

Strategic Plan

Statutory compliance

Council Policy

Not applicable

Statutory Provisions

Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

Written By: Manager Community Safety

A/General Manager: Community and Business, Mr A Filipi

Attachment 1



Community Engagement Report

Draft Dog and Cat Management Plan

Consultation period

Monday 20 April to 5pm Tuesday 12 May 2026.

Purpose of engagement

To seek feedback on the draft Dog and Cat Management Plan

Overview

Community engagement for the By-laws project was hosted on our engagement platform:

www.yourholdfast.com/dcmp

The community were able to share their feedback by:

- An online survey and priority tool on www.yourholdfast.com/dcmp
- Written feedback (via mail or email)
- Phone

50 participants responded to the survey

- 44 via the online survey
- 6 via hardcopy surveys -entered manually into the system via admin

There was also one written submission, received via email, from Birdlife Australia.

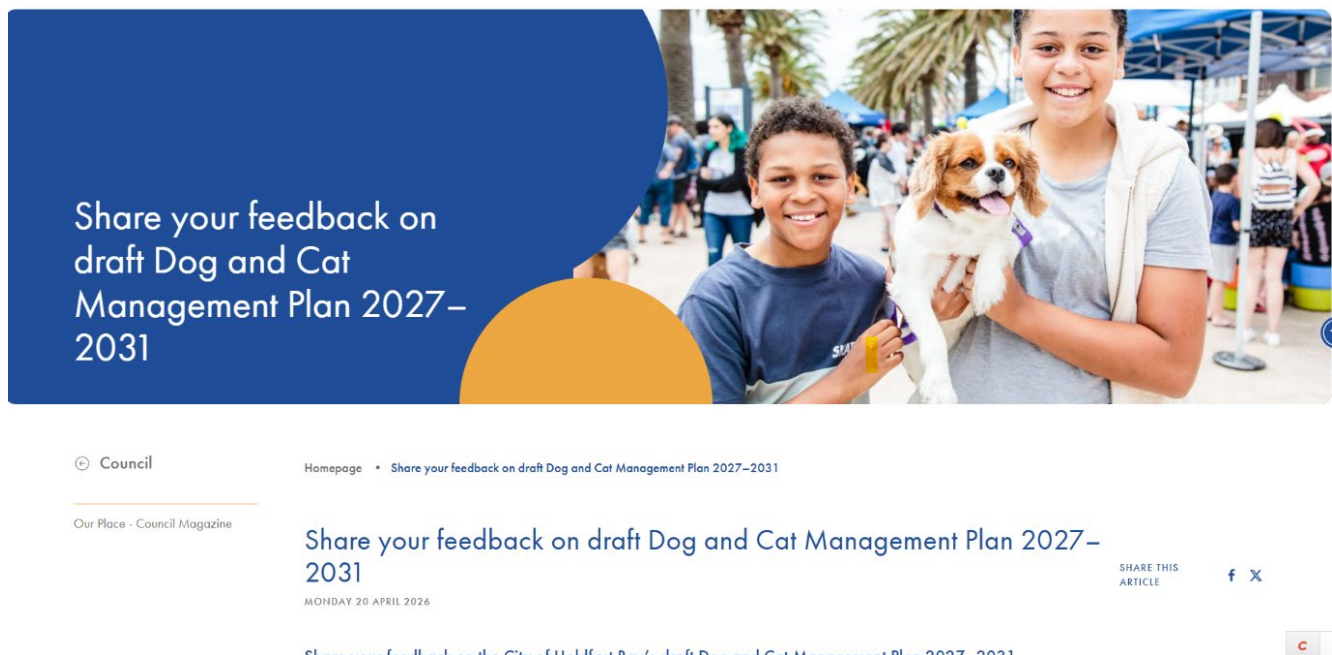
Promotion of engagement

This engagement was promoted in the following ways:

- Homepage of YourHoldfast
- Council website – news story (2 April – 12 May)
- Holdfast News on 16 April 2026

- Mayors Council wrap-up video on 29 April 2026
- Two Facebook post on 7 April and 28 April 2026
- Information in Council's libraries, community centres and the Brighton Civic Centre

Examples of Promotion

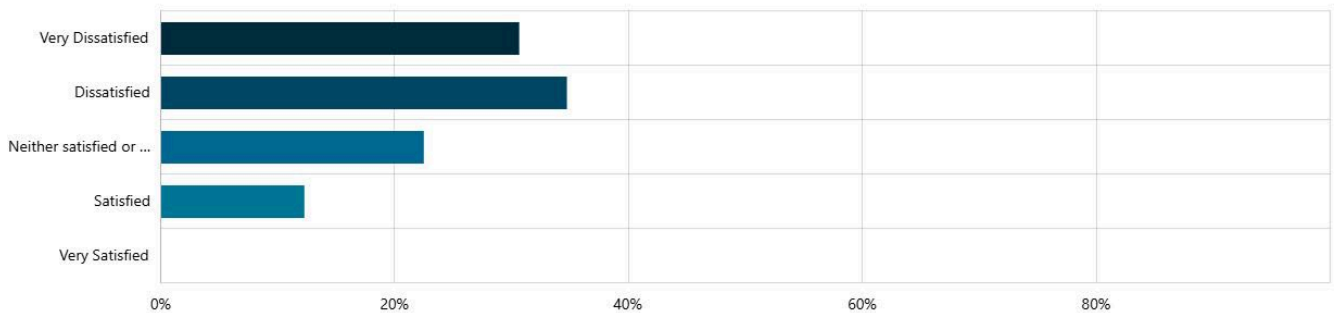


Survey Results

The following is a summary of the results of the online survey and hardcopy surveys

How satisfied are you with the content of the draft Dog and Cat Management Plan?

49 participants answered



Answer	Percent	Count
Very Dissatisfied	30.61%	15
Dissatisfied	34.69%	17
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	22.45%	11
Satisfied	12.24%	6
Very Satisfied	0%	0
Total	100%	49

1. Please share any comments you have about the plan.

41 participants answered

Summary of key themes

The primary theme related to the proposed changes to Draft By-law 5, particularly the suggested requirement for leashing of dogs around playgrounds. This is discussed in further detail below.

