



Clarence City Council

Dogs on-leash proposal - Bellerive Boardwalk
Community feedback

November 2023

Dog Management Consultation

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Background on Your Say

Background

Proposed changes to declared area under *Dog Control Act 2000*

At Clarence City Council we often review our declared areas and spaces where dogs can be taken to make sure our approach to the management of dogs in Clarence's public spaces reflects community standards and expectations.

Currently, parts of the Bellerive Boardwalk area (the public plaza in front of the stage, car park and toilets) are a 'restricted area' where dogs are not permitted, even if on a leash. However, we understand that this is a valued community space where people enjoy walking their dogs, and that allowing dogs in this area would be unlikely to result in any less enjoyment of that space for all people using it. We want your views and feedback to help us decide whether to change the rules that apply so dogs can legally enter the area when being walked on a lead.

Note: the shared path shown in green is currently a dog on-leash area and this will remain the same as it currently is.

Note: some events in the area will have event specific permits which may exclude dogs. The change proposed is for general day to day use.

A plan showing the proposed changes is below and can also be viewed in the 'Documents' section on the right.

Invitation to make written submissions

Council invites written submissions on the proposed changes to the declared areas at Bellerive Boardwalk.

Written submissions can be provided until close of business on Friday, 10 November 2023.

You can provide a written submission:

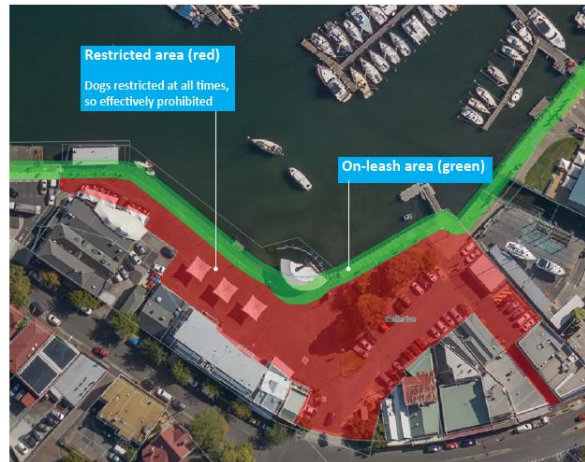
- by email to yoursay@ccc.tas.gov.au in-person at Council's offices at 38 Bligh Street, Rosny Park or by post

Take our survey

If you don't want to provide a submission, but would still like to give feedback on the proposed trial we invite you to take our survey, below. The survey is a great way to have your say on the proposed trial and anything you think we should consider. The survey will also be open until 10 November 2023.

You may also be interested in another dog related consultation focusing on our [proposed off-leash greyhound area trial and other changes to South Street Reserve in Bellerive](#) (click the link to be taken to the project page).

Current Declarations (October 2023)



Proposed Declarations (dogs permitted on-leash)



What are the next steps?

Council will consider all the feedback received on the proposed declared area change and decide whether to proceed. If it does, we will publish a public notice in the Mercury and also on this page notifying if and when any changes come into effect.



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Consultation methodology

- Timeframe:
 - Four weeks from 10 October 2023 to 10 November 2023
- Key consultation activities
 - Your Say survey online
 - Aim was to reach a good representation of dog and non-dog owners
- Responses:
 - 330 online responses
- Communication and promotion key moments:
 - Council website and featured on council Your Say page
 - Weekly Facebook posts throughout consultation period
 - Emails directly to all key known stakeholders and interested groups (all known dog related groups) with an invitation to complete the survey and share with their networks

Facebook post example



Clarence City Council

18 October · 🌐

Have your say!

We have two surveys now open regarding DOGS in Clarence.

One is focused on Bellerive Boardwalk and a declared area change being proposed.

This change would allow dogs on-leash rather than the current rule which sees dogs excluded from the Boardwalk.

The second consultation is another proposed declared area change, centred around South Street Reserve in Bellerive.

This change would allow for a 12-month trial of a designated off-lead exercise area for greyhounds, using part of existing dog park.

The trial will provide an area where Greyhounds can safely and lawfully be exercised off-leash, while also providing valuable information and data to inform our future planning for dog exercise areas in Clarence.

Both consultations have short poll style surveys and should take no more than five minutes to complete,

Please use the links below to access the surveys or navigate to 'Your Say' from the main council website.

<http://www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au/bellerive-boardwalk...>

<http://www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au/south-street-reserve...>



YOURSAY.CCC.TAS.GOV.AU

Dogs on-leash proposal - Bellerive Boardwalk

Background Proposed changes to declared area under Dog Contro...



