
10						55-64			
11					45-54				
12					45-54				
13				35-44					
14					45-54				
15							65-74		
16					45-54				
17							65-74		
18						55-64			
19					45-54				
20							65-74		
21							65-74		
22						55-64			
23			25-34						
24					45-54				
25					45-54				
26					45-54				

## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
27							65-74		
28				35-44					
29			25-34						
30					45-54				
31					45-54				
32					45-54				
33						55-64			
34						55-64			
35				35-44					
36							65-74		
37								75-84	
38				35-44					
39					45-54				
40								75-84	
41				35-44					
42							65-74		
43					45-54				
44					45-54				
45					45-54				
46						55-64			
47				35-44					
48					45-54				
49			25-34						
50					45-54				
51					45-54				
52							65-74		
53					45-54				

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
54					45-54				
55					45-54				
56							65-74		
57			25-34						
58						55-64			
59					45-54				
60						55-64			
61						55-64			
62							65-74		
63				35-44					
64						55-64			
65						55-64			
66					45-54				
67						55-64			
68							65-74		
69						55-64			
70					45-54				
71			25-34						
72								75-84	
73				35-44					
74						55-64			
75		15-24							
76					45-54				
77							65-74		
78						55-64			
79							65-74		
80						55-64			

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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
81					45-54				
82				35-44					
83					45-54				
84					45-54				
85							65-74		
86						55-64			
87				35-44					
88					45-54				
89				35-44					
90							65-74		
91								75-84	
92						55-64			
93							65-74		
94					45-54				
95						55-64			
96					45-54				
97								75-84	
98			25-34						
99				35-44					
100						55-64			
101							65-74		
102						55-64			
103			25-34						
104							65-74		
105					45-54				
106							65-74		
107							65-74		

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	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
108				35-44					
109								75-84	
110						55-64			
111							65-74		
112				35-44					
113							65-74		
114							65-74		
115					45-54				
116						55-64			
117						55-64			
118						55-64			
119						55-64			
120			25-34						
121				35-44					
122						55-64			
123						55-64			
124						55-64			
125				35-44					
126			25-34						
127						55-64			
128						55-64			
129							65-74		
130						55-64			
131						55-64			
132						55-64			
133			25-34						
134							65-74		

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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
135			25-34						
136				35-44					
137			25-34						
138				35-44					
139					45-54				
140				35-44					
141					45-54				
142					45-54				
143				35-44					
144			25-34						
145			25-34						
146			25-34	35-44					
147						55-64			
148					45-54				
149						55-64			
150			25-34						
151							65-74		
152		15-24	25-34						
153						55-64			
154			25-34						
155					45-54				
156					45-54				
157		15-24							
158					45-54				
159					45-54				
160					45-54				
161				35-44					

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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
162						55-64			
163							65-74		
164						55-64			
165							65-74		
166					45-54				
167						55-64			
168					45-54				
169					45-54				
170								75-84	
171				35-44					
172							65-74		
173					45-54				
174							65-74		
175				35-44					
176						55-64			
177					45-54				
178				35-44					
179				35-44					
180			25-34						
181					45-54				
182					45-54				
183							65-74		
184							65-74		
185							65-74		
186						55-64			
187					45-54				
188					45-54				

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

	Under 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
189						55-64			
190								75-84	
191				35-44					
192					45-54				
193					45-54				
194						55-64			
195					45-54				
196								75-84	
197						55-64			
198					45-54				
199					45-54				
200						55-64			
201						55-64			
202			25-34						
203						55-64			
204					45-54				
205						55-64			
206						55-64			
207				35-44					
208						55-64			
209							65-74		
210						55-64			



## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

Q3: Do you own a dog? (210 responses)

Yes = 182

No = 38

Q4: If yes, how many? (12 responses)

How many dogs do you own?	
1	1
2	1
3	Two
4	3
5	2
6	1
7	1
8	two
9	2
10	2
11	1
12	2
13	1
14	1
15	1
16	1
17	1
18	1
19	1
20	2
21	1
22	one
23	1

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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

24	1
25	1
26	1
27	1
28	1
29	2
30	1
31	2
32	2
33	1
34	1
35	1
36	1
37	
38	One
39	1
40	2
41	1
42	One
43	1
44	1
45	One.
46	1
47	1
48	1
49	One puppy 11 weeks old
50	1
51	2

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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52	One
53	2
54	2
55	2
56	2
57	1
58	1
59	1
60	3
61	1
62	1
63	1
64	1
65	2
66	1
67	1
68	1
69	Two
70	1
71	1
72	2
73	1
74	1
75	1
76	One
77	1
78	2
79	one

Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review  
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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

80	1
81	1
82	2
83	2
84	1
85	One
86	One
87	2
88	1
89	1
90	one
91	1
92	1
93	1
94	1
95	One now however up to two previously
96	2
97	2
98	1
99	2
100	1
101	2
102	2
103	2
104	2
105	2
106	One
107	1

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## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

108	1
109	One
110	2
111	1
112	2
113	1
114	1
115	1
116	3
117	2
118	2
119	two soon to be three
120	1
121	1
122	1
123	3
124	One
125	2
126	One
127	1
128	2
129	2
130	Two
131	2
132	One
133	one
134	1
135	1

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136	1
137	1
138	2
139	2
140	1
141	1
142	1
143	2
144	1
145	2
146	2
147	1
148	1
149	1

**Q5. Are you supportive of dogs (off lead or on lead) in public spaces generally? (210 responses)**

Supportive = 182  
 Not supportive = 24  
 Unsure / don't know = 5

## ITEM 5 - ATTACHMENT 1      ENGAGEMENT REPORT - JUNE 2021.

**Q6. Tell us more about you (tick all that apply) (210 answers with 592 responses)**

Survey	Count
Do you exercise your dog in an existing dog off lead area in Anna Bay/Fisherman's Bay/Boat Harbour?	148
Do you exercise your dog in other public spaces?	122
Are you a resident living near existing dog off lead areas in Anna Bay/Fisherman's Bay/Boat Harbour	151
Are you a resident generally interested in planning for the area?	157
Are you a visitor (from outside of Port Stephens Council area) generally interested in the planning for the area?	14
Total	592

**Q7. If you are a visitor – do you bring your dog when you visit? (3 responses)**

Responses	
1	Yes
2	No
3	Yes definitely bring our dog.

## Q8. Where do you generally exercise your dog? (182 respondents)

Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
1	Birubi Beach
2	Birubi and Fishermans
3	Birubi Beach
4	On the off lead area and paths around the area
5	Birubi Beach and Fishermans Bay
6	birubi
7	Birubi, Bagnalls, fisherman's bay
8	walking on lead only
9	Birubi beach, bagnalls beach
10	Birubi beach off leach at the appropriate times and on lead around my local streets
11	Burbi beach
12	birubi beach
13	Birubi Beach to Fishermans Bay
14	Bagnalls beach
15	Bagnalls beach, Shoal Bay, Birubi, Soldiers point
16	Birubi Beach Walkway
17	Birubi beach when visiting.
18	Fingal Bay bike track
19	Birubi beach off lead, everywhere on lead
20	Corlette, Boat Harbour, Anna Bay/Birubi beach
21	ANNA BAY
22	Anna Bay, Salamander Bay, Colette, Nelson Bay
23	Bagnalls beach
24	Corlette, Bagnalls Beach
25	Birubi Beach and around the Anna Bay residential areas



Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
26	boat harbour off leash
27	Anna Bay beach
28	Fingal Bay Park, Bagnalls beach
29	Boat Harbour
30	Birubi beach
31	Shelley Beach, Anna Bay
32	N/A
33	Bagnalls beach
34	Birubi Beach
35	Birubi Beach and Soldiers Point Dog Park
36	Birubi Beach
37	Boat harbour and Birubi
38	Bagnalls beach
39	Parks beaches and general walks
40	Birubi beach
41	Birubi beach, boat harbour off leash area, shoal bay beach and bag all beach, fingal bay dog park
42	Boat Harbour and Birubi
43	Bagnalls beach, burubi and boat harbour
44	Walking around on flat safe surfaces being footpaths trying to avoid steep inclines
45	On and off lead areas. By the water.
46	Birubi Beach
47	On bagnalls dog beach or in the fire trails on her lead
48	Birubi beach and Soldiers point dog park
49	Bagnalls beach, Birubi beach and walked on leads around the local areas
50	Boat harbour including southern headland off leash
51	From Morna Point Rd to the beach and back
52	Bagnalls beach, Fingal Bay, Birubi

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Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
53	Bagnalls Beach
54	Birubi Beach
55	Birubi Beach.
56	Corlette, Soldiers Pt, Birubi
57	Birubi Beach
58	Birubi Beach, streets around Anna Bay, Boat Harbour
59	Birubi Boat harbour
60	I will be exercising her on Birubi beach and the neighbourhood. My sons exercise their dogs on the beach as well when they come home to visit
61	Birubi beach
62	Semi-fenced sports grounds and other parks off lead, streets, beaches, parklands, state forests on lead.
63	Birubi Beach
64	Anna Bay
65	Bagnalls Beach
66	In the Boat Harbour off-lead area and Birubi Beach off-lead area
67	Boat Harbour off lead area
68	Birubi Beach
69	Boat Harbour and Birubi Beach
70	In available off lead areas
71	Boat Harbour and Birubi Beach
72	Footpaths
73	Park near boat harbour beach
74	Boat Harbour
75	My dog has just died but except used her every day
76	Boat Harbour
77	Leash walks near home (Nelson Bay), Birubi Beach, Bagnall's Beach, Boat Harbour, Fingal Bay, Soldiers Point - variety is the spice of life!!!!
78	Birubi beach

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Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
79	beach
80	south headland,boat harbour,off leash area
81	Birubi beach
82	Bagnalls Beach, Birubi Beach, Boat Harbour
83	Bagnalls Beach, Nelson Bay marina foreshore, Shoal Bay, Salamander Bay, Birburi Beach
84	Not applicable
85	Mainly around Raymond Terrace
86	I don't have a dog but if I did I would use the grassed dog park at Boat Harbour and off leash dog area at Anna Bay and not Boat Harbour Beach
87	Walk around Boat Harbour, leash free and I do take my dogs late in evening or early morning to Boat Harbour beach. One is getting old and loves the water so it ideal to be able to take her for a swim. We meet many people on our walks and always pick up litter. Being allowed to have set times on the beach would be ideal as we work and often it can be a quick walk with the kids and dogs for a late swim instead of having to put everyone in the car to drive. I agree that peak times should not have dogs on Boat harbour beach though but before 9 after 5 would be fantastic to so many locals.
88	Council allocated areas Boat Harbour & Birubi
89	Boat Harbour Streets/footpaths
90	Footpath
91	Boat harbouroff lead area, walking on footpaths on footpaths
92	Times vary depending on weather
93	N/a
94	Anna Bay
95	Birubi Beach
96	off leash headland boat harbour
97	Birubi beach & Bagnalls beach
98	NA - no dog
99	Birubi Beach - Anna Bay

Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
100	Bagnalls Beach Breakwater Reserve Conroy Park to the Anchorage
101	Boat Harbour or Birubi
102	Anna Bay, Birubi beach, bagnalls beach, Nelson Bay
103	Anna bay pathways and birubi beach
104	Birubi Beach
105	Streets around Shoal Bay, Eastern end of Shoal Bay beach
106	Boat Harbour headland and along the streets and Birubi beach
107	Parks in Sydney
108	Dutchies, Nelson Bay, Anna Bay, Birubi
109	Birubi
110	Walk everyday on the lead.
111	Dutchies Beach and walkways associated to that beach and suburb
112	Fingal Bay dog park, Bagnalls Beach - but neither are big enough for adequate exercise
113	Birubi
114	Birubi
115	Birubi
116	No dog
117	Birubi Beach
118	Boat harbour, birubi beach
119	Boat harbour
120	Bagnalls Beach
121	Boat Harbour Birubi
122	Bagnells Beach
123	Anna Bay
124	Anna bay and Bagnall beach
125	Bagnells Beach, Boat Harbour, Birubi
126	Boat harbour

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Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
127	Boat Harbour headland
128	Soldiers point off lead dog park and surrounding areas
129	Bagnells Beach and Burrubi
130	Birubi and bagnalls beach
131	Birubi
132	Parks all around PS
133	Oval
134	Birubi Beach
135	Off lead area Boat Harbour and beaches
136	Birubi, Soldiers Point
137	Birubi beach
138	Bagnalls Beach
139	Burubi beach,Bagnalls beach
140	Boat harbour or Birubi
141	Raymond terrace off leash area, birubi beach, at home, new lambton dog park, and at others' homes
142	Street.
143	early morning
144	Anna bay on beach
145	Anna Bay & Fisherman's Bay
146	Birubi and Fisherman's Bay
147	Boat Harbour Head land, Bagnalls Beach, Birubi Beach
148	Birubi
149	Bagnalls Beach
150	Around Anna bay ON lead only
151	Fingal Bay, Bagnalls Beach, Birubi
152	Birubi
153	Boat Harbour off-leash area and Birubi Beach (during permitted times)

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Suburbs where respondents generally exercise their dogs:	
154	Birubi beach
155	Birubi or around the streets
156	Boat harbour dog park
157	Birubi beach
158	Birubi
159	Boat Harbour headland and on our acreage.
160	Fingal Bay
161	Boat Harbour
162	Around Boat Harbour and in the dog park.
163	South of the Birubi Surf Club
164	walk on a lead
165	South headland and streets in Boat Harbour
166	Birubi Beach
167	Birubi
168	bagnalls
169	boat harbour or bagnalls
170	Birubi Beach
171	Do not have a dog, but have a family who visit with their dog.
172	I take somebody else's dog to Anna Bay, Bagnals Beach, soldiers Point dog park
173	Mallabula/Tanilba Bay foreshore, Lemon Tree Passage, Bagnalls Beach, Birubi Beach
174	Around streets
175	Boat Harbour
176	Birubi beach, streets around east maitland
177	Birubi Beach
178	Soldiers Point or Fingal Bay due to Fisherman's Bay still being unfenced
179	Streets around our house and Birubi
180	On lead walking on footpath or roadside

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181	Birubi Beach and the coastal area adjacent Ocean Avenue Anna Bay
182	Birubi

**Q9. On average how often do you exercise your dog in public spaces (eg. footpaths, parks, beaches, off lead areas)? (167 responses)**

Survey option	Count
Daily	127
2 to 3 times per week	21
Once a week	3
Every now and then	4
Never / not applicable	7
Total	162

**Q10. When do you exercise your dog in public spaces? (188 respondents)**  
The multiple choice question allowed for multiple answers (462 responses in total).

Survey option	Count
Weekday mornings	130
Weekday evenings	124
Weekdays during the day	65
Weekends	131
Never/not applicable	12
Total	462

**Q11. What are the three most important features of an off lead area to you?**  
(187 responses)

Category	Count
Close to school	0
Close to shops	3
Children's play space	7
Seating	21
Fencing	27
Toilets	34
Educational signage	56
Shade	59
Car parking	64
Pathway connections	81
Drinking water available	114
Bag dispensers	137

**Q12. What are the main reasons that would prevent you from using a dog off lead area? Select all that apply (142 responses – multiple responses)**

Category	Count
Not safe for dog to be around people	15
Lack of time	28
Other (please provide short answer)	29
Perception of other users in public spaces	34
Requires motor vehicle to visit	37
Not safe for dog to be around other dogs	38

## Q13. Other text responses from Q12 – verbatim comments

What are the main reasons that would prevent you from using a dog off lead area? Verbatim comments	
1	Raining
2	If it was fenced.
3	Other dogs off lead not being controlled by their owners
4	Overcrowded by tourists!!
5	Not safe due to traffic
6	Outside of regulated hours
7	Inadequate space e.g. at Fingal, Soldiers Point, Fishermens Bay
8	Lack of fencing
9	Unsafe or too hot
10	The time restrictions that apply. For example Birubi beach having to go prior to 9 and after 5 in day light savings or 10-4 otherwise.
11	I do not support dogs off-lead at any time in high use areas like Birubi Beach.
12	Need to be away from roads or fenced off
13	Two confined dogs need open areas we have bush land provided dog owners are sensible why can't out dogs use the bush
14	walking track not suitable for owners with knee or hip problems and danger of falls along the track.
15	The area is surrounded by National Park. Most people I see naturally exercise their dogs in the National Park - despite it being illegal to do so.
16	other uncontrolled dogs that are aggressive and approach without control by owner
17	Too many off lead dogs at a time
18	Closed in space (eg dog park) would overwhelm my little dog but on the beach there is much more stimulus and "freedom".
19	Lucky to have off lead spaces.
20	It's not a nice/pretty space to be
21	Other menacing dogs.
22	Stupid leading questions - nothing would prevent me
23	nothing would prevent me from using an off lead area
24	A beach so the dog can swim.
25	If dog was restricted to small area



What are the main reasons that would prevent you from using a dog off lead area? Verbatim comments	
26	I tend to avoid some popular off lead areas during peak holiday time as there seems to be a greater number of irresponsible dog owners visiting the beach, whereas regulars are more mindful of their dogs behaviour
27	Restricting off lead hours makes it much more difficult. We leave east maitland between 5-6am to be able to get to Birubi and have a great walk/swim/play within the allowed hours. Please extend off lead hours.
28	Not on the beach or near a large water course; ticks
29	I dont feel i should make other uncomfortable by imposing on them with my dog, I understand dogs aren't loved by everyone

## Code frame used:

Code 1	Bin / waste bags / dog poo in general
Code 2	Regulatory/education – ranger and self-regulation; comments about council survey
Code 3	Signage
Code 4	General benefits of dog ownership / off leash areas for people and dogs
Code 5	Maintenance/better access/water/seating
Code 15	Not review relevant – other general comments
Code 16	Not review relevant - other Council beaches or dog off lead area not part of this review
Code 17	Land managed by other agencies ie., NPWS not part of this review
Code 21	Call for more off lead areas in general especially with water access; includes new fenced area (not beach); improvements to Fisherman's Bay
Code 22	Birubi - extend timing at Birubi restrictions
Code 23	Birubi – access to beach for dog to swim at all times / remove timing restrictions at Birubi altogether
Code 26	Boat Harbour dog on lead across beach
Code 27	Boat Harbour dog off lead access to beach / timed session
Code 30	Don't like dogs or want dogs in public places
Code 31	Don't think dogs should be off lead unless in a fenced area or well away from other users; stop using prohibited areas;

Q14. How would you improve the off lead areas in Anna Bay/Fishermans Bay/Boat Harbour?

