Hearings Panel
Dog Control Policy and Bylaw
AGENDA

Notice of Meeting Te Pānui o te Hui:

A Hearings Panel meeting will be held on:

Date: **Wednesday 12 March 2025**
Time: **9.30 am**
Venue: **Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Hearing**
Council Chambers, Level 2, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

Panel

Members

Deputy Mayor Pauline Cotter
Councillor Kelly Barber
Councillor Tyrone Fields
Councillor Victoria Henstock
Councillor Aaron Keown

5 March 2025

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What is important to us?

Our Strategic Framework is a big picture view of what the Council is aiming to achieve for our community

Our focus this Council term
2022–2025

Strategic Priorities

Be an inclusive and equitable city which puts people at the centre of developing our city and district, prioritising wellbeing, accessibility and connection.

Champion Ōtautahi-Christchurch and collaborate to build our role as a leading New Zealand city.

Build trust and confidence in the Council through meaningful partnerships and communication, listening to and working with residents.

Reduce emissions as a Council and as a city, and invest in **adaptation and resilience**, leading a city-wide response to climate change while protecting our indigenous biodiversity, water bodies and tree canopy.

Manage ratepayers' money wisely, delivering quality core services to the whole community and addressing the issues that are important to our residents.

Actively balance the needs of **today's residents** with the **needs of future generations**, with the aim of leaving no one behind.

Adopted by the Council on 5 April 2023

Our goals for this Long Term Plan
2024–2034

Draft Community Outcomes

Collaborative and confident
Our residents have the opportunity to actively participate in community and city life, have a strong sense of belonging and identity, and feel safe.

Green and liveable
Our neighbourhoods and communities are accessible and well connected, supporting our goals to reduce emissions, build climate resilience and protect and regenerate the environment, especially our biodiversity, water bodies and tree canopy.

A cultural powerhouse
Our diverse communities are supported to understand and protect their heritage, pursue their arts, cultural and sporting interests, and contribute to making our city a creative, cultural and events 'powerhouse'.

Thriving and prosperous
Our city is a great place for people, business and investment where we can all grow our potential, where enterprises are innovative and smart, and where together we raise productivity and reduce emissions.

To be adopted by the Council as part of the Long Term Plan 2024–2034

Our intergenerational vision

A place of opportunity for all.

Open to new ideas, new people, new investment and new ways of doing things – a place where anything is possible.



Ngāi Tahu has rangatiratanga over its takiwā – the Council is committed to partnering with Ngāi Tahu to achieve meaningful outcomes that benefit the whole community

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1. Apologies Ngā Whakapāha

Apologies will be recorded at the meeting.

2. Election of a Chairperson Te Whakatū Poumua

At the start of the meeting, a Chairperson will be elected.

3. Declarations of Interest Ngā Whakapuaki Aronga

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant and to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

4. Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Summary and analysis of submissions

Reference Te Tohutoro:	25/119303
Responsible Officer(s) Te Pou Matua:	Teena Crocker, Senior Policy Analyst Lionel Bridger, Manager Animal Services
Accountable ELT Member Pouwhakarae:	John Higgins, General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory Services

1. Purpose and Origin of the Report Te Pūtake Pūrongo

1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise submissions received during consultation on proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy 2016 and the Dog Control Bylaw 2016 and to support the Hearings Panel in considering these submissions.

1.2 This report also summarises the legislative context for the policy and bylaw, and the proposed changes and reasons for them. A subsequent report will contain advice from staff about the matters raised in submissions to support the deliberations of the Panel.

1.3 The Panel's role is to consider all submissions and to make recommendations to the Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

1.4 Proposals were considered by the Council on 16 October 2024 and consultation ran from 11 November to 15 December 2024 resulting in 1,560 submissions.

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the information in the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Summary and analysis of submissions Report.

3. Background Te Horopaki

3.1 Every council is required to have a policy on dogs and a bylaw to enforce it. The current policy and bylaw are:

- the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy 2016 (the policy)
- the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw 2016 (the bylaw).

3.2 The policy and bylaw work together to impose regulatory controls on dogs and their owners to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs, and to balance this with enabling appropriate recreational access to public places in the district for dogs and their owners. This is the approach required by the Dog Control Act 1996.

3.3 Legislation requires a review of the policy and bylaw at least once every ten years and sets out the requirements for a review. As part the review process, proposals for change were brought to the Council in a report on 16 October 2024 and adopted for consultation. The proposals are set out here:

- Statement of proposal (reasons for the review and proposals for change, including the full policy and bylaw);

- Proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy (current policy wording, with marked up changes and reasons for the changes);
- Proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw (current bylaw wording, with marked up changes and reasons for the changes); and
- Bylaw and Policy Review Report (this was an attachment to the 16 October Council report and sets out the review, the legislative underpinnings, main issues, and changes being recommended. It includes the section 155 analysis required by the Local Government Act 2002).[1]

Scope of the proposals, policy and bylaw

3.4 Proposals for change have focussed on improving the control of dogs in public places in the district. Key areas for change have arisen from:

- Changes to land and water management, landscapes and recreational access (including to coastal wetlands and estuaries, inland wetlands and waterways, on former red zone land, and in other greenspace areas);
- The Council's strategic priority to protect indigenous biodiversity (including investing in habitat and ecological restoration), and the need to better protect wildlife from dog disturbance and harm in key areas;
- The changing ways in which people use public spaces, particularly increases in:
    - The installation of shared paths, designed for pedestrians and those on wheels;
    - The widespread use of wheeled recreational devices, like scooters, e-scooters and e-bikes, on shared paths, footpaths, pedestrian areas and in other public spaces;
    - Residential development across the city (including an increase in residents in the central city), with impacts on recreational activities and needs;
    - An increase in people offering dog exercise services; and
    - The increasing dog population (now almost 45,000 dogs, or one dog for every nine people).

3.5 All of these changes impact on the ways in which our public spaces are used, which may impact on community views on dog access.

3.6 The policy and bylaw must be reviewed at least once every ten years, so the proposed changes have been designed, as much as possible, to ensure appropriate coverage over a ten-year timeframe.

3.7 The Hearings Panel needs to be mindful of the requirements in legislation. Of particular importance is the requirement in the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) that councils, in considering a policy to regulate dogs in their districts, have regard to:

- The need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally;

[1] Councils must undertake a section 155 analysis when making, amending or reviewing bylaws made under the Local Government Act 2002. Under section 155, a council must determine whether or not a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing a perceived problem or problems. If it is, a council must then decide whether the bylaw is the most appropriate form of bylaw, and whether or not the bylaw gives rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The Bylaw and Policy Review Report shows how the Council has considered its section 155 obligations. This was attached to the 16 October Council report.

- The need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults;
- The importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
- The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.[2]

3.8 The Panel should particularly note that much of this focus is on how people feel about dogs in public places (danger, distress, nuisance, fear of attack or intimidation), which is why the public consultation feedback is an important part of the process.

3.9 The behaviour of dogs in public places can impact on people, wildlife, other dogs, stock or other domestic animals, and the policy and bylaw aim to minimise potential negative impacts.

3.10 To regulate, the Council does not need to wait for something to go wrong, to have evidence of dog attacks or injuries, or for enforcement data - rather, it can set rules based on the intention of having well-controlled dogs in public places, and public places where people feel safe. As well as more specific regulatory powers, the Act contains a very general bylaw-making power to regulate for "*any other purpose that …is, in the opinion of the territorial authority, necessary or desirable to further the control of dogs*".[3]

3.11 The preamble to the policy sets this out:

Christchurch has one of the highest dog ownership rates in New Zealand, with almost 45,000 registered dogs. Many people consider their dog(s) to be part of the family, and so it is important to have a range of public places that are accessible to dogs and their owners for fun and recreation. However, we also need to acknowledge the reality that dogs can cause problems (such as barking), can cause injuries (such as bites, which can be particularly harmful and traumatic to children) and can even cause death (such as to protected wildlife or other animals). Many of these scenarios can be prevented with good dog ownership, but others can happen unprovoked and with little or no warning, so we need to minimise the potential for such incidents and accidents by putting reasonable regulatory controls in place. This policy seeks to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the need to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.[4]

3.12 The policy and bylaw regulate more broadly than specifying leashed and prohibited rules - however, these are of highest interest to the public and are what most submissions focused on. To understand the full range of issues, see the policy and bylaw wording and Attachment B, which summarises some of these wider comments.

3.13 The policy and bylaw are supported by an online interactive map: Where you can take your dog. The map is useful for understanding the current rules. Note that it does not show the proposed rules but will be updated once the replacement policy and bylaw are adopted.

4. Community Views and Preferences Ngā mariu ā-Hāpori

Early community views

4.1 In June 2024, a survey was sent out to stakeholders and dog owners and was published on Council channels for the community to provide some early feedback. This covered topics like leashing dogs on paths and tracks, protecting wildlife and habitats from dogs, dog

[2] Section 10(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[3] Section 20(l) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[4] Proposed_changes_Dog_Control_Policy_2024_for_consultation.pdf, pp.1-2. This wording is in the current policy and the only update is to the number of dogs. The current policy uses "around 35,000 dogs".

owner/caretaker responsibilities and how we use some community spaces. This feedback helped to develop the proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2016.

4.2 The survey was completed by 6,245 people (84% of whom indicated they were dog owners). Council was briefed on the results of this survey on 3 September 2024 and a report is available. Some of the information from the survey may assist the Panel in understanding wider community views, so has been reflected in some of the attachments.

Consultation on proposed changes

4.3 Consultation on the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 opened on 11 November and closed on 15 December 2024. The Dog Control Act 1996 requires us to undertake a special consultative procedure[5] and to notify registered dog owners of changes to a dog control policy.[6] In summary:

- an email was sent to 39,769 key stakeholders, including registered dog owners.[7] A letter was sent to any registered dog owners who did not have an email address;
- the Kōrero mai | Let's Talk page had 9,722 views throughout the consultation period;
- a Newsline article was posted to Facebook and reached nearly 5,000 people and consultation documents were available in all service centres; and
- a webinar was held on 29 November and attended by approximately 59 people and watched afterwards by 70 people.

4.4 Consultation on the proposals resulted in 1,560 submissions. Of these, 26 were from organisations or businesses and 1,534 were from individuals. An additional 31 submissions were unable to be counted due to incomplete personal/contact details.

4.5 Submitters were asked if they were dog owners or not, and 1,248 submitters (or 80% of submitters) indicated they were a dog owner.

4.6 The proposals were generally well supported by submitters - however, there were some areas where submitters disagreed with proposals, some proposals that were misunderstood, and some areas where suggestions for alternatives or new proposals were put forth.

4.7 The following organisations or businesses made submissions:

Four dog businesses or services	• Head To Tail • Christchurch Pet Sitter • Waggytails on Whitfield • SpeakingDog K9 Services & Canine Neuropark
Two veterinary or dog training associations	• Companion Animal Veterinarians Branch of the New Zealand Veterinary Association • Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (APDTNZ)
Two national animal NGOs	• SPCA New Zealand • Companion Animals New Zealand
One national environmental NGO	• Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
Six community Boards	• Waihoro Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board • Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board • Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board

[5] Section 10(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996, as set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Section 86 of the Local Government Act contains a modified version of the special consultative procedure for bylaws
[6] Section 10(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[7] There are over 37,000 owners of almost 45,000 dogs in the district

	• Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board • Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board • Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood Community Board
Four residents, neighbourhood or body corporate groups	• Spreydon Neighbourhood Network • Redcliffs Residents Association • Worcester Terraces Body Corp • Belfast Area Residents Association
One sports club	• Whakaraupō Football FC
Four Land Management Trusts	• The Styx Living Laboratory Trust • Summit Road Society Inc • Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust • Riccarton Bush Trust
Two community organisations	• Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network • Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch

4.8 The submissions from these organisations are reflected in the summary of submissions documents and are individually summarised in Attachment C.

Scope of proposed changes and consultation information

4.9 Consultation included asking questions about some specific proposals. These key proposals were summarised on the Council's consultation page, Kōrero mai | Let's talk, along with a summary of other proposed changes, and information on where to find all proposed changes.

4.10 It is important to note that:

- The key questions covered a limited number of the proposed changes (the six likely to be of highest public interest);
- Some other changes were summarised and highlighted on the consultation page (a further ten areas for change, likely to be of reasonable public interest);
- Not all of the proposed changes could be included in either of these summaries;
- The consultation page contained links to the statement of proposal (which contains the full policy and bylaw, with all changes shown in context, along with reasoning), separate links to the policy, the bylaw, the Bylaw and Policy Review Report, and the Council report;
- Detail on all the proposed changes was available in several places on the consultation page;
- Anyone could submit on the proposals, on the current policy and bylaw, or on any related matters, so the scope of submissions is broad.

4.11 Submitters were able to complete the online form, comment on any other matters, make a submission separate from the online form, and to attach additional information.

4.12 Submitters may have relied on the summaries to form their views and not accessed the more detailed information that was available, including the policy and bylaw wording. Additionally, some submitters are not familiar with the current rules. This has resulted in some confusion or misunderstandings about the proposals, which are reflected in the attachments summarising submissions. There are many examples of this, including:

- The Groynes: Some submitters have commented that they regularly exercise their dogs off-leash and are objecting to what they see as a tightening of restrictions. However, much of the area is currently prohibited to dogs, and the proposal is to lift the prohibited status and

change it to leashed in most of the reserve (excluding the dog park, which would remain off-leash and under effective control);

- The Coastal Cliff Reserve in Diamond Harbour: Similarly, some submitters have commented that they regularly walk their dogs off-leash in this area, but it is currently a prohibited area. We are proposing to change it to leashed in the reserve and prohibited on the foreshore; and
- Port Hills reserves and the proposal to leash on formed tracks: Some submitters are opposed to the leashing on tracks proposal because they currently exercise their dogs off-leash in the Port Hills, yet most Port Hills reserves have had leashed status since at least 2016, with some areas requiring leashing as far back as the 2008 policy.

4.13 The Dog Control Act requires that the policy and bylaw work together, and this results in some necessary duplication across the two documents.[8] This can be confusing and adds to their length, which can make them less accessible to the public. Dog control rules tend to be highly localised and this means a lot of detail on a district-wide level. The proposed introduction of more general rules is intended to help reduce some of this detail.

Attachments

4.14 This report contains three attachments to support the Panel in its consideration of submissions:

- **Attachment A**: Summary of submissions on key questions (this covers the six key questions and also includes a brief summary of the July 2024 survey):
- **Attachment B**: Summary of submissions on all other matters (this is a substantial document containing a summary and some analysis of issues raised in submissions); and
- **Attachment C**: Summary of submissions from organisations and businesses.

Summary of responses to the key questions

4.15 We asked six questions on key proposals. In summary, the following responses were received:

Key questions	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?	656 submitters **43%**	824 submitters **54%**	61 submitters **4%**
Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?	1,070 submitters **70%**	401 submitters **26%**	67 submitters **4%**
Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?	833 submitters **56%**	480 submitters **31%**	168 submitters **11%**
Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?	1,042 submitters **70%**	265 submitters **18%**	185 submitters **12%**

[8] For example, section 10(3)(a) and (b) and section 10(6)(a) of the Dog Control Act requires a policy to state the nature and application of any bylaws, and requires that specific public places are set out in the policy, but enforced via the bylaw

Key questions	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?	907 submitters **61%**	374 submitters **25%**	195 submitters **13%**
Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?	1,051 submitters **69%**	329 submitters **22%**	150 submitters **10%**

4.16 Each of these questions had a free-text box, where submitters could comment. These comments are analysed and summarised in Attachment A.

High-level themes arising in submissions

4.17 It is clear that a wide range of views on dogs are held in our communities. Many of these are diametrically opposed, with views everywhere in between. For example, submitters saying something happens all the time, while other submitters say they have never seen that thing happen - or something is a big problem, while others say there is no problem at all. These comments are often side-by-side in the summary at Attachment B.

4.18 These views cannot be characterised as dog owners versus non-dog-owners. The majority of submitters indicated they were dog owners (80% of submitters).

4.19 Some dog owners want tighter controls, while others would prefer fewer restrictions. Many dog owners have had friendly and positive experiences with their dogs and other dogs in public places, while others have felt threatened or concerned about other dogs (with some experiencing attacks or injuries). Similarly, non-dog owners hold wide a range of views.

4.20 The issues raised by submitters are summarised in Attachment B. Many of these were not on specific proposals but give an overall impression of how dog access to public places and the behaviour of dogs and their owners is viewed.

4.21 Some general themes in submissions about dogs in public places are:

- Concerns about people not picking up after their dogs (spread of disease, contamination of waterways, nuisance);
- Concerns about poorly controlled dogs and public safety;
- Concerns about owners not paying attention, not having adequate control, not understanding / following the rules;
- Concerns that limitations on where dogs can go or leashing rules will negatively impact on the welfare of dogs and their natural behaviour and enjoyment;
- Arguments for a more dog-friendly approach, with dogs as valued family members and companions;
- Concerns about a loss of recreational access for dog owners;
- Support for protecting wildlife, habitats and biodiversity from dog disturbance;
- Opposition to wildlife protections, not believing restrictions are necessary or wanting to leash rather than prohibit dogs, or have no restrictions;
- Confusion about the current rules and proposed changes; and
- Concerns about the complexity of the rules and opposition to general or "blanket" rules.

Out of scope matters raised in submissions

4.22 Some submitters raised operational issues, which relate to how the Council will put the policy and bylaw into practice, or how we manage public places and facilities in relation to dogs.

4.23 Although some of these matters are relevant and relate to the policy and bylaw, or its implementation and operationalisation, the process before the Hearings Panel is to agree on the regulatory coverage of the policy and bylaw and to recommend them to the Council for adoption.

4.24 Operational comments included those relating to:

- The provision of rubbish bins for people to dispose of dog fouling in greenspace areas, on streets and beaches - this is an operational matter and not part of the regulation of dogs;
- **New / more dog parks** - the development and network planning for dog parks happens outside of the policy and bylaw review process and is undertaken by Parks;
- **Signage** - there are no prescribed signage requirements for dog control in legislation. Signage to reflect the updated policy and bylaw will be considered, along with other approaches to communicate the new requirements, once the policy and bylaw have been adopted; and
- **Funding** for, or the provision of, more animal management officers - animal management activities are funded by dog registration. Dog registration fees are set through the annual plan process. Any additional funding from general rates revenue for dog control would also be a matter for the annual plan.

4.25 Some of these and other operational matters will be passed on to the appropriate staff, including specific comments about maintenance, rubbish bins and signs. Comments are included in the attached summary of submissions.

4.26 Out of scope submissions include those focused on:

- **Cat regulation** - there is no provision to regulate cats in the Act;
- **Dogs on buses** - the bus service is operated by Environment Canterbury;
- Regulation of the **speed of cyclists** - this is unrelated to dog regulation;
- **Increasing penalties** for breaches of the bylaw or for other matters regulated under the Dog Control Act - the penalty for breaching a dog control bylaw is $300, which is set in the Act. Other offences and penalties are set out in the Act, and any changes would be a matter for the responsible Minister or Parliament to consider; and
- **Dog welfare issues** - councils, via dog control officers, have a limited role in animal welfare matters under the Act. The Code of Welfare for Dogs applies to all dog owners, and enforcement is a matter for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) or the Ministry for Primary Industries.

5. Background/Context Te Horopaki

5.1 The following sets out where to find key documents and how the review and proposals for change progressed to public consultation.

Date	Subject
February – March 2024	Briefings with each Community Board
8-21 July 2024	Survey seeking initial public feedback in some key areas (6,245 responses): Dog Control Bylaw and Policy review | Kōrero mai | Let's talk
6 August 2024	Survey results report: Dog_control_survey_results_report_-_August_2024.pdf

	Newsline story on survey results: Dog survey highlights protection for the environment : Newsline
3 September 2024	Council information session / briefing: Agenda of Council Information Session/Workshop - Tuesday, 3 September 2024
16 October 2024	Council report on the review and proposals, seeking approval for consultation: Agenda of Council - Wednesday, 16 October 2024 (agenda item 9)
11 November 2024	Consultation opened: Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 | Kōrero mai | Let's talk
29 November 2024	Webinar (59 attendees, 70 later watchers), webinar questions (42 questions) and online Q&A (120 questions): Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 | Kōrero mai | Let's talk Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 - Q&A Webinar - 29/11/2024
15 December 2024	Consultation closed (1,560 submissions were received)
March 2025	Public hearings

The legislative and wider context

5.2 The key part of the Act setting the legislative context for a dog control policy is the section on what councils must "have regard to" when adopting a policy.[9] This was covered earlier in the report, and generally relates to minimising the danger, distress, and nuisance that may be caused by dogs, considering public safety and how people feel about dogs in public places, and considering the recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

5.3 A bylaw must be made to give effect to the policy, and both the policy and bylaw must be consistent. The requirements for a policy are in section 10 of the Act, and for a bylaw in section 20 of the Act. For more detail on these legislative requirements, see the 16 October report to Council (agenda item 9) and the attachment to that report, the Bylaw and Policy Review Report.

5.4 The review and proposals for change included consideration of related strategies and plans, including the Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035 and the Urban Forest Plan, together with relevant Long-Term Plan 2024-34 Activity Plans. These relate to changing land and water management, habitat and biodiversity outcomes, and recreational access. Relevant activity management plans include:

- Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (OARC) – the regeneration plan, restoration of the delta landscape, ongoing ecological and habitat restoration programme, wetland and aquatic habitats, increasing local biodiversity, recreational activities, mahinga kai, pest management, stormwater and flood management;
- Parks and Foreshore – activities and aspirations for community parks, cemeteries, inner city parks, regional parks, residential red zone, foreshore and marine access;
- Stormwater Drainage and Flood Protection and Control Works – naturalised waterways and green assets; improving our landscapes and biodiversity; treatment swales, wetlands and basins; water quality in our waterways, wetlands and estuaries; greening of our infrastructure; nature-based design; and water sensitive urban design; and
- Recreation, Sports, Community Arts and Events - active recreation creates happier, healthier people, better connected communities and a stronger Christchurch.

[9] As set out in section 10(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996

5.5 The Council's Compliance Strategy is also relevant. The Strategic Compliance Framework has three key elements: monitoring compliance; encouraging compliance; and dealing with non-compliance. The Council operates with the VADE model of enforcement - Voluntary, Assisted, Directed and Enforced compliance. The VADE model recognises that most people are willing to voluntarily comply or can be encouraged to do so. The latter two parts, directed and enforced compliance, are where infringements may be utilised. For serious non-compliance, enforced compliance may involve prosecution.

Context on land that is regulated in the dog control policy and bylaw

5.6 We have a substantial network of parks and greenspace, a long coastline, and some important waterways, wetlands and estuaries. The district has over 10,000 hectares of parks and reserves (including 797 neighbourhood parks, 62 garden parks, 109 regional parks, 115 sports parks, 34 red zone parks, 23 cemeteries and 171 utility parks).[10]

5.7 The roading network and footpaths also provide opportunities for recreation, together with footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks through parks and reserves, and in stormwater management areas.

5.8 Some of these areas have specific dog restrictions in place already or are covered by general rules, and some new areas and changes have been proposed. In all other areas, the default dog control status applies – dogs are allowed off-leash and under effective control. Dog restrictions are in place only in areas where there is good reason, and these reasons are set out in the policy for each area.

5.9 Land in some areas changed due to earthquake impacts, including areas that were not open to the public when the policy and bylaw were last adopted in 2016, such as the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor and Te Kuru Wetlands in Hoon Hay. Other earthquake changes include higher water or lower land levels in some areas, with new wetland environments and an increase in saltmarsh areas, such as at the mouth of the Ōtākaro Avon River, Bexley Wetlands and at Ferrymead Regional Park.

5.10 The changing ways our public places are being used, changing recreational activities and locations, and the changing dog population may shift public attitudes towards dogs, so the review and consultation is timely. There has also been an increase in the number of dogs in the district (almost 45,000 dogs).

5.11 Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary has been recognised as part of the East Australasian Flyway Network. The flyway is an international network of wetland sites used by migratory birds in their annual migrations. Protections proposed in this area are to support threatened and at-risk migratory birds of national and international importance, and to bring dog protections into line with equivalent areas of ecological significance in New Zealand.

5.12 Despite proposing increasing restrictions, the default dog control status for the district remains: dogs allowed off-leash and under effective control.

5.13 We do not specify off-leash areas (other than dog parks and dog exercise areas), because everywhere not otherwise specified as leashed or prohibited, or covered by a general rule, is off-leash and under effective control. Changes were proposed to the definition of "under effective control" and these are set out in the policy and bylaw, with a summary of submissions in Attachment B.

[10] Parks-and-Foreshore-Asset-Management-Plan-LTP-2024-34.PDF

6. Next Steps Ngā Mahinga ā-muri

6.1 A second report will be prepared for the Hearings Panel that will contain staff advice to support the deliberations of the Panel.

6.2 That report will also contain advice on Risks and Mitigations, Legal Considerations, Strategy and Policy considerations, etc, so as not to duplicate advice.

Decision Making Authority Te Mana Whakatau

6.3 The decision-making authority for bylaws sits with the Council and cannot be delegated to a Committee of Council or other body. The role of the Hearings Panel is to consider and hear submissions, deliberate on those matters raised, and make recommendations to the Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

Legal Implications Ngā Hīraunga ā-Ture

6.4 Submissions made on the proposals should be received by the Hearings Panel with an open mind and should be given due consideration.

6.5 When deliberating on submissions, the Hearings Panel should keep in mind the Council's regulatory and bylaw-making powers and the scope of the consultation proposals. Significant changes from original proposals may require further consultation.

Risks Ngā Tūraru

6.6 With any bylaw-making process, there is always a risk that members of the public or organisations may not agree with the proposals finally adopted by the Council and may seek judicial review proceedings. This risk can be managed by careful compliance with the provisions of the Act, and common law relating to bylaws.

Next Steps Ngā Mahinga ā-muri

6.7 The Hearings Panel should consider all written and oral submissions, seek any further advice from staff, deliberate on the issues raised, and make recommendations to the Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A	Dog control: Summary of submissions on key questions	25/262189	17
B	Dog control: Summary of submissions on all other matters	25/224520	26
C	Dog Control: Summary of submissions from organisations and businesses	25/267957	89

In addition to the attached documents, the following background information is available:

Document Name – Location / File Link
Not applicable

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

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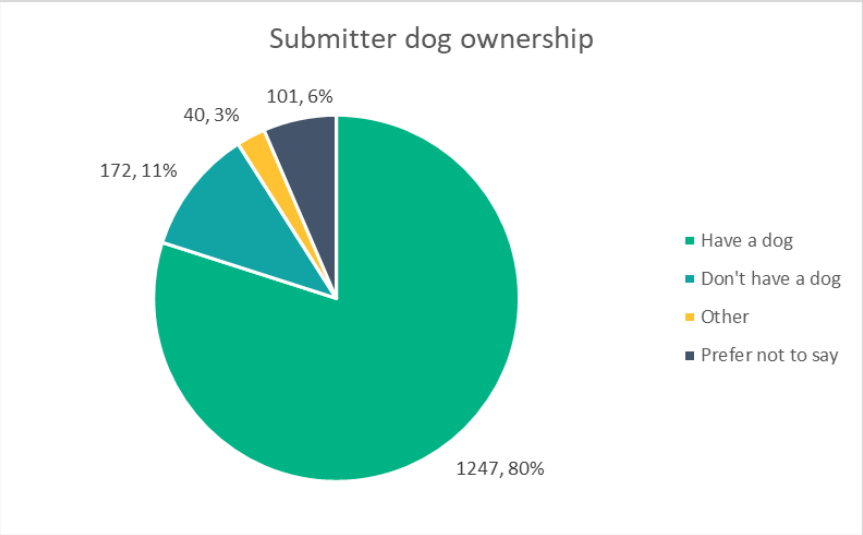
Attachment A: Dog control - Summary of submissions on key questions

Dog control: Summary of submissions on key questions

This document summarises responses to the six key questions on Kōrero mai | Let's talk.

Overview of submitters

We received 1,560 submissions. They were made by 22 recognised organisations, four businesses and 1,534 individuals. 80% of submitters indicated they were dog owners, as shown below.



Key questions

The questions covered the changes likely to be of most interest to people, noting that the proposed changes were much wider than the six key questions. The summary and questions were as follows:

Topic	Summary from Kōrero mai | Let's talk	Questions
Require dogs to be leashed on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks		
We're proposing to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed (this includes parks, reserves and stormwater assets that function as parks) so that they are safer for everyone – dogs would still be allowed off leash and under effective control in areas off any paths and tracks, unless otherwise specified in the policy. The current rule is leashing on roads and footpaths alongside roads, and in car parking areas. There is a related proposal to require leashing on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads. For more information, see section 6.2 of the policy (General leashed areas) and clause 9 of the bylaw (General leashed dog control areas).		Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?
		Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?
Regulate the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor		
We're proposing to regulate the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former residential red zone) by prohibiting dogs in key areas to protect wildlife (river, wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs off leash and under effective control in over 200 hectares of mowed grass (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule). See *Schedule 1*		Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?

Attachment A: Dog control - Summary of submissions on key questions

of the policy for related wetland and waterway areas, with similar proposed rules.	
Prohibit dogs from Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary to protect wildlife	
We're proposing to prohibit dogs from Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary to protect wildlife (including threatened and at-risk migratory birds). This would apply from the landward boundary inwards – people could continue to walk dogs on land nearby, such as along the grassed western edge of Southshore Spit, or on paths like Te Ara Ihutai Christchurch Coastal Pathway. Dogs would not be allowed along the shoreline where birds nest, or in tidal areas where they feed. See *Schedule 1 of the policy for other coastal wetland and mudflat areas, with related proposed wildlife protection rules.*	Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?
Regulate stormwater basins	
We're proposing to regulate stormwater basins, such as Te Kuru Wetland, by prohibiting dogs in some areas to protect wildlife (wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs to be off leash and under effective control in mowed grass areas (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule). See *Schedule 1 of the policy for related wetland and waterway areas, with similar proposed rules.*	Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?
Limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place	
We're proposing to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place (to two when off-leash and four when leashed), with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs. See section 3.1.2 of the policy (Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of) and clause 5 of the bylaw (Control of dogs in all public places and at all times, subclause 4) and clause 13 of the bylaw (Dog limit exemption).	Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?

The six key questions were a summary of some proposed changes. All of the proposed changes were set out in the Statement of Proposal, which was on the Kōrero mai | Let's talk page. This included the full policy and bylaw, with changes indicated and reasoning included throughout.

Results of the six key questions and summaries of the main issues

Submitters could answer yes, no or don't know to the six key questions, and set out their views in a comment box. This report contains the results of the six key questions and summaries of the main issues raised in comments. A subsequent report summarises all other comments.

Note that not all submitters answered every question, and one submitter may have made more than one comment or commented on several different issues. The bracketed number indicates the number of submitters that made a comment categorised to a theme.

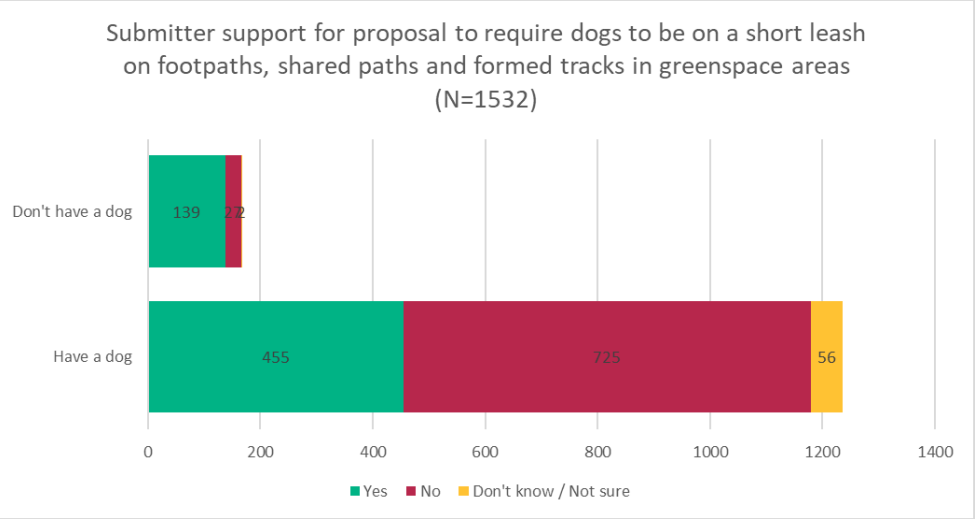
Footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas

1,532 submitters answered this question. Just over half of them (818, 53%) did not support the proposal.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?	654 submitters **43%**	818 submitters **53%**	61 submitters **4%**

Dog owners were much more likely to say no than non-dog owners, as shown in the graph below.

Attachment A: Dog control - Summary of submissions on key questions



The following key themes were identified from submitter comments about the proposal to require dogs to be on short leashes on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspaces:

Submitters who were generally <u>opposed</u> to the proposal:

- Under effective control is sufficient (**257**)
- It should be up to the owner to determine, or it should be based on the dog's training (**146**)
- Ok with leashing, but not short leash (**89**)
- Ok with footpaths/shared paths, but not formed tracks (**48**)
- Does not believe there is any issue to solve (**18**)
- Does not want rule to apply to the red zone / Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (**17**)

Some submitters were <u>opposed</u> because they <u>misunderstood</u> the proposals:

- Believed the proposed rule is to leash in all greenspaces (**25**)
- Believed leashing on formed tracks in the Port Hills would be new / misunderstanding of the current rules (**26**)
- Concerned the rule covers Bottle Lake Dog Exercise Area (**22**)

Submitters who were <u>generally</u> in support of the proposal:

- Safer and better control for dogs / people (**172**)
- Stops dogs rushing at my dog / 'friendly dog' debate / better for on-leash or reactive dogs (**79**)
- Stops dogs jumping/rushing at me / child (**55**)
- Protect wildlife (**32**)
- Long-leashes are a hazard / prefer short leash (**26**)
- "I'm a dog owner and agree" statement without any other context (**19**)
- Owners more likely to see and pick up dog poo (**17**)

Some further analysis on this question is included later in this document, in the section titled*: Survey and consultation: Analysis on leashing in greenspace areas*.

Shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads

1,529 submitters answered this question. The majority of them (1,062, 70%) supported the proposal.

Attachment A: Dog control - Summary of submissions on key questions

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?	1,062 submitters 70%	400 submitters 26%	67 submitters 4%

The following key themes were identified from submitter comments about the proposal to require dogs to be on short leashes on shared paths and pedestrian areas near roads:

Submitters who were generally in <u>support</u> of the proposal:

- It's safer for dogs / other people / motorists / wildlife (**290**)
- Stop dogs jumping at people / have had experience of dog rushing at me / child / my dog (**48**)
- Long leads are hazards / prefer short leads (**23**)

Submitters who were generally <u>opposed</u> to the proposal:

- Under effective control is enough / training / owner discretion (**160**)
- Would prefer long lead / retractable (**72**)
- It should depend on number of people around / how busy / what area (**28**)
- Leash too short / Too restrictive (**15**)
- Support footpaths near road, but not shared path or pedestrian areas (**10**)
- Comments about cats (**6**)

Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor

1,522 submitters answered this question. More than half of them supported the proposal (880, 58%).

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?	880 submitters 58%	476 submitters 31%	166 submitters 11%

The following key themes were identified from submitter comments about the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor:

Submitters who were generally in <u>support</u> of the proposal:

- Protect wildlife / environment / biodiversity (**312**)
- Many other areas dogs can be / off-leash in mown areas good alternative / good balance (**62**)

Submitters who were generally <u>opposed</u> to the proposal:

- Don't see what issue is / no evidence of wildlife being harmed (**87**)
- Want dogs to be able to access river / limits ability to take dogs to safe water in the city (**85**)
- Dogs should be allowed under effective control / with proper training (**70**)
- Concerns about 'red zone' / old roads / paths / leashing requirements on paths / misinformation about proposals (**66**)
- Dogs should be allowed on a leash (**55**)
- It limits where people can walk with dogs / feels it prevents them or certain people e.g. elderly, disabled from walking here (**49**)
- Don't want restrictions - general comment (**35**)

- 'Mown grass' too complicated / don't understand without a map / unsure what areas are proposed (**35**)
- Want part of the OARC available for dogs (fenced sections for wildlife or dogs) / seasonal restrictions / time limited (**21**)

Other themes:

- Comments about cats (**40**)
- Want another area prohibited / want further restricted (**5**)
- Signage needed (**16**)

Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary

1,483 submitters answered this question. The majority of them (1039, 70%) supported the proposal.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?	1,039 submitters **70%**	262 submitters **18%**	182 submitters **12%**

The following key themes were identified from submitter comments about the proposal for the Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary:

Submitters who were generally in <u>support</u> of the proposal:

- Support the wildlife/birds/ecology/environment (**285**)

Submitters who were generally <u>opposed</u> to the proposal:

- Dogs should be allowed on leash (**58**)
- Dogs should be allowed under effective control / owners' discretion (**34**)
- Comment about cats being a problem (**25**)
- Don't see what the issue is (**23**)
- Would like to see only seasonal restrictions (**11**)

Other themes:

- Signage needed (**14**)

Stormwater basins

1,467 submitters answered this question. The majority (907, 61%) supported the proposal.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?	905 submitters **62%**	372 submitters **25%**	190 submitters **13%**

The following key themes were identified from submitter comments about the proposal for stormwater basins:

Submitters who were generally in <u>support</u> of the proposal:

- Protect wildlife / environment / waterways / biodiversity (**159**)
- Many other areas dogs can be / off-leash in mown areas good alternative / good balance (**15**)

Submitters who were generally opposed to the proposal:

- Disagree with leash on pathways rule (**57**)
- Dogs should be allowed everywhere under effective control / dogs with training / owner decision (**48**)
- Dogs should be allowed everywhere on leash (**43**)
- Don't see what issue is / no evidence / don't think dogs harm wildlife / don't think there's wildlife in stormwater basins (**30**)
- Don't want restrictions / blanket restrictions / should be case by case (**33**)
- Proposals not clear enough / mown grass confusing / need to see a map / misinformation about proposals (**22**)
- Want more restriction / dogs to be leashed only / total ban of dogs in SW basins (**17**)
- Want dogs to be able to access water (**11**)
- Want seasonal restrictions / areas sectioned off for dogs/wildlife (**7**)

Other themes:

- Comment about cats (**17**)
- Signage needed (**9**)

Limit on the number of dogs under one person's control

1,521 submitters answered this question. The majority (1,047, 69%) supported the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can control in a public place.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?	1,047 submitters 69%	326 submitters 22%	148 submitters 10%

The following key themes were identified from submitter comments about the proposal to limit the number of dogs:

Submitters who were generally opposed to the proposal:

- No need for a limit or regulation (**31**)
- Opposed to regulation or to the proposal to regulate (**54**)
- Concerned it will impact on owners and people helping each other (**83**)
- Impacts on dog walking businesses (**45**)
- Support for dogs being walked together (**19**)
- Concerns about leashing multiple dogs (**5**)

Concerns / suggestions for change

- It should depend on the dog / handler (**90**)
- Rules should / should not apply in certain situations / places (**31**)
- Impacts on owners of multiple dogs (**24**)

Submitters who were generally in support of the proposal:

- Agree with proposals, concerns about multiple dogs (**289**)
- Negative experiences with groups of dogs (**179**)
- Regulate because special skills are required to control groups of dogs (**127**)
- Good to regulate dog walking businesses (**54**)
- Concerns about people not picking up after multiple dogs (**24**)

- Concerns about how some dog walkers operate (**7**)
- Comments on the exemption proposal (**116**)
- Support for regulation, opposed to exemption process (**5**)

Feedback on numbers:

- General comments on number of dogs / what the limit should be (**197**)

Other themes:

- Concerns about enforcement (**5**)

Dog control survey results (July 2024)

The Council sought some initial feedback from the public via an online survey in July 2024, to help shape the review of the dog control policy and bylaw. **6,245 responses** were received, **84% of whom identified themselves as dog owners.**

This early information gives some general idea of wider public views on dog access and control in some key public places. We developed these proposals further and consulted on related proposals as part of the consultation process in November 2024.

The survey is covered in more here, but in summary, the following results were provided:

Question summary		Yes	No	Not sure
Requiring a leash				
On shared paths?	✓	**76% yes**	20% no	4% not sure
On footpaths in parks and reserves?	✓	**57% yes**	38% no	5% not sure
On formed tracks in parks and reserves?	✗	44% yes	**49% no**	7% not sure
Better wildlife protections				
In the Avon Heathcote Estuary Te Ihutai?	✓	**77% yes**	12% no	11% not sure
In the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former Red Zone)?	✓	**69% yes**	19% no	12% not sure
In engineered wetlands (stormwater basins)?	✓	**64% yes**	24% no	12% not sure
Owner/caretaker responsibilities				
Short leash on roads, footpaths (roadside and in parks), on shared paths, and on formed tracks?	✓	**51% yes**	42% no	8% not sure
Change the definition of 'under effective control' to make it easier to understand?	✓	**54% yes**	38% no	9% not sure
Limit the number of dogs a person can manage in a public place?	✓	**48% yes**	37% no	15% not sure
Leashing in community spaces				
On sports fields during games and practice sessions?	✓	**80% yes**	15% no	5% not sure
At community gardens?	✓	**72% yes**	17% no	11% not sure
On jetties and wharves?	✓	**72% yes**	19% no	9% not sure

Survey and consultation: Analysis on leashing in greenspace areas

What may be of interest to the Hearings Panel is that the questions on leashing in parks and reserves in the survey were separated into three areas:

- **shared paths** (76% agreed or 4,701 respondents)
- **footpaths** in parks and reserves (57% agreed or 3,517 respondents)
- **formed tracks** in parks and reserves (59% disagreed or 3,043 respondents).

We then asked if a **short leash** should be used for these situations, as good control is needed, and this received a 51% positive response (3,129 respondents) with 41% opposed.

In the recent consultation, however, the question on **footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks** was asked as one question, with a **short leash** in **greenspace areas**. The term greenspace was used, rather than parks and reserves, as the footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks may be in stormwater assets that function and are accessed by the public as parks or reserves, but may not technically be a park or reserve. This question received a positive response from 43% of submitters (654 submitters), while **53% or 818 submitters were opposed**.

The analysis on comments on the consultation question showed that :

- 89 people opposed it because they were ok with leashing, but not a short leash;
- 48 submitters were ok with footpaths/shared paths, but not formed tracks;
- 25 submitters thought leashing was proposed for all greenspaces;
- 26 people thought this would change the rules on the Port Hills; and
- 22 people opposed it because they thought it would apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area.

However, note that:

- short leash is defined in the bylaw as a leash that is no longer than 1.5 metres, and if extendable, is locked at a length of no longer than 1.5 metres (many submitters may not have been aware of the length);
- the statement of proposal / policy stated: *Many footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks currently require leashing, but this varies and can be confusing. Formed tracks are not sealed like a footpath, but may have a hard-packed or shingle surface. They tend to be found in regional parks, and in many of these areas, dogs are currently required to be leashed on tracks, including Port Hills reserves. This change will provide clarity and consistency* - meaning leashing on formed tracks will often be status quo, rather than a change;
- the proposal was for leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks (not in all greenspace areas); and
- Bottle Lake Forest Park dog exercise area was specifically exempted from the leashing proposal (as set out in the policy document, but not highlighted in the summary).

In **conclusion**, objections to the leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas were not as strong as the numbers may have initially suggested, once some further analysis is done.

Survey: Limit on the maximum number of dogs

When asked in the survey if we should limit the number of dogs a person should be able to be in charge of in a public place, 48% of people said yes (37% said no and 15% were not sure).

When asked what the limit should be, we received the following responses, on average:

What should the limit be?	
Maximum number of dogs when leashed	Three to four dogs
Maximum number of dogs when off-leash	Two to three dogs

We developed these proposals further to propose a maximum limit of four dogs, with up to two off-leash at once. We also proposed an exemption process for people with the appropriate skills and experience to handle more than four dogs at once in public places. The details of all proposed changes were set out in the policy and bylaw in the statement of proposal.

For more information and analysis, see Attachment B: Summary of submissions on all other matters.

Dog Control: Summary of submissions on all other matters

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Introduction

This document provides an analysis of the issue raised in submissions on the proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016.

The online consultation on Kōrero mai | Let's talk asked six questions on key proposed changes, and then provided the opportunity to submit on any other matters or to make further comments. This document contains a summary and analysis of all other matters raised by submitters.

Submitters could submit on any matter – including the current policy and bylaw and any of the proposed changes.

It may help to read this with the marked-up copy of the dog control policy and bylaw contained in the statement of proposal. This shows the status quo, the proposed changes and the reasoning behind the changes:

- for the general leashed and prohibited areas, see section 6 of the policy, and clauses 8 and 9 of the bylaw;
- for the specific leashed and prohibited areas, see schedule 1 of the policy; and

- for the enforceable rules, see the rest of the dog control bylaw.

Submitters could also choose not to fill out the online questions and to submit in any other form. These separate submissions are also included in this analysis.

We received 1,560 submissions, with 80% of submitters indicating they were dog owners.

The tables below include a mixture of quotes from submitters and aggregate comments or sentiment. Where more than one submitter expressed a view or similar view, the number of submitters is shown in the right-hand column. Note that comments have been included even if they make statements that are incorrect about the current rules or proposed changes.

Some references are made to the July 2024 dog control survey, where the questions and answers provide further insight into the views of the community and may be of use to the Hearings Panel.

General comments

This section contains comments relating to general views about dogs in public places, and the regulation of dogs in public places. Specific proposals and comments are contained in a later section.

Owners not paying attention / public safety concerns

This section includes comments that relate to concerns about dog owners not paying attention to what their dog is doing and how that impacts on other people. Some of the comments link back to the proposals on improving the definition of "under effective control" (which is the default rule in public places where leashing or prohibited rules do not otherwise apply). They also broadly relate to the proposals to require that dogs are leashed on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas, as well as the change to clarify that dogs need to be leashed around vehicles and in related pedestrian areas.

Themes include: concerns about dogs not being well-controlled; concerns about aggressive dogs; comments on confrontations, altercations and conflict; concerns about dog owners overestimating the control they have; concerns about public safety; and comments on dog walking etiquette.

Concerns about dogs not being well-controlled	
Too many dog owners let their dogs off leash and don't pay attention while they're on their phones	3
Citizens should be free to go about their business without being harassed, attacked or threatened by dogs	1
Many dog owners are already inconsiderate and don't follow current laws	1
The existing rules around walking dogs on leads on footpath and roads is currently not enforced. I live on the Heathcote River and there are always dogs running loose around the roads and riverbanks, and the owners have no visual on their dog, let alone any control. Makes it very hard to walk my own dogs and for parents feeding the ducks with their children	1
I have a dog who is lead-reactive due to irresponsible dog owners allowing their off-leash dogs to run up to mine. I ask them to recall their dogs, knowing my small dogs won't appreciate the sudden approach, but often they have little or no control	1
I often use the Cashmere Road / Heathcote River walkway (opposite Princess Margaret Hospital). I would like more signage and enforcement to prevent unleashed dogs in this area. I have a right to walk my dog safely without hassle from other unwelcome dogs	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I have an autistic child who is terrified of dogs. People at beaches, playground, parks don't obey the rules already. I don't think dogs should be allowed in shops. Or on buses. I would like to be able to report situations where people not following the rules affects my child (like having to leave somewhere because the owner feels their dog has more rights than our child)	1
Concerned about aggressive dogs or being approached by dogs	
The Council should do more to address menacing dogs	2
Some owners appear to believe that their dogs have a right to run free and be aggressive to others. Some see it as a bit of a joke if their dog has a go at someone. People should be able to move around without attempts by dogs to bite them, being jumped up on or unwanted licking	1
My guide dogs have been confronted by aggressive or uncontrolled dogs	1
Have had experiences with dogs attacking my dog who is always leashed	1
Confrontations, altercations and conflict	
Have asked for dogs to be leashed when behaving badly and owners have refused – saying only playing, was my fault, or blaming a terrified child	2
People are carrying weapons to protect their dog from being attacked by other dogs after some bad experiences	2
People don't seem to care what their dogs do to people, but they care when their dog is counter-attacked	1
I really feel like the main issue I always see is small dog owners not following any rules and out to cause disturbances. They are always in spaces well-known to have large dogs off-leash and then cause scenes when they don't like the bigger dogs. I have been followed, verbally abused, followed home, even. It's always someone with a small dog that does not require the same sort of exercise. It's a very dangerous situation and I feel like that's actually the main issue!	1
There have been many instances where dog owners have become very aggressive when I have attempted to push a dog away when it wants to lick or jump up on me. Recently an unleashed dog came running up to me when I was sitting on a Council seat on the footpath. It tried to jump om me and I pushed it away with my foot. When I pushed it away for the third time, the owner came very close to me and threatened me. This was the third time I have been threatened by a dog owner in similar circumstances. I support the changes	1
I often encounter uncontrolled dogs (not returning to owner when called). It is always the same owners, and they abuse you if you ask them to call their dog or put it on a lead	1
Concerns about dog owners overestimating the control they have	
Too many owners over-estimate their recall / control of the dog and let them roam freely without recall (can be frightening and distressing, harass other dogs)	3
Too many dog owners don't have control of their dogs, and it can be really scary	5
Owners all say "I didn't think my dog would do that" after they have attacked	2
I've had some scary encounters with dogs (in Hagley Park). Two owners recently said their dog had never done that before, but they definitely weren't under effective control, so now I'm worried about every dog not on a leash	1
Concerns about public safety	
Some people feel unsafe in public places because of dogs	1
My dog keeps me safe, I don't want her to be restricted	1
There are many areas where the presence of dog walkers increases public safety. Dogs provide benefits to the wider community	1
We don't feel safe walking our dog in our local area due to poor behaviour by cyclists, so we drive to other places	1
I do not mind dogs (we were a dog owner), but under effective control it is not safe at present	1
One day a child is going to get killed or an elderly person seriously injured or a serious car crash will occur. This could be avoided by having a blanket rule that all dogs must be leashed	1
I also own a small dog, so I strongly support dogs being better controlled, as out of control big dogs pose a big risk to my small boy, as well as my mother who is older and often walks him.	1

She has been bowled over before and some people are thoughtless of others when exercising their dogs. I think overall these changes are positive	
Dogs should be kept away from children's play areas and events	1
Dog walking etiquette	
I always leash when walking my dog – can't understand why others don't leash	1
Owners should leash their dogs immediately when they can clearly see other owners with their dogs coming, especially if they have recalled their dogs and leashed them to avoid conflict. Some owners completely ignore this, they just allow their dogs to run freely and approach thinking its ok, when it's not	1

Stronger rules for public places

These comments seek stronger rules for dogs in public places – from leashing everywhere, to requiring muzzles. Some seek the provision of more dog parks, so that these are the only areas where dogs can be off-leash. Some suggest a blanket leashing requirement to address the issue of owners not picking-up after their dogs, or to prevent incidents.

Leashed everywhere	
Dogs should be on leads full stop. I have been attacked, my horse has been chased, I have read soooo many stories of people's horses getting attacked, I have had dogs jump up at me - people in general have no idea how to control their dogs and have sadly spoilt it for others who know how to control their dogs. You can get a lightweight long line so they can run free or....they pass a test and get an exemption certificate to prove they have control of their dog	1
Dogs should always be leashed in parks	1
Within city boundaries, dogs should be strictly controlled or on a long leash	1
I think all dogs in public areas should be on leash. To many irresponsible people in this city	1
Leashing everywhere, except at dog parks	
I don't think we should be lifting any leash requirements at all, except within a fenced dog park	1
There needs to be clearly allocated and fenced dog parks where dogs can run free without frightening other humans and bird life	1
Dogs should be on a lead at all times, except in designated dog parks, the beaches during the allotted times, or in the red zone, away from traffic, and nesting birds/wildlife etc	1
Leashing on beaches	
If dogs have to be on a leash on the road and footpath, and wetlands, then why not on the beach, it is after all a wildlife area, and a public space with children playing, running, screaming, throwing balls, which is triggering for many dogs. I am so sick of these out-of-control dogs and owners who don't care. There are many who no longer go to the beach as they feel unsafe, time to step up CCC - time to protect the beach, wildlife, and people	1
Not picking up after dogs	
There are too many people that just let their dog/s run free and I've seen it time and time again, their dog goes does its business and it's not cleaned up, they just shrug it off. That's why I say all dog/s should be on a leash in all public areas, except in dog parks. I have also cleaned up after dog/s in the dog park/s.	1
Muzzling	
Is it more streamlined to make a regulation that all dogs in public need to be muzzled, which then protects livestock and wildlife. It avoids the need for a multitude of signs and info for a plethora of outdoor spaces. Some of what's proposed sounds complicated and difficult for owners to navigate requirements. Make things as simple as possible to encourage compliance rate	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Dog-free spaces

Some submitters would like more dog-free spaces. Note that some areas are prohibited to dogs. See schedule 1 of the policy for specific areas, or current red areas shown on the dog control map. There are also some general prohibited areas to protect children, such as playgrounds. One key dog-free space is the Botanic Gardens. See the later section on suggestions and requests for other changes.

I'm disappointed there are no park/recreational areas where dogs are prohibited altogether. Many people don't like dogs, or are frightened of them, and there are no outdoor park areas where you can go for a walk or run without the possibility of encountering a poorly-controlled dog. A few months ago, I had to assist a young woman running in the park who was being chased by a dog who had escaped its owner. I would really welcome consideration of just a few dog-free spaces for people keen to enjoy some greenspace without dogs.	1
Some public green spaces (parks) should be dog free - those with specific dog parks nearby would be ideal as there isn't any need for dogs to be there. This would be good for people who have a phobia of dogs or would simply prefer not to be around them. Currently, it is hard to avoid dogs. I have stopped using my local park due to being hassled by dogs and then yelled at by irate dog owners	1
Not everyone likes dogs	1

Concerned about roaming dogs, unregistered dogs

The Dog Control Act requires that all dogs are registered with their local council. Dogs are required to be registered for three reasons - to keep an up-to-date record of all dogs and their owners, to allow for the return of lost dogs, and to generate revenue to provide dog control services. Dogs are also required to be microchipped, and scanning a microchip will identify a dog. Unregistered dogs and roaming dogs are not the same thing, but submitters have often linked the two. Roaming dogs are dogs that have escaped from the control of their owner – for example, through a hole in a fence. If they are registered and microchipped, they are able to be returned to their owner. Section 4 of the policy covers dog registration, and section 12 covers seizing and impounding dogs.

Roaming dogs	
The Council should do more to address roaming dogs / sick of roaming dogs	6
Properties need to be fenced safely for containing dogs, and locks on gates to stop easy access or gates being blown open and dogs escaping	1
Roaming dogs should be caught and euthanised if not collected with a certain period of time	1
There are too many wandering dogs – owners need to have consequences and be fined when their dog is wandering	1
Get tougher on dogs out walking by themselves	1
Unregistered dogs	
I would like more being done re unregistered dogs	1
Do more to protect farms and city areas from roaming and unregistered dogs	1
Why are you increasing rules on responsible dog owners, while the owners of unlicensed dogs will continue to do what they want?	1
Aggressive, unregistered, roaming, uncontrolled	
My dog and I have been attacked by a dog off leash. This dog was not registered and extremely aggressive. Following the attack the owner fled the scene. Animal Control did not do enough to find the owner. I still see him out with the dog that attacked me, but cannot do anything about it now. These people are the problem. Not responsible dog owners.	1
I think that due to the number of irresponsible dog owners with roaming and aggressive dogs the responsible owners may not be able to continue with walking their 'pack' that is well behaved and well looked after	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Wanting more to be done	
I would like the Animal Control Officers to have more legislative powers to deal with unregistered, dangerous and problem dogs and owners	1
I had a dog owner over the road whose dog escaped at least once a week. I kept ringing the Council and was told the owner would come collect it. Nothing was ever done in the way of fines, or removing their responsible dog owner status. I gave up ringing the Council as nothing ever gets done. Why bother having rules and regulations if the council refuses to take any action against the dog owners	1
More needs to be done about unregistered and out of control dogs. How about rewarding good dog management. There's plenty of people that are responsible dog owners - why should they and their dogs be restricted because of the small few that are a-holes that think they can do what they want with their dog	1

Picking up after dogs

Many submitters commented on dog owners not picking up after their dogs in public places. This is already an offence in the bylaw (see clause 5(5) and 5(6)). These clauses require that the dog owner or person in charge of the dog must carry the means to pick up after the dog, and that they must remove and appropriately dispose of any fouling.

Concerns raised in submissions include the spread of dog diseases, contamination of waterways, impacts on public health (including on young children) and general unpleasantness. Some also relate to leashing, on the assumption that the owner of an unleashed dog may not notice or make a point of picking up after their dog, but the owner of a leashed dog will. A later section of this report covers comments on the provision of rubbish bins.

The following note is contained in the bylaw, following the clauses requiring people to pick up after their dogs: *Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasites that make other dogs or people unwell. If left on the ground, dog faeces will contaminate waterways. Christchurch has a high number of dogs, and it is important that dog owners take responsibility for their own dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places. Bags are an ideal way of picking up and removing dog faeces. Despite using a compostable or biodegradable bag, dog faeces should always be disposed of in a rubbish bin or Council red wheelie bin (it cannot be composted through the green waste wheelie bin system).*

Support for carrying bags to pick up after dogs	2
Support fines for not picking up after dogs	1
Too many people not picking up after their dog(s)	2
Concerned about contamination of waterways from people not picking up after their dogs	5
Too many people don't pick up in the red zone, it's disgusting	2
Owners don't have their dog under effective control and don't see or notice when to pick up after them / not paying enough attention	3
People are anti-dog because dog owners don't pick up after their dogs	1
Owners kick it under a bush, leave it in long grass or leave a bag of it somewhere – someone has to pick this up, often Council staff or volunteers planting trees - disgusting	3
The Council needs to do more to encourage good dog owners who pick up and punish dog owner who don't	3
Too many owners are not responsible – and it's not just in parks, but on people's lawns (but especially in dog parks)	1
My friend's dog got sick and died from people not picking up after their dogs at a dog park – it carries disease	

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Any bag should be able to be used for picking up after dogs. Support the minor change for dog poo bags	2
Owners should pick up after their dogs no matter where	1
Bigger fines for not picking up waste. Bins need to be provided in public spaces and wetland areas. Too much poo on walking paths	1
Too much poop left on beaches. Owners don't take any notice not to have their pet at the beach during certain times, despite signs. Young children dig in the sand, even eat the sand, put their hands in their mouths, and it disgusts me to think what they could contract (parasites etc)	1
It is very frustrating to have so much dog excrement left behind by irresponsible owners	1
If someone is walking a doggo without poo bags, then they should also be fined	1
Christchurch has a large number of dogs, and an irresponsible dog owner can be a serious menace to a community. We would like to see more advertising (including penalties) and an area on Snap Send & Solve where you can report an offending owner's address	2
Even if dogs are on leashes in inner city streets and the owners pick up their poo, no-one is going to wash their urine away off the paths/lampposts etc-imagine the smell if there is no rain for a period of time	1
We have a walkway in Prestons in the wetlands by Te Korari Street that is always polluted with dog s***. Owners know they are hidden by the trees and let their dogs foul the path or berm - disgusting, making a lovely walk an unpleasant walk. Enforce to owners they must pick up after their dog in all areas	1
Come up with some way of fining owners who let their dog crap everywhere and don't pick it up. It's amazing how many "responsible" dog owners suddenly get engrossed with a cell phone call just as their mutt has a squat	1
It's essential to increase awareness and signage around picking up faeces after dogs. It's quite clear that many owners ignore their responsibilities and it's getting rather annoying and disgusting. When reminded, many people are offensive or claim there is no such requirement, it's nature's way, etc	1
I see it all the time. I've even watched people deliberately looking away as if it never happened. Clean and green ain't going to happen if the nearest bin is half a km away...	1
Fines for those who don't pick up their dog's poo - if one can name or photograph them	1
Dogs on leads at all times while bring walked on suburban streets. Dogs must not wander off path or berm onto private property and scratch and toilet! Not fair	1
What happened to the fines for not picking up their dog poo? There is a ton of it everywhere and I have watched dog owners, mainly with large dogs, leave their mess and carry on walking regardless - disgusting	1
The Council should be educating in schools about the importance of picking up after dogs / environmental impact	1
Put rubbish bins back in parks for dog owners	9

Dog parks

Submitters commented on dog parks. Comments included dog parks not being safe; the conduct of dog owners in dog parks; the need for more maintenance, facilities or different designs; and the geographical spread of dog parks across the city. Increased intensification and smaller properties were mentioned. Some submitters thought the proposed changes would increase the use of dog parks or assumed that dog parks were the only off-leash areas – however, any area not otherwise specified as a leashed or prohibited area is an off-leash and under effective control area.

Other suggestions included special areas for big or small dogs, bookable spaces to train dogs (including young or reactive dogs) and the importance of fencing for dog parks.

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Note that the policy is not the mechanism for developing or managing dog parks (these are undertaken through Parks planning processes and include local consultation). Some of the comments relate to operational matters, not dog regulation, but the comments provide helpful insight into the wide range of community views, including misunderstandings about dog parks.

In all dog parks and dog exercise areas, dogs must be under effective control and owners must pick-up after their dogs (just like in any other public place). This is set out in clause 11 of the bylaw. The proposed maximum limit on the number of dogs a person could be in charge of in a public place would apply in dog parks and dog exercise areas, just like any other public place. The proposal was for four dogs, with up to two of those dogs off-leash at any one time.

Additionally, it may be useful to note here that dog parks are not the only place where dogs can be exercised off-leash. In any area not specified as a leashed or prohibited area, or where a general rule applies, dogs are allowed off-leash and under effective control. This is the default in the district.

More dog parks	
More dog parks for small dogs – separate space	3
Council must provide more dog parks if putting in more restrictions	5
Considering the 35,000 plus number of registered dogs in Christchurch, it would be good to see a few more dog parks being considered in the Long Term Plan	1
I would also like to comment that there has been great improvement with dog parks etc for the city. I personally think there should be more. I don't use them as they are too overcrowded owing to not having enough of them	1
Geographical spread of dog parks / housing intensification	
More dog parks in some parts of the city, especially with development / new neighbourhoods	3
We need more dog parks in the Hornby south. Prebbleton's dog park is a good example	1
There should be more dedicated spaces for training dogs – spaces exclusively for dogs (especially as populations increase and properties are smaller)	1
More dog parks are needed with increasing intensification in some urban areas. People need recreational amenities within walking distance	1
Suggestion for a small dog park near Diana Isaac Retirement Village (Mairehau)	1
A dog park in Hoon Hay / Spreydon area (similar to Kakaha dog park)	1
Would love a fully fenced dog park in Lyttelton	1
It would be great to have a fenced dog area in Halswell. The Quarry is great, but it tends to be occupied by irresponsible and ignorant dog owners. And having an unfenced area next to a wetland is not ideal for wildlife protection	1
Please consider dogs need to run and play. We have no dog parks this side of the city, but you let cyclists do what they want	1
I would like to see intentional planning of more dog park spaces allocated within Christchurch city west/south side - especially if swales or stormwater basins are being removed as options!	1
Management, design and maintenance of dog parks	
There should be fenced-off bookable areas for dogs to be exercised eg for training purposes, or for reactive dogs	4
Support dog parks with surfaces other than grass to support wheelchair users	1
There need to be appropriate areas where large dogs can be exercised off-leash, and where dogs can be trained	1
Dog parks should be long so families can walk through them. Dogs can become territorial in small areas. Our dog lost an ear to a territorial dog in a small dog park, since then we've heard from others with similar experiences. Moving through an area is fine, stationary is a problem	1
Dog parks should be more stimulating and less barren. Selwyn has good dog parks and facilities, as well as rubbish bins and free bags to dispose of waste	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Dog Parks need lighting outside of daylight-saving hours to enable workers to walk their dogs there safely. The grounds to be mowed and free of hidden holes for the smaller dogs	1
A wonderful example of dog park with thoughtful design, facilities is in Prebbleton. I prefer a fenced area when letting dog off leash. No area in the city exists like this	1
I'd like to see more designated dog exercise areas, with fenced-off areas for big and little dogs, as in Kaiapoi	1
If better spaces are created for people to have their dogs off-leash, then the general public might be more amenable to change. I personally would love to see more dog parks with separate small dog and large dog areas (with cameras)	1
Dog parks having sufficient bins. I frequently see overflowing bins.	1
We need more dog parks that are accessible to disabled and elderly, please look at Kaiapoi dog park as an example of what is required. Thank you	1
The Groynes – should be an extra area for dogs to swim	2
Victoria Park is too dangerous with rabbit holes	1
Halswell Quarry Park – the dog park should be extended to include the slopes, ideal for off-leash training, people already exercise their dogs off-leash here	1
The Halswell Quarry dog park needs to be clearly separated from the other areas – I had a woman hysterically freaking out about my dogs off leash because she didn't realise she'd wandered into the dog exercise area	1
Events should not be held in a way that effects access to the Halswell Quarry Park dog park	1
Remove the water from Styx Mill dog park. It's yuk and it would be better to have a large dog area and a small dog area without stagnant water	
We do not use dog parks because our dogs do not enjoy sniffing the same few metres of grass where 10 other dogs are doing the same, and we do not want to stand around watching them	1
Conduct in and culture of dog parks	
I rarely use dog parks due to the health risks associated with them	1
Dog parks can be risky, don't take our dog, dogs out of control, aggressive dogs, etc	6
There should be an absolute limit of two dogs per owner when brought to dog parks - dogs exhibit pack-like and predatory behaviours when in established groups, heightening anxiety and aggression levels for other dogs in the park	1
There is a danger of squeezing lots of dogs into a dog park environment, as this often leads to conflict. I don't think I've ever seen a dog attack occur on the street, or in the red zone, beaches, etc., where dogs have ample space to stretch their legs and spread out, and be at their own pace. I've seen several at the Horseshoe Lake Dog Park, and at the Groynes, the latest only weeks ago, and resulting in bloody hand injuries for two people, on top of injury to the dogs, and this will only continue if you restrict space for dogs to be off lead	1
I understand that there are dog parks available for me to take my dog to, however many of these are small, and small dogs are taken into them by their owners even if there is a separate small dog area. Then there ends up being the issue when the small dog gets overwhelmed by the larger dogs, and the small dog owners complain. I have stopped taking my dog to dog parks for this reason. And let me be clear, my dog is not a bully or vicious, he's just large	1
Start patrolling dog parks. People have no recall and their dogs are a menace	1
Are there rules for dog park uses? My small dog has been attacked by large dogs twice at Victoria park. The owners were not nearby nor interested - both times	1
Dogs being dropped off and dog owner stays in their car	1
Pressure on dog parks / assumed increased use due to proposals	
The proposed changes will put more pressure on dog parks	1
This must be a joke by someone who does not own a dog. There is already limited space for dogs at dog parks. There are hardly any dog parks anyway. This will be way too much overcrowding	1
There are NOT enough official off leash areas!! Especially during lambing time, bird nesting time and in the summer when large parts of the beaches are off limits. The off-leash dog area at Horseshoe Lake often has dangerous dogs, it is not safe for puppies	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

There should be more areas where dogs can run free	1
I think CCC will need to create a lot more fully-fenced areas. They don't need to be huge. Perhaps a few in the red zones? Perhaps creating a medium size dog park between the small and the large parks in Bexley. My staffylab gets monstered in the open and told too big for small park	1
Other comments	
Areas near dog parks should be under effective control as dogs may not be able to go into the dog park eg anxious, injury, training, etc	1
Think the dog facilities in chch are great. Thank you!	1

General opposition to regulation, more or stronger rules

The following section contains comments that can be summarised as:

- general opposition to any increase in regulation, or to any regulation at all
- support for the status quo, including more enforcement of existing rules
- concerns about complexity
- opposition to blanket rules, preference for specific rules
- concerns about negative impacts on the wellbeing of dogs
- dogs as family members and contributors to our communities and wellbeing
- concerns about a perceived lack of off-leash and under effective control areas
- that leashing, rather than prohibiting, dogs near wildlife would be sufficient
- punishing good dog owners.

These comments were often general in nature, rather than opposition to a specific proposal. Some were in response to proposals, including leashing on pathways, and wildlife protection proposals (including those for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary, and other wetland and coastal protections). Some appear to be based on a misunderstanding of what was proposed (including new leashing rules – see the later section on proposed general rules).

General opposition to any increase in regulation, or to any regulation at all	
Too much regulation / too complicated	7
Over the top, responsible dog owners don't need more rules	7
Don't get carried away regulating everything - let common sense prevail, fewer rules, let people figure it out on their own	4
Common sense, dog owners know what to do and don't need rules or to be treated like fools	2
Tame the human element - the dogs are fine	1
Creating a lot of new rules that are not required for responsible owners. Does the Council not enforce the rules you already have?	2
I'm so sick of all these rules for dogs, stop making more rules	3
CCC is becoming anti dog, making it hard to own a dog, these proposals are anti dog	8
Clearly, these rules are put together by crazy cat people. Sickening	1
Dogs should be able to live in this country and be able to run free the same as cats. People on bikes and scooters are more dangerous. People need to learn to share public places and not keep restricting dogs to suit the minority	1
Restricting dogs causes more problems than it solves	1
I want to assert my right to exercise my dog on a daily basis in the only manner that I have available to me. It is a necessary requirement and part of my daily routine	1
Please do not make the bylaw more restrictive, do not ruin the enjoyment of 98% of the population, do not fix what isn't broken	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Just leave the bylaw alone. Completely unnecessary. Waste of resources. Making people angry. Focus on the real issues	8
I am strongly opposed to any additional regulation concerning dogs in Christchurch	1
Just how much control are you after	1
I do not support or respect the views of those who do not pay dog registration to make decisions for us dog owners. There have been too many "Karens" sticking their noses into our business while walking our (neighbours) dogs, even when they are on leash	1
Dog owners need to be involved in the final decision making	1
I'm not a dog owner, but where I walk 90% of people have dogs and I love it. I am shocked at what the CCC is proposing – it is meddling and driven by dog haters. The surveys have been manipulated and selective and are fake news	1
Please be sensible about rule changes. I understand there needs to be some control, but change just for change's sake or because of one or two unfortunate incidents is overkill	1
Pedantic, draconian, over the top, ridiculous, unnecessary	5
Your revised definition of effective control is rather draconian; I wonder whether you are applying the same rules to children? I've seen plenty of kids at playgrounds who would not meet the standards of prompt recall set for dogs and plenty of teenagers who are more dangerous than the average dog. Similarly, are you requiring all cyclists to be on a leash because they are speeding towards you at a dangerous speed around corners? Be sensible, please	1
What problems are you trying to solve with these changes? There are generally very few issues with dogs in public areas and in fact there are more issues with people than dogs	2
You shouldn't be curtailing the freedoms and liberties of dogs and dog owner simply because of a vocal minority who don't like dogs. I get that there are dangerous, but you do almost nothing about those small numbers of dangerous dogs	1
Dog regulations are too restrictive as they stand, the proposed bylaws have very little benefit or advantage, but will be a waste of taxpayers' money to implement	1
Dogs love being off-leash and many behave very well with no trouble. These proposed changes are an example of more regulation and restrictions that the Council seem intent on making in response to a small number of problems. I do not support such changes and increases on the burden of regulation the Council want to continue with	1
Comparisons with other places	
Look at how other places manage dogs (England, United Kingdom, Europe, Auckland, etc)	5
The review should make attempts to normalise dogs in public areas including cafes. As the temperatures in Christchurch much of the year prevent owners from taking their dogs with them due to the unnecessary restrictions on places they may enter. A normalised dog culture would be a far less frightened culture. Deal with bad behaviour by current regulation and law	1
In the UK dogs are allowed off leash almost everywhere without restrictions, and there are very, very few incidents. Dogs are accepted as part of the family, part of the community, and that they have needs for stimulation and exercise that need to be met by being off-leash, running around, playing, sniffing, being dogs. The good dog owners and good dogs are the ones that will suffer if these changes in rules go ahead because we will be further restricted on where we can walk with our dogs off-leash. Meanwhile, the irresponsible dog owners, will continue to ignore signs, break the rules and allow their dogs to be a nuisance	1
I thought Christchurch was trying to become more dog friendly (e.g. cafes allowing dogs). The proposed changes are going backwards and will make the city less dog friendly. Thriving European cities are allowing doges in more places, not less. Don't go backwards!	1
Kiwis love their dogs, and dogs are an essential part of life, and valued members of the family. Instead of imposing further short-sighted rules, look to Europe, where dogs are allowed pretty much anywhere, including shops, public transport, etc. The result is a population of well-socialised, friendly dogs who are a welcomed part of the community, and who help provide a family atmosphere wherever they go. Please confine yourselves to dealing with the issues we pay our rates for - power, water, rubbish, and not ideological social engineering projects	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Support for the status quo, including more enforcement of existing rules	
Status quo, need better enforcement of current rules	7
Mostly I would just like to see the legislation as it is, enforced. There are many requirements that people flout regularly now, making more stringent rules will make no difference to those people, it will just impose more, unnecessary restrictions on the majority of us who do follow the existing rules	1
The current bylaw is adequate. No reason to change. Too many rules, why add more?	1
Concerns about complexity or overreach	
Runs the risk of being too complicated	2
More likely that people won't follow the rules if they are seen as too overbearing / draconian / officious / ineffective	5
Dog regulations are too restrictive as they stand, the proposed bylaws have very little benefit or advantage, but will be a waste of taxpayers' money to implement	1
Opposition to blanket rules, preference for specific rules	
Blanket rules don't work	4
I would prefer to see rules specific to each area, not blanket rules	1
Older dogs need to walk at their own pace, not on a short leash (restricts their sniffing / exploration)	1
Blanket rules will disadvantage lots of people simply trying to walk their dogs	1
Sledgehammer to crack a nut. One size does not fit all situations. What might be ok in Brighton near the beach may not be ok in densely populated Riccarton. We choose to live in the southern area to enjoy the river walks, but this short leash is draconian	1
I walk mostly in the Heathcote area, it is local and friendly and dogs are generally well-behaved. Maybe if some areas have high cause for concern, more controls could be put on those individual areas and not a blanket rule for all those good folks too. I want to help keep people and dogs and birds safe, but I feel you are just pissing-off all the dog owners despite most of them being good responsible people	1
Concerns about negative impacts on the wellbeing of dogs	
More rules doesn't lead to more safety – young dogs especially need to burn energy, and learn how to behave (not always on a leash)	1
The proposals do not support good training, exercising and socialisation	1
These restrictions will impact on the health and well-being of dogs. Unleashed exercise is good for their mental health	2
Dogs are social creatures who require a lot of stimulation and exercise. Limiting opportunities for this will result in poor dog behaviour. Increase registration fees if you must, but please let us take our companions with us when we are out in nature	1
Please don't do this. We need different places for enrichment for our dogs	1
A lot of people rely on these places to walk their dog, more for their quality of life so they're not restricted to a lead. Please consider a dog's welfare. Sniffing, playing and meeting other dogs are key skills they need to learn to be safe and happy pets. Restricting them to a lead would create more of a stressor for them	1
With the influx of high-density housing in Christchurch, areas where you can exercise your dog both physically and mentally are becoming scarce. Please don't punish the 95% for the actions of a few	1
Opportunities for exercising dogs are being reduced, pushing people to dog parks and less natural freedom	7
Dogs as family members and contributors to our communities and wellbeing	
Dogs help people feel happy and live healthier lives, don't limit how we enjoy exercising with our dogs. Not all owners are bad	3
Don't take choices away from people walking their dog family members – dogs are such an important part of family life	6

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

There are thousands of dogs in Christchurch and many people consider them a valuable part of family life. As rate payers, you should be providing more opportunities, resources and facilities, not fewer	1
There are benefits of dog ownership to our communities – dogs make us feel less alone, they are good for your heart, they help with stress and anxiety, they help people cope in a crises, they encourage you to exercise, they make people more attractive, they make people more social, they make us caregivers, they make use happier, they have a positive impact on older people, they take care of us	1
This policy forgets the joy that dogs bring	1
These proposals will have a far-reaching effect on many families and their dogs' ability to run and play like a dog should	1
Dogs are part of the family and should be treated as such. Children destroy property willy-nilly yet are allowed to roam free with useless parents	1
Dogs are like family to some people and you're not asking kids to be kept under a bylaw	1
Concerns about a lack of off-leash and under effective control areas	
There needs to be more interesting places where people can take their dogs – not everyone loves dogs, but if dogs are just there and not attacking people, what's the problem?	1
Fewer and fewer areas where dogs can be walked off-lead – I have a pointer who needs lots of exercise. I often go walking for hours and never see another person, so what's the issue? Could we not alternate times and have dog days and non-dog days on some Port Hills tracks?	1
I think proposals to limit areas where responsible people can exercise their dogs safely should be approached with caution. If these restrictions are being brought in because the current leashing requirements are not being adhered to, then it is more appropriate to increase the monitoring and compliance action before you ban/prohibit dogs from these areas	1
The proposed changes are going to severely limit dog owners' options for walking and exercising their dog off a leash. I do not feel that dog owners should be further down the priority list than walkers or cyclists when it comes to using green spaces with walking tracks	1
New Zealand isn't very dog friendly generally, but it is good that there are dog parks and areas that dogs are allowed. Please don't continue to contract the number of places and spaces that people can take their dogs. Not everyone has access to a lifestyle block!	1
It seems like all the areas where dogs have freedom are being removed	1
Punishing good dog owners, bad owners will continue being bad	
Penalises / punishes responsible / good dog owners	16
Marginalising dog owners, regulating to lowest common denominator, assuming dogs are bad, few ruining it for many	18
Poor dog owners will not change because the rules change, they will continue not following the rules	10
More rules will create friction in the community	4
The majority of dog owners do the right thing / are responsible	3
The Council is making it too hard to own a dog, there are only a few off-lead dog areas as it is and you're reducing them even further (develop more dog off-lead areas)	1
This policy caters to anti dog people and punishes the majority of good owners	4
These proposals will all achieve nothing to curb the behaviour of antisocial dogs / owners. Every single proposal does nothing other than punish responsible dog owners	1
Needs to be more balanced and more flexible – considering both dog welfare and the needs of responsible owners	1
The vast majority of dogs that cause genuine harm are unlikely to even be registered and their owners don't care about rules. The Council already appears powerless to stop them. Dog owners are sympathetic to some of the changes, but some rules are going to be ignored (eg leash length) and if that defines the attitude of the Council then people will lose faith entirely	1
Making it more restrictive on responsible dog owners won't cover those who don't follow existing rules	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Problem dog owners aren't going to follow these proposed changes anyway. Why should the rest of the dog owning population be punished?	1
Target bad owners / aggressive dogs instead of making changes	
Just target dog owners who fail to keep their dogs under control or from causing harm	2
Shouldn't the money be directed at the small minority of dog owners that are causing the problems?	1
Responsible dog owners already control their animals effectively. CCC need to look at better enforcement of existing regulations on irresponsible dog owners. We should be creating more freedom for people to enjoy their outside time with their animal, not seeking to create more rules and bylaws to curtail that enjoyment	1

General support for the proposals, policy and / or bylaw

The following are comments from submitters that were generally supportive of the proposals or approach. Some were concerned about more regulation, some thought the proposals provided a good balance, and others were concerned about how the changes would be enforced.

All sounds very reasonable	1
The new proposals seem sensible, and most dog owners will respect them if there are adequate dog exercise opportunities in their area (especially if accessible to Lyttelton residents)	1
In general, this proposal is well-balanced, but is continuing a slow trend towards regulation by default. Christchurch is an outlier because of its permissive attitude towards dogs. The Council is relatively lenient when it comes to dog regulations and enforcement. This is a combination of public and private attitudes. We have an incredible network of commercial places that enthusiastically welcome dogs, this is to be celebrated and embraced. Let's not regulate by default	1
My small dog has been attacked seven times, causing physical and mental distress to the dog and myself. Pig dogs should be banned	1
I am in general agreeance with the proposed changes	1
The proposals tend toward prohibiting dogs from, or restricting them in, further areas, which is for worthy reasons. If they are going to be implemented, enough appropriate spaces where dogs can be off-leash need to be provided in convenient locations	1
I think the whole thing is really good. It's been well thought through. Takes into account wildlife and people	1
Ensuring a balance of spaces recognises the benefits to canine and human health and wellbeing. Looking after the family dog generally needs to coincide with people's exercise routines and recreational activities. Dogs benefit from being trained in unleashed areas	1
The bylaw needs to be very clearly worded with defined changes, red lines, and penalties	1
I support the changes. Dog owners are untrained, do not train their dogs, are inconsiderate (everyone should love my dog), too many dog owners don't pick up after their dogs and do not care about other footpath users, there needs to be better enforcement	1
As a dog owner I am generally in agreement	1
Not everyone likes dogs. Personally, if someone wants a dog, fine, but I don't want to be bothered by it, its barking or its waste	1
The proposal is good because it clarifies meaning throughout the area	1
Most seem sensible	1
I think a lot of the changes are positive and don't have any particular issues. I like that it will be easier to open dog parks	1
I support all other proposed changes as dogs need to be in control in spaces used by other people. I am not comfortable around dogs as I find them unpredictable, so I support these changes to the policy.	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I think the suggested changes are fair, and strike a good balance between providing fair rules for dog owners while also protecting native wildlife	1
The way the changes have been highlighted and explained is great - well done	1
I would prefer that people were only allowed their dogs off-lead in an allocated dog park. Too many people have their dogs off-lead in public places (e.g. Halswell Domain) and do not have them under voice control	1
These all look like good common sense changes and hopefully it will make it more enjoyable for everyone to enjoy these spaces and time with our furry friends	1
Re the other proposed changes they look generally good as far as the policy document and bylaw document can go. Hopefully the changes will bring about positive changes in the attitude of dog owners	1
I believe the proposed changes to the control and management of dogs in public spaces are needed and beneficial to all. No dog owner wants their animal to hurt or to injure another person or wildlife, and the proposed bylaw changes assist in providing and clearly communicating the required standards	1
Excited to see these proposed changes. Excited to have a sense that these changes will make dog ownership even better here in Ōtautahi Christchurch. It is already a dog-friendly city	1
I agree with them all	1
As a dog owner I support the planned policy	1
The changes I've seen all seem sound and reasonable for responsible dog owners (myself included)	1
Changes regarding recreational spaces and conservation areas are also good. Wildlife habitat should be prioritised, and unleashed dogs in heavily human populated spaces (like active sports fields and wharves etc) can be nuisances. There are always other places to walk a dog.	1
The whole proposal is great and as a dog owner I would love to see these changes as it makes everything safer for everyone, the dogs, people, our wildlife and land will all be protected for the better. Amazing job from you all! Thank you!	1
I feel limiting some areas are good. However, in that case they need to build more gated areas where dogs can run around and not disturb any other wildlife or people that are afraid of dogs. Cause dogs needed to run for exercise as they have so much energy	1
I support all these changes which will make shared spaces much more pleasant for all users	1
In principle I like the proposals	1
The amendments to the bylaw has done an excellent job in making it clear, particularly around waterways, beaches and walking areas that dogs need to be under control or that these are prohibited areas. Enforcement is another question and how many offices will be employed to implement this determine if these bylaws are effective	1
Strongly support the bylaw, however Council really needs to do similar with a cat control bylaw, noting many of the justifications above relate to wildlife, and cats likely have a greater impact in the urban areas of CCC on our native wildlife	1
This draft dog control policy is one of the more sensible reviews the CCC has undertaken in a long time	1
Unfortunately, the people who have the worst, most dangerous dogs, probably won't read the bylaws, so something else needs to address their behaviour. However, I do think it is worth changing the laws because of the number of responsible (or semi-responsible) owners who will abide by them, and to give the message as to what is acceptable dog and owner behaviour. Thank you for doing this, much appreciated	1
Think this is great. Myself and my children get a bit nervous when a dog is off-leash and near us	1
In general, I support these rules. My main concern is if / how enforcement will be implemented. I have a large huntaway and frequently walk him on tracks where dogs are specified as "on-leash". A substantial number of dog owners ignore the numerous signs and allow their dogs to run off-leash	1

In general, the proposals are good for the safety and enjoyment of people and protection of wildlife. However, dogs need natural spaces to explore that are not park lawns	1
I think the proposals are overall very good	1
I think this is all well and good. But I sincerely hope this will actually be enforced and not just words	1
I'm happy with laws surrounding dogs. I own a dog, walk him x2 daily, on a lead the entire time. I clean up after him. I get annoyed when other people just ignore their dog. If I offer to give them a bag, they get cross	1
All looks good and sensible	1
It's all very sensible and still gives a lot of freedom for dogs. I am a dog owner and fully support the changes	1
Just make the changes. Everybody has the right for safety away from uncontrolled dogs. My dog is on a leash all the time, unless in a fenced designated dog park	1
Please enforce these rules. It would be better for all involved	1
I don't think the changes are onerous for dog owners	1
Honestly, it's probably not firm enough. It's a great start!	1

Comments on proposed general rules

There are six general rules in the current bylaw, and proposals to add four more. The current rules include dogs prohibited from Council playgrounds, Council paddling pools, and Council skateparks (with a proposal to add pump tracks). The current leashed rules include dogs leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads (with a proposal to clarify other pedestrian areas and car parks); at all cemeteries and memorials; and at all boat ramps and slipways.

The proposed new leashed areas are:

- **Leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions**. This has generally been well-supported, but submitters have asked for clarification that it applies to the area immediately adjacent to a playing field, and not to the (sometimes very large) surrounding area. This is what was intended by the proposal. Some submitters opposed any dog access on sports fields due to the health and safety issues from owners not picking up after their dogs
- **Leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks**. This proposal received mixed responses
- **Leashing on community gardens**. Overall, this proposal was supported
- **Leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas and / or on roads**. See later section for more detail.

We also proposed some changes to the definition of "under effective control", which is the default in any area where leashing or prohibited rules otherwise apply. Overall, submitters were supportive of the proposed changes, but wanted stronger enforcement. This was also reflected in the sections on education and enforcement.

Not that this section includes specific comments about these proposals, while there were other, more general comments either supporting or opposing the approach overall, which are covered in other sections.

Leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions

Leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions	
Should not be leashed in the whole area, some sports fields areas are large, with plenty of space to exercise dogs away from games. Needs to be more specific, needs to be clarified, will there be set distances from active games?	10

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

The exercise opportunity for many dog walkers is when weekend sport is on	1
Support for leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions	5
Do not support leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions it deprives dogs and their owners of the freedom they deserve	2
I support dogs on leash in these areas, as a dog running freely while people are playing sport are not areas where dogs should have freedom to play or roam.	1
I'm neutral on the proposed sports field etc rules	1
Some parks have large borders, as in our local park. Our dogs play happily and do not affect the sports practices eg Spreydon Domain. Dog owners walk around the park and play there every day, and especially between 4-7pm. We have not complained that more and more sports has taken over the park in the late afternoon for practice, and you now severely limit the dogs enjoying their play. We all can share the park where there is extra land on the borders of the park. Please do not change this.	1
I would like to see dog owners not exercising dogs over sports fields (when not in use). There is often dog poo on the sports grounds which unsavoury when sports players come to use their designated sports areas	1
I object to the proposal to require dogs to be on leashes at a park if a sports practice or game is also occurring. In my opinion this unnecessarily restricts park access. Can a level of practicality and balance be added here so that all ratepayers benefit from the recreation areas we all fund? If Council does choose to limit dog owners in this way, this requirement should be limited to the area needed for the practice. We have plenty of room for everyone to enjoy our parks - e.g. Burnside Park, Hagley Park. Having attended countless cricket, tennis, tee ball and football games with my children over the past nine years, the only time a dog was an issue was when it was roaming, with no owner. This change would not have prevented that occurring. I would prefer common sense to be allowed to prevail, e.g. dog owners already exercise their dogs well clear of sports fixtures and organised sports practices. If this is introduced there needs to be a balance between sports practices, sports games and other users (e.g. dog owners), so dog owners also have an opportunity to use the parks. Again, this is not an area where I see there is a problem to be fixed.	1
I have an issue with dogs needing to be on leads at sports grounds, when games or practice occurs. Some parks are multi-field parks and there is plenty of space to ensure a dog can be off the leash and not causing concern to the sports occurring, such an example would be Burnside Park. I feel people not picking up their dog sh*t to be more a hazard for anybody playing sport. Would this mean if a sports activity was taking place at the northern end of Burnside Park you cannot be off the leash toward the Tennis Courts or Southern End? Why not consider that dogs need to be on a leash within proximity to active sports being undertaken, so this better aligns to playground requirements too	1
Leashed on sports fields makes sense, however during practice seems harsh. Would it not make sense to have this has you must stay so many metres away from the field, as a park can be pretty big and just have a few kids kicking a ball in one corner meaning you have to be leashed under this rule	1
As I have a close connection with Avonhead Park, my knowledge of it makes me think that to limit this park is overkill. What would be wrong with banning unleashed dogs at certain times, eg when the kids are playing soccer etc	1

A similar question was asked in the July 2024 Dog Control Survey to get some early feedback on key topics: We asked if dogs should be leashed on sports fields during games and practice sessions
Of the 6,091 who answered this question 80% said yes, 15% said no and 5% were not sure

Leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks

This proposal received mixed responses

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks	
Do not support leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks - it deprives dogs and their owners of the freedom they deserve	1
Support for leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks	2
Disagree / do not support	2
I support dogs on leash in these areas, as a dog running freely while people are fishing, boating, etc, are areas where I can imagine conflict, and not areas where dogs should have freedom to play or roam	1

A similar question was asked in the July 2024 Dog Control Survey to get some early feedback on key topics: We asked if dogs be leashed on jetties and wharves. The proposal received the following responses. **Of the 6,222 who answered this question 72% said yes, 19% said no and 9% were not sure.**

Leashing on community gardens

Overall, this proposal received some support

Leashing on community gardens	
Support in all community gardens	2
Disagree / do not support	2
I support dogs on leash in these areas, as a dog running freely while people are tending to their vegetables are areas where I can imagine conflict, and not areas where dogs should have freedom to play or roam	1
Dogs shouldn't be in community gardens that grow edible produce, leash or not, because their poos have too much risk of spreading disease	1

A similar question was asked in the July 2024 Dog Control Survey to get some early feedback on key topics: We asked if dogs be leashed at community gardens. **Of the 6,089 who answered this question 72% said yes, 17% said no and 11% were not sure.**

Leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks

We asked a key question on the proposal to **require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed**, and another key question on whether dogs should be **required to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads**. Results on these questions have been included in Attachment A to the report; however, some submitters added further general comments, sometimes about both proposals together, and these are included in the tables below.

Overall responses on the leashing on pathways proposal were mixed. Those opposed fell into several groups:

- opposed that short leash was specified
- misunderstanding / assuming any leashed area required a short leash or that longer leashes / extendable / retractable leashes were being prohibited
- misunderstanding / assuming that leashes were being proposed for all greenspace areas
- concerned that it would represent an impractical and significant change to how dogs and their owners use and enjoy greenspace
- concerns about dog wellbeing
- concerns about enforcement

- concerns about other uses of footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks (particularly cyclists)
- a misunderstanding of the current rules, for example, assuming this proposal would significantly change dogs access to the Port Hills, when leashing is currently required on almost all Port Hills reserves.

To clarify:

- short leash is defined in the bylaw as a leash of no longer than 1.5m, or an extendable leash locked at 1.5m
- a short leash was specified for pathways as they are narrow, and good control is required
- a short leash is not required in all leashed areas
- the proposal applies to pathways in greenspace areas, not to greenspace areas as a whole
- greenspace and a modified definition of "park" are used in the bylaw because the rule is intended to apply not just to parks and reserves, but to stormwater assets that function like parks (such as Te Kuru Wetlands and other drainage basins or engineered wetlands)
- the proposal is to require that dogs are controlled on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas, and in pedestrian and car parking areas, because:
    - there has been an increase in shared paths since the bylaw was last reviewed – some are on or near roads, some are through parks, some have been designed as shared paths, and some have evolved into shared paths (shared paths means paths used by pedestrians, cyclists and users of wheeled devices (including mobility devices, like wheelchairs, and recreational devices, like e-scooters))
    - there has been a culture-shift with more footpaths being used for wheeled devices (both alongside roads and through greenspace areas)
    - modes of transport have changed, with more scooters, e-scooters, cyclists, e-bikes, etc, since the bylaw was last reviewed
    - there has been an increase in pedestrian areas that do not fit descriptions like footpath or road, such as laneways
    - new paths and tracks are being developed as new greenspace areas open to the public, including significant green stormwater assets, like Te Kuru, and parks, like the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor
    - new parks and drainage reserves in subdivision are being developed
    - unless new areas are covered by a general rule, they default to under effective control, which has been an issue for areas where wildlife protections are needed, and new tracks that have become very popular (like Te Kuru Wetlands)
    - having to specify each path would be onerous (the Dog Control Act requires a formal amendment to a dog control policy to add a new area – there is no quick administrative way of doing this, meaning changes tend to be made infrequently, or as part of a major review, like this one), so having a general rule provides future-proofing
    - there around 5,000 more dogs in the district than when the bylaw was last reviewed, which may have altered public views on dogs in public places
    - most Port Hills parks and reserves (if they were not already leashed) were added as leashed areas in the 2015/16 review – reasons include: busy, popular tracks; to protect grazing animals; to protect wildlife, habitats or conservation values; and to protect health and safety (including hill or cliff-side tracks, with a fall-risk)
    - leashing can help to keep dogs safe in areas where pest control activities are underway.

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Currently, the rules for leashing vary, depending on the park or reserve. It is not always clear which rules apply to any given footpath, shared path or formed track. The proposal was to make this simpler and clearer by applying a general rule to these different types of pathways. Many are already leashed. Note that the general rule does not override specific rules, for example, if an area is prohibited to dogs, this proposed rule will not allow dogs in the prohibited area on paths.

Areas around the pathways where dogs are currently allowed to be under effective control would remain under effective control, meaning dogs be exercised off-leash.

It is also useful to note that this is the current approach in Hagley Park, where dogs must be leashed on paths and can be exercised under effective control on the grass, and this has been working well.

