



# **Dog Management Policy**

## **Engagement Report**

Prepared by  
**Kingborough Council**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESPONSES	
Demographic Information of Participants	3
Usage of existing dog exercise areas (Q3 & Q5)	4
Level of support for dog exercise training area (Q6)	5
Level of support for dog training area (Q7)	6
Preferred features for proposed areas (Q8)	7
Sample of Open Comments (Q9)	8-9
Sentiment of Survey Responses	10
Themes from Survey Open Responses	11-12
COMMUNITY WRITTEN/EMAILED SUBMISSIONS	
Sample of submissions - Dog Training Area	13
Sample of submissions - Dog Exercise Area	14
Sentiment of Written/Emailed Submissions	15
Themes from Written/Emailed Submissions	16

# Public Consultation

## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

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

The engagement asked the community to provide feedback on a proposed off-lead dog exercise area at 34 Maddocks Road, Kingston and proposed dog training area at Dru Point, Margate.

## WHY NEW AREAS?

In 2024, Council was officially advised that the Kingston Twin Ovals was chosen as the site for the Tasmanian Devil's AFL High Performance Training Centre.

To accommodate two new ovals as part of this development, alternative sites have been identified to relocate the off-lead dog exercise park currently on Kingston View Drive and the Southern Obedience Club currently on Gormley Drive.

## ENGAGEMENT STAKEHOLDERS

Council has been actively working with the Kingborough Dog Walkers Association (KDWA) and Southern Obedience Club to arrive at these two proposed locations.

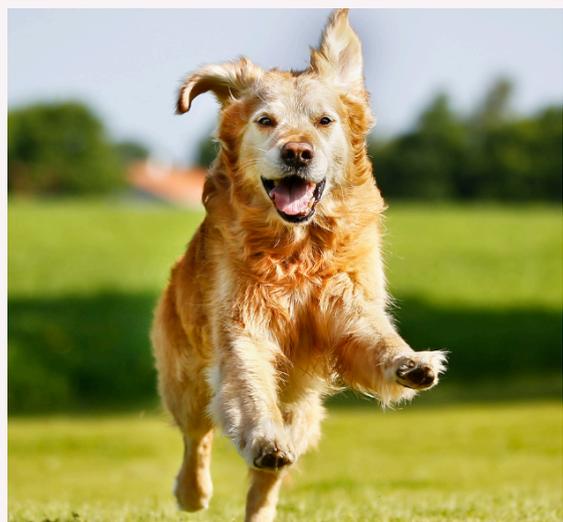
Residents directly adjoining the Maddocks Road site received two letters prior to the commencement of consultation to ensure they were aware of the proposal.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions were completed via a public survey and written response.

## PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

- 145 Community survey
- 15 Written/email submissions





# Community Survey Responses

## Demographic Information of Participants

### LOCATIONS

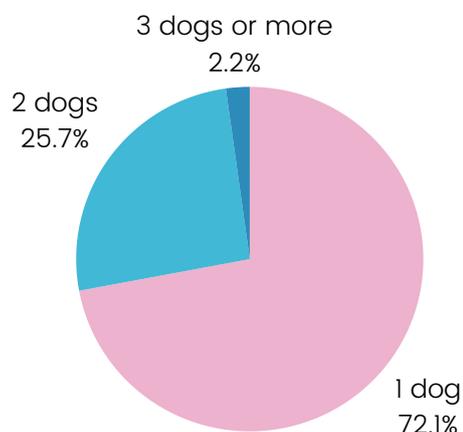
Provided in Q.4 (Skipped by 2 participants)

- 0 Allens Rivulet
- 21 Blackmans Bay
- 1 Birchs Bay
- 1 Bonnet Hill
- 0 Bruny Island
- 1 Coningham
- 1 Electrona
- 1 Firthside
- 0 Flowerpot
- 0 Gordon
- 0 Howden
- 3 Huntingfield
- 3 Kettering
- 77 Kingston/Kingston Beach
- 0 Leslie Vale
- 2 Longley/Lower Longley
- 20 Margate
- 0 Middleton
- 0 Neika
- 0 Nichols Rivulet
- 2 Oyster Cove
- 1 Sandfly
- 2 Snug/Lower Snug
- 3 Spring Farm
- 0 Tinderbox
- 2 Taroon
- 1 Woodbridge
- 2 Whitewater Estate

