

7.2 DOG WALKING IN MERRI-BEK - CONSULTATION SUMMARY AND STAGE 1 PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

Director City Infrastructure, Anita Curnow

Open Space and Environment

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the Council Order at Attachment 1 (Dog Off-Leash and Dog Prohibited Areas) and directs for it to be published with tracked changes accepted in the Victorian Government Gazette with an effective date of 28 July 2025, noting that the Order creates five new designated off-leash areas and modifies two.
2. Endorses the implementation of the Stage 1 pilot program across eight identified parks that support the Council Order to trial draft principles and interventions for improved management of dog access (Attachment 2) for a minimum of six months, utilising capital funding of \$150,000 set aside in 2025/26 for this purpose
3. Notes that the community has participated significantly in consultation on Stage 1 of the *Dog Walking in Merri-bek* project summarised in Attachment 3 of this report and that officers will continue to engage with the community during the pilot.
4. Receives a future report at the conclusion of the Stage 1 pilot on outcomes, learnings and future recommendations as part of the preparation of Stage 2 of the *Dog Walking in Merri-bek* project (remaining off leash reserves).

REPORT

Executive Summary

This report outlines the policy context, background, consultation process and proposed next steps for improving how dogs and their owners share Merri-bek's open spaces with other users as part of the *Dog Walking in Merri-bek* project.

Dog ownership in Merri-bek has tripled since 2018, with over 14,000 registered dogs and increasing demand for dog-friendly infrastructure - particularly in high-density areas. While Merri-bek leads neighbouring municipalities in the number of off-leash areas (54), there are growing concerns about conflicts between dog walkers and other park users and impacts of dogs on biodiversity as population density increases.

As Stage 1 of a two-stage process, Council identified ways to better manage dog walking in open space at nine sites to improve safety, accessibility and environmental protection. These include zoning of reserves, shared timed access, fenced dog areas and habitat protection zones.

Through March, April and May 2025 Council conducted extensive community engagement including surveys, park pop-ups, focus groups and stakeholder sessions on these Stage 1 proposals. Feedback highlighted both strong community support for dog-friendly spaces but also concerns about dogs in sensitive environmental areas, near playgrounds, and during sports events. The need for clearer signage, greater enforcement and increased education were consistently raised. The consultation has resulted in several proposed changes to the implementation of Stage 1, including removing one area from the trial.

In summary, there are new designated dog off-leash areas in GE Clarke Reserve in Glenroy, Robinson Reserve, Harmony Park and Tate Reserve in Coburg and at Lorne Street Reserve in Fawkner. Modifications are proposed to the designated dog off-leash areas at Gilpin Reserve and Fleming Park in Brunswick, and addition of lighting at Robinson Reserve, Coburg. A proposed new dog off-leash area at Bababi Djinanang in Fawkner has been removed from the pilot following community feedback.

The nature of the feedback meant that it was not possible to meet all requests. This was particularly the case at Tate Reserve in Coburg, where the adjusted approach seeks to account for strongly held differing views; on one hand, dog walkers were unhappy with the original proposal to retain the dog on-lead status of the reserve, arguing it operates now (despite its on-lead zoning) as an off-lead area, while those speaking for the environmental qualities of the area observed degradation of habitat due to dogs and considered it a priority to retain and strengthen dog on-lead requirements. The officer recommendation for this site seeks to strike a balance; to have a fenced, larger-than-originally-shown area prohibiting all dogs in the most sensitive vegetated areas adjacent to a dog off-leash corridor.

The Stage 1 approaches and interventions will be piloted for six months. The pilot will be evaluated and used to inform Stage 2 (review of the remaining dog off-lead areas) and guide long-term policy on dog access in public spaces.

As part of the 2025/26 Budget Council has allocated \$150,000 to support the implementation of the Stage 1 pilot through the provision of temporary infrastructure, minor permanent upgrades and additional staff engagement activities. Additional funding of \$160,000 has been allocated to adjustments of the Gilpin Reserve dog park facilities, which will be permanent improvements.

This project represents an important opportunity to ensure our open spaces remain safe, inclusive, and sustainable for all members of the Merri-bek community.

Previous Council Decisions

Dogs Off Leash Areas - Council Order – 8 March 2006

Council resolves:

....

2. *That Council resolves to adopt the following order, and rescind all previous orders relating to control of dogs in public places;*

[Order wording]

...

(Note: wording of 2006 order forms the basis of **Attachment 1**, which also shows as tracked changes proposed for the new Council Order).

1. Policy Context

Community Vision

The Council Plan 2021 to 2025 sets out Council's and our community's vision for the future in Merri-bek. Key objectives and strategies related to this report include:

- 1.3: Use open space in ways that protect and enhance biodiversity and tree canopy, creating spaces for nature to thrive and gives the community fair access to a wide range of passive and active recreational opportunities.
- 1.4: Strategically increase accessible and inclusive open spaces based on local needs and other priorities for parks, playgrounds, dog parks, sporting facilities, community gardens, eating, toilets, etc.
- Major initiative and priority: Review and implement the Merri-bek Open Space Strategy, integrating it with plans for nature, water and tree planting as well as articulating a framework for use of open space that helps prioritise investment in new land and upgraded park facilities, playgrounds, dog parks, BMX and skate parks, fitness facilities, community and memorial gardens and nature walks.

Open Space Strategy

Council adopted its current Open Space Strategy in 2024. The following strategic directions are relevant to this report:

- Ensuring our open space network is adaptive, biodiverse, cooling, healthy and resilient.
- Providing open space for everyone.

Other strategic plans

Council has identified opportunities to improve dog walking in open spaces through area-specific planning processes and wider policy initiatives, including:

- Brunswick Central Parklands Plan
- Fawkner Merri Creek Parklands Plan
- Fleming Park Masterplan
- Domestic Animal Management Plan

The use of open space, particularly in relation to dog walking is of high interest to the community. The level of community engagement undertaken during the engagement period for Stage 1 is considered to have met Council's aspirations as outlined in the Community Engagement Policy, which is a requirement under the Local Government Act 2020. The comprehensive engagement process undertaken to date is further detailed in Section 4 of this report. The Stage 1 Community Engagement Report (**Attachment 3**) details the community engagement on the proposed interventions for Stage 1 of the *Dog Walking in Merri-bek* project.

2. Background

Key drivers for this project include:

- A significant rise in registered dog numbers
- Community feedback received during the development of the new Open Space Strategy
- The upcoming review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) in 2025/26
- The time since the Council Order for dog off-leash areas was last updated (2006)
- Strategic and master planning exercises across local parks and reserves
- Compliance levels with local laws
- Concerns around accessibility and safety for all users
- The need for protection of biodiversity and habitat areas.

This project seeks to explore how we can better manage and share open space between dog walkers and other users, including families, cyclists, and sporting clubs.

Between 2018 and 2024, dog ownership in Merri-bek has tripled. There is growing demand for dog-friendly spaces, particularly in high-density areas. We've also heard directly from the community about the need for improved dog facilities. Increases in both human and dog populations will inevitably lead to the need to share open space and opportunities for possible conflict.

Municipality	Number of Registered Dogs	Dogs/km ²	Number of Off-leash Areas
Merri-bek	14,212	279	54
Darebin	9,235	173	30
Moonee Valley	9,794	227	11
Yarra	6,531	334	28
Melbourne	4,473	119	17

Merri-bek stands out among neighbouring councils with the highest number of off-leash areas and one of the highest rates of dog ownership. These off-leash areas include fenced parks, shared sports reserves, and general open spaces—each presenting different benefits and challenges for shared use. Merri-bek currently has 54 designated dog off-leash reserves and 5 newly constructed fenced dog parks.

Recent strategic plans, including those for parts of Brunswick and Fawkner, seek to maintain access for dog walkers while balancing this with other community and environmental needs. Council's Open Space Strategy highlights that open spaces must support multiple, and sometimes competing, uses.

Recent feedback from Council officers, community members, and sporting groups indicates that open space is not always being shared appropriately and compliance with local laws is not consistently adhered to. Council will continue to explore ways to better manage these spaces so that all users can enjoy them safely and respectfully.

The pilot will help Council to:

- Test how open space can support increased population density and shared use of open space
- Trial solutions to common issues in some parks
- Educate the public about being a responsible dog owner
- Evaluate community sentiment around the new interventions.

3. Issues

Community feedback

Feedback gathered during earlier consultation for the Open Space Strategy in 2023 and 2024 revealed that dog walking is one of the most common uses of open space. However, it also highlighted several concerns. Many residents expressed that they are uncomfortable around dogs, especially in playgrounds or other areas where dogs are not supposed to be off-leash. This was particularly evident in Merri-bek's culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Environmental groups, including Friends of Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek, have raised concerns about dogs impacting biodiversity and wildlife, particularly in sensitive areas along the creek corridors. Dogs are also responsible for extensive erosion in some locations.

Specific requests have also made for more:

- Fenced and purpose-built dog parks
- The provision of dog waste bags and rubbish bins
- Clearer signage to indicate on leash and off leash locations
- Enforcement of on-leash requirements.

The attached Engagement Summary report (**Attachment 3**) outlines key community feedback received. Most responses came from dog owners, who made up a greater proportion of respondents than the proportion of Merri-bek residents who own dogs. Dog owners strongly value open space for wellbeing, community connection, and socialising. At the same time, concerns were raised about:

- Conflict between dogs and cyclists including off-leash dogs running onto shared paths and causing injury or distress
- Off-leash dogs disrupting formal sporting events and training
- Wildlife disturbance in natural areas
- Damage to sensitive habitat, particularly along creek corridors
- Lack of clarity about when and where dogs are allowed in shared spaces
- Dog behaviour (digging, waste) affecting enjoyment of parks by others
- Dogs intimidating park users or rushing up to other dogs and people
- Aggressive interactions between community members sharing open space and compliance with local law requirements
- Conflict between dog owners when uncontrolled dogs interact with other dogs.

Community members suggested clearer signage about sports schedules and better enforcement to support shared use. There is concern about changes being perceived as restrictions on dog owners, despite Stage 1 being framed as a learning opportunity through the pilot sites and on balance more spaces being made available for off-leash activities and the inclusion of dog specific infrastructure.

The range of consultation methods applied during engagement, including online tools and pop-up meetings have resulted in rich feedback from the community on individual reserves and parks as well as broad commentary on dogs in public spaces. This includes parks not earmarked as pilot sites for the first stage but related to dog walking issues and opportunities. Feedback related to the Stag 1 pilot sites has resulted in some amendments to the concept plans and one site being removed from the pilot list of reserves (Bababi Djinanang). These changes have been illustrated in Attachment 2 *Dog Walking in Merri-bek – Stage 1 Pilot Site Concept Plans* and a summary of changes are detailed in the table below.

Changes to the proposed Stage 1 Pilot in response to community consultation

Proposed pilot location	Significant changes proposed Y/N	Description of significant changes
Gilpin Park, Brunswick	Yes	Small/timid dog area relocated to western edge of reserve, expansion of main enclosed dog area reduced.
Wylie Reserve, Brunswick West	No	
Fleming Park, Brunswick East	No	
Harmony Park, Coburg	Yes	Reduced size of new proposed off leash area to provide ease of legibility within the reserve.
Robinson Reserve, Coburg	No	

Proposed pilot location	Significant changes proposed Y/N	Description of significant changes
Tate Reserve, Coburg	Yes	Expansion of proposed dog prohibited zone (Merri Creek habitat zone), change status of remaining reserve area from on-leash to off leash.
Lorne Street Reserve, Fawkner	Yes	Relocate proposed dog off leash area in the south to the north and change to an enclosed off leash area (replacing the enclosed area originally proposed at Bababi Djinanang).
GE Clarke Reserve, Glenroy	No	
Bababi Djinanang, Fawkner	Yes	Removed from Stage 1 Pilot, in response to community feedback and further consideration.

Legal and risk considerations

Local Government Act 2020

The Local Government Act 2020 and Merri-bek's Local Laws provide requirements and guidance for how Merri-bek plans, delivers and manages our open space. The Local Government Act articulates that "the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community" (section 8 (1)). The Local Laws provide clarity about responsibilities in our open spaces, including on-leash dog areas in our parks and playgrounds and protection of our natural environment in open spaces.

Domestic Animals Act 1994

Section 26 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* allows Victorian Councils to prohibit dogs from certain public places within the municipality and a requirement for dogs to be on leash at all times, unless in a designated off-leash area as named by the Council.

Merri-bek Council has an existing Order endorsed in March 2006 which specifies these requirements. It is proposed to amend this Order as shown in **Attachment 1** to implement the Stage 1 Pilot and to rescind the previous order under the Act. Section 26(2A) (3) of the Act also stipulates that *An order made by the Council under this section must be published in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the municipal district of the Council making the order.* It is proposed to Gazette this decision accordingly.

Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have given consideration to the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and there are no relevant implications for the proposed interventions of Stage 1. It is noted that Council has conducted extensive community engagement as part of this process, ensuring the views of the community have been considered in the proposals outlined in this report.

4. Community consultation and engagement

A detailed summary of the community consultation undertaken as part of this project can be found at Attachment 3 to this report.

