



Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan

CONSULTATION REPORT

Central Coast Council

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Background

The Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA) has the largest number of registered dogs in NSW (based on NSW Office of Local Government companion animal data) with a growing population of both people and their pets.

To accommodate this population of people and pets, Central Coast Council (Council) currently manages and maintains 62 off leash dog areas including dedicated beaches, open space reserves and enclosed off leash dog parks.

The draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan (draft Plan) was developed to improve and expand the opportunity for dog exercise on the central coast in light of an increasing population while reducing the potential and/or actual negative impacts of dog exercise areas/activities on the environment and public amenity.

The draft Plan can be found on the consultation page can be found [here](#).

To support the development of the draft Plan Council:

- Reviewed all historical consultation and other data regarding dog ownership
- Prepared the draft Plan utilising the above data as well as relevant technical advice on the future development and management of dogs in open spaces and how Council should prioritise the delivery of potential new infrastructure
- Placed the draft Plan on public exhibition and invited the community to have their say and provide submissions

Council exhibited the draft Plan from 1 July and 26 August 2022.

This Consultation Report provides an overview of the engagement activities undertaken for the exhibition of the draft Plan, documents the methods and approach of these engagement activities and provides an analysis of and response to community and stakeholder feedback received.

1.2 What we heard

Council received a total of **3159** written submissions via the online guided submission form.

High-level results revealed the following:

- **37.3%** of participants agreed with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs; **45%** did not agree and **17.7%** were unsure.
- **15.5%** of participants agreed with the decommissioning/relocation of specific Off-Leash Areas (OLAs); **69.3%** did not agree and **15.2%** were unsure.
- **15.8%** of participants agreed with the boundary changes of specific OLAs; **52.2%** did not agree and **32%** were unsure.
- **51.9%** of participants agreed with the additional OLAs listed; **29.5%** did not agree and **18.6%** were unsure.
- **37.7%** of participants agreed with the actions identified under dog exclusion areas; **44.8%** did not agree and **17.5%** were unsure.
- **26.3%** of participants agreed with actions identified under compliance with dog control regulations; **64.4%** did not agree and **12.3%** were unsure.
- **57.5%** agreed with actions identified under access to foreshore off-leash areas; **21.4%** did not agree and **21.1%** were unsure.
- **61%** of participants agree with actions identified under dog registrations; **22%** did not agree and **17%** were unsure.
- **45.5%** of participants agreed with the actions identified under fencing off-leash areas; **21.1%** did not agree and **33.4%** were unsure.
- **48.1%** of participants agreed with the actions identified under effective control of dogs; **39.8%** did not agree and **12.1%** were unsure.
- **46.3%** of participants agreed with the actions listed under management of off-leash areas; **23.2%** did not agree and **30.5%** were unsure.
- **63.2%** of participants agreed with the actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication; **22.1%** did not agree and **14.6%** were unsure

1.3 Key consultation findings

The key findings from the community and stakeholder feedback received are as follows:

- Dogs are an important part of many households on the central coast and Council recognises the emotional, physical and social benefits that are derived from dog ownership.
- The community generally agree with the principles of the draft Plan, however, there is a level of disagreement with actions proposed that may affect them directly (i.e. where OLAs are proposed or are proposed to be decommissioned in their neighbourhood, and timed/seasonal beach access).
- The environment (including relevant biodiversity values) needs to be protected in planning for OLAs.

A full list of themes raised throughout consultation can be found in Section 4. Council's response to these themes can also be found in Section 2.

1.4 Next steps

Council is now preparing to work with selected participants via workshops to further refine the draft Plan by codesigning solutions to some of the key issues identified prior to a revised draft Plan being re-exhibited. Council is also undertaking further technical and/or environmental assessments to ensure an informed and considered position is provided in relation to key issues of contention, such as the proposed conversion of the Terrigal and Davistown OLA's to on leash areas.

The revised draft Plan is expected to be presented to Council in either August or September 2023 with a further 28-day consultation period before the final Plan is put to Council for adoption in late 2023.

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2 Feedback Overview

2.1 Introduction

Council is committed to considering and addressing community and stakeholder feedback as far as possible and practicable noting that it is not always possible to accommodate all feedback or suggestions raised, particularly where there are competing and diverging interests. In these circumstances, Council’s role is to find the appropriate balance for the community while considering a range of factors, including legislative factors to which Council must comply.

Due to the large volume and variety of content contained within the community and stakeholder feedback and to provide a succinct summary to those matters raised, Council has grouped the key items of feedback or suggestions via the table at Section 2.2 below and provided feedback in relation to each of the key themes listed.

2.2 Feedback

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council’s response
Governance	That it is not appropriate for the draft Plan to be progressed while Council is under Administration arrangements	<p>Council’s Administrator Mr Rik Hart was appointed by the State Government to exercise all functions of Council per Section 258 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p> <p>Therefore, it is both lawful and appropriate that the Administrator make decisions informed by community views and Council staff recommendations.</p>
Planning	Need improved planning for OLAs	<p>A core consideration of the draft Plan is the establishment of a framework to improve decision-making around the establishment of OLAs as well as education and enforcement activities, amongst other actions. The draft Plan seeks to balance the diversity of demands that are placed on our open space network. The diversity of demands is summarised below for context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting the environment and public amenity • enhancing the recreational and sporting needs of the community (which includes the needs of both dog owners and non-dog owners)

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council's response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • managing risk (including public safety risks) • balancing competing or differing views (e.g., dog owners and non-dog owners sharing public places) <p>Prior to the development and implementation of any OLA, further consultation will be undertaken with surrounding residents.</p>
Responsible pet ownership	That the majority of owners on the central coast are responsible pet owners	<p>Council appreciates and acknowledges those pet owners who are responsible and use designated OLAs correctly.</p> <p>Given there are now over 150,000 microchipped dogs residing within the Central Coast LGA (based on NSW Office of Local Government data (March 2023), it is important that there are clear guidelines in place to manage and balance the use of our open spaces, including for those persons who do not wish to be around dogs, while considering environmental and public amenity issues and the sustainable use of land.</p>
Policing, enforcement and compliance	Need additional rangers and additional education and policing initiatives	<p>Council understands and acknowledges that there is significant community frustration with non-compliance in relation to those dog owners who do not behave in a responsible manner and/or in contravention of relevant laws/rules.</p> <p>While Council does actively respond to these concerns as far as possible (e.g., ongoing community education initiatives and enforcement action), the draft Plan recommends that the resourcing of Ranger Services be reviewed in consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing capacity to undertake proactive compliance monitoring and enforcement • Increased capacity to expand community engagement and education • Scheduled patrols of beaches during summer and holiday periods and dog prohibited areas • Monitoring of leashing requirements in on leash areas

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council's response
Timed beach access	Management and suitability of timed off-leash beach access	<p>Dogs are currently prohibited from all beaches unless those beaches are specifically designated as an off-leash area. Timed and/or seasonal off leash access to beaches was a consideration of the draft Plan.</p> <p>Council has considered the community and stakeholder feedback received on this issue and decided not to proceed with this option at this time. This will be specifically addressed in any revised draft Plan.</p>
Sports fields/ovals access	Consider changing the restrictions on sports fields and ovals	<p>Off leash dogs on sports fields and ovals present a risk to children and other members of the community who use the fields for recreation (e.g., the digging of holes by dogs can result in injury for the users of sports fields and ovals, particularly during sporting events). Sports fields and ovals are also maintained for sporting and other recreational uses which is also impacted by the general wear associated with dog movements and dog poo.</p> <p>Council staff are however reviewing this action in the revised draft Plan to look at where sports fields and ovals can be more accommodating to on leash dogs. This will be specifically addressed in any revised draft Plan.</p>
Terrigal Haven	Objection to conversion of locality from an off-leash area to an on-leash area.	<p>Council recognises that this location is extremely popular with dog owners.</p> <p>The draft Plan proposed that this locality be converted from an off-leash area to an on-leash area due to the safety risks for both dog owners and their dogs given the proximity of the locality to the cliff edge as well as the proximity and intensity of use of adjoining roads and parking areas. This locality has also been the subject of ongoing complaints over time regarding the conflict between dogs and other users of the locality, dogs not being under effective control when off leash including around the cliff tops, dogs being off leash in adjoining areas including car parks and complaints of accidents within the carpark as a result of uncontrolled dogs. The natural amenity and surface of the locality has also been impacted by dog activity because of its gradient and maintenance has proven to be consistently costly.</p>

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council's response
		<p>Council has considered the community and stakeholder feedback received on this issue and undertook a further risk assessment of the locality in response. This risk assessment again confirmed Council's position that the locality be converted to an on-leash area. It is not recommended that the locality be fenced or partially fenced to address these risk management issues because the amenity and aesthetics elements would be significantly compromised.</p> <p>Council has considered all aspects and submissions and formed the position that the conversion of this locality from an off-leash area to an on-leash areas is the best available compromise position to balance all the issues associated with this locality. Dogs will still be permitted at this locality, but the proposal is that they will be required to be on-leash at all times. This will be specifically addressed in any revised draft Plan.</p> <p>The draft Plan notes that the 3km radius provision of the nearby Wamberal Beach OLA encompasses the current Terrigal OLA however, an additional OLA site within the Terrigal Haven catchment is proposed at Duffy's Road.</p> <p>Further details regarding Council's position in respect of Duffy's Road is outlined below.</p>
Duffy's Reserve	Concerns regarding this proposed OLA	<p>Council acknowledges that the Terrigal area is limited in the available open space for additional OLAs and as such, Council is continuing its investigations into any available alternate options to the proposed Duffy's Road OLA.</p> <p>That said, the Wamberal Beach OLA, a large district sized OLA, caters for off-leash provisions within a 3km radius. This area encompasses provision for most of Terrigal, including Terrigal Haven, which is only 1.3km away. The North Avoca OLA is also just under 2km to the South.</p> <p>The Duffy's Road locality was proposed as a local level OLA only. Local level OLAs cater to homes within a 1km radius (walking distance) of the site. Although on-site parking is a bonus for these facilities, only on street parking is generally required. With an intended 15-30</p>

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council's response
		<p>minute stay for OLA users, it is proposed that Council provide seating, water and bins.</p> <p>10 Yarang Close and 6 Ashley Avenue were investigated as an option but determined to be too small in size. 162 Riviera Avenue was investigated but was in close proximity to a play space. Further consultation will be held with the ASPECT school prior to any development of this site. This will be specifically addressed in any revised draft Plan.</p>
Davistown, Illoura Reserve (Pippi Point)		<p>Council recognises that this location is extremely popular with dog owners.</p> <p>The draft Plan proposed that this locality be converted from an off-leash area to an on-leash area primarily due to the environmental sensitives of this locality in conjunction with competing uses and impacts to ground surfaces and public amenity. In 2012, Council engaged an independent ecological assessment to determine the potential impacts of off-leash activities at this locality due to concerns of potential impacts on biodiversity values. The resulting report recommended "that the subject site NOT be used for 'dog off-leash' activities".</p> <p>Council has considered the community and stakeholder feedback received on this issue and engaged a further independent ecological assessment in 2023. This assessment identified that the locality contains actual habitat for several threatened and/or migratory entities listed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Commonwealth)</i> and the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)</i> including the critically endangered Eastern Curlew, the endangered Bush Stone-Curlew, the endangered Pied Oystercatcher and several more vulnerable species, noting that the NSW Recovery Plan for the Bush Stone-Curlew states that "Leash-free dog parks should not be situated within 500m of Bush Stone-Curlew habitat". The resulting report recommended "that a new location for a leash free dog exercise area be located away from Pippi Point".</p>

Theme	Summary of theme / Example of comment	Council's response
		<p>An Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) assessment was also undertaken in May 2023 which identified two aboriginal sites recorded at this locality.</p> <p>A resulting risk assessment that considered the above further determined that this locality is inappropriate for off-leash use.</p> <p>In addition, Council acknowledges that there is poor compliance with leashing requirement along pathways and foreshore areas leading to this locality as well as poor control of dogs within the reserve where there are multiple users.</p> <p>Council has considered all aspects and submissions and formed the position that the conversion of this locality from an off-leash area to an on-leash areas is the best available compromise position to balance all the issues associated with this locality. Dogs will still be permitted at this locality, but the proposal is that they will be required to be on-leash at all times. This will be specifically addressed in any revised draft Plan.</p> <p>Council is still investigating alternative OLAs in the Davistown area which will also be addressed in any revised draft Plan.</p>
Caraval Street Reserve, Hamlyn Terrace		<p>Council does not have any record of this reserve being earmarked for a play space. Council staff will review the appropriateness of this reserve as an OLA given its close proximity to the proposed District Hilltop site.</p>

3 Engagement Approach

3.1 Purpose of engagement

The purpose of Council’s engagement was to:

- Inform the community about the development of the draft Plan and the need for its development
- Seek feedback on the guiding principles and proposed changes
- Understand community preferences for the management of OLAs
- Work with stakeholders and the community to identify issues which may affect the proposal and work to find a solution where possible

3.2 Our engagement framework

Consultation has been designed in accordance with Council’s Engagement Framework. This framework is available to view [here](#).

3.3 How we consulted








Consultation methods

Written submissions	<p>All residents and stakeholders could make a written submission via email, the online guided submission form on yourvoiceourcoast.com, or via post. 3159 submissions via the online guided submission form were received and 184 submissions were received via email.</p> <p>A copy of the submission form can be found in Appendix G</p>
Interactive map demonstrating proposed infrastructure changes	<p>An interactive map depicting the proposed infrastructure changes was developed.</p> <p>The interactive map received 1542 visits during the exhibition period.</p>

Promotion of activities

We carried out promotion of the public exhibition to ensure the community and stakeholders were aware of the opportunity to participate.

Your Voice – Our Coast website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online project page launched 1 July 2022 attracting 12387 visits during the consultation period. www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/dogs
Media Releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback invited from the community on draft Plan 4 July 2022 • Council receives strong community response to its draft Plan 30 August 2022 <p>Copies of the media releases can be found in Appendix A</p>
Coast Connect articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your say on the draft Plan 6 July 2022 • Share feedback on off-leash areas 14 July 2022 • Have your say on the draft Plan 21 July 2022 • Have your say on the draft Plan 27 July 2022 • Have your say on the draft Plan 4 August 2022 • Tell us your thoughts on dogs in open spaces 11 August 2022 <p>Copies of the articles can be found in Appendix B</p>
Facebook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 🐶 Join the 500 community members who have already had their say on the draft Plan. Facebook, 21353 reached and 49 engagements. 19 July 2022 • 🗣️ Provide your input and influence community decisions Facebook, 6524 reached and 15 engagements 25 July 2022 • 🐕 Don't forget to have your say on our draft Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not. Facebook, 10450 reached and 29 engagements 12 August 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  REMINDER: There's only three days left to have your say on the draft Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not, with consultation closing this Friday 26 August. Facebook, 1168 reached and 36 engagements 24 August 2022  That's a wrap! We received over 3,200 submissions to the draft Plan. Facebook, 5427 reached and 21 engagements 31 August 2022 <p>Copies of the Facebook posts can be found in Appendix C.</p>
Instagram	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Join the 500 community members who have already had their say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. Instagram, 4856 reached and 79 engagements. 19 July 2022 Provide your input and influence community decisions  Instagram, 1446 reached and 17 engagements. 25 July 2022  Don't forget to have your say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not. Instagram, 2220 reached and 55 engagements. 12 August 2022  REMINDER: There's only three days left to have your say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not, with consultation closing this Friday 26 August. Instagram, 3094 reached and 47 engagements. 24 August 2022  That's a wrap! We received over 3,200 submissions to our Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. Instagram, 901 reached, 18 engagements. 31 August 2022 <p>Copies of the Instagram posts can be found in Appendix D.</p>
Twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are currently seeking feedback on: the draft Plan (and other matters) 25 July 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🐶 That's a wrap! We received over 3,200 submissions to our Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. 31 August 2022 Copies of the tweets can be found in Appendix E.
Linked In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide your input and influence community decisions. 25 July 2022 <p>A copy of the linked in post can be found in Appendix F.</p>
Posters	<p>40 posters were distributed across the Central Coast.</p> <p>A copy of the poster can be found in Appendix G.</p>
Project screensavers	<p>Project screensavers displays across 17 Council libraries, customer service centres and recreation facilities.</p>
Emails	<p>7,342 direct emails sent out to a variety of stakeholders.</p>

4 Detailed Analysis

4.1 Introduction

Council, as indicated above, sought community and stakeholder feedback between 1 July and 26 August 2022 using a range of mechanism. Key matters and statistics have been provided in Sections 2 and 3 of this Consultation Report.

Provided below is more information relating to Council’s analysis of the feedback provided.

4.2 Theme coding rationale

Council, when large amounts of feedback are provided, uses theming to break down and further analyse data. A copy of the theme coding rationale for each of the comments and their associated questions (as per the guided submission form) is available below.

Q1: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs?

Theme	Summary of theme
Environment	Local environment (including biodiversity) needs to be protected
Beach (access)	Beach access for dogs should be retained
Beach (restrictions)	Beach access for dogs should be restricted
Human wellbeing	Off Leash Areas provide important social connections for owners. Off Leash Areas allow owners to feel a part of the community
Dog wellbeing	Off Leash Areas provide valuable opportunities for dogs to socialise
Economic benefits	Off Leash Parks are a significant contributor to local economies
Lifestyle	Off Leash Areas contribute to the lifestyle of Central Coast residents
Policing	The policing of irresponsible ownership should be increased.
Planning	Comments about the need to strategically plan for the management of open space areas and dogs

Theme	Summary of theme
Safety	<p>Off leash dogs make the area un-pleasant</p> <p>Off leash dogs make the area un-safe for children</p> <p>Will ensure that dogs have a safe place to</p>
Responsible ownership	<p>Some dog owners disregard rules</p> <p>Some dog owners are irresponsible</p> <p>OLA attract irresponsible owners</p> <p>Dog poo is an issue with owners not taking responsibility or accountability for dog's mess</p> <p>Don't ruin it for those who do the right thing just to punish the few that do the wrong thing</p>
Effective control	<p>Dogs are completely out of control</p> <p>Effective control or a leash are the lowest of expectations</p> <p>Experienced out of control dogs</p> <p>Support the requirement for effective control</p>
Inappropriate alternate location	Does not agree with the proposed alternative location (flag in location if relevant)
Leave as is (location and rules)	Would like current OLA to remain (flag in location if relevant)
Support for proposal	<p>Support for location changes</p> <p>Support for overall document</p>
Location	Terrigal Haven
	Davistown (Pippi Point)
	Duffys Reserve
	Wamberal Beach
	Umina Beach
	Beach (generic)
	Other location

Q2: Do you agree the proposed decommissioning/relocation of these OLA?

Theme	Summary of theme
Environment	Local environment (including biodiversity) needs to be protected
Responsible owners	<p>Comments about responsible owners using these sites to exercise their pets</p> <p>Comments about irresponsible owners using the sites</p>
Socialisation (dogs)	Comments on the importance of OLA for socialisation between dogs.
Dog poo (issues)	Comments about how much dog poo is at the OLA's
Public safety	<p>Comments about safety for children at OLA</p> <p>Comments about public safety for OLA</p>
Dog Safety (issues)	Comments about the safety of dogs at these locations
Use of OLAs	Comments about the use of OLAs
Inappropriate alternate location	Does not agree with the proposed alternative location (flag in location if relevant)
Leave as is (location)	Would like current OLA to remain (flag in location if relevant)
Leave as is (process)	Would like the current arrangements to stay in place
Support for proposal	<p>Support for location changes</p> <p>Support for overall document</p>
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Location	<p>Terrigal Haven</p> <p>Davistown (Pippi Point)</p> <p>Duffys Reserve</p> <p>Wamberal Beach</p> <p>Umina Beach</p> <p>Killcare</p> <p>Beach (generic)</p> <p>Other location</p>

Theme	Summary of theme
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q3: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners
Increase in size	Comments supporting an increase in size
Decrease in size	Comments about not supportive of decreasing the size of OLAs
Suggestion for further change	Comments suggesting other areas to be added
Public safety	Comments about public safety in/around OLAs
Use of OLAs	Comments about the use and supply of OLAs
Leave as is (location)	Would like current OLA to remain (flag in location if relevant)
Leave as is (process)	Would like the current arrangements to stay in place
Support for proposal	Support for location changes Support for overall document
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Location	Terrigal Haven
	Davistown (Pippi Point)
	Duffys Reserve
	Wamberal Beach
	Umina Beach
	Killcare
	Beach (generic)
	Other location
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q4: Do you agree with the proposed additional OLA site locations?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners
Support for proposal	Support for location changes Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of proposed location (tag location if available)
Public safety (tag location if mentioned)	Comments about public safety
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Location listed	Davistown
	Duffys Reserve
	Beach (generic)
	Other location
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q5: Do you agree with the actions identified under dog exclusion areas? (Why?)

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners Comments about dog poo issues
Exclusion areas	Comments about to many areas excluding dogs Comments about not enough areas excluding dogs Comments about public safety
Enforcement/policing	Comments supporting the need for exclusion areas to assist in regulating the areas

	Comments about signage
Effective control	Comments about the effective control of dogs
Support for proposal	Support exclusion areas Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of exclusion areas (tag location if available)
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Location listed	Beach
	Sports fields/ovals
	Bush
	Waterfront reserve (COSS)
	Playgrounds
	Other location
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q6: Do you agree with the actions identified under compliance with dog control regulations?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners Comments about dog poo issues
Enforcement/policing	Comments around policing these rules Support for increased enforcement patrols
Governance	Comments about this being over-governed
Support for proposal	Support for compliance with dog control regulations Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of dog control regulations
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided

Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above
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Q7: Do you agree with the actions identified under access to foreshore off-leash areas?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners Comments about dog poo issues
Environment	Local environment (including biodiversity) needs to be protected
Recreation	Comments about
Education/signage	Comments about signage
Support for proposal	Support for compliance with dog control regulations Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of proposals for foreshore areas
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q8: Do you agree with the action identified under dog registrations?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners Comments about dog behaviour
Enforcement/policing	Comments around policing these rules Support for increased enforcement patrols
Governance	Comments about this being over-governed Comments supporting governance the plan offers
Support for proposal	Support for compliance with dog registrations

	Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of dog registration requirements
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q9: Do you agree with the actions identified under fencing off-leash areas?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners Comments about dog behaviour
Enforcement/policing	Comments around policing these rules Support for increased enforcement patrols
Fencing (required)	Comments supporting improving sensory experience is good but still require fencing
Support for proposal	Support for fencing off-leash areas Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of not fencing OLAs
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q10: Do you agree with the actions identified under effective control of dogs?