### DOG OWNERSHIP

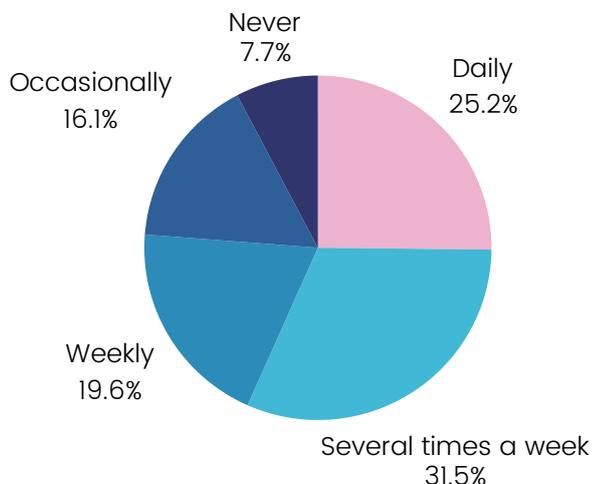
### SURVEY PARTICIPATION

Skipped by 1 participant



**Q3. How often do you visit a dog exercise area or park?**

Answered by 143 participants



Daily	36
Several times a week	45
Weekly	28
Occasionally	23
Never	11

**Q5. Which existing dog exercise area/s do you use most often? (answer as many as applicable)**

Answered by 143 participants

- 7 Apex Park, Taroona
- 7 Taroona Beach (east of boat ramp)
- 66 Kingston/Tyndall Beach (northern end - sand only)
- 6 Flowerpot Reserve, Blackmans Bay
- 31 Suncoast Dog Park, Blackmans Bay (within fenced area)
- 18 Suncoast Walking Track, Blackmans Bay
- 80 Kingston View Drive, Kingston
- 14 Kingston View Drive, Kingston (Greyhound area)
- 1 Maranoa Heights Reserve
- 79 Dru Point, Margate (within dog exercise fenced area)
- 15 Snug Beach South
- 12 Clarks Beach
- 5 Kettering Reserve
- 2 Middleton Beach (south of stormwater pipe)
- 8 Southern Obedience Club, Gormley Drive, Kingston
- 0 Country Dog Association, Lower Longley
- 10 None of the above

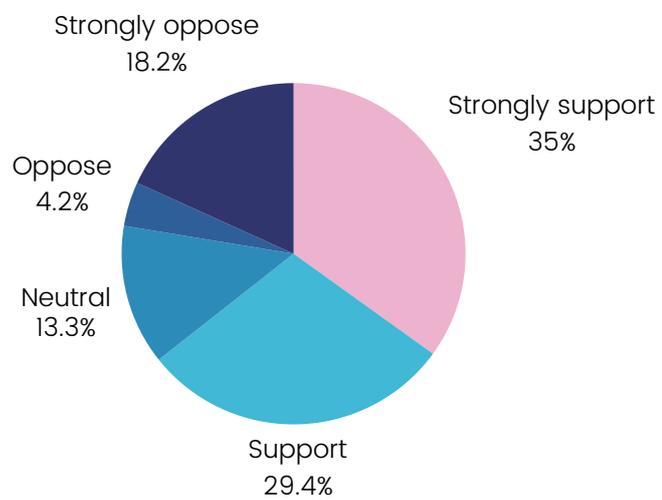


## DOG EXERCISE & TRAINING AREAS

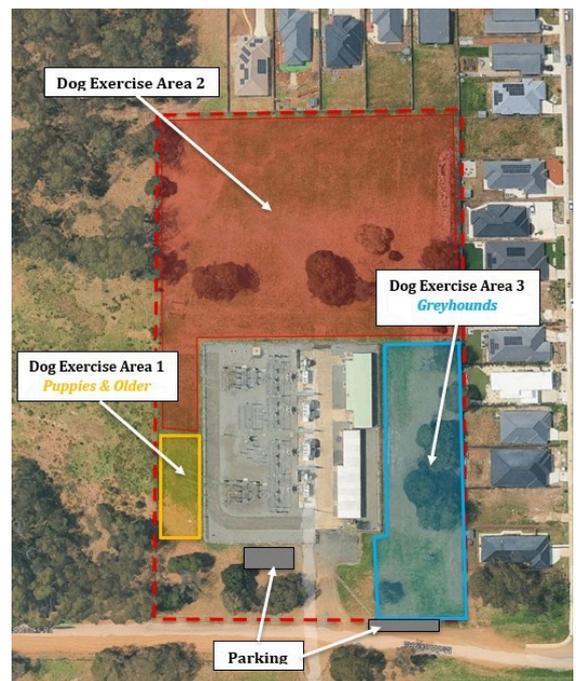
### Q6. Do you support the new dog exercise area being created at 34 Maddocks Road, Kingston?