Dog Management Issues

Community feedback was strongly dominated by dog management issues, particularly in relation to beaches and shared public spaces. Many submissions reported poor compliance on beaches, including dogs off-lead,

unmanaged waste (ie dog faeces), safety concerns and impacts on wildlife. At the same time, a cohort of dog owners emphasised the importance of accessible off-leash exercise areas in parks, highlighting social, health and community benefits. This reflects a clear divide between those seeking tighter controls and those wanting maintained or expanded access, with recurring calls for zoning, improved infrastructure (e.g. fenced dog parks), and better management of multi-use spaces.

There was also an email submission from BirdLife Australia requesting that the management of Hooded Plovers, particularly the impacts of dogs on nesting sites, be more explicitly addressed in the Plan. These are activities that are already in place and covered by our operational budget therefore, in response, the Plan was updated to strengthen references to vulnerable beach-nesting birds, including actions to promote awareness of Hooded Plovers and other coastal wildlife, educate the community about the impacts of off-lead dogs in sensitive coastal environments, and undertake targeted patrols at beach-nesting bird breeding sites.

Compliance, enforcement and education

A prominent theme across submissions was the prevalence of non-compliant behaviour and the need for clearer expectations of responsible pet ownership. This has led to strong community support for increased enforcement, supported by education and visible compliance activity. Residents emphasised the importance of a balanced approach that combines awareness, appropriate penalties, and alignment between policy, infrastructure and enforcement to ensure effective and practical outcomes.

Proposed By-law 5 changes

This prominent theme centered on parks, playgrounds and the proposed By-law change, which would have required dogs to be on-leash near children's playgrounds. This issue was highly contested and frequently referenced, even where it extends beyond the core scope of the Dog and Cat Management Plan. Many respondents opposed a broad "one-size-fits-all" approach, arguing it would reduce amenity, restrict exercise and negatively impact community use of parks. Conversely, others supported stricter controls to improve safety for children. There was consistent feedback that if such by-law changes proceeded, they should be accompanied by design solutions (e.g. fencing playgrounds, time-based access, or spatial zoning) rather than relying on enforcement alone.

Cat matters

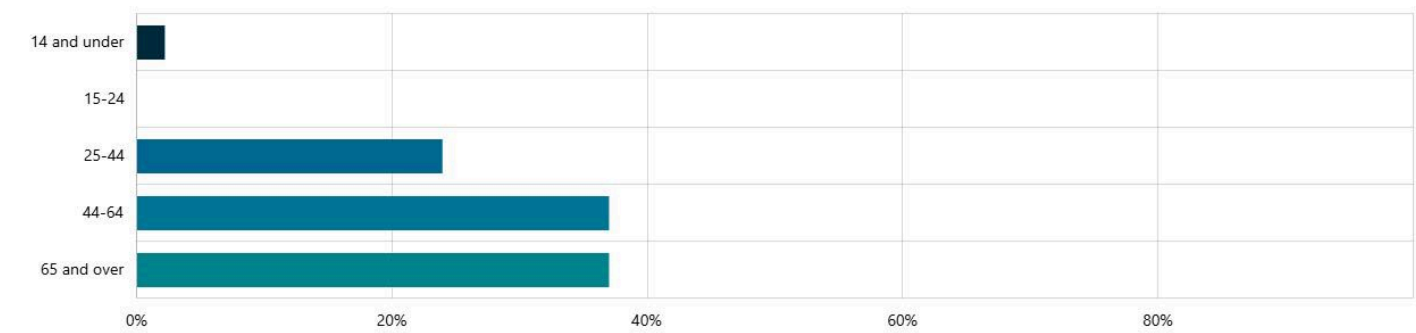
This theme related to cats and nuisance animal management concerns. This issue appeared less frequently but with clear, consistent concerns. Feedback focused on roaming cats, impacts on neighbouring properties and wildlife, and perceived gaps in regulation. Suggested actions included compulsory registration, containment (particularly at night), trapping systems, and stronger enforcement—often with comparisons to dog regulation standards.

The implementation of cat registration is not proposed as part of this Plan. A consistent statewide approach to cat registration is considered the most effective and practical solution, reducing complexity for cat owners and supporting consistent regulatory outcomes across South Australia. The State Government is expected to release its Cat Management Strategy in the near future, following approximately 12 months of development. It

is considered prudent to await the outcomes of this strategy before contemplating the introduction of a local cat registration scheme.

