



DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW 2023

PREPARED BY
Kingborough Council

November 2023

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Public Consultation

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Kingborough Council conducted a public consultation on the Draft Kingborough Dog Management Policy.

The engagement asked the community to assess beach access for dogs, provide ideas for improving land use and assist Council with future planning for tracks and walks.

OFF LEAD AREAS

The consultation asked participants to provide feedback about adding more off lead dog exercise areas to what is already available; such as Blackmans Bay Beach - south (sand only) and Snug Beach south (sand only).

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The survey highlighted the definition of responsible dog owners, where dogs can and can't be off lead. It also outlined the policy's new Special Dogs clause, highlighted the restricted areas to dogs and the new on lead areas like the Kingston Wetlands.

ENGAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS

Prior to the start of this engagement, Council Officers consulted with a number of stakeholders to help build the draft policy for consultation. Stakeholders were:

- Kingborough Dog Walking Association
- Taroona Environment Network (TEN)
- Taroona Community Association
- Blackmans Bay Community Association
- Kingborough Disability Inclusion & Access Committee
- Councillors
- Kingborough Community Forum

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions were completed via a public survey and written response.

PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 993 | Community survey |
| 129 | Written/email submissions & hard copy survey received |



Community Survey Responses

Demographic Participants Information

LOCATIONS

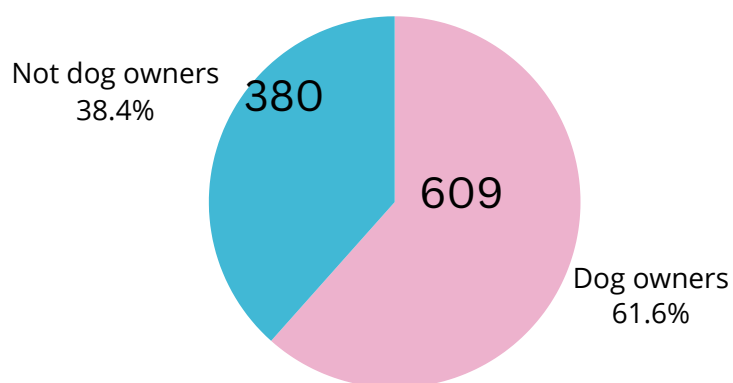
532	Blackmans Bay
197	Kingston/Kingston Beach
42	Margate
32	Taroona
31	Outside of Kingborough
30	Snug/Lower Snug
18	Howden
16	Kettering
12	Bonnet Hill
10	Tinderbox
8	Bruny Island
7	Longley/Lower Longley
7	Sandfly
6	Allens Rivulet
6	Coningham
5	Firthside
5	Woodbridge
4	Flowerpot
4	Neika
3	Electrona
3	Leslie Vale
2	Gordon
2	Middleton
2	Oyster Cove

AGE GROUPS

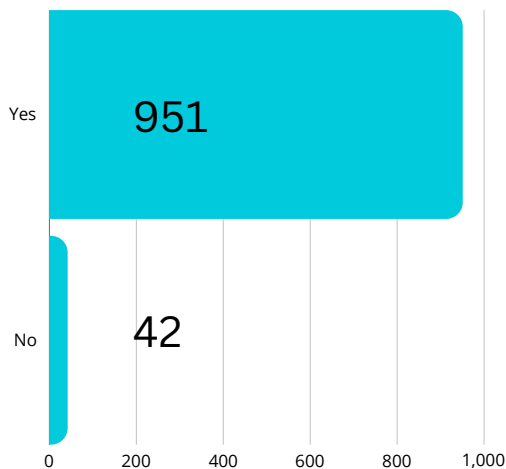
under 18	9
18 - 24	23
25 - 34	110
35 - 44	220
45 - 54	208
55 - 64	183
65 - 74	179
75+	57

DOG OWNER SURVEY PARTICIPATION

Skipped by 4 participants



Q4. Do you support this definition of a responsible dog owner?



The policy defines a **Responsible Dog Owner** as someone who can:

- house their dog in a secure yard
- ensure their dog is not a nuisance to people and is on lead in public at all times (except in off lead areas)
- have their dogs registered, microchipped and wearing a Council ID tag (after 6 months of age)
- provide for their dog's welfare and clean up after their dog

Q5. Would you like to share with us why you do not support this definition of a responsible dog owner?

skipped by 956 participants

The Majority of comments were about wanting owners to be in full control of their dogs at all times. Some quotes below:

"Even in off-lead areas responsible dog owners should ensure their dogs are under effective control and actually call them back to them. They should ensure their dogs are properly trained."