Theme	Summary of theme
Responsible ownership	Comments about responsible ownership Comments about irresponsible owners Comments about dog behaviour
Enforcement/policing	Comments around policing these rules Support for increased enforcement patrols

Support for proposal	Support for effective control regulations Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of requirements for effective control
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q11: Do you agree with the actions listed under management of off-leash areas?

Theme	Summary of theme
Enforcement/policing	Comments around policing these rules Comments about not punishing the majority for a minority. Comments about Ranger resourcing and powers
Support for proposal	Support for actions listed under management of OLAs Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of actions listed under management of OLAs
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q12: Do you agree with the actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication?

Theme	Summary of theme
Cost benefit	Comments about access to services being free Questions around if this is a useful allocation of money
Enforcement/policing	Comments around policing these rules Comments about Ranger resourcing Comments around visitors and tourist enforcement Comments around policing the minority that do not follow the rules

Support for proposal	Support for actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication Support for overall document
Not supportive of proposal	Not supportive of actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication
Previous answer	Refers to previous answer provided
Other	Other comments not suited to codes listed above

Q13: Submission comments:

Theme	Summary of theme
Environment	Local environment (including biodiversity) needs to be protected
Beach (access)	Beach access for dogs should be retained
Beach (restrictions)	Beach access for dogs should be restricted
Wellbeing	Off Leash Areas provide important social connections for owners. Off Leash Areas allow owners to feel a part of the community Off Leash Areas provide valuable opportunities for dogs to socialise
Economic benefits	Off Leash Parks are a significant contributor to local economies
Lifestyle	Off Leash Areas contribute to the lifestyle of Central Coast residents
Policing	The policing of irresponsible ownership should be increased. Comments about over-policing
Planning	Comments about the need to strategically plan for the management of open space areas and dogs
Safety	Off leash dogs make the area un-pleasant Off leash dogs make the area un-safe for children Will ensure that dogs have a safe place to exercise
Responsible ownership	Some dog owners disregard rules

Theme	Summary of theme
	<p>Some dog owners are irresponsible</p> <p>OLA attract irresponsible owners</p> <p>Dog poo is an issue with owners not taking responsibility or accountability for dogs mess</p> <p>Don't ruin it for those who do the right thing just to punish the few that do the wrong thing</p>
Effective control	<p>Dogs are completely out of control</p> <p>Effective control or a leash are the lowest of expectations</p> <p>Experienced out of control dogs</p> <p>Support the requirement for effective control</p>
Inappropriate alternate location	Does not agree with the proposed alternative location (flag in location if relevant)
Leave as is (location and rules)	Would like current OLAs to remain (flag in location if relevant)
Support for proposal	Support for overall document
Location	<p>Terrigal Haven</p> <p>Davistown (Pippi Point)</p> <p>Duffys Reserve</p> <p>Wamberal Beach</p> <p>Umina Beach</p> <p>Beach (generic)</p> <p>Other location</p>
Other	Other comments that do not suit the above codes

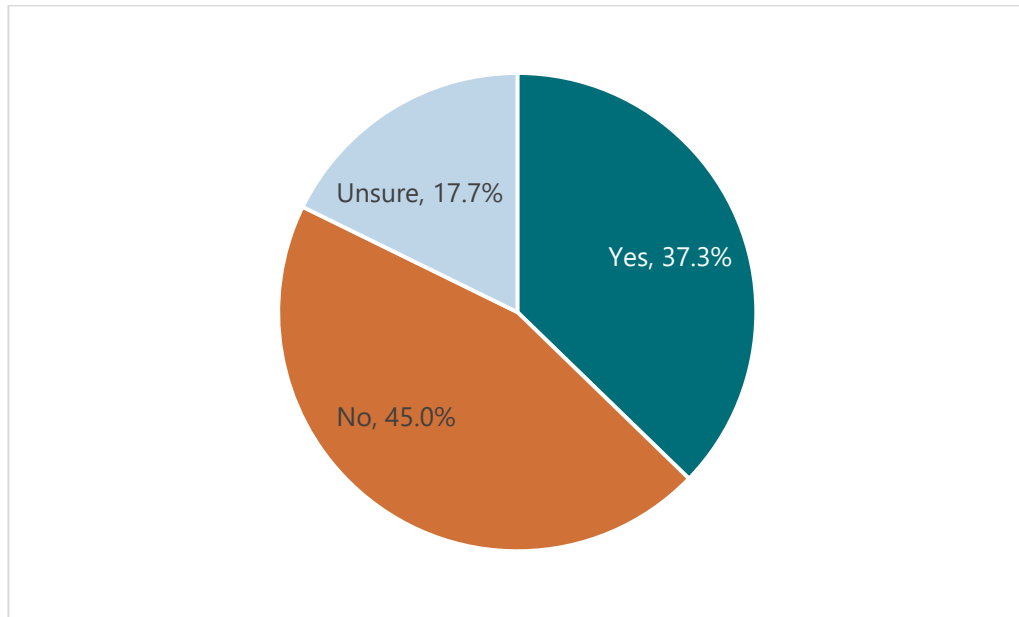
4.3 Method 1 – Online guided submission form

Between 1 July and 27 August 2022, an online guided submission form was launched to seek feedback on the draft Plan.

A total of **3159** submissions via the online guided form were received during the consultation period.

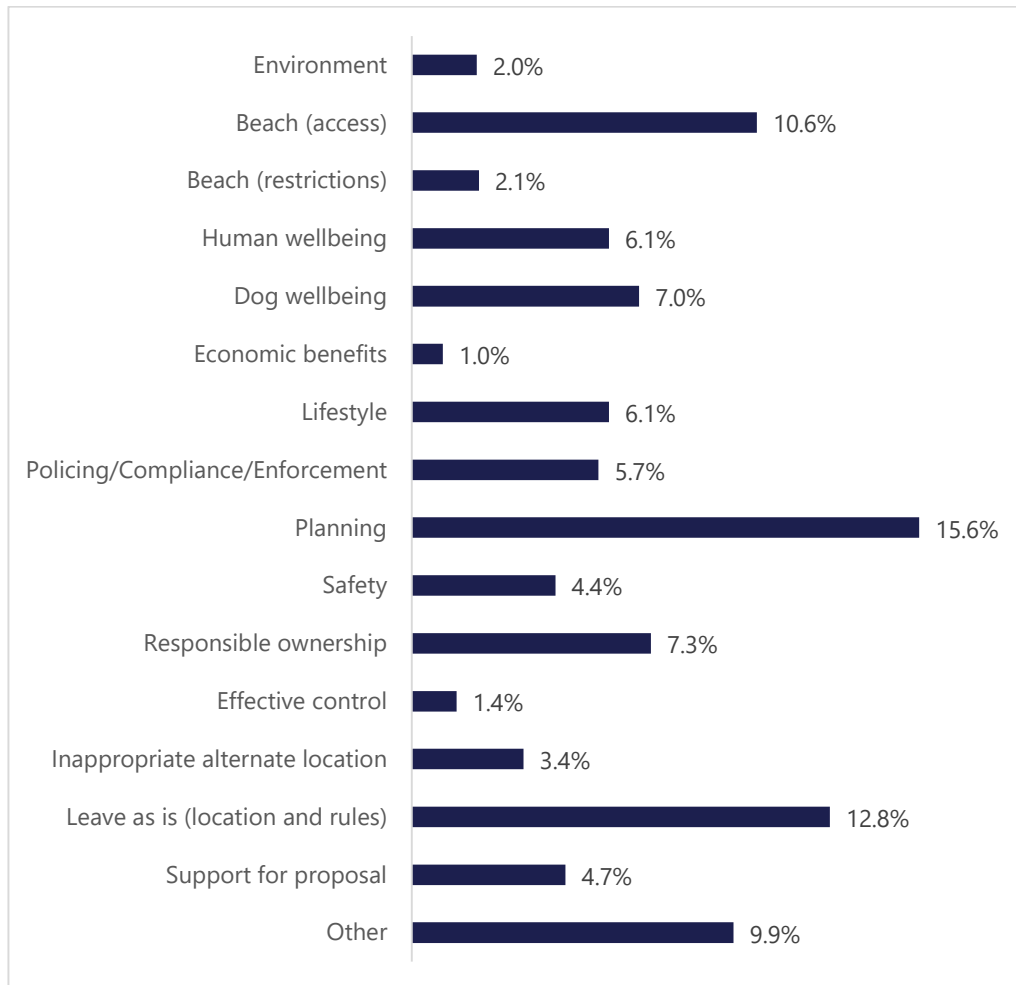
The theme coding rationale detailed in section 4.1 has been applied to further analyse the submissions received via the guided submission form.

Figure one: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs?



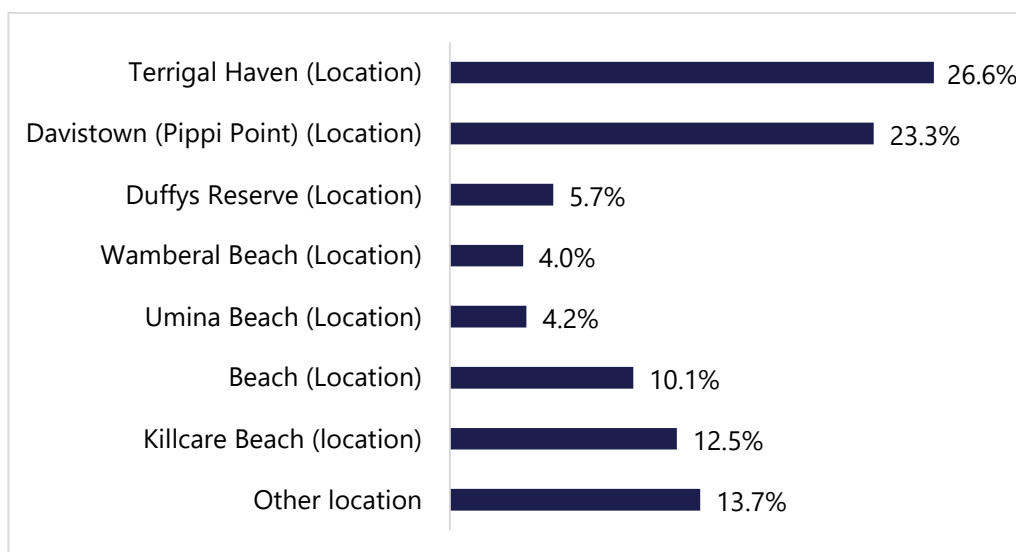
Total responses: 2628

Figure two: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? Why? *Coded responses*



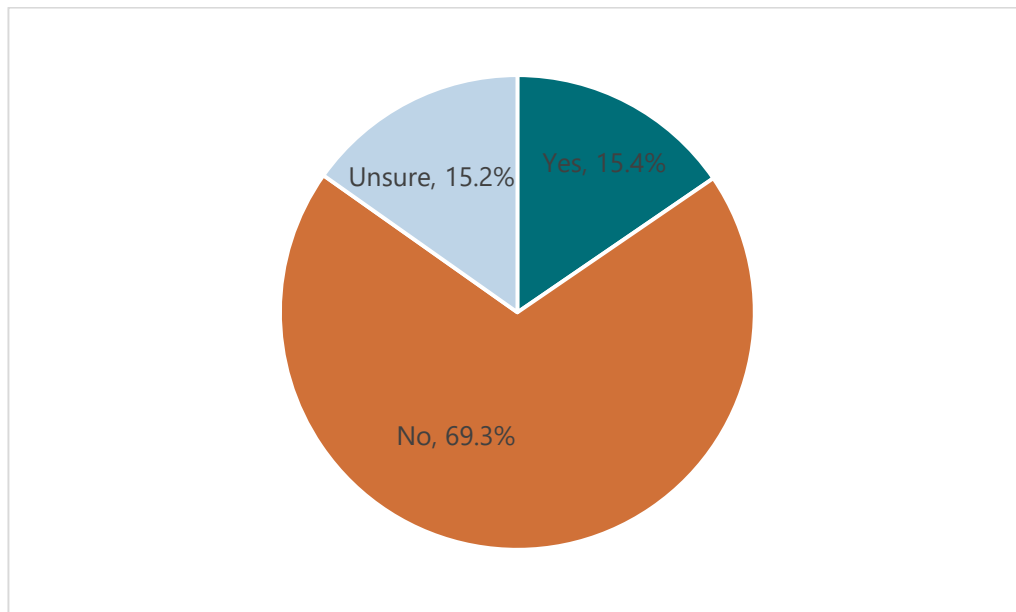
Total codes applied: 3381

Figure three: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? Why? *Location specific coded responses*



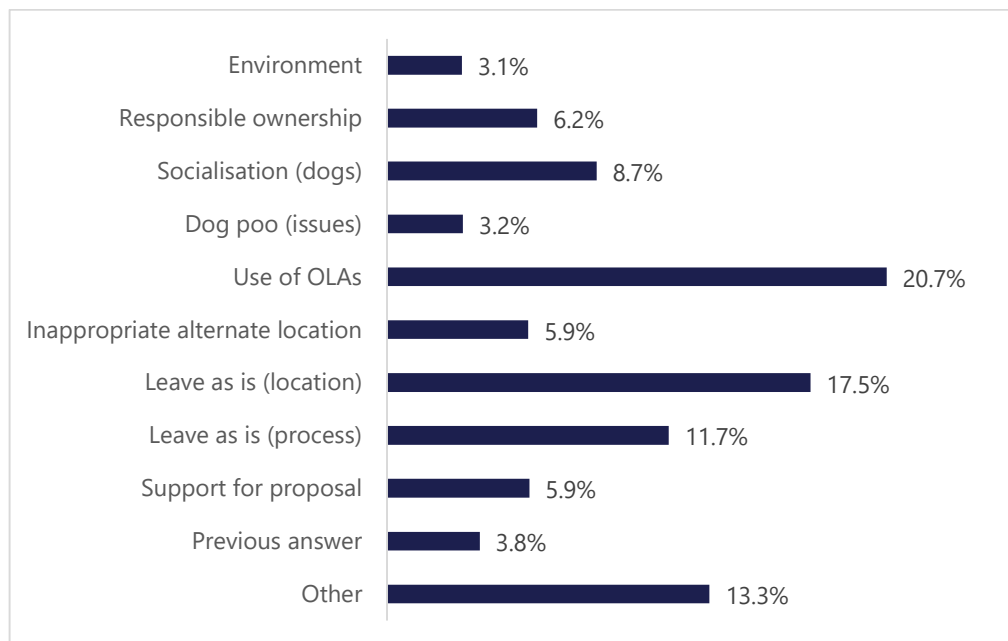
Total location codes applied: 546

Figure four: Do you agree the proposed decommissioning/relocation of these OLA?



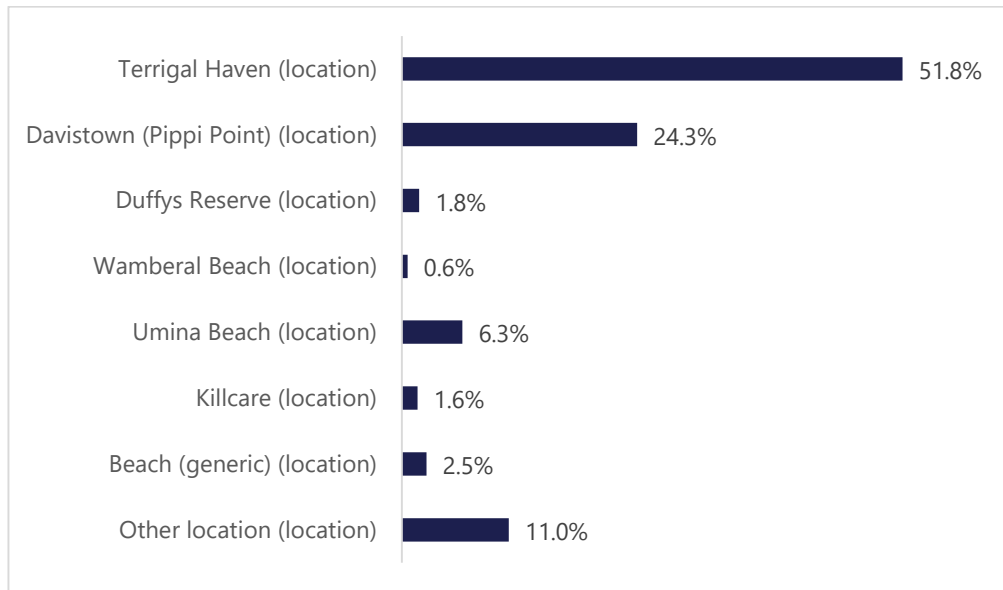
Total responses: 2505

Figure five: Do you agree the proposed decommissioning/relocation of these OLA? Why?
Coded responses



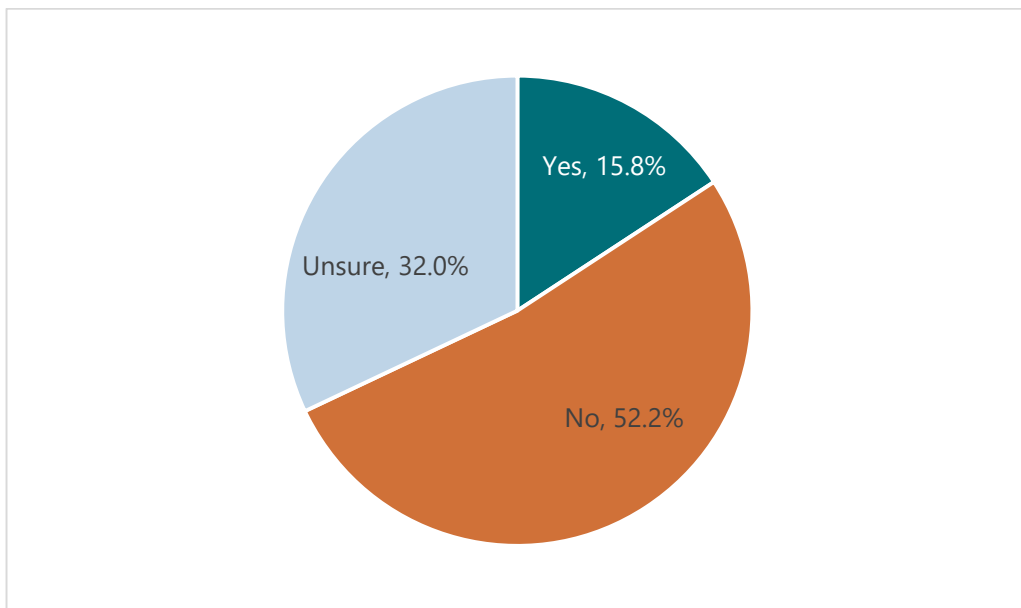
Total codes applied: 2442

Figure six: Do you agree the proposed decommissioning/relocation of these OLA? Why?
Location specific coded responses



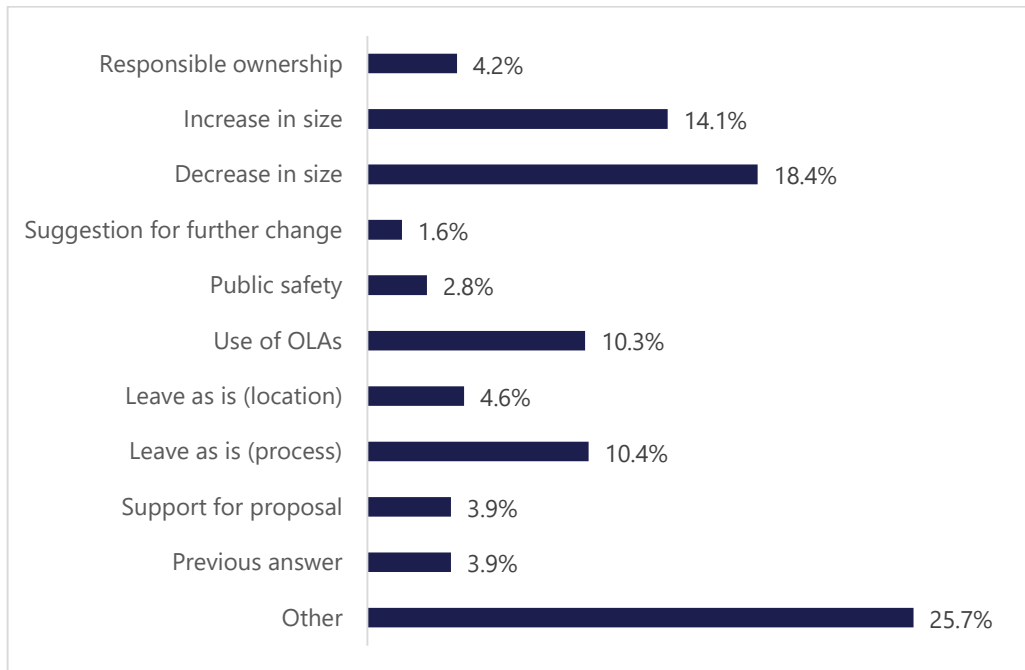
Total location codes applied: 670

Figure seven: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries?