The consultation process was completed during March, April, May 2025 and included:

- Online and hard-copy surveys
- Nine pop-up sessions in local parks
- A focus group for people uncomfortable around dogs
- Social media campaign, including in-language materials
- Signage in all 9 proposed pilot parks
- Activities with Youth Ambassadors and the Children's Reference Group
- Input from Council's Advisory and Reference Groups
- Postcards and posters distributed at community venues
- Letters to residents who reside nearby the proposal trial locations

Council received over 3,000 pieces of feedback during the consultation. A number of petitions were also received.

Affected persons rights and interests

Before making a decision that affects a person's rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views.

Officers pursued a targeted and rigorous engagement process to ensure that a broad range of community members were able to participate, in addition to users and nearby residents of the 9 proposed pilot reserves. The feedback received has been taken into consideration.

5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

6. Financial and Resources Implications

The estimated cost for the Stage 1 pilot program is \$150,000 which includes:

- Temporary infrastructure (signage, lighting, counters, fencing).
- Permanent features (gravel paths, garden beds to clarify zones, some fencing).
- Staff time for evening/weekend engagement activities and monitoring.

The funds required to action this resolution have been budgeted for within the 2025/26 financial year.

A breakdown of the estimated costs for Stage 1 are included in the table below:

Location	Suburb	Interventions	Cost
Lorne Street Reserve	Fawkner	Fenced dog park	\$25,000
GE Clarke Reserve	Glenroy	Path works, vegetation	\$20,000
Wylie Reserve	Brunswick West	Lighting, monitoring	\$5,000
Fleming Park	Brunswick East	Monitoring, fencing, vegetation	\$34,000
Robinson Reserve	Coburg	Monitoring, vegetation	\$5,000
Tate Reserve	Coburg	Fencing	\$25,000

Location	Suburb	Interventions	Cost
Harmony Park	Coburg	Vegetation, landscaping, monitoring	\$12,000
General		Signage and contingency	\$24,000
Total			\$150,000

It is noted that in the budget additional funds of \$160,000 have been provided for the renewal of the existing Gilpin Park enclosed dog park.

7. Implementation

Subject to endorsement by Council, officers will begin the implementation of the Stage 1 Pilot as detailed in the Dog Walking in Merri-bek Stage 1 Pilot Implementation (**Attachment 2**). Not all interventions will be able to commence immediately and will be subject to normal procurement processes, for this reason the pilot will commence in a staggered manner and continue for no less than 6 months at each site.

Officers will continue to consult with the community during the 6 month pilot and will collect feedback to inform Stage 2 of the pilot, which will consider the roll out of further interventions at the other reserves across the municipality. A review of the 6 month Stage 1 Pilot will determine if the interventions should be retained or further changes made; a report will be presented to Council.

Attachment/s

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------|
| 1 | ↓ | Council Order - Dog off leash areas - 9 July 2025 | D25/329360 |
| 2 | ↓ | Dog Walking in Merri-bek Stage 1 Implementation Plan - 9 July 2025 | D25/329362 |
| 3 | ↓ | Engagement Summary Report - Dog Walking in Merri-bek - 9 July 2025 | D25/329365 |

Council Order – 9 July 2025 Council meeting

DOGS OFF LEASH AREAS

Order of the ~~Moreland~~-~~Merri-bek~~ City Council

Section 26(2) Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994

Dogs must be under effective control

The owner of any dog must keep the dog in effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash held by the owner and attached to the dog while the dog is in any public place, other than designated off-leash areas.

Designated off-leash areas.

A dog may be exercised off a chain, cord or leash in designated off-leash areas, subject to the following conditions:

- The owner must carry a chain, cord or leash sufficient to bring the dog under effective control if the dog behaves in a manner which threatens any person or animal;
- The owner must remain in effective voice or hand control of the dog so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under effective control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash if that becomes necessary; and
- The owner must not allow the dog to worry, attack, rush at or threaten any person or animal.

If a dog is not restrained by means of a chain, cord or leash in a designated off-leash area, the owner must bring the dog under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash at all times when the dog is within:

- 15 metres of:
 - any playground or children's play equipment;
 - the principal location of an organised sporting or community event or festival;
 - the principal location of an organised public meeting; or
 - a permanent barbecue or picnic area when in use.
- 1 metre of:
 - a shared pathway (and at all times while on the shared pathway).

List of Designated off-leash areas

Name of Park/Reserve	Street	Suburb	Melways Reference
Clifton Park	Victoria St	Brunswick	29 E7
Joyce Reserve	Northumberland Rd	Pascoe Vale	17 A6
McDonald Reserve	Bell St	Coburg	17 K12
DeChene Reserve	Bell St	Coburg	18 A12
Jackson Reserve	Golf Rd	Coburg North	17 K9
Cash Reserve	Livingstone St	Coburg North	18 A8
Sheils Reserve	Duggan St	Brunswick West	29 B5
Holbrook Reserve	Moonee Pde	Brunswick West	29 A8
Egan Reserve	Rennie St	Coburg	30 B3
Jones Park	Albion St	Brunswick East	30 A5
Braddy Reserve	Victoria St	Brunswick West	29 B6
Phillips Reserve	Weigall St	Brunswick East	30 B8
Sumner Park	Alister St	Brunswick East	30 C9
Abrahams Reserve	Clara St	Brunswick East	30 A5
Bowden Reserve	Nicholson St	Coburg	30 A1
Bridges Reserve	Bell St	Coburg	29 J1
Richards Reserve	Charles St	Coburg North	17 F9
Martin Reserve	Epping St	Hadfield	17 E2
Mommson Reserve	North Street	Hadfield	17 C2
Moomba Park Reserve	McBryde St	Fawkner	8 A12
Sewell Reserve	Glenroy Rd	Glenroy	17 A3
Wallace Reserve	Justin Ave	Glenroy	7 A12
Anderson Reserve	Linda St	Coburg	29 G3
Esselemont Reserve	Somerset St	Pascoe Vale Sth	16 J9
Gervase Ave Reserve	Gervase Ave	Glenroy	6 F12
J P Fawkner	Francis St	Oak Park	16 F6
Jacana Valley	Fran St	Glenroy	16 D2
Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve	Pengana Ave	Glenroy	16 D4
A G Gillon Oval	Hope St	Brunswick	29 E6
Gilpin Park*	Albert St	Brunswick	29 E7
Reaburn Reserve	Pearson St	Brunswick	29 E7
Wylie Reserve	South Daly St	Brunswick West	29 C8
Hosken Reserve	Pallett St	Coburg North	17 F8
Raeburn Reserve	Raeburn St	Pascoe Vale	17 C9
Balfe Park	John St	Brunswick	30 A9
Fleming Park*	Victoria St	Brunswick	30 A8
Kirkdale Park	Kirkdale St	Brunswick East	30 B8
Methven Park	Methven St	Brunswick	29 K8
Campbell Reserve	Moreland Rd	Coburg	30 A4
Brearily Reserve	Heliopolis St	Pascoe Vale Sth	17 A11
Dunstan reserve	Peacock St	Brunswick West	29 B4
Fraser Reserve	Hopetoun Ave	Brunswick West	29 A4
Morris Reserve	Wadham St	Pascoe Vale Sth	29 A2
Shore Reserve	Reynard St	Coburg	29 C2
Charles Mutton Reserve	Mutton Rd	Fawkner	17 J5
Parker Reserve	Mathieson St	Coburg North	17 J7
Austin Crescent Reserve	Austin Cres	Pascoe Vale	16 K8
Cole Reserve	Kent Rd	Pascoe Vale	17 B7

Hallam Reserve	Landells Rd	Pascoe Vale	17 D6
Rayner Reserve	Devon Rd	Pascoe Vale	16 J7
Roberts Reserve	Harrison St	Brunswick	30 B6
<u>GE Clarke Reserve*</u>	<u>Kalang Road</u>	<u>Glenroy</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Robinson Reserve*</u>	<u>McPherson St</u>	<u>Coburg</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Lorne Street Reserve*</u>	<u>Lorne St</u>	<u>Fawkner</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Harmony Park*</u>	<u>Gaffney St</u>	<u>Coburg</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Tate Reserve*</u>	<u>Grant St</u>	<u>Coburg</u>	<u>N/A</u>

***Off Leash areas in these parks are designated by the mapped areas and specific restrictions shown in Schedule 1.**

Prohibition

Playgrounds

Dogs are prohibited within the immediate perimeter of any playground at all times.

Creeks & Waterways

Dogs are prohibited within any Creeks & Waterways at all times.

Review

Council may, by order of resolution:

- Remove a reserve or part of a reserve; and /or
- Add a reserve or part of a reserve

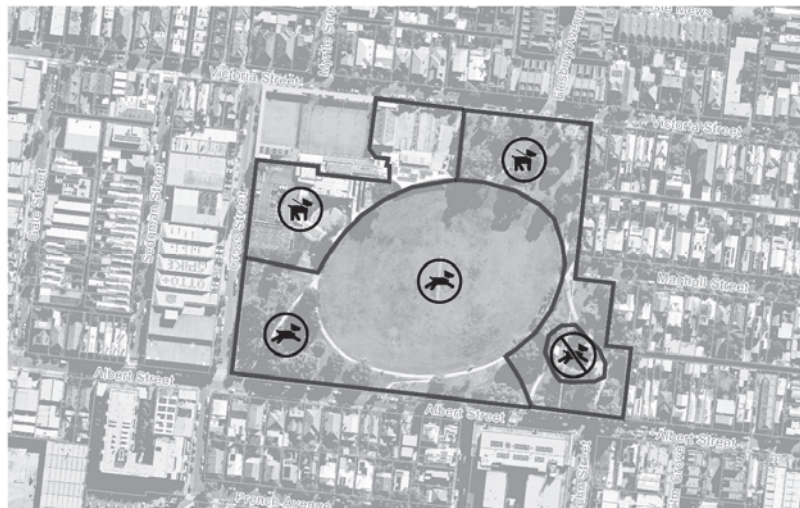
to the list of designated off-leash areas.

Definitions

- “chain, cord or leash” means a chain, cord or leash which effectively restrains the dog;
- “designated off-leash area” means a park or reserve or other place which has been designated by an order of Council under Section 26 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994, as contained in the list above;
- “owner” has the same meaning as in the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994;
- “public place” has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Summary Offences Act 1966;
- “shared path” has the same meaning as in Road Rule 242 of the Road Rules – Victoria

SCHEDULE 1 – Zoned Dog Off Leash Areas and Specific Restrictions**Gilpin Park - Albert St, Brunswick**

-
-  On-leash
 -  Off-leash
 -  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
 -  Prohibited
-

Fleming Park - Albert St, Brunswick East

-
-  On-leash
 -  Off-leash
 -  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
 -  Prohibited
-
-

Harmony Park - Gaffney St, Coburg

-
-  On-leash
 -  Off-leash
 -  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
 -  Prohibited
-
-

Robinson Reserve – McPherson St, Coburg

Additional Restrictions: the designated Off Leash Area only operates before 9:00am and after 5:00pm. This area is On Leash at all other times.



-  On-leash
-  Off-leash
-  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
-  Prohibited

Tate Reserve - Grant St, Coburg

-
-  On-leash
 -  Off-leash
 -  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
 -  Prohibited
-

Lorne Street Reserve - Lorne St, Fawkner

-  On-leash
-  Off-leash
-  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
-  Prohibited

GE Clarke Reserve – Kalang Rd, Glenroy

-  On-leash
-  Off-leash
-  Off-leash
(Timed Restrictions)
-  Prohibited



Dog Walking in Merri-bek

Stage 1 Pilot Implementation





Dog Walking in Merri-bek – Stage 1 Pilot Implementation Plan

Front image: Gilpin Park, Brunswick

Image above: Gilpin Park, Brunswick

Prepared by:

Open Space Design & Development Unit

Merri-bek City Council

July 2025

Dog Walking in Merri-bek Pilot Implementation Sites for Stage 1

1. Gilpin Park	Albert St	Brunswick
2. Fleming Park	Albert St	Brunswick East
3. Harmony Park	Gaffney St	Coburg
4. Robinson Reserve	McPherson St	Coburg
5. Tate Reserve	Grant St	Coburg
6. Lorne Street Reserve	Lorne St	Fawkner
7. Wylie Reserve	Union St	Brunswick West
8. GE Clarke Reserve	Kalang Rd	Glenroy



Image: Lorne Street Reserve, Fawkner

Introduction

This attachment accompanies the July 2025 Council report on the Dog Walking in Merri-bek Project and presents proposed changes for Stage 1 parks identified through community engagement and site analysis. The included plans illustrate recommended on-leash, off-leash, habitat protection zones and other Interventions. They are intended to support Council's consideration of the pilot program implementation. These proposals aim to balance dog walking access with environmental protection and safe shared use of public open space.

The community feedback received in Stage 1, further engagement during the pilot as well as the learnings from the proposed six month pilot in the 8 parks will inform permanent changes and potential future interventions to all parks across Merri-bek during Stage 2.

Please note that after community consultation and further assessment by officers, Bababi Djinanang was removed from the Stage 1 pilot.