Comment	Code frame reference(s)
Council trying to change things if it not broken don't change it and it has been one person	20
Keep them open	20
Keep it off lead and free for all	20
Allow dogs on lead to walk across Boat Harbour beach to access off-lead area on headland. Birubi off lead before 10am and after 4pm all year round (no confusing time changes). Provide a permanent off-lead area (no time restrictions) on Birubi Beach e.g. beyond patrolled area and before 4WD zone. More regular top-up of waste bags (was better when looked after it)	26, 22, 23, 1
I would leave the Fishermans Bay off lead area as it is as it works very well.	20
Get rid of the burrs at Fishermans Bay park.	5
I would introduce off lead during the day	23
Make more areas off lead so all the dogs aren't concentrated in one area	21
do not have off lead on our beaches, too many owners have no idea how to control their vdogs or pick up after them	30
Current arrangements are good	20
Ensure the poo bags are always stocked.	1
Have clear areas - the on lead area south of Anna Bay is situated to close and could be further down the beach. This would not interfere with 4x4 drivers	24
more signage, rangers need to be there more to educate. and not try and ping everyone for an honest mistake. fair enough if they are deliberately breaking the law.	2, 3
More open space & more flexibility of times	21, 22
simplified additional signage .education of owner responsibility and enforcement	3, 2
Some Grass areas require more upkeep.	5
I would get rid of them - that would be a big improvement	30
Off lead areas must be fenced. Fishermans Bay (between two areas of National Park) is not a suitable location.	31
Increase the number of off lead areas on the expectation that owners control their dogs and pick up after them. Police this, so as not to let a few bad owners ruin it for everyone and have off lead areas reduced	21, 2

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Comment	Code frame reference(s)
More space and times needs to be allocated	25
Maintain existing areas. More bags would improve adherence by owners.	20, 1
Extend and have more areas; have more bag dispensers and bins	21, 1
Not allow gas drilling in our water ways	15
More regular checks of bag dispenser	1
The part of Boat Harbour that is off lead is perfect. Just extend the area.	20, 21
Improve signage, and improve policing of dogs off leash outside of designated time	2, 3
More off lead hours and more beach access areas	21, 22
Open up boat harbour beach to dog's off lead	27
I have no complaint regarding the facility provided	20
Happy as is.	20
More rangers to assist dog owners in understanding their obligations to the community in relation to their dog.	2
Signage and more rangers to enforce bylaws	2, 3
Boat Harbour south headland is ideal, would be improved by early/late access to south end of beach for dog swims. Dedicated dog area desperately needed at Anna Bay, current arrangements just create conflict. Likewise Fishermans Bay	20, 23, 27, 29
I don't have a problem with the current off lead area in Boat Harbour. The signage needs to be clearer so that dog owners know that dogs aren't allowed on the beach and I would like to see more dog owners pick up their dogs poop.	20, 1
Extention of time for off lead on beach. Access to water at Boat Harbour for swimming.	22, 27
Better and clearer signage	2
Better signs	2
Love the current access but would like evening /morning access across boat harbour beach to access off leash area	20, 26
More signage about the different rules	3
More natural areas like boat harbour, birubi beach, less fenced areas like fingsal bay. Big enough to take a long walk	28
Clearer signage at Boat Harbour and longer hours at Birubi	3
More signage, licensing system for dogs...re training level	3

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Comment	Code frame reference(s)
Better safe access pathways	5
they are fine - but sufficient space and access should remain.	20
I would improve signage making obligations clear for dog owners and non dog owners. For example, increasing fines for those who knowingly don't pick up their dog poo. Also, I would suggest that if you don't like dogs, go home during off lead times or go somewhere they are not allowed. It's frustrating to wait until 6pm or later in summertime to do the "right thing" but still be told off by tourists!	23, 3
To not have time restrictions when you can be off lead in the hope people will be responsible and know how their dog behaves	23
Extend the dog off lead area at Birubi to, at least, the 4 wheel drive entry.	24
Easing time restrictions where applicable when dogs can be off lead and increasing the off lead space.	23, 21
Nothing, do not fence boat harbour. Access to beach	20, 27
Establish off-lead areas in spaces not used by large numbers of residents and visitors.	31
Water bowls	5
Allow more of them	21
Include One Mile beach in early morning	16
Provide an all day off leash section at Birubi.	23
extending the house of usage	23
Better hours	22
Clearer signage	3
Extend hours, extend areas, clearer signage,	21, 22, 3
I'd like longer off lead times in off peak holiday times. Preferably a larger off lead area I like to walk 5-10 km at a time but happy to have my pet leashed for part of the distance.	22, 28
Dog waste bins	1
NA	
Would love to go on Fishermans Bay beach	21
Extend off lead time	22
Make them bigger,	21



Comment	Code frame reference(s)
I would love to see increased off-lead access on beaches in Boat Harbour - the open space of the beaches makes this one of the safest areas to have dogs off-lead, and Boat Harbour beach is often relatively quiet (especially during the early morning and evenings). Access to water for dogs to swim and socialise would be incredibly beneficial during hot summer days - often the water which is accessible in the current off-lead area can at times be dangerous to dogs (requires walking over rocks to access the water - oysters, broken glass etc are all hazards)	27
Allow beach access during off peak times and winter	22
I would extend them as they are very popular, they build community (we all talk to each other!) and good health and wellbeing (we are all out walking!)	21
Maintain the bans on dogs on Boat Harbour and One Mile Beach and police this to make sure the restrictions are not ignored ( as they currently are )	20
Better signage so that non locals can understand where the off lead areas begin and end	3
Boat harbour is wonderful but need more like it the beach needs to be from 4pm in Summer	20, 27
Allow dogs to be allowed on Boat Harbour Beach in early mornings and late afternoons	27
Fenced area, and fine those irresponsible enough to bring dogs offlead outside the enclosure.	31
Expand to include boat harbour beach at certain times- off leash morning and afternoon, on leash during the day - summer and winter hours to have different timings to reflect day light times appropriately	27
Improve the walking track.	5
No off lead in Fisherman's bay as people let their dogs onto the beach which is prohibited. We have penguins that rest here and they are at risk	32
Open up the beach in mornings and evenings, it's a connection point of one half of boat harbour to the other	26, 27
ALWAYS have dog poop bags available!!!!	2
Expand times for access	22
Where there are flags then Dogs on the beach on lead when flags are up & off lead other times. Where there are no flags dogs on beach before 0900 & after 1600 daily during tourist time and no restrictions during other seasons	22
allow crossing beach from north to south and south to north to access off lead exercise area .	26

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Comment	Code frame reference(s)
24 hour access	23
More poo bag and garbage stations, I would increase the hours that dogs can be off lead at Birubi, then it wouldn't be so crowded as it is now	1, 22
Off lead on Boat Harbour Beach for early and late times	27
Make Fisherman's Bay beach a dog on lead area - as that is where the majority of people take their dogs in any case. There are also the National Park trails in the area regularly used - so why not legalise it and just put an expectation on that people have their dogs on a leash.	16
They seem quite adequate	20
No Dogs on Boat Harbour and enforce rules at prohibited areas such as Kingsley beach & Boat Harbour National Park. I am very happy for dedicated off leash areas such as Anna bay (and the grassed dog area at Boat Harbour) with large spaces and think that these areas are generally beneficial to the community & pets	20, 3
Set times for off lead to allow dog owners to enjoy the beach with their families and dogs. Peak times no dogs for Boat Harbour. Strong fines for owners who don't pick up after their dogs.	27, 2
better & more easily understood signage	3
I feel the off lead areas need to be away from areas where children play and swim	31
To allow dogs of lead at birubi at all hours, even if it is past a certain point on the beach like at redhead beach	22, 23
Allow dogs off lead when 2 kms from Surf Club at ant time	25
issue fines for people breaking the rules	2
There should be no dogs on BH Beach	20
In Anna Bay should be further out from the swimming flags.	2
Better signage.	3
improved signs "no dogs on beach anytime" fine \$\$\$\$	3
More ranger patrol!	2
More seating, extend times in summer to be same as winter.	5, 22
Remove them - dogs should not be on beaches	30
Anna Bay Birubi- increase amount of time accessible	22
A small bridge if you walk straight through the dog park and up the hill, it becomes quite boggy after rain. Some drainage as you turn	5, 26

right once in the dog park as it becomes quite boggy as well. Continue with blue metal/mulching along walk ways. Boat Harbour beach opened at designated times like Birubi. And being able to walk over Boat Harbour beach any time on a lead.	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
Ensure dog bags are ALWAYS available, improve Educational signage eg Keep Birubi dog friendly, bag it-bin it! Extend times during weekdays of non peak periods,	1, 2, 22
Extend them and engage the community in ensuring all users do the right thing	22
Allow dogs to run free along certain sections of the beaches and parks between allocated times, eg late in the afternoon and early mornings.	22
Enforce the times with fines for disobeyed	2
Better signage. Keep Boat Harbour as is.	20
More time for dogs to be allowed off lead	22
Keep them off lead areas ☺	20
Better regulation of those that do the wrong thing	2
I'd prefer a fenced area for off lead exercise.	29
Allow access to beaches as well	21
Extend or retain the areas and the off lead times.	
Extend the off-lead times during the off-peak season. Ensure there are bags.	22, 1
That the litter is cleaned up on beach and people be fined not picking up their dog poo.	1
Better policing of existing rules. I take my kids down there between 9 and 5 when dogs should be on lead but there are dogs everywhere off lead.	2
I would recommend an off lead area at Birubi Beach at the far eastern end to the SLSC and INCREASE off lead times	23, 22
Beach access at boat harbour	27
Making sure there are bins in obvious locations for people to use	1
Make them more community friendly - dog cafe - more landscaping/trees etc	5
Ask owners to use off lead areas and not undesignated ones	31



Comment	Code frame reference(s)
Boat Harbour beaches don't allow dogs. I would have time limits like they have for Birubi.	27
Extend the usage hours	22
Allow dogs on the beach	21
Keep them! Allow dogs on lead across boat Harbour beach mornings and evenings. Allow dogs off leash a couple of km's down the beach at Birubi!	20, 26, 24
More choices	21
It doesnt need improving. Its grt the way it is.	20
Better signage, stronger compliance on the minority of people that do the wrong thing and allow on-lead access along Boat Harbour Beach to the off-lead area	3, 2, 26
More accurate signs and better enforcement.	3, 2
Multi lingual signage at all car parks and beach pathway entry, outlining the council by -laws relating to Dogs, Alcohol, Vehicles and Behaviour	3
Water owls, Bins for Disposal of dog faeces, Access to beach for dog to swim throughout all daylight hours	5, 1, 23
Having dogs on lead during the quietest part of the day when everyone is at school/work makes no sense	23
More walk ways that are dog friendly.	20
Use firm packed walkway instead of big chunks of blue metal, A small foot bridge on the left hand side with drainage as you walk up the hill. Better drainage on the right hand side. Timed access to the beach. A walkway for accessibility to all along Boat Harbour Beach.	5, 27
I like birubi as it is - can't speak to the others as I've not used them. I like being able to get my coffee and go for a walk. Perhaps more parking.	20
Increased surveillance for people not observing the rules. I'm tired of dodging dog faeces	1
expand them	21
Extend the hours and have poo bags available daily!	22
Bag dispenser at Fisherman's Bay	1
Fence in Fisherman's Bay park and sort out the drainage which makes it unusable a lot of the time	33
The existing off lead areas are great - space, pathways, dog bag dispensers, everyone is very respectful and cleans up after their dogs	20
Impose time restrictions.	30

Comment	Code frame reference(s)
Open up the hours for off leash and have more bags and bins	22, 23, 1
All day off leash beaches not just before 9am and after 5pm.	23
Monitoring people doing the right thing, too many people have their dogs off lead at Birubi during the day	2
Allow morning and evening dog access to the beaches.	16
Keep as is	20
Simpler signage, well maintained access paths to headland	5
More bins	1
Allowing it early morning and late afternoon to avoid interactions with children on the beach. Also improve dog owner behaviour with feces (access to bags)	27, 1
Clearer signs	3
Dogs on lead Boat Harbour beach	27
Provide more garbage bins and bag dispensers at all entries/exits to beach	1
Longer off-leash times	22
More areas are required	21
More garbage bins to put bags in and more bag dispensers.	1
More signage to encourage responsible dog ownership and management.	3
Bann them near tourist areas	31
enforce the times dogs are allowed	2
Compliance in the times when you shouldn't be at the beach with your dog	2
More enforcement for the period/time that dogs are not permitted. More enforcement for areas not should not be ie One Mile.	2
access on a timed basis to the beach	27
Being a resident of Anna Bay I feel the on leash/off leash rules for dogs are fair for everyone, dog owners and non dog owners. I would hate for that to change.	20
Include the beach area	27
Keep waste bag rolls stocked more consistently and develop educate on amenable codes of conduct.	1, 2
A fenced area would be lovely	29

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bins, bags, tracks, signs	1, 3, 5
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
More policing and signage. People need to be held accountable for not cleaning up after their dogs	2
Boat Harbour has an excellent off lead area.	20
Extended hours, dog water bowls, more bags and bins closer to the path and beach.	22, 1, 5
Longer off lead times; more bins; better signage	22, 1, 3
Fence them	29
Have water bowls	5
Remove them	30
Anna Bay areas not to be time restricted	23
poo bags and bins readily available.	1

## Q15 - Do you have any other comments?

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
Bring on Council elections	15
The off lead area at Fishermans Bay is perfect exactly as it is.	20
Exercising for dogs and people make for a better community	4
Rangers need to be more considerate and polite, more understanding and more willing to listen, less authoritarian, less vindictive, more honest, less deceptive.	2
Do not fence this area as it works well as it is. Fencing it off, as I have come across in other areas, would only encourage undisciplined dogs and their unconcerned owners to come and let their dogs run amok. I avoid those areas now as my dog and others were attacked in one of these areas. The Fishermans Bay area is also too small to have cars come in to use a fenced area. The area is also subject to flooding and is a bog often trapping the council mower in the wet ground.	20
I was shocked when i discovered the dog access here. I have never encountered this before nomally dogs can run around during the day .	23
That large piece of land on the corner of GAN GAN Rd and Essington way would make a great fenced in off lead area, gets	29

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lots of water on it after rain which would make it even more fun for the pooches.	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
Bird life has almost disappeared on beach since dogs have been allowed off lead. Dogs are let to run through National Park which abuts the beach. Owners have no control of off leash dogs so they don't see their animals pooping and therefore don't pick it up. Shelley beach was a great spot for families but since the off lead rule came in young families are very wary of being on the beach main reason the time limits set for off lead are not adhered to, you can find dogs running freely all day every day. Maybe the laws of the State should be followed more closely as owners just walking to the beach or pulling up in their cars do not put their dogs on lead in most instances in Anna Bay. Could there be a park away from the beach that could be fenced in like the one just opened in Raymond Terrace that would hopefully satisfy the dog owners who just want to stand in one place and throw a ball rather than have them disturb beachgoers, we do not have many surfing beaches in Port Stephens and it is a shame a minority can spoil one of them for others	30
Current arrangements balance various public interests	20
I'm a responsible dog owner, respectful of other dog owners. Where their dog is on the lead I leash my dog to ensure the safety and space of both animals. I also spend time collecting rubbish left by the non-canine 'animals'. Council or the Worimi council do not respect the dog owners initiative in rubbish collection. Perhaps this is the area that requires review!	1
██████████ don't love dogs and they are not very nice about it because Sydney is further ahead than them in that regard.	15
It's time to get smart about opening up areas for families to visit with their pets!	21
real safety concern for lack of signage and fencing around the new children's playground. Inote rate gov. regulations prescribe a minimum distance	2
As a non-dog-owning resident I do not want to see any expansion of the off-lead areas. I have owned numerous dogs, and have been around dogs all my life, but I do not agree with alienating public assets for the advantage of a few. I often go walking in those areas covered by the survey and do not appreciate being charged at by dogs or stepping around their crap. The council rule is - control your dog. That simply does not happen. My wife was mauled by a dog and she will not visit an off-lead area for fear of being bitten. Dog owners will tell you that their dog does not bite (until they do). Tell that to someone who has been mauled. If people choose to	30



own a dog, then they should be able to look after it on their own property, not on public land.	
Comment	Code frame reference(s)
Dogs must be restrained if outside a fenced area. Owners must clean up after their dogs. It's not appropriate to allow dogs to run free threatening native wildlife or on the beach where the owners don't pick up their poo.	31
Dogs deserve to get outside, sniff and run around daily. Having more dedicated spaces for them would encourage owners not to be slack	21
North end of Birubi beach should be off lead at all times	25
Conflict of interest for business owners who are on council to be involved in this process. Public office is not meant to be exploited for personal advantage.	15
Off lead dog walking areas on and by the beaches are one of the best aspects of living in Port Stephens	20
Not allow gas drilling in our water ways	15
Thanks Lizzy 😊	15
I think making the Green area in Boat Harbour off lead as well and making the red area at the beach on lead between 6pm and 8am	21, 26
Visitors are often quite shocked to find that the beach is off leash at designated times. Signage should indicate that if you do not like dogs you are better off going to another beach.	3
Our area lacks the variety of dog-friendly locations that other regions offer. We often go north (Crescent Head areas) as these areas have far more options for our dog. Port Stephens options are limited. I have found most dog-owners are very respectful of any requirements, and care for their animals in dog-friendly areas.	21
I have a large breed dog who needs the open space to run/stretch out. Waking the dog also provides me with incentive to exercise every day.	20
Dog waste is unsightly and is considered as a toxic pollutant by the EPA. Dogs are bad for the environment and most owners do not abide by local bylaws.	1
Most owners never consider that their dog could menace or hurt someone. Recreation areas are for everybody not just dog owners.	30
Very small off lead areas are useless for adequate dog exercise. Surely larger areas can be identified and fenced for pilot programs where people who are dog friendly can socialise safely without being abused.	28, 29
I am concerned about the number of dogs on Boat Harbour beach, both on lead and off lead. The numbers are increasing and owners don't care that dogs aren't permitted on the beach. The beach is hugely popular with families and it getting busier and busier. Not all	2

kids like dogs, some are scared of them, I have seen many incidents of children being scared by dogs that are off leash on the beach. The beach needs to be patrolled more regularly by rangers.	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
I believe the time for off leash should be one time 365 days a year say 10-4 minimizes the confusion. I also believe there should be better management of those that break the rules and consistently take their dogs off leash to the beach during on leash time. Rangers need to be much more visible and stop giving cautions and actually start fining people - hold them accountable.	3
It feels like this survey is designed to come up with a result of having a fenced area away from the beach. The questions above about what we want to see do not have as a choice to keep the existing areas. This type of area is inadequate for my type of dog. These areas actually lead to more dog altercations. I do not want to see a fenced in area off the beach. We moved to Anna Bay from Sydney because we could walk to the beach and spend time there with our dogs and family/friends. This is a true community asset. The dog walkers make the community and help to take care of the beach. We collect rubbish on our walks, ensure people are not removing pippis etc, encourage beach users to respect the environment.	28, 4
Walk dog twice a day and in summer with hot tarmac more important than ever to take dog to off leash area but don't want to walk her on road so have to take her in car which increases carbon footprint. Also would love to go in sea with dog but currently have to get in car and go to Birubi	21
I would like to see allocated times to be able to safely walk dog across Boat Harbour Beach	26
When choosing a place to live or visit - I actively look for dog friendly areas. If they become more restricted in Port Stephens, I will choose to visit & spend money elsewhere.	20
Dog walking on the beach is the only social connection some people get. They look forward to it. It's built friendships. It gets people out of their house. It's exercise, it's social and it means we are looking after the mental health of our entire community.	4
I love going to Birubi, I've met a lot of people (and dogs) and have never had a bad experience.	4
Strongly believe in more off leash areas needed across the bay. I also believe it would not hurt but rather help tourism. Increasingly people are wanting to holiday with pets & off lead dog areas is one thing they are looking for	21
Boat Harbour off leash is perfect as it is. No more development	20
Please remember that not all residents are comfortable around dogs including young children. It is not reasonable that families are	30, 31



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unable to enjoy places such as the Birubi Beach for fear of a child being confronted by an unrestrained dog.	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
Open Fingal Bay beach to dogs in mornings and evenings	17
I think limiting access areas for dogs particularly off leash areas reduces the opportunity for dogs to interact with other dogs and humans, this in turn increases the number of dogs who are poorly socialised and increases the problem.	4
the dog poop bags need to be restocked more often	1
There are rumours that members of the council are out to decrease both time and space off lead. This is very worrying on so many levels. As ratepayers we rate above tourists (I know how vital they are). I am happy with harsher penalties and greater patrolling to stop any dog owner not doing the responsible thing.	20
We are regularly visiting the area due to its dog friendly nature. Over Christmas, we are renting a house via Airbnb at \$1000+ a night.	4
I am losing my sight and therefore find it difficult to get to Birubi. Would love to walk my dog on Fishermans Bay beach. Even before 9am and after 5pm.	21
Dogs should be allowed the whole length of beach supervised so owners can take them fishing running long walks it works at Corlette	21, 25
Yes, people with dogs on leads should not be encouraged to use off lead spaces if they cannot tolerate off lead dogs wanting to approach their on lead dog. This is a regular problem at Bagnalls.	6
I believe that dog walking has tremendous benefits for all members of a community (fitness, socialisation, overall mental and emotional wellbeing) and off-lead areas in particular are especially important for enabling dogs to socialise with humans and other dogs. I tend to believe that off-lead walking can in fact be safer for dogs and people than on-lead walking areas, as dogs are more likely to panic and/or feel threatened when on a leash or harness (and can develop better socialisation skills when allowed to play freely with other dogs). I strongly believe that punishing all community members and dog owners for the irresponsible behaviour of a few would not only be unfair, but would be a terrible mistake for the Bay's tourism prospects and for the overall wellbeing of its community.	4
Better education about responsible dog behaviours	2
Yes, please allow dogs onto One Mile Beach and/or Boat Harbour beach like Birubi at least in Winter? If you choose NOT to do this and continue to assert dogs are not allowed onto One Mile Beach will you parole it and enforce it. It is unfair that those of us who do the RIGHT thing and inconveniently DRIVE to Birubi and back with	27, 28