Supportive of proposal(s)	
Leashing rules make things clearer eg all paths	1
Support for leashing on all shared paths, footpaths, pedestrian areas near or alongside roads and in car parking areas	3
I believe dogs on shared paths should be leashed to be within one metre of their owner. Some dog owners have extendable leashes that go as far as ten metres. These create barrier across an entire path. This completely impedes cyclists, creating a safety hazard. This is common, and less safe than just leaving the dog unleashed. Therefore, I think it is important to define what is meant by a short leash	1
I would like signs to specifically state the leash length permitted, where such leashes are required. Many dog owners have their dogs on long retractable leashes which are useless when on shared pathways, etc	1
I believe dogs should be on leads in public places and in green zones. It also needs to be monitored there's so many dogs off lead and nothing gets done about it	1
Make it compulsory for dogs to be leashed everywhere. I don't appreciate being run up to and sniffed at by even the most friendly dog!	1
Remove all "effective control" signage. This does not work. Replace with "Dogs must be on-leash"	1
Dogs on leads. Who is it hurting, the owners' rights? Let's keep the dog safe, then the humans will also benefit	1
It's a positive change to have a specification of 'short leash' in the above changes	1
Our dog gets nervous with unleashed dogs when we go on walks on footpath in our area	1
Ban leashes longer than 2m. An owner certainly has no control of a dog beyond that	1
Leash type	
More of a problem would be the inertia reels/leashes that people use, that are a tripping hazard, and dogs can lunge at other dogs and people	1
My main problem with the changes is the requirement for a 1.5m lead, this is not a healthy idea for dogs as it restricts their natural instinct to sniff. Longlines should be allowed as singing is beneficial to dogs and cannot be done comfortably on a short line	1
General opposition	
Don't agree with any of the ones that enforce dogs to be leashed, wording should be effective control	1
I have an athletic dog, non-aggressive, and we are respectful to walkers, bikers etc - the impact on us having to leash our dog on all tracks is devastating. I truly hope that common sense prevails	1
Assumed short leash everywhere / wanting no leashes on paths	
A short lead only rule everywhere would not work for Christchurch, confining dogs to dog parks and allowing no access to local parks	1
Keep local parks available for off-leash dogs	1
Need to maintain off-leash areas for responsible dog exercise	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I don't believe it's fair and reasonable to expect dogs to be permanently leashed unless in a dog park, which is effectively what you are trying to bring in. This is so cruel to dogs. They will never get to roam free again	1
Dogs like to run around and socialise, and most dog owners are self-policing. They let them off and then attach them when leaving the park. They are sometimes the only contact single or elderly people have on a morning walk and lighten up a person's day with such short interaction	1
Under control dogs should be allowed to run free in open areas of all parks e.g. Hagley Park, Abberley Park and other public parks. They should not be limited to "Dog Parks" which are few and not easily accessible	1
Dogs need areas to run off leash and lots of dogs do not like to exercise near other dogs so putting them in a big dog park will cause aggression and fighting. There needs to be many more places available for dogs to run free	1
I don't like the idea that all dogs need to be on leash for most of the time. Our dog is extremely well behaved, interacts well with people and other dogs. We have him under effective control, so he's no trouble to anyone. Why prohibit people like us due to not policing / enforcing bad dog owners effectively	1
There are a number of very suitable parks - Avonhead, Edgar MacIntosh, that are more than pleasant and large enough for all to enjoy with a dog under effective control off-leash	1
Concerned about practicalities	
Putting a leash on to cross a path is just ridiculous	1
Dogs are allowed unleashed in grass areas, but need to be leashed on pathways, most have a combination of both, absolutely ridiculous	1
If my dog is off the lead does she have to walk beside the path? Can I walk on the path if she walks beside the path? We walk our dog in a local reserve and there are trees on either side of the path with no grass verge. Does this mean that the Council will need to remove the trees that we have spent so many years nurturing and growing?	1
My only issues with the "footpaths" only areas are that parks are full of grass with pathways running alongside and through them - so it would be a moot point having to leash your dogs on the paths only as dogs won't distinguish between these spaces	1
Dog welfare / short leash concerns	
The leash length needs to be reconsidered to balance safety and welfare	1
Do not curtail the well-being of good dogs (leashing on paths, etc)	3
Short leash should be seriously reconsidered (eg low traffic paths). It will seriously curtail the enjoyment for the dog. If leashing is required, it should include retractable leashes	1
Short leash only is heavy handed – retractable leashes should be able to be used. In busy areas, a different definition for leashed should be used.	1
Short leash on paths limits freedom for dogs too much, will result in unsocialised dogs and people breaking the rules even more	1
What's the issue with extendable leashes? Why are they not allowed?	1
Dogs need to be able to roam and sniff - most of us have our dogs trained and under control	1
I feel at any park a long leash is no problem as it's easy to shorten if needed	1
Linked to the Public Statement from the Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand, which is opposed to blanket leashing laws and concerned about dog welfare, arguing that 3m leads and long line are more appropriate than a short leash. It cautions against "excessive restrictions, such as stricter leash laws, [which] can inadvertently exacerbate behavioural problems by limiting dogs' opportunities for exercise and mental stimulation." It recommends "creating more dog-friendly spaces, such as designated off-leash areas"	1
Clarification needed	
Lots of confusion about interpretation of terms like pathway, track, etc – people all seem to have different understandings, needs to be clarified	2

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I disagree with formed tracks – no definition, open to interpretation. It is also impractical when crossing tracks grassed areas	1
Other path users	
Cyclists are a concern on shared paths, not dogs	5
Elderly people have dogs who are their family members and companions – don't take away their exercise places – make paths safer by slowing cyclists	1
Stronger restrictions than leashing on pathways	
One rule saying dogs leashed at all times, except in designated exercise areas would by much simpler (too many dogs not under effective control / not able to be well-controlled)	1
1.5m leash in any public space	1
Too restrictive	
Lots of people exercise and socialise with their dogs – requiring leashes on paths will limit this and get everyone tangled up when people and their dogs stop to say hello	1
Dogs should be able to be under effective control in all parks	1
I use parks and paths all over Christchurch. Please stop penalising dog owners	1
If we are to be to regulated with dog walking, it is going to lead to frustration and lots of law breaking	1
Dogs need to be off the lead to get enough exercise & also just to sniff around. Most dogs are well behaved & don't need to be on the lead the whole time	1
I appreciate you are trying to make blanket rules so easier to follow, but making short lead only in non-vehicle traffic areas is impractical and will just be ignored. Exercise for a dog is not just walking, they need to look around, sniff, eat bits of grass, etc. A short lead walk is like us doing the supermarket shopping - its exercise but not much fun! lol	1
We like exercise as much as the dogs, so please allow us to do this together!	1
Having recall ability with your dog should be allowed instead of lead, no recall, then yes, lead should be required. Not all owners are irresponsible	1
I hope that you avoid blanket rules that would result in restriction of dog owner experience without minimal change in outcome for the public - most specifically, please take into account centrality/how frequently used the paths actually are. There are a huge number of dog owners in Christchurch who love the outdoors and love being able to take their dog with them, and there are already many areas we just simply don't access already because of dog rules that make it not worth going	1
Supportive because of safety concerns from unleashed dogs	
In the city centre and Stanmore Road it can be unsafe as people ride bikes with their dog running beside them (unleashed) – this create a safety issue for pedestrians and people walking their leashed dogs	1
Please do something about the large number of dogs that roam everywhere off leash. One day a child is going to get killed, or an elderly person seriously injured, or a serious car crash will occur. This could be avoided by having a blanket rule that all dogs must be leashed. Not everyone likes or is comfortable around dogs and it is becoming increasingly difficult to venture outside with having to face off-leash dogs. It's also not fair on responsible dog owners who keep their dogs leashed	1
As an owner of a reactive dog who is (almost) always on the leash, it's very frustrating when I have my dog on a leash and I yell "reactive dog" and other dog owners continue to allow their dog to run over to us, and there is no control	1
Any regulation to make our green spaces safer for wildlife and people is great! I personally know of 3 elderly people that are too scared to walk to the shops due to the number of dogs running around off the lead. When elderly and frail they are simply too scared that one will jump up to them causing them to fall over and break a hip. How sad is that?	1
Footpaths, cycleways, green spaces should be for everyone to enjoy, not just dog owners. Congratulations to the CCC to upgrade the regulations for everyone to be able to enjoy our outdoor environment again People and wildlife will be so much safer	1
Other comments	

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

For consistency with Parks and Reserves Bylaw, the rule should be on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks and reserves. Also need to clarify if it includes markets (section 6.2)	1
Will a definition of short leash be included in the bylaw. The policy should have definitions too	1
Dogs on shared paths and pedestrian areas pose a risk so should be leashed. Please provide evidence for leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks – I have seen no issues with safety or wildlife	2
Will there be any exceptions for people doing sports with their dogs, for example, Bikejöring, which requires a slightly longer lead. Same with Canicross. Has the Council consulted with their organisations about how the sports can continue?	1
It feels like the ability to give your dog a good daily run is being reduced to a very few places, especially if shortening the lead on all footpaths at all times. You may need to consider more fenced parks (as amazing as the Victoria Park dog park) to make up for the loss of freedom.	1
I understand the need to protect the wetlands, wildlife areas and agree with these proposals, but question the need for the greenspace / pathway rule change. Is there a problem to be fixed?	1
I really feel the focus on leashing on parks and footpaths is not the fix. We have a large huntaway/Lab cross who is well-trained and obedient, but he walks much better off the leash. You really don't see many dogs out of control when they are with their owners.	1
Just please actually consider those who enjoy letting their well-behaved dogs have 30 minutes of freedom	1
The changes as a whole unduly restrict dogs to grassed areas which are also heavily used by children and families. Rather than taking a blanket approach to formed tracks and stormwater basins, the policy should take a nuanced view within each community area to ensure families with dogs still have some options to take their dogs to natural areas that are not a grassed park (particularly dog parks which are often unsafe due to poorly controlled and unsociable dogs)	1
I also want to state that most dog attacks happen when a dog feels threatened by another dog and is restricted on a lead. I have seen this many times - so the good owner gets an injured dog. A well socialised dog will always be more relaxed off-lead	1
My small dogs could not harm anyone or catch any wildlife. These policies seem relevant to large dogs. I run on paths with my dogs in green areas.	1

Similar questions were asked in the July 2024 Dog Control Survey to get some early feedback on key topics:

- We asked if people thought dogs should be leashed on shared paths
  Of the 6,177 who answered this question **76% said yes**, 20% said no and 4% were not sure
- We asked if people thought dogs should be leashed on footpaths in reserves and parks
  Of the 6,208 who answered this question **57% said yes**, 38% said no and 5% were not sure
- We asked if people thought dogs should be leashed on formed tracks
  Of the 6,238 who answered this question 44% said yes, **49% said no** and 7% were not sure
- We asked if people thought a short leash should be required for dogs on roads, footpaths (roadside and in parks), on shared paths, and on formed tracks
  Of the 6,166 who answered this question **51% said yes**, 41% said no and 8% weren't sure

Some further analysis is provided in the attachment summarising responses to the six key questions (Attachment A). This concludes that objections to the leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas were not as strong as the numbers may have initially suggested, once some further analysis is done.

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Definition of under effective control

We proposed making changes to the definition of under effective control. Under effective control is the default requirement in all public places where leashing or prohibited rules do not otherwise apply. Here is the current definition and the proposed changes:

Current definition (note: this was in the definition section, and was used in the clause)	Proposed replacement (the proposed change moved it from the definition section and created a new clause)
(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must keep their dog under effective control in all public places and at all times From the definition section, clause 2: under effective control means the owner or person in charge of a dog is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, and that the dog is responsive to commands and is not creating a nuisance. *Explanatory note: Having your dog under effective control means you can see it or are aware of what it is doing, and are close enough to prevent issues or quickly bring it to heel.*	(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must keep their dog under effective control in all public places and at all times. (2) In order to comply with clause 5(1), the owner or person in charge of the dog must: i. actively pay attention to the dog and what it is doing; ii. be close enough to the dog to quickly respond to any issues; iii. ensure the dog remains responsive to commands, with prompt recall; and iv. ensure the dog does not create a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife. (3) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place must keep their dog leashed if they cannot meet the requirements for under effective control, even if the area does not require dogs to be leashed.

Change to definition of under effective control	
Support the change to the definition of under effective control –	10
Sensible and practical, too many dog owners not paying attention / on their phones	3
Support the change to the definition, with strict enforcement – too many owners would say they have good control because they can recall their dog most of the time, so allow them to run free, only calling them back after they have made a nuisance and when they often don't respond. Have had constant harassment from off-leash dogs when walking my leashed dog. Owners not paying enough attention and don't know where their dog is or what it is doing, and aren't close enough, or dogs that won't respond quickly to commands	3
Support the change to the definition of under effective control – so distressing to have your dogs harassed by unleashed dogs with owners not taking responsibility	2
The proposed definition seems robust – this is the greatest grey area and the proposal is an improvement	1
Should be changed from under effective control to under good control	1
Dogs are animals and prone to unpredictability, despite training. Under effective control is not a reality – the only effective control is on a leash. Dogs should be leashed at all times in public places, except fenced exercise areas	1
Dogs should be leashed for everyone's benefit in public places	1
Very concerned about dogs not being under effective control too often, my dogs have been attacked multiple times, especially aggressive breeds	1
Sick of owners saying they didn't know their dog would attack – no control	1
Do not support the change to the definition of under effective control – dogs are not robots	2
The Council should move away from under effective control as people interpret it differently	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

The definition should include the dog be within line of sight of person responsible – they must be able to see the dog at all times. Change "actively pay attention to" to "be able to see where the dog is and what it is doing at all times"	1
Don't think the wording is quite right – concerned about the use of "intimidating" as my big dog can be intimidating to some people just because she's big	1
A lot of people are slack about paying active attention – so dogs are left to intrude on the enjoyment of others. Stricter enforcement is needed	1
I think the term "under effective control" is too vague and needs to be more clear to on-lead only or off lead allowed	1
I like the changes to the definition of effective control. The ability to report, and therefore educate, owners who are not able to maintain effective control would also be appreciated.	1
Should eliminate the term 'under effective control' as it's difficult to enforce and not well defined. Not many domestic dogs in my experience are under effective control when off leash	1
I agree with changes to make sure the owner pays more attention to what their dog is doing	1
The changes to effective control are good, make it a more meaningful statement. Though I don't imagine it will change people who already don't effectively control their dogs	1
Encourage people to have their dogs under control either on a lead or by command	1
I completely agree with everything: people should have to demonstrate responsibility before being allowed to have off-leash dogs, especially more than one	1
Please tighten up what effective control means	1
I think the changes to the definition of under effective control are good. Now to get people to actually read the definition, haha!	1
Re policy 3.1.1 (in 2 places) and in policy 6.2.2 submit that word "should" be replaced with "must" in sentences "it should be leashed in public places, whether a leash is required or not". The word "should" I think would be unenforceable and open to any interpretation and owner may assert	1

A similar question was asked in the July 2024 Dog Control Survey to get some early feedback on key topics: We asked if we should change the definition of 'under effective control' to make it easier to understand. Of the 6,182 who answered this question, **53% said yes**, 38% said no and 9% were not sure.

Comments on proposed specific changes / areas

Although we asked key questions on the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor / former red zone and Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary, submitters added extra comments in the "other" section, which are reflected here. This section also contains submitter comments on:

- Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor / former red zone
- Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary
- Southshore Spit (land and shore)
- Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes and Ferrymead Regional Park
- South New Brighton Park
- Wetlands and stormwater areas
- Styx Mill Conservation Reserve
- Roto Kohatu
- The Groynes
- Central City: Rauroa Park, Latimer Square and Avon Loop
- Banks Peninsula
- Restrictions for cultural reasons

- Lyttelton Recreation Ground
- Coastal Cliff Walkway, Diamond Harbour

Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor / former red zone

The Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor / former red zone has no specific dog control measures in place, meaning dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control, except on roads and footpaths, where the general leashing requirement applies. When the policy and bylaw were last reviewed in 2016, the area did not exist in its current form / was not accessible to the public. The Council began managing the area in 2020, and full ownership was transferred in August 2023.

Opposed	
I object to / oppose the leashing requirement proposal	2
The main issue I have is with prohibiting dogs in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, many parts of this area are ideal for dogs off leash and prohibiting dogs will not help wildlife when there are many other animals that threaten birds etc	1
Such a great area to walk dogs off leash. Everyone is so friendly and the dogs are happy as they have space to play and run. Should stay off leash under effective control	1
The proposal states that dogs can be unleashed on the 200 hectares of mowed grass in the red zone, but CCC do not mow the red zone this has always been done by volunteers. I strongly believe that all of the residential red zone should be unleashed areas for dog walking. When there was housing there, there was no protection provided for "wildlife" so nothing should change	1
Proposed bylaw changes are sweeping, poorly constructed and without detail; for example "walkways" may be construed to include every abandoned road, overgrown footpath and track in the 605 hectares of "Red Zone". How would the Council police such nonsense?	1
Generally supportive	
I agree with prohibiting dogs to protect wildlife in key areas in Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor	2
Concerns about unleashed or uncontrolled dogs	
The red zone has lots of wandering dogs so many people stay away, and the Avon's toxic, so there are few waterways for dogs to play in when it's hot	1
We regularly walk through the Red Zone alongside the Avon and always see unleashed dogs chasing & bothering the wildlife. One family of paradise shelducks had 14 ducklings, two weeks later, they were all gone. Whilst we never saw dogs take a duckling, we did see dogs chasing the adults, even on the water.	1
Comments on specific red zone areas	
Please don't take away the **Horseshoe Lake red zone area**. This is used by many dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash. You could fence off the wildlife area so dogs can still roam, but not getting to the water and areas where the birds are	1
Brooker Ave red zone – we walk here with our small dog on a leash. We like to see the eels and small fish in the river and watching birds. It's good for our mental health too	1
I will continue to exercise my dog under effective control is this area (**Kerrs Reach, Avebury House / Richmond Community Garden** and surrounds along the riverbank tracks). The grassed areas are too hard to run through and I will be sticking to the tracks. I have been seriously assaulted when running in this area (prior to getting a dog) and I will not have her being seriously restricted	1
We have great pleasure in walking along the **city part of the red zone** with our dog off the leash and would like this city area to be exempt. We only see geese in summer and the odd mallard duck. This area is a joy for various dog owners and dogs alike	1
Do not put any leashing restrictions on the **Avon Loop or the red zone from Avon through to Brighton**	
Proposal not clear	
Proposal not clear, eg abandoned roads, overgrown footpaths	2

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Unclear what is meant by mown grass	1
Change mown grass to just grass	1
The clarity about what is being proposed is not high and can easily be misinterpreted	1

Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary

The current approach is to prohibit dogs or require leashing on land around the estuary, but the proposed change would prohibit dogs on the shoreline, where birds nest, and in tidal areas, where birds feed (effectively prohibiting dogs in the whole of the estuary). The proposed prohibited area includes everything from the land boundaries inwards, from Southshore to Shag Rock. This is an important area for wildlife and a site of ecological significance. The estuary is part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (a global network of habitats for migratory waterbirds, one of nine major migratory flyways around the globe). The estuary is one of four flyway sites in New Zealand. This would make the estuary similar to Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, where dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. It would make it similar to other coastal estuarine or mudflat, saltmarsh and salt meadow habitats, including Takamatua foreshore and mudflats; Le Bon's Bay foreshore, estuary, spit and rivermouth; Okain's Bay estuary and mudflats; two sections of Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats; Governor's Bay mudflats; and Teddington mudflats. Other new mudflat and foreshore areas are also being proposed as prohibited to protect wildlife.

When asked as one of the six key questions, submitters made the following responses:

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?	1,042 submitters **70%**	265 submitters **18%**	185 submitters **12%**

Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary	
We support dogs being completed excluded from the estuary mudflats to protect wildlife and dogs being leashed on surrounding footpaths around the estuary edge and at Southshore estuary edge	1
I agree with prohibited dogs to protect wildlife in key areas in Te Ihutai	3
One alternative, if you really must prohibit dogs from estuaries, is to designate certain walking tracks where dogs can be off leash and where bikes are prohibited	1
I live on beside the boat ramp and jetty at the western end of Beachville Road. While I do not have a dog, I do see the use of this area by dogs, people and birds. The mud flat is used by Variable Oyster Catchers and Royal Hornbills; Redbeaked and Blackbacked Gulls, along with Sacred Kingfishers, perch on the jetty. The wading birds and kingfishers tend to clear out when there are people on the mud. I do not think the dogs make any difference (for example, I have not seen dogs chase the wading birds, which I would expect if the birds were still there). Some dogs are brought to the beach to swim. I do not think there are many other places these dogs can swim safely. So I would suggest that dogs be allowed in this fairly small area which is confined by the main channel (ie from the boat ramp to the junction with Main Road).	1
Our dog loves a swim at the Redcliffs beaches at either end of Beachville rRoad and it's unclear if this would be included, banning from the rest of the estuary is reasonable.	1

Southshore Spit (land and shore)

The proposal split Southshore Spit across two entries: Southshore Spit Reserve (land), with the estuary and shoreline covered in the entry for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary. The estuary entry

notes that: “At the estuary-mouth, the prohibited area reaches from the corner by Shag Rock out to the north-eastern side of Southshore Spit Reserve. The beach and foreshore area around Southshore Spit Reserve are included in the prohibited area.”

Southshore Spit	
Southshore Spit on both estuary and sea sides is a feeding, nesting area for seas birds but they are constantly chased and at times attacked by off leash dogs. Leashing of all dogs should be compulsory in delicate ecological areas such as these	1
As an example, South Brighton Domain and Southshore Spit has restrictions in place that seem to work well, ie dogs under effective control and avoid wetland areas as shown in maps. More restrictions seem unnecessary and are likely to promote arguments between members of the public that spoils the walk for everyone involved	1

Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes and Ferrymead Regional Park

The proposal aligned the entry for Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes with the new entry for Ferrymead Regional Park. The Regional Park contains low-lying saltmarsh and wetland areas with wildlife values similar to other areas adjacent to Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary.

Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes	
Strongly support – this is a hot spot for off-leash dogs disrupting wildlife, especially native birds and occasionally rare birds like to kotuku	1

Ferrymead Regional Park	
The path from the Heritage Park to the Freeway is a popular location for dogs and birds alike. There are few fewer native bird species there now that the council have cut down the majority of the trees, and cut the shelter / lower branches off those that remain, but dogs shouldn't be punished for the council's poor management of the area. They weren't disturbing the birds along this pathway in the past, and aren't the reason for the sharp reduction in bird species in that area - the sheltering tree removal caused the destruction of grey warbler, bellbird, fantail, plover, kingfisher, and many other native species' habitat in this area now that it's very windy and cold throughout without the shelter.	1
We walk at the Heathcote estuary most days and we are often the only people there - or there are only other dog walkers there. We rarely see any of these birds that you are supposedly protecting and the dogs are not at all interested in birds anyway. It is also unclear from reading the changes whether the part which currently offleash or the part around the lakes near the sports fields at Ferrymead will be affected by this prohibition. The names used in the document are not on Google maps so I can't actually tell where the prohibition will apply. Use common sense and leave those of us who care for our dogs responsibily to exercise them in a safe and convenient place.	1

The area referred to above in Ferrymead Regional Park. The proposal is to prohibit dogs, but allow them leashed on pathways. The trees were removed as part of the approved reserve management plan. The declining pine trees have been replaced by 12,000 natives, with 5,000 more due to be planted this coming season. This is part of a significant habitat restoration project.

South New Brighton Park

We proposed a new restriction for South New Brighton Park: Dogs are prohibited in the southern wetland area (Jellicoe Wetland) to protect wildlife, but are otherwise allowed under effective control.

South New Brighton Park	

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

South Brighton Estuary walk should be kept dog friendly.	1

Wetlands and stormwater areas generally, and Te Kuru Wetlands

We proposed regulating dogs in stormwater basins, such as Te Kuru Wetland, by prohibiting them in some areas to protect wildlife (wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs to be off leash and under effective control in mowed grass areas (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule).

When asked as one of the six key questions, submitters made the following responses:

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?	907 submitters **61%**	374 submitters **25%**	195 submitters **13%**

Note that specific proposals were made for the following wetland areas:

Dog control status	Area
Prohibited	Blakes Road Wetland Dickeys Reserve Creamery Ponds
Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas	Curletts Drainage Reserve Clare Park Quaifes Road Springlands Quaifes Drainage Reserve Sparks Wetland Te Kuru Wetland Worsley Valley 1 Drainage Reserve (including Cashmere dam / wetlands)

Other coastal wetland areas (or areas with some coastal wetland features) with proposed changes included:

- **New areas in Eastern Christchurch**: Brooklands red zone; Lower Styx Conservation Reserve; Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary; Bridge Reserve; South New Brighton Park; and Ferrymead Regional Park (excluding the sports fields)
- **Updating existing entries for consistency and clarification**: Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and Seafield Park entries; Te Rauakaaka Nature Reserve; Styx Rivermouth Conservation Reserve; Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes; Southshore Spit Reserve; and Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge

The following additional comments were made in the "other" section.

Wetlands and stormwater areas	
Keep dogs leashed in and around wetland areas	1
Please don't ruin all the nice off leash areas in Christchurch. The wetlands was such a cool development and this ruling will absolutely ruin it. The formed paths around there are such nice areas to walk a dog off lead under effective control	1
Disagree, the proposal is impractical and open to interpretation. The basins are ephemeral and only provide limited natural habitats for wildlife, unlike the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor or Te Ihutai Estuary	1
Walked our three dogs in a lovely stormwater area, lots of other people walking their dogs, they were all under effective control. Do not take away these options, with will impact on the dogs' health and mental health of the humans that share their lives.	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Te Kuru Wetlands	
Support	2
I regularly take my dog to Te Kuru Wetlands and she runs her heart out. I don't go there during nesting season. She is very bright, but there's no way I could let her run free on the grass and keep her there. Leashing on paths, running free on mown grass, but not anywhere else is totally unworkable. Can this be adjusted to only certain times of the year?	1
No evidence for the need to change dog access in Te Kuru. I've never come across an issue where anyone's safety or my dog has adversely interacted with wildlife	1
Te Kuru Wetlands urgently needs bins for disposing dog poo - the place is covered in poo!	1
I disagree with the proposal, as it overlooks the fact that dogs under effective control generally do not pose a significant threat to wildlife, particularly birds, in these areas. Responsible dog owners ensure their pets are well-managed, and restricting dogs from more areas in places like Te Kuru Wetland feels overly restrictive, especially when there are clear benefits to allowing dogs to roam in open spaces. Limiting where we can take our dogs off leash not only limits personal freedoms but also impacts the quality of life for dog owners, making it feel less welcoming for residents in Christchurch like myself. It's important to find a balance that protects wildlife while still allowing for responsible dog use in a city that values outdoor spaces. Dog parks aren't always the best place, and I use Te Kuru as my walking spot twice a day - I've never had any issues	1
The rules need to be made clear immediately, before it becomes so significant that the management conditions dog owners currently consider to be the "norm" will have become so entrenched that any change in enforcement will become impossible, and the essence of Te Kuru as places for a diverse range of users in outstanding and unique array of landscape types will be seriously compromised	1
The only issue I see, (I live alongside the Halswell stormwater basin) is the owners that do nothing to stop their dogs running in and around the wet areas. The problem is you are looking to penalise the good owners which are the huge majority, whose dogs walk along the tracks only. If you go in the direction of more restrictions, you lose the goodwill of the good owners and still do nothing to remedy the irresponsible owners	1

Also see comments below in the general comments on wildlife protection section.

Styx Mill Conservation Reserve

The current rule in Styx Mill Conservation Reserve is dogs leashed on pathways and prohibited elsewhere (except in the dog park). We have proposed prohibiting dogs from the conservation reserve, except for:

- the perimeter track (outside of the predator-proof fence), where the general leashed rule would apply;
- on the track on the northern / residential side of the Styx River, where the general leashed rule would apply; and
- in the area to the west of the Hussey Road access road to the dog park, where dogs must be leashed.

There is no change to the fenced dog park, where dogs can be exercised off-leash, provided they are under effective control.

Overall, there has been a negative response to the proposal from nearby residents and users of the conservation reserve.

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Note that the proposal to prohibit in Styx Mill Conservation Reserve does not include Glen Oaks Reserve. This would remain an under effective control area, except on paths, where the general leashed rule would apply.

Opposed to prohibiting dogs	
Styx Mill Conservation Reserve should not be dogs prohibited, I haven't seen an off-lead dog in some time	3
Do not agree it should be prohibited	1
I oppose this. The vast majority of park users are dog walkers. Dog walkers make the area safer for others (eg female runners). It is wrong to exclude dogs	1
I am deeply saddened to hear of this proposal. I walk the Styx mill conservation reserve 1-2 times daily with my dog. He is always on a lead and I have never seen any dog posing a threat in this area. It is perfect for walking and for my recreation and living right beside this it is the closest walk to my house or place to walk. I think fine dogs off a lead but I don't ever see dogs not on a lead in this area. I think this has not been well thought out at all.	1
Understand wanting to leash dogs to protect wildlife but we live in Regent's Park and walk it regularly with our dogs and see tons of people walking; we've never once seen any problem at all. None. There is not a reason to restrict that. It is a great place to walk with your dogs. We often walk through to the dog park and back. If there are issues I'd like to know because we've seen nothing anywhere	1
Prefer status quo, leashing on paths, prohibited elsewhere	
Should be leashed on pathways. Wildlife already avoids the pathways, as lots of people use them	1
Styx Mill is where I walk every day with my dog on a leash, and I would be dismayed if dogs were prohibited. The current leashing rules need to be better monitored, so that we can continue to walk here	2
Do not agree they should be prohibited, already need to be leashed, few other places to walk in the area	1
Do not ban dogs in Styx Mill Reserve. Spaces that already function well as on-leash spaces should not be restricted further	
I use this daily and have never seen a dog chase a bird. The track is wonderful and should be able to be accessed by dogs on a lead. Ratepayers should still be able to access recreational activities in controlled ways	1
I love to walk through here every day with my dog and would be very sad to see the area restricted. Most of us leash our dogs and pick up after them. Leashed dogs can't hurt wildlife.	2
I do not support banning dogs from the reserve. I've walked my dog here on a lead for the last 8-9 years without incident. It's a safe place to walk dogs because dogs are all on lead, and my dogs love it. I have witnessed no interactions with wildlife, and everyone I've talked to has said the same.	1
Enabling dogs on lead on the pathway (as is current policy) around the outside of the dog park is extremely beneficial to both the owner and the dog. There is no actual wildlife at risk, it is nice and cool in summer, and is an enriching environment for the dogs, especially compared with the monotony of the off-leash dog park	1
I am very unhappy about the proposal to prohibit dogs in the Styx Conservation area. I understand the need to keep the wildlife safe, and they are well protected when dogs are leashed. I use the path in the mornings and evenings and it is rare (except on weekends) to see more than one other person. Prohibiting my dog seems like meanness. I feel very strongly about this.	1
What I am sad about is the proposed changes to Styx Mill Conservation Reserve. We live close by and it is one of our joys to walk through this area. I'm not sure why someone feels the need to change the status here. I have never seen dogs off lead and certainly no wildlife being bothered.	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Totally disagree and hope to retain the option for short-leashed access in such a "nourishing" environment for dogs and owners	1
I think you should allow dogs into Styx Mill. I walk there a lot with my dog leashed and 99% of people have their dogs leashed. It is a safe place to take my anxious dogs because I feel safe that dogs are on leads and she will be safe. We have been going there daily for 13 years and have never seen dogs injure or even interact with wildlife.	1
Prohibiting dogs from Styx Mill entirely (except the dog park) is also excessive. Short leash restriction within other areas of the park should be sufficient to protect wildlife, but needs to be more strongly communicated and more importantly, enforced. I support restricting dogs entirely from parts of the park such as bird nesting areas, but the whole park is excessive.	1
Dogs on a leash in that area is fine as wildlife are not in danger	1
Styx Mill Reserve is used by many as a pleasant way to the dog park rather than driving, the proposal to ban dogs would be a big loss to the area, dogs should certainly be on leash and this requirement needs to be better signposted	1
I believe that dogs on a leash should be allowed to be walked in the Styx Mill Conservation Park. This is where I jog, and I take my dog with me on a leash. It is safer for the animal than the dog park itself	1
I don't like not being able to walk leashed (even if limited to a 1.5m or less leash), around Styx. I love that walk in summer. Especially with so many trees having be removed at the Groynes so there's very little shade. It's so nice to hear the birds. I totally appreciate not everyone is good about the rules, but don't ban everyone for a few!	1
Walk through as route to dog park	
This space is often used for local residents to walk through to the dog park where the dogs can be off leash. Keep as is where dogs can walk through on the leash. Particularly as there is significant expansion of residential housing near this area and there are no other spaces near for families to walk their dogs, the walk through Styx Mill is the best route to the dog park	1
I regularly walk though this reserve with my dog on a leash until we get to the dog park. Enforce the existing rules, don't punish responsible dog owners	1
Very little safe pedestrian access to Styx Mill dog park if the reserve becomes prohibited, will need more parking, be less safe	1
Dogs off-lead causing issues	
Dogs are let off lead to run free even though there are clear signs saying they should be leashed. This isn't fair on responsible dog owners	1
I walk here often and there has been an improvement with more dogs on a leash, but every walk one or more off leash and not under effective control. There is a fenced dog parks so that should be the only place for dogs	1
Supportive of prohibiting dogs	
Agree with prohibited dogs in Styx Mill Conservation Reserve	2
Good move to restrict to the dog park only. Too confusing to say perimeter fence as well. Most people will not know where this is.	1
Other comments	
Possible error: Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end) - 2nd paragraph: "Dogs may be leashed outside of the predator-proof fence that runs around the perimeter of the reserve, and along the track on the northern residential side of the Styx River." Shouldn't this read "Dogs must be leashed ..."	1
Hussey View Walkway causing huge concern among dog walkers of the North West. Confusion about pathways and leashed / prohibited rules from different entrances and walkways along the river. Do not stop access here	1
Prohibiting dogs in Glen Oaks Reserve: Totally opposed to this. The fencing to prohibit pests is NOT complete so I don't think dogs are the problem here. Every dog I have seen on my numerous walks through the reserve have been behaved and restrained where necessary. The fact that this reserve was in easy access to us is one of the reasons we bought our house. The	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

dog park here is obviously smaller than walking round the whole reserve (also many rabbit droppings is not ideal)	
I live near the Styx reserve in Redwood. The back gravel pathway is used by lots of dog walkers, safely and sensibly. If the dog is to use the grassed areas, they are more at risk of heading towards the roads and footpath	1
What is the point of prohibiting dogs from Styx Mill Conservation Area when the predator control fence does not go the entire way around? Cats are the main issue in the reserve, not dogs. And there are no bylaws to control cats. There will be no easy way to reach the dog park from Regents Park, except by driving. Why would I drive when the point is to exercise a dog. Having dogs on a leash in the reserve is more than adequate. Those that walk dogs off-leash in the reserve will continue to do so, even if dogs are prohibited. By prohibiting them, you are punishing those responsible dog owners who enjoy walking through the reserve	1

Roto Kohatu

We have proposed clarifying the rules at Roto Kohatu Regional Park so that dogs are prohibited in the water and on leash everywhere else, except the hilly grassed area to the south-west of the access road.

Roto Kohatu	
This past weekend, walking from Lake Roto Kohatu towards Clearwater, there is signage of dogs on leash only. Every other dog owner on that path was not using a lead, including one that jumped up on my mother almost knocking her into the bushes. Similar issues around that lake - every single time I'm there, there are dogs in the water or running free, including jumping onto my things at the side of the lake as they aren't under control. As much as I advise them of the rules, these people don't care as there is no threat of enforcement. So unless you actually have dog control visit these places and deal to the issues, none of the above recommendations will actually make a difference.	1

Burwood Forest Park	
Burwood Forest – it would be good if there were some quieter paths (we often need to avoid motorbikes and scooters). There's enough room for everyone	1
Keep Bottle Lake as off lead!	

The Groynes

The Groynes is currently a prohibited area. There are three exceptions to this:

- on the section of the Ōtukaikino River track that runs through the Groynes from the Clearwater / southern end, to the Dog Park car park, where dogs must be on a leash;
- on the path around the perimeter of the Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control for the purpose of accessing the Dog Park; and
- in the Groynes Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control.

We have proposed to change the prohibited status to leashed in the whole of the Groynes, except in the dog park, where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control.

The proposal to require leashing at the Groynes seems to have been confused with the Groynes Dog Park. There is no proposed change to the Groynes Dog Park.

Support for leashed proposal	

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Changes at the Groynes are good, it would be nice to be able to go from exercising my dog at the dog park to a picnic in the main area and have the dog out of the car but still on leash and under control	1
Agree the Groynes should be leashed	5
Dogs should always be leashed at the Groynes – too many irresponsible dog owners	1
I live in Northwood/Belfast and consider myself to be one of the regular users of the Groynes, and I would like the park to see all the dogs to be leashed walking around the park for the comfort and safety of the others, specifically of children. Not only my children, but I organise a playgroup for tots and school age children at the park and we appreciate if the dogs were not freely running around. Also, we thank the park to be kept clean, free from dog poos. Thank you very much for your consideration in advance	1
I think having the leash at the Groynes (not the dog park area) will be great I will take my dog there using a long and short leash	1
I like leashed dogs through the Groynes	1
I was pleasantly surprised to see that the Groynes would be accessible to dogs (on-lead). I think this is great	1
Opposition to leashed proposal	
Disagree the Groynes should be leashed	2
Disagree the Groynes should all be leashed. There are many spaces that are completely appropriate to exercise dogs off-leash on the way to and from the dog park	1
I completely disagree with the proposal to change the Groynes park to leashed. I walk there often, and the vast majority of people who use that park are dog walkers	1
Do not make the Groynes leashed only	1
Strongly disagree	1
Don't agree that dogs should be leased at The Groynes or other big green spaces where wildlife habitats would not be affected	1
Preference for off leash and under effective control	
The Groynes should be off leash and under effective control	1
Along river in Groynes we should be able to walk off lead under effective control	
Places like the Groynes are all about the dog being off the lead so it can enjoy a decent walk	
Confusion about status quo / support for no leashing requirement	
Disagree with leashing, there are no issues and we walk through there all the time with our dog off-lead	1
I regularly walk my dog in the Groynes along the river and off-leash – do you not want dogs to enjoy themselves?	1
Forcing dogs on leash at the Groynes seems silly when so many well-behaved dogs go swimming in the waterway. I think the walkway beside the dog park should remain off leash too	
Concerns about off-leash dogs at the Groynes	
People need to have better control of their dogs when off-lead at the Groynes	1
Other comments	
I love walking my dog at the Groynes and beyond	1
The Groynes are not safe	1
Misunderstanding / confusion of what is proposed	
It would be very disappointing if we had to leash our dogs at the Groynes dog park	1
I am very concerned that such a fantastic area as the Groynes will be off limit for dogs to explore freely. There is so much space and no conflict with cyclists or wildlife issues. The dogs love to swim there. What a terrible shame if they are restricted to the relatively small, fenced dog areas. It will also mean far greater number of dogs in a confined area. Very retrograde thinking City Council	1
I understand the change to be "on leash" except "off path" however in this Groynes Park area outside the Dog Park I do not believe this will have the desired effect because: a. The River is already fenced off to protect wildlife with 4 entry points available to swim dogs	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

(outside of the dog park) b. The swimming area is off the path and able to be used under effective control in this area. It is necessary to cross the shared path from the swimming area to the Dog Park c. It remains more consistent and easier to follow under the current rule whereby dogs are allowed off leash under effective control for the purposes of accessing the dog park.	
Groynes - assuming by dog park you also include the river area and walking area then I support the requirement	1
If any changes to the Groynes Dog Park rules, ensure that the requirement to leash dogs excludes all fully fenced sections of the dog park including the water play area	1
Generally disagree with creating more compulsory leashed areas such as the Groynes. These tend to be places people drive from far and wide to so that they can fulfil the need for free exploration and running for their dogs.	1
Leave as it, it is a significantly large area and lots of problem dogs are in the dog park area, but don't often walk beyond its boundaries. For well-behaved dogs that require extra exercise, being able to be off-leash in the extended areas is beneficial	1
The Groynes changes seem the same as the current rules? Seems reasonable to leash the dogs outside of the dog park areas	1
The Groynes should remain as is. It's a large space and so therefore poses no threat to others if dogs are off-leash but under effective control	1
The Groynes - not clear what the rules are / where the rules apply	1
The statement "Change the Groynes to leashed in the whole of park (except in the dog park)" - this is a large area, so would be good for the dog park to be identified on a map? Does this apply to the Otukaikino Track at Clearwater?	1
I would support the Groynes change if it meant I could access the picnic areas with my dog on leash. Perhaps the wording needs to be clearer on the change	1
Suggestions	
On leash restriction to the Groynes area should exclude river strip alongside dog park to allow dogs to swim when conditions allow. It is impractical to leash a dog in the water and there is little risk of dogs bothering pedestrians here. There is also no practical water area within the dog park. I support leashing in other areas of the park, though would recommend long leashes be allowed here (when away from paths) to allow for recall training in areas where off-leash dogs aren't likely to interrupt.	1
Dogs should be leashed near the waterways, but not in the fenced in spaces next to the dog park (or in the dog park)	1
In terms of the Groynes - the park has systematically been removing brush, trees, and shade over the past few years, with control and rehab work, and sometimes walking along the river is the only way to keep a dog cool. The river seems to have been designed specifically with areas for dogs to enter off of the track to play and access the water (which is an off-lead activity), and the signage in the area is confusing, sometimes showing the areas along the water as on or off lead. But it seems unfair to deny dogs blanket access to this section of the track, as much of the park becomes unusable in the summer due to the sun and the dwindling shade in the park, especially given how the vast majority of users in this area you encounter at the moment are already walking, or biking with off lead dogs	1
There will be a problem with leashing outside the dog park – this needs to be extended or a similar area created for small dogs so they can be exercised safely. Too many aggressive big dogs when small dogs are in the same area	1

Central city: Rauora Park, Latimer Square, Avon Loop

The whole of the central city within the four aves is currently a leashed area. This does not include Hagley Park, where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control, except for paths, where they must be leashed. Dogs are prohibited in the Botanic Gardens (see the later section on

this). We have proposed lifting the leashing requirement in three greenspace areas: Rauora Park, Latimer Square and in the Avon Loop. The general leashing rules would apply to pathways in these areas.

Submitters were mixed on this proposal. Some were please to see a lifting of the leashed requirement, while others were concerned about the potential negative impacts from dogs. Some through Cranmer Square should have been included.

Support for lifting the leashing requirement	
Central city – agree with lifting leashing requirement in specified areas	5
Restrictions on dogs in the central city should be lifted to allow them in more places	1
That's good you've allowed some parks to open up so people can have their dogs under effective control	1
I agree with all the changes, but only on the basis that more dog parks are provided. A fenced-off dog park in Hagley Park or somewhere in the central city would be great. It is actually needed. The Council are encouraging people to live in the central city, but then we have to get in a car to drive to a dog park. We are in dire need of some in the central city. They don't need to be huge. In Brisbane they have them in lots of their central city parks	1
Opposition to lifting the leashing requirement	
Do not support lifting the leashing requirements in Rauora Park and Latimer Square – bad for tourists and families using these spaces. Dog use will be too concentrated, leading to conflict, destruction of gardens and birdlife, faecal contamination, dogs on roads, barking, etc. Why not Cranmer Square?	1
Strongly disagree with the central city proposal due to the impacts on children, tourists and others who use these spaces for recreational activities. Safety risk. This may lead to accidents or incidents, people not picking up after their dogs, etc. There are also traffic risks, with no fences or barriers. There are paradise geese that return each year. There are also homeless people who often have dogs on leashes. This could create an intimidating and potentially dangerous situation. It could be more effective to designate areas outside of the central city for off-leash dogs.	1
We oppose the proposal to designate off-leash areas for dogs in Rauora Park and Latimer Square. These are high traffic areas frequented by families, children and non-dog owners, turning them into off-leash areas poses safety and hygiene risks. Dog owners already struggle to control their dogs in this area. We suggest alternatives, such as establishing a dog park in the red zone or expanding the off-leash access in areas like the Avon Loop.	1
We totally object to Latimer Square and Rauora Park being changed to off-leash areas (safety and quality of life – fighting dogs, will become a dog toilet). And why not Cranmer Square?	1
Status quo – dogs should be leashed in the central city	
Central City: Dogs should always be leashed for the safety of other dogs, people, and traffic	1
Dogs should be leashed when in populated areas. I do not walk my dogs around town anymore as I have had to many run-ins with my dogs leashed and others not leashed running at my dogs aggressively and owners oblivious to what is going on as their dog has run off	1
I don't think we should be lifting any leash requirements at all, except within a fenced dog park	1
Concerns about lifting the leashing requirement	
Lifting the leash requirement seems a bit in conflict with the other proposals for leash requirements. These areas are surrounded by/crossed by shared path areas with what really amounts to quite small chunks of greenspace, so seems a bit risky for dogs/owners and other pedestrians / cyclists / motor vehicle drivers, as there is very little room for 'error' if a dog is not under effective control. If there are concerns for supporting off-leash exercise areas for central city dogs, it would be great to have a fenced dog park a bit closer to the city centre or within the 4 aves	1
I am a dog owner living on Latimer Square, and I think the best approach is to require dogs to be leashed there as well. I would like to continue letting my dog off the leash in Latimer	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Square, but I accept dogs should be leashed for the greater good. This is due to my observations of dog owners who let their dogs off the leash and do not clean up the dog pooh but pretend not to see. In addition, early morning dog owners intentionally let their dogs off the leash so they can pooh, and the owner does not pick it up as it is generally dark. This spoils it for everyone, but I need help finding a practical solution. A few others and I clean up rubbish in Latimer Square daily to ensure it remains clean for the entire community to enjoy	
Allowing dogs off leash in Latimer Square is dangerous for dogs and motorists as it is surrounded by roads. For Rauora Park, similarly, too close to roads and children	1
Cranmer Square	
Would like Cranmer Square added to the off-leash central city areas like Latimer Square	1
Support for lifting leashing rules in some areas	1
Regarding the proposed changes for Central City, could you let me know why Cranmer Square is exempt from this? The proposed changes need to be consistent in approach. Does this mean that residents from Cranmer Square will visit Latimer Square or the Avon grassed area to let dogs off leash, or is it assumed they will use Hagley Park?	1
Why is Cranmer Square not included, again a very quiet area	1
Avon Loop	
The Avon Loop is a great space and I am pleased it remains off leash but effective control	1
Fine with the Avon Loop	1
Other comments	
Generally disagree with creating more compulsory leashed areas such as in major city centre parks. These tend to be places people drive from far and wide to so that they can fulfil the need for free exploration and running for their dogs	1
Hagley Park	
Hagley Park is an issue – dogs should be leashed on paths at the moment, but many aren't. There seems to be an attitude that their dog's freedom is more important than my right to safely use the pathway	1
No leashing in Hagley Park	1
The optics are you see sweet f all being done about dogs not controlled as it is. I mean, how hard is it for ccc to go for a walk to Hagley Park in the evening and see this for yourselves. My feelings are fuelled by frustration, as I constantly have had issues with dogs off-leash in areas where they shouldn't be. Hagley is our busiest park and I have constantly had issues.	1

Bank Peninsula

The following specific comments were received about the proposals to prohibit dogs in mudflat areas. More general comments can be found in the wildlife protection section. The following new areas and changes were proposed:

- **New areas around Banks Peninsula**: Children's Bay mudflats and foreshore (Akaroa), Robinson's Bay mudflats and foreshore; Barry's Bay mudflats, saltmarsh and foreshore; French Farm mudflats and foreshore; Charteris Bay foreshore (part of); Purau foreshore and mudflats; and Birdlings Flat near the Bossu Road canal bridge
- **Updating existing entries for consistency and clarification**: Teddington mudflats salt meadow and saltmarsh; Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats entries

Banks Peninsula mudflats	
Agree with prohibiting dogs on mudflats	2
Support for wildlife protection in Banks Peninsula mudflat areas	2
I don't support this. This is a retrograde step and appears to be a move back to the bad old days of the BPDC viewing dogs as a problem and only suitable as a farm animal	1
Agree in high-risk areas but short-leash on bush tracks & along water edge, seems safe & reasonable	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Strongly support prohibiting dogs from mudflats and any and all conservation reserves	1
I support all of the prohibitions and controls on the Banks Peninsula Bays, Akaroa Harbour and Whakaraupo	1

Birdlings Flat	
Birdlings Flat – we use the area by Lake Wairewa to exercise our big dog and it's being proposed as a prohibited area to protect nesting birds. We need space to exercise our dog and where are we supposed to do that now?	1
I support all of the prohibitions and controls on Te Waihora and Te Wairewa. Please make sure there is adequate and large signage	1

One area in the Port Hills proposed for change received comments from submitters. Steadfast HMNZS Regional Park above Cass Bay was proposed as a leashed area. The default currently applies. Leashing would align it with other Port Hills reserves

Steadfast HMNZS Regional Park	
Steadfast should not be leashed, unclear what health and safety issues there are	1
I support this change in most situations except at Steadfast Reserve in Cass Bay. This reserve is fully fenced and does not have livestock grazing there, unlike other hillside parks and reserves. It is in a rural area and is very popular with people walking their dogs including local volunteers who help maintain the reserve and take their dogs with them. Given that the Head-to-Head etc track is for dogs on leashes, this reserve should be allowed to have a " dogs under effective control" designation. Most of the tracks are just mown. Pony Point should maybe be considered as a dog park or exercise area as it is fenced and an open area dogs to run and play	1

Lyttelton Recreation Ground

Lyttelton Recreation Ground is currently a leashed area. It is one of few flat areas where dogs can be exercised in Lyttelton, and residents have been seeking an area for dog exercise. The area had previously been an under effective control area, but was changed to leashed during the last review due to ongoing issues with people not picking up after their dogs. The issues do not seem to have significantly improved with the change to leashing, so the proposal to apply the same rules as other sports fields was proposed. This has drawn mixed responses.

Opposition to changing	
Lyttelton Rec Ground is unfenced and surrounded by busy roads. It's not a dog exercise area, it's a sports field	1
Strongly oppose lifting of leash rule for Lyttelton Recreation Ground	1
Concerned about the proposal to lift the leashing restriction at Lyttelton Recreation Ground to enable people to exercise their dogs in a flat area. Health concern for sports teams. There need to be bins there	2
Support for changing	
Support for lifting the leashing requirement on Lyttelton Recreation Ground	3
I support the proposed changes to Lyttleton recreation ground. More dog friendly areas the better	1
Opportunities for dog exercise	
The nearest dog exercise area is Barnett Park, which is often too far and inconvenient. Halswell Quarry is great, but too far away (from Lyttelton). If the Estuary is to be prohibited, we need somewhere near Lyttelton where we can exercise our dogs	1
A dog park or dog exercise area would be better, what about a seasonable area in the car park? (not in summer)	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Coastal Cliff Walkway, Diamond Harbour

We proposed changing this area from prohibited to prohibited / leashed. The prohibited area is along the shoreline, to protect wildlife, and the leashed area is on the rest of the reserve, including the Coastal Cliff Walkway. It is currently a prohibited area.

Coastal Cliff Walkway, Diamond Harbour	
Needs special consideration, tailored approach, limited options to walk dogs – should be off leash and under effective control. Council should consider other options for off-leash exercise in the area	8
It's not safe to hold a leash when walking a dog on a narrow rocky path, which can often be slippery in winter	1
There is no harm in dogs being off-leash there. The talk of penguins is rubbish. Where are people supposed to exercise their dogs off-leash in the area?	1
People need to follow the rules, better enforcement is needed – rare not to encounter dogs long before seeing owners on the cliff track, concerned about uncontrolled dogs, attacks	2
Hays Bay, Purau, Paradise Beach - should be more wildlife protection, not just summer beach prohibiting (swimming) – oyster catchers, herons, spoonbills	1
I live in Diamond Harbour. The nearest dog park is a 40 minute approx drive so I won't be able to let my dog off leash regularly if you restrict the coast tracks. These are regularly used safely by local dog owners	1
I do not support this proposal on the cliff track because dogs need to have an area to be able to be off lead and there is no dog park in the Diamond Harbour area.	1
My particular objection is compulsory leashing on formed pathways. I object to the proposal to change this on two counts; 1. The council has no popular mandate to change this legislation. Your recent survey only found 44 per cent in support of this change. 2. The councils letter of the 19th of November announcing these proposed changes boasts that 'people will have a wide range of opportunities to exercise their dogs on and off leash' In Diamond Harbour this is simply not the case now and if enacted will further impoverish dogs and dog owners. In short one of the very few areas we are allowed to exercise our dogs off leash are the paths and tracks that are suitable for such activity. Despite being semi-rural we do not have large open spaces to do this safely and as I understand it the council has no intention of developing any. So to return to the letter of the 19th of November the council is making promises it cannot keep!	1
It is more difficult to pass a dog on a leash on a narrow footpath eg cliff track than when the dog is off leash and able to step around a person.	1
The 'shared paths' and 'formed tracks' definition is too wide. I often walk the Diamond Harbour coastal track with my dog. I am assuming that this track would fall under the 'shared path' category, but the path is too narrow to allow a person and a leashed dog to walk safely side by side (i.e without one of you being too close to the cliff edge).	1

Restrictions for cultural reasons

We proposed restricting dog access for cultural reasons in three key areas (rongoā, wāhi tapu). These were Janet Stewart Reserve and Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park (Marshland, Lower Styx) and Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve (Akaroa Harbour). Note Janet Stewart Reserve and Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park were strongly supported by the Styx Living Laboratory Trust, which maintains parks and reserves along the Pūharakekenui as part of the creation of a "Source to Sea" pathway for the Styx River.

Specific areas for cultural reasons	
I oppose these proposals. There is no problem to be solved	1

Cultural considerations - agree with the proposal	2
Need more detail/not sure with the cultural area proposal	1
Protected areas for cultural reasons - allow dogs to be walked through on leash. Don't prohibit dogs altogether	1

Wildlife protection – general comments

Although we covered some areas where wildlife protection was important in the six key questions (including Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor; Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary and stormwater basins), there were lots of other changes set out in the schedule to the policy, and people made general comments about their views on protecting wildlife from dogs.

Support for wildlife protection proposals	11
Some support for wildlife protection, but should be by exception, not the rule (already too many limitations)	1
Support the need to protect wildlife, but it's the irresponsible owners you should be focused on	1
Wildlife areas should be no dogs, especially the estuary and waterways and these areas should include areas for birds to rest at high tide. For example, they often roost at Southshore Spit, but then dogs come, and they have to fly, wasting precious fat reserves that they need for migration	1
Alternative approaches would be effective to protect wildlife, not prohibiting	1
Please do everything you can to protect wildlife in all areas	1
Support measures that safety guard native wildlife and conservation areas, such as requirements for short leashes near sensitive ecosystems and bait stations. Unique biodiversity in the Port Hills needs to be protected	1
I have had a look through the water areas where dogs are allowed and it 99% prohibited. Please think this through	1
While I strongly support environmental protection, this can be achieved with allowing dogs on a short leash	1
Totally agree with protecting birds I only let my labrador off lead at the beach or dog parks	1
I don't understand why muzzling is not proposed in these wetland environments. I've seen so many dogs allowed to hunt at leisure even in view of their walker. As no regulations can change this behaviour muzzling is the only sure way to prevent bites and kills	1
Agree in high-risk areas but short-leash on bush tracks & along water edge, seems safe & reasonable	1
The current system seems to be working. Why change it? Dog walkers are huge users of public wildlife spaces and restricting them to mown areas seems very unfair and will greatly reduce the joy that dog owners get from taking their pets on adventures outdoors.	1
Areas such as **Southshore, McCormack's Bay, Dudley Creek** where there is a need to protect "wildlife" such as birds and eels should all be signposted, any protection of bird nesting areas only has to be seasonal (October to March)	1
I think any change of law to protect wildlife is a step in the right direction	1
We are most thankful that Riccarton House, Bush and the environs are still covered by the Policy	1
An example is the walkway on the south side of the **Heathcote River between Ferrymead Golf and SH74**. This is clearly signposted with a large number of signs specifying dogs must be on leash to protect wildlife. Whenever I walk my dog in these areas, the majority of dogs I see are off-leash and often poorly controlled	1
I feel putting blanket rules in place to govern and limit the freedom owners and dogs have to enjoy our vast open spaces and wilderness is becoming outrageous. I propose that owners and dogs be assessed by animal control etc for their interest in birds. As you may find some dogs are prone to hunt, harm wildlife and do indeed cause chaos in open spaces, but MANY	1

do not. Provide owners of dogs that prove they are trained and not a threat to species a special license/ tag that shows the dog a special responsible dog status where they and owners can enter those restricted areas	
Overall I just believe wildlife need to be better protected from dogs, we have so many endangered species that need all the help they can get	1
I'm all for protecting wild life but a big reason I love living in Chch is the amount of green spaces I can take my well-behaved dog to run around and play free off-lead and it would be very disappointing to lose this aspect or Chch that I love	1
Don't ban in certain areas, that's a lot of management. On-lead dogs is so much better and can protect the wildlife too	1
Be sensible, don't remove - improve. The council needs to understand that wildlife is that, wild. Dogs are family members and most of the time are under control. Best to focus on dog owners and if they should have dogs or not, and what breeds are an issue	1
The existing regulations are strict enough. Dogs that are problematic should be leashed by their owners so as not to endanger wildlife or people	1
Do not agree with prohibiting dogs – they should be leashed near wildlife	4
Easy to regulate or prohibit dogs, but needs to be put into practice with education and enforcement	1
Why is leashing not considered a feasible option. In the absence of this explanation, these proposals sound like CCC trying to avoid the monitoring/compliance work by prohibiting people from using the spaces, rather than encouraging the responsible use of them (and enforcing it against those who don't)	1
More protection needed for birds from Southshore to the Waimakariri – increasing levels of dog disturbance to birds, many owners seemingly unaware, fewer birds feeding on busy days with lots of dogs	1

Beaches – general and specific comments

Lots of submitters raised concerns about beaches and dog access. There are three different rules on beaches or coastal areas, which are:

- summer beach prohibition rules apply at specified swimming beaches (normally a specified distance either side of a surf lifesaving club, or in a small bay or beach area). These do not prohibit dogs completely, but allow them to be walked through an area on a short leash. The rules apply between 1 November to 31 March and between the hours of 9am and 7pm, and are to protect swimming and recreation activities
- dogs may be prohibited in specified areas to protect wildlife, including penguins, seals, seabirds, wading birds, etc (often on rocky shoreline, gravel area, mutflats, estuary areas)
- off-leash and under effective control applies everywhere else.

A general rule applies to boat ramps and slipways (leashed) and a proposed new leashing rule would apply to wharves, jetties and boardwalks (see previous section).

Concerns about summer beach prohibited area rules	
The summer restrictions are too long and the extension wasn't consulted on	1
Beaches should be friendlier for dogs so they can cool off in summer, such as **Taylor's Mistake** after a walk at **Godley Head**	1
The summer beach restrictions are too long and leave few spaces for dogs to participate with their families in water activities	3
Would be nice to see a few more beaches that are accessible during the summer, dogs like a swim and a picnic too!	
Summer beach prohibition rules already stop people accessing the beach for five months of the year – it's too long and is excessive	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Concerns about people not picking up after their dogs	
There need to be very clear signs on the beaches in **New Brighton** areas and other beaches so swimmers and children can feel safe and not be anxious about stepping in dog poop.	1
Dogs can be lovely on a beach, but can also be a nuisance. Owners bury their poo instead of picking it up and taking it away. They also do not keep control of their dogs and keep them close by. They run into the dunes and disturb birds and other wildlife there.	1
I see terrible behaviour from dog owners all the time in our area, it lets our area down. My daughter can't even play in the sand at the beach without being surrounded by literal crap or being pushed over and jumped on by a rogue dog	1
Sumner Beach is a disgrace, full of dog poo and people showing little regard for cleaning up after their dog. Faecal matter washing into the sea ocean again is cause for the spread of disease amongst humans and animals.	1
Concerns about dogs not under effective control on beaches	
Beaches seem to be full of off-leash dogs	1
Dog owners should not be allowed to let their dogs off leash on beaches, I have witnessed too many dogs run riot into dunes and protected areas ruining bird habitats, and making other humans feel unsafe in public places	1
Wanting dogs leashed on beaches	
On public beaches from **Waimairi to Southshore Spit** all dogs on leashes. No exceptions.	1
Wanting dogs prohibited on beaches	
All dogs banned outright from **South Beach Surf Club to Waimairi Surf Club** all year round	1
Other comments	
After all this consultation, you have failed to address the problem of dogs on the beaches, **Brighton beach** in particular ,when are you going to do something about dogs and owners, leaving dog excrement all over the beach, also the dogs roaming unleashed, biting people and killing birdlife e.g. shags baby seals, and harassing the mother seals, your dog rangers are never on the beach, they spend a lot of time parked up in the laybys down Marine Parade on their phones. It's all very well making changes, but what is the point if no one is enforcing these rules.	1
The beaches do not seem to have been mentioned ?	1
We've noticed on several mornings in **South Brighton** that a CCC vehicle drives along the sandy beach to empty rubbish bins. On a few occasions, we've witnessed near misses when dogs have run in front of the vehicle, or when the vehicle hasn't slowed down while approaching walkers with their dogs. We believe it would be safer if a smaller vehicle were used, and that speed should be carefully considered. Ideally, we think the CCC staff could use the roads and walk the paths to collect rubbish, which would help ensure everyone's safety	1

Suggestions / requests / changes for other areas

The following table contains comments made about places not proposed for changes, but where submitters have made suggestions about changes to specific places or areas.

Botanic Gardens	
Would like to be able to take dogs to the Botanic Gardens	3
Dogs should be allowed in the Botanic Gardens under strict control / on lead, similar to other botanic gardens and Mona Vale	1
The Botanic Gardens is a significant dog-free zone for resident seeking an area with no dogs	
Dogs should be allowed in the Botanic Gardens. We all pay rates, we should all get to enjoy it. My proposal is that dogs should be allowed in 7am-9am every morning. I think this is entirely reasonable and I'm surprised it's not currently allowed	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I support replacing the prohibition in the botanic gardens with an on-leash requirement. Works well in Melbourne, would be great to be able to walk through here with the dog on leash. Long detour around.	1
I really value being able to go to recreation areas that do not allow dogs (eg. Botanical Gardens) so I am not constantly watching out for dog faeces (more frequent in some areas than others) on paths/tracks or generally assessing my safety with uncontrolled dogs, so appreciate some areas with no dog zones, but feel it needs to be monitored more, with more severe consequences for dog owners blatantly disregarding the restrictions.	1
What about the Christchurch Botanical Gardens. This would be a lovely walk for people to do with their dog(s). Fine to have them on a leash.	1
I would like to be able to walk through the botanical gardens with my dog on a leash. It's a lovely walk and he should be able to walk with me.	1
Lyttelton Harbour area	
Cass Bay – if the small area to the right of the slipway could be for dogs, this would be great	1
Urumau Reserve and **Whaka Raupo Reserve** need to be added. What about **Magazine Bay**?	1
Hays Bay, **Purau**, **Paradise Beach** - should be more wildlife protection, not just summer beach prohibiting (swimming) – oyster catchers, herons, spoonbills	1
Paradise Beach, Charteris Bay – the current summer restrictions are ludicrous. It's mostly locals and residents with boat sheds that frequent the beach. Dogs have always been part of family activities. Free roaming dogs under effective control, and if max three families are on the beach, revert to short leash. Boat owners should be exempt.	1
Laurenson Reserve / Park (Diamond Harbour) – good opportunity for dogs (not currently restricted)	1
Sumner area	
Cave Rock – locals simply ignore the stupid rules	1
Extend **Scarborough walkway** leashing rule to include the shore, intertidal area, slipway and accessible shore near the road along to the clocktower – to protect large number of birds from dog disturbance eg white-fronted terns	
There are no off-leash areas in **Heathcote, Mt Pleasant, Redcliffs and Sumner** and no dog parks. Red zone areas have been fenced off, why can't we use these?	1
South Christchurch	
Ōpāwaho Heathcote river corridor should have the same rules as the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor	1
Please keep the **rivers** as off-lead places	2
Prestons Park subdivision – dogs should be leashed on grasses areas as well as paths – too many dogs not under effective control, safety issues and people not picking up after their dogs	1
Hansen's Park (Opawa) is a great place for dog walkers to exercise and congregate and I'd hate to see this change. Lots of people walk their dogs and socialise and there is rarely a problem. People seem to self-manage and be respectful of other users.	8
There should be signs telling people to expect to see dogs in **Hansen's Park**	1
Hansen Park is pretty feral, with many people actively describing it as a dog park. One woman with a dog told my daughter that she was stupid to be in a dog park when she flinched at being approached by a dog	
Westlake Reserve, Halswell – dogs should be leashed	2
Hoon Hay Reserve, Port Hills on Summit Road near Worsleys Road now has sheep grazing to control the fire risk. Should be changed to leashed	1
Other comments	
Wainui Beach – request for swimming beach restrictions	1
Perhaps more green spaces need to be made available for off-leash dog walking to offset the removal of important wildlife areas from the off-leash dog walking map. Parts of the **Botanic Gardens**, or **Westlake Park** (Halswell), or parts of the **Rāpaki Track**, for example.	1
Hampshire Street park – should be leashed	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I would like to see dogs on leads in public parks such as **Linwood** as there are several bull breed dogs off lead in the park near children and other dogs	1
Avonhead Park needs a dedicated dog area and everywhere else to be strictly dogs on short leash	1
I would like a space to exercise dogs in the northwest side of the city	1
Jellie Park often has uncontrolled dogs and lots of dog poop near where children play	1
Abberley Park - why is it the eastern lawn where dogs are allowed? The western lawn makes much more sense. The eastern lawn has a picnic table and a playground on it, so dogs and children are right next to each other. It is also not ideal when children are playing cricket or the like on that lawn. Makes more sense to have dogs being allowed off-leash on the western lawn where there are 2x bench seats, but no playgrounds or swimming pools with children nearby: "Dogs must be on a leash in the Park to protect heritage gardens, but are allowed off-leash / under effective control on the flat eastern lawn area only (note that dogs are prohibited from within one metre of playground equipment and paddling pool)"	1
Cycleways: I cannot find anything about cycle ways + dogs. It is safe for them to use the one adjacent to the northern motorway under effective control	1

Port Hills reserves

Some of the comments on the Port Hills relate to the proposal to require that dogs are leashed on formed tracks in greenspace areas. However, this proposal will not change the dog control status in Port Hills reserves as most are currently leashed. Some were added as leashed during the 2015/16 review and consultation, while others have been in place since at least the 2008 policy. See leashed areas in green on the dog control map.

Themes in these submissions include:

- not understanding the current rules and assuming leashing is a change
- scepticism about the need for leashing around grazing stock
- requests for some off-leash tracks in the Port Hills.

Misunderstanding the current rules	
Please keep the Port Hills as off-lead places. On lead just doesn't work for many dog owners.	1
Judging by what happens in the Port Hills, many people don't know or don't care that dogs should be on a leash. This was a surprise to me, I've been walking my dog off-leash for years without a problem.	1
If many people do not realise the Port Hills should be leashed, is there really a problem there?	1
Protecting grazing stock	
Dogs shouldn't be leashed to protect stock, very few incidents, most people are sensible	1
I've been grazing stock and have had several sheep injured and some killed by dogs	1
Huntsbury Reserve tracks cites grazing stock – where are the stock?	1
The entirety of the Port Hills (except Rāpaki Track) should be under effective control, except during lambing season	1
Blanket signs "lambing in progress", when there are no lambs, result in people ignoring them	1
Requests for unleashed tracks or areas	
Areas retired from grazing should become under effective control	1
There should be some tracks that are off-leash tracks	1
Be good if one of the ways up to the Crater Rim Track was designated dog friendly and could be used without a leash. All of them need leashing to some extent	1
I would really like to see many tracks in the Port Hills changing to allow dogs to be walked under effective control. Some areas have very low public use and I believe it is appropriate to allow well-behaved dogs the freedom to walk close-by to their owners. My dogs do not impact on conservation values in any way (I work in conservation so understand how this would be	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

possible with out of control dogs). The benefits of off-leash walks to a dog's wellbeing are many and varied. Only off-leash can a dog properly get sufficient exercise to maintain their physiological and psychological health and properly socialise and explore. Preventing dogs from exercising is an animal welfare issue, more so with present reducing sizes of property sections	
I support replacing the on leash requirement on legal roads that function as walking tracks that lack other reasons for limits (eg Worseleys) with an under-effective-control rule	1

Halswell Quarry Park

No changes have been proposed for Halswell Quarry Park. It is currently a leashed area, except for the dog park (where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control) and in wetland areas, where dogs are prohibited.

Staff are currently investigating how to better manage and define the dog park area at Halswell Quary, as well as looking at options for a new dog park or dog exercise area in the southwest.

Halswell Quarry Park comments	
Support (status quo)	1
It works well, shared by mountain bikers and dog walkers	1
The previously loved Halswell Quarry Park rim track is no longer an option for my family as my youngest daughter is now terrified of dogs after several instances of over-exuberant off-leash behaviour. She refuses to walk anywhere where dogs are allowed	1
Concern about people not following leashing requirements	
I walk my dog in Halswell Quarry where dogs are allowed off-lead in a specific area. I take my dog up the Quarry Rim Loop on lead to avoid dogs off-lead, but always encounter people with their dogs off-lead. Most people are obliging when asked to put their dogs on lead, but I shouldn't have to continually ask when I am on a path that specifies that dogs must be on lead. I have also encountered people who have behaved aggressively towards my request, so I am becoming more frightened to ask. The population has increased hugely in the 13 years I have lived in Kennedys Bush, and the park is very well used. It is great when people can be considerate of each other & enjoy the wonderful area they have at their disposal	1
There is a need for better enforcement for dogs on leash at the Halswell Quarry. I have lived in Halswell for three years now with a two-year-old dog and every time I have visited the Halswell Quarry I have encountered off-leash dogs (separate from dog park - we do not visit the dog park). I stopped visiting at the start of this year as the number of rushing dogs has caused my dog to be leash-reactive. I tried one more time last week as I heard they were now fining off-leash dogs, to no avail - we were rushed by the same dog twice within ten minutes. This area is desperately in need for more signage (people unaware) and better enforcement	1
Management of the Halswell Quarry dog park	
The mountain bikers in the Quarry should have to go up the right top side, not through the dog park area	1
I think Halswell Quarry needs to be a proper fenced dog area as often other public don't realise that the dog exercise area is in fact a dog area and complain when a dog is running around off leash, and I have often had too many mountain cyclists biking through this dog park way too fast and hitting my dog numerous times	1
Horrified to discover that Halswell Quarry dog park had not been mown, with dangerously seeding grass. Completely unacceptable. Had to get my dog operated on once due to a seed. This limits where we can take our dog	1
Management of Halswell Quarry Park, plus enforcement and norms	
My own experience at Halswell Quarry Park (2 days a week volunteer assisting Rangers with HQP management and maintenance) shows education is totally ineffective in changing behaviours - when there is no consequence for dog owners (ie: instant fines) then the norms of off-leash dog behaviours negatively impacting on other user groups, wildlife and flora	1

simply become standard practise. In addition to conflict and damage there are now a number of significant health and safety issues associated with off-leash dogs roaming out of the designated off-leash areas: - User groups expecting to picnic and walk in safety now have to deal with unleashed dogs throughout the park; - Designated wildlife areas now lack protection; - Safety for walkers and runners is seriously compromised by uncontrolled dogs along narrow paths such as the Quarry cliff edge walk; - Sister-city gardens character and appeal as places of contemplation and passive recreation are threatened; - Dog excrement from off-leash dogs is now a major health problem to totally unacceptable levels throughout the park - this became particularly evident during this community planting day season when volunteers had to be warned to be aware of excrement when planting. Rangers and those involved in planting preparation, set-out and planting are constantly dealing with health issues associated with contamination of planting sites. This reliance on self-management in both areas is proving totally ineffective with new property/dog owners establishing new norms of behaviour which increasingly are the source of conflict between user groups, and damage caused to wetlands, ponds, new native bush plantings, and wildlife. Significantly large areas of HQP, previously free of unleashed dogs, have now become unintended extensions of the dog park and quite outside the guidelines of the HQP management plan. In summary there is no point in having rules without consequences.	
Change from leashed to under effective control	
Halswell Quarry Park – dogs should be able to run around even where there are footpaths	1
Wanting a new dog park or dog exercise area in the southwest	
Concern about where dogs can be exercised in the south – lots of new subdivisions in Halswell, etc	1
Please please please provide a fully fenced small dog park and big dog park in the hugely populated Halswell so dogs can be off a leash in a safe and controlled environment- especially the small dogs who think themselves big dogs! Prebbleton's one is great but a tiresome 15mins to get to one way	

Maximum number of dogs, exemption, dog walking businesses

We proposed limiting the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place (to two when off-leash and four when leashed), with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs.

The detail for this proposal was set out in section 3.1.2 of the policy (Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of) and clause 5 of the bylaw (Control of dogs in all public places and at all times, subclause 4) and clause 13 of the bylaw (Dog limit exemption).

Note that a key question was asked about these proposed changes, with a summary provided in the key questions attachment. The summary of comments in relation to the key question follows. Below is a summary of comments people made elsewhere.

Concerned about people walking dogs that don't know how to control dogs well enough	1
The number should be 7 dogs as an absolute maximum when an exemption is applied for – too many not under control, incidents, etc. They should all be leashed	1
Dog walkers don't care about the dogs, just the money	1
Different sized dogs should have different limits – large 4-5 dogs, medium 5-6 dogs, small 6-7 dogs – all leashed	1
Support for limiting the number of dogs a person can be in control of	2

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Support the limit to ensure better control of dogs	1
Absolutely opposed to the exemption process – massive issues at the Groynes are caused by someone who calls herself an expert but has absolutely no control over the dogs she walks. She lets the big dogs loose and they cause mayhem for other dogs. The exemption creates a loophole	1
The exemption criteria needs to be easily understandable and based on fair, objective criteria	1
No more than two dogs being walked by one person	1
I wouldn't want someone fined for holding someone else's dogs as well as their own if someone needs to use a bathroom	1
the proposed clauses at 13 Dog Limit Exemption has several key pieces of information missing including how long the exemptions last for (ideally indefinitely), Council's commitment to a timeframe to process these applications (so as to not unfairly limit a person's business operation).	1
Including a requirement that an application include information about the likely places a person may take the dogs seems to be asking for hypothetical information for no useful purpose.	1
There should be an absolute limit of two dogs per owner when brought to dog parks - dogs exhibit pack like and predatory behaviours when in established groups, heightening anxiety and aggression levels for other dogs in the park	1
Anyone who thinks that having two dogs off a lead and a third on a lead (for example) will alleviate any issues is likely never to have tried this situation IMO. Dogs off a lead run to greet the one on a lead, the owner then finds him/herself trying to control the dog on a lead and the other dogs under their charge are hardly now under effective control. As for walking dogs in pairs at separate times (if you have more than 3 dogs) is just not going to happen. People do not have the time for this especially when they have probably invested time into training their dogs in the first place. This will lead to frustrated dogs, owners etc. Dog walkers who have multiple dogs are an issue though IMO. They cannot keep a track of a dog and the poo, or indeed control a pack of dogs (unless very experienced) from assorted owners	1
I completely agree with everything: people should have to demonstrate responsibility before being allowed to walk multiple dogs	1
Professional dog walkers should answer more to the public by earning a license system and losing that license if there are complaints against them. The dog industry isn't regulated so an 18 year old could start a dog walking business and risk public safety	1
Links to the Public Statement from the Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand, which "fully support[s] the implementation of limits on the number of dogs one person can walk at a time to ensure better control and safety"	1

The summary for this question has been done slightly differently, and is an analysis from comments on the key question that was asked: **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?**

The results were:

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?	1,047 submitters **69%**	326 submitters **22%**	148 submitters **10%**

A briefer summary of themes has been involved in Attachment A on the six key questions.

Opposed: No need for a limit or regulation (131 comments)

- If they have control, it's fine (26)

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

- It's not about the number, it's about whether they are under control or not (9)
- Under effective control requirements already cover this (11)
- Enforce the current rules (4)
- Haven't come across many people with more than two dogs (11)
- Haven't come across out of control groups of dogs (6)
- Have come across groups of dogs, with no issues, under good control (7)
- Not sure this is a problem / have not experienced problems (21)
- Assume people who walk multiple dogs are skilled, no need to regulate (21)
- People should not walk more dogs than they can safely control (6)
- Dog walkers can have 4-5 dogs / 5-6 dogs / 10 dogs without any negative issues (6)
- Someone walking a large number of dogs on a lead does not worry me (1)
- Assume wouldn't apply to anyone / most people own only one or two dogs (2)

Opposed to regulation or to the proposal to regulate (54 comments)

- Questioning evidence for regulation / this being an issue (9)
- Should be based on complaints, not blanket rules (2)
- Opposed to regulation (29)
- Punishes good dog owners (10)
- Opposed to blanket rules (2)
- Revenue gathering (1)
- Suggest advising, not regulating (1)

Opposed: Impacts on owners and people helping each other (83 comments)

- Concerned that owners of more than two dogs can't take them all out off-leash at once (28)
- Concerned it will limit helping walk or care for other people's dogs / fostering / puppies / pet sitting (31)
- Limit people running businesses, not dog owners with multiple dogs (3)
- Do not limit / restrict people who own multiple dogs (14)
- Should be up to the owner (7)

Opposed: Impacts on dog walking businesses (45 comments)

- Concerned it will limit dog walking businesses / loss of dog walking services / livelihoods (36)
- Lots of dog walkers do a great job / have dogs well-controlled (8)
- Creates a barrier to people setting up a dog walking business (1)

Opposed: Support for dogs being walked together (19 comments)

- Pack walking / group exercise helps socialise dogs and is better exercise than on a leash / good for dogs' wellbeing (11)
- Dogs need to be exercised, especially big dogs, (5)
- Good dog owners pay for the service (3)

Opposed: Leashing multiple dogs (5 comments)

- Multiple dogs on leads get tangled / are more reactive / less safe (5)

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Suggestions: Should depend on the dog / handler (90 comments)

- Depends on the skill of the handler (21)
- Depends on the size / weight of the dogs / limit big dogs, not small dogs (27)
- Depends on the strength / weight of the person (8)
- Depends on the training of the dogs (10)
- Depends on the breed / type of dog (14)
- Depends on how many dogs a person owns (6)
- Depends on the age of the dog (4)

Suggestions: Rules should / should not apply in some situations / places (31 comments)

- There should be a limit at dog parks / too many not controlled (13)
- There should be no limit at dog parks / this should not apply (4)
- The limit should be higher at dog parks (1)
- Public place is too general – professionals take care where they operate, often weekdays (2)
- Not needed in greenspace areas (2)
- Have seen walkers with more dogs than they can control in greenspace areas (2)
- Need more education in dog parks about how to keep dogs under control (1)
- Should not apply to under effective control areas (1)
- Should be an age limit (young people not allowed if the dog's not theirs) (1)
- There should be special areas for this, not all public places (4)

Concerns: Impacts on owners of multiple dogs (24 comments)

- Concerned people would have to pay to walk their own dogs / couldn't walk them (4)
- Should be a distinction between owners and professional dog walkers (12)
- Concerned about impact on people involved in competitive dog sports with well-trained dogs or working dogs (8)

Support: Agree with proposals, concerns about multiple dogs (289 comments)

- Proposal seems appropriate / sensible / reasonable / well thought out / fair (84)
- Important for public / community safety, safer for people and dogs / better responsibility (72)
- Intimidating (especially for children, elderly, people scared of dogs, other dogs) (10)
- Too many people don't have control of one dog, let alone more (37)
- Too many people with 6/8/10 dogs not under control, free-range approach (16)
- A limit is needed so there is better control of dogs (24)
- Concerned about dog walkers with lots of dogs / pack walking (11)
- Good to limit taking too many dogs / dogs they might not know (5)
- Emphasises the responsibility of ownership / role as paid walker (3)
- Professionals only (2)
- Dog owners with little respect for others' rights to use public spaces / don't care (4)
- Important in areas with sensitive ecosystems (and predator control), protect wildlife (3)
- Important to limit at the beach, to protect wildlife, have seen groups chasing birds (3)
- People with multiple dogs are usually a problem (1)
- Not affected, but supportive / good idea (9)
- Is in the best interests of the owner and other people in public places (3)

- Not everyone likes dogs (1)
- Fantastic (1)

Support: Negative experiences with groups of dogs (179 comments)

- Concerned, as have experienced multiple dogs not under control (32)
- Have been attacked / my child / my dog has been attacked by a group of dogs (13)
- Avoid groups of dogs / concerning / seems risky / intimidating / scary (27)
- Dogs can be aggressive / dangerous / chase / attack when in a pack (29)
- Have seen people struggling to control large groups of dogs (20)
- Becoming common to see one people walking lots of dogs, not under control (12)
- Too many groups of dogs out of control at dog parks / careless dog walking businesses (15)
- Good to stop dog walkers letting lots of dogs loose / scary / no control (9)
- Too many uncontrolled groups of dogs rushing other (leashed) dogs (11)
- Groups of dogs gang up on other dogs (4)
- Dog walkers take dogs to the beach and let them loose, harass people and wildlife (3)
- Number of dogs 'controlled' by some walkers is ridiculous (2)
- Groups of out-of-control dogs create a hazard for cyclists and walkers (1)
- Sick of groups of dogs monopolising off-leash areas, ruins for other dog owners (1)

Support: Special skills are required to control groups of dogs (127 comments)

- Multiple dogs are hard to control / takes special skills / very skilled person (43)
- Unlikely people without training could have control over more than three off-leash dogs (2)
- Impossible to control many dogs out in public, too many things out of walker's control (16)
- Dogs are unpredictable, especially in groups, things can get out of control very quickly (39)
- People / dog walkers overestimate the control they think they have (27)

Support: Regulation of dog walking businesses (54 comments)

- Some dog walkers are excellent, some are not responsible (15)
- Better / safer if regulated (10)
- Dog walkers are self-appointed / anyone can set up a business / some have very little control (8)
- Growing and unregulated industry, needs regulation (6)
- There should be an accreditation / training programme for professional dog walkers (6)
- Should need a license / registration if a professional dog walker (4)
- Need proper regulation of who's qualified (3)
- Professionals should be able to have six off-leash, and be tested (1)
- Will help deal with the cowboys (1)

Support: Concerns about people not picking up after multiple dogs (24 comments)

- Concerned dog walkers with lots of dogs don't pick up after dogs (21)
- More likely to pick up after dogs if leashed and not too many dogs (3)

Support: Concerned about how some dog walkers operate (7 comments)

- Poor service, dog walker on phone, having coffee, dogs taken to a park and let loose (3)
- Some over-do the numbers, focusing on profit, don't care about dogs or other people (3)
- Have experienced aggressive dog walkers with lots of dogs (1)

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

General comments on number of dogs (197 comments)

- Numbers too strict / too low (7)
- Numbers are not strict / low enough (7)
- Numbers are just right (5)
- All dogs should be leashed in public places (13)
- One person per dog (2)
- One person cannot control two dogs off-leash (10)
- Two off-leash is too many, should only be one (3)
- Two dogs maximum on or off leash (23)
- Two dogs is plenty for most people / reasonable (21)
- Max of two if leashed (3)
- Two dogs off-leash is too restrictive (9)
- Two leashed, max off lead one (1)
- Maximum of three for one person (7)
- Two off-leash and four leashed (1)
- Support three dogs off-leash (16)
- Should be three (unclear if leashed or unleashed) (5)
- Three off-leash and five when leashed (3)
- UP to four small dogs (3)
- Maximum of four dogs on or off leash (17)
- Leashed if four dogs (6)
- Four dogs off-leash is fine (3)
- Four leashed dogs are not controllable / too many for one person (16)
- Four is too many on a footpath or track (7)
- Regulate for over four off-leash (1)
- Should be able to take five off leash (2)
- Impossible to have control of five dogs at once (2)
- Maximum of six (1)
- Maximum of seven (2)
- Suggest a licence for more than three (1)

Support: Comments on the exemption proposal (116 comments)

- Agree with having an exemption process (44)
- Depends on the criteria for appropriate skills / who assesses (33)
- Should value experience, not just formal qualifications (3)
- Depends how easy it is and how much it costs / should not be arduous or expensive (17)
- Depends on the exemption process (7)
- Support if dog walkers are proven competent, should be demonstration of skills (6)
- Dog walkers should carry proof / be identified (2)
- There should be a maximum, not decided by the applicant (3)
- Does it apply to a company or a person? (1)

Support for regulation, opposed to exemption process (5 comments)

- Concerned about or opposed to the exemption (5)

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Other comments

- Concerned about enforcement (5)
- Concerned a dog walker could take an inexperienced person to increase dog numbers (1)
- Unsure how this relates to the licence to own more than two dogs (5)
- Small dogs have small dog syndrome and charge, bark or threaten larger dogs (1)
- Two dogs per household are fine if they are fenced in (1)
- All dog owners should have training (1)
- There's already limited space at dog parks, there will be overcrowding (1)
- Good to have a database and to update with changes, toxic algae, etc (1)
- Depends on the limit (4)
- Proposal not clear enough (four max, or six max?) (2)
- Cyclists (1)
- Cats (1)

Comments on other parts of the policy

Dog ownership, registration, RDO, licence to own multiple dogs, desexing

The policy sets dog registration categories, while the amount of the fee is set in the Council's annual plan process.

Dog registration	
Dog owners should be levied a dog tax to pay for the costs the Council has to bear on our behalf for enforcing the bylaw, cleaning up dog waste and other dog owner-associated activities. Plus add a levy to cover the cost of each on to the city's carbon footprint	1
Yes, we already pay a huge amount or rates as homeowners. Why can't the dog registrations be cheaper? Like Selwyn	1
I do not support having dog registrations being more or less expensive based on whether they are neutered or not	1
Easier process for registration and transfers. Better process for rescues who are in the CCC district	1
Why do we get charged more for a very small dog that has been fixed & we pay as much as the ones with big dogs or the next size up from a very small one	1
Why do we have to register our dogs yearly?	1
Please get rid of dog registration as we don't need it because dogs have to be microchipped that is enough	1

Some submitters do not like the dog registration tags that were introduced several years ago. This is an operational matter, not a regulatory one.

New dog tags	
The current dog tags are quite poorly made. On many, the surface has worn smooth, and the QR codes are no longer scannable. I have personal tags on my dog that are the same age and barely scratched, so I'm not sure why the official tags are of such low quality.	1
Getting rid of the current stupid easy to loose dog tags and replace with the old strip tags (usually used on working dogs) is a lot more effective	1
I would like the permanent registration tag changed to different type. My dog is currently on her second one, owing to it becoming so worn.	1
Licence to own more than two dogs	

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Mandatory type and number of dogs housed in the city, especially with housing intensification. Noise pollution in these confined areas could be horrendous	1
There should be a law about owning dogs in close proximity to house (townhouses and apartments)	1
I was unaware that you had to have a license to own more than 2 dogs - I approve of that in an urban environment	1
I was issued a permit to own 2 or more dogs in 1997 which had a one-off fee, since then CCC have tried on at least two occasions to charge that fee again, please ensure this does not / cannot happen in future.	1

Responsible dog owner status	
You can lose your responsible dog ownership status just because you move house and your new house doesn't have dog-free access to the door and it seems unfair when you're doing everything else right	1

Mandatory de-sexing, unless a registered breeder	
De sexing dogs should be mandatory unless you apply for a license as a responsible breeder	1
There's a huge community focus on native habitat regeneration – what a load of nonsense. Have a think about where and what you plant before you do it, dogs and people - esp kids, like water be it a pond or little flowing stream to sail boats on, putting plants all around it is a waste of time and money. The council currently can't maintain the parks it has without adding more planting to the mix.	1
More encouragement and emphasis need to be put on owners to be registered as responsible dog owners with extra criteria that acknowledge a proper proven level of dog training has been undertaken or achieved	1

Some people should not be able to own dogs	
Certain people should be banned from having dogs, those that train them in a dangerous manner, all gang members should be banned from having any animals, homeless or those living on the streets should have no dogs as they don't have the means to care properly for a dog eg shelter food	1
Make it harder for people to get dogs, mandatory de-sexing	1
I think we need stricter rules on who can own a dog, It is detrimental to the community and to dogs themselves when irresponsible people own them. For example, look at the number of dogs being surrendered or put down each year in shelters and you can see there is an issue with people owing dogs who are not capable and educated. Reducing the number of irresponsible people owning dogs will have a more positive impact overall on community related dog issues	1

Reactive dogs near public places	
I think something that is not covered is reactive dogs in residential spaces (eg in someone's front yard (next to public spaces, such as footpaths or parks) being loud or intimidating. It can be stressful and scary – almost gives me a heart attack! – and then my dog becomes reactive himself and needs to be calmed down. There should be some mechanism for reporting these dogs	1

Advisory parts of the policy

The policy contains some sections with advice. The following suggestions were made by submitters.

Council events	

Dogs should be required to always be on a leash at Council events	1
Age limit to walk dogs	
I can't see it in the document, but I heard that there is an age limit to walk a dog. It is good for children to walk dogs. I hope there is some common sense	1
Care of dogs	
Care of dogs during summer, I note the info regarding dogs in cars, would be good to see info regarding considerations of walking dogs on hot footpaths during the summer included here	1
A legal requirement that dogs be registered and chipped, dogs must also be vaccinated especially for parvovirus	1

Comments on other issues raised

Signage

Lots of submitters commented on signage. A comment was included in the consultation material to say that owners should not rely on signage, but should be familiar with the policy or access the online map. Many submitters objected to this.

Suggestions / requests for signage	
More signs at children's playgrounds	1
More / better signage	14
Better signage around the estuary	1
There should be signs everywhere to remind owners to pick up after their dogs	1
Fines / consequences for breaking the rules should be on signs	1
There should be signs to indicate when stock is present eg in grazed areas (has had several sheep injured and some killed since grazing stock in the area)	1
Signs about toxic algae in waterways are important	1
Text on signs needs to be bigger and clearer	1
Make people aware via signage that CCC the dog bylaw applies to Akaroa!!!! Just like in the city of Christchurch please	1
It's also time to change the signage at the beach, the ones now are completely ineffective, they are far too small and there needs to be more of them.	1
There needs to be new consistent and clear messaging on all signs at transition points throughout the park (Te Kuru and Halswell Quarry Park), including the amount of the instant fine for non-compliance; Fencing and/or gates - a significant investment in fencing and gates over the next five years to protect and enhance existing areas and the visitor experience	1
Signage is always advisable, would prefer that signage in well used areas such as beaches is maintained	1
Signs can be inconsistent, differently worded or not at all parks	1
Signs should be up to date and consistent with the bylaw	1
Signage is appallingly poor, and there is far too little	1
The signs for leashed and under effective control are too similar and should be more clearly differentiated	
Agreement with statement about signage	
Agree owners shouldn't rely on signage – owners should have better knowledge (eg include something interactive at registration to help owners understand the rules)	1
Objection to statement about signage	
I don't think it's fair for dog owners to be aware of regulations at various areas - I still believe that signage is important, especially for out-of-towners who bring their dogs also with them	1
Noting that people should understand the law should not excuse the council from sign-posting permitted areas. Particularly areas where off-leash and on-leash areas are close or overlap	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

The part about signage not being a reliable form of information is wrong. We have dog owners in Chch from all walks of life and ages. Who have different levels of access to information. Signage should still be key in the main areas discussed. Wetlands, estuaries etc. you can't expect people who don't have access to technology to know what's going on	1
The Council has a responsibility to provide signage, not too many, but people shouldn't have to check online maps. Unreasonable. Duty of care to inform.	8
Totally disagree owners shouldn't rely on signage, signage should be in every park and every place with rules	2
Disagree owners shouldn't rely on signage – what about lack of access to computer, elderly, neurodivergent, visitors, have trouble reading long text, etc. Interactive map is a great idea	2

Mapping

We provide a dog control map. It shows the current rules, and will be updated once the new policy and bylaw are adopted by the Council.

Make sure the dog map is updated soon and kept up to date	3
Map needs to be updated for Sumner – summer beach prohibition shows in the parking lot and maps show it including the main road	1
The online map isn't clear enough. It doesn't show all the paths where leashing is required	1
From your map I have no idea where I can walk my dogs apart from the beach	1

Education and training

Many submitters made suggestions in relation to training and education for dog owners, and for people scared of dogs. These are largely operational in nature. Some submitters suggested that dogs shown to have attained certain training competencies should not have to comply with leashing or prohibited rules.

Suggestions for training, behaviour change, education and promotion activities	
More emphasis on education	6
Focus or campaign on behaviour change	2
Campaign on responsible dog ownership / more promotion about it	3
Work in partnership with dog training organisations to offer education and training	1
Require a tutorial when registering dogs each year	1
New dog owners should be educated on the bylaw, especially what constitutes under effective control	1
I can't recall if every new dog registered gets sent a copy of the Dog Control Policies - this would seem prudent	1
There should be a short exam when registering dogs - many owners seem to have little understanding of the Dog Control Act	1
It is frustrating as a dog owner that other people approach my dog without asking, or people's dogs rush up to mine - better education is needed	1
Suggest a compulsory obedience training course when first owning a dog, including covering legal obligations	1
Rather than more rules, you need to educate more. Have signs in high traffic areas saying keep lead short when busy, run the occasional ad saying don't let your onlead dog go up to strangers	1
Each year at registration it would be good to include a digital copy of the policy and bylaw, as well as a map of where all the off-leash areas are	1
Dogs should be trained by a certified trainer and the Council should monitor the certification of the trainers. The responsible dog owner process should by improved	1
The Council should remove, rehome and retrain dogs from bad owners	1
Why isn't it a requirement that dog owners need to be trained?	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Could incentivise correct behaviour by making a much larger financial incentive to attend Good Dog Owner community info/training. Refresher course every 4-5 years.	1
Should have to undergo training before being able to own a dog	3
Make all new owners from 2025 do a dog training course. ALL new owners and any dogs who are untrained - 5 sessions should be mandatory and a tag to prove they are responsible - if they don't do it then they shouldn't have a dog, simple	1
To enforce the new rules in key locations, there should be a solid month or so across all days and times of the week, including public holidays, where information is handed out to dog owners (verbally and A5 leaflets) explaining where off-leash, on-leash, and no-go areas are and the intention of CCC to instantly fine non-compliance; the messaging should be across all social media platforms and extended to local neighbourhood groups to spread the word and the reasoning behind the new level of enforcement	1
Different rules for different dog training levels	
It could be possible to allow certain dogs more leeway with the correct training. For instance, if a dog graduates from a "puppy school" and is found to be well-behaved, they could be allowed in more places off-lead, rather than punishing all dog owners for the actions of a few bad eggs. Dogs could have different tags or harnesses for easy identification. Dogs with kiwi aversion training, or similar programs, could even be allowed in areas of higher biodiversity, as they have been shown not to pose a threat to wildlife. This system would incentivize proper training rather than further restricting the already limited number of places where dogs can enjoy a modicum of freedom	1
Maybe you run a course to show your dog is effectively under control off lead and you get this info attached to their registration or something. Most dogs and dog walkers are just trying to enjoy a stroll, get exercise, fresh air, keep fit and healthy and mind others business	1
I would prefer if there were levels/certificates to exempt certain dogs from these rules. A blanket rule for all dogs mean even the most well behaved dogs must be leashed.	1
I think that instead of making one rule for everyone, you should be able to apply for an exemption, through proof of recall and training. Some owners have spent a lot of time and money to ensure they have a well behaved dog, so they can enjoy not having to walk on a lead - now that freedom will be taken away from the dog and owner	1
There should be exemptions for well-trained dogs (to leashing rules)	3
Perhaps the DogsNZ Canine Good Citizen programme might play a role in determining whether some dogs may be exempt from restrictions? I don't think it should be the only way to get exemptions, but it could be the gold standard. E.g. some dogs who have achieved CGC Gold could be allowed off-leash on paths near roads, or an owner with three CGC Bronze dogs may walk all those dogs together off-leash.	2
Rewarding good ownership and giving more freedom to those who pass education and training levels, use of colour-coding to indicate level / safety	1
I would be happy for dogs to be issued with a special tag, at owner's expense, to be allowed off-leash after an evaluation	1
Training people on dog behaviour	
Section 10.1 - this should be reworded to say teaching kids and adults about dogs - maybe needs 2 parts. The way many adults (dog owners and non dog owners alike) behave around dogs is quite honestly disturbing at times. They have no idea about normal dog behaviour - react and then cause no end of issues	1
We should educate and train every human around dog behaviour and we need to understand the sort of exercise dogs need - that is brain exercise. We could have less restrictions on dogs if we supported owner training and non-owner understanding of dogs. Too much restriction will cause more dog behaviour problems and more "us" and "them" between dog owner and non-dog owners. Let's try and create harmony.	1
One day at the Halswell Quarry dog exercise area, my small dogs had been playing with this lovely large dog. Not long after I saw this idiot owner allow her small dog to rush the same dog, the bigger dog got upset and told the small dog to go away (normal dog behaviour and	1

not dangerous if the little dog listened) and the owner started yelling and screaming and scooping up the little dog and yelling at the owners of the big dog - the big dog seriously did nothing wrong (I am trained in animal behaviour) but everything about what the little dog owner did made their dog react inappropriately	

Monitoring and enforcement

Many submitters commented on monitoring and enforcement. Enforcement is undertaken by Dog Control / Animal Management Officers, in alignment with the Council's Compliance Strategy. Their activities are funded by dog registration fees. A breach of a dog control bylaw can result in a $300 infringement fine. Other offences and penalties are contained in the Dog Control Act 1996. A section on the issuing of infringement notices can be found on the dog control policy in section 13.

Importance of enforcement	
No point if not enforced	9
Should be more enforcement	15
Proactive enforcement	1
Bad owners are going to continue to ignore the rules	5
There appears to be very little enforcement. If people feel they can get away with things, it is human nature to do so.	1
Monitoring, compliance and education	
Owners should be able to demonstrate under effective control to enforcement to verify	1
More monitoring of the owner, not the dog	1
More patrolling of problem areas	4
If owners cannot control their dog, they should have to do a training course and prove to the Council they're able to control their dog	1
How will widespread restrictions be imposed? Better to focus on critical areas and monitor more closely	1
How will this be monitored and enforced?	6
Better focus on dog owner education and monitoring	3
In four years of dog ownership, I've only ever seen Animal Management driving past. Rules aren't going to be effective unless they're enforced	1
Concerned about enforcement	
Appalled recently when fines were handed out to people at Halswell Quarry Park for walking on the grass to the dog park. An elderly woman and her elderly dog were spoken to and felt threatened. Information and education, and a bit of compassion and understanding	1
Suffered an unprovoked dog attack. Not happy with enforcement's approach or follow-up.	1
How to report	
Guidance needs to be provided to people who want to make a complaint about a dog being unleashed on a footpath	1
Enforcement in specific areas	
I would like to see more control of dog activity in and around the **New Brighton sand dune areas**. Uncontrolled dogs are the reason we have very limited penguin numbers in these areas	1
More monitoring of leashed areas eg **Bowenvale track**, even though there's clear signage, over 50% of dogs are off leash	1
Monitoring and enforcement around **the estuary and key wildlife areas** at weekends is an absolute must	1
More enforcement in **Akaroa**	1
There 100% needs more enforcement out in the public areas. Officers would need to be able to instantly act when seeing an issue. We need more enforcement covering **beaches/river areas**	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I have lived very near the **Huntsbury Track** for 26 years and there has never been a visible presence for dog bylaw enforcement. With respect to leashing requirements my guess is that about 80% of dog owners take a "free-range" approach even when sheep are present. While there are many good dogs and good dog owners, there are also many dogs that do whatever they like, and some owners take no notice of the leashing signs or bylaws and go on the attack when challenged. There are many dog owners that know they can get away completely with a "free-range" approach and not be constrained by any rules. And of course dogs love running totally free	1
There should be some patrolling of the beach at **South New Brighton** where the dog rules are being blatantly ignored.	1
It's all well having these bylaws - but we need more dog control officers in the field. I will not walk through **Linwood Park** anymore for the fear of being rushed by another dog on ours, which was happening 50% of the time, and yet dog control are stationed across the road and I never see them there!	1
Enforcement for not picking up after dogs	
More enforcement for people not picking up after their dogs [See also many comments in the earlier section titled Picking up after dogs]	2
Better / more / visible enforcement	
More visible and effective enforcement is needed	5
You have 2,000 dog bite incidents per annum and would be lucky to prosecute 1 or 2. That's the problem. Total paralysis around actual harming dogs, instead ponderous new red tape for people and dogs who never cause an issue	1
I would be interested in knowing how you plan to police the changes - especially with increasing self-entitled people who will not be told what they can and can't do	1
Enforcing these bylaws is essential. Current bylaws are ignored by many dog owners. Provide a means for the public to safely report breaches (like Snap-Send-Solve) and follow these up	1
It would be great to have dog control services routinely checking in / driving through areas where there have been dog attacks and where owners are blatantly not looking after their dogs and managing what they are doing	1
The more enforced dog free areas the better	1
It is one thing to have the rules written down in a policy, but there MUST be active enforcement of the rules/policy for it to be effective. There needs to be much more enforcement of the rules, including visible presence of animal control officers and assessment of whether or not an owner has "effective control" over their dog	1
Penalties and consequences	
I would like to see some kind of consequence when a violation has occurred	1
The most important thing is not being addressed. People who cannot control their dogs and penalties for dogs who attack people and other animals. Stomp out the poor behaviour of owners and the changes won't be required. 99% of dogs and owners are good, a tougher stance needs to be taken on owners whose dogs are out of control (normally not the dog's fault)	1
I think if a dog owner has been warned then the dog should be on a lead at all times	1
Will the dog control van driver have more authority to hand out infringement tickets and are you intending to increase staff to "police" these new bylaws?	1
Section 13: Issuing of Infringement Notices - the proposal is a soft cop-out of the bylaw objectives. There should be irregular periodic enforcement patrols and instant fines after a settling in period of warnings. It is unreasonable and totally unworkable from an operations point of view to put the onus on individual Dog Control Officers to have discretionary power - it is in effect opening them up to more abuse and confrontation. Our city, Council and citizens operate under all manner of policies and rules that are clear, unambiguous and punitive if not followed - dog ownership and the right for dogs to recreate in public open space must operate under similar regulatory framework. Education, signage and enforcement must be clear, unambiguous, non-discretionary and clearly punitive, in terms of	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

instant fines, if Council are even remotely serious about successfully implementing the objectives and policies being proposed.	
Instant fines, especially when ignoring signage	1
All dog attacks should be referred to the Police (the Police protect public safety) – this may cause owners to avoid issues	1
More fines and more enforcement – people will learn to follow the rules	1
There should be more consequences for people who cannot adequately control their dogs and stop them from escaping from their homes and gardens. There should also be more consequences for owners of violent dogs.	1
Enforce the current rules	
There is insufficient council animal control staff to enforce the current bylaws so there is no point making new rules. People who disobey the current laws will not suddenly start obeying the new ones	1
Enforce rules which control more dangerous dogs. I have been attacked by a dangerous dog and I found the council had very little control over these issues	1
Enforcement officers are not enforcing the current rules, why add more?	1
The current bylaw is ignored frequently. Every day I see multiple dogs on footpaths without leads, and multiple dogs off-lead at Sydenham cemetery. The owners ignore the law. Without extensive education and enhanced enforcement, these changes are likely to be totally ignored.	1
Funding for dog control officers / better enforcement	
Resourcing enforcement will be an issue – people will ignore the rules and just carry on as before	1
Dog control should be effective and policed to the extent necessary to achieve the above. This may mean an increase in dog licence fees to adequately fund the necessary staff and equipment. User should pay- if you want a dog costs of protecting the public must be borne by the dog owner, not the rate payer.	1
We also need greater funding for dog control people. Having dealt with them in the past, there are too few dog control people and too many people getting dogs with no ability to train or control a dog.	1
More dog control officers are needed – huge area to patrol	3
Rules are useless if unenforced. Is the council going to employ and train more dog wardens? Most people flout existing rules are generally non-receptive to requests to comply!	1
I would like some further confidence that Council will commit to enforcing the proposed regulations in public spaces by having enforcement officers on the ground monitoring these spaces (shared use paths, nesting areas, river corridor, etc.)	1

Dogs in vehicles

Dogs in vehicles are covered in two places – in the policy in relation to being careful of heat in summer, and in the bylaw relation to dogs on the open tray of vehicles, such as utes.