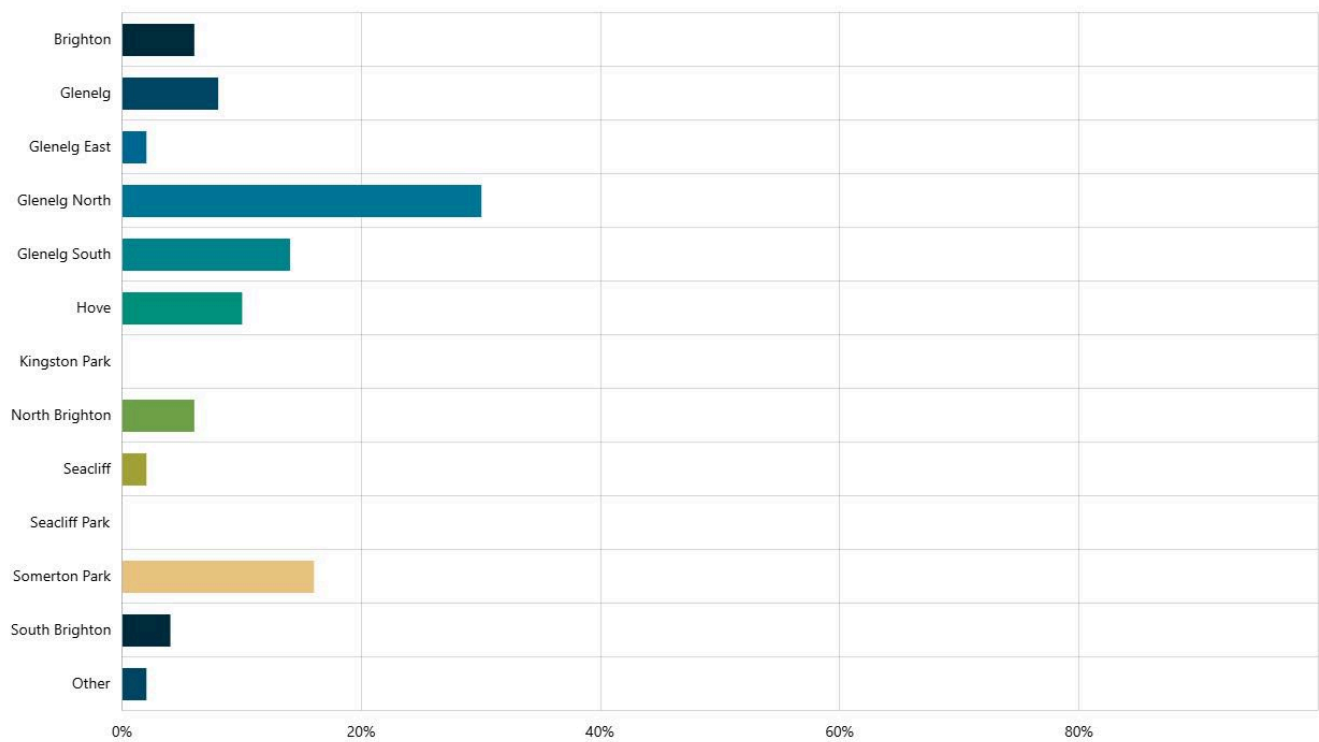
Demographics of Participants

Age



Age	Percent	Count
14 and under	2.17%	1
15-24	0%	0
25-44	23.91%	11
44-64	36.96%	17
65 and over	36.50%	17
Total	100%	46

Suburb



Answer	Percent	Count
Brighton	6%	3
Glenelg	8%	4
Glenelg East	2%	1
Glenelg North	30%	15
Glenelg South	14%	7
Hove	10%	5
Kingston Park	0%	0
North Brighton	6%	3
Seacliff	2%	1
Seacliff Park	0%	0

Answer	Percent	Count
Somerton Park	16%	8
South Brighton	4%	2
Other	2%	1
Total	100%	50

Website Statistics

Below is the information regarding how people access and view the project page.

362 views	319 visits	273 visitors	0 followers
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Views – The number of times a visitor views any page on a site.

Visits – The number of end-user sessions associated with a single visitor.

Visitors – The number of unique public or end-users to a site. A visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.

Followers – The number of Visitors who have ‘subscribed’ to a project using the ‘Follow’ button

How people accessed the website



The draft document was downloaded 213 times

Below shows how people accessed the website.

Direct	122
Social media	118
Websites	67
Search engines	12

Appendix 1 – Survey Results Response Data

Please note all comments are written verbatim. All personal details have been redacted.

Comments from participants that were satisfied

1.	Consideration of a scheme providing a financial subsidy for ratepayers toward cat enclosures to assist in cats having outside time while preventing wandering or catching wildlife. https://catnets.com.au/ https://geocatch.asn.au/project/catios/ Some councils interstate offer subsidies to help residents contain their cats. https://weddinlandcare.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Cat-Enclosure-Incentive-Program-Guidelines-and-Application-Form.pdf
2.	My dog is safe around babbies he is just like a safety dog when around babies he is not only cute but cares about babies and kids
3.	It's a very basic plan, which in fairness does enable the Community Safety Team the ability to meet the KPI's. I'm sure the team are already incredibly busy and doing their best every day , and they don't need more work placed on them in the name of legislation. I would like to see more emphasis on getting all cats registered on DACO. Page 8 talks about dog registrations in the strategies and doesn't seem to mention cats also having to be registered via the DACO platform. Page 9 mentions promotion to encourage more cats to be registered or recorded via DACO. But there is no mention of this having to be actioned in the strategies in the plan. The Council should be considering the introduction of a registration fee for cats just as other councils in South Australia have done.
4.	Need more liason with neighboring Councils and RSPCA to identify and take permanent measures to remove feral/wandering cats. Deterrents only work temporarily, and move the cat to other addresses, also temporarily. Cats don't recognise council boundaries. A microchip gives them a right to be a pest with protection and confidentiality - more so than ratepayers. REQ 2025-059208 ongoing
5.	Charge rego for cats
6.	My only comment is, i agree with the proposal that dogs should be on leash if near childrens playground, BUT commonsense must prevail when it comes to the separated dog area park and childrens palsyground at dover gardens, near tennis club. Dogs exercise there and have been for ages. This is fenced off but is close to childrens playground. I am worried as i take mine to park at seacliff near hotel near playground to run. This is worrysome really

Comments from participants that were Neither satisfied or dissatisfied

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | <p>It is not clear from the draft plan what changes are proposed for dog and cat management.</p> <p>As a suggestion the plan could include engagement with vets in regard to identifying non-microchipped animals, aggressive dogs and education of pet owners on their responsibilities under the Act.</p> <p>I also note a few pet owners who don't have don't leash their dogs when walking to dog exercise areas / beach even if the dog is well trained this can be of concern to passing motorists as it is when parents don't hold the hand of young children</p> |
| 2. | <p>Set up a system whereby residents can borrow a cat trap to trap wandering cats. These animals would then be taken to the pound where owners can claim as necessary.</p> <p>Barking and whining dogs need to be attended to by their owners and not create a public nuisance for the neighbours. Council must be proactive in dealing with these issues.</p> |
| 3. | <p>The draft plan appropriately recognises the importance of responsible pet ownership and shared use of public space. However, it must more explicitly account for the functional need for accessible, local off-leash exercises opportunities for dogs, and the implications this has for park design, infrastructure investment, and equity of access.</p> <p>1. Off-leash access is a core service requirement, not a discretionary amenity.</p> <p>Dog ownership in Holdfast Bay is substantial, with dog registrations representing a significant proportion of household, likely exceeding the proportion of households with children. This has DIRECT implications for service planning.</p> <p>Just as councils would not provide a single playground and expect all families to travel to it, it is not reasonable to centralise off-leash dog areas. Distributed, walkable access is essential. This aligns with contemporary urban planning principles of :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 20 - minute neighbourhoods* Active transport integration* Localised recreation infrastructure <p>2. Walkable access is critical [not car dependent access]</p> <p>Access to off-leash areas must be achievable on foot. This is particularly important given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Cost-of-living pressures and fuel costs* An ageing population (who benefit from nearby, low-barrier activity)* The well-established role of dog walking in maintaining physical activity, social connection and mental health. <p>For older residents especially, dog ownership is strongly associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Reduced loneliness* Increased daily movement* Routine and purpose <p>Restricting local off-leash access risks undermining these public health benefits.</p> <p>3. If additional restrictions are introduced infrastructure must follow.</p> <p>If council intends to impose stricter controls - such as requiring dogs to be on-leash near play equipment, this creates a design obligation, not just a regulatory one.</p> <p>The logical and equitable response is:</p> |

- * Fencing of play equipment areas, rather than excluding dogs from large park zones.