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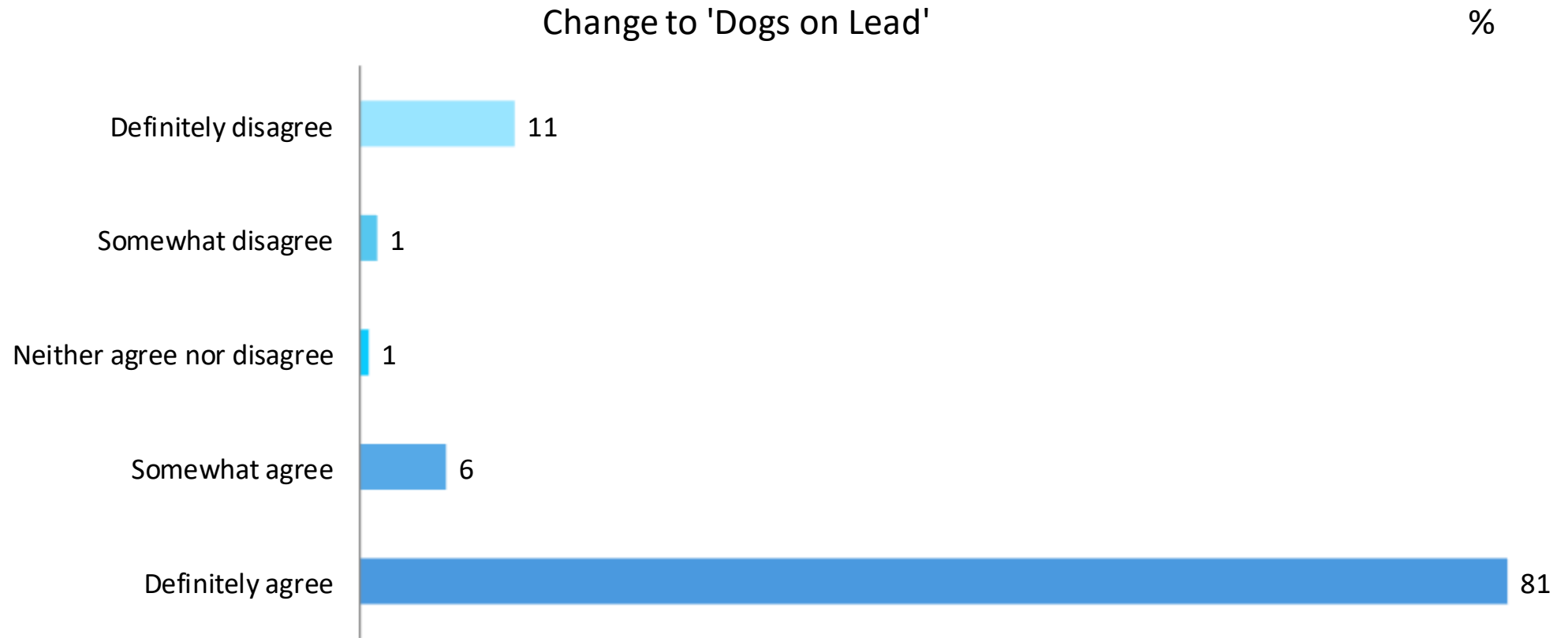
Consultation Overview

- Consultation was a short poll with key questions around the support for a change for the Bellerive Boardwalk to allow dogs on lead
- We heard from 330 community members from the local area and surrounding suburbs and from a good range of ages. The results reflect a good cross section of the community.
- Pleasingly we also had representation from owners of pet dogs as well as non-dog owners.
- Change to Dogs on Lead- responses to the questions:
 - 9 in 10 agree (definitely or somewhat) to the proposed change to 'Dogs on Lead with a very high 81% definitely agreeing with the proposed change
- Support for keeping the boardwalk as an exclusion zone:
 - The question was also asked in the reverse as keeping as the current exclusion zone. The 9 in 10 disagreeing with keeping the status quo reaffirms the desire for the proposed change
- Overall, there is very strong clear community support for the change