Concerned about unrestrained dogs in cars – dog jumped out of window and attacked a dog	1
Tesla cars have a dog mode, so dogs are not at risk, don't need rescuing, screen inside car indicates dog mode	1
There should be a limit on the number of dogs unrestrained in a vehicle, distraction for the driver and welfare issue for the dogs	1
The exemption to manage more than the maximum number of dogs should include information on how dogs will be transported (safety, dog welfare)	1

Other comments

Possible corrections	
Owner and person in charge are used inconsistently in the policy and bylaw	1

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Suggestions for alternative approaches	
Curfews should be used instead of leashing in early morning or later evening	2
Dogs could wear coloured bandanas to show socialising skills (green: friendly; orange: in training; yellow: check with owner; white: deaf or blind; red: do not approach)	1
Dogs have a positive impact	
Dogs have a positive impact on our communities and on our well-being, and dog owners should be thought of more positively	2
Perception concerns	
People tend to remember the one bad interaction they've had with a dog, not the many interactions where there were no issues	1
Other problems	
Dogs are not always the problem – other cause problems for dogs (eg scooters, bikes, etc)	1
Dogs neighbouring your property shouldn't constantly bark, snarl and scratch the fence with the owner not caring	1
There are some bad dog attacks happening and the Council needs to work harder on irresponsible dog owners	1
More frequent review	
The policy and bylaw should be reviewed more frequently (every five years, not every ten years) – it needs to be more responsible to changes	2
Costs to implement	
Acknowledge the costs to implement	1
More off-lead areas	
I'd like to see more areas created where dogs can walk off-lead. Dog parks can become crowded at peak times and they are repetitive for dogs. There needs to be more areas where owners and dogs can walk off-lead (without threatening wildlife)	1
Care should be given to ensure off-leash areas are dispersed widely throughout the city - in particular in new developments mix small yard spaces with narrow stretches of public grass with a single shared footpath - clearly unsuitable of off-leash activity	1
There is a need for areas/routes where individual dogs can be walked safely, away from other dogs, as not all dogs can cope with multiple others in even a relatively large space (and some owners will be calmer when not surrounded by unfamiliar dogs too)	1
Concerns about people not knowing about or following the rules	
A high volume of dogs are still brought into Travis Wetland	1
As a dog owner in NZ for 3 years I was unaware of the existing rules. Having been through this questionnaire I now know that the rules are broken very frequently. Plenty of people walk or run around the city with dogs off leash and people frequently leave dog poo behind. Having said that, I would also say dogs are well behaved and unless there is going a change in the enforcement process I would not bother changing the rules, just go for a few more signs especially in wildlife sensitive areas	2
Dog friendly approach	
Christchurch should embrace becoming a dog-friendly city to foster stronger community connections, boost local businesses, and promote public health through active lifestyles. Welcoming dogs in parks, cafes, and urban spaces enhances the city's liveability, attracts tourists and new residents, and builds its reputation as an inclusive, compassionate community. Thoughtfully designed dog-friendly spaces and policies can coexist with environmental goals, creating a balanced approach that benefits both people and pets. By investing in pet-friendly infrastructure, clear guidelines, and public education, Christchurch can position itself as a vibrant, progressive city that values the well-being of all its residents	1
Our cities should be designed to accommodate dogs	1

Operational comments

Provision of bins or bags	

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

Could the Council provide poop bags at dog parks	5
Please supply doggy doo bags like they do in Australia at places where dogs can be off lead	1
More bins / disappointed bins have been removed	20
Currently these bins are being removed and this has led to increased abandoned waste. It discourages responsible pet ownership and diminishes the appeal of public spaces and makes dog owners feel like they cannot enjoy these outdoor spaces with their pets. Restoring bins would address these issues, ensuring cleaner, more enjoyable spaces for all	1
"new note that dog faeces can contaminate waterways when left on the ground". When the CCC took away bins in parks, this created a very large increase in owners leaving faeces on the ground. If you have bin access at places such as wetlands that will only accept the size of a dog waste bag and not normal household rubbish, this will fix many issues of this and the problems with rubbish being dumped in park bins.	1

Out of scope comments

Dogs on buses	
Dogs on buses / public transport (Environment Canterbury)	11
Not every one likes dogs. Do not allow dogs on buses. Safety, hygiene (as dogs are not clean animals - some eat dead possums etc). Buses are for humans not dogs.	1
Regulate cats	
Regulate cats / what about cats? / cats are more of a threat to wildlife	35
Regulate cyclists	
Cyclists need to slow down, they are more of a safety issue than dogs	19
Dog welfare	
Dog welfare – stop tethering dogs on properties, especially with chains	2
Sale of dogs	
If you are controlling the ability for the enrichment of dogs, are you also proposing to control the breeding and sale of dogs? Shelters are full to the brim and we are making a dog's world smaller without addressing the real problem	1
Heavier fines	
Other places have better penalties eg UK	1
Heavier fines	3
Increase fines for people not picking up after their dogs	4
Motorcycles / vehicle damage / other animals	
I would like the council to get more involved in controlling motorcycles racing through bottle lake forest not just putting up signs get the park rangers to be active	1
I do find it funny that you are protecting the birdlife etc (which yes I agree with) but here in Spencerville you let people drive on the beach (creating damage), speeding and here you pick on the dogs	1
Other animals and machinery are more destructive than dogs	1

General comments on policy development and process

Some submitters were concerned about the process to develop the proposed changes, who was involved, and what evidence there was for the proposed changes.

The project to review the policy and bylaw is something every council must undertake at least once every ten years. The regulatory scope and process are set out in the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002. A public consultation process is required to seek public feedback. Legislation requires both the notification of all registered dog owners and the seeking of wider public views.

More input from dog experts	7

Attachment B: Dog control - Summary of submissions on all other matters

I believe the bylaws amendments are well meant but not well considered by excluding the canine professionals and limiting their input to this question-and-answer sheet. Your decisions are literally playing with people's businesses thus livelihoods	1
My view is that the results from the survey and consultation were predetermined before they even went out to the public	3
There has been no signage in any of the most affected areas to draw attention to this change	1
Concerned the survey results weren't listened to and that not all dog owners were made aware	1
General negative feedback on the use of data, information, evidence to justify the proposed changes	2
Lack of data	2
Where is the data and feedback on these changes. Where has this originated from, dog owners are now being marginalised and the dogs are all threats to everything that seems to be able to move. I just would like to see the complaints and feedback that has made this a necessity and will lead to more bureaucracy and enforcement, for who and how will this be enforced	1
Many of these problems seem more like isolated issues and some relate to cats. Some actual statistics would be helpful when proposing these changes	1
get real with the dog bylaw, you say dog population is up by 5,000 from 2016 - the population grew by 2016 374,900 to 2024 407,503 a jump of over 32,000 but you don't mention that, that the dog increase ratio is due to the human population increase. Get real, get honest and get accountable. just leave the pet dog along	1
I also note that in the dog survey that you keep referring to (which I do not remember ever being sent to dog owners!), fewer than half often support a change that you have decided to implement. Surely if there is not even a majority of the minority who filled in the survey agreeing, then there is no democratic justification for the proposed changes	1
This is feel good bureaucratic nonsense! Empire builders who are wasting ratepayer money! How is this going to be policed? This is a survey to give the public the opportunity to think they are being listened to when in reality the decisions have been made and will progress.	1
I find it abhorrent that CCC are actively encouraging people who do not like dogs to make submissions on these proposals, people of that opinion will not have anything positive or constructive to contribute to this proposal. It concerns me that progressive governments are likely to try to adhere to UN climate change agendas, one of which is to eliminate all meat-eating household pets by 2050	1
I sound a little negative, but the survey you sent me that went on at length really started to make me uneasy. I was left with the feeling you are already decided what you are going to do, and it was a facade to even pretend to have a survey to get the publics opinion. I'm totally against over-regulation. I no more want to see wildlife or other animals and people hurt by dogs, but people who feel that way already know and manage their dogs. People who don't care still won't and your bylaws aren't going to make a difference	1
The Council have not mentioned why these changes are needed? Are there statistics, complaints, concerns, safety issues that have triggered these changes. I always find other dog owners very good and thoughtful	1
The use of vague terms like "planted areas, green space" feels deliberately restrictive and reflects a clear anti-dog bias in the questionnaire. Overall, the consultation comes across as disingenuous, appearing more focused on limiting dog access than genuinely balancing the interests of all community members	1
I am saddened that this is where your efforts and resources are going. At least I can rest easy knowing that while people may be dying, trafficked, imprisoned, and exploited, at least we have no dog s*** on the shimmering footpaths of suburbia. Yipee, great job team. Just what government is for...	1

Dog Control: Summary of submissions from organisations and businesses

We received 26 submissions from organisations and businesses. They can be summarised as:

- four dog businesses or services (4)
- two veterinary or dog training associations (2)
- two national animal NGOs (2)
- one national environmental NGO (1)
- six community boards (6)
- one sports club (1)
- two community organisations (2)
- four residents, neighbourhood or body corporate groups (4)
- four land management trusts (4).

A summary of organisational views on limiting the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place, and the exemption process, follows the organisational summaries.

Organisational and business submitter summaries

Dog businesses or services (4)

Head To Tail	• Opposes requirement for dogs to be leashed on paths in green spaces where off-leash exercise is currently permitted • Concerned about the confusion leashing on paths in parks will create • Concerned about those with mobility issues, who may be unable to walk their dog on a leash • Supports dogs being leashed on paths near roads to protect dogs, their owners, and those driving/cycling past • Opposes dog walking number limits as it will negatively impact dog walkers. Would like more information on the exemption process • Supportive of approach to Avon River Corridor for the protection of flora and fauna, but not the general leashing on pathways rule
Christchurch Pet Sitter	• Opposes requirement for dogs to be leashed on paths in green spaces where off-leash exercise is currently permitted • Concerned it risks creating unnecessary conflict with those who dislike dogs, and adds confusion for owners • Concerned how leashing requirements might affect those who rely on stable paths (mobility/elderly) and want their dog off lead • Dog walking limits should be at least three per owner
Waggytails on Whitfield	• It is dangerous for people not to have their dogs on a lead near roads and around where animals graze • It would be helpful if areas where dogs can run free were signposted clearly • Opposes limit on dog walking numbers due to the impact on their business, only walks four dogs, one on lead

SpeakingDog K9 Services & Canine Neuropark	• Supportive of leashing, but not short leads. Long leads can be shortened for control • Short leads impact the nature of dogs and can create more aggressive behaviour • Supports leashing near roads for safety • Dogs should be on lead or prohibited at estuaries and river mouths, parts of lake and river shore, but concerned about where dogs will be able to go to cool off • Opposes restrictions to stormwater areas, considers it overprotection • Dog walking limit decisions need to be informed by professionals • Suggests canine professional being exempt • Education needed for dogs and owners on how to share paths

Veterinary or dog training associations (2)

Companion Animal Veterinarians Branch of the New Zealand Veterinary Association	• Strongly supports principles of responsible dog ownership and control to minimise the environmental impact of dogs • Emphasises the importance of education • Incentives such as discounts on registration, microchipping, and desexing should be implemented to encourage compliance • Supports dog walking number limits. Exemptions should only be granted to individuals who demonstrate appropriate skills, assessed through a formal process • Recommends dog walkers undergo professional training and obtain certification to ensure they possess the necessary skills to manage multiple dogs effectively and responsibly • Councils must be resourced to conduct regular inspections and respond swiftly to complaints • Agree dogs should always remain on leash in designated areas and under effective control. These measures are crucial for reducing unwanted encounters and enhancing public safety • Clarification is needed regarding what short leash, as there are many variations in length, with extendable options • Agree dogs should be under effective control at all times on shared paths and pedestrian areas to enhance public safety
Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (APDTNZ)	• Supportive of dog walking number limits • Stricter leashing requirements may not effectively address the underlying issues related to dog behaviour • Recommends emphasis on education, responsible dog guardianship and community engagement

Attachment C: Dog control - Summary of submissions from organisations and businesses

National Animal NGOs (2)

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) New Zealand	• Supports steps to promote responsible dog ownership • Broadly supports the intention of the proposed changes to leashing on or near roads • Leashing requirements for paths in off-leash areas may cause confusion and reduce compliance • Supports protection of wildlife and balancing the needs of different users through appropriate control of dogs, but cautions that removal of any off-leash exercise areas should be balanced with the creation appropriate off-leash exercise areas • Supports the proposed provision of additional off-leash areas • Supports the implementation of reasonable limits on the number of dogs a professional dog walker can manage at one time • Advocates for councils to provide a review pathway for dogs classed as menacing, provided owners demonstrate responsible dog ownership
Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	• Concerned with short leashes as they limit dogs' natural instincts to run and explore. A compromise could be educating dog owners on the controlled use of long leashes • Supportive of dog walking number limits, as this measure is beneficial for ensuring the safety of both dogs and the public • Encourages the Council to highlight the value of trainers who employ the LIMA approach [*Least Intrusive, Minimally Aversive. Is an approach to dog training that prioritises the well-being and emotional needs of the dog over traditional training methods that rely on punishment or aversive techniques*] • Encourages the Council to review the management of cats

National Environmental NGO (1)

Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand	• Very supportive of the changes in the new policy and bylaw • Strongly supports the restriction and wording/comments for the Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary, the Southshore Spit Reserve and Charlesworth Reserve • Supports the prohibition on dogs in all coastal estuarine or mudflat, saltmarsh and salt meadow habitats, including the listed foreshore areas and mudflats of Banks Peninsula • Well-positioned signage needed, particularly for prohibited areas • Effective implementation requires ongoing investment in education, monitoring, and enforcement. Registration fees should be set at a level that allows this

Community Boards (6)

Waihoro Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board	• Supportive of all key proposed changes • Strongly supports general leashing rules • Dogs should be leashed in the Hoon Hay wetlands • Supports the importance of protecting wildlife and strongly supports naming the estuary as a prohibited area • Pleased with the tightening of under effective control • Recommends specifying in the bylaw that the maximum leash length is 1.5m • Strongly supports dog parks and highlights their success in the community, but feels that there is not adequate geographical spread across the city • Would like to see ways to make it easier for people to take their dogs to dog parks

Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board	• Needs to be more education for dog owners, particularly for new owners regarding the requirements, especially what constitutes under effective control • Suggests a possible pocket card on the rules as part of the registration process
Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board	• Generally supportive of proposed policy and bylaw • Concerned about leashing requirements at Lyttelton Recreation Ground being lifted, as there are ongoing issues with dog waste being left on the ground, causing health concerns for sports teams using the fields • Requests bins are provided at the ground to encourage people to pick up after their dogs • The Council should also investigate alternative dog exercise area options in Lyttelton and Diamond Harbour • Appreciates new regulations to prohibit dogs on some mudflats and foreshore areas to protect wildlife values
Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board	• Mostly supports the general leashing rules, but notes it needs to be made very clear that dogs can be under effective control when off paths • Need for signage and increased education on under effective control • Not sure on the blanket rule for formed tracks on the flat, outside areas of ecological significance • 1.5m short leash is too restrictive for people and dogs of different sizes, suggests retractable leads provided they are retractable to 1.5m on paths • Suggests general leashing rule for formed pathways not apply in the OARC outside wildlife areas • Would like some dog parks in the OARC • Suggest the rules in stormwater basins should depend on whether the area needs protection or not • Supports prohibiting dogs in the estuary as this is an important ecological area that should be a place where bird life is prioritised • Notes it takes a very skilled person to have a pack of dogs under effective control, and safety should be a priority • Notes the exemption process should not be onerous on people who depend on walking dogs for their income/wellbeing • Clear signage needed at all entrances to parks, reserves, beaches and forests regarding obligations of dog owners e.g. under effective control and poo bags • Need for visible and frequent enforcement
Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board	• With increasing intensification, there is an increased need for recreational spaces within walkable distances of residents to minimise transport emissions, consideration needs to be given to supporting dog parks in urban areas • The recent request to the Board for a small dog park near Diana Isaac Retirement Village is a good example of this demand • Ensuring there are appropriate larger spaces for larger dogs is important to balance the need for spaces like the Botanic Gardens for residents seeking significant dog-free zones • If the proposed restrictions are going to be implemented, enough appropriate spaces where dogs can be off-leash need to be provided in convenient locations

Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood Community Board	• Supports limits on the number of dogs one person can control, as safety needs to be a priority • Exemption process needs to be easily understandable and based on a fair, objective criteria • Clarity sought on whether the leashing requirement for footpaths and tracks covers those inside a dog parks or exercise areas • Monitoring and enforcement need to be prioritised to ensure compliance • Clear guidance needed on complaints process • Seeks confirmation that dogs are required to be leashed in the vicinity of organised sport games

Sports clubs (1)

Whakaraupo Football FC	• Strongly opposes lifting the leashing requirements on Lyttelton Recreation Ground • Recent improvements have made the area smaller, and it is important this is preserved year-round for recreation, and not compromised by dog faeces and dogs not under effective control • There have been numerous incidents with dogs interrupting games and training sessions, as well as owners letting their dogs out and staying in their cars • The club has had to regularly remove faeces before games

Community organisations (2)

Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network	• Strongly supports regulations that better protect wildlife from dogs in key areas • Suggests incentives for dog owners and their dogs to be suitably trained on under effective control • The policy and bylaw need to be communicated effectively to the community, using all appropriate communication avenues • Well-positioned signage, particularly for prohibited areas, should be prioritised as part of the implementation • Recommends a cat control policy and bylaw should be adopted
Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch	• Encourages focusing on effective and consistent enforcement of existing rules • Does not support short leashing rules as a blanket approach. Agrees with it in some places, but not others • Supportive of dogs being prohibited from the estuary, as keeping dogs off the mudflats and water's edge is important in an ecologically important area • South New Brighton side of Estuary - dogs should be able to be controlled off-leash without disturbing wildlife • Supportive of dog walking number limits only if there is a decent exemption • Change in under effective control seems sensible and enforceable • Constructed dog parks can sometimes be of value, but can be very dangerous place for dogs

Residents, neighbourhood or body corporate groups (4)

Spreydon Neighbourhood Network	• Support leashing on pathways under the general leashing rule • The Council needs to make it clear to residents that dog waste must be picked up every time • Signage needs to be large and unequivocal (included a photo of the Kakaha Dog Park signage) • The Council should be visiting schools and groups to educate on the impacts of dog waste
Redcliffs Residents Association	• Strongly supports proposals to increase the protection of wildlife by improving dog control in the Avon-Heathcote Estuary • Concerned about seeing a great deal of disturbance caused by dogs off the leash in the estuary area • Supports dogs being entirely excluded from the mudflats, and only allowed to exercise on a leash on the surrounding footpaths, and the estuary edge at Southshore • Supports the Estuary Trust's submission • Greater public education is needed around the estuary edge • More dog exercise areas are needed in Redcliffs • More effective signage and enforcement are needed
Worcester Terraces Body Corp	• Concerned that Rauora Park and Latimer Square off-leash could have unintended consequences for the residents: dogs not being not under effective control and causing nuisances to other park users; and concerns about dog waste. Recommends the Avon Loop off-leash as an alternative • Concerned about the impact dogs may have on urban greenspaces • Supports the proposal to protect wildlife in the Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary by restricting dog access to sensitive areas. By continuing to allow dogs along nearby paths and areas, the proposal ensures the protection of endangered species without limiting recreational opportunities for responsible dog owners • Supports general leashing rules to enhance public safety and ensure dogs don't cause disruptions or accidents in busy areas • Supports OARC proposal to protect sensitive wildlife areas, while allowing dogs to be exercised in large, open spaces under effective control • Allowing dogs off-leash in mowed grass areas, while controlling access to sensitive wetland areas, ensures that the ecological balance is maintained, without limiting recreational space for dog owners • Supports the proposal to limit the number of dogs under the control of a single individual, both for safety reasons and to prevent potential disruptions in public spaces
Belfast Area Residents Association	• Long leads can tangle around other users • Protecting wildlife is important, providing they are a relevant species and appropriate pest control is adopted by the Parks department • It is difficult to control more than one dog at a time in public shared spaces, it is important to keep everyone safe • The current rule for the Groynes is more consistent and easier to follow • More advertising needed on the penalties of leaving dog waste

Land management trusts (4)

The Styx Living Laboratory Trust	• The Trust maintains parks and reserves along the Pūharakekenui as part of the creation of a "Source to Sea" pathway for the Styx River • Strongly supports all initiatives that enhance ecological values and assist with establishing the Pūharakekenui Styx as a viable spring-fed river ecosystem • Strongly supports clarification on the different areas of the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve and prohibiting dogs from ecologically significant areas • Prohibiting dogs is vital for maintaining these ecological values • The Trust notes that the perimeter pathway for leashed dogs and designated dog park for unleashed dogs provides ample space for people to enjoy the Styx Mill area without disrupting the protected areas and species inside the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve • Strongly supports the prohibition of dogs from the Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park and Janet Stewart Reserve, which the Pūharakekenui river flows through. Off-leash dogs have the potential to harm and disrupt the character of these sites • Strongly supports that all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks require dogs to be on a short leash • This will ensure Pūharakekenui / Styx River is accessible and enjoyable for the community, including exercising dogs, while also protecting wildlife and the cultural character of the area
Summit Road Society Inc	• Supports the overall intent of the bylaw and policy to balance responsible dog ownership with the protection of public safety and natural environments • Strongly supports dogs being required to be on short leashes, particularly in the Port Hills reserves to ensure safety of dogs and the environment • Short leashes prevent dogs from accessing poison baits at bait stations. Allowing dogs to roam free poses a significant risk to their health and undermines conservation efforts • Leashing helps preserve native wildlife by minimising disturbance to vulnerable species that rely on the Port Hills reserves for survival • Supports limits on the number of dogs one can have in a public place. Limiting the number of dogs helps ensure that handlers can maintain proper control, reducing the likelihood of dogs straying into baited areas or disturbing native wildlife
Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust	• Applaud the new inclusion of the estuary and agree with the wording and reasoning • Maximum dogs under control should be two, not four • Agree with the new general leashed areas proposed • Agree that dogs should be leashed at Southshore Spit Reserve • Needs to be more dog parks/exercise areas, particularly in the east • Need to improve signage and for consistency between signage, the policy and bylaw, and the website • Urge the Council to be more active in ensuring dog owners are aware of the penalties in bylaw breaches
Riccarton Bush Trust	• Supports all proposals • Requiring dogs on a leash lessens the conflict between dog owners and other people. Ensures dogs are controlled • It is incredibly important to protect wildlife • Supports limits on the number of dogs walked by one person, as it is about safety • Thankful Riccarton House, Bush and environs are covered by the policy

Attachment C: Dog control - Summary of submissions from organisations and businesses

Organisational views on limiting the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place, and exemptions

The following is a summary of views from organisations or businesses on limiting how many dogs one person can be in control of in a public place. We proposed limiting the number to two when off-leash and four when leashed, with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs.

The detail for this proposal was set out in:

- section 3.1.2 of the policy (Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of);
- clause 5 of the bylaw (Control of dogs in all public places and at all times, subclause 4); and
- clause 13 of the bylaw (Dog limit exemption).

Name	View
Dog businesses or services	
Head To Tail	• Opposes dog walking number limits as it will negatively impact dog walkers • More information is needed on the exemption process
Christchurch Pet Sitter	• Dog walking limits should be at least three per owner
Waggytails on Whitfield	• Opposes limit on dog walking numbers due to the impact on their business, only walks four dogs, one on lead
SpeakingDog K9 Services & Canine Neuropark	• Dog walking limit decisions need to be informed by professionals • Suggests canine professional being exempt
Veterinary or dog training associations	
Companion Animal Veterinarians Branch of the New Zealand Veterinary Association	• Supports dog walking number limits. Exemptions should only be granted to individuals who demonstrate appropriate skills, assessed through a formal process • Recommends dog walkers undergo professional training and obtain certification to ensure they possess the necessary skills to manage multiple dogs effectively and responsibly
Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand	• Supportive of dog walking number limits to ensure better control and safety
National animal NGO	
SPCA New Zealand	• Supports the implementation of reasonable limits on the number of dogs a professional dog walker can manage at one time • Mentions Wellington's licensing approach as a possible alternative approach
Companion Animals New Zealand	• Supportive of dog walking number limits as this measure is beneficial for ensuring the safety of both dogs and the public

5. Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Staff advice to support deliberations

Reference Te Tohutoro:	25/320760
Responsible Officer(s) Te Pou Matua:	Teena Crocker, Senior Policy Analyst Lionel Bridger, Manager Animal Services
Accountable ELT Member Pouwhakarae:	John Higgins, General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory Services

1. Purpose and Origin of the Report Te Pūtake Pūrongo

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Hearings Panel with staff advice to support its deliberations on matters raised in submissions on the proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016.

1.2 The report is the second report to the Panel. The first report summarised the submissions received on the proposed changes, while this report offers staff advice on the matters raised in submissions.

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Receives the information in the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw - Staff advice to support deliberations Report.
2. Considers the matters raised in submissions and the advice provided in the attachments to this report and directs staff on how it wishes to proceed.

3. Executive Summary Te Whakarāpopoto Matua

3.1 This report complements the previous report to the Hearings Panel that summarises submissions on proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016, which arose from a review of the policy and bylaw.

3.2 This report provides advice on the matters raised in submissions for the Panel to consider during its deliberations, so that it may make recommendations to Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

3.3 The attachments to this report include:

- **Advice for the hearings panel** (this sets out a brief summary of the issues raised in submissions, what was proposed, staff advice in response, and recommendations for the Panel to consider, issue by issue);
- **Maps of key areas** that may be of assistance to the Hearings Panel; and
- The current **dog control policy**, with marked up changes and reasons for the changes (as prepared for consultation); and
- The current **dog control bylaw**, with marked up changes and reasons for the changes (as prepared for consultation).

3.4 The Panel may raise additional matters or wish to seek further advice from staff. Any subsequent advice will be provided, as needed.

3.5 Once the Panel has deliberated on the issues raised in submissions and indicated to staff how it wishes to proceed, staff will prepare revised versions of the dog control policy and bylaw with the changes requested by the Panel.

3.6 These will then be brought back to the Panel for its consideration. A record of all changes will be prepared to form a set of recommendations for the Hearings Panel's report to Council.

3.7 Advice from staff incorporates views from Parks (including Regional Parks, Red Zone, Community Parks and Ecology), Animal Management, Stormwater and Waterways, Strategic Policy and Legal Services.

3.8 The Panel's role is to consider all submissions and to make recommendations to the Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

3.9 In considering the matters raised in submissions, the Panel should be mindful of the Council's regulatory and bylaw-making powers and the scope of the consultation proposals. Relevant points are set out in the Legal section below.

3.10 Significant changes from the original proposals may require further consultation.

4. Background/Context Te Horopaki

4.1 Legislation requires councils to have a policy on dogs and a bylaw to enforce it. This is one of the few bylaws that are required by legislation, and the only bylaw with an associated statutory policy.

4.2 For full information on the review of the policy and bylaw and the proposed changes, see the report to Council and its attachments: 16 October 2024: **Review of the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016**, (Council, agenda item 9).

4.3 Consultation material, including the statement of proposal, can be found here: Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 | Kōrero mai | Let's talk

4.4 The previous report to the Hearings Panel sets out the more recent background and context.

Options Considered Ngā Kōwhiringa Whaiwhakaaro

4.5 The reasonably practicable options raised in submissions have been considered and analysed in the attached document. Other options analysis was included in the 16 October 2024 report to Council.

5. Financial Implications Ngā Hīraunga Rauemi

Capex/Opex Ngā Utu Whakahaere

5.1 Monitoring and enforcement of the policy and bylaw, and signage and communication activities to highlight the rules or changes will be determined based on existing budgets, once the final form of the policy and bylaw are known.

5.2 Dog control activities are funded by dog registration fees, while signage is managed by Parks. Signs will be updated and upgraded as business-as-usual budgets allow. Signs are a coordinated part of wider Parks signage activities to support visitor experience.

5.3 Website and other online updates will be undertaken within existing budgets, including an update of the online interactive map where you can take your dog and associated information in the walking track map.

5.4 The matter before the Panel is the regulatory settings for the policy and bylaw, rather than a review of operational, enforcement and implementation activities.

6. Considerations Ngā Whai Whakaaro

Risks and Mitigations Ngā Mōrearea me ngā Whakamātautau

6.1 Some submitters made their submissions based only on the summaries for the six key proposals (this is evident in questions and requests for detail that submitters included). It is clear from submissions that some dog owners are not familiar with the current rules, and this is something that can be addressed as part of the implementation of the policy and bylaw.

6.2 There is a danger that dog owners will not agree with or understand the dog control rules in the policy and bylaw. The policy is getting increasingly complex. Alternatives include utilising more general (rather than specific) rules, but some submitters opposed "blanket" approaches. Specific prohibited or leashed areas could be reduced, but this would have varying impacts across the district, depending on the rules and reasons for them, and may not align with strategic goals of Council, such as protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

6.3 Signs to indicate dog controls can lose their effectiveness over time, will not be effective for some people, and can come at a significant cost on a district-wide scale. Updated signage will be assessed and managed within existing budgets. Online and other communication approaches will also be utilised.

Legal Considerations Ngā Hīraunga ā-Ture

6.4 Statutory and/or delegated authority to undertake proposals in the report:

- The statutory authority to review, consult and make the Council's Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw comes from both the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Local Government Act 2002.
- The Council is required under the Dog Control Act to have a policy in respect of dogs in its district. The Council must make any necessary bylaws to give effect to the policy.
- The regulatory scope and requirements are set out in section 10 of the Act for dog control policies, and section 20 for dog control bylaws.
- The Dog Control Act expressly allows councils to develop bylaws that restrict access to specified public places for the purposes of dog control.

6.5 Section 10 of the Dog Control Act requires that councils, in adopting a policy dogs, must have regard to:

- The need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and
- The need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults; and
- The importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
- The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

6.6 Other Legal Implications:

- Advice on specific bylaw-making requirements was provided in the 16 October 2024 Council report, including the section 155 analysis required under the Local Government Act 2002.

6.7 The section 155 determinations will need to be included in the Hearings Panel report to Council. These confirm that a bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing the identified problems, that it is the most appropriate form of bylaw, and that it does not give rise to any New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 implications. This is required by the Local Government Act 2002.

6.8 More detail on this was included in an attachment to the 16 October 2024 report to Council, titled: Review report - Dog Control Bylaw and Policy (including section 155 report), and was also available on the consultation page: Kōrero mai | Let's talk

Strategy and Policy Considerations Te Whai Kaupapa here

6.9 Strategic and policy considerations have been covered in the previous report to the Hearings Panel and in the 16 October 2024 report to Council. Specific matters are covered in more detail in the attached documents, where appropriate.

Community Impacts and Views Ngā Mariu ā-Hāpori

6.10 These have been covered in the previous report to the Hearings Panel and in the attached documents.

Impact on Mana Whenua Ngā Whai Take Mana Whenua

6.11 This was covered in the 16 October 2024 report to Council. The matters covered in this report do not impact on previous analysis of the impacts on mana whenua.

Climate Change Impact Considerations Ngā Whai Whakaaro mā te Āhuarangi

6.12 This was covered in the 16 October 2024 report to Council. The matters covered in this report do not impact on previous analysis of climate change considerations.

7. Next Steps Ngā Mahinga ā-muri

Decision Making Authority Te Mana Whakatau

7.1 The decision-making authority for bylaws sits with the Council and cannot be delegated to a Committee of Council or other body. The role of the Hearings Panel is to consider and hear submissions, deliberate on those matters raised, and make recommendations to the Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

Legal Implications Ngā Hīraunga ā-Ture

7.2 Submissions made on the proposals should be received by the Hearings Panel with an open mind and should be given due consideration.

7.3 When deliberating on submissions, the Hearings Panel should keep in mind the Council's regulatory and bylaw-making powers and the scope of the consultation proposals. Significant changes from original proposals may require further consultation.

Risks Ngā Tūraru

7.4 With any bylaw-making process, there is always a risk that members of the public or organisations may not agree with the proposals finally adopted by the Council and may seek judicial review proceedings. This risk can be managed by careful compliance with the provisions of the relevant Acts, and common law relating to bylaws.

Next Steps Ngā Mahinga ā-muri

7.5 The Hearings Panel should consider all written and oral submissions, seek any further advice from staff, deliberate on the issues raised, and make recommendations to the Council on the final form of the policy and bylaw.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A	Attachment A - Advice for deliberations - dog control policy and bylaw 2025	24/2002614	102
B	Attachment B - Indicative maps of key areas to support deliberations	25/379089	148
C	Attachment C - Proposed changes Dog Control Policy (2024) for consultation	24/1389798	154
D	Attachment D - Proposed changes Dog Control Bylaw (2024) for consultation	24/1332196	197

In addition to the attached documents, the following background information is available:

Document Name – Location / File Link
Not applicable

Signatories Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Teena Crocker - Senior Policy Analyst
Approved By	Tracey Weston - Head of Regulatory Compliance David Griffiths - Head of Strategic Policy & Resilience John Higgins - General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory Services

Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2025: Advice to support the deliberations of the Hearings Panel

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Introduction

This attachment is to support the deliberations of the Hearings Panel. Note that:

- Staff recommendations are highlighted with red throughout, with suggested changes set out in tables
- Where recommended changes involve altered text, suggested deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~ and replacement or new text is underlined
- Note that a document with maps of key areas is Attachment B to the report
- There is some necessary duplication in the policy and bylaw because of the requirements in the Dog Control Act 1996, so some changes will have to be reflected in both documents, once the Hearings Panel has agreed
- For some issues, a more detailed summary of submissions has been included to provide context for the Panel (other summaries are briefer)

- Once the Panel has agreed to the changes it wishes to make, a marked up copy of the policy and bylaw will be prepared for the Panel to consider.

General prohibited rules – policy sections and bylaw clauses

Dogs are currently prohibited at Council swimming pools and paddling pools. A submitter suggested changing the prohibition to acknowledge events that are designed for dogs, such as pooch pool parties, which have been very popular in recent years.

Staff response and advice: An explanatory note could be added to acknowledge this. A related suggestion is set out in the Staff Changes section at the end of this document, relating to events for dogs that may be in conflict with location-based prohibited or leashed rules. Staff recommend the following change:

Issue	Reason or solution	Document(s)	Recommended change to policy and bylaw wording
Prohibition in **swimming pools**, except when dog swim days allow it	Clarification that dogs can be allowed in Council pools for special dog events	Policy (section 6.1.3) and bylaw (clause 8(c))	Add explanatory note: *Explanatory note: The prohibition does not apply to organised Council events designed for dogs at Council swimming or paddling pools.*

General leashed rules – policy sections and bylaw clauses

Context and background

There are six general rules in the current policy and bylaw and four proposed new general rules. These are rules that apply in a **category of place**, rather than applying in a specific, named place. The general prohibited and leashed rules are set out in both the policy and bylaw. The Dog Control Act requires the policy to set out the nature and application of any bylaws made under it, and the bylaw then provides the enforceable rules.

The **current general rules** with no proposed changes are:

- dogs prohibited from all Council playgrounds; Council paddling pools; and
- dogs leashed at all cemeteries and memorials; and at all boat ramps and slipways.

The **current general rules with proposed changes** are:

- dogs prohibited from all Council skateparks, with a proposal to add pump tracks; and
- dogs leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads, with a proposal to add shared paths and pedestrian areas and clarify requirements in car parking areas.

The **proposed new general rules** are:

- leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions;
- leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks;
- leashing at community gardens; and
- leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas.

Prohibited from all Council skateparks, with a proposal to add pump tracks

Very few specific comments were received in relation to pump tracks. Pump tracks are similar to skateparks, but are for bikes or scooters, rather than skateboards.

Staff response and advice: As the explanatory note in the bylaw states: "*Skateparks and pump tracks are designed for the use and enjoyment of children and teenagers. Children and teenagers are disproportionately represented in dog bite and injury statistics. The speed and noise of a skatepark may excite or provoke a dog. Ensuring dogs are not in these skateboard areas makes them safer for children and teenagers to use*."

With few specific comments on this minor change, but many submissions expressing overall support for the proposed changes, staff do not recommend any changes to this proposal.

Leashing on roads, footpaths, shared paths, pedestrian areas and car parking areas

A change was recommended to the requirement to leash dogs on roads and footpaths alongside roads to add / clarify that the leashing requirement applies to shared paths, other pedestrian areas and car parks. This was one of the six key questions and received support from 70% of submitters.

Some submitters thought under effective control was adequate, that short leads should not be required, or that it should depend on how busy the area was. Supporters of the proposal indicated public safety as a priority (safer for dogs / other people / motorists / wildlife) and for better control of dogs in public places. Some indicated long leads were a hazard and short leads were preferred.

Staff response and advice: As the explanatory note to the bylaw states: "*Vehicles could harm a dog that is not under control, and, equally, a dog could cause a vehicle to have an accident. Having your dog under control on and near roads and areas where vehicles manoeuvre is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of others. Roads, footpaths, pedestrian areas and shared paths are used by people walking, running, cycling and scootering, as well as by people using mobility devices, pushchairs, balance bikes, skateboards, etc, and we want to make sure these areas are safer for everyone. A short leash is defined in the dog control bylaw as no longer than 1.5 meters, and if extendable, is locked at a length of no longer than 1.5 metres*."

The proposal was a small expansion from the current requirement to leash on roads and footpaths alongside roads - to cover pedestrian and shared areas, and to clarify that leashing is required in car parks where vehicles manoeuvre. Staff do not recommend any changes to this proposal.

Leashing on wharves, jetties and boardwalks

A change was recommended to require dogs to be leashed on wharves, jetties and boardwalks. This received mixed responses, with some support in submissions. A similar question was asked in the July 2024 survey - we asked if dogs be leashed on jetties and wharves, and of the 6,222 respondents who answered this question, 72% said yes, 19% said no and 9% were not sure.

Staff response and advice: The explanatory note in the bylaw sets out the following: "*...Dogs are required to be on a leash to protect health and safety. Any hooks or fishing line left behind on wharves or jetties may present a danger to dogs, so dogs should be leashed for their own safety. Wharves, jetties and boardwalks are narrow spaces and dogs should be under good control. Boardwalks are often part of paths or tracks, so dogs are required to be leashed for consistency*." Note that the leashing requirement does not apply where dogs are otherwise prohibited, such as on New Brighton Pier. Staff do not recommend any changes to this proposal.

Leashing at community gardens

A change was recommended to require dogs to be leashed at community gardens. This received mixed responses, with some support in submissions. A similar question was asked in the July 2024 survey - we asked if dogs should be leashed at community gardens and of the 6,089 respondents who answered this question 72% said yes, 17% said no and 11% were not sure.

Staff response and advice: The explanatory note in the bylaw sets out the following: "*Dogs must be leashed in and around all community gardens to protect health and safety and prevent damage to gardens and food crops*". Staff do not recommend any changes to this proposal.

Leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions

What we proposed in the consultation version of bylaw:

Proposed clause 9(F) in the bylaw	Proposed explanatory note in the bylaw	Reason for the change, as set out in the consultation version of the bylaw
ALL SPORTS FIELDS DURING GAMES AND PRACTICE SESSIONS Dogs must be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions. Dogs may be exercised under effective control at other times (unless other rules apply).	*Explanation: Dogs are required to be leashed to protect health and safety and to prevent interference with games. It is especially important that people pick-up after their dogs on sports fields.*	Sport fields can be great wide-open spaces to exercise dogs. Most are currently under effective control areas, by default. We think it makes sense for dogs to be allowed to run around when the sports fields are not in use, but dogs running free when games or practice sessions are being held can be a problem, so we are proposing that dogs be leashed at these times. This proposal received 80% support in the dog control survey.

Submitters were generally supportive of dogs being leashed during sports games and practices. Some submitters were concerned that the leashing requirement would apply to the entirety of the greenspace area, rather than to the active playing area. A similar question was asked in the July 2024 survey: We asked if dogs should be leashed on sports fields during games and practice sessions. Of the 6,091 who answered this question 80% said yes, 15% said no and 5% weren't sure.

Staff response and advice: The intention was to require leashing in the active playing and immediately adjacent areas only, not to an entire greenspace area that contains sports fields. Staff considered the distance around a game or practice where supporters / spectators, coaches, substitute players, and any equipment or gear might be, and concluded that five metres was reasonable. Staff recommend the following changes:

Issue	Comments	Document(s)	Recommended changes to bylaw wording
Sports fields – lack of clarity about when leashing is required or where the leashing rule applies	Clarify that leashing only relates to the active playing area and areas for supporters / spectators during games or practice sessions - not to an entire park with sports fields in it	Bylaw clause 9(F)	ALL SPORTS FIELDS DURING GAMES AND PRACTICE SESSIONS Dogs must be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions. This applies to the playing area (marked by line-marking, cones, flags, or other means), and within five metres of the playing area. Dogs may be exercised under effective control outside of this area, and at other times in the area, unless other rules apply.

Note that concerns were raised about the proposal to lift the current leashing restriction on Lyttelton Recreation Ground, which would mean it would be covered by this general sports fields rule. Lyttelton Recreation Ground is covered in the later section on specific leashed and prohibited areas.

Leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas

We proposed a new general leashed rule for footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas - the consultation version of bylaw (clause 9(B)) and covered in the consultation version of the policy (section 6.2):

Proposed clause 9(B) in the bylaw	Proposed explanatory note in the bylaw	Reason for the change, as set out in the consultation version of the bylaw
ALL FOOTPATHS, SHARED PATHS AND FORMED TRACKS IN PARKS Dogs must be on a short leash on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks where dogs are allowed.	*Explanatory note: This rule only applies to areas where dogs are allowed (dogs are prohibited in specified areas, as set out in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy 2024). Parks for the*	Footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas are used by pedestrians, cyclists / mountain-bikers and users of wheeled devices (both mobility and recreational devices), as well as buggies / pushchairs. Many footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks currently require leashing, but this varies and can be confusing.

This does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area.	*purposes of this clause include any greenspace areas open to the public, including reserves and stormwater assets*	Formed tracks are not sealed like a footpath, but may have a hard-packed or shingle surface. They tend to be found in regional parks, and in many of these areas dogs are currently required to be leashed on tracks, including Port Hills reserves. This change will provide clarity and consistency. The Council continues to develop stormwater assets, many of which operate as parks, with walking tracks and areas for recreation. Although these areas are not technically parks, they have the appearance and function of parks, so should have the same leashing requirements as parks. Stormwater assets include large areas like Te Kuru Wetland, as well as smaller drainage reserves in new subdivisions. Having a general rule will mean it applies to stormwater assets that are under development or will be developed in the future, and keeps things simple and consistent. The proposal to require leashing on shared paths received 76% support in the dog control survey, while leashing on paths in parks received 57% support, and the proposal for leashing on formed tracks received 49% against (with 44% in support).

What we summarised as a key question for Kōrero mai | Let's talk for consultation:

Topic	Summary from Kōrero mai | Let's talk	Questions
Require dogs to be leashed on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks		
	We're proposing to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed (this includes parks, reserves and stormwater assets that function as parks) so that they are safer for everyone – dogs would still be allowed off leash and under effective control in areas off any paths and tracks, unless otherwise specified in the policy. .... For more information, see section 6.2 of the policy (General leashed areas) and clause 9 of the bylaw (General leashed dog control areas).	Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?

1,532 submitters answered this question. Just over half of them (818, 53%) did not support the proposal.

Consultation question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?	654 submitters **43%**	818 submitters **53%**	61 submitters **4%**

The following themes from comments relating to this key question were summarised in Attachment A to the previous report to the Hearings Panel and provide useful information for the Panel:

Themes in comments **opposing** the proposal – key question responses	Themes in comments **supporting** the proposal – key question responses
• Under effective control is sufficient (**257**) • It should be up to the owner to determine, or it should be based on the dog's training (**146**) • Ok with leashing, but not short leash (**89**) • Ok with footpaths/shared paths, but not formed tracks (**48**) • Does not believe there is any issue to solve (**18**) • Does not want rule to apply to the red zone / Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (**17**)	• Safer and better control for dogs / people (**172**) • Stops dogs rushing at my dog / 'friendly dog' debate / better for on-leash or reactive dogs (**79**) • Stops dogs jumping /rushing at me / child (**55**) • Protect wildlife (**32**) • Long-leashes are a hazard / prefer short leash (**26**) • "I'm a dog owner and agree" statement without any other context (**19**)
Opposed because they misunderstood the proposal: • Believed the proposed rule is to leash in all greenspaces (**25**) • Believed leashing on formed tracks in the Port Hills would be new / misunderstanding of the current rules (**26**) • Concerned the rule covers Bottle Lake Dog Exercise Area (**22**)	

Other opposing themes from general comments (Attachment B to the previous report to the Hearings Panel) included:

- opposed that short leash was specified (or were not sure how long a short leash might be)
- misunderstanding / assuming any leashed area required a short leash, or that longer leashes / extendable / retractable leashes were being prohibited
- misunderstanding / assuming that leashes were being proposed for all greenspace areas
- concerns about dog wellbeing / natural tendencies / enjoyment
- concerned that the change would represent an impractical and significant change to how dogs and their owners use and enjoy greenspace
- concerns about other users of footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks (particularly cyclists) being more of a problem than dogs
- a misunderstanding of the current rules.

Note that views that support this proposal and better control of dogs in public places were also reflected in the more general comments that submitters made about the control of dogs in public places – (see Attachment B to the previous report to the Hearings Panel), in particular, the sections titled:

- Owners not paying attention / public safety concerns; Stronger rules for public places; Dog-free spaces; Picking up after dogs; General support for the proposals, policy and / or bylaw; Comments on proposed general rules (leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks); Definition of under effective control; Wildlife protection – general comments; etc.

The results from the July 2024 survey may be of interest to the Panel. This is because the questions that were asked were slightly different to the more recent consultation question and may provide useful insight. The survey is covered in more detail here, but in summary, the following results were provided from the 6,245 respondents:

Survey question summary		Yes	No	Not sure	Analysis
Requiring a leash					
On shared paths?	✓	**76% yes** *4,701 respondents*	20% no	4% not sure	• strong majority of support for leashing • 56% more in support than opposed
On footpaths in parks and reserves?	✓	**57% yes** *3,517 respondents*	38% no	5% not sure	• reasonable majority of support for leashing • 19% more in support than opposed
On formed tracks in parks and reserves?	✗	44% yes	**49% no** *3,043 respondents*	7% not sure	• marginal majority of opposition to leashing • 5% more in opposition than support

We then asked if a **short leash** should be used for these situations, as good control is needed, and this received the following response:

Survey question summary		Yes	No	Not sure	Analysis
Requiring a leash					
Short leash on roads, footpaths (roadside and in parks), on shared paths, and on formed tracks?	✓	***51% yes*** *3,129 respondents*	41%	8%	• marginal majority of support for short leash • 10% more in support than opposed

In the recent consultation, however, the question was asked as one question covering **footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks**, with a **short leash** in **greenspace areas**, which resulted in the following results:

Consultation question summary		Yes	No	Don't know	
short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?	✓	43% 654 submitters	**53%** 818 submitters	4%	• marginal majority of opposition • 10% more in opposition than supported

Numbers do not tell the whole story. As set out in Attachment A to the previous report to the Hearings Panel, the analysis on comments on the consultation key question showed that:

- 89 submitters opposed it because they were ok with leashing, but not a short leash;
- 48 submitters were ok with footpaths/shared paths, but not formed tracks;
- 25 submitters thought leashing was proposed for all greenspaces (misunderstanding the proposal);
- 26 submitters thought this would change the rules on the Port Hills (misunderstanding the proposal); and
- 22 submitters opposed it because they thought it would apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area (misunderstanding the proposal).

This shows that objections to the proposal to require leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas were not as strong as the numbers may have initially suggested, once some further analysis is done.

Staff response and advice:

Clarifications and reasons for the proposal

The proposal is to require that dogs are controlled on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas because:

- there around 5,000 more dogs in the district than when the bylaw was last reviewed, which may have altered views on dogs in public places
- the review is a chance to views on the control of dogs in public places and paths can be narrow spaces shared by many people for different activities
- a short leash was specified for pathways as they are narrow, and good control is required
- short leash is defined in the bylaw as a leash of no longer than 1.5m, or an extendable leash locked at 1.5m
- a short leash is not required in all leashed areas, and longer leashes / extendable / retractable leashes are not being prohibited
- the proposal applies to pathways in greenspace areas, not to greenspace areas as a whole
- greenspace and a modified definition of "park" are used in the bylaw because the rule is intended to apply not just to parks and reserves, but to stormwater assets that function like parks (such as Te Kuru Wetlands and other drainage basins, engineered wetlands or drainage reserves)
- whether something should be considered a footpath or a shared path is not always clear, given changing use patterns
- many formed tracks already require leashing
- areas around any pathways where dogs are currently allowed to be under effective control would remain the same, meaning dogs be exercised off-leash
- the proposed general rule would not override specific rules, for example, if an area is prohibited to dogs, it would not allow dogs in the prohibited area on paths
- having a general rule future-proofs the district, as new areas open up to recreation, and makes the requirements simpler and clearer
- the statement of proposal / policy stated: *Many footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks currently require leashing, but this varies and can be confusing… This change will provide clarity and consistency.*

More context:

- Footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks:

    - new paths and tracks are being developed as new greenspace areas open to the public, including significant green stormwater assets, like Te Kuru, and parks, like the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, as well as new parks and drainage reserves in subdivisions
    - unless new areas are covered by the policy and bylaw, they default to under effective control, which has been an issue in some new areas (including on new tracks that are very popular, or where wildlife protections are needed, like Te Kuru Wetlands)
    - having to specify each new path would be onerous (the Dog Control Act requires a formal amendment to a dog control policy to add a new area – there is no quick administrative way of doing this, meaning changes tend to be made infrequently, or as part of a major review, like this one), so having a general rule provides future-proofing for new areas and makes things simpler and clearer.
- Shared paths:
    - a shared paths is a path used by pedestrians, cyclists and users of wheeled devices, including mobility devices, like wheelchairs, and recreational devices, like e-scooters. The term is defined in the bylaw (and comes from transport law)
    - there has been an increase in shared paths since the bylaw was last reviewed. Some have been designed as shared paths, while others have evolved into being used as shared paths. Some shared paths are within the road corridor and others are in greenspace areas, like parks and reserves
    - there has been a culture-shift with more footpaths being used for wheeled devices (both alongside roads and through greenspace areas), making them shared paths
    - shared paths in the road corridor must comply with transport laws (traffic control devices rule), so are clearly marked, but this not the case for shared paths in parks, so their status may be unclear to users
    - modes of transport have changed, with more scooters, e-scooters, cyclists, e-bikes, balance bikes, etc, since the bylaw was last reviewed.
- Formed tracks:
    - formed tracks do not have a hard surface (like a footpath made of asphalt or concrete), but may have a shingle, aggregate or other surface
    - they are more common in large, naturalised areas (like regional parks or new stormwater basins), but may also be found in neighbourhood or other parks, and many already have leashing requirements – for example: to protect health and safety on hill or cliffside tracks with a fall risk; because the area is likely to be busy or is a popular track; to protect grazing animals; and / or to protect wildlife, habitats or conservation values
    - there is no definition for formed track in the proposed bylaw.
- Current leashing rules:
    - the rules for leashing vary, depending on the park or reserve. It is not always clear which rules apply to any given footpath, shared path or formed track
    - there are four main approaches to leashing rules at the moment:
        - areas where dogs are prohibited, but allowed on paths if leashed;
        - areas where dogs are allowed, but only if leashed (in the whole area);
        - areas where dogs are allowed under effective control, but must be leashed on paths; and
        - areas covered by a general rule (eg leashed on all roads)
    - the proposal was to make things simpler and clearer by applying a general rule to these different types of paths in all greenspace areas where dogs are allowed.

Area comments:

- This is the current approach in Hagley Park, where dogs must be leashed on paths and can be exercised under effective control on the grass, and this has been working well. The Hagley Park rules were a change proposed during the last review (in 2016), which had good public support, along with some scepticism about how it might work in practice
- Most Port Hills parks and reserves (if they were not already leashed) were added as leashed areas in the 2015/16 review (this is for a combination of reasons, see schedule one in the policy for details on each area)
- Note that leashing can help to keep dogs safe in areas where pest control activities are underway, which was raised in submissions
- Bottle Lake Forest Park dog exercise area was specifically exempted from the leashing proposal (as set out in the policy document, but not highlighted in the summary). This is because the exercise area is the paths / tracks that go through the forest.

There has been an increase in other land in the district that operates or will operate as recreational greenspace. These are largely stormwater management assets / areas. There are further developments underway that will be opened within the lifespan of the policy, but which cannot be named or mapped yet - so the proposal is to have the default leashing rule apply to paths in these areas.

Note that in some council districts leashing is the default rule in all public places – off-leash and under effective control remains the default in our district, but this proposal would require leashing on pathways by default.

The following proposals or suggestions were raised in submissions and staff do not recommend changes for the reasons set out in the table:

Suggestions from submitters	Comments
No need to leash if pathway is clear ahead - you can see, and there's no one coming / leash only when someone is approaching or nearby	Inconsistent for the dog to be called repeatedly to be leashed if someone comes, risks issues with not seeing people / not leashing in time, cyclists can come up quickly from behind, problematic
Time of day changes eg no need to leash if walking a dog early in the morning eg before 7am	Lower visibility near dawn or dusk. Difficult to administer, eg daylight savings changes. Cyclists, runners, walkers and other path users may also be active early in the morning and in the early evening, problematic
The leash length shouldn't matter – what matters is if a dog under effective control with the leash	Long leashes can be a hazard in a confined space. A short leash gives good control. Pathways are narrow

The Panel may wish to explore the merits of the following proposal (**note**: this may not be necessary with the recommended changes in the box below this one):

Suggestion from submitters	Comments	Possible change to consider
Leashing on paths – **short leash when others are around, extended when no one there**	• This may be appropriate in areas where there are few people, but it is unlikely to be appropriate in busy areas, where use is variable or where visibility is low eg cyclist or runner comes along quickly, with no time to reduce leash length, especially on hills, wooded areas, around corners, etc • Would increase dog control on paths from the status quo and enable some practicality and flexibility • Concerns about dogs not under good control approaching leashed dogs or other people would need to be addressed • May cause compliance and enforcement issues ie a defence of no one was around, did not see them, etc • See recommended changes below to consider if useful or not.	Could consider changing the bylaw clause to: Dogs must be on a short leash on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks where dogs are allowed. A short leash may be extended when there is clear visibility along the path in both directions and no other path users are in sight, including other dog owners. Note: Could only apply to greenspace paths clause, would not be appropriate for footpaths on roads / pedestrian areas clause because of traffic safety

Submitters raised a number of practical concerns and questions about how the rule might work. Staff recommend the following changes:

Issue raised in submissions	Comments	Document(s)	Recommended changes to leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas
Definition for "**formed track**"	Formed track is not currently defined and is open to interpretation	Bylaw, clause 4	Add definition: Formed track means a purpose-built or constructed track or path surfaced with materials such as aggregate, shingle or compacted clay, or identified as a track through signage. Excludes tracks worn through informal use.
Clarify that a person can walk on a path and their **dog can be on a long / extendable lead if the dog is not on the path** (eg the dog is walking in the	A short leash is required if walking along the path with your dog	Add explanatory note to bylaw greenspace path clause 9(B)	Add to explanatory notes: *Explanatory note: This rule only applies to areas where dogs are allowed (dogs are prohibited in specified areas, as set out in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy 2024~~5~~). Parks for the purposes of this clause include any*

Issue raised in submissions	Comments	Document(s)	Recommended changes to leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas
greenspace area alongside the path)		Consider whether to add to policy	*greenspace areas open to the public, including reserves and stormwater assets. Leashed and prohibited rules continue to apply to specific named areas, as set out in Schedule 1 to the policy.* ***The following comments apply to greenspace areas where dogs are allowed under effective control and there are no other leashing requirements or prohibited rules****. The following clarification may assist:* • *Dogs must be leashed when being walked along paths (short leash, 1.5 metres) – where "paths" includes footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks.* • *A person can walk along a path and let their dog walk alongside the path on a longer leash, but must restrict the leash to 1.5m if the dog begins walking along the path surface or is showing signs of interacting with people or dogs on the path.* • *A person can walk along a path and have their dog under effective control nearby.* • *If a person is crossing a path with their dog and the path is clear, there is no need to briefly leash the dog.* • *A dog can cross a path when playing (eg catching a ball), if the way is clear, but should be well-controlled when other people are nearby (ie consider playing away from the path).* *Nothing in this note applies to roadside paths.* Note: Only applies to greenspace paths clause, not to roading paths / pedestrian areas clause because of traffic safety
Clarify that a person can walk along a path and their **dog can be off-leash and under effective control nearby** (eg the dog is walking in the greenspace area alongside the path)			
Clarify that **dogs can be off-leash near the path or if briefly crossing the path** and the way is clear			
Paths and tracks within dog parks and dog exercise areas need to be exempt from leashing requirements	Burwood Forest Park is specified as exempt in the proposed bylaw. The exercise area is the paths. Any paths within fenced dog parks	Bylaw clause – clause 9(B)(ii) Check whether consequential changes need	Add to clause 9(B)(ii): This does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area, or to footpaths, shared paths or formed tracks within fenced dog parks or dog exercise areas Add a note to sections 7.2 and 7.3 in the policy.

Issue raised in submissions	Comments	Document(s)	Recommended changes to leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas
	should be the same ie not leashed	to be made to the policy	

Staff response and advice: Making these changes should respond to some of the concerns and suggestions raised by submitters and improve the practical application of the bylaw.

Specific leashed and prohibited rules – entries in schedule 1 to the policy

Context and background

Specific leashed and prohibited rules are **location-based** and are set out in schedule one to the policy. They are enforceable through clause 6 of the bylaw.

Schedule one to the policy is organised into geographic groupings. Each entry describes or names the specific land the rules apply to (such as a park or reserve), sets out the dog control status for that area, and then contains a comment setting out any specific details and the reasons for the dog control status (eg to protect wildlife, grazing, etc). The dog control status may be mixed (eg prohibited in the wetland area, leashed on the track, under effective control elsewhere). The possible combinations are: prohibited; prohibited / leashed; prohibited / leashed / under effective control; leashed; leashed / under effective control.

There is some reference to the term "under effective control". This is the default rule in all public places where no general or specific leashed or prohibited rules apply. Changes to the meaning of under effective control are covered in the "Other policy and bylaw changes" section later in this document.

The schedule also includes specified areas with summer beach prohibitions in place. These are explained in section 6.2 of the policy and are to protect swimming and recreation activities. There were no proposed changes to the summer beach prohibitions, but some changes to specific sections of coastline. Submissions raised concerns about activities on beaches. Some beaches or sections of coastline have restrictions in place to protect wildlife – ranging from seabirds, shorebirds and wading birds, to penguins and seals.

The following sections are organised by area, and include a mixture of areas covered by the six key questions, other proposed changes set out on Kōrero mai | Let's talk, in the draft policy, and in the Statement of Proposal (which included a copy of the policy and bylaw).

Central city: Rauora Park, Latimer Square and the Avon Loop

The whole of the central city within the four avenues is currently a leashed area. We proposed lifting the leashing requirement in three greenspace areas: Rauora Park, Latimer Square and in the Avon Loop. With an increase in residents in the central city, there is interest in lifting the leashing requirement in key areas to enable

some off-leash areas to exercise dogs. These three areas were identified as appropriate for dogs to be off-leash, provided they are under effective control. The rest of the central city would remain leashed.

Note that this does not include Hagley Park, where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control, except for paths, where they must be leashed, and that dogs are prohibited in the Botanic Gardens. Dogs are prohibited in Margaret Mahy Playground (the prohibition on dogs in playgrounds applies within any fenced playground area; on any specially surfaced playground area; within one metre of any fenced or surfaced playground area; and within one metre of any playground equipment where there is no fence or special surface). The proposed change to add pump tracks to the prohibition on skateparks would apply at the nearby Central City Pump Track.

Submitters were mixed on this proposal. Some were pleased to see a lifting of the leashed requirement, while others were concerned about the potential negative impacts from dogs, particularly in Latimer Square and Rauora Park, and, given the size of the areas, roads nearby and pathways around or through them. Some thought Cranmer Square should have been included. Others suggested the need for a fenced dog park in the central city.

Views from submitters / themes in comments		
Support for lifting the leashing requirement (8)	Status quo – dogs should be leashed (3)	Should include Cranmer Square (4)
Opposition for lifting the leashing requirement (4)	Concerns about lifting the leashing requirement (3)	Support for the Avon Loop (2)

Avon Loop

Staff response and advice: The Avon Loop (the area north of Kilmore Street between Fitzgerald Ave and Barbadoes Street) is a former residential red zone area. As it is within the area described as the Central City leashed area (which was adopted in 2016), it has been an anomaly as a leashed red zone area. It is appropriate for dogs to be exercised off-leash and under effective control in the grassed area. This would provide somewhere to the east of the Central City where dogs can be exercised off-leash, while Hagley Park provides an option for central city residents to the west. Staff recommend proceeding with lifting the leashing requirement in the Avon Loop.

Staff correction: The Avon Loop is part of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former residential red zone). It should not have been consulted on as a separate entry as it is part of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor land parcel. This confusion arose because it is currently part of the area covered by the Central City leashed entry.

The material change to the Avon Loop being included in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor entry (rather than the Central City entry) is that dogs would be prohibited from the river and planted areas. The shared path and boardwalks would be covered by the general leashed rule, regardless of where the entry lies. The proposed change that was consulted on contained the following wording: "*Dogs may be under effective control in Latimer Square, Rauora Park and on* ***the grassed area in the Avon Loop"***, so what was consulted on applied specifically to the grassed area.

If no change was made, the river and planted areas would be covered by the Central City leashed rule. If the recommended change is made, dogs would be prohibited from the river and planted areas in line with the rest of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor.

Staff advice is that it is appropriate to prohibit dogs from the river and planted areas to protect wildlife and new and planned plantings along the river. The main part of the area away from the riverbank and shared path will be mown grass, where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control.

This will not require any change to the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor entry in the policy, but would require changes to the Central City entry. Staff also recommend a small change to move the description of the area for the central city to the comment column in the schedule. Staff recommend making the following changes:

Comments	Recommended change to the Central City entry
The Avon Loop is part of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor and will be covered by that entry. Reference to the Avon Loop will be changed in the central city entry.	Change to the entry for the central city: **Central City** ~~– the area bounded by and including Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue, Hagley Avenue, Oxford Terrace to (and including) the Antigua pedestrian bridge, Cambridge Terrace to Rolleston Avenue, and along Park Terrace to Bealey Avenue~~ **Leashed / under effective control** Dogs must be on a leash in public places within the central city due to high visitor numbers, to protect health and safety, due to busy traffic, to protect garden areas, and to protect wildlife in and around the river. Dogs may be under effective control in Latimer Square and Rauora Park. ~~and on the grassed area in the Avon Loop~~. Note that the Avon Loop is included in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor entry, and ~~(Note~~ that dogs are prohibited in Margaret Mahy Playground and on the Central City Pump Track~~).~~ The central city is the area bounded by and including Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue, Hagley Avenue, Oxford Terrace to (and including) the Antigua pedestrian bridge, Cambridge Terrace to Rolleston Avenue, and along Park Terrace to Bealey Avenue, but excludes the Avon Loop (which is located between Barbadoes Street and Fitzgerald Avenue, and between Kilmore Street and the Ōtākaro Avon River).

The Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor area (including the Avon Loop) will be shown in the interactive online map (which will be updated as part of the implementation of the policy and bylaw).

Latimer Square and Rauroa Park

Latimer Square and Rauroa Park were identified as two potential areas for the off-leash exercise of dogs when looking at all greenspace in the central city. There are no large greenspace areas. Cranmer Square was not proposed for change as it is regularly used by groups from the nearby school. Dog parks are developed through Parks planning processes outside of this policy and bylaw review.

Concerns about out of control dogs and people not picking up after their dogs are already addressed through the requirements in the bylaw - dogs must be under effective control in all public places and at all times, and the person in charge of the dog must pick up after the dog. Rauora Park provides small areas where dogs

can be under effective control across five city blocks. Although Latimer Square is intersected with pathways, the grassed areas are sufficient to exercise a dog. Staff recommend proceeding with the proposal to lift the leashing requirements on Latimer Square and Rauora Park.

Botanic Gardens

A small number of submitters requested that the Botanic Gardens should not be prohibited to dogs, but that dogs should be allowed if leashed. Other submitters highlighted the importance of dog-free spaces.

Staff response and advice: Dogs are prohibited in the Botanic Gardens to protect collections of rare plants, and for health and safety reasons (high visitor numbers). Staff do not support any change to the prohibited status.

Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone)

There is no current entry for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone) as it was not in its current form or open to the public in 2016 when the policy and bylaw were last reviewed. The proposed schedule one policy entry was:

Proposed policy entry	Proposed explanatory note in the bylaw	Reason for the change, as set out in the consultation version of the bylaw
Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone)	Prohibited / leashed / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited in and around the Ōtākaro Avon River, including riverbank and wetland areas, and in any planted, ecological restoration or long grass areas to protect wildlife and habitat restoration. Dogs must be leashed on pathways (including stop banks and landings) and must be under effective control in mowed grass areas

In response to the key question on the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridors, more than half of the 1,522 submitters that answered the question supported the proposal (880, 58%).

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?	880 submitters 58%	476 submitters 31%	166 submitters 11%

Concerns were raised in submissions about the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone) wording and intent – this included comments that a short leash was not necessary on former roads (or that leashing should not be required) and that the proposal's reference to long grass was unclear. Some submitters were concerned

at the proposal to prohibit dogs from the river, riverbank and wetland areas, and some submitters did not believe there was a need to protect wildlife. The majority of submitters supported the proposed approach to dogs in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor. Themes in submissions included:

Supportive themes / comments	Opposed themes / comments
• Protect wildlife / environment / biodiversity (**312**) • Many other areas dogs can be / off-leash in mown areas good alternative / good balance (**62**)	• Don't see what issue is / no evidence of wildlife being harmed (**87**) • Want dogs to be able to access river / limits ability to take dogs to safe water in the city (**85**) • Dogs should be allowed under effective control / with proper training (**70**) • Concerns about 'red zone' / old roads / paths / leashing requirements on paths / misinformation about proposals (**66**) • Dogs should be allowed on a leash (**55**) • Limits where people can walk with dogs (**49**) • Don't want restrictions - general comment (**35**) • 'Mown grass' too complicated / don't understand without a map / unsure what areas are proposed (**35**) • Want part of the OARC available for dogs (fenced sections for wildlife or dogs) / seasonal restrictions / time limited (**21**)

Staff response and advice: The proposed dog controls for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor align with the strategic goals for the area.

The Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor stretches from the central city to Bexley, covering 602 hectares (which is three and a half times larger than Hagley Park). Work in the area involves substantial investment in regenerative planting, tidal wetland development, stop bank construction and stormwater treatment facilities, as well as bridges, landings, and cycling and walking pathways for recreation. The main community outcomes for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, as set out in the activity management plan for the recent Long-Term Plan, include improved terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and greater local biodiversity.[1]

The Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor will undergo significant changes during the lifespan of the dog control policy and bylaw (up to ten years). Staff involved in implementing the plans for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor considered how best to balance access and protections in this large, evolving area.

Keeping dogs out of river, riverbank and wetland areas in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor is important for the implementation of the core objectives of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan and meeting habitat and biodiversity outcomes. Over the next decade, parts of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor will be returned to wetland. The Long Term Plan 2024-34 Activity Plan for the area sets out the following: "*During the earthquakes, land in the Corridor sunk by an average of 500mm and in places up to one metre. This means that the groundwater is now much closer to the surface than it was, and in places it is at ground level. Around*

[1] OARC-Activity-Plan-LTP-2024-34.pdf or Activity plans and asset management plans : Christchurch City Council. p.8

one third of the city's surface water runs into the Corridor. Treating this water via the planned Stormwater Management Areas will have a large impact on water quality in both the river and the Estuary. It is estimated that when fully completed, the Corridor could be home to 4 million individual shrubs, trees and grasses"[2].

In vegetated and wetland areas, the presence of dogs will have a negative impact on the establishment of birdlife and other biodiversity, so limiting dog access to these areas is important. It also aligns with proposals in other stormwater areas across the district.

The reference to long (as opposed to mown) grass in the proposal is because it is the easiest way to differentiate areas and aligns with current management practices. Areas are left with long grass because they are either about to be planted, have been planted, or are being left to revegetate. Areas that are mown provide good open space for dogs to be exercised, provided they are under effective control. There are currently over 200 hectares that are mown.

Along other parts of the Ōtākaro Avon River (outside of the defined Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor area), where there are no other restrictions in place, dogs are allowed in the water, as long as they are under effective control. See the map: Where you can take your dog (noting that this shows current and not proposed dog controls). This means that most of the river can be accessed by dogs, but not the sections within the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor. Dog owners should be mindful of cyanobacteria risks, which can be fatal.

Note that there may be some crossover in feedback about the proposed approach in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, the proposed general rule on leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks, and the general rule requiring leashing on roads.

Concerns or criticisms from submitters included:

- The former roads should not have the same rules applied as either roads or footpaths because of their condition and unique setting
- Mown or long grass is not always clear as a reference.

Note that the consultation period followed what was at times a wet spring, meaning that some usually mown areas may have temporarily had longer grass, which may have contributed to views on the long grass / mown grass approach.

Staff have considered the best approach and recommend some changes in response to issues raised in submissions. Some sections of the former red zone are mown, with former roads criss-crossing the mown area. In these areas, we recommend dogs under effective control. In areas with long grass, intersected by former roads, we recommend leashing, so that dogs do not enter the long grass areas. We also recommend changing the short leash requirement for these wide former roads, so that a short leash is not required.

Staff recommend making the following changes:

[2] *Ibid*, p.7

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended change to the policy entry for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor

Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone) – leashing old / **former roads** (exemption from short leash requirement)	Concerns that a short leash should not be required due to the width of the former roads and lack of busyness or wheeled devices, and due to their poor condition	Policy schedule 1 entry Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone)	Staff recommend the following changes to the entry for the **Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone)**:
			• Dogs are prohibited in and around the Ōtākaro Avon River, including riverbank and wetland areas
			• Dogs are prohibited in any planted, ecological restoration or long grass areas to protect wildlife and habitat restoration
			• Dogs must be leashed on stop banks and paths along stop banks
			• Dogs must be leashed on landings
			• ~~Dogs must be leashed on pathways (including stop banks and landings)~~
			• The general leashing rules apply to dogs on roads, footpaths, shared paths, formed tracks and boardwalks, except:
			  ○ on former roads surrounded by long grass, where dogs must be leashed, but do not need to be on a short leash; and
			  ○ on former roads surrounded by mown grass or lawn areas, where dogs may be under effective control
			• Dogs may be off-leash and ~~must be~~ under effective control in any mowed grass or lawn areas.
			Note that the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor is an evolving area. Grass may be left to grow long to signal that an area is planned for planting (trees, shrubs, native grasses, etc), has been planted, or is being left to revegetate. In these areas dogs are prohibited to enable plants and wildlife to establish. These areas can also present risks to dogs in the form of grass seed injuries, infection by ticks and injury from hidden demolition materials.
			Note that in this context, "former road" means roads within the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor that no longer have motor vehicle access. For the avoidance of doubt,

Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone) – **mown grass / long grass** – clarity needed	Proposal mentions long grass (prohibited) and mown grass (under effective control) – long or mown not necessarily clear		

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended change to the policy entry for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor
			normal rules apply to any roads that have normal motor vehicle access in the vicinity of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor.

Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary

We proposed prohibiting dogs from within Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary to protect wildlife (including on the shoreline, where birds nest, and in tidal areas, where birds feed). The proposed area "*applies to the whole of the estuary from the landward boundary inwards. This includes all areas within the shoreline (whether rocky, stoney, gravel, sandy or vegetated, and all foreshore, mudflat, saltmarsh and tidal areas). The prohibited area crosses the outfalls from the Avon / Ōtākaro River at Bridge Street and the Heathcote / Ōpāwaho River at the Ferry Road bridge. At the estuary-mouth, the prohibited area reaches from the corner by Shag Rock out to the north-eastern side of Southshore Spit Reserve. The beach and foreshore area around Southshore Spit Reserve are included in the prohibited area.*"

1,483 submitters answered this question. The majority of them (1039, 70%) supported the proposal.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?	1,039 submitters **70%**	262 submitters **18%**	182 submitters **12%**

Comments from submitters were summarised into the following themes:

Submitters who were generally in <u>support</u> of the proposal:	**Submitters who were generally <u>opposed</u> to the proposal:**
• Support the wildlife/birds/ecology/environment (**285**)	• Dogs should be allowed on leash (**58**) • Dogs should be allowed under effective control / owners' discretion (**34**) • Comment about cats being a problem (**25**)

	• Don't see what the issue is (**23**) • Would like to see only seasonal restrictions (**11**)

The Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust was very supportive of the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary (and the changes at Southshore Spit Reserve).

Staff response and advice: This is an important area for wildlife and a site of ecological significance. The estuary is part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (a global network of habitats for migratory waterbirds, one of nine major migratory flyways around the globe). The estuary is one of four flyway sites in New Zealand, and the most urban.

The current rules around the estuary apply to specific land areas – this new entry applies to the estuary itself.

This would give the estuary similar dog controls to those in Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, where dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. It would make it similar to other coastal estuarine or mudflat, saltmarsh and salt meadow habitats, including Takamatua foreshore and mudflats; Le Bon's Bay foreshore, estuary, spit and rivermouth; Okain's Bay estuary and mudflats; two sections of Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats; Governor's Bay mudflats; and Teddington mudflats. Other new mudflat and foreshore areas were also proposed as prohibited to protect wildlife. See schedule one of the policy for these and other related entries.

People can continue to walk dogs on land nearby, including in the red zone along the western side of Southshore Spit and along Te Ara Ihutai Christchurch Coastal Pathway. Note that Southshore Reserve is covered by a separate entry (prohibited, but leashed on pathways), but the shoreline around Southshore Reserve is covered by the proposed entry for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary.

Although submitters suggested that dogs should be allowed on a leash, or under effective control, that they did not see what the issue was, or that they would like seasonal restrictions, the following should be considered by the Panel:

- Most species of conservation importance occurring in and around Christchurch are wetland birds, sea birds and shore birds - not forest birds. This means ground-nesting birds that live, feed and breed in coastal wetlands, estuarine environments, and around inland wetlands and waterways
- The estuary is an important site for supporting threatened and at-risk migratory birds of national and international importance
- The shoreline is used for moulting, roosting and nesting, including in recovery from or preparation for migration, meaning seasonal restrictions would not be appropriate for the protection of birds
- The nests, eggs and chicks of ground-nesting birds can be highly camouflaged, so people may not realise they (or their dog) are near a nest
- Opportunities for feeding in the intertidal zone are limited by the tides, so dog activity in this area can greatly impact on opportunities for birds to feed
- Some dog owners may let their dog chase or bark at seagulls, not realising that some gulls are at-risk and protected (such as black-billed gulls). Additionally, if dogs are in the habit of chasing gulls, they will not differentiate between gulls and other birds
- Many people may not be aware of the impact of dog disturbance on birds, for example, not understanding that barking at or chasing birds without catching them can by a significant issue
- The Wildlife Act 1953 makes it an offence to kill protected wildlife and the Dog Control Act 1996 makes it an offence for someone's dog to attack wildlife. These both apply when something has gone wrong, but the bylaw takes a preventative approach by limiting dog access in areas where wildlife protections are needed – before things go wrong.

Note that a change was proposed to Te Huingi Many Wildlife Refuge to close off access along the estuary edge. This area is part of the legal land parcel for the wildlife refuge and dog access should not have been occurring. Other restrictions on land surrounding the estuary were also proposed, including the Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes, Bridge Reserve and Ferrymead Regional Park. See the separate map attachment for more information.

One submitter suggested the shoreline at either end of Beachville Road in Redcliffs may provide opportunities for dogs to swim. However, staff advice is that neither location is appropriate. At the northern end, the boat ramp area is next to a roosting area, while the southern end near Beachville Reserve is next to the swift main channel. Additionally, there have been reports in this area of dog injuries from fishing hooks.

Staff recommend making a minor change to the entry to reflect that birds roost and nest on the shoreline, to reinforce that the danger to birds from dogs is not just during nesting season, but otherwise keeping the entry as proposed.

Issue	Document(s)	Recommended minor change to the Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary entry
Minor change to add roosting and moulting to the entry to clarify that protections are needed year round and not just during nesting season	Schedule 1 policy entry for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary	**Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary** Prohibited Dogs are prohibited from the estuary to protect wildlife, especially shorebirds. This includes the shoreline, where birds roost, moult and nest, and tidal areas, where birds feed. The prohibited area applies to the whole of the estuary from the landward boundary inwards. This includes all areas within the shoreline (whether rocky, stoney, gravel, sandy or vegetated, and all foreshore, mudflat, saltmarsh and tidal areas). The prohibited area crosses the outfalls from the Avon / Ōtākaro River at Bridge Street and the Heathcote / Ōpāwaho River at the Ferry Road bridge. At the estuary-mouth, the prohibited area reaches from the corner by Shag Rock out to the north-eastern side of Southshore Spit Reserve. The beach and foreshore area around Southshore Spit Reserve are included in the prohibited area.

Te Kuru Wetlands and stormwater basins

Submitters had mixed feedback on the proposals for stormwater basins, including Te Kuru Wetlands in Hoon Hay. Overall, submissions were supportive – of the 1,467 submitters answered this question, the majority (907, 61%) supported the proposal.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?	905 submitters 62%	372 submitters 25%	190 submitters 13%

Themes in submissions included:

Supportive themes / comments	Opposed themes / comments
• Protect wildlife / environment / waterways / biodiversity (**159**) • Many other areas dogs can be / off-leash in mown areas good alternative / good balance (**15**) Some opposed comments wanted tighter restrictions: • Want more restriction / dogs to be leashed only / total ban of dogs in SW basins (**17**)	• Disagree with leash on pathways rule (**57**) • Dogs should be allowed everywhere under effective control / dogs with training / owner decision (**48**) • Dogs should be allowed everywhere on leash (**43**) • Don't see what issue is / no evidence / don't think dogs harm wildlife / don't think there's wildlife in stormwater basins (**30**) • Don't want restrictions / blanket restrictions / should be case by case (**33**) • Proposals not clear enough / mown grass confusing / need to see a map / misinformation about proposals (**22**) • Want dogs to be able to access water (**11**) • Want seasonal restrictions / areas sectioned off for dogs/wildlife (**7**)

Note that specific proposals were made for the following wetland areas based on a similar approach:

Dog control	**Prohibited**	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**: Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas	
Areas with the same dog controls	Blakes Road Wetland Dickeys Reserve Creamery Ponds	Curletts Drainage Reserve Clare Park Quaifes Road Springlands Quaifes Drainage Reserve	Sparks Wetland Te Kuru Wetlands Worsley Valley 1 Drainage Reserve (including Cashmere dam / wetlands)

Staff advice: There were few specific comments made about these similar areas, but there was a general expression of support about wildlife protection measures. The proposed rules for these areas are intended to allow good access for recreation, while ensuring well-controlled dogs and wildlife protections in appropriate areas. Some of these stormwater basins (like Te Kuru) are new and wildlife has not yet established in significant numbers. Keeping dogs out of planted and wetland areas will enable habitats, birdlife and biodiversity to improve and increase.

One submission requested that the different stormwater basins that make up Te Kuru Wetlands are listed. Te Kuru was recently opened, and amalgamated into one new, large area, which may not be well-known. Mapping will also assist in communicating where the rules apply, once the policy and bylaw have been adopted.

Staff do not recommend any changes to the level of regulation proposed for Te Kuru Wetlands or other wetland areas

Staff recommend changing the entry title for Te Kuru Wetlands to include reference to Milns, Eastman, Sutherlands and Hoon Hay basins:

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended change to Te Kuru Wetlands entry
Entry for **Te Kuru Wetlands** – land area not clear - add component basins	May be unclear which land is included as Te Kuru Wetland is a newly named area	Schedule 1 policy entry for Te Kuru Wetlands	Change entry title to: Te Kuru Wetlands (including Milns, Eastman, Sutherlands and Hoon Hay basins)

Styx Mill Conservation Reserve

The current rules at Styx Mill Conservation Reserve are: dogs must be on a leash on walking tracks and are prohibited from other areas to protect wildlife values. We have proposed that dogs are prohibited in the main part of the conservation area, with different access near the dog park and around the perimeter track. See the proposal in the box below.

Regular dog walkers from the area were opposed to the proposal to prohibit dogs in the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve. Some submitters specifically supported it, while others were generally supportive of all changes to better protect wildlife. In brief summary:

Opposed	Supportive
Opposed to prohibiting dogs (8)	Dogs off-lead causing issues (2)
Prefer status quo, leashing on paths, prohibited elsewhere (18)	Supportive of prohibiting dogs (3)
Walk through as route to dog park (4)	General support for wildlife protections (many)

Staff advice:

- The change to prohibit dogs would represent a loss to people walking their dogs in area, but the presence of dogs is in conflict with the conservation activities and goals in the reserve, and there are other areas where dogs can be walked, including around the perimeter path outside of the predator-proof fence
- The reserve is a conservation reserve, which includes wetlands of ecological significance. It has high ecological values due to its botany, instream habitat and birdlife. It is a site of ecological significance in the District Plan

- Access for dog walking in Styx Mill was intended to be temporary, and to provide access to the dog park. The dog park was intended as a transitional dog park while the Groynes dog park was built[3] – however, given the popularity of the Styx Mill dog park, it will remain
- The proposal reflects what was originally planned in 1999 when the dog park was first proposed – prohibiting dogs in the main part of the conservation reserve
- Long term planning includes introducing rare ground-dwelling bird species such as Buff Weka, Kiwi, Brown teal, Fernird, etc, which would complement ground-dwelling bird species that have colonised the reserve on their own – including Australasian Bittern, Marsh Crake and Spotless Crake
- The habitat development and predator control programme would be of little meaningful value if the continued presence of dogs renders the ability to reintroduce vulnerable wildlife unfeasible
- There is an increasing trend of high value wildlife in Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (including frequently seen Australasian Bittern (Nationally Critical), the Marsh Crake (at risk - declining) and Crested Grebe (Nationally Vulnerable), which are very prone to attacks by dogs
- There has been over 20 years of restoration efforts in this area, and a habitat which is beginning to mature and it is time to exclude dogs
- Styx Mill can be directly compared to Travis Wetland in terms of values and management (where dogs have been prohibited to protect wildlife)
- Dogs are well catered for in this part of the city with two dog parks - Styx Mill and the Groynes (which is the largest in the city, only 3km away, and where we are proposing more dog-friendly rules)
- The proposal enables people to walk around the outside of the conservation reserve, enables people to take their dogs to the area to the west of the Hussey Road access road, and does not impact on nearby Glen Oaks Reserve
- Note the entry has been divided into two – the main / eastern side and the smaller west / dog park side, divided by the Hussey Road access road – see the separate map attachment for more detail
- Staff have considered the feedback and recommend some changes. These changes would enable an additional section of track to be used for walking leashed dogs in the reserve (around the back of the transfer station); make it clearer the perimeter fence walk can be used for walking leashed dogs; retains the leashed status proposed for the area outside the dog park, to the west of the Hussey Road access road; and lifts the leashing requirement on a section of open grass near the dog park, where dogs could be off-leash and under effective control. See proposed wording changes below.

Staff do not recommend lifting the proposed prohibited status through the majority of the conservation reserve.

Staff recommend several changes from what was proposed in response to issues raised in submissions – see below and map in Attachment B – note that the conservation reserve is split into two entries:

Current / 2016	As proposed	Recommended change to Styx Mill Conservation Reserve entries
Styx Mill Reserve	Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end)	Proposed replacement wording:

[3] See Styx Mill Conservation Reserve Dog Park Proposal, Report of the Parks and Recreation Committee to Council, 25 March 1999; and Styx Mill Conservation Reserve, Shirley Papanui Community Board, 30 April 2003 (re alternative sites for the dog park)

Current / 2016	As proposed	Recommended change to Styx Mill Conservation Reserve entries
Prohibited / leashed Dogs must be on a leash on walking tracks and are prohibited from other areas to protect wildlife values	Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end) **Prohibited / leashed** Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. The prohibited area covers most of the conservation reserve – the area to the east of the Hussey's Road access road (the west end is covered in a separate entry). Dogs may be leashed outside of the predator-proof fence that runs around the perimeter of the reserve, and along the track on the northern residential side of the Styx River.	**Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end and dog park)** **Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end)** Prohibited / leashed Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except for the following paths, where dogs are allowed and must be leashed: • on the path that runs from the Styx Mill Road car park, along the back of the Styx Mill Transfer Station, to Styx Mill Road; and • on the path that runs around the outside of the predator-proof fence in the reserve. *Note that some parts of the perimeter path are not in the reserve (such as the sections along the residential side of the Styx River and through Glenn Oaks Reserve). The general rules requiring dogs to be leashed on paths apply in these other sections.* *Note the west end of the conservation reserve (from the Hussey Road entrance road) is covered by a separate entry*
	Styx Mill Conservation Reserve – west end (excluding the dog park) **Leashed** Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife in the area to the west of the Hussey's Road access road to the dog park. This does not include the fenced dog park, where dogs can be off-leash and under effective control.	**Styx Mill Conservation Reserve – west end** Leashed / under effective control Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife in the area to the west of the Hussey's Road access road to the dog park, except: • in the open field area, where dogs are allowed under effective control; and • in the fenced dog park, where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control.

Styx-related areas

We proposed prohibiting dogs from two areas for cultural reasons:

- Janet Stewart Reserve, which contains a pa harakeke traditional flax harvesting area; and
- Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park, which contains a rongoā Māori medicinal demonstration area

These are both along the Styx River, either side of Marshland Road.

Some submitters were not sure about restrictions for cultural reasons and sought more detail. This may have been because they read a summary and not the specific areas as set out in the policy, or the reasons for restricting dog access to those areas.

The Styx Living Laboratory Trust, which works in parks and reserves along the Pūharakekenui Styx River, strongly supported the prohibition of dogs from the Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park and Janet Stewart Reserve, submitting that off-leash dogs have the potential to harm and disrupt the character of these sites

Staff advice and response: Staff do not recommend any changes to what was proposed

The Groynes

The current rules for the Groynes are prohibited everywhere, except on a section of the Otukaikino River track that runs through the Groynes, from Clearwater / southern end, to the Dog Park car park, where dogs must be on a leash; on the path around the perimeter of the Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control for the purpose of accessing the Dog Park; and in the Groynes Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control.

We proposed changing this leashed everywhere, except in the dog park. The reason given for the change in the statement of proposal was: *Nearby areas have higher wildlife values, so this area is proposed to change from largely prohibited, to leashed. There has been some confusion about the rules, so this will make it simpler*.

There was mixed feedback about the Groynes, including from submitters who misunderstood the current rules. This included submitters who opposed leashing because they currently walk their dogs unleashed in the area. Suggestions from submitters requested continued off-leash access to a stretch along the river beside the dog park.

Themes in submitter comments		
Support for leashed proposal (11) Opposition to leashed proposal (7) Preference for off leash and under effective control (3)	Concerns about off-leash dogs at the Groynes (2) Misunderstanding / confusion of what is proposed (12)	Confusion about status quo / support for no leashing requirement (3) Suggestions (4)

Staff advice and response: The section of track that runs between the dog park fence and the river is currently an off-leash / under effective control area. Submitters have asked this area continues to be accessible, especially the river. Staff recommend changing the rules from what was proposed for this part of the Groynes to allow continued access for dogs to the river.

There are some wildlife protection needs at the Groynes and the area can be very popular and busy (including school groups and other group visits, bookable picnic and barbeque areas for visitors, etc), so leashed in the rest of the reserve is appropriate. Staff do not recommend changing the leashed status for the rest of the Groynes.

Staff recommend the following changes:

Current / 2016	Proposed change	Recommended change to the Groynes
Prohibited / leashed / under effective control Dogs are prohibited in the Groynes due to high recreational use and to protect wildlife values, except for: • on the section of the Ōtukaikino River track that runs through the Groynes from the Clearwater / southern end, to the Dog Park car park, where dogs must be on a leash • on the path around the perimeter of the Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control for the purpose of accessing the Dog Park • in the Groynes Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control.	**Leashed** Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife, and to protect health and safety (picnic areas). This does not include the fenced dog park, where dogs can be off-leash and under effective control	**Leashed / under effective control** Dogs must be leashed in the whole of the Groynes to protect wildlife and health and safety, except: • along the path area between the river and the dog park fence, where dogs must be under effective control (this includes dogs being able to access the river off-leash in the area alongside the dog park only); and • in the fenced dog park, where dogs must be under effective control.

Halswell Quarry Park

Submitters commented on Halswell Quarry Park, including that it works well; that people do not follow the rules; that there are out of control dogs; that it is very / too popular; that the areas are not well-defined; and that more off-leash areas are needed in the south-west.

Staff response and advice: No changes were proposed for Halswell Quarry Park. It is currently a leashed area, except for the dog park (where dogs can be exercised off-leash and under effective control) and in wetland areas, where dogs are prohibited.

Staff are currently investigating how to better manage and define the dog park area at Halswell Quary, as well as looking at options for a new dog park or dog exercise area in the southwest. Staff do not recommend any changes to the regulatory settings at Halswell Quarry Park.

Note that landscaping changes are being proposed to better delineate the dog park area at Halswell Quarry Park. If these proceed, the earlier recommendation from staff in the "leashed on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks" clause would apply: Add to clause 9(B)(ii): This does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area, or to footpaths, shared paths or formed tracks within fenced dog parks or dog exercise areas

City / east coast beaches

There were few proposed changes to specific beaches or areas along the east coast – from Brooklands Spit to Southshore Spit, and Sumner beaches. There were no proposed changes to summer beach prohibitions.

Lots of general comments were made about beaches and the conduct of dogs and their owners (for example: people not picking up after their dogs; dogs not under control; owners not paying attention; concerns about people not following the rules; dogs chasing, disturbing or attacking wildlife; dogs causing a nuisance, chasing or attacking beachgoers; wanting dogs leashed on all beaches; wanting dogs prohibited on all beaches; groups of dogs not under control, etc).

Submissions were also received wanting greater access for dogs at beaches and wanting a reduction in the application of summer beach prohibition rules.

Staff response and advice: The policy includes specified areas with summer beach prohibitions in place. These are explained in section 6.2 of the policy. Summer beach prohibition rules apply at specified swimming beaches (normally a specified distance either side of a surf lifesaving club, or in a small bay or beach area). These do not prohibit dogs completely, but allow them to be walked through an area on a short leash. The rules apply between 1 November to 31 March and between the hours of 9am and 7pm, and are to protect swimming and recreation activities. There were no proposed changes to the summer beach prohibition rules, or to specific beaches where the rules apply.

Although few specific location-based changes were proposed, changes to the definition of "under effective control" and the maximum limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of in public places might address some concerns. It is already an offence to engage in the behaviours mentioned above.

One change was to the shoreline around Southshore. Dog controls around Southshore Spit Reserve and the shoreline around it are currently contained in one entry. The proposed changes separated out the shoreline to include it in the prohibited area in Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary area. Some specific supportive comments were received about this approach. Staff do not recommend any changes from what was proposed.

One change was proposed for Sumner Beach Regional Park, which is near the estuary-mouth and Shag Rock. This is to keep dogs from within 100 metres of the estuary edge to protect wildlife. No specific submissions were received about this area, but many submissions were in support of moves to protect wildlife. Staff do not recommend any changes from what was proposed.

Ōpāwaho Heathcote River

A community group submission asked for similar dog controls along the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River to those proposed for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor. There were no proposed changes to the riverbank for Ōpāwaho Heathcote River, but some changes proposed for the Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes.

Staff response and advice: The Ōpāwaho Heathcote River is different in nature to the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, so similar settings were not proposed. The proposals for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former residential red zone land) reflect the management approach and regeneration plan for that area. There are no specific controls along the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River (as with the Ōtākaro Avon River), meaning under effective control applies, as well as leashing alongside roads and on any footpaths, shared paths or formed tracks. Staff do not recommend any changes.

Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes and Ferrymead Regional Park

Submitters supported the proposed wildlife protection measures for the Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes. The proposals were aligned with those for the new entry for Ferrymead Regional Park (dogs prohibited to protect wildlife values, except on walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash).

Several submitters were concerned about dog restrictions in Ferrymead Regional Park, believing they were unnecessary.

Staff response and advice: A significant restoration and replanting plan is underway for Ferrymead Regional Park, and over the lifespan of the policy (up to ten years) the site will transform. Ferrymead Regional Park contains low-lying saltmarsh and wetland areas with wildlife values similar to other areas adjacent to Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary. Staff do not recommend any changes to what was proposed.

Port Hills reserves

Many reserves in the Port Hills currently have leashed status. The specific reasons for each of these leashing requirements are set out in schedule one to the policy. They require leashing for a variety of reasons, including: to protect health and safety on hill or cliffside tracks with a fall risk; busy / popular tracks; to protect grazing stock; and / or to protect wildlife, habitats or conservation values. We did not propose any specific changes for these entries.

Some submitters asked that some specific tracks or areas be exempted from leashing requirements.

Staff response and advice: There are some Port Hills reserves that do not have leashing requirements, and those wanting to walk their dog should check specific entries in the policy or on the online map.

Victoria Park is one area with high use by dog walkers – both in the dog park and in the rest of the area. Given the popular use of this park by people with dogs, and interest in having an area where leashing is not required, staff recommend lifting the leashed requirement in Victoria Park. Note that the general leashing rules for roads, footpath, shared paths and formed tracks would still apply. It is important that dogs are leashed on busy tracks, like Harry Ell, and this change would ensure this approach continues.

The clarifications about how leashing on formed tracks will work in practice were covered earlier in the document and are relevant here. This would mean: dogs could be off-leash and under effective control in any open areas / off paths; a person could walk along a path and have their dog under effective control nearby; if a person wanted to walk along a path with their dog, the dog would need to be on a short leash; a dog could be near a path and on a long leash off the path. Staff are recommending a change in status that better reflects current use. Staff recommend lifting the leashing requirement on Victoria Park (noting that the general leashing on paths rules would apply).

Current entry – Note the current entry is listed as Elizabeth Park, but the area is known as Victoria Park	Proposed change to Elizabeth / Victoria Park
Elizabeth Park (excludes Victoria Park Dog Park) Leashed Outside of the Victoria Park Dog Park, dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational us	[delete entry]

Te Whakaraupō Lyttelton Harbour areas

Lyttelton Recreation Ground

The Lyttelton Recreation Ground is currently a leashed area. We proposed to lift the leashing requirement and apply to proposed new rule for sports fields (ie leashing while games and practice sessions are underway, under effective control at other times). There are two main issues to consider:

1. the impact on players using the sports field, and impacts on the turf, from people not picking up after their dogs (this seems to be a particular problem in this area); and
2. the community has been requesting a flat space for people to exercise their dogs in the area.

While some submitters were supportive of lifting the leashed status, concerns were raised about the health and safety impacts for users of the sports field

Opposition to changing (4)	Support for changing (4)	Comments on opportunities for dog exercise (2)

In the organisational summary of submissions (Attachment C in the previous report to the Panel), the following was provided:

- Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board:
  - Concerned about leashing requirements at Lyttelton Recreation Ground being lifted, as there are ongoing issues with dog waste being left on the ground, causing health concerns for sports teams using the fields
- Whakaraupo Football FC: Strongly opposes lifting the leashing requirements on Lyttelton Recreation Ground
  - Recent improvements have made the area smaller, and it is important this is preserved year-round for recreation, and not compromised by dog faeces and dogs not under effective control
  - There have been numerous incidents with dogs interrupting games and training sessions, as well as owners letting their dogs out and staying in their cars
  - The club has had to regularly remove faeces before games.

Staff advice and response: It is already an offence for a dog owner or person in charge of a dog not to pick up after their dog. All dogs must be under effective control in all public places and at all times. This means that dogs owners are committing an offence by staying in their car and letting their dog loose on the recreation

ground, or if they are not picking up after their dog(s). The regulatory settings already address these issues, but communications and enforcement may assist in changing behaviour.

If the leashing requirement is lifted, it would provide a flat space for people to exercise their dogs in the area, but would limit that access to times when games or practice sessions are not being held, in line with sports fields across the district. When games or practice sessions are underway, dogs would need to be leashed. Staff recommend proceeding with the proposal to lift the leashing requirement and apply the leashing on sports fields during games and practice sessions rule.

Steadfast HMNZS Regional Park

We proposed a new leashing restriction for Steadfast HMNZS Regional Park (above Cass Bay) to align it with other Port Hills reserves. Several submitters opposed this. One commented that the reserve is fully fenced and not grazed, unlike other hillside parks and reserves, and that "tracks" tend to be mown grass, rather than built / formed tracks. They said it is popular with people walking their dogs, including local volunteers who help maintain the reserve. They argued that as the Head-to-Head track is for dogs on leashes, Steadfast should be unleashed so dogs can continue to be under effective control there.

Staff advice and response: Steadfast is used for events, including a sea cadets camp and volunteer planting days, and the area is not currently grazed. Given these activities, and the nature of access in the park, staff recommend changing the dog control status from what was proposed.

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended change to entry in schedule one of the policy
When events are being held at Steadfast dogs need to be under good control, so should be leashed, but at other times under effective control is appropriate	How Steadfast is used and managed	Schedule one policy	Replace proposed entry with: **Steadfast HMNZS Regional Park** Prohibited / leashed Dogs must be leashed when events are being held, but are allowed under effective control at other times

Cass Bay

One submitter suggested the small area to the right of the slipway could be for dogs so that families had somewhere they could be in the water with their dogs.

Staff advice and response: Dogs are currently required to be leashed around boat ramps and slip ways. The summer beach prohibition area at Cass Bay applies to the beach and associated grassed areas. Dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm), except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control. Dogs must be on a leash along the head to head walkway that passes through Cass Bay. Staff do not recommend allowing dog access, given the confines of the available space.

Hoon Hay Scenic Reserve (Governors Bay)

There are no specific dog controls for Hoon Hay Scenic Reserve, and there were no proposed changes. One submitter indicated that this area is grazed and that leashing should apply, as it does for other reserves on the Port Hills that are grazed.

Staff response and advice: The eastern half of the reserve is grazed, but the southern half is not. It would be appropriate to make the eastern half a leashed area, while keeping the southern half as under effective control. Staff recommend creating a new entry for Hoon Hay Scenic Reserve to reflect this.

Proposed new entry	Hoon Hay Scenic Reserve (Governors Bay)	Dogs must be leashed in the eastern half of the reserve to protect grazing stock, but and must be under effective control in the southern half.