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wet dogs get paroled there but you don't parole the restricted areas. Make it part of the OMB Lifesavers KPIs now they are there full time...they virtually have nothing to do in Winter anyway	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
Provided dogs are controlled off the lead is a wonderful idea anyway. Western Australia is a dog friendly no dogs on leads dogs everywhere and never any problems	4
Offleash dog areas are very important for local communities. They provide many benefits including not only direct benefits of physical exercise for the dog and owner but also many social benefits such as spending time with family and friends, interacting with people in the community that you would otherwise not see. I find that most pet owners are very responsible and any threat (e.g wildlife disturbance from dogs scaring birds) is a minimal impact compared to many other threats in the marine environment. The many positive benefits of having these offleash areas far outweighs any costs.	4
Many dog owners seem to see the boundary of the offlead area as very flexible. Either put up a fence, and/or enforce the rules, or remove the off lead area.	31
Between to parts of Tomaree National park is not the right place for an off lead park. Birds wallabies and other wildlife have been killed by out of control dogs. Unfortunately NPWS cannot come daily to fine the owners of dogs who are irresponsible and allow their dogs on the beach, in the national park. It is the wrong place for an off lead dog area	32
Dogs and their humans need variety in their exercise areas and Birubi is particularly exceptional because there is plenty of space to throw the ball, swim, walk ..... no other location, in Port Stephens, has such attributes.	4
Could the access at both ends of the beach be possible for aged and disabled people.i.e. south end rocks and north end boat ramp usually in disrepair at bottom	5
I think it is fine to have an 'on leash' beach only, this allows everyone to enjoy the beach those with dogs and those without, and the dogs are kept under control by being on the leash. Works well at Hyams Beach, NSW which is a beautiful beach enjoyed by all	26
Boat Harbour beach is part of a circular walk in this small area, so it makes sense to allow dogs and owners to walk the route which includes the beach	26
Visitors to Fishermans Bay are the main ones that let their dogs run freely on the beach and National Park trails. Locals with dogs on the other hand I think generally abide by the rules - and as such are the ones that are penalised by not being able to take their dog on the beach and National Park trails. If the current National Park	17

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rules cannot be properly enforced, then make it equitable and ease up on the rules for dogs on beaches and National Park trails.	
Comment	Code frame reference(s)
The number of dogs off lead in prohibited areas is high (Kingsley beach, boat Harbour National Park, zenith beach, box beach, wreck beach) I have recently had a dog charge at full speed towards me with large stick in mouth and nearly knock me over when I was sitting on the beach.	20, 31
I find it disgusting and abhorrent that so many owners do not clean up faeces on paths, tracks and beaches; and allow their dogs to access beaches and areas forbidden to dogs and allow their dogs to jump over and trip other beachgoers including children and wee/poo and walk over beachgoers belongings, and fight with other dogs near beachgoers. Also that PSC does not sufficiently police this illegal behaviour which has been much more prevalent over the last 15 years. Also rangers have provided owners of dogs engaging in illegal actions with descriptions and residential locations of complainants. Dog owners have abused a number of people I know for advising them that they had their dogs in a dog free area. PSC area is making dog free areas less appealing to tourists with young children, elderly and others who wish not to have dogs jumping on them or defecating on their possessions because of the poor management, policing and signage of open spaces. Insufficient rangers are available when PSC is contacted by telephone to advise of dog owners taking their dogs onto dog prohibited land. As this problem continues, it will exacerbate the risk to native fauna.	1, 2
Our dogs should be allowed to have a good run and swim during certain hours and it will not interfere with other beach users	21
I feel that the safety of people should be considered as the first priority	31
I get very annoyed that I can't take my dog to a beach especially on the weekends.	22
Heavy fines for dog owners not cleaning up after dogs	2
many people do not follow the off leash times. why reward them by extending the times.	2
A dog's playful activity in the water may attract sharks	20
Signs reinforcing that the owner should be in control of the dog ,not the other way around.	3
Please keep this. I specifically bought a house at Anna Bay just so my little girl dog who is blind will have beach access. To see her "come alive" on the beach melts my heart and is worth fighting for this. I honestly would not have bought had beach access been not available for my dogs. The dog community is something real where	4

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people and pups support each other - please don't underestimate the well-being side of your decisions.	
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
like to sit and swim at beach - do no of dogs on beach urinating on towels etc which happens regularly	31
Please don't make it harder for dog owners, we pay rates too.	20
This needs to be brought under control, dogs are everywhere and we cant enjoy the area	30
Survey on-line a great tool.	2
Thanks for the opportunity to give feedback.	2
Most local dog owners do the right thing. Use the ranger to do random supportive checks ( friendly reminders, encourage positive behaviour not punitive unless clearly aggressive owner. Shut down them and us culture by assuring dog owners Council respects dog owners and acknowledges health benefits of dog owning - both physical and mental	1, 4
Community engagement and education is key!	2
Would prefer many more open, unfenced spaces such as parks, reserves and allocated sections of local beaches. Council could restrict off leash times to between 4pm and 8pm and 6.am and 8.am and also allow all day off leash access in the quieter Winter months when not many people are using the beaches.	21, 22
s parks , reserves and allocated sections of local beaches es to feely run and walk my dog. Council could allocate certain times daily, eg between 4 pm and 8 pm and all day during the quieter Winter months when it's not as busy. after 4should permit between artw=eas beaches	
Council need to be aware of the safety issue with offlead areas. Birubi is a large beach so is good but Boat Harbur beach is only small. Not suitable for dogs.	20
Please ensure more ranger patrols to enforce these rules right across Port Stephens	2
Please keep the few dog beaches available to dogs without restrictions. There are so few areas for us to socialise our dogs that more restrictions just make it harder and harder. Encourage non-dog people to use the other beaches / other areas.	20
Why wasn't Bagnalls Beach part of the review. More people will use Bagnalls Beach or Boat Harbour causing more pressure there. if	16
Please stop trying to change how we walk and where we take our dogs - we want freedoms to walk on dogs anywhere on lead and time frames where are can walk off lead; preferably in sections of the beaches in our local areas.	21

Comment	Code frame reference(s)
Existing off lead areas in reasonably close proximity to me are of limited size and variety	21
I have a pain condition and PTSD and cannot always be around heaps of people with my dog due to pain and anxiety. Having extended hours available would be so helpful to me personally, as I am sure it would be for others.	22
Birubi beach is great because there is so much space for dogs that don't get along with other dogs	20
More rangers.	2
The boat harbour headland off lead area was a major factor for us purchasing our home here	20
No	15
The dog off leash area at boat Harbour was a draw card to us buying nearby. I have never seen the area misused and believe the only times I have seen unpicked up poo is when poo bags aren't provided. Many people bring their own but even those people occasionally forget or run out, so this provision really helps keep our area beautiful	20, 1
Please create more	21
Further restrictions will only increase pressure on Bagnalls Beach. Locals that use Bagnalls will not be happy seeing significant more dogs on this beach. Big backlash and campaigning by of dog owners against Councilors that have supported or encouraged stronger restrictions.	16
I am a frequent visitor to Birubi even though I live in Corlette	20
Please take the residents comments seriously as we are not elected officials like yourselves	2
Don't let the complaining majority stop dogs from accessing beaches off lead.	20
The behaviour of a dog is the sole responsibility of the owner. Few individuals do not represent all dog owners	20
Dogs on lead should be able to go anywhere, and we should be a dog friendly town better for tourists and locals.	21
I am happy to organise students from Tomaree High to assist with any improvements of Boat Harbour, Fishermans Bay or Birubi.	5
Thank you for consulting the community. I hope you hear the dog owners' voices and understand how limited our opportunities to exercise our dogs in a nice environment are. Would love to see more dog friendly places - they are a joy.	2
I understand dog owners are very passionate about the subject and will lobby hard. But I've never seen dogs on beaches work out well. Dogs completely wreck the beach experience for non-dog owners. Dog owners should find other places to entertain their	31, 2



dogs. Dog parks are a good idea and perhaps more investment is needed, but not on beaches. And especially not on pristine, nature-rich places such as we're blessed with in our area. Finally, I should note that dogs owners currently, illegally, walk their dogs on beaches and national park tracks in the Port Stephens area. flagrantly disobeying signage, and this should be policed.	
Comment	Code frame reference(s)
I am surprised that people that don't want dogs around them think they are more important than people that do want dogs around them.	21
I would like to support traversing Boat Harbour beach with dogs on a lead but not off-leash	26
I was recently charged by a large dog in National Park bushland. The owner saw me approaching for some minutes and made no attempt to shorten the leash. Terrified I ran into the bush, tripped over something and landed on my face. I am 81 years and am lucky to have escaped serious injury. Dogs running free are a danger to people. It's no right that people are deprived of beaches and walking trails because of fear of being attacked. People are more important than dogs.	31
I wouldn't frequent Birubi without the dogs and wouldn't get food from the cafe there. Tell the stick in the muds to not wreck off leash areas	23
Dogs should be able to swim and play on the beach and dogs should be socialised with other dogs and people.	23
Please allow morning and evening dog access to Fingal Bay Beach	16
Keep as is. Increase Ranger checks to police people doing wrong thing.	20
Very happy with designated times for the dog at Birubi Beach. Please keep these!	20
The walkway through Robinson Reserve from the carpark needs to be considered	2
Don't destroy our off-leash coastal beach exercise area of Birubi	20
Please a beach area at Fingal Bay	16
Stockton Beach fishing	17
Access to Boat Harbour beach for dogs before 8am and after 6pm.	27
The amount of dog waste on the beach is unacceptable	1
its just to hectic on the beach with dogs running everywhere	31
i have an infirm dog who simply cannot always walk long distances , the beach is near by . No vehicle needs to be used to exercise the dog .	27



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Comment	Code frame reference(s)
no	15
Encourage tolerance by non dog lovers and better self regulation / dog club social media groups for each off lead area (Bagnals Beach Dogs on Facebook is a good example)	2
Needs to be policed more. Rules are already there.	2
As a public space, the beach should responsibly shared by all users. There will always a a minority that do not respect the rules (say re picking up poos) but this is the same for all social behavior	20
This survey has major flaws in question design	2
No	15
Understand that data will be wrong as their is a big push for dog owners to get more freedom and they are very active. I have had door knocks and phamplets telling us what to say.	30
Local residents that utilise the dog areas should be allowed to assist with maintaining the areas.	2
Allow those without dogs who want to enjoy the beach to be able to do so without sharing with dogs. Little beach near Robinson reserve is always populated with dogs.	31
We moved to this area nearly 5 years ago and it was the dog friendly culture that captured our hearts. Please allow us to maintain and improve that friendly community culture.	20

**Q16. If you would like to keep up to date with this project please enter your email address here.**

Email address available for return and future engagement opportunities. Not shown due to privacy considerations.

## Online mapping tool comments

These comments can be viewed online here:

<https://portstephens.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/anna-bay-dog-off-leash-review#/>

Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I do not understand why off lead dog exercise cannot happen here? Can some please explain?	Birubi	17
Can someone also explain why Anna bay fisherman's bay and boat harbour are the only areas under review? Why not bagnalls too	Birubi	16
This area does not have access to the water so for me would not be a suitable alternative.	Birubi	21
This area is prohibited due to the cultural significance of this particular area.	Birubi	17
Also, this review has been raised by the Central Ward councillors to cover this area only.	Birubi	16
Rather than restrict access to all, for the sake of the irresponsible few, target the individuals that do the wrong thing.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20, 2
The current coloured signs are very confusing. Some believe that the beach and water adjacent to the southern rocks is permitted for dogs. Others see the blue sea water as being part of dogs permitted. Simple signs saying "NO DOGS On BEACH -PENALTY \$Xxxx" would be more effective. Keep the beach closed to dogs at all times. Many small children use this safe beach and animals and children do not mix.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	3, 20
I don't see why dogs on leads would pose a problem? It would be really nice to be able to walk the length of the beach with my dog, on a lead of course	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
Trained and behaved dogs should be allowed to visit this beautiful beach with their families. You're more likely to be attacked by a human than an animal at beaches.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
Dogs on lead during busy times, off lead early hours and late evening - simple solution to keep kids safe but also let kids with dogs experience hybrid beautiful beach with them. So many locals have dogs and everyone walks along this quiet beach anyway. Maybe just ban in school holidays for busier periods could also be a good solution, let the locals and their dogs use beach during quieter times?	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Most dog owners are law abiding but as a parent of small children & with elderly parents & a dog owner of 30 years, I am upset at the number of times that my children and others have had large dogs jump on them and others in a dog free area. I am also annoyed at aggressive dogs fighting near people and jumping over and urinating on possessions left on a dog free beach. Walking on footpaths means sidestepping or have shoes covered in dog faeces. All residents pay for infrastructure/maintenance.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	31
As a long time resident of Boat Harbour having been here for almost 40 years, walking with my dog is something that he and I enjoy very much. Perhaps the ideal would be to allow dogs on the beach eg. before 9am and after 5pm, preferably lead free, during the busy season and no restrictions in the off season. Banning dogs and fining their owners is draconian and unnecessary. Personally I would prefer to see some children banned.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
With the amount of dog owners in Boat Harbour it would be great to have a set time where dog owners could take their dogs to enjoy the beach. Many people met and are social. Having young children myself I agree the owners need to be responsible for their dogs however my children LOVE being able to play on the beach with their dogs and as do there friends. I do believe there should be a No dog time during peak periods when people use the beach, between 9 and 5pm summer and 10 and 4pm winter.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
I think it would be fantastic for my kids to be able to spend time on the beach with their dog. The amount of residents in boat harbour with dogs it would be great to at least get a time slot where we can all socialise dogs on the beach. I accept that not everyone is a dog person so maybe set timeframes with on and off lead time would suit everyone. Dogs are such a big part of a lot of our lives and it's a real shame that our dogs can't share time with us on the beach.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
Sat on my balcony this morning watching the beach I have already seen 10 dogs walk along the beach - what is wrong with this? Not anyone else on the beach, just owners and their dogs out getting exercise - good for the mind and the body and not hurting anyone	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
I believe dogs should be able to enjoy boat harbour beach with their owners - off leash prior to 8am and after 6pm. On leash all other times. I believe this is a fair compromise.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Unfortunately, particular during holiday times, the irresponsible dog owners spoil it for everyone. Would be good if someone started actually monitoring and fining the people doing the wrong thing.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	2
Signage is very poor around the area at many areas. Some beaches simply should remain dog free. Water quality and sand safety suffer when dogs defecate above or on the beach. We see an increasing number of dogs, both on and off leash, some well behaved, others bowling up to people sitting on the beach. Can we please be respectful of both options - beaches with dogs and beaches without dogs.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	3
Dogs on lead = under control. Most restaurants allows dogs on lead to sit at tables outside. Blows my mind we can't walk a dog on this beach. Europeans allow dogs on public transport, a socialised dog is a safe dog. Humans cause more damage, plastic everywhere when a southerly hits.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
Every time I am at little beach near Robinson Reserve there are dogs on the beach. This morning I walked across the beach at 9.45 am and had to thread my way between dogs which were all off lead.	Little Beach	2
May I ask why that is an issue for you? Thank you	Little Beach	25
Agree - the signage is inadequate!	Little Beach	3
Sorry to hear that. Either people don't realise or ignore the time restrictions. Hopefully it is the former, and improved signage will rectify this. We are all living creatures with needs for unencumbered exercise/leisure and respect for each is vital.	Little Beach	2
We all need to access the beaches and feel comfortable and safe, please put time restrictions 6am- 9am + 4pm - 8pm- (7hrs) dogs and owners, general public 9am - 4pm 7 hrs. Equality.	Little Beach	22
If the dogs were off the leash I hardly believe you would have had to thread your way between dogs. And if there were so many off the lead then it must have been in the time spot given to allow dogs to be off the leash. Little Beach is allocated for dogs to be off leads at certain times, if there were to many dogs for you use ya legs and walk further where no dogs off leash are allowed	Little Beach	20
Off lead dog walking has been permitted on birubi beach for many many years. It is one of the very few beaches locally where dog owners can exercise their dog off leash and many Anna bay residents are dog owners . Usually	Birubi	22, 23

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most local residents adhere to the signified hours for dog walking. A couple of suggestions -provide additional suitable off leash dog walking areas to complement the birubi beach arrangement and/or extend birubi beach hrs during non peak periods. There's plenty of space 4 all		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I would like to have the area known as the Little Beach, as a Off lead area without time restrictions.  Reasons: there are local residents that at this period whom are walking their dogs on little beach off lead outside the restrict times. I believe that this could be due to the fact that these residence do not have the opportunity to utilise the area during the correct times as they may have reasons eg, work (shift workers), single parent families etc.. with time constraints.	Little Beach	25
Ridiculous suggestion- too many freedoms for dog owners already if anything there should be reductions	Little Beach	30
I agree that this would be a great option. It is away from the "flagged area" where most visitors will be swimming and it has a lot of stimulus for the dogs to explore. Some people do work shift work and this would provide their animals and them to enjoy the experience together also.	Little Beach	25
I think this is a great idea! That way there is a 'designated' area away from everyone else. Sometimes we drive into newcastle on the weekend just so that we can spend the day at the beach with the dogs. We don't have that option here	Little Beach	25
Agree completely	Little Beach	25
Disagree. That is the swimming and beach area for local families. It is better for kids. No-one wants to use the main beach during the summer- too many tourist groups! Support keeping the time restrictions so it can be used by the community during the day and dog walkers the rest of the time.	Little Beach	20
Respect your opinion but disagree. Try and sit on the beach at Bagnalls or Horseshoe in Newie- can't do it. This would take Little Beach away from everyone, including dog owners, to sit and swim. I walk my dog every morning along morna and come back down to this area with the kids during the day. It's always been the kid swimming area. Locals know this. <b>I think the restricted hours is a good balance for everyone. Maybe change hours to off lead 4pm-10am so it's easier for people?</b>	Little Beach	22
I think you should leave things as they are, we love walking this beautiful wide beach and meeting other dog	Birubi	20

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owners. It's super friendly and as I work from home, sometimes it's the only face to face conversation I have all day. Have time zones for off lead times, however better signage as to exactly where and when this is permitted would be helpful, as it only "local knowledge" as to what's permitted and there are many holiday makers here enjoying access to beach with their dogs as well.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I wish it was off leash all time but don't mind if it does remain the current times.		
You are so right with signage. When I first moved there I had no idea about the off leash times until a kind local let me know. Sometimes it's not people intentionally breaking the rules, it's just an unawareness.	Birubi	20
Definitely need better signage! Leave times as they are!	Birubi	20
We should ensure that non dog lovers are considered, we cant use the beach when dogs are on there as i have had my towel urinated on, dogs have jumped all over my child. Perhaps a compromise is to have designated fenced areas for dogs in the sand dunes. I also feel the freedom given to dogs means it needs to be policed and zero tolerance to breaking the rules. They get away with so much that if they break the small amount of rule they should be penalized.	Birubi	31
With respect, it's the water as well as the sand that is the appeal for dogs. If there is a zoned area within sand dunes only, this takes away the water option. It will also put most of summer out as the sand will be too hot for them to use.	Birubi	21
Maybe if off lead areas on the actual beach were smaller and clearly defined, people with children etc. could be separated? I agree dogs are presently allowed to wander everywhere! We take our dog a couple of kms along before letting him off BUT there is a sign in the Sandhills stating this is not allowed. So if you are walking along the shoreline you would never know!	Birubi	3
Ahhhh maybe take your tribe to one of the other beaches that this amazing council has to offer. If you explore a little you'll notice that there are soooooo many in the area that NEVER allow dogs... at any time	Birubi	16
I agree. Restrictions are not clear (signage is not appropriate) and not enforced. Having said that, I'm happy for time restrictions to be lifted here but I would like to see enforcement on all the other	Birubi	2



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beach of the Bay where dogs owner are bringing their dogs when they are not supposed to.		
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Geo-location</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
My understanding is The sign in the sand hills is Worimi National Park not the council off leash area .. I agree It is not very clear. Dogs permitted on a leash for 3km past the sign.	Birubi	3
There's a beach called One Mile, it just down the road use that one if you don't like dogs.	Birubi	17
Im not for dogs out of control especially jumping on kids or urinating on people's property. If people have no control over there dog off the lead dont take it off. My dog is rarely on the lead but I have more control over her then most people with their dogs off the lead. If she was inclined to be out of control I wouldn't let her off the lead full stop	Birubi	6
Dogs have become quite the friend people need right now, and return we need to do special things fir them. Meeting up with other puppies and humans is a delight to see. Most humans are benefitting greatly from the interaction. We are also there for each other if one of us our our puppies are sick. The Birubi Beach dog community is amazing.	Birubi	4
I especially bought a place at Anna Bay (moved from the Upper Hunter) solely as it had beach off leash access for my dogs. My little girl (dog) is blind and the joy it brings her to run "free" is worth fighting to keep that for her. The dog community has been extremely friendly and welcoming to both me and my dogs. For me it's what "makes" the area what it is.	Birubi	4
Birubi is a very important area for exercise for dogs and their owners - it's important for the mental health of all the local community!!	Birubi	4
Please leave off lead areas alone	Birubi	20
Birubi Beach is such a beautiful spot for the community to walk dogs and chat and watch the beautiful sunrise. It's so important for the community to have this as an off leash area during the specified hours	Birubi	20
Agree! Majority of people do the right thing. The times for off lead now make a good balance between dogs and beach goers.	Birubi	20
It would be great if this area was fenced for those of us who have 'special' dogs. Ours is deaf and has no recall so unfenced is no good to us and this means we have to drive to Soldiers Point or Fingal Bay. Also is fenced not better for those 'just in case' times when a dog might get spooked and run into the road?	Fishermans Bay Park	33