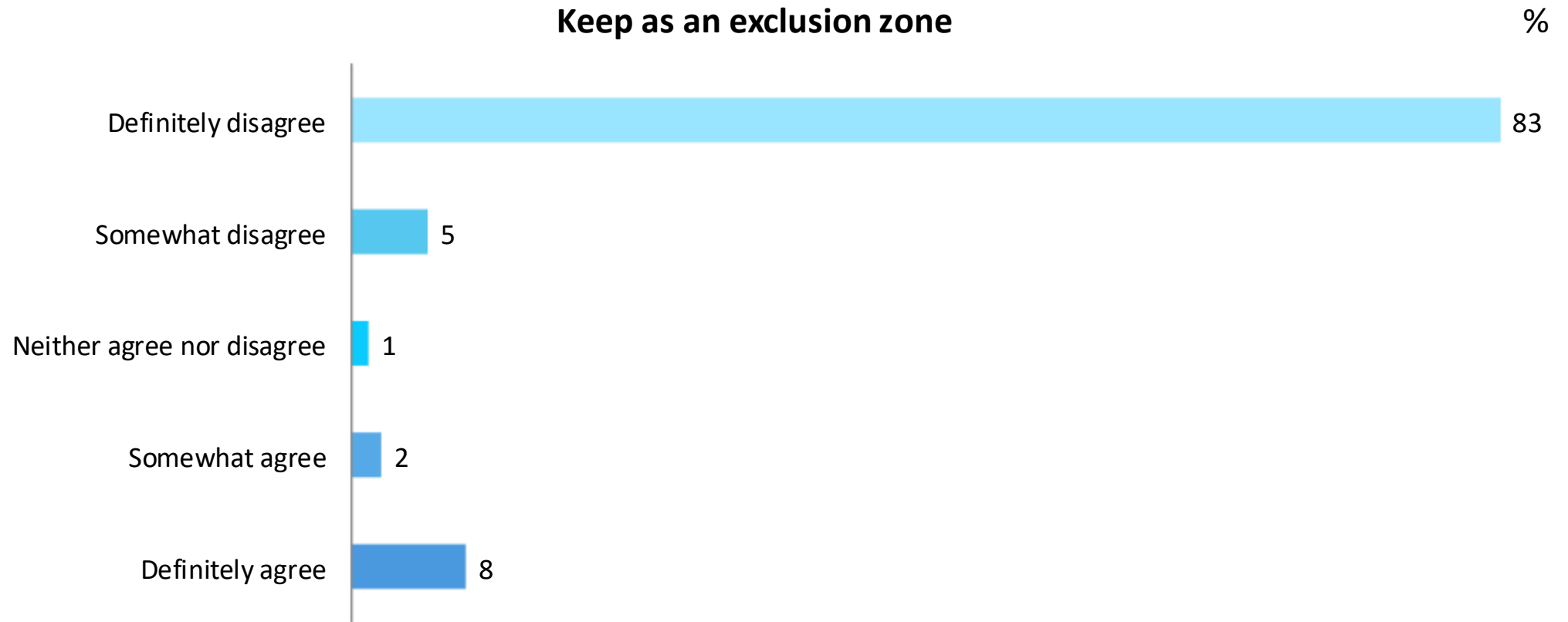
Change to Dogs on Lead

- 9 in 10 agree (definitely or somewhat) to the proposed change to 'Dogs on Lead' with a very high 81% definitely agreeing with the proposed change



Keep as an exclusion zone

- The question was also asked in the reverse as keeping as the current exclusion zone. The 9 in 10 disagreeing with keeping the status quo reaffirms the desire for the proposed change



Comments shared in the survey

- Some of the range of comments shared. The majority are in strong support but some are concerned about ensuring dogs are on leash and under control.

Supporting the change (87% in support)

What a fabulous community we have to have a dog friendly area 'dogs on leads' to support small businesses and an active community.

Well people take dogs on lead there already and I have never witnessed anything bad happen.

We're a young family that loves living in Clarence. With dogs banned from most playgrounds that are very few places our family can go and enjoy outside the home together. Our son loves riding his bike in this area where we also take our dog to exercise and get coffee for mum and dad (we didn't realise we weren't supposed to be there). It's a great community spot and we are always welcomed by other patrons/walkers.

We have a small dog and love to go for walks there, that way we can take our pooch with us

under utilized area currently, no difference to users.

This would catch up with current practice, which appears to be fine.

Times are changing and companion animals are a part of many families who use the boardwalk. Council rules should reflect this.

This is an excellent area for families and dogs are a part of our family. I would enjoy spending a lot of time on the boardwalk with my dog if it were allowed.

This is a fabulous spot to walk through with a dog on lead. There are small businesses in the area that can be better supported if you can sit outside with a coffee or something to eat.

Comments not in support of the change (12% not in support)

Unfortunately entitled dog walkers don't actually keep their dogs on leash in on leash zones. Lots of kids ride bikes and walk and play with their families in this area. Please look out for our kids - the dogs already completely take over Bellerive beach even in the areas they are not meant to be, not this too.