Answered by 143 participants

Strongly support	50
Support	42
Neutral	19
Oppose	6
Strongly oppose	26



Proposed location



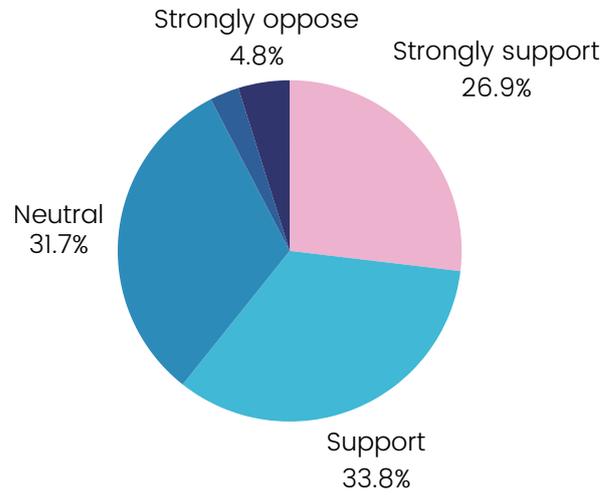
Concept plan – Potential site layout

# DOG EXERCISE & TRAINING AREAS - Continued

## Q7. How supportive are you of the described land at Dru Point, Margate being adapted for use by the Southern Obedience Club?

Answered by 145 participants

Strongly support	39
Support	49
Neutral	46
Oppose	4
Strongly oppose	7



Proposed location - Dru Point, Margate

## DOG EXERCISE & TRAINING AREAS – Continued

### Q8. What are the most important features you'd like to see included in a new dog exercise area at Maddocks Road? (select up to 5)

Answered by 145 participants

Waste bins and dog bag dispensers	109
Secure fencing	108
Water taps/bowls	100
Double-gated entry for safety	64
Parking availability	55
Separate areas for small and large dogs	48
Natural surfaces (grass, sand, bark)	47
Shaded seating	33
Lighting for early morning/evening use	26
Dog agility equipment	19
Pathways for walking/jogging	16
Other	32

### Examples provided in response to “Other” option

- An area sufficiently far away from houses
- An area where we can enjoy time with our pets without worrying about the impact on surrounding properties
- Decent size and nice grass
- A swimming area for dogs
- Public toilet
- Ample sunshine and ventilation allowed the ground to dry quickly, especially after rain and dew in the morning
- Interesting areas (trees, shrubbery for dogs to explore, not just a square patch for ball throwers)
- Greyhound off-lead area
- Having a dog toys basket
- No early morning/evening usage have some consideration for the neighbouring families. Have it moved away from residential properties so the dog park and homes do not share a common boundary
- How about a coffee truck
- As a resident whose property shares a boundary with the dog park, I am concerned that there is no buffer between our property and the proposed exercise area. I am concerned that our privacy will be negatively impacted, as well as our property values
- Facilities for owners attending - toilets, shorter distance between parking and main exercise area. Increased parking - twenty spaces
- Covered seating for rainy days
- Sound barriers along fencing for neighbouring properties
- Sound proofing and privacy for neighbouring residents
- Hand washing station, lots of trees, toilet for use
- Bookable private area ... some adopted dogs need space to run but have an option not to socialise
- An area for shy/nervous dogs
- Grass only for the dog park, bark and sand gets messy
- High fenced area not waist height where dogs can easily jump
- Need an area for dogs that don't like other dogs coming up and trying to play with them. So a separate area for dogs that like to be left alone and will keep to themselves. Not all dogs like interacting with other dogs

# OPEN COMMENTS

## Sample of comments

### Q9. Do you have any other feedback or suggestions?

Answered by 102 participants

"I believe that this area should be left as is to preserve the peace and beauty of the wildlife that lives there.

There are many other dog parks which can be used and erecting a new one which is not really necessary at the expense of this natural beauty is not something that I support.

Thank you."



"I do not think that the relocation of the dog park to Maddocks Road is the best option as this area is directly next to a power station which is not safe for the dogs.

I would rather take my dogs to one of the already existing dog parks as I know that these parks are safe, and I can feel at ease that my dogs can enjoy themselves without worrying about them getting too close to the power station."



"Water taps/bowls and double gates are essential at all dog park areas for safety and hygiene. The new Southern Obedience Club area needs to be accessible by members only for training purposes. Mowing during active snake season is very important."