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I don't believe fencing area off is a good idea, those who would have death dogs be a small minority. Fencing areas off you may as well leave your dog at home. I walk from Anna Bay and the last thing I want is to have to walk around a fenced area to a gate to allow my dog access. I'm sure the local residents wouldn't want the area fenced off and make the place look ugly.	Fishermans Bay Park	34
Keep the Fishermans Bay dog area exactly as it is. If you start fencing these areas, soon you will be fencing the entire coast to stop children drowning. Then every road will need to be fenced off to stop pedestrians being hit by cars. Before you know it, we'll all be in prison.	Fishermans Bay Park	34
We walk our dog at Boat Harbour. We are very happy to be able to do so as it's nice and easy walking for us as we are older. Use bags for dog droppings. Would be a BIG bonus if we could give her a swim at southern end of beach between a designated time .Eg . 4.00 to 6.00 pm. during the week NOT on weekends when it is used more. The interaction with other dogs and people is good for everyone. Just a suggestion. Just glad to use the beautiful area where we live.	Boat Harbour	27
Allow dogs to swim and walk in rocks/ rock pools and Iris Moore park is a great grassed area . Also walking through Bush tracks around Fishermans Bay is great for both people and dogs	Birubi	3
If the Bush tracks around Fishermans Bay are in Tomaree National Park Domestic Pets are prohibited.	Birubi	3
This area is National Park and National Park rules are applicable which means no dogs.	Birubi	3
Not only is it National Park but I think it is part of the Marine Park . Dogs are only allowed on lead on beaches adjacent to Marine Park. National Park rules take precedent so dogs would not be allowed in NP areas - rightly so. But with Marine Park rules - how come at least 2 beaches (Anna Bay and Boat Harbour) got the on-lead rule. These beaches have had residents for many years and it appears that their use of the beaches were overlooked in the gazettal process.	Birubi	3
Fishermans Bay has on occasion Penguins and they will not come in to the bay if there have been dogs there. They are exhausted and need to rest. It is a "no Dog beach". Shame dog owners don't care and let them run around doing their business on this small family beach. Every day many dog owners do this and it is not right.	Birubi	3
We recently holidayed for the first time at Anna Bay with our kelpie puppy. We LOVE the beautiful beach. Great	Birubi	4

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dogs and lovely people there. We are planning to holiday in the area again in the next 12 months because of the dog friendly beach.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
The Anna Bay – Birubi Beach – area is a massive dog owning locality and is also a popular destination by dog owners who visit the area to walk their dogs, eat at local cafes and stay in local pet friendly accommodation. Many people have moved to Anna Bay because of its 'dog friendly' reputation. These people also pay rates and taxes and have a right to access some of the public beaches and tracks in PSSC to walk their dogs. PSSC must increase off leash walking & times at Birubi.	Birubi	4, 22
We have been coming to Anna Bay for holidays for about 12 years, usually twice a year and often bringing friends with us. We would not come if it was not possible to exercise our dog on the beach off lead	Birubi	20
We travel weekly from east maitland just to be able to bring our Labrador for a swim. We've made friends and been able to support the local businesses simply because your beach is dog friendly. Increased hours and locations we could take our girl off lead would allow us to bring friends and their dogs too.	Birubi	22
Keep your dog in Maitland.	Birubi	15
Its pretty clear reading comments on here that dog owners don't understand the signage or what area's are on/off leash area's and which are's are Tomaree / Worimi National Parks	Birubi	3
The way to ensure the safety of the public and to protect native wildlife is to have a fenced off dog exercise area. There is one at Fingle Bay	General	29
Pretty sure humans cause a lot more damage to native wildlife. We are hypocrites if don't allow dogs to walk on the beach.... the oceans are full of plastic, we over fish, clear land, cause climate change ect... better not let the dog on the beach baha	General	20
Boat Harbour beach should be accessible to dogs on a shared basis - maybe early morning and late afternoon.  The times should match other beaches in area to provide consistency and ease of understanding for dog users across the area. Currently different times at different beaches is confusing and not easy to remember.  The off leash area on headland is great and works well! It	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27

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is enjoyed by dog owners and other walkers with no problems.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
If people and dogs require exercise and wish to receive the benefits accorded to both owning a dog and exercising, then why wouldn't they simply walk the extra few hundred metres to a legal dog exercise area and leave ONE very small, easily accessible, safe beach for young children, families, elderly, snorkellers, kayakers, fishing enthusiasts and others who have shared the beach happily for many,many decades?Untethered dogs creating physical and unhygienic nuisance are spoiling a dog free beach	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20
Being able to walk your dog across the beach before 9am and after 5pm would be a compromise. Dog walkers are overwhelmingly diligent in cleaning up after and controlling their animals. Aggressive and troublesome dogs and their owners are not made welcome.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
early and late is a good compromise but only on leash.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
We live locally in Anna Bay and I walk the beach most mornings and my wife and I are regular beach users. We also have a small dog which we don't walk often on the beach as too many dog people don't adhere to the rules. We are often at the beach during the day and we can't understand why council rangers aren't here more often to keep beach goers with dogs in check. We have counted 11 dogs off leash amongst beach goers when they shouldn't Be. Needs to be policed more. Rules are there already.	Birubi	2
Today is Sunday 6th Dec. On my morning walk along Birubi the Nippers were between the flags having their activities ,a dog owner was throwing sticks for their dog within 3 meters of the children, why cant off leach be restricted to before 9am and after 4pm so families can feel their children are safe. Equal opportunities	Birubi	2
Birubi beach is perfect for evening and early morning walks with our dog. It is sociable, picturesque and expansive. There is plenty of room for everyone and wonderful for our dog to have a blast off the lead. If we all respect it and each other we can all share with his spectacular place.it spectacular place	Birubi	20
after being jumped on by a dog while sunbathing on sand at Birubi rock pools last week I would like to see dog free or on leash between 9am-4pm in this area and up tp the	Birubi	22

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southern lifesaver flag. Families with small children use this area during these times and feel uneasy with so many dogs running free .Why cant the whole beach be open to dogs and their owners between 6am - 9 am then 4pm - 7 pm .Surely this is a suitable outcome for all concerned giving both dog owners and general public equal		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Appears helpful for dog owners. Suggest improved signage to remind dog owners to refrain from taking dogs onto Boat Harbour Beach. Boat Harbour water quality reduced by water run off from development and hard surfaces and de-forestation. Increased tourist numbers over summer are expected to bring rubbish. Dog poo bags are often left around to be washed into the water. Suggest Water filtration gardens and leash on walking track around Sth Head	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	3, 1
Disagree completely, dog owners are locals who look after our area. I am constantly cleaning up rubbish left by tourists/visitors as I walk my dogs because I love my local area and want to take care of it - don't blame problems on dog owners	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	1
As a homeowner on the dog walking highway (ie the only paved footpath) I regularly have to clean dog poop off my lawn. Don't tell me all local dog owners do the right thing. They don't.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	1
The current area designated as off-leash dog exercise area in Fishermans Bay is very large - too large. I propose the land be split into 2 areas: 1 being a fenced off dog exercise area; other being an upgraded community facility. The land has 3 natural springs that need to be protected using natural local stone. Facilities such as covered table and bench seating in both areas; water bowls in dog exercise area, small walk-over bridges across the water courses. Add in a covered BBQ facility.	Fishermans Bay Park	33
The current area designated as off-leash dog exercise area in Fishermans Bay is very large - too large. I propose the land be split into 2 areas: 1 being a fenced off dog exercise area; other being an upgraded community facility. The land has 3 natural springs that need to be protected using natural local stone. Facilities such as covered table and bench seating in both areas; water bowls in dog exercise area, small walk-over bridges across the water courses. Add in a covered BBQ facility.	Fishermans Bay Park	33

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Hello, I live in one of the houses that borders the off lead dog park in fisherman's bay. It's great for us dog fanatics that dogs can be off lead in what amounts to our giant front yard but it's a wetland so you end up with a muddy dog and wet shoes most of the time. People drive in there and have to be towed out leaving big ruts and a muddy mess. Is this the best choice or just a place useful for little else that council can tick off as an off lead area to get us dog people off their backs?	Fishermans Bay Park	34
We love sunset walks at Birubi with our two dogs. We usually combine this with having a swim and getting a takeaway dinner to eat at the beach, supporting local businesses.	Birubi	4
Can we please have a dog off leash time on Boat Harbour be a h	Boat Harbour	27
No. Already have a huge area at birubi for dogs, leave one beach for families who want to enjoy the beach.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20
No. Boat Harbour is advertised in tourist information as a child/family friendly beach. Dogs (especially unknown ones) and excited, active children don't mix. Dogs in water have been known to endanger people on boards etc. Water could be polluted in an area where fish are landed.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20
I've been using the off lead areas at Birubi and Bagnals beach for many years and have been impressed at how well the vast majority of dog owners do the right thing. I recommend expanding areas and times for off lead and dog friendly beaches. Harsher penalties should be imposed for those ignoring the rules and causing problems.	Birubi	22; 2
I am very happy for dogs to be allowed off leash on beaches with restrictions. I believe that before 8am (or 9:00) and after 5pm (or 5:30 pm) is a good time for dogs to be allowed to run around off leash. Children are not normally on beaches early in the morning or late afternoon - so there would be less problem of a problem occurring For some residents, their dogs are in effect their 'children' and they are diligent in bagging any stools left by their animals. I hope this'll be implemented.	General	22
Leave Boat Harbour Beach a dog free beach. There is an off leash area at the headland for them. You can't go to Birubi Beach during the day without unleashed dogs running around everywhere.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
And yet I have never had a problem with a dog being anywhere near me at birubi and I am there all the time...	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	6
I think that dogs on-lead at Boat Harbour beach should be allowed. There are many early morning walkers who are frail and enjoy taking their dogs for a walk and would be thankful for not having to climb the steep hills out of Boat Harbour. I would love to be able to walk across the beach with my dog and save my asthmatic lungs. Wouldn't a compromise be the best solution - allowing dogs on-lead on the beach from 8pm to 8am. This works for other councils.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
There will always be irresponsible people who do not respect the community areas - whether it be littering, speeding through narrow streets or bad dog behavior - it will not work. Do not exclude people from a community area that should be shared responsibly. Boat Harbour has a lot of responsible dog owners who would like to legally walk their dogs on the beach.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
We love taking our dog to Birubi Beach! He gets to really stretch his legs, chasing his ball down the beach and into the water to cool off. We tell him "we're going to bump bump Birubi (on account of all the speed bumps)" and he is super excited. Likewise, when we take the turn-off for Boat Harbour, he is also super excited at the prospect of a good run. I would like, as a minimum, to have greater Birubi Beach access during off-peak (aka, outside of school holidays in peak summer).	Birubi	22
Greater access in off peak times is just common sense... a lot less people use the beach through winter...	Birubi	22
Another sad soul who thinks they have a human dog. We need to reduce the access for dogs and make it more friend for humans.	Birubi	30
We are residents of Anna Bay and up until our dogs passed last year frequented Birubi Beach to walk our dogs. As responsible dog owners, an option to exercise your dogs is necessary. We always adhered to the rules in regards to on leash hours. In the many years of walking our dogs there we feel the majority of people adhered to the rules. Most dog owners are very grateful for the use of areas like Birubi Beach to exercise and enjoy with their canine companions.	Birubi	20

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
A timed access for dogs to the beach would be wonderful. Most locals currently respectfully use the beach with their dogs anyway!	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
Allowing dogs on the beach in a timed manner would not cause any problems to locals or tourists alike	Boat Harbour	27
Please leave dog off leash arrangements as currently stands, thank you	Birubi	20
Reduce it please!!	Birubi	32
Please leave off lead dog area arrangements as it currently stands. I walk my dog on the beach everyday and I believe it brings the local community together.	Birubi	20
I live on the north side of Boat Harbour, to access the south headland, I can walk across the beach, 230 metres from my door or via the streets, 700 metres. I have no interest in exercising my dog on the beach, I just want to reach the headland. The south headland should remain leash free	Boat Harbour Headland	20; 26
restricting the hours that the dogs are allowed on the beach would be ok if it was enforced unfortunately at Birubi the dogs rule they urinated all over our beach towels, ran at the baby who was sitting in the sand its just a disaster waiting to happen not pleasant to go there any more dog poo everywhere defiantly not nice experience any more love dogs just walk on a lead and play at home	Birubi	32
Agree these experiences are very unpleasant. So many beaches in Port Stephens, so many dog owners, so many elderly whose dogs are their family. (Bless [REDACTED]). Please identify some more beach areas which thousands of dog owners can enjoy without their dogs being terrified by small children and abused by parents.	General	21
Caravan park is dog friendly but beach is not mke the north end dog freindley on leads Durring off peak periods	One Mile	21
Strongly agree	One Mile	21
I am a dog owner, and he is treated as family. We love the beach, main reason for being here. I would like more areas, beaches etc for dogs to be allowed to walk, on lead or off lead. Birubi is a lovely place, such a massive area where people, horses, canines and wildlife can co exist. There is always a percentage of people that are stuffing things up by not doing the right thing, causing grief for the responsible majority. Port Stephens is paradise an love it here. Let the dogs have their day.	Birubi	21



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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I am a dog owner and love to take her to the beach, although i believe that dog owners need to be more aware of there dogs potential aggressiveness. I have seen and been victim to dogs that have attacked other dogs as well as my own for no reason whatsoever. I have also witnessed dog owners letting their dogs annoy families on the beach trying to relax.....Not good for tourism. I think that the area should be off lead further up the beach away from where families are setting up.	General	24
Tourist dont pay rates we locals do but I do agree people shouldn't have to worry about dogs setting up.but if it is in time allocated for dogs to be off the leash they need to be aware. This sort of thing isn't regular as you would like others to believe.	General	2
We are new to the area and walking our dog has been a great way to meet people. We are happy with the current arrangements and would like it to stay the same.	General	20
We live in Boat Harbour and own a dog. The off lead dog areas are well used and popular. Most of the people who use the dog park are responsible dog owners and their dogs are well behaved and friendly. Unfortunately there have been a few incidents where dogs have been aggressive. Dog owners need to be more aware that dogs who are off lead need to be carefully supervised and kept under control. It would be great if Boat Harbour beach could be used as a dog on lead area before 8am and after 6pm.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
Long time residents - 25 years of Boat Harbour - we would love to be walk across the beach on lead to allow access to the off lead area. Walking on the road can be dangerous as there are no pathways.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
I would like to take my dogs here when I go fishing we are responsible dog owners. I believe I am unable to take them here. Past the 3km sign. Can someone please confirm.	Birubi	24
Who knows? regulations for dogs on Birubi are too complicated, and have changed so much over time I don't even try to take our dog there any more.	Birubi	24
Please can we have a beach area for our dogs out here at Fingal Bay there are a lot of people here who no longer can drive but have a dog for company they really do need a beach area for the dogs it would make a lot of difference..the dog park is good but not when it's a busy time too many in that little area my dog attacked and had to have stitches so not always safe	Fingal Bay	16

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
If its not always safe in the fenced off area why would you want them running around on the beach near children ? Did you report the dog attack to the council ?	Fingal bay	16
Keep the headland off leash and Solace Park too please. The dogs have a wonderful time running free here, chasing balls, meeting each other and generally enjoying themselves.	Boat Harbour Headland	20
Would love to be able to take the puppy onto Kingsley beach at certain hrs. Guess not as supposed to be National Park. Cannot see the reasoning unless dogs escaped from the beach into the bush land behind. On the sand would be no trouble. 30 years ago we would regularly take our red setter there swimming. Never a problem. It was locally known as "Dogs' Beach"	Kingsley Beach	21
What a great idea, early morning or late afternoon when the day troopers have gone.	Kingsley Beach	21
I agree, certain times would be a nice bonus	Kingsley Beach	21
From National Parks web site why dogs are not permitted in National Parks  -The sights, sounds and smells of dogs and other domestic pets cause native animals great stress, even causing them to leave their homes and their young unprotected.  -Poisonous baits are often laid to control foxes and these can be fatal to dogs  -Your dog is at risk of snake bites and tick bites in NSW national parks  -If threatened, kangaroos and goannas may defend themselves and cause injury to your dog.	Kingsley Beach	21
Its illegal for good reason. Protection of the environment for our native animals. I see so many dogs in the national park with owners who know they are not to be there and don't care. On and off leash. Our wildlife need protecting. A wallaby was mauled to death by a couple of big dogs off lead. Its just not OK	Kingsley Beach	21
This is the ONLY existing ocean beach off-leash dog exercise area in the PSC LGA and I want to be able to utilise this area with my dogs in years to come.	Birubi	20
Love taking my dogs for a walk and a swim on birubi beach. Very important and joyous part of my life! Please	Birubi	20

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keep this fantastic community activity available for generations to come.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I think the hours for dogs off leash should be consistent at 10- 4pm all year round. Another suggestion is that in winter time when there are not many beach goers attending, to allow unrestricted access for dogs. Say, May to late September.	Birubi	22
I agree, with you. one set of times. with borders opening up and Qld for example doesn't have daylight saving. there will be so much confusion if peoples phones, watches or the like are an hour ahead or behind. multiply that by how many dog owners - it adds up.	Birubi	22
At least allow this area to be on-lead so people and their dogs can walk across to access the dog park or enjoy the water. If a dog is under control on a beach what is the issue?	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
As a dog owner myself and only a block from the beach I rarely walk my small dog on the beach as people are not responsible whilst exercising their dogs Allowing large dogs to roam intimidate smaller dogs Making for an unpleasant experience My husband and myself frequently use birubi beach and are constantly dissapointed with the increasing amount of feaces left on the beach I do understand many do the right thing but many dont Unless this is policed Im afraid it will continue to get worse	Birubi	1, 2
I live 5 minutes from beach and use it regularly and rarely do I see dog poo left on the beach. I don't believe it will get worse, locals are in the habit of doing the right thing they don't [redacted] in their own nest. As far as big dogs harassing little dogs I rarely see that either. If anything its little dogs harassing big dogs barking and carrying on.	Birubi	6
Happy to leave Birubi and One Mile as is, but with clearer signs. We often utilise the beach to walk our dog and have been confused by the signs. The new park at Robinson Reserve adds issues with dogs off lead and kids running around, needs to be looked at. A good fenced off lead space would be wonderful on top of existing spaces	Robinson Reserve	20, 29
We used to have a dog. We now have 2 children using the beach regularly. We would be very happy to have dogs off the leash early mornings (before 8am) and early evenings (after 4pm in winter, after 6pm the rest of the year)	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
Fully agree	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
On lead or restricted access would be great. Plenty of holiday homes allow dogs in the area. Better for tourism.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26, 27
The beach is facility locals use all year around and is integral part of our community. Dog walkers leave the area in better condition than holiday makers. Don't understand who would think its a good idea to stop locals walking their dogs on their local beaches plenty of room for everyone.	Birubi	20
I knows the [REDACTED] dont like dogs and Sydney sider. locals like them need to get with the program,	Birubi	15
If there are any changes to access here... there will be a push back against council. We have 2 dog beach's in the bay, if dogs were restricted to one it would be kaos - incidents will increase, spread the beach access hrs to near by beach's if your worried about too many dogs on this beach.	birubi	20
Sounds like a threat - i hope they are dealt with appropriately. Typical dog owner	Birubi	15
Saturday 28/11 around 10.15am, I sat on the beach in front of the Surf Club at Birubi for 20mins and counted 10 dogs, 6 off-leash and not under control, 4 even swimming between the flags right in front of the lifeguards, 2 very large dogs excitedly jumping the waves right in the face of young children. Totally out of control!	Birubi	6, 2
Yes I've seen it numerous times as well. We can't enjoy the beach any more. We longer come to the beach it's the same everywhere. Rangers should have a zero tolerance approach	Birubi	6, 2
The current off-leash area at Boat Harbour is an excellent amenity for the area. It is a safe area for the pets and it also provides a location where locals can enjoy a social interaction with other people. I agree that the signage needs to be simplified. The current signs are not easy to interpret.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20
Please keep up the maintenance on the main access path to the headland so that our neighbours and visitors, will reduced mobility, can still enjoy the area.		