"I believe that a responsible dog owner should also be described as one who is in control of their dog at all times (ie. voice command), as I am. Not many people properly train their dogs anymore."

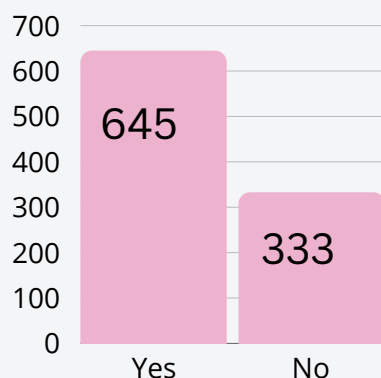
"Housing in a secure yard' discriminates against the homeless, people travelling with dogs, people in rental properties without full fencing, people in residential aged care etc."



Q6. Is this proposed off lead dog exercise area - Snug Beach South (sand only) acceptable to you?

Skipped by 15 participants

645 Yes
333 No



NO

"Opening up more beach areas to off-lead dogs will impact birdlife and the safety and enjoyment of young children who use these more shallow, gentle waters. There are sufficient off lead areas already and dogs and their owners can still enjoy walking in/adjacent to the proposed areas on lead."

"Because we already feel over-run with dogs in Kingborough. There are too many dogs in the area and the number of residents is growing along with the 2 dogs per household that they are allowed to own. We need to limit the numbers allowed rather than have all our beaches polluted with dog waste."

YES

"There are limited opportunities for Snug dog owners who may not have access to a car or drive to be able to exercise their dog off lead. The proposal has suitable restrictiveness (sand only) and enables people to exercise their dog with water. "

"This section of the beach is rarely used by families/public, as they prefer to use the river/bridge end which is extremely popular with people. We used to live in Snug and walk regularly with our dog."

"It is a low use area so has little impact on existing users."

"Many locals have dogs in Snug, and do a great job giving them regular exercise and picking up after them. Many locals take their dogs on the beach anyway - and along the whole length. This change will mean they can use the beach legally and might encourage them to stop using the northern end."

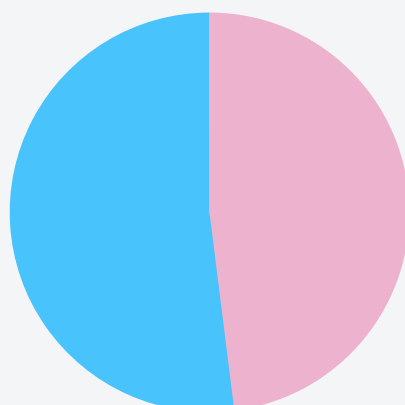


Q7. Is the proposed off lead dog exercise area at Blackmans Bay Beach (south of the stormwater outlet to the end of the beach - sand only) acceptable to you?

Skipped by 60 participants

448 Yes
485 No

No
52%



Yes
48%



NO

"ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!! This area of the beach is the most calm and safe area for small children and their families. This is the only disabled access that is usable..."

"This is a very popular space for families to have a day out at the local beach. It is a safe place to swim and explore (not to mention snorkelling to look for sea horses!!!). Dogs, their behaviour and excrement will ruin this for most users. Dont forget, shorelines are habitats for wildlife and sea life...."

"The area designated is often the only sheltered area of the beach and is used frequently by aged and frail people plus children, new migrants. It is used for swimming, making sandcastles and exercising and is a very popular part of the vicinity. My grandchildren were swimming there last week. Dogs will be a nuisance to humans, for their health and their security."

"Because it is the only suitable part of the beach for young families and the elderly due to it's calm water."

YES



"Blackmans Bay lacks off-lead exercise areas unless are able to make it up to Suncoast Drive off-lead area. In some ways, I'd prefer the rest of Blackmans Bay Beach to also have dog access maybe with time restrictions or on-lead (this could also be introduced for the rest of Kingston Beach)..."

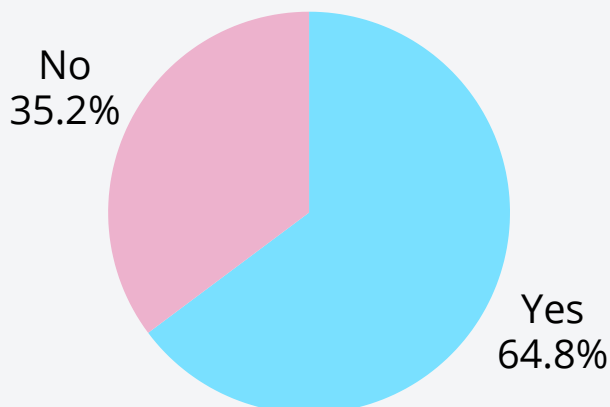
"For Blackmans Bay residents with no car access or able to drive it gives them a suitable watersport and exercise area they can access easily. Furthermore that end connects well to Sun Coast Drive on lead walking track so provides good continuity. Finally, it still creates an area for beach goers where dogs are prohibited."