During the pilot Council will be undertaking additional monitoring and evaluation, including:

- Monitoring community usage of the changes in the parks
- Evaluating the environmental impacts of the new dog off leash, no dog and timed use areas
- Recording any incidents in the pilot parks
- Using AI trained thermal heat cameras to map park usage, duration of stay, hot spots in the park and types of user in some parks
- Engaging student researchers to develop a dogs and the environment evaluation framework to collect baseline data to understand the impact of no dog, dogs on leash and dog off leash zones. This framework will assist Council in ongoing monitoring after the 6 month pilot, especially along our waterways
- Meeting with the community and key stakeholders to hear how the pilot interventions are proceeding
- Follow up engagement at the conclusion of the 6 month pilot.



Image: Fleming Park, Brunswick East

1. Gilpin Park - Albert St, Brunswick

Existing



Proposed



-  Dog Off-leash Zone
-  Dog On-leash Zone
-  Dog Park (Fenced)
-  No Dogs (Playground, Habitat)

Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Brunswick Central Parklands Plan 2023 • Open Space Strategy 2024 Initiatives proposed at May 2025 Consultation: • Create dog on-leash zone in the east to incorporate playground, shared path, nature play area and passive recreation areas • Extension of existing fenced dog park to approx. double in size, install temporary fencing • Signage at entry points and at fenced dog park entries Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Create dog on-leash zone in the east to incorporate playground, shared path, nature play area and passive recreation areas • Improve signage at entry points and at fenced dog park entries Amended: • Remove enlargement of the existing fenced dog park and retain current perimeter and size. Additional: • Create new pilot fenced small dog park at western boundary along Pearson Street, separating it from the larger dog park. • Integrate the small/timid dogs section inside current fenced dog park with the large dog section to slightly enlarge the existing dog park. • Renew surface treatment inside fenced dog park and test alternative materials appropriate for high usage dog parks. 

2. Fleming Park - Albert St, Brunswick East

Existing



Proposed



-  Dog Off-leash Zone
-  Dog Off-leash Restricted (access outside of organised sports times only)
-  Dog On-leash Zone
-  No Dogs (Playground, Habitat)

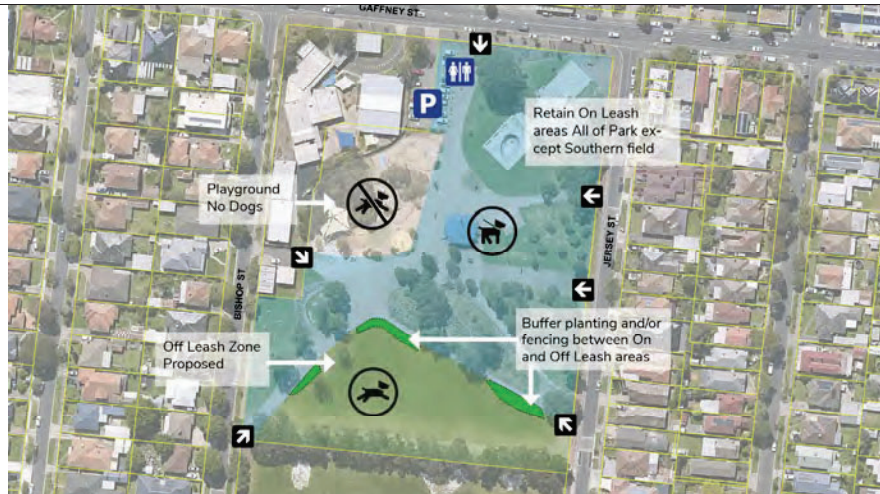
Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Fleming Park Masterplan 2018 (refresh) • Open Space Strategy 2024 Initiatives proposed at May 2025 Consultation: • Create dog on leash zones to incorporate playground, shared path, passive recreation zones • Dog off-leash zone on the oval (when no sports) and in southern part of the park • Improved fencing around the oval to better contain dogs at vulnerable sections like at the playground and shared path • Signage at entry points and at the oval. Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Create dog on leash zones to incorporate playground, shared path, passive recreation zones • Dog off-leash zone on the oval (when no sports) and in southern part of the park • Improved fencing around the oval to better contain dogs at vulnerable sections like at the playground and shared path • Improve signage at entry points and at the oval. Additional: • Install new fencing along Cross Street, supporting safe dog off leash walking in the southwest section of the park. • Install a new planting bed south of the grandstand, separating the dog off leash zone from the playground area. • Remove current decal signage on the oval circular path re dog on leash requirements. The path is not a shared user path and dogs are not required to be on leash, except in an on leash area or within proximity of the shared user path. 

3. Harmony Park - Gaffney St, Coburg

Existing



Proposed



-  Dog Off-leash Zone
-  Dog On-leash Zone
-  No Dogs (Playground, Habitat)
-  Garden bed (natural barrier)

Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Open Space Strategy 2024 Initiatives proposed for May 2025 Consultation: • Create a dog off leash zone in the southern section of the park • Install garden beds Improving legibility and separation between zones • Signage at entry points Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Create a dog off leash zone in the southern section of the park • Install garden beds Improving legibility and separation between zones • Improve signage at entry points and at fenced dog park entries Amended: • Reduce the size of the off-leash area to the triangular shape bounded by paths as shown in diagram. • Reinforce legibility with additional planting along the existing paths. 

4. Robinson Reserve – McPherson St, Coburg**Existing****Proposed**

-  Dog Off-leash Zone
-  Dog On-leash Zone
-  No Dogs (Playground, Habitat)
-  Garden bed (natural barrier)

Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Open Space Strategy 2024 Initiatives proposed for May 2025 Consultation: • Create a timed dog off leash zone in the northern section of the park (access for off leash restricted before 9am and after 5pm, access for on leash at all times) • Install a garden bed Improving legibility and separation between zones • Install signage at entry points Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Create a timed dog off leash zone in the northern section of the park (access for off leash restricted before 9am and after 5pm, access for on leash at all times) • Install a garden bed Improving legibility and separation between zones, consider fencing in this zone. • Improve signage at entry points and at fenced dog park entries 

5. Tate Reserve - Grant St, Coburg**Existing****Proposed**

Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Open Space Strategy 2024 • Nature Plan 2020 • Merri-bek Planning Scheme - Environmental Significance Overlay ESO1 Merri Creek and Environs • Merri Creek and Environs Strategy • Merri Merri Wayi Initiatives proposed for May 2025 Consultation: • Create a no-dog zone to incorporate habitat (to protect the sensitive riparian zone of the creek and support the swamp wallaby habitat initiative led by the Merri Creek Management Committee, Friends of Merri Creek and Merri-bek City Council). The currently fenced area would become a no-dog habitat zone. • Install signage at entry points. Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Create a no-dog zone to incorporate habitat (swamp wallaby habitat initiative Merri Creek Management Committee and Merri-bek City Council). • Improve/Install signage at entry points and at fenced dog park entries Amended: • Enlarge the current fenced habitat zone significantly, covering most of the riparian section of the reserve, to approx. 50% of the site to reduce flood damage risks and improve alignment with existing walking paths. • Change the remaining site inside the reserve to off leash status during the pilot. Additional: • Carry out erosion protection works at the 'she-oak' stand of trees in the north, to protect the creek edge and to allow dog off leash access to continue. • Install fencing around the habitat zone to a 'dog proof' standard • Carry out monitoring of effects of initiatives on vegetation and erosion throughout the pilot period. 

6. Lorne Street Reserve - Lorne St, Fawkner

Existing



Proposed



Comments

Relevant Strategies and Plans:

- [Fawkner Merri Creek Parklands Plan 2023](#)
- [Open Space Strategy 2024](#)
- [Merri-bek Planning Scheme - Environmental Significance Overlay ESO1 Merri Creek and Environs](#)
- [Merri Creek and Environs Strategy](#)
- [Merri Merri Wayi](#)

Initiatives proposed for May 2025 Consultation:

- Designate as a zoned dog off-leash area
- Create a dog off leash zone in southern area, separated from Merri Creek Trail
- Install garden beds as a natural barrier between zones of on-leash and off-leash
- Install a (permanent) gravel path between Imaroo St and Merri Creek Trail (as per the Parklands Plan)
- Signage at entry points Lorne St, Sahara Way and Imaroo St

Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025:

Retained:

- Improve signage at entry points and at fenced dog park entries

Amended:

- Create a pilot fenced dog off leash park in the northern area, at Lorne Street entrance. This is replacing the fenced dog park earlier proposed at Bababi Djinanang.

Additional:

- Consider parking requirements northern side of Lorne Street.



7. Wylie Reserve - Union St, Brunswick West

Existing



Proposed



-  Dog Off-leash Restricted (access outside of organised sports times only)
-  No Dogs (Playground, Habitat)
-  Improved lighting pilot

Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Open Space Strategy 2024 • Public Lighting Policy (under review) Initiatives proposed for May 2025 Consultation: • Increase access through improvements in lighting • Signage at entry points Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Increase access through improvements in lighting • Signage at entry points 

8. GE Clarke Reserve – Kalang Rd, Glenroy

Existing



Proposed



-  Dog Off-leash Restricted (access outside of organised sports times only)
-  Dog On-leash Zone
-  No Dogs (Playground, Habitat)

Comments
Relevant Strategies and Plans: • Open Space Strategy 2024 Initiatives proposed for May 2025 Consultation: • Designate as dog off-leash area (zoned) • Install a garden bed as a natural barrier between off-leash area and playground • Signage at entry points Initiatives proposed after Consultation and Feedback received July 2025: Retained: • Designate as dog off-leash area (zoned) • Install a garden bed as a natural barrier between off-leash area and playground • Signage at entry points 



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Introduction

We wanted to hear what our community think about the new principles and proposed interventions for dog walking in Merri-bek.

Between 24 March and 4 May 2025, we undertook an extensive program of engagement to seek feedback from the Merri-bek community on a set of draft principles and interventions for dog walking in Merri-bek.

The draft principles and interventions will help us plan for the growing number of dogs in Merri-bek, by reviewing how our parks and reserves are used, and to ensure accessibility for all users.

The project aimed to test these draft principles and interventions across 9 different parks for a 6-month period from July 2025. These parks include:

1. Gilpin Park, Brunswick
2. Wylie Reserve, Brunswick West
3. Fleming Park, Brunswick East
4. Harmony Park, Coburg
5. Robinson Reserve, Coburg
6. Tate Reserve, Coburg
7. Lorne Street Reserve, Fawkner
8. Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road), Fawkner
9. GE Clarke Reserve, Glenroy

There were several ways that the community could provide feedback on the draft principles and interventions:

- Online survey via Conversations Merri-bek
- 9 in-person pop-up events
- Stakeholder feedback through targeted workshops
- Submissions via email
- Children's survey
- Petitions that were submitted to Council

We received feedback from 1853 participants, who contributed over 3000 comments through these methods, noting some people may have provided feedback through more than one method of engagement.

To ensure transparency, all comments received through the online survey, email submissions and petitions will be made available in a separate document available on the Dog Walking in Merri-bek Conversations Merri-bek page after the July 2025 Council meeting.

Executive Summary

During the engagement period, we heard from a diverse range of people in the Merri-bek community. Overwhelmingly, we heard from people who love and own a dog.

Across all methods of engagement, the community told us that Merri-bek's open spaces are important to them for things like health and wellbeing, community connection and cultural gatherings. They told us that often, the sharing of spaces with different users is done in a respectful way.

Conversely, we also heard that there is sometimes conflict between dogs and cyclists, conflict between dogs and sporting events, and off-leash dogs impacting the natural environment especially along our creeks and with people who are using our parks and reserves for picnics or play.

Responsible dog ownership and enforcement of the were two of the main discussion points throughout the engagement program and through all forms of participation. Participants spoke of the need for people to understand what it means to have your dog under effective control, and to pick up after your dog. There was also a strong desire to understand how the new principles and interventions would be enforced, and concerns around the current lack of enforcement.

The community told us that sharing spaces with sporting clubs is often difficult because of a lack of awareness of the times and days that sporting clubs are using our reserves, and that onsite signage with a schedule would help dog owners know when they can use our reserves.

Community feedback has also been very helpful in identifying issues and hot spots and offering possible solutions, with comments relating to the 9 pilot parks but also many additional parks and reserves across Merri-bek.

There is some concern in the community about the perception of restricting the access and behaviour of dog owners and their dogs through Councils plan to improve the sharing of our parks and reserves through this pilot program.

Overall, most participants felt positively towards the new principles and to most of the proposed interventions. The interventions that participants were less positive about were timed off-leash access and increasing the distance from a shared path dogs are required to be on-leash to 10 metres.

How this data will be used

The feedback received in stage 1 of the Dog Walking in Merri-bek pilot program, as well as the learnings from the pilot program running from July 2025 – January 2026, will inform the final principles and interventions that will be rolled out across the municipality.

All feedback from stage 1 has been reviewed and analysed by Council officers and presented to Council for consideration together with the principles and interventions that have been updated where necessary based on community feedback. One of the changes following community feedback was the removal of one of the pilot parks from the program, Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road), Fawkner.