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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I love walking my dog during the off lead times but hate it when people ignore the rules during the day and my kids are trying to play. As a local I want to have a great area for both my kids and dogs.		
Want more Ranger checks so the Little Beach area can be used by families during the day. Best part of the beach for kids- too many tourists and waves at big beach.	Little Beach	20, 3
Keep off lead times as is and increase checks for people doing the wrong thing.		
Agree	Little Beach	20
A socialised dog is a safe dog. Decreasing access for dogs will likely increase anti-social dogs creating more incidents. Look at Europe/UK dogs even have access to transport.	Birubi	20
Fingal Bay needs a dog walking provision for beach walking our dogs. The dog park is limited, hot, big dogs are often unsupervised when smaller dogs appear, so smaller dogs don't go in. It smells of septic from the transfer station. Fingal Beach is big, very few people use it early morning and evenings. Owners have been trained to be responsible, take a bag and pick up after their dog. Could we have a provision for morning and evening off-leash walking brought back.	Fingal Bay	16
We strongly agree. There are many people with dogs in Fingal Bay, by all evidence acting responsibly. It would be a logical step to provide morning and evening beach access for dog walkers. Dogs are an integral part of our communities, connecting people and enriching our lives. Council professes to be concerned about traffic congestion but forces people into cars to let their dogs walk off the leash. Let's provide beach access and keep people and their dogs out of their cars.	Fingal Bay	16
We also strongly agree- morning and evening, and possibly limited to north of the surf club area. There is certainly room to accommodate all users.	Fingal Bay	16
We constantly see dogs OFF lead during the day OUTSIDE of the off-lead time zone. I don't think it's patrolled very well at all.	Birubi	3
At those times just how many people were on the beach? Unless its the weekend or holidays there are not many people utilising the beach full stop. How often do you use the beach and are you on it for long periods of time. .A lot of you people hardly use the beach and if you do not	Birubi	6

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for long. I use it all the time and inside or outside dog times there are hardly any peoples on beach during the week		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I strongly support the idea of at least limited dog access to Fingal beach. I believe there is plenty of room for responsible dog walking with pickup north of the surf club area, and especially early and late - say before 8am and after 5pm. Also my 5.7 kg dog can run straight through the mesh fence in the existing Fingal dog walking park	Fingal Beach	16
I no longer attempt to walk my dog on the path between Fingal and Shoal Bay as have almost been run over (and abused) several times by speeding cyclists. I am 77 and hard of hearing, and don't always know what's coming up behind me. I believe this is a SHARED path - not a racetrack. Better and safer access for dog walkers on this type of path would mean we don't have to take to illegal tracks to walk out dogs! The fenced areas such as Fingal, Soldiers Point etc are inadequate for dog exercise.	Fingal Beach	16
We want to take our dog with us when we go swimming to One Mile Beach and also walking along Birubi Beach. We can never eat [REDACTED] as they do not allow dogs outside. This is wrong! Our dog is family. We are responsible dog owners! We would love this to change and also to extend to the whole of Port Stephens including Fingal Beach away from the Spit area where there is native wildlife.	General?	21
We love bringing our frenchies to Birubi, parking can be a bit tight but it's worth it, it's a great location to let them run and there's always bags for poop. We'd like to see the leash free period to be opened up for greater flexibility	Birubi	22
Because of my frightening experiences with unleashed dogs I am totally against opening up further areas. Dogs and their owners are able to get their exercise just as well with a leash as without one. That argument is irrational. Owners are already breaking the law by bringing their unleashed dogs onto Kingsley Beach (National Park) Unleashed dogs can cause injuries to people as well as irritation. I would not go near a leash free beach nor would most tourists. People come before dogs.	General	31
As an owner of various dogs for over 30 years, I have encountered far too many irresponsible owners who allow their dogs to approach children and the elderly without verifying if the adult, child/parent indicating the interaction is wanted. Unfortunately when people say their dog is part of their family, they often accord their dog the rights of a	General	31

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human. They are an animal with instincts of an animal. The human should approach a dog not vice versa. The owner is the pack leader not the dog.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
People want extended access to Fingal Beach and surrounds with their dogs. Just yesterday I used the public amenities at Fingal and just near the entrance nearly stepped in a fairly recent pile of faeces from a very large dog. It already had the indentation of shoe in it, so yet another person will have a mess on a shoe and possible in their care to clean up. There are insufficient rangers to police disrespectful dog owners as it is without increasing dog exercise areas.	Fingal Beach	16
I have owned dogs for decades. I have always been able to tie up my dog and visit places and grab a coffee or food and sit with my dog away from other customers. I have never felt the need to impose my dogs upon others. I have only taken them to beaches where the rules allow. I have never felt as though my dog or I have missed out on exercise or enjoyment. To me, it is no different to following the road rules. I have owned the odd escape artist and felt very embarrassed when retrieving the dog.	General	20
People who wish to avoid the heat of the day in summer and use beaches to swim or for other activities will have that option removed unless they want dogs jumping, defecating, urinating and having free roam. Dog owners like me also like to have places free from uncontrolled dogs and council patrols are insufficient to police areas currently without increasing dog access. I agree, they are still animals and as mine have in our backyard, killed and mauled native animals given the opportunity.	General	31
Long time resident of Boat Harbour for 40 years. Have been always able to exercise my dogs without going onto Boat Harbour beach. They've always been exhausted. Must be the amount of exercise NOT where they exercise or how much off lead they get. :-). Plenty of swimming spots in rock pools or off rocks they can use too.	General	31
My dogs have always been very docile and friendly with children but they are still capable of and have killed or mauled native animals they have been able to catch in our backyard. They are still capable of tripping people over particularly the elderly. Shouldn't the disabled and elderly be allowed to use some of the beaches without interference from dogs? It's already hard enough for them to access nice safe beaches like Boat Harbour. Unfortunately for some owners "off-leash" means "no control"	General	31

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
We are fortunate in Boat Harbour to have wonderful dog walking areas on the headland. It would be useful to be able to walk our dogs on the lead across the beach - with Birubi beach close by I don't think Boat Harbour needs to be an off-leash dog area. It is a small, family beach - often used by families with young children who want a safe and protected area for them to swim. We would like to support on-lead / traverse access.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	26
Having an off lead beach for dogs is essential to the well being of many local residents and their dogs. It is excellent for physical and mental health and to consider cutting the hours or closing it would be a big mistake on the part of the local council.	General	4
We regularly walk our dog on the beach at Birubi, it was one of the reasons we bought in this area. We have taken her from the time she was a puppy, as it is a great way to socialise her. Having met so many different dogs and people, she has learnt to interact in a friendly way. It is a great asset to the community.	Birubi	4
Visited the little beach off Iris Moore reserve the other day and there was a huge pile of dog poo on the beach .... disgusting .	Iris Moore	1
Thank you for picking it up. Many of the regular dog walkers on Birubi pick up discarded plastic & other junk daily.	Iris Moore	1
If that is all you have got to [REDACTED] about dont bother. Have you ever bothered to pick up rubbish left by visitors that isn't biodegradable? Dog poo would have disappeared in couple of days, bugs breaking it down and the weather. Its not the majority of dog owners that are the worry its inconsiderate tourists and local young one who don't clean up their rubbish.	Iris Moore	31
Visit Fishermans Beach several times a week and there is often someone with a dog running around. I have yet to see anyone using the dog area near by. Little Kingsley Beach through the National Park is also being used. Dog owners need to be educated on the rules, and the rules enforced by both the Council and National Parks and Wildlife. At the moment they are not being enforced	Fishermans Beach	31
Are those with the dogs running around going ballistic and out of control? Are they effecting you personally, are they actually jumping on you or other people or are you just having a [REDACTED] because you haven't got a life and dont like dogs or people invading your back yard. I regularly with my dog and I I think that beach is a great spot to have a dog off the	Fishermans Beach	21



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lead as it is a quiet and not often used. The local population are more elderly and don't actually use the beach because of steep access		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Let's leave everything as it was but extend off leash till 9.30am and resume at 4.30pm in summer ! Winter extend till 11am off leash and again from 3pm off leash!	Birubi	22
The opportunity for PSSC is to look at the progressive Councils to our north and emulate their successes. One way of connecting members of the community is through dogs and encouraging dog walking. Dog walkers tend to exercise, socialise and are more connected with their community than non-dog owners/ walkers. No reductions in access; Council must improve facilities for dog owners	General	4
Standardised times for off leash dog walking 365 days of the year.	Birubi	22
The majority of dog owners at Birubi Beach are responsible. There is a minority who conveniently lose the ability to read signs or use the plastic bags provided for cleanup. Relying on an epiphany to inspire these people is pointless- what we need is surveillance and enforcement. A short term or periodic investment in this will be worthwhile if a few non-conformists are penalised.	Birubi	2
Just ban dogs	Birubi	30
Totally agree with the original poster!	Birubi	2
leave boat harbour beach alone - adequate off leash area on headland - suggestions of "before 9 and after 4 do not make sense - dogs allowed during cooler hours and humans in heat of day?	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20
I like dogs and have had my own for many years. But they do not belong on our pristine beaches. Dogs have little respect for personal space. They chase away wildlife. Some are aggressive to people. While many dog owners are quite responsible, many others are not, and allow dogs to wreck the peaceful enjoyment of the beach by others. I don't want dogs bounding up to me, shaking themselves all over me, then bounding off. And dogs certainly do not belong in national park environments at any time.	General	31
Please consider the area between beach access track and end of current off lead boundary as permanent off lead. Even in peak periods this part of the beach is less crowded and I'm sure most would be happy to walk this short distance.	Birubi	23

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Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
This is a great idea and should be an extension to existing areas....	Birubi	23
My dogs love the beach, and I love taking them there. I love being able to let them roam up and down the sand, enjoying the water and the other dogs. It's a wonderful mental health boost to be able to grab a coffee, get some exercise myself, exercise the dogs and see their utter joy at being out and about. Please keep Birubi dog friendly, and off leash.	Birubi	20
The upgrade of Robinson Reserve missed the importance of access to the beach for dog owners. We have been advised dog's can walk pass the playground as long as they are onlead & we don't linger. This is great news but seating 10 meters away from the children need to be included for our seniors & shade certainly would be a bonus. A water station for our fur friends both at Ocean Ocean & Fitzroy would be truly appreciated. Is fencing the playground a safety feature that could be considered? Thanks	Robinson Reserve	5
Fencing playground isn't necessary, not only does it look ugly it isn't practical. Just keep your dog on a lead if you can't control it. What we need is more picnic tables and trees for shade	Robinson Reserve	20
Would love to be able to use the beach with dogs. timed the same as Birubi. Boat harbour needs a walkway at the back of the beach so it is accessible to all (young families and people with disabilities and dog walkers. The blue metal on the pathway is an OH&S issue near the green seat is as it has separated and is very treacherous to walk on. There needs to be some more drainage on both sides of the parkland walkways and a footbridge on the left side as you go up the hill.	Boat harbour	5
I am at beach every weekend with kids and animals I'm a responsible pet owner the walks dogs on leads always but I'd like to see more areas that family can take dogs to play and Run Free....We live in a beach environment where our dogs should be classed a important parts of family life.	Birubi	21
We have been advised dog's can walk pass the playground as long as they are onlead & we don't linger. This is great news but seating 10 meters away from the playground is need to be included for our seniors & shade certainly would be a bonus. A water station for our fur friends both at Ocean Ocean	Robinson	5



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& Fitzroy would be truly appreciated. Is fencing the playground a safety feature that could be considered?		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
I feel that the current arrangements on Birubi Beach are fine as is, but perhaps regular visits from rangers would help with enforcing the rules and controlling wayward behaviour of dogs and their owners.	Birubi	20, 2
The current hours make little sense. During busy periods, holidays, and weekends I have little issue, but midweek throughout the day when the beach is quietest dogs should be allowed offlead at their owners discretion. Increased signage, enforcement, and more suitable hours would make a safer and happier beach for all.	Birubi	22
We frequently take our dog to Birubi to swim and for a walk. We always clean up after him and would be very disappointed should the council ban dogs from beaches because of the actions of the minority who do not. Also there is a small minority within the community who like to have a whinge about dogs being off lead. Just because they think they have a right to have a whinge. Unfortunately these individuals seem to have the majority of the say.	Birubi	20
It would be great for dogs to be allowed on the Boat Harbour beach, make it the same as Birubi. Nice and easy then for responsible dog owners.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
We have lived in Anna Bay for 26 years. We have always had dogs and love living close to a dog friendly beach. Walking on the beach with our fur babies is our way to unwind after a hectic and often busy, long day. It has been a great social event for us and our fur babies over these years. If a solution to please everyone that will still allow us access to our beach in our back yard that would be appreciated. Replacing toilets at the Ocean Ave end of the park would help us dog owners as well.	General?	20
Please stop all dogs on beaches.	Birubi	30
Dogs should be banned in all public areas and restaurants.	Birubi	30
Dogs should be allowed on the beach so long as kept under control on and off the lead	Birubi	20
I seriously doubt that Birubi being dog-off-lead during the current specified hours has any impact on tourism for this area. This is not supported by any statistics provided to residents by council or government. I am a daily user of the beach with my 2 dogs, all the dog owners I associate with are responsible people and their	Birubi	4

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dogs are friendly. Port Stephens Council should listen to their constituents, serve in the best interest of our community as we are the residents and rate payers		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Please make it happen for our dogs we live on the water front and it's so sad that we are not aloud to take them to the beach even early in the morning or late at night	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
I have no issue with the after hours off leash dog walking on Birubi Beach, however, I do have an issue with the large number of off dogs on the beach in the on leash hours. There are not enough signs and the signs are confusing. The signs show the on leash during daytime areas as off leash but with some text underneath that people may not notice. The signs should show the area as primarily ON LEASH and the rules should be enforced. A sign about dogs must be under voice control would be good.	Birubi	2
There are way too many dogs coming out of the [REDACTED] holidays camping park - a park which advertises itself as "pet friendly" but, apparently, uses public land and National Park as the area where people with dogs can exercise their pets. Obviously, it's a no dog area. There should be no pets in this park, which is, effectively in the middle of the National Park/public bush reserve land. Obviously the dogs will end up on the beach/National Park.	One Mile	31
If local owners /residents cannot use the beach to exercise animals the caravan park should not be allowed to have animals onsite at all .	One Mile	31
Totally agree. The National Park is full of dogs on and off lead. We have to protect our wildlife from irresponsible dog owners. Dogs are great just not in National Parks	One Mile	31
Further restrictions at Birubi and Boat Harbour will inevitably move more dogs onto Bagnalls Beach which has greater pressures with poor water quality, parking and traffic congestion. An extra 30-40 dogs a day on Bagnalls Beach will have the locals fuming and also calling for those Councilors that supported further restrictions to be thrown out at the next Local Government Elections. I'll be happy to hand out how to vote info at next years elections.	Bagnalls	16
More off-lead parks (contained), and more dog-friendly areas in general would be great. Right across Port Stephens.	General	21
Further restrictions at Birubi and Boat Harbour will inevitably move more dogs onto Bagnalls Beach. An	General	16

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extra 30-40 dogs a day will also have Nelson Bay and Bagnall Beach dog owners fuming and calling for Councilors to be dumped at the Local Government Elections next year. I'll be happy to hand out how to vote information on the day. This survey is also bias. It asks about whether you agree to dogs being off-lead in "public spaces", but not specifically to those beaches subject to the review.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Further restrictions at Birubi and Boat Harbour will inevitably move more dogs onto Bagnalls Beach. An extra 30-40 dogs a day will also have Nelson Bay and Bagnall Beach dog owners fuming and calling for those Councilors that supported further restrictions to be dumped at the Local Government Elections next year. I'll be happy to hand out how to vote information on the day.	General	16
I believe that our dogs have a right to be able to exercise on Birubi beach and stockton. Nobody owns the beach. It is for all to share.	Birubi	21
There are pied oystercatchers that nest on parts of Birubi and Stockton as well as other native birds and animals that use the area. Dog owners must be responsible for their animal and its excrement and unfortunately many are not which is why there are restrictions. The beach is for all to share but unfortunately it is not safe or desirable for dogs to allowed everywhere.	Birubi	31
We use Bagnells Beach for dog walking, without leash on the sand, leash going onto and coming off	Bagnalls	15
I feel by creating more areas that people with like minded interests and areas where a certain type of activity is obvious and expected, it creates a better community. Firstly, people have a place to go where dogs can run freely, if well trained, instead of being on the lead. Which takes people playing fetch or dogs with high energy, off the public fields. Secondly, the community around dog ownership is improved but allowing the owners and dogs to have a place to congregate.	General	
It's great to have this off leash. I'm yet to meet an irresponsible dog owner in these areas. I have 2 large dogs & keep them on leash around other dogs to make sure they don't intimidate others & allow them free (with good recall) when it's appropriate. I have seen most people acting similarly. Please keep poo bags available as most owners are very responsible when conditions allow. I know many locals who pick up extra	Boat harbour	20



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poo to make sure all is good. Many of us bring our own bags. Please keep!		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
All the dog owners I know want to take their dogs to the beach!	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	21, 27
Please leave Boat Harbour headland as an off leash area. We use this area a lot in the Winter months particularly. It provides our dogs with an enriching outing, away from water. Exercised dogs are happy dogs, which means less barking and undesirable behaviours at home.	Boat Harbour Headland	20
Increase the hours dogs can be leash free here	Birubi	22
Why? So the minority can ruin the beach for everyone. You brought the dog, keep it in your yard. I dont want to see it or pat it. I want to enjoy the beach without you and your dog.	Birubi	30
Love walking out dogs at the off leach area. No changes required. Plenty of places for people to go if they don't want to mix with dogs off their leach.	Birubi	20
We use Bagnells Beach, leash on while walking to & from area.	Bagnalls	16
I love walking my dogs here. I understand the timing restrictions and respect that. Please leave in place so all can enjoy	Birubi	20
Too many owners are letting dogs off leashes at beaches with no dog signs. Much as I love animals, I've seen 2 even do a poo on beaches and the owners continue walking pretending it didn't happen. At high tide that will wash into the ocean and it's not something I want to think about when I enjoy my swim	General	2, 3
I like the serenity of more secluded bay beaches but constantly see people thinking it's an excuse to let their dogs roam free because no authorities might notice		
Happy for there to be more designated off lead areas to raise community spirit & interaction. Some great examples are in Leichhardt dog park which has a dog cafe and Sydney park which also has a dog cafe.	General	4
We love having the freedom to walk our dogs here. We see many dog owners enjoying this space responsibly. Many back yards these days are small and for the animals and owners mental and physical state these open spaces are vital. Having poo bags available is a great service for those who forget to bring them and as a "reminder" to people to pick up after their furry friends. We frequent this	General	20, 1

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headland daily and haven't noticed this area to have negative impacts from dogs with responsible humans		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Burubi Beach is my dogs absolute favourite place. I love walking him down there and seeing him as happy as he is. The dog friendly beach is one of the best parts of Anna Bay and it would be detrimental to the town to take it away.	Birubi	20
Dogs should absolutely be allowed to swim at the beach as well as continue to use the boat harbour headland as an off leash area. The beach usually has low numbers of swimmers and beach goers compared to other beaches in the area. There should be unrestricted, or at a minimum, restricted during certain times, as is the case on Birubi. Dogs are prone to overheating in summer and a swim at the end of a walk or run may help prevent this. More dog parks not less!!	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	27
I carry spare bags when walking my dog just in case soem are missed. Very raelly do I see a dog owner not pick up after their dog	Anna Bay Recreation	1
The amount of off lead dogs in this park is ridiculous. I need somewhere for my two young children to play away from dogs. One has Aspergers and freaks out of dogs come near him. My local beach has become a no go zone due to rule breaking dog owners.	Robinson Reserve	31
Dogs are always off lead around the SLSC	Birubi	31
no they're not. its actually becoming less frequent. sadly there are one or 2 locals that ruin it for everyone else by setting a bad example.	bagnalls	31
I agree they are everywhere. It's unpleasant and the dog poo is like a minefield. It feel dangerous for kids, i have seen a few attacks in last few weeks. The comment about no they are not - liar!!!	Birubi	31
Dogs are always off lead at all times of the day here.	Birubi	31
I have a friend that travels 2 hours just so his 2 dogs can run free to exercise on Birubi beach just like we all like our freedom to exercise. Take that away what will they have . I would be more worried of the litter on the beach, than the dogs.	Birubi	20
What about the humans that come to use the beach only to find it is being used by dogs to deficate on, not everyone loves your friends dog. Keep it at your place if its so great. NEWSFLASH - dogs aren't human!!	Birubi	30
Off-lead areas at Birubi remain the same. Off-lead times be extended during off-peak season. Tourism is a boon.	Birubi	4

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but it is the locals who financially support the community year round and keep our beaches clean. Dog friendly beaches are a draw for tourists who seek to travel with theirs. Relationships are built, mental, physical, and emotional health are maintained and improved within doggy communities. Dogs at Birubi share far more joy than poop. Ensure there are bags, bins, and water bowls.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Off-season off-lead times should be increased. Retain the current off-lead areas or extend them. Signage regarding dog areas should be more simple and clearly conveyed. Dogs running free at the north end of the beach hardly impact the tourists as they tend to congregate near the clubhouse. Some tourists are actually attracted to the area because they can bring their dogs. The bag dispensers are too often empty and there are not enough rubbish bins at the Ocean Ave. grassy area.	Birubi	22
I get it. Not everyone likes dogs. Not everyone likes some people either. But like all people, dogs are a part of our community and they enhance many lives. And they need access to exercise - insufficiently exercised dogs are likely to be the more troublesome ones.  Places like the northern half of Fingal Beach, and Birubi after about 500 metres from the SLSC, are sparsely used, especially early and late. They should be accessible to dogs, even if it's in restricted hours and subject to permit.	Fingal Beach	16
Well said, there are so many areas that are rarely used. Apart from peak holiday time there are so many hours from dawn to dusk these areas are practically deserted. Last Sunday around 8pm there was myself and one other group of walkers on the whole of Birubi beach.	Fingal Beach	16
I really love the fact that we are not Sydney we can still retain some of the many reasons why people love coming to our beaches and areas in our local area. They love to take their furry friends for walks along our beautiful beaches. Yes have time restrictions but be realistic about that ...like after 6 pm in winter its dark...lets say before 9am and after 4pm off lead. On lead between those hours, lets not sanitise our way of life by forgetting what made us great in the first place	Birubi	22
There are often dogs which are out of control, so for the health and safety of everyone, dogs should be on leash at all times. If you want your dog off leash take them to an approved fenced park.	Birubi	6
I would prefer if off lead areas were away from our lovely beach. Too many irresponsible owners doing the wrong	Fishermans Bay	31