"I am fully supportive of this. I would also support this area being an on-lead area as long as I can walk my dogs in the water. I would support on lead/off lead at different times of the day or year too. Again, more beach areas being available would reduce traffic to and crowding at Kingston Beach."

Q9. Are you satisfied with the number of beaches which are restricted from dogs at all times (except for exemptions in place)?

Skipped by 73 participants

596 Yes
324 No



NO

"Hinsby Beach should permit dogs on a lead, as they traverse from the Alum Cliffs Track northward to the Taroona Beach off leash area. Once you come down the steps there is no alternative route except going on the beach, so on leash walking should be allowed. Further along at Taroona Beach it is possible to follow a track/ road without needing to take one's dog into a prohibited area, before reaching the leash free zone."

"Opportunities at places like Bruny Island are very limited and far apart. Need to encourage exercise by owners and dogs at places which are "enclosed" - safe from vehicle movement, but open to dogs to interact as they wish. North Kingston Beach is a prime example of a happy opportunity for this."

"There are plenty of dog friendly beaches already in our areas. Having any more so close together means there are few (if any) dog free beaches for those who need places for kids who have had horrible experiences with dogs to play happily."



YES

"I'm happy - I am comfortable around dogs but I appreciate not everyone is. We have a good balance."

"The ratio of accessible and non accessible beaches is fair. All members of the community need to be considered so increasing the restricted beaches would be unfair to the responsible dog owners."

"The current and proposed new areas of beach dog exercise areas give a fair equity between dog owners and other users of the beaches."

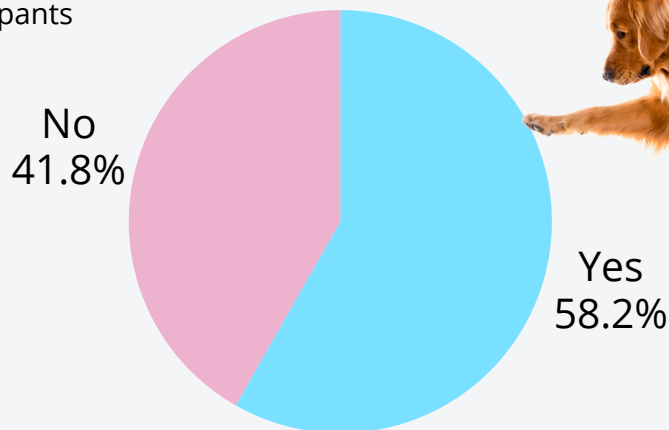
"The beach areas that dogs are permitted to run on are sufficient. Leave the beaches for families to enjoy without interruption of a dogs."

"I do not think there is an actual need to grant dogs access to beaches. However, I accept the limited access they already have is not going to be rescinded. If the areas we already have for dog exercise is insufficient for the number of dogs, then we reduce to limit the number of dogs. I.e. By limiting the number of dogs allowed per household in our area."

Q10. Do you exercise your dog in off-lead areas in Kingborough?

Skipped by 119 participants

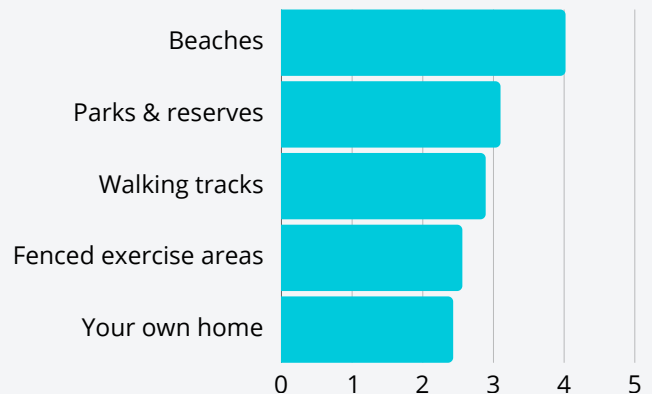
509 Yes
365 No



Q11. Which type of area do you prefer to be in with your dog? Ranking question

Skipped by 477 participants

4.02 Beaches
3.10 Parks and reserves
2.89 Walking tracks
2.56 Fenced exercise areas
2.43 Your own home



Q12. Is there enough suitable land to exercise your dog, which is accessible to you in your community?