Trip hazards for elderly.

This is an eating zone with a number of events held there each year. Not appropriate for dogs and owners do not currently follow guidelines on walkways by having on short leash and under effective control.

Too often I have seen dogs on leads where the owners appear to think everybody loves dogs and do nothing to control the dogs from approaching people, children and other dogs. I have known people to have panic attacks or stress reactions from an uninvited dog approaching them. I consider that there should be very strong laws in relation to the length of leads used in areas being used by other members of the public, and strong laws to enforce the controller to restrain the dog from being able to make contact with another member of the public. I would submit that there are some who for medical reasons can not afford a fall from a dog attack or a lead trip. We should put people before animals and therefore people should have access without threat, to all public areas. If the zone remains unchanged, anyone who wishes to avoid dogs can do so and still have access to the public area. I would add that I have been a dog owner for most of my life and I have always fully respected the right of enjoyment of others.

There is too many dogs currently around Cocomo and they are all barking continuously. There is also no signs showing this dog exclusion area



Project Timeline

Where to now?

Next steps

What next?

The outcome will be shared later in 2023 on Your Say and published in the media

Consideration by council

The community feedback will contribute to decisions on whether to change the Bellerive Boardwalk exclusion zone to a dogs on lead area



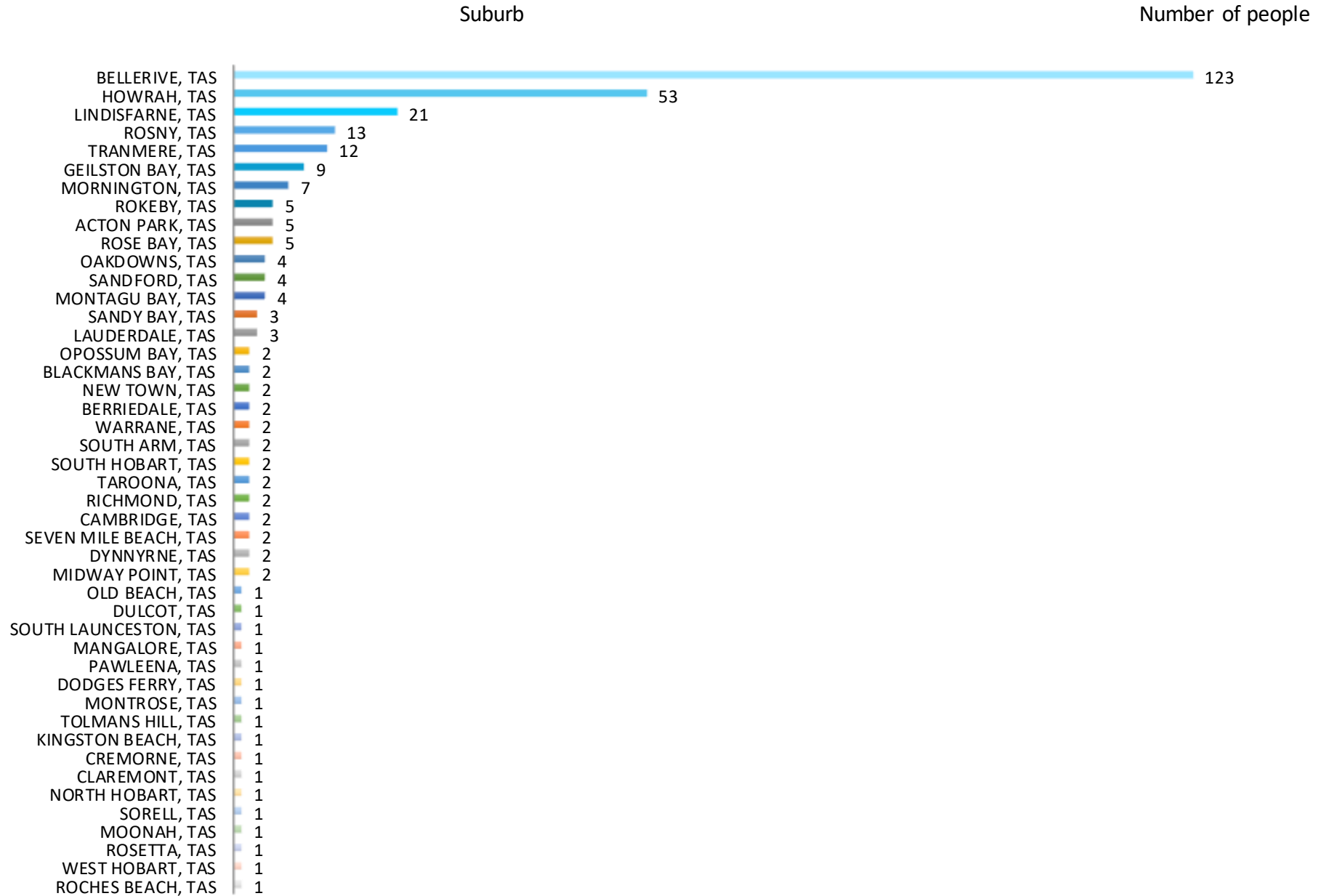
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Appendix