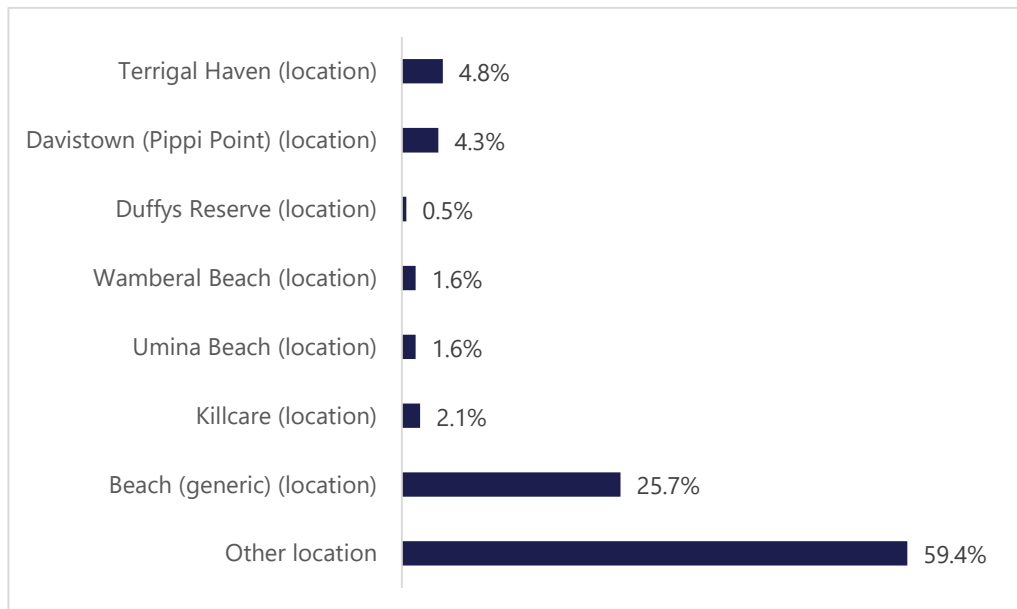
Total responses: 2429

Figure eight: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries? Why? *Coded responses*



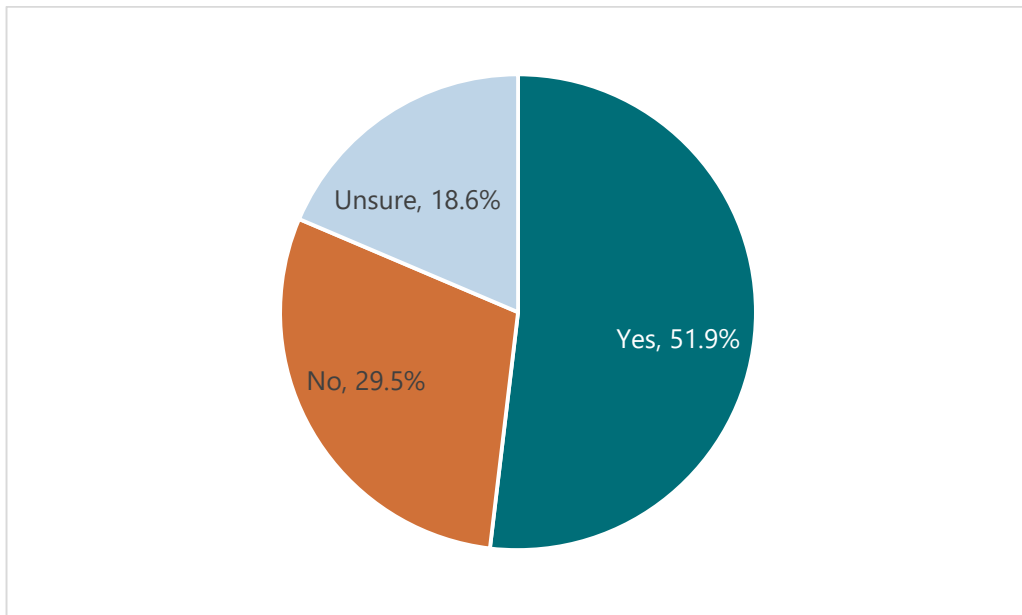
Total codes applied: 1775

Figure nine: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries? Why? *Location specific coded responses*



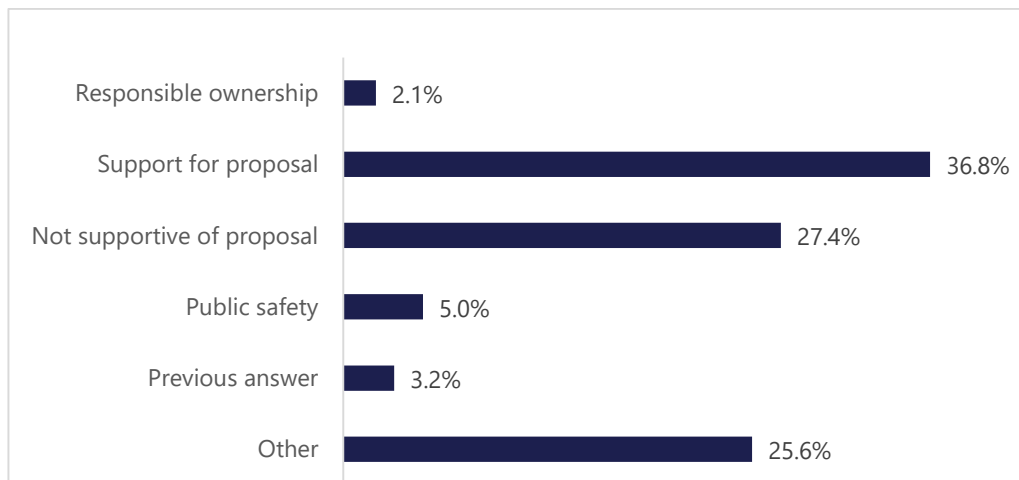
Total location codes applied: 187

Figure ten: Do you agree with the proposed additional OLA site locations?



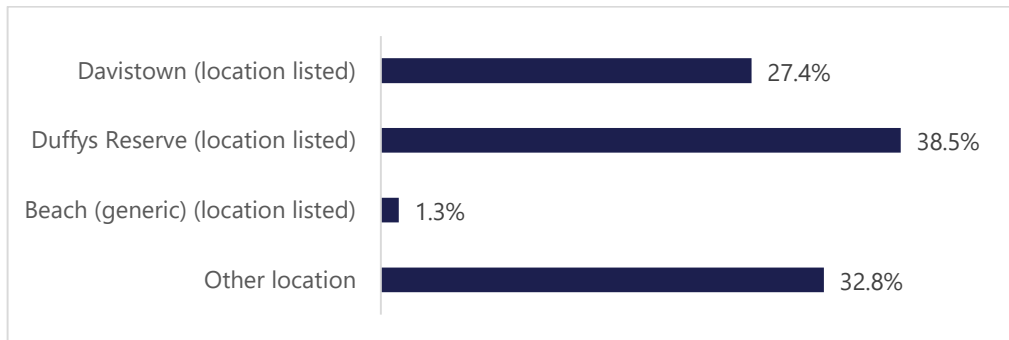
Total responses: 2378

Figure eleven: Do you agree with the proposed additional OLA site locations? *Why?* Coded responses



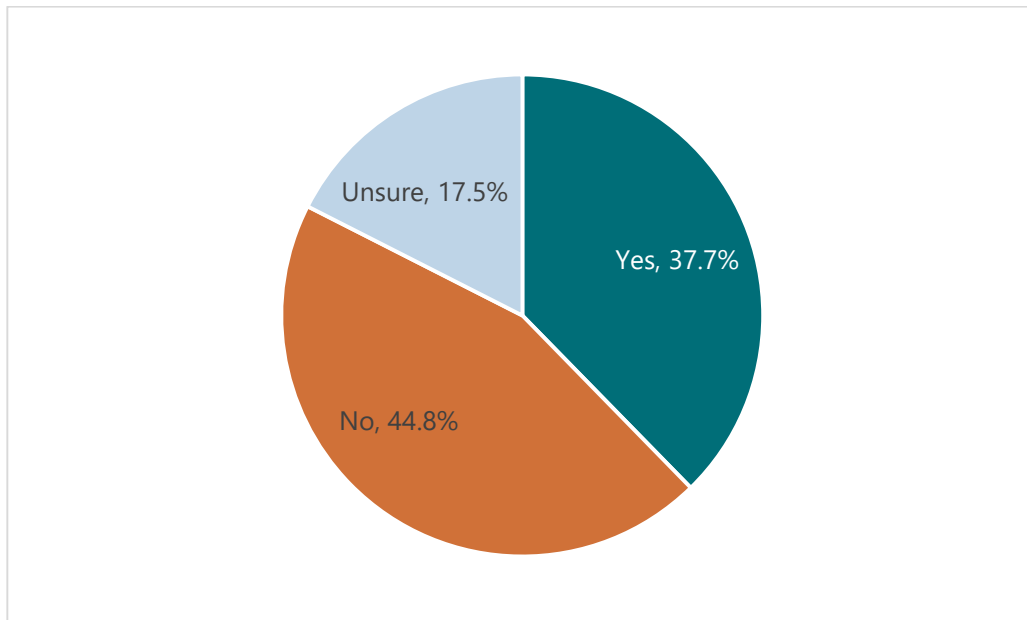
Total codes applied: 1219

Figure twelve: Do you agree with the proposed additional OLA site locations? *Why? Location specific coded responses*



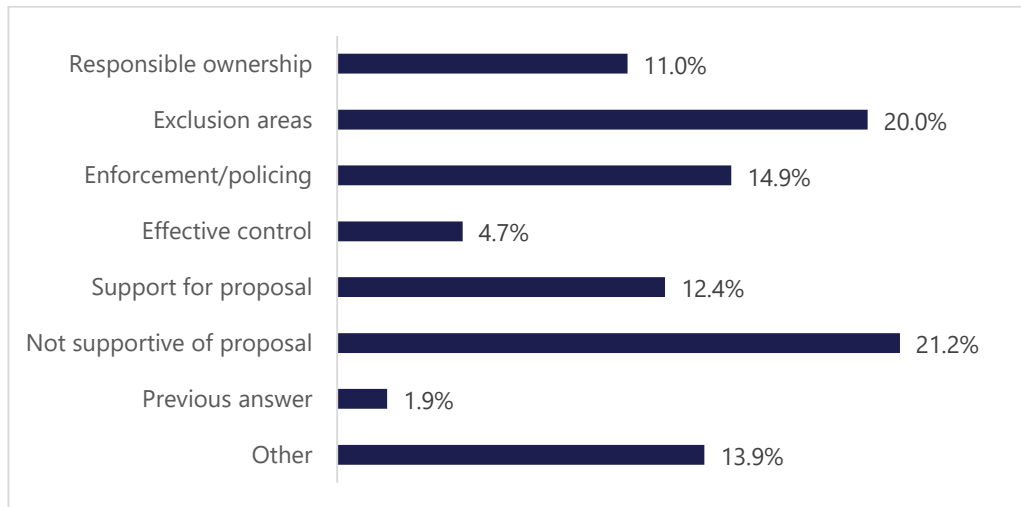
Total location codes applied: 299

Figure thirteen: Do you agree with the actions identified under dog exclusion areas?



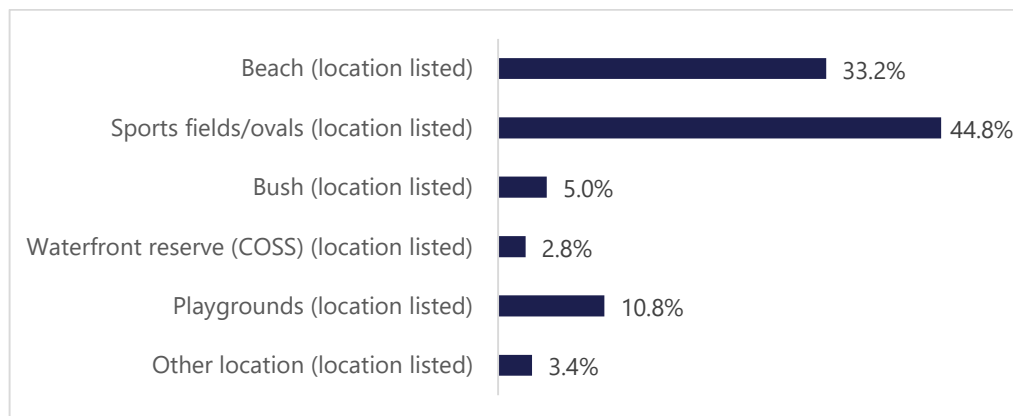
Total responses: 2319

Figure fourteen: Do you agree with the actions identified under dog exclusion areas? Why?
Coded responses



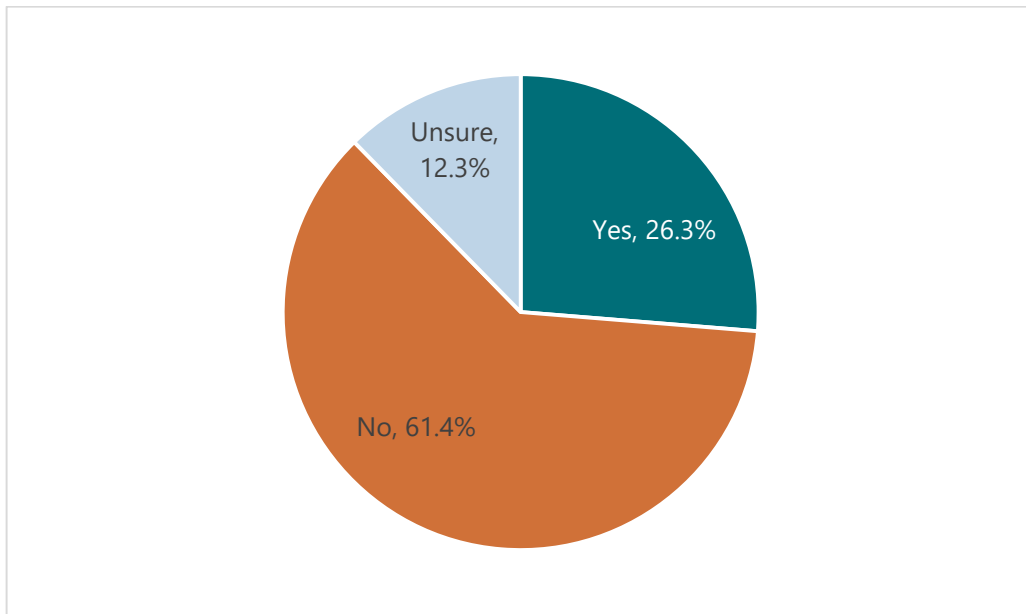
Total codes applied: 1478

Figure fifteen: Do you agree with the actions identified under dog exclusion areas? Why?
Location specific coded responses



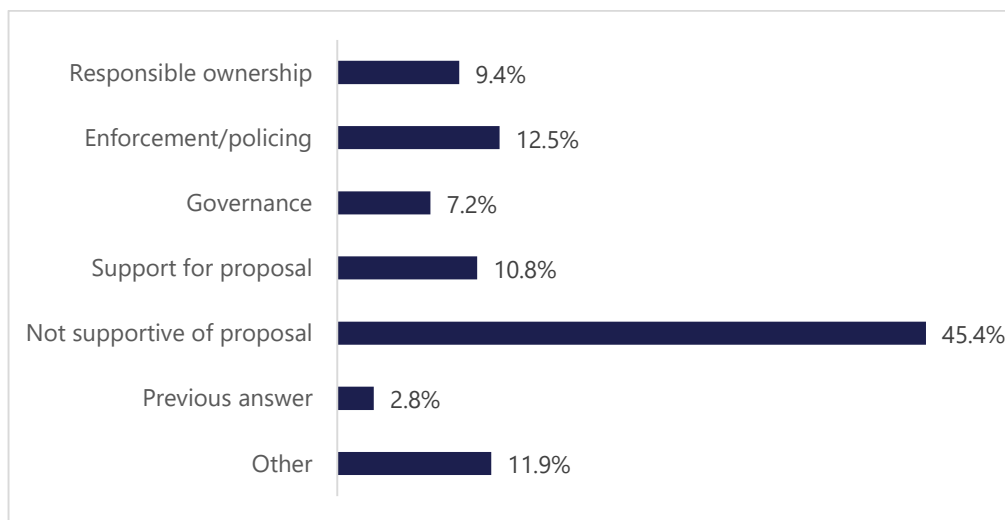
Total location codes applied: 464

Figure sixteen: Do you agree with the actions identified under compliance with dog control regulations?



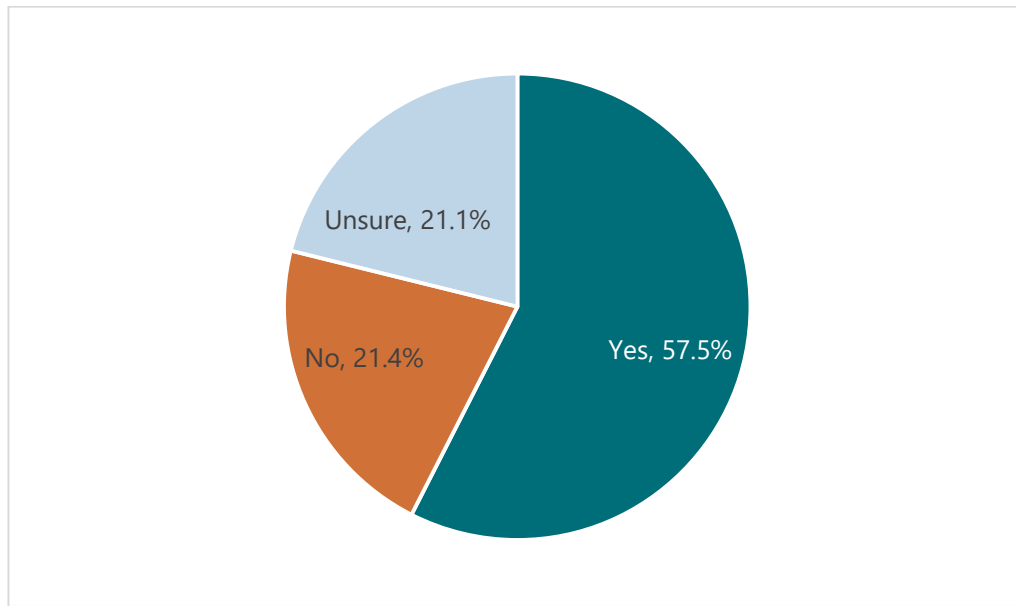
Total responses: 2272

Figure seventeen: Do you agree with the actions identified under compliance with dog control regulations? Why? Coded responses



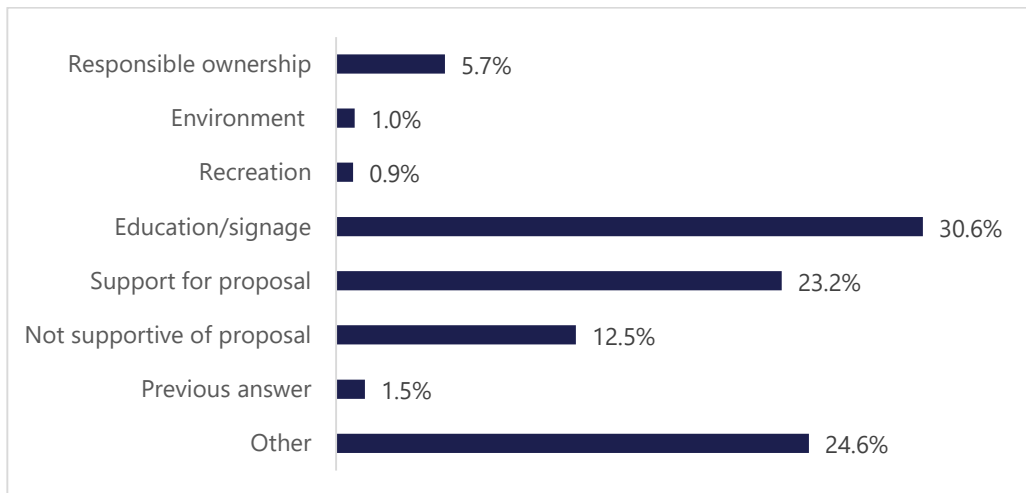
Total codes applied: 1836

Figure eighteen: Do you agree with the actions identified under access to foreshore off-leash areas?



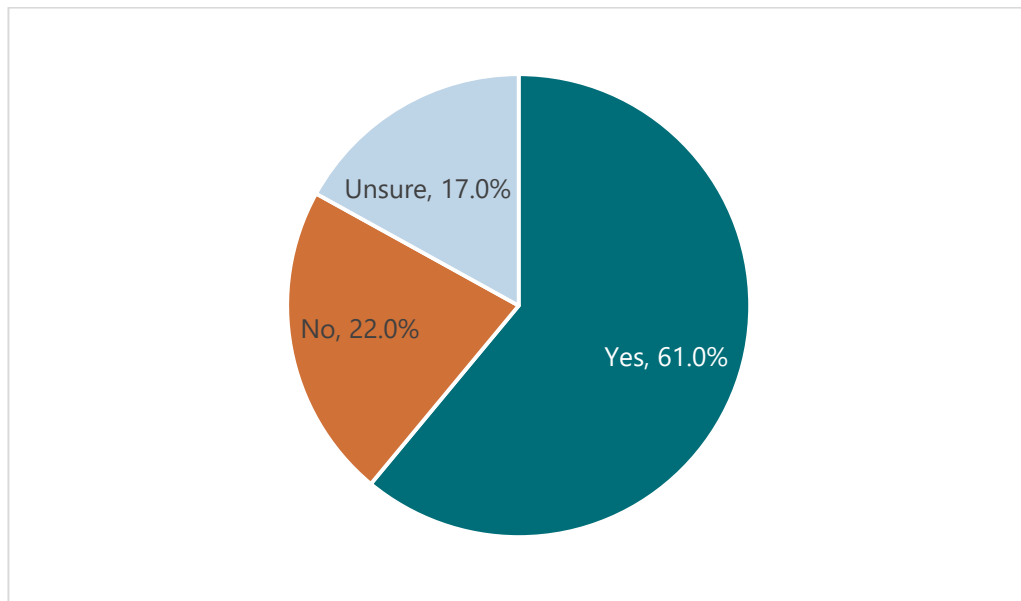
Total responses: 2219

Figure nineteen: Do you agree with the actions identified under access to foreshore off-leash areas? Why? Coded responses



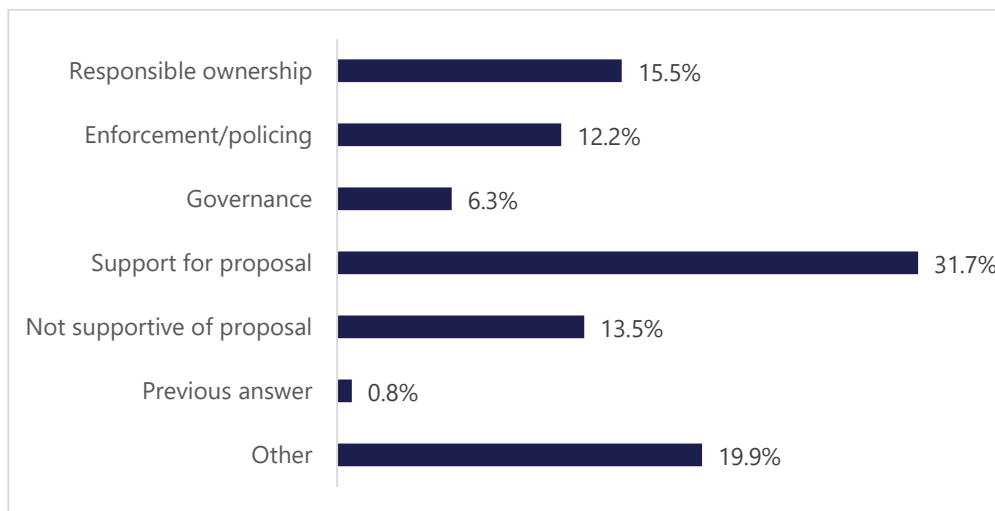
Total codes applied: 1128

Figure Twenty: Do you agree with the action identified under dog registrations?