In addition to reading and responding to all of the nearly 3,000 comments from stage 1, Council will be undertaking additional monitoring and evaluation throughout the pilot period, including:

- Monitoring community usage of the changes in the 8 pilot parks
- Evaluating the impacts of the new dog off leash, no dog and timed use
- Recording any incidents in the 8 pilot parks
- Using AI trained thermal heat cameras to map park usage, duration of stay, hot spots in the park in two of the pilot parks
- Meeting with the community and key stakeholders to hear how the pilot interventions are proceeding

At the end of the pilot program, Council will bring together all feedback and learning from Stage 1 and the 6-month pilot to develop the final draft changes to all parks. This will be presented to Council and then go back out for community engagement early 2026.

Feedback from stage 1 of the Dog Walking in Merri-bek pilot program will also be used to inform Council's new Domestic Animal Management Plan.

How we promoted the engagement

The project team promoted the engagement through:

General print:

- Dog Walking in Merri-bek postcard with QR code: at 9 pop-up events, other Council events, Merri-bek Libraries and Council customer service centres
- Display posters with QR code in community venues and Neighbourhood Houses
- Promotional letter including translated information delivered to 2,923 homes surrounding the 9 pilot parks
- Corflute signage in all pilot parks and reserves with QR codes
- Merri-bek Community News delivered to all homes in Merri-bek – June edition

Online:

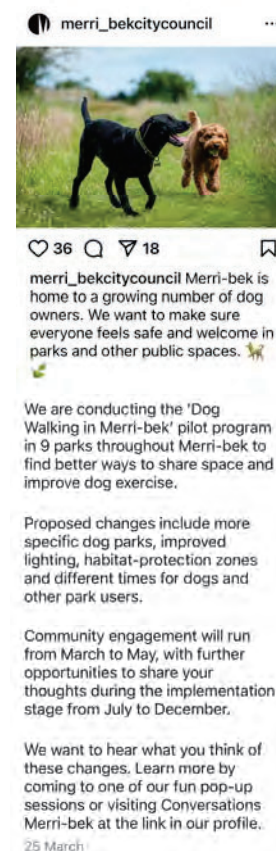
- Email to all registered dog owners
- My Merri-bek eNews – total reach 5,000
- Libraries eNews – total reach 7,000
- Arts Merri-bek
- Conversations Merri-bek page – 6,447 visitors to the page over the engagement period
- Merri-bek City Council Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn posts – total reach 47,671
- Translated Facebook ads in top community languages of Italian, Arabic, Greek, Turkish and Simplified Chinese - total reach 6,800
- Email to Service Provider Networks
- Email to sporting clubs
- High school and primary school newsletters
- Merri-bek website

In-person:

- 9 pop-up events at various locations and times across Merri-bek
- Community Connectors meeting
- Council Reference Groups
- 3 on site meetings with stakeholder groups

Other:

- On-hold message when people ring Council customer service



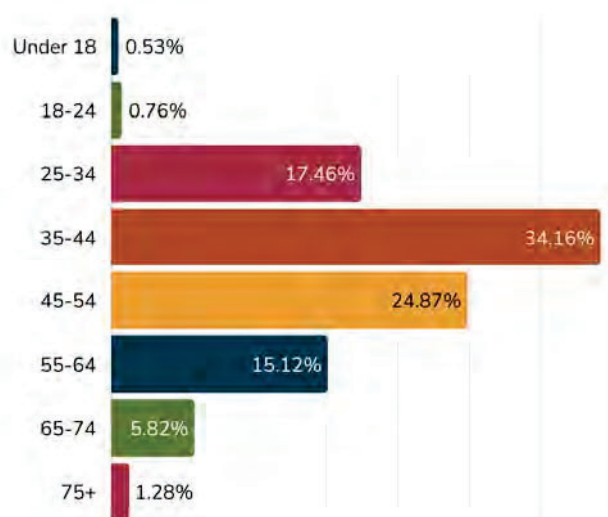
Strategies to support participation

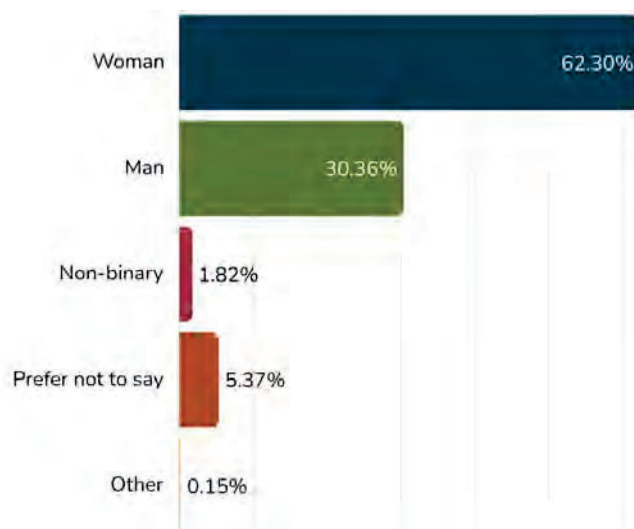
- Provide multiple ways to participate, including online surveys, in-person sessions, and written feedback options to cater to different preferences and accessibility needs.
- Offer translated materials and interpreters for key languages spoken in Merri-bek's multicultural communities.
- Run in-language social media ads to reach multicultural communities and ensure they are aware of the engagement opportunity.
- Reach out to community priority groups such as culturally and linguistically diverse residents, people with disabilities, young people, children, older people and people who don't feel comfortable around dogs through targeted focus groups, email or online opportunities to ensure their voices are heard.
- Leveraging Council's connections and networks to increase the uptake of participation through Community Connectors, Youth Services, Children's Services, Service Provider Networks

Who we heard from

Survey demographics

Age groups

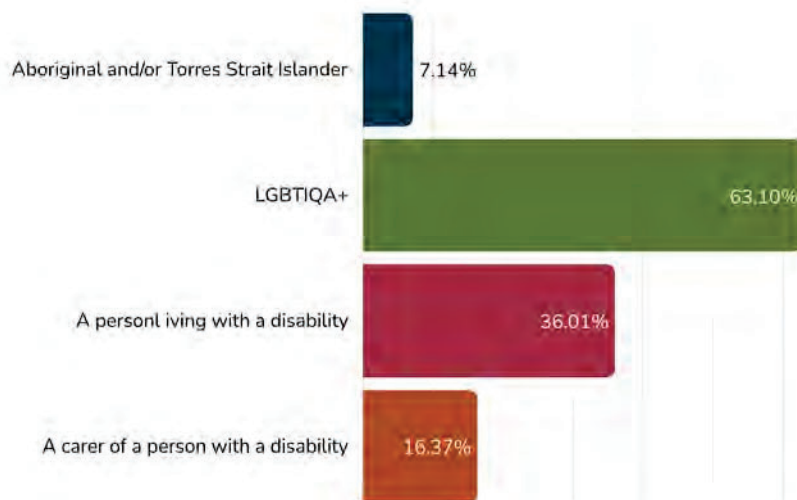


Gender**Suburb**

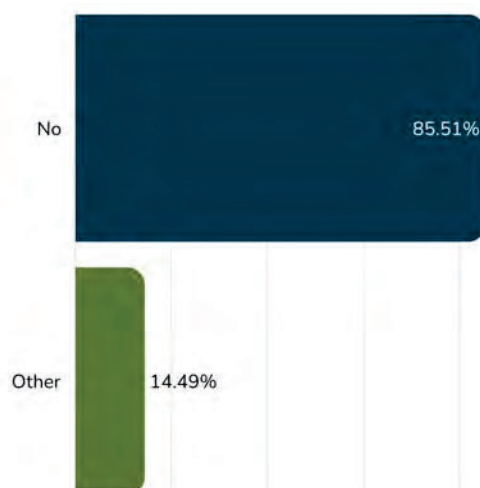
1,156 respondents answered this question; 171 skipped it.

Suburb	Number	Suburb	Number
Brunswick	279	Hadfield	5
Brunswick East	133	Heidelberg West	1
Brunswick North	1	Kingsbury	1
Brunswick West	116	Merlynston	2
Coburg	282	Moonee Ponds	4
Coburg East	4	Northcote	10
Coburg North	29	Oak Park	14
Coburg West	1	Pascoe Vale	59
Essendon	2	Pascoe Vale South	30
Fawkner	60	Preston	48
Fitzroy North	5	Preston West	7
Glenroy	31	Reservoir	2
Gowanbrae	4	Thornbury	25

Do you identify as...



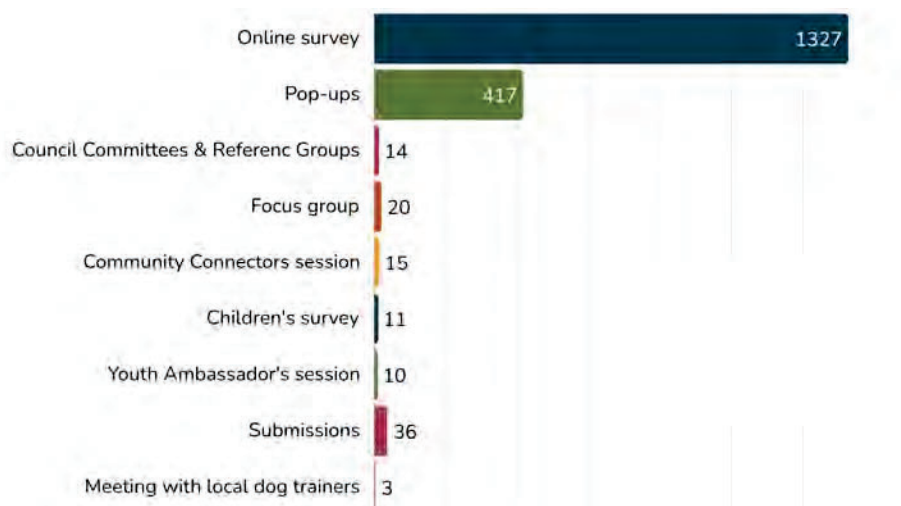
Do you speak a language/s other than English?



Number of people engaged

A mixed-method approach was developed to offer a range of opportunities for people to engage in a way that was meaningful to them, at a place and time that was convenient.

Throughout the engagement, we heard from 1,853 people across a range of engagement methods:



On-line survey

Through the online survey, participants were able to rate how they felt about each of the draft principles and proposed interventions on a Likert scale and had the option to leave a comment to explain their thoughts further. Participants then had the opportunity to pin comment/s on a map to tell us about any parks or reserves in Merri-bek.

We heard from 1327 people through the online survey who made over 3000 contributions through commenting on the draft principles, proposed interventions and pinning comments on a map.

All verbatim comments will be available to view in a separate document on the Dog Walking in Merri-bek Conversations Merri-bek page.

Pop-up engagements

The project team hosted 9 pop-up sessions speaking with over 400 people across different locations in Merri-bek including Robinson Reserve, Coburg; Tate Reserve, Coburg; Harmony Park, Coburg; Gilpin Park, Brunswick; Wylie Reserve, Brunswick West; Fleming Park, Brunswick East; Bonwick Street shopping strip, Fawkner; Lorne Reserve, Fawkner; and Glenroy Festival, Glenroy.

The pop-up sessions were held at different times of day and on different days of the week to maximise the opportunity for people to participate.

Any community members were free to attend and had the opportunity to speak with the project team as well as Local Laws Animal Officers, to learn more about the project or raise any concerns.

Community Focus Group

As part of this pilot, Council conducted a targeted focus group to ensure the voices of residents who may not usually feel comfortable or included in public consultation are heard. Underrepresented groups often face a range of barriers to participation, including language and literacy challenges, limited digital access or confidence, lack of trust in institutions, cultural or religious differences, time constraints due to work or caring responsibilities, and previous negative experiences of exclusion. These barriers mean that a different, more tailored approach is often needed to create safe and accessible spaces for meaningful engagement.

The project team used Council's Community Connectors network to reach out and recruit 20 people who feel uncomfortable around dogs to take part in a 1.5-hour focus group. Participants were given \$50 voucher to compensate for their time and participation. Incentivising engagement in this way is common for Councils. The focus group took place at the Glenroy Community Hub, and was designed to help Council understand why some people in Merri-bek feel uncomfortable around dogs, discuss the key concerns, and to talk through some potential ways to support people to feel more comfortable.

Stakeholder participants

- Local Laws – Animal Management Officers
- Gender Equity Reference Group
- Older Persons Reference Group
- Disability Reference Group
- Dog trainers
- Merri Creek Management Committee
- Friends of Merri Creek
- Youth Ambassadors
- Children's Reference Group
- Community Connectors

Petitions

Additionally, we received 3 petitions.

Petition	Number of signatories
Petition to oppose the proposed dog park development at the end of Jukes Road, Fawkner	18
Petition in support of off-leash dog access in Tate Reserve	846
Support inclusive and safe use of Fleming Park	184

Submissions

The project team received 36 submissions from community members and groups by email, available to view in a separate document on the Dog Walking in Merri-bek Conversations Merri-bek page after the July 2025 Council meeting.

Engagement themes

The key themes that emerged through the engagement program are detailed below.