- Demographics and dog ownership classifications
- Channels
- Survey (available both online and as a hard copy on request)

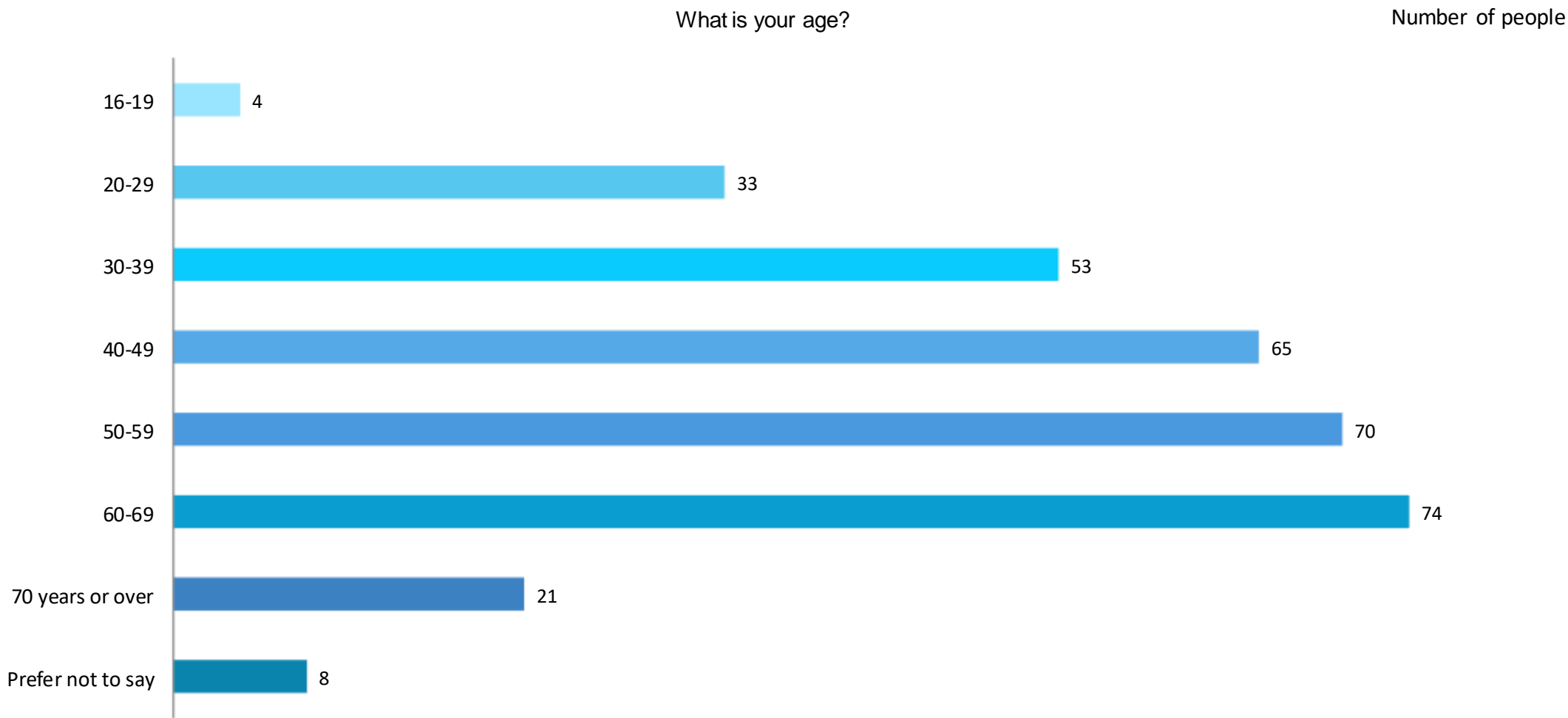


Demographics