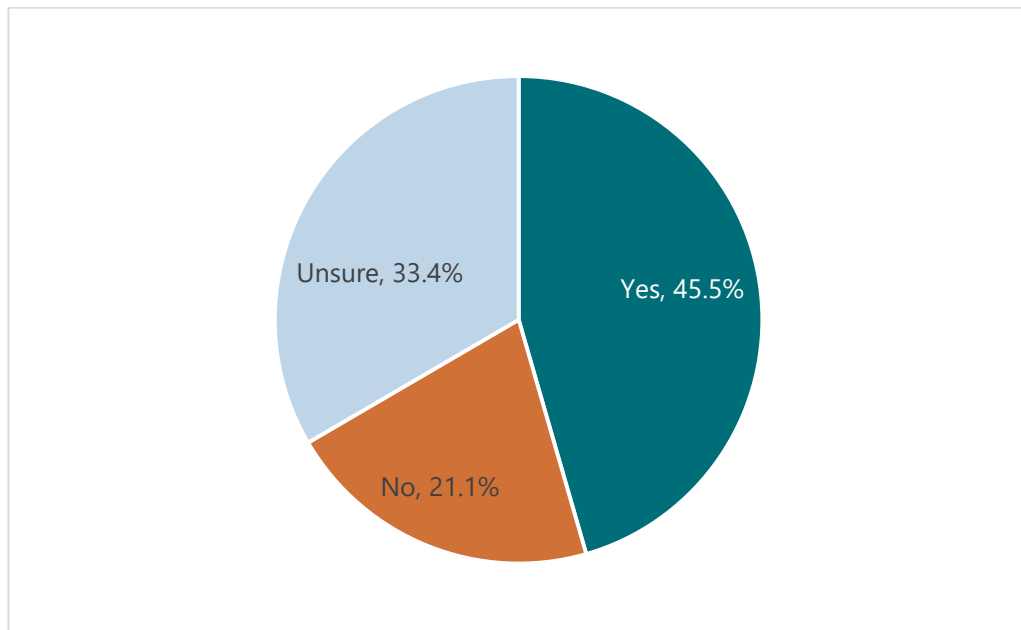
Total responses:2217

Figure Twenty one: Do you agree with the action identified under dog registrations? Why?
Coded responses



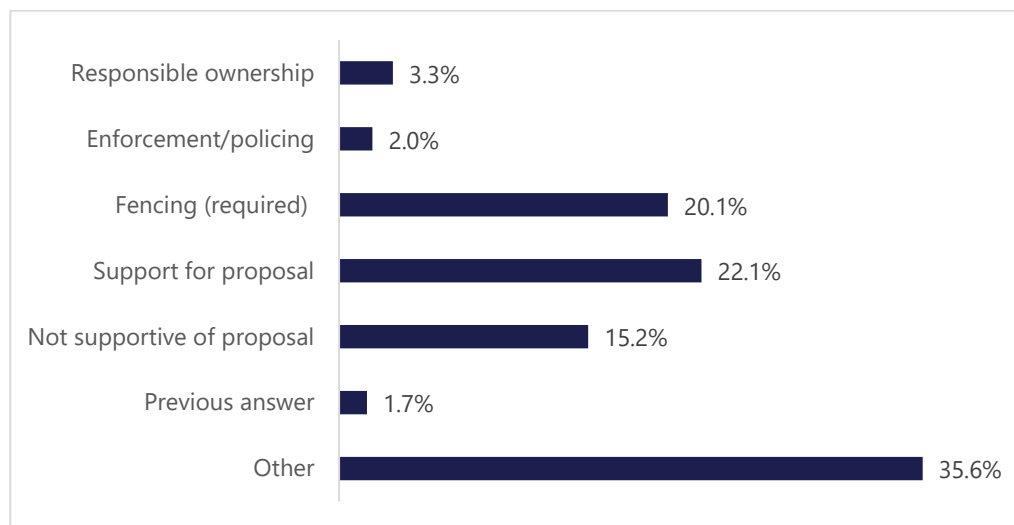
Total codes applied: 1119

Figure Twenty two: Do you agree with the actions identified under fencing off-leash areas?



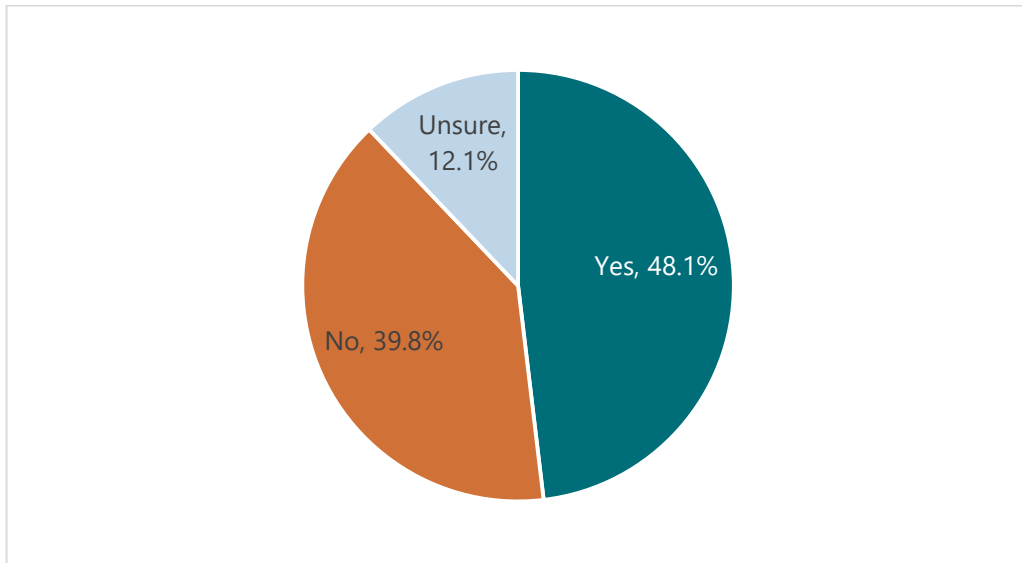
Total responses: 2170

Figure Twenty three: Do you agree with the actions identified under fencing off-leash areas? Why? Coded responses



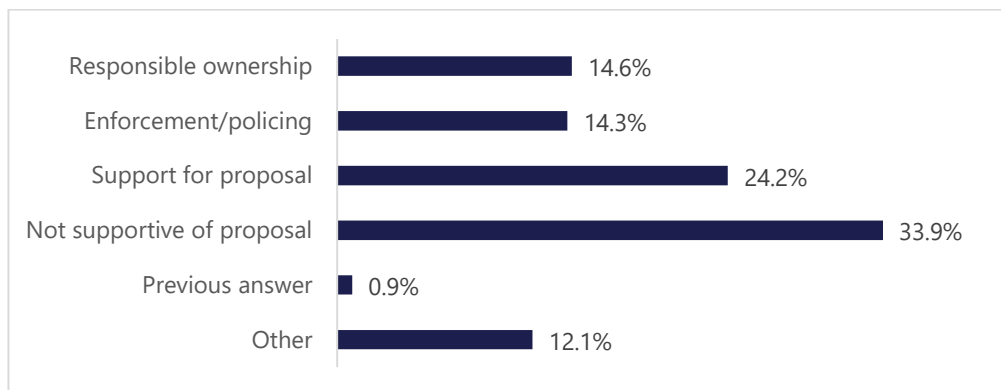
Total codes applied: 882

Figure Twenty four: Do you agree with the actions identified under effective control of dogs?



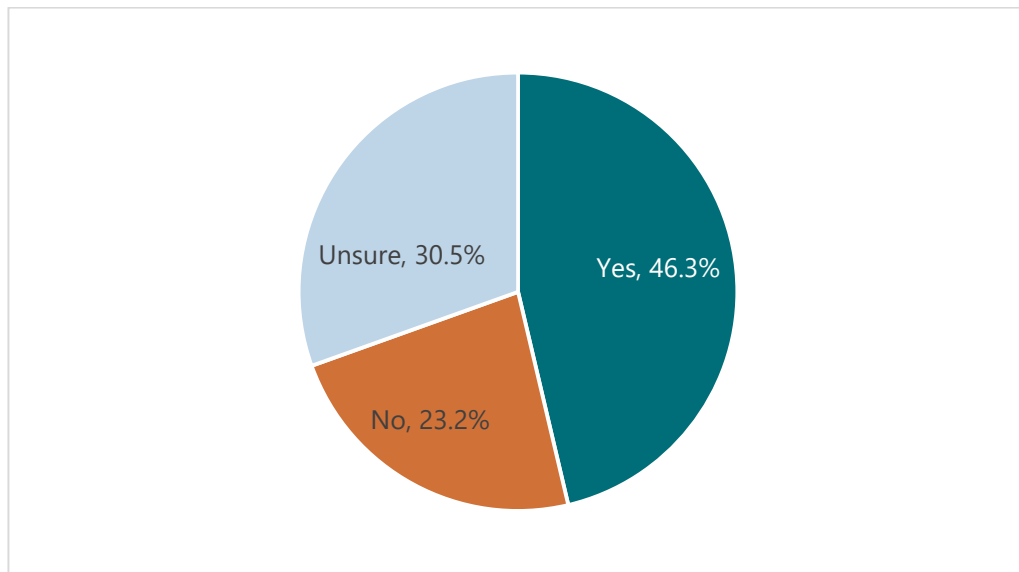
Total responses: 2166

Figure Twenty five: Do you agree with the actions identified under effective control of dogs? Why? Coded responses



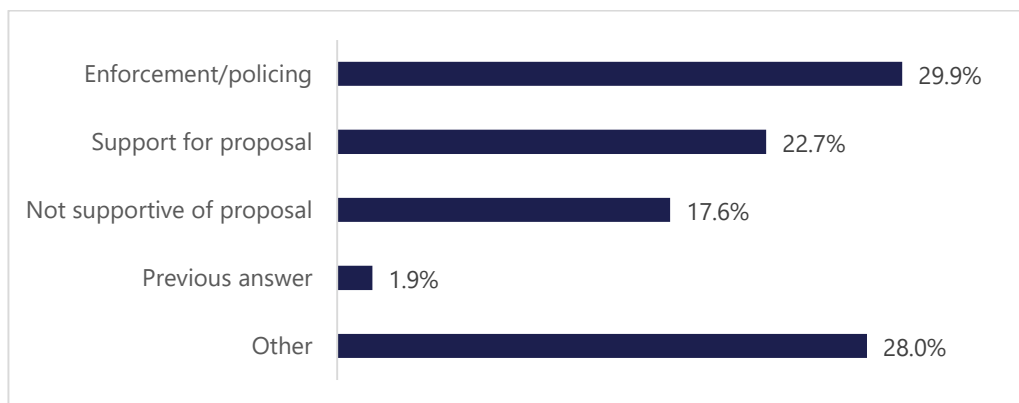
Total codes applied: 1477

Figure Twenty six: Do you agree with the actions listed under management of off-leash areas?



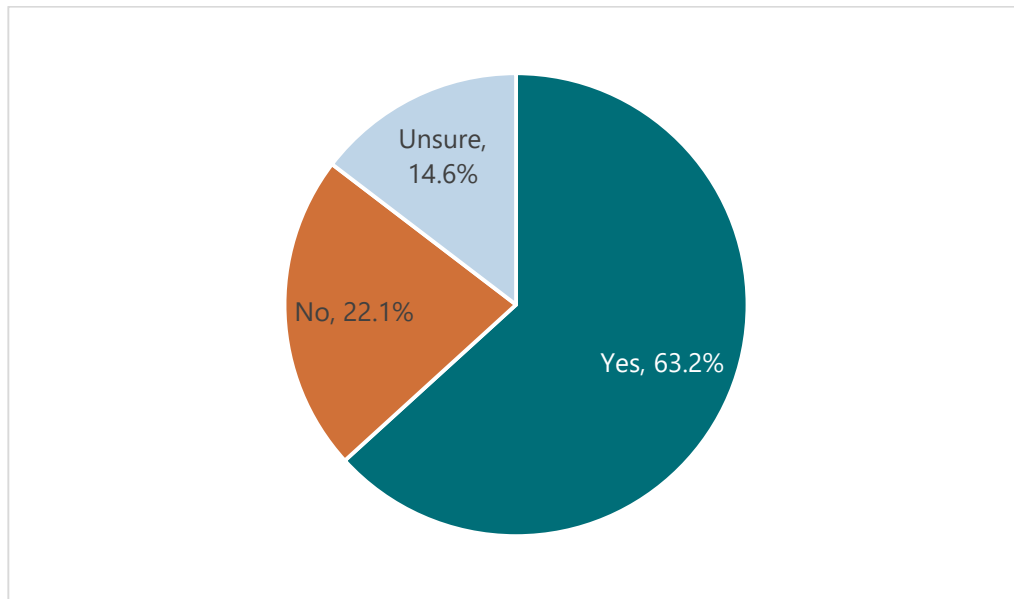
Total responses: 2125

Figure Twenty seven: Do you agree with the actions listed under management of off-leash areas? Why? Coded responses



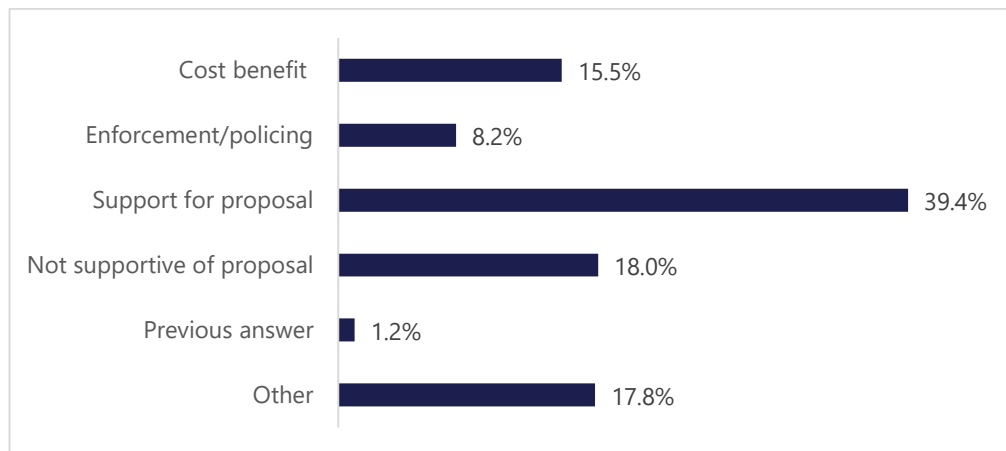
Total codes applied: 807

Figure Twenty eight: Do you agree with the actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication?



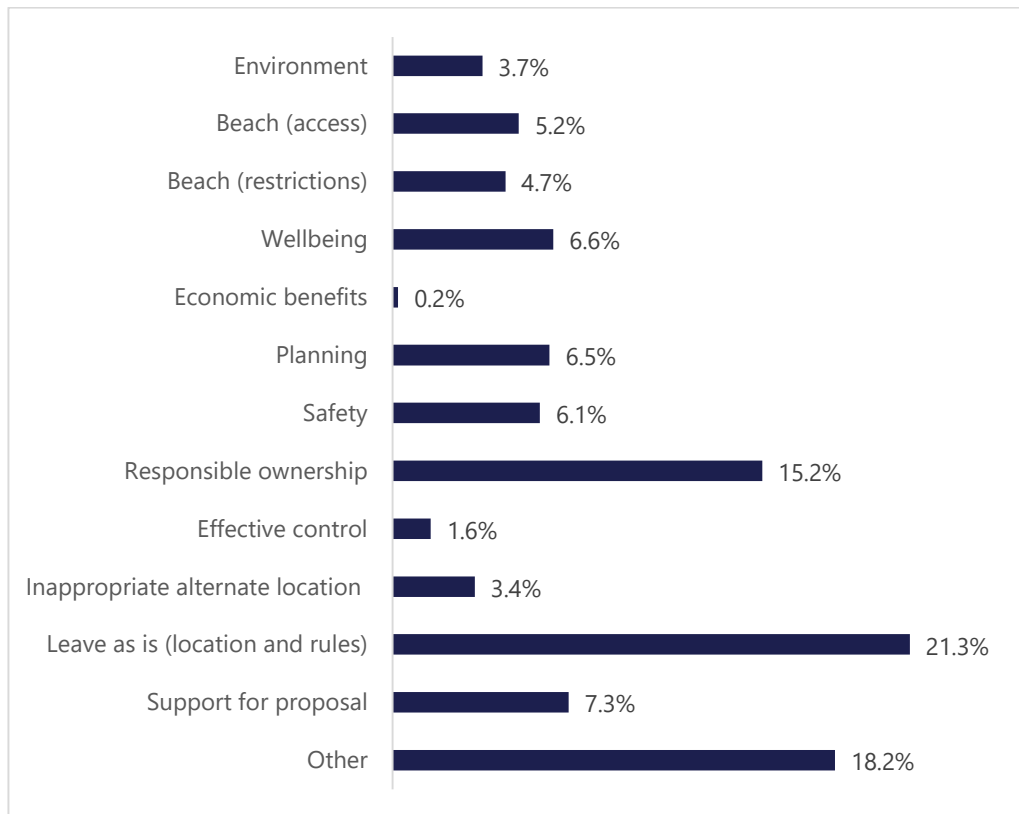
Total responses: 2114

Figure Twenty nine: Do you agree with the actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication? Why? *Coded responses*



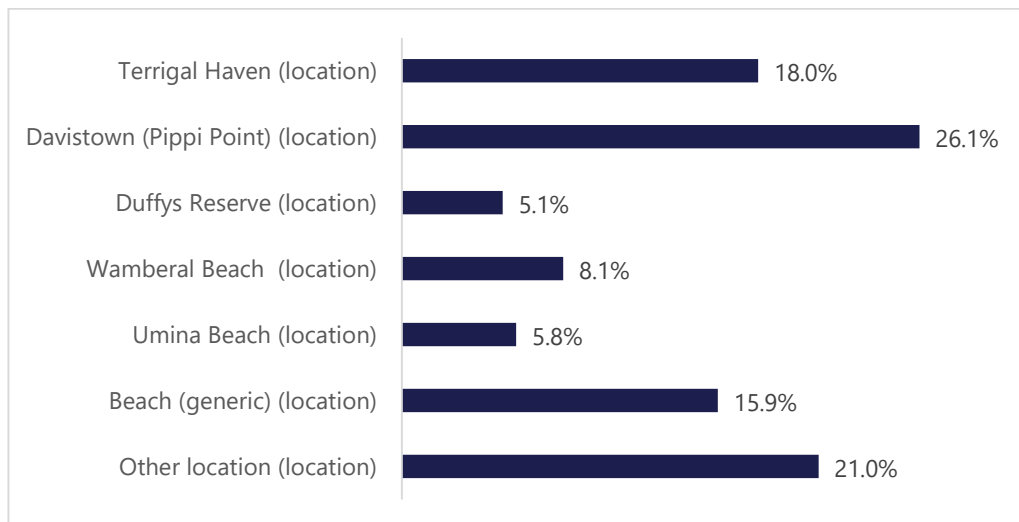
Total codes applied: 956

Figure Thirty: Overall comments - *Coded responses*



Total codes applied: 1267

Figure Thirty one: Overall comments - *Coded responses - Location specific coded responses*



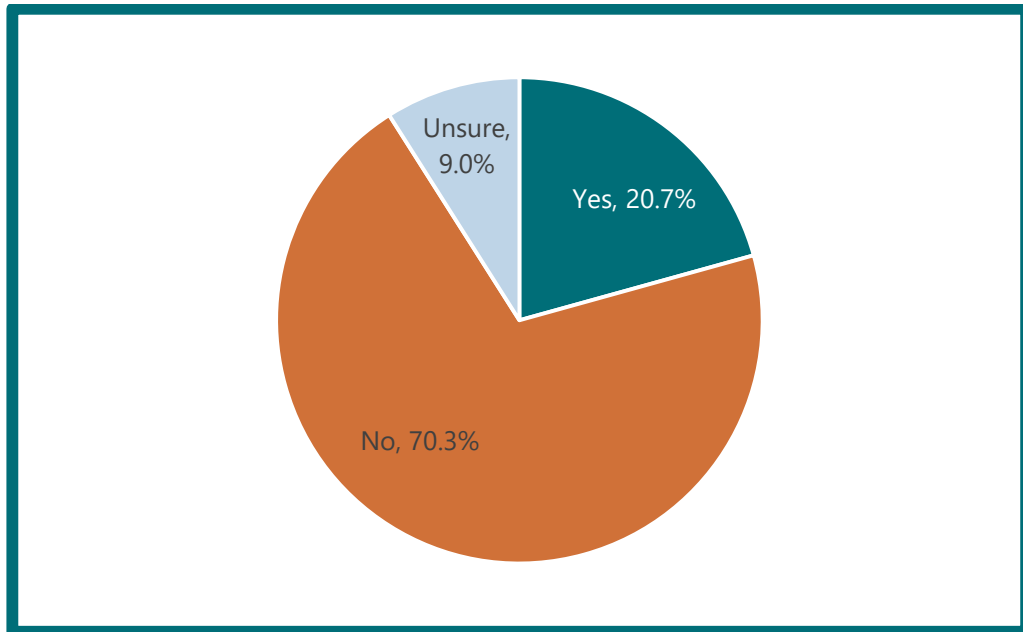
Total location codes applied: 295

A note about sampling bias: The online surveys was 'opt-in', which means participants proactively sought to complete the surveys as opposed to a sample or respondents being selected to more accurately reflect and represent the population makeup of the Central Coast community.

Terrigal outcomes highlight

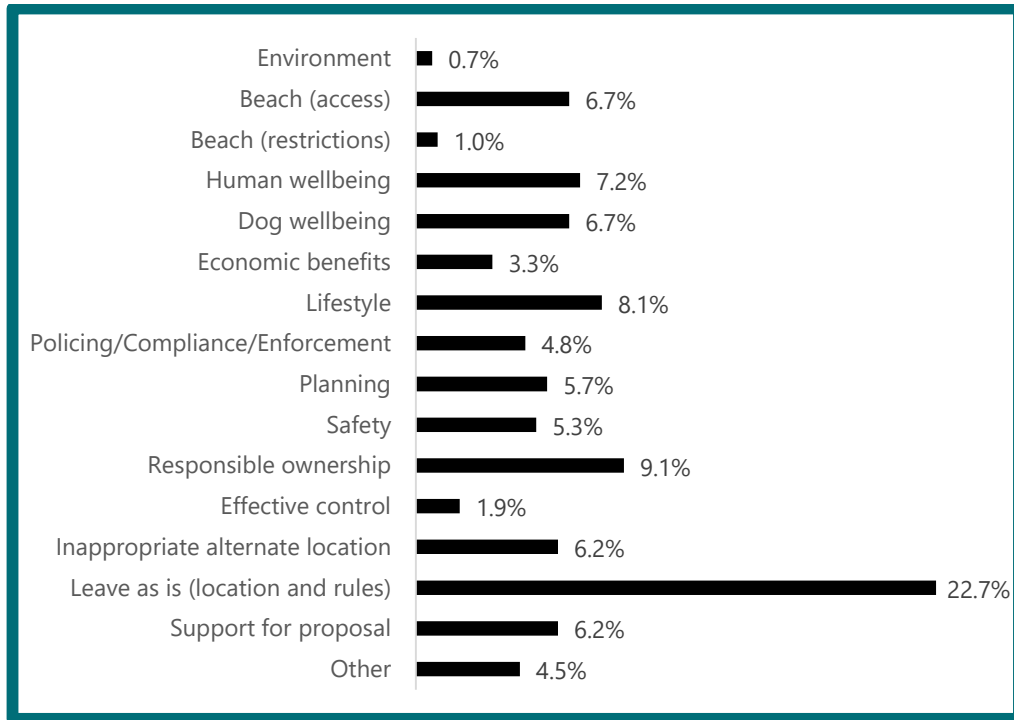
Council received a large amount of feedback relating specifically to Terrigal Haven. To appropriately consider the outcomes, the following graphs provide in-depth results for respondents that have specifically related to the Terrigal Haven Off Leash Area.

