

## Dog Management Policy - Working Group

**Minutes – 21 March 2022**

1. Opening Meeting		
1.0	<b>Welcome</b> AT welcomed all members and thanked them for agreeing to participate in the working group	
1.1	<b>Present:</b>	<b>PWS:</b> Lara Connell, <b>Multiple Use of Conservation Areas Doctors Rocks (MUCA):</b> Leanne Raw, Chris Marimon <b>Penguin experts:</b> Perviz Marker, Kathy Grieveson <b>WWC:</b> Ashley Thornton, Mathew Jamieson
1.2	<b>Apologies:</b>	David Pembleton, Ben Hill
1.3	<b>Previous Minutes:</b>	Nil

<b>Date:</b>	21 March 2022
<b>Start Time:</b>	4:10pm
<b>End Time:</b>	5:15pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Teams
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Ashley Thornton
<b>Minutes:</b>	Ashley Thornton

2. Agenda Items				
Item	Topic/Detail	Actions Required	Responsible Person/s	Timeframe
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation to accept minutes from previous meeting</li> <li>One request for change to comment attributed to Perviz. Minutes amended on screen.</li> <li>Leanne said she would like to clarify comments made at the previous meeting, relating to why the Burntwood point to Gate 3 section of beach is important. There is less exposure to the road due to topography, vegetation and fencing, therefore dogs can't get onto the road. Her dog has run onto the road from the beach in front of Bruce's. identified that this can't be reflected in previous minutes, as not raised at the time. But further discussion was made on this point.</li> <li>Ashley reminded the group that dogs in an Off Lead area are still required to be under effective control. By a dog running on to a road is not demonstrating effective control. If the dog can run on</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil</li> </ul>		

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	<p>to the road, then equally they could run into dunes and penguin habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leanne advised that her dog doesn't do that. The group raised that we have to consider all dog owners.</li> <li>• Leanne also advised that it is an ideal dog beach, she has been walking her dog there since 2005 and doesn't see why it has been taken away. There have been no penguin attacks.</li> <li>• Moved back to the agenda, and the minutes passed</li> </ul>			
2	<p><b>Focus of meting – Data and having a community wide view</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley tabled 3 letters from the community received by Council in the past week, assumed responding to the fact that the working group has ben established. Each letter supported the current dog beach declarations, and requested that one beach in Wynyard be retained as dog free.</li> <li>• Ashley presented walkability maps to Wynyard beaches. It was raised in the previous meeting that residents of Doctors Rocks were unable to walk to a dog exercise area. The map demonstrates that the majority of Wynyard residents are not within walking distance (500m) of a dog exercise area. It is not a service level for Council to provide dog off lead facilities within walking distance of all residents. However, dogs can be walked on lead just abut anywhere.</li> <li>• Ashley then presented stats that broke down dog ownership. There are 2300 registered dogs in WWC, 1050 in Wynyard and 11 dogs in the Doctors Rocks area. Changing the beach restriction would therefore benefit 1% of dog owners to allow them to be able to walk to a Dog off lead beach.</li> <li>• Leanne and Chris thought that changing the restriction would benefit those in east Wynyard as well, as they would prefer to use the beach between Burntwood Point and Gate 3, rather than the beach in front of Bruce's.</li> <li>• Ashley then added the potential of a dog off lead park proposed at Ballad Avenue. A walkability buffer was applied to this area,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters to be circulated with minutes</li> <li>• Maps to be circulated with minutes</li> <li>• Dog stats to be circulated with minutes.</li> <li>• Petition data to be attached</li> <li>• Beach photos to be attached</li> <li>• Beach survey data to be attached</li> <li>• Links to dog scent articles to be provided</li> </ul>	AT	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Circulate with minutes</p>

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	<p>and it would service 90 dogs within the 500m radius, and also provide a facility to the core residential area of Wynyard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PWS spoke to dog attack data, which built upon previous data provided by Perviz. It cited additional attacks to previous data.</li> <li>• Chriss challenged the findings, asking how can they be sure how the penguin died.</li> <li>• Lara advised that cause of death was listed in the attack details. Sometimes it was clear from injuries or witnesses. Other times autopsies were undertaken.</li> <li>• Leanne presented data on a previous petition, a beach usage survey and presented photos to show that sections of the current Off lead beach aren't useable during high tide (all attached).</li> <li>• Leanne stated that the results of the petition showed that more than 400 hundred people wanted the beach restriction to be changed.</li> <li>• Ashley asked to confirm the question that was asked on the petition, as the petition that was submitted to Council during the last community consultation phase asked if people were aware of the proposed change to the beach restrictions, not if they supported it or not. This response points to a need for better engagement.</li> <li>• Lara again wanted to understand the importance of the beach for dog exercise, as the use has not been justified due to potential impacts on penguins and shorebirds, especially when other areas are available for dog exercise.</li> <li>• Leanne spoke to the photos of the current dog off lead area, pointing out the western end is not useable at high tide – up to 8 hours per day.</li> <li>• Lara advised she would take another look at the beach based on this. Hadn't noticed on a previous inspection.</li> <li>• Mathew wanted to reiterate that the current Dog On lead restrictions allow dogs off lead prior to 10am and after 6pm,</li> </ul>			

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	<p>meaning that dog off lead is not restricted to the beach opposite Bruce's. He also advised that this resulted from community feedback from the previous consultation, as originally Dog On lead areas were proposed to be 24/7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathy then spoke to research she had undertaken on dog scents. The information confirmed that dogs leave behind scents, and that other dogs pick up on these scents. The scents can last a long time.</li> <li>• Chris asked if the scents would be washed away by the tide.</li> <li>• In short the answer was No, especially not for areas above the high tide, like the penguin habitats.</li> <li>• Leanne and Chris were disappointed that it did not look like a 'win-win' outcome would be achieved.</li> <li>• Mathew reminded the group of Terms of Reference of the group. It is not a decision making group, but a working group to gather information and provide a recommendation to Council and PWS for what to take to public consultation.</li> </ul>			
3	<b>Next meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 April 2022</li> </ul>		AT	Circulate with minutes

6. Meeting Closure		
Item	Topic/Detail	Arrangements
4.1	<b>Next meeting</b>	
	<b>Date:</b>	4 April 2022
	<b>Time:</b>	4pm
	<b>Location:</b>	Teams
4.2	<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	5:15pm