



Clarence City Council

Greyhound Off-leash and Vulnerable Dog
Exercise Areas and Declared Area Changes -
South Street Reserve, Bellerive

Community feedback

November 2023

Dog Management Consultation

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Background on Your Say

Background

The trial is due to begin in late-2023, but before we set a start date we want to talk to the community (and particularly the people and their dogs who use South Street Reserve) about the trial and get your feedback.

Council also needs make formal declarations that set the rules about the exercise areas in South Street Reserve to allow the trial to take place, so we are also inviting written submissions and feedback the proposed changes to the declared areas at South Street under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

You can find maps of the proposed trial area and changes to the declared areas in South Street Reserve below, and in the Documents section on the right. We've also provided some Frequently Asked Questions which give more information.

Proposed changes to declared areas

The proposed trial area and changes to declared areas at South Street Reserve are set out in the maps below:

Current South Street Layout and Exercise Areas



Proposed Changes



Greyhound Off-Leash Exercise Area and Vulnerable Dogs Area Trial

The proposed off-leash greyhound area trial will take up part of the southern fenced area of the reserve (see map). We are also proposing to have a dedicated area specifically designated for 'vulnerable dogs' which are dogs (dogs which are old, small or recovering from injury or illness).

All other parts of the reserve will continue to be available for off-lead dog exercise at the same times they currently are, meaning the trial will not impact the ability of other people (and their dogs) to use the area.

Improved signage will also be installed, as well as other minor upgrades to improve the area for everyone who uses it. The trial will provide us with valuable data and information to use when planning for a permanent facility and will also provide safe space for greyhounds to play and interact before the end of 2023.

For further information about the trial, contact Council's Team Leader Open Space and Recreation, Bryn Hannan, on 6217 9520 or bhannan@ccc.tas.gov.au.



Background on Your Say continued...

Invitation to make written submissions

Council invites written submissions on the proposed changes to the declared areas at South Street Reserve which are shown on the plan.

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.

- by post to:

Clarence City Council

PO Box 96

ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

- In person at Council's offices at 38 Bligh Street, Rosny Park.

Take our survey

If you don't want to make 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 Friday, 10 November 2023.

Council officers will also be on-site at South Street Reserve to on **Tuesday, 24 October and Thursday, 31 October from 4pm to 7pm** to hear your views and answer any questions.

You may also be interested in another dog related consultation focusing on the Bellerive Boardwalk area:

•www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au/bellerive-boardwalk-from-dog-exclusion-zone-to-dogs-on-lead-consultation

What are the next steps?

Council will consider all the feedback received on the proposed trial and determine if and how it should proceed. If there are no significant changes required to the proposed design, we will aim to begin carry out the required work at the site and begin the trial before the end of 2023.

If the trial goes ahead, we will seek ongoing feedback from the community during the trial. Further information will be provided prior to the trial commencing.

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Consultation methodology

- Timeframe:
 - Four weeks from 10 October 2023 to 10 November 2023
- Key consultation activities
 - Your Say survey online
 - Pop up at South Street Reserve
 - Individual conversations with key stakeholders and experts
 - Aim was to reach a good representation of dog and non-dog owners
- Responses:
 - 68 online responses
 - Over 30 discussions at the pop up in situ with dog owners
- 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



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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...

