

12.15. PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PROPOSAL FOR ALLOCATING SPECIFIC TIMES FOR SMALL DOGS AT THE DOG PARK**REPORT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal to Council to initiate a public consultation process to explore the allocation of specific times for small dogs at the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park. The goal is to gather community input on the feasibility and potential benefits of this initiative, which aims to enhance safety and improve user satisfaction.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the commencement of a public consultation process regarding the allocation of specific times for small dogs at the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park and authorise the necessary resources to facilitate this consultation.

13. COUNCIL REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**13.1. RESOLUTION ACTION STATUS REPORT****REPORT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the implementation status of Council resolutions.

The Resolution Status Report provides a status of 'Completed', 'In Progress', 'Referred to other planning process' or 'Outstanding' for each item, with the report amended after each meeting to add in new resolutions and to remove all completed items.

Attached to this report is a full list of Council resolutions which require further action. In total, there are eight outstanding actions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Resolution Status Report and Attachment for 16 September 2024.

13.2. PORTER STREET INTERSECTION UPGRADE - 100% DESIGN FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS**REPORT PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a copy of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) final design for the Porter/Liverpool Street intersection upgrade.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the design provided by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport for the Porter/Liverpool Street intersection upgrade.

12.15 PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PROPOSAL FOR ALLOCATING SPECIFIC TIMES FOR SMALL DOGS AT THE DOG PARK

REPORT INFORMATION		
Report Title	Public Consultation – Proposal for Allocating Specific Times for Small Dogs at The Dog Park	
Document ID	43537	
Organisational Unit	Environment & Infrastructure	
Responsible Officer	Manager Development & Regulatory - Theo Theodosiou	
Report Attachment/s	No	
REPORT PURPOSE		
The purpose of this report is to present a proposal to Council to initiate a public consultation process to explore the allocation of specific times for small dogs at the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park. The goal is to gather community input on the feasibility and potential benefits of this initiative, which aims to enhance safety and improve user satisfaction.		
REPORT DECISION MAKING CONSIDERATIONS		
Council Role	Provide/Respond - Fully or partially fund or provide a service or respond to a need	
Strategic Alignment	SDP GOAL: Goal 2: Liveable and Active Communities SDP ACTION: Choose an item.	
Annual Business Plan 2023/24	ABP INITIATIVE: Not Applicable ABP PROJECT: Not Applicable	
Annual Business Plan 2024/25	ABP INITIATIVE: Not Applicable ABP PROJECT: Not Applicable	
Legislation	Local Government Act 1999	
Policy	Public Consultation & Community Engagement 2.63.1	
Budget Implications	Not Applicable	
	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET AMOUNT \$
		YTD \$
	Budget assessment comments:	
Risk Implications	Not Applicable	
Resource Implications	Minor Variation < 5 hours	
Public Consultation	Yes - Recommended	
IAP2 Commitment	CONSULT - We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public feedback input has influenced the decision.	
OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION		
That Council approve the commencement of a public consultation process regarding the allocation of specific times for small dogs at the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park and authorize the necessary resources to facilitate this consultation.		

REPORT DETAIL

The City of Port Lincoln Dog Park serves as a vital community space where dogs can exercise and socialise. The park is currently open to all dogs at all times. Council is planning to expand on the current dog park by proposing the inclusion of a dedicated small dog area within the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park in the next financial year's budget. The aim is to create a safer, more enjoyable environment for small dogs and their owners by providing a designated space that caters specifically to their needs. However, due to competing priorities it is quite possible that it may take several years for this project to make its way into the annual budget.

There have been concerns raised recently regarding the interactions between small and large dogs, which sometimes lead to safety issues and reduced enjoyment for owners of smaller breeds. To address these concerns and ensure the park meets the needs of all users, it is proposed that Council consult with the community on whether specific times should be allocated for small dogs in the interim.

This report proposes Council initiating a brief public consultation process to explore the allocation of specific times for small dogs at the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park. The goal is to gather community input on the feasibility and potential benefits of this initiative, which aims to enhance safety and improve user satisfaction.

Objectives of Public Consultation:

1. **Assess Community Support:**
 - Determine the level of support for the idea of specific times for small dogs among park users and the broader community.
2. **Identify Concerns and Preferences:**
 - Gather input on the preferred times for small dogs, potential concerns, and suggestions for implementation.
3. **Evaluate Feasibility:**
 - Collect feedback on the practicality of the proposed schedule and any logistical issues that may arise.

The budget for the public consultation will cover costs associated with public consultation. These expenses will be minimal and can be accommodated within the existing budget for community engagement activities.

Process for implementation of a potential time for small dogs:

If Council agrees to proceed with the implementation of specific times for small dogs after the conclusion of the public consultation period and a review of community feedback. A future report will be provided to Council outlining the process and the outcome of consultation. However, as a brief outline of process:

- this proposal can be implemented under the Council's existing *Dogs By-law No. 5 2018* (the **By-law**). More specifically, the Council has flexibility under the By-law to establish areas where specified dogs are prohibited and to grant exemptions;
- accordingly, the steps to be taken to implement the proposal are:
 1. the council would first need to resolve, pursuant to clause 10.2 of the By-law, that the park is a dog prohibited area at the relevant times;
 2. following a resolution per 1 above, the Council would need to grant an exemption under clause 12 of the By-law such that the prohibition in force in respect of the park under clause 10.2 of the By-law does not apply to small dogs.

There would be a need for the Council to clearly define what constitutes a ‘small dog’ for this purpose (whether that be a definition based on the weight and/or size of a dog);

- for completeness, where the Council resolves that the dog park is a dog prohibited area under clause 10.2 of the By-law, notice of the resolution must be published in the Gazette and in a paper circulating in the Council’s area (in accordance with section 246(4a) of the LG Act), and a certified copy of the resolution is required to be included in the Council’s By-law register (refer section 252(6) of the LG Act).

Public consultation is a crucial step in determining the viability and community support for allocating specific times for small dogs at the City of Port Lincoln Dog Park. By engaging with residents and gathering feedback, we can ensure that any changes made will reflect the needs and preferences of the community.

Alternative options:

An alternative option for Council is to wait for the review of the current by-laws which would be due for completion by 1 January 2026. However, at this stage this is not recommended, any changes proposed following consultation can also be included in this by-law review.

Another alternative is to continue to operate the park with no change, however, given the community concern it is suggested that this only be considered following on from community consultation.