This approach:

- * Maintains safe, dedicated spaces for children
- * Preserves broader park usability for dog owners
- * Avoids unnecessary conflict between user groups.

This is consistent with best-practice "coexistence design", where infrastructure - not enforcement alone - manages competing uses.

4. Parks are under increasing pressure as multi-use spaces.

Recent environmental conditions, particularly the harmful algal bloom affecting coastal waters, have significantly reduced beach usability.

As a result:

- * Parks are absorbing increased demand from all user groups:
 - * Families
 - * Individuals
 - * Dog owners
 - * Recreational users more broadly

This shift is unlikely to be temporary. Climate and environmental variability suggest intermittent disruptions may continue for years.

Accordingly, park planning must:

- * Anticipate sustained higher usage
- * Support multi-user functionality, not exclusion

5. Inclusive design is more effective than exclusionary regulation

Well-designed parks accommodate different users simultaneously. The hierarchy should be:

1. Design solutions (e.g., fencing, spatial zoning)
2. Clear signage and expectations
3. Enforcement as a last resort.

Exclusionary approaches (e.g., broad leash-only mandates without infrastructure change tend to:

- * Reduce compliance
- * Increase conflict
- * Displace activity rather than manage it

6. Strategic implication for the Plan

To be internally consistent, the plan should explicitly acknowledge that:

- * Expanding or maintaining off-leash access requires investment in infrastructure, not just policy settings
- * Any tightening of rules must be accompanied by capital works planning (e.g., fenced play areas, designated zones)
- * Off-leash access should be geographically distributed to support walkable access across the council area.

Recommended addition to the Plan (summary):

Council should commit to:

- * A minimum distribution standard for off-leash areas (e.g., within walking distance of most residents)
- * A play space fencing program where mixed-use conflicts exist
- * A co-design approach to parks that accommodates children, dog owners, and passive users concurrently.

I am a 75 year old lady, living on my own. There are two local parks near me that I walk to daily and both have open areas for dogs and their owners plus play equipment. In both parks, I believe that the play equipment could be fenced off to allow for cohabitation. My very local park, on Bath Street, has play equipment and an open area where dozens, possibly more, local dogs are regularly exercised off-leash. I am able to walk my dog to this park (I have mobility issues) and here she gets some off-leash exercise. This is much more than I could provide from on-leash walking.

Since the harmful algal bloom, I have not risked taking her to the beach and she now has some reduced mobility because of this. Without access to this local park, I would struggle to give her the exercise she needs. The proximity of this park was part of the reason I bought my small house in this specific location. At the park I have also met many of my neighbours from surrounding streets and this has significantly strengthened my local network and connections. I have extensive nursing experience in child health and understand the significance of safe play areas for children and also for dogs. I am very happy to discuss anything of my content here and to be available for consultation on this topic.

4. It would help to have council monitor dogs of leash at brighton / seacliff beach. We take our children there and there almost isnt a single time at least one dog runs up to us off lead. We have had food snatched, our son bumped over etc. Ive never seen any inforcement of dogs on lead or under effective control, so no one really obeys it.
thank you
5. Why is it not illegal for cats to roam at night due to the negative impact to native species.

Is there a cat registration fee? I don't believe so, if dog registration fees go towards animal management, why not introduce cat registration fees to contribute?
6. The Patawalonga lake paths, Glenelg North, require 'dogs on lead' signage similar to the esplanade to limit harassment from dogs (generally from other council areas) roaming free/not under effective control and subsequently harassing/jumping on people and other dogs that are on leads. 'Dogs on lead' signage will also help with people picking up after their dogs.
7. You need to enforce all of these guidelines. Especially animals (mostly dogs) on our public beaches. There are a lot of nuisance, aggressive, and out of control dogs that roam Glenelg and Glenelg North beaches. And let's not start on the owners who don't give a crap about keeping their precious animals under control. So yeah, ENFORCE the laws and FINE those breaking the laws. I visit Glenelg beaches EVERY day of the year and have NEVER seen any council enforcement of dog laws on our beaches. And I am honest when I say NEVER. Maybe get some officers off Jetty Road fining motorists for parking 60 seconds over the due time and get them on our beaches.
Council is on the nose with ratepayers, it would be good to see some action on this for a change.
8. We are a group of responsible dog owners who have our dogs socialise at Gumtree in daytime when there are no or few children around. We avoid the playground & bbq areas. We engage in what we call 'community service': picking up dog poo that obviously belongs to irresponsible dog owners who frequent the park late at night. If we cannot have our dogs off lead (under effective control) this is likely to have 2 effects:
1. frustrated dogs who are unable to properly let off steam or socialize...leading to inappropriate behaviour;
2. More poo at the park as we wont be there to do 'community service'.
I suggest that the playground/bbq area is fenced off.
Whilst creating a small /large dog parks would be advantageous its clear that they arent always accessible without a vehicle.
9. Generally we use the Brighton ovals. we have whippets who love to run. we keep a very close eye on them to avoid running into other oval users especially small children and small dogs. the ovals are not fenced. this means they can still run out on to the roads. there is additionally one panel missing from the fencing on the

southern perimeter. this fell over and hasn't been repaired or replaced.

its very disappointing that the holdfast bay dog owners yard is STILL padlocked. this fenced space allows the dogs to run and exercise without them disturbing other pets. the access to the agility frames also allowed us to exercise and broaden their experiences. its all sitting there idle.