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thing(not having control of their dog and not picking up after them) every day making the beach outing unpleasant for many families. Also our Bird life( including endangered Pied Oyster Catcher) on the beach is almost non existent since dogs were allowed off lead. As the beach abuts National Park,dogs off lead are let to run at will through the NP area,disturbing wildlife.		
Comment	Geo-location	Code frame reference(s)
Please don't close Birubi Beach or Boat Harbour off-leash areas. We come all the way out from Maitland every week. We buy our lunch and spend money at local businesses before heading home. There will be no incentive to come to Port Stephens anymore.	General	20
Maybe stay in Maitland!! If you dont have another incentive to come to Port Stephens I worry about you.	General	15
Dogs are part of our community & bring so much joy to so many. This beach provides an opportunity for socialisation of both doggos and their humans. With so many gorgeous beaches within walking distance from this tiny beach & only one other dog beach in the Bay, keeping this a dog beach (no lead & no time restrictions) is completely valid. Further limitations on dogs doesn't make sense & will only appease the very loud (but minimal) opposition who are not considering the broader community.	Birubi	4
I live in Sydney and travel to Anna Bay 3 to 4 times a year especially because Birubi Beach is dog friendly. I would love to see the area stay the same. I would prefer to spend my money with the locals in Anna Bay then go to another dog friendly area if it chances at Birubi.	Birubi	20
Dogs should be on leashes at all times and not allowed in parks and on beaches	Birubi	31
We own dogs and have resided in Boat Harbour for over 50 years and are very grateful Council has provided a sufficient and safe off leash area on the headland and would like that to continue. Boat Harbour is a small family friendly beach and is not suitable for dogs as there are people who do not have effective control of their dogs. Birubi Beach is perfect for dogs! Allowing dogs on Boat Harbour beach is a safety issue for children and also a health issue. Please improve signage.	Boat Harbour Beach Reserve	20
Please remove the dogs from beach altogether this is not something that is pleasant for anyone except the dog owner. Have fenced off leash areas well away from where the community congregate. I would also like to see dogs banned from parks and it policed.	Birubi	31

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<b>Comment</b>	<b>Geo-location</b>	<b>Code frame reference(s)</b>
The signs and rules are completely ignored. When you have a family with young kids trying to enjoy the beach and unrestrained dogs are running up knocking the kids over or jumping on you why you sit on the beach is extremely frustrating. The current times would be fine if they were obeyed. A couple of council rangers to enforce the times for a while would help.	Birubi	31

## Appendix 2A - Anna Bay Dog Off Lead Review Engagement Report

### Survey questions and verbatim comments

Q1: Select your suburb (764 responses)

Q2: Please choose your age bracket (760 responses)

Q3: Do you own a dog? (764 responses)

Other - please specify responses (14)
Don't own however walk with regularly
Regular pet sitter
Mind my children's when required
Looking for one
Visitors have a dog
I dog sit for friends
We walk friends dogs
I'm a dog lover.
I care for a family members dog on and off
I'm afraid that when I walk my dog on a lead other people don't which can cause me anxiety. I haven't seen any policing of the rules. Especially of a weekend.
Dog thinks he is human
Not currently but have had many in the past. I took my responsibility to control my dogs and clean up after them seriously. Currently, I spend enough time cleaning up after dogs walked past my property to have one of my own. Having to check a spot on Boat Harbour or Birubi for waste left behind is not pleasant. Nor were my overseas visitors impressed with picking a spot only to find it was 'free' due to dog waste left on it. This happened 3 times during the pre-covid summer.
Used to have 2 dogs none currently
Not at the moment, but have been a dog owner most of my life.



**Q4: Birubi Beach Reserve, Anna Bay - proposed changes**

Between May and September permit dogs off lead at all times (no time restrictions):

Identify level of support

**Q5: Birubi Beach Reserve, Anna Bay Proposed changes**

Identify level of support

**Q6: Iluka Reserve and South Headland, Boat Harbour - proposed changes**

Adjust the designated off lead area to the clear and maintained portion of Iluka Reserve

Identify level of support

**Q7: Iluka Reserve and South Headland, Boat Harbour - proposed changes**

Permit dogs on lead on remainder of the South headland

Identify level of support

**Q8: Boat Harbour Beach, Boat Harbour - proposed changes**

Allow dogs on lead to walk along the beach to access the headlands between 5pm and 9am with dogs prohibited at all other times

Identify level of support

## Q9 Any other comment (short response)?

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments
I have lived here for 20 years walk our dog every day and nearly every week we have to grab our dog and pick him up from being attacked by a dog of leash ! I see nothing wrong with a dog on lead for everyone's safety
I believe if we have dog friendly of lead beaches. They should be of lead the entire day. Too many rules is too confusing (for newcomers and tourists who travel with their pets) also it restricts access for locals. Especially when we had dog free beaches.
Dogs should remain on leads at all times to protect dogs from other dogs. People from dogs and ensure any waste is identified and cleaned in the appropriate manner.
Medical centre already receives dog bites that would not have occurred if dogs on leash had been adhered to so to suggest increasing off leash it is not consistent with safety of community.
Would like to see dogs off leash between certain times late afternoon early mornings.
Dogs need to be able to be off lead on Boat Harbour Beach. On lead will be impossible to enforce - set up to fail.
I take my dogs to Birubi so am not so au fait with Boat Harbour.
Can you please install fenced in dog off leash areas? This would be great for training and ensure dogs are safely exercised. This would also enable elderly and less abled individuals to let their dogs enjoy a run off lead. Many thanks.
This proposed change at Boat Harbour creates unmitigated ambiguity and inconsistencies of which lead people to simply make their own interpretations. Highly disappointing supposedly informed people believe this will lead to equitable and safe outcomes.
Love the allowing of dogs on birubi through the winter months, would be great to have tis on boat harbour and fisherman's beach during the winter months as no one uses the beach much during this time
Great to be part of a Council that listens and cares about its community... Well done Port Stephens Council!
Due to the scientific peer reviewed research currently available dogs should be strictly prohibited from all marine areas due to toxic pollutant of their waste which owners refuse to remove and the real threat of attack on native and marine wildlife.
Boat Harbour South Headland should remain leash free with the addition of the new changes to on lead for the beach between certain times. Birubi times are good adjustment.

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Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Changing the South Headland are to on lead only means the loss of a large area of off lead dog walking. Please reconsider as it works well as it currently is and the addition of allowing dogs on lead on the beach will be a perfect solution.
I'm happy I will be able to walk my dog on a lead along the beach, but very disappointed you're proposing
In continuing my last response, I'm very disappointed you are prospering such a small track to walk from one side of the beach to the other with a dog on a lead, why cannot this be the whole beach on a lead from 5pm to 9am with harming anyone
Very happy with the Anna Bay no restrictions times. My dogs are my therapy and unrestricted hours on Anna Bay are fantastic for me and my fur kids. Thank you.
The original community engagement was titled 'review of off leash areas' so I feel BH beach users who do not have dogs were not engaged, assuming the review was only about the headland area.
5pm to 9 am is hopeless in winter. Areas around the bay need improvements in off lead allowances for dogs.
The proposed changes significantly negatively impact on all dog owners in BH and don't reflect the purpose of review or feedback provided by the consultation. If this is the option lets stick to current restrictions and keep headland off lead please.
There's not enough offlead areas for dogs!
Boat Harbour off lead areas are currently working well. Leave as is! Reducing off lead areas at Boat Harbour will increase traffic on Birubi too. All completely unnecessary.
Allocate similar to Fingal Bay
It is a great area on the headland to be able to walk our dogs off lead and be able to swim in the Rockpool down the bottom. How on earth are the dogs meant to swim in the rock pool if they have to be on a lead. I
Let dogs have more places to run free- no time restrictions
People need to pickup after their dogs Seems to becoming more of a problem
Thank you for allowing our dogs some freedom ..hoping other dog owners obied by the rules
Even dogs on leads can cause trouble as many dog owners do not shorten the lead when approaching people. I was jumlpd by a dog on a lead and had. I fell over in my haste to get away. I could have been seriously injured. Many people fear dogs. T



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Feel that people who have young children, who are scared of dogs or who have dogs on a lead that are antisocial to other dogs need the current regulations to remain. Dogs are already off lead all day at all times of the year. The beach is for everyone.
You're not going to tell me when I can and can't walk my dogs and how I do it as long as I pick up after it and train it properly
More ranger presence out of new proposed hours and issues penalties for failure to comply and not picking up dog poo.
Dogs off lead are very curious and dash for other users of these facilities which causes anxiety and many people to do no longer be able to use outdoor spaces.
I am a carer of a person with anxiety and it is very important for her to be outdoors walking, dogs not on leads cause much anxiety for people . Please support open spaces for all users of outdoor spaces "dogs on leads".
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to take the survey .
Nobody seems to abide by these rules anyway. There are always dogs on Birubi without a lead all times of the day. My kids have been bowled over numerous times. Owners just don't care. A dog off lead cannot be controlled by its owner. No thanks
Keep the current Boat Harbour offleash area as it is now, and allow some off leash times for the boat harbour beach. Still allow leashed dogs at all other times on Birubi
Should be able to allow dogs on lead through patrol area to enable access to past 4 wheel drive entry
Prefer dogs to be on leads at all times
Please don't allow any more time for dogs off lead. We walk our dog On a lead and have complete control of our dogs. Off lead people bring 2 or more dogs uncontrolled. Also pretend not to notice their dogs capping when owners not near their dogs.
My concern is that irresponsible owners will conveniently "forget" the change of seasons and assume off-lead rules at all times.
Boat harbour to be off leash between those hours
Its been proven ppl will treat this as a dog beach and eventually it will cause arguments. Dog's on leads anywhere anytime is ok
Birubi off lead is excellent, boat harbour is great as it is - off lead the whole headland is great for their climbing. It's be more dangerous with them on lead in these areas if the dogs accidently pull it's owner over on the rocks.

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
It would be detrimental to the local community to allow MORE off lead areas when the rangers cannot police any dogs of lead at the moment. The amount of dogs off the lead at Birubi (not between specified times), Roy Wood & conroy Park is ridiculous.
I believe more on/off lead spaces to walk dogs in the area will limit dog complaints eg - dogs barking, escaping etc.
The proposed changes to the South Headland at Boat Harbour was not part of the group discussion/consultation at Boat Harbour at all. Leave the current arrangements for the headland as they are. Off leash.
Many people at the Birubi consultation expressed a desire for full time off lead between beach entrance to within 100m of patrolled surf area. I'd still strongly support this as well as the above
This would be wonderful and support me with my child and dog.
I realise we are getting a lot of tourists - Sydney, we should be looking after local people first. People move to our beaches to enjoy time with their dogs on the beach. 5pm right now its pitch black hows that going to work for dogs when people work!
Unleashed dogs are a safety concern. I own 2 dogs myself but am not comfortable with dogs have free reign in public areas.
Yes as people especially seniors try to stay fit and mobile we need more beaches and pet friendly areas
Not all dog owners are irresponsible. As we get older, walking with our fur babies is a great pastime. And when there are no tourist, we can let our babies run, we don't qll have a large yard and they need they need to run. Not letting them run is crue
Very disappointed that there are no designated fences dog areas being provided in our area and feel we have been let down by this. Not everyone wants to take their dogs on the beach.
Since dogs have been allowed on Birubi you can hardly ever see a seagull and there is dog poo left everywhere our lovely family beach has been ruined and with these new rules it will be worse
I support and applaud this initiative - really hope it becomes law
Allow access on the beach and keep the headland off lead.
Far to many dogs on beach. Disrespectful owners do not pick up faeces. Too much barking.
Please do not remove the current off lead access for the boat harbour headland as this will have a significant impact on locals and their dogs



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Boat harbour headland operates well as an off leash area as per our experience of 7 years. What is the evidence that council are using to make this suggestion?
Concerned about the impact of dogs on shorebirds and resting seabirds, particularly on Boat Harbour Beach and the northern (rocky) end of Birubi where birds rest and feed. Have witnessed dogs chasing Sooty oystercatchers feeding at BH and Birubi.
Our dogs need more off lead areas and less restrictions to this not more. It's beyond comprehension to even consider restricting areas that are allowed off lead now to make on lead in future. Dogs need exercise and to run. More areas off lead needed
Please before making any decisions go take a look around the parks close to Corlette store & off Bagnall Beach.
Take a look around the parks near Bagnall Beach, they are quiet simply covered in dog shit. It's on the beach, it's on the paths, it's all over the grass. Having lunch at a table is disgusting as people let their dogs on them also. Consider these please
Many dogs of lead in Corlette in streets dangerous with young children
Too many irresponsible owners
Too many people don't pick up dog poo and dogs scare children and some adults.
I trust bagnalls beach is not affected. I wish council would address the issue of 'shared paths' where speeding cyclists put dog walkers in jeopardy.
Ranger attendance such as frequency and after hours is very inadequate and has been always been. Dog owners allow their dogs to defecate and wee on people's towels and belongings, and dog fights. Will council properly fund rangers to fine transgressors?
Will the council allow any beaches to remain just for humans? Boat Harbour should remain a safe accessible beach for those who do not want dogs imposed upon them. My friend is frightened of dogs & I have been bitten twice by unrestrained dogs.
Why can't dog owners walk around the block to the dog areas????
Seriously dogs should be on lead all the time at birubi beach. I walk their daily and regularly witness altercation with owners and their dogs. Also nothing worse then trying to sit on the beach with your family & having dogs all over you & urinate on bag
Allow dogs off leash at all times, not just after 5pm. They are family too. By 5pm it's too late to have a good run around and a swim with them. And have clear signs stating DOGS ALLOWED. so many people think they're NOT allowed and then get angry.
Due to people not watching dogs and lack of training I would prefer on lead as off lead has caused me to have to intervene as dogs I have looked after been attacked



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Please ensure there are suitable dog friendly areas for our families
I think the changes to Birubi beach are unnecessary and unfair. I have never seen anyone take their dog off the lead at birubi until they get past people/crowds. It's such an important asset for people with dogs. It's a terrible decision.
Please do not change the off lead area at Boat Harbour. We love our family outings with our dog over the rocks especially during the whale season. It's great exercise for the dogs on the hardened grounds and rocks
In regards to Birubi beach, the current rules of dogs off the lead at all times shouldn't be changed. People have a small selection of places to take their dog off the lead. If people wish to go to the beach with no dogs their are ample of beach around!
All dogs on lead please too many irresponsible dog owners that can't control their dogs
Please enforce the current rules. There are harmless small dogs on the beach but also large dangerous dogs allowed to rush beach users with no control from the owners. There's no way that this should be normalised.
Dogs should be permitted in all areas of port Stephens, as kind as owners are watching there animals as they are apart of our family, it is not like you can leave your children at home while you go to the beach. Why can't they go to fisherman's to the bea
Keep Boat Harbour reserved
Leave the boat Harbour area as it is- Leash free. On the headland
Dogs should be banned from beaches, they are ruining out prestine beaches.. the owners do not clean up after them and the council do not impose the current rules. They are a danger to children on the beach.
Is there a beach I can visit where I am not going to put up with dogs ?
Please please please add Fingal Bay off-lead mornings and evenings to the Council plan.
Off lead should be all times if dogs are well trained I agree with not in flag areas and national parks not beaches
Any increases to off lead to beaches is good because Bagnalls is too busy. More beaches on lead like on the South Coast would be good
I am a dog owner and live near beach at boat harbour, but if I am to be honest I think summer school holidays only maybe no dogs after 5pm as this is a very busy time for the beach, other than that I love all the changes :)

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
People don't follow the rules anyways
Our dog passed away & loved walking on the beach so I did this for support for dog owners
More dog friendly beaches required please
There have been far too many incidents of Dog owners not following the current guidelines, not cleaning up after their animals so in my opinion they should not be permitted on beaches at all. We have had a dog beach at Corlette for years dogs can go there
No one listens to the rules anyway, people are always allowing their dogs off lead at any time of the day all year round. Not enough patrolling. I don't let my dogs off lead but I do like to walk them during on lead times. Hard when dogs run up to us.
The non peak off lead months at Birubi could be extended, even year round. Many visitors in peak times behave as if it is year round already as well as locals and it works well.
Our dog loves the run off lead up to the cairn at Boat Harbour Headland, as do all the dogs we meet. They have never caused any trouble to walkers. My mobility is not good and when I walk this track my poor dog sadly, would have to do so very slowly.
Most people do not stick to the time limits once dogs are allowed of leash.
Would love an off leash time on Fingal Beach, eg 6am-8am
Would also like to see off leash at Wanda Beach and George Reserve area between 5pm and 9am year round! There are lots of walkers there who can't get to other areas due to age and not driving etc.
All dogs on the beach i witness each day are well behaved / owners of dogs are responsible and no further changes are required to negatively impact on us ratepayers , opportunities to be outside with pets on the beach is what makes this area an enjoyable
I see no reason to change access to the Boat Harbour site and it should all remain off lead area.
Due to owners not watching or controlling dogs off lead, all dogs should be on leads in public spaces
Please, please ,please do not change off lead access to Boat Harbour southern headland.
If dogs are leash free who is going to police this and stop them from attacking beach goers and pooping all over the beach Not their owners that's for sure

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Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Thanks for reviewing the current arrangements
Allow dogs off lead on the beach. Keep the South Boat Harbour headland off lead
Am I able to swim my dogs at boat harbour if they are on their leads between 5pm and 9am
Great move by council to allow all residents to access recreational areas with their pets and families
Would like on lead dogs allowed on Boat Harbour Beach at all times.
I saw a dog being attacked by another dog in a park 2 months ago in the Sodiers Point area. It was a very vicious dog. A vicious dog could attack a young child or baby. Dogs should never be off leash in public areas. Council cannot guarantee safety.
Burundi Beach has always been the DOG beach. Please do not restrict the times for dog use.
Hopefully rangers will make surprise visits
Also allow dogs on lead only to walk across oar harbour beach at all times. No time restriction.
The limitation proposed to the south headland for off leash is totally inappropriate. Most families in BH have dogs and enjoy using this area. This is a typical Council know
Most families in BH have dogs and enjoy the use of the south headland as an off leash
I have been chased by dogs whilst jogging on Birubi beach which is an offence under the 1998 companion animals act. There needs to be time when people can enjoy the beach without unleashed dogs pestering them. That time will be gone. Not people friendly.
While we don't mind people owing dogs, we often come across dog poo with and without a plastic bag thrown into the sand on Birubi beach (particularly Birubi Point). Also there are too many dogs off leash already, esp. during summer and not all on leads.
The summer restrictions on Birubi Beach is too long. Restrictions should cover peak seasons only (school holidays) to allow day use. Boat Harbour beach should be accessible on leash all day, particularly non peak seasons where there is low beach use.
You will be taking the use of the beach for ball sports. Beach cricket etc with unleashed dogs everywhere. We have had balls chased and taken previously. The beach will no longer be for families and tourists.

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Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
The council has a duty of care for the safety of the public on its beaches. You can not guarantee the safety of the public with unleashed dogs running around everywhere.
Open up far end of one mile beach for dogs on or off lead
I feel like it would be better to have consistency with times across the year so that it is easier for people to stick to. If Birubi became offlead for off peak times we would not take our dog due to risk of untrained dogs run
Disagree with Birubi Beach changes as we would no longer take our dog there, she is friendly yet loves to run and won't return easily so we keep her on lead to ensure her safety. When we take her she loves to run the dunes with our family.
The changes for Birubi beach are excellent. Overall, PSC under provides off lead areas compared to other similar Council areas. Also, the lack of hygienic stainless steel water bowls within PSC is a major concern. All other Councils provide these.
Spit end of Fingal bay please
We have a large well behaved dog who is always on a lead. Already there are too many small dogs off leash who nip and stir him up and the owners blame us if he pounces back. Imagine a beach of unleashed dogs. Unfortunately we wouldn't walk there anymore!
If dogs are not allowed on the beach please enforce it
I have observed numerous times people with dogs not abiding the rules. I feel if you allow dogs on leads to access the beach. They will take advantage and there will be more dogs off leads.
Access should be between 6pm and 6am.
There isn't enough dog off leash areas in Port Stephens.
There is no point in having regulations if they are not enforced. The current restrictions are constantly ignored by dog owners so there is not a lot of confidence that any changes will be adhered to. The rangers need to be around in the late afternoon
It is a small area for off lead, it will be very crowded, as dozens of dogs exercise here daily,
Headland is the only place we can take
There needs to be better signage at the playground and skatepark stating that dogs are not allowed there. So many children can't use this area because there is always dogs there and the kids are scared.

