

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED – Caloundra Sports Precinct

During the consultation phase, council undertook a range of activities to raise awareness with the public and business community. These activities included:

- Sunshine Coast Daily Public Notice
- Direct Mail Campaign to resident's living within 500m of Precinct
- Direct Email Campaign to Key Stakeholders (user groups of precinct)
- Library Information Session opportunity for Key Stakeholders (user groups of precinct)
- Information on council's website and intranet site
- Notices on council's social networking applications
- Media Releases
- Notice in Council's E-News

Community consultation

1. Consultation Period – 18 October 2013 to 1 November 2013
2. Submissions were invited from key users of the precinct and the community at large.
3. 33 submissions/responses were received, the topics were :
 - 16 submissions agreed with proposal
 - 15 submissions did not agree with proposal
 - 1 submission did not agree or disagree with proposal
 - 1 submission was not relevant to the proposal

NOTE: if a dog off leash area was provided for within this area, many of the issues identified by submissions would be resolved.
4. OVERVIEW OF SUBMITTERS
 - Just over 70% currently use the complex
 - 65% use the complex regularly
 - 55% own a dog
 - Nearly 60% walk their dog in this area

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS (COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)				
Ref	Submission Part A Submission (Summarised)	Submission Part B Recommendation (Summarised)	Officer Comments	Officer Recommendation
LOCAL LAW No 2 (ANIMAL MANAGEMENT) 2011 – Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011				
Schedule 5 Exclusion of animals from specific places (Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011)				
1	I am a regular user of the sports precinct and NEVER see dogs off leash. There is a small group of dog haters in Caloundra who regularly claim to be menaced by dogs in public areas and are constantly writing to the local newspaper and complaining to Council. Please don't be unduly influenced by this small group of complainers, they are mostly making it up.	Leave the regulations unchanged. The views of a tiny vocal unreliable minority should not prevail.	Local Laws are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the community as a whole.	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
2	No comments	Fence off the top halve where the children are and put in a toilet block and BBQ areas and leave the bottom halve for leash free area	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
3	The Council bases its proposed change on the claim that persons are using the areas as dog off leash areas. Council has a habit of BANNING all persons from lawful activities because a few persons break the law. If Council were genuinely serious about its duty of care, it would be enforcing the existing regulations in the sporting areas.	The existing by-laws should be policed by Council. The proposed amendment should be scrapped.	Officers attend to reactive complaints and actively monitoring the area for compliance with the local laws	No amendment to proposed local laws
4	Closing the whole of the park to the public with dogs is without foundation.	I agree that sporting fields are not compatible with stray dogs or owners not willing to provide for cleaning up waste. Fencing off the facilities as per Caloundra Junior sharks would alleviate the problem. Request for a dog off leash area as there is no other facility in the vicinity.	Recommendation is in line with proposal Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
5	Although I realise dogs do not damage parks etc., the fact that these parks are utilised by people (including children) have the propensity for danger from dog attacks. Also dog owners do not appear to be doing the right thing as regards picking up their dogs droppings - not just in this area either.	Dogs are banned from this area totally.	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
6	I support the changes to prohibit animals around the sporting precinct, cricket ovals and croquet greens.	I agree animals should not be allowed in these areas as the groundskeepers are trying to keep the areas up to standard.	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
7	The Caloundra central Park Sports present is a large community facility which is only utilised by various sporting organisations at various times. The vast majority of the time it is empty open space - ideal to exercise a dog with no inconvenience to anybody. Obviously dogs should be banned when the area is being used for organised sporting purposes. The rest of the time they offend nobody.	Ban dogs when the open space is being used by sporting bodies. At all other times, dogs to be under the control of a member of the community and subject to the existing obligations to clean up after their dogs.	Dogs are only prohibited on the playing fields and surrounding areas, owners and their dogs are still able to traverse through the grounds while under effective management and on a lead at all times – as detailed on the maps. Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
8	The submission relates to the information included on the map	The map currently shows 3 different shading types. As animals are required to be on a leash at all times unless otherwise signed the only area that should be shaded on the maps is the prohibited area. The additional shading is inconsistent with all other area maps.	Maps communicate three proposed areas: 1. Animals prohibited at all times 2. Spectators with dogs allowed – dogs must be on a lead and under effective control (Additional shading) 3. Pedestrian thoroughfare – dogs on leads may traverse through	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law These maps are specific to the precinct and communicate clearly the three proposed zones.
9	As a dog owner in central Caloundra there is currently no dog off leash zones with Golden Beach, Aroona and Currimundi being the closest. Having lived in the area for more than 5 years I have observed that the unfenced oval which borders the corner of Plover Parade and Ulm Street is not currently in use and I've not ever seen it in use. It's location in a very light traffic area would make the perfect dog off leash zone. In my opinion such a great unused open space should be put to use.	1) That the oval which borders the corner of Plover Parade and Ulm Street be allocated as a dog off leash zone preferably at all times or at allocated times eg; after 4pm. 2) That relevant signage be erected.	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS (COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)				