"The separate areas for small and large dogs should also include that the small dogs may be puppies, or older/arthritis/injured dogs that don't want to be roughed up. Maybe it could be the "quiet dog" area?"

## OPEN COMMENTS - continued

“As a resident living in close proximity to the proposed site, I have significant concerns, particularly regarding noise. With minimal noise buffering, barking from the dog park is likely to travel widely and may trigger reactive barking from dogs confined within nearby residential backyards. Barking is an innate and contagious behaviour for dogs, especially in response to other dogs. Given the number of surrounding homes, many of which are likely to have dogs, this development is likely to result in a noticeable and ongoing increase in noise levels for residents.”



“Firstly amazing news a greyhound area is being considered again for the future. Thank you. For this area could the fencing please be reviewed. The current fencing is unsafe (too low). The Bellerive Greyhound off-leash area is a good example of safe fencing with adequate visual aid so the dogs see the fence.”



“The Maddocks Road site should be set back with the residential boundaries so that it doesn't impact people living in those houses. I'd also be concerned about lighting impacting those residents.”

Secure fencing is so important for off leash dog areas, especially for between small dog areas and large dog areas. We have a really small dog who uses the puppy areas and if the fences aren't secure, the puppy areas are basically pointless. For example, the puppy area at Blackmans Bay Suncoast Drive. However secure puppy areas, like the current one at Dru point are so valuable for helping puppies socialise, hopefully reducing excessive barking behaviours.”



“Very pleased that a replacement area has been found.”

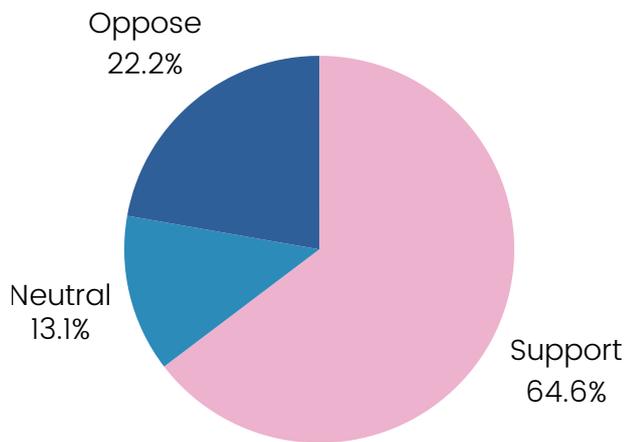


“If the area at Dru Point is adopted by the Southern Obedience Club, please can it be available to the general public and dogs at times when the club is not using it. This could be indicated by signs on the gates.”

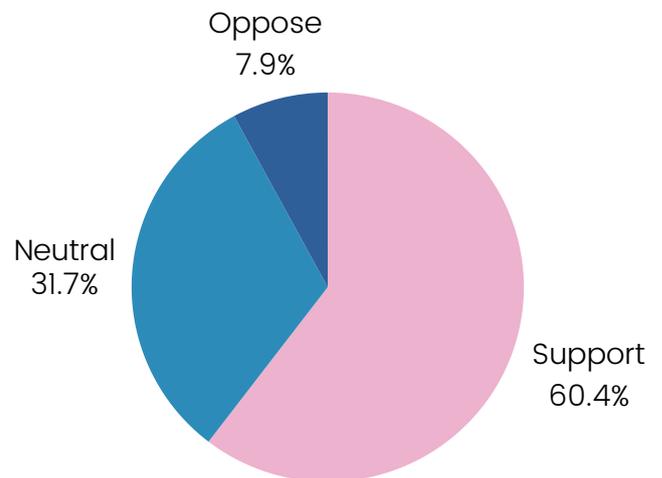


## SENTIMENT OF SURVEY RESPONSES

### Maddocks Road New Dog Exercise Area



### Dru Point, Margate New Dog Training Area (Southern Obedience Club)



### Overall sentiment

- Structured results show overall support for the Maddocks Road proposal, but comments reveal concern from residents living directly adjacent to the proposed site.
- General sentiment for the adaptation of the Dru Point site is positive, with feedback emphasising the importance of maintaining public access and adequate parking.
- The open comments are mostly negative, particularly about the impact on nearby homes at Maddocks Road.