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Consider some off leash time for dogs on Boat Harbour beach
Consider some off leash time for boat harbour beach especially during winter
Please change the restrictions on NO DOGS PAST 3km sign absolutely ridiculous we love taking our dogs down drive from one end to the other get grab an icecream at Williamtown and drive back can't go past the 3 km sign DOESNT MAKE SENSE ITS A BEACH FRONT!
Dog poo bags and bins out further on headland.
There should be more areas given the size and number of beaches in PSSC. Having a dog on a leash at beach is almost cruelty. Just implement fines for uncontrolled dogs
Being able to meet locals and walk dogs off lead on Birubi is a great thing to do. The majority of
My concern is that as at Salamander Bay, the number of people who let thief dogs off lead and have no recall or control and their dogs charge up to people and children. I always feel sad and angry that a minority of people cause problems for other dog owners
Allowing the dogs on the beach at Boat Harbour between the proposed hours is a great idea. What would be an even better idea is to let them on the beach without a lead during the permitted hours.
There are very few places to walk your dog off lead, and I am unsupportive of any changes to the current off-lead areas. The way this survey is written is biased. It does not allow people to say they oppose changes to the existing arrangements, as I am.
I don't understand why you don't make all areas other than national parks, dogs permitted on leads and have areas for off lead, no one uses the beaches in winter, make them all off lead either 24/7 or with restricted times..
Locals and tourists use the off lead southern headland every day, changing this is a terrible idea. Most councils are increasing their dog off lead exercise areas not reducing them.
Disgusted that current offload areas around the head land are to be changed and the only offload area a tiny green space. This community connects through common interests. Dogs break down barriers and enable strangers to have conversations.
The walk on the beach is not only good for my dog but my mental health. Thank you
In addition to these changes Dogs on leads should be able to at least be taken up to the clubhouse area at all times. The sign at the boom gate should be moved to the clubhouse and should indicate that dogs permitted to the beach viewing area only.
In response to question 6, I think dogs should be allowed on leash to walk along to reach the headlands at all times.



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
The health, social, mental benefits of allowing dogs off leads is so immense. I see the physical and social interaction it gives not only myself but the older generations who benefit. It creates a community.
Off lead areas are necessary
The lead free area of south headland needs to remain as is. There is simply not enough off lead areas in PS where the owner can also exercise themselves in a more active way. It's simply not possible to run with dogs on lead under these conditions.
Regretfully dogs ( unfamiliar) and small children don't mix,
PLEASE DO NOT change off lead in Boat Harbour: so few places around the bay! Dogs and humans need exercise and a small beach won't cut it. Dog parks are minuscule and crowded so not an option. We have so few places for interaction between dogs.
This is very very sad news. I hope it does not pass. I often walk there with my dog and meet people happy to be out and dogs have a play. Our dogs need true runs to be docile once home they are also our mental health and take us out daily! So few around!!
We are a family with a dog. There are so few areas where dogs can play and interact. Bagnall can get too busy in peak times. Dog parks are so small we can't safely have them there. Please don't take away Boat Harbour off lead: it is such a joy for us!
The problem with dogs in public areas is people who fail to pick up after their animal/s. This needs to be policed and, if necessary, penalties increased.
Why are people are complaining about dogs to be off leads. I can guarantee that on Birubi Beach there is more horse poo left there then dog poo, we pick the poo up. We should not have to stop walking dogs on the beach when were doing the right then.
Very supportive of sharing our areas with dogs but would like to see good instillation of dog waste bins. Also I would be nice to see better implementation of fines or restrictions imposed on dog owners who don't adhere to rules/clean up after their dogs
I and my small dog are regular users of the large off-leash south headland at Boat Harbour. It's a wonderful open space for both dogs and owners to exercise and socialise. I categorically oppose diminishing the area & restricting usage.
Birubi should be dogs off lead always. Many have come to know that beach as a beautiful pet friendly community. Fair enough on the lead between flags where people are swimming. Even tourists and local want this beach off lead like it was.
The South Headland is a beautiful place to walk our small dog off lead, we go there daily and walk around the headland. It gives us my husband and I great enjoyment, and our dog can safely walk with us off lead.
My wife, dog and I enjoy the walk around the whole of the south headland nearly every day. We would not go to the headland if it was restricted to Illuka reserve as walking exercise would be limited, also safety of small dogs in a limited space a worry
We feel there should be no change to the off leash area on the Southern Headland, there was no mention of limiting the off leash area in the consultation meeting we attended earlier this year.



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Dogs should be able to be off lead a certain distance south of the SLSC say 200 m.
no changes to boat harbour headland off lead area - park only not sufficient!!!!
I think dogs should be allowed to be off lead on Boat Harbour beach between 5pm and 9am.
As long as it is patrolled on the beach four that time
Time restrictions are very limited. At Bagnalls beach dogs, dog owners and non-dog owners live happily side by side. There is rarely any poo and rarely an altercation or problem dog. This would be the case everywhere so the restrictions aren't needed.
Don't allow dogs off lead during May to November as people will get used to being able to do this & once summer hits it will be hard for them to go back to on lead.
Children still use the beach at off peak times and off lead dogs pose a huge hazard and nuisance. We often experience off lead dogs rushing at our young children or they eat our food and the owners are NOT interested. Don't make this change, people first
Dogs off lead on ALL of Iluka Headland . We are safer with a dog off leash on rough ground
Please provide more bins for dog poo and hopefully owners will do the right thing.
Prefer dogs to be allowed OFF LEASH at Boat Harbour from 5pm-9am.
Dogs should be allowed off lead on boat harbour beach at all times
Love that we will be able to walk across boat Harbour beach with dog, but definitely don't want any off lead dogs allowed on the beach
Why can't dogs be off lead in boat harbour
Of these three places, I only frequent Birubi with my dog. It's like to see the hours extended but I appreciate that not all beach users like dogs being off-leash.
These are all good changes which we hope to see on other beaches soon, too. Please consider Fingal Bay Beach in this context.

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Between May and October 5pm is almost dark please add an extra hour each side, 4pm to 10am.
Dogs on lead on Boat harbour beach is just not going to work. They need to be allowed off lead so they can have some fun.
southhead extensively used by tourists/visitors. To take away the dog off lead area will be very distressing for older residents, one of who is caring for the dog of her deceased son and is very teary about possible changes
I regularly walk my dog off-leash on S Headland. I strongly support retaining current regulations. With the increase in dog ownership & its social benefits, it's counterproductive to reduce access to large leash-free areas. I suspect vocal minority lobbying
It is very beneficial to the Boat Harbour community that the entire South Head is an off lead area. It facilitates a large degree of community interaction and is a great tourist attraction
The proposed change to question 6 should be dogs allowed on lead at all times to walk across to the headland. 5pm is already dark. They should be allowed off leash before 9 after 5 summer & before 10 & after 4 in winter
If dogs are permitted at Birubi Beach on lead then they should be permitted on lead at boat harbour beach also. As there arent as many beaches in boatie as there are in anna bay
You should not severely reduce the off lead area on South Headland and keep the whole area as off-lead as is. So do not change the off lead area on South Headland
As a boat harbour resident, I feel dogs should be allowed off lead at Iluka Reserve and South Headland. There are no other designated off-leash areas in Boat harbour so this would be a huge loss to our neighbours and friends who own dogs.
Off lead times at Birubi Summer time could be a little longer eg 5pm to 10am. Boat Harbour beach should have same time limits as Birubi i.e. no time restriction in Winter months.
Do not change current off lead area on South Headland of Boat Harbour
Please don't reduce the off lead area on South Headland at Boat Harbour
Keep current off lead area on Boat Harbour south headland
Please don't reduce the off lead area on south headland Boat Harbour
Please don't reduce the offlead area at Boat Harbour

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
I would ask that you make no changes to the current off lead area on the south headland of Boat Harbour
Do not reduce the off lead area on Boat Harbour south headland. Thanks
Birubi off lead is summer could be extended till 10 am and 4pm.
Keep the entire Boat Harbour south headland as off lead. Do not reduce the current off lead area
Too many dog owners walk dogs off lead in the bay and can be dangerous, often dogs walked at 5-6pm off leads through streets of Corlette including greyhounds, can you please remind owners on Facebook their responsibilities
I often see dogs on boat harbour beach. It's not fair on the ones that follow the rules
Dogs off lead everywhere in bay needs to be policed and fine offenders before a child gets hurt please coach the community on the dangers
We're regular visitors to Birubi, to walk our dog on the beach. I'd love longer hours during summer, but understand it can't always be that way. Thank you for consulting the community.
Please keep the current off lead area on south headland at Boat Harbour the same. Do not reduce the size
Most Dog owners in Port Stephens are Friendly, Respectful and Appreciative of the areas we can explore.
Dogs should be allowed on Boat Harbour beach on lead at all times, and off lead between 5pm-9am. The entire Boat Harbour headland should be accessible for off lead dog walking at all times. It is the only area nearby that is not where dogs can be let off.
Birubi beach is becoming another Bagnells beach with dog poo left everywhere why can't it be left as a beach for families without having to watch where they walk and have dogs running at them
My experience is that the majority of dog owners are respectful of the beach and other people
Don't know why they are consider changes to the off lead area in boat harbour- this does not need to be changed
Allow dogs along bush tracks in all of boat harbour



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Please keep Boat Harbour south headland an off leash area
Really need an off lead space to take. Dogs on beach at Fingal Bay - even if it was north of surf club. Even Wanda Beach in Sydney has an off lead beach area right next to their patrolled beach. Fingal Beach needs a dog section.
Birubi- Ridiculous that during Summer months dogs aren't permit off lead beyond 9am. Would prefer time was till at least 10am and after 4pm not 5pm. People take dogs to beach so they can swim not walk on a lead.
Allow full access to all areas-why is our right to access these areas with our prohibited?
Please consider other beaches on Port Stephens such as Shoal Bay beach near the inner light for off lead dog access, as well as Fingal Spit. These are remote and less used at all times, so would be good for dog owners to exercise their dogs
Dog owners who walk their dogs regularly are generally careful and responsible.
The question regarding Anna Bay is misleading, No reference is made to the increase in the prohibited areas, which I object to.
Continuation of previous survey response re questions. The 2nd parts to question five can be misinterpreted - I do not support it because it should remain all off lead.
The off lead areas create a great space for people to walk and exercise with their dogs and socialise with other members of the community. It's important for the council to provide and encourage the safe & healthy disposal of dog waste in these areas
Not all dogs can be off lead which means those that can't be can't enjoy the beach when there are off lead dogs running up to those that don't socialise well. It's discriminatory against those dogs. Besides, no one follows the rules anyway.
Responsible dog owners leave less mess than the human breed
Unrestrained dogs running on the beach pose a hazard for people, especially young children and older adults. The dogs can collide with adults/children causing serious injuries. Keep dogs on leash during the daylight hours at all times.
South headland at Boat Harbour needs to be fully preserved as an off lead area. Confining off lead dogs to the Iluka reserve area is a bad idea as it's full of picnickers and have dogs running around only in that area is a bad move.
Iluka reserve is used by kids and families and is not suitable to restrict use to off lead dogs. Leave the whole of south headland at Boat Harbour as off lead. The dogs do no harm
Do not restrict off lead area on south headland Boat Harbour to the Iluka reserve area. It's a picnic spot and makes no sense to have as an off lead area. Let dogs have access off lead to the entire south headland

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Please dont restrict off lead on Boat Harbour south headland to Iluka reserve. its a picnic area and not suitable. Do not make any changes to the offlead area on south headland
Not all people are comfortable around dogs off leash
I think that dogs should be allowed off lead past 3 kilometres on Stockton Beach as well provided that they remain on the beach front and not over the dune areas.
Can we please have more doggie bag dispensers and bins available for dog poop :)
I am fed with trying to defend myself and other non dog lovers about my rights to be able to walk on our beaches without other dogs running up at me and jumping all over me. I am extremely uncomfortable around dogs due to an incident with a dog in previous
Why are dogs given preference over a human, it is just so wrong. I should not feel in fear each time I go to the beach.
My dog tells me to get up and walk to the beach everyday
Don't agree that dogs should be allowed on beaches lead or no.lead between 9am and 5pm only if they are Assistant Dogs allowed and the Rangers should do more patrols on beaches in busy times during the day.
More dog friendly beaches around Fingal/Shoal bay....Bagnalls is ok. But tides can make it hard. Fingal would be great for walking the dog after 5pm or before 9am.
People don't control their off lead dogs. This is stressful for many people including children.
The proposed reduction of existing leash-free areas on South Headland BH was NEVER raised or discussed at meetings - I thought this was all about IMPROVING the off leash areas, not reducing them? This suggestion is ridiculous and completely unnecessary-NO
Allow dogs off leash on the beach for the proposed time. Dogs love to run and swim in the water.
BH dogs have no place to swim currently go in rock pools on headland. Dangerous to have dog on lead on rocks too. Leave headland as is please off lead!
Do not change the off lead area on south headland boat Harbour. Dogs currently have off lead access to the whole south headland and this should be kept as is
Iluka reserve is a family picnic area and it's ridiculous to confine off lead dogs to that area. Keep the entire south headland at Boat Harbour as off lead



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
I suffer from PTSD and my dogs are my therapy for getting out and about at Anna Bay beach.
my wife and I have been walking dog off lead for ten years and in all this time have never seen the case of a dog off lead causing any trouble either with other dogs or hummans.ALL dog owners are very protective of their dog .
Boat harbour beach at 5pm in summer still has many beach goers. Very unsupportive of dogs on the beach at any time.
Could there be an off lead area on a beach at Soldiers Point or Salamander Bay? Currently there is only one off lead park at Soldiers Point and no beach access nearby (Bagnalls Beach is a 15 minute drive from Soldiers Point). Thank you
Leave Boat Harbour southern headland as it is.Locals use this every single day and tourists also come here to exerceise their dogs and enjoy our beautiful area.Most councils are increasing their pet friendly options not reducing them.dogs
For me, my dog is all the family I have. She is better behaved than most people. Research acknowledges the health benefits of dog ownership. I understand that some dog owners are not as responsible, but why punish all for the behaviour of a few.
Once you allow dogs on lead on Boat Harbour Beach, people will just ignore the on lead re1uirement. There are plenty of places to walk dogs, keep some safe and comfortable for kids and families please.
There needs to be more patrols. I won't walk my dog anymore on the beach due to others lack of responsibility or care for others. There have been a few altercations I have had with owners who simply don't care
Dog exercise area installed next to the skate park
We currently walk our dog daily at Bagnalls Beach. It is a positive experience and we would love to have further options and support other dog owners in other areas to be able to have this facility too.
I do not support the need for walking dogs on a lead along the tracks leading to the large southern headland near the cairn. There are many, many dogs using this area for unrestrained running and as far as I know there have been few if any problems.
Regardless of the outcome can we please have the regulations enforced on a regular basis. In particular on One Mile Beach.We walk regularly on this beach and it is on very rare occasions that we don't encounter at least one dog off lead.
Take a lesson from Europe - greater dog access leads to more responsible owners
In Boat harbour for it to remain off leash .
Would like unrestricted access across the beach at Boat Harbour with dog on lead



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Please review the proposal for Boat Harbour beach to recognise that the beach is not used very well in off peak days Dog owners are mostly responsible enough to ensure their pets do not become a nuisance for other people
Let off lead dogs allowed on the beach for a swim at boat harbour. Need more off lead areas.
These changes presume people are responsible dog owners. They aren't. Everyone says oh my dog doesn't bite. They do if threatened. No dogs should be off leash at public beaches. I don't want my child, myself or my dog injured. Not to mention the dog crap.
When dog owners allow their dogs to be uncontrolled, approach others and attack dogs already, how will the Council enforce new regulations when they can't enforce existing regulations? Rangers have also told people the gender & location of complainants..
There is nothing obvious in these communications nor in signage that dogs should be under control regardless of the use of leads even though this is a requirement.
I don't understand the Dogs not permitted within 100m of Patrol area. Does this mean we can't walk our dogs further along towards Stockton as we would have to pass through the patrolled area?
Dogs are not commensurate with National Parks or these areas. Bagnalls Beach is a nightmare to walk when uncontrolled dogs about, especially for kids
Every day I go for a walk along One Mile Beach and EVERY time I am exposed to an unsupervised and off lead dog. As a dog owner i find this to be completely rude, irresponsible and unacceptable. Dogs run up to children and elderly people. Enforce the law
Dogs don't belong on Boat Harbour Beach. The beach is an environmentally sensitive area too. Let families enjoy it.
Off leash areas are promoting happy, healthy dogs, humans and community.
Very supportive of off leash areas at all times.
We need more designated off lead areas to be a dog friendly tourist area. So many councils north and south attract visitors with pets, more than Port Stephens does. It is a missed and short sighted opportunity.
Let dogs swim at boat harbour beach away from swimmers
I would be great if our furry family members could enjoy the great outdoors by the beach anytime ...leash near people...on beach alone ...leash free...we owners happy to do that so our furry friends can enjoy this great spot....happy 2 and 4 legs
why should we have to put up with peoples dogs sniffing around us at the beach, and it doesn't matter what time of day it is, the dogs will crap, and the owners will not pick it up. My front lawn is a fantastic example of dog owners not being responsible

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Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
You are considering these changes without knowing the training a dog has or hasn't been given. Some owners just do not care and some owners do not pick up after their dogs. Birubi is a beautiful beach and should be able to be enjoyed by everyone.
As usual, the survey format does not allow participants to clearly express a view. Leave Boat Harbour off leash alone! Extend the off leash window at Birubi in season.
Why is Council reducing the off lead area on Boat Harbour South Headland?
These times 5pm-9am don't seem to consider people working full time that might want to enjoy the beach without being attacked by a dog. The dates/times will be confusing, especially for tourists. People don't seem to obey the current dog permit times
Dogs on lead all time unless they are away from family areas. It's a total nightmare trying enjoy family beach dinners walks etc with dogs jumping all over belonging and knocking kids and elderly over
My dog loves coming to Boat Harbour and running and sniffing freely in the off lead area, there's never been a problem, please do not change this
I walk the beach on avregular basis. Too many dogs are left to run wild, fight or attack other dogs and people (young and old). Plus so many do not collect nor correctly dispose of dog poo. Their are no rangers. Elderly seen caught up in long leads
Dog owners ignore the rules now so adjusting them will only encourage more bad behaviour & claim ignorance of rules.
a better timing for birubi would be 4pm to 9am for off lead during the summer
This survey is very limiting to express an opinion on the changes. I strongly disagree with the reasons provided to reduce the offlead areas at Boat Harbour. I have not witnessed any of those problems.
Too many dogs at northern end of Birubi beach during summer months while families and kids trying to enjoy themselves. Not enough patrolling & enforcing for off leash dog owners.
Give people more places off the lead and give a warning for a dog off the lead fine for not picking up faces they are the ones that make it bad for us that do the right thing
dogs should be permitted on lead everywhere all times! provide signs saying owners must collect all poop and have dogs restrained on lead.
My dog loves the freedom of her early morning beach walk and the walk is very good for me also 🐾
It's not the leashed unleashed dog that's the issue it's the control aggressive dogs. [REDACTED]



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Dog exercise area at Fingal to be improved and extended to allow for dogs to run and play and catch balls without injury from uneven ground and obstacles.
Outside of school holiday times greater access should be given to Shoal Bay beach with restricted hours.
The identified area is where young children spend time at the waters edge, why is Council giving priority to walkers then people swimming at the beach. The footpaths are accessible to all consider people with mental health challenges 'anxiety'.
Time for dogs should be 10 to 4 Oct to May
More rangers for irresponsible dog owners would make more sense than penalising the majority.
It is a disgrace to have any dog off the lead at the beach..To dog owners their dog is safe but that is not always the case...We have had a number of instances where dogs have ran up to us at Burubi beach barking at us..Our grandchildren were terrified..
I think we definitely need a large off lead area like Birubi beach for our larger active dogs. I support the restricted hours over summer. This should allow local dog owners the amenity they require and keep tourists happy.
Council you rock!! Great job :)
Would prefer the dogs to be off leash for the period 5pm to 9am. Owners to control the dogs as much as possible at that time.
Dogs alert walkers to snakes when they are allowed off leash in the rough terrain.
We come from Newcastle to go to birubi in summer. There are so many other beaches people can go to if they don't like dogs or just go further down birubi. We love having a beautiful beach we can swim at with our dog. Please don't change it!
It would be much clearer to have consistent regulations i.e. off-lead in existing areas from 9-5 Daylight Savings time and 10-4 non Daylight Savings time.
Not all people can drive to Birubi Beach for their dogs to play in the surf/sand. Please consider making Boat Harbour Beach the same access as Birubi currently is with off lead access between 9-4 daylight savings time and 10-4 in non-daylight savings time
As council is proposing to take away access to the headland please consider making the beach off-lead for the same hours as currently exist for Birubi Beach so the dogs have a greater area to run in
I love dogs but have young grandkids. So many times large dogs casing balls nearly fighting etc scare them and nearly knocking them over. Large dogs should be down the large beach end and small dogs north end.