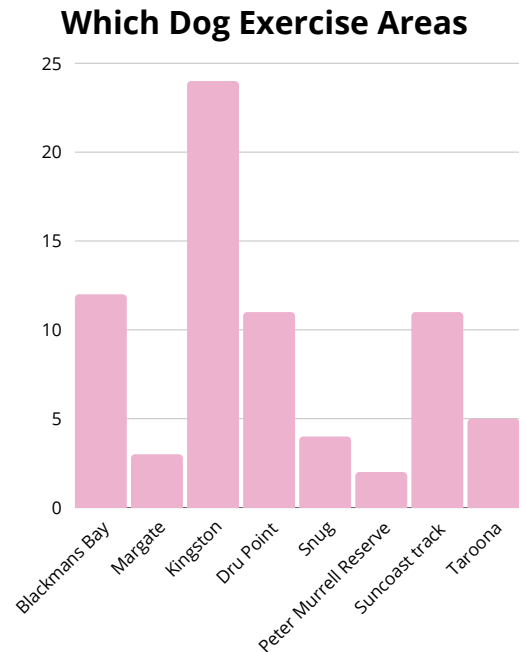
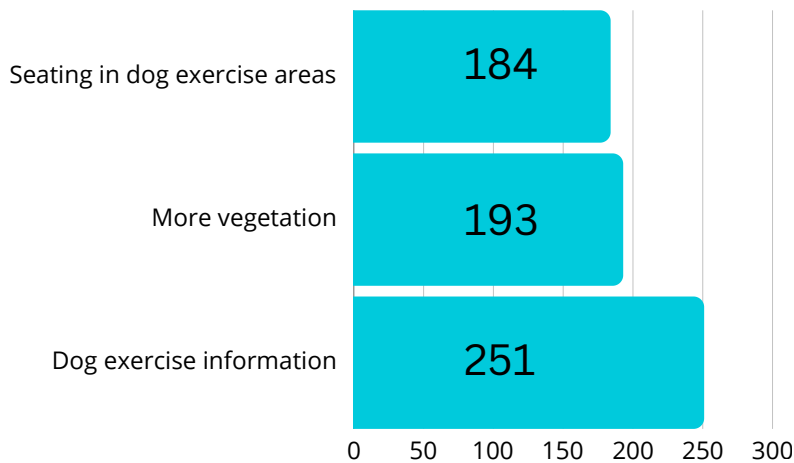
Skipped by 479 participants

316 Yes
198 No



Q13. Which of these features would you like to see added to your local off-lead dog exercise area?

Skipped by 582 participants



Q14. Is the Special Dogs clause acceptable to you ?

Skipped by 84 participants

729 Yes
35 No
145 Neutral

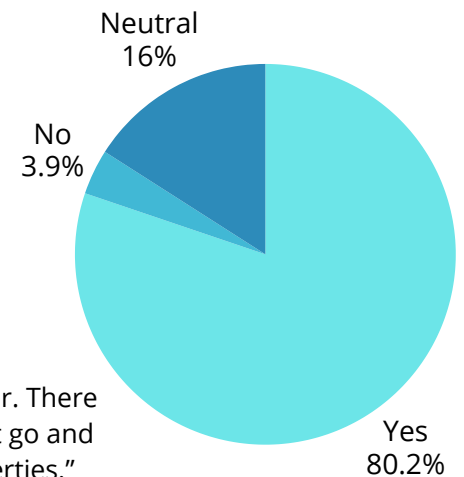
NO

"Special dogs are like any other dog, they are all special to their owner. There should be no difference between them in where they can and cannot go and this can become a loophole in the system to allow all dog owners liberties."

"Too many people falsely claim their dogs are mental health assistance dogs to get access. "

"Too many aggressive people claim their dogs are 'assistance' dogs when they allow them to run a muck on Kingston Beach."

"Council does not have the resources to give effect to a policy that might otherwise be acceptable."





Q15. When considering future developments in Kingborough, how important do you think is it to address the need for dog exercise areas?

(5 Stars very important 1 Star not very important)

Answered 872 Skipped by 121



3.7 Stars average

Q16. Is there anything else you would like to make comment on?

Skipped by 560 participants

"There are already plenty of dog areas in Kingborough Council area. Some of which are barely used. So why make more???"