## THEMES FROM SURVEY OPEN COMMENTS

Theme	Sub-themes	Sentiment	Representative Evidence (summarised from comments)
Parking and traffic access	Insufficient parking; road safety; difficult vehicle access	Mostly Negative	"Parking is inadequate and may create safety issues"; "Turning onto Maddocks Road is already difficult."
Noise, privacy and impact on nearby residents	Barking noise; privacy loss; property value concerns; need for buffer zones	Negative	"Barking will disturb neighbouring homes"; "A dog park on our boundary will reduce privacy and property values."
Fencing and security	Desire for higher/opaque fences; secure gates; greyhound-safe fencing	Mixed	"Fencing needs to be higher for greyhounds"; "Gates must be double-locked for safety."
Dru Point operation model	Shared use outside training hours; clearer guidelines; parking during events	Mixed-Positive	"Public access should continue outside training times"; "Need more parking for club days."
Small/shy/quiet dog & greyhound areas	Dedicated quiet zones; separate spaces for behavioural or size needs	Positive	"We need a safe area for shy or older dogs"; "Greyhound-specific space is important."
Water, hygiene & toilets	Quality water stations; preference for tip-out bowls; access to toilets	Positive	"Please use the Dru Point-style water bowls"; "Public toilets are essential."

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## THEMES FROM SURVEY OPEN COMMENTS – Continued

Theme	Sub-themes	Sentiment	Representative Evidence (summarised from comments)
Drainage & ground maintenance	Mud; uneven ground; mowing; general upkeep needs	Negative	“Ground becomes unusable after rain”; “Needs more regular mowing.”
Lighting & hours of operation	Mixed preferences; safety vs light spill to neighbours	Mixed	“Lighting is needed for early morning use”; “Lighting will disturb nearby homes.”
Design and access between areas	Separate entrances; wider corridors; safe movement between zones	Mixed	“Separate entrances for each area are essential”; “Corridors must be wide for dogs to pass safely.”
Power station proximity concerns	Electrical hum; EMF concern; amenity impacts	Negative	“The power station hum may stress dogs”; “Concern about safety being so close to the substation.”
Wildlife/environmental concerns	Disturbance to wildlife; loss of natural habitat	Negative	“The area has many birds and wallabies—this development will disrupt them.”

# WRITTEN/EMAILED SUBMISSIONS



## Sample of submissions

### Dru Point

“Dogs and their owners attend obedience training to learn how to control and manage their dogs responsibly and effectively within our community. First steps in effective training require a quiet, non-distractive environment. My concern is that the public off-lead exercise area around the proposed site will cause significant interruption for dogs in training.....”

It will be very important for there to be only one access point to the proposed new area and that point is in a relatively ‘public’ and visible area to reduce the security risk of non-member access....

Having adjacent and therefore convenient parking, especially for club members with puppies is important to ensure their easy access and safety.”



“I am supportive of the TasWater grassed area being used by the Obedience Club provided it is available to other users at times not used by the club.”



“I am not opposed for the dog obedience club being located at Dru Point as long as the oval is not fenced in, free for all patrons to use.”



“In summary the area at Dru Point offered to the SOC as a dog training ground whilst adequate in size has very restricted useable area due to the boggy uneven, overgrown and undulating ground. As such the grounds would need extensive and costly pre contract work to make them useable. The grounds maintenance if required by SOC would be costly consuming and expensive. Due to the noise and activity distraction in the dog exercise area, privacy fencing would need to be erected around the perimeter of the SOC dog training area. This in turn may well be a costly exercise. The access for SOC members would need to be direct into the training area from the car parking area to minimise complications and impact on the current off lead area.”

# WRITTEN/EMAILED SUBMISSIONS



## Sample of submissions

### Maddocks Road

“There needs to be enough spaces to park 15 cars which is a common number on the weekends. Also enough seating for the older owners as there is only one seat at the moment.”



“After looking at the proposed new dog exercise areas, which are all around the power station, I have several concerns which are:

1. Power stations are known to emit high electromagnetic waves which can affect pacemakers. Providing public access close to a site like that can be a health issue.
2. Having been nearby the site, it is emitting a humming noise which is quite unpleasant, and it could affect the dogs as well.”



“My concerns are the park backing onto residential properties on Maddocks Road.

This is a quiet area where noise travels, barking in the park is going to negatively impact the confined dogs within their private yards – increased barking with a flow-on effect around the neighbourhood...

I hold significant concerns from a welfare perspective as the power station releases an electrical hum that is audible to human ears, therefore significant sound to canines.”



“I would like to raise my objection to the development of this facility in the proposed location for the following reasons:

- There is no buffer or setback between this facility and the surrounding residential areas.
- I am concerned about the noise levels that facility will impose on the surrounding properties.”