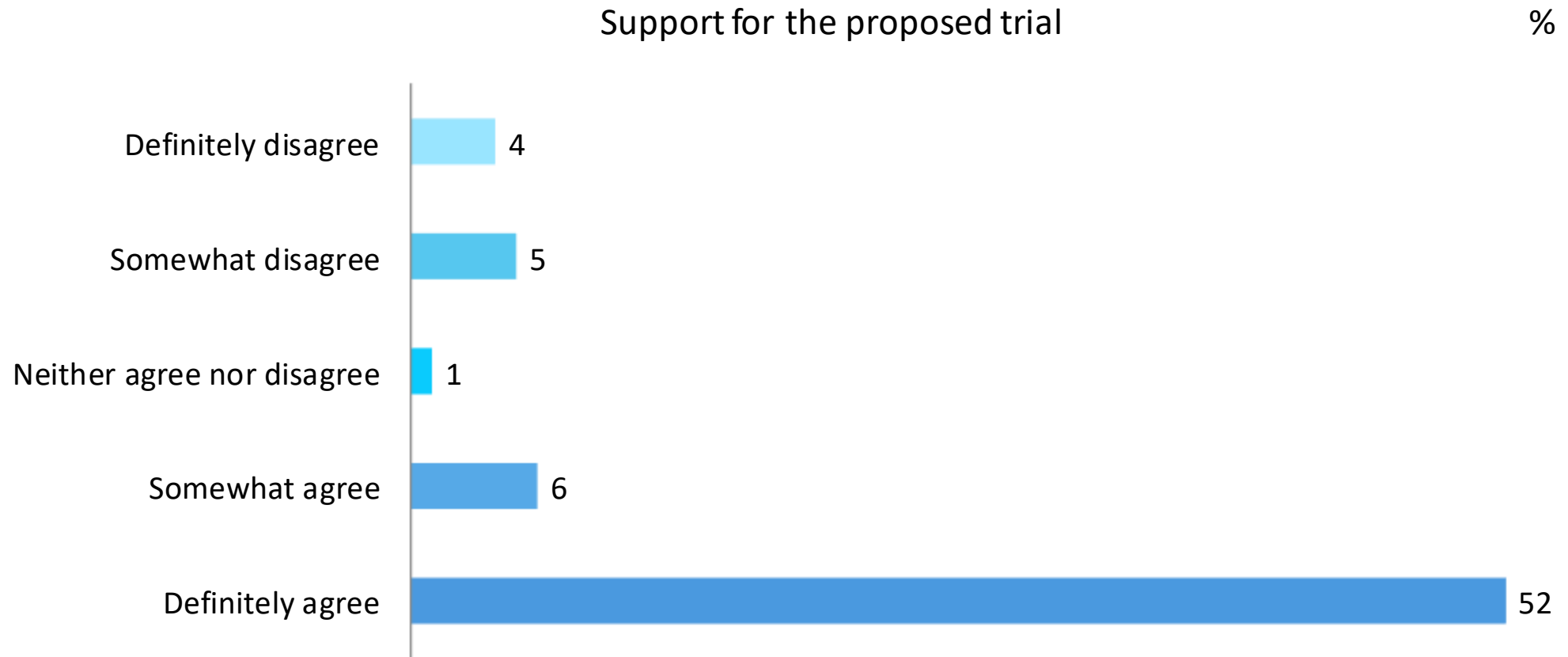
Consultation Overview

- Consultation was a short poll with key questions around the support for a proposed 12-Month Off-Lead Greyhound Area Trial
- We heard from 68 community members from the local area and surrounding suburbs and from a good range of ages.
- Pleasingly we also had representation from owners of pet dogs as well as non-dog owners as well as 15 greyhound owners.
- Strong community support with 9 in 10 agreeing (85% definitely or somewhat) with the idea for a proposed trial.
- Strong consistency in the feedback on what a successful trial would look like providing a strong basis for the success criteria to be available via a survey throughout the duration of the trial.
 - The facility being used by greyhounds is seen as a critical success element to measure
 - Absence of injury, incidents, generally a lack of negative outcomes from the trial is another common element for success
- There was another common theme in the responses around why greyhounds can't be in with the other dogs and the need for a separate area. There is an opportunity to educate and explain the current regulations in this area as there are some confusion.
- Overall, there is very strong clear community support for the trial.



Support for the proposed trial

- There is strong community support for going ahead with the proposed trial with 85% agreeing (definitely or somewhat) with the ideal.



Comments shared in the survey on the design

- Some of the range of comments shared. The majority are in strong support of the proposed design with some suggestions for change.
- All comments provided to the project owner for consideration

Supporting the design

We would assume that council have consulted with greyhound experts to formulate this design including fencing design and size of area that will provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all users

Very good

The greyhound area should be larger, but it's probably ok for a start.

Seems adequate. Needs to be remembered that greyhounds do like to run

Provided it was very well signed and advertised I think this looks great

No changes

Looks ok

My feelings are mixed. I used to like South Street when it was one big open area and you choose who to avoid. I don't tend to judge dogs based on breed but rather on behaviour.

It looks like a good additional to this facility

I like that this area is not located on the main road side of the park - I think that is very sensible.

Go for it. Grey hounds need to. Run

As the owner of 3 greyhounds I believe it is perfect

Very happy with it

Suggested changes

Possibly not enough room for such a large dog?

The greyhound area is completely inadequate in size. These dogs are sight hounds and they like to run as far as they can see, and cover the distance in big gallops. They do not do well being exercised in a narrow space that forces them to run backwards and forwards repetitively, they will just refuse to run, and this is what a rectangular olympic-pool design of a paddock is going to push them into doing. They also need space to run without falling over each other, which is a real hazard when you have a dog that can accelerate fast and may not necessarily have their eye on where every other dog in the enclosure is. 20m wide is absolutely ridiculous, 100m long isn't great either.

I do like the inclusion of a vulnerable dogs area and puppy area, this is very inclusive of those dogs that do not do well in a mainstream dog park but have their own unique exercise and socialisation needs.

Is there any shade provided in the puppy/vulnerable dogs area?

If you have a space for vulnerable dogs, have you considered screening between them, the greyhound and the regular dog exercise area? This would help to negate negative reactions.

I think greyhounds should have a much larger area and be integrated in with other large dogs

unsure why we target greyhounds, most docile friendly dogs there are... should be no restrictions on them... have an restricted area for the typical bogan type dogs. pitbulls, staffis etc and restrict them from the normal areas.



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Community thoughts on measures of success

- Key success measures include area being used, no injuries and dog owners feeling positive and happy with the trial overall
- Measure of an unsuccessful trial are largely the reverse and also strongly feature use and injuries as the proposed criteria.