Coastal Cliff Reserve and foreshore (Diamond Harbour)

This area is currently prohibited to dogs. We proposed lifting the prohibited status to leashed in the reserve (and on the Coastal Cliff Pathway) and keeping the prohibited status for the foreshore, to protect wildlife.

We received 15 submissions from people opposed to the proposal, or that mentioned the track in relation to the general proposal to require leashing on formed tracks. Some thought there were safety concerns from requiring dogs to be leashed on the sometimes narrow-cliffside track. Some submitters said they currently walk their dogs off-leash in this area, or did not see the need for wildlife protections. Locals were concerned at the lack of opportunities to exercise their dogs off-leash in the Diamond Harbour area. One submitter suggested Laurenson Park in Diamond Harbour, which currently has no specific restrictions. Several submitters were concerned about unleashed or uncontrolled dogs along the Coastal Cliff Pathway.

Staff advice and response: This area has been prohibited to dogs since at least 2016. Changing the reserve to leashed will enable better public access with well-controlled dogs. Leashing on formed tracks has been proposed as a new general rule for the district. Prohibiting dogs on the foreshore is to protect wildlife. This is similar to other areas nearby, such as Teddington, Charteris Bay and Purau. We note that any area not specific as leashed or prohibited, or covered by a general rule, is an off-leash and under effective control area, and there are a number of these areas around Diamond Harbour. Staff do not recommend any change from what was proposed.

Hays Bay, Paradise Bay, Charteris Bay and Purau

One submitter requested more wildlife protections for Hays Bay, Purau and Paradise Beach, rather than summer beach prohibitions for swimming, in order to better protect oyster catchers, herons, spoonbills. Another submitter was critical of the summer beach prohibitions and thought they were unnecessary for locals in Paradise Beach and Charteris Bay.

Staff advice and response: No wildlife changes were proposed for Hays Bay or Paradise Beach, but changes to protect wildlife were proposed for Purau. No changes were proposed to summer beach prohibition rules, or their application in specific areas. Staff do not recommend any changes to these areas.

Magazine Bay, Urumau Reserve and Whaka Raupo Reserve

One submitter suggested there should be dog controls for Urumau Reserve and Whaka Raupo Reserve, as well as Magazine Bay, but did not give a reason.

Staff advice and response: These areas were not proposed for change. Staff do not recommend any changes to these areas.

Other Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula areas

The following new areas and changes were proposed:

- **New areas around Banks Peninsula**: Children's Bay mudflats and foreshore (Akaroa), Robinson's Bay mudflats and foreshore; Barry's Bay mudflats, saltmarsh and foreshore; French Farm mudflats and foreshore; and Birdlings Flat near the Bossu Road canal bridge
- **Updating existing entries for consistency and clarification**: Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats entries

Six submitters supported the mudflat wildlife protections. One submitter thought it was a retrograde step, and another thought leashing was sufficient. Several submissions specifically mentioned the Birdling's Flat Bossu Road canal bridge proposal, near Te Wairewa / Lake Forsyth, with one in support and one in opposition. Forest and Bird supported the prohibition on dogs in all coastal estuarine or mudflat, saltmarsh and salt meadow habitats, including the listed foreshore areas and mudflats around Banks Peninsula. Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board supported the proposal to prohibit dogs on some mudflats and foreshore areas to protect wildlife values.

Staff advice and response: These proposals were to prohibit dogs from mudflat and shoreline areas where birds feed, nest, etc, in line with other mudflat and saltmarsh areas around the city coastline. The prohibition is important to prevent owners walking along the shore and letting their dogs roam on the mudflats. Staff do not recommend any changes to these proposed areas.

The stony beach at Birdling's Flat is an important nesting area for at risk dotterels, oystercatchers and terns. The proposal is to prohibit dogs in the area within a 150-metre radius of the Bossu Road canal bridge, including the nearby fingers that protrude into the lake (see map at Attachment B for more information). Other parts of the beach are not restricted, but the specified area has been assessed as in need of dog controls because of vulnerable wildlife. Staff do not recommend any changes to this proposal.

Wainui Beach

One submitter requested that Wainui Beach was added as a summer beach prohibition area, raising concerns about interactions on the beach and in the water with dogs and children, particularly given the camp and school trips to the area.

Staff advice and response: This area was considered and was not recognised by staff having significant issues, in terms of recreational swimming and dog access. Staff do not recommend creating a new summer beach prohibition area.

Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve, Akaroa Harbour

A new prohibition was proposed to cover Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve, as it is a wāhi tapu area. Although the land is Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu land, and not Council land, staff proposed including it in the policy to support protections on the land. The draft Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve Management Plan (June 2024) identifies dog access to the area as incompatible with the wāhi tapu status of the Historic Reserve.

No specific submissions were received on this area, and submissions mentioning protections for cultural reasons were mixed, with some in support.

Staff advice and response: Staff do not recommend any changes to this proposal.

Other policy and bylaw issues raised in submissions

Under effective control

We proposed changing the definition of under effective control, as follows:

Current definition (note: this was in the definition section, and was used in the clause)	Proposed replacement (the proposed change moved it from the definition section and created a new clause)
(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must keep their dog under effective control in all public places and at all times From the definition section, clause 2: under effective control means the owner or person in charge of a dog is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, and that the dog is responsive to commands and is not creating a nuisance. *Explanatory note: Having your dog under effective control means you can see it or are aware of what it is doing, and are close enough to prevent issues or quickly bring it to heel.*	(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must keep their dog under effective control in all public places and at all times. (2) In order to comply with clause 5(1), the owner or person in charge of the dog must: i. actively pay attention to the dog and what it is doing; ii. be close enough to the dog to quickly respond to any issues; iii. ensure the dog remains responsive to commands, with prompt recall; and iv. ensure the dog does not create a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife. (3) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place must keep their dog leashed if they cannot meet the requirements for under effective control, even if the area does not require dogs to be leashed.

Views from submitters were generally supportive of improving the definition of under effective control. Some submitters were more broadly concerned at dog owners not having their dogs under effective control, as evidenced by submission themes relating to public safety and anecdotes of bad experiences, or even attacks. Some comments linked this to concerns about dog owners not picking up after their dogs, which ties to not paying active attention to the dog and what it is doing. Some highlighted the apparent lack of knowledge from some dog owners about what under effective control meant or required. Some argued that dogs can only be under effective control when they are leashed, while others suggested under effective control should be removed as a concept for this reason. A number of submitters supported all the proposed changes, which would include the proposed improvements to the meaning of the term under effective control.

A similar question was asked in the July 2024 Dog Control Survey to get some early feedback on key topics: We asked if we should change the definition of 'under effective control' to make it easier to understand. Of the 6,182 who answered this question, **53% said yes**, 38% said no and 9% were not sure.

Comment themes from submitters	
Support for the proposed changes (25) All dogs should be leashed (3)	Too many people don't know what it means / interpret it differently (3) Support dogs being better controlled (2)

One submitter said that "*a lot of people are slack about paying active attention – so dogs are left to intrude on the enjoyment of others*". Another submitter said "*too many owners would say they have good control because they can recall their dog most of the time, so allow them to run free, only calling them back after they have made a nuisance and when they often don't respond*". A submitter also said "*so distressing to have your dogs harassed by unleashed dogs with owners not taking responsibility*".

Suggested changes from submitters included: replacing effective control with good control; under effective control should not refer to dogs being intimidating, as their large dog might intimidate, but was very gentle; and one submitter suggested replacing the word "should" with "must" in key sections of the policy (the policy 3.1.1, Keeping your dog under effective control. (in 2 places) and in policy 6.2.2).

Staff advice and response: Note that a related proposal was the addition of a new bylaw clause 5(3): Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place must keep their dog leashed if they cannot meet the requirements for under effective control, even if the area does not require dogs to be leashed.

The reference to intimidating is in the policy (to explain the general effect) and not in the bylaw (which contains the enforceable rules). Intimidation would normally relate to some sort of aggression. The reference to intimidating is from the Dog Control Act, which requires that a council must consider, in its policy on dogs, that the public should be able "*to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs*". (section 10).

In terms of the word "must" as opposed to "should", "must" is used in the bylaw clause 5(3). The policy and bylaw must be consistent, so the policy will need to be altered to align. Note there are two 6.2.2s in the policy. This is identified in the staff corrections section. Staff recommend aligning the wording and intent between the bylaw clause and the policy coverage.

Picking up after dogs

We proposed a minor change to the clauses and explanatory notes on picking up after dogs. The change added "recycled or compostable" bags to plastic bags as a suggested way of picking up after dogs. The bylaw requires that every dog owner or person in charge of a dog in a public places carries the means to pick up after their dog, picks up after their dog and appropriately disposes of any fouling.

The explanatory note to the clauses was also updated in response concerns raised by community boards. The change reads: "*Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasites that make other dogs or people unwell. If left on the ground, dog faeces will contaminate waterways. Christchurch has a high number of dogs, and it is important that dog owners take responsibility for their own dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places. Bags are an ideal way of*

picking up and removing dog faeces. Despite using a compostable or biodegradable bag, dog faeces should always be disposed of in a rubbish bin or Council red wheelie bin (it cannot be composted through the green waste wheelie bin system).”

Many submitters comment on people not picking up after their dogs. Concerns included the spread of dog diseases, contamination of waterways, impacts on public health (including on young children) and general unpleasantness. Some also related to leashing, on the assumption that the owner of an unleashed dog may not notice or make a point of picking up after their dog, but the owner of a leashed dog will. Many submitters called for stronger enforcement and penalties. Out of scope comments included the provision on rubbish bins. Staff do not recommend any changes in relation to the bylaw clauses on picking up after dogs.

Maximum limit on the number of dogs

We proposed limiting the number of dogs one person can be in charge of in a public place - **a limit of four dogs for one person, with up to two of those dogs off-leash at once.** Overall, there was good support for this proposal, although some alterative views and suggestions were put forth. The proposal also contained an exemption process for people to control a higher number of dogs, such as people operating dog walking or exercise services, dog trainers, or owners of multiple dogs. Note that this proposal did not limit activities on private property and had nothing to do with the number of dogs a person could own.

1,521 submitters answered this question. The majority (1,047 or 69%) supported the proposal:

Question	Yes	No	Don’t know
Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?	1,047 submitters 69%	326 submitters 22%	148 submitters 10%

Themes in opposing submissions / comments	Concerns / suggestions for change	Themes in supporting submissions / comments
• No need for a limit or regulation (**31**) • Opposed to regulation or to the proposal to regulate (**54**) • Concerned it will impact on owners and people helping each other (**83**) • Impacts on dog walking businesses (**45**) • Support for dogs being walked together (**19**) • Concerns about leashing multiple dogs (**5**)	• It should depend on the dog / handler (**90**) • Rules should / should not apply in certain situations / places (**31**) • Impacts on owners of multiple dogs (**24**) • Comments on the exemption proposal (**116**)	• Agree with proposals, concerns about multiple dogs (**289**) • Negative experiences with groups of dogs (**179**) • Regulate because special skills are required to control groups of dogs (**127**) • Good to regulate dog walking businesses (**54**) • Concerns about people not picking up after multiple dogs (**24**) • Concerns about how some dog walkers operate (**7**) • Support for regulation, opposed to exemption process (**5**)

One hundred and ninety-seven comments were made about what the maximum limit should be. These ranged from one dog to seven dogs, with a mix of leashed and unleashed. Views were varied.

Submitters had mixed views on the maximum number of dogs one person should be in charge of		
• Numbers too strict / too low (7) • Numbers are not strict / low enough (7) • Numbers are just right (5) • All dogs should be leashed in public places (13) • One person per dog (2) • One person cannot control two dogs off-leash (10) • Two off-leash is too many, should only be one (3) • Two dogs maximum on or off leash (23) • Two dogs is plenty for most people / reasonable (21) • Max of two if leashed (3)	• Two dogs off-leash is too restrictive (9) • Two leashed, max off lead one (1) • Maximum of three for one person (7) • Two off-leash and four leashed (1) • Support three dogs off-leash (16) • Should be three (unclear if leashed or unleashed) (5) • Three off-leash and five when leashed (3) • Up to four small dogs (3) • Maximum of four dogs on or off leash (17)	• Leashed if four dogs (6) • Four dogs off-leash is fine (3) • Four leashed dogs are not controllable / too many for one person (16) • Four is too many on a footpath or track (7) • Regulate for over four off-leash (1) • Should be able to take five off leash (2) • Impossible to have control of five dogs at once (2) • Maximum of six (1) • Maximum of seven (2)

In the July 2024 survey, 48% of the 6,245 respondents supported the proposal to limit the number of dogs a person can manage in a public place?

Limit the number of dogs a person can manage in a public place?	✓	**48% yes**, or 3,005 respondents	37% no	15% not sure

When asked what the number should be, respondents said **(on average) two to three dogs off-leash and three to four dogs on-leash**.

Some submitters thought it should depend on the person, dogs or place, and had concerns about the impact on dog owners:

Submitters had mixed views on what should be considered		Some had concerns about impacts on dog owners
• Depends on the skill of the handler (21) • Depends on the size / weight of the dogs / limit big dogs, not small dogs (27) • Depends on the strength / weight of the person (8) • Depends on the training of the dogs (10) • Depends on the breed / type of dog (14)	• There should be a limit at dog parks (13) • There should be a higher limit at dog parks (5) • Not needed in greenspace areas (2) • Have seen walkers with more dogs than they can control in greenspace areas (2) • Should not apply to under effective control areas (1) • Public place is too general – professionals take care where they operate, often weekdays (2)	• Concerned it will impact on owners and people helping each other (83) • Concerned people would have to pay to walk their own dogs / couldn't walk them (4) • Should be a distinction between owners and professional dog walkers (12)

• Depends on how many dogs a person owns (6) • Depends on the age of the dog (4)	• There should be special areas for this, not all public places (4)	• Concerned about impact on people involved in competitive dog sports with well-trained dogs or working dogs (8)

Those who own multiple dogs near or over the limit, or who help others with dog walking (ie taking their own dogs and a neighbour's or relative's dogs), were concerned about the proposal.

Other submitters raised concerns about people not picking up after dogs when they are looking after multiple dogs, and some raised public safety concerns about people not being able to control multiple dogs. Other concerns were about the unpredictability of public places, with lots of people using them and distractions for dogs, including other dogs and wildlife. Some mentioned being attacked or their own dog being attacked by multiple dogs, and concerns about pack-mentality.

Staff advice: It's not possible to regulate efficiently with multiple variables (size of dog, training, breed, etc), especially as the mix of dogs taken out may change for service providers. The proposal is to set a maximum limit that applies to everyone, and to operate an exemption process for those that want to apply.

There were some concerns about the impacts on owners of multiple dogs. Records show that owners of registered dogs are as follows (data from dog registrations, August 2024):

Own one dog	Own two dogs	Own three dogs	Own four dogs	Own five dogs	Own six dogs	Own seven dogs or more	Total dog owners
30,982 people	5,612 people	465 people	104 people	44 people	19 people	29 people	**37,255 owners in total**
36,594 people own two or fewer dogs **98% of dog owners**		37,163 people own four or fewer dogs **99.8% of dog owners**		92 people own more five or more dogs **0.3% of dog owners**			

Note that owners listed with seven or more dogs are likely to be breeders, kennels, dog rescue organisation, working dog owners / trainers (farm, pest, security, police, customs, disability assist, etc) or similar. Many of these owners are unlikely to take (or want to take) all of their dogs into a public place at once.

The proposed limit would impact on owners of three or four dogs – they could continue to take all four dogs out when leashed, but could only have two off-leash at once. Note that all leashed and prohibited rules have to be complied with, so even if up to two dogs can be off-leash, this would only apply in an area where dogs are able to off-leash and under effective control.

In looking at dog walking and exercise services being offered in the district, and at concerns raised in submissions, it appears that some operators may be taking dogs into areas where dogs are prohibited, taking dogs for off-leash walks in areas where leashes are required, or are not keeping dogs under effective control. This is one of the reasons the exemption proposal asks applicants to indicate where they intend or are likely to take dogs, before an exemption would be granted. This is referred to in clause 13(7) of the draft bylaw.

Staff have considered the issues raised in submissions and have concluded that the maximum number of dogs one person can control in public places is four. Up to two of the four dogs may be off-leash at any one time, but must be under effective control. People with special skills and experience may be able to safely control

a higher number of dogs in a public place, and this is addressed through the exemption. Staff do not recommend changes to the proposed limit for the maximum number of dogs one person can be in charge of in public places.

Exemption to the maximum limit

There was good support for the exemption, though some concerns about the criteria or how it might operate. Details on this were contained in the statement of proposal, containing the full policy and bylaw wording. The proposal for an exemption process received some feedback from submitters. Some comments from submitters appear to be based on the summary and not on the proposal, as set out in the bylaw (clause 5(4) for the maximum, and clause 13 for the exemption).

• Agree with having an exemption process (44) • Depends on the criteria for appropriate skills / who assesses (33) • Should value experience, not just formal qualifications (3)	• Depends how easy it is and how much it costs / should not be arduous or expensive (17) • Depends on the exemption process (7) • Support if dog walkers are proven competent, should be demonstration of skills (6)	• Dog walkers should carry proof / be identified (2) • There should be a maximum, not decided by the applicant (3) • Concerned about or opposed to the exemption (5) • Does it apply to a company or a person? (1)

Several suggestions were made, including placing a duration on any exemption, and suggesting further criteria on how dogs are safely transported in vehicles. There were some concerns about what the maximum number for an exemption might be. No maximum has been specified, but the application process requires the applicant to indicate the maximum number of dogs they intend to control in public places and an indication of the likely places they may take the dogs. The approval for the exemption is at the discretion of the Manager Animal Services. If a number were to be set, every applicant may seek the highest number, which may result in applications being declined. The number of dogs should be realistic and proportionate to the skills of the applicant, and will depend on their particular circumstances.

Staff advice: There is a requirement that dogs **on** moving vehicles are restrained, such as on the tray of a ute (Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018), but there are no specific requirements about restraining dogs **in** vehicles. The limit on the number of dogs one person can control and the associated exemption process relate to public places, not private spaces, like inside a vehicle. Whether dogs are being transported safely is something dog owners should consider when transporting their dogs or engaging the services of someone who will be transporting their dog(s).

We do not recommend putting a timeframe on the exemption process, but would reexamine an exemption if issues or complaints were raised in relation to the conduct of the holder in public places. Not having an expiry date is the current approach to both Responsible Dog Owner status and the Licence for More Than Two Dogs. The proposal includes the power for the Manager Animal Services to remove an exemption or alter the conditions of an exemption due to any non-compliance with the exemption, the conditions, any regulatory requirements or due to any incidents (clause 13(10) of the draft bylaw).

The exemption process is not intended to be onerous, but to ensure that anyone seeking an exemption to control a higher number of dogs in public places has the appropriate skills and knowledge to do so safely – for the dogs, for other dogs, for people using those same public places, and for wildlife, stock or domestic animals. Staff recommend continuing with the exemption process as proposed in the draft policy and bylaw.

Maximum limit at dog parks

In comments on the proposed limit, some submitters suggested areas where the rules should or should not apply. While some submitters suggested no limit should apply at dog parks, other submitters argued that a limit was very important at dog parks, as there are ongoing issues with dogs not being under effective control or being aggressive.

Staff advice: Even though dog parks are spaces designed for dogs, the rules that apply in other public places also apply. These include the requirement to keep dogs under effective control, and that the owner or person in charge of the dogs picks up after it. Attachment B to the previous report contained comments on dog parks, conduct, attacks, people not picking up, etc, which reinforces this requirement.

Staff do not recommend an increase in the maximum limit on how many dogs one person can be in charge of at dog parks

Staff recommend a note to clarify that the maximum applies at dog parks and in dog exercise areas.

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended change to the bylaw
Add an explanatory note to confirm the **maximum number of dogs applies in dog parks and exercise areas**	Taking too many dogs was raised in submissions. The limit applies everywhere, but including it in the explanatory note may assist	Add an explanatory note to clause 5(4) of the bylaw	Add to the explanatory note: *The limit also applies at dog parks and in dog exercise areas*

Dog registration

Several submitters did not see the need for dog registration or wanted differential registration categories (eg different fees for small or large dogs). One submitter objected to a reduced dog registration fee for neutered or spayed dogs.

Staff advice and response: Dog registration is required by the Dog Control Act 1996. Registration fees vary by council and are set though annual plan processes. Some minor changes to the administrative arrangements for dog registration fees were proposed (see section 4 of the policy: Registration of dogs, with change shown). Section 4.2 of the policy sets out the following: "*Explanation: Registration fees are set by councils to take into account the cost of providing dog control services and aim to strike a balance between dog owners bearing the costs of dog control and the benefits to ratepayers of having safe and well controlled dogs in their community. The Dog Control Act 1996 (section 9) requires that all money collected under the Dog Control Act can only be spent on dog control matters*". Differential rates for small and large dogs are not enabled by the Dog Control Act (section 37). Staff do not recommend any changes to what was proposed for the dog registration parts of the policy.

The Council has maintained a different, lesser registration fee for neutered or spayed dogs to incentivise de-sexing. Section 4.2.5 of the policy states: "*The Council encourages de-sexing by offering a discount on registration fees for neutered or spayed dogs... Explanation: De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, re-homed or destroyed, and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns*

if they are not cared for appropriately. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed." Staff do not recommend any changes to the reduced fee approach for de-sexed dogs.

Dog welfare

Dog welfare matters are covered by the Code of Welfare: Dogs (which is a form of regulation made under the Animal Welfare Act 1999). The Code applies across the country, while dog control policies and bylaws regulate things that are specific to a council's district. A policy can take an advisory role to support the good care and control of dogs in the district. For example, the policy has a section on dogs in vehicles over the summer months (section 9.6).

One submitter suggested the Council should include some related information about taking care when walking dogs on hot footpaths during the summer.

Staff advice and response: If the Panel would like to add an advisory statement about hot footpaths in summer, this can be added to the policy. This is because it would be an advisory and not something enforceable. A new section could be added after section 9.6: Dogs in vehicles over the summer months. Staff recommend adding the following new section:

Recommended new section in policy	
Possible additional advisory section and statement for the policy	**Protecting dog paws in the heat** Paths, roads and dry sand can heat up quickly in summer and be much hotter than the surrounding air temperature. Hot surfaces can cause discomfort or burns to dog paws. To avoid this, go walking in the morning or later in the day, walk in grassed or shady areas, or consider investing in special shoes for your dog.

Dogs at events

Section 9.7 of the policy addressed dogs at Council events and festivals. It says the following:

Section 9.7: Dogs at Council events and festivals*: Dogs may not be welcome or may be need to be on a leash at Council events and festivals, at the discretion of event organisers and promoters. This is not the same as dogs being prohibited or required to be on a leash through the Council's bylaw, but may be as a condition of entry to an event, or it may be good advice offered by event organisers and promoters. Events may be held in places where dogs are prohibited (such as in the Botanic Gardens) or where dogs must be on a leash. Check the requirements before you leave home.*

Explanation: It may not be appropriate for dogs to be at a Council event due to the expected visitor numbers, the nature of the event or for other reasons (such as planned fireworks). Where dogs are welcome at an event or festival, you should consider whether or not it is appropriate to take your dog into a crowded situation, based on your understanding of your dog's temperament and history.

The issue of events designed for dogs was raised in submissions (see earlier section on swimming and paddling pools). An additional area not otherwise covered is events designed for dogs that may be in conflict with location-based prohibited or leashed rules, such as a marathon event designed for dogs to accompany participants. This is not a frequent issue but may arise from time to time.

Staff recommend including discretion for the Animal Services Manager to give approval for an event to be held (in conflict with the policy and / or bylaw), if they are satisfied that any dog-related issues concerning the event or its location are adequately addressed or managed by the event organisers.

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended change to policy section 9.7
Approved events designed for dogs or the inclusion of dogs	Some events are designed for dogs and the policy and bylaw should not unnecessarily limit them.	Policy, section 9.7	Add to the explanatory note: *The Animal Services Manager may waive location-based requirements in the bylaw for an event designed for dogs, provided they are satisfied that any dog-related issues concerning the event or its location are adequately addressed or managed by the event organisers.*

Staff changes or corrections

The following changes are recommended by staff to improve the policy and bylaw or correct errors.

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended changes
Change year references to 2024 to **2025**	Out of step with when the policy and bylaw will be adopted	Policy and bylaw – throughout	Change all references to Dog Control Policy 2024 to 2025 Change all references to Dog Control Bylaw 2024 to 2025
Fix **numbering** in the policy	Numbering in the policy inconsistent	Throughout the Policy	Quality control numbering throughout eg 6.2 duplicate
Bylaw – fix two **clause references** in clause 4	The definitions for leashed area and prohibited area refer to the wrong clause	Bylaw clause 4	Change definitions for “Leashed area” and “Prohibited area” in clause 4, Interpretation, so that they refer to the correct bylaw clause – change from clause 8 to clause 6, Leashed and Prohibited Dog Control Areas

Issue	Reason	Document(s)	Recommended changes
Bylaw – fix **clause references** in clauses 11 (A) and (B)	The clauses on dog parks and dog exercise areas should link to the clauses on dog owner obligations (clause 5). The current reference is to clause 4	Clause 11 (A) and (B) of the bylaw need to link to clause 5, not to clause 4	Change clause 11(A)(ii) to (ii) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog at a Dog Park must comply with the obligations set out in clause (5) of this bylaw Change clause 11(B)(ii) to (ii) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog at a Dog Exercise Area must comply with the obligations set out in clause (5) of this bylaw.
Clarification about dog control in **reserves outside our district** but under our control (Selwyn)	See change wording. Requested by Manager Regional Parks	Policy, at the end of schedule 1 tables	Add explanatory note at the end of the policy schedule 1 tables: *Explanation: This policy and its associated bylaw regulate land within the Council's district under the Dog Control Act 1996 - however, the Council has the power under the Reserves Act 1977 to make bylaws to regulate reserves located outside of its district where the Council is the administering body of the reserve (ie Kennedy's Bush, Cass Peak, Otahuna Reserve, Coopers Knob, Ahuriri Scenic Reserve, and Orongamai Reserve in Selwyn district). Section 94(1)(b) of the Reserves Act makes it an offence to allow an animal to trespass onto a reserve, and therefore a bylaw is not required to control dogs on these reserves (dogs are not allowed).*

Attachment B: Indicative maps of key areas to support deliberations

Styx Mill Conservation Reserve – indicative areas - purple is the open space area, orange is the dog park, green is the Hussey Road entrance road / line, yellow is the perimeter track (outside the predator-proof fence), blue is the new track proposal (running from the car park, around the transfer station, to Styx Mill Road)



Indicative outline of the **Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor**. Does not include: Horseshoe Lake Reserve, Anzac Drive Reserve, Cockayne Reserve and Bexley Wetland. These have separate entries in schedule one to the policy. (Note Bexley Wetland is covered by the Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes entry)



Attachment B Item 5

Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary (see next page map for further context)

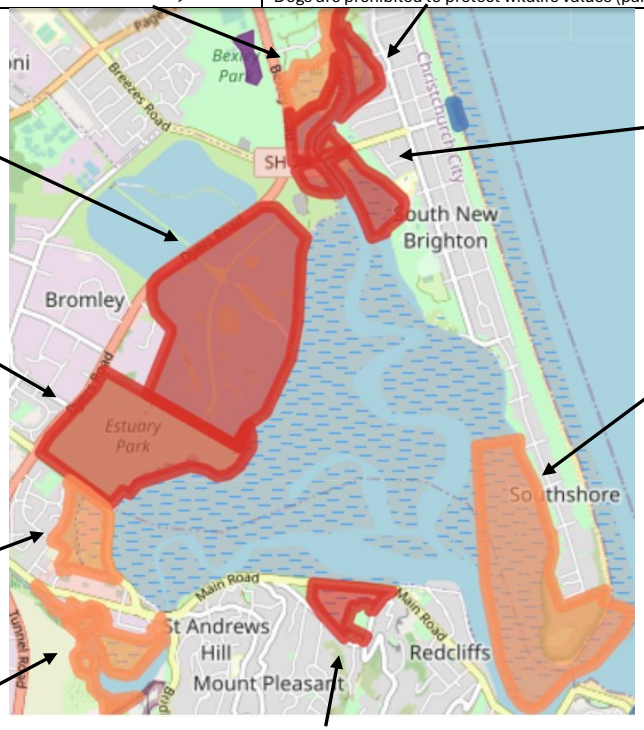


Current dog controls around Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary

Bexley Wetland
Prohibited / Leashed
Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the wetland area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways.

Lower Avon saltmarshes, including Naughty Boys' Island and Bligh's Garden
Prohibited
Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly estuarine birds)

Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Reserve (Bromley Oxidation Ponds)
Prohibited
Wildlife Reserve - dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife and wildlife values (particularly up to 15,000 wetland birds including many threatened species)



Lower Avon saltmarshes Raupo Bay Saltmarsh, Rat Island Reserve and the estuary and margins
Prohibited
Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly estuarine birds)

Linwood Paddocks
Prohibited
Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly native and migrating birds, including threatened species)

Southshore Spit Reserve and foreshore
Prohibited / Leashed
- Dogs are prohibited from the foreshore and sand dunes area to protect wildlife (particularly godwits and oyster catchers).
- Dogs are allowed on a leash when walking around the boundary between the vegetated reserve area, and the foreshore and sand dunes area
- Dogs are allowed under effective control on the vegetated reserve area.

Charlesworth Reserve
Prohibited / Leashed
Dogs are prohibited in the wildlife habitat and regenerating bush areas. On the grass area with no wildlife values, dogs are allowed if leashed

Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes: Devil's Elbow Saltmarsh, Ferry Esplanade Reserve, Ferrymead Esplanade Saltmarsh, Settlers Reserve and Saltmarsh, and Stilt Island Saltmarsh, including Avoca Valley Stream
Prohibited / Leashed
Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values, except on walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash

McCormacks Bay islands, mudflat and saltmarsh
Prohibited / Under effective control
Dogs are prohibited on roosting/nesting islands and on the wet areas. Dogs are permitted in other areas as long as they are under effective control at all times

This shows the current dog controls around the estuary – note that some changes have been proposed for some of these areas.

This map has been included as it gives a good indication of the location of areas around the estuary, which may be helpful for the Panel.

For the current proposals, see schedule one of the policy, particularly p.37 and the entries for:

- Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary
- Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes
- Bridge Reserve
- Ferrymead Regional Park
- South New Brighton Park
- Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge
  (note that updated mapping for Te Huingi will show the corrected legal boundaries)

For the map in context, see Where you can take your dog

Proposed entry for **Birdlings Flat near the Bossu Road canal bridge**: Dogs are prohibited on the stony foreshore area at the southern end of Te Wairewa / Lake Forsyth to protect wildlife (including at risk dotterels, oystercatchers and terns). This includes the area within a 150-metre radius of the Bossu Road canal bridge, including the nearby fingers that protrude into the lake.



Proposed replacement dog control policy – for consultation, showing changes

- new text is shown with a blue background – like this
- deleted text is shown with strikethrough and a grey background – ~~like this~~
- an explanation for the change, if needed, is shown with brackets and red text – [like this]

Proposed replacement Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024

Section 1: Introduction 1
Section 2: Dog Control Bylaw 3
Section 3: Obligations of dog owners 4
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Section 6: Prohibited and leashed areas 12
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Section 10: Education and training 24
Section 11: Probationary and disqualified dog owners, dangerous and menacing dogs 24
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Schedule 1: Prohibited and leashed dog control areas 28

Section 1: Introduction

1.1 Preamble

Christchurch has one of the highest dog ownership rates in New Zealand, with ~~around 35,000~~ almost 45,000 registered dogs. Many people consider their dog(s) to be part of the family, and so it is important to have a range of public places that are accessible to dogs and their owners for fun and recreation.

However, we also need to acknowledge the reality that dogs can cause problems (such as barking), can cause injuries (such as bites, which can be particularly harmful and traumatic to children) and can even cause death (such as to protected wildlife or other animals).

Many of these scenarios can be prevented with good dog ownership, but others can happen unprovoked and with little or no warning, so we need to minimise the potential for such incidents and accidents by putting reasonable regulatory controls in place.

This policy seeks to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with the need to minimise the potential for any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

1.2 Reason for the policy

The Dog Control Act 1996 requires every territorial authority to adopt a policy on dog control matters and to develop a bylaw to give effect to its policy. The Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw ~~2016~~ 2024 has been developed with this policy.

1.3 Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline how the Christchurch City Council will address the requirements set out in the Act.

This policy balances regulatory controls to allow for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

This policy is also designed as an educational tool to help encourage and facilitate good dog behaviour and good dog ownership.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Dog Control Bylaw ~~2016~~ 2024 and the Dog Control Act. Some parts of the Act are reiterated in this policy for the purposes of clarity.

1.4 Commencement and lifespan of the policy

This policy comes into force on ~~1 September 2016~~ [insert new date 2024]. This policy must be reviewed at least every ten years, together with the dog control bylaw.[1]

1.5 Ownership of the policy

The Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw are owned by the Christchurch City Council's Animal Management Team, which is part of the Regulatory Compliance Unit.

The primary focus of the Animal Management Team is to provide a cost effective and professional animal management service through education, monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities.

The Council's principal involvement in dog control is in response to the legislative obligations set out in the Act. The legislation sets out Council's and dog owners' responsibilities.

The Council's approach to dog control is one of assisting owners to understand their responsibilities, rewarding those owners who exercise good control of their dogs and taking any necessary action against those who do not meet their obligations.

1.6 Community outcomes related to the policy

The Christchurch City Council has a number of Community Outcomes that guide decision-making. The main Community Outcomes related to this policy are:

[1] The Local Government Act 2002 requires bylaws to be reviewed at least every ten years (s.159). The Dog Control Act 1996 requires a dog control policy to be reviewed when a dog control bylaw is reviewed (s.10AA). A review may be prompted at any time within this ten year timeframe due to operational needs, legislative change or for other reasons.

~~People participate in a wide range of recreational activities~~	~~This policy:~~ ~~• provides for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners by allowing reasonable access to a wide range of public places~~ ~~• requires a leash in some areas to allow dogs, but to protect people, wildlife or the environment~~ ~~• prohibits dogs in some areas to protect people, wildlife or the environment~~ ~~• allows children safe areas to play, free of dogs (such as playgrounds and swimming beaches in summertime)~~
~~Communities are safe~~	~~This policy:~~ ~~• encourages good, responsible dog ownership~~ ~~• encourages responsible conduct around dogs, including offering training to children through schools~~ ~~• reduces the potential for harm by restricting or prohibiting dogs in some recreational areas and settings~~ ~~• places controls on dangerous and menacing dogs~~
~~Christchurch's unique landscapes and indigenous biodiversity are protected and enhanced.~~	~~This policy:~~ ~~• prohibits dogs from certain places to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)~~ ~~• prohibits dogs or requires a leash in certain places to protect conservation values (such as regenerating wetland or bush areas)~~

[Reason for change: Replaced with the community outcomes adopted by the Council for 2024-2034]

Collaborative and confident: *actively participate and feel safe* Green and liveable: *protect and regenerate the environment, especially our biodiversity and water bodies*	This policy enables active participation, improves community safety and protects biodiversity by: • allowing access for dogs and their owners to a wide range of public places • placing obligations on dog owners to protect the public from danger of attack, intimidation or nuisance from dogs • requiring dogs to be leashed or prohibited in some areas to protect people, other dogs, wildlife, grazing stock, heritage plantings, habitat restoration, conservation values and culturally sensitive sites • allowing children areas to play, free of dogs (such as playgrounds, swimming beaches and skate parks).

Section 2: Dog Control Bylaw

Under the Dog Control Act councils are required to develop a dog control policy, and must develop a bylaw to enforce the matters covered by the policy.[2] Section 10(3)(a) of the Act requires a dog control policy to set out the nature and application of its associated bylaw.

2.1 Nature and application of the bylaw

The Council's Dog Control Bylaw:

- promotes the responsible management of dogs in public places;
- provides for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners; and
- minimises the potential for danger, distress or nuisance from dogs to the community, animals and wildlife.

[2] Section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996

The Council's Dog Control Bylaw covers the following matters:

- control of dogs in public places
- prohibiting dogs from specified public places or categories of public places
- requiring dogs to be on a leash in specified public places or categories of public places
- exempting certain types of dogs in certain situations
- designating specified areas as dog parks and dog exercise areas
- placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be kept on properties
- an exemption process for exceeding the limit on the maximum number of dogs
- placing limitations on the housing, movement and transportation of female dogs in season
- placing requirements on dogs on vehicle trays
- offences and penalties.

Section 3: Obligations of dog owners

The Dog Control Act sets out the national expectations of dog owners that are consistent across New Zealand. The Council's Dog Control Policy and Bylaw set out those matters that are specific to Christchurch district, such as the public places where you can or cannot take your dog, or must have it on a leash.

All dog owners are required to understand the dog owner requirements and obligations set out in the Act, together with the dog owner requirements and obligations set out in this policy and in the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

Dog owners should also be aware that animal welfare matters are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and, in particular, by the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare, which sets out the minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of dogs. Animal welfare matters relating to companion animals are largely enforced by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

3.1 Obligations of dog owners set out in the Dog Control Bylaw

The following subsections set out the obligations of dog owners that are required by the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

3.1.1 Keeping your dog under effective control

Dog owners are required to keep their dog(s) 'under effective control' at all times when in public places. If an area is not a leashed area or prohibited area in this policy, dogs may be exercised off-leash, provided they are under effective control. [Reason for change: Clarification]

Under effective control means the owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place must:

- actively pay attention to ~~be aware of where~~ the dog is and what it is doing;
- ensure the dog is responsive to commands, with prompt recall;
- be close enough to the dog to quickly prevent any issues; and
- ensure ~~it~~ the dog is not creating a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

If a dog is unable to consistently and quickly respond to commands, it should be leashed in public places, whether a leash is required or not.

Explanation: ~~When a dog is under effective control, it means the dog is not creating any sort of nuisance to people, domestic animals or any other wildlife. Nuisance in this sense means things such as barking, rushing at, intimidating, attacking or otherwise causing injury, damage or harm.~~

~~Going for a walk with your dog unrestrained (not on a leash) is fine in areas where there are no dog restrictions. However, the dog must still be 'under effective control'. This means you can see the dog or you are aware of what it is doing, and you are close enough to prevent issues or quickly bring it to heel Having your dog under effective control is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of others.~~

In order for a dog to be able to be off-leash in public places, the owner or person in charge of it must be confident that the dog will respond to commands. If a dog is inconsistent at responding, it should be leashed. The owner or person in charge of the dog must actively pay attention to the dog – this means knowing where it is and what it is doing, being able to see and hear the dog, being close enough to respond to any issues, and ensuring it is not creating a nuisance. Nuisance in this sense means things such as rushing at, barking at, intimidating, or otherwise bothering people or animals, including other dogs. Having a dog under effective control is as much about the safety of the dog as it is about the safety of others.

[Reasons for the change: We asked people what they thought about the definition of 'under effective control' in our recent survey, and suggest the following changes based on the feedback. The proposal to change the definition of under effective control to make it easier to understand received 53% support in the dog control survey (47% either said no or were not sure).]

The Dog Control Act requires all dog owners to carry a leash when taking their dog into a public place, whether or not the public place is a leashed area (section 54A). This is because unexpected situations may arise that require a dog to be leashed to keep the dog under control or to keep it safe.

Another requirement that is set out in the Dog Control Act is that the legal owner of a dog must be over the age of 16 (section 2). The owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place should also be physically capable of controlling the dog.

3.1.2 Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of

A person can have a maximum of four dogs under their control in public places when leashed, and a maximum of two dogs when off-leash (provided they are otherwise complying with this policy).

A person with relevant skills and experience may apply to the Council for an increase in the number of dogs they can be in charge of in a public place, provided certain criteria are met.

Exercising a group of dogs in a public place requires special skills, and if undertaken as a commercial venture, comes with extra obligations. This includes things like the need for public liability insurance, should something go wrong.

3.1.2.1 Dog limit exemption

A person wanting to control more than the maximum number of dogs in a public place can apply to the Council for a dog limit exemption. The requirements are set out in the Dog Control Bylaw.

Information required

The application process will include a combination of supplying written material and a meeting to discuss the application. The applicant will be expected to demonstrate a good understanding of the obligations set out in the Dog Control Act 1996, in this policy and in the Dog Control Bylaw (including knowledge of where dogs can and cannot go, or where they must be leashed).

An application should include the following (as set out in the bylaw):

(a) information relating to dog control knowledge and experience, including any relevant qualifications or accreditations;

(b) business planning documents that demonstrate good dog management and a public safety focus, including things such as, but not limited to: dog vetting processes, pro forma client agreements, risk management documents, health and safety planning, and public liability insurance; and

(c) the maximum number of dogs the applicant intends to control in public places and an indication of likely places they may take the dogs.

If the person is the registered owner of the dogs, subclause (b) will not apply.

[Reason for change: Controlling a group of dogs requires special skills. We want to reduce the potential for things to go wrong by limiting the number of dogs people can have under their control in public places at any one time.

We have noticed an increase in groups of dogs being exercised together in public places. This can be problematic if the dog walker does not have good control of the dogs – for other people, for other dogs, farm animals and for wildlife. Recent incidents in other parts of New Zealand show what can go wrong when exercising multiple dogs at once, and when unexpected situations arise.

We understand that some people who own multiple dogs or who offer dog walking or exercising services are very experienced and good at controlling multiple dogs, but note that there is no qualification, accreditation or way of ensuring that people are appropriately experienced to control multiple dogs before they are allowed to operate in public places. We are proposing a limit, and a process for people to apply to the Council for an exemption to exercise an increased number of dogs in public places, provided certain criteria are met. This does not apply to activities on private land.

In the dog control survey question on control of multiple dogs, 48% thought there should be a limit, while 37% said no to a limit and 15% were not sure. When asked what a reasonable limit might be, people said, on average, two-three dogs off leash and three-four dogs on leash.

In looking at the number of dogs people own, 98% of dog owners in the district own one or two dogs (36,594 people), while 465 people own three dogs (1.4% of owners), and 196 people own four dogs or more (less than 1% of dog owners). It may be that owners with higher numbers of dogs run kennels or dog rescue organisations, breed dogs or have specially trained dogs (such as dogs trained for farming, pest control, security, police, customs, disability assistance, etc).

If the person is the registered owner of more than four dogs and wants to take all of their dogs into public places at the same, they will not have to provide business documents, but still need to demonstrate their competency.

In looking at what other councils do, several councils have recently proposed similar limits or approaches. Some councils choose to licence commercial operators, but we think an exemption process will be simpler.

Note that there will be an administrative fee associated with an application for an exemption. The amount of the fee will be set through the Council's annual plan process, which will include consultation. There will also be a six-month delay before the requirement comes into force.]

3.1.2 Carrying the means of removing dog faeces in public places

The person in charge of a dog must carry the means of picking up and removing any fouling (dog faeces) when in a public place (for example, plastic, recycled or compostable bags).

Explanation: Plastic, recycled or compostable bags are an ideal way of picking up and removing dog faeces and must be carried at all times when in public places with a dog. If left on the ground, dog faeces will contaminate waterways. ~~Dog toileting habits can be unpredictable and this requirement will prevent owners from being caught short.~~ ~~It is no longer an excuse to say you do not have any plastic bags with you.~~ Despite using a compostable or biodegradable bag, dog faeces should always be disposed of in a rubbish bin or Council red wheelie bin (it cannot be composted through the green waste wheelie bin system).

[Reason for change: Community Boards raised the use of plastic bags given recent law changes, and confusion about where compostable or biodegradable bags should be placed after picking up after dogs]

3.1.3 Removing dog faeces from public places

The person in charge of a dog must remove any fouling (dog faeces) that their dog produces and dispose of it in a hygienic manner (e.g. in a red wheelie bin or Council rubbish bin). The requirement to remove dog faeces applies not only to public places, but also to land that is not the dog owner's land.

Explanation: Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasitic infection that can make other dogs or people unwell. It is also generally unpleasant and smelly. Christchurch has a high proportion of dogs per capita, and it is important that dog owners take responsibility for their own dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places.

Section 4: Registration of dogs

All dogs in New Zealand must be registered in accordance with section 36 of the Act. This means that all dogs must be registered by ~~30 June~~ 1 July each year, and must be registered for the first time before they are three months old. [Reason for change: Administrative simplification.]

Dog registration fees increase incrementally if not paid by ~~30 June~~ 1 July. Registered dogs must wear a registration tag at all times.[3] The Council will replace a lost dog registration tag at no cost.

It is an offence not to register a dog that is over three months of age.[4] It is an offence to knowingly provide false information on a dog registration application form.[5]

Explanation: Dogs are required to be registered for three reasons. Firstly, to keep an up to date record of all dogs and their owners, secondly, to allow for the return of lost dogs, and thirdly, to generate revenue for providing dog control services across the district. See the section below on the setting of dog registration fees. 4.1 Dog registration classifications

[Reason for changes below: To align with the recently adopted Long Term Plan 2024-2034, Fees and Charges - for dog registration. No actual change in practice or policy.]

The registration classifications are as follows:

- **Standard dog registration**
    - This is the default dog registration classification
    - Spayed or neutered dogs have a reduced registration fee (requires a veterinary certificate)
    - Unspayed or unneutered dogs have a higher registration fee.
- **Responsible Dog Owner registration**
    - This applies to dogs owned by people who have Responsible Dog Owner status. This is explained in the section below
    - Second and subsequent dogs have a reduced registration fee.
- ~~**Spayed / neutered dog registration**~~
    - ~~This can be applied for with a veterinary certificate, which is held on file for subsequent registration years~~ [Reason for change: Now included in standard dog registration fee, above]

[3] Under section 44 of the Dog Control Act 1996
[4] Under section 42(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[5] Under section 41 of the Dog Control Act 1996

- **Working dog registration**[6]
    - The definition for working dog is set out in the Dog Control Act and generally means ~~any~~ dogs that are ~~carrying out functions and duties~~:
        - kept solely or predominantly for the purpose of herding stock (e.g. a sheep dog) ~~relating to farming, such as the herding of stock~~;
        - kept by a government agency for carrying out the functions of that organisation (e.g. ~~under the direction of a government department or state employee undertaking responsibilities such as those~~ relating to policing, defence, corrections, customs, security, biosecurity, pest management, emergency management or conservation); or
        - kept by a ~~under the direction of a private~~ security guard ~~in the execution of their duties~~ for the purpose of carrying out security-related duties.

          [Reason for change: Better alignment with the Dog Control Act. Combined with a later section on working dog registration, see below]
    - Second and subsequent dogs have a reduced registration fee.
- **Rural working dog registration**
    - This classification applies to 'rural working dogs' as declared by a resolution of Council on 23 June 2016. These are dogs housed on a working farm, and that are kept solely or principally to contribute to the working of a farm or otherwise assist in farming activities.
    - Second and subsequent dogs have a reduced registration fee.
- **Dogs classified as dangerous**
    - This applies to dogs classified as 'dangerous' under the Dog Control Act. The Act requires a higher registration fee to be paid for these dogs.
    - Spayed or neutered dogs have a reduced registration fee (requires a veterinary certificate).
    - Unspayed or unneutered dogs have a higher registration fee.
- **Disability Assist Dogs**
    - These dogs need to be registered, but do not incur a dog registration fee.
    - The definition for Disability Assist Dogs is set out in the Dog Control Act and generally means ~~Disability Assist Dogs are generally~~ dogs that are certified (or being trained) to assist someone with a visual, hearing, mobility or other disability.

4.2 The setting of dog registration fees

Registration fees are set through the Council's Annual Plan / Long Term Plan process and are notified to all registered dog owners at registration time and are listed on the Council's website.

In considering the dog registration fees, the Council will:

- set a standard dog registration fee
    - with a lesser price for spayed / neutered dogs[7]
- set a fee for Responsible Dog Owners that is less than the standard dog registration fee[8]
    - with a price for one dog and a lesser price for second and subsequent dogs

[6] The definition of "working dog" in the Dog Control Act includes "any disability assist dog", but for the purposes of dog registration fees, working dogs must be registered and pay a registration fee, while disability assist dogs must be registered, but do not pay a registration fee. [Reason for change: clarification]
[7] In accordance with section 37(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[8] In accordance with section 37(2)(e) of the Dog Control Act 1996

- ~~set a fee for spayed / neutered dogs that is less than the standard dog registration fee~~[9]
- set a fee for working dogs that is less than the standard dog registration fee[10]
    - with a price for one dog and a lesser price for second and subsequent dogs
- set a fee for rural working dogs that is the same as the fee for working dogs
- set a fee for Dangerous Dogs that is 50% higher than the standard dog registration fee[11]
    - with a lesser price for spayed / neutered dogs[12]
- not set a fee for Disability Assist Dogs, and
- charge a penalty for the late registration of dogs.[13]

Explanation: Registration fees are set by councils to take into account the cost of providing dog control services and aim to strike a balance between dog owners bearing the costs of dog control and the benefits to ratepayers of having safe and well controlled dogs in their community. The Dog Control Act 1996 (section 9) requires that all money collected under the Dog Control Act can only be spent on dog control matters.

4.2.1 Responsible Dog Owner status

Explanation: Responsible Dog Owner status is a special dog ownership status that recognises good, responsible dog owners and entitles them to a reduced annual dog registration fee. Dog owners eligible to be classified as a Responsible Dog Owner must have:

- *a record of good and responsible dog ownership*
- *consistent and timely payment of dog registration fees*
- *a history of compliance with relevant legal requirements.*

4.2.2 Responsible Dog Owner application criteria

A dog owner must apply for ~~the~~ Responsible Dog Owner status online or at a Council service centre, and meet the following criteria.

The dog owner must:

- have been the registered owner of a dog and have resided in the Christchurch City Council district for at least 12 months
- have paid dog registration fees on or before ~~30 June~~ 1 July for the last two years [Reason for change: Administrative simplification.]
- have all dogs micro-chipped in accordance with the Dog Control Act, including providing the microchip number to the Council
- have a licence to keep multiple dogs on their property (if applicable).
- ~~inform the Council of any dog registration or residential address changes, including information on the death, sale, or transfer of any dogs, and including the birth of any pups.~~ [Reason for change: This has been moved below, as a condition of holding Responsible Dog Owner status]

The dog owner must have a property at which the dog resides that:

- is suitably fenced and gated to contain the dog
- allows dog-free access to a door of the dwelling for authorised callers.

[9] In accordance with section 37(2) (a) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[10] In accordance with section 37(2)(b) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[11] For dogs classed as dangerous in accordance with section 31 of the Dog Control Act 1996, in accordance with section 32(1)(e)
[12] In accordance with section 32(1)(e) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[13] In accordance with section 37((2)(f) and section 37(3) of the Dog Control Act 1996

The owner must have complied with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 1996 and the current Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw, and must not, in the last two years, have:

- had a dog that has been found at large, been uncontrolled, or been chased, returned or impounded by Council Animal Management staff
- been issued with a warning notice or infringement notice for any dog-related offence
- been prosecuted for any dog-related offence.

Owners of dogs classified as 'menacing' under Dog Control Act may be considered for Responsible Dog Owner status, provided all criteria are strictly met. ~~The granting and retention of Responsible Dog Owner status is up to the discretion of the attending Dog Control Officer~~. Owners of dogs classified as 'dangerous' under the Dog Control Act are not eligible to apply for Responsible Dog Owner Status.

The granting and retention of Responsible Dog Owner status is up to the discretion of the attending Dog Control Officer. [Reason for change: Moved from above.]

4.2.3 Responsible Dog Owner conditions

~~A dog owner seeking Responsible Dog Owner status must meet the above application criteria, and apply for the status online or at a Council service centre.~~ [Reason for change: Moved above under application criteria]

Applications must be received and approved prior to 30 April in any year to enable the successful applicant to gain Responsible Dog Owner status for the dog registration year commencing 1 July.

All dog(s) owned or kept by the applicant must be controlled in accordance with the Dog Control Act 1996 and with the current Council Dog Control Bylaw.

The Council reserves the right to carry out random property inspections (in accordance with the Dog Control Act) to ensure compliance.

Any breach of the criteria and conditions of this policy will lead to the immediate withdrawal of Responsible Dog Owner status.

Should Responsible Dog Owner status be withdrawn because the criteria and conditions of this policy have been breached, the owner may not apply for, or be considered for, the status again until two years after the date of withdrawal.

A dog owner seeking Responsible Dog Owner status must inform the Council of any dog registration or residential address changes, including information on the death, sale, or transfer of any dogs, and including the birth of any pups. [Reason for change: Moved from above]

The Responsible Dog Owner status may be transferred to a different owner in some circumstances, provided all other things remain the same, at the discretion of the Manager Animal Management. [Reason for change: Administrative improvements and practicality. The registered owner of a dog is a person, not a couple – however, many dogs are cared for by couples or families. The ownership and status should be able to be transferred in some circumstances, such as someone in the same household becoming the registered owner of the dog. In situations where everything remains the same, other than the registered owner, the status may be transferred at the discretion of the Manager Animal Management].

Any change of residential address or dog registration details must be notified in writing, or by email, online or phone to the Council within 14 days.

4.2.4 Responsible Dog Owner fees must be paid by ~~30 June~~ 1 July

The reduced fee for dog owners that have obtained Responsible Dog Owner status is required to be paid by ~~30 June~~ 1 July each year.

Failure to pay by ~~30 June~~ 1 July will cause the Responsible Dog Owner status to be ~~lost~~ revoked, and the owner will then be ineligible to obtain the status again for two years, and will have to pay the standard dog registration fee.

4.2.5 Registration and de-sexing of dogs

The Council encourages de-sexing by offering a discount on registration fees for neutered or spayed dogs.[14] To apply for the reduced fee you must provide written proof of de-sexing along with your dog registration application form.

Explanation: De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, re-homed or destroyed, and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns if they are not cared for appropriately. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed.

~~Registration of working dogs and rural working dogs~~

~~Dog registration fees for working dogs and rural working dogs are less than the standard dog registration fee. Dogs considered 'working dogs' for the purposes of dog registration are generally dogs that are:~~

- ~~kept solely or predominantly for the purpose of herding stock (eg a sheep dog) or~~
- ~~kept by a government agency for carrying out the functions of that organisation (eg relating to policing, defence, corrections, customs, security, biosecurity, pest management, emergency management or conservation) or~~
- ~~kept by a security guard for the purpose of carrying out security-related duties.~~

~~'Rural working dogs' are dogs that have been declared by a resolution of Council to be rural working dogs. These are dogs housed on a working farm, and that are kept solely or principally to contribute to the working of a farm or otherwise assist in farming activities.~~ [Reason for change: Duplication, sufficiently covered in the section on dog registration, above]

4.2.6 Change of dog ownership

Where the ownership of a dog changes, the registration continues, but both the old owner and the new owner must advise the Council's Animal Management Team. A new registration tag will be issued to the new owner at no cost.[15]

4.2.7 Transfer of dog registration between districts

Where a registered dog is moving to a different council district, the registration goes with it. Owners of dogs transferring between areas must advise both councils of the dog's move in writing, and within six weeks of the move. The owner should take the dog registration tag to their new local council office and it will be swapped for a registration tag for the new area, at no charge. No refund of the registration fee is made as a result of the transfer, and the dog is not required to be re-registered in the new area until 1 July next.[16]

4.2.8 Refund of registration fee in the event of the death of a dog

The Council will refund the applicable portion of a dog registration fee in the event of the death of a dog.[17] The refund must be applied for on the appropriate form, and evidence of the death of the dog must be provided by a veterinary certificate. This must be done within 14 days of the death of the dog.

[14] This is enabled by section 37(2)(a) of the Dog Control Act 1996
[15] This is set out in section 48 of the Dog Control Act 1996
[16] This is set out in section 47, 48 and 49 of the Dog Control Act 1996
[17] Required by section 39 of the Dog Control Act 1996

Section 5: Micro-chipping of dogs

Explanation: Dog registration and micro-chipping are two separate processes. You must register your dog every year, but you only need to microchip your dog once. A micro-chip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted on a dog's back, towards the neck, between the shoulder blades, normally by a qualified person such as a veterinarian or Dog Control Officer.

Micro-chipping is a more permanent method of identifying a dog than collars and tags, which can be lost or removed. It enables a dog to be linked to its owner, so if it is stolen or lost, dog and owner can be reunited. Secondly, it can identify a dog which has been aggressive and classified as dangerous or menacing. This is especially important if a dog owner attempts to disguise the dog's identity.

5.1 Requirement to have your dog micro-chipped

Except for working dogs, all dogs in New Zealand first registered after 1 July 2006 must be implanted with a micro-chip.[18]

Dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, dogs impounded but not registered, and dogs registered but impounded twice, are also required to be micro-chipped.[19]

The Council will continue to provide incentives for micro-chipping, which may include subsidised or free micro-chipping, depending on available funding.

5.2 Requirement to supply micro-chip information

Dog owners are required to supply their dog's micro-chip information to the Council so that it can be recorded in the National Dog Database.[20] This can be done by providing the Council with a certificate from a vet (which must include the microchip number), or by taking your dog to the Council's Animal Management Team to have it scanned, so that the Council can verify that it has been implanted with a microchip.

Explanation: The National Dog Database is administered by the Department of Internal Affairs and holds details of all micro-chipped dogs in New Zealand, their owners and any infringements that may have been issued against an owner or person in charge of a dog.

Section 6: Prohibited and leashed areas

Dogs may be prohibited from public places or required to be on a leash in public places. If a public place is not listed in this policy, it means that dogs are allowed off-leash, but must be under effective control. 'Under effective control' is the default classification.

[18] Required by section 36A of the Dog Control Act 1996
[19] Required by section 36A and 69A of the Dog Control Act 1996
[20] Required by sections 34(2)(g) and 36A of the Dog Control Act 1996

When a dog is under effective control, it means the owner or person in charge of the dog ~~is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, the dog is close enough to be responsive to commands, and the dog is not creating a nuisance~~ must actively pay attention to the dog and what it is doing; be close enough to the dog to quickly respond to any issues; ensure the dog remains responsive to commands, with prompt recall; and ensure the dog does not create a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.
[Reason for change: The requirements for under effective control have been improved in the bylaw and are shown here for consistency. The proposed changes require clearer and more active attention and engagement from the responsible person. We asked people what they thought about the definition of 'under effective control' in our recent survey, and suggest the following changes based on feedback. The proposal to change the definition of under effective control to make it easier to understand received 53% support in the dog control survey (47% either said no or were not sure)]

The public places may be a category of public place (eg all children's playgrounds) or a specific public place (eg a named reserve or specified section of coastline). These controls may be in place at all times, or at specific times of the day or year (eg between 9am and 7pm during swimming season at beaches).

Where specific restrictions or prohibitions are in place, they will be listed in the schedule attached to this policy, and signs should also indicate any controls where they apply. It may take the Council some time to ensure all signs are in place and up to date. Dog owners should not rely on signage to be in all places, but should be familiar with this policy.[21] The Council provides an interactive online map where people can check the dog control status in any given area when they are out and about.
[Reason for change: The obligation for dog owners, or the person in charge of a dog, to understand certain requirements is set out in the Dog Control Act, which includes an obligation to understand the rules that apply.]

The following section sets out the categories of public places where controls are in place. The specific public places are listed in tables in the schedule attached to this policy.

Section 6.1: General prohibited areas

There are some categories of public places in the district where dogs are prohibited (not allowed). These areas are:

- all Council children's playgrounds (within one metre of playground surfaces, equipment or fencing)
- all Council skateparks and pump tracks (within one metre of skateparks)
- all Council swimming pools and paddling pools and associated fenced areas
- at specific swimming beaches during summer [Reason for change: clarity]

See the sections below for more detail.

6.1.1 Children's playgrounds

Dogs are prohibited from being:

- within any fenced Council playground area; and
- on any specially surfaced Council playground area; and
- within one metre of any fenced or surfaced Council playground area; and
- within one metre of any Council playground equipment where there is no fence or special surface.

Explanation: Playgrounds are designed for the use and enjoyment of children. Children are disproportionately represented in dog bite and injury statistics. Ensuring dogs are not in playground areas makes them safer for children to use. Dogs should also be on a leash near playgrounds when they are in use. This is good practice to prevent dogs rushing at children or intimidating them, which could cause an accident.

[21] Section 5 of the Dog Control Act sets out the obligations of dog owners.

6.1.2 Skateparks and pump tracks

Dogs are prohibited on Council skatepark and pump track surfaces and from being within one metre of the perimeter of any Council skatepark or pump track.

Explanation: Skateparks and pump tracks are designed for the use and enjoyment of children and teenagers. Children and teenagers are disproportionately represented in dog bite and injury statistics. The speed and noise of a skatepark may excite or provoke a dog. Ensuring dogs are not in these ~~skateboard~~ areas makes them safer for children and teenagers to use.

[Reason for change: Since the policy was last reviewed, Christchurch has had several pump tracks installed for children to use, for example, in the central city near Rauora Park and at Shirely Community Reserve. A pump track is similar to a skate park, but can be used with bikes or scooters instead of skateboards. This small change will make it clear that dogs are prohibited at skateparks and pump tracks.]

6.1.3 Swimming and paddling pools

Dogs are prohibited from being inside any fenced Council paddling pool area, and from being within one metre of any unfenced Council paddling pool. Dogs are prohibited from entering any Council swimming pool facilities.

Explanation: The Council has many paddling pools around the city. Dogs are not allowed in these areas as they are designed for the use and enjoyment of children. Ensuring dogs are not in paddling pool areas makes them safer for children and prevents dogs from soiling or marking the facility, surfaces or equipment.

6.2 Dogs are prohibited at specific beaches during summer

Dogs are prohibited at some beaches used for swimming and recreation activities during summer. The Summer Beach Prohibition Areas apply from 1 November to 31 March, and between 9am and 7pm, and are listed below, and in the schedule attached to this policy.

Explanation: Dogs can cause issues on beaches that are commonly used for swimming and recreation activities, ranging from hygiene (fouling or urinating on sand or belongings) to causing a nuisance to, or endangering, other people at the beach (especially children).

Outside of these dates and times, beaches with Summer Beach Prohibitions in place revert back to 'under effective control' areas. Other than beaches specified as Summer Beach Prohibition Areas, dogs are generally permitted in many beach and coastal areas, unless there are restrictions in place to protect wildlife or for other reasons. Check individual entries in the schedule attached to this policy, the Council's interactive dog map and signage at each location to be sure. [Reason for change: Encouraging people to access the Council's interactive dog map to understand the rules that apply in any area]

6.2.1 Exemption for the purpose of passing through

Dogs are allowed to pass through Summer Beach Prohibition Areas during the prohibited times, as long as the person in charge of the dog has it on a short leash and under good control, and it is for the purpose of passing through.

Explanation: If you are walking your dog along a beach and enter a Summer Beach Prohibition Area, you do not have to exit the beach, travel along the road or inland, and then return to the beach after the prohibited area. You can walk through the prohibited area, as long as you have your dog on a short leash and under good control, and you are passing directly through the area.

6.2.2 Christchurch Swimming Beaches

- **Spencer Park Beach, Waimairi Beach, North Beach and South New Brighton Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 100 metres in a northerly and southerly direction from the Surf Life Saving Club's pavilions.
- **New Brighton Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 100 metres in a northerly direction of the Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion to a point 100 metres southward of the Christchurch Pier.
- **Sumner Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 100 metres in a northerly direction of the Sumner Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion to Cave Rock in the south.
- **Taylor's Mistake Beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer hours (1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm) for a distance of 50 metres in a general northerly and southerly direction from the Taylor's Mistake Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion.

6.2.3 Banks Peninsula Swimming Beaches

Lyttelton Harbour Beaches

- **Cass Bay beach, Corsair Bay beach, Sandy Bay beach, Paradise Bay beach, Hays Bay beach, Diamond Harbour beach** and **Purau beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm). Check each individual beach entry in the schedule attached to this policy for specific information, eg restrictions that apply in foreshore areas, or related pathways and jetties.

Peninsula beaches

- **Akaroa beach, French Farm beach, Le Bon's Bay beach, Little Akaloa beach, Okain's Bay beach, Port Levy beach** and **Tikao Bay beach** - dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm). Check each individual beach entry in the schedule attached to this policy for specific information, eg restrictions that apply in foreshore areas. (Note: Duvauchelle beach area is prohibited year-round to dogs to protect wildlife values)

6.3 Dogs are prohibited in other specific areas

Dogs are prohibited in a number of other specified public places throughout the district, for a variety of reasons. These prohibited areas are listed in tables in the schedule attached to this policy

Section 6.2: General leashed areas

There are some categories of public places in the district where dogs must be on a leash. Dogs must be on a leash in the following areas:

- on all roads~~, including~~ and on all shared paths, footpaths and pedestrian areas on or near ~~alongside~~ roads, and in car parking areas [change]
- on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks [new]
- in all cemeteries and memorial areas
- in all boat ramp and slipway areas
- on all wharves, jetties and boardwalks [new]
- on all sports fields during games and practice sessions [new]
- in all community garden areas. [new]

6.2.1 On all roads, and footpaths, shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near ~~and alongside~~ roads, and in car parking areas

Dogs must be on a short leash on all roads, and on all footpaths, shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads, and in car parking areas. This includes the margins alongside roads (such as verges and berms, whether sealed or not), private ways, state highways, and car parks, but excludes beaches and driveways on private land.

Explanation: Vehicles could harm a dog that is not under control, and, equally, a dog could cause a vehicle to have an accident. Having your dog under control on and near roads and areas where vehicles manoeuvre is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of others. Roads, footpaths, pedestrian areas and shared paths are used by people walking, running, cycling and scootering, as well as by people using mobility devices, pushchairs, balance bikes, skateboards, etc, and we want to make sure these areas are safer for everyone. A short leash is defined in the dog control bylaw as no longer than 1.5 meters, and if extendable, is locked at a length of no longer than 1.5 metres.

[Reason for change: Currently, dogs must be leashed on all roads and footpaths alongside roads, but rules for dogs on shared paths alongside roads are not always clear. Since we last reviewed the policy, there has been an increase in shared paths around the city. Shared paths are for pedestrians and cyclists. We have shared paths alongside roads, as well as in some parks and reserves. We have also seen a big increase in scooter use since the policy was last reviewed – from use by young children to faster e-scooters. Given the range of activities that can occur on footpaths, shared paths and in pedestrian areas, we think dogs should be leashed to keep both them and other users safe. Cashel Mall is a good example of a pedestrian area. The proposal to require leashing on shared paths received 76% support in the dog control survey. Leashing dogs in car parks is mentioned in the 2016 policy, but has now been added to the title, for clarity.]

6.2.2 On all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks [new]

Dogs must be on a short leash on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks where dogs are allowed.

Parks in this sense means any Council-managed greenspace area open to the public, such as parks, reserves and stormwater network assets. This includes stormwater assets that function like parks i.e. greenspace areas with footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks, such as engineered wetlands, drainage reserves and swales.

This does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area. Dogs can be exercised on the tracks through Bottle Lake while off-leash, as long as they are under effective control.

Explanation: These pathways in parks and reserves can be busy with people walking, running, cycling, mountain biking and scootering, as well as by people using mobility devices, pushchairs, balance bikes, etc, and we want to make sure these areas are safer for everyone by requiring dogs to be leashed.

Footpaths and shared paths are usually sealed (such as those in neighbourhood parks), but some shared paths and all formed tracks are likely to be shingle or have a hard-packed surface (such as shared paths in the former red zone and formed tracks in regional parks). Dog are required to be leashed on these pathways.

If a path, shared path or formed track runs through an area where dogs can be off-leash, dogs can continue to be exercised under effective control near the path, but should be leashed if travelling along the path.

This rule does not affect leashing requirements in areas where dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife, grazing stock, conservation values or for cultural reasons. This rule does not affect areas where dogs are prohibited. These leashed and prohibited areas are set out in the schedule to this policy.

[Reason for change: Currently, the rules for leashing vary, depending on the park or reserve. With a range of rules, it is not always clear which rules apply to any given footpath, shared path or formed track. We are proposing to make this simpler by applying a general rule: that all dogs must be leashed on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks and reserves where dogs are allowed. We have a lot of new stormwater basin areas that look and function like parks. The same rules for paths and tracks will apply in these areas.

Currently, dogs are:

- prohibited from some parks and reserves (this will not change);
- allowed in some parks and reserves, but only on paths and only if leashed (this will not change);
- allowed in some parks and reserves, but only if leashed in the whole area (this will not change);
- allowed in some parks and reserves, but must be leashed if on paths (this will not change); and
- allowed in some parks and reserves as long as they are under effective control (this will change, but only on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in these areas – not on areas near the paths).

For parks or reserves that do not have a leashing requirement, this change will mean dogs need to be leashed on paths and tracks. Areas around these pathways where dogs are currently allowed to be under effective control will remain under effective control areas, meaning dogs can continue to be exercised off-leash. This works well for Hagley Park at the moment, for example.

We asked three related questions in the dog survey. When asked if dogs should be leashed on shared paths, 76% of people said yes. When asked if dogs should be leashed on footpaths in parks and reserves, 57% of people said yes, while 38% said no. When asked if dogs should be leashed on formed tracks in parks and reserves, 49% said no (with 44% saying yes).

We know that some people may not be aware of the current rules. For example, in the survey, lots of people indicated that they said no to leashing on formed tracks because they wanted to continue to be able to take their dogs into the hills to walk off-leash – however, all Council Port Hills parks and reserves (and tracks) have required dogs to be leashed since at least 2016.

Areas change or are developed over time, and having a general rule will mean it applies to future recreation areas, rather than each area having to be specified. Examples of changes since the policy was last reviewed include: parks in new subdivisions, shared pathways like the Christchurch Coastal Pathway and the City to Sea Pathway, the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, and stormwater basins, like Te Kuru Wetland. These areas will all be covered by the new general rule for any footpaths, shared paths or formed tracks.

We know that footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks can be busy with people undertaking a range of recreational activities, and requiring dogs to be leashed will make these public places safer for everyone. Having one rule will make things clearer.]

6.2.4 Cemeteries and memorials

Dogs must be on a leash in the grounds of Council-managed cemeteries and memorial areas.

Explanation: Cemeteries and memorial areas are places of contemplation, of serenity and prayer, of respect for our history and for the stories of our people. They are places to come to grieve, to remember and to give thanks. It is appropriate for dogs to accompany their owners in these spaces, but it is also important that their presence is respectful of the space and of others, so dogs must be leashed.

6.2.3 Boat ramps and slipways

Dogs must be on a leash on and in the vicinity of all Council boat ramps and slipways, including associated car manoeuvring and car parking areas.

Explanation: Dogs are required to be on a leash in boat ramp areas and around slipways in order to prevent dogs from being injured by manoeuvring vehicles and to prevent dogs from causing accidents or injury to boat ramp users.

6.2.4 Wharves, jetties and boardwalks [new]

Dogs must be on a leash on all wharves, jetties and boardwalks.

Explanation: Dogs are required to be on a leash on wharves, jetties and boardwalks to protect health and safety. They are narrow spaces and dogs should be under good control. Boardwalks often part of paths or tracks, so dogs should be leashed for consistency. Any hooks or fishing line left behind on wharves or jetties may present a danger to dogs, so dogs should be leashed for their own safety. Note that dogs are prohibited on New Brighton Pier.

[Reason for the change: Wharves and jetties are narrow spaces and can be popular and busy. Leashing is currently required at Akaroa Main Wharf, Daly's Wharf, Diamond Harbour jetty and Governor's Bay jetty. Some wharves or jetties are used by commercial operators and can be busy, and some may have vehicles on them. Birds may use wharves and jetties as a vantage point to spy food in the water, and some nest on or under them (such as at-risk white-fronted terns / tara nesting on the Akaroa Main Wharf). The proposal to require leashing on wharves and jetties received 72% support in the dog control survey.

Boardwalks often form part of tracks, so should be leashed for consistency with the proposed leashed on formed tracks rule, and the proposed leashed on wharves and jetties rule.]

6.2.5 Sports fields during games and practice sessions [new]

Dogs must be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions. Dogs may be exercised under effective control at other times (unless other rules apply).

Explanation: Dogs are required to be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions to protect health and safety and to prevent interference with games.

[Reason for the change: Sport fields can be great wide-open spaces to exercise dogs. Most are currently under effective control areas, by default. We think it makes sense for dogs to be allowed to run around when the sports fields are not in use, but dogs running free when games or practice sessions are being held can be a problem, so we are proposing that dogs be leashed at these times. This proposal received 80% support in the dog control survey.]

6.2.6 Community gardens [new]

Dogs must be leashed in and around all community garden areas.

Explanation: Dogs must be leashed in and around all community gardens to protect health and safety and prevent damage to gardens and food crops.

[Reason for the change: Food crops are grown at community gardens, and the gardens are often used for community education. Uncontrolled dogs could cause damage to the gardens or disrupt educational activities, so should be leashed. This proposal received 72% support in the dog control survey.]

6.2.7 Dogs must be on a leash in other specific areas

Dogs must be on a leash in a number of other specified public places throughout the district, for a variety of reasons. These leashed areas are listed in tables in the schedule attached to this policy.

6.2.8 Exemptions to prohibited and leashed dog areas - disability assist dogs, working dogs, hunting dogs and summer beach prohibition exemptions

Dog controls do not apply to disability assist dogs or to working dogs (where a working dog is carrying out its duties and being actively managed by its handler). They also do not apply to hunting dogs, where a hunter is carrying out a legal hunting activity and the hunting dog is under control and present solely for hunting-related purposes.

As mentioned above, dogs are allowed in Summer Beach Prohibition Areas solely for the purpose of passing through, and must be on a short leash.

Section 7: Other special areas - Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas

The Council recognises the importance of the recreational and exercise needs of dogs and their owners, and endeavours to provide the opportunity for dogs and their owners to access many different public places across the city.

Many parks, reserves, sections of coastline and beaches allow the opportunity for dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash. However, some specific areas have prohibitions or leash requirements in place in order to protect people, animals and endangered or protected wildlife, or for other reasons, and these are listed in the schedule attached to this policy. If an area is not listed in this policy as either a general or specific leashed or prohibited area, it is an under effective control area by default, meaning dogs can be exercised off-leash (provided they are under good control. [Reason for the change: Making it clearer that dog parks and dog exercise areas are not the only places dogs can be exercised off-leash]

As well parks, reserves, coastline and beaches that do not have dog restrictions, the Council has created dedicated areas for exercising dogs off-leash. These dedicated areas include Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas.

Section 7.1 How the Council makes dog parks and dog exercise areas

Current Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas are listed below. The Council may decide to develop new Dog Parks or Dog Exercise Areas during the lifespan of this policy, through Parks planning processes.

The Council can create a Dog Park or Dog Exercise Area in any area where a leashed or prohibited rule does not apply (i.e. in an area where dogs are allowed to be under effective control).

If a leashed or prohibited rule applies, developing a new Dog Park or Dog Exercise area would require a change to this policy and a change to the dog control status of the area (from leashed or prohibited to under effective control). Any change to this policy would need to follow the process set out in the Dog Control Act for amending a dog control policy.

[Reason for the change: This provides clarification about the development of future Dog Park or Dog Exercise Areas and how they interact with the policy. As our default is 'under effective control', adding a Dog Park or Dog Exercise Area does not require a change to the policy, as dogs are required to be under effective control in all Dog Park or Dog Exercise Areas – however, it does create a conflict if leashing is required or dogs are prohibited. The policy cannot be changed without following the process set in legislation, which includes undertaking a Special Consultative Procedure.]

Section 7.2: Dog Parks

Dog Parks are designed to allow dogs a space to exercise with other dogs and their owners, in a dog-friendly environment.

The Council recognises the importance of exercise for dogs and their owners, and endeavours to provide the opportunity for dogs and their owners to exercise and socialise together through many different Dog Parks across the city.

As with all public places, dog owners must have their dog under effective control when in a Dog Park, and owners must carry a leash and the means to dispose of any fouling, and must remove any fouling.

Having your dog under control is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of other dogs and other people at Dog Parks. Care should be taken if your dog is not used to socialising with other dogs, or is known to be aggressive.

Children are allowed in Dog Parks, but particular care should be taken by parents or guardians to ensure they are protected from the potential for dog-related accidents or injuries. Dog Parks are primarily a space for dogs to socialise and exercise with other dogs.

Each Dog Park has different features and facilities. The Council currently has Dog Parks in the following locations:

- Horseshoe Lake Dog Park (Broomfield Terrace, Shirley)
- The Groynes Yvonne Palmer Dog Park (Johns Road, Belfast)
- Elizabeth (Victoria) Park Dog Park (Victoria Park Road, Cashmere)
- Styx Mill Conservation Reserve Dog Park (Hussey Road, Harewood)
- Rawhiti Domain Dog Park (Shaw Ave, New Brighton)
- Bexley Reserve Dog Park (Pages Road, New Brighton).

~~For the purposes of the Dog Control Act, Dog Parks are considered 'dog exercise areas'~~. [Reason for the change: This statement is not necessary. This relates to the change above to how Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas are developed.]

Section 7.3: Dog Exercise Areas

The difference between a Dog Park and a Dog Exercise Area is about infrastructure and equipment. Although all dog parks vary, most are fenced, have agility equipment and many have a water source. Dog Exercise Areas, on the other hand, are areas that are recommended and known to be good and safe places to exercise dogs. Some may have agility equipment, but many do not.

7.3.1 Dog exercise areas ~~in Christchurch City~~

The following areas are designated Dog Exercise Areas:

- part of Halswell Quarry, Halswell
- part of Radley Park, Woolston
- the whole of Bottle Lake Forest Park, Burwood (note the leashing on paths rule does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, where dogs can be exercised off leash) [Reason for the change: Clarity]
- Little River Dog Exercise Area, behind the old railway station [Reason for the change: New dog exercise area]

Any area that is not listed in the schedule to this policy, or is not covered by the general prohibited and leashed categories, is an 'under effective control' area, which means that dogs can be exercised freely, off-leash, provided they are 'under effective control'.

Section 8: Licence to own more than two dogs

Owners of more than two dogs over the age of three months must obtain a licence to keep the dogs on any property that is under one hectare (10,000m²) in size.

The purpose of the licence is to minimise the potential for issues associated with having too many dogs on small properties, and where neighbours are in close proximity.

Multiple dog ownership does not present the same issues in a rural environment where there is a greater distance between properties and dwellings, so the requirement only applies to smaller properties (that are under one hectare / 10,000m²).

A licence to own more than two dogs may be granted, have conditions imposed or be refused at the discretion of the attending Dog Control Officer. The licencing process is set out in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw.

A licence to own more than two dogs may be transferred to a different dog owner in some circumstances, provided all other things remain the same, at the discretion of the Manager Animal Management.
[Reason for change: Administrative improvements and practicality. The registered owner of a dog is a person, not a couple – however, many dogs are cared for by couples or families. The ownership and status should be able to be transferred in some circumstances, such as someone in the same household becoming the registered owner of the dog. In situations where everything remains the same, other than the registered owner, the status may be transferred at the discretion of the Manager Animal Management].

The licence fee is set through the Annual Plan process, together with dog registration fees.

Explanation: When a licence to own more than two dogs is applied for, a Dog Control Officer will visit the property to check that it is appropriate for the number and type of dogs that the applicant wishes to keep. They will check a number things, including:

- *that there is enough room for the number and type of dogs*
- *that the fencing is appropriate for the number and type of dogs*
- *that the dogs are housed appropriately*
- *that there is dog-free access to the house.*

They may also offer advice on how to minimise the potential for the dogs to bark, howl or otherwise cause a nuisance.

These considerations relate largely to obligations for dog owners under the Dog Control Act, as well as animal welfare obligations under the Animal Welfare Act.

Section 9: Other dog matters

9.1 Barking dogs

When the Council receives a complaint about a barking dog, it will investigate, and, if found to be a genuine problem, Dog Control Officers will work with the dog owner to understand the extent of the barking, the reasons for the barking and will encourage solutions and behaviour change, so that the dog is no longer causing a nuisance to neighbours or passers-by.[22]

If an owner is uncooperative, or the barking continues to be persistent and loud, a Barking Dog Abatement Notice may be issued under section 55 of the Dog Control Act. If the abatement notice is not complied with, an infringement notice (fine) may be issued to the dog owner.

Complaints about barking dogs may also impact on the dog owner's ability to have Responsible Dog Owner status or to hold a licence to own more than two dogs.

Dogs can also be seized by Dog Control Officers due to loud and persistent barking.

Explanation: There are many reasons why a dog may bark. Often it is when their owner is absent, so an owner may not be aware that their dog is causing a nuisance. Four of the most common reasons a dog may bark are:

- ***protective aggression**, where dogs bark at people or animals they think are invading their territory*
- ***stimulus-oriented barking**, where dogs bark at a sound or movement - eg a cat running along the fence, a car horn or pedestrians walking past. This can be especially problematic for hunting breeds.*
- ***separation distress**, this barking is different to other types of barking because it is caused by anxiety, rather than aggression or playfulness.*
- ***social**, where dogs are barking to communicate with each other, and with us.*

[22] Under the Dog Control Act 1996 (section 5(e)), dog owners must 'take all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not cause a nuisance to any other person, whether by persistent and loud barking or howling or by any other means'.

The Animal Management Team's approach is that it is better to work with an owner and their dog to encourage behaviour change and reduce barking, rather than to penalise a dog owner. Dog Control Officers are happy to offer advice and to suggest solutions. In some situations, however, it may be appropriate to look at other options, including penalties, if a barking nuisance is serious and ongoing, or if an owner is uncooperative.

Dog owners should take particular care of their dogs during times when there are likely to be fireworks.

9.2 Female dogs in season

The Council requires owners of female dogs in season to keep their dog confined and to limit its movement while it is in season, in order to minimise the potential impacts on other dogs. This is covered in the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

Explanation: The hormones released by a female dog in season can be detected by other dogs over long distances. This is why female dogs in season have to be securely confined on private property (ideally away from boundary fences) and the potential impacts on other dogs need to be minimised by limiting the likely hormone trail that would be left if the dog were to be exercised as normal in public places or if it were transported unnecessarily. Transport should be limited to veterinary or breeding-related travel.

This only applies to female dogs that have not been de-sexed. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed.

9.3 De-sexing of dogs

The Council supports owners having their dogs de-sexed, unless the dog is intended for breeding.

The Council supports the de-sexing of dogs before they are offered for sale or re-homing.

The Council will seek agreement with potential dog owners looking to adopt or rehome a dog from the Council's dog shelter facility to de-sex the dog. The Council may, in some circumstances, require the de-sexing of a dog before it can be adopted or rehomed.

The Council will, from time to time, and where possible, promote de-sexing, offer de-sexing discount vouchers, or otherwise encourage de-sexing, particularly where there is an identified need.

Explanation: De-sexing is important to reduce unwanted pregnancies and to reduce aggression. Unwanted puppies need to be cared for, re-homed or destroyed, and can become an unintended cost or cause animal welfare concerns if they are not cared for appropriately. Unless your dog is intended for breeding, it should be de-sexed.

9.4 Dogs in outdoor dining establishments

The Council is supportive of food businesses allowing dogs in their outdoor dining areas, provided the business complies with all regulatory requirements.

As with all public places, dogs must be under effective control at all times. It is up to each individual business to decide if they want to welcome dogs, and if so, to manage any issues that may arise.

Disability assist dogs are allowed in all customer areas of all food businesses in accordance with section 75(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Explanation: ~~New Zealand's way of regulating food has changed under~~ The Food Act 2014~~, which~~ allows food businesses to identify, mitigate and manage the risks that are specific to their business. ~~Through this new regime, food businesses are able to indicate in their Food Control Plans whether they wish to allow dogs in their outdoor dining areas, and, if so, how they will manage any food safety risks that this may cause.~~ This means that each food business can decide whether or not to allow dogs into their outdoor dining (or other) areas, and what conditions to impose on dogs and their owners. [Reason for change: Tidy-up]

9.5 Exercising dogs at night

The Council encourages dog owners to use reflective, fluro or other lighting attached to dog collars or harnesses to help track or identify dogs when exercising them ~~at dusk (when visibility is low) or in the evening (particularly in the darker winter months).~~ at times of low light or reduced visibility. [Reason for change: Tidy-up]

Explanation: It is safer for everyone if people can see their own and other dogs when out and about, particularly on unlit shared pathways. Lighting your dog is a great way to keep track of them at night, especially if they are off-leash exercising at dusk or in the early evening. It also allows other public place users to see your dog, preventing any unwelcome surprises or accidents.

9.6 Dogs in vehicles over the summer months

The Council is concerned about the health and welfare of dogs that are left in vehicles during the summer months.

The Council takes a strong stance on dogs suffering in hot cars and will act swiftly to release dogs that are clearly in distress. The Council's Dog Control Officers may work to release a dog that is in distress, either singly or with the assistance of the Police or officers of SPCA Canterbury.

Explanation: Cars can quickly heat up ~~turn into ovens~~ during summer, and ~~also~~ heat up surprisingly quickly on cloudy days. Dogs keep cool by panting and by releasing heat through their paws, but without fresh air, the air and upholstery in your vehicle can heat up to high temperatures that make it impossible for dogs to regulate their temperatures and cool themselves. Dogs (and particularly small dogs), can suffer heat exhaustion quickly if left in a hot environment. Slightly winding windows down is not adequate on a hot day when a car is in full sun. Your dog will be more comfortable if left at home.

~~*If your dog shows symptoms of heatstroke:*~~

- ~~*immediately move the dog to a cool, shady place*~~
- ~~*allow the dog to drink some cool water*~~
- ~~*wet the dog with cool water*~~
- ~~*fan it vigorously to promote evaporation to cool the dog's blood, which will reduce its core temperature.*~~
- ~~*take the dog to a veterinarian as soon as possible for further treatment. Veterinarians may apply supportive measures such as intravenous fluids to rehydrate the animal, and oxygen to prevent brain damage.*~~ *[Reason for change: Tidy-up]*

The SPCA has the power to protect all animals from abuse, neglect and abandonment, including prosecuting people under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Dog owners who leave their dog(s) in a hot car can face a charge of animal cruelty.

9.7 Dogs at Council events and festivals

Dogs may not be welcome or may ~~be~~ need to be on a leash at Council events and festivals, at the discretion of event organisers and promoters. This is not the same as dogs being prohibited or required to be on a leash through the Council's bylaw, but may be as a condition of entry to an event, or it may be good advice offered by event organisers and promoters.

Events may be held in places where dogs are prohibited (such as in the Botanic Gardens) or where dogs must be on a leash. Check the requirements before you leave home.

Explanation: It may not be appropriate for dogs to be at a Council event due to the expected visitor numbers, the nature of the event or for other reasons (such as planned fireworks). Where dogs are welcome at an event or festival, you should consider whether or not it is appropriate to take your dog into a crowded situation, based on your understanding of your dog's temperament and history.

Section 10: Education and training

10.1 Teaching children about dogs

Increased public awareness of safety around dogs, particularly for children, is one of the best ways to reduce dog attacks in the long term.

Toddlers and young children should be supervised around dogs at all times. Most dog attacks happen to children in their own home or the home of a relative or friend.

The Council offers a free school bite prevention education programme. This programme delivers information to children about how to be safe around dogs. A further programme involves having children read to dogs in libraries, while learning about dog safety. Contact the Council for more information or to ask about booking a session.

Explanation: One of the main messages for children is "if a dog's on its own, leave it alone". Children are also taught to ask a dog's owner if their dog is friendly or not before approaching it.

10.2 Learning how to be a good dog owner

Responsible dog ownership and good behaviour from both dog owners and their dogs is another important part of reducing dog attacks, as well as reducing any danger, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs.

The Council is supportive of people undertaking dog training courses of all types. There are many offered by private organisations. As well as behaviour and discipline courses, dog agility courses can be a great way to understand and bond with your dog.

The Council encourages new dog owners to attend puppy or dog training courses to learn how to train the dog to understand simple commands. The first year of a puppy's life is a very important time to establish good behaviours.

~~In order to have your dog off-leash in a public place, you must have it under effective control. This means the owner or person in charge of the dog is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, the dog is close enough to be responsive to commands, and the dog is not creating a nuisance.~~ [Reason for change: Covered elsewhere]

All dogs need to be able to understand and appropriately respond to simple commands ~~if they are to be off-leash in a public place~~, and training can help with this. [Reason for change: Tidy-up]

10.3 Teaching dog safety for workers

Some employment roles require people to enter private property, and this can be dangerous if the property has an aggressive dog or a dog defending its territory. For example, common roles may include couriers, metre readers and census deliverers.

The Council offers an occupational dog safety course that helps employees in these types of roles to recognise and understand threatening dog behaviour to avoid injury or accidents. Contact the Council for more information or to ask about booking a session.

Section 11: Probationary and disqualified dog owners, dangerous and menacing dogs

~~Ways of Managing troublesome dog owners and dogs~~ [Reason for change: Section title updated to better reflect the content of the section]

Under the Dog Control Act, the Council can classify an owner as probationary and must classify an owner as disqualified under certain circumstances. The Council can also classify a dog as dangerous or menacing under certain circumstances.

These tools are contained in the Dog Control Act to help councils to manage dangerous or troublesome dog-related situations in order to make our communities safer.

There are a range of other tools that can be used before these measures are undertaken. These may include education or training, or the issuing of infringement notices (~~instant~~ fines). There are a range of offences under the Dog Control Act that can result in fines, and breaching the Council's Dog Control Bylaw can also result in an ~~instant~~ infringement fine. [Reason for change: Tidy-up]

The approach of the Animal Management Team is to focus on outcomes, rather than punishment. The focus is on having a safer community and responsible dog owners, not on penalising people. However, if education, training or other support do not improve things, or a breach is severe, the Animal Management Team will take more punitive steps using the tools available in the Dog Control Act and the Council's Dog Control Bylaw.

11.1 Dog owner status can be reduced due to infringements and offences

When a dog owner has committed a series of dog-related infringement offences (has been ordered to pay a fine) or has been convicted of dog-related offences[23] (has been convicted through the District Court), the Council may classify that owner as a probationary owner, and in some cases must classify the owner as a disqualified owner.

These dog owner classifications restrict a person's right to own dogs, can last for several years, and may require the undertaking of education or training that relates to the responsible care and management of dogs before they can own another dog.

The dog owner status applies across the whole country (even if the offender moves away from the Christchurch City Council district, they will not be able to own dogs elsewhere in New Zealand).

For more information, see sections 21-29 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

11.2 Probationary dog owners

Sections 21-24 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to dog owners being classified as probationary owners, including the process for objecting to the classification.

A probationary owner cannot become the owner of any new dogs (but may keep any registered dogs they already have), and must dispose of any unregistered dogs.[24] Probationary owners may be required to undertake dog owner education or a dog obedience course, or both.[25]

Probationary dog owner status generally applies for up to two years, but may end sooner.

11.3 Disqualified dog owners

Sections 25-28 of the Dog Control Act set out matters relating to dog owners being classified as disqualified owners, including the process for objecting to the classification, including appealing to the District Court.

A disqualified dog owner cannot be the registered owner of a dog (for a specified period), and must dispose of every dog that they may own. Disqualified dog owner status can apply for up to five years.

[23] Offences may relate to other acts, including the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Conservation Act 1987 or the National Parks Act 1980.
[24] Sections 23 and 24 of the Dog Control Act 1996
[25] Section 23A of the Dog Control Act 1996

11.4 Dog status can be reduced due to breed or behaviour

11.4.1 Dangerous dogs

The Council must classify a dog as dangerous based on the owner being convicted of certain offences, or based on sworn evidence that the dog is aggressive and constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife, as set out in section 31 of the Dog Control Act. The Act sets out the process for objecting to a dog's classification as a dangerous dog (in sections 31(3) and 31(4)).

Dangerous dogs:

- must be kept within a securely fenced section of the owner's property (and dog-free access to the house must be available at all times)
- must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways
- must be de-sexed
- incur a registration fee that is 50% higher than a standard dog registration fee
- must not be sold or given away without the written consent of the Council
- maintain their status as a dangerous dog no matter where they live in New Zealand.[26]

11.4.2 Menacing dogs

The Council can classify a dog as menacing if it constitutes a threat to the safety of people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or protected wildlife, based on the dog's behaviour or characteristics typically associated with the dog's breed or type, as set out in section 33A of the Dog Control Act.

The Council must classify dogs as menacing if they belong wholly or in part to the breeds of dogs listed in the Dog Control Act (these are: Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario and American Pit Bull Terrier).

The Dog Control Act sets out the process for objecting to a dog's classification as a menacing dog (in sections 33B and 33D).

Menacing dogs must be muzzled and on a leash in all public places and private ways. The Council may require dogs classified as menacing to be de-sexed.

11.4.3 De-sexing of menacing dogs

Any dog classified as menacing by the Christchurch City Council or any other Council in accordance with section 33A or 33C of the Dog Control Act must be de-sexed[27], unless:

- there is a veterinary reason for not de-sexing it,[28] or
- there would be a demonstrated potential financial loss to the owner from de-sexing (such as a loss related to breeding or showing the dog).

The Council has discretion as whether or not to waive the requirement to de-sex, on a case-by-case basis, and will also consider the seriousness and type of attack leading up to the classification.

The owner of a dog classified as menacing must, if required by the Council, produce a veterinary certificate showing the dog has been de-sexed or that it is unfit to be de-sexed. Owners must comply within one month of the classification.

[26] Sections 32 and 32A of the Dog Control Act 1996
[27] This is enabled by sections 33E and 33EB of the Dog Control Act 1996
[28] The requirement to neuter applies to all dogs classified as menacing, except where, on written veterinary advice, conducting this procedure will present a significant health risk to the dog.

Section 12: Seizing dogs, impounding dogs and adopting dogs from the Council dog shelter facility

The Dog Control Act gives warranted Dog Control Officers the legal power to seize a dog in certain circumstances.

Dog Control Officers can seize dogs that are found to be in breach of the Dog Control Act or any bylaw made under the Act. This may include things such as:

- a dog not being supplied with sufficient food, water or shelter (s.15)
- a dog that is unregistered and more than three months old (s.42(2))
- failing to have a dog wear a collar with a registration label or disc attached (s.50) or having a dog wear an incorrect or counterfeit registration label or disc (s.51)
- dogs not securely confined on private property (s.52A)
- failing to comply with requirements when a dog is classed as a dangerous dog (s.32)
- failing to comply with requirements when a dog is classed as a menacing dog (s.33EC)
- a dog not being under anyone's control in a public place ie wandering at large (s.52)
- a barking dog where complaints have been laid, a notice has been issued to the owner and the dog continues to bark and cause a nuisance (s.56)
- a dog attacks a person or animal (s.57)
- a dog rushes at a person, animal or vehicle in a manner that causes death, injury or endangerment, or the damage of property (s.57A)
- a dog at large in the vicinity of protected wildlife (s.59)
- a dog at large among stock or poultry (s.60).

This is not an exhaustive list, but gives some examples of situations where dogs may be seized and impounded by Dog Control Officers.

12.1 Returning a seized dog to its owner

The release of a dog back to its owner will depend on the circumstances under which it was seized.

All fines and fees must be paid before a dog is released back to its owner.

A dog will not be released back to its owner unless it is registered and micro-chipped and all other Dog Control Act requirements are met.

Where a dog's owner cannot be established, it will be impounded and made available for adoption or destruction after seven days.[29]

12.2 Fees and releasing dogs that have been impounded

Infringement fees (fines) are set in the Dog Control Act and are consistent across the country. Dog shelter fees are set locally and are included in the Council's Annual Plan processes.

[29] This is set out in section 69 of the Dog Control Act

The costs of housing a dog in the shelter will be recovered from the dog's owner before the dog is released (some examples of costs may include dog food and veterinary fees). If a dog is adopted, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of, fees will still be recovered from the owner.[30]

12.3 Adoption and rehoming of unclaimed dogs from the dog shelter facility

Where a dog is released from the Council's dog shelter to a new owner, the new owner is not required to pay a standard release fee, but is required to pay the cost of registration and an adoption fee and any other associated fees.

Adoption fees are set through the Council's Annual Plan process and aim to ensure responsible dog ownership, while also being set at a level which will not deter purchase.

The Council will not provide dogs for rehoming from the Council's animal shelter facility unless they have been de-sexed, an agreement to de-sex has been entered into with the dog's new owner[31] or there are exceptional reasons for not requiring de-sexing.

No dog will be released from the shelter into the ownership of any person or organisation which may use the dog for the purposes of research in which the dog is subjected to physical operations or treatment causing changes, whether temporary or permanent.

Section 13: The issuing of infringement notices

The Council will issue warnings, at a Dog Control Officer's discretion, and / or infringement notices (~~instant~~ fines), for infringement offences as set out in Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Act 1996. [Reason for change: Tidy-up]

Explanation: The Council aims to encourage people to comply with regulatory requirements through education and working with people, rather than by taking a hard enforcement approach. Dog Control Officers will consider each situation on an individual basis and have discretion as to what approach they choose to take. The powers of Dog Control Officers are set out in the Dog Control Act 1996.

Section 14: Controlled or open dog areas under the Conservation Act

The Dog Control Act requires, under section 10(5), that a dog control policy identifies any areas in the district where there are dog restrictions on Department of Conservation land, including any national parks.

The Department of Conservation has no listed controlled or open dog areas on public conservation land within the Christchurch City Council district. For further information about dog access on public conservation land managed by the Department of Conservation, please contact the Department of Conservation directly.

Schedule 1: Prohibited and leashed dog control areas

Dog controls that apply in specific places

[30] In accordance with section 69(6) of the Dog Control Act
[31] An agreement to de-sex may include a nullification of the adoption if the dog is not de-sexed in accordance with the agreement.

Banks Peninsula - Akaroa Harbour and surrounds

Akaroa and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Children's Bay mudflats and foreshore	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and tidal stony areas to protect wildlife, between Children's Bay and Daly's Wharf. This does not apply to the shoreline (where the beach meets the land), where dogs may be walked, provided they are leashed. [New area: High wildlife values.]
Akaroa beach (from opposite the fire station to Daly's Wharf)	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control
~~Akaroa Main Wharf~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons. Popular, often busy wharf used by locals, tourists and commercial operators.~~ [Reason for change: Covered by proposed general leashing requirement on wharves and jetties. No need for a separate entry]
Akaroa beach grassed picnic area and walkway	**Leashed**	The grassed picnic area by Akaroa beach (alongside Beach Road / Rue Lavaud), and the walkway that runs from the picnic area to Rue Jolie (alongside the beach). Dogs must be on a leash.
Britomart Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons. The reserve is a very small, popular, historical reserve near the Main Wharf and roads, where dogs also must be on a leash
~~Daly's Wharf~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons. Narrow, often busy wharf used by locals, tourists and commercial operators.~~ [Reason for change: Covered by proposed general leashing requirement on wharves and jetties. No need for a separate entry]
Misty Peaks Reserve (Aylmers Valley)	**Prohibited/ leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash on the walking track to Newton's Waterfall, and are prohibited elsewhere in the reserve to protect wildlife and grazing stock. [Reason for change: Clarity]
Rue Balguerie Reserve and walkway	**Leashed**	The grassed area by the playground alongside Rue Balguerie, and the walkway next to the beach that runs from Rue Jolie to Rue Balguerie. Dogs must be on a leash. Note that dogs are prohibited in the playground area.
Stanley Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing stock. [New area: Update to align with activities on site and with other Council land used for grazing stock.]
Takamatua foreshore and mudflats (north from the corner of Takamatua Bay Road and Takamatua Beach Road)	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore area north of the corner of Takamatua Bay Road and Takamatua Beach Road and around the stream outlet to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds).[Reason for change: Clarity]
Takapūneke Reserve, Green Point Park and Beach Road Park	**Prohibited (including working dogs)**	Dogs are prohibited as the land is wāhi tapu and due to its national ~~historical~~ significance and historic reserve status. ~~In 2002 Takapūneke became the first site in the South Island to be registered as a wāhi tapu area, and in 2008 was formally protected as an historic reserve by Christchurch City Council.~~ Dogs are prohibited at the request of Onuku Rūnanga. [Reason for change: Wording tidy-up]

Akaroa back bays – including Flea Bay, Gough's Bay, Hickory Bay, Le Bons Bay, Little Akaloa, Long Bay (Otanerito), Okain's Bay, Pigeon Bay and Raupo Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Flea Bay	**Prohibited**	Marine Reserve. Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values.
Gough's Bay	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly penguins and seals)
Hickory Bay	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly penguins and seals)
Le Bon's Bay foreshore (north of the beach access road)	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - **dogs are prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control.