Figure thirty-two: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? *Filtered by Terrigal Haven tagged location.*



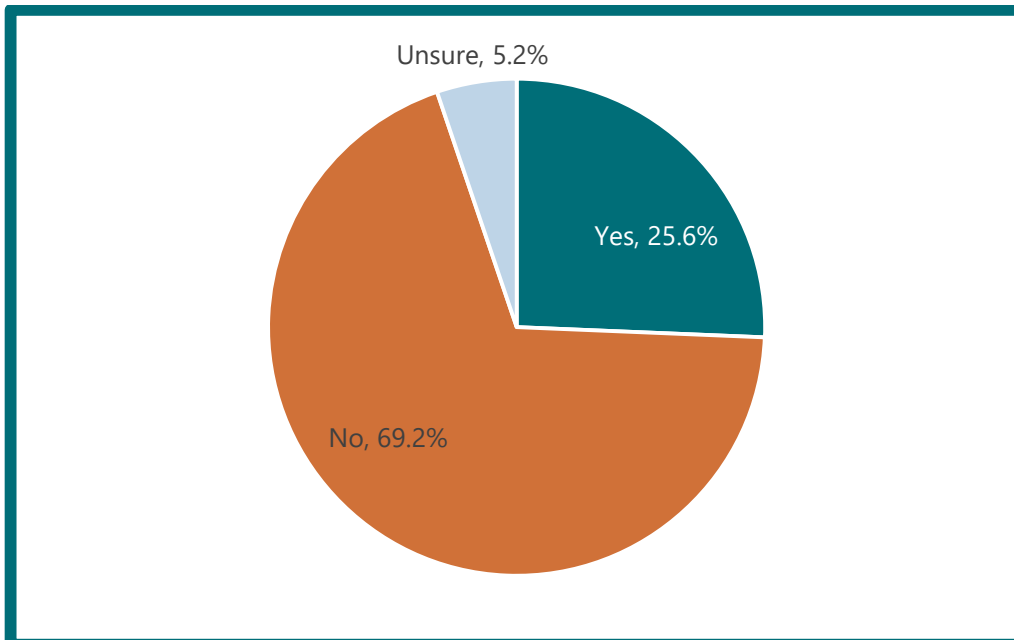
Total responses: 145

Figure thirty three: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? *Coded responses with a Terrigal Haven tagged location.*



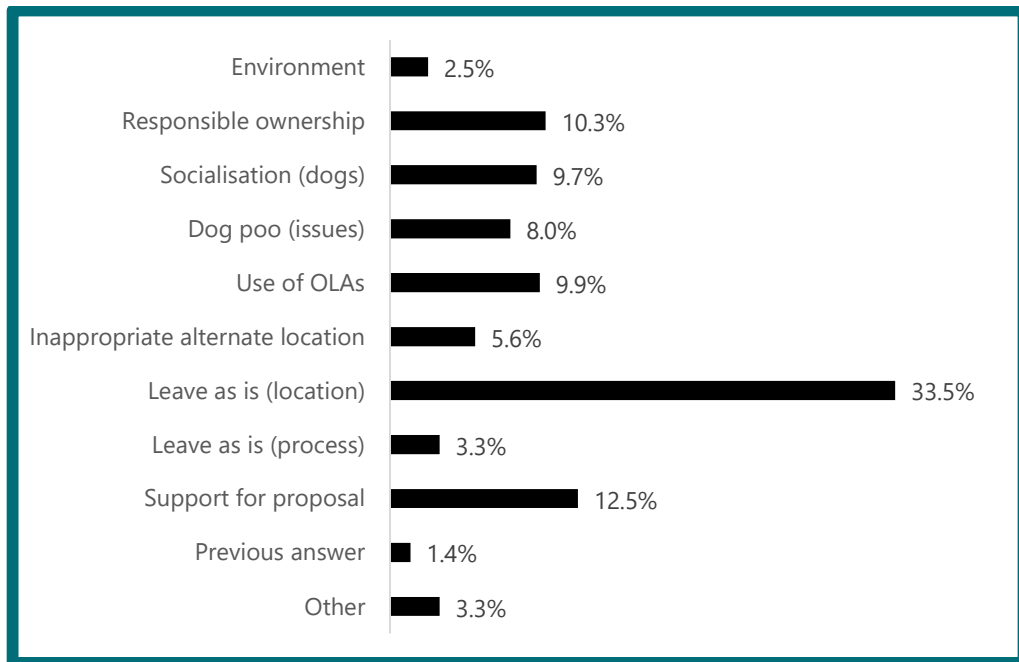
Total codes applied: 419

Figure thirty four: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? *Filtered by Terrigal Haven tagged location.*



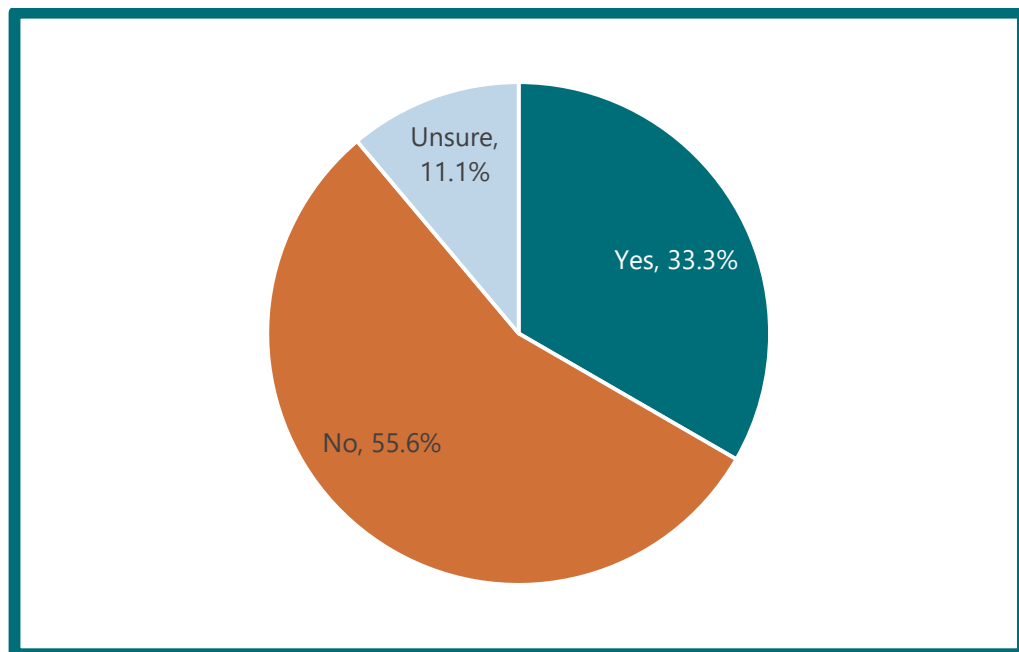
Total responses: 347

Figure thirty five: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? *Coded responses with a Terrigal Haven tagged location.*



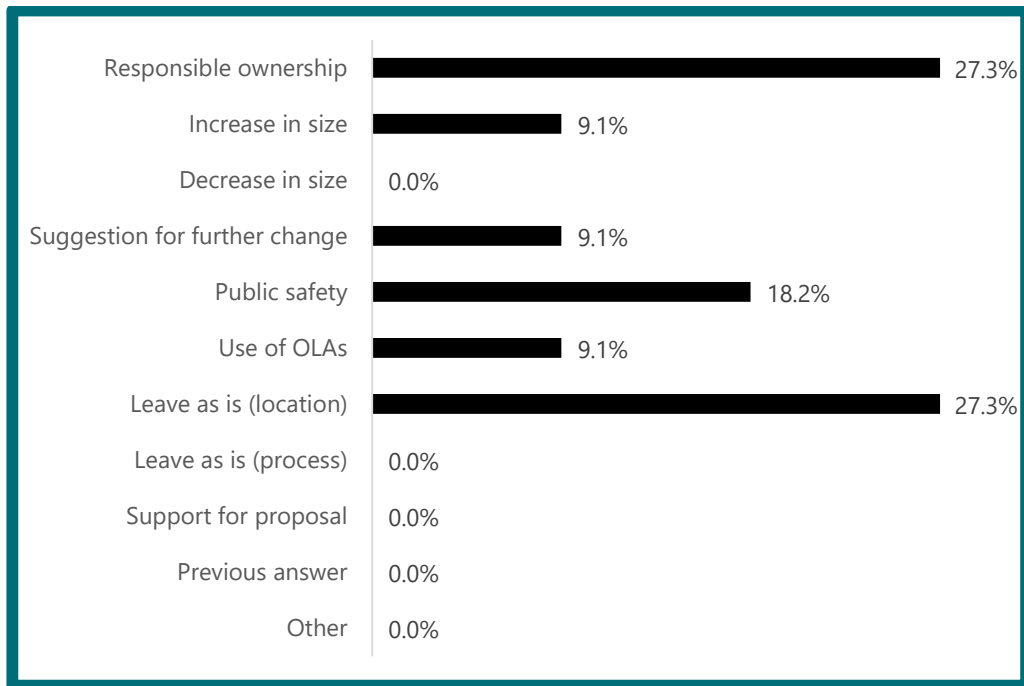
Total codes applied: 514

Figure thirty six: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries? *Filtered by Terrigal Haven tagged location.*



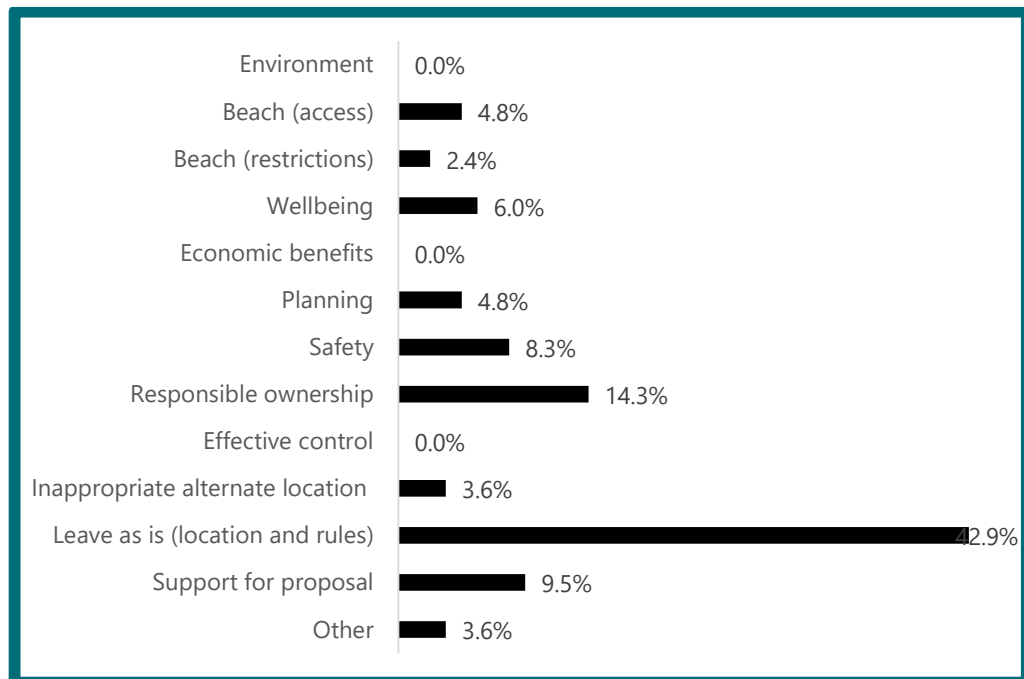
Total responses: 9

Figure thirty seven: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries? Coded responses with a Terrigal Haven tagged location.



Total codes applied: 11

Figure thirty eight: Overall comments - Filtered by Terrigal Haven tagged location.

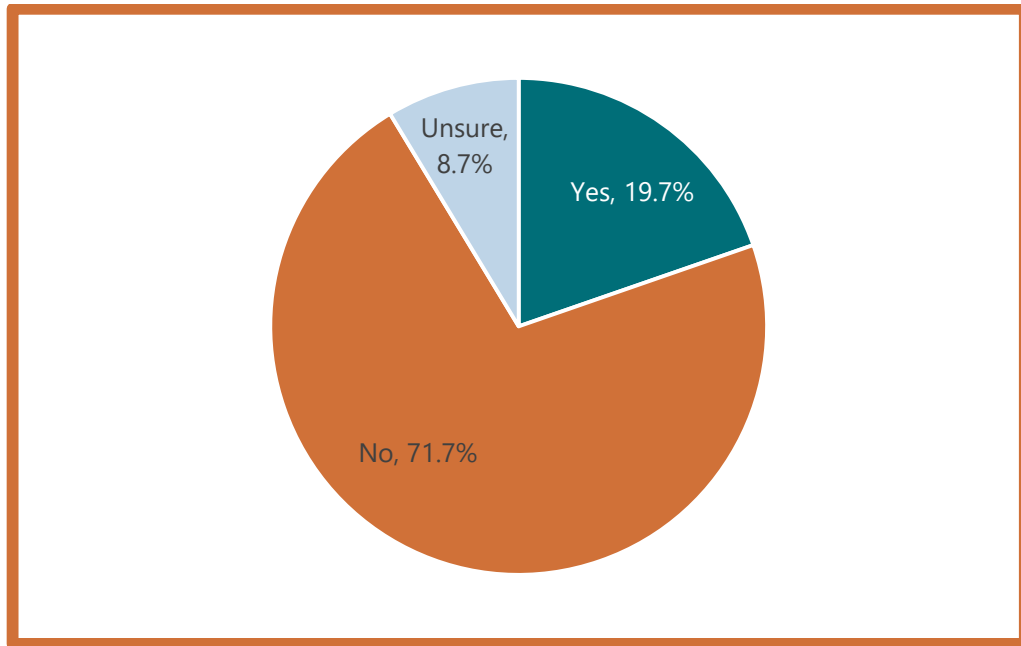


Total codes applied: 84

Davistown outcomes highlight

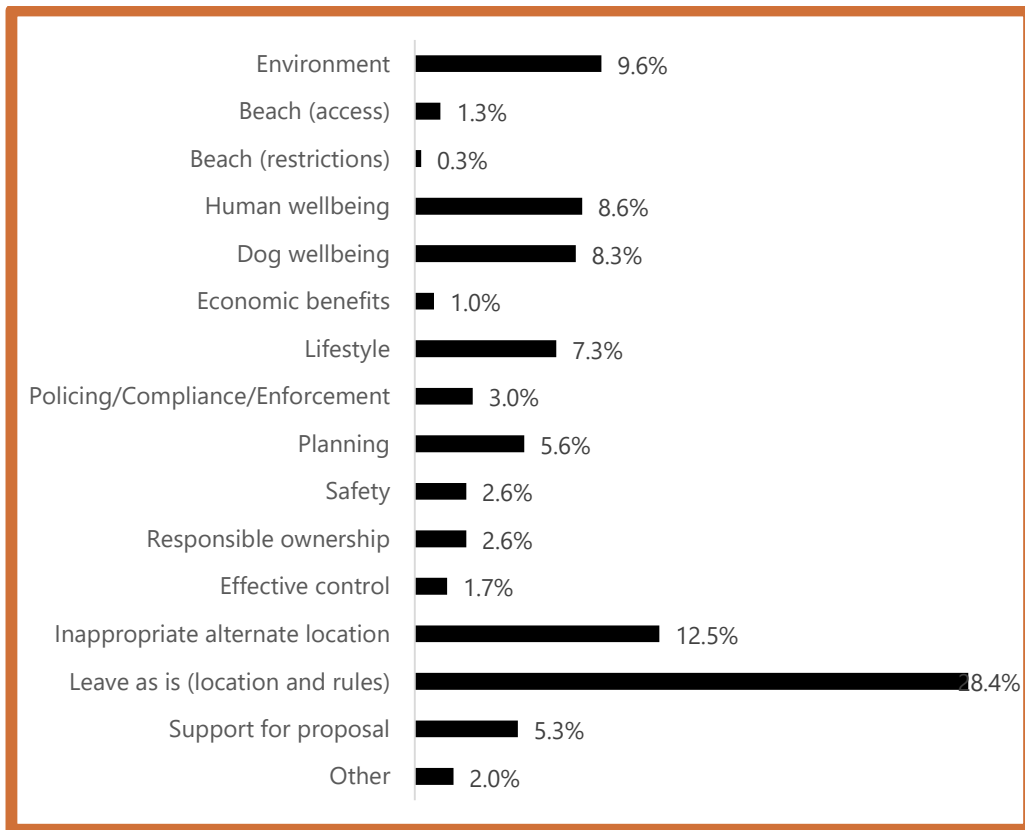
Council received a large amount of feedback relating specifically to Davistown (Pippi Point). To appropriately consider the outcomes, the following graphs provide in-depth results for respondents that have specifically related to the Davistown Off Leash Area.

Figure thirty-nine: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? *Filtered by Davistown tagged location.*



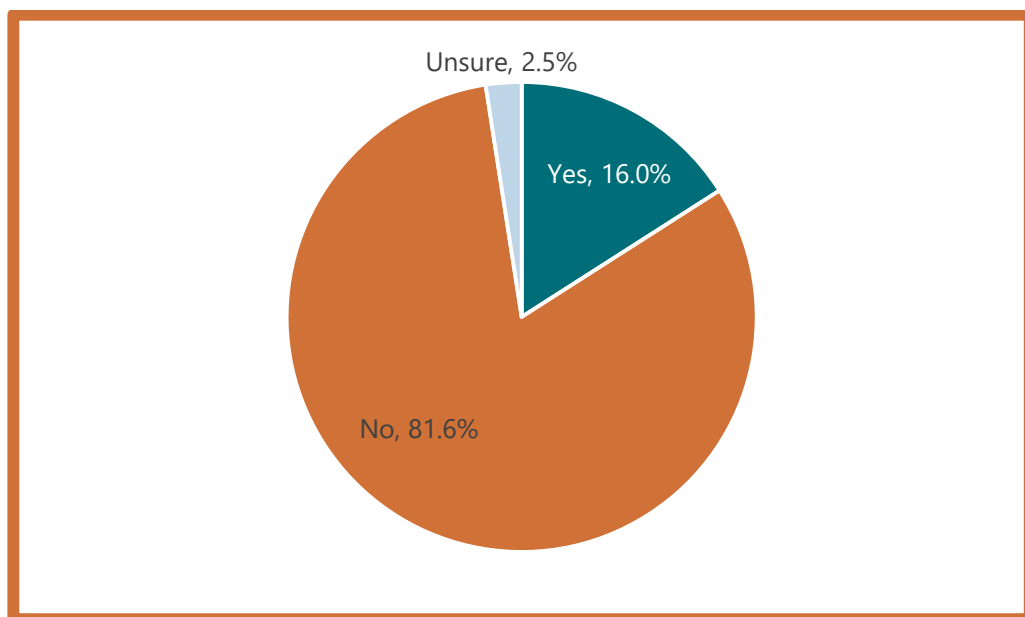
Total responses: 127

Figure forty: Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs? Coded responses with a Davistown tagged location.



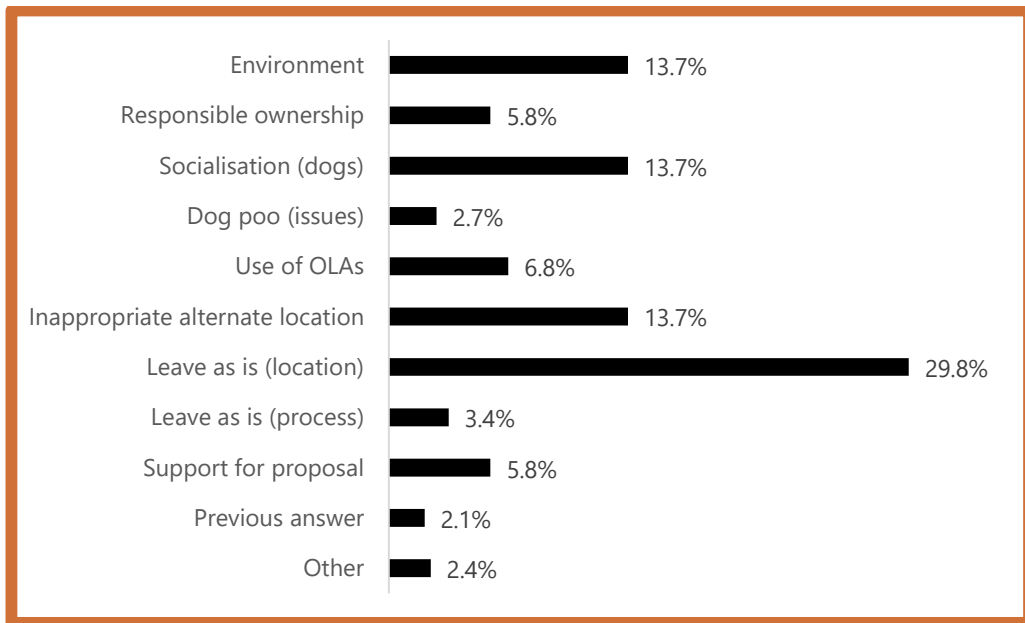
Total codes applied: 303

Figure forty one: Do you agree the proposed decommissioning/relocation of these OLA? Filtered by Davistown tagged location.