Successful Trial

We would assume that council have consulted with greyhound experts to formulate this design including fencing design and size of area that will provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all users

That greyhound owners and owners of vulnerable dogs actually use the space.

Frequently used by greyhounds, no injuries to dogs exercising there

1) The GAT (greyhound area trial) is used frequently. 2) The GAT is safe for greyhounds and their owners 3) The GAT serves as a social hub for both the community of greyhound owners and their dogs 4) the GAT facility is kept in good order by council i.e. the premises is maintained and necessities such as bins, waste bags, water is provided.

Greyhound owners aware of the existence of the area and using it

To me a successful trial is showing the public how beautiful, gentle and playful these gorgeous dogs are.

Greyhound area free from dog attacks. Area used frequently. Greyhound owners report positive experiences

I would say it is successful if no animals or people got injured and a fair amount (say 5 daily) of greyhounds were to use it.

There was high usage of the greyhound area, and there was little impact on other (non-greyhound) users.

Success is the area being used by greyhound owners and no negative interactions with other dog owners

Unsuccessful Trial

Nobody using it

Accidents

Other dogs allowed into greyhound area

Lack of monitoring by rangers

Injuries to greyhounds in this section because the space is too small.

If any property, animal or people got hurt or seriously injured.

Feedback of poor owner behaviour and lack of animal control. Escaped animals

Unsuccessful would be feedback that area is not large enough for greyhounds or fence height being unsuitable of unsafe.

Other dogs coming into the greyhound area not realising because of lack of visible large signage

number of accidents (i.e. running into obstacles), number of adverse interactions between dogs, Owners getting grumpy with one another about who's dog was "under control" or not!

If dog owners that don't own greyhounds or vulnerable dogs take over the space.

Dog fights, over crowding, skuffles between dogs trying to access the various gates to enter, churned up turf through over-use (resting the turf is unsatisfactory),

Bare minimum uptake of the area by greyhounds resulting in wasted space causing loss of surface area for remaining dog park users.



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As part of the proposed trial there will be key success criteria developed and we would like to know what a successful trial looks like for you? (e.g. if the trial was successful and a good idea, how would this be demonstrated?) / Now, what would an unsuccessful trial look like?

n=53 responses

Last thoughts on the trial

Last thoughts in support

Location in a centralised area is a good decision.

Good idea.

Because Hobart is small, and domestic greyhound numbers are large and increasing, and the site is so easily accessible and pleasant, the proposed facility will attract many people from around Hobart as there are no dedicated Greyhound parks anywhere except Kingston. So, with that in mind, this park needs to be great, and if it is it will attract a lot of additional interest and spending in your area as people travel to take their dogs to the park, stop for a coffee or snack, buy petrol, browse the shops etc. Get this right and you will have a huge asset as well as be helping a much underserved part of the community.

Great to see you are taking action in giving these beautiful dogs a place to play.

Its a great idea as greyhounds need a run and it can scare other dog owners when they are running at full speed.

It is important to let the greyhounds where many have been raced to have a nice end of their carers.

This is a great thing for Clarence. It would be really good to have more off-lead areas to take dogs in Clarence.

Greyhound owners and other dog owners could be asked after the trial their opinion on how it went, in general I support an off leaf area for greyhounds in Clarence, they also can enjoy being near other dogs so having it near existing exercise areas is good.

Thank you for considering it for a 12 month trial!

I think this trial is a fantastic idea and a brilliant opportunity for greyhound owners on the Eastern Shore. As there is currently only one other off-lead area for greyhounds in southern Tasmania, this will be a welcome addition and I will definitely be making regular use of it with my own greyhound.

This is a much needed space for greyhounds. We really need an off leash area in our municipality

Go for it! I am a behaviour veterinarian, I am not going to write a specific submission. I truly welcome your progress in welcoming dogs into society. This is the best for the dogs who enjoy being part of social life. We must always respect that some dogs (like people) do not want to be overly social. It is a balancing act. But if a good dog can have a bit of a go with its people in a polite setting, I see no reason to exclude them.

I really think this is a good idea. We have seen a similar arrangement in New Town that seems to work well.

A much needed facility. Please listen to the feedback so it is as useful as possible for as many as possible.

As before Greyhound need to run. Also they are dogs and want to have fun. They haven't known another breed so they need to be alone

We would absolutely love to see this trial succeed given the extreme limitations of 'off lead' areas for the rapidly growing demographic of greyhounds in Hobart.

Thank you!

Thank you CCC for listening to pet greyhound owners

Thank you from all the rescued greyhounds that deserve a safe space to stretch their long legs

It would be awesome if there could be lights on the dog park in winter between say 5 and 8:30pm!

i support concept of trial but it shouldn't decrease the exercise options for other dogs.

The sooner the greyhound area opens in Bellerive the better :)

Great idea to have a legal offleash area for greyhounds in an urban area. I have never owned a greyhound but I imagine this is a great idea for the dogs.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposed trial?