Akaroa back bays – including Flea Bay, Gough's Bay, Hickory Bay, Le Bons Bay, Little Akaloa, Long Bay (Otanerito), Okain's Bay, Pigeon Bay and Raupo Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Le Bon's Bay foreshore south of the beach access road, including the estuary, spit and river mouth	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)
Little Akaloa Foreshore	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Long Bay (Otanerito)	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds (penguins))
Okain's Bay beach (south of 100m from Opara Stream outlet)	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Okain's Bay estuary and mudflats, including Opara Stream and for 100m south of the stream outlet	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly wading birds, gulls and terns)
Pigeon Bay camping ground	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited for public safety and hygiene reasons
Raupo Bay, access from Chorlton Road	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds) and grazing stock. (Access is over private land, no dogs allowed, at all times)

Duvauchelle and Robinson's Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on Ōnawe at the request of Ōnuku and Wairewa Rūnanga as the land is wāhi tapu. Ōnawe is Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu land. [New area: The draft Ōnawe Pā Historic Reserve Management Plan (June 2024) identifies that dog access to the area as incompatible with the wāhi tapu status of the Historic Reserve.]
Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats from the boat sheds on Onawe Flat Road to opposite Duvauchelle School Lane	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore to protect wildlife values (birds feeding and roosting). [Reason for change: Clarity, and consistency with other mudflat areas.]
Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats from the start of Seafield Road by SH75 to the boatsheds along Seafield Road	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore to protect wildlife values (birds feeding and roosting). [Reason for change: Clarity, and consistency with other mudflat areas.]
Duvauchelle domain and camping ground	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited in the camping ground for public safety and hygiene reasons, and on the sports fields to protect wildlife values (bird roosting and feeding area at high tide zone)
Robinson's Bay mudflats and foreshore	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore to protect wildlife from the northern side to the rest area on SH75. [New area: Sensitive wildlife, and consistency with other mudflat areas.]

Barry's Bay, French Farm, Tikao Bay and Wainui		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Barry's Bay mudflats, saltmarsh and foreshore	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflat, saltmarsh and foreshore areas to protect wildlife. [New area: To protect wildlife and align with other mudflat areas]

Barry's Bay, French Farm, Tikao Bay and Wainui		
French Farm mudflats and foreshore	**Prohibits**	Dogs are prohibited on the southern mudflats area near the creeks to protect wildlife [New area: To protect wildlife and align with other mudflat areas]
French Farm beach	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Tikao Bay beach	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Wainui Domain	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing stock

Banks Peninsula - Little River and surrounds

Birdling's Flat, Kaitorete Spit, Kaituna, Lake Forsyth, Little River, Te Oka Bay and Tumbledown Bay		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Birdling's Flat Esplanade Reserve	**Prohibited**	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds, including the highly endangered Crested Grebe)
Birdlings Flat near the Bossu Road canal bridge	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited on the stony foreshore area at the southern end of Te Wairewa / Lake Forsyth to protect wildlife (including at risk dotterels, oystercatchers and terns). This includes the area within a 150-metre radius of the Bossu Road canal bridge, including the nearby fingers that protrude into the lake. [New area: To protect at risk wildlife]
Birdling's Flat Regional Park	**Prohibited**	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds - including native waterfowl, Banded Dotterel and highly endangered Crested Grebe)
Kaitorete Spit Reserve (400 hectare site near the base of Kaitorete Spit, adjoining Lake Ellesmere shore)	**Prohibited**	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds. This is a very important ornithological area for feeding, nesting and roosting; very high wildlife values)
Kaituna River Esplanade Reserve	**Prohibited**	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)
Lake Forsyth - northern end mudflat areas	**Prohibited**	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds)
Morice Recreation Reserve (Little River)	**Leashed / Under effective control**	Dogs must be on a leash when the area is grazed or in use by the Little River Pony Club. When not grazed or in use by the Pony Club then dogs are permitted under effective control
Okuti Track	**Prohibited**	To protect grazing stock
Te Oka Regional Park	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds (penguins) and seals)
Tumbledown Bay	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds (penguins) and seals). This is also a Māori Urupā site.
Wairewa Esplanade Reserve (Birdling's Flat)	**Prohibited**	To protect wildlife values (particularly endangered birds including native waterfowl and highly endangered Crested Grebe)

Banks Peninsula - Lyttelton Harbour and surrounds

Lyttelton		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Albion Square	**Leashed**	Busy and well used by the community. Contains the cenotaph memorial and a children's playground (where dogs are prohibited within one metre)
Baden Norris Reserve	**Leashed**	Public walkway - dogs must be on a leash
~~Lyttelton Recreation~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Busy and well used by the community. Dogs must be on a leash.~~

~~Ground~~		[Reason for change: Remove leashing requirement and revert to under effective control, with the default leashing requirement for when games or practice sessions are on. As one of the few flat, greenspace areas in Lyttleton, it is a useful place for people to be able to exercise their dogs under effective control. Dog owners must pick up after their dogs.]

North side Lyttelton Harbour bays		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
~~Head to head walkway coastal path from Magazine Bay / Naval Point, through Corsair Bay and Cass Bay, to Pony Point~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash on walking tracks to protect health and safety (narrow tracks)~~ [Reason for change: Covered by proposed general leashing requirement on formed tracks. No need for a separate entry].
Cass Bay beach and associated grassed areas	**Summer beach prohibition**	• Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control • Note that dogs must be on a leash along the head to head walkway that passes through Cass Bay
Corsair Bay beach and associated grassed areas	**Summer beach prohibition**	• Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control • Note that dogs must be on a leash along the head to head walkway that passes through Corsair Bay
~~Governor's Bay jetty~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Earthquake damage, jetty not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs must be on a leash on the jetty.~~ [Reason for change: Covered by proposed general leashing requirement on wharves and jetties. No need for a separate entry]
Governor's Bay mudflats	**Prohibited~~/ leashed~~**	Dogs are prohibited on Governors Bay foreshore area and mudflats to protect wildlife values~~, but dogs are allowed on a leash on the walking track~~. [Reason for change: Clearer to prohibit on the mudflats for consistency with other mudflat areas. The proposed leashing on paths and tracks rule will cover the walkway.
Rapaki Bay foreshore	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the foreshore area for cultural reasons and at the request of the Rāpaki Rūnanga
Pony Point	**Leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be on a leash on the lower slopes and on the walking track winding up the lower slopes, but are allowed under effective control on the top of the hill in the open grassed area.
HMNZS Steadfast (Lyttelton)	**Leashed**	Dogs must be leashed in the reserve to protect health and safety. [New area: Consistency with other hillside reserves]
Sandy Bay beach, Governor's Bay	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control

South side Lyttelton Harbour bays		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Charteris Bay foreshore (part of)	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values on the stony areas, mudflat and foreshore, except for the area between the jetty and the boat ramp, where dogs may be exercise under effective control. [New area: To protect wildlife values and for consistency.]
Camp Bay	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values
Coastal Cliff Reserve and foreshore (Diamond Harbour)	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited on the foreshore areas to protect wildlife values (particularly penguin, reef heron and roosting shags). Dogs must be on a leash on the reserve and coastal pathway / head to head walkway to protect wildlife. [Reason for change: Greater clarity and consistency. Changing the prohibited area to a leashed area.]
Diamond Harbour beach and foreshore	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times (and within the area from the beach to past the jetty), dogs are permitted under effective control
~~Diamond Harbour~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons. Popular, often~~

~~jetty~~		~~busy wharf used by locals, tourists and commercial operators.~~ [Reason for change: Covered by proposed general leashing requirement on wharves and jetties. No need for a separate entry]
Hays Bay beach	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Paradise Bay beach	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control
Purau beach ~~foreshore and mudflats~~ (excluding the prohibited area)	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted under effective control, except in the prohibited area from and including the creek. [Reason for change: To reflect the new prohibited area near the creek]
Purau foreshore and mudflats	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited on the mudflats and foreshore at the creek mouth and to the western side of the creek to protect wildlife. [New area: To protect the extremely rare and endangered reef heron, and other coastal birds]
Teddington mudflats, salt meadow and saltmarsh	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values on the mudflat, salt meadow and saltmarsh areas. ~~(particularly estuarine birds, including godwits, oystercatchers, and pied stilts, as well as waders and gulls)~~ [Reason for change: Consistency]

Port Levy		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Port Levy – beach area by settlement	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area- dogs are **prohibited** on the beach in front of the settlement **during summer (from 1 November to 31 March, between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside these times dogs are permitted on the beach area under effective control.
Port Levy – head of the bay	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited from mudflats and stony areas at the head of the bay to protect wildlife values (particularly estuarine birds)

Port Hills reserves and walkways

Port Hills reserves		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Bowenvale Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals
Bridle Path Walkway and surrounds (from Heathcote Valley, over the Summit Road, and down to Lyttelton)	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use, to protect health and safety, and to protect grazing stock.~~as Bridle Path is a formed legal road~~ [Reason for change: To better reflect the reasons for leashing, and to apply the leashed requirement to the whole area, not just the track]
Captain Thomas Track	**Leashed**	Walking track through farmland so dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing stock
Castle Rock Reserve	**Leashed**	Earthquake damage, not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals and health, safety and hygiene [No change]
Douglas Scenic Reserve	**Leashed**	Scenic reserve and recreational area - dogs must be on a leash. Part of the Harry Ell Walkway
Elizabeth Park (excludes Victoria Park Dog Park)	**Leashed**	Outside of the Victoria Park Dog Park, dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use
Greenwood Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing

Port Hills reserves		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Huntsbury Track and surrounds	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect health and safety, and to protect grazing stock ~~as Huntsbury Track is a formed legal road~~ [Reason for change: To better reflect the reasons for leashing, and to apply the leashed requirement to the whole area, not just the track.]
Huia Gilpin Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals
John Britten Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Jollies Bush	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect ecological values
Mary Duncan Park (walkway area)	**Leashed**	Area under lease agreement to the Ferrymead Pony Club and this allows public access to the driveway and perimeter of the area. Dogs must be on a leash when using this area. Dogs must also be on a leash to protect grazing stock.
Montgomery Spur Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect grazing animals
Mt Cavendish Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs leashed for the purpose of passing through on the Crater Rim walkway and to protect grazing stock and wildlife values.
Mt Pleasant Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Rapaki Track and surrounds	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use, to protect health and safety, and to protect and grazing stock ~~as Rapaki Track is a formed legal road~~ [Reason for change: To better reflect the reasons for leashing, and to apply the leashed requirement to the whole area, not just the track.]
Rapanui Bush	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values
Sign of the Takahe Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety reasons, and to protect heritage gardens. High visitor use.
Scott Scenic Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values. Part of the Crater Rim Walkway
Scotts Valley Reserve	**Leashed**	Earthquake damage, not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing [No change]
Sugarloaf Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values
Thomson Scenic Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values and due to high recreation use
Tors Scenic Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for the purpose of passing through on the Crater Rim walkway to protect grazing stock
Victoria Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash because of high recreational use
Witch Hill	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values and grazing stock.
Worsley Spur Track	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash as Worsley Spur Track is a formed legal road

Northern Christchurch inland area

Groynes, Waimakariri Riverbed, Lake Roto Kohatu, and Styx Mill Reserve		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Blakes Road Wetland	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. [New area: To better protect wildlife in this wetland]
Curletts Drainage Reserve	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas. [New area: Newly developed area. New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in some areas to enable recreation.]
Dickeys Reserve	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. [New area: Wetland area where dogs should be prohibited to protect wildlife.]
~~Groynes~~	~~**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited in the Groynes due to high recreational use and to protect wildlife values, except for:~~ • ~~on the section of the Ōtukaikino River track that runs through the Groynes from the Clearwater / southern end, to the Dog Park car park, where dogs must be on a leash~~ • ~~on the path around the perimeter of the Dog Park, where dogs are~~

		~~allowed under effective control for the purpose of accessing the Dog Park~~ • ~~in the Groynes Dog Park, where dogs are allowed under effective control.~~ [Reason for change: See replacement entry]
The Groynes (excluding the dog park)	**Leashed**	Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife, and to protect health and safety (picnic areas). This does not include the fenced dog park, where dogs can be off-leash and under effective control. [Reason for change: Nearby areas have higher wildlife values, so this area is proposed to change from largely prohibited, to leashed. There has been some confusion about the rules, so this will make it simpler.]
McLeans Grasslands Park (Savannah Park)	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited because of a conservation grazing agreement
~~Roto Kohatu Regional Park~~	~~**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**~~	• ~~Dogs must be on a leash in and around Lakes Tahi and Rua, to protect wildlife values and because the lakes are used for motorised and other water pursuits~~ • ~~Dogs are prohibited from swimming in the lakes, to prevent accidents and to protect wildlife, but may access the lake edges if they are leashed~~ • ~~Dogs are allowed under effective control in the flat grasslands area to the south of the jet ski access road that runs across the park to the south of Lake Tahi.~~ [Reason for change: Replaced by entry for Lake Tahi and Lake Rua (Roto Kohatu Regional Park).]
Lake Tahi and Lake Rua (Roto Kohatu Regional Park)	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs are prohibited in the lakes and must be leashed around the lakes to wildlife. This applies to the whole of Roto Kohatu Regional Park, except the hilly grassed area to the south-west of the access road around Lake Tahi, where dogs can be under effective control. [Reason for change: Replaces entry for Roto Kohatu Regional Park. Changed for clarity.]
Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect cultural values (rongoā Māori demonstration area) [New: To better protect this rongoā Māori demonstration area.]
Janet Stewart Reserve	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife and cultural values (pa harakeke traditional flax harvesting area) [New: To better protect wildlife, and the flax harvesting area]
~~Styx Mill Reserve~~	~~**Prohibited / leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash on walking tracks and are prohibited from other areas to protect wildlife values~~ [Reason for change: Replaced by two new entries for Styx Mill Conservation Reserve.]
Styx Mill Conservation Reserve (excluding the west end)	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. The prohibited area covers most of the conservation reserve – the area to the east of the Hussey's Road access road (the west end is covered in a separate entry). Dogs may be leashed outside of the predator-proof fence that runs around the perimeter of the reserve, and along the track on the northern residential side of the Styx River. [Reason for change: This is an important conservation reserve. This area is similar to Travis Wetland in its importance to wildlife and should have the same protections. This change will stop people walking through the conservation reserve with dogs. Dog walkers can walk the perimeter area (outside of the predator-proof fence) and can access the dog park via the access road off Hussey's Road, provided dogs are leashed.]
Styx Mill Conservation Reserve – west end (excluding the dog park)	**Leashed**	Dogs must be leashed to protect wildlife in the area to the west of the Hussey's Road access road to the dog park. This does not include the fenced dog park, where dogs can be off-leash and under effective control. [Reason for change: Separated into two entries.]
~~Waimakariri Walking Track~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash to protect wildlife values~~ [Reason for change: Covered by the proposed leashed on tracks rule. No need for a separate entry]
Waimakariri riverbed - north of Lorimas Road	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (the Waimakariri riverbed is an important nesting area for threatened species, including black-fronted tern, white-fronted tern, Caspian tern, black-billed gull, banded dotterel and wrybill). Prohibited at the request of Environment Canterbury

Northern Christchurch coastal area - Brooklands and Lower Styx

Brooklands and Styx		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Brooklands red zone	Prohibited / under effective control	Dogs are prohibited in and around the Styx River and in any planted, ecological restoration or long grass areas to protect wildlife. Dogs must be under effective control in mowed grassed areas. [New: Dogs are prohibited near the river and in areas where ecological restoration work is underway to protect wildlife. This area will evolve over time, with increased planting and restoration work.]
~~Brooklands Spit and Lagoon~~	~~**Prohibited**~~	~~Dog are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly godwits and water birds)~~ [Reason for change: Replaced by new entry for Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and Seafield Park]
~~Seafield Park (western edge of Brooklands Lagoon)~~	~~**Prohibited / leashed**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in all areas other than on walking tracks. Dogs are permitted on a leash on walking tracks~~[Reason for change: Replaced by new entry for Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and Seafield Park]
Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and Seafield Park (including dunes, foreshore and beach)	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. This includes the beach area from the Waimakariri River mouth to a point 800 metres north of Heyders Road beach access area. Dogs are prohibited from marked horse tracks. [Reason for change: Replacement entry for clarity and mapping. Replaces the two entries for Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and Seafield Park.]
~~Styx Rivermouth, Te Rauakaaka~~	~~**Prohibited / leashed**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly nesting native birds and threatened species) in all areas other than on the walking track along the stopbank. Dogs must be on a leash on the walking track. At the request of Environment Canterbury~~. [Reason for change: Replaced by new entry for Te Rauakaaka Nature Reserve]
Te Rauakaaka Nature Reserve	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks on the stop banks, where dogs must be on a leash. This is a regional park, managed by Environment Canterbury, and the dog control status is at their request. [Reason for change: Replacement entry for clarity. Replaces the entry for Styx Rivermouth Te Rauakaaka.]
~~Styx Rivermouth Conservation Reserve~~	~~**Prohibited/ Leashed**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited everywhere except on walking tracks to protect wildlife values (particularly threatened and sensitive species) and to protect conservation values. Dogs must be on a leash on the walking track along the top of the stopbank through the reserve~~ [Reason for change: Tidy-up for clarity. Replaced by new entry for Styx Rivermouth Conservation Reserve and Lower Styx Conservation Reserve.]
Styx Rivermouth Conservation Reserve and Lower Styx Conservation Reserve	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. [Reason for change: Replacement entry for clarity and consistency. Lower Styx Conservation Reserve has been added to this area]

Coastal Christchurch - from Spencer Park Beach to Southshore Spit

Christchurch beaches and coastline areas, from north to south		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Spencer Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash. High visitor use area, including for families as a picnic and recreation area - health, safety and hygiene issues
Spencer Park Beach, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control

Christchurch beaches and coastline areas, from north to south		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Waimairi Beach Park, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
North Beach, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
New Brighton Beach, 100 metres north of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion and 100 metres south of the New Brighton Pier	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
New Brighton Beach developed area by the library	**Leashed**	Recreation area, high visitor numbers. Dogs must be on a leash for health and safety reasons
~~New Brighton Mall – pedestrian only area between Oram Ave and Marine Parade~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash due to high pedestrian numbers, food outlets and public seating areas~~ [Reason for change: Covered by general leashing requirements for roads, footpaths, shared paths and car parks. No need for a separate entry.]
New Brighton Pier	**Prohibited**	High pedestrian area. Dogs are prohibited for health and safety reasons.
South New Brighton Beach, 100 metres north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club pavilion	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through where dogs must be on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control
~~Southshore Spit Reserve and foreshore~~	~~**Prohibited / Leashed**~~	~~• Dogs are prohibited from the foreshore and sand dunes area to protect wildlife (particularly godwits and oyster catchers).~~ ~~• Dogs are allowed on a leash when walking around the boundary between the vegetated reserve area, and the foreshore and sand dunes area~~ ~~• Dogs are allowed under effective control on the vegetated reserve area.~~ [Reason for change: Replaced with new entry]
Southshore Spit Reserve	**Prohibited / Leashed**	Dogs are prohibited in the reserve to protect wildlife values, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash (Note that dogs are prohibited on the beach and foreshore area around the Spit, see the entry for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary) [Reason for change: Replacement entry to provide greater clarity onsite and better protection for wildlife.]

East Christchurch rivers, wetlands and reserves

Avon River, Heathcote River, estuary and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary	Prohibited	Dogs are prohibited from the estuary to protect wildlife, especially shorebirds. This includes the shoreline, where birds nest, and tidal areas, where birds feed. The prohibited area applies to the whole of the estuary from the landward boundary inwards. This includes all areas within the shoreline (whether rocky, stoney, gravel, sandy or vegetated, and all foreshore, mudflat, saltmarsh and tidal areas). The prohibited area crosses the outfalls from the Avon / Ōtākaro River at Bridge Street and the Heathcote / Ōpāwaho River at the Ferry Road bridge. At the estuary-mouth, the prohibited area reaches from the corner by Shag Rock out to the north-eastern side of Southshore Spit Reserve. The beach and foreshore area around Southshore Spit Reserve are included in the prohibited area. [New: The proposed prohibited area includes everything from the land boundaries inwards, from Southshore to Shag Rock. This is an important

		area for wildlife and a site of ecological significance. The estuary is part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (a global network of habitats for migratory waterbirds, one of nine major migratory flyways around the globe). The estuary is one of four flyway sites in New Zealand. The current rules around the estuary apply to specific land areas – this new entry applies to the estuary area within the shoreline, not to land around the estuary. This would make the estuary similar to Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, where dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. It would make it similar to other coastal estuarine or mudflat, saltmarsh and salt meadow habitats, including Takamatua foreshore and mudflats; Le Bon's Bay foreshore, estuary, spit and rivermouth; Okain's Bay estuary and mudflats; two sections of Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats; Governor's Bay mudflats; and Teddington mudflats. Other new mudflat and foreshore areas are also being proposed as prohibited to protect wildlife. People can continue to walk dogs on land nearby, including in the red zone along the western side of Southshore Spit and Te Ara Ihutai Christchurch Coastal Pathway.]
Angela Stream Walkway in Clarevale Reserve, near Travis Wetland	**Leashed**	Dogs are allowed on a leash on the section of the Angela Stream Walkway that runs from Travis Country Drive through Clarevale Park, but not the remainder of the track (which is in Travis Wetland, where dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values).
Clare Park	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas. [New area: Newly developed area. New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in some areas to enable recreation.]
Anzac Drive Reserve	**Prohibited / Leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the reserve area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways
~~Bexley Wetland~~	~~**Prohibited / Leashed**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the wetland area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways.~~ [Reason for change: Now part of the entry for Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes]
Charlesworth Reserve	**Prohibited / Leashed**	~~Dogs are prohibited in the wildlife habitat and regenerating bush areas. On the grass area with no wildlife values, dogs are allowed if leashed~~ Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. Dogs are prohibited from tracks to the east of the shared pathway to protect wildlife. [Reason for change: Tidy-up for consistency and the reflect physical changes onsite]
Cockayne Reserve	**Prohibited / Leashed**	~~Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the reserve area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways~~. Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. [Reason for change: Tidy-up for consistency]
Horseshoe Lake Reserve (excluding the fenced Dog Park)	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values in the reserve area (except on walkways). Dogs must be on a leash on walkways. Dogs are allowed under effective control in the fenced Dog Park.
Jubilee Walkway ~~(from Wainoni Road / Bower Bridge to Evans Ave on the north-east side of the Avon River)~~	**Leashed**	~~• Dogs must be on a leash as Jubilee Walkway is close to traffic and has high pedestrian numbers~~ ~~• Note that the walkway passes though Cockayne Reserve where dogs are prohibited in the reserve, but allowed on a leash on the walkways.~~ Dogs must be leashed on Jubilee Walkway, and are prohibited from surrounding areas. Jubilee Walkway runs along the Avon River, from Wainoni Road at Bower Bridge, to Evans Ave (now red zone) near the northern most part of Bligh's Garden. [Reason for change: Tidy-up for consistency.]
Linwood Paddocks	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly native and migrating birds, including threatened species)
~~Lower Avon saltmarshes, including Naughty Boys' Island and Bligh's Garden~~	~~**Prohibited**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly estuarine birds)~~ [Reason for change: This entry has been replaced with the entry for the Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes.]
~~Lower Avon saltmarshes Raupo Bay Saltmarsh, Rat Island Reserve and~~	~~**Prohibited**~~	~~Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly estuarine birds)~~ [Reason for change: This entry has been replaced with the entry for the Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes.]

~~the estuary and margins~~		
Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. The prohibited area is the saltmarsh, mudflat and river margin area, from the landward boundary inwards. The prohibited area crosses the Avon River at the top of Bligh's Garden, and includes all of the saltmarsh, mudflat and river margin areas down to the Bridge Street bridge in the south. [Reason for change: Replacement entry. This land has changed post-quake. Much of the land has reverted to saltmarsh and mudflats and is unsuitable for recreation. It has become an important area for birds, so dogs should continue to be prohibited. This entry replaces the two entries for the Lower Avon]
Bridge Reserve	**Prohibited / leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. [Reason for change: This land has changed post-quake. Part of the reserve is now saltmarsh, where dogs should be prohibited to protect wildlife.]
Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes (Ferrymead): ~~Devil's Elbow Saltmarsh, Ferry Esplanade Reserve, Ferrymead Esplanade Saltmarsh, Settlers Reserve and Saltmarsh, and Stilt Island Saltmarsh, including Avoca Valley Stream~~	**Prohibited / Leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife ~~values~~, except on walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. This area includes: Devil's Elbow Saltmarsh; Ferry Esplanade Reserve; Ferrymead Esplanade Saltmarsh; Settlers Reserve and Saltmarsh; Tunnel Road Reserve; and Stilt Island Saltmarsh, including Avoca Valley Stream. [Reason for change: Tidy-up. Names for land parcels moved to description. Tunnel Road Reserve added]
Ferrymead Regional Park (excluding the sports fields)	**Prohibited / Leashed**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife, except on formed walking tracks, where dogs must be on a leash. [New: To protect wildlife. Contains low-lying saltmarsh and wetland areas with wildlife values, similar to adjacent areas near Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary.]
Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone)	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs are prohibited in and around the Ōtākaro Avon River, including riverbank and wetland areas, and in any planted, ecological restoration or long grass areas to protect wildlife and habitat restoration. Dogs must be leashed on pathways (including stop banks and landings) and must be under effective control in mowed grass areas [New: The Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor is 602 hectares of former red zone land stretching from the central city to Bexley. The Council is undertaking significant works in the corridor, including regenerative planting, tidal wetland development, stop bank construction, stormwater treatment facilities, bridges, landings, and cycling and walking pathways. Much of the work focuses on ecological restoration and recreational opportunities for the community, as well as water management. The area does not have specific dog controls in place as the regeneration plan was developed after the last dog control policy and bylaw review. As the area will evolve over time (and the lifespan of the dog control policy), the dog controls in this area are designed to be flexible. Areas will be planted or converted to wetland, and as these areas develop, it will change dog access to enable wildlife to establish. The mown grass areas are a great place for dogs to be exercised, while dogs will need to be leashed on pathways. There are over 200 hectares of mown grass areas.]
South New Brighton Park	**Prohibited / under effective control**	Dogs are prohibited in the southern wetland area (Jellicoe Wetland) to protect wildlife, but are otherwise allowed under effective control. [New: To protect wildlife / habitat in the wetland area.]
Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge ~~Reserve~~ (including the Bromley Oxidation Ponds and surrounding areas)	**Prohibited**	~~Wildlife Reserve - dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife and wildlife values (particularly up to 15,000 wetland birds, including many threatened species)~~. Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. This prohibited area includes the whole of Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge, as well as the land between Bridge Street, the estuary, the refuge and Dyers Road. Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge is in two parts, north and south of Dyers Road, including the whole of the oxidation ponds. The northern area is bounded by Cuthberts, Breezes, Dyers and Ruru Roads, and the southern area runs from Dyers Road to the estuary edge, largely in line with the shape of the pond fencing. The refuge includes the land between the fenced pond area and the estuary edge.

		The refuge was gazetted under the Wildlife Act 1956 on 9 November 1972 as the Bromley Wildlife Refuge. Its name change was gazetted on 17 February 1983, making it Te Huingi Manu. It is an offence under the Wildlife Act to take a dog into a wildlife refuge. [Reason for the change: Update to the current description and mapping. The gazetted wildlife refuge includes the area between the pond fencing and the estuary edge. Dogs are prohibited as this a wildlife refuge.]
Travis Wetland Regional Park	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly native birds and including threatened species)

Coastal Christchurch - from Heathcote, through Sumner, to Taylor's Mistake

Redcliffs, Sumner, Scarborough, Taylor's Mistake and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Barnett Park Conservation Area	**Leashed / Under effective control**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect conservation values and grazing stock up the hill at the back of the park. The grassed, flat area near the Bay View Road carpark, and near the sports ground, is an under effective control / off-leash area. [Reason for change: Update to reflect the reason for dog restrictions]
Cave Rock	**Leashed**	High public use area, with narrow, steep tracks. Dogs must be on a leash to protect public health and safety
Godley Head foreshore	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly penguins) on the coastal edge, from the start of the walkway at Taylor's Mistake and along the whole of the accessible coastline to Godley Head
Godley Head Walkway	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash on the walkway due to grazing stock and visitor use (agreed with Department of Conservation)
McCormacks Bay islands, mudflat and saltmarsh	**Prohibited / Under effective control**	Dogs are prohibited on roosting/nesting islands and on the wet areas. Dogs are permitted in other areas as long as they are under effective control at all times
Nicholson Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash due to public health and safety
~~Sumner - Scarborough Promenade~~	~~**Leashed**~~	~~Dogs must be on a leash on the promenade due to the high visitor / recreation use and multiple uses~~ [Reason for change: Covered by the general leashed rule for roads, footpaths, shared paths and car parks. No need for a separate entry.]
Scarborough Walkway	**Leashed**	Earthquake damage, not currently accessible. When reopened, revert to: Dogs need to be leashed as walkway is close to private property and close to the bird nesting area on the cliffs
Scarborough Park	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited due to the high visitor numbers and public health and safety. The park also contains a paddling pool and children's playground area, where dogs are prohibited.
Scarborough Hill Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect animals grazing
Sumner Beach Regional Park (near Shag Rock)	**Prohibited / under effective control**	Dogs are prohibited in the northern area near the estuary mouth to protect wildlife. The prohibited area runs from the northern corner near Shag Rock to 100m to the south-east, in line with the beach access ramp from the Coastal Pathway. In the rest of the area dogs can be under effective control. [New: The coastal area at the estuary mouth is an important area for wildlife. Dogs should be kept away from the foreshore near Shag Rock and within 100 metres of the estuary mouth.]
Sumner Beach, 100 metres north of the Sumner Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion to Cave Rock in the south.	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area - dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)**, except for the purposes of passing through on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control.
Sumnervale Reserve	**Prohibited / Leashed**	Dogs are prohibited from the reserve, except on the track, where they must be on a leash. Note: also used by horses
Taylor's Mistake - Giants Nose Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect wildlife values (particularly nesting and roosting seabirds)

Redcliffs, Sumner, Scarborough, Taylor's Mistake and surrounds		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Taylor's Mistake Beach (Te Onopoto), 50 metres to the north and south of the Surf Life Saving Club's pavilion	**Summer beach prohibition**	Swimming and recreation area, dogs are **prohibited during summer (from 1 November to 31 March between 9am-7pm)** on the beach area, except for the purposes of passing through on a short leash. Outside of these times dogs are permitted under effective control.

Central city

Botanic Gardens, Central City, Hagley Park and Little Hagley Park		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Botanic Gardens	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect collections of rare plants and due to high visitor numbers
Central city - the area bounded by and including Bealey Avenue, Fitzgerald Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue, Hagley Avenue, Oxford Terrace to (and including) the Antigua pedestrian bridge, Cambridge Terrace to Rolleston Avenue, and along Park Terrace to Bealey Avenue	**Leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be on a leash in public places within the central city due to high visitor numbers, to protect health and safety, due to busy traffic, ~~and~~ to protect garden areas, and to protect wildlife in and around the river. Dogs may be under effective control in Latimer Square, Rauora Park and on the grassed area in the Avon Loop. (Note that dogs are prohibited in Margaret Mahy Playground and on the Central City Pump Track) [Reason for change: With an increase in residents in the central city, there is interest in lifting the leashing requirement in key areas to enable some off-leash areas to exercise dogs. Latimer Square, Rauora Park and the grassed area in the Avon Loop have been identified as areas that are appropriate for dogs to be off-leash, provided they are under effective control. The rest of the central city would remain leashed.]

~~Hagley Park paths~~	~~**Leashed**~~	• ~~Dogs must be on a short leash on all sealed paths in Hagley Park, and the stretches of gravel path that run~~
		  ○ ~~alongside Deans Avenue, Moorhouse Avenue and Hagley Avenue (in South Hagley Park); and~~
		  ○ ~~alongside the river, from Harper Avenue to Armagh Street bridge (in North Hagley Park)~~
		• ~~Dogs must be leashed due to the high recreational mixed use of the paths, and high commuter cycle use of the paths~~
		• ~~Dogs may be under effective control in the rest of Hagley Park~~
		[Reason for change: No longer needed due to proposed default leashing on paths rule]

Little Hagley Park	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash due to the high pedestrian and traffic numbers

Christchurch City gardens, parks and reserves

Parks and gardens, arranged alphabetically		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Abberley Park, St Albans	**Leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be on a leash in the Park to protect heritage gardens, but are allowed off-leash / under effective control on the flat eastern lawn area only (note that dogs are prohibited from within one metre of playground equipment and paddling pool) [Reason for change: Clarity]
Ashgrove Reserve, Somerfield	**Leashed**	Recreation area - dogs must be on a leash
Avebury Park, Richmond	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage garden areas. The park also contains a paddling pool and children's playground area, where dogs are prohibited
Avice Hill Reserve, Avonhead	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage gardens
Botanic Gardens	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect collections of rare plants and due to high visitor numbers
Cracroft Reserve, Cashmere	**Leashed**	High public usage. Dogs must be on a leash for public safety and hygiene reasons

Parks and gardens, arranged alphabetically		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Edmond's Factory Garden, Ferry Road	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage garden areas
Ernle Clark Reserve, Cashmere	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect regenerating forest and due to high public usage and the protection of wildlife (particularly birds, including swans)
Holmcroft Reserve, Cracroft	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety reasons
Merivale Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash. Small neighbourhood park
Millbrook Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect garden areas
Mona Vale, Fendalton	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage gardens. High visitor use
Mona Vale Ave Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety reasons
Mountfort Park, Addington	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for public health and safety (busy thoroughfare for foot traffic)
Papanui Memorial Reserve	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash for health, safety and hygiene reasons and to protect heritage gardens. The reserve is small and is close to busy roads, where dogs must also be leashed.
Riccarton Bush	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited in the predator fenced native bush area to protect wildlife values. The area is also of national significance as Canterbury's sole remnant of kahikatea floodplain forest (Conservation Ecological Island within City limits)
Riccarton House gardens	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash in the grounds due to high visitor numbers and to protect heritage gardens
Woodham Park, North Linwood	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash to protect heritage garden areas. The park also contains a paddling pool and children's playground area, where dogs are prohibited

South west Christchurch

Port Hills reserves		
Description	Dog Control Status	Comment
Creamery Ponds	**Prohibited**	Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife. [Reason for change: To better protect wildlife in this wetland area]
Halswell Quarry	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	High recreational use and Sister City Gardens. • Dogs are prohibited in the wetland area • Dogs must be on a leash in the rest of the park (except in the Dog Exercise Area). • Dogs may be exercised under effective control in the Dog Exercise Area [Comment: No change to the regulation proposed for this area, but landscaping changes are being considered to make the different areas and rules clearer onsite, especially the dog exercise area]
Kennedy's Track	**Leashed**	Dogs must be on a leash as Kennedy's Track is a formed legal road
Nga Puna Wai and Canterbury Agricultural Park (Wigram East Retention Basin), Hillmorton	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	The prohibited area covers the pond (which is unsuitable for recreational contact) and ecologically sensitive marginal plantings of wetland vegetation. Dogs must be on a leash on the walkway / boardwalk through this area. Dogs may be under effective control in the remainder of the retention basin
Quaifes Road Springlands	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas. [Reason for change: New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in some areas for recreation.]
Quaifes Drainage Reserve	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas. [Reason for change: New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in

		some areas for recreation.]
Sparks Wetland	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas. [Reason for change: Newly developed area. New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in some areas for recreation.]
Te Kuru Wetland	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas. [Reason for change: Newly developed area. New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in some areas for recreation.]
Worsley Valley 1 Drainage Reserve (including Cashmere dam / wetlands)	**Prohibited / leashed / under effective control**	Dogs must be leashed on paths / tracks, may be off-leash and under effective control on any mown grass areas, and are prohibited from all other areas [Reason for change: Newly developed area. New rules to protect wildlife and enable wildlife to establish in wetland areas, while allowing dogs in some areas for recreation.]

Proposed changes to the Dog Control Bylaw 2016

Proposed replacement dog control bylaw – for consultation

new text is shown with a blue background

~~deleted text is shown with strikethrough and a grey background~~

commentary on changes is shown in red text, where necessary

The Christchurch City Council makes this bylaw under section 20 of the Dog Control Act 1996

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

(1) This bylaw is the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw ~~2016~~ 2024. This bylaw comes into force on ~~1 September 2016~~ [date] 2024.

2. PURPOSE

(1) The purpose of this bylaw is:

(a) to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the potential for harm, distress or nuisance that may be caused by dogs

(b) to regulate dog-related matters to enable the enforcement of the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024.

3. OBJECTIVES

(1) The objectives of this bylaw are:

(a) to promote the responsible management of dogs in public places

(b) to provide for the recreational needs of dogs and their owners

(c) to minimise the potential for dogs to cause harm, distress or nuisance to the community, animals and wildlife.

4. INTERPRETATION

(1) This bylaw should be read in conjunction with the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024.

~~(2) Text in this bylaw that is in grey italics (*italics*) is not part of the bylaw, but is explanatory in nature.~~

[Reason for change: New clause added below to align with the standard form for Council bylaws]

(3) In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

COUNCIL	means the Christchurch City Council
DISABILITY ASSIST DOG	has the same meaning as section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996 *and generally means any dog certified to assist a person with a visual, hearing, mobility or other disability*
DOG EXERCISE AREA	means an area that is recommended and known to be a good place to exercise dogs off-leash. Such areas are generally not fenced and do not have the same equipment or facilities as a Dog Park
DOG PARK	means Council land set aside and designed to allow dogs a space to exercise with other dogs and their owners, in a dog-friendly environment. Such areas are generally fenced, have dog-related equipment or facilities, and display signage indicating they are a Dog Park
HANDLER	means any person who is in control of a working dog, and is not the owner of the working dog
LEASH	means an adequate restraint, and may include a lead attached to a collar or harness, that allows for the control of a dog when in a public place
LEASHED AREA	means any public place specified in clause 8 of this bylaw or in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024 where dogs must be on a leash
NUISANCE	means anything which interferes with or threatens the health, safety or enjoyment of ~~people~~ any person, or the health and safety of any animal, ~~and in this context may involve~~ and includes things such as barking at, chasing, rushing at, or otherwise causing annoyance or distress ~~via intimidating behaviour (such as aggressive barking or rushing), or attacking people, wildlife or other animals~~ [Reason for change: Tidy-up and simplification]
OWNER	has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996, *and generally means the person who owns a dog, the parent or guardian of someone who is under the age of 16 who owns a dog, or a person who is looking after a dog and is responsible for it*
PARKS	means any Council managed greenspace area open to the public, such as parks, reserves and stormwater network assets. This includes stormwater assets that function like parks i.e. greenspace areas with footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks, such as engineered wetlands, drainage reserves and swales. [Reason for change: Relates to the new leashing requirement on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks].
PROHIBITED AREA	means any public place specified in clause 8 of this bylaw or in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024 where dogs are prohibited
PUBLIC PLACE	has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996, *and generally means a place that is open to the public whether or not it is private property*

ROAD	means any land that is designed to facilitate the movement of motor vehicles from one place to another (whether sealed or not), and includes • associated pedestrian areas (such as footpaths); • the margins alongside roads, whether sealed or not (such as berms and verges); • private ways; • state highways; and • car parks (whether or not located on land controlled by the Council). This definition excludes: • unformed legal roads; • beaches; and • any driveway located on private land.
SHARED PATH	means a footpath, a cycle path, a cycle track, or some other kind of path that may be used by some or all or of the following persons at the same time - (a) cyclists; (b) pedestrians; (c) riders of mobility devices; (d) riders of wheeled recreational devices. [Reason for change: Relates to the new leashing requirement on shared paths. The same definition for shared paths is used in the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2017]
SHORT LEASH	means a leash that is no longer than 1.5 metres, and if extendable, is locked at a length of no longer than 1.5 metres. *Explanatory note: This only applies in an area that specifies the use of a short leash, and not in all Leashed Areas.*
SUMMER BEACH PROHIBITION AREA	means beaches or sections of coastline specified in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024 where dogs are prohibited between 1 November and 31 March, and between 9am and 7pm, to protect swimming and recreation activities from dog-related nuisances
~~UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL~~	~~means the owner or person in charge of a dog is aware of where the dog is and what it is doing, and that the dog is responsive to commands and is not creating a nuisance.~~ ~~*Explanatory note: Having your dog under effective control means you can see it or are aware of what it is doing, and are close enough to prevent issues or quickly bring it to heel.*~~ [Reason for change: Now covered in a clause]
WORKING DOG	has the same meaning as section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996, *and generally means any dog carrying out functions and duties:* • *relating to farming, such as the herding of stock* • *under the direction of a government department or state employee undertaking responsibilities such as those relating to policing, defence, corrections, customs, security, biosecurity, pest management, emergency management or conservation* • *under the direction of a private security guard in the execution of their duties*

(4) This bylaw contains explanatory notes, which are not part of the bylaw. The Council may add, amend or delete explanatory notes at any time without amending the bylaw.

***Explanatory note**: Explanatory notes are used for a number of reasons, including to explain the intent of a clause in less formal language, to include additional helpful information, or because the information may be subject to change and need to be updated before the bylaw itself has to be updated.* [Reason for change: Changed to align with the standard form for Council bylaws.]

5. CONTROL OF DOGS IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES AND AT ALL TIMES

(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must keep their dog under effective control in all public places and at all times.

Explanatory note: If an area is not a leashed area or prohibited area in the Council's Dog Control Policy 2024, dogs may be exercised off-leash, provided they are under effective control. [Reason for change: Clarification] *The Dog Control Act also requires the owner or person in charge of a dog to carry a leash when taking their dog into public places, whether or not it is a Leashed Area. This requirement does not apply to working dogs in public places.* [Reason for change: Moved from the end of this section to here for clarity]

(2) In order to comply with clause 5(1), the owner or person in charge of the dog must:

(i) actively pay attention to the dog and what it is doing;
(ii) be close enough to the dog to quickly respond to any issues;
(iii) ensure the dog remains responsive to commands, with prompt recall; and
(iv) ensure the dog does not create a nuisance to any other person, or to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

[Reason for change: Under effective control was defined in the definition section – it has been moved into a clause to improve clarity. The requirements for under effective control have been improved to require clearer and more active attention and engagement from the responsible person. We asked people what they thought about the definition of 'under effective control' in our recent survey, and suggest the following changes based on the feedback. The proposal to change the definition of under effective control to make it easier to understand received 53% support in the dog control survey (47% either said no or were not sure)]

(3) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog in a public place must keep their dog leashed if they cannot meet the requirements for under effective control, even if the area does not require dogs to be leashed.

[Reason for change: To make it clearer that a dog can only be off-leash in a public place if the person responsible is able to keep the dog under effective control, as defined in this bylaw.]

(4) No person may take more than the maximum number of dogs into any public place, unless they have an exemption from the Council enabling them to be responsible for more dogs via a Dog Limit Exemption (see clause 13):

(i) the maximum number of dogs is four dogs at any one time; and
(ii) the maximum number of dogs that may be off-leash at any one time is two dogs.

Explanatory note: For clarity, any prohibited and leashed rules continue to apply, and off-leash dogs must be under effective control. A person can have up to two dogs off-leash and a maximum of four dogs in total at any one time (ie two leashed and two off-leash).

[Reason for change: We have noticed an increase in groups of dogs being exercised together in public places. This can be problematic if the dog walker does not have good control of the dogs – for other people, other dogs, farm animals and for wildlife. Controlling a group of dogs requires special skills. We want to reduce the potential for things to go wrong by limiting the number of dogs people can have under their control in public places at any one time.

We understand that some people who own multiple dogs or who offer dog walking or exercising services may be very experienced and good at controlling multiple dogs, but note that there is no qualification, accreditation or way of ensuring that people are appropriately experienced before they operate in public places. We are proposing a limit, and a process for people to apply to the Council for an exemption to exercise an increased number of dogs at one time, provided certain criteria are met. See clause 13 for the dog limit exemption.

In the dog control survey question on control of multiple dogs, 48% thought there should be a limit, while 37% said no to a limit and 15% were not sure. When asked what a reasonable limit might be, people said, on average, two-three dogs off leash and three-four dogs on leash.

In looking at the number of dogs people own, 98% of dog owners in the district own one or two dogs (36,594 people), while 465 people own three dogs (1.4% of owners), and 196 people own four dogs or more (less than 1% of dog owners). It may be that owners with higher numbers of dogs run kennels or dog rescue organisations, breed dogs or have specially trained dogs (such as dogs trained for farming, pest control, security, police, customs, disability assistance, etc). Owners of multiple dogs may not wish to take all of their dogs into public places at once.]

(5) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must carry plastic, recycled or compostable bags or other effective means to remove and dispose of any fouling (dog faeces) when in public places with their dog. [Reason for change: To reflect the reduced reliance on plastic bags]

(6) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must remove and appropriately dispose of any fouling (dog faeces) produced by their dog in public places or on land that is not their own land.

***Explanatory note**: Dog faeces can harbour diseases and parasites that make other dogs or people unwell. If left on the ground, dog faeces will contaminate waterways. Christchurch has a high number of dogs, and it is important that dog owners take responsibility for their own dogs so that dogs can continue to enjoy access to a wide range of public places. Bags are an ideal way of picking up and removing dog faeces. Despite using a compostable or biodegradable bag, dog faeces should always be disposed of in a rubbish bin or Council red wheelie bin (it cannot be composted through the green waste wheelie bin system).* [Reason for change: Improved clarity]

~~*The Dog Control Act also requires the owner or person in charge of a dog to carry a leash when taking their dog into public places, whether or not it is a Leashed Area. This requirement does not apply to working dogs in public places.*~~ [Reason for change: Moved above to sit with clause 5(1)]

6. LEASHED AND PROHIBITED DOG CONTROL AREAS

(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must ensure that their dog is kept on a leash in a public place designated as a Leashed Area.

(2) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog must ensure that their dog does not enter or remain in any public place designated as a Prohibited Area.

7. SPECIFIC LEASHED AND PROHIBITED DOG CONTROL AREAS

(1) The Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024 contains tables listing the specific public places where leashed and prohibited dog controls apply.

(2) Dogs are prohibited from specific beaches (Summer Beach Prohibition Areas) during summer (from 1 November to 31 March and between the hours of 9am and 7pm). These beaches are listed in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024.

***Explanatory note**: You must have your dog under effective control in public places that are not listed as Leashed Areas or Prohibited Areas.*

8. GENERAL ~~LEASHED AND~~ PROHIBITED DOG CONTROL AREAS

(A) ALL COUNCIL CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

(i) Dogs are prohibited from being:
   a. within any fenced playground area;
   b. on any specially surfaced playground area;
   c. within one metre of any fenced or surfaced playground area; or
   d. within one metre of any playground equipment where there is no fence or special surface.

(B) ALL COUNCIL SKATEPARKS AND PUMP TRACKS

(i) Dogs are prohibited on skatepark and pump track surfaces, and from being within one metre of the perimeter of any skatepark or pump track.
[Reason for change: Since the policy was last reviewed, Christchurch has had several pump tracks installed for children to use, including in the central city near Rauora Park and at Shirely Community Reserve. Pump tracks are similar to skateparks, but are for bikes or scooters, rather than skateboards. Specifying pump tracks in this clause makes it clearer.]

(C) ALL COUNCIL SWIMMING POOLS AND PADDLING POOLS

(i) Dogs are prohibited from being inside any fenced Council paddling pool area, and from being within one metre of any unfenced Council paddling pool.
(ii) Dogs are prohibited from entering any Council swimming pool facilities.

9. GENERAL LEASHED DOG CONTROL AREAS

[New clause heading for clarity - combining leashed and prohibited general areas was less clear. This change separates them.]

(A) ALL ROADS, SHARED PATHS, FOOTPATHS, PEDESTRIAN AREAS AND CAR PARKING AREAS

(i) Dogs must be on a short leash on all roads, and on all shared paths, footpaths, and pedestrian areas on or near roads, and in car parking areas.

Explanatory note: For the sake of clarity, 'road' includes ~~associated pedestrian areas (such as footpaths) and~~ the margins alongside roads, whether sealed or not (such as berms and verges), as well as state highways and private ways ~~and car parks~~, but excludes beaches.

[Reason for change: The current leashing rule covers road and footpaths alongside roads – the proposed change adds shared paths alongside roads and other pedestrian areas. Shared paths are designed for pedestrians, cyclists and users of other wheeled devices. There has been an increase in shared paths since the bylaw was last reviewed, and it has been unclear if the road and footpath rule applied to shared paths. This change will provide clarity. Leashing is required for public safety, including traffic safety. The existing requirement to have dogs leashed in car parks has been made clearer. In some transport law, beaches are considered roads - beaches continue to be excluded from the leashing-on-roads requirement.]

(B) ALL FOOTPATHS, SHARED PATHS AND FORMED TRACKS IN PARKS

(i) Dogs must be on a short leash on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks where dogs are allowed.

(ii) This does not apply to Bottle Lake Forest Park, which is a dog exercise area.

Explanatory note: This rule only applies to areas where dogs are allowed (dogs are prohibited in specified areas, as set out in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy 2024). Parks for the purposes of this clause include any greenspace areas open to the public, including reserves and stormwater assets.

[Reason for change: Footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas are used by pedestrians, cyclists / mountain-bikers and users of wheeled devices (both mobility and recreational devices), as well as buggies / pushchairs. Many footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks currently require leashing, but this varies and can be confusing.

Formed tracks are not sealed like a footpath, but may have a hard-packed or shingle surface. They tend to be found in regional parks, and in many of these areas dogs are currently required to be leashed on tracks, including Port Hills reserves. This change will provide clarity and consistency.

The Council continues to develop stormwater assets, many of which operate as parks, with walking tracks and areas for recreation. Although these areas are not technically parks, they have the appearance and function of parks, so should have the same leashing requirements as parks. Stormwater assets include large areas like Te Kuru Wetland, as well as smaller drainage reserves in new subdivisions. Having a general rule will mean it applies to stormwater assets that are under development or will be developed in the future, and keeps things simple and consistent.

The proposal to require leashing on shared paths received 76% support in the dog control survey, while leashing on paths in parks received 57% support, and the proposal for leashing on formed tracks received 49% against (with 44% in support).]

(C) ALL COUNCIL CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS

(i) Dogs must be on a leash in the grounds of Council-managed cemeteries and in memorial areas.

(D) ALL COUNCIL BOAT RAMPS AND SLIPWAYS

(i) Dogs must be on a leash on and in the vicinity of all Council boat ramps and slipways.

***Explanatory note**: For the sake of clarity (and as set out above), dogs must be on a leash on all 'roads', which includes those around boat ramps, slipways and other waterfront and marina-related areas where vehicles manoeuvre, including car park areas.* [Reason for change: Clarity]

(E) ALL WHARVES, JETTIES AND BOARDWALKS

(i) Dogs must be on a leash on all wharves, jetties and boardwalks.

Explanatory note: Unless dogs are otherwise prohibited, such as on New Brighton Pier. Dogs are required to be on a leash to protect health and safety. Any hooks or fishing line left behind on wharves or jetties may present a danger to dogs, so dogs should be leashed for their own safety. Wharves, jetties and boardwalks are narrow spaces and dogs should be under good control. Boardwalks are often part of paths or tracks, so dogs are required to be leashed for consistency.

[Reason for the change: Wharves and jetties are narrow spaces and can be popular and busy. Leashing is currently required at Akaroa Main Wharf, Daly's Wharf, Diamond Harbour jetty and Governor's Bay jetty. Some wharves or jetties are used by commercial operators, some have vehicles on them, some are used by birds, and some are used for line-fishing. The proposal to require leashing on wharves and jetties received 72% support in the dog control survey. Dogs will remain prohibited from New Brighton Pier.]

(F) ALL SPORTS FIELDS DURING GAMES AND PRACTICE SESSIONS

(i) Dogs must be leashed on all sports fields during games and practice sessions. Dogs may be exercised under effective control at other times (unless other rules apply).

Explanation: Dogs are required to be leashed to protect health and safety and to prevent interference with games. It is especially important that people pick-up after their dogs on sports fields.

[Reason for the change: Sport fields can be great wide-open spaces to exercise dogs. Most are currently under effective control areas, by default. We think it makes sense for dogs to be allowed to run around when the sports fields are not in use, but dogs running free when games or practice sessions are being held can be a problem, so we are proposing that dogs be leashed at these times. This proposal received 80% support in the dog control survey.]

(G) ALL COMMUNITY GARDEN AREAS

(i) Dogs must be leashed in and around all community garden areas.

Explanation: Dogs must be leashed in and around all community gardens to protect health and safety and prevent damage to gardens and food crops.

[Reason for the change: Food crops are grown at community gardens, and the gardens are often used for community education. Uncontrolled dogs could cause damage to the gardens, disrupt educational activities or cause health and safety issues, so should be leashed. This proposal received 72% support in the dog control survey.]

10. EXCEPTIONS TO LEASHED AND PROHIBITED DOG CONTROL AREAS

(1) Nothing in this bylaw restricting access to any public place applies to disability assist dogs.

(2) Nothing in this bylaw restricting access to any public place applies to a working dog that is under the effective control of its owner or handler while that dog is being worked or while it is being taken to and from its work.

(3) Nothing in this bylaw restricting access to any public place applies to any dog that is being worked as a hunting dog by a person undertaking legal hunting activities.

(4) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog may enter a beach area designated as a Summer Beach Prohibition Area during summer hours with their dog on a short leash and only for the purpose of passing through, and must ensure that their dog does not remain in the area.

11. SPECIAL DOG CONTROL AREAS

(A) DOG PARKS

(i) No dog owner or person in charge of a dog may leave a dog unattended at a Dog Park.
(ii) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog at a Dog Park must comply with the obligations set out in clause (4) of this bylaw.
(iii) Dog Parks are listed in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024.

***Explanatory note**: Having your dog under effective control is as much about the safety of your dog as it is about the safety of other dogs and other people at Dog Parks and in Dog Exercise Areas.*

(B) DOG EXERCISE AREAS

(i) No dog owner or person in charge of a dog may leave a dog unattended at a Dog Exercise Area.
(ii) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog at a Dog Exercise Area must comply with the obligations set out in clause (4) of this bylaw.
(iii) Dog Exercise Areas are listed in the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Policy ~~2016~~ 2024.

12. LICENCE FOR MORE THAN TWO DOGS

(1) Where more than two dogs over the age of three months are kept at the same property, and the property is smaller than one hectare (10,000m²), the owner or owners of those dogs must obtain a licence. ~~Owners of more than two dogs must obtain a licence to keep more than two dogs over the age of three months on any property smaller than one hectare / 10,000m².~~

Explanatory note: This requirement is about reducing the potential for nuisance arising from having too many dogs on small properties, and where neighbours are in close proximity. Only one licence needs to be obtained for a property, but the application must contain the names of all registered dog owners of dogs kept at the property. [Reason for change: Replacement clause wording for clarity. The licence requirement applies to the number of dogs at a property, regardless of how many people may own those dogs. New explanatory note wording about the reason for the licence is from the Dog Control Policy.]

(2) An owner(s) of more than two dogs kept at the same property must:

(i) apply to the Council for the relevant licence on the appropriate form; and
(ii) pay the relevant licence inspection or re-inspection fee; and
(iii) allow an inspection or re-inspection of their property as to the suitability of the number and type of dogs applied for being kept there.

(3) ~~A licence relates to a dog owner, their registered dogs and the specified property. A licence is not transferrable to another property, to a new owner at the same property or to different dogs at the same property.~~ [Reason for change: Clause moved below.]

(4) ~~A licence will not expire, but will need to be reapplied for if the dogs registered at that property change.~~ [Reason for change: Clause moved below.]

(5) A licence may be granted, have conditions imposed, or be refused, at the discretion of the attending Dog Control Officer. In considering whether consent should be granted, the attending Dog Control Officer shall have regard to:

(a) whether the property size is suitable for the breed and number of dogs

(b) whether there is adequate fencing

(c) whether there is dog-free access to the property

(d) whether the location of kennels is appropriate, and that the kennels are suitable and provide adequate shelter for the breed and number of dogs

(e) the previous history of the dog owner(s) in relation to complaints or nuisance

(f) whether the dog owner(s) ~~is~~ are complying with and familiar with their obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw. [Reason for change: There may be more than one owner of dogs at a property].

(6) Where a licence is issued, it will be issued to a registered dog owner at the property, and will specify the property address, the dog owners, the registered dogs, and any other conditions. The following apply:

(a) a licence is not transferrable to a different property;

(b) a licence may be transferred to a different dog owner, where the property and dogs remain the same, at the discretion of an authorised officer;

(c) any change to the dogs at a property may require a re-inspection; and

(d) a licence will not expire (but any relevant changes may require a re-inspection).

[Reason for changes: Moved from above. Clause wording changed for administrative simplicity. Multiple dog owners at the same property will need to nominate the licence holder.]

(7) The licence fee and re-inspection fee will be set annually through the Annual Plan process.

(8) Any licence issued under a previous Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw is deemed to be a licence issued under this bylaw.

(9) Any breach of a licence or of any conditions imposed in a licence is considered a breach of this bylaw. The Council may revoke the licence as a result of a breach, whether or not it prosecutes the breach.

13. DOG LIMIT EXEMPTION

(1) No person may be in control of more than the maximum number of dogs set out in clause 5(4), unless that person has a Dog Limit Exemption.

(2) Clause 13(1) does not come into force until six months after this bylaw comes into force.

(3) A Dog Limit Exemption may be granted, have conditions imposed, or be refused, at the discretion of the Manager Animal Services.

(4) An application from the person seeking the exemption should include the following:

(a) information about the dog control knowledge and experience of the applicant, including any relevant qualifications or accreditations;

(b) business planning documents that demonstrate good dog management and a public safety focus, including things such as, but not limited to: dog vetting processes, pro forma client agreements, risk management documents, health and safety planning, and public liability insurance; and

(c) the maximum number of dogs the applicant intends to control in public places and an indication of likely places they may take the dogs.

(5) If the person is the registered owner of the dogs, clause 13(4)(b) will not apply.

(6) The application must be accompanied by the relevant fee (as set out in the Council's Annual Plan, Fees and Charges). The application fee is non-refundable.

(7) The application process will include a combination of supplying written material and a meeting to discuss the application. The applicant will be expected to demonstrate a good understanding of the obligations set out in the Dog Control Act 1996, in the Dog Control Policy and in this bylaw (including knowledge of where dogs can and cannot go, or where they must be leashed).

(8) The Manager may consider the application and any other relevant information (such as any dog-related complaints or nuisance related to the applicant).

(9) A dog limit exemption is not transferrable to another person.

(10) The Manager Animal Services may remove an exemption or alter the conditions of an exemption due to any non-compliance with the exemption, the conditions, any regulatory requirements or due to any incidents.

[Reason for change: Controlling a group of dogs requires special skills. We understand that some people who own multiple dogs or who offer dog walking or exercising services are very experienced and good at controlling multiple dogs, but note that there is no qualification, accreditation or way of ensuring that people are appropriately experienced to control multiple dogs before they are allowed to operate in public places. We are proposing a limit, and a process for people to apply to the Council for an exemption to exercise an increased number of dogs in public places at one time, provided certain criteria are met.

In the dog control survey question on control of multiple dogs, 48% thought there should be a limit, while 37% said no to a limit and 15% were not sure.

In looking at what other councils do, several councils have recently proposed similar limits or approaches. Some councils choose to licence commercial operators, but we think an exemption process will be simpler.

Note that there will be an administrative fee associated with an application for an exemption. The amount of the fee will be set through the Council's annual plan process, which will include consultation. There will also be a six-month delay before the requirement comes into force.]

14. FEMALE DOGS IN SEASON

(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog, where that dog is a female dog in season, must keep the dog:

(i) confined to private property while it is in season; and
(ii) confined in such a way so as to minimise the impact on other dogs.

(2) Transport of a female dog in season should be minimised, and any transport should be undertaken securely and in such a way so as to minimise the impact on other dogs.

(3) Subclauses (1) and (2) do not apply to a working dog while it is being worked.

***Explanatory note**: The hormones released by a female dog in season can be detected over long distances. Female dogs in season must be securely confined on private property (ideally away from boundary fences) and cannot be exercised as normal in public places, or transported unnecessarily. Transport should be limited to veterinary or breeding-related travel. This only applies to female dogs that have not been de-sexed.*

15. DOGS ON VEHICLES

(1) Every dog owner or person in charge of a dog that is on the open tray of a vehicle (such as a ute or truck), in a public place, must ensure the dog is secured by a leash that is sufficiently short in length to prevent the dog from reaching beyond the tray.

(2) Subclause (1) does not apply to a working dog that is being worked whilst on the open tray of a vehicle.

16. OFFENCE AND PENALTY

(1) Every person who fails to comply with this bylaw commits an infringement offence under Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Act 1996 and may be served with an infringement notice and be liable to pay an infringement fee.

(2) Every person who fails to comply with this bylaw commits an offence under section 20(5) of the Dog Control Act 1996 and is liable on conviction to the penalty prescribed by section 242(4) of the Local Government Act 2002.

***Explanatory note**: For the purpose of clarity, many matters not covered by this bylaw are already covered by the Dog Control Act 1996, and breaches of those matters can result in the issuing of infringement notices (otherwise known as ~~instant~~ fines). The amounts for these infringements range from $100 to $750 and are set out in the Act.*

17. CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL GENERAL BYLAW

(1) The provisions of the Christchurch City Council General Bylaw 2008 and any bylaw passed in amendment or substitution are implied into and form part of this bylaw.

18. REVOCATIONS

(1) This bylaw revokes and replaces the Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw ~~2008~~ 2016.

The initial resolution to make this bylaw was passed by the Christchurch City Council at an ordinary meeting of the Council held on the 10th day of December 2015 and was confirmed, following consideration of submissions received during the special consultative procedure, by a resolution of the Council at a subsequent ordinary meeting of the Council on the 23rd day of June 2016.

Item 6

6. Volumes of Submissions

Reference Te Tohutoro:	25/350056
Responsible Officer(s) Te Pou Matua:	Simone Gordon, Democratic Services Advisor
Accountable ELT Member Pouwhakarae:	John Higgins, General Manager Strategy, Planning & Regulatory Services

1. Purpose Te Pūtake Pūrongo

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Hearings Panel with:

1.1.1 All submissions received on the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

1.1.2 A schedule of submitters who wish to speak to their submission during the hearings.

1.2 **Attachment A** contains a schedule of submitters who, by the time the agenda was run, indicated they will speak to their submission during the hearings and a copy of their submission.

1.3 **Attachment B** contains a table of submitters who do not wish to be heard (including those submitters who originally wished to be heard, but no longer wish to be heard). Also included (in corresponding order) is a table with their submissions.

1.4 Notes that the Local Government Act 2002 requires, as one of the principles of consultation, that "the views presented to the local authority should be received by the local authority with an open mind and should be given by the local authority, in making a decision, due consideration" (section 82(1) (e).

2. Officer Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu

That the Hearings Panel:

1. Accepts the written submissions, including any late submissions, received on the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

Attachments Ngā Tāpirihanga

No.	Title	Reference	Page
A	Submitters who wish to be heard	25/426947	210
B	Submitters who do not wish to be heard *(Under Separate Cover)*	25/426948	

Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Hearings Panel Wednesday 12th March 2024		
Time	**Name**	**Submission Number**
9.30am	**Apologies** **Election of chair**	-
9.35am	**Staff presentation**	-
10.00am	Buffer	-
10.05am	Paul McMahon on behalf of Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board	30716
10.15am	Marie Pollisco on behalf of Waipuna Hallswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board	30969
10.25am	Emma Norrish on behalf of Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board	30706
10.35am	Cathy Lum-Webb on behalf of Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board	30948
10.45am	Nicki Jacobs	30872
10.50am	Annie Jones	30972
10.55am	David Benson	31287
Break 11 – 11.20am		
11.20am	Buffer	-
11.25am	Denise Fox	29401
11.30am	Margaret, Anthony and Kate McGowan	29768
11.35am	Jackie Howard on behalf of The Styx Living Laboratory Trust	30977
11.40am	Ana Kickhefer	29363
11.45am	Buffer	-
11.50am	Maria Cavanagh	30698
11.55am	Scott Mcilraith	28967
12.00pm	Karolin Potter on behalf of Spreydon Neighbourhood Network	30984
12.05pm	Anne Dingwall	31254
12.10pm	Dr Alison Vaughan on behalf of SPCA New Zealand	31101
12.15pm	Peter Glasson	30448
12.20pm	Darren Sandford on behalf of Worcester Terraces Body Corporate	30696
12.25pm	Mary O'Connor	31075
Lunch 12.30pm – 1.30pm		
1.30pm	Buffer	-
1.35pm	Shane Goodwin	30627
1.40pm	Jo Fearn	29101
1.45pm	Brad Henderson	29129
1.50pm	Lisa Sturm	31129
1.55pm	Jamie Small	30857
2.00pm	Buffer	-
2.05pm	Sheena Ross	30345

2.10pm	Maria Adamski	31046
2.15pm	Justin Ryan	30963
2.20pm	Lisa Sturm on behalf of Association of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand	31144
2.25pm	Karen Shaw	31170
2.30pm	David Palmer	30236
2.35pm	Jan McKay	30995
2.40pm	Ashley Campbell	30203
Break 2.45 – 3.05pm		
3.05pm	Buffer	-
3.10pm	Tanya Jenkins on behalf of Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust	30668
3.15pm	Sara Douglas on behalf of Waggytails on Whitfield	30216
3.20pm	Patrick David Marra	30951
3.25pm	Tim Newman	30053
3.30pm	Buffer	-
3.35pm	Dennis Nuberg	30908
3.40pm	Victoria Smith	29608
3.45pm	Anya Gartner	29484
3.50pm	Bono F Beeler on behalf of Speaking Dog K9 Services & Canine Neuropark	29226
3.55pm	Colleen Phillip on behalf of Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch	31055
Adjourn to 9.30am Thursday 13th March 2025		

Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Hearings Panel Thursday 13th March 2024		
Time	**Name**	**Submission Number**
9.30am	Buffer	-
9.35am	Amanda Bell	31143
9.40am	Kathleen Crisley on behalf of Kathleen Crisley, Sandra Savinen, Tim Kershaw, Brilly Auriemma-Hallett and Evelien Baas	31111, 31108, 31106, 306337 and 30944
9.45am		
9.50am		
9.55am	Ross McFarlane	30991
10.00am	Buffer	-
10.05am	David Jones	30835
10.10am	Adriana Verstappen	29881
10.15am	Andy Ralf	30752
10.20am	Matthew Ross	31083
10.25am	Annebel de Kort	30387

Break 10.30 – 10.45am		
10.45am	Buffer	-
10.50am	Anabella Rivas on behalf of Anabella Rivas, Javier Pobeda, Otto Schuhmacher and Pablo Daverio	30905 & 31005
10.55am		
11.00am		
11.05am	Linda Keall	28866
11.10am	Malcolm Long on behalf of Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network	30950
11.15am	Caroline Clark	30220
11.20am	Staff presentation and Q&A from Panel	
Lunch 12.00 - 1.00pm		
1.00pm	Staff presentation and Q&A from Panel	-
Adjourn to 1.00pm Friday 14th March 2025		

Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Hearings Panel Friday 14th March 2024	
Time	**Name**
1pm	Staff presentation and Q&A from Panel

Submissions received on the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024, December 2024

Organisations / Businesses who wish to speak to the Hearings Panel

ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
29226	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Don't know / Not sure I fear here we are limiting the welfare of a species in out domestic lives- why- a dog has the same needs as a wild animal to be able to adapt well - explore the world to behave efficiently and balanced. Short leads inhibit that nature and will entail that we can expect more aggressive behaviour expressions rather then less. In your definition of "under control" you assum that a dog is under the control of the handles/ owners commands. Yet, to behave in itself, the dog is under the spell of its own nature. Limit the nature of exploring, its brain directing all of the bodies system is under much greater uncertainty. He may just not have the capacities to actually stick to commands. This is well documented by Breland & Breland 1962 [misbehavuour of organisms] -> instinctive drift. Biggest problem is that paths are shared by people amd bikes. Both people and bikes tend to run straight at people with dogs. To a dog, those movements often are perceived as "danger", thus defensive or offensive behaviour action plans are activated. So a dog on a short lead may just be more dangerous then a dog on a long line, off lead able to curve away into an area you may deem to be prohibited to dogs. I find it shocking that such ideas are so easily considered without the invitation of behaviour professionals such as us, who study outside of the outdated behaviorism & pavlovian paradigm. Long lead & harness and education for cyclists on shared paths to slow down and give way would be much smarter! **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Dogs should really not need to be walked on urban roads and footpaths- although I'm sure they are awesome olfactory experiences to dogs. So if they are for their own safety within urban areas. Where any car, bike, pedestrians are walking straight at dogs a well fitting h shaped harness & a lead are the dog handlers / owners friend. However, as above, in anurben area a dog has even less spent e to evade so he may act more dangerous not less. Not because the dog is menacing but because humans are bad are behaviour the right way (curving) **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure Yes and no Dogs should be on lead or prohibited at estuaries and river mouths, parts of Lake and river shores. However, again from a welfare point of view - where could the dog go and cool off??! We can't preach at one end that we must ensure dogs don't overheat in cars but then they can't cool down on a walk in a river because it's protected area. That makes no sense A dog should be able to cool off freely on a long line, without the owner having to wonder whether that is ok or worse; ignore the dogs need and let him overheat. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes As above - same answer. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No There is a point where overprotection is just too much. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Don't know / Not sure Yes and no.	Bono F Beeler Speakingdog K9 Services & Canine Neuropark

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	Again, you are making decisions without including professionals at all. While I agree that 10 dogs to 1 person is not reliable in the sense if safety; many dog owners have 3 plus dogs. They are not gonna walk their dogs separately. As to professionals- First, who of you decides who has appropriate skills?? I have a cabine behaviour level 4 diploma, certificate in foundational neuroscience all online & overseas practical. How do you know whether my abilities are good & appropriate or not. Who decides that? The professionals still adhering to behaviourism & pavlovianism?? That I woul like to know; because you will be responsible for the failing of some of these canine businesses and their owners incomes. I think k you should take that more seriously. And you haven't because you haven't let professionals take part in this rule creation. It would also mean that for example dog walkers would have to raise prices, meaning less people taking up their sevices and the one suffering will again be the dogs. I think this needs much more discussion and consideration with the inclusion of all canine professionals. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I believe the bylaws amendments are well meant but not well considered by exncluding the canine professionals and limiting their imput to this question and answer sheet. Your decisions are litterally playing with people's businesses thus livelihoods *See attachment - page 45	
30216	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes I feel it’s dangerous for people to not have dogs on a lead near roads and around where animals graze **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes As above. Dogs could run out and cause an accident **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes It would be helpful if the areas where dogs can run free be signposted clearly **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Don't know / Not sure Not sure where you’re suggesting **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No I am a dog walker which is my livelihood. I only walk 4 dogs and one of those is on a lead. I can’t have 4 dogs on a lead. I have total control over the dogs at all times. I have walked dogs for 20 years and I make sure they don’t go far and never walk where there is wildlife	Sara Douglas Waggytails On Whitfield

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy? Barnett park. Bottle lake, beach (I only walk on the beach before anyone is around)	
30668	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 48	Tanya Jenkins Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust
30696	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes The Worcester Terraces complex supports this proposal to enhance public safety and ensure that dogs do not cause disruptions or accidents on busy footpaths and shared spaces. It aligns with the goal of maintaining harmony between dog owners and other park users, including children, the elderly, and pedestrians. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Worcester Terraces supports this proposal to prevent potential hazards in areas near roads and busy pedestrian zones. Leashing dogs in these areas helps avoid accidents and ensures the safety of both dog owners and the general public, especially in high-traffic urban environments. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes Worcester Terraces supports the proposal to regulate the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor to protect sensitive wildlife areas, while still allowing dogs to be exercised in large, open spaces under effective control. This strikes a balance between preserving biodiversity and offering dog owners opportunities for recreation. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes The Worcester Terraces complex supports the proposal to protect wildlife in the Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary by restricting dog access to sensitive areas. By continuing to allow dogs along nearby paths and areas, the proposal ensures the protection of endangered species without limiting recreational opportunities for responsible dog owners. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Worcester Terraces agrees with the proposal to regulate stormwater basins like Te Kuru Wetland to protect local wildlife and habitats. Allowing dogs off-leash in mowed grass areas while controlling access to sensitive wetland areas ensures that the ecological balance is maintained without limiting recreational space for dog owners. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes Worcester Terraces supports the proposal to limit the number of dogs under the control of a single individual, both for safety reasons and to prevent potential disruptions in public	Darren Sandford Worcester Terraces Body Corp (Body Corp Number 542441)

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	spaces. This measure ensures that dog owners have the necessary control over their pets, preventing issues such as uncontrolled aggression or nuisance to other park users. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** We, the Worcester Terraces Body Corporate, represent 68 unit owners located between Rauora Park and Latimer Square. We oppose the proposal to designate these parks as off-leash areas for dogs. While we support providing spaces for dogs to exercise, these parks are high-traffic areas frequented by families, children, and non-dog owners, and turning them into off-leash areas poses safety and hygiene concerns. Our observations show that many dog owners in these spaces already struggle to maintain control over their pets, resulting in uncollected dog faeces and uncontrolled dogs, which could potentially harm children and other park users. We recommend reconsidering this proposal and suggest alternative solutions, such as establishing a dog park in the red zone or expanding off-leash access in areas like the Avon Loop, which would meet the needs of dog owners without compromising the safety and enjoyment of these communal spaces for everyone. Sincerely, Darren Sandford Chairman, Worcester Terraces Body Corporate Committee (Representing 68 unit owners) *See attachment - page 53	
30706	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The Board notes that with increasing intensification in our area, and the need to offer recreational amenities within walkable distances of residents to minimise transport emissions, consideration needs to be given to supporting dog parks in urban areas. The recent request to our Board for a small dog park near Diana Isaac Retirement Village, is a good example of this demand. While the pressures of competing uses for park spaces and neighbourhood noise and cost implications need to be kept in mind, it is helpful when regulation supports these requests being considered. Ensuring there are appropriate larger spaces for larger dogs is as important to balance the need for spaces like the Botanic Gardens for residents seeking significant dog-free zones. The proposals tend toward prohibiting dogs from, or restricting them in, further areas, which is for worthy reasons, though increases the important role the likes of the Groynes Dog Park and Bottle Lake Forest serve as dog exercise areas. If the proposed restrictions are going to be implemented, enough appropriate spaces where dogs can be off-leash need to be provided in convenient locations. Ensuring a balance of spaces recognises the benefits to canine and human health and wellbeing of robust recreational and training spaces, noting that looking after the family dog	Emma Norrish Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central Community Board

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation	
	generally needs to coincide with people's exercise routines and recreational activities. Dogs are also used in some sports and work that greatly benefit from being trained in unleashed areas.		
30716	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes The Board mostly supports the proposal but notes that it needs to be made very clear that dogs are able to be off the leash under effective control when off the paths. The Board also feels that it is important to highlight the need for increased education/signage on what effective control means and when being under effective control is required. The Board is not convinced that there should be a blanket rule regarding "formed tracks" on the flat, outside areas of ecological significance. Consistency is a desirable goal, but the removal of all those formed paths for free-running dogs is a significant loss for dogs and their owners. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes The Board mostly supports this proposal but there is not much room for error and it protects dogs. The Board suggests that retractable leashes provided they are reducible to 1.5 metres be permissible within green spaces and on paths. The Board also notes that the recommended 1.5 metre leash length is too restrictive for people and dogs of different sizes. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure The Board suggests the general leashed rule for formed pathways does not apply in the OARC outside wildlife areas. The Board also suggests development of dog parks/spaces in the OARC. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes The Board notes that as this is an important ecological area, the Ihutai should be a place where bird life is prioritised. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Don't know / Not sure The Board notes that it depends on the basin, there may be somewhere dogs are not an issue. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes The Board notes that it takes a very skilled person to have a pack of dogs under effective control, and safety should be a priority. The Board also notes that the exemption process should not be onerous on people who depend on walking dogs for their income or wellbeing. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The Board requests clear signage at all entrances to Parks, reserves, beaches and forests regarding obligations of dog owners e.g. being under effective control and poo bags. The Board also notes the need for visible and frequent enforcement.	Paul McMahon Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board	C/- Po Box 73023, Christchurch 8154
30948	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?**	Cathy Lum-Webb Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board	

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board ("the Board") appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the Council's draft Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 This submission aligns with the Board vision to listen to and work with community, mana whenua, partners and other organisations to protect and enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Banks Peninsula. Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi. This submission aligns with the Board priority to protect and enhance biodiversity on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula. LYTTELTON RECREATION GROUND The Board is concerned about leashing requirements on the Lyttelton Recreation Ground being lifted to enable a flat space for people to exercise dogs. There are ongoing issues with dog faeces being left on the grounds causing health concerns for sports teams using the fields. The Board requests that dog faeces receptacle bins be provided on the Lyttelton Recreation Grounds to encourage people to pick up after their dogs and that the Council investigates alternative options for a future dedicated dog exercise area in Lyttelton and in Diamond Harbour. We appreciate the new regulations prohibiting dogs on some of our mudflats and foreshore areas to help protect our wildlife values, which is an important priority for our Board. *See attachment - page 55	
30950	**The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** *See attachment - page 57	Malcolm Long Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network
30963	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes For the safety of everyone and the Dog this is a good idea. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Again if it is for the safety of the Dogs then yes. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No If allowing dogs off leash except when they come close to a path is plain dumb. Do you employ Dog Whisperers so they can explain this to the dogs. A better policy is signs saying this is a Shared Use Area that may results in Dogs off Leash. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes	Justin Ryan Head To Tails Limited

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? No Lots of issues with this as how do you define 'effective control'? I know someone who has 9 Dogs and she has total control over them and the dogs obey her commands instantly, but then you get a muppet with a dog that is out of control, aggressive etc approaching this pack and attacks one the rest will instantly 'pack together'. You will instantly blame the person with 9 dogs whereas in fact it is the person with one aggressive (under no effective control) dog that is the problem. How do address this with this proposal? Also, Dog parks are for dogs so should be excluded from restrictions. I remember walking a dog at the Groynes and a mother was there with her two daughters (no dog) and one of her daughters was petrified of dogs, so why she would take her daughter to an off leash dog park defies all logic but again, how do you regulate against stupidity. How do you determine someone has 'appropriate skills'? I was bitten twice by a puppy while cycling on the Port Hills, the owner told me they were really good with dogs and could not care less their dog had bitten me. Owners like this should be the target of dog control, and un-registered dogs. Puppy Farms that churn out an endless number of puppies resulting in so many innocent dogs being put down is the tragedy. I do think Dog Walkers (who walk dogs as a business) should be registered and given greater autonomy. They know all their dogs well, know not to mix reactive dogs with others but still have to deal with the person walking their one aggressive/reactive that comes bowling up to a pack..will always end badly, but not the fault of the Dog Walker.	
30969	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The Board considers that there needs to be education of dog owners, particularly new owners regarding the requirements of the Dog Control Bylaw especially around what constitutes effective control of dogs. The Board suggests that some form of literature that can be easily retained and referred to, be provided to dog owners as part of the dog registration process such as a pocket card.	Marie Pollisco Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board
30977	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?**	Jackie Howard The Styx Living Laboratory Trust

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Our submission is in relation to the Puharakekenui/Styx River catchment reserves. *See attachment - page 64	
30984	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes Short leashes of no more than 1.5mtrs. We would not support 3mtrs. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Safety for everyone and effective control of the animal. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes We would support pathways coming under the general leashed rule. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Don't know / Not sure This is too far out of our area for us to be familiar with how such changes would affect residents who are dog owners, and also how this could be controlled. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Again it is important to ensure pathways would come under the general leashed rules as this affects dogs accompanying walking groups. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Don't know / Not sure **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** More provisions given for more Dog Parks around the City especially in areas where there are not dog parks Heavier fines for people who choose to be irresponsible dog owners CCC to consider reimplementing rubbish bins specifically for dog poo to be disposed of properly More signage around parks and reserves, seashore and wetlands making dog owners aware of their responsibilities More promotion on Responsible Dog Ownership status via Social Media and other Public Forums More enforcement and patrolling of areas of concern The Spreydon Neighbourhood Network would like to address the issue of of dog excrement, probably the most ubiquitous cause of antipathy towards dogs and dog owners by the general public. And quite rightly. The Christchurch City Councils efforts to educate dog owners to take responsibility for their dogs poo have been negligible and in one instance plain	Sonya Hodder Spreydon Neighbourhood Network

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name - Organisation
	stupid, when it removed dozens of rubbish bins from reserves and parks, without any discussion or communication with the public at all. Most dog owners will if in a public space in public view pick up their dogs poo. Many will not. Some dog owners will at best kick the poo under a bush. Others will put it in a bag and then shove that under a bush to be found later usually by council staff or tree planting volunteers. Naturally the latter are put off their efforts by the mounds of poo, wrapped or naked, left in our beloved public areas. The council has done nothing to encourage a different culture and dog owners who do pick up their crap are not supported by an indifferent council. We who are dog owners who would like the support of our fellow citizens and understand the enormous social value of dogs especially for older and lonely residents need the council to help change the culture. We need the council to make it very clear to its residents that dog poo must be picked up every single time. Signage must be large and unequivocal (the sign in the attached photo is emphatic and brooks no argument). They must include the consequences if people don't pick up including fines . The presence of rubbish bins should be obvious Council should be present in schools and groups of people talking seriously about the environment and the impact on staff and volunteers faced with mounds of dog poo. Council should utilise other forms of publicity with a view to making those people who don't comply, pariahs . Spreydon would like to present to the council on this issue. *See attachment - page 67	
31055	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Too much of a blanket approach. Some places we agree with this, others not. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Keeping dogs off the mudflats and the water's edge is important in such an ecologically important area. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes Only with a decent exemption process. One out of control dog with 2 people is more of a risk than 3 controlled dogs with one person. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The change to the definition of "under effective control" seems sensible and enforcible. *See attachment - page 68	Colleen Philip Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch
31101	**The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** *See attachment - page 70	Arnja Dale SPCA New Zealand
31144	**The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** *See attachment - page 80	Lisa Sturm Association Of Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand

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Individuals who wish to speak to the Hearings Panel

ID	Submitter feedback	Name
28866	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No In some situations this is obviously a good idea, but having a blanket requirement is unhelpful. There are many instances when a dog walker is out in a park and there are no others around, and having to keep a dog on a short leash then is unnecessary and frustrating. People will say 'but there will be some people who will not exercise common sense and leash their dogs when others are around and the rules are for them' but this is always the case. Regardless of the rules there will be some who flout them through ignorance or arrogance, and the rest of us rule following dog owners will once again be penalised for their behaviour. Keep the rules as reasonable as possible - then enforce them! Make a rule that requires observation and common sense - 'dogs must be leashed if there are other users within 50m' say. it would require dog walkers to constantly scan the path they are on, which I do anyway. This new suggestion just feels like a blanket ban to make it easy to manage dogs and their owners rather than considering their needs too. We pay rates as well, and deserve space and freedom to pursue our recreation. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes This one's obvious - for safety - of the walker, other users, drivers - and the dog **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure This depends on what areas are proposed for the bans - again, it's easy to do blanket bans, keeps it simple. But dog walkers deserve space and access to wild areas too. So if the ban is for just some wild areas along the river, fine. But if it's for all areas except the biggest most open grassed areas, no. Plain mowed grass is not particularly attractive for many dog walkers - there is no shade, few 'sniffing' corridors which dogs really enjoy and need (trees, shrubbery, scrub, long grass etc) and no variety to the walk. We walk for ourselves and our dogs **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes This is a delicate environment and birds need lots of space **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Don't know / Not sure see my comments re the river corridor: "This depends on what areas are proposed for the bans - again, it's easy to do blanket bans, keeps it simple. But dog walkers deserve space and access to wild areas too. So if the ban is for just some wild areas along the river, fine. But if it's for all areas except the biggest most open grassed areas, no. Plain mowed grass is not particularly attractive for many dog walkers - there is no shade, few 'sniffing' corridors which dogs really enjoy and need (trees, shrubbery, scrub, long grass etc) and no variety to the walk. We walk for ourselves and our dogs" **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No I agree that some control is needed for people who walk massive numbers of dogs uncontrolled but 2/4 is too restrictive. Many people walk their elderly parents' or neighbours' dogs along with their own and 2 is too restrictive. I'd suggest 3/5. and commercial experienced dog walkers should be able to manage up to 6 dogs offleash but should be tested and regulated for this. it also depends on where people are walking. Some areas are largely deserted most of the time and shouldn't have such restrictions on them eg some beaches, riverbank areas, etc Walking 4 dogs in Hagley Park is very different from walking them at the far end of Waikuku Beach **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Mostly i would just like to see the legislation as it is, enforced. There are many requirements that people flout regularly now, making more stringent rules will make NO difference to those people, it will just impose more, unnecessary restrictions on the majority of us who DO follow the existing rules.	Linda Keall
28967	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No	Scott Mcilraith

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	It depends on the dog, the breed and the owner. There is insufficient staff to enforce the current bylaws so there is no point making new rules. People who disobey the current laws will not suddenly start obeying the new ones. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No It is unclear what is being defined as a shared path and or pedestrian areas on or near roads. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes Most dogs cannot be adequately controlled around wildlife. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Same reason as previous question. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Same as previous. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No Existing dog walkers who have a viable business should be given an exemption in this regard. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** There is insufficient council animal control staff to enforce the current bylaws so there is no point making new rules. People who disobey the current laws will not suddenly start obeying the new ones.	
29101	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No My dogs are well behaved and pose no threat to wildlife, other dogs, or people. The rule 'under effective control' should apply to ALL areas where dogs are permitted. Why do the council assume that dogs pose a threat to people, wildlife and other dogs and therefore should be leashed at all times? Walking dogs on a leash diminishes the welfare of the dog, reducing its ability to sniff and play and run and have fun and if the dog is well behaved and does not pose a threat to other dogs, people or wildlife why shouldn't it be walked off leash? The rules in all shared spaces should be, dogs to be under effective control at all times. There should be warnings of wildlife for dog owners that say "Dog owners be aware, wildlife exists in this area, please do not allow your dog to chase wildlife or keep your dog leashed to protect wildlife'. Dog owners KNOW if their dog is likely to chase or be a nuisance to wildlife, why punish us all by making us all walk our dogs on leash??? **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Dogs should be on a leash near roads to reduce the likelihood of an accident involving vehicles or bikes. This is for the dogs safety and for the publics safety. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure I enjoy walking along the Avon river with my dogs and they NEVER pose an issue to the wildlife. I enjoy walking along the pathway with my dogs off leash, they enjoy running along the path and either side of the path and down into the river, especially on hot days, to cool off. What you are now proposing in the general leashed rule is that in order for me to exercise my dogs off leash in this area i will have to walk on the grass away from the river, this will be an inconvenience for me and will prevent my dogs from being able to access the river to cool off. This area should remain as 'under effective control'. If there are particularly sensitive areas put up warning signs for dog owners "Dog owners be aware, wildlife exists in this area, please do not allow your dog to chase wildlife or keep your dog leashed to protect wildlife'.	Jo Fearn

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Dog owners KNOW if their dog is likely to chase or be a nuisance to wildlife, why punish us all by making us all walk our dogs on leash when it is not necessary. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes This is a particularly sensitive area with a high number of native and threatened birds, dogs should be banned from this area. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No As above, the general rule should be 'under effective control' not leashed or prohibited, why punish and restrict us all when it is only a few that pose a risk! I have visited Te Kuru a few times and have enjoyed a lovely walk there with my dogs off leash and they do not pose any risk to other people, dogs of wildlife, if restrictions are put in place i will no-longer be able to enjoy this lovely area with my dogs. Why should i be forced to walk off the pathway to walk my dogs? I pay rates, i pay my dog rego, i want to be able to enjoy the area like everyone else and i want my dogs to enjoy their walks not have to restrict them by being on the lead all the time. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Don't know / Not sure Some people are more than capable of owning, training and walking multiple dogs under effective control. Again, why punish us responsible attentive dog owners when it is very few who pose a threat. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** In the UK dogs are allowed off leash almost everywhere without restrictions and there are very very few incidents, dogs are accepted as part of the family, part of the community and that they have needs for stimulation and exercise that need to be met by being off leash, running around, playing, sniffing, being dogs. The good dog owners and good dogs are the ones that will suffer if these changes in rules go ahead because we will be further restricted on where we can walk with our dogs off leash and we will abide by the rules that are forced upon us in other areas reducing the wellbeing of ourselves and our dogs. Meanwhile, the irresponsible dog owners, will continue to ignore signs, break the rules and allow their dogs to be a nuisance. Changing the rules is not going to reduce problems with dogs because irresponsible dogs owners with badly behaved dogs will continue to allow their dogs to chase wildlife and be a nuisance. AND besides which, i have lost count of the number of times i have seen domestic cats in and around these 'sensitive areas' where you are proposing to prohibit dogs or have them be on leash areas. Just last week i saw a domestic cat in the long grass stalking a bird at the Te Kuru wetlands, what is being done about cat ownership in the subdivisions that surround these wetland areas and preventing domestic cats from entering these areas and causing a nuisance to wildlife. Cats pose a much much higher risk to wildlife than my dogs ever will!!	
29129	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No There are already too many restrictions on dog owners, and this feels a bridge too far. The key requirement is that dogs should be well trained and under effective control. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No The existing rule seems reasonable, why change it. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?**	Brad Henderson

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Yes	
29363	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** No **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I feel limiting some areas are good. However in that case they need to build more gated areas where dogs can run around and not distrub any other wildlife or people that are afraid of dogs. Cause dogs needed to run for exercise as they have so much energy.	Ana Kickhefer
29401	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes I have hade a large number of dogs run up at mine who is always on leash with a mussel on an it scares him and myself **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Dog are always running around an almost getting hit when not listening to owners running up to people **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure I have never been there **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Dogs can destroy nests an eggs running free **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes To stop the overflow of watter **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes It can be too busy to control all dogs at once whth out help **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?**	Denise Fox
29484	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No	Anya Gartner

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Currently many dog owners enjoy the area including walking on the paths and former roads. The dogs are not harming anyone or thing. The roads are not maintained but that is ok. I feel incredibly disappointed that you will take what is a lovely party of my life away and am sure many people share my concern. We are considerate and most of the dogs are kept under good control of leash. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No As above **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No As above **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** No **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes	
29608	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Many dog owners rely on paths and tracks to walk their dog safely. This restriction is able-ist as many dog owners with mobility requirements would essentially not be allowed to exercise their dogs offlead. Walking off the path increases the risk of people becoming injured in some areas and may also damage the vegetation and disturb wildlife more than necessary off the path. It will be difficult to define how far away from the path the person and dog should be. Many paths and tracks are quiet areas where dogs can be exercised fully. Many dogs require offleash exercise to stay healthy and if their needs are met they are less likely to be a nuisance at other times. This restriction would severely restrict dog owners' ability to exercise their dogs. It would remove popular dog walking spots, such as large areas of Macleans Island and The Willows, from the offleash dog walker's map. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No This restriction would take away many small local greenspaces where dogs can be exercised offleash under effective control. It would increase the need to drive longer distances to exercise dogs. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes There is plenty of space where dogs can be exercised in the red zone without threatening wildlife. I support responsible dog ownership around wildlife. Even if dogs are well-trained and have good recall, it doesn't take much for them to harm a native creature. Many dogs have prey drives that will kick in around birds especially, and cause them to ignore their owners' calls. This could be a seasonal restriction or a leash-only area restriction if people are likely to abide by the law; otherwise a blanket restriction is safer as people will often let their dogs offlead in leash-only areas. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Dogs should not be allowed offleash near important breeding bird habitat. Whether this has to be a leash restriction, season restriction, or blanket ban depends upon how likely people are to obey the restrictions. We can't gamble with our indigenous species' safety. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes I'm not familiar with these specific areas but I support legislation that protects wildlife from dogs. It sounds as though there is plenty of opportunity in nearby areas to exercise dogs offleash so this could be a blanket ban.	Victoria Smith

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? Don't know / Not sure I am tentatively in favour of this, but I'm not sure the limits proposed are appropriate. People should not walk more dogs than they can safely control. For some people, this would be one 20kg dog. For others it would be three 30kg dogs. There is a huge difference between walking four reactive 40kg dogs and four 10kg dogs - I don't think you can define dog power by number of dogs. Body weight and behaviour (i.e. reactive/non-reactive) may be better indicators. I know dog walkers who can control twelve offleash dogs easily, calling them off prey chases, remaining vigilant to the environment. But I have also encountered people who cannot control a single dog in their care, or who walk their dogs oblivious to the environment or the rules. So whether or not I am in favour of this law depends upon how easy it is to get an exemption upon demonstrating that you can control all your dogs. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Perhaps the DogsNZ Canine Good Citizen programme might play a role in determining whether some dogs may be exempt from restrictions? I don't think it should be the only way to get exemptions, but it could be the gold standard. E.g. some dogs who have achieved CGC Gold could be allowed offleash on paths near roads, or an owner with three CGC Bronze dogs may walk all those dogs together offleash. Perhaps more green spaces need to be made available for offleash dog walking to offset the removal of important wildlife areas from the offleash dog walking map. Parts of the Botanic Gardens, or Westlake Park (Halswell), or parts of the Rapaki Track, for example.	
29768	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Don't know / Not sure **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** These new policy changes seem to be confusing and over the top. How are these changes going to assist owners who care for their dogs and want to train their dogs? Is it not important for a healthy dog to have time off the lead for training, socialisation, exercise and allow the dog to sniff and use their senses. How can I throw the ball for my dog if he/she is on the lead? These changes will increase the number of unsocialised dogs that are not getting enough exercise. Dogs are social animals and preventing them from exercise causes so many problems for the dog but also for the human. Tehran, Iran has very restrictive dog owning rules. Owners are not allowed to exercise their dogs outside. If the Christchurch City Council makes dog rules incrementally more restrictive every four years how long will it be before we reach Iranian standards? Available dog parks - There are few dog parks in Christchurch and they can be difficult to reach if you do not have a car or lack time to travel. Driving to a dog park frequently contributes to congestion and pollution. What about older people or people with limited mobility? - Every time I have visited a dog park, they have been incredibly crowded. This will presumably worsen if these changes are implemented. Who are the real targets of these changes? Despite a lot of dogs being in a single enclosed area I have never personally witnessed any serious problems. I have heard of serious problems and dog attacks but I would like proper research to be carried out to investigate these instances as I do not believe that they involved dogs with responsible owners. The prime target of these policy changes appears to only be responsible owners. How will these changes stop irresponsible owners with vicious dogs and reduce dog attacks?	Margaret, Anthony and Kate McGowan

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Queries about the survey - These changes seem to be based on a survey that was open for a short period over the winter. Many people I have spoken to were not aware of it. - The survey appears to lack validity, there are no statistics given and no methodology proposed. What steps were taken to prevent the results being skewed in one direction? I could not find an explanation of the methodology that was used to collect and analyse the responses, is this standard procedure for all council consultations? - It concerns me that a survey such as this could form the basis of a policy document. To be published on the internet in this manner makes it available for people to cite not realising there are significant flaws. Was a statistician involved? Were people restricted to a single survey response or could they submit multiple replies. Did the respondents need to be based in the area or did people from outside Christchurch/Banks Peninsula respond? What were the demographics of the respondents and what groups of people were over or underrepresented? A survey of this nature would not be considered research as there is no sample size and it is pretty clear that there is a self-selection bias. - What about disabled and older people? Discussion with these groups seems to be missing. I would think that they would make up a large proportion of dog owners? - What about people who are not IT literate and perhaps lack the skills to be involved in a process like this despite the fact the changes impacting their lives? What steps were taken to reach people like this? I suspect that there is a significant proportion of older and non-computer literate people who are dog owners. - What about steps to prevent anchoring bias – starting off the survey with its purpose about a wetland area with nesting birds where obviously people would want to have dogs leashed due to the presence of delicate nesting birds. But then the questions are focusing on completely different situations about paths in areas that have a different ecosystem. The problems should be separated and not conflated. This would not be valid in a research setting or even in salary negotiations. Why is it allowed in a council policy consultation? - People may feel pressured to choose a definitive answer (yes/no) to each of the responses, I've never visited a community garden or a jetty but the survey asks me to give an opinion. Although there is a 'I do not know' response, a survey like this is designed to encourage the respondent to give a reply. This is why a lot of research has gone into how to write surveys so people are not pressured to give a certain response. Was a survey expert consulted to ensure that an acquiescence bias was not introduced? Any experts on dogs? - if it is not possible to hold a representative, statistically valid investigation were any experts used in formulating the questions and formulating the policy changes? Any dog behaviourist? What do the predator control experts say about dogs being leashed on formed/unformed/shared paths etc? How does this protect our natural wildlife? Overly technical - Personally, I found the questions to be confusing with technical geographic terms about unformed/formed/shared paths. These terms may be clear to a policy expert who works every day in a geographical setting with these terms but what do they mean in real life. What parks and reserves are going to be affected? It appears that the questions were posed in a way that made them appear the changes are reasonable but in reality they are going to have a huge detrimental impact on dogs and dog owners. What is the justification for the changes? - The reason for the changes is very confusing, I have not been able to identify any justification other than protecting wildlife. Everything I have seen from organisations such as the predator free campaign is that it is cats and other predators that are not under 'effective control' and are roaming our backyards and wildlife reserves and causing harm. Where is the research that these changes will protect our wildlife? What experts have submitted advice? Can we see this advice? - Do these changes fulfil Section 155(1) of the of the Local Government Act 2002? Is this “the most appropriate way of addressing a perceived problem”? - What perceived problems are these changes addressing? - How will the changes be policed? - What about regulating cyclists? We are cyclists and see other cyclists causing problems by not abiding by simple road rules towards other path users as well as dog walkers. - if the problem is the wildlife why are cats allowed to roam? They are in the nature reserve. We often pick them up on our security camera, cats have killed wild birds on our property. - I have been told by a predator control expert that they like the dogs as they tend to scare off predators that target our wildlife – cats, rats, stoats, possums, rabbits – tend to keep away from dogs. I am not a predator expert but I do know that these animals keep away from dogs plus dogs cannot climb trees. While it is common sense to keep dogs leashed around ground nesting birds what about our reserve that has beautiful Kererū , Pīwakawaka and bellbirds plus thrush, blackbirds and sparrows. So why are cats allowed off the lead but not dogs? - was an expert involved in the formulation of the rules, or an organisation such as the SPCA? - What about discussing this with a dog expert? - I thought that the problem was dogs that are not under effective control, lack training/socialisation, are unregistered and have owners who do not care? Treating all dogs the same - the changes give a strong impression that are just going to affect people who care and are responsible for their dogs. There are so many questions that I have not seen raised. Why should dogs have to be leashed? I would leash my dog in an unfamiliar area but what about people who invest hours in training their dogs and are familiar with these situations? It doesn't make sense to target well trained dogs, what about dogs that do not have responsible owners? What about restricting certain breeds that are often kept by owners who care less about other people and nature? Is it not the owner rather than the dog that causes the problems?	