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
I walk my dog daily and have so for the past three years around the south head land off lead with zero issues. The dog is trained, we clean up any mess and do not see why the south headland area needs to be on lead. The reasons given in the faq are poor.
Dogs need to socialise and the best place to do this is on a beach where they can play and learn to interact with people and dogs. Do not take away our only way of walking with our animals and enjoying what others can also enjoy.
Dogs are a huge danger for elderly
There is no policing of dogs off-leash. Unleashed dogs are a major risk for adults & children in public areas as they cannot be controlled.
A small minority has too much to say! Most dog owners are responsible. There are some knuckleheads that just don't get it. If you carry a poo bag, you're responsible.
Places for dogs to exercise are currently very restricted and would hate to see them restricted further.
During winter they should be allowed off lead on the beach at BH.... Want OFF LEAD at all times past the 4WD track but only allowed on the shore line and not on the dune area....PLEASE...
Majority of dog owners are responsible and caring people. It would be wonderful to share our beautiful surroundings with our furry friends and family.
Sick and tired of dogs running off lead and spoiling everyone else's day at beach. male dogs cocking leg against chairs, picnics and towels on the sand, toddlers playing with dog poop not removed by dog owners
Dogs do not cause any damage to the beach and most owners are very responsible in picking up doggy poos for their dogs, so let the dogs have a good run on the beaches
<div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
I read that proposed changes to boat harbour are because the tracks are thin and there is no room for dogs. So not true! There is plenty of land around the tracks for dogs to avoid each other. Bagnall beach is terrible when busy. Nowhere to avoid dogs.
People need to feel safe walking around, your proposal isn't safe,
Boat Harbour - dogs to be allowed on lead to access the headlands 24 hours 7 days week
Allow 24 hour access to dogs on lead to walk along beach to access headlands. Signage in ALL areas on walking trails...NO RIDING BIKES

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Exercising dogs on the beach is not only good for the dogs but also for their owners, both physically and mentally
Leave to off lead area in boat harbour as is. Don't think you can is the old endangered fauna and flore card when your council has allowed that much destruction and development of habitats for endangered species.
i would like to see that dogs are permitted on all our beaches on leads!!! Responsible owners with dogs on leads are of no harm to others whether on pathways or the beach. Humans create more litter and are more destructive
Leave Boat harbour off leash areas as are, it's worked well for many many years. Make the beach off leash in winter, dog walkers are the only people out in winter. Look at fisherman's bay and Kingsley beach and make them dog friendly
We need more off lead areas, Port Stephens council need to look at other councils near and far, just got back from Tasmania dogs allowed everywhere on and off leash. After all the habitat destruction your council has done don't think u can blame any dogs.
I would like dogs to be permitted on lead at all port stephens beaches
Not everyone loves dogs
astounding on the cleanliness of the beaches has declined when there had been dog poo all over the beach, dogs run up and jump on people, my granddaughter has been knocked over by a large dog that the owner could voice control
Dogs are currently off lead frequently on Boat Harbour Beach during the day. Will the new rules be enforced any better than the old ones?
Where in Anna Bay are recreational area's where there are no dogs for people who are not dog lovers ???
Dog friendly tourism is a massive market. If it's not broken don't fix it.
Dogs do not harm the rocks and scrub when they are off lead
Don't take away the freedom of allowing our best mates to run freely on the beach
I would like the area at birubi extended and more bins with dog bags
So long as people do the right thing there shouldn't be a issue but people don't that why there are rules makes it so hard for the people that do the right thing

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
The evidence does not seem to justify the proposed restrictions to on lead for Boat Harbour.
In the 7 years I have lived in Boat Harbour I have exercised my Dodd's every single day on the southern headland and have NEVER seen any conflict between dogs off lead. Proposed changes to restrict the southern headland to on lead only is not supported.
It's always in the favour of a few . It's not what you know but who you know !
We need to be able to walk our dogs freely as tax payers. There is mental health issues but being prohibited from areas just because you own a dog
Limited areas in boat harbour for off lead walking. Why make it smaller. I have lived and walked the headland for 25 years. No issues with any dogs off lead. I like to take them swimming in the waterholes there. Why stop something that has worked for year
I have been walking my dogs down birubi for a long time and along with most locals have never had a problem with off leash dogs i think 4pm to 10am is a little bit more suitable my dogs don't care about other people or dogs they just want to swim too.
leave the headland as off lead as it stands, not enough off lead as it is
Would be great if dogs were allowed off lead at boat harbour beach out of season
Dogs should be allowed on the beach at all times with their owners. Why should they be restricted These questions are framed to not allow dissent to the proposal as an unsupportive response can be construed as against dogs
My family and I often go to these places for recreation and I think they should be completely dog free. Dogs should only be off lead in enclosed dog parks or Bagnalls Beach. Dogs are off lead in areas they shouldn't be, uncontrolled and causing a nuisance
I believe there will too many disadvantages to changing the headland to on lead only, far out weighing any reasons to make this area lead only!!
It would be great if the same was done at Wanda beach and other beaches at Solifiers beach
Open up boat harbour beach to off lead before 9am and after 5pm
I am a Delta dog trainer with three dogs and enjoy our off leash area at Lemon Tree. I think we could do with a fenced area but not on the front of Cook Parade. Dog owners using this area have their dogs under control and pick up droppings.
dont change headland remain leash free

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Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Irresponsible dog owners in the bay region what about people they take over the beach and not safe for my children
Please keep dogs off Boat Harbour beach
Maybe look into allowing these
It would be good to see on lead dog areas at boat harbour. I would like to have my dog with us but not socialising with other dogs while we swim. He just sits. More on lead allowed areas would be nice
Anna Bay. Nil dogs off lead at anytime around the cafe, beach only as it is too dangerous for children with dogs racing around chasing balls etc. should be 8am not 9am for
More dog poo bags made available please
I don't think dogs should be on our beaches at all
Need more off lead areas
I am strongly opposed to any changes to require dogs to be on lead at Boat Hbr Sth Headland, It is a unique area outside of NP boundary where you can explore, & swim with your dog without fear of infringement, fenced off leash areas are not good enough.
I can't believe that this wonderful off leash area will be taken away from us through this process, shame on you PTSC should this proposal proceed giving us a small token off leash area in the future
Very unhappy with this proposal, I love nothing more than swimming with my dog in the rock pools in summertime, and exploring the area without fear of being booked by the council ranger
Dogs are great companions particularly for the lonely or those with mental health issue.D
Dogs are great companions particularly for the lonely or those with health issues. Dogs need regular exercise everyday to stay healthy and balanced. Dogs like humans appreciate nature and freedom and we need to provide access to both.
excellent well thought out proposal.
Dog owners are not responsible enough to allow them to have off-leash throughout the year. They all say they do the right thing, but they don't. They don't often control their dogs and I've personally been abused when asked them to put them on a lead.


Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
I'm very supportive of improved dog access so long as responsible dog ownership is practiced
We have so many tourists coming here with dogs now, Port Stephens needs to become more dog friendly not less.
Please continue to allow access to the whole of the South headland at boat harbour. This area is usually once used by dog owners and is great when Birubi is too windy
I don't own a dog but enjoy seeing them running around having fun offlead at boat harbour and birubi. There is lots of national parks in the area, people who don't like encountering dogs can walk miles in there. Leave boat harbour alone for the dog owners
Please don't change the current dog off lead area on boat harbour headland. Soo much of the areas coastlines are covered in national parks and areas where dogs are not allowed. This is the only spot in the area u can take your dog to enjoy the headlands
There is no need to change the boat harbour off lead current area. I don't own a dog but love chatting to owners and seeing dogs and owners enjoying the outdoors. There are many other areas people can go where dogs are not allowed.Please keep this open.
Please don't reduce areas for dogs to exercise
Dogs should be allowed everywhere at anytime
Dogs shouldn't be off lead at all around people
Unfortunately, there are many dog owners that do not do the right thing - I see dogs off-lead all the time in zones where they are not meant to be and my kids have been chased. As rules are not policed, there should be no extra freedoms for dog owners.
While I appreciate the rationale for limiting the dog access at Boat Harbour it unfairly penalises the locals who own dogs. Consideration should be given to time restricted access like Birubi beach. On the narrow trails consider allowing small dogs only.
Many families have dogs and provided they are on lead around the beach area it's not a problem. In summer off lead after 5:00 and before 9:00am is very important for both dogs and owners.
We really support the proposed changes and new restrictions. They are very reasonable and fair.
Leave Boat Harbour off lead, headland and beach.
Why not have dog designated fenced off area off our beautiful beaches similar to soldiers point dog park , it's a shame our beaches are now overrun with barking dogs , dog poo and poo bags left behind on beach and car park access to beach . Such a shame !

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Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Would like south headland to remain off leash
Please don't change offload access to boat harbour southern headland
I really don't see why the whole park on north side should prohibit dogs on leads from accompanying the family on a picnic
Love to see earlier access to Birubi beach ifrom October to April , maybe 3.30 - 4
The proposed changes for the Boat Harbour headland will concentrate dogs (off lead) in a small area, rather than spreading the dogs out. This may cause an increase risk in incidents between dogs. Provide evidence of what threatened species are on headland
[REDACTED]
I support offlead for illuka reserve and south headland. I walk this area offlead with my dog every day and there is no reason to change this area to on lead only. There is no conflict between dog walkers and other community members fishing or whale watch
Dos should be allowed offlead in illuka reserve and south headland boat harbour. There is no evidence of conflict. Residents are respectful of other people using the area. Council should not change this area for on lead only it's against community values.
People can't control dogs off lead and take offence to other beach users not liking random dogs jumping on them or the stuff
Fishermans Bay Park usually unusable due to poor drainage
During summer months rangers should be more vigilant as many owners allow dogs to run freely in swimming areas. This is unfair for people trying to relax.
Suggest the off lead times at Birubi beach between October and April could start at 4pm
Why bow to the minority
Rangers should patrol Birubi Beach on a more regular bases and issue fines for noncompliance with the rules
why not have the same arrange at boat harbour beach as for birubi beach during the winter, that is allowed to cross the beach at all times on a lead



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Provide poo bags and bins.
We support dogs off lead and under control outside popular times on the beach and any other time on the headland. We'd like to add that a bigger problem is barking dogs in the neighbourhood.
Northern end of Burubi be allowed off lead all year round! No one swims there!
We are showing population and need more off lead areas available. I think all the boat Harbour headlands should be off lead and boat Harbour beach on lead all hours
There's so many elderly here, who's only means of exercise is to walk their dog...let them run free 🐕
Birubi dog leash beach should be dog friendly 24/7. Lots of people especially pensioners are home in the day and want to take their dog for a run. The hours are too short.
No dogs on Boat Harbour beach at all.
While I understand dog owners wanting more access , once again it is the irresponsible owners that are negating the owners that do the right thing I think that council needs to provide areas dedicated to off leash dogs but these areas must be fenced
its un safe to take small children to the beach with so many dogs running around.i had dog p on my gear off lead
Many senior citizens walk their dogs everyday and should be encouraged to do so as it is the main source of exercise for both owners and dogs. A lot of rubbish is collected and removed by people walking their pets and benefits all beach users.
Iluka reserve is a family picnic area so a bad choice to restrict off lead dog access. Leave the whole of south headland at Boat Harbour as off lead
I own a dog but am aware that there are people who are scared or wary of dogs. Allowing off lead through winter will stop these people from feeling free to walk Birubi in winter. I also don't believe people will revert back to on lead once summer arrives
Dogs are excellent for peoples mantal (and physical) health regardless of whether they are dog owners or not. Please continue to allow dogs and their responsible owners more freedom and don't restrict the times and areas they are allowed off lead.
No more off lead beaches, I see dogs on all our beaches after 5pm at various locations, Soldiers Point, Nelson Bay Boat Harbour ETC.
It would be nice to have a fenced dog park like Medowie and Fingal.

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
When dog are off leads I have dog come running up and jumping as well there been a lot more dog poo left around
Theses changes at Boat Harbour seem to be dashed on 'heightened risk' of negative dog incidents.
We use Umina in Central Coast, yet to see an issue. Open 12 months a year local vets sponsor poo bags. In light of current position of dogs a must do.
I have been coming to the Boat Harbour south headland with my dogs for more than 25 years - I have never seen any trouble and it is one of the few places around here that your dogs can walk peacefully - please dont take this away from responsible owners
Unfortunately my experience is dog owners think because it's an off the lead area, that allows their dog to jump all over you as I am in their area. I have been told, "Sorry but this is an area for dogs." Too many irresponsible dog owners unfortunately.
Loose and vague terms re time frames and 'no lingering' on Boat Harbour beach that create conflict between users in a public bathing area. Unacceptable change to permit dogs on Boat Harbour beach. Retain no dogs on beach at any time rule.
I want to go to the beach with my family and young grandchildren and enjoy it. I hate swimming with dogs. Water safety is a priority with young children, who wants to be on edge the whole time watching fir dogs racing at frightened kids. Humans over dogs
Dogs should not be allowed in areas of relaxation for children and families. Owners rarely clean up when dogs bathroom, parks and beaches with people then sit and lay in this is not pleasant. Off leashed zones also cause danger issue with aggressive dogs
The small clear area in boat harbour is too small for the amount of dogs that use it. More space is needed to avoid aggression between dogs and risk of larger dogs playing rough with smaller breeds.
Changing the boat harbour off lead area to an on lead area will just cause conflict as everyone will continue to take their dogs there with their leads off. It's what's has been the norm for years and will not change.
Please don't restrict dog access to southern headland boat harbour.

Allow on leash access to Boat Harbour beach at all times
Reconsider off leash restrictions at Bagnalls Beach - husband suffered deep bite to leg whilst kite surfing in shallows - reported to ranger
I am now unable to walk Boat Harbour beach due to the large number of unleashed dogs who have almost knocked me over. I would like to see all dogs completely banned from this beach at all times. Owners do not care nor take any responsibility.



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
I often see dogs off leash at any time . Not all dog owners are responsible. I have often seen them guiltily looking around to see if anyone is looking. I have had to reprimand several dog owners about their responsibilities/ eg removal of poo.
Not all dog owners take care to pick up waste after their dog. I don't dogs should be allowed on beaches where families are swimming. Only takes one owner to loose control of their dog to become problem. Some dog owners don't think rules apply to them..
Do not allow dogs on boat harbour beach at anytime .. once opened up people will not abide rule of on
Allow dogs off leash at all times at the eastern end before crest at birubi beach in the little Bay Area
Dogs and parks and people don't mix also we walk from fishermen bay to birubi surf club along foot path disc
Discussing dog poo all along foot paths fisherman's bay to birubi clubhouse
Dogs should be allowed off lead any time during peak periods as well on Birubi beach, if people are bothered by dogs they can stay away from them by staying in the exclusion zone at the swimming area. Cars are the real safety issue on Birubi beach.
No need to limit dogs off lead on the south Headland. All dogs in that area are friendly and well behaved. Please stop placing tourist interest ahead of resident's interests.
I like the boat harbour area all as an off lead area. 99% of dog owners that use these areas are responsible and put their dogs back on lead if there is a problem. I don't understand why council wants to change it to on lead.
Should be able to drive on at Lavis Lane and drive down to Birubi as long as you dont let your dogs off. This would greatly reduce the traffic congestion heading in and out of the Bay especially at peak times. Plus living at Medowie makes sense
I think it is most important to allow dogs with responsible owners to access the local beaches on and off lead.
Think of the wildlife and children. They don't mix with dogs and most dog owners do not do the right thing about picking up the poo and depositing in a bin.
We love taking our kids and dogs to the beach
Happy for dogs on leads to able to cross Boat Harbour beach at all times whilst on lead. Walk across only, no on beach time. Happy with the Birubi changes as well. Better and clear and concise signage at both venues is required.
Dogs should be allowed off leash on Boat Harbour beach between 5pm and 8am always. Dogs should be allowed off lead on Iluka Reserve and Southern Headland at all times.



Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
My family comes up with their dog looking for off lead, adventures. The area is robust and area provides an active area for exercise
One of the main reasons I come up to Nelson Bay and Boat Harbour is the amazing designated areas for me and my dog. Taking away the ability to be off leash on the headland would be a reason to no longer come. It's me and my family's favourite spot
Changing headland to on lead only is not justified. Reasons behind this change has not been discussed with community or rate paying residents. Many people use the headland and have for many years with their dogs off lead. Leave it offlead as we all want.
<div style="background-color: black; height: 1.2em; width: 100%;"></div>
Dogs should be allowed in most of those spots anytime of the day not just after 5pm
Dogs make this lovely space very inappealing
Even with current restriction of no dogs on Boat Harbour Beach, we regularly see dogs off leash. The owners are some distance away and do not clean up waste left behind. Time restrictions are unenforceable as are on leash rules.
Unless there is regular enforcement some people will continue to ignore the rules. Both beaches are popular with vacationers who feel that they are entitled to do as they please. Only a few observe current restrictions and are courteous to other users.
At Birubi; will there be a corridor to walk the dog past the patrolled beach area?
I was at Birubi and a large dog off the lead came up to me and tried to hump me when I was sitting on my towel watching my son play. It then stole some food I had on a plate. The owner was nearby and wasn't too bothered by this. I am so afraid of this now
Having access to the beach with your dog is something that is really valued and important to Port Stephens's residents
If a dog is on a lead they should be able to walk along the beach. About time the changes at Birubi took place. The beach is huge.
I think dogs should be allowed off leash on Birubi Beach at all times, as long as they are not around the swim area. The beach is large enough to cater for everyone.
People have 26 beaches to choose from in the Port Stephens area. We should have at least two beaches designated off lead at all time year around. If people don't want to encounter dogs they can go to another of the 26 beaches.
On Birubi Beach on many occasions dogs off leash and owners choose not to see them racing up to rocky area in front of The Crest doing a poo and run back to owner. NOT once has anybody coming up to pick it up. Very unsatisfactory.

Question 9 – Verbatim Comments Continued
Very important to have off leash areas and times.
It is no point making any changes when they are and will be continually ignored by dog owners. Are there going to be rangers to control this 7 days a week? Today sunday 1pm there were 3 separate groups with dogs on boat harbour beach!
More monitoring needed to ensure dogs are restrained and that owners pick up after their dogs.
Allow NO dogs on Boat Harbour Beach EVER, owners already flaunt rules, I've been attacked there. Giving times to cross the beach is laughable, this too will be ignored. Owners can drive to Iluka park area via streets, if aged or disabled they can drive.
Between October and April there should be no dogs at all , as the proposal gives a disproportionate amount of time to dogs. Many irresponsible dog owners .Ineffectual and minimal enforcement of existing regulations. Small children have been distressed.
This survey does not allow open responses and is scewed towards the changes without any option of retaining current off leash areas at Boat Harbour. Most problems that I have observed and had issues with have happened in the flat open area of Boat Harbour
The current off leash area at Boat Harbour provides a variety of experiences for dogs and their owners with many congregating at the end of the headland on a regular basis to scamper over rocks and enjoy a brief swim. This is a freedom enjoyed by many.
The questions in this survey are rigged towards getting certain responses against dogs and their owners. I say start again with a professionally designed and unbiased survey please to benefit the entire community!
Please don't limit off leash dog access further at either Birubi or Boat Harbour. No need for all day off leash at Birubi. Much less chance of issues at Boat Harbour. Please keep it off leash
Let dogs enjoy the beach off lead
Question. Do the people who make these decisions live in boat harbour. Are they familiar with the current use and number if dogs that walk the headland. Do they own a dog. It is not a busy walking area for dogs and should not be changed for sake of few
Why change a perfectly working exercise area on the headland. Dogs need to have a bit of freedom. Not a suburban "dog park". Never seen an irresponsible dog owner on the headland over the last 30 years. But I have seen irresponsible people and rubbish.
Thus survey should ask people "how often do you walk on the headland". If you don't walk it, don't comment. People who don't have a dog are naturally going to agree to leads. Plenty of other places to go. Very few places for a dog to roam, smell and enjoy
The Boat Harbour south headland change is unwanted and unnecessary. This headland amenity currently provides a good community asset. The proposed change was not workshopped at recent events. We use this reserve twice per day and find it a negative.