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n=43 responses

Last thoughts on the trial

Last thoughts with further questions or suggestions. Some need for clarity on the background to the trial.

Push on with the state of the art dog park at Cambridge

Why do the test n the existing already overcrowded dogpark without increasing the size?

Concerned that segregation perpetuates view that greyhounds are somehow dangerous. All dogs have gone through assessment before being made available for adoption. They are no worse than any other dog and perhaps better. In my experience, there are some other dogs that are in the exercise area that shouldn't be

I love greyhounds, don't own one, and if they are still being bred, raced and re-homed as pets, they deserve the same freedom as any other breed. I've never met one that wasn't placid and very chilled in my outings with my staffy and child. I hope the council sees the importance of this for our animal friends

Would other 'sighthounds' be welcome in the area?

What I don't understand is why greyhounds are being singled out - is there advice from animal behavioralists that greyhounds are more aggressive and risky off lead or is this just perception? I've attended Bellerive beach off lead area where I seen uncontrolled dogs behaving very assertively making life difficult for other well controlled dogs and owners.

i think in the proposed form its silly

I have a very little dachshund and I would feel very comfortable integrating with greyhounds

Greyhounds are kind dogs and should be allowed full unrestricted access to the whole park.

It's such a shame that a whole breed is discriminated against due to the Tasmanian governments continuation of funding for the racing industry. Greyhounds who are not bred for the racing industry are very different dogs

Please consult with greyhound racing clubs and vets as to how you can make thus place as safe as possible if it needs to be opened

unsure why we target greyhounds, most docile friendly dogs there are... should be no restrictions on them... have an restricted area for the typical bogan type dogs. pitbulls, staffis etc and restict them from the normal areas.

Fix the lights in the car park! People need to be able to access the dog park after work during the darker months. The main car park is so dark that it's scary!

I think the puppy space is probably already suitable for vulnerable dogs.

Why not use a part of gold area rather than impede onto the cramped South street reserve which is really a car park come dog training area

It is assumed the fence currently separating the 2 grounds, will remain and current "alternate ground" usage will prevail ? Should that be the case please bear in mind that numerous elderly and infirm use the dog park. The planned and now much smaller alternate ground will not have any seating in its current form. Is there a plan to offer seating there ? It IS needed.

It is a sign that more public open space needs to be set aside for off-dog exercise areas.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposed trial?

n=43 responses



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 and a second survey will be available throughout the trial to understand how the trial is going

Consideration by council

The community feedback will contribute to decisions on the Greyhound off leash trial as well as the criteria for trial success



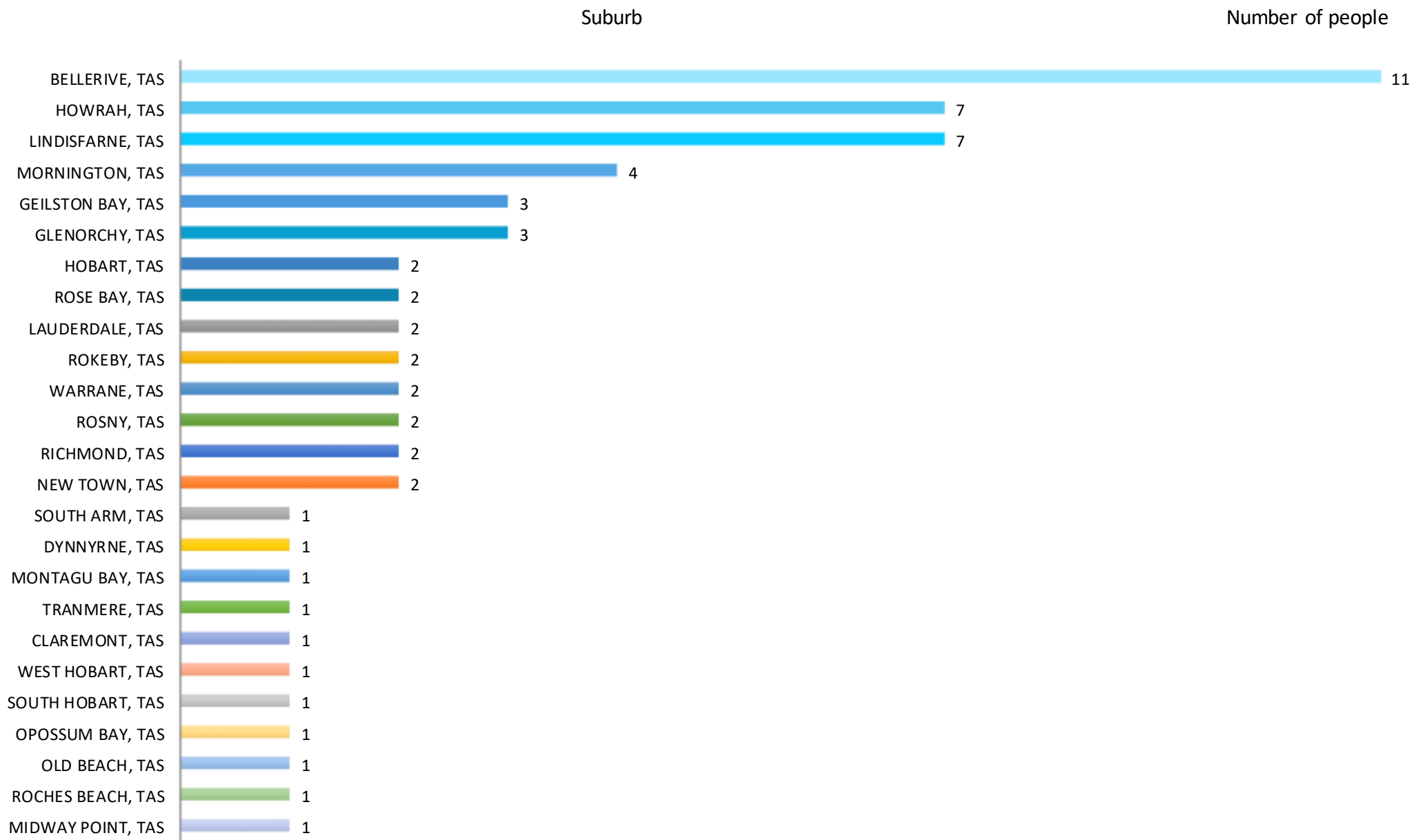
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Appendix