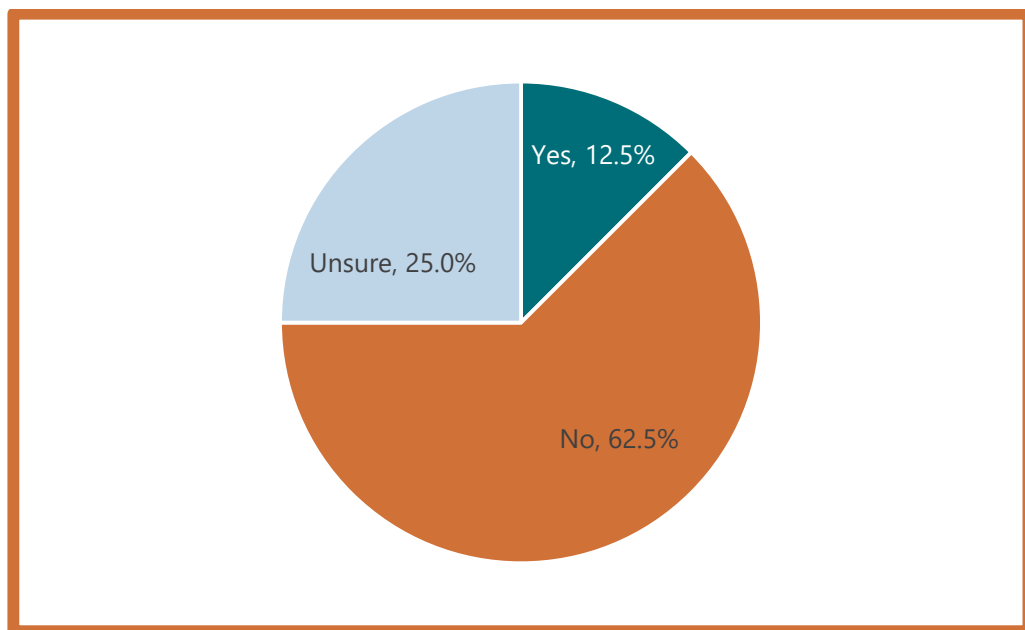
Total responses: 163

Figure forty two: Do you agree the proposed decommissioning/relocation of these OLA?
Coded responses with a Davistown tagged location.



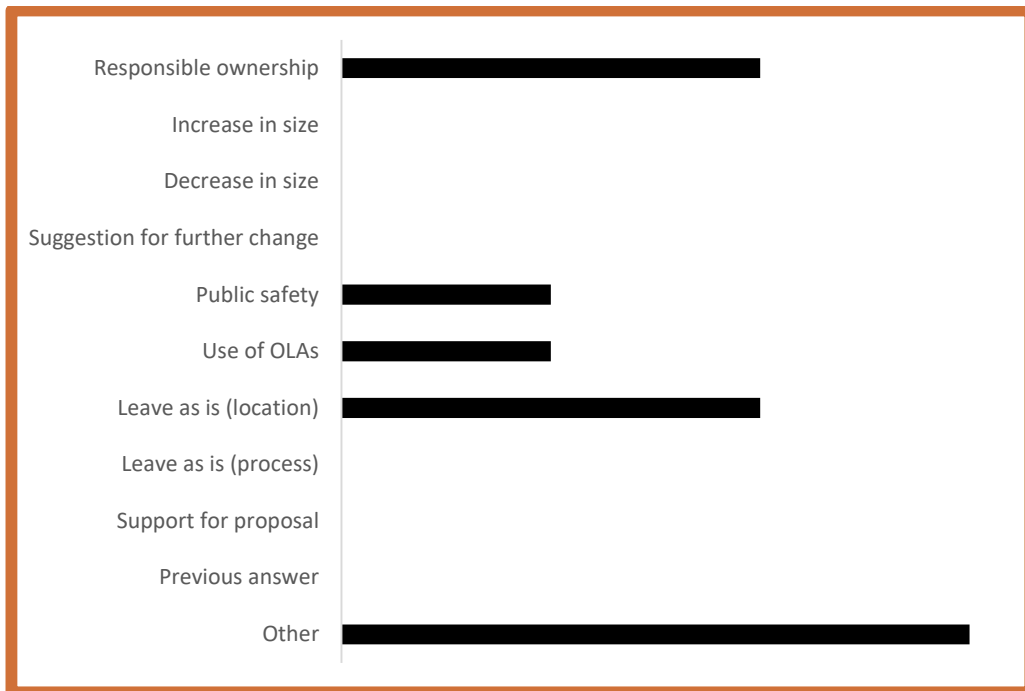
Total codes applied: 292

Figure forty three: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries? *Filtered by Davistown tagged location.*



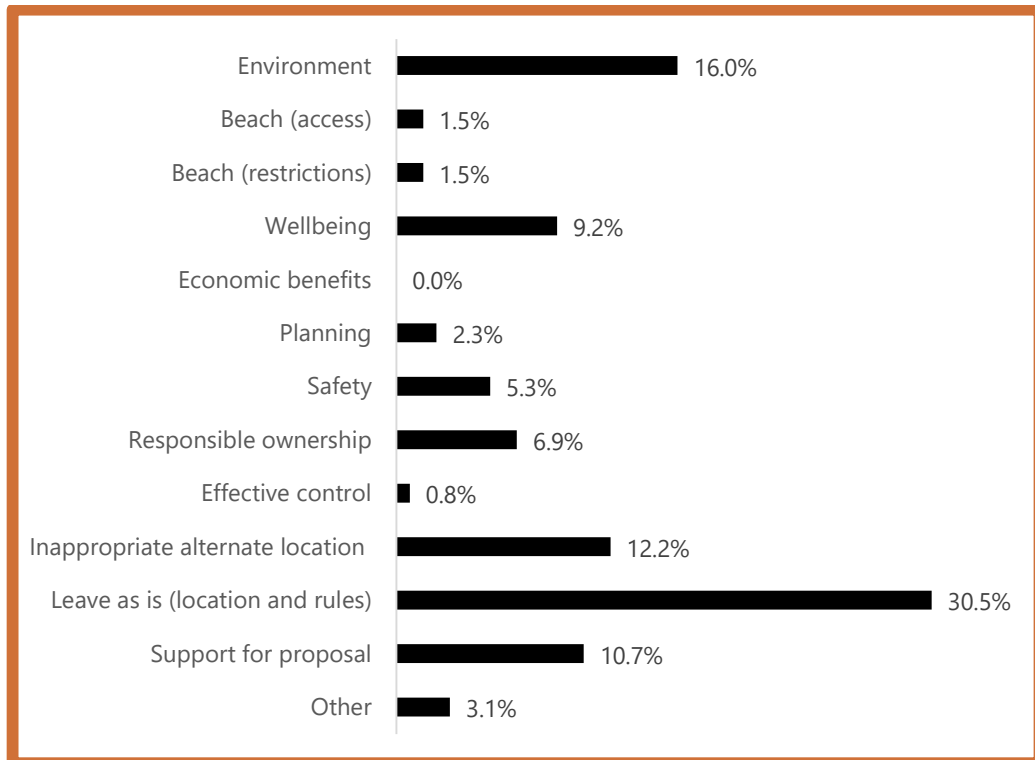
Total responses: 8

Figure forty four: Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries? *Coded responses with a Davistown tagged location.*



Total codes applied: 9

Figure forty five: Overall comments - *Coded responses with a Davistown tagged location.*



Total codes applied: 131

4.4 Method 2 – Written submissions

A total of **184** submissions were received via email and post during the consultation period.

4.5 Method 3 – Petitions

Council also received **4** petitions during the exhibition period, the details on the petitions are outlined below.

Petition one:

“YES TO EDUCATION NO FOR REGULATION

NO TO TIMED ACCESS ON OFF LEASH BEACHES IN SUMMER

NO TO BANNING DOGS AT ALL TIMES FROM OVALS – OFF LEASH OR ON LEASH

PETITION TO CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL FOR THE ALLOWING OF DOGS ON ETTALONG BEACH

To the Central Coast Council:

The allowing of dogs on Ettalong Beach is important to the local community and aligns with the views, wellbeing and interests of local ratepayers, The banning of dogs on the beach inhibits the rightful enjoyment of the resource by locals and is a threat to the sense of community that dogs afford.

WE the undersigned petition the Central Coast Council to remove recently installed signage banning dogs and to allow access for dogs to be on the beach in the presence of their owners.”

187 signatures present.

Petition two:

Central Coast Council Dogs in Open Spaces Action Plan – this is what the community want

[NAME] started this petition

Please do not allow the minority to control the majority.

Responsible dog owners across the Central Coast have a wide and supportive community that kept them going during lockdown, has helped ease newcomers into the area and seen lifelong friendships forged. Responsible dog owners pick up other dogs poo on the beach and owners as well as litter from holidaymakers, they make the beaches and ovals cleaner.

In response to your Dogs in Open Spaces Action Plan, the Central Coast Responsible Dog Ownership community request the following:

1. Please consider not introducing this policy until we have elected Councillors in place otherwise the community have no voice. Council should consider a community elected responsible dog ownership group to monitor complaints and issues from within the community.

2. If this is strategic and for future planning, then the following strategic needs must be considered:

- Off leash grass and beach areas for active dogs to prevent our dogs becoming a nuisance and complaints being made to Council.
- Size and length of areas need to be planned in terms of current dog ownership and projected dog ownership.
- Off leash and on leash areas should be within 15 minutes walking distance of people's homes, not everyone drives.
- Dog attacks are more prevalent on streets and in FOLAs making OLAs a majority option. Safety for people and animals is paramount.

3. Timed access is not a majority option for the following reasons:

- People are shift workers and can't get to the beach before 9am or after 5pm.
- People time their visits to the beach according to the weather, kids in school and the tide being out amongst other things.
- Having a concentration of dogs at limited times could increase the number of attacks.
- The caravan park at Umina has recently approved stays for pets. Should visitors lock up their animals between 9 and 5pm in the summer in a tent?

4. Ovals to be designated off leash areas when the ovals are not being used which is 75% of the time.

Other Councils do:

- Dogs like both grass and sand and often socialise better when on grass. These informal groups police their groups, including picking up dog poo and socialising new dogs.
- They are a community resource and dogs playing do not significantly impact the area.
- Many elderly people cannot walk on sand and grass is their only option and the dogs their only companions and access to community. They comprise 30% of our community.
- Provide poo bags at ovals and at regular intervals on beaches to enable dog poo to be more easily picked up. And provide bins on the beach all year round.

5. Hire more rangers to actively police problems such as registration, desexing, dogs off leash on streets, escaped dogs, picking up dog poo. The Central Coast has only 8 rangers, covering 1,680km and has the highest number of dog attacks in NSW. More Rangers = more revenue = less cost for Council.

Please do not allow the minority to control the majority."

2485 names listed. **203** signatures present.

Petition three:

"Save Pippi Point Dog Park from closure

Our beloved off leash dog park at Illoura Reserve in Davistown is under threat. Unless we take action on this and come together as a community council plans to close it in the very near future.

Central Coast Council's new Dogs In Open Spaces Draft plan has now been put out to public for consultation. While the council claims that more dog parks will be opening what is actually happening is that more foreshore and beach areas are being taken away or restricted. Of particular concern is the proposed removal of the off leash area in Davistown where we live.

It is widely accepted that dogs that are well socialised and exercised are likely to be healthier, happier and less aggressive. Designated off-leash dog areas provide a safe community setting where dogs can play. We naturally tend to assume that off-leash parks are primarily for the benefit of our beloved dogs, but experienced dog park users know better, Off-leash parks offer just as many benefits to us humans as they do to dogs: both to dog owners as well as the wider community. The elderly can exercise our dogs without much effort, we can all socialise with other dog lovers, bond and play with our animals, practice off-leash training skills, swim together on hot days and enjoy the entertaining antics of our canine friends. In short it is extremely beneficial for our physical and mental health.

As in many similar situations it seems like council here have taken the complaints of a few residents adjoining the park and decided to punish the many responsible dog owners here who do the right thing. There should be a focus on retaining and improving this area at Illoura reserve and on reducing usage intensity on this area through allowing additional areas to be used for dogs to run and swim. The new proposed site at Pine Avenue Reserve in Davistown is far from ideal as it is under a foot of water each time it rains, has no parking and is not fenced.

The other historic argument here is the one about the protection of the Bush Stone Curlew habitat in the reserve, While the plight of this endangered bird is of great concern to us there is no evidence that the bird has nested in this spot for many, many years despite there being substantial securely fenced areas designated for their protection. It does live in other areas in Davistown and its wonderful call can be heard overnight in many other areas here and the surrounding suburbs, Even if the birds nesting at Illoura currently then surely it is proof that they can coexist with dogs in this area as they do in many other areas of Australia.

To restrict an area loved by so many in the hope that the bird "may" choose to nest there one day is a theory not backed by any discernible evidence. Surely Council needs to promote evidence-based decision-making in the development of policy that delivers a fair share of public open space to all usage groups, including families with dogs.

9 years ago council took away the off leash area at Illoura Reserve and the community all clubbed together to get it reopened. We can do this again!

The fact is that, at the Illoura reserve off leash area, dogs, wildlife and humans have managed to coexist for nearly 40 years since the off leash area was established in 1984. The Majority of the community want it to stay as it is and would for your support in this matter.”

2238 names listed.

Petition four:

“To Central Coast Council:

In response to your Dogs in Open Spaces Action Plan, the Central Coast Responsible Dog Ownership community request the following:

1. Please consider not introducing this policy until we have elected Councillors in place otherwise the community have no voice. Council should consider a community elected responsible dog ownership group to monitor complaints and issues from within the community.

2. If this is strategic and for future planning, the following strategic needs must be considered:

* off leash grass and beach areas for active dogs to prevent our dogs becoming a nuisance and complaints being made to Council.

* Dog attacks are more prevalent on streets and in FOLAs making OLAs a majority option. Safety for people and animals is paramount.

3. Timed access to beaches is not a majority option for the following reasons:

*People are shift workers and can't get to the beach before 9am or after 5pm.

* People time their visits to the beach according to the weather, kids in school and low tide, amongst other things.

* Having a concentration of dogs at limited times could increase the number of attacks.

4. Provide poo bags at ovals and at regular intervals on beaches to enable dog poo to be more easily picked up. provide bins on the beach all year round.”

1241 names listed.

4.6 Sample of comments from consultation

Below is a sample of comments respondents provided via the guided submission form.

Environment

"Local biodiversity needs to be considered and protected by any Council strategy, especially one dealing with recreational use of natural areas."

Beach access

"Dogs should be allowed off leash on the beach at all times"

"I am very concerned about the suggestion to limit access times to leash off beaches."

"I have never once had an issue with community members about our dogs on our dog friendly beaches."

"Reducing to hours for pets only just compounds issues of more dogs at the same time - beaches are public places for all."

"I'm not a dog owner but I support dog owners and their need to exercise their dogs. As a beachgoer, I enjoy going to beaches where dogs can run. There are plenty of beach areas on the coast that already exclude dogs."

"As a dog owner who goes to Shelley beach off leash area, I am there virtually every day. In over fifteen years of taking my dogs there, I have never had anything more than minor incidents with other dogs. This is why it is important to have these areas remain open, so that the dogs can be socialized. If user times are restricted then a lot of dog owners will be disadvantaged through a timing issue. Furthermore, it will put more dogs in an area at the same time which I believe will worsen whatever situation you think is occurring by increasing the density of dog traffic. I find this to be an ill-conceived and uninformed proposal to a situation that does not really exist."

Beach restrictions

"There are so many dog owners using the beach that it has restricted the use for people to enjoy our beautiful beach without the fear of dogs or the unpleasantness of dog litter left & the smell of dog urine."

*At *location* many dog walkers use the entire beach front to allow their dogs off leash rather than the designated areas. The number of dogs is often excessive, and it is a regular occurrence for dogs to jump up on walkers. Restricting dogs between 9 and 5 during the summer months would be a good idea.'*

Human wellbeing

"Dogs need space to run, people need interaction with others like minded."

"People often have a closer connection to their pet due to depression or anxiety. This gives them a place to feel comfortable with other people and to feel joy from watching their pets thrive and play."

Dog wellbeing

"I need the personal social connection at these areas as I am 84 and have no peer group close by where I live. My dog is my link to the community."

"Dogs need open areas to run and exercise with other dogs."

Economic benefits

*"My husband and I have a small Airbnb on our property which is pet friendly. 80% of our guests bring their dogs. Our guests come to Umina because of the dog friendly beaches. Closing dog beach access will hurt our small business and will keep tourists out of Umina Beach. We have 100% booking rate in the summer high season and 70% in the winter. We have never had a dog do any damage to our property. Our hospitality business supports other businesses in *location* Beach. The proposed new rules will hurt many types of businesses in *location*."*

Lifestyle

"One of the reasons I purchased house in area was for these dog free areas."

"The beauty of living in these areas is the shared space dog owners can use. Dog friendly spaces should be encouraged and added to, not removed."

Policing / enforcement

"Plan for more supervision of existing off leash areas."

"Closer supervision of dog free areas is needed as is undertaken in the Byron Shire where heavy fines are imposed for breeches - good revenue source."

"There is a need for certainty so Council can regulate effectively."

"Clear signage should be provided for all excluded areas."

"Compliance in these areas is very poor and almost never policed."

Planning

"It is essential for all of the Public to have plans in place and have them regulated in line with catering to the needs of all of the community."

"It's too restrictive and takes away space when we actually need more dog friendly and off leash space not less."

"Under current arrangements many walkers, particularly the elderly, are out at risk by poorly-controlled dogs and by owners who flout the on-leash rules."

"I absolutely support OLAs and FOLAs on the Central Coast- it provides a sharing community opportunity for people to chat with other dog owners and lovely interaction as a whole for all ages."

Safety

*"*location* is well used by locals and tourists. An off leash dog area needs to be separate to a space also used by groups of people."*

"The general public or native animals/ birds are unable to utilize or relax in this area because of multiple exuberant dogs."

"I don't feel safe. The areas are dirty and pooped on. Kids aren't safe."

Responsible ownership

"Owners who take their dogs down to the beach let them off leash irrespective of the legal boundaries. Most consider the beach to be a dog playground with total disregard for people."

"If I had a dollar for every owner that has said their dog 'just wants to play', when their hair is up and they are showing teeth, I could afford a nice holiday!"

"Bad experiences and the apparent need for owner education."

"I strongly believe that numerous dog owners don't obey or care about the rules for areas dogs are allowed in. I would like to see these enforced."

"It seems to me that the irresponsible actions of a few are to the detriment of the many Coasties who are responsible dog owners."

"About 70% of dog owners do the right thing and the other 30% ruin it for everybody else!"

*"*location* is a landmine of dog poo. No one wants to sit on grass for a picnic or on the sand at the beach and find a big poo mess!"*

Effective control

"On numerous occasions I have personally witnessed and experienced a ridiculous amount of dogs that are completely out of control, aggressive and poorly supervised."

"We have small children and have had times where off leash dogs have approached our children in an uncontrolled manner - they are now scared to visit these areas and are fearful of dogs."

Use of OLAs

"We need to keep and increase more dog friendly and off leash areas to make them safer to use and not crowded. More people are moving to the Central Coast and dog ownership has increased significantly."

5 Appendices

Appendix A – Media Releases

Central Coast Council Media Release

30 August 2022

Council receives strong community response to its Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan

Council has received over 3,200 submissions to its Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan, with community consultation now closed.

Central Coast Council Director Environment and Planning, Alice Howe said Council would like to thank all community members who shared their valuable feedback.

“Council reviewed a strong community response to the Draft Plan and we now have a lot of feedback to analyse and consider,” Ms Howe said.

“This is not the last conversation that Council will have with our passionate community on this topic. Council will provide feedback on how your submissions have been considered and what changes are proposed to the Draft Plan in response to that feedback.

“Following detailed review of submissions there may also be a need to engage further with our community on particular elements of the Draft Plan. In the meantime, the current on-leash, off-leash, and dog-prohibited areas will continue to be in place.

“The Central Coast has one of the highest populations of companion dogs in New South Wales, and we know the community is very interested in the delivery of infrastructure and the provision of open space that support responsible pet ownership. This was further reinforced from the community feedback received on the Draft Plan.

“Our aim is to provide improved opportunity for dedicated off-leash dog exercise areas and open space that all community members can safely enjoy, while protecting and enhancing our natural environments.”

Council Administrator, Rik Hart said it is fantastic to see so many Central Coast community members share their thoughts on the Draft Plan.

“We know dogs in open spaces is a passionate topic for the local community, and it is great to hear the many varied views from community members across the region,” Mr Hart said.

“Council has a lot of work to do to strike the right balance which caters to the whole community and will continue to update our community with key outcomes.”

ENDS

Images available on request.

View all Central Coast Council's recent media releases at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Keep up to date with Council's breaking news by signing up to our enews at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/enews

Central Coast Council Media Release

4 July 2022

Feedback invited from community on draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan

Council is encouraging the community to have their say on the draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan now on exhibition.

The 10-year Action Plan provides a framework for future planning, management and prioritisation of infrastructure, including where dogs are allowed on or off-leash and where they are prohibited. The Plan also includes clear criteria and direction for infrastructure development, to ensure there are adequate and safe areas to accommodate dog exercise within the region.

Council Unit Manager Environmental Compliance and Systems, Luke Sulkowski said Council is keen to hear from all community members, including those without dogs as pets, on the allocation of dog exercise areas across the Central Coast.

“With our LGA having one of the highest populations of companion dogs in New South Wales, we know the community is very interested in the delivery of infrastructure and the provision of open space that support responsible pet ownership,” Mr Sulkowski said.

“Council currently manages and maintains 61 off-leash dog areas including open space reserves, beaches and fenced off-leash areas. This draft Action Plan proposes modifications to the boundary of ten off-leash areas, the decommissioning of six sites and the addition of thirteen additional off-leash areas.

“Whilst we are proposing to close some off-leash areas, we plan to relocate and/or provide new open space where pets can enjoy some time off-leash, under the close supervision of their owner.

“The aim is for improved opportunity for dedicated dog exercise areas and open spaces that all community members can safely enjoy.

“It’s important however to remember that your dog is your responsibility when taking it into public spaces, to ensure all community members can safely enjoy our beaches, parks and open spaces.”

Over the past 18 months, Council has been consulting with the community on a range of topics including the Responsible Dog Ownership Policy, Helen Reserve, Gorokan – Dog Park, and Our Coast, Our Waterways. During these conversations with the community, the issues of dogs, infrastructure and the environment were explored. Council has used the information collected during these consultations to inform the development of the draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

The activities in the draft Action Plan are not currently funded in Council's budget, nor from external funding. In order for Council to allocate funding in the annual budgets or attract funding from external sources such as grant funding, an adopted strategy or plan must be in place.

The draft Action Plan gives the community the opportunity to provide input and feedback on where the proposed off-leash and fence off-leash areas are located.

For more information on the draft Action Plan and to have your say, visit yourvoiceourcoast.com/dogs.

Public exhibition closes Friday 26 August 2022.

ENDS

View all Central Coast Council's recent media releases at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Keep up to date with Council's breaking news by signing up to our enews at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/enews

Appendix B – Coast Connect



Community urged to remain vigilant

Severe weather continues to impact the Central Coast causing heavy rainfall, localised flooding, dangerous ocean conditions and increased flooding with many residents in low lying areas requiring evacuation.