10. re cats and the statement Ensure cat owners do not allow their cat to travel onto neighbouring properties. The only possible way this is going to happen if cats are kept in runs . I have seen a domestic fence that can stop a cat from wandering at night . cats cause tremendous damage to native fauna . You should try and mandate cats stay on the property. In Adelaide Hills Council, cats must be kept at home at all times unless on a leash or similar restraint, and a breach can lead to a fine.
<https://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/services/pets-and-animals/cats#cat-by-law-and-keeping-your-cat-at-home>

Comments from participants that were dissatisfied

1. I think to impose further restrictions on dogs being near playgrounds and needing to be leashed is overreacting to perceived issues rather than actual incidence. I support those that are irresponsible being expiated and or fined should they have out of control dogs or dogs causing nuisance; however for those that train their animals and of which are quite often a part of the family where parents want to be able to take their kids and dogs to play grounds, you are immediately impacting their family social fabric.
The hours for dogs to be able to be on the beach are too restrictive. Surely there could be some flexibility around being able to exercise dogs with family members as long as they are under effective control (be that on lead for those that won't recall or free as long as they respond to their owners and not annoy others. Council needs to educate dog owners on responsible ownership; Europe allow dogs most places (which when raised that way, become well behaved to the social settings) and don't have the issues the woke community in Australia promote. I have more problem with irresponsible parents who allow their kids to roam and cause havoc; and yes im a parent of 2 & 4 legged!)
- Also i note the comments about dogs waste pickup bag availability and bins; around the foreshore these are often not stocked and there are inadequate locations for those that don't carry their own bags.
- We are regular visitors to a friend on the Esplanade at Glenelg with our dogs!
2. A number of years go I spoke with a previous HB councillor and persuaded him to ban dogs entirely from our local playground. Why is having dogs off leads anywhere near a child's playground even still a thing!
I still have cats roaming along the back fence at night.
From my observations as a very regular (daily) user of our beaches, the Summer policing of dogs off leads seems non existent and Winter is just a free for all.
3. Subject: Feedback on Dog and Cat Management Plan – Brighton to Glenelg Foreshore
Dear Council,
I am writing to provide feedback on the Council's current dog and cat control policies. As a Somerton Park resident of over three years and a daily beach user, I am concerned that current management strategies are failing to maintain the foreshore as a safe, multi-use environment.
Observed Issues During my daily use of the beach between the Brighton and Glenelg jetties, I have observed that dog behaviour frequently exceeds the bounds of "effective control." Specific issues include:
- Safety & Nuisance: I have personally experienced dogs barking persistently without owner intervention and animals approaching or chasing me aggressively (attempting to "nip ankles") while owners remain unresponsive.
 - Hygiene: There is a consistent presence of dog faeces on both the sand and the shared beach path. This is often due to owners failing to monitor their dogs or deliberately ignoring their responsibilities.

- **Environmental Impact:** I regularly witness dogs off-leash near the Hooded Plover nesting areas. Given the vulnerable status of these birds, the lack of compliance poses a direct threat to local biodiversity.
- **Regulatory Non-compliance:** During daylight savings, it is common to see dogs off-leash after 10:00 a.m. and on the beach path at all times, despite clear signage.

The Enforcement Gap While many owners are responsible, a significant minority are not. Under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, the current expiation fee for failing to remove dog faeces is \$210. Despite this significant penalty, I have yet to observe an authorized officer instructing owners to leash their dogs or addressing waste violations in my three years of daily use. The current level of visible enforcement appears insufficient to act as a deterrent, leading to a loss of revenue that could otherwise support beach management.

Recommendations for Consideration To address these growing pressures, I urge the Council to consider the following:

1. **Zoning:** Implementing "Dog-Free" stretches of the beach to provide respite for swimmers, families, and those seeking a quiet environment.
 2. **Increased Patrols:** Enhancing the visible presence of compliance officers, particularly during peak hours and near sensitive bird nesting sites.
 3. **Revenue Reinvestment:** Utilizing the funds gathered from the \$210 waste expiations and \$315 wandering-at-large fees to fund better signage and environmental protection for the Hooded Plovers.
 4. **Innovative Solutions:** Evaluating the feasibility of a pilot program for DNA tracking of dog faeces, similar to successful trials in Barking and Dagenham (UK) and Moreland (VIC).
 5. **Community Education:** Targeted campaigns emphasizing the impact of persistent barking and off-leash behaviour on the broader community.
 6. **Capped dog population:** Consider the optimal number of dogs owned in the council area and limit registrations. If the limit is reached, no new dog registrations allowed until the population decreases.
- The beach is a shared asset. As dog ownership continues to rise, more robust management is required to ensure the foreshore remains a welcoming, hygienic and safe space for all residents and wildlife.

(I tried to attach just a few small photographs of faeces taken on only two short walks near Somerton Beach but your website won't allow it, even though the files are compressed and much less than 1MB. Emailed instead)

4. Dog owners are complacent in maintaining effective control of their dogs. There needs to be clear information readily available on the expectation of effective control and penalties in place. Dogs should not be chasing or running up to children in public spaces.

Bowker oval has a children's playground, however this oval is considered to be off leash and can not be accessed from Bowker Street without being approached by off leash dogs on the oval. My children do not like to use these facilities based on the poor control and lack of awareness by owners that this is intimidating for a child. The common response from owners is either lacking because they are unaware where their dog is or that their dog is friendly so it is alright without taking the scared child into consideration.

The plan is unclear when the leashing requirements will be in place, whether it is a perimeter of the playground or within a fenced area and how the leashing will work for people accessing the playgrounds through unleashed areas.

It would be ideal to have a segregated dog park available where owners can take their dogs and allow children to access have access public spaces without worry of dogs approaching or chasing them.

