

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, 10 Mar 2022 09:44:47 +1100
To: "Council" <council@warwyn.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Dogs on Beaches - Important

Attention: The Manager - Waratah – Wynyard Council

10/03/2022

Hello,

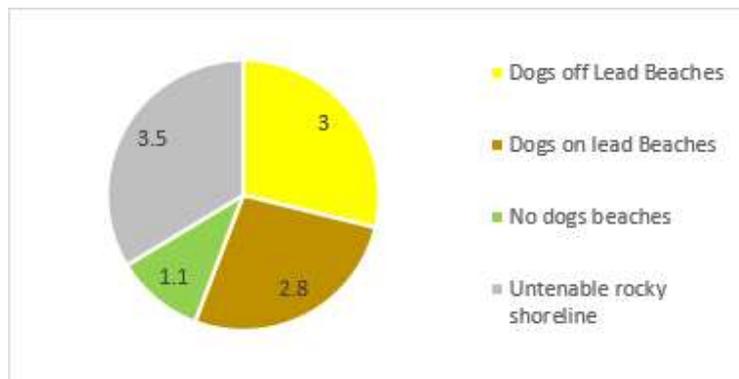
This letter is to highlight the current situation regarding the lack of flat sandy beach areas for people to enjoy, that are away from other people's pets, so that it can be considered along with any request to reinstate dog areas into the Doctors Rocks Conservation area.

I have left out any issues regarding the penguins and other shorebirds that inhabit the area as I see that as a separate issue, that sits strongly on its own merits.

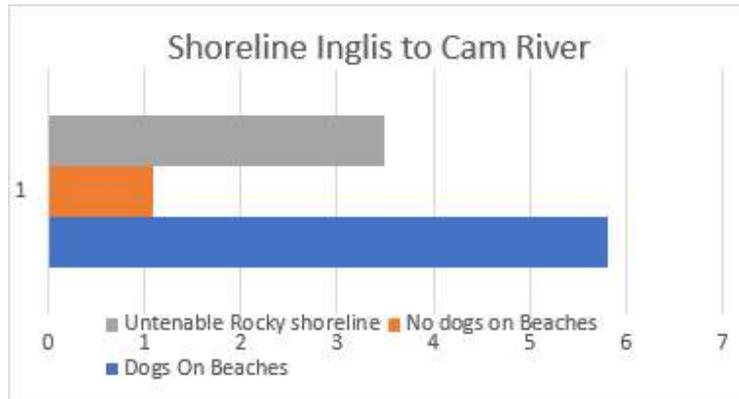
Description:

After a google earth analysis of the approximately 10.5klm coastal region between the Cam River in Somerset and the Inglis River in Wynyard it can be shown that the vast majority of any sandy beach area is currently open to activities involving dogs.

The data indicates that dogs currently are allowed on 5.8klm of sandy beaches, leaving just 1.1klm for people who enjoy beaches with no dogs. Before 10am on any given day 5.8klm is dogs off lead, this makes a morning jog on the beach a constant nightmare of dealing with dogs chasing you and being abused by the entitled dogs owners who still believe that an off lead beach is just for their dog.



The large 3.5klm stretch of rocky shoreline from Cloverlea to Seabrook creek has been highlighted as untenable for beach activities due to the rocky and extreme physical nature of the terrain being unsuitable for beach related activities. Agreed?



Of the 1.1km currently dog free, 100m is at Doctors Rocks, 250m is at the Cloverlea sewerage ponds and 850m is from Seabrook creek to Burntwood point, all of which is in the Doctors Rocks Conservation Area.

5.8klm of beach is Dogs off lead before 10am and after 6pm. During 10am to 6pm 2.8klm is on lead with the remaining dogs off lead at all times (3klm).

Issues:

Unrestrained dog and dogs on lead areas are prone to a multitude of issues, including but not limited to;

- Excess noise
- Multiple dogs off leads together forming packs and intimidating everything and anything
- An attitude of “This beach is for dogs only” from dog owners
- Dogs fighting and injuring each other
- People being chased, rounded up, harassed and threatened
- People being bitten
- People being knocked over
- Piles of unsanitary dog faeces
- Bags of dog faeces left abandoned in the bushes or on the shore.
- Dog owners flaunting on lead rules and not complying with relevant rules
- Inability to effectively police due to 24/7 activities.

Which leads to;

- People being afraid to go to the beach for their own safety, and often for the safety of their own pet.
- Fear of being knocked over, especially the elderly, disabled and young
- Fear of having your young children menaced, harassed and jumped on
- Fear of being chased
- The inability to lie on the beach and read a book without a dog sticking its wet hairy face in your book and then kicking sand in your face.
- It's impossible to play beach cricket or have a picnic.

Users of dog free beaches enjoy many of the following benefits because dogs do not impact on their experience of;

- Sunbaking
- Reading a book
- Watching and experiencing a quiet natural environment
- Running, jogging, yoga, walking, swimming, surfing and general exercise at any time of the day.
- Taking their toddlers to play in the shallows and run on the beach
- Having a picnic on the beach
- Fishing

Any rollback of the current dog free beach areas at Doctors Rocks would leave only 350m of beach, dog free, in exposed areas, not suitable for swimming and next to a sewerage treatment plant. How can this even be considered an option!? Perhaps any rollback of the current situation could be considered discriminatory to those vulnerable people who like to use the current dogs free beach areas?



After being the victim of many dog attacks on the beach at Doctors Rocks, I feel quite strongly about this issue. I believe that currently there is ample opportunity for people to exercise their dogs, even in the immediate vicinity of this area (the beach immediately to the west), yet there is significantly less for human beings and the environment. I am perplexed as to why there is any need for more dogs off lead areas.

I believe that 3klm of permanently dogs off lead area, plus another 2.8klm for 16 hours a day is plenty, especially when people and the environment have only 1.1klm. I would actually like to see a vast increase in the amount of dog free areas in the public spaces of the Wynyard – Somerset area.

If we were to extrapolate the number of registered dogs vs rate payers in this community, what percentage of the community actually has a registered dog? My guess is around 25% have a registered dog given past figures in various annual reports. So why then is such a vast area of sandy beaches been given to the minority at the expense of the rest of the community who want nothing to do with other people's animals?

Since the dog ban it has been heartening to see the elderly, disabled, families and small children use the beach between Seabrook Creek and Burntwood point. People can enjoy the natural space without any

harassment from other people's animals. My children used to be scared to go the beach, now they feel safe at the beach again. The wildlife is no longer being chased off the beach at any given moment and I'm not finding dead penguins thrown into the bushes anymore.

I would like to express my desire to have the current Doctors Rocks dog ban remain, and have it extended into other areas.

I'm happy to be contacted if required regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note: Several unsuccessful attempts to council have been made to ascertain the number of rate payers and dog registrations. Could you please advise the actual numbers if possible? Thankyou