Council continues to work alongside all local emergency agencies with the Emergency Operations Centre activated as NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) leads this emergency.

Council would like to thank the many volunteers with local SES, Rural Fire Service and other local support services providing invaluable assistance to keep our community safe.

This includes Council staff working around the clock to closely monitor local roads, waterways, beaches, water and sewer systems and other essential services with crews attending to any impacts.

Community members are urged to remain vigilant, exercise extra caution on roads and reminded to never enter or drive through flood waters.

[Stay up to date](#)



Evacuation centre in place

If possible, stay with family and friends or go to the Evacuation Centre set up at Diggers at The Entrance. Evacuation centres will provide accommodation assistance and support, with residents from evacuated areas able to bring domestic animals with them if they are unable to be accommodated elsewhere.


[Find out more](#)



Current road closures

As heavy rainfall continues, we urge the community to take extra caution as flooding continues to cause road closures, and debris over roads. Be sure to plan ahead before leaving your house and check local road closures, follow all signage and never drive through flood waters.

[Stay updated](#)




Sandbag points

Sand and empty sandbags available at NSW SES Wyong Unit and NSW SES Gosford Unit.

SANDBAG POINT

FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN
FLOOD, STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500



For more



Update on Entrance Channel

The Entrance Channel remains open. Following flood forecasts above 1.3m on Tuesday 5 July 2022, Council staff deployed heavy machinery to undertake berm management in accordance with procedure. Machinery remains on site through Wednesday 6 July to undertake berm management in advance of the expected flood peak.

Find out more

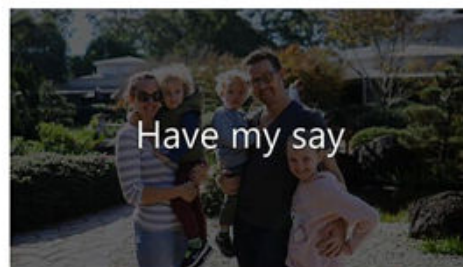


Disaster relief and support

Central Coast is under a natural disaster declaration. Affected communities and individuals may be able to access a range of special assistance measures from the NSW Government.

Eligibility

More across the Coast



Contact us

Wyong Office

2 Hely Street
Wyong NSW 2259
Ph: 1300 463 954

Email us

ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Important links

[Public toilet closures due to flooding](#)

[Celebrating NAIDOC Week on the
Central Coast](#)

[Have your say on draft Dogs in Open
Space Action Plan](#)

[Have you joined our recycle service trial
from home?](#)





Recovery for flood impacted communities

Following the recent severe weather and flooding event that took place across the Central Coast, impacted residents have turned their sights toward recovery and clean-up efforts.

The Resilience NSW recovery team with Central Coast Council, Service NSW, Services Australia and a range of other support teams remain at these rapid recovery hubs, offering recovery assistance, providing access to information and services for flood-affected Central Coast residents.

- **The Entrance Hub** - located at The Entrance Community Centre, Battley Ave, The Entrance and open Monday to Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday to Sunday 10am-2pm.
- **Spencer Hub** - located at Spencer Community Hall, 4776 Wisemans Ferry Road, Spencer and open Monday to Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday to Sunday 10am-2pm.

Council would again like to thank the many volunteers with local SES, Rural Fire Service, and other local support services who continue to provide invaluable assistance to keep our community safe.

[Find out more](#)



Clean-up of flood affected waste

Council and its contractors have begun letterbox drops to flood inundated properties, with information on collection days of flood affected waste. Our waste facilities are also open to receiving self-hauled waste from residents and businesses, with reduced fees applying for flood impacted mixed waste.

[Further waste updates >](#)



Health and safety during clean-up

A reminder to never enter a damaged building or structure, unless deemed safe to do so by authorities and take great care around electricity. If removing or moving waste, always use appropriate personal protective equipment, including dust mask, gloves, covered shoes or boots and full-length clothing to cover your arms and legs.

[More on health and safety >](#)



Disaster relief support

Community members affected by the recent severe weather event can access a range of special assistance measures.

[Eligibility](#)



Share feedback on off-leash areas

We're calling all community members, including those without dogs, to provide feedback on off-leash areas. Our aim is to improve opportunity for dedicated dog exercise areas and provide open space that all community members can safely enjoy. The draft Dogs in Open Action Plan remains on public exhibition until 26 August.

Have your say >

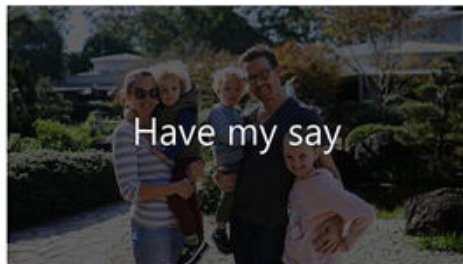


Council awarded NSW Community Sports Award

Council has won the Sport NSW Local Council of the Year Community Sports Award, which recognises contributions to the community in sport and active recreation. The Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of community coaches, officials, administrators, organisations and local council's of the past year.

Find out more >

More across the Coast



Contact us

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Ph: 1300 463 954

Email us

ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Important links

[Stay informed about flood recovery](#)

[Draft Wamberal Beach Terminal
Protection Structure Engineering Design
Requirements](#)





Support during flood clean up and recovery

The recent severe weather event that hit the Central Coast this month, created the biggest flood on Tuggerah Lakes since 1949 and the biggest flood on the Hawkesbury River in the last 100 years.

Council staff worked closely alongside the NSW State Emergency Service, coordinating activities from the Emergency Operations Centre at Charmhaven.

The Central Coast local government area is included in the NSW Government's Natural Disaster Declaration announced on Tuesday 5 July 2022, meaning people in our community who have been affected by this severe weather and flooding event can access a range of special assistance measures.

Council and flood evacuation impacted residents are now well into recovery and clean-up efforts, and this is expected to take some time.

I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly during the weather event and the recovery. Also, thank you to the members of the community who have contacted my office and local MPs' offices and have offered to help participate in the clean-up.

I strongly encourage all in the community to take extra care of yourselves on the roads, beaches, near flood affected areas and if you are helping with the clean-up.

Rik Hart, Administrator

Recovery information



Your mental health matters

Natural disasters, cleaning up and recovery can take a toll on your mental and physical health. Those in flood-affected communities may be feeling anxious, worried or afraid. It's vital that you seek support and look after both yours and your loved ones' wellbeing. There are many local and state services available to help if you need support.

[Find support information >](#)



Want to keep fit in winter?

Council manages 30 tennis facilities across the Central Coast which are run by either Council, or clubs and community groups – many of which are free to use! Tennis is a great activity for all ages including seniors, as it's low impact and helps maintain balance and co-ordination skills. It's also a perfect way to catch up with friends and family.

[Find a tennis court near you >](#)



Next Council meeting

The next Ordinary Council Meeting will be held Tuesday 26 July at Wyong. Come along or watch the live webcast.

[Read more](#)



Have your say on sea wall design requirements

It's the last week to provide feedback on the Draft Wamberal Beach Terminal Protection Structure Engineering Design Requirements. These guidelines will enable foreshore property owners to undertake approved development to protect their assets against coastal erosion, whilst the beach public amenity and environment is protected appropriately.

[Public exhibition until 27 July >](#)



Infrastructure works underway in July

In addition to the works being undertaken to clean up from the floods, Council crews continue to build, fix and maintain community infrastructure across the coast. The sports amenities building at Ettalong Lemon Grove Netball Courts is in the final construction stages, and works continue across the region to upgrade playspaces and sportsgrounds.

[See summary of works in progress >](#)

More across the Coast



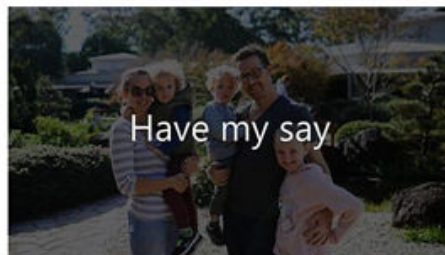
Love Local



Development Applications



Online Customer Service Centre



Have my say

Contact us

Wyong Office

2 Hely Street
Wyong NSW 2259
Ph: 1300 463 954

Email us

ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Important links

[New LEP and DCP in effect 1 Aug](#)

[Chemical clean out events](#)

[Have your say on Draft Dogs in Open
Space Action Plan](#)

[Delivery Program and Operational Plan
FY22-23](#)





Support for community impacted by floods

Three new Recovery Hubs have opened at Chittaway, Wyong and San Remo this week, in addition to the two hubs at The Entrance and Spencer to assist flood impacted residents and businesses across the Central Coast.

The Recovery Hubs provide face-to-face support on:

- Emergency accommodation
- Finance assistance
- Mental health support

- Community support services
- Legal and Insurance guidance
- Clean-up advice

Please share this information with any neighbours, friends or local residents impacted by flooding who may need support.

Opening hours



Connect with nature on National Tree Day

National Tree Day will be celebrated on the Central Coast on Sunday 31 July at Umina Beach and Porters Creek Wetland (9am-12pm). Dune vegetation plays an important role in our coastal environments as it reduces the impacts of wind and water erosion, meaning less sand will be lost during high seas and large swells. Join us to rejuvenate the area and learn about our environment.

Get your hands dirty this weekend >



More to your local modern library than books

We've just finished maintenance and improvement works at Toukley, Tuggerah, Kincumber, Lake Haven, Woy Woy and Bateau Bay libraries so now is the perfect time to swing by and take advantage of all that your local library offers. There are study spaces, author events, workshops, adult and children programs, magazine subscriptions, music, DVDs and much more.

Discover what's on offer >

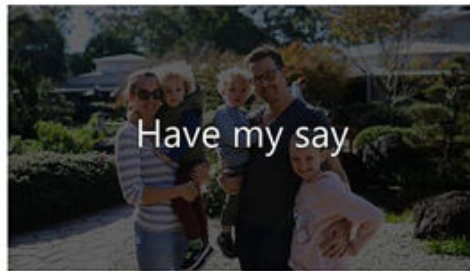


Keep up your fitness this winter on a bike

Explore more of the Central Coast by cycling along a scenic shared pathway

popular pathways

More across the Coast



Contact us

Wyong Office

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Ph: 1300 463 954

Email us

ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Important links

- [New LEP and DCP in effect 1 Aug](#)
- [Chemical CleanOut events in August](#)
- [Have your say on Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan](#)
- [Council Meeting highlights, 26 July](#)





Coast Connect

4 August 2022



Harmonised plans will benefit our region

The consolidated [Central Coast Local Environmental Plan](#) and [Central Coast Development Control Plan](#) came into effect on 1 August 2022.

The harmonisation of the former Gosford and Wyong Shire Councils' planning controls provide consistent planning framework for the region and pathway toward a smoother process for development applications and assessment - benefiting the Central Coast community, investors and Council staff.

This also encourages investment, provides a boost to local jobs and increases quality housing and infrastructure for our growing population.

Over several years, Council staff undertook extensive community and stakeholder consultation that resulted in 750 public submissions from agencies, residents, and businesses which provided valuable input and enabled the creation of a consolidated Plan that reflects community priorities.

It is noteworthy that this is a process that began with the participation of the then elected Councillors of the newly formed Central Coast Council, who were involved in developing the consultation plans and also provided their input whilst they were still elected officials of the Council.

Rik Hart, Administrator

[View planning controls](#)



Further recovery support for flood-affected residents

Rental support payments for flood victims and grants for rural landholders will soon be available for all communities affected by the June-July NSW flood event with more than \$23 million in relief funding from the Australian and New South Wales governments. Recovery assistance points (recovery hubs) are still operating at The Entrance, San Remo, Chittaway, and Wyong for Central Coast residents impacted by floods.

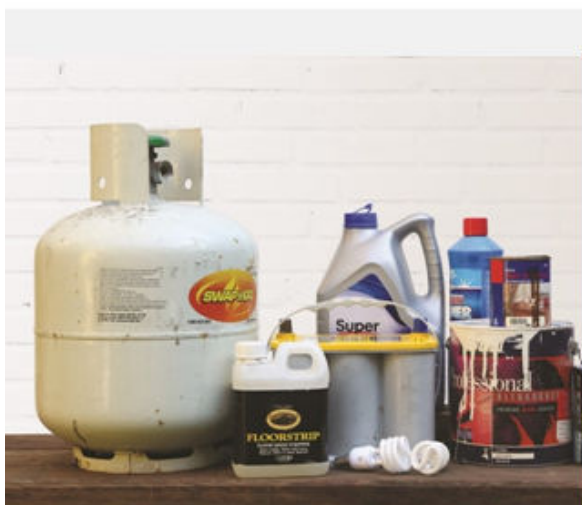
[More support information >](#)



Program of events live for upcoming Music Festival

Council has partnered with an array of local artists, venues and organisations to host the first Central Coast Music Festival. Gosford CBD will be a hub of live music and a variety of activities and workshops from 10 to 18 September, with the major concert on Saturday 17 September at Central Coast Stadium. The festival has been created to contribute to the growth and development of the local music industry on the Coast.

[Plan and book ahead >](#)



Last of free Chemical CleanOut events for 2022

Dispose of chemicals safely: Kincumber (6-7 Aug) and Charmhaven (13-14 Aug)

[Event this weekend](#)



Sports Hub makes it easy to find fun ways to keep active

Winter often means re-thinking how to keep fit and active. The Sports Hub website allows you to quickly search for Central Coast activities by location, interests, age group, accessibility, and suitability – and to find those that accept Active Kids Vouchers. The site was developed in partnership between the Office of Sport, Sport Central Coast and Council.

[Search from over 130 providers >](#)



Be part of the success of Harvest Festival for 2023

Expressions of interest are now open for local businesses, community groups, and organisations to become an event partner of Harvest Festival - one of the largest and most popular events on the Central Coast. Help to showcase our stunning rural hinterland region and submit your interest in hosting unique experiences, tours or events as a hub partner. EOI closes 9 September.

[Submit your EOI today >](#)

More across the Coast



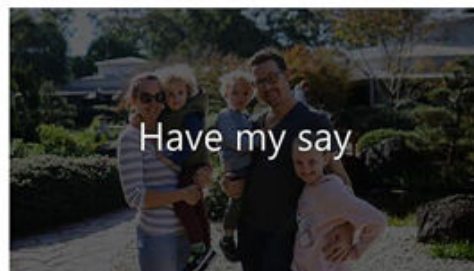
Love Local



Development Applications



Online Customer Service Centre



Have my say

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Wyong Office

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Email us

ask@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Important links

[Infrastructure works underway](#)

[The Art House wins award for excellence](#)

[Have your say on proposed plan for
dogs in open space](#)

[Accessible nature guide](#)





Adelaide St Oval sports amenities now open

Construction of the new amenities building at Adelaide Street Oval, Killarney Vale (Tumbi Umbi) is now complete - providing a significantly improved and accessible facility for Killarney Vale Bombers AFL Club, local and visiting players and supporters.

The amenities building includes four unisex change rooms, unisex toilets, ambulant and accessible toilets, first aid room, and ample storage. New concrete pathways now link the building to the carpark and existing clubhouse to improve access.

Council is committed to delivering quality infrastructure to support local sporting groups, encourage active and healthy lifestyles and to help create opportunities for social connections.

This project has been jointly funded by the NSW Government, Council and AFL NSW/ACT.

[More on this project](#)



Facilities at iconic Grant McBride Baths refreshed

The bulk of upgrades to the amenities at the heritage-listed Grant McBride Baths at The Entrance are complete. The existing changerooms and public toilets have had renovations to install a new parents room, enhance accessibility and refresh the facility. Further works are planned to occur later this year on roofing, fencing and hot water supply.

More on this free to use facility >



Tell us your thoughts on dogs in open spaces

Now is the time to provide feedback on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We're calling for all community members, including those without dogs as pets, to provide feedback on our off-leash areas. Our aim is to improve opportunity for dedicated dog exercise areas and open spaces that all community members can safely enjoy.

Have your say by 26 August >



Expressions of interest

EOIs now open for Harvest Festival 2023 event hub partners and hire of Gosford pop-up bar container

[Read more](#)



Central Coast accessible nature guide now available

Council has developed a brochure listing some of the accessible bushland, reserves and foreshore destinations on the Central Coast. The Accessible Nature



Administrator's Message: Gosford Revitalisation

Gosford Waterfront has long been identified as having significant potential as a regional attractor and key public open space. The waterfront has been

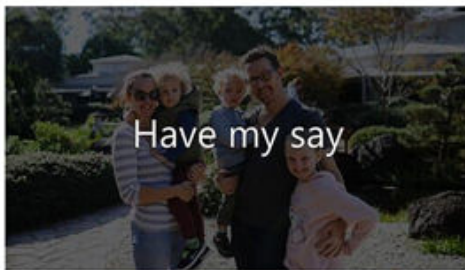
guide provides factual information for trip planning such as parking, amenities and other features to help people with a disability or limited mobility to get out in nature. Grab a copy from Council's customer service centres or libraries.

[View guide online or pick up a copy >](#)

the subject of many plans and studies with little movement to realise the plans. The adopted Gosford Waterfront Renewal Framework allows for the rezoning of the area as the first step in realising its potential.

[Read full message >](#)

More across the Coast



Contact us

Wyong Office

2 Hely Street
 Wyong NSW 2259
 Ph: 1300 463 954

Email us

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Important links

- [Next Council meeting is 23 August](#)
- [Chemical CleanOut event this weekend](#)
- [Have your say on flying of flags](#)
- [Flood recovery and financial support](#)
- [Showcasing makers and creators](#)



Appendix C – Facebook posts

Central Coast Council July 19, 2022 ·

Join the 500 community members who have already had their say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

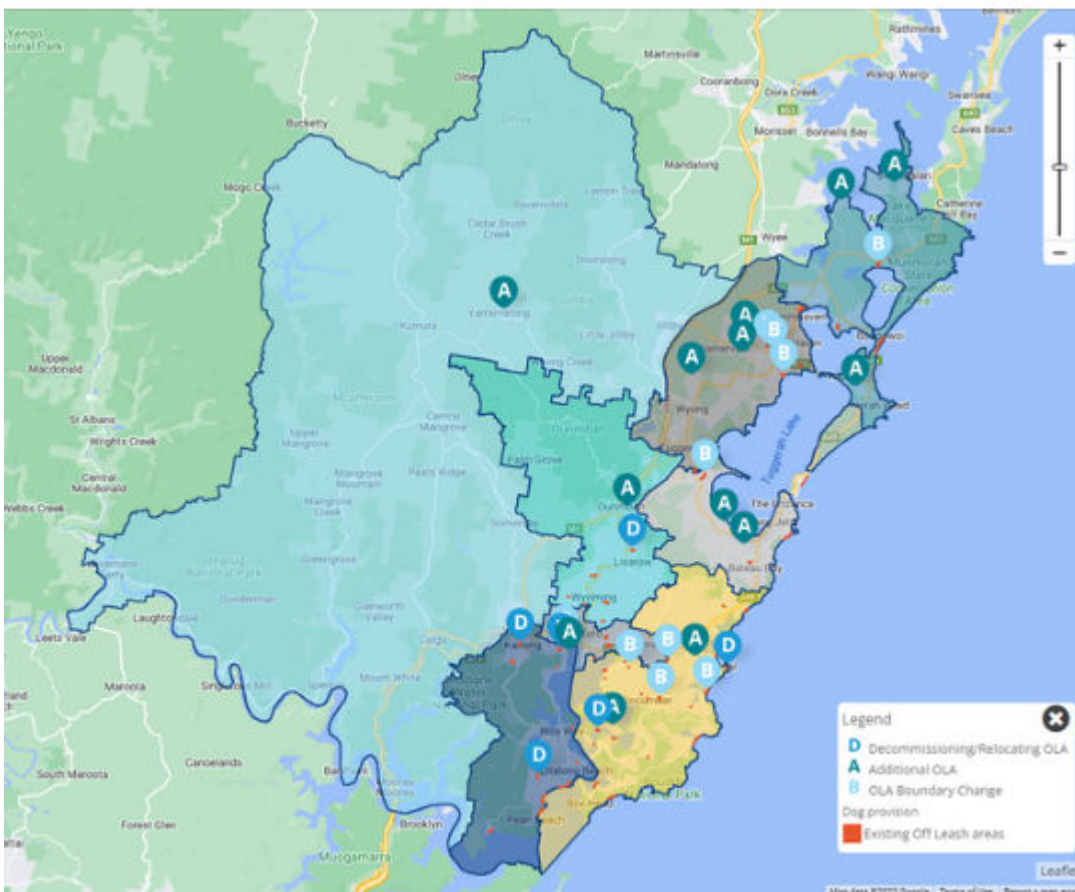
Whether or not you own a dog, we encourage you to get involved and read the draft Action Plan, view the interactive map with proposed updates/changes, and provide feedback on local off-leash areas.

Council currently manages and maintains 61 off-leash dog areas including open space reserves, beaches and fenced off-leash areas. This draft Action Plan proposes:

- The addition of thirteen additional off-leash areas
- Modifications to the boundary of ten off-leash areas
- The decommissioning of six sites

We're keen to work with you to improve opportunity for dedicated dog exercise areas and open space that all community members can enjoy, safely.

Feedback is accepted until Friday 26 August! For more and to have your say visit <https://hubs.la/Q01h4bt0>





Central Coast Council

July 25, 2022



Provide your input and influence community decisions 🗣️

Our consultation hub is open 24/7 and we are currently seeking your feedback on:

- Draft Wamberal Beach Design Requirements (until 27 July 2022)
- Amendments to 2022-23 Fees and Charges (until 1 August 2022)
- Dogs In Open Space Action Plan (until 26 August 2022)
- Tuggerah Lakes foreshore restoration works (ongoing)

There are also a number planning proposals that are currently on exhibition.

👉 Find out more and have your say at <https://hubs.la/Q01hrsKr0>





Central Coast Council

August 12, 2022 · 🌐

...

🐕 Don't forget to have your say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not.

All feedback received will inform the final Dogs in Open Space Action Plan, so that our public open space can be safely enjoyed by everyone.

This draft Action Plan proposes:

- 🐾 the addition of 13 new off-leash areas
- 🐾 upgrades to existing off-leash areas
- 🐾 improved education and animal management initiatives
- 🐾 modifications to the boundary of 10 off-leash areas
- 🐾 the decommissioning of six sites.

👉 Have your say now here: <https://hubs.la/Q01jNhlm0>! Consultation closes on Friday 26 August.