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	Bizarre - how does it work in real life? - what is the issue with extendable leashes? Why are they not allowed? What is wrong with small dogs on extendable leashes? - Why so many rules? What about a single rule where the dog should be under control? If a dog bothers people or other dogs, they are not under control. If the dog is not bothering people or other dogs, why does it need to be on a lead? - If my dog is off the lead does she/he have to walk beside the path? Can I walk on the path if he/she walks beside the path? We walk our dog in a local reserve and there are trees on either side of the path with no grass verge. Does this mean that the council will need to remove trees that we have spent so many years nurturing and growing? This seems to be very counter intuitive.	
29881	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No The current rules are adequate ie. footpaths along roads and car parks. The new proposal is very complicated, dogs can run on green or mown areas, but must be leashed if they approach the path (where presumably their owners are walking). This is nonsensical as far as training goes, and confusing for both dog and owner. I fear these restrictions will significantly impact on a dog's well-being, one of the tenets of the animal welfare codes is to allow animals to express their behavioural freedoms - dogs naturally run and sniff and follow scent trails, which is of great benefit to their health. Dogs on short leash on paths are unable to do this. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Maintain the status quo. It's a workable situation and does not negatively impact dog or owner, or road user. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No Again - too complicated. How do you tell a dog that it can run on the grass, but don't approach pathways. Dogs that have a strong prey drive and do chase birdlife should be on a leash in these areas, but this does not apply to the majority of dogs. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes With the proviso that it happens in those times when they are vulnerable, eg nesting. I strongly believe we should protect wildlife, but this assumes every dog is preying on wildlife, which just isn't true. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No I regularly go to Te Kuru, sometimes three times a week, and take a keen interest in dog behaviour and wildlife interactions there. I've never seen a bad interaction between dogs and cyclists, or dogs disturbing wildlife. My only complaint is dog owners leaving their bagged dog poo behind. I collected 15 bags which were discarded one day - it is atrocious. I think rubbish bins would help. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes This seems reasonable. What is the definition of appropriate skills. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Sports fields, wharves, jetties and community gardens - I support dogs on leash in these areas, as a dog running freely while people are playing sport, fishing, boating or tending to their vegetables are areas where I can imagine conflict, and not areas where dogs should have freedom to play or roam. I am very concerned that such a fantastic area as the Groynes will be off limit for dogs to explore freely. There is so much space and no conflict with cyclists or wildlife issues. The dogs love to swim there. What a terrible shame if they are restricted to the relatively small fenced dog areas. It will also mean far greater number of dogs in a confined area. Very retrograde thinking City Council.	Adriana Verstappen
30053	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Tracks and paths in greenspace areas should not be considered the same as footpaths alongside roads. The use case and safety dynamics are very different. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Unleashed dogs running on to the road, or otherwise causing a scenario where dogs or people ended up in the way of traffic. This is a clear hazard, and a clear case for requiring leads.	Tim Newman

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? No Walking dogs off leash in these areas is part of our culture. Nobody will comply. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes If the sanctuary area is a clear contiguous space that's easy to avoid. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No The delineation between 'mowed grass' and other areas is too messy. Also as earlier, it is part of the culture to walk dogs in these places. Such regulation will be ignored. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes It's fairly obvious that effective control is not in affect when someone has an unmanageable number of dogs. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The vast majority of dogs that cause genuine harm are unlikely to even be registered, and their owners could care less about any rules, and the council already appears powerless to stop them. While the community of responsible owners are sympathetic towards some of these changes, ticky tacky rules like lead length are going to be ignored, and if that comes to define the attitude of the council towards the culture of dog walking, that community will loose faith entirely.	
30203	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Don't know / Not sure **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Yes. Please see attached document *See attachment - page 85	Ashley Campbell
30220	**Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes THERE SHOULD BE NO DOGS ALLOWED "ANYWHERE NEAR" THE AREAS WHERE THE GODWITS LAND...REST AND RECUPERATE IT IS NO GOOD TRUSTING PEOPLE TO KEEP DOGS ON THE LEAD THESE BIRDS MAKE A SPECTACULAR JOURNEY....AND DON'T DESERVE A HASSLE ON ARRIVAL....OR LATER ON ....BECAUSE....HERE..... WE HAVE A FEEBLE BUNCH OF COUNCILLORS...LIVING IN	Caroline Clark

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND WHO DON'T MAKE THE TOUGH DECISIONS	
30236	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes As a former dog owner I strongly support this measure for several reasons: unleashed dogs move unpredictably and can easily get in the way of cyclists or other pedestrians creating a safety hazard; unleashed dogs, even friendly ones, may rush up to a nervous dog that is leashed, causing that dog to feel threatened and potentially lash out; any unleashed dog can unpredictably give chase to cats, birds, children, or other unleashed dogs; an unleashed dog can very easily duck into some bushes or behind a tree to poop, making it impossible for the owner to know there is a mess they now need to clean up (I have frequently seen this). **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes I have on several occasions been impeded by an unleashed dog walking across a path, both when I am biking or jogging. Most dog owners who think they have acceptable vocal control over their dog are wrong, and do not have enough control. The default should always for a dog to be leashed in public, and only be allowed off lead in safe places when the dog is well-trained. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No I have never seen someone walking too many dogs without a lead. Someone walking with a large number of dogs on a lead does not cause me any concern. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I believe dogs on shared paths should be leashed to be within 1 metre of their owner. Some dog owners have extendable leads that go as far as 10 metres. These long leashes frequently create a barrier across an entire path when the owner is on the left of a path and the dog runs off to the right. This completely impedes cyclists, creating a safety hazard for the cyclist and the dog. This situation is common and is actually less safe than just leaving the dog unleashed. Therefore I think it is important to define what is meant by “short leash” to restrict a dog to being within a small radius of the owner.	David Palmer
30345	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No This is an unclear policy. What problems have been occuring that need resolving? Paths are too narrow and the speed of cyclists is often dangerous. This would be hard in places like Hansons park. Why are dogs and owners being penalized. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Dogs should be on leads when walking by a road. Safety issues are obvious. However Cats are also free to roam, defecate and kill birds with put control. This is a huge problem. Please address it NOW. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes Protecting wildlife makes sense. Please also protect them from cats.	Sheena Ross

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary? Don't know / Not sure The new pathway is great for dogs and again how many birds are killed by dogs compared to cats? **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes In general I support the protection of wildlife. I think you need to explain what the issues are - how much damage is being done etc. And you need to deal with the inequities with cats. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No What if you have 3 Jack Russell's or Yorkie's. Such a blanket ban is not sensible. What issues are you trying to resolve? 3 is simply too few. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I use parks and paths all over Christchurch. Please stop.penalising dog owners and make cat owners be responsible.	
30387	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Our dog obeys out commands, there have been a couple of occasions whereby when on a leash it has become entangled with another dog owners leash resulting in me falling and another time the other person tripping up and falling. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Don't know / not sure There has never been an issue with our dog walking unleashed on a footpath or crossing a road. Some footpaths are very wide allowing plenty of space for all concerned. We live in the CBD and are surrounded by footpaths, and have a lot of experience walking our dog in the CBD. A big issue for us is the speed cyclists and scooter operators go on shared areas, they are really challenging to hear when coming from behind us, and very rarely use a bell or call out a warning, it is scary at times how close they have come to hitting us, which would happen regardless if our dog was on a lead or not. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes Please exempt the city section of the Red.zone, there are many responsible dog walkers who walk their dogs and enjoy the pure joy of seeing the dogs interact, and play with sticks etc. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes This should only be in the season when birds are breeding and during the migration period. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Only in areas where their is extensive birdlife. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No	Annebel De Kort

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	This really depends on the owner, I've never come across owners with more than one dog where it has been an issue. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** We have great pleasure in walking along the city part of the Red zone with our dog off the leash, where there are geese only in the summer, and the odd Mallard duck, I would like this city section of the Red zone to be exempt. My dog is free to run and catch a stick, play with other dogs etc. it is a joy for various dog owners and dogs alike.	
30448	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes I regularly walk along the footpath from Ferrymead to Scarborough (at least two times per week). Generally I walk approximately 13 to 15 kilometres and so I am on this footpath for a considerable period of time. I am continually being accosted by dogs that are off the leash. Their owners are very inconsiderate and have the following selfish attitude when the problem (dogs licking or jumping on my legs) occurs. This is the process in conversation: 1. "My dog is very friendly" 2. "My dog just wants to get to know you" 3. "My dog will not hurt you" 4. "He won't bite you" 5. "Don't touch my dog" 6. "How dare you push my dog away" I am friends with a blind person who has a guide dog. These are highly trained dogs on a special harness. That dog is continually accosted by other dogs which - of course - "are under effective control". The blind person asks the dog owner to get the dog away and of course the response is always along the lines of: "It is only being friendly...". It is not helpful for the blind dog in undertaking its duties in assisting the blind person. But this shows the lack of consideration of dog owners. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes A high percentage of dog owners have no training of keeping dogs and do not train their dogs. The use of the term by the Council of "under effective control" is nonsense. This can be seen on any day along the Ferrymead to Scarborough walkway and on the adjacent beaches. Currently, if the dog owner is considerate enough to actually have them on a leash, it can often be on a leash that is "extendable" and is right across the footpath. Dog owners think that their dog is (1) very adorable (2) very safe (3) does not want to harm anybody (4) everybody should love their dog (because they do) and will want to make friends with it. The long leashes often get in the way of walking and running and riding and one has to stop or go around the inconsiderate dog owner. Recently, I walked along the coastal pathway from Scarbough to Taylors Mistake. I note that on the Council map that all dogs along this pathway should be on a leash. All seven dogs taht passed me that morning with their owners were unleashed. The Council bylaws and their enforcement by the Council are a joke. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes The term "under effective control" is politically correct nonsense by the City Council under pressure from dog owners. As stated above, I regularly walk along the Ferrymead to Scarborough walkway and the dogs are not under effective control. I am regularly accosted by dogs on the beach. These same dogs are always chasing birds on the beach and it will be the same on the Avon River corridor. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes As above, the term "under effective control" is nonsense, is not respected by dog owners, dog owners have no training and do not train their dogs. Consequently birds and other wildlife are at risk. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes	Peter Glasson

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	"Under effective control" is nonsense. Part of the problem is that there is NO enforcement of the bylaws by the Council. In a year that I have been walking along the walkway, I have NEVER seen any Council staff enforce the bylaws. Please - let's get real. Unfortunately, it is likely that the Council staff who are required to police the dog bylaws are also dog lovers and therefore cannot understand that someone may not want to have dogs jumping up on them. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes The problem with this bylaw is that the Council will never enforce it. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** There have no been many instances where dog owners have become very aggressive with me when I attempt to push a dog away when it wants to lick or jump on me. In the last instance I was sitting on a Council seat on the footpath near the corner entering Sumner reading the news on my phone. An unleashed dog came running up to me and attempted to jump up on me. I pushed it away with my foot (Note - I did not kick it). It then tried to do it again. Again I pushed it away with my foot and told the owner that I did want the dog jumping on me. He then said all the usual nonsense that I have stated above that dog owners repeat all the time. On the third time that I pushed it away the man (tall, young, broad, and driving a "tradee SUV") came up very close to me and said "If you do that again, I will smash your face in". This is the third time that I have been physically threatened by dog owners in very similar circumstances. In summary: 1. I support the changes 2. Dog owners are untrained 3. Dog owners do not train their dogs 4. Dog owners are inconsiderate and their paradigm is "My dog is beautiful and loveable, I love my dog, so everyone else should love my dog too" 5. The term "under effective control" is nonsense and ridiculous and is neither adhered to by the dog owners (who do not train their dogs) nor enforced by the Council staff (who are probably dog lovers themselves and so do not understand an alternative view that someone does not want to have anything to do with dogs 6. There is always considerable dog excreta along the Ferrymead to Scarborough walkway which indicates that a reasonable percentage of dog owners are inconsiderate and do not care about other users of the footpath 7. There is NO enforcement of the bylaws by the Council staff along the Ferrymead to Scarborough walkway. What is the point of making bureaucratic bylaws if they are not going to be enforced in practice? 8. And if they were enforced, would it be with a wet bus ticket?	
30627	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No I don't support this proposal as a blanket rule, especially with respect to formed tracks in areas of the Port Hills and in the more remote areas of the Port Hills/Banks Peninsula. I do support it in specific greenspace areas (such as wetlands or stormwater basins) where there are other considerations such as wildlife, parks with sports events running, or in high traffic areas (such as the Harry Ell track). Personally I find that the current signage is clear as to what rules apply where and in my experience, compliance to signage is also quite high - I also don't think that making this blanket rule change would change compliance levels, if that is the goal. For shared paths in greenspace areas that are more urban (for example, Hanson's park and the Donkey Track within Christchurch city), I feel that dogs on the paths should be on-lead due to the cyclists and other traffic. However the rules (and the reponse to one of the questions on the webpage) state that they can be off-lead as long as they’re not on the path, which I think is somewhat confusing when the path goes through a greenspace where ; if I’m walking the path and he comes to me because I call him, or he crosses the path to smell a bush or meet another dog, is that an issue? I will currently have him off-lead dependent on some paths Walking with your dog off-lead (while under effective control) through the beauty of our city and our country is something that brings a huge degree of pleasure to many people (myself included), and to every dog I have ever met while out walking. A blanket rule removing this ability across all tracks and paths may simplify things for the council, but it doesn't balance the loss of joy in shared exercise and exploration, especially in more remote areas where there are very few if any other people (I regularly make the effort of going further afield for this reason). Enacting this blanket change would mean that myself and others cannot share a walk through nature with my canine companion running free; to give him some freedom my option would become a park or greenspace without any sporting events running or one of the dogpark - not much of a walk in nature for me. Or, I could take him for a walk in the hills or peninsula, but he must remain on the lead rather than exploring and enjoying the smells and surrounds. Not much of a walk for him.	Shane Goodwin

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	NB: In addition, I would add that having the dog off-lead or at least on longer leads can be safer in some situations. On steep, rocky or uneven terrain or formed paths, it can be easier and safer for both the individual and the dog to be off-lead rather than tethered to each other. At the very least, the use of a longer lead reduces the likelihood of a sudden yank causing a fall due to the slack available in the lead. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No I don't support this proposal as currently worded, as I don't see how it providing benefits for either dog owners or other users of footpaths/paths, how it can be enforced, and how it can be an be universally applied to both larger and smaller dogs which typically need different lead lengths. A dog walker in general will (or should) shorten a lead to bring the dog directly to their side as required ie. people or cyclists coming, when coming closer to an intersection or road crossing, and so on. Requiring a 1.5m lead still allows for the dog to be enough of a distance away from the owner that there can be issues, and it will always fall to the owner (regardless of whether the lead is short or long) to manage how much of a run the dog has at any given point - there are plenty of places and situations where a 1.5m long lead is too long for safety of the dog or others. My current lead is a fixed length lead of 1.7m, but I walk with a length of it between my hands so it's effective length is generally less than a meter (certainly when next to a road without a berm). However, as currently written I'm not sure whether I can or should use that lead or not. NB: I do feel that adjustable length "longleads" can create a safety issue due to poor visibility - as a cyclist, I find it can be hard to see when approaching a dog/dogwalker if the dog is on a longlead, and if I'm going to cross the path of the lead on my bike. I think this is a separate issue to the lead length requirement you're proposing however, and the point remains that the responsibility to manage this still lies with the dog walker. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Protection of wildlife in areas that are key breeding areas especially has a higher priority, and a larger long term impact than allowing dogs into all areas of the city/countryside - especially if there are other natural areas that dogs can be walked off-lead. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Protection of wildlife in areas that are key breeding areas especially has a higher priority, and a larger long term impact than allowing dogs into all areas of the city/countryside - especially if there are other natural areas that dogs can be walked off-lead. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes I'm supporting this in general, although I haven't experienced any issues with this, either as a dog owner or as a cyclist/walker. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I have no feedback on any of the other proposed changes.	
30637	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 89	Brilly Auriemma-Hallett

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
30698	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No There are the exceptions to the norm, where dog owners with disabilities are unable to physically walk their dogs. In such cases, there are ways to do so that both minimize the risk (by doing so during very early hours of the morning with very little if any public traffic / pedestrians) that allows the dog to get their exercise. This is off leash. Let us remember that people with disabilities also have to find ways to comply with such policies in a manner that does not cause them more suffering. Pet cats are not required to be leashed, why are we focussing on dogs who really only roam if they escape or if they are with their owners? Cats roam constantly. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No There are the exceptions to the norm, where dog owners with disabilities are unable to physically walk their dogs. In such cases, there are ways to do so that both minimize the risk (by doing so during very early hours of the morning with very little if any public traffic / pedestrians) that allows the dog to get their exercise. This is off leash. Let us remember that people with disabilities also have to find ways to comply with such policies in a manner that does not cause them more suffering. We see more cats run over by cars than we see dogs! Because dog owners are required to ensure dogs are contained at home or under effective control when out with their owner. You should be focussing more on cats than dogs. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No I support the prohibition of dogs in key areas to protect wildlife. However in regards to the leashed areas in 200 hectares of mowed grass, lets remember that there are the exceptions to the norm, where dog owners with disabilities are unable to physically walk their dogs. In such cases, there are ways to do so that both minimize the risk (by doing so during very early hours of the morning with very little if any public traffic / pedestrians) that allows the dog to get their exercise. This is off leash. Let us remember that people with disabilities also have to find ways to comply with such policies in a manner that does not cause them more suffering. Yes Protection of wildlife is important to the balance of our ecosystem **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Protection of wildlife that are already having their natural habitat taken over by humans is important, as we are all kaitiakitanga of the land and the animals on / in / above and around the land. There needs to be areas that our pets (dogs and cats) are required to keep away from in order for the protection of such animals. I am still disturbed every time I see a dead pukeko on the new motorways (just as an example). It is not only our pets killing our natural wildlife.... As previously stated, the protection of native wildlife is a priority and a duty. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Protection of wildlife that are already having their natural habitat taken over by humans is important, as we are all kaitiakitanga of the land and the animals on / in / above and around the land. There needs to be areas that our pets (dogs and cats) are required to keep away from in order for the protection of such animals. I am still disturbed every time I see a dead pukeko on the new motorways (just as an example). It is not only our pets killing our natural wildlife.... We have a duty of kaitiakitanga to our wildlife **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes Each individual dog has different life experiences and triggers. Control of more than two dogs may become to difficult to handle if more than two dogs are triggered at once. Some people have such a big heart that they want to save / love as many dogs (or cats) as they can afford (and at times not afford). But unfortunately sometimes such big hearts do not consult their heads and it is to the detriment of the animals and the humans wellbeing. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The Human Rights Act guarantees me the right to be treated in a manner that does not discriminate me from others who do not have a disability. I want to assert my right to exercise my dog on a daily basis in the only manner that I have available to me. Exercising my dog is not only a necessary requirement for my dog, but it is a part of my daily routine and the only part of my daily routine that requires me to leave my house on a daily basis. I have no family or friends in Otautahi and have chosen to live here as I need the isolation from them, for my own wellbeing. My dog is my companion and my security. I live alone and he is the first to warn people to stay away from my property with his barking. If I sneeze or cough, my dog believes he is the antidote I need and will stop whatever he is doing and wait, if I cough or sneeze twice he will run to me and snuggle in. Amazingly it works.	Maria Cavanagh

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	*See attachment - page 91	
30752	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No My particular objection to this is with regard to compulsory leashing on formed pathways. I object to the proposal to change this on two counts; 1. The council has no popular mandate to change this legislation. Your recent survey only found 44 per cent in support of this change. 2. The councils letter of the 19th of November announcing these proposed changes boasts that 'people will have a wide range of opportunities to exercise their dogs on and off leash' In Diamond Harbour this is simply not the case now and if enacted will further impoverish dogs and dog owners. In short one of the very few areas we are allowed to exercise our dogs off leash are the paths and tracks that are suitable for such activity. Despite being semi rural we do not have large open spaces to do this safely and as I understand it the council has not intention of developing any. So to return to the letter of the 19th of November the council is making promises it cannot keep! This submission replaces any previous correspondence on this matter. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Don't know / not sure **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Don't know / Not sure **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Don't know / Not sure	Andy Ralf
30835	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No It seems to me to be too draconian and unnecessary . It feels like all dog owners are being penalized for the sake of a minority . I understand if the dogs are in an area with special or ground nesting birds , for example , but not as a general rule . As an older citizen , much of my well being comes from walking my dog which is well trained and obedient . The dogs which are the most poorly controlled are usually kept on leads by their owners anyway . Although I usually have a lead with me on walks , it is rarely necessary . Would council staff be required to all be the dog gestapo , nabbing people like me ? Would people whose dogs really are a problem behave any differently ? Are council workers , or a newly created dog control section going to be patrolling our beaches, hills and wetlands with binoculars ? **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No As above **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No I cycle and walk through the red zone often and have not seen any problems caused by dogs . The wild life consideration is not , in my opinion , valid . Maybe if there were lots of valuable , ground dwelling and nesting native birds , but the wild life I see seems to be mainly dominated by introduced Canada Geese and mallards . **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?**	David Jones

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	No As above . However , I would be happy to have restrictions in place when migratory birds were present , nesting etc **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No Storm water basins are a fantastic resource for our city and a joy for our dog walkers . Certainly if a dogs were crashing through the swampy land , it would not be good for nesting birds , but maybe dogs could be restrained during nesting seasons only . **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes I have seen dog walkers walking significant numbers of dogs on leads at the same time and often wonder how well they could control those dogs if they all took off etc . This is especially the case when some of these dogs are large or bully type breeds . **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** In all of these section I am happy with the requirement for effective control , and I applaud the desire to protect vulnerable wildlife However , this does not mean that our dogs are hardly ever permitted to be off the lead , which I feel is unnecessarily excessive .	
30857	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No I don't think the wording of this proposal is quite right and is open to confustion. Usually, for example, when walking on a path in a greenspace with my dog, the dog is generally not on the path but in fact running around sniffing trees and whatnot. He will sometimes return to the path to check in with me or walk on the path for a little while. Does this proposal mean that because *I* am walking on the path my dog must be leashed? If I walk alongside the path, on the grass, can he be off leash? If so, I think that encourages people to walk in places not designed for walking, which isn't ideal. I also think that some greenspaces with formed tracks are ideal places for exercising an active dog - in particular I'm thinking of places like Mt Vernon track lots of open area to run when not in lambing season), Bridle Path (big wide track with lots of room for dogs and people), Hagley Park... actually pretty much any park with a formed track through it. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No I think more work should be done on this in order to be permissive rather than restrictive. I would support a stricter definition of "under effective control" for dogs on these paths. Perhaps it could be called "on heel" or something like that. Well-behaved dogs on heel should be allowed to walk in close proximity with their handler. This allows parents with strollers, wheelchair users and people with other physical limitations to walk with their well-trained dogs more easily. It also awards more freedom to those people who have put in the effort to train their dogs. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes I'm glad dogs will still be allowed in a large area of the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, and that wildlife and wetlands are being protected. It would be lovely to introduce a dedicated area where dogs can play in the river. This would, I believe, reduce the number of people illegally swimming their dogs in the river in places where they may damage planting or endanger wildlife. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes This is an important ecological area. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Part of the beauty of stormater basins and swales is that they take a practical need of development – the disbursement of stormwater – and mix it with a "giving back" of wetland areas to nature. These little pockets of wilderness can help re-wild our city in a small way, and should be protected. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?**	Jamie Small

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Yes I am very supportive of the exemption process for people with appropriate skills. Two dogs is enough for most people, but this regulation recognises that some people can handle more. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I think in general this proposal is well balanced, but is continuing a slow trend of tipping towards regulation by default. I also filled out the initial survey, and read the summary of responses. I felt that with surveys like this, it is very easy for responders to default towards tighter regulation because it makes sense when presented piecemeal in the micro. But when you step back and look at the big picture, I believe we can see something different. Christchurch is an outlier in New Zealand because of its permissive attitude to dogs. This is a combination of public and private attitudes and rules. The Council is relatively lenient when it comes to dog regulations and enforcement. We also have an incredible network of cafés, restaurants, shops, malls, offices, co-working spaces and other commercial spaces that enthusiastically welcome dogs. This is to be celebrated and embraced – Christchurch is a dog-friendly city! I would hate the slow march of "regulation by default" to take this away from us.	
30872	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Yes, if the dog cannot be under effective control. No, if the dog can be under effective control. I would like to know the statistics on the problems that have actually occurred for this new rule to be formed. I would also like to understand how you will enforce this. I asked in my last submission and still await your response. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No My dog can walk off leash on footpaths and respond to my commands. He can also cross roads unleashed. Leashing him is not always necessary. Sometimes he is leashed and other times not. I decide by monitoring his mood and the weather. eg when it's windy I leash him as he can be unpredictable. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes We need to protect our wildlife. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes We need to protect our wildlife. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes We need to protect our wildlife. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes I feel this is fair. I would like an exemption to walk my dog off leash in some areas, eg. I currently cross him unleashed on roads as he can do it and is reliable. He may be an exception to most dogs but if there is an exemption process for people with appropriate skills, then I would like the opportunity to earn an exemption for appropriate skills for walking my dog off leash, please. I have already invited you to visit me so I can show you what my dog is capable of. So far, I have not been contacted. This is a consultation process - please respond to my submission. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I would like to see Cranmer Square added to the list with Latimer Square. It is one of the places my dog feels most happy. It's a passive space with only the odd person ever walking through while I am there. 6.2.2 - I don't use the Council Port Hills dog areas but I am interested to know how much of a problem unleashed dogs have been in the last 8 years. You stated many people didn't know dogs	Nicki Jacobs

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	were to be leashed there already. So how much of an issue has it actually been? I would like to see the statistics please. I wonder if you are actually listening to submissions or had already decided the outcome before you consulted. Some of the percentages you have stated remind me of Brexit - ie are very close. When a result is very close, surely it is not unanimous and needs discussion. I asked to attend a meeting. Have I missed it? I also know many dog owners who weren't aware of the consultation. There are 44,700 registered dogs in Christchurch. You received 6,245 submissions. Did you send it to every registered dog owner? If many people did not know about the consultation process, is this fair? Surely the results are skewed because of this. Can I apply for an exemption for my dog to be unleashed in certain areas? How will you enforce these new rules? I don't visit dog parks. It seems to be a place where dog owners who cannot control their dog/s go. I have encountered aggressive dogs at all three dog parks I visited years ago before I decided never to go again. On two out of three of these visits my dog was attacked.	
30905	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No This is explained in supporting document - Pages 2-5 **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No This is explained in supporting document - Pages 2-5 **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No This is explained in supporting document - Pages 5-6 **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** No This is explained in supporting document - Page 6. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No This is explained in supporting document - Page 7. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No This is explained in supporting document - Pages 7-8 **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** This is explained in supporting document - Pages 8-14 *See attachment - page 92	Anabella Rivas
30908	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes Dog safety is preseverd in both dog - human interaction and dog - dog interaction. Not all dogs should be free to approach in narrow or environmentally constrained areas. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes This is a simple safety and control issue.	Dennis Nuberg

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? Yes This is a tricky one when viewed from the perspective of the current time but going forward it will have benefits for the reasons given in the proposal. Currently there is not much that can go wrong but it will create a change in mentality over time, this must not be ignored going forward. If a better social character with dogs is developed with time more freedoms could be allowed and therefore a blanket ban in perpetuity should not be created. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes An area that is largely the same for centuries and should be preserved as such. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes Still accessible but restricts the roaming of dogs not under adequate control in a place where birdlife can shelter **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes I think the proposal has merit and looks to have been considered well. The exemption process should be on a case by case basis and take into account experience already attained. This is the area in which I am a specialist of over 24 years and have professional opinions based on education and years of experience I have so much to contribute in this area of control. Public space is the operative word here and control through training, or strength play a part. Four dogs on leash is certainly a maximum but is stretching it for many who lack knowledge in simple canine behaviour and also power. (Dog and or Human) Greater numbers _ I have walked greater numbers in a controlled fashion for two and a half decades and consider myself one of the most experienced people in Christchurch , if not NZ. I have a lot to say on what needs to be considered here and why. The advantages and dis-advantages. Its got to be structured to benefit all and this can be done. The professional component is a tricky one here, and its worth taking time on as this will only increase in the years to come so should be set up with defined parameters but also flexibility to adapt to change. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** The changed to the " Effective Control" definition seem robust and make sense going forward. Herein is the greatest grey area of people and the opinion of what control is and where it should be actioned. This proposal is certainly better than what it was.	
30944	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 157	Evelien Baas
30951	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes Agree generally but lets be very clear what are formed tracks in green space areas? See further comment re Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor. Please consider how the bylaw is to be enforced. I am a regular user of footpaths as I choose to walk for fitness and to lower my carbon footprint.	Patrick David Marra

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	I am constantly faced with cars parked across the footpath or even worse leaping out of their way as they cross the footpath ignoring or simply not seeing pedestrians. I am also regularly confronted with people riding their bicycles on the footpath and expecting me as a pedestrian to get out of their way. Both the cars and bicycles are illegal but the law is simply not enforced. Will dogs off their leads be the same? Remember a law that is not enforced is just a suggestion! **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes See above. Also a question as to who has the right of way. As it is not the rule appears to be ageing men in lycra, older adults (like me) on e bikes then people on human powered bikes, then scooters, then small children on bikes, then pedestrians and last dogs on leads. No enforcement applies. Remember a law that is not enforced is just a suggestion! **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No Prohibiting dogs in key areas to protect wildlife (river, wetland and planted areas) Agree absolutely. However provision must be made for dogs to exercise/ enjoy the water for safety, health and compliance reasons. If provision is not made then the dogs and their humans will simply ignore the rule were and when the see fit. The dog parks at the Groynes and at Halswell Quarry both have excellent examples of what could be done in the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?. We have a large area given over to rowing and paddling. How about several smaller areas given over to dogs. The design needs to in consultation with dog owners to ensure both small and large dogs are able to use the facility. The Groynes is a good example. Remember enforcement! A law that is not enforced is just a suggestion! Noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule. There is a major issue here with regards to the myriad of formed roads, including the new roads and pathways that crisscross the 200 hectares of mowed grass. The expectation that dogs are to be on a leash on all these pathways is unrealistic at best. That suggestions puts the somewhat mischievous claim of there being 200 hectares of mowed grass where dogs can freely exercise off the leash into question. A simple low cost solution would be to identify, signpost and map the shared footpaths and cycleways included in the city to surf route ensure that dogs are on leashes when on them. Then clearly advise cyclists and walking public that when using the other formed roads and pathways (old Roads) to be aware that they may be confronted by unleashed dogs which have the right of way. This would also enable older, disabled and other frail dog owners to exercise their dogs without having to navigate the grassed areas. Remember enforcement! A law that is not enforced is just a suggestion! Allow dogs off leash and under effective control in over 200 hectares of mowed grass: This is a mischievous statement laced by a uninformed judgement that dog owners must be both silent and or content otherwise they must be entitled, greedy and lacking social graces. The truth is that the claimed "over 200 hectares of mowed grass" is not regularly mowed to a level that frail and older dog owners can confidently navigate without fear of falling gown holes and other trip hazards and smaller dogs, especially with short legs, can navigate easily. Not Every dog is a Labrador, Huntaway, Boarder Collie, Grey Hound and so on. The smaller breeds, like Jack Russells, Bichons, Shih Tzus, Foxies and also need plenty of exercise. Are the smaller dogs and, or the dogs unfortunate enough to have disabled, older and or frail owners to be limited to being on a lead at all times. As previously noted the claimed 200 hectares of mowed grass is crisscrossed by formed roads and footpaths paths that are apparently not part of the new shared pathway. Are the smaller dogs and, or the dogs unfortunate enough to have disabled, older and or frail owners to be limited to being on a lead at all times. Are are these owners, some of who do not have private cars, expected to take their dog to a dog park? This part of the plan and the plan for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? needs to be rethought in its entirety. As it is it is likely to force otherwise law abiding and responsible citizens and dog owners to become bylaw breaking rebels simply because the lawmakers were in this case stupid. Maybe a few well advertised, (not lazy social media and or an ad in the Press but posted notices in the red zone itself where the people are) street corner meetings at suitable times would be a way of gaining some intelligent suggestions from the people on the ground. I assure you that they	

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	will not be asking for the gold standard facilities as are demonstrated by the shared cycle/footpaths. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes lets protect our indigenous flora and fauna Remember enforcement! A law that is not enforced is just a suggestion! **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes lets protect our regenerating wetlands and flora and fauna. Remember enforcement! A law that is not enforced is just a suggestion! **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes The unregulated dog walking industry has grown to a point that regulation is essential. Be clear as to what appropriate skills are and how they are assessed. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Not at this stage	
31143	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes What I have seen in the last few years, since 2013. Under effective control is no longer effective to the irresponsible dog owners. This should be changed from under effective control to Under Good Control, as effective control is causing people to be irresponsible to their dogs around public and nonpublic places, weather on a lead or not. Under the council rules this effective control is not working in my opinion. I have noticed even with council signs saying, (dogs on leash in this area." Like at the Styx mill reserve, irresponsible dog owners let their dog or dogs off and the dogs run through the Styx River out of control. Which is not fair on the responsible dog owners who keep their dog on a leash and under control. Most irresponsible dog owners, who their dogs have just attack say, "I didn't think my dog would do that" There are so many attacks I have heard over, and it is affecting people's lives and their dogs being ruthlessly attacked. These people, including myself, carry weapons on them when they go for a walk. It has got so serious that people carry knives on them and other weaponry One day a dog owner, whose dog is getting attacked might just use a gun and I won't be surprised. In my opinion, it is. No dog walker should be tying them to their waist or what the council is proposing to have. (4 dogs on the leash and 2 off) my opinion – absolutely 100% NO! Because as professional as I am and the experiences, I have had walking dogs, every dog should always be on the lead. If the dog is off the lead, sees a dog across the road and runs across the road. Don't listen to commands the walker is giving. What is the person going to do with the other dog off the lead and the other 4 dogs on a leash. If it is a dangerous dog, like a staff, pit ball, mastiff, French Pitt, American Pitt or mixed with these dangerous dogs attack the other person's dog across the road. This causes a dangerous situation. To prevent this, all dogs should be on the leash, as there are so, so, so many dog attacks now. In my opinion – this has gotten too serious. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes All dogs should be on a leash all the footpaths and form tracks in parks On all wharves, jetties and boardwalks On all sports fields during games and practice sessions In all community garden areas I agree having one rule will make things clearer Because walking Dangerous dogs including mixed breed with dangerous dogs, these dogs are not responsive to commands, or prompt recall, in fact they are breed for attacking at any moment. And a person can't control 2 dogs off the leash and 4 on the leash. As these dogs are unpredictable.	Amanda Bell

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	There should not be any application for the exemption process to take on more than 7 dogs at a time. Maximum number 7 dogs. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes Dangerous dogs trained by their owners to kill anything and dogs that are trained by their owners to hunt everything and kill birds off leash. this is dangerous to these precious wildlife birds **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Dangerous dogs trained by their owners to kill anything and dogs that are trained by their owners to hunt everything and kill birds off leash. this is dangerous to these precious wildlife birds **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes because irresponsible people don't pick up their dog faces and male dogs pee every where and on every thing. with no control of the owner. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No 2 – Dog Limit Exemptions Doggy day care business, who offer dog walking or exercising services Obviously, Doggy day care people should be well, aware and very experienced and good controlling multiple dogs around Christchurch in public places, tracks, residential areas, beaches. Etc., However, this is not the case anymore. Proposing limit - Should be a limit of 6 – 7 dogs only. 7 being the total Limit. Not 8 – 10 this is asking for trouble and there is no control of the dogs, this was proven with recent incidents in Auckland and different parts of New Zealand. A Doggy day care lady, who was on the news was getting dogs out of a van, who seemed to me that she didn't even care about her dogs that she was in control of, mauled another person's small dog and had no sympathy when it died. She had an attitude Oh well things happen, she said. If this happened to me, I would be remorseful. Even if the doggy day care person has special skills, these dog walkers, are walking Dangerous dogs including mixed breed with dangerous dogs, these dogs are not responsive to commands, or prompt recall, in fact they are breed for attacking at any moment. And a doggy day care person can't control 2 dogs off the leash and 4 on the leash. As these dogs are unpredictable. There should not be any application for the exemption process to take on more than 7 dogs at a time. Maximum number 7 dogs. The dog walkers in business, who have dangerous dogs off a leash or getting out so many dogs out of a van, are not close enough to the dog to quickly prevent any issues, they also do not ensure the dog is not creating a nuisance to other people's dogs, and protecting wildlife. In my opinion, it is. No dog walker should be tying them to their waist or what the council is proposing to have. (4 dogs on the leash and 2 off) my opinion – absolutely 100% NO! Because as professional as I am and the experiences, I have had walking dogs, every dog should always be on the lead. If the dog is off the lead, sees a dog across the road and runs across the road. Don't listen to commands the walker is giving. What is the person going to do with the other dog off the lead and the other 4 dogs on a leash. If it is a dangerous dog, like a staff, pit ball, mastiff, French Pitt, American Pitt or mixed with these dangerous dogs attack the other person's dog across the road. This causes a dangerous situation. To prevent this, all dogs should be on the leash, as there are so, so, so many dog attacks now. In my opinion – this has gotten too serious. Dougal just recently got attacked in Horseshoe Lake dog park, the dog was a puppy Pitt ball. The lady who owned this Pitt ball could not totally control or even hold the collar. So, Dougal, a small chihuahua mix pomerium was attacked 5 times. The Pitt Bull puppy had Douga's head in his mouth and was trying to shake him and tear him apart. The owner of Dougal had to get over her dog and try to protect Dougal. This incident caused Dougal's owner to have a metal break down, as Dougal is very special to her. P.S. Dougal and his owner were in the small dog area, in the dog off leash horseshoe park. Poppy just recently was attacked on the beach. The owner of this staff dog was walking along the beach, talking to her friend and not concentrating and not controlling her staff dog. It attacked Poppy, who is a miniature poodle. Around her throat under her chin. The lady who owned Poppy tried to get Poppy away, but finally her sister-in-law grabbed the staff's chain and pulled it up, so the staff dog choked and let Poppy go. She dragged the staff dog away and waited for the owner to come. Suddenly the women of this Staff dog realized Oh were my dog. Most irresponsible dog owners, who their dogs have just attack say, "I didn't think my dog would do that" There are so many attacks I have heard over, and it is affecting people's lives and their dogs being ruthlessly attacked. These people, including myself, carry weapons on them when they go for a	

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	walk. It has got so serious that people carry knives on them and other weaponry One day a dog owner, whose dog is getting attacked might just use a gun and I won't be surprised. Most people in this doggy business don't really care about the dog they are walking; it is the money they are earning is the only reason. The more dogs they have, the more money they get. As for mixed – small dogs and large dogs walking together - limit 4 large dogs 4 – 5 dogs, total limit – on leash Medium dogs 5 – 6 dogs, total limit - on leash Small dogs 6 -7 dogs, total limit - on leash My opinion, dog owners should take their dog out on a leash, always. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Christchurch Council Dog Bylaw and Policy To I am writing to express my concern over these Dog Bylaws and policies. I am requesting, to attend the hearing in front of the council Dog Bylaws and policy committee. As I would like to be heard and listened to, at the hearing meeting of my concerns. 1 – Keeping Dog under effective control What I have seen in the last few years, since 2013. Under effective control is no longer effective to the irresponsible dog owners. This should be changed from under effective control to Under Good Control, as effective control is causing people to be irresponsible to their dogs around public and nonpublic places, weather on a lead or not. Under the council rules this effective control is not working in my opinion. I have noticed even with council signs saying, (dogs on leash in this area." Like at the Styx mill reserve, irresponsible dog owners let their dog or dogs off and the dogs run through the Styx River out of control. Which is not fair on the responsible dog owners who keep their dog on a leash and under control. Even bicycles ride through the Styx Mill reserve. With a sign saying "No Bicycles" Dog owners do not actively pay attention and are not aware of where their dog is and what their dog is doing. Off the leash. As most dog owners I see are on their cell phone, texting. So, the dog goes and harasses other people's dogs, attacking and mauling other people's dogs because they are not responsible for having a dog or dogs. Dangerous dogs including mixed breed with dangerous dogs, don't have responsive commands, prompt recall The dog owners who have dangerous dogs are not close enough to the dog to quickly prevent any issues, they also do not ensure the dog is not creating a nuisance to other people's dog, protecting wildlife. Dangerous dogs, who are mixed with labradors, collies, etc. these dogs show the soft part, (the labrador) But they still have the instinct to attack. My recommendation is for a dog is unable to consistently and quickly respond to commands. Most defiantly should be on a leash in public places and dog parks. Whether a leash is required or not. The dog and the owner should go to a dog training school behavior course, continuing every year and have a certificate to give to the council as proof that they have had training, so no attacks happen. Under effective control, every dog owner always needs their dog on a leash! 2 – Dog Limit Exemptions Doggy day care business, who offer dog walking or exercising services Obviously, Doggy day care people should be well, aware and very experienced and good controlling multiple dogs around Christchurch in public places, tracks, residential areas, beaches. Etc., However, this is not the case anymore. Proposing limit - Should be a limit of 6 – 7 dogs only. 7 being the total Limit. Not 8 – 10 this is asking for trouble and there is no control of the dogs, this was proven with recent incidents in Auckland and different parts of New Zealand. A Doggy day care lady, who was on the news was getting dogs out of a van, who seemed to me that she didn't even care about her dogs that she was in control of, mauled another person's small dog and had no sympathy when it died. She had an attitude Oh well things happen, she said. If this happened to me, I would be remorseful.	

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	My opinion, dogs should be always leashed. Around picnic areas, if walking the dog, on the tracks of the Groynes and dog owners picking up dog faces. Dogs need to be leashed at the Goynes, to protect wildlife and protect health and safety, as we have so many irresponsible dog owners nowadays and with so many dangerous dogs around. All Dogs at any Council events and festivals need to always be on a leash. This should be required by the council bylaw and should be for all events at any organizers and promoters going on. No promoters or organizers events should have any dog off the leash. The Christchurch city council needs to think seriously this time about the dog bylaws and policies for the next 10 years because there are so many bad dog attacks happening in Christchurch. There also needs to be stronger rules and regulations in the dog bylaws and policies than ever before, as to bring attention to these irresponsible dog owners, who seem to think they can get away and not be responsible dog owners. Also the Christchurch city council needs to have tighter rules and bylaws around dogs outside without their dog, roaming around. The fines need to be 50% more. To stop dog owners from just letting their dog out to wander the streets. the Christchurch City Council should consider to change the dog bylaw and policies every 2 -5 years not 10 years. *See attachment - page 160	
30972	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No This is a ridiculous blanket rule that ignores how dogs actually behave when we'll trained. Many dogs are great off lead with good recall. They like to stop and sniff. Dogs are more agressive to other dogs when on the lead. You are not taking a strength based approach to dog ownership. It feels like you have no ideas on dog ownership or behaviour. You need to empower dog owners to get great training and exercise good judgement. A blanket rule like this is bad for dogs, bad for dog owners and I think I will likely to lead to more aggressive dogs, owners that don't train their dogs. Chch is a great place to have a dog, because of all the green spaces. This blanket rule is punative and not a strength based approach to dog ownership. It's actually legislation that is lazy and I think will lead to more dog bites and fights rather than less. You need to empower dog owners to do the right thing based on their dog. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No As above per previous answer. What are the number of dog causing traffic accidents? Blanket rule empower dog owners to make the right choice. Imagine it working like businesses that are dog friendly. No one takes their dog to a cafe if it can't handle it. Dog owners decide based on the fit and temperament of their dog. And it works just fine. Look at other countries like France where they have relaxed dog rules. These strict laws /rules are completely the wrong way to approach it. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No How many dogs attack wild life? The red zone is an amazing space for dog owners. Instead of shutting it down why don't offer course where owner can practice recall? Teach dogs not to go into the water. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** No As above **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No As above **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No Again this is a lazy rule. And you clearly have no understanding of dog owners. Some my people love dogs and not unusual to have 2-3 dogs especially if involved in agility. And then their are pack walkers who help to socialise dogs together. It is very beneficial this rule is not in balance with dog ownership again very one side anti dog rule	Annie Jones

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy? All people should be able to exercise their dogs off leads on all parks but they do so with responsibility of having safe control and picking up their poop. You could have more honey pot sites.	
30991	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No The proposal to allow dogs to be under effective control needs to changed to ON LEASH ONLY thru out these areas. The spatial separation between the tracks boardwalks etc and mowed areas is such the policy becomes to vague and will be disputed by dog walkers. Further the proposal separates certain drainage reserves when their proximity to one or the other means only one leashed only rule should be adopted eg Creamery Ponds & Quaifes Drainage reserve. Please refer attached photo. Rules have to be clearly marked on sites and via reference to CCC website so as visitors to other areas know the rules or can quickly reference these. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 161	Ross McFarlane
30995	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes In part. I believe this length is too short to allow a dog to fulfill their natural instinct to explore and sniff, which is necessary for their physical and mental wellbeing. I do support a leash length of up to 3 metres . A leash should be long enough to allow a dog walker to remain on the path while their dog can comfortably explore the areas alongside. I refer to The Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ position statement addressing this aspect of the proposal. There should be a buffer zone of two or three metres of a path to make the path a safe zone for all users. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes Yes. Under current by-laws, dogs are already required to be leashed on roads and footpaths beside roads. Many considerate dog owners already do this but there is a growing number of people who do not, and this is creating a problem for other footpath users and a hazard for drivers. The Council's preferred 'educational' approach is demonstrably not effective. Adding further restrictions here would be a waste of resources which would be better used in targeted and strict enforcement. My daily dog-walking experience would suggest that there is a general awareness that the Council is almost certain to not enforce the rules, therefore they can be ignored. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure I am not a user of this area but I do support in principal the restriction of dogs to being on leash when in these areas but not a total prohibition. Many people enjoy walking their dogs on leash through these areas with no interference to wildlife or plants. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** No I support a restriction to on leash only in these areas whereby owners are able to prevent their dogs interfering with wildlife. Any rule changes will continue to be ignored by inconsiderate owners	Jan McKay

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	therefore regular enforcement by the council would be necessary. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No I support a restriction to on leash only in these areas whereby owners are able to prevent their dogs interfering with wildlife. Any rule changes will continue to be ignored by inconsiderate owners therefore regular enforcement by the council would be necessary. I regularly see dogs running uncontrolled through wetland areas and in the water, chasing birds, and being out of sight in nesting areas. The owners would say they have effective control because they can call their dog if they so desire. I used to enjoy walking my dog in some of these areas but have stopped due to the nuisance of off-leash dogs rushing up and, at times, being menacing. Rather than implement a ban in some areas, which would be impossible to enforce, I believe that stormwater basins would be better protected with all dogs being on leash only, with longer leash lengths allowing for controlled exploration. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes Currently anyone is able to set themselves up as a dog-walking business with little or no idea of how to control a large group of dogs being exercised together. The Council needs to monitor parks and dog exercise areas to ensure regulations are being followed. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I support the change to the definition of 'under effective control ' and strict enforcement of this requirement. Currently many dog owners would say they have effective control because they can recall their dog most of the time, and allow them to run free along the streets, on footpaths through parks and reserves, and only call them back once they have created a nuisance. Often once a dog is in this situation they do not immediately respond to their owners. I regularly walk my dog around different parts of the city. Our local walking area is Cashmere/St Martins/ Bowenvale. My dog has a naturally high prey-drive therefore is never exercised off-leash in public spaces. I have stopped walking her along the river track and path in Hansons Park due to constant harrassment by off-leash dogs and abuse from their owners when I ask them to put their dogs on a leash. We have also stopped walking up the Bowenvale Valley Track for the same reason, even though it is sign-posted as an on-leash only area. These problems are not limited to this area but are city wide. *See attachment - page 162	
31046	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No I agree with the leash on footpaths, shared paths, high activity areas however there are formed tracks in greenspaces that are low use especially at certain times of the day that under effective control is adequate such as Coronation Reserve. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes There are a number of additional hazards in these areas, such as cars, scooters, bikes, runners, etc. On leash in these areas protects the dog/pet and other users. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No I support prohibiting dogs/pets in key areas to protect wildlife, these areas need to be clearly identified. I do not support the general leashed rule on formed tracks (excludes sealed shared used paths) as generally these areas are of lower use. I do not support the restricting of dogs/pets to mown areas as this does not allow for dogs/pets to have sensory stimulation running through long grass. It also needs to be noted that mown grass attracts grazing birds such as pukeko and paradise ducks, how to you propose to address this? Canadian geese graze mown areas causing a mess, contaminating the water, are agresive and compete with native bird species. Mowing in the red zone is random depending on the season. It is also environmentally unsustainable using energy and resources to mow. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes I support prohibiting dogs/pets in identified and important wildlife areas. I also support the identification of lower value areas that provide open space for dogs/pets to be able to run such as areas with water, long grass, bushes. The proposed bylaw has severely restricted the stimulating areas dogs/pets and owners can exercise and enjoy. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?**	Maria Adamski

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	No I support prohibiting dogs/pets in identified and important wildlife areas. I also support the identification of lower value areas that provide open space for dogs/pets to be able to run such as areas with water, long grass, bushes. The proposed bylaw has severely restricted the stimulating areas dogs/pets and owners need and can exercise and enjoy. I do not support the restricting of dogs/pets to mown areas as this does not allow for dogs/pets to have sensory stimulation running through long grass. It also needs to be noted that mown grass attracts grazing birds such as pukeko and paradise ducks, how to you propose to address this? And to deal with the Canadian geese. I note that the mowing in stormwater basins is erratic especially in spring and autumn when there is high grass growth. I'm not sure if you have observed dogs/pets in these areas, they run in and out of the bush areas, does this mean any deviation off mown grass is an offence? I propose that high value areas are identified and restricted and those lower value areas are permitted. Given the number of basins now created as part of the managing of subdivision stormwater without any forethought for the implications of bird life migratory routes, increase human populations in these areas with dogs/pets I propose and support that some of these areas are used as dog parks or that better dog parks are created that actually cater for dogs, that is with water, long grass and bushes. This would be a win win with dogs being able to have a decent area for exercise and stimulation. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes The exemption process will allow for more dogs. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** I disagree with Steadfast being an area for dogs on lead. This area provides everything, space, grass, water, bushes for a dog/pets physical and mental health. I'm not clear what health and safety issues are here that are any different from a human being in this area, does this mean in the hill areas humans are also restricted on where they can go? We need more areas like this for dogs. I think you need to review what is meant by 'mown' grass given the inconsistent and random mowing in these areas by the Council and given they are occupied by grazing birds. On the Port Hills a number of areas have been fenced and 'retired'. That is stock is no longer in these areas and they are low use areas. Consideration should be given to allowing dogs/pets under effective control off leash in these areas. Places for high active dogs are required especially on the south side of the city. This bylaw is seriously restricting the ability to excercise a dog/pet without making provision for adequate and stimulating excercising areas for human and dog. It is well known that pets have a positive effect on peoples health, wellbeing, recreational space is required for their emotional and physical needs. The increased number of subdivisions in Halswell area is likely to correspond with increase dog owners however the proposed bylaw has restricted exercise options for residents in this area and is not providing adequate exercise or dog park areas in return. It is erroneous to suggest there are many parks that dogs/pets can go to under effective control. Often, when people work, the timing of dog excersise corresponds with after school sport practice or on weekends, sport such as all day cricket, restricting park use.	
31075	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Big dogs must not be on narrow paths as other people may encroach on the dog's perceived space and the dog attack. Small dogs permitted on a short leash. But also some paths to exclude all dogs to protect other park users (people) and give paths that are free of dogs to cater for those who are scared of dogs or it's not safe for them to be close to stranger dogs. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes But also that some paths and pedestrian areas to be dog-free. And some parks and reserves to be dog-free to protect people. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Don't know / Not sure Support prohibiting dogs in key areas to protect wildlife but CCC also needs areas to protect other people. As CCC paths are not pedestrian-friendly many pedestrians use the mowed grass area. You imply that people only go to the red zone to be on paths. They use the open mowed space too, which will put them in the same area as stranger dogs that you want to permit to be off lease. "Under effective control" of dogs is not making stranger people safe from the dogs. Acknowledge that large dogs do attack and bite people sometimes, even unprovoked. Small dogs are okay off-lease provided they are immediately put on a lease if they run after a stranger and try to bite their heels. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes Walking big dogs on land nearby also requires them to be on lease, whether they are on a path or not.	Mary O'Connor

Submissions received on the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024, December 2024

ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins? Don't know / Not sure Make all of the storm water basin big-dog free. They run around after wildlife and are a nuisance to other people too. People use the mowed grass to. You have dog parks - where are the dog-free parks to protect people from large dogs. Some spaces should also be totally dog-free for better tranquility and relaxation. Also so those who are scared of dogs have a park or reserve to go to. **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes But the restriction that if have two big dogs they all be leashed. And only one small dog off leash if there are small dogs and larger dogs. A maximum of two large dogs, and three total if there is just one large dog in the group. If four small dogs they all must be leashed. Forget about "people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs". Give them the concession to have three large dogs total, all leashed. **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** *See attachment - page 163	
31083	**The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** *See attachment - page 168	Matthew Ross
31106	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 171	Tim Kershaw
31108	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 173	Sandra Savinen

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ID	Submitter feedback	Name
31111	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 176	Kathleen Crisley
31129	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes *See attachment - page 182	Lisa Sturm
31170	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No I walk my dog regularly in Hagley Park. I don't understand the need to change the current rules. Everyone seems perfectly happy with the existing rules. The park is a haven for dog walkers in te central city. If the council is trying to attract more people to live in the central city why are you restricting dog walking rules. The botanic gardens is a dog prohibited area so why can't the rest of the park remain the same. I understand the need to restrict off leash dogs in areas that is a habitat for endangered wildlife but Hagley Park is not one of those. The central city parks like Latimer Square and Rauora Park are just not big enough alternatives for dog walkers. Please keep Hagley Park as a haven for dog walkers in the central city. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No The current rules are working fine why change them. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes the off leash area is big enough as an alternative. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes I have seen a couple of incidents where a dog walker has lost control of their offleash dog in Hagley Park and they caused distress to other dog owners and a real threat to drivers on the nearby Harper Ave.	Karen Shaw

Submissions received on the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024, December 2024

ID	Submitter feedback	Name
	The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy? Hagley Park. Please leave it as it is. It's perfect.	
31254	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** Little Hagley Park	Anne Dingwall
31287	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** Yes **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** Yes **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** Yes **The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?** *See attachment - page 184	David Benson

ID	Submitter feedback	Name
31005	**Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?** No Dogs should be on a long leash on footpaths to allow them to communicate clearly and have freedom of movement. Dogs should be off-leash on shared paths and formed tracks if under effective voice and sight control, and if dogs exhibit good dog etiquette towards others and the environment. If they're not under effective voice and sight control and do not exhibit good dog etiquette then they should be on a long leash of at least 3 metres long for footpaths, and at least 10 metres long for shared and formed paths. A short leash has a negative impact on a dog's way of communicating using their body language, it does not allow them to move away from something if hesitant to approach (taking away their agency and control, hence impacting their mental health), and also a short leash has an impact on their muscles and joints. **Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?** No Dogs should be on a long leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads. Please see response to question above for more details. **Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?** No Preference: Have off-leash dogs with good dog etiquette and under effective control who behave appropriately and do not approach wildlife. Inability to do so would require them to be on a long leash under effective voice and sight control. Supporting information: Restricting access for dogs to be off leash only in grass would require dogs to be on leash and off leash repetitively during a walk, disabling them from their freedom to behave naturally and exercise. Otakaro Avon River Corridor has become quite popular with the 'red Zone Dogs' community, which has offered dogs and their guardians ample time and space to socialise them under effective control.	Javier Pobeda

	Furthermore, this decision does not aim to solve any root causes. Dogs can be trained not to chase birds or annoy any type of wildlife, as they can also be trained to stay close to their guardian while off leash. **Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?** No Preference: Have dogs on a long leash under effective voice and sight control. Supporting information: There absolutely are places that dogs should not be off-leash, but in some cases they could be allowed on-leash. If there are places dogs should not be at all due to being a disturbance, I'd argue humans (especially human children and adolescents) should not be permitted to wander unsupervised / tread at all. But just like laws that govern people are written to respect the decision-making powers of reasonable men, laws that govern dogs should also allow for the reasonable man. I'm not about to let my dog run amok in a sensitive bird nesting site or let him loose on a beach full of seals. In fact, please give me a sign warning of those things so that I can properly put her on a leash. **Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?** No Here I agree with the view of Bono Beeler, from Neuropark. A dog on a walk should have the agency at least on a long leash to enter fresh water for cooling or / and drinking. We already have less safe access with our dogs to safe freshwater rivers due to cyanobacteria blooms in some rivers and bluebottle jellyfish in beach **Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?** No Limit amount of dogs under care of 1 person: I can understand the pressure of limiting the number of dogs to one person for safety reasons in public spaces, however there are circumstances in which a guardian already has 2-3 dogs and could be fostering another pup, or could be having family pets to look after. If limiting this number to 2. please clearly articulate the test these people need to pass in order to be able to care for more than 2 dogs in a public space. As per your feedback you mentioned this will be ad hoc. Well, for the safety of the public please take good consideration of the series of tests that the guardian and the dogs should pass and make it clear and transparent in the bylaw.	

	Canine Professionals such as dog walkers: Again, I do technically agree with limiting the numbers per professional person / handler. However, who decides who, how many and what are the right skills to handle multi dog walks?	

[redacted]

From: D. Beeler <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, 1 December 2024 6:42 pm
To: Lets Talk
Subject: Dog control bylaw and policy 2024

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Bono f Beeler BCCSDip.Can.Bhv.Prac.
Speakingdog K9 Service
Canine Neuropark®©
[redacted]

Regarding: "proposed dog control bylaw changes"

My name is Bono f. Beeler. I am the owner & operater of SpeakingDog k9 Services and the Co-Founder and Co-Funder of Canine Neuropark®© Trust.

While I have submitted your form regarding the proposed dog control bylaw changes, I think it is important to send an official email response to your proposed dog control bylaw changes as a canine professional.

Firstly, I am in support of having dogs on leads unless exercised in a dedicated dog park or rehab field.

However, my agreement stops for proposed lead length, numbers of dogs per person for educated professionals and the amount of loss of spaces to take dogs on exploring walks.

It is important to understand why I disagree on these points, from a dynamic bio-systems point of view, such as that of a dog.

•Main reason: WELFARE

An animals most natural behaviour pattern is to Lévy walk to explore its brains' predicted calibrated action patterns of and within its body, while anticipating its movements within its immediate niche and compare those calibrations and actions with expected sensory patterns and actual transduced sensory input, to minimize uncertainty thus increase survival and procreation [1a; Buszaki, 2019] [1b; Friston 2010] [1c; Friston et all, 2016]

On a short lead, these natural behavioral patterns, the agency to explore and learn naturally are suppressed so much that the eventual outcome is a more uncertain thus frustrating experiences the dog will have.
This can express in various behavioural outputs, but can be categorized under either "reactive & anxious behaviour" or "Shut down".
This is, because a human cannot teach a dog the niche from the dogs point of view, but just of a humans constructed world view.

The most obvious behaviour dogs will express is lead pulling because they are naturally trying to explore but can't due to the short lead length.

It is a logical expectation that most dog owners will try to suppresses the pulling using aversive methods (example; pulling back on lead) or aversive devices, (head halters, no pull harnesses, choke collars etc) which in themselfs add to health & welfare problems. Especially musculoskeletal issues which lead to expressions of "reactive & anxious" or "shut down behaviour outputs [2; Mills et all 2020]

A lead to help natural behaviour expressions to minimize the rise of "reactive, anxious" or "Shut down" behaviour outputs should be now less than 3m in length.

It is important to note:

A LONG LEAD CAN ALWAYS BE LOOPED SHORTER FOR CONTROL PURPOSES, BUT A SHORT LEAD CAN NEVER BE MADE LONGER.

The next welfare point is safe access to natural bodies of water any animal needs, yes even a dog on a walk should have access to water like any wildlife.
I do agree to limit access to Eastuary areas and wildlife breeding & nesting areas for off lead dogs.
But a dog on a walk should have the agency at least on a long leash to enter fresh water for cooling or / and drinking.

We already have less safe access with our dogs to safe freshwater rivers due to toxic algae blooms in some rivers. This included the Groins last year.

Here is my serious question to you: where will we be able to fulfill our dogs needs to access to a safe fresh water dip on a walk on any length lead?

What your dog control bylaw proposes do, is not to make dogs safer behaviorally, because their agency will be totally limited and to then express in high arousal behaviour, in spaces like unsupervised dog parks!!
Under your proposals, dog behaviour issues will increase as well as health and welfare problems.

Dealing with this will be under the responsibility of dog behaviour practitioners, vet behaviourist's and well educated and not educated dog trainers, as well as your animal control team, the SPCA, DogWatch, Christchurch Bull Breed Rescue and any other Dog Rescue and Rehoming charity.
Most of those under the impression operant and pavlovian approaches to be the answer, while agency is lacking. A dim prospect for the dog as a species.

•Limit amount of dogs under care of 1 person:

I can understand the pressure of limiting number of dogs to one person for safety reasons and I technically agree with the number of 4-5 dogs per person.

But, does the Council really think multi dog owners are gonna walk their dogs on the lead safely, and more importantly fairly in relation to the dogs welfare?

•Canine Professionals such as dog walkers:
Again, I do technically agree with limited numbers per professional person / handler.
However, where but dog parks are professionals gonna exercise clients dogs.
The limited number of 4 per handler also means, for some business this won't be viable any longer. So your proposals are reasons for the closing of some dog walking businesses. Again, a dim outlook for the dog as a species.

•Who decides which professionals have the right skills to handle multi dog walks?
This is the question that concerns me the most.
There is currently no regulation on minimum training necessary. However, great training providers are available all over the world, educating well beyond the outdated paradigm of operant and classical conditioning; featuring neuroethological and systems neuroscience subjects on how actions & behaviour occur.
So who is gonna vet which certificates, diplomas etc outside those offered at New Zealand Universities are acceptable as "appropriately skilled"?
Education is often still the same old ideological textbook ideas of, the dog just needs to be trained with the quadrants, to behave as trained, and issues will be less likely. Which obviously is not happening anywhere, at least in the Western Countries listing incident of aggressive dog behaviour cases, but causes for the more and more limiting ways dogs can naturally express themselfs through exploration. By some following an exploring dog is even viewd as negligent.

I understand I am no fancy academic with a PhD, or famous dog trainer or influencer, but just another behavior practitioner.
However, I don't have to be Nostradamus to predict the disastrous prospects in dog behaviour expressions due to a highly limited niche for dogs to have less agency, over the long term.
Especially, if we would also loose access to provide Rehab parks like Canine Neuropark®©, which framework rests on sceintific evidence, theories and principles, featuring specifically built natural niches with physiotherapy stations to provide holistic, nurturing care in a safe, lockable space, where dogs have explorative agency. Not to mention that we already are bursting at the seems with member applications.
And just to make a point, over 95% of Neurpark membership have joined because they state they have a "reactive", "insecure" dog, who cannot visit dog parks.
In a small case study of 10 dogs who applied to join our Neuropark fiekd study (RBAAMAI).
All 10 dogs had previous full vet assessments and chose to join for behaviour reasons over musculoskeletal issues.
All 10 dogs were found to have musculoskeletal disfunction of some type. Which underlines the importance of understanding that a dog in discomfort or pain will be more likely to be defensive on a short lead not less.

Lastly, I would like to point out that a dog on a short lead on shared walks, with bikes rushing at them, runners speeding at them, kids running around etc, are very uncertain niches.
A dog is built to be a dog. Prepared to move and defend when things move at them at speed.
A dog may bark, lead, snarl, growl and in the worst case scenario bite because it has no escape route.
Training will provide a good base for many dogs to habituate to many fast movements.
But as soon as a dog is in discomfort or in pain as,mentioned above, or depending on most breeds, "trained behaviours" will be replaces by preparatory behaviours -> Instinctive Drift [3; Breland & Breland 1961]

My conclusion and advice is clear. While I agree with lead laws, and protecting wildlife while breeding and nesting, these bylaws have to be more balanced for the dogs sake.
If your dog control bylaw changes will go ahead, aggression problems and dogs being abandoned will likely increase and make public spaces not safer at all.
And who will actually police these new bylaws?

All it will do is punish the responsible dog owners and professionals, while those dog owners who don't show responsibility and disregard the bylaws now will do so anyway.

It is clear that more discussions should be had with many different Canine professionals, Rescue & Rehoming Charities and dog owners to agree on a better dog control bylaw that actually has the promise of success for all, but especially the dog as a sentient being.

Sincerely

Bono f Beeler
www.speakingdog.net
www.canineneuropark.com

Reference links:

[1a] "The brain from inside out"; Gyorgy Busaki 2019

[1b] https://www.nature.com/articles/nrn2787

[1c] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0149763416301336

[2] Pain and Problem Behavior in Cats and Dogs - PubMed



Pain and Problem Behavior in Cats and Dogs - PubMed

We argue that there is currently an under-reporting of the ways in which pain can be associated with problem behavior, which is seriously limiting the recognition of this welfare problem. A review of the caseloads of 100 recent dog cases of several a

[3] The misbehaviour of organisms; Breland & Breland 1961
https://psych.hanover.edu/classes/learning/papers/breland%20and%20breland%201961.pdf

Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust

Dog Control Policy and By-Law Submission December 2024

FOREWORD

1. The Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust (AHEIT, The Estuary Trust) is a charitable society registered in 2003. It was formed as a result of community requests for an organisation committed to environmental improvement and with representation from the community, statutory bodies, tāngata whenua and other agencies.

2. The vision of the Trust is -

Communities working together for	Toi tū te taonga ā iwi
Clean Water	Toi tū te taonga ā Tāne
Open Space	Toi tū te taonga ā Tangaroa
Safe Recreation,	Toi tū te iwi
and Healthy Ecosystems	
that we can all enjoy and respect	

3. The estuary (Te Ihutai) is a treasured natural ecological system. It is unusual to find such an ecologically rich feature within a highly populated city. Of particular value are native species, currently threatened or endangered, which roost, feed, moult or nest in the estuary. As an example, the estuary is home to up to 1800 bar-tailed godwit/kuaka, a species which is declining at the rate of 2 percent each year. Their habitat is constantly under threat from human activity such as traffic, reclamation, noise, and contamination. Dog walking is a fundamental part of human activity around the estuary edge, but the behaviour of dogs is a serious threat to wildlife. If we are to continue to enjoy the estuary then we must reduce threats to estuary wildlife and habitat. Hence our submission to the Council on the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

4. In 2018 this estuary joined an exclusive list of wetlands of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) network, of which there are only four in New Zealand. The new status emphasised the need to protect this estuarine habitat as a safe haven for bar-tailed godwits, lesser knots/huahou, and other shorebirds such as the endemic South Island pied oystercatcher/torea. The **EAAF** wetland breeding grounds are within the Arctic Circle, through East and South-East Asia, to non-breeding areas in South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

5. For further details about the Trust, it's Constitution, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and the Trust, and the Trust's Estuary Management Plan, please visit our website at www.estuary.org.nz

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED CCC DOG CONTROL POLICY

(NOTE – REFERENCES ARE TO THE DOCUMENT 'PROPOSED REPLACEMENT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL DOG CONTROL POLICY ~~2016~~ 2024")

1.6 (Pages 2 & 3) - Community Outcomes related to the policy

We absolutely agree with the proposed new alignment with CCC's community outcomes and with the importance placed on ecology protection. We particularly appreciate the move to protect areas of "heritage plantings, habitat restoration, conservation values and culturally sensitive areas" as well as "wildlife".

Reasoning

1. **Wildlife Disturbance**
   Unrestrained dogs chase, harass, or disrupt wildlife, causing stress, injuries, or even death. These free-roaming dogs threaten vulnerable species, including ground-nesting birds and reptiles. Studies from across the world have associated the presence of dogs, off-leash, to severe disturbances of vulnerable bird species.

2. **Nesting Disturbance**
   Dogs roaming off-leash may enter nesting areas. This has been shown to cause significant disturbance to ground-nesting birds, posing a threat to eggs, chicks, and adult birds. Disturbances can lead to abandoned nests, disrupted incubation, and increased vulnerability to predation.

3. **Habitat Destruction**
   Unrestrained dogs damage vegetation, trample sensitive intertidal habitats and sediment habitats, and create trails that disturb the movement and dispersal patterns of wildlife to nesting or roosting sites.

4. **Foraging Disruption**
   Unrestrained dogs within the estuary disrupt the foraging activities of estuary birds which is time-limited due to the twice-daily tidal cycles. The disturbance can cause birds to abandon feeding areas, interrupt their feeding cycles, and result in reduced access to vital food resources necessary for their survival and migration.

5. **Stress and Energy Expenditure**
   The presence of dogs in estuaries induces stress responses in wildlife. Constant vigilance and flight responses to avoid potential threats can increase energy expenditure, impacting on their overall fitness and ability to successfully complete their migration cycle.

6. **Alteration of Behaviour and Habitat Selection**
   Continuous disturbance from dogs causes changes in the behaviour and habitat selection of godwits and other estuary birds. They may be forced to use suboptimal habitats, alter their flight patterns, or reduce their feeding time, leading to compromised conditions for their survival and reproductive success. Ultimately, constant disruption may lead to the birds abandoning the estuary in favour of less-disturbed areas.

7. **Water Contamination**
   Dog waste left in ecologically sensitive areas contaminates water sources, leading to the degradation of aquatic ecosystems and potential harm to wildlife. Unmanaged dog waste can carry parasites, bacteria, and viruses that can spread to wildlife and humans.

3.1.1 (Pages 4 & 5) - Keeping your dog under effective control

The former definition of "effective control" was vague, we agree with the proposed changes to this section.

Reasoning
The changes make the term "effective control" clearer and more useful for enforcement.

3.1.2 (Page 5) - Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of

We agree that there be a limit on the number of dogs a person can manage when walking in public spaces. However, we think that the maximum number of dogs under control should be two, not four.

Reasoning
Our volunteers and Trust members have regularly commented on the increasing number of so-called "professional" walkers with multiple dogs who are unable to prevent their dogs chasing birds. Our observation is that once people exceed control of two dogs there is a greater risk of momentary lapses which can be disastrous for wildlife and also for other recreational users of an area.

6.2 (Page 15) – General leashed areas

With regard to leashed areas, we agree with the addition of the phrase "on all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks".

Reasoning
We manage numerous teams of volunteers working in Council parks and reserves and regularly notice the effects on wildlife when dogs are allowed to roam freely.
The number of dogs in Christchurch increases year-by-year. But the amount of public space available is relatively static. This results in increasing pressure on public areas with resulting harm to humans, other dogs, and the environment. At some point, i.e. now, a decision must be made to redress that balance.

Page 37 – Schedule 1: Prohibited and leashed dog control areas.

Southshore Spit Reserve

With regard to Southshore Spit we appreciate, and agree with, the proposal that dogs must be leashed in this area.

Reasoning
There is precious wildlife in this area; penguins nest in the reserve and there are estuarine and migrating birds (especially godwits) roosting and feeding at high tide. Multiple instructions and maps in the area are confusing to dog-walkers and are largely ignored. For the sake of wildlife protection dogs should never be permitted to roam in this area; because of the proximity of bush to the paths even dogs under "effective control" could quickly attack and kill penguins before the dog-owner could react.

Page 37 - Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary

The proposed inclusion of Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary in the list of prohibited areas is to be widely applauded. We totally agree with the wording and the reasoning for this new inclusion.

Reasoning
The Estuary Trust believes that dogs uncontrolled or even on a leash in the estuary are a threat to bird-life. They disrupt feeding and roosting of endangered and threatened birds such as godwits, stilts and oyster catchers. They chase and maul species such as red billed, black billed gulls and dotterels.

Adding the proposed item to the Schedule would ensure consistency of the Dog Control Policy with the Council's Parks and Reserves Bylaw of 2016. Section 8.3 of that Bylaw says;

8.3 Except with the permission of an Authorised Officer, no person may –

(a) Bring or drive any horse or other animal on to any part of the Avon Heathcote Estuary; or

(b) Permit any horse or other animal in his or her custody, charge or control to wander on to or remain on any part of the Avon Heathcote Estuary.

Pages 38 – 39 - East Christchurch changes

We agree with the changes in wording regarding the following areas – Bexley Wetland, Charlesworth Reserve, Lower Avon Saltmarshes (both areas), Lower Heathcote Saltmarshes and South New Brighton Park.. These changes improve the definitions of these areas and make the restrictions clearer to dog owners We appreciate the inclusion of a new areas defined as Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes, and South New Brighton Park. We also notice the addition of a new area described as "Bridge Reserve" – we are unsure where this is, but if it is adjacent to the estuary/Ihutai, then we also support its inclusion in the list of prohibited areas.

We especially appreciate the proposed wording related to Te Huinga Manu Wildlife Refuge. We have noticed that dog walkers are sometimes confused about the extent of the Refuge.

Reasoning
The changes proposed ensure better protection of wildlife in areas adjacent to the estuary.
The Estuary Trust believes that dogs uncontrolled or even on a leash in the estuary are a threat to bird-life. They disrupt feeding and roosting of endangered and threatened birds such as godwits, stilts and oyster catchers. They chase and maul species such as red billed, black billed gulls and dotterels.

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED CCC DOG CONTROL BYLAW

(NOTE – REFERENCES ARE TO THE DOCUMENT 'PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DOG CONTROL BYLAW 2016)

5. (Page 4) – CONTROL OF DOGS IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES AND AT ALL TIMES

We agree with the proposed changes to the definition of "effective control".

Reasoning
The changes make the definition of "effective control" easier to understand and possibly easier to enforce.

We agree there should be a maximum set for the number of dogs a person can control in public spaces. However, we consider that the number should be two, not four.

Reasoning
Our volunteers and Trust members have regularly commented on the increasing number of so-called "professional" walkers with multiple dogs who are unable to prevent their dogs chasing birds. Our observation is that once people exceed control of two dogs there is a greater risk of momentary lapses which can be disastrous for wildlife and also for other recreational users of an area.

9 (B). (Page 7) – ALL FOOTPATHS, SHARED PATHS AND FORMED TRACKS IN PARKS

We agree with the proposal that dogs in parks must be on a short leash.

Reasoning

Based on our experience with managing volunteers in Council parks and reserves, we feel there is a need for making this change. There have been numerous occasions when dogs running loose (under so-called "effective control") have suddenly become disruptive and aggressive when encountering volunteers or other users of the park.
Through our relationships with users of parks we work in that there are significant numbers of people such as elderly or family groups, who have stopped walking in those parks because of the behaviour of dogs. Those areas include Charlesworth Wetland Reserve, South Brighton Park, Steamwharf Stream Reserve, Thistledown Reserve and McCormacks Bay Reserve.

SUMMARY

The Estuary Trust is supportive of most of the changes proposed in the Policy and Bylaw documents. We have pointed out specific changes with which we strongly agree. However, we have other concerns which may or may not be addressed by changes in the Policy or Bylaws, namely;

1. The need for more dog parks, or fenced "dog-friendly" areas, in the east of the city.
2. The need for an "adaptive management" approach to the Policy and Bylaws. The current legislation requiring a ten-year review is too restrictive and does not allow for policy and bylaw changes to reflect the increasing pace of social and environmental changes.
3. Council staff should have the flexibility and ability to prohibit dogs from parks/waterway areas temporarily or permanently on short notice to protect wildlife on the recommendation of the Department of Conservation , CCC Animal Control Officers or CCC Ecologists when rare or endangered species are at risk – for example, areas where the critically endangered black billed gulls choose to nest.
4. An increased need for resourcing for education and enforcement.
5. The need to improve signage at parks and public spaces so that dog owners are aware of what they can and cannot do and are aware of the penalties for breaches of the bylaw . In some places, more signage is needed. There is also a need for information such as signage, website, bylaw, policy, brochures to be direct, consistent, and clear.
6. From our interactions with dog owners on reserves where we manage volunteer teams, we believe that dog-owners are mostly unaware of the financial penalties for breaches of the bylaw. Therefore, we urge the Council to be more active in ensuring dog-owners are aware of these penalties.

Joe Davies

[redacted]

Chair,

The Estuary Trust

WORCESTER TERRACES

Subject: Submission Regarding the Proposal to Make Rauora Park and Latimer Square Off-Leash Areas

Dear Christchurch City Council,

I am writing to submit an objection to the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 proposal to designate both Rauora Park and Latimer Square as off-leash dog areas. As Chairman of the Worcester Terraces Body Corporate Committee, which represents 68-unit owners of a multi-unit residential complex between these two key greenspaces, I believe the proposal will have unintended consequences for our residents and the broader community.

While we fully acknowledge the importance of providing spaces for dogs to exercise off-leash, we must also consider the broader context and the potential negative impact on these two rare inner-city green spaces. We are not objecting out of a "Not In My Back Yard" sentiment but rather out of concern for the community's greater good, including families, children, and individuals who use these spaces for recreation, relaxation, and social activities.

1. Safety and Public Nuisance The Council's acknowledgment that dogs can be a potential source of nuisance—whether through barking, rushing at pedestrians, or, in the worst cases, biting—resonates with our concerns. Our observations of dog owners already exercising their dogs off-leash in Rauora Park and Latimer Square reveal that many dogs are not consistently under effective control. Instances of dogs running out of sight and leaving faeces unattended are not isolated; this irresponsible behaviour will only increase with the proliferation of off-leash areas.

Despite the clear expectation for dog owners to keep their dogs under effective control, many dogs in these areas must be more responsive to commands or behave disruptively. The concept of "effective control" as defined in the policy—which requires that a dog must be responsive to commands and not create a nuisance—may be difficult to enforce effectively in a busy, high-traffic urban environment like the central city. As noted in the proposal, issues such as uncontrolled dogs rushing at people, barking incessantly, or causing damage to other people's property will likely increase. Furthermore, given the high usage of these spaces by families, including children, there is a heightened risk of incidents.

2. Increased Dog Faeces and Public Health Concerns Another major concern is the increased volume of dog faeces in these spaces. The current practice by some dog owners—leaving their dogs' faeces behind—has led to unsanitary conditions. The proposal rightly mentions the need for dog owners to clean up after their pets, but there is already a clear problem with non-compliance in many urban areas. Extending off-leash access to Rauora Park and Latimer Square will undoubtedly exacerbate this issue, creating an unpleasant and potentially harmful environment, especially for children and families who frequent these spaces.

3. The Law of the Commons The proposal raises questions about the balance between private rights and the public good. Rauora Park and Latimer Square are valuable communal spaces used by a wide range of people, including children, the elderly, tourists, and local workers. By allowing dogs to roam off-leash, we risk compromising the quality of these shared spaces, leading to conflicts between different user groups. According to the "law of the commons," when individuals are allowed to use a resource (in this case, the park) without any form of regulation or oversight, the resource becomes overused and degraded. This could make these parks less accessible and enjoyable for non-dog owners, further dividing the community.

WORCESTER TERRACES

4. Alternative Solutions: Dog Parks and the Avon Loop Rather than turning Rauora Park and Latimer Square into off-leash areas, we urge the Council to consider other viable solutions that can meet the needs of dog owners and the wider community. The Avon Loop, for example, is large enough to accommodate dogs off-leash without encroaching on valuable inner-city green spaces that serve broader recreational and community purposes. Additionally, we recommend creating a dedicated dog park in the red zone, an area that is currently underutilised and could be transformed into a dog-friendly space without impacting the surrounding community.

5. The Inconsistency of Prohibitions in Other Public Spaces It is worth noting that dogs are prohibited in areas such as children's playgrounds, skateparks, and pump tracks—spaces where children play and engage in physical activities. These prohibitions are in place to protect the safety of children from potential dog bites and accidents. However, by allowing dogs to roam off-leash in Rauora Park and Latimer Square—spaces that families and children frequently use for picnicking, playing, and socialising—the Council would be inconsistent in its approach to safeguarding these shared public spaces. If dogs are not allowed in playgrounds and other child-centric areas, why should they be allowed to roam freely in other public spaces that are equally important to the community?

6. Impact on Biodiversity and Ecological Preservation Finally, the proposal includes regulating dog access to certain natural areas, such as wetlands and estuaries, to protect wildlife. While we understand and support the need to protect biodiversity, it is essential that the same care is taken in managing dogs' impact on urban green spaces. We must ensure that Rauora Park and Latimer Square are not compromised for the sake of convenience or expanding off-leash areas, especially when other alternatives are available.

In conclusion, while we acknowledge the value of providing spaces for dogs to exercise off-leash, we believe that the proposal to designate Rauora Park and Latimer Square as off-leash areas does not adequately address the potential risks to public safety, the environment, and the quality of life for all park users. We urge the Council to reconsider this decision and explore alternative solutions, allowing dog owners and the wider community to coexist harmoniously.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Darren Sandford
Chairman, Worcester Terraces Body Corporate Committee
(Representing 68-unit owners)

SUBMISSION TO:	Christchurch City Council
ON:	Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024
BY:	Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board
ADDRESS:	Little River Service Centre & Library SH75 Little River CHRISTCHURCH 7951 Email: [redacted]
DATE:	13 November 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board ("the Board") appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the Council's draft Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

This submission aligns with the Board vision to listen to and work with community, mana whenua, partners and other organisations to protect and enhance the environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing of Banks Peninsula. Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi.

This submission aligns with the Board priority to protect and enhance biodiversity on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula.

2. SUBMISSION

Overall the Board supports the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?

Yes

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads.

Yes

Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? We're proposing to regulate the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former residential red zone) by prohibiting dogs in key areas to protect wildlife (river, wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs off leash and under effective control in over 200 hectares of mowed grass (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule).

Yes

Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary? We're proposing to prohibit dogs from Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary to protect wildlife (including threatened and at-risk migratory birds). This would apply from the landward boundary inwards – people could continue to walk dogs on land nearby, such as along the grassed western edge of Southshore Spit, or on paths like Te Ara Ihutai Christchurch Coastal Pathway. Dogs would not be allowed along the shoreline where birds nest, or in tidal areas where they feed.

Yes

Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins? We're proposing to regulate stormwater basins, such as Te Kuru Wetland, by prohibiting dogs in some areas to protect wildlife (wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs to be off leash and under effective control in mowed grass areas (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule).

Yes

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? We're proposing to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place (to two when off-leash and four when leashed), with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs.

Yes

The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?

The Board is concerned about leashing requirements on the **Lyttelton Recreation Ground** being lifted to enable a flat space for people to exercise dogs. There are ongoing issues with dog faeces being left on the grounds causing health concerns for sports teams using the fields. The Board requests that dog faeces receptacle bins be provided on the Lyttelton Recreation Grounds to encourage people to pick up after their dogs and that the Council investigates alternative options for a future dedicated dog exercise area in Lyttelton and in Diamond Harbour.

We appreciate the new regulations prohibiting dogs on some of our mudflats and foreshore areas to help protect our wildlife values, which is an important priority for our Board.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Lyn Leslie
Chairperson
Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board

Submission on the Draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2024



December, 2024

Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network Inc.

Email: [redacted]
Website: www.ohrn.nz
Facebook: Opawaho Heathcote River
Phone: [redacted]

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2024. This submission has been prepared by members of the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network.

The Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network (OHRN) is a community-based catchment group - a voice for the river. It advocates on its behalf to promote the regeneration of the health and mauri of the awa and connects with and supports communities within the river catchment. It is recognised for its community-led delivery of collaborative actions to improve the health of the river.

The ŌHRN acknowledges the significant amount of work that the Christchurch City Council (CCC) has carried out in the preparation of this draft policy and bylaw, particularly in gathering the views of residents and environmental groups about possible changes and in taking into account the need to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Our submission comprises;

A. General comments on the Draft Dog Control Policy 2024 and related matters

B. Commentary on specific aspects of the Draft Dog Control Policy 2024

A: General comments on the draft Dog Control Policy 2024

1. Our comments on the policy and bylaw have the intention of protecting areas of high ecological values from the effect of dogs, and reducing the impact of dog faeces on the water quality in the streams and rivers in the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River catchment. This means:

    1.1. making sure dogs are kept away from birds in ecologically valuable areas, especially in wetlands, and

    1.2. making sure dog faeces are not left in the river catchment. Previous faecal tracking studies have shown that while wildfowl dominate e coli sources during base flow, canine sources are significant during rainfall events.

2. Hence, the Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network (OHRN) **strongly supports** the intention of the CCC to provide better protection of wildlife from dogs in key areas.

3. We observe that while the policy intention is that “effective control” is the underlying assumption for when dogs are off-leash, **this policy is not well-supported by other possible council actions**.

3.1. "Effective control" of a dog does not generally arise naturally in a dog; it is the predictable outcome of training of the owner of a dog and training of the dog by the dog owner.

3.1.1. The Dog Control Policy does not, in our opinion, sufficiently incentivise this required training aspect. Instead, it assumes that dog owners will generally have effective control as defined in the policy.

3.1.2. The sad reality is that many dog owners do not have effective control of their dogs as can be witnessed daily in reserves and on foreshores.

3.2. We suggest that incentives for dog owners and their dogs to be suitably trained should be part of the Dog Control Policy. Such incentives could include:

3.2.1. Greater emphasis on training in council dog control literature including this policy and bylaw.

3.2.2. Higher registration fees to cover the process of confirming "effective control" balanced by higher rebates for evidence of successfully completed training and the ability of the owner to demonstrate "effective control" of the dog.

3.2.3. Being able to demonstrate "effective control" as part of the responsible dog owner requirement.

3.3. Further, the benefits of well-trained dog owners and their dogs are shared by the whole community through greater "effective control" being exercised. There is, therefore, a good argument that can be made for increased funding from rates for dog-training opportunities and incentives.

4. This draft policy and bylaw, once adopted, will need to be widely promulgated in the community using all appropriate communication avenues.

4.1. While the expectation within the policy is that dog-owners will familiarise themselves with the regulations applying to local areas by consulting an online interactive map, the reality is that appropriate and well-placed signage will continue to play an important role in adherence to these policies and Bylaws by dog-owners.

4.2. As a consequence, once the draft policy and Bylaw have been adopted, the Council should prioritise and suitably fund a programme to upgrade all signage about dog control to be current, suitably informative and well-positioned, particularly in those areas where dogs are prohibited.

5. Given the valid measures that this Policy adopts for the protection of wildlife values, a Cat Control Policy and Bylaw should be adopted for similar reasons following appropriate community consultation.

B: Commentary on the draft Dog Control Policy 2024

6. We make the following comments on specific aspects of the policy document:

6.1. **Clause 1.1: Preamble.**

6.1.1. The preamble makes the comment that dogs "...can cause injuries (such as bites, which can be **particularly** harmful and traumatic **to children**)"

6.1.2. We suggest that dog bites can be traumatic and harmful for any person, not just "children" and that this section of the preamble would be improved by changing it to read "**...can cause injuries (such as bites, which can be harmful and traumatic)**".

6.1.3. For balance, an indication could be added to the preamble that the appropriate exercise of dogs not only improves the well-being of the dog, but also incentivises the greater fitness and well-being of the dog owner and his/her family. Therefore, making it possible for the joint exercise of dogs and dog owners is a benefit to the city on a number of levels. Everyone wins if the dog is able to be exercised with the family.

6.2. **Clause 1.6: Community outcomes related to the policy.**

6.2.1. We **strongly support** the alignment of the Dog Control Policy with the council's Community Outcomes.

6.2.2. In particular, we **strongly support** inclusion of the "Green and liveable" Community Outcome as a guide to the decision-making relating to this Dog Control Policy as it elevates the importance of biodiversity protection and enhancement within the context of a city that must work for its human population as well.

6.3. Clause 3.1.1: Keeping your dog under effective control

6.3.1. We **strongly support** the changes proposed for the description of effective control.

6.3.2. The first bullet point incorrectly indicates deletion of the word "where". This word is required to make sense of the phrase "actively pay attention to **where** the dog is and what it is doing".

6.3.3. However, refer to our comments in point 3 above about the training of dogs and their owners to achieve "effective control".

6.4. Clause 3.1.2: Limit on the number of dogs a person can be in charge of

6.4.1. We **support** the inclusion of this section and the limits imposed.

6.5. **Clause 3.1.2: Carrying the means of removing dog faeces in public places**

6.5.1. We **support** the clarification achieved by the inclusion of ", recycled or compostable".

6.5.2. As published, there appears to be a numbering issue with this and the subsequent clause. They should read 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 respectively.

6.5.3. Assuming this corrected numbering we suggest that the explanation that "If left on the ground, dog faeces will contaminate waterways" would be better placed in 3.1.4 (rather than 3.1.3)

6.6. Clause 6.1: General prohibited areas

6.6.1. For consistency, the word "Section" is not required in the heading to this section.

6.7. Clause 6.2: General leashed areas

6.7.1. For consistency, the word "Section" is not required in the heading to this section.

6.7.2. The numbering of this clause appears to be wrong. It should be 6.4 with subsequent renumbering of sub-clauses.

6.8. Schedule 1: Prohibited and leashed dog control areas

6.8.1. As a general observation, the wording in the "Comment" section for each park/reserve lands much better for the reader when there is a qualification (often rendered in brackets) to the restriction.

6.8.2. For instance, "Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values (particularly wading birds, gulls and terns)" comes across as more reasonable than "Dogs are prohibited to protect wildlife values". While it may not be possible to identify the most significant of the values to be protected in some cases, where this is possible it should occur for consistency and for the purpose of better education. It should not be taken as given that the reasons for restrictions are obvious to all residents.

6.8.3. Also for consistency, we suggest that "to protect wildlife values" is more encompassing than "to protect wildlife" and should be used throughout where appropriate. "To protect wildlife values" implies protection of more than just the animal itself but also its feeding, breeding and shelter requirements.

6.8.4. Similarly, reasons for restrictions such as "to protect ecological values", "to protect conservation values" or "to protect health and safety" would all

land better if these were qualified with an example or two of the ecological, conservation or health & safety aspects that are in danger of being disturbed. For instance, “to protect health and safety (picnic areas)” lands as more reasonable than the bald “to protect health and safety”.

6.8.5. There is a range of descriptions used for grazing stock: “to protect grazing stock”, “to protect animals grazing” and even “to protect and grazing stock”. For consistency, we suggest that these entries should read “to protect grazing stock”. Grazing animals (and indeed animals grazing) could include goats and rabbits, for example, which is unlikely to be the objective.

6.8.6. The entry for the “Teddington mudflats, salt meadow and saltmarsh” has been altered for what is described as consistency’s sake but we suggest, given the above, that the changes contemplated inappropriately reduce the information supplied as a justification for the restriction. We suggest that this change reduces the educational value of the comment and should not be made and that the consistency instead should be the inclusion of examples for the restriction.

6.8.7. We **strongly support** the requirement for leashing in areas where the protection of wildlife values and/or ecological values is required.

6.8.7.1. In particular, we **strongly support** the restriction and wording for the **Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary**, the **Southshore Spit Reserve** and **Charlesworth Reserve**.

6.8.8. We **do not support** the suggested restrictions on dogs in the newly formed retention ponds and associated areas of **Te Kuru Wetland**, **Worsley Valley 1 Drainage Reserve** (including Cashmere dam/wetlands), and the **Sparks Wetland**. We believe these restrictions are not sufficiently strong to protect the wildlife values in these areas.

6.8.8.1. All mown grass areas in these reserves border planted wetlands which are/will become important habitats for a variety of wildlife species.

6.8.8.2. Even a well-trained and obedient dog will find it difficult to resist the temptation to enter these wetland areas, especially on hot days, to the disturbance of many wildlife values.

6.8.8.3. Given that most dogs appear to be less than well-trained to avoid this temptation, we believe it would be much more realistic and effective in terms of the balance between the freedom of dogs and the protection of wildlife values to give these particular reserves a tighter restriction.

6.8.8.4. We would **strongly support** a restriction of "Prohibited/leashed only" in the **Te Kuru Wetland**, **Worsley Valley 1 Drainage Reserve** (including Cashmere dam/wetlands), and the **Sparks Wetland**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2024.

The Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network recognises the endeavour of CCC staff in the development of this policy and bylaw and the consultation process.

We wish to be heard at the hearings for this draft policy and bylaw.

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Quentin McDonald
Chair
Ōpāwaho Heathcote River Network

Styx Living Laboratory Trust Comments on CCC Dog Control Bylaw 2024

Email - [redacted]
Website: www.thestyx.org.nz
Facebook: Styx Living Laboratory Trust
Cell Phone: [redacted]

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the Christchurch City Council's Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024. The Styx Living Laboratory Trust is thankful for the considerable effort put into preparing the Bylaw.

This submission has been prepared by members of the Styx Living Laboratory Trust.

The Styx Living Laboratory Trust (SLLT), is a local river care group. The Trust was officially formed in 2002 and has since encompassed a role of guardianship and advocacy for the Pūharakekenui (Styx) River and the biodiversity of the surrounding land as a living part of the Canterbury landscape.

We, the trustees and volunteers, are advocates for maintaining water quality and other values (including drainage, ecology, landscape, culture, recreation, and heritage values) in the river. We care deeply about our water and want it to remain clean, healthy, biodiverse and available for future generations to use and enjoy.

General Comments

We (SLLT) are advocates for protecting the health and values of the Pūharakekenui and as such we generally ***strongly support*** all initiatives which enhance ecological values and assist with establishing the Pūharakekenui as a viable spring-fed river ecosystem.

Commentary

SLLT ***strongly supports*** the following:

1. The Trust changes to Section 1.6, namely, the inclusion of the Council-adopted community outcomes 2024-2034, due to the improved cohesiveness across Council guidelines. The Trust also *agrees* with the addition of culturally sensitive sites as an area to be protected through dog leashing or prohibition. There are several culturally sensitive sites associated with the Pūharakekenui, and our priority is to recognise, maintain and enhance these areas. Off-leash dogs have the potential to harm and disrupt the character of these sites.

2. The prohibition of dogs from the Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park and Janet Stewart Reserve, which the Pūharakekenui river flows through. The Trust also supports the Council's reasoning, that these are areas of significant cultural and ecological value. In addition to their recreational value, the Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park is a rongoā Māori demonstration area, and Janet Stewart Reserve is used for harakeke harvesting.

3. The clarification that all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in parks require dogs to be on a short leash. The Trust maintains parks and reserves along the Pūharakekenui as part of the creation of a "Source to Sea" pathway, which is hoped to be accessible and enjoyable by the community through numerous forms of recreation, including exercising dogs. This complements the use of leashes in these areas to protect wildlife and the cultural character of the area.

4. Providing clarification for the different areas of the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve and prohibiting dogs from ecological significant areas. The Styx Mill Conservation Reserve is a highly ecological significant area in the Styx, especially for waterbird nesting, and effectively prohibiting dogs is vital for maintaining these ecological values. The Trust *notes* that the perimeter pathway for leashed dogs and designated dog park for unleashed dogs provides ample space for people to enjoy the Styx Mill area without disrupting the protected areas and species inside the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed changes to the Christchurch City Council's Dog Control Bylaw for 2024.

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sustainable
ōtautahi christchurch

Submission on Christchurch City Council Dog Control Bylaw and Policy

From Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch

The issue of dogs negatively impacting endangered indigenous wildlife is a major concern for Sustainable Ōtautahi Christchurch (SOC). We want the ecological health of our city to be enhanced and a major barrier to this is the impact some dogs have in ecologically sensitive areas, and on endangered species.

However, we seek behaviour change of the owners and that comes from both an awareness of the reasons dogs need to be under control; but also from the awareness that as a community we will not allow the negative behaviours to continue.

The range of measures in this draft proposal we believe will go too far if implemented as they stand. Blanket rules (with a few exceptions) are generally not the solution we need. They will lead to dog owners pushing back and/or ignoring them, and would probably be counterproductive., i.e. make things worse in the longer term.

Most of the impact we need could have been achieved (and still could be achieved) by more effectively and consistently enforcing the rules we already have.

It is vital that dogs are kept off the Estuary. However, on the South New Brighton side there is plenty of room on formed tracks for off-lead controlled dogs to be enjoying life with their owners without disturbing the wildlife. If the dog owners who take or allow their dogs off lead onto the mudflats and water edge were told NO and this was enforced with the occasional fine then everyone else could continue undisturbed.

Ōtautahi Chirstchurch is a dog- friendly dog- owning community with a large number of dogs per head of population. So much so that many businesses are actively catering for dogs and it appears to be a positive for the economic health of the city. Note the number of dog bowls around the city's cafes for example.

The lifestyles of many people are considerably enhanced by dog ownership. It is good for their physical health, mental and social health. We also have to remember dogs have these needs as well. Having a city with many places that dogs can be exercised with their owners off -lead is important.

Constructed dog parks, while sometimes of value, can be very dangerous places for dogs. They do attract owners who cannot control their dogs and some very nasty situations have occurred for other dogs and their owners. They are not the solution, although they are important in the mix.

Some principles to keep in mind.

- Good design… of areas that do, or may in future, shelter important wildlife. e.g stormwater infrastructure and constructed wetlands.

- The precautionary principle. When establishing new areas for wildlife it is important to keep people and dogs out of them from the start. If you allow them in it is so much harder to change established behaviour than to prevent poor behaviour in the first place. If an area is currently 'no dog' think very very hard before opening it up e.g. the 360 trail going along the Estuary edge near a juvenile godwits wintering zone. It is much more sensible to divert the human impact, than to change wildlife behaviour so they can survive. In other words don't add unnecessarily to existing problems and then retrospectively try and find a 'fix'.

- The Panopticon principle. If people think they might be observed their behaviour will change and this can be behaviour change caused without a great deal of effort and expense. This would require some fines to be implemented and signs indicating this possibility. It might require things like the dog control vehicle parking somewhere strategic to make people think they may be being observed then and at other unspecified times.

Connection with nature is important to all citizens. Many dog owners are far more connected because of dog related activities than many other people. The point is we need this to be in a way that protects the wildlife and natural spaces for everyone.