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



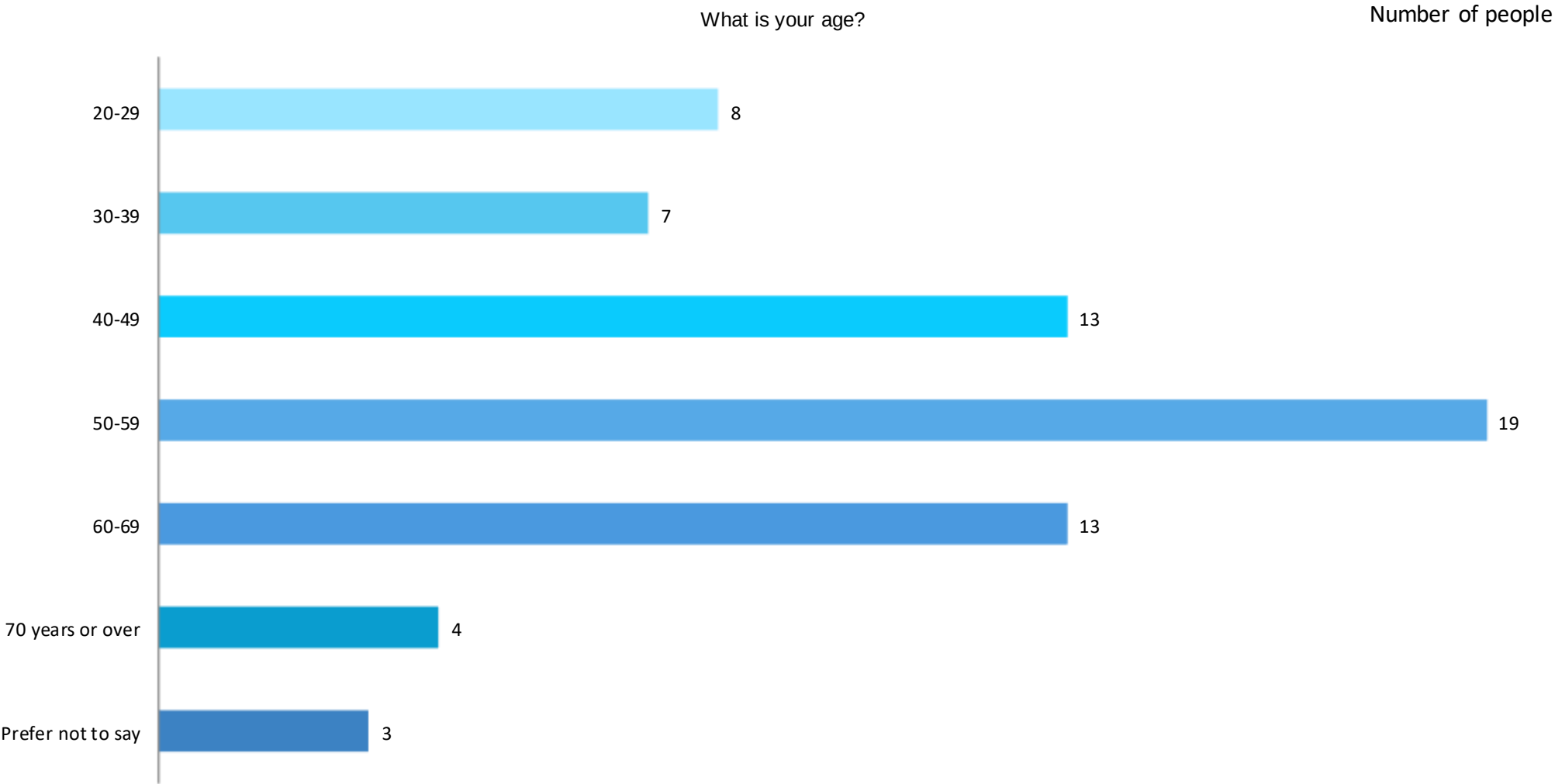
Demographics



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