

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wed, 9 Mar 2022 18:04:26 +1100  
**To:** "Council" <council@warwyn.tas.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Doctors Rocks Conservation area

Hello,

I'm writing to give the Waratah Wynyard Council some positive feedback about the current dog management policy which has banned dogs from the beaches in the Doctors Rocks Conservation Area. This move to remove the noisy, and inquisitive dogs from the beach has had a positive impact upon noise levels for residents in the area, number and range of native wildlife and the variety of people visiting the beach and the activities they do there.

When visiting this beautiful beach during the past year I have seen children playing, people playing musical instruments, yoga practice, family picnics and tourists. I have never, in the 6 years that I have lived in Doctors Rocks, seen so many new faces and been able to speak to so many lovely people at the beach. In the past I have mostly seen people with dogs, and the same people all the time. There was no conversation because the barking was always too loud. Doctors Rocks beach is being used for a great range of activities.

This beach used to be a place that my family and friends avoided. It was just too risky to go there. You didn't know when a "bad dog" would be on the beach. Owners would open their car doors at the road and all of a sudden an over excited and unsupervised dog would be running full tilt at you on the beach. No owner in sight and no control of the dog whatsoever. I personally have been chased on multiple occasions by dogs at the beach. I've been barked at and jumped on more times than I could count. Whenever I felt brave enough to ask the owner to call the dog off their responses were always combative and rude, or belittled me and made me feel unwelcome.

I am so pleased that I now have easy access to this beach. I recommend it to my friends for picnics and bird watching. The number and variety of birds that are on the beach now is something to behold. They just didn't bother visiting while dogs roamed free. I also recommend this beach to the many people that I meet in my work as a health professional. There are so many people in our community who are afraid of dogs, and afraid of being knocked over by dogs on leads and roaming free. They miss out on exercise and experiencing nature because there are so few beaches to visit here without dogs.

I wonder if council has considered building a dog park, similar to the one in Burnie? Where dogs can run free with their owners, but not chase wildlife and people who do not want their attention. Then people who want to exercise their dogs freely could go there, and more beaches could be kept free of dogs.

I think if more beaches in our community were 'dog free' we would see more families with small children, older people and people with disabilities on our beaches. This would greatly increase their access to exercise and have a positive impact upon the health and well being of all in our community. We'd also see a greater range of beach activities taking place. There would be no need to worry about balls being chased or taken, your possessions would not be urinated on and your picnic would not be jumped on by a dog trying to take your food.

Keep up the good work and please, please retain this dog free beach haven for our whole community.

[REDACTED]