Theme	Details
Responsible dog ownership	People need to be more responsible in picking up poo, keeping on lead when they should, being attentive to what their dog is doing, under effective control, current compliance issues, more education for dog owners.
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	Opportunities for social interactions for dog walkers, building a sense of community, and having access to open space and exercise.
Great environment for dogs	Has lots of enrichment opportunities for dogs, great dog infrastructure such as dog poo bags.
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	Need dog poo bags, planting buffers, bins, enrichment for dogs. Includes need for more maintenance and comments around dustbowls or muddy grounds.
Restrictive Local Laws	Disagreement or unhappiness with the current local laws around dogs needing to be on-lead in certain parks/reserves, around playgrounds and SUPs. Support for creek access for dogs.
Need for clear rules & signage	Clarity around what the restrictions are at any given park/reserve and desire for improved signage
Enforcement	How will the new principles and interventions be enforced? Current lack of enforcement.
Habitat protection/biodiversity	Greater measures to stop dogs from damaging plants, waterways and habitats. Includes cats being a bigger issue than dogs.
Support for off-leash	General support for off-leash, support for off-leash in specific parks and reserves, support for timed off-leash
Support for on-leash	General support for areas to be made on-leash.
Support for fencing	Supportive of adding more fencing/plant buffer areas to separate dogs from habitat/playgrounds/BBQ areas/others not wanting to be around off leash dogs. Includes requests for gates.
Opposes fencing	Oppose the concept of fenced dog parks as they are dangerous/crowded/promote bad behaviour, negative impact on wildlife
Shared path restrictions unreasonable	Not supportive of shared path restrictions or thinks they are unrealistic.
Accessibility for all users	Everyone should have equal access to our parks, support for making our open spaces more accessible to all.
Off-leash impacts safety	Having dogs off-leash has a negative impact on the safety of children/other dogs/people. Some people feel uncomfortable around dogs, mentions of being rushed or attacked by dogs.
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	Having dogs off-leash has a negative impact on the safety and experience of cyclists.

Cyclists not observing rules	Cyclists travelling too fast, not alerting people to their presence, not being respectful. Cyclists negatively impacting dirt paths. Can also refer to use of motorbikes/electric bikes.
Concern around principles	Principles are too restrictive for dogs/dog owners, not fair for dogs/dog owners, inconvenient for people to put their dogs on- and off-leash as they walk through or around parks. They are unrealistic, not nuanced enough.
Concern around interventions	Don't agree with any changes, want parks and reserves to remain unchanged, don't support timed access, concerned the pilot would introduce lighting along areas of the creek which would negatively impact wildlife, oppose the idea of introducing any more rules in general.
Supports principles	General support for principles
Supports interventions	General support for interventions, support for timed access, support lighting for safety
Shared spaces with sport - / +	Positive and negative comments - Dogs impacting sports being played and use of space for dogs when sport not in progress, need for public facing platform where community can see what time ovals are being used by sports clubs for games and training. This includes organised and casual sports.
General amenity and vibe	Comments about general use e.g., passive recreation and feel of space.
Different dog owners/dogs have different needs	Recognising we need to provide different options for the differing needs of dogs and their owners, better communication needed between groups who want to use the same space for different reasons, e.g. sports and off lead dogs.
Clear reporting method	Provision and promotion of a clear method for community members to report irresponsible behaviour from dogs/dog owners, cyclists
Feeling safe	Safety is important for everyone, safety for off-leash dog areas, need to more lighting across Merri-bek for improved safety especially for women and members of the LGBTIQ+ community.
Respect for others	People need to treat others with respect
Other	For items outside of scope of the project/outside of Merri-bek or related to nothing in particular. Includes feedback on survey layout and design.

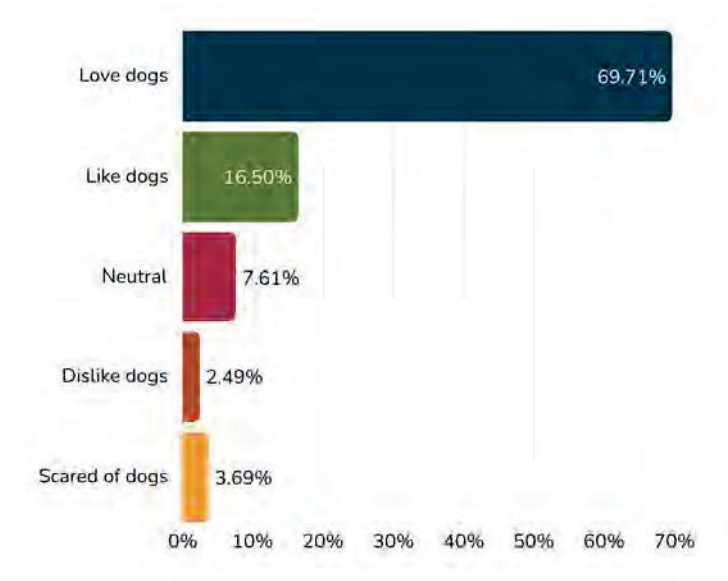
What we heard

Survey Data

The following data is taken from the 1,324 surveys completed online via Conversations Merri-bek and via 3 paper surveys, totalling 1,327 surveys.

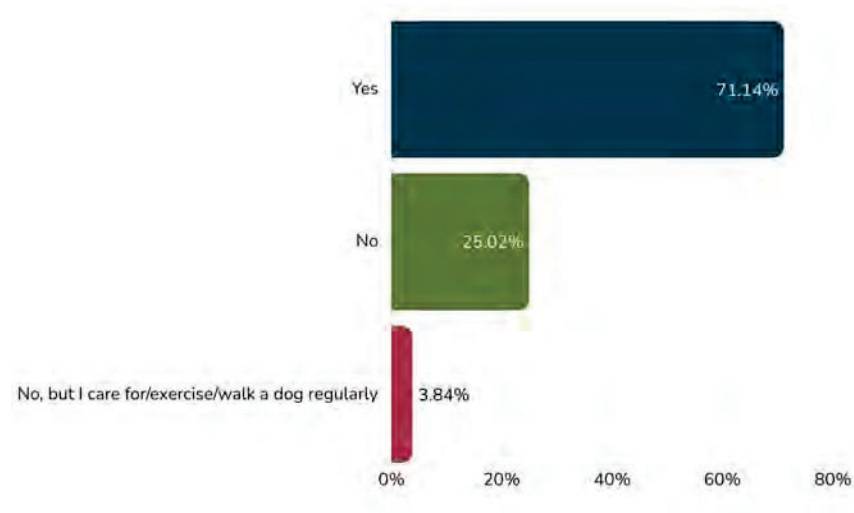
How do you feel about dogs?

1,327 people responded to this question.



Do you own a dog?

1,327 people responded to this question.

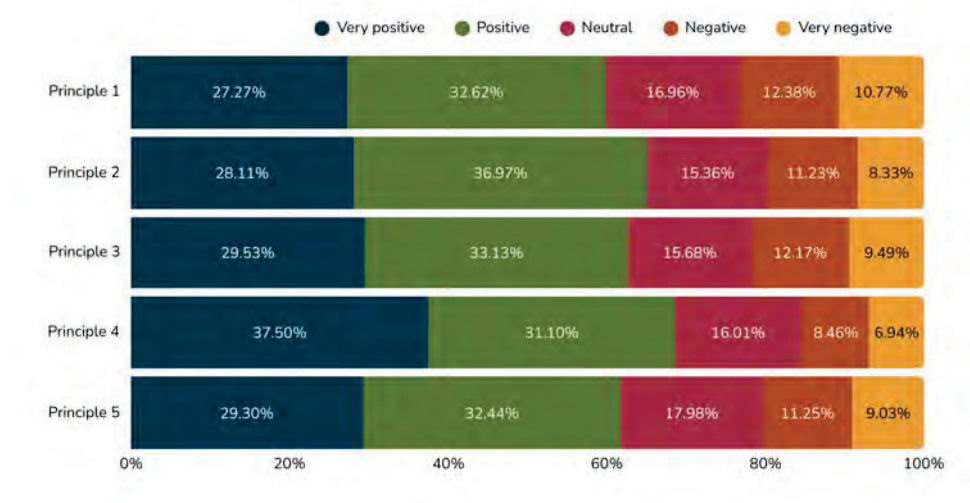


How do you feel about each of the 5 draft principles?

The 5 draft principles we sought feedback on were:

- Principle 1: Compliance with local laws
- Principle 2: Accessibility for all users
- Principle 3: Safety and comfort for all users
- Principle 4: Protection of habitat for biodiversity
- Principle 5: Protection of outdoor places and spaces

1,314 people responded to this question, 13 skipped it. This is how they rated each principle:



Do you have any comments on the draft principles?

We received 893 comments to this question. They are themed below.

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Responsible dog ownership	166
Concerns around principles	163
Enforcement	112
Off-leash impacts safety	104
Habitat protection/biodiversity	79
Support for principles	77
Support for off-leash	76
More/improved dog infrastructure	73

Support for fencing	69
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	59
Need for clear rules & signage	59
Shared spaces with sports -	57
Restrictive local laws	46
Accessibility for all users	28
Cyclists not observing rules	32
Oppose fencing	19
Different dog owners/dogs have different needs	13
Shared spaces with sports +	11
Respect for others	11
Shared path restrictions unreasonable	10
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	8
Concern around interventions	5
Oppose off-leash	5
Shared spaces with sports	1

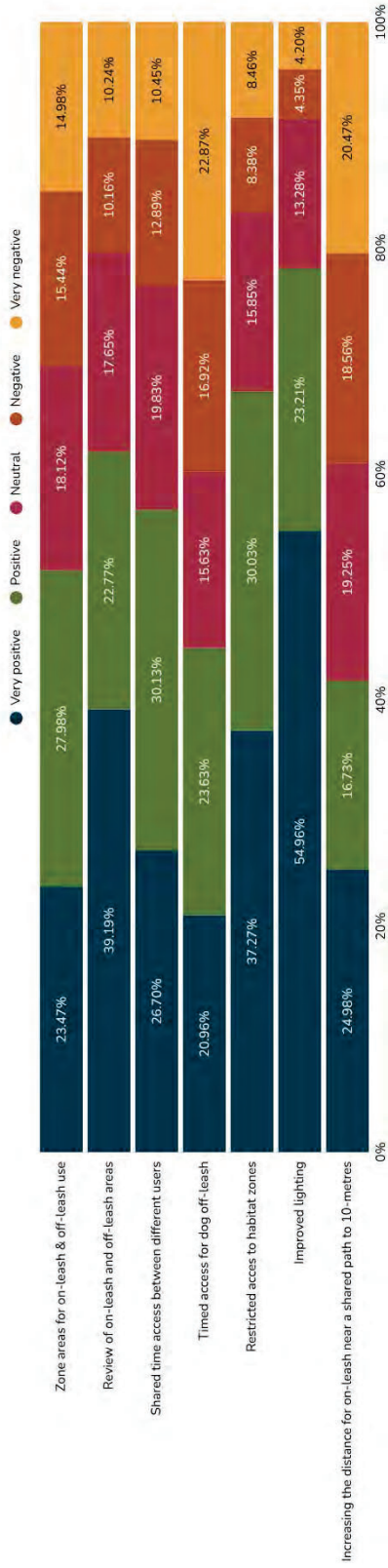
There were 61 comments classified as “other” which relate to comments outside the scope of the project or related to areas outside of Merri-bek.

How do you feel about each of the proposed interventions in parks & reserves?

The 7 draft interventions we sought feedback on were:

- Zoned areas for on-leash and off-leash uses in Gilpin Park, Robinson Reserve, Harmony Park, Lorne Street, Bababi Djinanang, GE Clarke Reserve and Fleming Park
- Review of on leash and off leash areas to convert some on-leash reserves partly to off-leash and vice versa, including extension of fenced dog park at Gilpin Park and a new pilot fenced dog park in Bababi Djinanang.
- Shared timed access between different users of Fleming Park and Wylie Reserve. No dogs off-leash during an organised sports events on the sporting grounds.
- Timed access for dogs off-leash before 9am and after 5pm in Robinson Reserve in designated zones of the reserve.
- Restricted access to habitat zones to preserve biodiversity and sensitive environments at Tate Reserve and Bababi Djinanang.
- Improved lighting to improve visibility after dark at Wylie Reserve
- Increasing the distance from a shared path dogs are required to be on-leash to 10 metres

1,315 people responded to this question, 12 skipped it. This is how they rated each intervention:



Do you have any comments on the draft interventions?

We received 685 comments to this question. They are themed below.

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Concern around interventions	145
Responsible dog ownership	77
Enforcement	62
Shared spaces with sports -	62
Shared path restrictions unreasonable	57
Oppose fencing	53
Habitat protection/biodiversity	46
Off-leash impacts safety	36
Support for interventions	33
More/improved dog infrastructure	30
Need for clear rules and signage	29
Support for fencing	28
Cyclists not observing rules	22
Concern around principles	19
Support off-leash	13
Accessibility for all users	11
Restrictive local laws	9
Feeling safe	7
Different dog owners/dogs have different needs	7
Education for non-dog owners	3
Respect for others	3
Shared spaces with sports +	2

There were 52 comments classified as "other" which relate to comments outside the scope of the project or related to areas outside of Merri-bek.

Location-based comments

We received 1,545 comments related to specific locations. They are themed below.