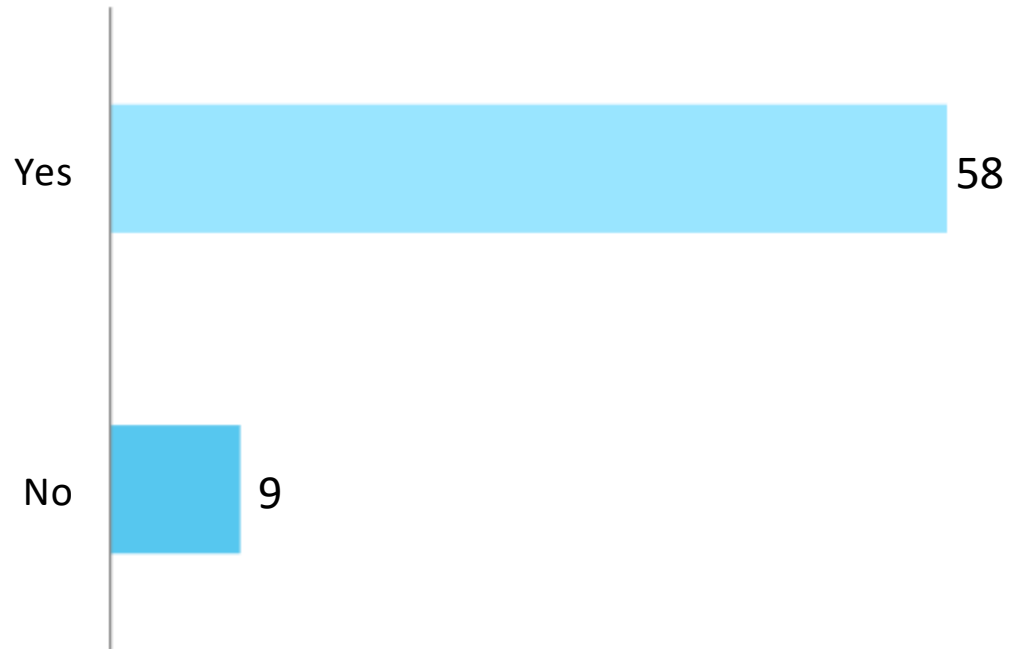
Demographics

- Age breaks

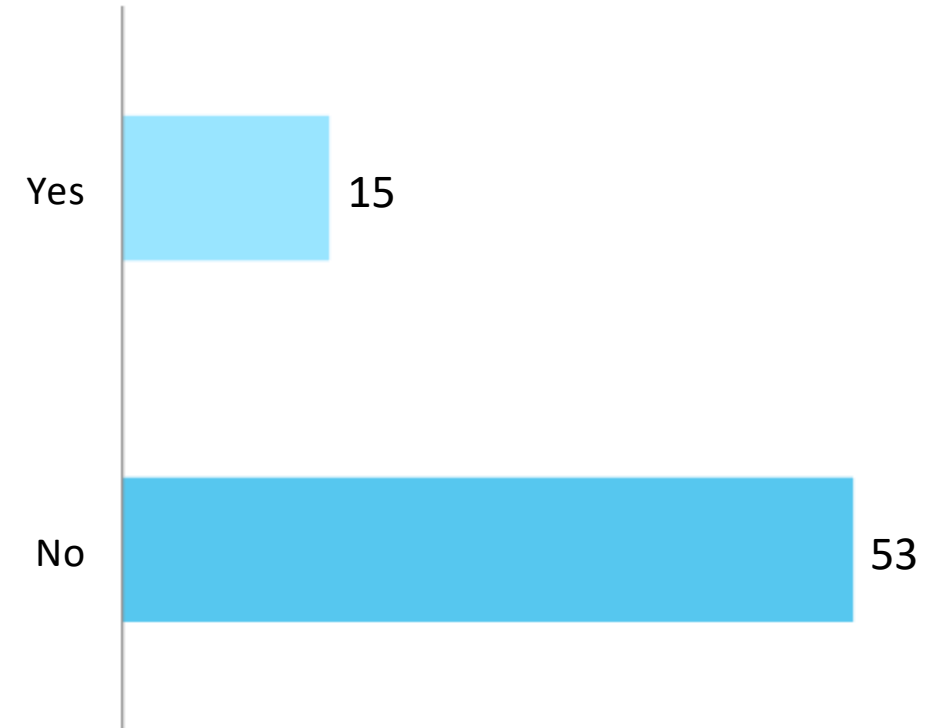


Dog ownership

Are you a dog owner?