Blanket rules look good sometimes to regulators (and zealots), are cheap options and can give a sense of "doing something" but can be dangerous. Blanket rules will not work if over used and in places where the logic of the rule is not apparent. (There are stretches of river edge that fit this and we will elaborate re this point at the hearings.) Dog owners will ignore rules if they do not make sense to them and there is not a perceived chance of consequences if they ignore them. There will be resentment and anger and potential wedges between dog owners and Council, and dog owners and other groups in our community if blanket rules are overused or used inappropriately.

Dogs have mental health needs as do their owners. We don't want to create problem dogs downstream because of an over use of 'on -lead' rulings. This could become a major stress for our communities and expense for Council.

In conclusion, we want to emphasise that people need to experience nature to appreciate and love it. Many dog owners in Ōtautahi Christchurch have a deep love of natural spaces. Their connection with the natural world is enhanced by their dog ownership. With continuing education and awareness raising; with sensible bespoke regulation which considers genuine and specific impacts, plus effective enforcement of rules we have on recalcitrant owners, we can all continue to love our dog-friendly city.

Contact: Colleen Philip (Chairperson) phone [redacted]
Address: [redacted]

We do wish to speak at the hearings.

Submission by the

Royal New Zealand Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.

on

Christchurch City Council Draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw 2024

15 December 2024

Executive Summary

- SPCA supports steps to promote responsible dog ownership.
- SPCA broadly supports the intention of the proposed changes to leashing on or near roads but considers leashing requirements for paths in off-leash areas may cause confusion and reduce compliance.
- SPCA supports protection of wildlife and balancing the needs of different users through appropriate control of dogs but cautions that removal of any off-leash exercise areas should be balanced with the creation and designation of additional, appropriate off-leash exercise areas.
- SPCA supports the proposed provision of additional off-leash exercise areas.
- SPCA supports the implementation of reasonable limits on the number of dogs a professional dog walker can manage at one time.
- SPCA advocates for Councils to provide a review pathway for dogs classified as 'menacing by behaviour', provided owners take specific steps to demonstrate responsible dog ownership.

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Introduction

The following submission is made on behalf of The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (trading as SPCA).

SPCA is the preeminent animal welfare and advocacy organisation in New Zealand. The Society has been in existence for over 150 years with a supporter base representing more than 100,000 New Zealanders across the nation.

The organisation includes 28 Animal Welfare Centres across New Zealand and approximately 60 inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

SPCA welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Christchurch City Council Draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

Submission

SPCA advocates for responsible dog ownership. Below we provide feedback on proposed changes to the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw, additional suggestions for the Council to consider that promote more responsible dog ownership, and background information and research in support of our submission.

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?

SPCA does not support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed.

It is not clear how rules requiring leashing on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in off-leash areas would be enforced. Council have responded to queries stating this would be practical and on a case-by-case basis. SPCA cautions that compliance with rules is improved if these rules are plain, understandable, and reasonable. At the time of writing, we are not aware of any other councils with current bylaws that set requirements for leash lengths or require leashing on footpaths in off-leash areas.

On-leash exercise is not a substitute for off-leash exercise. Dogs walk faster than people and providing off-leash time allows them to work off excess energy. Research suggests that off-leash dog exercise areas can benefit owners' and dogs' physical and social health, as well as community connectedness (Cutt et al., 2007; Eldering & Martin, 2017; González Ramírez & Landero Hernández, 2014; Toohey et al., 2013). Canine obesity is now considered to be the number one health concern in companion dogs worldwide (Kipperman & German, 2018). Dogs walked less often and for a shorter time are more likely to be obese; this can shorten their life and put them at risk of health complications such as diabetes and heart disease (German et al., 2017).

Dogs not provided an appropriate outlet for their energy can develop problem behaviours such as nuisance barking and destructive behaviours or depression (Instone & Sweeney, 2014). Exercise is an easy, inexpensive, welfare-friendly tool to assist with nuisance barking (Righetti, 2005). Thus, provision of off-leash exercise opportunities is a key component of the Council's obligations to prevent or abate nuisances

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?

SPCA broadly supports the intention of the proposed change.

SPCA considers this proposal reasonable to protect the safety of both dogs and people.

Do you support the proposals prohibiting dog access to specific areas to protect wildlife?

SPCA supports proposals prohibiting dog access to specific areas to protect wildlife.

Our organisation recognises the importance of managing the negative impacts that dogs can have on valuable biodiversity areas and supports the protection of areas that are important habitats to native wildlife.

However, there is a legitimate need for safe, appropriate designated off-leash areas to provide alternatives to those areas where the presence of off-leash dogs is potentially detrimental to wildlife, farmed animals and other users of public lands. SPCA believes that Council should

consult and take on board feedback from local residents regarding adequate provision of appropriate dog exercise areas.

Legally, all dog owners must meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of their animals, and providing sufficient exercise is a part of this requirement. Some dog owners may be reluctant to exercise their dogs if they have less flexibility about where they can do this within their local area. Provision of alternative designated dog exercise areas to compensate for those removed, is likely to improve compliance with the introduced restrictions and allow dog owners to meet their physical, health and behavioural needs.

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?

SPCA supports the implementation of reasonable limits on the number of dogs a professional dog walker can manage at one time.

Walking too many dogs simultaneously can compromise the ability of a professional dog walker to provide adequate supervision and control. This can lead to increased stress, potential conflicts between dogs, and a higher risk of accidents or injuries. Limiting the number of dogs per walk ensures each animal receives the attention and care they need for a positive and safe walking experience.

Large groups of dogs can pose a public safety concern, especially in busy or densely populated areas. Setting a reasonable cap on the number of dogs can help mitigate risks to other dog owners, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers, and reduce the likelihood of incidents that could harm public safety.

SPCA acknowledges that introducing a mechanism which allows people with appropriate skills to apply for an exemption to control a greater number of dogs is a reasonable compromise.

SPCA believes that Council should consult and take on board feedback from local residents regarding potential impacts on dog owners to ensure limits are appropriate and will not unreasonably restrict dog owners with more than two dogs to meet their dogs' physical health and behavioural needs.

An alternative approach would be a licensing programme for professional dog walkers which allows them access to exercise groups of dogs in specific areas, similar to that introduced for Wellington City Council.

Additional feedback on the proposed dog control policy and bylaw

Dog friendly communities

SPCA supports dog-friendly communities. New Zealanders overwhelmingly consider their companion animals part of their whānau (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2020). Creating dog-friendly communities facilitates socialisation of puppies and dogs. Dogs which have been adequately and appropriately socialised are less likely to show undesirable behaviours such as barking and aggression (Blackwell et al., 2008). We commend councils which take proactive steps to foster positive community attitudes and practices at dog-friendly establishments, public transport, and rental properties (for example see Wellington City Council).

Menacing and prohibited dogs

SPCA understands that Councils are required to comply with the Dog Control Act 1996, which currently requires classification of dogs listed in Schedule 4 (as assessed based on visual assessment of the dog's physical characteristics) as "menacing". SPCA strongly opposes breed specific legislation, such as New Zealand's Dog Control Act 1996, as evidence shows that targeting specific dog breeds or types is subjective, does not reduce the risk of dog bites, and places additional obligations on responsible owners.

The Dog Control Act does not contain a definition of what constitutes an "American Pit Bull Terrier type" and thus it is left up to each territorial authority to determine how they establish reasonable grounds for believing a dog is wholly or predominantly one of the impacted dog breeds or types. SPCA cautions this as research has clearly shown that visual assessment of mixed breed dogs is highly inaccurate, even when conducted by experts such as shelter workers,

veterinarians and dog control officers (Hoffman et al., 2014; Olson et al., 2015; Voith et al., 2013). Classification as menacing has serious consequences for a dog's welfare and can impact responsible dog owners. SPCA encourages Council to consider these impacts, and the high rates of error in visual identification of cross breeds, when determining their criteria for classifying dogs as 'menacing' based solely on appearance.

Pathway to review menacing classification

SPCA advocates for Councils to provide a review pathway for dogs classified as 'menacing by behaviour', provided owners take specific steps to demonstrate responsible dog ownership. This approach has been successfully adopted by other territorial authorities (for example, see Auckland Council Dog Bylaw) and incentivises human behaviour change and adoption of responsible dog ownership practices.

Conclusion

SPCA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Christchurch City Council Draft Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. Our organisation is happy to discuss this matter if further information is required.

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Public Statement from the Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand

Subject: Input on Proposed Changes to Dog Control Policies and Leash Laws in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula

The Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand (APDTNZ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Christchurch City Council's survey regarding dog control policies and leash laws. We appreciate the Council's commitment to reviewing these regulations to balance public safety with the needs of dogs and their caregivers. We fully support the implementation of limits on the number of dogs one person can walk at a time to ensure better control and safety. However, we have concerns about the potential over-reliance on increased leash laws as a blanket solution for general dog-related issues.

The Limitations of Blanket Leash Laws

While leash laws are designed to ensure public safety and order, applying more stringent leash requirements universally may not effectively address the underlying issues related to canine behaviour and public safety. Instead of broad restrictions, a more nuanced approach is recommended, one that emphasises education, responsible dog guardianship, and community engagement.

The Ethics of Providing Freedom for Canine Welfare

Ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of dogs involves not only physical health but also ethical considerations in training and handling practices, including enrichment and agency. Research highlights several benefits of giving dogs freedom to explore:

- Physical Health: Increased physical activity, contributing to better overall health (Hurley et al., 2011), including the prevention of obesity. As outlined in New Zealand's Code of Welfare for dogs, exercise is crucial for both physical and mental health and insufficient exercise can lead to behavioural problems.
- Agency and Space: Greater sense of agency in dogs by allowing them enhanced sense of freedom to explore their environment, which significantly augments their positive welfare and reduces behavioural concerns (Blattner et al., 2020; Jones, 2024; Littlewood et al., 2023; Westgarth et al., 2010).
- Mental Stimulation: Dogs benefit from cognitive engagement and environmental enrichment, leading to reduced stress and anxiety (Kis et. al., 2015; Moesta et al., 2015).

Longer leads (at least 3m or 10 feet) and long lines have emerged as significant aids in achieving goals of greater freedom and agency (Campbell et al., 2016; Littlewood et al., 2023) while keeping dogs, wildlife, and the public safe. Longer leashes and off lead freedoms, when properly trained, promote natural behaviours such as sniffing, roaming, and interacting with their surroundings, which increases a dog's feelings of safety and satisfaction (Foltin & Ganslosser, 2021), in line with the Five Domains Model of animal welfare (Mellor et al., 2020).

Behavioural Benefits and Strengthening the Human-Dog Bond

Off-lead freedom for dogs under effective control and longer leashes help in addressing behavioural concerns by providing appropriate outlets for energy and exploration, reducing the likelihood of behavioural problems (Foltin & Ganslosser, 2021), including leash pulling, which is a notable welfare concern for dogs (Townsend et al., 2022). This increase in autonomy reduces stress and frustration, subsequently leading to a decrease in undesired behaviours like excessive barking, or aggressive/conflict behaviours. Additionally, they contribute to strengthening the bond between dogs and their caregivers (APPA, 2020), as "well-behaved" and content dogs are easier to manage and enjoy a higher quality of life (Jones, 2024; Littlewood et. al., 2023).
Dogs are highly valued in New Zealand society, both as companions and working animals. However, improper management and care can negatively impact their welfare and potentially affect other dogs, humans, animals, and the environment. In order to adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Code of Welfare for dogs, the promotion of effective off-lead freedom and the use of longer leashes will help enhance canine welfare and mitigate the risks above.

Limitations of Excessive Restrictions

Excessive restrictions, such as stricter leash laws, can inadvertently exacerbate behavioural problems by limiting dogs' opportunities for exercise and mental stimulation. This may lead to increased frustration and stress, undermining the very safety these laws aim to achieve (Horwitz & Mills, 2009; Tami et al., 2008).

The Importance of Education Over Restriction

Rather than implementing more restrictive leash laws, we advocate for prioritising educational initiatives. Educating dog guardians about humane training techniques, responsible stewardship, and the benefits of positive reinforcement can significantly reduce behavioural issues that lead to stricter regulations (AVMA, 2019). Effective education fosters a deeper understanding of dogs' needs, as well as teaching them skills needed to coexist harmoniously in public spaces, leading to better public integration and reduced conflicts.

Benefits of Integrative Approaches

We recommend a well-rounded approach that includes creating more dog-friendly spaces, such as designated off-leash areas (including shared human-dog spaces), alongside educational campaigns to address safety concerns effectively. The positive impact of such initiatives means that communities with accessible dog-friendly spaces report higher levels of social cohesion and community wellbeing (Wood et al., 2015). Engaging the community in unbiased discussions about dog policies ensures that regulations are practical and enforceable and see more compliance and fewer conflicts between dog caregivers and non-caregivers (Weiss et al., 2013). Collaborative efforts between dog caregivers, animal behaviourists, and council can result in policies that are considerate, protect public safety whilst promoting the welfare of dogs.

Conclusion

In summary, while leash laws play a role in maintaining order, unreasonable restrictions on their use is not a panacea for canine behaviour and public safety issues. We propose that a comprehensive strategy, integrating education and the use of longer leashes is a more effective and humane approach. One effective method is creating and maintaining more off-leash areas where dogs can exist under specified conditions (example, leash when necessary, expected courtesies and particular skill sets, i.e. “under effective control”). These spaces, combined with educational programmes for dog caregivers, can mitigate the need for restrictive leash laws. By focusing on these strategies, we can foster a positive environment for both dogs and people.

We have already witnessed significant improvement over the last few years with people using positive reinforcement training and longer leashes to reduce unwanted interactions and harm from leash tension. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion and encourage the Christchurch City Council to consider these perspectives in their review process. As the body representing ethical professional dog trainers in New Zealand, we would very much appreciate being consulted further as the review process progresses.

Sincerely,

Association for Professional Dog Trainers New Zealand

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Submission on the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy

by Ashley Campbell

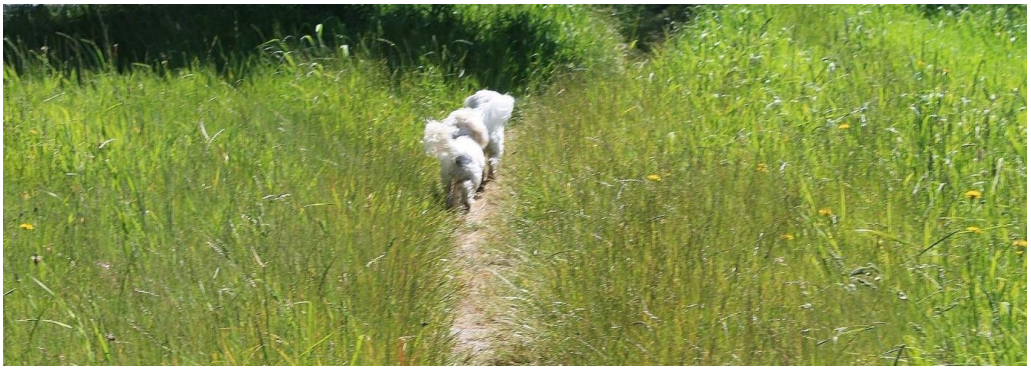
I wish to be heard

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?

No.

I support a requirement for dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths and shared paths. I *do not* support a requirement for dogs to be leashed on all formed tracks in all green spaces and parks. This proposal did NOT receive majority support in the earlier consultation – it was opposed by 49% and supported by just 44%. This is over-reach.

As a responsible owner of two small dogs who stand no higher than 26cm at the shoulder, one of whom hates dog parks, this restriction would make it impossible for me to safely exercise my dogs off leash for a large part of the year.



One justification given for this proposal is simplicity and consistency. Yet the rules about dogs on beaches vary, showing that having different rules in different places is not a real issue. Simplicity and consistency are fine, unless they are overly restrictive and unfair. This is overly restrictive and unfair – and not internally consistent.

I will expand on this in the question about the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor, as it deals with the same issues.

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?

Yes.

Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor?

No.

I am the person who began the campaign to return the red zone to nature, and I am passionate about regeneration in this land. However, the draft policy goes too far by restricting off-leash exercise in areas where it poses no threat to regenerating habitat and wildlife.

I support the proposal to require dogs to be leashed on the shared pathway, ensuring there is a safe space for people to walk where they can be secure dogs will not approach them. I also support the proposal to require dogs to be leashed in reforested and wetland areas and landings. These restrictions protect wildlife, allow regeneration, and provide safe places for people who are afraid of dogs to picnic and relax.

However, the proposal to restrict dogs to the mown grass areas is overly restrictive and unsafe for dogs. It effectively bans many dogs from off-leash exercise in all the OARC for large portions of the year.

During winter, much of the grassed area is under water and/or extremely muddy (see images). This makes it unsuitable for exercising many dogs, especially small dogs.





When the grassed areas are underwater or overly muddy most dog owners stick to the roads and formed pathways, because those are the only safe and comfortable places to walk. Any attempt to force dogs to be leashed on these roads and pathways will fail through widespread noncompliance.

During spring and summer, the grass in the mown areas is mowed only once a month. This means for two weeks out of every month it is too high for small dogs to be comfortably exercised in and – more importantly – it is unsafe for all dogs to be exercised in.

Grass seed injuries are a major issue for dogs, resulting in expensive veterinary treatment and, in the worst cases, death. Sharp grass seeds get caught in dogs' fur, between their toes, in their nostrils, or in their ears. Even if they go no further, they cause injuries such as lameness and puncture wounds. However, if they pierce the skin or enter an ear canal or nostril, they work their way into the blood stream and can be carried to any part of a dog's body. They can kill dogs of any size.

Responsible dog owners avoid areas of long grass – and areas of recently mown long grass where the seed now lies on the ground. If they can't avoid those areas, they know to check their dogs thoroughly afterwards. But checking afterwards is not nearly as good as avoiding altogether.



The two photos above show three grass seeds that entered the leg of Arlo, our walking companion, who required surgery to remove them. One of my dogs became lame for a couple of days because of a grass seed caught between her toes. We found it before it did any major damage, but the experience was still painful and costly.

If you limit off-leash exercise to mown grass areas, then you must mow those grass areas often enough to prevent seed from forming. That means at least fortnightly during spring summer and autumn. Have you costed that?

Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary?

Yes. But you must have better, bigger signage. If you want people to comply you need to take every opportunity to ask them to comply and make it easy to do so.

Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins?

In general, yes, but with the same comments as elsewhere about being allowed off-leash on pathways where this is not a danger to wildlife.

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?

Unsure – I feel it is a bit too restrictive and will lead to a significant increase in costs to Council. I'd be more comfortable with 3 dogs off lead and 6 on-lead.

Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy?

If you restrict the areas that dogs can be exercised off leash too much, people will simply ignore the bylaw. That won't please anyone, and those who wish to avoid dogs won't be any better off.

Instead, look at how to make it easier for dogs to be exercised off leash close to home, in a way that also meets the needs of those who don't want dogs around. For example, at the eastern beaches dogs must be on leash in restricted areas between 9am and 7pm during daylight saving. Before 9am and after 7pm, they can be exercised off-leash.

Why not apply the same rule to parks where dogs are currently limited to always being on-leash (eg Woodham Park, Avebury Park)? For many owners, the local park is the closest place to exercise their dog, and many do so early in the morning before they go to work, or in the evening when they get home. Allowing dogs to be off leash before 9am and after 7pm means they can be exercised when few other people are using the park, leaving the rest of the day free for everyone.

Make allowances for water dogs

I largely support the proposal to keep dogs out of the river to protect wildlife, but a total ban will result in non-compliance all over the place. Some dogs are, by their very breeding, water dogs. It's important to find places for them to be in the water safely. Enable them to do so in one or two defined areas. This is much more likely to lead to compliance elsewhere, which will make it safer for wildlife.

Council is obliged to communicate effectively

Finally, the obligation on dog owners to understand regulations does not absolve the Council of its obligation to make it easy for owners to find and understand the regulations. People are often in a rush and/or stressed – they may want to comply but have headed out before they checked. Good communication, and an attitude of making it easy for people to comply, is the key. Areas need to be clearly and plainly signposted – a failure to do so will simply result in increased non-compliance.

Enable positive dog ownership

The draft policy as it stands feels very negative and punitive. As a dog owner and a conservationist, parts of it have left me feeling quite resentful.

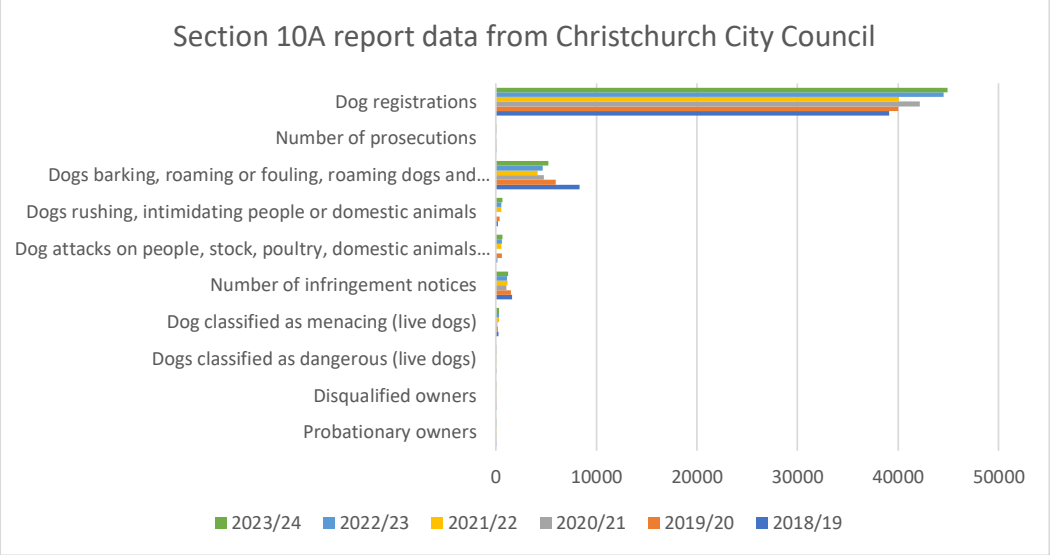
For many of us, getting out with our dogs for an hour each day is our main form of exercise; that has benefits not just for us but for our community. It would be good to think the council was positive and enabling, rather than unnecessarily restrictive and punitive.

Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

Full Name R B Auriemma-Hallett
Address [redacted]
Postcode [redacted]
Email [redacted]

I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is

The purpose of the combined policy and bylaw are to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the potential harm, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.



*In 2020/21, data on dog attacks and dogs rushing were not reported in the same format as other years and have been excluded from the analysis

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? Yes

This requirement is primarily aimed at dog walkers who are acting in one form or another as commercial services, an unregulated industry. The rule will not fully address the problem, however, unless the Council enforces the rule with spot-checks at parks, beaches and reserves that are used by these operations.

Do you support the revised definition of effective control? Yes

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash (defined as 1.5 m) on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed? No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings is justified, particularly considering a new definition of effective control which should help create more certainty for education and enforcement actions.

There are legitimate concerns about public safety, however blanket ('lowest common denominator') requirements on shared paths and tracks are overly restrictive. Owners will want to use pathways whereas their

dogs will want to express natural agency. I refer to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ position statement on this matter.[1]

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads. No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings is justified, particularly considering the Council's own enforcement data. (There are 23.7% less infringement notices being issued in 2023/24 than there were in 2018/19, despite an increase in the registered dog population of 13.8%).

I favour a more balanced approach to managing shared pathways in Christchurch involving the concept of "speed yields to vulnerability" (in conjunction with the definition of effective control). The needs of the most vulnerable user at any given time must be considered. We need a greater sense of community on our shared paths. The majority of dog owners obey the current rules and are considerate, but are being let down by the Council through lack of targeted and effective enforcement.

Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? No

The proposal for this area, commonly referred to as the red zone, will severely limit the ability to use the area for enjoyment, enrichment, exercise and off-leash training. The inability to access riverbanks means that dogs will not be allowed access to enjoy the water which is essential to animal welfare in hot weather; there are already limited areas where dogs have safe water access.

If allowed to proceed in its current form, this rule will limit dogs to 1/3 of the red zone area, and only on mown grass areas. Practically speaking, it will also limit access of most dog owners to mown grass areas only. At a minimum, this creates inequities for elderly dog owners, those with physical disabilities, and families with small children.

The proposed limitations have not been justified by the Council's own data with a particular emphasis that there are no data to show that dogs are negatively impacting wildlife "*impacts on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs cannot accurately be quantified in many situations, as data is not available*[2]*.* I accept that the Council is developing this area, in part, as an ecological corridor but this development must proceed with a more balanced approach to other users.

Other comments:

There has been an over reliance on a Dog Control Survey issued by the Council in July 2024 in developing these proposals. The survey methodology was not peer reviewed to ensure against survey bias, which was confirmed by [redacted] the Manager of Official Information and Privacy Officer on 20 August 2024. [redacted] said, "*the survey was to understand some of the public's thoughts on some particular concepts or issues to help us shape the review of our Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*" (emphasis added)

In addition, the implications of all proposals cannot fully be understood without a map. The Council has refused to provide a map, despite requests, stating that *"We have a map that shows the current rules. The map will be updated when all the changes have been finalised*."[3] In my opinion, the lack of a map has created an unfair burden on dog handlers to fully understand the impacts of these proposals in sufficient time to submit by the Council's deadline and shows that the Council is predisposed to implement all proposals regardless of feedback.

[1] https://www.apdtnz.org.nz/position-statement-dog-control-policies-and-leash-laws
[2] Review of the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016, paper to Christchurch City Council dated 16 October 2024
[3] https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa


mera

I, **Anabella Rivas**, have submitted your form regarding the proposed dog control bylaw changes as a NZ citizen and Christchurch resident and property owner, however I'd like to make an official response to your proposed dog control bylaw changes and also **request to present to the Hearing Panel** in the upcoming phase for this regulation.

This response will be divided into the following topics:

1. My response and supporting information for each of the consultation questions as per https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa
2. Dog Welfare – What we should learn from evidence-based studies on dog behaviour.
3. Impact of the Proposed Changes – gaps, risks, and analysis of the Bylaw and Policy Review Report 2024
4. Towards better local regulation – Digging into the official guidelines of what good regulation looks like and the challenges I have observed in some of the proposals of this Dog Bylaw.
5. Potential Options / Solutions
6. Outstanding questions from the Dog Bylaw Survey (July 24) and Dog Bylaw Consultation (December 24)
7. References

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1. Answers to Consultation Questions (https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa)

1.1 Consultation Process - Question 1

Question: Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?

Answer: No.

Preference:

- Dogs should be on a long leash on footpaths to allow them to communicate clearly and have freedom of movement.
- Dogs should be off-leash on shared paths and formed tracks if under effective voice and sight control, and if dogs exhibit good dog etiquette towards others and the environment (see more about dog etiquette in 'Potential solutions'). If they're not under effective voice and sight control and do not exhibit good dog etiquette then they should be on a long leash of at least 3 metres long for footpaths, and at least 10 metres long for shared and formed paths.

Supporting information: This will have a high negative impact on how dogs utilise their body language to communicate with one another and could cause reactivity. Off-leash, well-socialised and educated dogs usually get acquainted with ease, without squabbles or fights. Two off-leash dogs expertly interpret each other's body language and assess each other's intentions and personality, with the freedom to move closer or farther away according to their comfort level.

Dogs on leashes, however, are often more tense and prone to aggression. There are a few reasons for this:

(1) Dogs are often restrained by their owners on a tight leash, which puts pressure on their neck and airways and adds to any tension they might be feeling;

(2) Straining on a tight leash tends to make a dog rise up and look bigger, leading the other dog to misinterpret the dog's intentions and sometimes provoking defensiveness;

(3) Because their movements are tightly constrained by the leash, dogs can't use their natural social skills of moving away if one dog feels anxious or threatened or moving toward if they feel friendly. They're stuck in close proximity as their owners hold them on tight leashes and forget to observe their dogs' behaviour and body language.

Key things to consider:

1. **When off-leash and in their own environment, dogs naturally greet from the side** (in an arc) and sniff each other's genital area. They don't approach head-on and make hard eye contact unless a fight is about to start. Greetings typically last only a few seconds.
2. **When our dogs meet on leash, they are typically forced to approach head-on** and are often unable to turn their bodies. Their forced body language, and our own, tell our dogs that we want to fight with one another. Most dogs don't want to fight, so they display several behaviours designed to prevent it. These distance-

increasing behaviours includes barking, lunging, or growling — anything to make the threat go away.

3. **While long leashes offer more freedom than short ones, they still fall short of providing the full range of movement dogs experience when off-leash.** The physical presence of any leash restricts natural behaviours such as exploring, sprinting, and interacting spontaneously with the environment. This limited freedom impacts not only physical health but also a dog's ability to engage in instinctual behaviours crucial for their psychological well-being.

While these proposals aim to maintain public safety and order, they inadvertently impact a crucial aspect of canine well-being – the need for dogs to move freely, hence impacting at least 3 of the 5 freedoms of animal welfare:

- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom to behave naturally
- Freedom from fear and distress.

Dogs are built to move, and restricting them to a leash can lay the groundwork for health issues ranging from muscle tension to osteoporosis. This situation reflects a broader ethical dilemma: as dog owners, we control every aspect of our dogs' lives, yet often fail to provide what's essential for their physical well-being. The impact of limited off-leash movement on dogs extends beyond the immediate lack of freedom. Musculoskeletal problems are a primary concern, arising from several interconnected factors:

- **Limited Range of Motion:** When dogs are restricted to a leash, especially a short one, they're unable to fully extend their bodies. This limitation hinders their ability to perform natural movements like running, jumping, and turning at speed, which are essential for maintaining joint flexibility and muscle strength.
- **Repetitive Stress:** On-leash activities often involve repetitive motions, such as walking or trotting at a consistent pace. This repetitiveness can lead to overuse injuries and stress on specific joints and muscles, as opposed to the varied movements that occur off-leash, which distribute physical stress more evenly across the body.
- **Reduced Joint Health:** Frequent and varied movements help maintain joint health by promoting the production and circulation of synovial fluid, which nourishes and lubricates the joints. Restricted movement can lead to decreased joint lubrication, increasing the risk of joint stiffness and conditions like arthritis.
- **Impact on Bone Density:** Dogs need dynamic activities that apply different types of pressure on their bones to maintain healthy bone density. The lack of diverse physical activities can lead to weakened bones, making them more susceptible to fractures and conditions like osteoporosis.

There is increasing scientific evidence to support this and I'd encourage CCC to reach out to dog behaviourists and trainers who have an international credential elicited by IAABC.

Important note: It was not evident in the survey that a short leash is 1.5m long. This should have been made clearer in the survey as some people could have missed this.

References utilised for answering this question:

https://southwesthumane.org/media/1181/canine-on-leash-dog-introductions.pdf

https://busydoggie.com/2024/01/11/on-leash-laws-and-the-hidden-costs-of-restricting-dog-movement/

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7132425/

1.2 Consultation Process - Question 2

Question: Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads.

Answer: No

Preference:

- Dogs should be on a long leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads.

Supporting information: Same references and explanation as in 1.1, furthermore short leash policies can contribute to creating a lot of poorly socialised dogs – creating a vicious cycle. Such dogs can unintentionally intimidate others, reinforcing fear and reactive behaviours. This situation highlights a foundational problem in societies with strict leash laws: the majority of puppy and adolescent dog interactions are on-leash, limiting their ability to learn appropriate social behaviour.

1.3 Consultation Process - Question 3

Question: Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? We're proposing to regulate the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former residential red zone) by prohibiting dogs in key areas to protect wildlife (river, wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs off leash and under effective control in over

200 hectares of mowed grass (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule).

Answer: No

Preference: Have off-leash dogs with good dog etiquette (see more in Potential Solutions) who behave appropriately and do not approach wildlife. Inability to do so would require them to be on a long leash under effective voice and sight control.

Supporting information: Restricting access for dogs to be off leash only in grass would require dogs to be on leash and off leash repetitively during a walk, disabling them from their freedom to behave naturally and exercise. Otakaro Avon River Corridor has become quite popular with the 'red Zone Dogs' community, which has offered dogs and their guardians ample time and space to socialise them under effective control. **Furthermore, this decision does not aim to solve any root causes**. Dogs can be trained not to chase birds or annoy any type of wildlife, as they can also be trained to stay close to their guardian while off leash.

1.4 Consultation Process - Question 4

Question: Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary? We're proposing to prohibit dogs from Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary to protect wildlife (including threatened and at-risk migratory birds). This would apply from the landward boundary inwards – people could continue to walk dogs on land nearby, such as along the grassed western edge of Southshore Spit, or on paths like Te Ara Ihutai Christchurch Coastal Pathway. Dogs would not be allowed along the shoreline where birds nest, or in tidal areas where they feed.

Answer: No

Preference: Have dogs on a long leash under effective voice and sight control.

Supporting information: There absolutely are places that dogs should not be off-leash, but in some cases they could be allowed on-leash. If there are places dogs should not be at all due to being a disturbance, I'd argue humans (especially human children and adolescents) should not be permitted to wander unsupervised / tread at all. But just like laws that govern people are written to respect the decision-making powers of reasonable men, laws that govern dogs should also allow for the reasonable man. I'm not about to let my dog run amok in a sensitive bird nesting site or let him loose on a beach full of seals. In fact, please give me a sign warning of those things so that I can properly put her on a leash.

1.5 Consultation Process - Question 5

Question: Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins? We're proposing to regulate stormwater basins, such as Te Kuru Wetland, by prohibiting dogs in some areas to protect wildlife (wetland and planted areas), while continuing to allow dogs to be off leash and under effective control in mowed grass areas (noting that pathways would come under the general leashed rule).

Answer: No

Preference: Here I agree with the view of Bono Beeler, from Neuropark. A dog on a walk should have the agency at least on a long leash to enter fresh water for cooling or / and drinking. We already have less safe access with our dogs to safe freshwater rivers due to cyanobacteria blooms in some rivers and bluebottle jellyfish in beaches.

Supporting information: Prohibiting dogs to access to stormwater basins goes against 3 of their 5 freedoms:

- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom to behave naturally
- Freedom from thirst and hunger

1.6 Consultation Process - Question 6

Question: Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? We're proposing to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place (to two when off-leash and four when leashed), with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs.

Answer: No

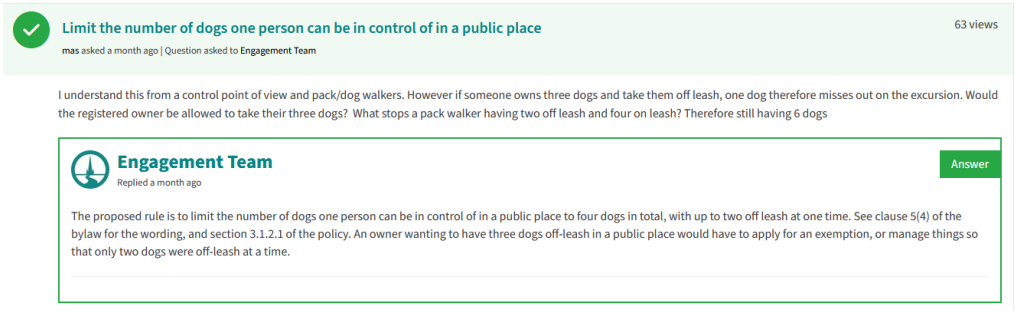
Preference:

- Limit amount of dogs under care of 1 person: I can understand the pressure of limiting the number of dogs to one person for safety reasons in public spaces, however there are circumstances in which a guardian already has 2-3 dogs and could be fostering another pup, or could be having family pets to look after. If limiting this number to 2. please clearly articulate the test these people need to pass in order to be able to care for more than 2 dogs in a public space. As per your feedback you mentioned this will be ad hoc. Well, for the safety of the public please take good consideration of the series of tests that the guardian and the dogs should pass and make it clear and transparent in the bylaw.

- Canine Professionals such as dog walkers: Again, I do technically agree with limited numbers per professional person / handler. However, who decides who and what are the right skills to handle multi dog walks?

Supporting information:

As per CCC response to this question:



The exemption or test should be outlined and clear before citizens and residents can actually make an informed decision. Failing to provide such information can result in lack of credibility in CCC's policy making.

According to the Auditor General, "Around the world, there are signs that people are losing faith in their governments – protesting about decisions, elections, and representation. People are increasingly questioning the veracity and reliability of information, including information from sources they once trusted. In the future, current entity-based reporting on an annual cycle is unlikely to meet people's needs or maintain their trust. Trust and confidence in government is at the heart of every democracy, so we need to start thinking differently about what constitutes effective accountability."

https://oag.parliament.nz/2017/strategic-intentions/docs/strategic-intentions.pdf/view

1.7 Consultation Process - Question 7

Question: The review proposes a number of other changes. Do you have feedback on any other parts of the Dog Control Bylaw or Policy? Please let us know which proposal or area your feedback is in relation to such as the park name.

I do, please see below:

Section 3.11 – Keeping your dog under effective control.

I agree with the change, but would add that:

1. Owner attention to where the dog is or what they are doing should not be overruled by the use of mobile phone/headsets.
2. Voice and sight control of the dog is paramount. Failing to do so means the dog is not under effective control.
3. That children should not be walking dogs (I've seen plenty holding the leash). And that teenagers should be supervised by an adult if walking the dog to ensure that they're adhering to the rules and managing the dog accordingly (I've seen too many teenagers walking dogs who do not seem to have their eyes, neither their attention on the dog, and not even picking up their poo or being mindful of other people and dogs on the road). If teenagers want to walk the dog on their own, they should at least pass a specific training exam vetted by professionals with an IAABC credential. (Why IAABC? Because trainers certified by this association adhere to the LIMA standard of using least intrusive, minimally aversive training. In a non-regulated industry such as dog training we should at least be careful of what training methods we recommend).

Section 6.2 – General Leashed areas

I've extensively covered this in items 1.1 and 1.2, however I'd like to point that when the survey went out in July 2024 it was not evident (unless you read the nitty gritty detail) that a short leash was to be 1.5m. Many people may have voted 'Yes' for dogs to be leashed in specific contexts (I definitely want dogs to be leashed on footpaths and in any area if they're not exhibiting good dog etiquette and are under effective control), but may not actually meant this to be on a short leash.

Section 7 – Other special areas – Dog Parks and Dog exercise Areas

Enforcement of good dog etiquette and under effective control must be present in Dog Parks and Dog Exercise Areas.

Most of the dogs running amok in a Dog Park unfortunately lack good social skills and their owners lack a good understanding of what a responsible owner should do to prevent conflicts between dogs and intervene if necessary.

Furthermore, in Dog Exercise Areas and all public spaces, it should be mandatory for menacing or dangerous dogs to wear muzzles and be in a long leash. This needs to be enforced properly.

Additionally, a note that recent studies evidence that Dog Parks tend to cause potential behavioural issues in dogs to the lack of regulations and control. Please find out more here:

https://www.patriciamcconnell.com/theotherendoftheleash/dog-parks

https://www.courteouscanine.com/say-no-to-dog-parks/

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9455081/

Section 9.1 Barking dogs

Please let's remember that albeit a nuisance, dogs who are constantly barking are trying to communicate something. This is most generally associated with a level of distress that means that they're in pain or suffering because some of their needs are not being met.

A barking dog, and an owner/guardian who is intensively working to solve the issue, need to be understood by the community the same way we do when we have a crying baby next door. We think about the parents, the baby, the level of stress, the sleep deprivation. And most of us knock their doors to offer a meal and our help.

Barking is a natural behaviour in dogs, and albeit mine has excellent dog etiquette and barely barks, let's remember that dogs who don't have some of their needs met, or who come from challenging environments where they could have been traumatised, need time to heal and feel safe. Progress with barking issues is slow and education to the wider community is key to prevent dogs from being surrendered.

Section 9.2 & 9.3 – De-sexing of dogs

Latest academic and scientific research has proven that it is not recommended to neuter pet dogs until they have at least reached sexual maturity. The recommendation is to wait 1-1.5 years for small breeds, 2-2.5 for medium breeds, 2.5-3 for large breeds and 3-4 for giant breeds. The larger the dog, the longer it takes to reach physical maturity. Some studies below:

Exploring mechanisms of sex differences in longevity: lifetime ovary exposure and exceptional longevity in dogs – PMC (nih.gov)

Looked at female Rottweilers who were neutered and intact to determine if there was a link between a longer life and remaining intact longer. Just like in humans, female dogs are more likely to live longer, but removing the ovaries before 4 took away that advantage. Females who were neutered after 5 years old lived 30% longer than the breeds life expectancy.

Behavioural risks in male dogs with minimal lifetime exposure to gonadal hormones may complicate population-control benefits of desexing | PLOS ONE

Showed dogs who were neutered earlier were more likely to display fearful and aggressive behaviours.

Microsoft Word – LongTermHealthEffectsOfSpayNeuterInDogs May 14 2007.doc (naiaonline.org)

This study concluded that dogs neutered under 1 year old had a significant increase in bone cancer, cardiac hemangiosarcoma (cancer of blood vessels), progressive geriatric cognitive impairment, prostate cancer, urinary tract caners, orthopaedic disorders, adverse reactions to vaccines, splenic hemangiosarcoma, spay incontinence, recessed vulva, vaginal dermatitis, vaginitis, UTI and triple the ricks of obesity and hypothyroidism.

SNBehaviorBoneDataSnapShot.doc (atftc.com) Behavioural and Physical Effects of Spaying and Neutering Domestic Dogs

"Our data showed that the behaviour of neutered dogs was significantly different from that of intact dogs in ways that contradict the prevailing view. Among the findings, neutered dogs were more aggressive, fearful, excitable, and less trainable than intact dogs. In addition, we measured eight individual bone lengths plus the height of 202 agility competition dogs to determine whether gonadectomy affected bone lengths. Preliminary analysis revealed significant differences in bone growth between the intact and neutered groups. These findings strongly support the need for an immediate re-evaluation of the current recommendation to spay or neuter dogs to prevent or treat behaviour problems, and an equally pressing need to more fully examine the wide range of physical effects of spaying and neutering pet dogs."

Endogenous Gonadal Hormone Exposure and Bone Sarcoma Risk1 | Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention | American Association for Cancer Research (aacrjournals.org)

This is another study on Rottweilers. "Risk for bone sarcoma was significantly influenced by age at gonadectomy. Male and female dogs that underwent gonadectomy before 1 year of age had an approximate one in four lifetime risk for bone sarcoma and were significantly more likely to develop bone sarcoma than dogs that were sexually intact [RR ±95% CI = 3.8 (1.5–9.2) for males; RR ±95% CI = 3.1 (1.1–8.3) for females]."

Neutering of German Shepherd Dogs: associated joint disorders, cancers and urinary incontinence – Hart – 2016 – Veterinary Medicine and Science – Wiley Online Library

Dogs neutered before 1 year old had a higher risk of one or more joint disorder. The top reported disorder was CCL (cranial cruciate ligament).

Demographic and aggressive characteristics of dogs in a general veterinary caseload – ScienceDirect

This looked at aggression towards people who live in the home. There were more incidents involving neutered males reported followed by neutered females. There were even more females than males included in the study.

Session I: Non-reproductive Effects of Spaying and Neutering (naiaonline.org)

"The results of the study suggest that spayed female dogs tend to be more aggressive toward their owners and to strangers than intact females, but that these effects of spaying on behaviour appear to be highly breed-specific. Contrary to popular belief, the study found little evidence that castration was an effective treatment for aggressive behaviour in male dogs and may exacerbate other behavioural problems."

Neutering Dogs: Effects on Joint Disorders and Cancers in Golden Retrievers | PLOS ONE

This is specific to Golden Retrievers and showed an increased risk of hip dysplasia, CCL and lymphosarcoma.

pone.0102241 1.10 (nih.gov) Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers

This is comparing the above Golden Retriever study to Labrador Retrievers. It shows that Lab neutered prior to 6 months old doubled the risk of one or more joint disorders while it increased the risk to Goldens by 4-5 times.

Frontiers | Aggression toward Familiar People, Strangers, and Conspecifics in Gonadectomized and Intact Dogs (frontiersin.org)

Dogs neutered at any time had a significant increase in the likelihood of showing moderate to severe aggressive behaviours towards.

Diagnostic and genetic aspects of patellar luxation in small and miniature breed dogs in Austria | OrthoVetSuperSite

Specific to small breeds. Showed a 3.1-fold increase in neutered dogs who had patellar luxation.

Evaluation of the risk and age of onset of cancer and behavioral disorders in gonadectomized Vizslas – PubMed (nih.gov)

Specific to Vizslas. Suggested that neutered dogs had an increased likelihood of mast cell cancer, lymphoma, all other cancers, hemangiosarcoma, behaviour issues and fear of storms (sound sensitivity). The earlier a dog is neutered, the earlier the diagnosis.

A population study of neutering status as a risk factor for canine prostate cancer – PubMed (nih.gov)

Neutered males had a significantly increased risk of urinary bladder transitional cell carcinoma (TCC), prostate carcinoma, prostate TCC and prostate tumours.

Adverse events diagnosed within three days of vaccine administration in dogs – PubMed (nih.gov)

Having an adverse reaction to vaccines was 27%-38% greater in neutered dogs.

Gonadectomy effects on the risk of immune disorders in the dog: a retrospective study – PubMed (nih.gov)

"Neutered dogs had a significantly greater risk of atopic dermatitis, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, hypoadrenocorticism, hypothyroidism, and inflammatory bowel disease than intact dogs with neutered females being at greater risk than neutered males for all but AIHA and ADD. Neutered females, but not males, had a significantly greater risk of lupus erythematosus than intact females."

Canine ovariohysterectomy and orchiectomy increases the prevalence of ACL injury – PubMed (nih.gov)

"Sterilization of either gender increased the prevalence of anterior cruciate ligament injury, suggesting a potential effect of gonadal gender on prevalence of injury of this ligament."

Neuter status as a risk factor for canine intervertebral disc herniation (IVDH) in dachshunds: a retrospective cohort study | Canine Medicine and Genetics | Full Text (biomedcentral.com)

Specific to Dachshunds and showed neutered dogs had a higher risk of intervertebral disc herniation.

Section 9.6 – Dogs in vehicles over the summer months

Section should cater also for dogs being left alone and tied to something, with no access to water and shade. There are reports from last summer of this across NZ, especially near walks where dogs are prohibited or off leash and people decide to leave their dogs tied for hours in full sun. This is animal cruelty and should be clear in the regulation and enforced.

Section 10.2 Learning how to be a good dog owner

Please refer to the whole Dog Welfare section below.

Section 11.4.2 Menacing dogs – breed ban.

Experts have found that no breed is more likely to bite than another. The AVMA, the National Animal Control Association and the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention oppose breed-specific legislation (BSL), along with leading animal welfare organizations.

Fortunately, more people and their elected officials are learning why breed bans don't make sense, and BSL is on the decline. In recent years, 21 states have passed laws prohibiting BSL on the local level and over 100 municipalities have replaced BSL with breed-neutral policies. Repealing BSL has not resulted in more dog bites in these communities. In fact, after Ohio repealed its statewide breed-based law, State Farm Insurance reported a decrease in dog-related claims in the state.

The *Repealing Breed-Specific Legislation* toolkit was developed to help increase dialogue among advocates and address harmful breed-based laws. It provides comprehensive information, giving you the confidence to challenge BSL in your community, making it a safer place for both dogs and people.

Excerpt from: https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/all-dogs-are-equal

Section 12.1 – Impounded, available for adoption, or destruction after 7 days.

Propose to at least make this timeframe to 21-27 days. Owners could be hospitalised, overseas, etc. As articulated in your survey, let's remember we are talking about the dog as a sentient being who many consider a family member.

2. Dog Welfare

The purpose of this section is to:

- Provide a summary of the NZ Animal Welfare Act, including the recognition of animals as sentient beings who are capable of having feelings, emotions, perceptions and experiences that matter to them.
- Provide supporting information of latest studies regarding how well dogs are coping to current human environments and how the lack of control and choice is impacting their wellbeing.
- How removing freedom can have a negative impact on dogs wellbeing and therefore could be in opposition to the NZ Welfare Act.

2.1 NZ Animal Welfare Act

In October 1999, New Zealand's internationally renowned Animal Welfare Act was enshrined in law**.** The Act is based on the **five freedoms of animal welfare** and was updated in 2015 to **recognise animals as sentient beings.**
The Animal Welfare Act provides a framework for the care and protection of animals in New Zealand, however whilst strong on paper, in practice the Act is undermined by loopholes and difficulties in enforcing animal rights.

2.2 Sentience

Below is an extract from the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) Position Statement on Sentience.

"The NZVA believes that 'sentience' is the ability to feel, perceive or experience subjectively. (i.e. the animal is not only capable of feeling pain and distress but also can have positive psychological experiences, such as comfort, pleasure or interest that are appropriate to its species, environment and circumstances). **To state that animals are sentient accepts that they can experience positive and negative emotions.**

In August 2015, acknowledgement of animals as 'sentient' was introduced to New Zealand's Animal Welfare Act (1999), but 'sentience' was not defined as part of this amendment to the legislation. The NZVA sees this legislative gap as an opportunity for veterinarians to demonstrate leadership by providing a definition. **The inclusion of 'sentience' in the Act should not be merely symbolic but rather should set a new standard for society's expectations of the ways animals are treated, and move us beyond minimum standards to focusing on positive welfare states and welfare enhancement.**

The NZVA's development of a definition of sentience that encourages a prioritisation of positive states and welfare enhancement is consistent with scientific knowledge and current public expectations of 'good practice.'

Reference: https://nzva.org.nz/positions-advocacy/position-statements/sentience/

2.3 The Five Freedoms

The Five Freedoms are internationally accepted standards of care that affirm every living being's right to humane treatment. These standards were developed by

Britain's Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1965 and adapted by the Association of Shelter Veterinarians for companion animals in shelters.

The Five Freedoms ensure that we meet the mental and physical needs of animals in our care and is imperative to take these into account when developing new regulation that impacts animals.

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst** by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigour. This must be specific to the animal. For example, puppies, adult dogs, pregnant cats, and senior cats all need different types of food provided on different schedules.
- **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter during cold or inclement weather, access to bodies of water in hot weather to regulate body temperate, tools that do not hinder their body movement (such as harnesses that restrict elbow movement) and comfortable resting areas in the sun and shade.
- **Freedom from pain, injury, or disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment. This includes vaccinating animals, monitoring animals, physical health, treating any injuries and providing appropriate medications.
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind. Animals need to be able to interact with — or avoid — others as desired. They must be able to stretch every part of their body (from nose to tail), and run, jump, and play. This includes the ability to move with minimal restraints while walking on a leash.
- **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering. The mental health of an animal is just as important as its physical health — as psychological stress can quickly transition into physical illness. These conditions can be achieved by ensuring the dogs needs are met and preventing overcrowding and providing sufficient enrichment and safe hiding spaces.

Embracing the Five Freedoms when enacting regulations support the health and welfare of the animals in our care.

Excerpt from: https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/health/five-freedoms-animals

2.4 Dogs Are Not Doing Well

Below is an extract from chapters 1 and 2 from Jessica Pierce's book 'Who's a Good Dog?'. Jessica Pierce is a bioethicist with a Ph.D. University of Virginia, Department of Religious Studies and an M.T.S., Harvard Divinity School. Her work is currently focused on how to live ethically with a dog by educating dog guardians to be more mindful about dog behaviour and how to care for their needs. She also focuses on the mental health crisis among pet dogs—why homed dogs are struggling and what we can do about it.

"20 percent of the world's billion dogs live as pet or companion dogs, under conditions of confinement within the four walls of a home and functionally dependent on a human to provide all their basic needs. The population of pet dogs— now at roughly 180 million— has mushroomed over the past several decades, and this demographic trend shows no sign of slowing. Not only are more and more people acquiring pet dogs, but the ways in which people and dogs are living together in homes has been changing, and these changes are posing new challenges for both species.

Pet dogs are not doing well. The millions of dogs living in closest association with humans are in crisis. Dogs have access to top-notch veterinary care, high- quality food, soft bedding, shelter from heat and cold, and protection from parasites and diseases. But **these outward signs of good care obscure the discomforts that many dogs are experiencing. Despite being well cared for, many, perhaps even most, companion dogs are living with high levels of anxiety.** A 2020 study published in Scientific Reports, which evaluated the medical records of nearly fourteen thousand dogs, found that three quarters of these dogs suffer from some anxiety- related problem. About a third of dogs were reported to have a noise sensitivity, including but not limited to fear of thunderstorms and fireworks.

Anxiety is a normal physiological reaction to stimuli and has evolved to keep organisms alive. But anxiety at levels experienced by pet dogs goes well beyond any adaptive response to the environment. It is easy to gloss over the impact of this finding. But stop for a moment and think about it. **Our dogs are suffering emotionally, every day.**

Another indicator of a canine crisis is what appears to be an epidemic of behavioural problems. In a large survey conducted by data analyst Ian Dinwoodie and colleagues at a centre studying canine behaviour, roughly 85 percent of dog guardians reported that their dogs had behaviour problems. A similar study by

Ryoko Yamada and colleagues at the Veterinary Laboratory of Ethology in Tokyo found that 86 percent of guardians said their dogs had unwanted behaviours. Similar levels of dissatisfaction with how dogs behave have been confirmed in study after study.

Taken together, these findings point to two intertwined issues: dogs are having a hard time with people, and people are having a hard time with dogs. **Dogs appear to be under extreme stress and are struggling to adapt to the very unnatural "ecosystem" of the twenty- first- century human home and the unnatural demands we place on them. People, in their turn, are struggling to live harmoniously with dogs**.

Despite how much we love dogs, we also find a great deal to dislike about dog behaviour. Indeed, if the research accurately reflects human experience, we seem to find most of what dogs do annoying or un acceptable, and the behaviour of highly stressed, slightly unhinged dogs can be especially challenging. Dogs just don't behave according to plan.

A few of the things are happening:

1. More dogs are living as pets than ever before. The number of pet dogs around the world has been steadily growing every year for roughly two hundred years, and the pace of growth has accelerated over the last decade. With a greater density of dogs, there is also a greater need for dogs to be tightly constrained.

2. There are also more people. Places are more crowded, and human presence is more condensed. What this means for dogs is less freedom because, as the density of human and dog populations increases, the tolerance for "loose" dogs decreases and the potential for dog- dog and human- dog conflict goes up.

3. Dogs are being kept in more intensively captive conditions than ever before and are experiencing extreme levels of physical and sensory constraint. Many pet dogs live almost entirely within the walls of a home, with little to no opportunity to move beyond this domestic box. When dogs do go out in the world, their movements and sensory engagement with the world are mediated by collars and leashes and fences. Pet dogs must settle temporarily into whatever physical space their human owner places them.

4. Intensively homed pet dogs suffer from social isolation, particularly isolation from self- determined social interactions with other dogs.

5. Human home environments expose dogs to a range of stimuli that are unnatural, unpleasant, and anxiety provoking and from which they cannot escape, such as strongly scented cleaners and detergents and loud noises from TVs, microwaves, and sirens; at the same time, home environments fail to provide adequate dog-appropriate sensory stimulation, leading to boredom, frustration, and ennui.

6. Dogs are being excessively "de- dogged." They are expected to suppress many of their natural instincts and species- specific behaviours, such as scent marking, roaming, digging, chewing, and scavenging. They are also frequently asked to do things that are unnatural, such as walking "politely" on a leash, balancing a biscuit on their nose, or riding on a skateboard.

7. Our dogs have been "hired" to do emotional labour on a scale and in ways never seen before. Dogs are no longer just companions or work partners. People acquire dogs for emotional support, taking advantage of the profound emotional synchronicity between human and dog and the empathetic capacities of canines. The emotional labour may be taking a serious toll on dogs, who are like sponges soaking up pools of human despair.

8. Our expectations of dogs have changed. We want dogs who don't bark, don't shed, don't drool; we want dogs to be "perfectly behaved"; we want easy-going, friendly, compliant dogs.

9. Many of the methods and technologies used to train dogs and modify their behaviour are aversive and cause lasting psychological damage.

10. As a result of their isolation and captivity, combined with our expectations of what constitutes good behaviour, dogs have limited autonomy, choice, and control over their lives.

Dogs are not the only ones facing an untenable situation. People who are trying to give their dogs a good life are also struggling, as are professionals such as trainers, behaviourists, and veterinarians who work directly with dogs and the people who care for them. So, what can we do about it? **We can take a close look at human-dog relations and see where things are going wrong and explore how to shift expectations and assumptions so we can do things better**. Each of us who shares our home with a four- legged companion can become more attuned to the complexities of coexistence."

2.5 How Removing Options and Freedoms Impact Dogs Wellbeing

Below is an excerpt from https://yesgooddog.co.uk/freedom-to-choose/

"When we feel frustrated, overwhelmed, confused, and stressed about the uncertainty around us then chemical changes occur in our internal system to help the body cope. This causes Cortisol, which is our primary stress hormone to increase and Dopamine, our feel-good hormone to lower. These chemical changes impact internally and become evident in the behaviour output we display.

This brings me on to the similarities of how humans have become more controlling over our dogs' lives in the past few decades, gradually chipping away with lessening the freedom elements for the species by removing their choices and having high expectations of how the 'perfect' pet dog should be.

We control what our dogs do in every aspect of their lives, when and what they eat, where they sleep, when and where they can toilet, walk and or run free. What environments they are exposed to and who, when and what the dog can interact with. We control when they engage with others, whether human or other species and when they do not.

Humans and dogs are both sentient beings with similar psychological and physiological needs. As choices are taken away from us a negative bias can take over, therefore in the dog's world the same emotional shift will be taking place.

Dogs are a different species with differing drives, sensory and environmental needs. We may view that our dogs are generally safe with us, living in our homes, resting on our settees, warm, fed and watered with having no immediate life-threatening dangers, therefore what is the issue? Is that all that is needed to provide a full emotional life experience?

We should be mindful of just how much control we have over the life of our dogs, how these limited choices can then affect the dog's outward behaviours. The more we can do to fulfil instinctual needs with offering choices to the dog, the more life enrichment the dog will gain and this will reflect in the outward behaviour.

Allow dogs to be dogs whenever possible to recharge their internal systems, to make choices, grow in confidence enabling them to cope better in our human world. Just as we require the fundamental needs of being a human, they deserve the right to be a true dog whenever possible.

3. Impact of the Proposed Changes

3.1 High-Level Impact Assessment

In the webinar that CCC hosted on 29th November 2024, it stated that the proposed changes impact dog owners and everyone that uses public spaces.
I believe it's imperative to also include dogs as those impacted by these changes. After all, they've been included as sentient beings in our Welfare Act and failing to take this in consideration could impact the credibility of the changes proposed.

I'd like to highlight that CCC Engagement Team has advised that no impact assessment has been conducted prior to this proposal, therefore I have drafted the below without access to the research (evidence-based) that CCC used for proposing the changes (this data has been requested by not provided satisfactorily – Info provided only contains info issued by CCC parties or agencies who have a conflict of interest with CCC. No experts in dog behaviour with an international credential, or scientific research were yet shared).

Below you'll find a high-level change impact assessment on how the key changes impact dogs, what are the associated risks if moving along, and what a proposed action might look like.

Item	Impact on Dogs	Risk	Gap	Details
Require dogs to be on a short leash on footpaths, pedestrian areas, or near roads	HIGH	Short leash could seriously cause more **reactivity** in dogs. If going ahead with this, this should be monitored and controlled frequently.	How will CCC monitor the effectiveness and success of this new regulation?	Inability to display and communicate natural canine body language on a short leash. Inability to make the choice to move away from a coming person or dog on a short leash, heavily impacting autonomy and posing the risk of reactivity.
Require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and tracks				
Regulate the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (former residential red zone) by prohibiting dogs	HIGH	Cutting the flow of access in the OARC prevents dogs under effective control and	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and success of	This is not clear to the community and could cause friction and more polarisation between people who have not read the policy (especially non dog owners)

in key areas to protect wildlife (river, wetland and planted areas		with good etiquette to exhibit natural behaviour. Prohibiting dogs to access an area they used to frequent could cause anxiety and impact the self-confidence of dogs (You used to be off leash here, but now you can't. Now in this area you can be off leash again, now you can't access this). This level of inconsistency can potentially damage the confidence of a dog and reduce how much they actually enjoy the walk. This new regulation could seriously create reactivity due to taking away their autonomy and choice.	this new regulation?	

Prohibit dogs from Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary to protect wildlife (including threatened and at-risk migratory birds).	HIGH	Similar to item above	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and success of this new regulation?	This is not clear to the community and could cause friction and more polarisation between people who have not read the policy (especially non dog owners). If threatened and at-risk migratory birds live here, then regulations must apply to small children and teenagers unsupervised. Lastly, data about number of attacks to threatened and at-risk wildlife have been executed by dogs, vs. people, vs. cars, versus other predators would be important so as to understand how big of a risk dogs are versus other factors.
Regulate stormwater basins, such as Te Kuru Wetland, by prohibiting dogs in other areas to protect wildlife (wetland and planted areas)	HIGH	Direct opposition to multiple of the 5 freedoms in welfare act (see section 2.3 for more info on 5 Freedoms)	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and success of this new regulation?	Dogs should and must have access to stormwater, as long as it is safe, especially in hot weather to regulate their body temperature. Why? Dogs are also part of the natural habitat. This does not mean uncontrolled access. Guardian should pay close attention that dog is behaving according to good dog etiquette.
Limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of	MEDIUM	Lack of clarity of what the appropriate skills are for	How will CCC measure the	What data (evidence-based) is CCC using to propose this change?

in a public place (to two when off-leash and four when leashed), with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills to apply to control a greater number of dogs		the exemption process. Inability to look after family's pets or to foster animals if already own 2 dogs. Those who own more than 2 dogs and walk them off leash will probably start to disregard some of the dogs needs of walking and exploring because this could become a hassle, therefore impacting some dogs wellbeing.	effectiveness and success of this new regulation? How will CCC monitor that those owners with more than 2 dogs still provide the level of exercise that dogs need? (for example, will dogs still be walked and exercised according to their needs if this proposal goes ahead?)	I am not fully against this, but evidence-based data would be fantastic to read before the Hearing Panel.
Prohibit dogs from the Styx Mill Conservation Reserve to better protect wildlife (except in and near the dog park, and the path around the predator fence)	HIGH	Similar to item above: it could damage a dog's confidence and how much they enjoy the walk, it could cause more reactivity.	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and success of this new regulation?	This is not clear to the community and could cause friction and more polarisation between people who have not read the policy (especially non dog owners). If threatened and at-risk migratory birds live here, then regulations must apply to small children and teenagers unsupervised.

				Lastly, data about number of attacks to threatened and at-risk wildlife have been executed by dogs, vs. people, vs. cars, versus other predators would be important so as to understand how big of a risk dogs are versus other factors.
Prohibit dogs from mudflats and other key wildlife habitats around Banks Peninsula (see Schedule 1 of the policy for specific areas)	HIGH	Similar to items further above: it could damage a dog's confidence and how much they enjoy the walk, it could cause more reactivity.	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and success of this new regulation?	This is not clear to the community and could cause friction and more polarisation between people who have not read the policy (especially non dog owners). If threatened and at-risk migratory birds live here, then regulations must apply to small children and teenagers unsupervised. Lastly, data about number of attacks to threatened and at-risk wildlife have been executed by dogs, vs. people, vs. cars, versus other predators would be important so as to understand how big of a risk dogs are versus other factors.
Protect areas for cultural reasons with new restrictions for Ōnawe Pā	HIGH	This is an area where dogs have been exercised frequently and this new	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and	I don't fully understand what the problem is, neither what is CCC trying to achieve?

Historic Reserve (wāhi tapu); Kaputone Confluence Conservation Park (rongoā/medicinal garden area); and Janet Stewart Reserve (a traditional harakeke (flax) harvesting area)		regulation could seriously create reactivity due to taking away their autonomy and choice.	success of this new regulation?	What threat or nuisance do dogs pose?
Dog walkers	MEDIUM /HIGH	Lack of clarity of what the appropriate skills are. Lack of clarity of how many dogs they could walk, how many leashed, how many off leash. Lack of clarity of where dog walkers can exercise dogs. Lack of clarity about how dog walkers would be qualified and vetted, by whom? What skills will be tested?	How will CCC measure the effectiveness and success of this new regulation?	We need visibility and transparency of the process to vet a dog walker, with details on what this entails and whether they will hold a license.

Note on another minor change:

Minor change proposed: Add a statement that dog owners should not rely on signage but should be familiar with the policy – and that we provide an interactive online map where people can check the dog control status of a place.

Indeed dog owners should be familiar with the policy, however:

a. Policy should be clear and not ambiguous.
b. Non dog owners who have opinions or complaints about dogs and/or their owners should also be familiar with the policy. Many people make negative comments to responsible dog owners who are not disrespecting any law, causing polarisation.

3.2 Analysis of the Bylaw and Policy Review Report 2024 – Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016

The below analysis is aimed at unpacking the Bylaw and Policy Review Report 2024 – Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016 (access link https://hdp-au-prod-app-ccc-letstalk-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/5017/3094/4606/Dog_Control_Bylaw_and_Policy_Review_Report_including_section_155_report.pdf)

I will be referring to this document section, topic, and page and add my comments or questions.

Page and Topic	***Original quote***	***Comments or Questions***
Page 4, 'Empowering legislation for the policy'	*Section 10(4) requires that, in adopting a policy, a council must have regard to:* *• the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally; and* *• the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults; and* *• the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and* *• the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.*	*If talking about evidence based policies, I can't find in the document:* *• The metrics and data used to measure danger, distress, and nuisance caused by dogs when outdoors and when in their own home.* *• How fear of attack or intimidation by dogs when using the streets or public amenities is measured. What tools are used? What is taken in consideration? What if a dog is not aggressive, not forward but they have a phobia and still feel threatened by them even if they pose no threat?*

		• Please clarify what CC considers to be the exercise and recreational needs of dogs.
Page 6 – Problem Identification	*Christchurch has one of the highest dog ownership rates in New Zealand, with almost 45,000 registered dogs.* *Many people consider their dog(s) to be part of the family, and so it is important to have a range of public places that are accessible to dogs and their owners for fun and recreation. However, dogs that are not well controlled can cause problems.* ***Problem identification*** *The Local Government Act requires the identification of perceived problems in a section 155 analysis. Perceived problems that can arise from dogs in public places when they are not under good control may include:* *• potential danger, distress, and nuisance to the community, generally, and threats to public health and safety, including attacks and injuries, fear and intimidation, nuisance, and fouling* *• potential risks to the safety of children ;* *• potential threats to wildlife, especially ground-nesting birds;* *• potential threats to other animals, including grazing stock;* *• potential threats to traffic safety, especially where vehicles manoeuvre; and* *• potential threats from groups of dogs in public places*	*If 'dogs that are not well controlled can cause problems' (and I agree with this statement), why isn't the focus on how to help dogs and their guardians have better control, rather than to place a blanket rule that will restrict the freedom of dogs that do behave well and are under effective control?* *Please see the videos attached of my dog for reference.*
Page 7 - control of dogs in public places	*•keeping dogs under effective control in public places so they do not cause a nuisance – with some clarifications for better control of dogs in public places (see bylaw clauses)* *• placing a limit on the number of dogs one person can control in a public place (with an exemption process for people that can demonstrate an ability to safely control a higher number of dogs) - NEW* *• carrying the means to remove fouling and a requirement to remove any fouling (dog faeces)*	*• Indeed dogs should be under effective control in public, but I'd like to request what metrics the council currently use for measuring nuisances cause by dogs, and where they happen (indoors or outdoors). What are the stats of nuisances that led to leash changes proposed and prohibiting dogs from certain areas?* *• I agree with the limit of dog, however not on the number as it imposes limitations. The lack of clarity of what the exemption process will be is alarming. We as the public cannot make an informed submission without understanding this process.* *• 100% agree with the fouling component. It's disgusting and I'd love to know what we*

		as the public can do when we see someone not picking up after their dog. People can get a bit scary at times when you confront them.
Page 7 - prohibiting dogs from categories of public places	*• prohibiting dogs to protect children (all Council playgrounds, skateparks, swimming pools and paddling pools)*	*100% agree.*
Page 7 - prohibiting dogs from specified public places (listed in the dog control policy)	*• to protect wildlife, particularly endangered birds and their nesting and feeding areas (e.g. in coastal wetland and estuary areas)* *• to protect stock grazing on Council land (e.g. in the Port Hills)* *• to protect heritage gardens or rare plants (e.g. the Botanic Gardens)* *• at the request of local rūnanga (eg wāhi tapu land)* *• specified beaches / areas used in summer for swimming and recreation purposes (eg within a certain distance of surf lifesaving flags)*	*I agree to some extent, but how are any of these based on evidence-based data? Where are the metrics and the data used to measure:* *• Level of attacks and injuries to wildlife by dogs, vs. cats, vs. other predators, vs. little humans disturbing nests, vs. teenagers disturbing nests, vs. cars running them over in the streets? Wildlife should be protected, but a well-behaved dog under effective control represents minimal threat. For my part I want to do what is best for all wildlife. This is not a wildlife vs. my dog freedom debate.* *• Can you provide the data of why dogs are to be kept off specific sites due to cultural reasons? I'm OK to comply, but would like to understand the reasoning behind prohibiting a well behaved under effective control dog.*
Page 7 - requiring dogs to be on a leash in categories of public places	*•all roads, margins and footpaths to prevent accidents to people, dogs or those using wheeled devices(with a proposed change to include all pedestrian areas, shared paths and car parking areas - NEW)* *• all footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks through parks to prevent accidents to people, dogs or those using wheeled devices (in all greenspace areas, including stormwater basins with public access) (NEW)* *• all Council boat ramps or slipways to protect dog and vehicles safety* *• all Council memorials and cemeteries to respect the spaces and the people who use them* *• on all sports fields (during games and practice sessions); on wharves, jetties and boardwalks; and in community gardens (NEW)*	*• all roads, margins and footpaths: Agree that they should be leashed, but not on a short leash (it is truly not recommended, can cause physical and behavioural issues).* *• all footpaths, shared paths and formed paths through parks: DISAGREE. A well behaved, under effective control dog poses absolutely no threat. I'd like to see the data of how this has been measured and how the CCC came to this assessment and conclusion as a regulation.*

		As before, please see videos of my dog and how she behaves around cyclists, kids, runners, people with prams, etc. *•Rest: Agree on leashing requirements, just not on a short leash please.*
Page 7 - requiring dogs to be on a leash in specified public places (listed in the dog control policy)	*•to protect wildlife, while still allowing dog access (when leashed);* *• to protect heritage gardens* *• to protect health and safety* *• to protect grazing stock*	*These statements are too broad. What is the evidence-based data utilised for this?* *This does not mean I may not agree, this means that for example: 'to protect health and safety' or 'to protect wildlife' implies that dogs are a menace, when actually a well behaved under effective control dog does amazingly well in these situations and poses little to zero risk.* *Please provide the data used for this assessment.*
Page 7 - designating specified areas as dog parks and dog exercise areas	*•designating these areas as 'special dog control areas' for the exercise and recreation of dogs and their owners, and for the socialisation of dogs with other dogs* *• making it clear that the rules in all public places apply in dog parks and dog exercise areas.*	*More enforcement is required, please.* *Dog parks have been really going down hill with poorly socialised dogs with little manners and poor dog etiquette.*
Page 7 - placing limitations on the number of dogs that may be kept on residential properties	*• requiring a licence for owners of two or more dogs to ensure the property meets the needs of the size and number of dogs, and the potential for nuisance is minimised*	*I'd actually love to see a licence in place for all owners, but... can you please provide data behind what the exemption process for this licence is, what the owner needs to comply to, what would happen in cases where family pets stay and there are already 2 dogs in the house, or where there's an opportunity to foster a dog and there are also 2 dogs in the home.*
Page 7 - placing requirements on dogs and vehicles	*• to ensure dogs on vehicle trays (eg a ute or truck bed) are securely restrained to protect them from accidents and to ensure they do not create a nuisance in public places*	*Yes, please but do provide the data of what is securely restrained and to please not use a collar but a harness when doing so.* *what can we do to help here? Would a picture with the licence plate help? Where do we send this?*

		By the time I see these things on the streets it is too late to report it.
Page 8 - Approaches	*An alternative to specifying areas where dogs are prohibited or must be leashed would be to require leashing in all public places by default. This is the approach that some councils take. This has the advantage of making dog regulation very simple, but comes with disadvantages, including far fewer areas for dogs to be exercised off leash. The default approach that we take, that dogs can be exercised off leash under effective control unless rules specify otherwise, enables much greater freedoms for dogs*	*How is a binary choice evidence-based? There are multiple of options, from licencing owners, to more enforcement, to shift the mandate to education and ensure that dogs who care for a dog understand and are willing to train their dogs so that they can navigate this world with human rules as smoothly and with more freedom to cater for their natural needs.* *This statement is not evidence-based and I'd like to request how come an assessment came to the conclusion of these 2 options and making this a binary choice.*
Page 8 - Map	*As increasingly more areas are specified as leashed or prohibited in the dog control policy (which are enforced through the dog control bylaw), the regulation becomes more complex. However, the interactive online map provided by the Council means people can look for the dog rules in any area they wish to visit with their dog to understand what they need to comply with. Signs are installed in many areas to help communicate the rules.*	*Indeed. The map is difficult to navigate, especially for those of us who moved to Christchurch but were not raised here. Signs should be installed, after all one of the elements of this review is to ensure there is* ***clarity****.*
Page 8 – imit places to protect wildlife	*Dogs are already prohibited (by the Dog Control Act) from chasing, rushing at, injuring or attacking wildlife. Having restrictions in the dog control policy to limit places where dogs may come into contact with protected wildlife helps people to follow this rule, while also helping to protect these important areas from the negative impacts from dogs (ie in areas of habitat restoration or ecological significance).*	*I do understand. But I would like to see the stats and the data of how other species (including humans – especially children and teenagers, or adults setting off fireworks) disturb the wildlife. If we are to make evidence-based regulations, we need to properly be able to formulate how much of a threat dogs are. If this data does not exist, then it is based on an opinion, not evidence-based and if implemented the council should really monitor and measure these for effectiveness and be ready to roll back as required.*

Page 8 - Conclusions	*The bylaw is appropriate for addressing the identified issues. It has been in place for some time and has been working well. We are required to have a bylaw, and the extent of the controls is appropriate. Some changes are proposed to reflect changes in the district*	*Please provide the performance metrics used to state that the bylaw is appropriate for addressing the identified issues (all of them) and the data behind this (what stats we have prior to the 2016 bylaw, after the 2016 bylaw, what metrics we are looking for from 2025 onward).*
Page 9 – Most appropriate form of bylaw	*The most appropriate form of bylaw is one that:* *• is clear and easy to understand* *• meets the Council's obligations under the Dog Control Act* *• helps support the Council's Community Outcomes* *• is not inconsistent with other bylaws* *• allows for exceptions and special circumstances* *• is within the legal power of the Council to make bylaws under section 20 of the Dog Control Act* *• is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.* *The proposed changes to the bylaw are appropriate in form. The final form of the bylaw will be determined after the Council has heard and considered submissions as part of the special consultative procedure*	*Can you please clarify if also this bylaw should not be consistent with:* *•NZ welfare act (especially 5 freedoms and sentience)* *• Chief Ombudsman and General-Auditor strategic intentions of all government entities to participate in ensuring high trust in public sector.* *Have an empirical basis and evidence-based research conducted.*
Page 9 & 10 – Freedom of Movement	*Freedom of movement is a freedom protected by the NZBoRA in the democratic and civil rights section. Freedom of movement protection arguments could be made in relation to restrictions on people being able to enter certain public places when accompanied by their dog, or where there are restrictions on that movement (such as requiring a dog leash to be used).* *However, the Dog Control Act specifically allows councils to identify any public places where dogs are "prohibited, either generally or at specified times" or "particular public places or parts of the district" where dogs must be "controlled on a leash". The Dog Control Act also expressly allows councils to develop bylaws that restrict access to particular public places for people when accompanied by their dog, as long as the restrictions relate to the purpose of the Dog Control Act (which is largely about reducing the negative impacts of dogs). Given that these restrictions are permitted, a corresponding restriction on freedom of movement (if any) can be understood as a reasonable limit on the right that can be justified in a free and democratic society.* *10* *The intent of NZBoRA considerations in bylaw development is to ensure that bylaws do not unreasonably limit the right to certain freedoms. The intention of dog control bylaws is the prevention of harm (either to people, wildlife, domesticated*	*What evidence and data CCC used to articulate that this is a proportionate response and a justified limitation for the prevention of harm to limit the freedom of movement?* *I've not seen (but requested this through the consultation) granular evidence-based data stating the level of threat that a dog poses to other people, to wildlife, to domesticated animals, to property when compared to other species (including humans).* *When I asked for this data the response was that this bylaw is about dogs. It is true, but dogs do not exist in a vacuum and we deserve to understand the statistics taken in consideration to make this statement that the bylaw can limit the freedom of movement.*

	animals or property) and in this sense, limiting the movement of people (when accompanied by their dogs) in some public places and for specified reasons, is a proportionate response and a justified limitation for the prevention of harm. *In any case, arguably, people still have the right to move freely through those public places and the restriction is on the dog, not on the dog owner when the dog is not with them. For these reasons, the proposed bylaw does not give rise to any implications under the NZBoRA*	
Page 10 - Conclusions on the NZBoRA implications of the bylaw	*We consider that there are limited NZBoRA implications relating to the activities regulated in the Dog* *Control Bylaw.*	*Please provide full assessment of the NZBoRA that led to this conclusion.*
Page 10 - ACC dog-related injuries	*The number of dog-related injuries has remained fairly stable, despite other changes, including the dog population increasing. There were 1,105 dog-related injuries reported to ACC when the policy was last under review (using 2014 data*	*Can you please share the data of where these injuries took place (within a property, or outdoors). This is important data to take in consideration when making decisions to restrict access of dogs to public spaces.*
Page 10 - Priority one complaints to the Council	*There were 1,276 priority one complaints 2014/15 when the policy was last under review. This indicates that overall, priority one complaints are trending downwards. One reason for this may be the increase in leashed areas - many leashed areas were added to the 2016 (current) policy, expanding the leashed areas from the 2008 policy*	*Can you please share the priority matrix and what they mean?* *Out of all the tickets raised with dog control, in how many the team was able to identify the dog and owner vs in how many they didn't?* *What data (evidence based) and performance metrics is CCC using to state that 'One reason for this may be the increase in leashed areas - many leashed areas were added to the 2016 (current) policy, expanding the leashed areas from the 2008 policy'?*
Page 12 - Evidence-based policy making	*Evidence and data can be very useful in developing policy settings. However, for some of the issues a dog control policy and bylaw seek to regulate, some further analysis is needed.* *In developing a dog control policy, a council must consider certain things, and this includes how the public generally feels about dogs (ie it is not just about attacks, injuries or enforcement). The Dog Control Act refers to minimising "danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally" and to the public being able to access "streets and public*	*What does CCC state when they articulate that 'further analysis is needed'? Is this on top of evidence-based data, or would this mean that an opinion that is not verified as a fact can override empirical analysis?* *What type of decisions have been made in this bylaw*

	amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs". This goes to the general acceptance the community has for dogs in public places.	*without evidence-based information?* *Why doesn't the report include the root cause analysis of the assessment? Problem identification related to symptom identification, but I can't find the analysis behind the root causes so that these can be addressed effectively.*
Page 13 – Data collected	*Data for some areas or issues is not collected. For example, when a dog control officer speaks with a dog owner, it is not recorded, but the action may support compliance. If a formal warning is issued, data will be generated (for example, 660 formal dog control warnings were issued in 2023/2024*	*Why isn't this data recorded?* *What is the criteria for recording data vs. not recording data?*
Page 13 - Enforcement	*Enforcement in many situations is reactive (in response to the Council receiving a complaint or report of an incident). Data can help to prioritise certain areas where more of a focus may be required (for example, a series of complaints about an area), or a serious incident occurring. The district has almost 45,000 dogs and leashing and prohibited rules (for example) apply in public places across the district (including over 10,000 hectares of parks). Resources tend to be focused on areas and at times when they are needed most.*	*Is it appropriate to ask how many dog control officers we currently have for Christchurch and Banks Peninsula, how many we had in 2016, and if this figure has increased with the number of dog registrations?*
Page 13 - Enforcement	*People who observe their own dog interacting in a negative way are unlikely to report an incident. It is only when a third party observes an interaction or activity (or is directly impacted) that we may receive a report.* *We also know that people may be more likely to talk to their friends and family or take to social media about incidents that occur, rather than making a formal report. For example, seeing someone fail to pick-up after their dog, a near-miss situation, or seeing a dog chasing or barking at birds.*	*For reference only. I raised Job number 1209853. Nothing could be done as owner and dog not identified.*
Page 13 – Community Safety	*Not feeling safe around dogs, dogs not being well controlled, aggressive dogs, and people not picking up after their dogs have come through as themes in recent engagement the Council has undertaken – for example, with schools about play spaces, and through the Life in Christchurch Survey. In response to questions about whether people had any negative experiences in playgrounds and associated parks spaces,* *not feeling safe from dogs came through as a theme. In some of these situations, dog owners may have been breaking the rules / committing an offence, but there is no enforcement data as the issues have gone unreported*	*I understand that CCC want to hear from everyone. But taking into account everyone's opinion without understanding the context or the root cause cannot be seriously part of a regulation.* *I requested an impact assessment precisely for one of these reasons.* *I am truly sorry if people don't feel safe around dogs. But if the dog is behaving perfectly fine and respecting their*

		space, what are we actually taking in consideration? *This is why expert consultation should also be performed and research conducted. The community will have opinions, but the scientific community and qualified dog behaviourists can point towards facts so as to ensure that the regulation is not based on unconscious biases.*
Page 14 – Impact on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs	*Similarly, impacts on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs cannot accurately be quantified in many situations, as data is not available. Some examples:* *• birds injured or killed by a dog, but not found or reported* *• birds injured by a dog that later die in a different location* *• birds dying of exhaustion or lack of sustenance as a result of dog barking or chasing activities in an area (this is particularly relevant for migratory birds, who may be arriving after flying thousands of kilometres, may need to feed in preparation for a migratory flight, and that can only feed when the tide is low)* *• ground-nesting birds scared off their nest, resulting in eggs that are no longer viable (compromising the breeding season)* *• eggs or chicks being eaten, damaged or injured by dogs.7* *There are local studies (from the Council, and from groups like the Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust), relevant local or New Zealand research (for example, from the Department of Conservation), and international studies about the impact of dogs on birdlife.8* *International data about dogs and their impact on migratory birds can be relevant. For example, Te Ihutai Avon-Heathcote Estuary, is part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. The flyway is an international network of wetland sites used by migratory birds in their annual migrations. International data about the impact of dogs on these migratory birds may be relevant here, as the birds migrate between countries. The impact of dogs on ground-nesting birds is well established* *7 See Reports Archives - Avon-Heathcote Estuary Trust and in particular Dog & Owner Estuary Behaviour - 2021 - Avon-Heathcote Estuary Trust* *8 For example, see this news article from Star News, 17 May 2023: Calls for dog ban at Christchurch estuary | Star News (odt.co.nz), which includes quotes from the Estuary Trust, Forest & Bird,*	*Completely agree that this data on dogs should be gathered, but also we need to gather the data of what other factors and/or species pose a threat to wildlife, including birds so that a matrix can be established and truly assess how much of a threat a well behaved and under effective control dog has over wildlife, and if the risk is low then why are we restricting their freedom in a world where they already have very little agency and choice (a pet dog does not choose where they live, who they live with, what they eat, when they eat, how much, when they go out, where they go out, when they are leashed, when they're off leash, when they can play with friends, for how long, etc. etc. etc. Their world is dominated by the choices of their human. This is why it is so important for their wellbeing that we don't also impose inaccurate and unmeasurable restrictions when talking about some of their innate needs like exercising).* *You mention international data, but only see references to local studies and a Star News article. Can you please share the studies for this international data?*

	Department of Conservation and Birdcare Aotearoa on the impact of dogs on bird life	*In relation to 'birds dying of exhaustion or lack of sustenance as a result of dog barking or chasing activities in an area' – Isn't this a bit biased? What about children screaming / shouting / playing nearby? For a bird, this is also stressful.* *Lastly, you mention that the impact of dogs on ground-nesting birds is well established. Please provide the data, including other species -incl children).*
Page 15 – OARC and Sites of Ecological significance	*In vegetated and wetland areas, the presence of dogs will have a negative impact on biodiversity, so limiting dog access to these areas is important. Other open space areas are designed for recreational activities that are more compatible with dogs. Dogs will need to be leashed on footpaths, tracks, paths and boardwalk or landing areas (this will be consistent across the district).* *In vegetated and wetland areas, the presence of dogs will have a negative impact on biodiversity, so limiting dog access to these areas is important. Other open space areas are designed for recreational activities that are more compatible with dogs. Dogs will need to be leashed on footpaths, tracks, paths and boardwalk or landing areas (this will be consistent across the district).*	*My stance is that well educated and under effective control dogs may not pose a great risk, however analysis and studies should be made.* *Dogs should not be allowed everywhere, but neither should other species – including humans. Understand this is not part of the bylaw scope, but since this bylaw needs to be consistent to other bylaws, what is CCC stance on prohibiting these areas for everyone until a qualitative and quantitative study is performed, so that we protect endangered and nesting species?*
Page 16 - The following areas are proposed for new or updated restrictions – refer to the policy wording for details	*Coastal, estuary and mudflat areas* *• New areas in Eastern Christchurch: Brooklands red zone; Lower Styx Conservation Reserve; Avon Heathcote Estuary Te Ihutai; Bridge Reserve; South New Brighton Park; Ferrymead Regional Park (excluding the sports fields); and Sumner Beach Regional Park (near Shag Rock)* *• New areas around Banks Peninsula: Children's Bay mudflats and foreshore (Akaroa), Robinson's Bay mudflats and foreshore; Barry's Bay mudflats, saltmarsh and foreshore; French Farm mudflats and foreshore; Charteris Bay foreshore (part of); Purau foreshore and mudflats; and Birdlings Flat near the Bossu Road canal bridge* *• Updating existing entries for consistency and clarification: Teddington mudflats salt meadow and saltmarsh; Duvauchelle foreshore and mudflats entries; Brooklands Spit and Lagoon, and*	*A thorough analysis should be conducted to evaluate if specific dogs under effective control could be allowed off leash, vs. long leash, vs. prohibited.*

	Seafield Park entries; Te Rauakaaka Nature Reserve; Styx Rivermouth Conservation Reserve; Lower Avon and Bexley Saltmarshes; Southshore Spit Reserve; and Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Refuge. *Stormwater basins, wetlands and waterways* *• New areas: Blakes Road Wetland; Curletts Drainage Reserve; Dickeys Reserve; Clare Park; Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (red zone); Creamery Ponds; Quaifes Road Springlands; Quaifes Drainage Reserve; Sparks Wetland; Te Kuru Wetland; and Worsley Valley 1 Drainage Reserve* *• Increasing protections in: Styx Mill Conservation Reserve* *• Simplifying the rules in Lake Tahi and Lake Rua (Roto Kohatu Regional Park).*	
Page 16 - Community views on dog control rules	*For this reason, we undertook a survey to gather some initial views from the community about dogs in some key areas and in relation to some key issues. More complete views from the community with be sought through the consultation process.*	*Can you provide me with the process to be following during consultation and Hearing Panel and how CCC takes in consideration the feedback?* *I understand that providing feedback does not mean that changes will be applied, but I am interested in understanding what will be taken into account and why. Visibility of this will be appreciated.*
Page 17 - Dog Control survey July 2024	*6,245 people completed the surve*	*This means that out of 369200 residents, only 1.69% gave an opinion. In statistics this is a small sample and data could be skewed for being taken in consideration for something serious.*
Page 17 - Survey methods	*The survey was prepared based on key topics likely to be of interest where we were considering changes as part of the review – this included the estuary, the red zone and new stormwater basins. It also focused on potential problem or contentious areas like "under effective control", leashing on a range of path types and whether there should be a limit to the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place. It also asked questions in relation to leashing on sports fields, community gardens and wharves and jetties.*	*This does not cover what methods were used to draft the survey to ensure it was not biased.* *Please advise what controls were taken into account, and what assumptions and risks were known when sending the survey out to the public.* *Lastly, how did CCC verify that those who have participated in the Survey are part of the community? In CCC Facebook Page there were people who live in Australia commenting and*

		having opinions about how dogs should behave in Christchurch.
Page 18 – Results of the Survey	*Short leash on roads, footpaths (roadside and in parks), on shared paths, and on formed tracks?*	*A key note that 'SHORT LEASH' length is not obvious, and some could have voted yes to leash requirements but might not be OK to a short leash of 1.5 metres.*
Page 18 - Results of the Survey	*Two areas require further analysis – a limit on the number of dogs, and leashing on formed tracks*	*Why, with such a small sample responding do CCC believe that only two areas require further analysis?* *What does further analysis entail? Consultation?*
Page 18 - Maximum limit and exemptions	*We are proposing a maximum limit of two off-leash dogs, or four leashed dogs, with an exemption process for people with appropriate skills and experience. Handling a larger number of dogs requires special skills, and people handling a larger number of dogs in our public places should have those skills to reduce the potential for nuisance, injuries or attacks to members of the public, other dogs or wildlife.* *We will be requiring that a person who wants to apply for an exemption for a specified higher number of dogs has a really good understanding of their legal obligations under both the Dog Control Act, as well as the Council's dog control policy and bylaw. Other key knowledge or planning relates to public liability insurance, risk management and health and safety. We also need to ensure dogs are only taken to areas where they are allowed to go, and that basic rules are complied with.* *When dog owners engage the services of a person to walk their dog in public places, there should be a clear understanding from both parties about risks and obligations*	*I agree to an extent, but the exemption process should be CLEAR and obvious.* *• How many dogs, how many of these off leash* *• Where they can take them, what type of roads.* *• What skills will be evaluated, by whom, how frequently?* *• Will they have a licence?* *• Will they pick up their poo?* *• Will they ensure they do not chase or disturb other animals?*
Page 19 - Leashing on formed tracks	*We got mixed views on the survey question about formed tracks. Some respondents indicated that they did not support this idea because they wanted to continue to take their dogs into places like the Port Hills. This tells us that not everyone knows the current rules, as the Ports Hills tracks have required a leash since at least 2016. During the last review (in 2015/16) we worked to have consistency in Port Hills tracks, by requiring that dogs were leashed.*	*In such small sample, please do not take the Port Hills example into account. This only shows why enforcement and education is important.* *I am not OK with leash in a formed track and I have never truly been in the Port Hills with my dog.*
Page 19 - Formed tracks in stormwater	*We also have formed tracks in new stormwater basins and engineered wetlands. These areas have a primary stormwater management function, but*	*This isn't only about clarity but on whether you're not*

basins and engineered wetlands	*also operate like parks in terms of public access for recreation. They also have a wildlife and biodiversity role, as we seek to develop or restore wetland habitats. For these reasons, some dog controls are appropriate. The leashing on formed tracks rule would apply in these areas.* *There has been some community conflict over whether dogs should be leashed or not in the new areas. At the moment, there is no leashing rule because they were developed after the current policy was adopted. By proposing a new rule that applies of formed tracks in all greenspace areas, it will make things simple and clear for dog owners.*	*opposing a basic need. Evidence-based data please.* *Well behaved, under effective control dogs can benefit from entering stormwater basins to refresh and regulate body temperature. This is in opposition to their wellbeing. Please, please, please re-consider.* *With cyanobacteria in rivers, and the bluebottle jellyfish in beaches, it is becoming truly difficult to find places where dogs can cool down a bit.*

4. Towards better local regulation

The purpose of this section is to:

- Clarify CCC intentions of the proposals in the Dog Bylaw (what and why)
- Outline General-Auditor and Chief Ombudsman strategic intentions for New Zealand and how this has an impact on local government regulations (of course this goes beyond this regulation).
- Treasure and DPMC guidelines for good regulation and community engagement (as item above, this goes beyond this regulation, but still applicable to gauge how this proposal and consultation process measure against these).
- Outline the issues identified with current proposal to the Dog Bylaw 2024 from a Regulatory and Strategic Perspective.
- Summarise the Five Freedoms and what these mean for Dog Welfare and why these should be taken into account when drafting policies that impact animals.

4.1 What is being proposed and Why in the In the Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

The Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024 (https://hdp-au-prod-app-ccc-letstalk-files.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/6517/3094/2473/STR7533_Draft_Dog_Control_bylaw_SoP_docume

nt_WEB.pdf) articulates that legislation requires bylaws to be reviewed at least once every 10 years, and for a dog control policy to be reviewed at the same time.

The policy and bylaw work together to regulate locally, including to specify public places These changes affect everyone – whether you own a dog, don't own a dog, like dogs or don't like dogs and CCC wants to hear from everyone. In summary, the review recommends proposed changes based on:

• Better control of dogs in public places.

• Better protection of wildlife from dogs in key areas.

• People having a wide range of opportunities to exercise their dogs on and off leash.

• Protecting areas for cultural reasons (e.g. wāhi tapu, rongoā areas); and

• Simplifying and updating the rules and future proofing them where possible.

Key areas for change have arisen from:

• Changes in landscapes and habitats, including to coastal wetlands and estuaries, and new and restored wetlands and waterways.

• Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary being internationally recognised as part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) network, supporting threatened and at-risk migratory birds of national and international importance.

• The Council's strategic priority to protect biodiversity, and invest in habitat and ecological restoration.

• The changing ways in which people use public spaces, including how dogs and their owners use these spaces.

In some of the answers from the Engagement Team during consultation, this team stated that (this is a full quote):

"The Dog Control Act requires us to consider those four things, summarised in the presentation slides:

1. Minimising the danger, distress and nuisance that can be caused by dogs;
2. Dogs not having uncontrolled access to public places (especially those frequented by children);
3. Enabling people to access public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
4. The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

The Dog Control Act itself requires us to manage some of those competing things, so we're looking at

5. The recreational needs of dogs and their owners - that's one thing we've got to consider.
6. We're also looking at how people feel in public spaces - that they're not feeling a sense of distress or intimidation from dogs, and
7. That dogs are well controlled in those public places
8. We need to not have dogs fighting other dogs, we need to protect wildlife, we need to protect children, older people, all the people in our communities that may not want dogs near them all the time, so it really is a balancing act and dog owners themselves will make good choices about where they can take their dog, what's convenient to them, what opportunities are nearby, so we've got a whole range of different views that we're trying to respond to and a lot of different understandings of how people feel about dogs, where people would like their dogs to go and we're trying to balance all of that with what we're coming up with.

Part of understanding that balance and whether we've got that balance right or not is this public consultation process - if you have views in these areas, please do submit, include whatever information you can, that's helpful to us. Include specific information if you would like e.g. changes in a particular area. If you live in a neighbourhood or you travel to an area, that's all really helpful context. The bigger, broader comments on how we should provide more areas for dogs are hard for us to respond to as we already have a huge amount of space that is open to dogs with that default unleashed and under effective control rule that applies. So specific information is helpful, but any views that you have on either what we're proposing to change or what the existing rules are is really helpful, so do make a submission."

- End of CCC Team Engagement quote –

I'll aim to address these symptoms and their root causes in the upcoming sections, but before I do so I'd like to address the paramount imperative of the NZ Government to improve New Zealanders' trust and confidence in local government.

4.2 Auditor-General's strategic intentions to 2025

The info below has been extracted and copied from (https://oag.parliament.nz/2017/strategic-intentions/docs/strategic-intentions.pdf/view

The Auditor-General's strategic intentions for 2017/18 to 2024/25 is intended to influence the changes needed for New Zealand's public sector to operate and be accountable in ways that will meet the needs of Parliament and New Zealanders in the second quarter of the 21st century with the objective of achieving a high performing and accountable public sector that has the trust and confidence of Parliament and New

Zealanders. For this to happen, the public sector has to perform well and provide reliable, meaningful, and timely information so it can be held accountable.

Rationale

According to the Auditor-General, around the world, there are signs that people are losing faith in their governments – protesting about decisions, elections, and representation. People are increasingly questioning the veracity and reliability of information, including information from sources they once trusted. In the future, current entity-based reporting on an annual cycle is unlikely to meet people's needs or maintain their trust. **Trust and confidence in government is at the heart of every democracy, so we need to start thinking differently about what constitutes effective accountability**.

Figure 2
Overview of our purpose, vision, greatest imaginable challenge, and strategic objectives

Our purpose	Give Parliament and New Zealanders an independent view about public sector performance and accountability.
Our vision	A high-performing and trusted public sector.
Our greatest imaginable challenge	By 2025, the public sector is operating and accountable in ways that will meet the needs of New Zealanders in the second quarter of the 21st century.
Our strategic objectives	**Strengthening the public sector**: We want to use our influence to improve the performance of public entities and the public management system in which they operate. **Improving New Zealanders' trust and confidence**: We want to ensure that accountability arrangements work to improve New Zealanders' trust and confidence in the public sector. **Leading by example**: We want to be a role model for public sector performance and accountability.

4.3 Chief Ombudsman's Strategic Intentions - 2023 to 2028

The strategic direction of the Chief Ombudsman also reflects the need to focus on trust. One of their key outcomes being: "There is a high level of trust in government" (Link to the full strategy here: https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/sites/default/files/2022-10/Chief%20Ombudsman%27s%20Strategic%20Intentions%202022-2027%20%281%29.pdf)

Chief Ombudsman's 2023-2028 strategic intentions summary:

Goal – People are treated fairly.

Outcomes – **High public trust in government**; People's rights are protected; Robust independent oversight; Aotearoa New Zealand contributes to regional stability and integrity institutions.

Impacts – **People participate in government decision-making; Government is responsive, efficient, effective and accountable; Government actions are open, fair and reasonable**; People in positions of power act with integrity; People are treated humanely, with dignity by those in authority; Aotearoa New Zealand is a leader in anti-corruption and integrity.

Outputs – Inform the public to take constructive action to protect their rights; Improve public sector capability; **Consultation to help the public sector make decisions**; Enable serious wrongdoing to be disclosed and whistleblowers protected; Remove barriers to people with disabilities participating equally in society; Improve the conditions and treatment of people in detention; **Ensure official information is increasingly available and not unlawfully refused; Ensure good decision-making and processes;** Learn from, and assist to develop international best practice.

4.4 Getting Regulation Right

According to https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-05/pc-inq-tblr-issues-paper-towards-better-regulation.pdf appropriate benchmarks for good quality regulation cluster around the below number of themes:

- The adoption of lowest cost, least intrusive methods of achieving mandated aims;
- **The application of informed (evidence-based) expertise to regulatory issues;**
- **The operation of processes that are transparent, accessible, fair and consistent;**
- **The application of appropriate accountability systems**; and
- The use of regulatory regimes that encourage responsive and healthy markets where possible.