5. I disagree with making all spaces near playgrounds 'on lead' for dogs. - please consider fencing off the playground area so dogs can still have a run in the park. - There are a lot of retired people that go to our local park and it is a social & community place for them with their dogs, - For some of us, beach running is not ideal, and we would miss the off lead runs at the park - fill poo bags more regularly so they don't run out will mean less mess left behind
6. I would like to formally complain against the proposed bylaw to require dogs to be on leash in parks where there is kids play equipment. First I want to call out that a casual mention of such a proposed bylaw at the end of the document is not appropriate given the impact this will have. For many people, talking their dogs to the park is not just a matter of exercising their dogs it is also an important social outlet for the owners. Many people don't have the space at home to let their dogs run free in their yard. As expats, we got to meet countless people through talking our dog to a park and socialising with other owners. This is not just a matter of animal welfare but also social welfare. It is also unclear what is driving this proposed bylaw. As such it doesn't give much opportunity to understand the reasoning or an assessment as to whether the proposal is proportionate to the problem.
7. Hi, My concern is the comment on page 15 regarding new proposed by-laws requiring dogs to be on a leash at Children's playgrounds, recreational areas and council work zones. My concern is the proposed "children playground" requirement. Our dog group visits No. 35 The Old Gum Tree Reserve every single day and there's always many dogs there playing before work or after work. Our dog loving community has grown substantively over the 7 years I've been going there in the mornings pre-work. There is a small playground at the Old Gum Tree that doesn't get much at all, especially on weekdays. I would like to request an exemption for the Old Gum Tree for dogs to be on leash at a playground, or for the new by-law to be redesigned to not affect our tight-knit dog owners community. Other options are the rule only applies when children are using playground perhaps? or it only applies on weekends? or not at all ideally and people are good responsible dog owners and held to account when they are not. Our little dogs run around freely in the safety of a welcoming gated area at the Old Gum Tree, which has become even more important since we can't take our dogs to the beach because of the algae bloom risks. Apart from the issue above, the main dog related issue I have in Holdfast Bay is with dogs when they are walking on the footpaths unleashed. This is unacceptable and council should crack down on this - it happens all the time. Especially along the Glenelg North esplanade, which I find dangerous when my dog is leashed and theirs isn't.
8. I think these changes are unnecessary and waste of time. I am a responsible dog owner and unfortunately you can put new laws in place, however those that don't follow the laws never do and will not follow the new laws. So the only people affected are those already doing the right thing. Also who is going to follow through and police it? Your council people? I rarely see them around, the amount of people around my streets walking dogs off lead are plenty. So no I don't agree with these changes.
9. Sutherland Park has an up fenced playground and is also an area where dogs are off leash. This has been this way for years without incident. There is a significant community of dog owners who use this area, know each

	other and mostly have small dogs. Making this a mandated on leash area is unnecessary and would lead to disobedience of the by law.
10.	Holdfast Bay is part of the lands of the Kaurna people, who are the traditional owners of much of metropolitan Adelaide - this statement is completely irrelevant to the strategy. We don't need any more aboriginal propaganda shaming us about our culture that built the City of Holdfast Bay.
11.	As a regular user with dogs of the Old Gum Tree reserve, I find it hard to see why changes need be made. Here many dog owners & children gather harmoniously. If there are problems elsewhere – make your new rules there.
12.	I think the overall plan is very good but there needs to be a rethink of how playground equipment in large parks is judged like the Old Gumtree Reserve which is currently an off-leash area and overall is working extremely well with both children and dog owners. I have been taken my dog to the old gum tree every morning at 7.30am for many years with many others who are responsible dog owners that look after the park as far as picking up any missed dropping, filling a water container for dogs, picking up anything left in the park by others who don't care about putting rubbish and other thigs in the bins, and reporting any damage to council. This is a big park with a great play area for children which in most cases the dogs don't go anywhere near the equipment and at that time of the morning the only children that are there are dog owners themselves with their parents. I feel it would be totally unfair to take the off-leash rule away as there is no need to do so as the park is so big and there is room for everybody and our furry friends, if there is a need to be pedantic about it there is an option to fence of the play equipment but that is really not needed. The major thing is this is the only off-leash fenced area in Glenelg North for dogs and to change that would be an extremely disappointing to all of the many ratepayers and dog owners in Glenelg North that use the Old Gum tree Reserve.
13.	If "new By-laws proposed at the time of this plans development will require dogs to be on a leash at children's playgrounds, recreation areas and Council work zones", does it means that dogs will have the be leashed in any park and reserve and beaches as they are "recreation areas"? Also, what about parks that have a fenced area for playground?
14.	I understand what Council is trying to achieve with the new Dog and Cat Management Plan — but Glenelg is long overdue for a fenced off-leash dog park. With more than 5,600 registered dogs in Holdfast Bay and huge numbers of visiting dogs every year, it's clear our community needs a safe, contained space. Right now, we simply don't have one. Your own plan emphasises reducing wandering dogs, improving public and animal safety, promoting dog socialisation and training, and minimising conflict in shared spaces. A fenced dog park directly supports every one of those goals. It's a practical, low-cost solution that would immediately reduce pressure on beaches, playgrounds and high-traffic reserves. Sandison Reserve on 3rd Avenue is one strong option — the children's playground is already fenced, so kids are protected and contained. But dogs have no equivalent safe space. Even a modest fenced area there would make a huge difference. There are also other Glenelg locations that could work: • Wigley Reserve — large, central, already heavily used by dog owners • Colley Reserve — plenty of open space and high visibility • Patawilya Reserve — quieter, neighbourhood-friendly option

- Jimmy Melrose Park — ideal for a coastal dog zone away from the busiest beach sections

Glenelg is a dog-dense suburb with shrinking off-leash opportunities due to new leash requirements around playgrounds, recreation areas and Hooded Plover sites. A fenced dog park isn't just a "nice to have" — it's a necessary piece of infrastructure that aligns perfectly with the 2027–2031 plan's mission to "create a safe and enjoyable environment for people and animals."

It's time to give our dogs — and their owners — a safe, secure space that reflects the needs of a modern, high-use coastal community.

15. In the past not enough effort is put into wandering cats at night. During 1 week, I have had up to 8 different cats "claiming" ie urinating over my yard, pooing and digging up my raised garden beds, pooing on my pavers by my back door, urinating on my outdoor chairs where I eat. I know this because I have security cameras set but I do not know who any of the owners of these cats. I DO NOT HAVE A CAT.
What needs to be done.
1. Council to step up micro chipping and compulsory registration of cats.
2. Council to supply cat traps and collect captives and not return the cats until they are micro chipped and the owners pay for any expenses. At the moment owners are not made accountable for anything yet dog owners are.
3 Make it LAW that cats MUST BE KEPT IN AT NIGHT.
4. Step up education for cat owners.
5. I know resources are always tight but get funding to have a blitz on wandering cats for say 3 months to wake up owners to take responsibility. BTW I live in Ramsgate st, Glenelg South and can supply images of the wayward cats!
16. More needs to be done about dogs on beaches
People out walking and their dogs are no where near them . How do they know if dogs are pooing . Yesterday a man was shouting for his dog he was on the beach his dog was up on the path . I am frightened of dogs so can't go down to my beach in morning as to many dogs . As for people carrying poo bags , what good are they all people do is dump the bag with the poo in it . Something has to be done about dogs . We have dog poo out on strip outside our house .
Waking today Somerton to Glenelg the poo on the paths is disgusting
Enclosed is a photo of a bag dumped
17. No where does it stipulate that cats must not roam. Cat must not leave your property.