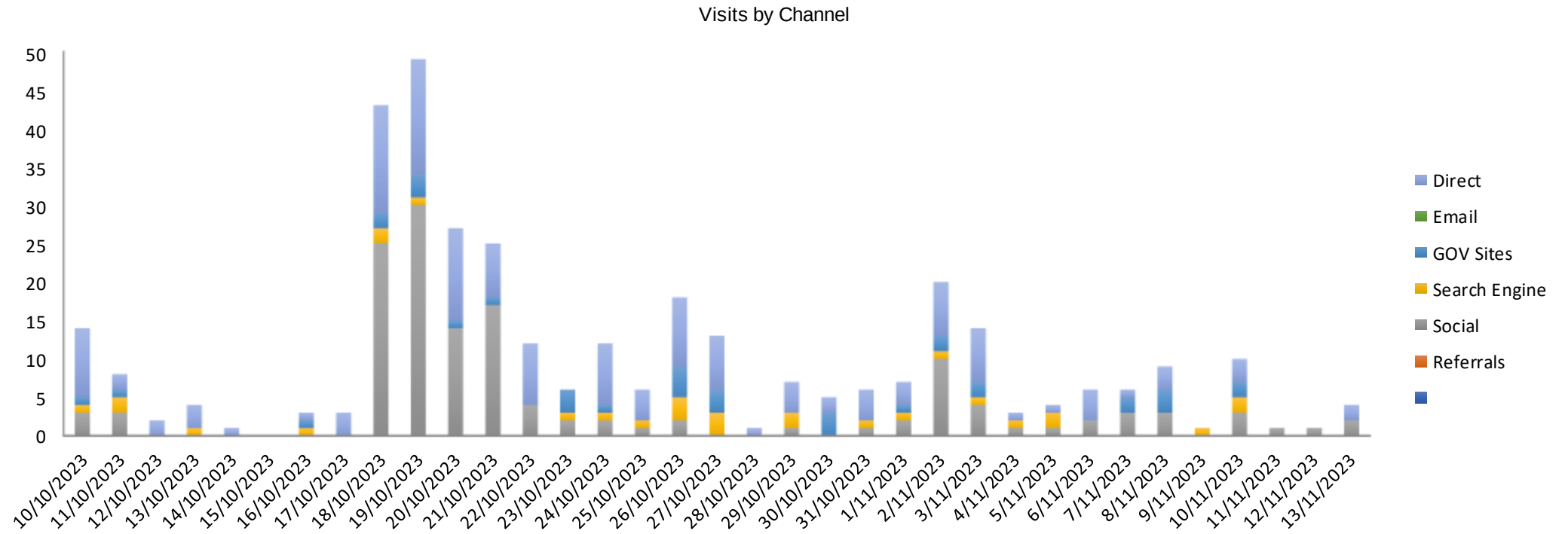


Are you a greyhound owner?



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

Greyhound Off-leash and Vulnerable Dog Exercise Areas and Declared Area Changes - South Street Reserve, Bellerive

Your Say Clarence

Off-Leash Greyhound Area Trial - Community Survey

Clarence City Council is proposing to conduct a 12-month trial of designating a special off-lead exercise area for greyhounds, using part of South Street Reserve in Bellerive. The trial will provide a dedicated area where for Greyhounds to 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.

Thank you for taking part in this survey about the potential 12-Month Off-Lead Greyhound Area Trial and Declared Area Changes at South Street Reserve.

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.

How much do you support the proposed 12-Month Off-Lead Greyhound Area Trial?

Please answer on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is strongly disagree, and 5 is strongly agree

Questions	Definitely disagree	So mewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	So mewhat agree	Definitely agree
I support the proposed trial					

As part of the proposed trial there will be key success criteria developed and we would like to know what a successful trial looks like for you? (e.g. if the trial was successful and a good idea, how would this be demonstrated?)

Now, what would an unsuccessful trial look like?

What do you think of the proposed design for the trial area and changes to South Street Reserve? Does anything need to change or is there anything we haven't considered?

Purple - the proposed greyhound off lead area

Yellow - the proposed vulnerable dog area

Current South Street Layout and Exercise Areas



Proposed Changes



Are you a dog owner?

(Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Are you a greyhound owner?

(Choose all that apply)

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

What is your age?

(Choose all that apply)

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



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Submissions

Combine the greyhound and vulnerable dog sections to make it only greyhound.

The vulnerable dog and pup areas seem pointless as there's a huge difference in sizes among pups and vulnerable dogs which defeats the purpose.

Good idea to make a designated Greyhound area as they aren't allowed to be off-lead anywhere.

Cheers,

Hello

I would like to completely support a separate area for greyhounds.

I have a greyhound and to give her a long run off the lead, I have to travel to Kingston. They have a wonderful set up there to support all breeds of dogs.