Gilpin Park, Brunswick

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Great environment for dogs	52
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	38
Responsible dog ownership	35
Concern around interventions	24
Support for fencing	20
General amenity and vibe	20
Support for off-leash	19
Different dog owners have different needs	14
Other	12
Habitat protection/biodiversity	10
Accessibility for all users	10
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	9
Off-leash impacts safety	9
Respect for others	6
Enforcement	6
Feeling safe	6
Need for clear rules and signage	6
Restrictive for dogs	3
Support for interventions	3
Cyclists not observing rules	2
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	2

Shared spaces with sports -	2
Support for principles	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Concerns around principles	1
Does not support fencing	1
Education for non-dog owners	1

Wylie Reserve, Brunswick West

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Great environment for dogs	5
Accessibility for all users	4
Responsible dog ownership	3
Shared spaces with sports +	3
Shared spaces with sports -	2
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	2
Feeling safe	2
General amenity and vibe	2
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Concern around interventions	1

Fleming Park, Brunswick East

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Shared spaces with sport -	28
Great environment for dogs	25
Responsible dog ownership	24
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	14

Support for fencing	13
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	10
Different dog owners have different needs	7
Enforcement	7
Support for off-leash	7
Concern around interventions	6
General amenity and vibe	6
Need for clear rules and signage	6
Respect for others	5
Feeling safe	5
Accessibility for all users	4
Support for interventions	4
Other	4
Shared spaces with sports	3
Off-leash impacts safety	3
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	2
Concern around principles	2
Does not support on-leash	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Restrictive for dogs	1
Shared path restrictions unreasonable	1

Harmony Park, Coburg

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Support for off-leash	5

Support for fencing	5
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	3
Accessibility for all users	1
Concerns around interventions	1
Concerns around principles	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for interventions	1
Support for principles	1
Supports interventions	1

Robinson Reserve, Coburg

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Support for off-leash	11
Great environment for dogs	11
Support for fencing	11
Support for interventions	6
Different dog owners have different needs	4
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	4
Concern around interventions	3
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	3
General amenity and vibe	3
Enforcement	3
Feeling safe	2

Responsible dog ownership	2
Need for clear rule and signage	1
Does not support off-leash	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1

Tate Reserve, Coburg

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Support for off-leash	52
Concern around interventions	36
Great environment for dogs	35
Habitat protection/biodiversity	34
Responsible dog ownership	17
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	11
Need for clear rules & signage	10
Restrictive for dogs	8
General amenity and vibe	8
Enforcement	8
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	7
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	7
Off-leash impacts safety	7
Support for fencing	7
Other	6
Cyclists not observing rules	5
Need for clear rules and signage	4
Accessibility for all users	4

Shared spaces with sports -	3
Support for on-leash	2
Does not support principles	2
Respect for others	2
Feeling safe	1

Lorne Street Reserve, Fawkner

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Great environment for dogs	4
Support for off-leash	4
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	3
Support for fencing	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1

Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road), Fawkner

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Support for off-leash	7
Habitat protection/biodiversity	7
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	5
Great environment for dogs	5
Responsible dog ownership	4
Concerns around interventions	2
Need for clear rules & signage	2
Support for fencing	2
Support for interventions	2

Shared spaces with sports +	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Accessibility for all users	1
Concerns around principles	1
Cyclists not observing rules	1
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Opposes interventions	1
Enforcement	1
Feeling safe	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Opposition for off-leash	1
Respect for others	1
Support for dog free zone	1

GE Clarke Reserve, Glenroy

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Support for off-leash	3
General amenity and vibe	1
Great environment for dogs	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Supports interventions	1

Other locations

Theme	# of times theme mentioned
Abrahams Reserve, Brunswick East	
Responsible dog ownership	1
Great environment for dogs	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
AG Gillion Oval, Brunswick	
Feeling safe	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Great environment for dogs	1
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Allard Park/Jones Park, Brunswick East	
Great environment for dogs	19
Responsible dog ownerships	11
Support for fencing	10
Shared spaces with sports -	5
Enforcement	5
Support for off-leash	5
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	4
Feeling safe	4
Off-leash impacts safety	4
Need for clear rules & signage	4
General amenity and vibe	3
Cyclists not observing rules	2

Different dog owners have different needs	2
Other	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Anderson Reserve, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	16
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	4
Support for off-leash	4
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	2
Off-leash impacts safety	2
General amenity and vibe	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Feeling safe	1
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Opposes fencing	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for interventions	1
Other	1
ATC Cook Reserve, Glenroy	
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Education for non-dog owners	1
General amenity and vibe	1

Great environment for dogs	1
Austin Crescent Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Support for fencing	2
Need for clear rules and signage	2
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Cyclists not observing rules	1
Other	1
Balfe Park, Brunswick East	
Shared spaces with sports -	5
General amenity and vibe	3
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Great environment for dogs	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Off-leash impacts safety	2
Support for fencing	2
Feeling safe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Support for on-leash	1
Barkly Street Reserve, Brunswick	
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Bartlett Family Reserve, Hadfield	

More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Bass Street Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Great environment for dogs	1
Beau Monde Reserve, Coburg	
Support for off-leash	2
Great environment for dogs	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Cyclists not observing rules	1
Bowden Reserve, Coburg	
Feeling safe	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Brady Reserve, Brunswick West	
Great environment for dogs	2
Support for off-leash	2
Cyclists not observing rules	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Brearley Reserve, Pascoe Vale South	
General amenity and vibe	2
Great environment for dogs	2
Responsible dog ownership	1
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Support for off-leash	1
Bridges Reserve City Oval, Coburg	

Great environment for dogs	4
Support for off-leash	3
Shared spaces with sport +	2
Accessibility for all users	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Support for fencing	1
Bridget Shortell Reserve, Glenroy	
Support for off-leash	
Brunswick Park, Brunswick	
Great environment for dogs	2
Habitat protection/biodiversity	2
Need for clear rules & signage	2
Responsible dog ownership	1
Enforcement	1
Feeling safe	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Other	1
Restrictive local laws	1
Brunswick South West Primary School, Brunswick West	
Accessibility for all users	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Brunswick Velodrome, Brunswick	
Shared spaces with sport +	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1

Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Bulleke-bek Park, Brunswick	
Enforcement	3
Off-leash impacts safety	3
Responsible dog ownership	3
Great environment for dogs	2
Need for clear rules & signage	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Other	1
Support for on-leash	1
Bush Reserve, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	4
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	3
Habitat protection/biodiversity	2
Support for fencing	2
General amenity and vibe	1
Other	1
Support for off-leash	1
Campbell Reserve, Coburg	
Shared spaces with sports +	3
Enforcement	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Shared spaces with sports -	2
General amenity and vibe	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1

Support for off-leash	1
Cash Reserve, Coburg North	
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Other	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for off-leash	1
CB Smith Reserve, Fawkner	
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Support for off-leash	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
CERES, Brunswick	
Great environment for dogs	3
Cyclists not observing rules	2
Feeling safe	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Support for off-leash	1
Charles Mutton Reserve, Fawkner	
Different dog owners have different needs	2
Shared spaces with sport +	2
Great environment for dogs	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Oppose off-leash	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Citylink Trail, Brunswick	

Support for on-leash	1
Clifton Park, Brunswick	
Great environment for dogs	17
Responsible dog ownership	11
Shared spaces with sports +	10
Shared spaces with sports -	9
Other	7
General amenity and vibe	6
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	5
Off-leash impacts safety	4
Feeling safe	4
Enforcement	3
Support for fencing	3
Respect for others	2
Support for interventions	2
Support for off-leash	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Concern around interventions	1
Concern around principles	1
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	1
Restrictive local laws	1
Support for principles	1
Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	3
Habitat protection/biodiversity	3

Support for off-leash	2
Enforcement	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for on-leash	1
Merri Creek Coburg Olympic Pool, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	2
Enforcement	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Coburg Station Reserve, Coburg	
Support for fencing	3
Feeling safe	2
Great environment for dogs	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Enforcement	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Cole Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Great environment for dogs	9
Support for fencing	4
Feeling safe	3
Off-leash impact safety	3
Shared spaces with sports +	3
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Responsible dog ownership	2

Shared spaces with sports -	2
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Connolly Avenue Reserve, Coburg	
Accessibility for all users	1
Other	1
Support for on-leash	1
De Chene Reserve, Coburg	
Support for off-leash	3
Need for clear rules & signage	2
Off-leash impacts safety	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Support for fencing	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Concerns around interventions	1
Different dog owners have different needs	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Denzil Don Reserve, Brunswick West	
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Off-leash dogs impact safety	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for fencing	1
Deveraux Street Reserve, Oak Park	

Enforcement	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Dunstan Reserve, Brunswick West	
Shared spaces with sports -	13
Great environment for dogs	9
Shared spaces with sports +	6
Responsible dog ownership	5
Respect for others	4
Support for fencing	4
Feeling safe	3
Need for clear rules & signage	3
Support for off-leash	3
Other	3
Accessibility for all users	2
General amenity and vibe	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Off-leash dogs impact safety	2
Concerns around interventions	1
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	1
Edgars Creek Parkland, Coburg North	
Support for off-leash	8
Habitat protection/biodiversity	8
Great environment for dogs	7
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	5
Need for clear rules & signage	3

Off-leash dogs and cyclists	3
Enforcement	2
General amenity and vibe	2
Off-leash impacts safety	2
Other	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Support for fencing	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Concerns around interventions	1
Does not support off-leash	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Edna Grove Reserve, Coburg	
Support for off-leash	3
Concern around interventions	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Great environment for dogs	1
Other	1
Egan Reserve, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	26
Support for off-leash	19
Responsible dog ownership	12
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	9
General amenity and vibe	7
Habitat protection/biodiversity	7
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	7

Concern around interventions	6
Enforcement	5
Need for clear rules & signage	5
Off-leash impacts safety	5
Cyclists not observing rules	4
Support for fencing	4
Support off-leash	4
Restrictive for dogs	3
Other	3
Accessibility for all users	2
Concerns around principles	1
Don't support interventions	1
Don't support principles	1
Local law-related	1
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Support for interventions	1
Esslemont Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Support for fencing	2
Great environment for dogs	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Shared path restrictions unreasonable	1
Support for off-leash	1
Cox Reserve, Coburg North	
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Support for off-leash	1

Fawkner Memorial Park, Fawkner	
Great environment for dogs	3
Enforcement	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Other	1
Fisher Reserve, Brunswick East	
Great environment for dogs	1
Shared path restrictions unreasonable	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Foletta Park, Brunswick	
Need for clear rules and signage	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for on-leash	1
Fran Street Park, Glenroy	
General amenity and vibe	1
Respect for others	1
Fraser Reserve, Brunswick West	
Great environment for dogs	2
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Gandolfo Gardens, Coburg	
General amenity and vibe	1
Support for fencing	1
Garrong Park, Brunswick	
General amenity and vibe	2

Gavin Park, Pascoe Vale	
Off-leash impact safety	4
Responsible dog ownership	4
Enforcement	3
Great environment for dogs	2
General amenity and vibe	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Support for off-leash	1
Gillon Oval, Brunswick	
Shared spaces with sports +	9
Great environment for dogs	6
Shared spaces with sports -	6
General amenity and vibe	3
Off-leash impacts safety	3
Responsible dog ownership	3
Support for off-leash	3
Enforcement	2
Feeling safe	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Other	2
Support for fencing	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Importance of dog walking for wellbeing	1

Need for clear rules & signage	1
Shared spaces with sports	1
Support for interventions	1
Gilmour Park, Coburg	
Responsible dog ownership	3
Enforcement	2
Need for clear rules and signage	2
General amenity and vibe	1
Support for fencing	1
Hallam Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Feeling safe	1
Great environment for dogs	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Support for fencing	1
Holbrook Reserve, Brunswick West	
Great environment for dogs	5
Shared spaces with sports +	4
Responsible dog ownership	2
Enforcement	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Hosken Reserve, Coburg North	
General amenity and vibe	3

Great environment for dogs	3
Shared spaces with sports -	3
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Shared spaces with sports +	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Support for fencing	1
Hudson Reserve, Brunswick West	
Support for fencing	2
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Jackson Reserve, Coburg North	
Habitat protection/biodiversity	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Enforcement	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Jewell Station Reserve, Brunswick	
Great environment for dogs	1
Other	1
John Street Reserve, Brunswick West	
General amenity and vibe	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Great environment for dogs	5

Enforcement	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Need for clear rules and signage	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Feeling safe	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
JP Fawkner Reserve, Oak Park	
Great environment for dogs	3
Responsible dog ownership	2
Cyclists not observing rules	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Other	1
Respect for others	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for interventions	1
Support for principles	1
Kelvin Thomson Park, Pascoe Vale South	
Great environment for dogs	1
Support for off-leash	1
Other	1
Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy	
Off-leash impact safety	3

Responsible dog ownership	3
Feeling safe	2
General amenity and vibe	1
Kirkdale Park, Brunswick East	
Great environment for dogs	3
Habitat protection/biodiversity	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Support for off-leash	2
Cyclists not observing rules	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Other	1
Respect for others	1
Support for fencing	1
KW Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Great environment for dogs	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Mailer Reserve, Coburg	
Enforcement	1
Great environment for dogs	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for off-leash	1