Comments from participants that were very dissatisfied

1. All the children I have met in the park have wanted to play with my dog Ollie. There has been no trouble. The dogs create a sense of community amongst the owners. We all have a relaxed environment here. Thank you for the opportunity to express.
2. Twin Mum and this is my only chance to get our dog out of the house for the day as we are so busy. It's not possible to be running after twins and keeping our dog away from play equipment at all times.
3. Most parks already do not allow dogs so it is unreasonable to enact such laws further restricting dog owners. Many people have children and animals and should be allowed to enjoy the outdoors together without restrictions. If there are people who don't like dogs, they are free to go to parks where they aren't allowed, to which there are plenty. It's very easy to avoid animals but very hard for owners to find a safe space that accommodates the reality of having children and dogs in particular who need play with other animals and exercise.

4.	I believe the requirement for dogs to be on leads near children's playgrounds 1. Creates confusion as several of the 'off leash' parks listed have playgrounds 2. Will make it more difficult for residents with dogs to exercise them adequately. People with reduced mobility will struggle to provide sufficient exercise for a dog whilst it is on a lead, and it will reduce their ability to connect with their neighbours, which is an important social outlet. As a council with a high proportion of older people, this should be a significant consideration. Additionally, families with dogs may often take both their children and their valued family pet to the park to adequately exercise both the children and the dog while being able to supervise both. I have attempted to watch children on a fenced in playground whilst exercising the dog outside the fenced in playground and it is exceedingly difficult. Thus I choose specifically to go to a park that has both an unfenced playground and an area for the dog to run around. If I have to choose whether to take the kids or the dog the dog will not get sufficient exercise. This will feasibly lead to an increase in noise complaints which is another objective the council wants to lower. 3. I believe requiring dogs to be on lead reduces the capacity for owners to properly train and socialise their dogs, which conflicts with another objective outlined. I believe this guideline has not been properly considered and would cause harm to residents, children, and beloved pets and cannot convey how strongly I am against this proposal.
5.	We have a toy poodle and is a friendly dog & causes no trouble to others & children. This is the only park that provides an enclosed area for the dogs to run. There is only a few dogs at a time and it creates a positive & friendly environment. The space allows room for children without being affected by the dogs. This is an important part of our community and it's a great place for the dogs.
6.	I would like to put forward our vote and option that the Macfarlane street Glenelg north park be kept for us to meet to socialise and exercise our dogs. A possible solution may be to have early hours before children are at the park 7am- 9.30am and after 5pm at an evening .. This space can be enjoyed by everyone if we all have some boundaries and respect for all that want to come and enjoy this lovely park.. As a mum of a now 14 year old, I have also experienced over the years at times at the park with puppies running freely at other times and have jumped into our picnics over the years . Not a deal breaker as we love dogs and the owners were still completely chasing up their puppies 🐶 .. that being said it does only take a couple of idiots to couple ruin it for us all.. It only takes a handful of families to have a bad experience and then we are all made to justify why we should share this park which is really sad. We are all hoping we can come to some sort of compromise that we can all still enjoy this outdoor space together. Thanks
7.	The old gumtree park has functioned well in accommodating humans and dogs Given the increasing high density living in the Glenelg area and the percentage of folks who possess dogs you need a compromise solution Consider time zones for off leash and make the public aware Have any surveys of dog owners been conducted How many complaints have been made regarding dogs off leash and why
8.	It is important to let dogs have some space. If no one is present then why
9.	Because Holdfast Bay has so many diverse parks and reserves. Putting a "one size fits all" response to dog management will mean for many Holdfast Bay residents a huge loss of enjoyment and recreation. A lot of elderly people exercise their dogs as they live in apartments and flats, they don't necessarily drive and find great comfort being around people and animals that they know. So, suggesting that all rate payers can suddenly just change where they exercise their dogs will create great stress. I live adjacent to the Old Gum Tree and as I read this, the whole Reserve would become a leashed area. I have watched both as a dog owner, and times when I didn't have any pets the joy of people catching up with each other, ensuring their

dogs were well behaved and teaching them from puppies how to be good dog citizens. Patrons of the park interacting with dogs off leash and many young children and their parents, become confident as they see the dogs are not going to be a nuisance. In the Old Gum Tree the "dog community" has a stewardship over the park, often picking up all sorts of "human left" rubbish, reporting issues, preventing vandalism and supporting this area to be available for all users. I read this year that Holdfast Council was looking a Street Parties - getting to know your neighbor's. This has been accomplished by people having their dogs meet and greet. I dare say this is replicated over many Holdfast Bay Parks and Reserves. I would ask the council rather than implementing a total leash requirement for all dogs 24/7 near playgrounds something similar to beach use be considered. Where early and late use of the parks outside the normal times children and perhaps those not wanting to have any animal interaction could be still allowed. A before 9.00am and after 6.00pm type of arrangement. Giving Holdfast Bay residents and visitors the opportunity to utilize all the wonderful amenities that this council has, while respecting the different needs of each group. The vast majority of animal owners are hipper vigilant to cleaning up after their pets and the continued "council dog bags" provided are excellent. We understand the privilege that we currently enjoy and I with so many others ask that we are not banished to areas that may be unfenced themselves, adjacent to roads or requiring many to use vehicles to get to. Thank you.

10. As most homes don't have enough space for dogs to run, dogs need public off-leash areas, perhaps with specific time periods eg outside of 9am to 5pm. Dog-owners & child minders need to respect each others' requirements for not leaving dog waste & food waste in public areas. My dog is key to my mental health & having him to be off-leash is essential for his fitness.

11. You need to enforce cats to be inside. At the least, keep them in overnight, like other nearby councils have implemented.

You need to do more about dog complaints- neighbours are too scared to confront people directly about the noise their dog makes but maybe the dog doesn't bark enough to justify doing a barking diary. If someone complains about the noise a dog makes, the owner should be given a warning by Council, to keep community peace and make owners realise that what their dog is doing is actually bothering others.