However, it seems that you are offering a very small area in which greyhounds can be exercised.

I realise this is a trial but a slightly larger area would be more beneficial.

Thank you for recognising that there are a lot of greyhounds in the area and most are rescue dogs that are being given a second chance.

The least they deserve is an exercise area suitable for them.

Regards

The trial is a good idea AND it should be run in conjunction with another that provides access to one of the beaches Howrah and/or Bellerive (east end). With additional numbers of dogs at South Street the timing provides us with the perfect opportunity to revisit the poorly thought through decision a few years ago to remove dogs from our nearby beaches that angered many ratepayers. To continue to have no access to the near empty beach ends in summer between 10am and 6pm still bewilders the 40% of residents who own dogs in the municipality. If not the entire 8h, why not at least the morning? The goodwill that would be generated would bring credit to the new council and make a statement that CCC no longer sees dogs and their owners being public nuisances. This is still felt widely and now is the opportunity to have it proven to be a fallacy.

Terry Polglase, CDOG Executive member



Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs Inc.

The Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs (TDWC) thanks the Clarence City Council (CCC) for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the South Street, Bellerive Dog Exercise area.

We are pleased to see that CCC are going to trial an exercise area for greyhounds as per the change in legislation. However, it was our understanding that CCC was going to find a separate area for greyhounds with the parks at Montagu Bay and 45 Goodwins Road Clarendon Vale suggested. Unfortunately, neither of the proposed areas were particularly suitable for dog owners. The TDWC believes that it would be more appropriate to allow greyhounds to mix with other dogs, with separate areas for smaller or less confident dogs. Owners of any breed/mixed breed of dog are responsible for knowing their dog's personality and ability to cope in fenced off lead areas.

Concerns have been raised over moving the fence, 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 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?

The TDWC 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.

- This not only helps existing residents but is an attractive draw card for potential overseas and mainland workers.
- It is an equity issue for our aging 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 TDWC supports the trial but hopes that CCC will continue to look for other larger areas where dogs and greyhounds can exercise off-lead.

Melissa Fraser
President
Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs Inc.



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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

Common Points of Feedback and Officer Responses

Issue	Summary of Feedback	Officers' Response
Success of trial	There were a range of views on what would constitute a successful trial, however a common theme was that it would be indicated by consistent usage by greyhounds, positive feedback from dog owners, and a lack of complaints or incidents involving uncontrolled dogs. One respondent, for example, mentioned the importance of dog owners feeling comfortable and their dogs enjoying the space	Officers have noted this feedback and will identify a clear set of metrics that will help measure the success of the trial. This will include user numbers and individual feedback on experiences. There will be opportunities to provide feedback online (via a QR code on site), and also in writing over the phone or in person.
Unsuccessful trial	Some respondents raised thought an unsuccessful trial would be indicated were poor owner behaviour, lack of animal control, escaped animals, and adverse interactions between dogs.	Part of the trial will include updating signage at South Street Reserve to make it clear what the restrictions and expectations are for each area. There will also be information signage installed to help owners understand their dogs body language and help encourage better use of the area. This will apply for the greyhound area as well as other parts of South Street Reserve.
Proposed changes to exercise areas and changes to area	There was overall support for the proposed greyhound trial area, however some respondents feel that the greyhound area should be larger, while others expressed concerns about the limited space at South Street Reserve and the impact on other dog breeds.	The area for the proposed trial was selected after an extensive assessment of various options, including consultation with greyhound owners. It is considered appropriate in size and shape to meet the specific needs of greyhounds. Minor improvements will also be made for dog and owner safety, including installing mesh fabric around the perimeter fence of the greyhound area for better visibility and relocating bench seating. While South Street provides ample space for other dog breeds, to minimise the loss of area, it is proposed not to proceed with the relocation of the 'puppy area', as this function would be achieved through the vulnerable dog area and would take up an additional 245m² of space.



Common Points of Feedback and Officer Responses

Issue	Summary of Feedback	Officers' Response
Why are greyhounds separated from other dogs?	Many people thought greyhounds should be allowed into the regular dog exercise areas and asked why this was being proposed.	Due to greyhounds behavioral characteristics (such as their speed, agility and tendency to become fixated on objects they are chasing) their off-leash exercise area has specific requirements around its design and features to ensure their safety and that of other dogs. Council has the ability (through a declaration under the Act) to allow greyhounds into other fenced off-leash exercise areas, but this would need careful consideration before being trialled. The current proposed trial will provide Council with valuable information and data about how greyhounds behave in off-leash environments, which can be used to guide any future decision making around this and other proposals relating to exercise areas.
Other comments	Some respondents provided additional comments, such as the need for more public open spaces for off-dog exercise areas and concerns about singling out greyhounds for the trial	The need for other exercise areas is noted. Council will soon begin final community consultation on the proposed Cambridge Dog which is targeted for construction in 2024. The need for a special greyhound area is in response to the push to rehome former racing dogs, and specific legislative requirements that apply to that breed.