Martin Reserve, Hadfield	
Great environment for dogs	1
Support for fencing	1
McCleery Reserve, Coburg	
Support for fencing	2
Great environment for dogs	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
McDonald Reserve, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	1
Other	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Merlynston Creek Linear Park, Merlynston	
Support for fencing	2
Support for off-leash	1
Merri Creek Trail	
General amenity and vibe	5
Support for off-leash	4
Habitat protection/biodiversity	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Enforcement	1
Feeling safe	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Other	1

Restrictive for dogs	1
Support for interventions	1
Methven Park, Brunswick East	
General amenity and vibe	5
Great environment for dogs	2
Support for fencing	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Concerns around interventions	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Support for off-leash	1
Moomba Park, Fawkner	
Great environment for dogs	7
Different dog owners have different needs	3
General amenity and vibe	3
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	3
Responsible dog ownership	2
Support for off-leash	2
Concern around interventions	1
Feeling safe	1
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Increase lighting for safety	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Need for clear rules and signage	1

Respect for others	1
Support dog-free zone	1
Support for fencing	1
Moonee Ponds Creek Trail	
Feeling safe	2
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Morris Reserve, Pascoe Vale South	
Great environment for dogs	3
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Shared spaces with sports +	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Different dog owners have different needs	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Narre Narre Park, Oak Park	
Great environment for dogs	1
Oak Park Reserve, Oak Park	
Great environment for dogs	1
Support for off-leash	1
Palazzolo Park, Coburg	
Great environment for dogs	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1

Responsible dog ownership	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Parker Reserve, Coburg North	
Great environment for dogs	10
Responsible dog ownership	5
Shared spaces with sport +	4
General amenity and vibe	2
Habitat protection/biodiversity	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	2
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Off-leash dogs and cyclists	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Other	1
Respect for others	1
Support for dog free zone	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
Payne Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Support for fencing	1
Philips Reserve, Brunswick East	
Great environment for dogs	1
Pooley Reserve, Brunswick	
Responsible dog ownership	4

Enforcement	2
Off-leash impacts safety	2
Support for interventions	2
Clear rules and signage	1
Great environment for dogs	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Support for fencing	1
Raeburn Reserve, Pascoe Vale	
Great environment for dogs	5
Responsible dog ownership	2
Shared spaces with sports -	2
Shared spaces with sports +	2
Support for fencing	2
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Does not support off-leash	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Other	1
Support for off-leash	1
Randazzo Park, Brunswick	
General amenity and vibe	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1

Need for clear rules and signage	1
Support for fencing	1
Rayner Reserve, Oak Park	
Responsible dog ownership	3
Shared spaces with sports -	3
Need for clear rules & signage	2
Support for fencing	2
Enforcement	1
Great environment for dogs	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Respect for others	1
Support for on-leash	1
Reddish Reserve, Hadfield	
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Support for off-leash	1
Richards Reserve, Coburg North	
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	6
Feeling safe	4
Great environment for dogs	3
Support for fencing	3
Accessibility for all users	2
General amenity and vibe	2
Shared spaces with sports -	2
Shared spaces with sports +	2
Other	1

Rupert Wallace Reserve, Glenroy	
Great environment for dogs	1
Sanger Reserve, Coburg North	
Habitat protection/biodiversity	1
Support for off-leash	1
Service Street Park, Coburg	
Support for fencing	1
Sewell Reserve, Glenroy	
Great environment for dogs	4
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	3
Different dog owners have different needs	2
Education for non-dog owners	1
Enforcement	1
Feeling safe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Other	1
Respect for others	1
Support for fencing	1
Sheils Reserve, Brunswick West	
Great environment for dogs	2
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Shore Reserve, Pascoe Vale South	
Great environment for dogs	5
Enforcement	4

Feeling safe	3
General amenity and vibe	3
Responsible dog ownership	3
Shared spaces with sports -	3
Shared spaces with sports -	3
Off-leash impacts safety	2
Support for off-leash	2
Different dog owners have different needs	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for interventions	1
Soudan Street Playground, Coburg	
Support for fencing	2
Enforcement	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Sumner Park, Brunswick East	
Great environment for dogs	4
Shared spaces with sports +	4
Shared spaces with sports -	2
Support for fencing	2
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Support for on-leash	1
Temple Park, Brunswick	
Support for off-leash	4

Great environment for dogs	2
Responsible dog ownership	2
Support for fencing	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Concerns around interventions	1
Education for non-dog owners	1
Enforcement	1
Feeling safe	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	1
Need for clear rules & signage	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Other	1
Respect for others	1
Shared spaces with sports -	1
Support for interventions	1
Under the tracks dog run, Coburg	
More/improved dog infrastructure/maintenance	9
Great environment for dogs	7
Support for fencing	2
Different dog owners have different needs	1
General amenity and vibe	1
Importance of dog walking on wellbeing	1
Responsible dog ownership	1

Wallace Reserve, Glenroy	
Enforcement	1
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Warr Park, Brunswick	
Responsible dog ownership	3
Great environment for dogs	2
Accessibility for all users	1
Enforcement	1
Off-leash impacts safety	1
Support for fencing	1
Support for off-leash	1
West Brunswick Shimmy, Brunswick	
Great environment for dogs	2
Enforcement	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Shared spaces with sports +	1
Western Ring Path	
Great environment for dogs	1
Wheatshef Reserve, Glenroy	
Enforcement	1
Responsible dog ownership	1
Yubup Park, Brunswick	
General amenity and vibe	1

There were also 69 comments related to locations outside of Merri-bek.

Pop-up Data

Nine pop-up events were held at different locations and times across the municipality to capture both those who currently use the pilot parks, but also those who don't visit these parks.

The project team briefed participants on the pilot project, talking through the proposed changes with the aid of a map. Participants were encouraged to share their thoughts on the proposed changes through conversation with one of the project team or community engagement team members.

Also available at the pop-up events were hard copy surveys and post-it notes, for those who preferred to share their thoughts through writing.

Post cards were available with a QR code directing people to the online Conversations Merri-bek page for more information or to complete the online survey.

The key themes talked about at the pop-up events are summarised below.



Robinson Reserve, Coburg – Thursday 3 April 2025, 3:00-6:00pm, 38 participants

Most people who attended the pop up were supportive of the proposed change to pilot dogs off-leash before 9am and after 5pm in the northern section of the park.

There were several comments supporting improved signage, as well as education around having effective control of your dog, and picking up after your dog. There was support for fencing between the 2 zones.

A small number of people who were concerned that introducing off-leash access to the park would attract larger dogs to Robinson Reserve, and a small number of concerns around off-leash impacting safety.

Gilpin Park, Brunswick – Saturday 5 April 2025, 8:30 – 11:30am, 120 participants

There was a clear appreciation of Gilpin Park from the people who attended the pop-up, with many comments supporting the park as an off-leash area for dogs. The park was celebrated as an

important gathering place for people and dogs, contributing to improved wellbeing and social connection.

There were differing opinions about the fenced dog park, with some opposing the proposed enlargement, and others supporting the needs for a fenced area for smaller, more timid dogs.

Many participants were concerned about responsible dog ownership and talked about ensuring that dog owners understood what it means to keep their dog under effective control, and an encouragement of education and improved signage. There was also concern around people not picking up after their dogs.

Some people were concerned about cyclists at speed through the park or not observing the rules. Others felt that it was difficult to use both the shared user path and the running path when dogs were off-leash and not under effective control.

Some participants felt the large crater area should be included in the proposed off-leash area given the high use by dogs.

There was also mention of consideration of habitat protection and biodiversity, and concern around parking and access points as the surrounding population grows.



Sample feedback provided at Gilpin Park pop-up event

Bonwick Street shopping strip, Fawkner - Wednesday 9 April 2025, 10:00am – 12:30pm, 12 participants

Feedback at this pop-up centred around Lorne Street Reserve and Bababi Djinanang, Fawkner. Participants commented that Lorne Street felt unsafe and isolated and would visit more should there be regular activities like playgroups, nature-based activities, a playground and a toilet. At Bababi Djinanang there was strong opposition to the proposed fenced dog park for habitat protection and biodiversity reasons.

Feedback at this pop-up event also included commentary around other parks in Fawkner including Charles Mutton Reserve, Moomba Park and CB Smith Reserve.

"Adding a new off leash dog park in Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road) area is unhelpful, detrimental, and a waste of money."



Harmony Park, Coburg – Friday 11 April 2025, 2:30 – 5:30pm, 15 participants

Most participants at this pop-up event were in support of the proposed changes at the park. There was a general feeling that there was a need for more robust separation or fencing between the proposed off-leash area and the BBQ area to avoid the temptation of outdoor picnics for dogs.

There was some feedback around the need to focus more on children's playgrounds and another drinking fountain rather than more dog infrastructure.

Wylie Reserve, Brunswick West – Monday 14 April 2025, 3:00 – 6:00pm, 38 participants

Participants noted that most people who used Wylie Reserve were responsible dog owners, keeping their dog under effective control when off-leash and picking up after their dog.

There was strong support for the proposed improved lighting in the park, as well as comments around the need for more shade and more/improved dog infrastructure such as dog poo bag dispensers and agility equipment.

There was some commentary around the difficulty in knowing when sports clubs planned to use their ground. Some people noted the local community is well catered for with many options for off-leash dog parks in the area, including Royal Park, Gilpin Park, Manningham St Reserve, McPherson Field, and Princes Park, and were happy to use an alternative park if Wylie Reserve was in use. Others spoke of their preference for this park and would just return later if being used for organised sport.



Tate Reserve, Coburg – Thursday 22 April 2025, 3:00 – 6:00pm, 40 participants



There was an overwhelming feeling of appreciation for Tate Reserve as a special gathering place for people and dogs, and an important place for social connection and wellbeing in general. It was noted that there is a strong sense of community among the visitors, and people who travel here specifically to enjoy the surrounds.

Many participants spoke of being unaware that Tate Reserve was an on-leash area due to a lack of signage and enforcement. There was a strong desire for Tate Reserve to be off-leash, and concern around the proposed enforcement of this as an on-leash area.

There was support for the fenced habitat protection zone, and for habitat protection and biodiversity in general, however some people remained sceptical around the need for habitat protection in this part of the creek.

There were concerns from the community that the survey and approach from Council was somewhat binary and that the community either liked dog walking or liked nature and that this is mutually exclusive.

Some dog owners and non-dog owners expressed how they like dogs but do not want the Tate Reserve to be off-leash to protect the habitat values.

Some participants spoke about cyclists not observing the rules by travelling at speed through the area, while some cyclists expressed frustration with dog owners not controlling their dogs along shared paths.

"...These friendships would not have been formed if our dogs were not free to walk alongside us, and interact with other dogs, and people. I do not think the proposed changes are fair. They would negatively impact on the wellbeing of many people and their dogs."

"I love dogs but I am also a cyclist...it takes so much longer because dogs freely run in front of me, owners with dogs stop and stand with their dogs taking up the whole path or throw balls to their dogs over the path in front of me encouraging their dogs to cut me off. It is a stressful commute..."

"Please keep dogs on leash, they are contributing to erosion and habitat degradation where I live on the creek."

"I love the ability to socialise with loads of other locals including both dog owners and many other people, including people who visit the park to interact with the dogs but don't own a dog themselves. I would not like to see changes to the current rules for this park, perhaps with the exception that there should be some rules around the speed at which cyclists can move through the park."

Lorne Reserve, Fawkner – Wednesday 23 April 3:30 – 5:30pm, 30 participants

Participants shared valuable feedback from their own lived experience of this area. We talked to local residents about how the dogs, people and families who live around the reserve use the space, what they loved about the reserve now, and their hopes for the future.

We heard that many people already treat the park as dog off leash and so they welcomed the creation of a designated area for dogs off leash to improve safety and reduce issues. Several people mentioned that they felt uncomfortable with dogs off leash especially around their family, but they were supportive of a space for dogs to be off leash. There were concerns about too much infrastructure in the park as all the community noted how much they like the natural environment and landscape.

Some residents were upset that Council is not delivering the amenity improvements in the Fawkner Merri Parklands Plan.

Concerns about perceptions of safety were raised consistently and they thought that more people would improve the sense of safety. Several requested we include bins and some car parking as well as stop the dirt bikes from driving through the park dangerously on almost a daily basis.

All the residents were very appreciative of having the opportunity to share their feedback and for Council's time and interest in the area.

Fleming Park, Brunswick East – Thursday 1 May, 3:00 – 6:00pm, 59 participants

The most frequently discussed issue at Fleming Park was fencing, either in relation fencing around the playground, fencing between the playground and the shared user path, improved fencing around the oval, and the desire for additional fencing at Cross Street given the proposed changes will see that section of the park as off-leash.

There was concern from dog owners around sharing the oval with organised sports, and a desire for community access to training and game times, so that they could better plan their park use.

There was a desire for dog poo bag dispensers, and at the same time an understanding as to why Council does not provide this. There was also a desire for people to be able to walk their dog off leash continuously around the outside of the oval.

A small number of people suggested the proposed on and off-leash areas should be swapped to have the on-leash section closer to the bakery and café and for people to use the space more freely for picnics and social gatherings.