## SENTIMENT OF EMAILED SUBMISSIONS

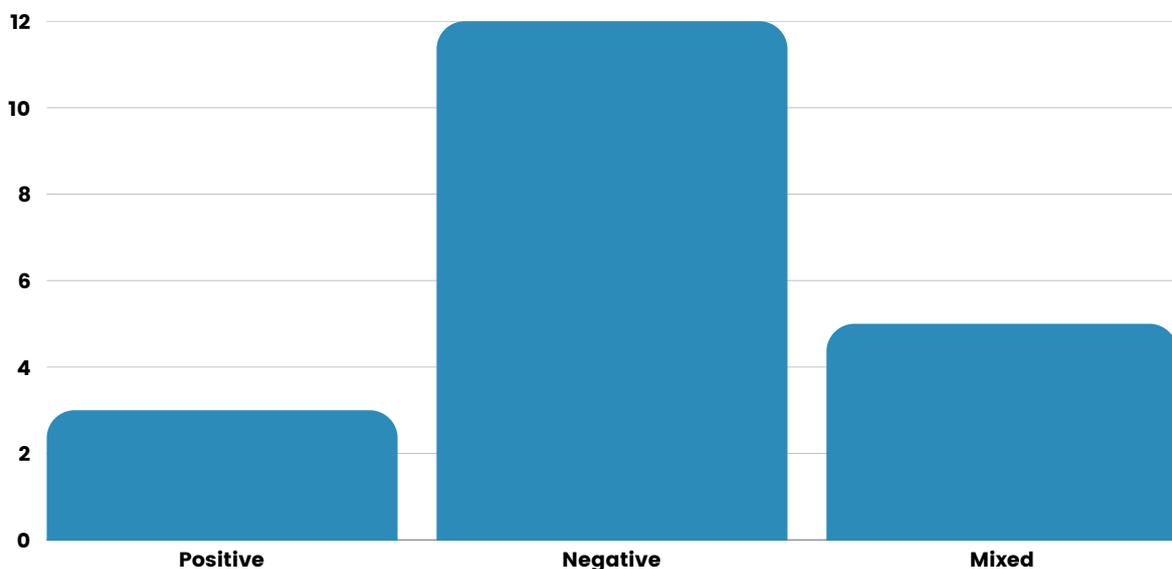
### Overall sentiment

- Strong opposition from residents directly bordering 34 Maddocks Road, citing concerns about noise, privacy, safety, property value, drainage, and animal welfare (e.g., humming noise from nearby substation).
- Conditional support for the SOC relocation to Dru Point, provided significant upgrades are made to ground conditions, access, fencing, and parking.
- General support for improving existing dog facilities within Kingborough, including better drainage, double-gates, walking loops, shade, and puppy/timid-dog areas.

### Key Themes

- Maddocks Road is viewed as unsuitable due to proximity to homes, steep land fall, security concerns, and high risk of nuisance barking.
- Dru Point is recognised as a logical hub for dog activities but is currently unfit for training because of boggy, uneven ground and limited parking.
- Dog owners greatly value safe, well-fenced, double-gated, shaded spaces with good drainage and walking loops.

### Sentiment Summary of Emailed Submissions



## THEMES FROM EMAILED SUBMISSIONS

Theme	Sub-themes	Sentiment	Representative Evidence
Noise & Amenity	Barking, shouting, reverberation, dogs triggering neighbouring dogs	Negative	Residents adjacent to Maddocks Road fear significant noise pollution; dog trainers cite noise distractions at Dru Point
Privacy & Security	Overlooking yards/bedrooms, climbable fences, trespass risk	Strongly Negative	Maddocks Road residents describe direct sight into private yards and risk of people jumping fences
Environmental Suitability	Ground bogginess, drainage, noise from substation, waste runoff	Negative	Dru Point land described as “appalling” and boggy; substation noise concerning at Maddocks Road
Parking & Access	Insufficient parking, unsafe access, need for member-only gates	Negative / Mixed	Dru Point parking often full; SOC members need secure, exclusive access
Dog Welfare & Safety	Controlled environment, risk of off-lead interference, shade	Mixed / Conditional	SOC trainers warn of public dogs disrupting classes; shade essential for comfort
Shared-Use Expectations	Desire to maintain access outside training times; avoid exclusion	Mixed / Positive	Many Dru Point users welcome shared access if managed with signage
General Dog Facility Improvements	Double gates, drainage, walking loops, water points, puppy areas	Positive	Multiple emails request consistent upgrades across all parks