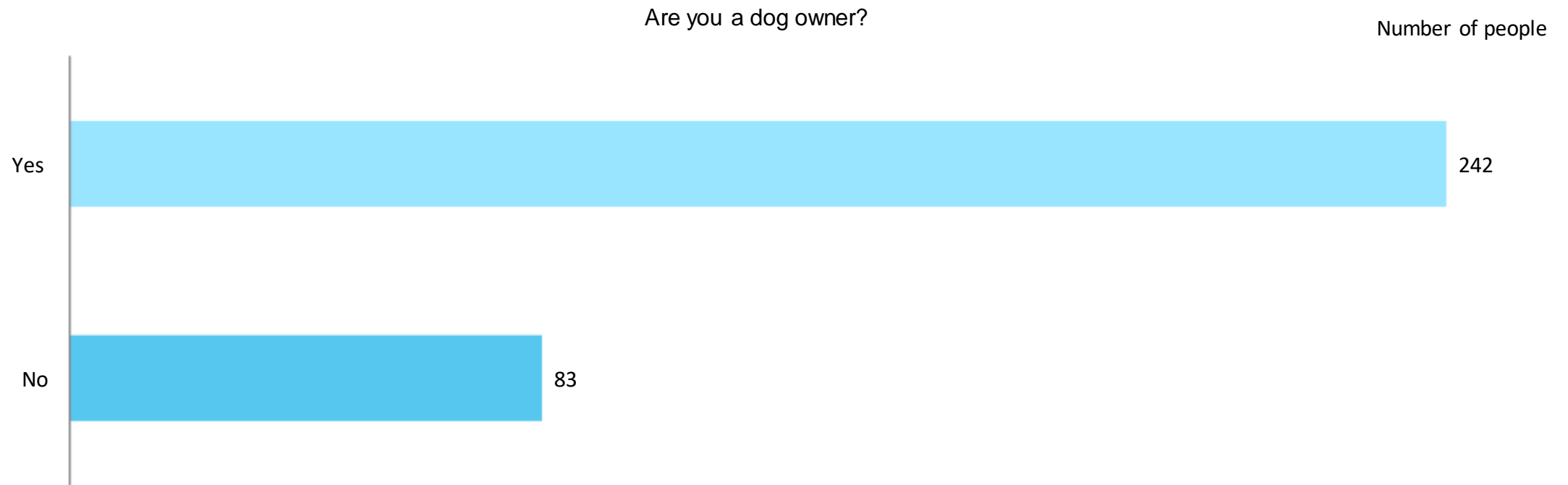
Demographics

- Age breaks



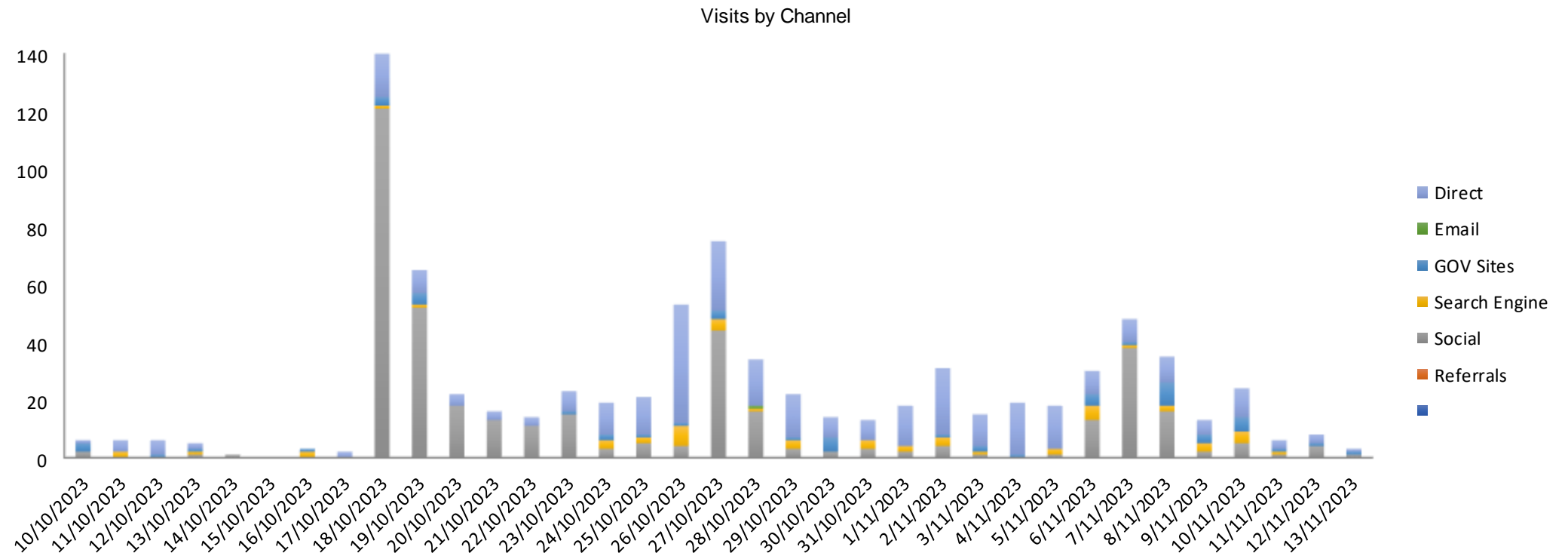
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Dog ownership