"We need more fencing along the outside of the park along Albert St and Cross Street if that part is going to be off leash."

"The e-bikes are a real problem. They speed through this area way too fast and it is dangerous for people, kids and dogs."

"I would like to be able to walk around the path on the outside of the oval with my dog off lead."

"We often have trouble with casual sports users who take up the whole oval for a very small number of people and tell everyone to get off the oval. We really need a booking system that the community can see when the oval is being used to prevent conflict."

Glenroy Festival, Glenroy – Sunday 4 May, 11:00am – 2:00pm, 38 participants

Visitors to the Glenroy Festival were all very appreciative of the opportunity to discuss dogs in open space with Council. Both dog owners and non-dog owners raised concerns about irresponsible dog owners who didn't pick up after their dogs or allowed their dogs to rush people and other dog walkers and conflict with organised sporting activities or family picnics especially in dog on-leash areas.

They were generally supportive of new dog off-leash areas, timed usage and clearer zoning of dog off-leash areas. Some people raised concerns about aggressive dogs, but this was often when they were walking on the footpath rather in parks. Many residents were concerned about the perception of safety in their local park and how they felt unsafe and isolated

Several mentioned how they really like the improvements to local parks (like Sewell Reserve and Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve) especially the new fenced dog parks. Helpful suggestions for new fenced dog parks were shared too. They would like more lighting, fenced dog parks, bins, drinking fountains and toilets in their local parks but also wanted to Council to also focus on non-dog owners.

Stakeholder feedback

Local Laws – Animal Management

Key points raised by Council's Local Laws Animal Management team include:

- General support for principles and interventions
- Signage will be crucial
- Fencing and buffer zones needed for zoned areas
- Support for more/improved dog infrastructure including dog poo bag dispensers and bins

Gender Equity Reference Group, 2 April 2025, 4 participants

Key points raised by Council's Gender Equity Reference Group include:

- Lighting – needs to be sensitive around wildlife but also perceptions of safety. Suggestion of May – August lighting from 5 – 7pm in selected parks.
- Important to note context of housing crisis framing of changing pressure on open space but also potential that residents may have had to give up animals because of this.
- Important to emphasise the benefits of dog ownership and ensure we provide engaging and enjoyable open spaces
- Supportive of principles, especially consideration of safety, user experience and comfort and biodiversity.
- Supportive of the proposed approach to inform the next stage of engagement, and of zoning, timed access and a review of the proposed changes through the community.
- Acknowledgement of the considered, inclusive and sensitive approach to community engagement.

Community Focus Group – Glenroy Community Hub, 8 April 2025, 20 participants

Suburbs represented: Fawkner, Glenroy, Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Hadfield

Languages spoken: Arabic, Urdu, Tamil, Chaldean, Punjabi, Bengali, Turkish

Council officers noted down the responses, with the key themes summarised below.

- **Responsible dog ownership** was the most frequently discussed theme, with participants noting the need for dog owners to keep their dogs under effective control, and to pick up after their dog. There was a desire to ensure dog owners understood that some community members do not feel safe or comfortable interacting with dogs, and that this could be considered when sharing our open spaces.



There was also a desire to understand what to do when rushed by a dog off-leash – what steps can people take if they feel unsafe. It was noted that most dog owners are responsible, and it was a minority who did not follow the rules.

- **Improved signage** was another frequently discussed topic. There was a desire for clear signage that defined on and off-leash areas for all community members.

- **Support for fencing** was discussed both for playgrounds and to separate on and off-leash areas.

"Education is really important for ensuring parks are shared and a positive experience. This needs to go beyond dog owners with registration and be included with schools, through dog registration and also include local vets and pet shops."

"I would like to know more about what I can do if a dog rushes me. What steps should I take?"

"We don't want to be around dogs, but it would be great to have more education for our children so that they don't grow up to be scared of dogs. We could have education programs or workshops in schools that bring dogs and children together so that can socialise."

"There is often no demarcation or fence between playgrounds where we are and the dog off leash areas which means we are always nervous when visiting the park."

"I don't mind at all, provided they are leashed and their poop is cleaned up. Unleashed dogs have previously run up to me, super eager and excited but come across as aggressive, which is fearful to myself and others."

"There are not enough signs. It would be good if we had more signage in different languages and with pictures for people who cannot read."

"If there would be better signage, at least we could point to that when we engage with dog walkers and feel uncomfortable."

Older persons Reference Group meeting, 14 April 2025, 9 participants

Key points raised by the Older Persons Reference Group include:

- The need for education around how to be a responsible dog owner – keeping under effective control when off-leash and picking up after dog.
- Critical to acknowledge the community health and wellbeing benefits of dog ownership, especially regarding keeping active and tackling loneliness
- More/improved dog infrastructure may help- dog poo bag dispensers, bins
- Providing education for people who are uncomfortable around dogs

Disability Reference Group, 15 April 2025, 5 participants

Key point raised by the Disability Reference Group include:

- Dogs can react to mobility scooters
- Some people who use service/guide dogs have experienced issues with other dogs attacking them
- Long leashes can be a tripping hazard

- Use of wheelchairs on shared paths with dogs off lead is an issue
- People who are vision impaired have concerns around erratic behaviour of some dogs
- Support for fencing – fenced playgrounds to help parents with mobility issues, fenced dog parks for owners who can't physically exercise that much or who are vision impaired, for those with a fear of dogs

Meeting with dog trainers, 29 April 2025, 3 participants

The project team met online with 3 Merri-bek based dog trainers. The key themes from the conversation were:

- Signage and education - a strong need for improved signage, and more education for dog owners around responsible dog ownership. Suggestion to have a 'Registration Welcome Pack' that outlines responsible dog ownership requirements and what to do when people are doing the wrong thing. Need to promote Council's education resources that we have online to make more people aware of them. Reach out through schools.
- There is an opportunity to look at our parks and reserves to clarify on and off leash areas.
- Don't recommend fenced dog parks - they are unsafe, cramped, and unpredictable. There is not enough education on good dog behaviour. There is a place for them, but they should not be the only solution. Trainers commonly deal with issues with dogs who have spent time in fenced dog parks and learned 'bad behaviour'.
- Craigieburn dog park is a good example of a larger dog park with different zones and more of a natural space for dogs and people to move away from each other if they need.
- Clear reporting method - what is the process for reporting dogs/people that are doing the wrong thing?

Youth Ambassadors, Tuesday 7 May 2025 5:30 – 7:00pm, 10 participants aged 14 – 19 years

The Youth Ambassadors were briefed on the project, and then asked the following 3 questions:

- How do you feel about sharing our parks and open spaces with dogs?
- People love to use parks for lots of different reasons. Do you have any ideas for how we can share the park so we can all feel welcome and safe?
- Do you have any feedback about the principles and changes?

Young people wrote their thoughts on post it notes and then had a group discussion to form a consolidated response to each question, included below. They believed strongly in the second principle around improving signage and education about sharing outdoor spaces and places with dogs.

- People aren't always expecting to share the space with off-leash dogs. When this happens, it limits their accessibility to share the space with their families. Whilst young people might not have an issue with the dogs, often their parents do, due to intergenerational and cultural factors.
- The main issue is dog owners not cleaning up after themselves. The best outcome is to have designated spaces for dogs, however, these spaces need to be functional – big, well-kept areas, that are enjoyable for dog owners to be in to encourage their usage.
- The principles should be suburb specific – what works in Fawkner won't work in Brunswick due to different socio-economic factors. The timed access is odd – if there are designated

areas, there doesn't have to be timed access. During the designated areas, dog owners should be allowed to attend whenever they want. These spaces should be designated based on the size of the dog. Council should add better infrastructure to encourage people to clean up after their dogs (bins and bags).

Site meeting with the Friends of Merri Creek East Coburg chapter and Merri-Creek Management Committee, 11 June 2025

Council officers met with representatives of the Friends of Merri Creek including their East Coburg chapter and the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) to understand their concerns around the proposal for Tate Reserve, Coburg.

Some of the key points raised included:

- Support for the creation of a fenced no dog habitat area
- Retention of the on-leash status for Tate Reserve
- How does Council intend to meet the key principles of its Walking Dogs policy while also supporting its endorsed Nature Plan, Merri Merri Wayi commitments, the Planning Scheme Environmental Significance Overlay objectives and the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy actions?
- Concern regarding off-leash dogs in Tate Reserve and the impact on the Bush Kinder program and activities, due to the increased risk to children being in the space with off-leash dogs.

There were also discussions about the proposed fenced dog parks in Fawkner on the Merri Creek. The Friends are not supportive of additional dog off leash areas and recommend that if fenced dog parks are created then equivalent fenced no dog habitat areas need to be established.

Site meeting with dog off-leash at Tate Reserve petition organiser and signatories, 16 June 2025

Council officers met with the petition organiser and a dozen signatories who are calling for Council to designate Tate Reserve, Coburg as a permanent off-leash dog park. Key points raised included:

- Concerns around the impact of any restriction on their dogs' movement in the space including the waterway
- On-leash restrictions would have a significant impact on the health and well-being of dogs and owners, and the social bonds and networks between dog owners
- The group were interested in understanding the rationale behind the proposed no dogs fenced area
- Council's proposal to retain Tate Reserve as on-leash is not reflective of the reality on the ground
- What is the evidence behind Council's proposed on-leash and no dog restrictions

The group were also interested in understanding how Council is proposing to evaluate the success or failure of the trial and the level of transparency and independence of any evaluation including the engagement process. The group offered to assist with working through any issues that may arise through the trial as well as act as a communication portal with local dog walkers to improve understanding and practices.

Children's survey, 12 participants aged 6 – 12 years

The project team designed a children's version of the survey to ensure we heard meaningfully from this cohort.



Sample pages from children's survey

Most children who participated loved dogs, with 3 being either scared of or disliking dogs.

Key points raised through the survey:

- Most children enjoyed sharing the park with dogs, especially if they were well behaved
- Suggestion for separate areas for dogs to be off-leash
- Support for fencing and vegetation to separate dogs from areas where children wanted to play or so that people who were scared of dogs could feel safe playing without dogs
- Frustration when dogs interfered with their sports

Appendix 1: Online survey

The following is a copy of the survey that appeared online. Note: it does not show the map; just the comment box related to the mapping question.

Share your thoughts on the draft principles and interventions

We want to understand the community opinion on the draft principles and interventions we are proposing to improve dog off-leash areas in Merri-bek.

Please note: incomplete surveys cannot be saved to return to later. Please be prepared to complete the survey in one sitting.

01. How do you feel about dogs? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Love dogs
☐ Like dogs
☐ Neutral
☐ Dislike dogs
☐ Scared of dogs

02. Do you own a dog? **Required**

Select one answer only
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ No, but I care for/exercise/walk a dog regularly

03. I have/care for a reactive dog

Skip this question if
• your answer to question Do you own a dog? is not "Yes" OR • your answer to question Do you own a dog? is not "No, but I care for/exercise/walk a dog regularly"
☐ Yes

Draft principles

The next 2 questions ask for your feelings about the draft principles and interventions. If you haven't already, please scroll up and read the details provided.

04. How do you feel about each of the 5 draft principles?

Principle 1: Compliance with local laws
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Principle 2: Accessibility for all users of parks and reserves
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Principle 3: Safety and comfort for all users of parks and reserves
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Principle 4: Protection of habitat for biodiversity
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Principle 5: Protection of outdoor places and spaces
☐ very positive
☐ positive

☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative

05. Do you have any comments on the draft principles?

--

Draft interventions

06. How do you feel about each of the proposed interventions in parks and reserves?

Introduction of zoned areas in larger dog off-leash reserves
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Creation of more fenced dog off-leash parks in Merri-bek
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Shared access in some ovals between sports and dogs
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral

☐ negative
☐ very negative
Timed off-leash dog walking in on-leash reserves, in the early morning and after 5pm?
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Restricted access for dogs in habitat zones, to preserve biodiversity and sensitive environments
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Improved lighting for better visibility
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative
Increasing the distance from a shared path dogs are required to be on-leash to 10 metres
☐ very positive
☐ positive
☐ neutral
☐ negative
☐ very negative

07. Do you have any comments on the draft interventions?

Map

Below is a map with Merri-bek marked inside the dotted line.

We'd love to know your thoughts about dogs at any parks you visit, or don't visit and why.

We'd love to hear about:

- What do you love or why do you visit this park?
- What areas for improvement are there when it comes to dogs at this park?
- Do you think the interventions proposed on this page could work here?

08. Location based comments

Click on a place on the map to add a marker and let us know your thoughts.

Provide as many addresses as you like, with your comment for each.

About you

09. Age

Select one answer only
☐ Under 18
☐ 18-24
☐ 25-34
☐ 35-44
☐ 45-54
☐ 55-64

☐ 65-74
☐ 75+

10. Gender

Select one answer only
☐ Woman
☐ Man
☐ Non-binary
☐ Prefer not to say
☐ Prefer to self identify

11. Suburb

12. Do you identify as:

Select all that apply

Select all that apply
☐ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
☐ LGBTQIA+
☐ A person living with a disability
☐ A carer of a person living with a disability

13. Do you speak a language/s other than English?

Select one answer only
☐ No
☐ Yes. Please list