Ref	Submission Part A Submission (Summarised)	Submission Part B Recommendation (Summarised)	Officer Comments	Officer Recommendation
10	Having been an owner of a now deceased dog I believe I can comment on this proposal. There are no off leash areas for dogs within walking distance of Caloundra central. There are a significant number of elderly people in this area who own dogs. Living this close to this precinct I can categorically state that this precinct is not used all day every day.	1) Allow dogs off leash in some of these areas and in particular the area to the right - close to Regent street - and behind the tennis courts for certain times of the day and spectators with dogs on a lead as per the one area identified to all other areas. 5) Dogs to be prohibited from cricket ovals unless on a lead due to the damage they can do	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
11	I have been walking dogs in and around all three precincts for more than 13 years and have not heard, seen or been told about any incidents where anyone has been harassed or frightened by let alone attacked by a dog. I agree animals should not be allowed on any of the fenced ovals but surely the rest of the open areas would be ok.	Ban animals from playing fields only and allow residents to walk their pets through and around open space areas.	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
12	I am already annoyed that I can no longer take my dog to the places along the coast that I have been visiting for years - because they have been 'rezoned' for the tourists. The sporting areas/fields are close to home, without having to get in a vehicle to get somewhere.	Stop listening to the whingeing few and let those of us who can extend our care and nurturing to our animals continue to enjoy the place where we live as well.	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
13	Why is this just pertinent to Caloundra? I am a member of Sunshine Coast Hockey Association at Ballinger Park and we also are concerned at our grass hockey fields which we lease from SCRC being used as a dog off leash area. We have had to remove dog poo from the sporting fields before children can train and play their games. Opposite the fields a 'dog club' is situated. Dogs and sporting fields do not go together! We have had one member who has been bitten by a dog on the hockey club's leased area.	The 'dog club' should be relocated closer to the SCRC dog off leash area at Buderim and not be situated adjacent to sporting fields. The problem is not just at Caloundra, but is on other sporting fields as well.	Recommendation is in line with proposal. Also identified other sporting fields have similar issues	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
14	Although I do walk my dog everyday around these areas, he is always on a leash and we do not enter these facilities. It is rare to see anyone using the facilities in the ways the council is outlining. If they are it is to exercise their pets in an area that is safe for them away from the roads and people. Most owners are also responsible for picking up after their pets, and I think that these facilities are being over the top with these type of complaints.	There are no off leash areas for dogs in the area. And the areas that are pet friendly seem to become more and more restrictive each passing year. An off the leash dog park is required and would be well utilized by the local dog owners.	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
15	Caloundra Tennis Centre professional operator, we currently do not allow dogs at the tennis centre and I agree with the proposed no dogs area for the Central Park Sport Precinct	No dogs allowed in the proposed areas of the Central Park Sport Precinct	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
16	There are currently no off-leash dog exercise areas available in Caloundra. The sporting grounds are the only option for dog owners in Caloundra. I would like to see the sporting grounds to remain open to dog owners and dogs to exercise and run and stroll around when the fields are not in use by sporters.	I have three options that might assist Council 1) limit the use by dog owners to before 8am and after 5pm, and times that sports are being played. Ranger to police cleaning of dog mess whenever possible. 2) Council bans all dog owners from using the sporting fields unless they buy a licence, cleaning of the area can be paid from the licence fees and doggy bag holders. 3) Council provides dog owners with a spacious, oval-sized, safe, dedicated off-leash exercise area.	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
17	If dogs are prohibited from all 3 areas mentioned in the proposal, there will be no large areas in the town centre where responsible owners can let their dog off the leash.	Could an off leash area be set up in the upper tier of the Central Park Sports Precinct (next to the tennis courts) so there is at least one designated off leash area in town.	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
18	Reply to your letter in regards to the proposed new laws on management of dogs at sports venues Arthur & Lewis streets as we reside in the vicinity.	We are totally in agreement with your proposed changes	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
19	Should Council wish to ban dogs from parks they need to provide an alternate area.	I believe an off leash area needs to be provided for dogs in the Caloundra area	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
20	If this park is put off limits for dogs we will need an off leash area in Caloundra which will need to be set out before these laws come into effect	Need a dog off leash area	This area has never been a designated dog off leash area Identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS (COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)				
Ref	Submission Part A Submission (Summarised)	Submission Part B Recommendation (Summarised)	Officer Comments	Officer Recommendation
21	Banning dogs from central park will not impact on us and we are not disturbed by any dogs being walked in the park. The majority of dogs we see are walked along the path outside the sports ovals.	The only problem I expect you will find if dogs are banned from central park is that people will simply walk them in the nearby school oval. The ovals are also used for golf practice, radio controlled cars and helicopters, but one thing that does disturb us is the riding of motor bikes of all sizes in the oval. While on the subject of complaints, the amount of hoons on the dirt road leading to the SES headquarters is an ongoing regular issue. They speed up and down that dirt road, doing burn outs creating plumes of dust, and terrible noise.	No issues identified with proposal Motorbike issues also noted	No amendment to proposed local law