Key channels for website engagement

- Strong response from social media and also from the direct emails and confluents and posters in the area.



What was asked

Online survey

Dogs on-leash proposal - Bellerive Boardwalk

Your Say Clarence

Bellerive Boardwalk proposed change to declared area

Thank you for taking part in this survey about the potential to change Bellerive Boardwalk from a dog exclusion zone to dogs on lead.

The survey should take no longer than 2-5 minutes to complete, depending on your answers.

We will ask couple of structured questions then provide an opportunity to share your reasons. Lastly, we will ask a few general questions about you.

We are looking for frank and honest answers. We assure you that your responses will be kept strictly confidential and data will be reported in an aggregated form that will not identify you.

Do you support a change for the Bellerive Boardwalk to allow dogs on lead?

Questions	Definitely disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Definitely agree
Change to 'Dogs on Lead'					

Do you support keeping the exclusion zone for the Bellerive Boardwalk?

Questions	Definitely disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Definitely agree
Keep as a 'Dog Exclusion Zone'					

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your reasons for supporting a change to 'Dogs on Lead' or maintaining the exclusion zone?

Lastly, some questions about you...

Which suburb do you live in?

Are you a dog owner?

(Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

What is your age?

(Choose any one option)

- ☐ Under 16 years
☐ 16-19
☐ 20-29
☐ 30-39
☐ 40-49
☐ 50-59
☐ 60-69
☐ 70 years or more
☐ Prefer not to say



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Submissions

To whom it concerns,

I wish to comment on the proposed dog-restrictions of Bellerive Boardwalk. I support the changes to allow dogs on-leash in the boardwalk area.

I personally will enjoy being able to take my dog here. Previously I've avoided the area and kept walking to the streets and bluff walking track. I prefer to take my dog to areas that are less sensitive and think having more areas open to dogs on-leash means there are more opportunities for people to walk their dogs in areas that aren't harming the environment or wildlife. I would however like to see Bellerive Beach and other natural areas made leash-only and believe this could serve as a compromise with dog owners. There are dog owners like myself that have had larger dogs run up and attack our smaller dogs. I have a family member who has a phobia of dogs running up to her after a serious dog attack as a child. Dogs off-leash in natural areas are harmful to the environment and prevent beach-nesting birds from inhabiting areas due to constant disturbance. Dogs on Bellerive Beach and the bordering dunes would be impacting southern-brown bandicoots through disturbance and possibly influencing pouch young being thrown.

As a dog owner, I do not have any extra rights over beach use than non-dog owners, other general beach users or native wildlife. This is something that many dog owners forget and I do not think Council should be intimidated by dog-owner entitlement as nobody forced us to own these animals.

Kind regards,

Good afternoon

Although, sadly, I do not own a dog I feel this proposal is a step in the right direction to allow dogs on a leash in the proposed declaration, excepting restrictions during events.

It is a beautiful area for people and their furry companions.

Thank you

Good evening

I believe that dogs on leashes should be allowed to traverse through the Boardwalk area, stop and drink from water bowls or sit with owners outside restaurants.

For many of us, dogs are family members. If we cannot take them to facilities we can not go ourselves.

Taking one's dog, on leash and controlled is good for us, the dog and for local businesses.

Yours faithfully

Submissions

Definitely make the area an on lead area.

Thank you CCC
Please allow dogs on leash and under control through out Bellerive boardwalk area

See submission below:

I am in support of the changes detailed for the Dogs on leash proposal for Bellerive Boardwalk. This is a positive and progressive move that addresses the needs of the community.

In addition to standard council dog zone signage, please consider liaison with local dog training clubs to provide additional signage educating around what effective on leash dog control should look like. This is a highly visited location and presents a key opportunity to educate public on what best practice for dog handling now constitutes. There is a need for parents with small children to also follow dog safe practices, and not allowing unsafe behaviors to occur. This would be in addition to standard dog handling protocols. Correctly set up, this can be a hub that will bring the joys of dog interaction closer to the hearts of our community.