Good regulation should:

- **Be proportionate; accountable; consistent; transparent; and targeted** (UK's Better Regulation Taskforce, 2003)
- Confer net benefits; achieve objectives without unduly restricting business; be transparent and fair; accessible to business; create a predictable regulatory environment; and ensure responsive consultation (Australia's Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources,1999);
- Be the minimum action necessary to achieve the objectives; **not unduly prescriptive; accessible, transparent, and accountable; integrated and consistent with other laws; communicated effectively; mindful of compliance burdens; and enforceable** (Australia's Office of Regulatory Review, Argy and Johnson, 2003);

- **Serve clearly identified policy goals and be effective in achieving those goals; have a sound legal and empirical basis; produce benefits that justify the costs**, considering the distribution of effects across society and taking economic, **environmental, and social effects into accoun**t; minimise costs and market distortions; promote innovation through market incentives and goal-based approaches; **be clear, simple, and practical for users;**
- **Be consistent with other regulations and policies**; and be compatible, as far as possible with competition, trade, and investment-facilitating principles at domestic and international levels (OECD, 2005).

Source: Baldwin, 2010 and https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-05/pc-inq-tblr-issues-paper-towards-better-regulation.pdf

4.5 Community Engagement

According to https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-10/policy-project-community-engagement-principles-and-values-oct23.pdf Community engagement should be considered throughout the policy process. This includes as we create our policy work programmes and work through the policy development process to identify what to recommend to decision makers. It should be reflected in our advice to ministers about legislation, policy and services, and how to implement them. Community engagement should be a critical resource to strengthen relationships that are influential on our policy focus, activities, decisions and the outcomes government wants to achieve.

Effective community engagement can be used to help:

• design and review the engagement process

• initiate, define and shape the definition of the problem or opportunity – to ensure we understand who is affected by it, and how much, and why

• identify appropriate policy objectives – relating to that problem or opportunity

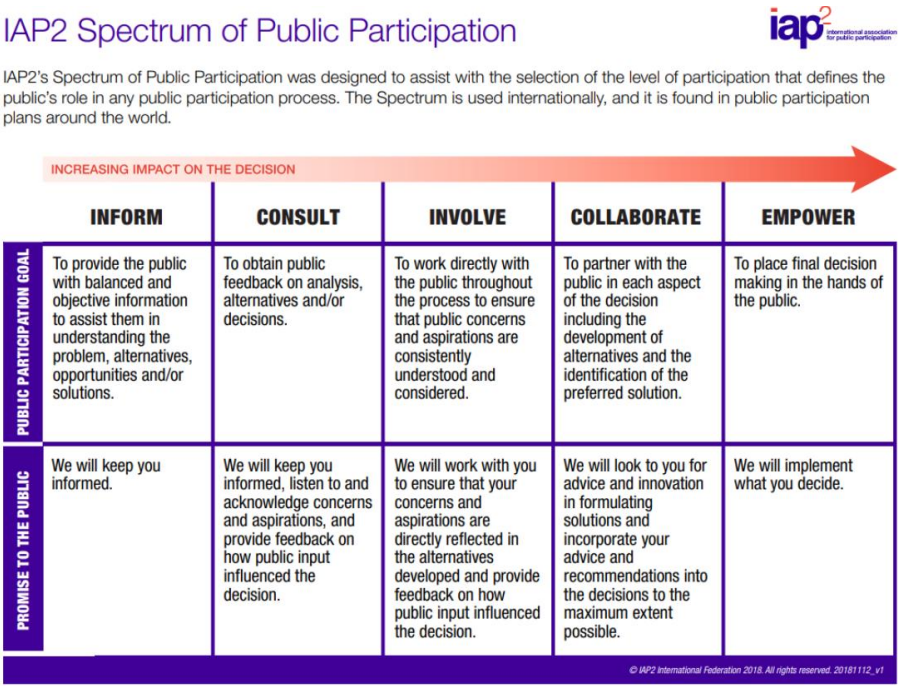
• identify and critically evaluate policy options for achieving policy objectives (including testing or trialling proposed solutions)

• choose a preferred option

• implement the preferred option (including administering and making decisions pursuant to the policy)

• monitor and evaluate the impacts of any policy decisions.

And according to https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-10/policy-community-engagement-tool-oct2023.pdf this process should be followed for increasing impact on the decision:



IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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4.6 Issues Identified with Current Proposal to the Dog Bylaw 2024 from a Regulatory and Strategic Perspective

Assessing the strategic intention of both General-Auditor and Chief Ombudsman of ensuring the public has high-trust in government entities, and also taking in consideration the public feedback on CCC Facebook page of how the public perceives our local government intentions after a proposal is implemented (the general comments are that CCC have not listened to the public during consultation and implement what they intended to without any changes) , I've assessed most of the changes proposed in this Dog Bylaw to measure how well they rate against the guidelines of good regulation and community engagement outlined in sections 4.4 and 4.5. Issues identified can be found below:

- Issue #1: Dog Bylaw Survey from July 2024 has been perceived by some as biased and it did not provide options to select and guide from. It seemed the CCC Engagement Team view on restrictions to apply was definitive, without providing evidence-based facts on how they came to these conclusions.

- Issue #2: Dog Bylaw Survey did not provide a way to evidence if those providing the input are actually Christchurch residents, therefore the input taken into account could be from people living overseas or in other regions. This question was asked to the CCC and no answer was provided.
- Issue #3: Dog Bylaw Consultation from November 2024 did not provide evidence-based facts on why these changes are proposed, neither how these will be monitored and measured.
- Issue #4: There is currently no evidence-based data on how regulations introduced in the Dog Bylaw 2016 actually improved living conditions wildlife, dogs and Christchurch residents.
- Issue #5: The CCC Engagement team does not answer all the questions raised by the public via OIA, via survey, or via consultation in a direct and unambiguous way. Please see list of full questions I've raised that remained unanswered in Section 6 – Outstanding Questions. This poses a threat to trust in public sector entities and accountability and transparency in policy making.
- Issue #6: Dogs are considered a sentient being in the NZ Welfare Act, however they have not even been considered as an impacted party in the CCC Engagement Team Webinar (According to CCC the impacted parties are dog owners and other residents).
- Issue #7: No change impact assessment has been conducted to analyse and assess how each proposal might impact those affected (including, especially, dogs) before or during consultation. This poses a threat to trust in the local government decision making process.
- Issue #8: CCC Engagement Team has not yet provided as of 10 December 2024 the full research conducted to understand the decision-making behind the proposal of changes, hence impacting transparency. Please note that the 16 October Council Report, the Statement of Proposal, the Review of the Dog Control Policy and Dog Control Bylaw 2016 were read and analysed to write this document. I also attended the webinar hosted on 29th November.
- Issue #9: CCC Engagement Team encourages community collaboration, but when asked how opinions will be differentiated from facts to elicit evidence-based policies no answer has been provided.
- Issue #10: Dog wellbeing not taken into account. Some of the changes proposed could seriously impact dogs by increasing reactivity and decreasing good socialisation.
- Issue #11: The proposals are addressing symptoms, but do not truly cover or assess the real root causes of what is not working.
- Issue #12: Some of the proposals regarding exemption processes for managing more than 2 dogs unleashed, and more than 4 dogs leashed are not clear, hence impacting transparency and credibility of how this will be managed.

- Issue #13: Similar to issue #12 above, it is not clear how the council will vet dog walkers, how many dogs they will be able to walk, where, how frequently will they be tested, by whom, etc. In a non-regulated industry this is serious and clarity should be provided.
- Issue #14: Experts in Dog Behaviour qualified by the International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants have not been consulted prior to the consultation. We are lucky to have at least 2 PhD experts in Christchurch who work towards educating humans and dogs top reach out to.
- Issue #15: CCC statement is that our council provides multiple options for dogs to be exercised, however since 2016 regulations have been restricting these without measuring how successful they are. This has a high correlation on trust and accountability in public institutions.
- Issue #16: Proposals are centred in the premise that dogs don't behave and therefore restrictions must be made. Dogs live in a world designed by humans and I agree that they need to abide to our rules but at times these do not make sense to them (because their way of perceiving and living reality is different than ours). However, dogs can be educated to:
    a. Not to approach other dogs without checking in with their owner.
    b. Not to chase or disturb wildlife.
    c. Not to approach children, older people, neither any adults who don't want to say hi to them.
    d. To be within sight and voice control of their owner when on leash.
    e. To leave people, things, and animals alone.
    f. Not to chase cyclists or runners.
    g. To immediately come when called.

  I've got proof to all of these, and I've attached links some videos as reference.

- Issue #17: The proposal does not include options for those dogs that are well educated, that follow through cues/commands and are always under effective control. A licensing programme for these dogs who've put in all the hard work to have such a level of freedom should be considered.
- Issue #18: A blanket regulation that does not cater for dogs as individuals. Not all dogs misbehave, not all dog owners are irresponsible. Target regulation is best, as advised in the good practices for regulation from section 4.
- Issue #19: Most of the proposals seem to be at conflict with NZVA Position Statement https://nzva.org.nz/positions-advocacy/position-statements/safe-dogs/, again showcasing the lack of expert consultation and/or research.
- Issue #20: CCC is taking in consideration how people feel about dogs to make regulations about where dogs can go, even if some of these feelings could be related to phobias or traumas. But they have disregarded the need for evidence-

based facts in some cases and have not sought expert advice and/or taken into account position statements from experts.

- Issue #21: The dog behaviour domain has evolved significantly in the last 15 years due to scientific research which has revoked myths related to pack dominance and aggression in dogs, and have proven that dogs are social animals that thrive in environments in which they have ample opportunity for choice, autonomy, and freedom. Many of the proposals in thus bylaw go against the recent academic studies recommendations and have a high probability of negatively impacting dogs' wellbeing.
- Issue #22: When the public raised questions about the danger other animals pose to wildlife, these are dismissed by stating that this policy is only aiming at Dogs. I understand there are boundaries to policy making, but not acknowledging, and not providing data of attacks and injuries done by other animals to wildlife is not how evidence-based policy making works. Everything is part of a wider context and the public should be given the data of how much of a danger dogs pose when compared to other animals like cats, possums, and even small unsupervised children or teenagers. For example, Domestic cats are reportedly killing 4 billion animals per year in the United States and are solely responsible for the extinction of at least 33 bird species.
- Issue #23: Most of the proposals can be at conflict with the 4 Freedoms of Animal Welfare.
- Issue #24: Who oversees freedoms protected by NZBoRA that have been proposed to been removed in this bylaw because the Dog Control Act also expressly allows councils to develop bylaws that restrict access to particular public places for people when accompanied by their dog, as long as the restrictions relate to the purpose of the Dog Control Act?

5 . Potential Options

The purpose of this section is to:

- Provide visibility of some expert advice and latest scientific research on what is considered 'bad' dog behaviour and why taking an anthroponomic view is not ethical.
- Aim to identify the root causes in this proposal, and propose ideas of how these could be targeted in other ways.
- Provide examples of how some of these options work in other countries and shift the mandate to the dog guardian, not on the dog.

5.1 Setting the Right Expectations

Below is an extract from Jessica Pierce's book 'Who's a Good Dog?"

"Dogs and humans occupy a shared space and engage in a mutual negotiation of rules, boundaries, and appropriate behaviours. Learning to live together in a shared space— particularly in a space that may be less conducive to our dog's needs than to our own— involves partnering with our dog to identify and work through problems and miscommunications. So, the first step toward a negotiated settlement is recognizing that we are engaged in a team effort.

The second step is to recognize that many of the behaviours we find challenging in our dogs are natural, species- specific behaviours. They are "good" behaviours (adaptive for dogs) that we have labelled "bad." Indeed, Yamada's definition of a "behavioural problem"— and the most common definition in the veterinary literature— is "a behaviour that humans find annoying." That's not very scientific, is it?

In Yamada's study referenced before, the list of bad dog behaviours reported by guardians included barking, attention seeking, fear of loud noises, chasing small animals, pulling on the leash, and elimination in the wrong place, among others. These are all examples of dogs being dogs. Some behaviours on the bad dog list, such as tail chasing and snapping at the air, are symptomatic of psychological distress.

The fact that most items on Yamada's bad dog list are either normal dog behaviours or signs of pathology should give us pause. Maybe what needs to change isn't our dogs but us, our perceptions and our expectations. ***If we can reframe problems as a mismatch in human expectations and canine behavioural needs, we may be motivated to find compassionate, workable compromises.***

Looking beyond our own behavioural quirks, we can explore more broadly which aspects of life as a pet might be difficult for dogs and what compromises they are already making. In bringing dogs into the home environment, we expect them to suppress behaviours that they are biologically highly motivated to perform and we also dramatically reduce their agency. We deny them the opportunity to forage for their own food; we allow them to pee and poop only at designated times and in designated places; we scold them for trying to be protective of us and for being afraid of human gadgets and loud noises and weird surfaces; we ask them to refrain from chewing shoes made with animal carcass, from digging holes in the soil, from roaming around to find friends or mates. And, above all, we drastically reduce the

size of their territory, the sensory complexity of their environment, and the richness of their social worlds. Given how much they compromise, it seems only fair that we should compromise, too.

We can compromise by adapting our house, our lifestyle, and our expectations to support our dogs in satisfying their needs as comfortably as possible, allowing them to engage in natural behaviours that don't put them or others in danger and that we can, when pressed, tolerate."

Extracted from chapters 1 and 2 from Jessica Pierce's 'Who's a Good Dog'

5.2 Identify the Root Causes

The Dog Control Act requires CCC to consider these four things:

1. Minimising the danger, distress and nuisance that can be caused by dogs;
2. Dogs not having uncontrolled access to public places (especially those frequented by children);
3. Enabling people to access public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
4. The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

In doing so, CCC are looking at:

5. The recreational needs of dogs and their owners
6. We're also looking at how people feel in public spaces - that they're not feeling a sense of distress or intimidation from dogs, and
7. That dogs are well controlled in those public places.
8. We need to not have dogs fighting other dogs, we need to protect wildlife, we need to protect children, older people, all the people in our communities that may not want dogs near them all the time, so it really is a balancing act and dog owners themselves will make good choices about where they can take their dog, what's convenient to them, what opportunities are nearby, so we've got a whole range of different views that we're trying to respond to and a lot of different understandings of how people feel about dogs, where people would like their dogs to go and we're trying to balance all of that with what we're coming up with.

	Topic	Potential Root Cause(s)	Probability of root cause solved by new bylaw proposal

1	Minimising the danger, distress and nuisance that can be caused by dogs	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog • Lack of enforcement.	Low This is why we need performance metrics to monitor the effectiveness of these regulations.
2	Dogs not having uncontrolled access to public places (especially those frequented by children).	• Lack of enforcement (rule on playgrounds already exists)	Medium
3	Enabling people to access public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog • Lack of enforcement.	Low Again, why we need performance metrics. What will come next if people still not feel safe under new regulations?
4	The exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners	N\A (not really a problem but a factor to consider)	N\A
5	The recreational needs of dogs and their owners	Already covered in item 4	Already covered in item 4
6	We're also looking at how people feel in public spaces - that they're not feeling a sense of distress or intimidation from dogs	Already covered in item 3	Already covered in item 3
7	That dogs are well controlled in those public places.	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog	Low

8a	We need to not have dogs fighting other dogs	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog	Low
8b	We need to protect wildlife	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Lack of enforcement. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog	Low
8c	we need to protect children	Already covered in item 2	Already covered in item 2
8d	We need to protect older people	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog	Low
8e	We need to protect all the people in our communities that may not want dogs near them all the time	• Training. • Dog guardian lack of resources or knowledge for training dog. • Dog guardian competence for caring for a dog	Low

5.3 Shift the Mandate from Dogs Restrictions to Responsible Dog Guardianship / Ownership

I am a huge believer in enforcement and having your dog off-leash means you need to have a well-educated (good dog etiquette) and under effective control dog.

However the proposals in this bylaw put the focus on the dog, when actually any issues related to dog behaviour should be better addressed at educating and providing resources to the dog owners. The responsibility of how a dog behaves lies on the owner, not on the dog (the dog did not even choose to live in Christchurch or New Zealand in the first place).

Good etiquette would mean that if the dog is off leash:

- The guardian should at all times know and have visibility of their dog whereabouts.
- The guardian should at all times have a dog that comes immediately when called.
- The guardian should at all times prioritise their attention on their dog when off leash (this is why it is discouraged to use mobile phones or headsets when on exercise areas).
- The guardian is responsible of ensuring their dog does not run to greet other dogs without the other dogs' guardians consent (some could be injured, others could be in training working on reactivity, etc.)
- The guardian is responsible of ensuring their dog does not injure/bite other dogs/people.
- The guardian is responsible of ensuring their dog does not disturb and/or chase wildlife.
- The guardian is responsible of ensuring their dog does not disturb or approaches children without the consent of their parents.
- The guardian is responsible of ensuring their dog does not disturb those who do not want to engage / be close to a dog.
- The guardian is responsible of ensuring that their does not chase cyclists, no runners.

Failing to comply with any of these means the dog is not yet ready to be off leash and this should be enforced for the safety of both the dog and others (however a long line to enable them to move with more freedom without hindering their health and their ability to communicate with their body is encouraged).

Now dogs that exhibit such control and dog etiquette should be allowed to wander off leash in allowed areas so that they can have more autonomy and choice that has been researched and proven to be a must for their wellbeing. This of course does not mean

'anywhere, anytime'. There are certain areas where dogs should not be, but neither should humans be, especially in protected areas.

Some examples of regulations in which dogs' freedom was not been compromised will be outlined the section below (The Model for Canine Good Citizenship).

5.4 The Model for Canine Good Citizenship

The Boulder, Colorado–based Voice and Sight program grants dog owners an off-leash license if they and their dogs demonstrate a certain level of competence and good behaviour. There is a similar program in Rockville, Maryland.

Both programs require owners and dogs to demonstrate basic command and obedience abilities, like recall, sitting, and staying, and doing all that in the presence of distractions. The American Kennel Club has a much more advanced Companion Dog, Experienced certification. It seems like common sense that you and your dog should be capable of this level of control and obedience if you're going to let him off-leash anywhere.

In the run-up to Boulder's Voice and Sight program, animal behaviour scientist Marc Bekoff studied the behaviour of dogs in the area. His two papers on the subject are probably the most thorough studies ever conducted on the impact of dogs on their environment. The studies' conclusions? "Behavioural data showed that off-leash dogs generally did not travel far off-trail, that when they did it was for short periods of time, and that they rarely were observed to chase other dogs, disturb people, chase wildlife, destroy vegetation, or enter bodies of water … people are more disruptive to the environment than dogs … the well-being and interests of dogs should not be summarily and dismissively be compromised when dogs and people attempt to share limited space."

5.5 Voice and Sight Control

The below is an excerpt from https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/voice-and-sight-program

Voice and Sight Requirements and Expectations: It is a high standard to have your dog off leash and under Voice and Sight Control when confronted by distractions, wildlife, other animals like horses, dogs and the occasional cat. We are proud of the dog guardians who have spent countless hours training and working with their pup to ensure they meet the standard!

Voice and Sight control means the ability of a dog guardian to adequately control a dog by using voice commands and sight commands (such as hand gestures). In order for a guardian or keeper to have voice and sight control over a dog, the guardian must:

- be able to see the dog's actions; and
- be able to prevent the dog from engaging in the following behaviours, using voice and sight commands, **without regard to circumstances or distractions:**
    - Charging, chasing, or otherwise displaying aggression toward any person or behaving toward any person in a manner that a reasonable person would find harassing or disturbing.
    - Charging, chasing, or otherwise displaying aggression toward any dog;
    - Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife or livestock; or
    - Failing to come to and stay with the guardian or keeper immediately upon command by such person.

6. Videos Showcasing Good Etiquette Off Leash

If receiving this error when trying to view the videos please refresh the page: NetworkError when attempting to fetch resource.

Below is a list of different situations that Tota, our 2 year-old dog, faces on weekly basis.

Her behaviour is reliable, and she tends to be even more neutral than in the videos when around birds, actually ignoring them over 90% of the time.

We'd be happy to meet with the Engagement team and discuss any questions you might have.

1. Walking close by off leash in OARC - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EZIhqyZcf-1JhZqhi_R7D1kB3daQZTUCFj8OOandj5gnXA?e=dnF9F6
2. Recall - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/Ea-9KuavBMdPt7HNdGq72IoB0K2q3oczC1ZR8MCagNIhlQ?e=TxkIvH

3. Recall - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/ERbyfbNdLK1HnEhdmbXnQBQBnJhA42KkCLBAzprSTm6EvA?e=zfN5XZ
4. Off leash in shared roads near cyclists and runners - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EdBh7j4RB9tJvGGOBSM5N8kB1sSTixwNxZ8K2_mHt5NtEQ?e=cdI2ar
5. Off leash in share roads near runners - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EWrb-J1ooFFIlOKwWCftT_sBbZeEUy9Tk6AfORHlxWJUlA?e=rxfrRs
6. Off leash crossing a cycle lane and near runners - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EXURHnTKkKVEkm2VEQGNUkB8pm-CtcSD7sz1nG4N0KhYw?e=m4icdc
7. Off leash around bikes - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/ETdQvMTBgzBOlYtgDBO2sPUBL3yAE27GgUV6qRq-uNVThA?e=0BhPK5
8. Around birds - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EQ2julEnSFtFsW4zMEVuU5sBJpGEqErPNT0rpP19yt6AaQ?e=GqP7Zz
9. More bikes - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EcTHJzt7WhxKgpZt8KXKbAQBPYcBplZqN1eifZnOKAbwTw?e=ymmJg0
10. Ignoring doggies off leash- https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/Ee2vLG4VsjBJjHtvXo9m3aEBzbAAnXo48zP4JxdUMwKrog?e=jnRDmc
11. Asking her to leave something while off leash - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EaMpXnRhufdEu0s5MCkQDAQBOulUgZjy_gt-TmTSiyZlNw?e=ZQNaz4
12. And around more bikes off leash - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EX9v_vL5hcxKi4Y4wvrYFGsBy68ZYG2Z3SwhY6k4NxrTEA?e=h3ZLWt
13. Off leash around birds (includes recall for intervention) - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EUBH2u3_yKxAjsjNlXT5hIABZdET-zaWCduku6YdGVfG3A?e=Ssyc4B
14. Asking her to move away from cycleway - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/ERTVemb5pThCmEsrMuNQFk0BAPMwpHApNhAdvKA_jeASRQ?e=UeFDn7

15. Off leash around runners - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EZcSaSwSqjNFhnDe6YRg5CoBtyNw9Jtxp86wJcDmzu8h1w?e=gDdswg
16. Asking her to go the other way while off leash - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EQfEdpWwV3ZBgy7vZOixoFQBDbaVvwKxtLgsr5xG4FUKSw?e=kRK7HT
17. Ignoring a human who does not want to interact with her while off leash - https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/EZD2ybVC7ZFLqCNAo0WFXhcBOBYGS1hg9AZrfxHTQ1xDyg?e=wD07DU
18. Ignoring runner and her dog while off leash https://1drv.ms/v/c/5ffc7f5f69ae4e00/Ef5ZK9pONnhNhOSkjbGVBs0BwgcO6FSNxNYRpMSrTwe4TQ?e=uaXWoE

7. Outstanding Questions from Dog Bylaw Survey (July 2024) and Consultation (December 2024)

Please note this is not a full list as the website does not currently give me visibility of questions raised that have not yet been vetted by CCC.

1. Why didn't CCC conduct an impact assessment conducted prior to consultation?

2. Why did CCC request the opinion of the community, but not sought the opinion of experts like NZVA or certified dog behaviourists?

3. Will certified experts in dog behaviour review, consult, and approve the proposal before Hearing Panel?

4. What research has been taken into account about how being leashed impact dogs' behaviour, especially their body language and how they communicate with other dogs? Please provide links to research.

5. What research has been taken into account about how being leashed more often can impacts dogs' confidence, resulting in dogs who are more fearful, who then could develop a tendency to become aggressive if their meets continue not to be met. Please provide links to research.

6. Can you provide facts (evidence based) on how these ideas or changes have worked and how you plan to measure their success?

7. Can you provide facts (evidence based) on why these changes would not provoke more reactivity in dogs?

8. Can you provide facts (evidence based) on how these ideas or changes potentially harm dogs' wellbeing?

9. What would the criteria be for vetting dog walkers. This should not be a subjective assessment and guidelines should be clear.

10. With the current influx of dogs in pounds and on the streets, and the potential risk that these rules could bring more reactivity in dogs, making it harder for owners to control them, has the council considered that these rules could create a systemic issue of more dogs being abandoned in the future as owners cannot cater for their dogs training needs to be less reactive while on a leash?

11. How did the council confirm that participants of the survey were Christchurch residents? I've been notified that people who reside in Australia have participated, therefore skewing statistics.

12. Who was in charge of approving and reviewing the survey that was sent to the public? What process does the council follow to try to deter polarisation and survey the public on facts, rather than opinions?

13. Please provide the full research conducted that resulted in the proposed changes. I'd like to inform myself on these before submitting my opinion

14. Can you please detail what data CCC uses for policy making? How do CCC differ between an opinion and a fact to make informed decisions to regulations? How is information available tested and measured to ensure the decisions made are right and can be measured in case of incorrect assessment?

15. Number of dog bites / injuries within property vs. outdoors since 2016.

16. Number of dog nuisances within property vs. outdoors since 2016.

17. Number of tickets logged with dog control since 2016 in which the dog and owner were identified vs. those that were not.

18. Have CCC read the Position Statements from the NZ veterinary Association (https://nzva.org.nz/positions-advocacy/position-statements/safe-dogs/) and from APDTNZ (https://www.apdtnz.org.nz/position-statement-dog-control-policies-and-leash-laws)? Have these experts been consulted prior to consultation? If no, why?

CCC replied that The New Zealand Veterinary Association position statement is largely focused on reform of the Dog Control Act 1996. Changes to the Dog Control Act should be directed to the Department of Internal Affairs, which administers the Act, or to the responsible Minister. This consultation is about our local laws, which are made under

the Act.
HOWEVER, I emailed NZCA and they replied that the position statement could be used as there are some points that could be utilised at the local level. Please request response from NZVA if needed.

Furthermore, after the Dog Bylaw survey went out in July 2024 I issued these questions via LGOIMA:

> With regards to the survey sent out to the public about Dog Control Policy and Bylaw proposal changes for dog rules (link to the survey here: https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dog-survey), I'd like to request information about:
>
> - What is the process the council follows prior to proposing these changes to the public?
> - Who are the roles of those involved in this process?
> - Is expert advice sought? If, so what are their credentials in dog behaviour?
> - Do these experts in dog behaviour review, consult, and approve the proposal before it goes to the public?
> - What research has been done about how being leashed impact dogs behaviour, especially their body language and how they communicate with other dogs.
> - What research has been done about how being leashed more often can impacts dogs' confidence, resulting in dogs who are more fearful, who then could develop a tendency to become aggressive if their meets continue not to be met.
>
> Furthermore, the survey does not provide enough details about the below things I'd appreciate more content on:
>
> 1. Facts (evidence based) on how these ideas or changes have worked in the past?
> 2. Facts about how these ideas or changes could have triggered more reactivity in dogs.
> 3. Facts about how these ideas or changes potentially harm dogs wellbeing by not allowing them to do what dogs do without harming the environment (incl. other people).
> 4. Details about the ideas, for example: if reducing the quantity of dogs a walker can take: how many are we talking about as the maximum limit? What if they walk 3 but they're out of control?
> 5. Details about how other pets (cats) harm the environment, especially in the Otakaro, Avon river corridor. What can be done about this?

6. With the current influx of dogs in pounds and on the streets, and the potential risk that these rules could bring more reactivity in dogs, making it harder for owners to control them, has the council considered that these rules could create a systemic issue of more dogs being abandoned in the future as owners cannot cater for their dogs training needs to be less reactive while on a leash?
7. I understand the survey is to understand the 'feelings and opinions' by the public about dogs off leash in recreational areas (I was told this by the Christchurch city council account in Facebook). Is this correct?
8. How does the council confirm that participants of the survey are Christchurch residents and tax payers? I've been notified that people who reside in Australia have participated.
9. How can I receive information (without personal details) of total people who submitted feedback via survey and how their feedback impacts the council decision on the ideas to be included in the full consultation?
10. I understand that after the survey full consultation will begin. What are the steps to be included in this consultation as a public member?
11. Will experts in dog behaviour external to the council be consulted? I was advised animal management from the council would, but this is not really the same. The ideas proposed could negatively impact the wellbeing of dogs, and it would be good to know if the council plans on seeking the expertise of dog behaviourists with academic certifications (we have at least one PhD graduate from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch to consult).
12. When is the full consultation scheduled to begin? What is the overall process?
13. Who was in charge of approving and reviewing the survey that was sent to the public? What process does the council follow to try to deter polarisation and survey the public on facts, rather than opinions?
14. Please provide the full research conducted that resulted in the ideas that were written in the survey to the public.

I understand the council's perspective and I've personally suffered aggressive dogs attacking my then 4 month old puppy at The Groynes dog park due to an irresponsible owner who let their mature dog frighten and traumatise my puppy 'because let dogs be dogs'. But I have strong concerns that the proposal does not seem to cater for dogs needs, neither address the real root cause of these issues: that some owners (I prefer to call them guardians) do not have control of their dogs and whose dogs then end up interfering with the environment and or other people negatively.

If following down this road of proposal, it would be beneficial to provide a path for rewarding dog guardians and dogs who do their work, who train these things hard, and who can be safely off leash in recreational areas (even shared paths) as they

have shown time and time again that they follow their human cues and act accordingly.

I'd appreciate a response before survey closes on 21st July. As I'd prefer to have this information before submitting my feedback.

The response can be found below and **not only did not address my questions appropriately back in July, but neither can these be answered now during consultation in December:**

[Ticket: 1164792] - Dog Control Policy and Bylaw | Proposal changes

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Official Information <OfficialInformation@ccc.govt.nz> Mon, Jul 22, 2024 at 10:59 AM

To: Anabella Gr <[redacted]>
Cc: "official information (Hybris)" <officialinformation@my.ccc.govt.nz>

Kia ora Anabella,

Thank for contacting Christchurch City Council regarding the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw Review Survey. We welcome your feedback on how dogs are managed in public places in the district.

You have asked a series of questions, and we offer you some context and answers here. The survey is a high-level early stage approach to the bylaw review process. At present we haven't developed much of the detail that will respond to the questions you have asked, however policy staff have provided the following information to assist.

Legislation requires councils to have a policy on dogs and a bylaw to enforce it. It requires us to review the policy and bylaw at least once every ten years. This is a formal process that is set out in legislation. The survey asks some early questions to help us to gauge the public's views on some possible changes to the policy and bylaw.

The current policy and bylaw set out the rules for where dogs must be leashed or where they are prohibited. The dog control areas can be found on the interactive map, here. In areas not shown as coloured on the map, dogs can be exercised

off-leash, as long as they are under effective control. There are a lot of areas like this.

In adopting a dog control policy, section 10(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires councils to consider:

- the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community
- the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children
- the importance of enabling the public to use public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs, and
- the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

So the Act requires us to consider public safety, and to balance this with enabling the exercise of dog in public places.

Another key consideration for the control of dogs is wildlife protection. Areas of habitat restoration and areas near water (such as riverbanks and wetlands) are important areas for birds and wildlife, so there are some areas where dog access should be limited.

While the policy limits access to some public places to protect those areas (or people, other dogs, other animals or wildlife), there are lots of places where dogs are allowed, or are allowed when leashed.

The Act also sets out obligations for dog owners. These obligations include, but are not limited to:

- ensuring that the dog is kept under control at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, intimidate, or otherwise cause distress to any person
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure that the dog does not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife

The survey was developed to seek the views of the community on some ideas and issues. We are interested in understanding how the community feels about dogs in public spaces. Our role is to understand the wide range of community views (from dog owners and the general public) and to try to balance those (sometimes competing) views.

Once we have the results of the survey and complete the rest of the review, we will take formal proposals for change to the elected Council. If they are happy with the proposals, we will undertake a formal public consultation process. People will have the opportunity to make a submission and to be heard by a Hearings Panel. The Hearings Panel will then make recommendations to the

elected Council. If the Council is happy with the final form of the policy and bylaw, they will be adopted and be in place for up to ten years.
All registered dog owners will be notified of the consultation (which is required by the Act), as well as other stakeholders.

Our district has over 10,000 hectares of park land for the public, including dogs and their owners, to use and enjoy. This review is about understanding the public's general level of comfort about where dogs should and shouldn't be. This will have far greater detail than now and there will be opportunity to make an informed submission.

Thank you again for providing feedback and showing an interest in how we regulate dogs in public places in the district. We look forward to any input you would like to give when we go out for public consultation later in the year.

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Official Information Team
Office of the Mayor and Chief Executive

[redacted]

Te Hononga Civic Offices, 53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

PO Box 73016, Christchurch 8154

ccc.govt.nz

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From: [redacted]
Sent on: Thursday, 12 December 2024 11:38:20 am
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

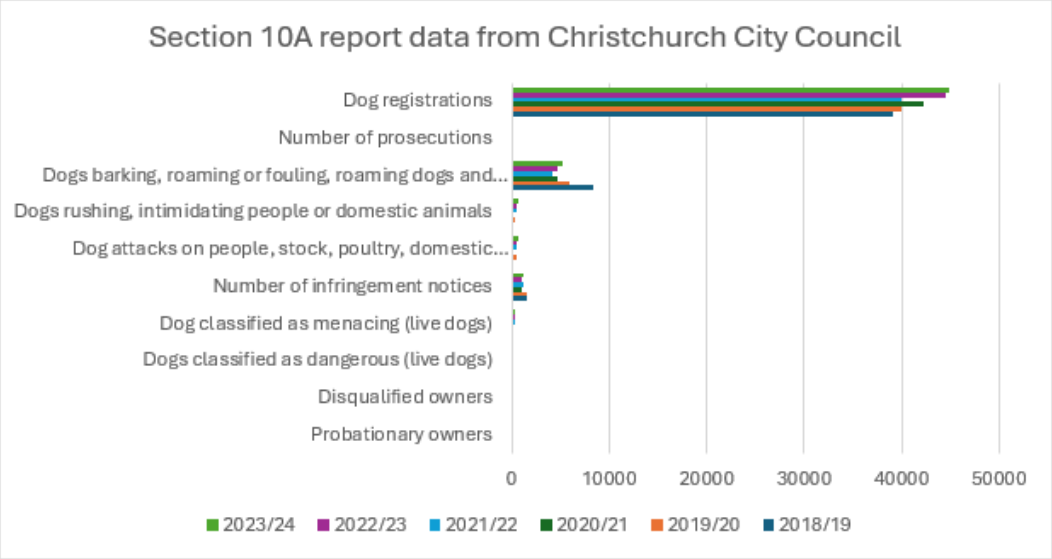
From: Evelien Baas <[redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, 12 December 2024 9:50 am
To: Lets Talk <LetsTalk@ccc.govt.nz>
Subject: Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

You don't often get email from [redacted]z. Learn why this is important

Evelien Baas
[redacted]
Christchurch
[redacted]

I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is [redacted]

> The combined policy and bylaw aim to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the potential harm, distress, and nuisance caused by dogs.



*In 2020/21, data on dog attacks and dogs rushing were not reported in the same format as other years and have been excluded from the analysis

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place?
Yes

This requirement is primarily aimed at dog walkers who are acting in one form or another as commercial services, an unregulated industry. The rule will not fully address the problem, however, unless the Council enforces it with spot-checks at parks, beaches, and reserves that are used by these operations.

Do you support the revised definition of effective control? Yes

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash (defined as 1.5 m) on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed? No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings are justified, particularly considering a new definition of effective control, which should help create more certainty for education and enforcement actions. There are legitimate concerns about public safety. However, blanket requirements on shared paths and tracks are overly restrictive. Owners will want to use pathways, whereas their dogs will want to express natural agency. I refer to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ position statement.[1]

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads. No

There is no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings are justified, particularly considering the Council's own enforcement data. (There were 23.7% fewer infringement notices issued in 2023/24 than in 2018/19, despite an increase in the registered dog population of 13.8%.)
I favour a more balanced approach to managing shared pathways in Christchurch involving the concept of "speed yields to vulnerability" (in conjunction with the definition of effective control). The needs of the most vulnerable user at any given time must be considered. We need a greater sense of community on our shared paths. The majority of dog owners obey the current rules and are considerate, but the council is letting them down through a lack of targeted and effective enforcement. The risk of my dog or me being run over by an electric scooter or bike on a shared path will not decrease if my dog is on a leash. The issue is not caused by the dog on or off leash, but by the speed of the bike or scooter on the shared path.
Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? No

The proposal for this area, commonly referred to as the red zone, will severely limit the ability to use it for enjoyment, enrichment, exercise, and off-leash training. The inability to access riverbanks means that dogs will not be allowed to enjoy the water, which is essential to animal welfare in hot weather; there are already limited areas where dogs have safe water access.

If allowed to proceed in its current form, this rule will limit dogs to 1/3 of the red zone area, and only on mown grass areas. Practically speaking, it will also restrict access of most dog owners to mown grass areas only. At a minimum, this creates inequities for elderly dog owners, those with physical disabilities, and families with small children.

The proposed limitations have not been justified by the Council's own data with a particular emphasis that there are no data to show that dogs are negatively impacting wildlife "*impacts on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs cannot accurately be quantified in many situations, as data is not available*[2]. I accept that the Council is developing this area, in part, as an ecological corridor but this development must proceed with a more balanced approach to other users.

Other comments:

There has been an overreliance on a Dog Control Survey issued by the Council in July 2024 in developing these proposals. The survey methodology was not peer-reviewed to ensure against survey bias, which was confirmed by [redacted] the Manager of Official Information and Privacy Officer, on 20 August 2024. [redacted] said, "T*he survey was to understand some of the public's thoughts on some particular concepts or issues to help us shape the review of our Dog Control Bylaw and Policy."* (emphasis added)
In addition, the implications of all proposals cannot be fully understood without a map. The Council has refused to provide a map despite requests, stating that *"We have a map that shows the current rules. The map will be updated when all the changes have been finalised*."[3] In my opinion, the lack of a map has created an unfair burden on dog handlers to fully understand the impacts of these proposals in sufficient time to submit them by the Council's deadline. It also shows that the Council is predisposed to implement all proposals regardless of feedback.

Kind regards,

Evelien

[1] https://www.apdtnz.org.nz/position-statement-dog-control-policies-and-leash-laws
[2] Review of the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016, paper to Christchurch City Council dated 16 October 2024
[3] https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 12 December 2024 9:12 pm
To: Lets Talk
Subject: RE: For [redacted] - Dog Control Bylaw and Policy - Consultation open

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Christchurch Council Dog Bylaw and Policy

To [redacted]

I am writing to express my concern over these Dog Bylaws and policies.
I am requesting, to attend the hearing in front of the council Dog Bylaws and policy committee.
As I would like to be heard and listened to, at the hearing meeting of my concerns.

1 – Keeping Dog under effective control
What I have seen in the last few years, since 2013. Under effective control is no longer effective to the irresponsible dog owners.
This should be changed from under effective control to Under Good Control, as effective control is causing people to be irresponsible to their dogs around public and nonpublic places, weather on a lead or not. Under the council rules this effective control is not working in my opinion.
I have noticed even with council signs saying, (dogs on leash in this area." Like at the Styx mill reserve, irresponsible dog owners let their dog or dogs off and the dogs run through the Styx River out of control. Which is not fair on the responsible dog owners who keep their dog on a leash and under control.
Even bicycles ride through the Styx Mill reserve. With a sign saying "No Bicycles"
Dog owners do not actively pay attention and are not aware of where their dog is and what their dog is doing. Off the leash. As most dog owners I see are on their cell phone, texting. So, the dog goes and harasses other people's dogs, attacking and mauling other people's dogs because they are not responsible for having a dog or dogs.
Dangerous dogs including mixed breed with dangerous dogs, don't have responsive commands, prompt recall
The dog owners who have dangerous dogs are not close enough to the dog to quickly prevent any issues, they also do not ensure the dog is not creating a nuisance to other people's dog, protecting wildlife.
Dangerous dogs, who are mixed with labradors, collies, etc. these dogs show the soft part, (the labrador) But they still have the instinct to attack.
My recommendation is for a dog is unable to consistently and quickly respond to commands. Most defiantly should be on a leash in public places and dog parks. Whether a leash is required or not. The dog and the owner should go to a dog training school behavior course, continuing every year and have a certificate to give to the council as proof that they have had training, so no attacks happen.
Under effective control, every dog owner always needs their dog on a leash!

2 – Dog Limit Exemptions
Doggy day care business, who offer dog walking or exercising services
Obviously, Doggy day care people should be well, aware and very experienced and good controlling multiple dogs around Christchurch in public places, tracks, residential areas, beaches. Etc.,

However, this is not the case anymore.

Proposing limit - Should be a limit of 6 – 7 dogs only.
7 being the total Limit. Not 8 – 10 this is asking for trouble and there is no control of the dogs, this was proven with recent incidents in Auckland and different parts of New Zealand.
A Doggy day care lady, who was on the news was getting dogs out of a van, who seemed to me that she didn't even care about her dogs that she was in control of, mauled another person's small dog and had no sympathy when it died. She had an attitude Oh well things happen, she said. If this happened to me, I would be remorseful.
Even if the doggy day care person has special skills, these dog walkers, are walking Dangerous dogs including mixed breed with dangerous dogs, these dogs are not responsive to commands, or prompt recall, in fact they are breed for attacking at any moment. And a doggy day care person can't control 2 dogs off the leash and 4 on the leash. As these dogs are unpredictable.
There should not be any application for the exemption process to take on more than 7 dogs at a time. Maximum number 7 dogs.
The dog walkers in business, who have dangerous dogs off a leash or getting out so many dogs out of a van, are not close enough to the dog to quickly prevent any issues, they also do not ensure the dog is not creating a nuisance to other people's dogs, and protecting wildlife.
In my opinion, it is. No dog walker should be tying them to their waist or what the council is proposing to have. (4 dogs on the leash and 2 off) my opinion – absolutely 100% NO!
Because as professional as I am and the experiences, I have had walking dogs, every dog should always be on the lead. If the dog is off the lead, sees a dog across the road and runs across the road. Don't listen to commands the walker is giving. What is the person going to do with the other dog off the lead and the other 4 dogs on a leash.
If it is a dangerous dog, like a staff, pit ball, mastiff, French Pitt, American Pitt or mixed with these dangerous dogs attack the other person's dog across the road. This causes a dangerous situation.
To prevent this, all dogs should be on the leash, as there are so, so, so many dog attacks now. In my opinion – this has gotten too serious.

Dougal just recently got attacked in Horseshoe Lake dog park, the dog was a puppy Pitt ball. The lady who owned this Pitt ball could not totally control or even hold the collar. So, Dougal, a small chihuahua mix pomerium was attacked 5 times. The Pitt Bull puppy had Douga's head in his mouth and was trying to shake him and tear him apart. The owner of Dougal had to get over her dog and try to protect Dougal.
This incident caused Dougal's owner to have a metal break down, as Dougal is very special to her.
P.S. Dougal and his owner were in the small dog area, in the dog off leash horseshoe park.
Poppy just recently was attacked on the beach. The owner of this staff dog was walking along the beach, talking to her friend and not concentrating and not controlling her staff dog. It attacked Poppy, who is a miniature poodle. Around her throat under her chin. The lady who owned Poppy tried to get Poppy away, but finally her sister-in-law grabbed the staff's chain and pulled it up, so the staff dog choked and let Poppy go. She dragged the staff dog away and waited for the owner to come. Suddenly the women of this Staff dog realized Oh were my dog.

Most irresponsible dog owners, who their dogs have just attack say, “I didn’t think my dog would do that”
There are so many attacks I have heard over, and it is affecting people’s lives and their dogs being ruthlessly attacked. These people, including myself, carry weapons on them when they go for a walk. It has got so serious that people carry knives on them and other weaponry
One day a dog owner, whose dog is getting attacked might just use a gun and I won’t be surprised.
Most people in this doggy business don’t really care about the dog they are walking; it is the money they are earning is the only reason. The more dogs they have, the more money they get.

As for mixed – small dogs and large dogs walking together - limit 4
large dogs 4 – 5 dogs, total limit – on leash
Medium dogs 5 – 6 dogs, total limit - on leash
Small dogs 6 -7 dogs, total limit - on leash

My opinion, dog owners should take their dog out on a leash, always.
General leashed areas
Dogs should be leashed on all shared paths, footpaths, pedestrian areas or near alongside roads and in car parking areas.
All dogs should be on a leash all the footpaths and form tracks in parks
On all wharves, jetties and boardwalks
On all sports fields during games and practice sessions
In all community garden areas
I agree having one rule will make things clearer

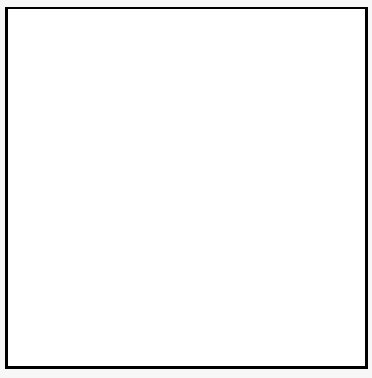
A good responsible dog owner in charge of a dog must carry the means of picking up and removing bad fouling (dog feces) which I see all the time dog poo everywhere, not just on footpaths of people’s lawns but especially in dog parks.
Example Styx Mill Dog park is full to the brim of dog faces, our friends dog got really sick, and he died of the diseases, he picked up from the dog faces on the ground.
I don’t go near any dog park, because there have been so, so many dog attacks and I don’t trust anyone that might be there not controlling their dog.
Because, if left on the ground, dog feces will contaminate waterways. People stand in dog faces which is not good for the public.
The Christchurch council may consider having more bins around and regularly be empty, rubbish bins should only be for dog faces, not rubbish.

The Groynes
My opinion, dogs should be always leashed. Around picnic areas, if walking the dog, on the tracks of the Groynes and dog owners picking up dog faces.
Dogs need to be leashed at the Goynes, to protect wildlife and protect health and safety, as we have so many irresponsible dog owners nowadays and with so many dangerous dogs around.
All Dogs at any Council events and festivals need to always be on a leash. This should be required by the council bylaw and should be for all events at any organizers and promoters going on. No promoters or organizers events should have any dog off the leash.

The Christchurch city council needs to think seriously this time about the dog bylaws and policies because there are so many bad dog attacks happening in Christchurch. There also needs to be stronger rules and regulations in the dog bylaws and policies than ever before, as to bring attention to these irresponsible dog owners, who seem to think they can get away and not be responsible dog owners.
Also the Christchurch city council needs to have tighter rules and bylaws around dogs outside without their dog, roaming around. The fines need to be 50% more.
To stop dog owners from just letting their dog out to wander the streets.

From Amanda Bell
[redacted]

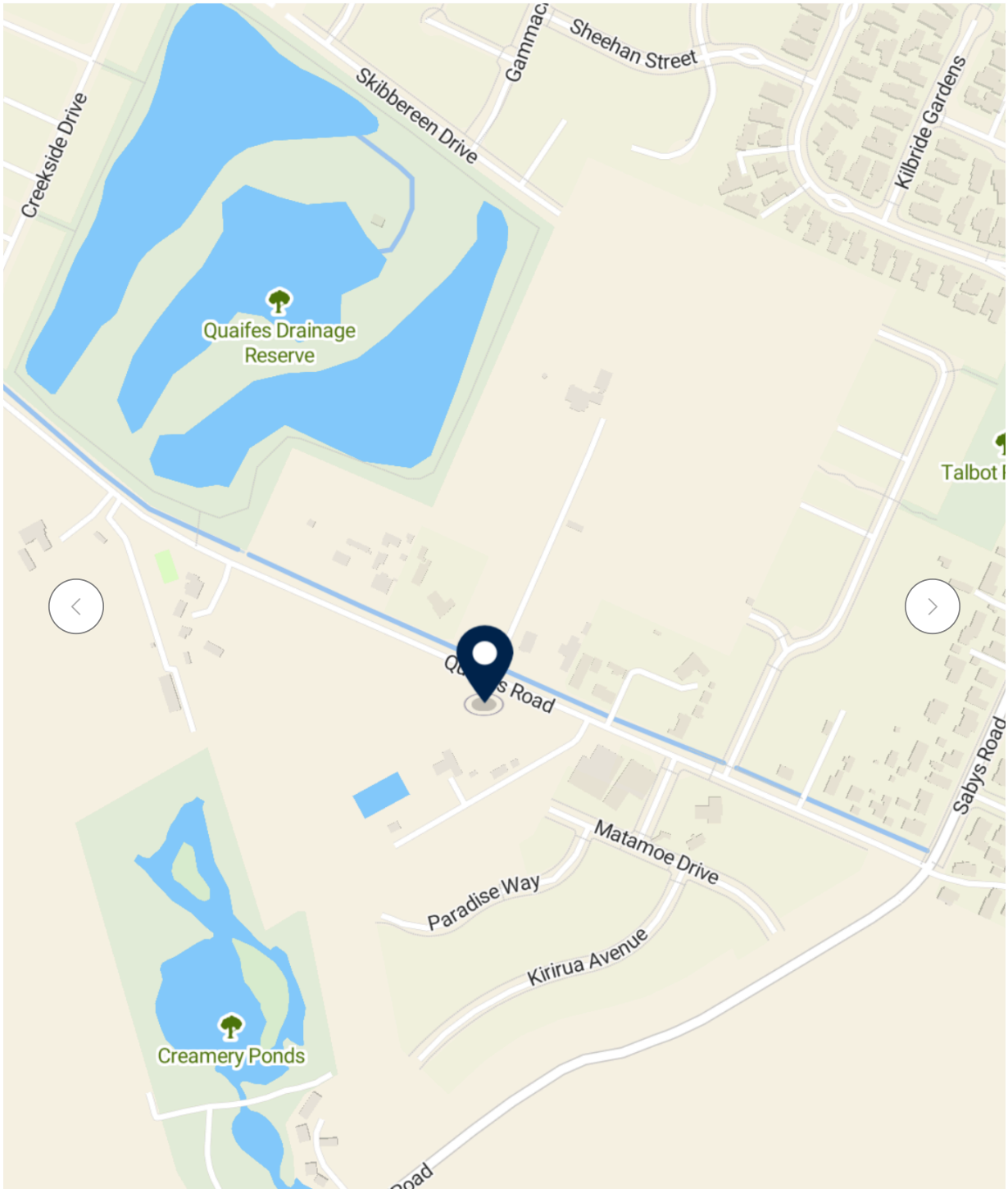
From: Christchurch City Council <letstalk@ccc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2024 11:44 am
To: [redacted]
Subject: Dog Control Bylaw and Policy - Consultation open



Dog Control Bylaw and Policy - Consultation open

2

30991 - Ros...Farlane.png Open Share



Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

Full Name **Jan McKay**
Address [redacted]
Postcode [redacted]
Email [redacted]

I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is [redacted]

The purpose of the combined policy and bylaw are to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the potential harm, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.

Other comments:

The simple answer to a huge problem with uncontrolled dogs in Christchurch is enforcement of current laws. I do not believe it is necessary for the City Council to increase restrictions on areas where dogs are allowed to be walked and exercised. All this would achieve is to restrict the choice of responsible dog owners as to where they can spend time out with their dogs and take away many enjoyable and enriching experiences for dogs. What is required is enforcement of current by-laws. Dog Control Officers need to spend a reasonable amount of time in places where dogs are being exercised to interact with dog walkers, educate them, and be seen to be enforcing the rules. Areas of particular concern are local parks, which in many cases have become unofficial dog parks, and formed tracks on the port hills where small signs state that dogs must be on leash but rarely are. The onus should not be on other park or track users to point out the rules to offending owners. This only leads to bad-feeling, arguments, and occasionally, threats of violence. The Council's animal control officers need to focus their resources on this growing problem and be out in these areas, visible to dog owners, educating and enforcing the laws.

Submission for Dog Control Policy – December 2024

It is disappointing that the Consultation Summary was only available as "Reference Copy Only" as the CCC Service Centre at Christchurch South. Is this designed to discourage residents from making submissions?

It's great that you have dog free zones to protect wildlife, but why do you not have dog-free parks to protect people? It appears that only the Christchurch Botanic Gardens are dog-free that are not specifically to protect wildlife, but if the gardens permitted dogs, assistant dogs exempt, the gardens themselves could be damaged by dogs creating extra work for staff. Hence, it is desirable to have a specific policy for the Botanic Gardens to protect the flora and staff – completely inappropriate to admit dogs.

Why have Christchurch City Council created dog parks for the benefit of dogs and not created dog-free parks for the benefit of people?

In the Consultation Summary:

> In the Christchurch district, dogs can be off leash and under effective control in any area that is not specified as leashed or prohibited in the policy (or that is regulated by a general rule in the policy). In contrast to some other councils, which require leashing in public places by default, we have limitations on dog access only where it's deemed necessary.
>
> This means there are many places in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula where dogs can be exercised off leash, if they are under effective control.

Christchurch City Council needs to have different criteria for small dogs to large dogs. Small dogs can be a nuisance when they get around feet and become a trip hazard, and while they can bite, they cannot inflict injuries as debilitating as large dogs can. **Dog Control Policy needs to have its main aim to protect other members of the public in public spaces.**

Sadly, in Christchurch dogs have priority over people.

"Under effective control" is not understood by dog owners. Dog owners only consider that dogs can be off leash, not that they need to be "under effective control". The concept of "under effective control" is open to a vast range of interpretation. This makes this policy ineffective.

We need dog-free parks.

It is obvious from some of your proposed changes that you recognise that dogs can cause harm and be a nuisance to other park users. But to suggest that they only be restricted to being on a leash when on a path is crazy.

In the webinar at 41:20

> *Absolutely. This is designed to **be practical**. This is not supposed to be heavy handed. …. If you're walking on the path and your dog is nearby on the grass area under effective control that's absolutely fine. It's just if you're walking with your dog on the path then you lease it.*

In the webinar at about 47:00

> *The Dog Control Act itself requires us to manage some of those competing things. Looking at the recreational needs of dogs and their owners. Looking at how people feel in public spaces that they're not feeling a sense of distress or intimidation from dogs and that dogs are well controlled in those public places. ,,,, Our default is under effective control and off leash in lots of areas so there are a large amount of opportunities across the district where people can exercise their dogs*

Priority is obviously being given to the dog over other people using the space. This policy is written very pro-dog and does not consider the devastating consequences of dog attacks and dog bites of people. Where are the protections for them?

- "Under effective control" in many situations I observe is dogs not responding to the owner's commands, owners looking in another direction to their dog in a park, owners otherwise occupied on a phone, dogs in playgrounds.
- Plenty of pictorial signs of dog being on a leash with "dogs on leash" underneath being ignored
- Many paths are very narrow with a bank or vegetation right next to the path. Even if the owner has the dog on a leash, it brings a stranger to the dog in very close contact. I have had a dog react to me encroaching into his space by nipping me. This is unacceptable but your policy does not consider this. Many paths need to be no-dogs because the paths are confined spaces.
- Your crazy path idea demonstrates that you know there are conflicts but you are treating the path as though it is a magic area where you are magically protected from dogs. But step on the grass beside the path and you're fair game. Have you not observed the worn paths beside paths used by pedestrians because the paths are not pedestrian-friendly? This policy implies that people only use the paths in parks and nowhere else, whereas most come to the parks for the non-path spaces – natural areas, open space, softer surfaces, under trees, playgrounds, natural features – dogs are in these areas too. And they can attack without obvious warning with the owner just in the vicinity. Dogs can bite people without warning – you may claim seldom, but once is too often. And this is where you consider it okay for large dogs to be off-leash! There was a campaign some years ago to educate your children that pedestrian crossings were not magic. It was realised that children were seeing pedestrian crossings as 100% safe to cross without checking the reaction of car drivers that they had seen the child and stopped. The cars wouldn't magically stop. Similarly, a dog on the grass will step onto the path – there is no 2m protective magic fence in-between, and no magic path where dogs don't attack..
- There are many people who have a dog for company. Therefore, encourage CCC education to encourage owners to select small dogs and the benefits of doing so. And make your policy geared toward encouraging someone who wants a dog, or looking for a new dog, to choose a small dog. This could be by changing your policy to place more restrictions on large dogs in public spaces, because you need to protect people.
- Being "practical" is CCC realising that a large dog can cause a serious injury and strange how when bitten the owner says, "it's never done that before!". I will detail below an incident and the lack of communication and support given by your 'Animal Management Officer – Regulatory Compliance'. But I am aware of other unprovoked dog attacks with negative effects on the person bitten.
- In researching for this submission online I found the NZ Dog Control Act 1996. If a member of the public is attacked by a dog in an unprovoked attack and reports this to CCC, then an Animal Management Officer must seize the dog and after dual process have it destroyed.
- Not all disabilities are visible and some people would have devastating consequences of an encounter with a stranger dog. Just as it is not possible to always visually determine whether a dog may attack, it is not possible to determine some stranger's underlying medical conditions. An example being many people take blood thinners – a dog jumping up on them may be sufficient to case internal bleeding and of course a dog bite will also cause massive bleeding, but visible.
- There is a need in your policy to make changes to protect people from dog attacks. I wish to draw your attention to this from Auckland Council at https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/news/2024/05/dog-bite/

> *Ultimately, preventing dog attacks can be achieved through responsible dog ownership, some simple changes to owner behaviour and* ***greater acceptance that any dog can bite****.*

Policy Changes Needed

Some of our larger parks need to be dog-free (or at least large dog-free). There are too many incidents where dog owners ignore the requirement to have their dog on a lead. Dog owners get uptight if I inform them that their dog is required to be on a leash, even though there are signs that dogs are required to be on a leash. But they decide that they don't need to comply. If I challenge them to put their dog on a leash I get replies like "What's it done to you?","It won't bite" and "If you can't tolerate dogs in this park you shouldn't come here" (a neighbourhood park). As CCC cannot enforce this, to protect people other than the owner many parks need to be dog-free (or at least large dog free).

Why are you considering that three larger park areas in the CDB should be changed to permit dogs to be off-lease? Have you not considered that the increased people population living in the CBD with properties with only balconies or very small outside spaces attached to the property will require extra space in nearby parks for their enjoyment? It could also be argued that the residential provision in the CBD is inappropriate for large dog welfare being a confined private space. Consider instead making Latimer Square, Rauora Park and on the grassed area in the Avon loop dog-free for people, because the lack of private residential space will result in residents using local public spaces more. And larger parks allow greater physical activity which is a health need.

Dogs being permitted to be off leash in parks results in many people not using parks as much. Picnics in neighbour parks on the grass seldom occur, and I suspect that the presence of dogs together with doggy does and dog urine have determined that a picnic is not appropriate. There will also be people who don't go to parks because there is a probable presence of dogs, especially large dogs that can cause physical harm. But also because of their fear of dogs.

Dog Bite Incident

Over three years ago my daughter was bitten by a large dog at Nga Puna Wai, in an unprovoked attack. She was running around the grass fields, passed a man walking 2 dogs with a gap of about 5m with no suggestion that she might be harmed by them. When suddenly a dog rushed from behind and grabbed her with his jaw locking onto the calf of her leg. Because the dog held on she fell, tearing the calf muscle, and bleeding from the bite, multiple teeth breaking her skin. The owner was walking two large dogs but only had the other one on a leash. The owner got the dog away but with my daughter on the ground, and the dog having already bitten her there obviously was the possibility it could have bitten her again. It all happened so fast she said. I was not present at the time but at my car in the carpark.

When I met up with them the owner was all apologetic and gave his details, but my main concern was taking my daughter immediately to the after-hours. She required a tetanus injection and wound cleaned, plus larger plasters to cover the wounds. She was recovering from a difficult time and said the bite made her feel the whole world was against her.

It is nearly 3 ½ years since this happened. Since then, she has had many treatments including GP appointments, scans, injections, physio and massages as there initially was a concern that there was infection and lots of scar tissue. It has still not recovered to match the other leg in strength and lack of pain and scar tissue.

A CCC Animal Management Officer came to our place the next day to get details. I also supplied her with the week of our costs so far, including the AAC surcharge and replacing her tights which had teeth holes and the owner reimbursed the cost of these.

However, another 5 emails to the AMO over nearly a 6-month period keeping her informed of the leg injury and some receipts of costs incurred went unanswered until finally a reply stating

> *I have passed on the receipts to the dog owner. I can't make them pay. If they don't pay you have to go to the small claims court.*

I wrote one more email less than 2 weeks later as we were away on holiday with

> *Thank you for finally replying to my emails. It would have been better to have received that reply months ago.*
>
> *Are you able to also give an update on the fate of the dog. I would hope at the least that it is required to be muzzled in public places.*
>
> *Do you have any information regarding a claim to the small claims court?*

But it was never replied to. It was only when researching for this consultation online that I found the Dog Control Act 1996, in which the relevant section is 57:

57 Dogs attacking persons or animals

(1) A person may, for the purpose of stopping an attack, seize or destroy a dog if—
- (a) the person is attacked by the dog; or
- (b) the person witnesses the dog attacking any other person, or any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife.

(2) The owner of a dog that makes an attack described in subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 in addition to any liability that he or she may incur for any damage caused by the attack.

(3) If, in any proceedings under subsection (2), the court is satisfied that the dog has committed an attack described in subsection (1) and that the dog has not been destroyed, the court must make an order for the destruction of the dog unless it is satisfied that the circumstances of the offence were exceptional and do not warrant destruction of the dog.

(4) If a person seizes a dog under subsection (1), he or she must, as soon as practicable, deliver the dog into the custody of a dog ranger or dog control officer.

(5) If a dog control officer or dog ranger has reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed under subsection (2), he or she may—
- (a) seize and take custody of the dog; or
- (b) if seizure of the dog is not practicable, destroy the dog.

(6) A dog control officer or dog ranger may enter land or premises for the purposes of subsection (5), but may enter any dwellinghouse on the land or premises only if—
- (a) he or she is in fresh pursuit of a dog that—
  - (i) he or she has reasonable grounds to believe has committed an attack described in subsection (1); and
  - (ii) has been identified by a witness to the attack; or
- (b) he or she is authorised to enter by a warrant issued by an issuing officer (within the meaning of section 3 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012), made on application by the dog ranger or dog control officer in the manner provided for an application for a search warrant in subpart 3 of Part 4 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012, who must not issue a warrant unless the issuing officer is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offence has been committed under subsection (2), and, in the case of a dog control officer, he or she is accompanied by a constable.

(6A) None of the following persons may act as an issuing officer under this section:
- (a) the mayor or any elected member of the local authority that employs or engages the dog ranger or dog control officer; or
- (b) any employee of the local authority that employs or engages the dog ranger or dog control officer.

(6B) The provisions of subparts 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of Part 4 of the Search and Surveillance Act 2012 apply in respect of an authority applied for or issued under subsection (6).

(7) To avoid doubt, a constable may exercise the powers conferred on a dog control officer or dog ranger by this section.

Hence, I am asking **why CCC does not use the full force of the Dog Control Act 1996**, specifically for this event? My daughter was a university student so did not have the means to request other investigations and treatment that would have been considerable expenses, but assisted recovery. Yet this Act would have allowed her to receive additional treatments at the dog owner's expense.

The owner of a dog that makes an attack described in subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $3,000 in addition to any liability that he or she may incur for any damage caused by the attack.

She continues to need treatments for the scar tissue and aching pains and the injury may never recover to the condition of the muscle prior to the dog attack. So additional financial costs, but more importantly the effect on her physical outcomes and mental anguish. Like her, I now cross roads to the opposite footpath rather than come close to some large dogs.

Summary

This Dog Control Policy needs to primarily be to protect people to be able to be in public spaces without fear of attack from large dogs

Consideration of dog welfare comes after people welfare. Continue to provide dog parks but exclude children from these spaces.

Differentiate between small dogs and large dogs in Dog Policy because larger dogs can inflict devastating injuries on people

Change CCC default from “under effective control and off leash” to “on short leash on paths” and permit “longer leash in open spaces if away from other users of the space”, especially for large dogs. Smaller dogs have more freedom to be off leash in open spaces, where dogs are permitted. Also define the length of “short leash” which may vary depending on the size of the dog

.Dog-free parks, or at least big dog-free parks, are required – I suggest Nga Puna Wai, Hagley Park, and some neighbourhood parks giving good access close to any home within the Christchurch City boundary (Bank’s Peninsula considering a park in Akaroa, Little River Okains Bay, …)

Nga Puna Wai has no signage with regard to dogs. Yet there are athletes using the area who will warm-up on the open spaces. A dog bite to an athlete may end their athletic career. Also, some days there are hundreds of children there. Consider making it completely dog-free or only permitting small dogs on a leash at certain times.

Instead of making Latimer Square, Rauora Park and on the grassed area in the Avon loop dogs off leash, make them dog-free for people, because the lack of private residential space will result in residents using local public spaces more. Needing safe local public park space is a required consequence of intensification. Allow small dogs at designated times only when it is less busy with people.

Paths that are narrow to be large dog-free because strangers come too close to other person’s dogs when passing. Small dogs to be on short leash. Only paths in parks that are wide with no length without clear forward visibility to permit large dogs on a short leash.

Recognise that some people have medical conditions that a dog attack could result in dire results. Recognise also that others may not go to parks, or walk down their street, for fear of dogs

Encourage owners to choose small dogs over larger breeds.

Use the full force of the Dog Control Act 1996 – If a dog bites a person in an unprovoked attack, it must be destroyed and the owner be liable for all costs of the victim. Have Animal Management Officers assist the victim and keep them up-to-date in this process.

I do not support the proposed changes to the dog control bylaw in relation to Diamond Harbour and the surrounding area. I consider the changes will deliver poor outcomes and unintended consequences for Diamond Harbour communities, and poorly align with the policy intent of the proposed bylaw. These include:

- Creating problems by concentrating off leash dogs into a few areas which are already well used by families and for sports
- Banning dogs off leash on the cliff track without ensuring there are viable local alternatives
- Regulating issues which don't seem to exist in practice, and reducing buy-in from dog owners.

The proposed changes will create problems in Diamond Harbour

Banning dogs off leash from all paths on council land in Diamond Harbour and surrounding areas will increase pressure on the remaining 'effective control' areas. These include Stoddart Point Reserve (used for picnics by families and visitors), the Recreation Reserve (used for sports), and Laurenson Park (a small park surrounded by housing and with unfenced access to Marine Drive). Concentrating off leash dogs into areas with other users increases the risk of issues arising. This is especially the case when summer prohibitions mean local beaches are off limits during the day.

The proposed changes will leave Diamond Harbour dog owners with very limited options

Banning dogs off leash on the cliff track will significantly reduce the extent and quality of local options available for Diamond Harbour dog owners. For example:

- The remaining 'effective control' areas in Diamond Harbour are largely 'grassy parks' and are a poor substitute for the more natural environment and coastal amenity of the cliff track.
- Not everyone is able to go to the beach before 9am or after 7pm eg. commuters or those with young families. In practice, high tide, bad weather or shorter days in March and November, can further reduce usable beach hours for dog owners.
- Alternative off leash coastal walks in Sumner and New Brighton are a 50 minute drive away from Diamond Harbour which is costly and time consuming.
- Increasing pressures at Stoddart Point, the Recreation Reserve, or Laurenson Park will put off some dog owners from using those areas.

Changes are being proposed to manage issues that don't seem to exist on the cliff track

I live in Diamond Harbour and have regularly walked the cliff track with my dog over the past 14 years. The existing 'effective control' area for the cliff track means I can enjoy the coastal environment all year while thoroughly exercising my dog.

In my experience, the cliff track is largely empty most of the time, for most of the year, with dogs off leash without problems. It is not uncommon to walk without meeting other people, especially during the working week, and outside of the peak summer holiday period. As such, keeping the cliff track as an 'effective control' area is appropriate for the local context and usage levels.

The proposed bylaw says that the new leashed area on the cliff track is to protect wildlife like penguins, pied shag, and reef heron. It is not clear that these species are actively using the cliff track or being disturbed by dogs under the current 'effective control' settings. For example, if penguins are using the cliff track and the more elevated parts of the coastal cliff reserve it passes through, then a more substantial protection project is likely needed including more extensive dog and predator control measures. Furthermore, dogs are already prohibited from some parts of the coastal cliff reserve for biodiversity protection close to the water.

Applying blanket restrictions to the cliff track will reduce buy-in

The council is proposing blanket rules banning off leash dogs on paths because it believes it is easier for people to understand and will improve compliance. However, it is common place during the peak summer holiday period to see dogs on prohibited beaches eg. Camp Bay/Te Pōhue, where the bylaw requirements are already clear. Furthermore, council has knowingly left incorrect signage in place for years on the cliff track saying it is a leashed area – this is contrary to the 2016 bylaw and undermines confidence in the council's understanding of the local situation. Introducing new restrictions to the cliff track in this context, along with a lack of evidence of problems and risk of unintended or poor outcomes, is unlikely to engender buy-in from local dog owners.

Summer beach prohibitions are likely unnecessarily restrictive

In my experience, summer beach prohibitions in Diamond Harbour and surrounding areas are unnecessarily restrictive in March and November. For example, Purau beach often has limited usage on weekdays outside of the peak holiday season, and times for 'effective control' could be re-evaluated. It is unclear what level of assessment has been completed to date to support the current or proposed restrictions.

I support retaining the prohibited area for Camp Bay/ Te Pōhue. I also support in principle the provision of a prohibited area for wildlife protection in Purau. However, workability is likely to be an issue as the creek's pathway and target species move across the beach. Loss of off leash walks from other parts of Diamond Harbour is also likely to increase pressure on Purau beach. It is unclear whether the cumulative impacts of changes have been considered.

A tailored approach is needed for Diamond Harbour before introducing new restrictions

I consider that the proposed blanket approach to banning dogs off leash from paths on council land has significant issues when applied to Diamond Harbour and surrounding areas. I ask that a tailored approach for this local context is developed instead before any new restrictions are introduced. In the meantime:

- I submit that the existing 'effective control' areas for Diamond Harbour and surrounding areas should be retained as per the 2016 dog control bylaw.
- I oppose changing the 'cliff track' from an 'effective control' to a 'leashed' area.
- I submit that summer prohibitions on beaches in Diamond Harbour and the surrounding areas should revert to only apply in December, January and February.

Matthew Ross

Personal submission as a Diamond Harbour resident

Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

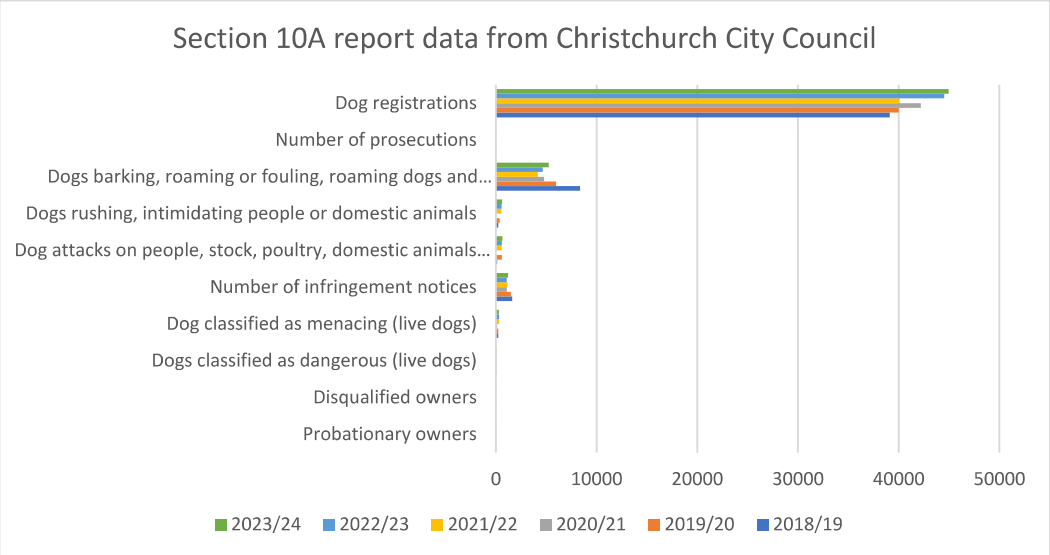
Full Name Tim Kershaw

Address with postcode [redacted]

Email [redacted]

☑ I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is [redacted]

The purpose of the combined policy and bylaw are to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the potential harm, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.



*In 2020/21, data on dog attacks and dogs rushing were not reported in the same format as other years and have been excluded from the analysis

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? Yes

This requirement is primarily aimed at dog walkers who are acting in one form or another as commercial services, an unregulated industry. The rule will not fully address the problem, however, unless the Council enforces the rule with spot-checks at parks, beaches and reserves that are used by these operations.

Do you support the revised definition of effective control? Yes

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash (defined as 1.5 m) on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed? No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings is justified, particularly considering a new definition of effective control which should help create more certainty for education and enforcement actions.

There are legitimate concerns about public safety, however blanket ('lowest common denominator') requirements on shared paths and tracks are overly restrictive. Owners will want to use pathways whereas their

dogs will want to express natural agency. I refer to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ position statement on this matter.[1]

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads. No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings is justified, particularly considering the Council's own enforcement data. (There are 23.7% less infringement notices being issued in 2023/24 than there were in 2018/19, despite an increase in the registered dog population of 13.8%).

I favour a more balanced approach to managing shared pathways in Christchurch involving the concept of "speed yields to vulnerability" (in conjunction with the definition of effective control). The needs of the most vulnerable user at any given time must be considered. We need a greater sense of community on our shared paths. The majority of dog owners obey the current rules and are considerate, but are being let down by the Council through lack of targeted and effective enforcement.

Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? No

The proposal for this area, commonly referred to as the red zone, will severely limit the ability to use the area for enjoyment, enrichment, exercise and off-leash training. The inability to access riverbanks means that dogs will not be allowed access to enjoy the water which is essential to animal welfare in hot weather; there are already limited areas where dogs have safe water access.

If allowed to proceed in its current form, this rule will limit dogs to 1/3 of the red zone area, and only on mown grass areas. Practically speaking, it will also limit access of most dog owners to mown grass areas only. At a minimum, this creates inequities for elderly dog owners, those with physical disabilities, and families with small children.

The proposed limitations have not been justified by the Council's own data with a particular emphasis that there are no data to show that dogs are negatively impacting wildlife "*impacts on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs cannot accurately be quantified in many situations, as data is not available*[2]. I accept that the Council is developing this area, in part, as an ecological corridor but this development must proceed with a more balanced approach to other users.

Other comments:

There has been an over reliance on a Dog Control Survey issued by the Council in July 2024 in developing these proposals. The survey methodology was not peer reviewed to ensure against survey bias, which was confirmed by [redacted] the Manager of Official Information and Privacy Officer on 20 August 2024. [redacted] said, "*the survey was to understand some of the public's thoughts on some particular concepts or issues to help us shape the review of our Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*" (emphasis added)

In addition, the implications of all proposals cannot fully be understood without a map. The Council has refused to provide a map, despite requests, stating that *"We have a map that shows the current rules. The map will be updated when all the changes have been finalised*."[3] In my opinion, the lack of a map has created an unfair burden on dog handlers to fully understand the impacts of these proposals in sufficient time to submit by the Council's deadline and shows that the Council is predisposed to implement all proposals regardless of feedback.

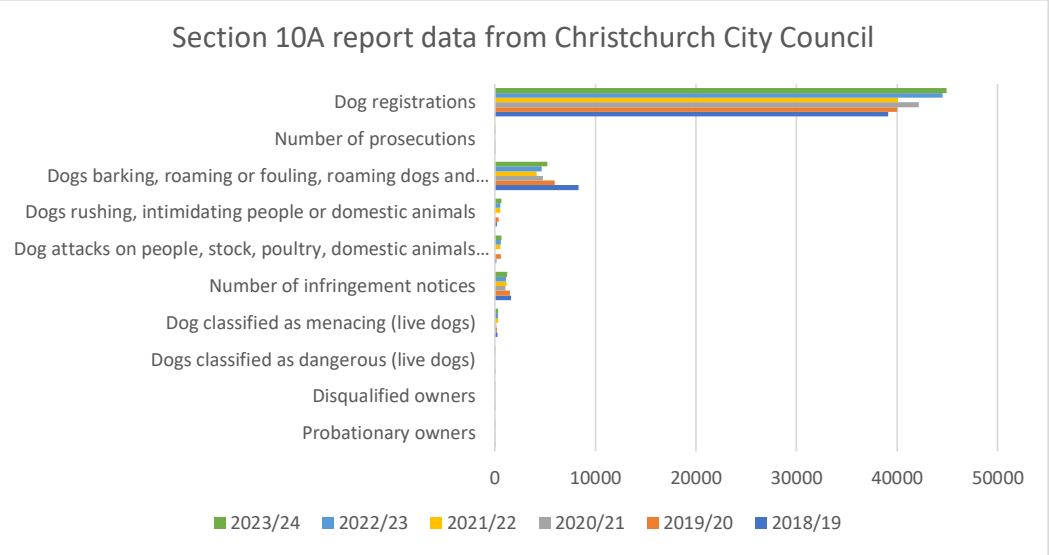
[1] https://www.apdtnz.org.nz/position-statement-dog-control-policies-and-leash-laws
[2] Review of the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016, paper to Christchurch City Council dated 16 October 2024
[3] https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa

Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

Sandra Savinen, PhD
[redacted], ChCh
[redacted]

I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is [redacted]

> The purpose of the combined policy and bylaw are to balance the recreational needs of dogs and their owners with appropriate controls to minimise the potential harm, distress and nuisance caused by dogs.



*In 2020/21, data on dog attacks and dogs rushing were not reported in the same format as other years and have been excluded from the analysis

Do you support the revised definition of effective control? Yes

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads. No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings is justified, particularly considering the Council's own enforcement data. (There are 23.7% less infringement notices being issued in 2023/24 than there were in 2018/19, despite an increase in the registered dog population of 13.8%).

I favour a more balanced approach to managing shared pathways in Christchurch involving the concept of "speed yields to vulnerability" (in conjunction with the definition of effective control). The needs of the most vulnerable user at any given time must be considered. We need a greater sense of community on our shared paths. The majority of dog owners obey the current rules and are considerate, but are being let down by the Council through lack of targeted and effective enforcement.

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash (defined as 1.5 m) on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed? No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings is justified, particularly considering a new definition of effective control which should help create more certainty for education and enforcement actions.

There are legitimate concerns about public safety, however blanket ('lowest common denominator') requirements on shared paths and tracks are overly restrictive. Owners will want to use pathways whereas their dogs will want to express natural agency. I refer to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ position statement on this matter.[1]

Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? No

The proposal for this area, commonly referred to as the red zone, will severely limit the ability to use the area for enjoyment, enrichment, exercise and off-leash training. The inability to access riverbanks means that dogs will not be allowed access to enjoy the water which is essential to animal welfare in hot weather; there are already limited areas where dogs have safe water access.

If allowed to proceed in its current form, this rule will limit dogs to 1/3 of the red zone area, and only on mown grass areas. Practically speaking, it will also limit access of most dog owners to mown grass areas only. At a minimum, this creates inequities for elderly dog owners, those with physical disabilities, and families with small children.

The proposed limitations have not been justified by the Council's own data with a particular emphasis that there are no data to show that dogs are negatively impacting wildlife "*impacts on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs cannot accurately be quantified in many situations, as data is not available*[2]. I accept that the Council is developing this area, in part, as an ecological corridor but this development must proceed with a more balanced approach to other users.

Do you support the proposal for Te Ihutai Avon Heathcote Estuary? Yes

Do you support the proposal to regulate stormwater basins? No

I support the proposal to regulate dogs on stormwater basins restored as wetlands to protect the wildlife, however, the proposal is vague on which stormwater basins fit under which category, and thus I do not support this blanket proposal of regulation. There are many stormwater basins with plantings but no higher ecological values, such as the basins in Broomfield/Heihei. The council should have provided a map or more examples for this proposal to be evaluated more meaningfully.

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? Yes

This requirement is primarily aimed at dog walkers who are acting in one form or another as commercial services, an unregulated industry. The rule will not fully address the problem, however, unless the Council enforces the rule with spot-checks at parks, beaches and reserves that are used by these operations.

[1] https://www.apdtnz.org.nz/position-statement-dog-control-policies-and-leash-laws
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Other comments:

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[3] https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa

Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

Kathleen Crisley
[redacted]
Christchurch, New Zealand [redacted]
[redacted]

I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is [redacted].

This submission contains answers to some of the direct questions in the Council's consultation summary – answers to the questions which I deem to be most important.

Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can be in control of in a public place? Yes

This requirement is primarily aimed at dog walkers who are acting in one form or another as commercial services, an unregulated industry. The rule will not fully address the problem, however, unless the Council enforces the rule with spot-checks at parks, beaches and reserves that are used by these operations. There are individuals providing these services who are not professionals; they will not comply unless a heavier hand with a $300 infringement fine is levied.

Do you support the revised definition of effective control? Yes

I particularly support this new definition because of the certainty it will give to enforcement action.

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash (defined as 1.5 m) on footpaths, shared paths and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed? No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings are justified, particularly if the Council gives time to bed-in the new definition of effective control.

There are legitimate concerns about public safety, however blanket ('lowest common denominator') requirements on shared paths and tracks are overly restrictive.

Owners will want to use pathways whereas their dogs will want to express natural agency. To train dogs in effective control, owners must have the ability to train in a range of settings and areas and, I may add, those that are convenient to their homes.

It is widely understood by professional dog trainers and behaviourists that dogs do not generalise well. Generalisation in dog training refers to the ability of the dog to perform a learned behavior in different environments, with various people, and in a range of circumstances. Dogs will often associate cues with a specific person or setting.

The Council officers who have assessed this policy have made no mention, for example, of the Canine Good Citizen programme, a national programme offered through various clubs of Dogs New Zealand (The NZ Kennel Club).

I also refer to the Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ position statement on the matter of short-leasing.[1] This information was given to the Council in September 2024 but ignored in compiling these proposals.

Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads? Note: dogs are currently required to be leashed on roads and footpaths alongside roads.

No

There are no reliable data to show that further restrictions on dogs in these settings are justified, particularly considering the Council's own enforcement data. (There are 23.7% less infringement notices being issued in 2023/24 than there were in 2018/19, despite an increase in the registered dog population of 13.8%).

I favour a more balanced approach to managing shared pathways in Christchurch involving the concept of "speed yields to vulnerability" (in conjunction with the definition of effective control). The needs of the most vulnerable user at any given time must be considered.

We need a greater sense of community on our shared paths and education of such would seem to be compatible with the preference of the Council staff to use educational approaches in favour of enforcement.

Do you support the proposal for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor? No

The proposal for this area, commonly referred to as the Red Zone, will severely limit the ability to use the area for enjoyment, enrichment, exercise and off-leash training.

The inability to access riverbanks means that dogs will not be allowed access to enjoy the water which is essential to animal welfare in hot weather; there are already limited areas where dogs have safe water access.

If allowed to proceed in its current form, this rule will limit dogs to 1/3 of the red zone area, and only on mown grass areas. Practically speaking, it will also limit access of most dog owners to mown grass areas only. At a minimum, this creates inequities for elderly dog owners, those with physical disabilities, and families with small children. During the winter months, many areas of the red zone are boggy and cannot be negotiated safely by either dogs or their humans. (We must remember that the Red Zone was established because the ground conditions were unsuitable to support structures).

There also seems to be a heavy reliance in the policy on the ability of the public to understand the difference between a "long grass area" set aside for future plantings and an area that simply hasn't been mown. This creates uncertainty.

The proposed limitations have not been justified by the Council's own data with a particular emphasis that there are no data to show that dogs are negatively impacting wildlife "*impacts on wildlife (and especially birds) from dogs cannot accurately be quantified in many situations, as data is not available*[2].

[1] https://www.apdtnz.org.nz/position-statement-dog-control-policies-and-leash-laws
[2] Review of the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016, paper to Christchurch City Council dated 16 October 2024

I accept that the Council is developing this area, in part, as an ecological corridor but this development must proceed with a more balanced approach to other users.

When asked, the Council has confirmed that it does not record complaints by geographic area – the area where a dog may be causing a nuisance. I submit that such record-keeping is vital before the Council determines that the Red Zone requires additional restrictions on it.

Policy Effectiveness Assessment as Required by the Dog Control Act

I have major concerns about the Council's ability to monitor bylaw effectiveness (both current and the proposed future), when there are opportunities to collect a more valuable data set. I strongly question the evidence base used to formulate these proposals.

According to the paper Review of the Dog Control Policy 2016 and Dog Control Bylaw 2016, paper to Christchurch City Council dated 16 October 2024, the only groups consulted as part of the review were the Avon-Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust and a small group of dog walkers.

No professionals working with dogs in a variety of fields, including dog trainers, allied health professionals and veterinary behaviourists were asked to provide input at an early stage of the process during proposal development. We have been left to comment in a very restricted submission period – and at the busiest time of year (pre-Christmas) for all New Zealanders.

There has also been an over reliance on a Dog Control Survey issued by the Council in July 2024 in developing these proposals. The survey methodology was not peer reviewed to ensure against survey bias, which was confirmed by [redacted] the Manager of Official Information and Privacy Officer on 20 August 2024. [redacted] said, "*the survey was to understand some of the public's thoughts on some particular concepts or issues to help us shape the review of our Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.*" (emphasis added)

Because I work with dogs as a profession, I discussed the survey with many clients. They shared my concern about the biased and leading nature of the questions and many commented on this when submitting their answers to the survey. I have downloaded the papers of the Council meeting of 16 October 2024 and none of the reservations of survey participants were included in the assessment – only the statistics that the Council staff generated from it.

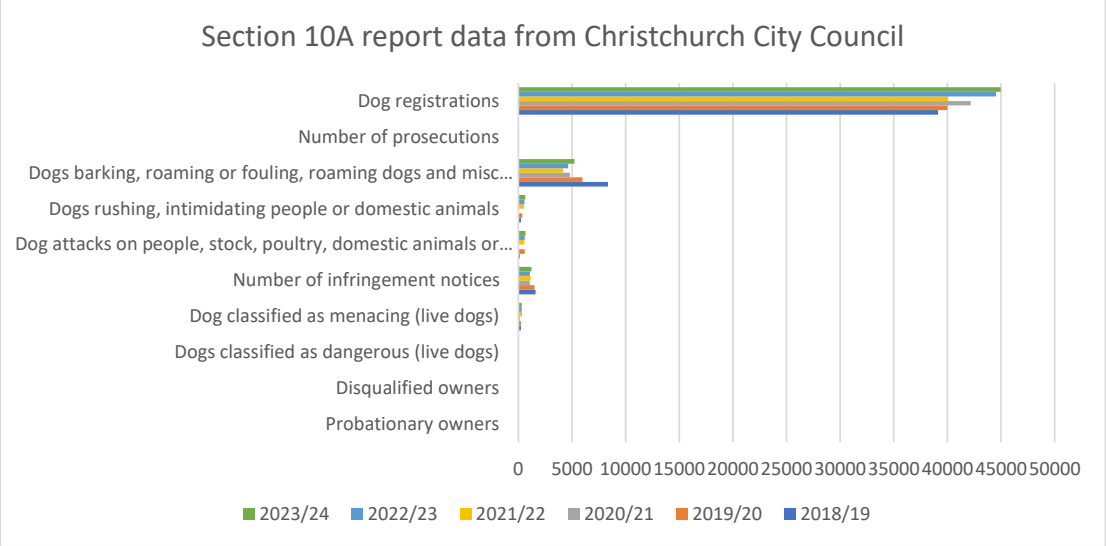
[redacted] Senior Policy Analyst, said in the consultation webinar that "We know that data doesn't tell the whole story" - which is precisely the reason why opinion surveys need to be peer reviewed for survey bias and for good data about the responding population to be generated. For example, no one in the survey was asked whether they held Responsible Dog Owner status and prompted for additional commentary that could be codified.

I asked the Council for Responsible Dog Owner statistics for each year 2018-present. The Council replied that it could not provide these breakdowns but have instead reported that *"over the entire time period requested we can confirm the following:*

- *Active dog owners - 37,556*
- *Owners with responsible dog owner status - 13,222"*

If 35% of dog owners qualify for Responsible Dog Owner status, then they are also a special interest group that should have been identified in any survey to provide better insight to the responses.

Is the Council using registration fees appropriately? No



*In 2020/21, data on dog attacks and dogs rushing were not reported in the same format as other years and have been excluded from the analysis

The above graph has been compiled from the Council's Section 10A reports.

What seems to be motivating these proposals is an alarmist view by the Council staff that because there are 5,000 more registered dogs in the city than in 2018, that this is a problem.

What the hearing panel should be considering is that up to 5,000 individual dog owners have complied with the regulations for dog control. Since our population is growing, we can expect that some of that population will want to have a dog as part of the family.

The Council must first prove that the increase in dog numbers has caused problems which warrant additional restrictions; you have not provided any evidence base that this is the case.

Residents are being let down by a lack of enforcement

Council officer [redacted] is directly quoted as saying in the Q&A webinar of 26 November 2024 that *"What I will say is that with more dogs comes more enforcement activity."*

This statement is blatantly untrue given the Council's own data.

When I replied to the Council survey on dog control, I was motivated to answer some questions because of the decided lack of pro-active enforcement by the Council. Rather than waiting for a complaint, the Animal Management officers should be monitoring parks and community areas at popular times to observe whether owners are complying.

None of the proposals in this consultation address, for example, an owner who does not clean up after their dog. Random enforcement operations, much like the speed enforcement operations of the NZ Police, would

provide all dog owners the realistic expectation that they might be caught and fined for doing the wrong thing.

Statistics for better policy in the future

I see no evidence in these proposals that the Council is prepared to collect better statistics or to adopt a different enforcement approach. At present, the Council seems to only respond to complaints. It has no educational approach to encourage complaints with information that can be acted upon. And, when someone does complain, it is little value in responding that the Council prefers an educational approach to problems!

In 2022, the Council instituted the lifetime licence tag. This means that each registered dog has a unique identifier. Every interaction by a dog control officer should be noted against the dog's tag identifier. This could be a warning, infringement notice or any of the 'educational opportunities' that seem to be highly valued. By capturing this information, we will all have a better data set to act upon at the next review.

Other comments:

a) The implications of all proposals cannot fully be understood without maps. The Council has repeatedly refused to provide a map set, despite requests, stating that *"We have a map that shows the current rules. The map will be updated when all the changes have been finalised*."[3] And in the Council webinar, when this was requested again, the more fulsome answer was, "*We don't have a map that shows the proposed changes. As you can imagine, there are a lot of different proposed changes and different types of areas, so it can be quite difficult to have a map that shows both the current and proposed rules in different areas."*

   The hearing panel on this matter should seriously consider whether the public have been given information in the form that they are most likely to understand it. Wading through Schedule 1 and trying to visualise what this means for your dog and your local community is difficult, if not impossible. The Council staff may understand Schedule 1 like the back of their hand because they have been working on the proposals for months.

   A better and more democratic and transparent consultation approach is needed. In my opinion, the lack of maps has created an unfair burden on dog handlers to fully understand the impacts of these proposals in sufficient time to submit by the Council's deadline and shows that the Council staff are predisposed to implement all proposals. In the analysis of submissions, I expect that staff will simply tell the hearing panel that the submitter is wrong or has misunderstood the proposals.

b) I support the introduction of the lifetime licence tags made of metal. Metals are infinitely recyclable when they reach end of life and are durable if of the proper design. I understand that there are ongoing concerns about the tags and think a smaller and round design such as that used by the Selwyn District Council should be considered.

c) I have requested information about the educational activities of the Animal Management Section. It appears that Animal Control officers are resourcing the Reading to Dogs programme in the public libraries. This involves bringing their own personal dogs into the library and sitting while a child reads to them. If the Council is seriously worried about dogs creating a nuisance amongst the public,

[3] https://letstalk.ccc.govt.nz/dogs#dogqa

then this is not the correct use of the Animal Control officers who are the only ones with enforcement authority.

There are alternative options such as using handlers and dogs with Canine Good Citizen qualifications who would happily volunteer for this programme; I am sure that dog training professionals and the many re-homing groups operating in the city would jump at the chance of helping to guide this programme with added benefit of visibility for friendly and well-behaved dogs.

I look forward to discussing this submission with the hearing panel.

[redacted]

From: Lisa Sturm <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, 15 December 2024 3:49 pm
To: Lets Talk
Subject: Submission on Draft Dog Control Bylaw and Policy 2024

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Lisa Sturm
[redacted]

I would like to speak to the Hearings Panel about my submission. My phone number is [redacted]

1. Do you support the proposal to limit the number of dogs one person can control in a public place?
Yes

This proposal primarily targets commercial dog walkers, an unregulated industry. While the rule addresses part of the problem, its success will depend on robust enforcement by the Council, including spot-checks at parks, beaches, and reserves frequently used by these operations.

If a private individual is granted permission to own more than two dogs on their property, they should also be allowed to walk the permitted number of dogs off-lead in public spaces.

2. Do you support the revised definition of effective control?
Yes

I appreciate the clarity of the revised definition, as it will help prevent misunderstandings and provide a foundation for effective education and enforcement.

3. Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash (defined as 1.5m) on footpaths, shared paths, and formed tracks in greenspace areas where dogs are allowed?
No

There is no reliable data to justify the further restriction of dogs in these spaces, particularly when the new definition of effective control will provide greater clarity for enforcement and education. Blanket leash requirements on shared paths and tracks are overly restrictive and do not reflect the reality of dog behaviour.

While I understand the intent to enhance public safety, these blanket leash requirements fail to account for the natural needs of dogs, which may be at odds with their owners' desire to use the pathways. I refer to the position statement by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers NZ on this matter, advocating for a more balanced approach that respects the welfare of dogs while promoting safety.

The 1.5m leash restriction, while not new, and its expansion to more areas remains concerning. Leashes of this length restrict natural dog behaviours, leading to stress, frustration, and behavioural issues such as leash-pulling, barking, and aggression. I recommend revisiting the definition of “short leashes” and considering longer leashes (3m or more) or long lines that allow dogs more freedom to explore, which is essential for their well-being.

4. Do you support the proposal to require dogs to be on a short leash on shared paths and pedestrian areas on or near roads?
No

There is no substantial evidence to justify additional restrictions in these settings, particularly when enforcement data from the Council itself shows a reduction in infringements (down 23.7% in 2023/24 compared to 2018/19) despite an increase in the dog population (up 13.8%). A more balanced approach is necessary for managing shared pathways in Christchurch, taking into account the principle of “speed yields to vulnerability.”

This principle ensures that the most vulnerable users—whether pedestrians, cyclists, or dog walkers—are given priority on shared paths. Dog owners are generally considerate and follow the current rules, but more effective enforcement is required to support responsible behaviour. A blanket leash requirement is not the answer and could exacerbate conflict between dog owners who are trying to maintain safe distances.

5. Do you support the proposal for the **Ō**t**ā**karo Avon River Corridor?
No

The proposed changes for the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor (the red zone) would severely limit the ability to enjoy the area and undermine opportunities for off-leash training, exercise, and enrichment. Restricting dogs to one-third of the red zone, primarily mown grass areas (the council could also at any point reduce how much they are mowing to make it even less than 1/3 of the red zone), is an overreach, especially considering the need for dogs to have access to water for their health, particularly in hot weather.

This restriction would disproportionately affect elderly dog owners, those with physical disabilities, and families with small children, who rely on accessible green spaces. Furthermore, confining dogs to small areas will increase conflicts among dog owners, as they will have less space to give each other room.

The proposed limitations are not supported by adequate data. In particular, there is no evidence to show that dogs significantly impact wildlife in this area, as stated in the Council’s own reports. While I support the development of an ecological corridor, it is vital that this development takes a balanced approach, considering the needs of both the community and the environment.

6. Other Comments

I am concerned about the over-reliance on the Dog Control Survey conducted by the Council in July 2024. The survey's methodology was not peer-reviewed to guard against bias, as confirmed by [redacted], Manager of Official Information and Privacy Officer, on 20 August 2024. This survey was intended to gather general public opinions on various issues, not to form the sole basis for these policy changes.

Moreover, the absence of a detailed map outlining the proposed changes has created an unfair burden on dog owners. Without this information, it is difficult for dog guardians to fully understand the potential impacts of the proposals and submit informed feedback. The Council's refusal to provide this map suggests a lack of transparency and a predisposition to push through the changes regardless of public input.

The majority of responsible dog owners are being let down by a minority of individuals who fail to comply with existing rules. I believe the solution lies in more education and targeted enforcement, not in further restrictive laws that unfairly penalize those who are already following the rules. Over the past five years, I have noticed significant improvement in dog behaviour, thanks to the educational efforts of local trainers from APDTNZ and CANZ. In my experience, on over 500 walks this year, I encountered fewer than five dogs that were not under effective control. The data also supports this trend, as incidents involving dogs are not increasing despite a growing dog population.

Restricting space for dogs will only create more conflict between owners trying to share the same small areas. As someone who walks regularly along the Ōtākaro Avon River, I see dog owners consistently displaying respect for each other, using long lines for dogs still in training, leashing their dogs when necessary, and giving space to pedestrians. The proposed rules fail to acknowledge the positive behaviour that already exists and undermine the respect that has been cultivated through education.

I urge the Council to revisit the proposed Bylaw, consult with true experts in dog welfare and training—such as APDTNZ and CANZ—and rewrite the rules with a more balanced and scientifically informed approach.

Additional Concerns:
Lifetime Dog Tags
While lifetime dog tags are presented as a long-term solution, they come with several practical issues. They can be uncomfortable for small dogs, prone to wear and tear, and often do not stand up to the test of time. I recommend returning to the previous plastic strip tags, which were more durable, cost-effective, and less likely to cause discomfort for dogs and do not need to be replaced yearly either.

Thank you for considering my feedback. I look forward to seeing a more thoughtful and flexible approach to dog control in our community.

Lisa Sturm, MSc, CDBC (IAABC Certified Dog Behaviour Consultant), CANZ-ABC (Animal Behaviour Consultant), Vice President APDTNZ

PS: PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL

[redacted]

[redacted]

Christchurch [redacted]

9th Dec 2024

Christchurch City Council

Christchurch

Re Dog Control Bylaw and Policy

Dear Team. Re dog policy our dog rego [redacted]

I believe most strongly that all dogs leaving their home property be on a lead. The most that a person leading dogs to be 2.

Dogs in a free to run area . That the area has plenty of notices along the edge so all people are aware of dos running free.

Unregistered dogs caught by you running free be put down.

I was challenge by a large dog on Whiteleigh Ave a few weeks ago while leading our very small dog . The dog advanced on us (unregistered along with another dog) . I use a heavy walking stick , I struck the advancing dog across the chest , they both ran off , these dogs were in the area for 2 or 3 days,

I am happy to speak to any hearing on a policy discussion. In person only.

Yours faithfully

David Benson

[redacted]

7. Hearing of Submissions Ngā Tāpaetanga

Submitters who indicated that they wished to be heard in person will present to the Hearings Panel. A schedule of presenters can be found at the beginning of the Volume of *"Heard Submissions"*.

8. Consideration and Deliberations Ngā Whaiwhakaaro me Ngā Taukume o Ngā Kōrero

At the conclusion of submitters being heard, the Hearings Panel will consider all submissions received on the proposal, and any additional information provided by submitters and Council Officers.
The Hearings Panel will then deliberate on the proposal.

9. Hearings Panel Recommendations Ngā Tūtohu o Te Tira Tauaki

At the conclusion of deliberations the Hearings Panel will make a recommendation on the Dog Control Bylaw and Policy to the Council.