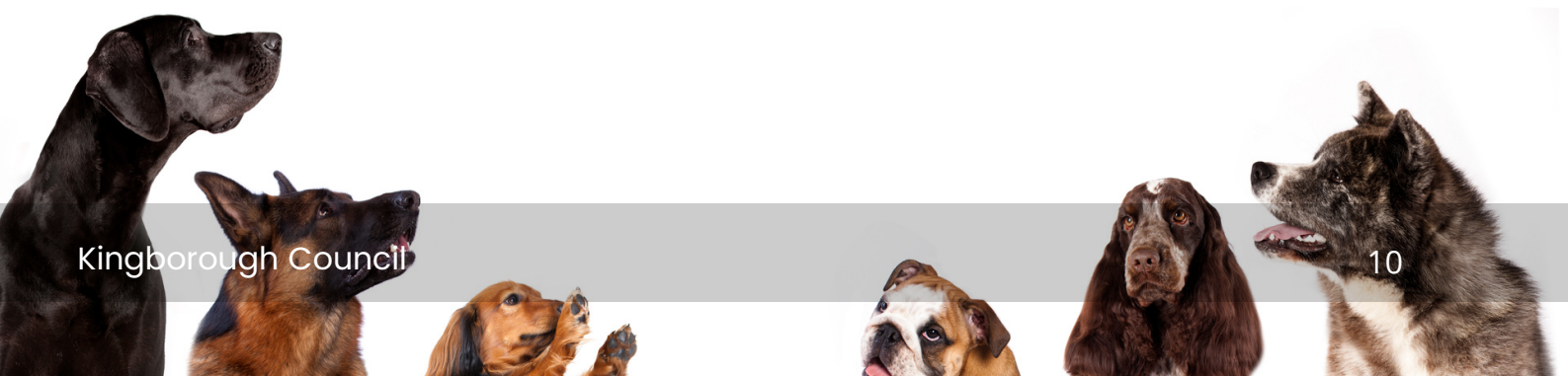
"Any chance rubbish bins could be installed at Dave Burrows Walk in Margate? It is popular with dog walkers but there are no bins - I see too many bags of poo left at the ends of the track. Most dog owners try to do the right thing but a bin would help!"

"There is a need to seriously increase dog registration fees and management of compliance, and limit multiple dog ownership to two if small and trained. The home owners and rate payers of Kingborough should be better protected from the growing dog ownership by irresponsible individuals."

"In Kingborough we already feel there are too many dogs... My husband and I are unable to walk after dark at Blackmans Bay esplanade as the footpath is covered in dog faeces. We believe that as soon as darkness falls many dog walkers fail to pick up after their pets. Dog ownership should be seen as a privilege and not as an entitlement."

"It is important that the council addresses the need for dog exercise areas in new developments and it is very important that these DO NOT include the precious beach areas that are free from dogs."

"Please make it easier to report incessant barking. Tax payers who work from home or who want to relax in their own homes should not have to endure this disruption."





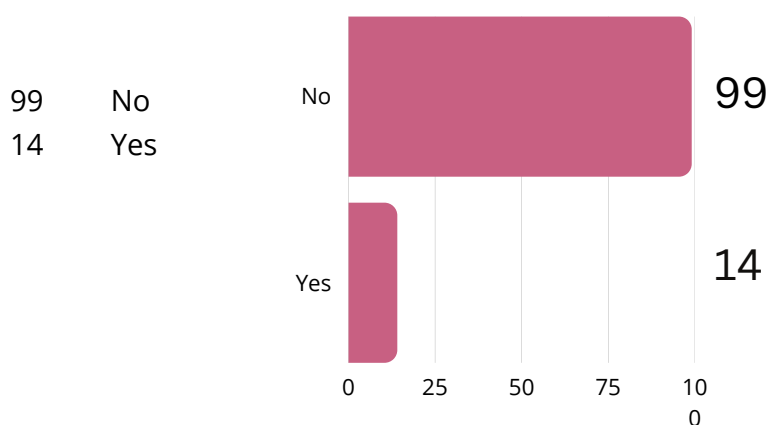
Community Written Submissions

The community consultation also collected written submissions and hard copies of surveys from the public.

There were **129 written/mailed submissions** either through written letter or email or hard copy survey entries. The majority of the written submissions addressed the Blackmans Bay Beach question in reference to the proposed off-lead area south of the storm water outlet.

Blackmans
Bay Beach
South

Is the proposed off lead dog exercise area at Blackmans Bay Beach (south of the stormwater outlet to the end of the beach - sand only) acceptable to you?



Snug
Beach
South

Is this proposed off lead dog exercise area - Snug Beach South (sand only) acceptable to you?