22	The freedom of residents to come and go in public open space is basic to our community. The sports precinct is indeed public open space. It is not the preserve of sportspeople. The council already has in place regulations that require dogs in the precinct to be on leash. That surely is an adequate balance between the freedoms of dog owners and other users of the precinct.	There is every probability that the people who ignore the present regulation will ignore an amended regulation. Again, the problem is not solved. So I ask you to oppose the proposal. There is no warrant to restrict the freedom of law-abiding residents in this way. Council has the power and resources to deal with the issue without the ban.	Council is not proposing to prohibit dogs totally from the area. Owners and their dogs can still traverse through the area as signed as long as the dog is on a lead at all times. It is only the playing fields and surrounds that animals are prohibited.	No amendment to proposed local laws
23	I think dogs should not be allowed on sports areas because adults and children are could be injured playing sport and they then risk being infected from faeces and urine from the animals left on the field.	If an enclosed area (not on sports fields) was available it could be made an off leash area for dogs.	Recommendation is in line with proposal however has identified need for a dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
24	I walk my dog along different routes around Caloundra. The sporting fields are just one of the many directions I take. I walk across the ovals behind the tennis courts about once a fortnight. I can only guess the complaints are about dog poo as I see it all around Caloundra. I pick up my dogs poo and am annoyed that irresponsible owners are too lazy or too posh to pick up their dogs poo. Ovals are only used seasonally by sporting groups. My dog and I would appreciate being allowed to walk on these ovals in the future	A dog poo bag dispenser may help those who walk without carrying a bag. A graphic outlining consideration for others by picking up dog poo. This could be placed in newspapers and would be similar to QR's train manners program to illustrate how to do the right thing	Dogs still able to traverse through area on lead under proposal. Only banning on sporting fields. Identified need for dog off leash area	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law – will be considered in the dog off leash review
25	We would prefer that dogs were not allowed on the sporting fields for safety and health reasons – Caloundra Cricket Club	We would recommend that the area be a dog free area	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
26	The Facility Management Committee, Caloundra Rugby Union and Caloundra Junior Rugby Union support this initiative.		No issues identified with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
27	Caloundra Mallet Sports Club fully support the proposed exclusion areas		No issues identified with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
28	On behalf of the Pelican Waters Caloundra Swimming Club we would like to support the proposed submission for restriction of unleashed dog area in the Central Park Sporting Precinct. Whilst the club is unaware of any specific incidents involving negative dog interactions in this area, it supports the safety of its members in travelling to and from the Caloundra Aquatic Centre. Many members will make their way from Caloundra primary and high school which takes them directly through this precinct. By ensuring all dogs are on leash in this area it ensures a safe passage.	The Pelican Waters Caloundra Swimming Club supports the recommendation to restrict off leash areas in the Central Park Sporting Precinct	Recommendation is in line with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
29	We have always been a dog free area and can imagine how much joy the players must get when they do a face plant in a pile of doggy do do. On the other side locals would have been using this area for recreational purposes for a long time so we need to supply other options for them that are close by for those who do not wish to travel to an alternate venue – Caloundra Aquatic Lifestyle Centre.		No issues identified with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
30	The Caloundra Tennis Association in conjunction with Elite Tennis International has a ban on dogs and this has been in place for many years. We have no objection to 'seeing eye dogs'.		No issues identified with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
31	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I spoke with our Team Manager at Central Park and he advised that dogs off leash have occasionally posed issues for our members, however we are replacing the fencing in the area and this should eliminate those issues. As such, we are happy to have the matter decided by the other Central Park users input.		No issues identified with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS (COMMUNITY CONSULTATION)				
Ref	Submission Part A Submission (Summarised)	Submission Part B Recommendation (Summarised)	Officer Comments	Officer Recommendation
32	On behalf of the Caloundra Junior Rugby Union Club, we support the proposal. As we maintain our fields on a regular basis, we are subject to incoming complaints from visitors to our club regarding the health and safety impact from animals brought to our grounds. The implementation of the proposal will in turn be of great significance to our sporting club		No issues identified with proposal	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law
33	<p>From the Aquatic Centre's point of view and operation this animal management issue does not affect the centre as we are fully fenced and do not allow animals into the centre at any time. While dogs off leashes may pose a small threat to patrons walking to the centre through Central Park or from the car park, I would suggest not a lot of this type of activity occurs near the immediate area of the centre.</p> <p>From a Central Park view I would have thought the open fields at Eastern end of Plover Parade could be open to dogs off leashes, I understand these fields are no longer used for regular sporting activity and some of this open space being used for expansion of the tennis centre. (with soccer moving to Meridan and only the occasional OZTAG carnival extending to these fields—although the big junior carnival has now moved to Kawana for next year)</p>		<p>No issues identified with proposal</p> <p>Identified that a dog off leash area could be considered</p>	No amendment to proposed subordinate local law