I would further add that council consider inclusion of pontoon areas as "on lead" to allow for dogs accessing marine craft.

Thank you for your consideration,

Good morning,

I would like to express my strong support for the proposal of dogs on leash areas at the Bellerive Boardwalk.

The area is well used by citizens on the Eastern shore and everyone who visits the area and a great number of people walk with their dogs on leash. The Broadwalk is a hub for recreation, socialisation and fitness activities and definitely contributes to the wellbeing of the members of the community.

I would like to congratulate Clarence Council for taking this initiative.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Hi There,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed changes to restrictions for dogs walking along the Bellerive Broadwalk. We support the changes and will be pleased to see dogs enjoying greater access to this area.

Kind regards,

Melissa V.A. Fraser
President
Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs

Dogs on Bellerive board walk

As an elderly resident I often walk my dog around the board walk. I feel safe protected and with purpose.

I never knew it was restricted. I would like Clarence City Council to embrace residents with dogs and the essential connections they give to humans in particular disabled elderly or lonely people.

For me personally I would be devastated if this area became more restrictive for dogs .

It's really time to accept dogs are an essential part of our community. I've never seen an incident that was negative or serious in that area. Many businesses encourage visits from owners and their dogs by providing water bowls and seats outside.

Please do not restrict our movements more than now.



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Dear CCC

The Hobart Dog Walking Association Inc (HDWA) wishes to comment about proposed changes to the South Street, Bellerive Dog Exercise area, and the Bellerive Boardwalk.

South Street Dog Training Area

We are pleased to see that Clarence City Council (CCC) is going to trial an exercise area for greyhounds. However, during the CCC's last Dog Management Review it was our understanding that CCC was going to find a separate area for greyhounds; the park at Montagu Bay and 45 Goodwins Road Clarendon Vale were suggested. Unfortunately, neither of the proposed areas were particularly suitable for dog owners.

Concerns have been raised over moving the South Street fence and pushing dogs into smaller spaces. Dogs just like people don't get on with everyone and moving the fences may force such unwanted interactions.

We appreciate the growing popularity of greyhounds as pets. However, we represent owners of all dog breeds. All dog breeds need places to exercise and socialise. Some people own two dogs (including a greyhound) and another breed. How will they exercise both dogs if dogs are forced into two separate areas based on breed?

We would like to know:

- If the area will still be used as an occasional car park and how this along with extra foot traffic will impact on the ground itself?
- What plans do the CCC have to counteract the soil compaction? We note half the park is often closed for rehabilitation.

Bellerive Beach

If South Street Dog Training Area is to be divided, could the CCC consider extending the dog off-lead times and area on Bellerive Beach in summer to free up more space for the non-greyhounds being forced into a smaller area?

We remember:

- the former on-lead area at Bellerive Beach (parallel with toilet block to First Bluff) became prohibited to dogs in 2015; and
- prior to 2008, dogs were permitted off-lead on all of Bellerive Beach except for during the summer restriction times of 10am – 6pm 1 December - 1 March.

Bellerive Boardwalk

We recommend keeping the Bellerive Boardwalk on-lead and not restricting dog access as some dog walkers like/need to take short-cuts, or sit down in the seated area. Some businesses welcome dog walkers with dogs as patrons. Dogs could be restricted at times of very crowded organised public events, but should not possibly be restricted at all events as some organised events do not draw large crowds. For example: some musicians or public speakers on stage might not attract a crowd. Commonsense often dictates when and where to take a dog, or the event organiser might specify whether the event is suitable for patrons with dogs.

More dog exercise areas needed

The HDWA is disappointed that apart from the yet to be built dog exercise area in Cambridge, CCC has not provided extra dog exercise areas to match the growth in housing development. We would remind Council that:

- The 2022 survey by Animal Medicines Australia found that 69% of Australian households are now home to one or more pets.
- In the 2020 Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) Survey had pet ownership at 62% with 72% of pet owning people – or 48% of all people having a dog.

We believe that companion animals should be seen as part of creating liveable communities, where future planning considers provision for housing with open spaces available to all community members connected by walkways:

- It is an equity issue for our ageing population and those who cannot access public transport or drive a car
- This promotes healthy activity and better mental health outcomes.
- Facilitates community and social connection.
- Would alleviate points of conflict around protecting wildlife by creating buffer zones and creating alternate spaces for exercise.

The HDWA hopes the CCC considers the questions we raise in this correspondence

Yours sincerely

Hobart Dog Walking Association Inc