Central Coast Council

August 24, 2022 · 🌐

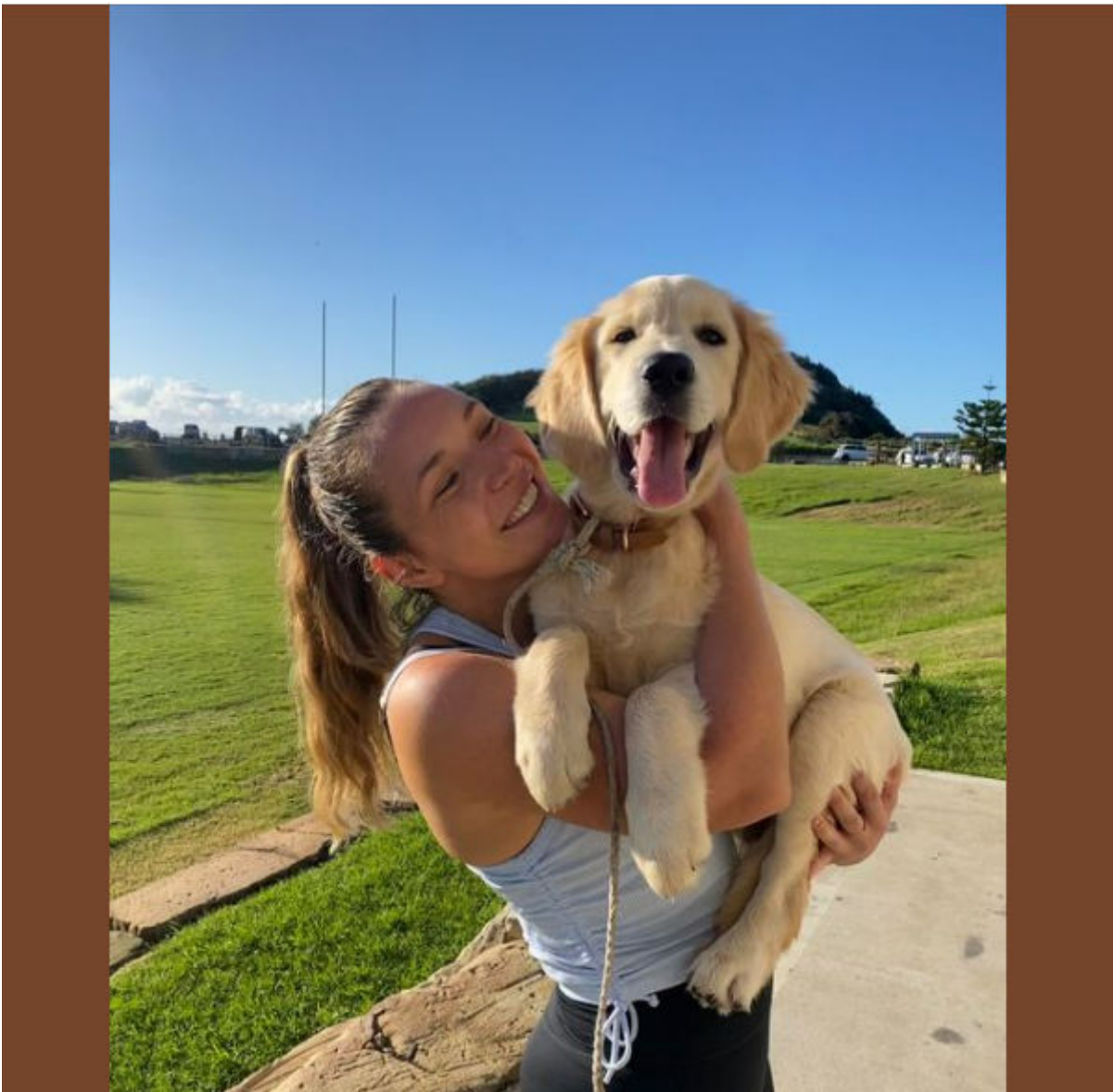


🐾 **REMINDER:** There's only three days left to have your say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not, with consultation closing this Friday 26 August.

👉 Over 2,800 submissions have been received so far, however if you haven't had your say on the allocation of local dedicated off-leash areas, now's the time. All feedback received will be used to inform the final Action Plan.

👥 Our aim is to provide improved opportunity for dedicated off-leash dog exercise areas, and open space that the whole community can safely enjoy.

Have your say now 🗨️ https://hubs.la/Q01kN_hP0





Central Coast Council

August 31, 2022 · 🌐



🐾 That's a wrap! We received over 3,200 submissions to our Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

👉 We'd like to thank all community members who shared their valuable feedback - we know it's a passionate topic for our community. 🗣️ We have a lot of feedback to analyse and consider before any decisions are made, to ensure we get the final plan right.

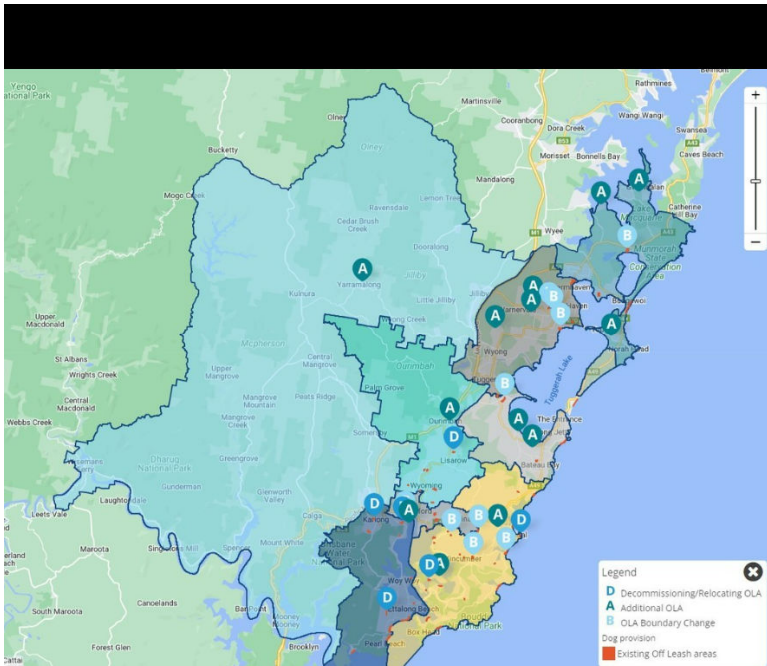
🗣️ This is not the last conversation we will have with our community on this topic. Feedback will be provided on how your submissions have been considered and what changes are proposed to the Draft Plan in response to your feedback. We may also need to engage further with you on particular elements of the Draft Plan.

🌿 🚫 In the meantime, the current on-leash, off-leash, and dog-prohibited areas will continue to be in place.

Read more 🖱️ <https://hubs.la/Q01IdymV0>



Appendix D – Instagram posts



centralcoastcouncil

Join the 500 community members who have already had their say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

Whether or not you own a dog, we encourage you to get involved and read the draft Action Plan, view the interactive map with proposed updates/changes, and provide feedback on local off-leash areas.

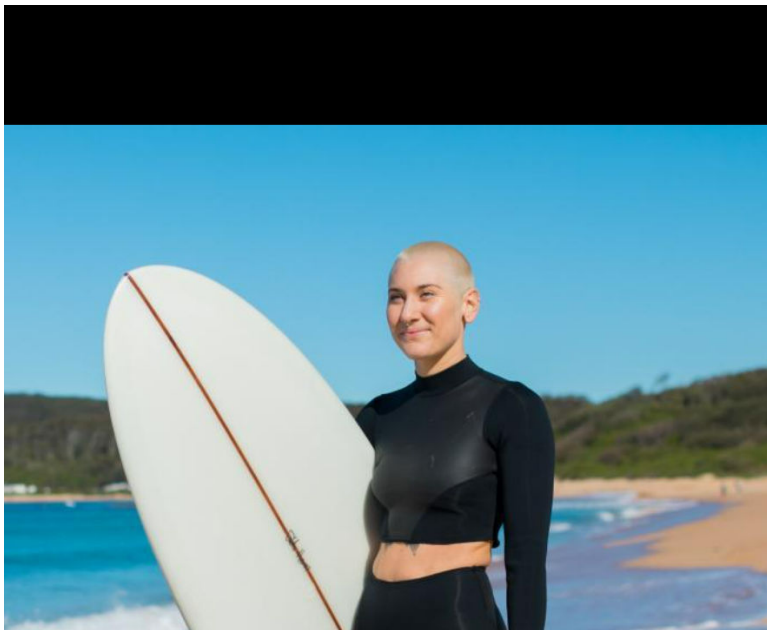
Council currently manages and maintains 61 off-leash dog areas including open space reserves, beaches and fenced off-leash areas. This draft Action Plan proposes:

- The addition of thirteen additional off-leash areas
- Modifications to the boundary of ten off-leash areas
- The decommissioning of six sites

We're keen to work with you to improve opportunity for dedicated dog exercise areas and open space that all community members can enjoy, safely.

Feedback is accepted until Friday 26 August! For more and to have your say - link in bio!

Edited · 26 w



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Provide your input and influence community decisions!

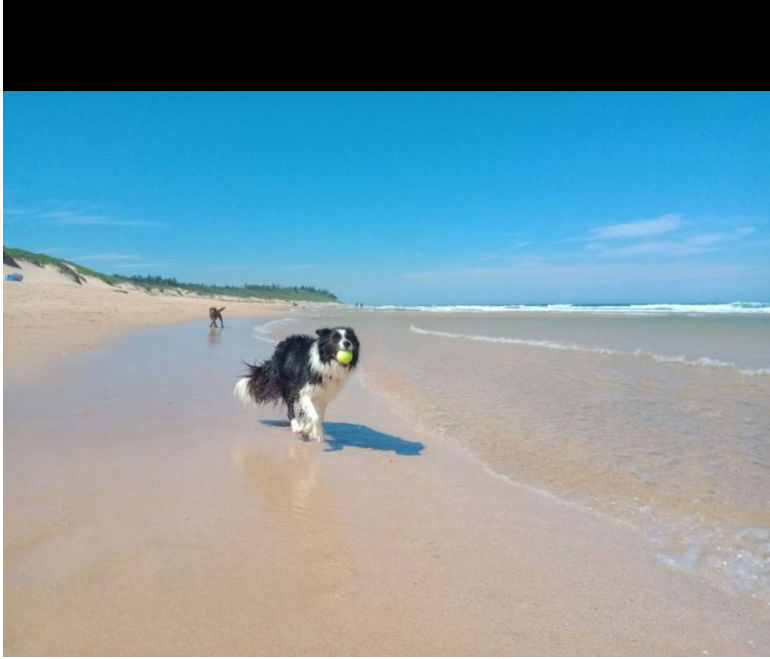
Our consultation hub is open 24/7 and we are currently seeking your feedback on:

- Draft Wamberal Beach Design Requirements (until 27 July 2022)
- Amendments to 2022-23 Fees and Charges (until 1 August 2022)
- Dogs In Open Space Action Plan (until 26 August 2022)
- Tuggerah Lakes foreshore restoration works (ongoing)

There are also a number planning proposals that are currently on exhibition.

Find our more and have your say via Your Voice Our Coast (link in bio)

25 w



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Don't forget to have your say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not.

All feedback received will inform the final Dogs in Open Space Action Plan, so that our public open space can be safely enjoyed by everyone.

This draft Action Plan proposes:

- the addition of 13 new off-leash areas
- upgrades to existing off-leash areas
- improved education and animal management initiatives
- modifications to the boundary of 10 off-leash areas
- the decommissioning of six sites.

Have your say now at the LINK in bio! Consultation closes on Friday 26 August.

Edited · 22 w



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REMINDER: There's only three days left to have your say on our draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan. We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not, with consultation closing this Friday 26 August.

Over 2,800 submissions have been received so far, however if you haven't had your say on the allocation of local dedicated off-leash areas, now's the time. All feedback received will be used to inform the final Action Plan.

Our aim is to provide improved opportunity for dedicated off-leash dog exercise areas, and open space that the whole community can safely enjoy.

Have your say now! LINK in bio!

Edited · 20 w



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centralcoastcouncil That's a wrap! We received over 3,200 submissions to our Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

📄 We'd like to thank all community members who shared their valuable feedback - we know it's a passionate topic for our community. 🗣️ We have a lot of feedback to analyse and consider before any decisions are made, to ensure we get the final plan right.

🗣️ This isn't the last conversation we'll have with our community on this topic. Feedback will be provided on how your submissions have been considered and what changes are proposed to the Draft Plan in response to your feedback. We may also need to engage further with you on particular elements of the Draft Plan.

🚫 In the meantime, the current on-leash, off-leash, and dog-prohibited areas will continue to be in place.

To read more - [LINK in BIO!](#)

Edited · 19 w

Appendix E – Twitter posts



CentralCoastCouncil @CCoastCouncil · Jul 25, 2022

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We are currently seeking feedback on:

- Draft Wamberal Beach Design Requirements (until 27 July 2022)
- Amendments to 2022-23 Fees and Charges (until 1 August 2022)
- Dogs In Open Space Action Plan (until 26 August 2022)

Find out more: tinyurl.com/5n8czfs8





CentralCoastCouncil @CCoastCouncil · Aug 31, 2022

...

🐶 That's a wrap! We received over 3,200 submissions to our Draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

We'd like to thank all community members who shared their valuable feedback - we know it's a passionate topic for **our** community.

Read more [👉 hubs.la/Q01ldXVP0?](https://hubs.la/Q01ldXVP0?)




Appendix F – Linked In posts



Central Coast Council

10,307 followers

6mo • 



Provide your input and influence community decisions.

We are currently seeking your feedback on:

- Draft Wamberal Beach Design Requirements (until 27 July 2022)
- Amendments to 2022-23 Fees and Charges (until 1 August 2022)
- Dogs In Open Space Action Plan (until 26 August 2022)
- Tuggerah Lakes foreshore restoration works (ongoing)

There are also a number planning proposals that are currently on exhibition.

Find our more and have your say at <https://hubs.la/Q01hrtnr0>



Appendix G – Poster



Have your say on Dogs in Open Space

Now's the time to have your say on Council's draft Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

We want to hear from everyone, whether you have a dog or not. All feedback received will inform the final Dogs in Open Space Action Plan.

What Council is proposing

Council currently manages and maintains 61 off-leash dog areas including open space reserves, beaches and fenced off-leash areas.

This draft Action Plan proposes:

- the addition of 13 new off-leash areas
- upgrades to existing off-leash areas
- modifications to the boundary of 10 off-leash areas
- improved education and animal management initiatives
- the decommissioning of six sites.

Have your say now! Consultation closes on Friday 26 August

Visit yourvoiceourcoast.com to find out more

Appendix H – Guided Submission Form



Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The Dogs In Open Space Action Plan (DIOSAP) has been developed in recognition of the high rates of dog ownership across the LGA and is has been written to ensure that Council has a well-considered long-term framework of future land management and prioritisation of infrastructure, whilst also providing clear criteria and direction for development to ensure there are adequate areas to accommodate dog exercise locally.

Please note your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 which allows for possible access to certain public and personal documentation. Don't forget to press the 'submit' button at the bottom of this page to finish this submission form.

First name:

Surname:

Address:

Suburb:

Daytime telephone number:

Email:

Next

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines five actions to support the planning for dog owners and their dogs:

- Ensure future requests relating to OLAs (Off Leash Areas) and FOLAs (Fenced Off Leash Areas) are addressed in line with the DIOSAP
- Ensure additional open space is incorporated in new subdivisions to cater for off-leash requirements as outlined in the DIOSAP
- Ensure a coordinated and fully integrated approach to the planning and provision for OLAs that involves regulatory services, open space planning and management, community development, town planning
- Prepare developer guidelines relating to OLAs and OLAs (partially fenced only)
- Consider the preparation of a Companion Animal Management Plan that enables Council to quantify service needs and priorities for the next 5-10 years.

Do you agree with the actions identified under planning for dog owners and their dogs?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP proposes to decommission/relocate six OLA's at the following sites:

- Terrigal Haven (decommission/relocate)
- Illoura Reserve (decommission/relocate)
- Lees Reserve (decommission)
- Kariong Recreation Reserve (decommission)
- Fagan Reserve (decommission/relocate)
- McEvoy Drainage Easement (Umina Beach) (decommission)

Do you agree the proposed decomisioning/relocation of these OLA?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP proposes to boundary changes at the following sites:

- North Avoca Beach (extend)
- Greenvale Rd Reserve, Green Point (extend)
- Colongra Bay Reserve, Lake Munmorah (reduce)
- Peppercorn Ave Reserve, Woongarah (reduce)
- Mataram Ridge Park, Woongarah (relocation within same park)
- Craigie Reserve, Kanwal (reduction)
- Adcock Memorial Park, West Gosford (reduction)
- Thames Dr Reserve, Erina (reduction)
- James Watt Dr Drainage Easement, Chittaway Bay (reduction)
- Oberton St Reserve, Kincumber (reduction)

Do you agree with the proposed changes to OLA boundaries?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP proposes to deliver additional OLAs at the following sites:

- Pine Ave Reserve, Davistown/Saratoga
- Duffy's Rd Reserve, Terrigal
- Adelaide St Reserve, Killarney Vale
- Robertson Rd, Killarney Vale
- Wattle St Reserve, Toukley
- Tunkuwallin Reserve (Kanangra Dr), Gwandalan
- Warwick Ave Reserve, Mannering Park
- Karrawa Reserve, Point Claire
- Caraval St Reserve, Hamlyn Terrace
- Watanobbi Knoll
- Lara Cl, Ourimbah
- Linga Longa Reserve, Yarramalong
- Hilltop Park, Woongarra

Do you agree with the proposed additional OLA site locations?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines four actions to manage the exclusion of dogs:

- Review Council Orders to ensure all sportsfields are appropriately designated and signed as 'Dog Exclusion' sites in line with NSW Companion Animal Act,1998 (CAA) requirements
- Review Council Orders to ensure that the following natural environments are all appropriately designated and signed as dog exclusion zones:
 - all COSS sites
 - areas designated by Council as Natural Assets
 - all beaches not designated as Off Leash Areas
 - sand dune areas
- Ensure any mapping of OLAs clearly designates a 10m exclusion zone for dogs around play equipment in line with requirements of the CAA.
- Consider the preparation of a signage strategy for OLAs.

Do you agree with the actions identified under dog exclusion areas?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines four actions to manage compliance with dog control regulations:

- Consider the introduction of seasonal timed access to beaches that are located in foreshore OLAs (e.g. sunrise to 9.00am and 5.00pm to sunset for restricted summertime/peak season access for dogs)
- Prepare a cost-benefit analysis for the reintroduction of proactive compliance monitoring and educational initiatives to address non-compliance matters raised in this report. Particularly as they relate to dogs off-leash in on-leash areas and control of dogs in line with regulations
- Continue to review areas of environmental sensitivity where dogs should be excluded or be required to be on a leash
- Liaise with the National Parks Service to identify strategies that will help increase awareness of dog exclusion zones and minimise non-compliance with regulations

Do you agree with the actions identified under compliance with dog control regulations?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

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Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines three action items to manage access to foreshore off-leash areas:

- Consider signage, that includes 'informative mapping' of OLAs and permitted access points, at car parks commonly used by dog owners to access Putty Beach and Wamberal foreshore OLAs
- Ensure information on Council's website clearly informs dog owners of permitted points of access to foreshore OLAs
- Investigate the feasibility and cost benefit of providing off-street or on street car parking at or near 25-25B Ocean View Drive, Wamberal

Do you agree with the actions identified under access to foreshore off-leash areas?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines one action to manage dog registrations:

- Consider targeted (e.g. by suburb) strategies to encourage owners to comply with dog registration regulations

Do you agree with the action identified under dog registrations?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

[Next](#)

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines six actions to manage the fencing of off leash areas:

- Adopt the guiding principles in this report and the Provision Framework for OLAs, noting Council's position is not to fence OLAs other than for management considerations contained in this document.
- Ensure Council's rationale for fencing/not fencing OLAs is explained in information to the community (at a minimum on council website)
- Prepare a Concept and Detailed Design Plan for the Tuggerah fenced dog off-leash area (FOLA) to:
 - enhance the amenity of the site
 - improve sensory and development outcomes for dogs
- Prepare a Concept Plan for the Maitland Bay (Ettalong) Rd FOLA to:
 - Investigate opportunities to expand
 - improve the amenity of the site
 - Address maintenance challenges (e.g surface degradation)
 - Improve sensory and development outcomes for dogs
- Prepare a Concept Plan for the Sensory Park (Narara) FOLA to:
 - Investigate fencing options
 - Improve the amenity of the site
 - Address maintenance challenges (e.g surface degradation, tree protection)
 - Improve sensory and development outcomes for dogs
- Remove the fencing around the Colongra Bay Reserve OLA, apart from barrier fencing along the roadside and incorporate landscape features to enhance the amenity of the site and sensory features appealing to dogs

Do you agree with the actions identified under fencing off-leash areas?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

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Next

Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines one action to support the effective control of dogs:

- Consider the incorporation of some or all of the following requirements in a Council Order to effectively define 'effective control' of dogs:
 - In on-leash areas
 - Dogs must:
 - be held on a leash at all times and in line with CAA age and capability requirements
 - be on a short leash (max 1.5 mt) when on or within 5m of footpaths or trails
 - not be tethered to a fixed place or object
 - In off-leash areas:
 - Dogs can only be off the leash if they always immediately respond/recall at owner's voice and/or hand commands
 - Dogs must remain:
 - within 100 m of their owner
 - within clear sight of their owner
 - Dogs must not:
 - run or rush at another dog or person
 - make unwanted approaches to another dog or person
 - be allowed into 'dog exclusion' areas

Do you agree with the actions identified under effective control of dogs?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

Go back

Next



Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines two actions to support the management of off leash areas:

- Review the resourcing of maintenance for inland OLAs in consideration of:
 - Establishing service levels in line with similar open space assets (public amenity)
 - FOLAs good practice design and management
- Review the resourcing of Ranger Services, in consideration of:
 - Changing service demands
 - The impact and effectiveness of current strategies
 - The cost-benefit (e.g public amenity, financial, public relations, staff morale) of implementing proactive strategies to address matters relating to animal management

Do you agree with the actions listed under management of off-leash areas?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

[Go back](#)

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Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

The DIOSAP outlines five actions to support community partnerships, education and communication:

- **Incident Mapping**
 Consider the GIS mapping of dog control/behaviour complaints. (This will help identify problematic sites where community education initiatives should be first focused)
- **Council website**
 Review and update information on Council's website relating to dogs in public spaces so information is consolidated clear and concise information
- **Community Development Appointment**
 Appoint dedicated Community Development Role (Behaviour change specialist)
- **Dog Education/training**
 Consider strategies to incentivise attendance at puppy classes and adult dog training classes
- **Mobile Dog Education Service**
 Consider the employment or engagement of a dog behaviourist and acquisition of a mobile Dog Owner Education Van

Do you agree with the actions listed under community partnerships, education and communication?

Yes

No

Unsure

Why?

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Submission form: Central Coast Dogs In Open Space Action Plan

Submission comments:

Attachment one:

Drop files or click here to upload

Attachment two:

Drop files or click here to upload