Birds should be included in animals allowed to be complained about, and not fobbed off as sorry, we don't sort out bird problems. Not the birds owned by people, but local birds whose noise is more of a problem than dog noise! If we have the right to complain about dog noise, or other noise like building noise etc, we have the right for our concerns for screeching parrots to be taken seriously and dealt with.

12. The old Gum Tree Reserve is a fantastic shared area for dogs off leash and for children also. There is a large playground there so I am not clear on what the proposed changes will mean for this space.

13. The proposal to add the requirement for dogs to be on leash near playgrounds a recreation areas is ludicrous. Children's playgrounds should be fenced in all situations. Not to keep the dogs out but for the safety of the children and the peace of mind for parents to keep the children secure. Responsible dog ownership is the key and action needs to be taken against those that do not comply. Dog owners that take their pets to parks are not the irresponsible ones and should not be the ones penalized by introducing new laws. The minority (non dog owners) should not have the say over the majority of responsible owners.

14. I think the access Dogs have on the beach is ridiculous and very unsafe both in winter and more particularly summer.

Very few people comply with the curfew times, and they are seldom if ever policed by the council.

It is unsafe to have a small child on the beach when dogs are allowed off leashes and not much better at other times.

I don't think any other capital city allows such dog access on suburban beaches, please correct me if I am

wrong.

In our view Curfew should be 8.00 am in summer and 10.00 am in Winter and nothing in the afternoon.

An alternative is making the beach in front of Minda a Dog beach with longer curfews.

Please note I have been a registered Dog owner in Brighton for a long time.

Attachments

Comments as being dissatisfied

Subject: Feedback on Dog and Cat Management Plan – Brighton to Glenelg Foreshore

Dear Council,

I am writing to provide feedback on the Council's current dog and cat control policies. As a Somerton Park resident of over three years and a daily beach user, I am concerned that current management strategies are failing to maintain the foreshore as a safe, multi-use environment.

Observed Issues During my daily use of the beach between the Brighton and Glenelg jetties, I have observed that dog behaviour frequently exceeds the bounds of "effective control." Specific issues include:

- **Safety & Nuisance:** I have personally experienced dogs barking persistently without owner intervention and animals approaching or chasing me aggressively (attempting to "nip ankles") while owners remain unresponsive.
- **Hygiene:** There is a consistent presence of dog faeces on both the sand and the shared beach path. This is often due to owners failing to monitor their dogs or deliberately ignoring their responsibilities.
- **Environmental Impact:** I regularly witness dogs off-leash near the **Hooded Plover nesting areas**. Given the vulnerable status of these birds, the lack of compliance poses a direct threat to local biodiversity.
- **Regulatory Non-compliance:** During daylight savings, it is common to see dogs off-leash after 10:00 a.m. and on the beach path at all times, despite clear signage.

The Enforcement Gap While many owners are responsible, a significant minority are not. Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*, the current expiation fee for failing to remove dog faeces is **\$210**. Despite this significant penalty, I have yet to observe an authorized officer instructing owners to leash their dogs or addressing waste violations in my three years of daily use. The current level of visible enforcement appears insufficient to act as a deterrent, leading to a loss of revenue that could otherwise support beach management.

Recommendations for Consideration To address these growing pressures, I urge the Council to consider the following:

1. **Zoning:** Implementing "Dog-Free" stretches of the beach to provide respite for swimmers, families, and those seeking a quiet environment.

2. **Increased Patrols:** Enhancing the visible presence of compliance officers, particularly during peak hours and near sensitive bird nesting sites.
3. **Revenue Reinvestment:** Utilizing the funds gathered from the **\$210 waste expiations** and **\$315 wandering-at-large fees** to fund better signage and environmental protection for the Hooded Plovers.
4. **Innovative Solutions:** Evaluating the feasibility of a pilot program for **DNA tracking of dog faeces**, similar to successful trials in Barking and Dagenham (UK) and Moreland (VIC).
5. **Community Education:** Targeted campaigns emphasizing the impact of persistent barking and off-leash behaviour on the broader community.
6. **Capped dog population:** Consider the optimal number of dogs owned in the council area and limit registrations. If the limit is reached, no new dog registrations allowed until the population decreases.

The beach is a shared asset. As dog ownership continues to rise, more robust management is required to ensure the foreshore remains a welcoming, hygienic and safe space for all residents and wildlife.

I attach just a few photographs of faeces taken on only two short walks near Somerton Beach.

Did not answer Survey.

It's high time that resident's 'right' to own a dog is curtailed by reasonable but onerous legal requirements.

I am constantly harassed by owners who just will NOT keep their dogs on leads in public places. I have a collection of pics-not attached but available-showing owners walking with animals that are completely out of their effective control.

Being animals, it's quite impossible to know what they will do when confronted with (say) another leashed dog; a noisy car; another wondering dog etc etc (Some would muse it's impossible to know what people would do in many situations)

Noise nuisance i.e. barking, is also a real problem in the many neighbourhoods with houses being built cheek by jowl with no reasonable size areas for recreation of dogs or children. The sheer number of dogs in any given council area must now be strictly controlled.

I think it's time only certain size animals can be kept in domestic dwellings for above reason.

1. Ownership of a dog MUST be firstly allowed (certificated) by a council officer after an application by the proposed owner and due process and include:
 - 1.1. What measures will be in place to exercise and control the dog whilst the applicant is at work or otherwise away from the place where the dog is usually kept;
 - 1.2. Is the breed of animal suitable for the dwelling and owner-this consideration must include size and temperament;
 - 1.3. Is the fencing of the proposed dwelling suitable for dog control-fencing of rear AND front gardens;

1.4. Does the proposed owner have a good understanding of the LAW regarding the ownership of a dog? Does that person fully ACCEPT the rules/law and intend to fully comply?;

1.5. Is the proposed owner located in an area that is not at saturation level and does the proposed owner want to be on a waiting list?;

1.6. Does the proposed owner agree to attend mandatory dog ownership/training sessions?

You may well consider other requirements of responsible dog ownership must be met-they should be added to my list.

(I am now living with a dog owner and have had a dog myself...love them! But only mine...NOT EVERYBODY ELSE!)