

## **REPORT**



# FENCED DOG EXERCISE AREA

1 July 2019 to 15 July 2019 Survey and online community feedback



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#### **Background**

A notice of motion carried at 17 July 2018 meeting concerning the construction of a fenced dog area requested a report for presentation at an Elected Members Information Session included, but not limited to:

- 1. Possible options for a location for a fenced dog area. Locations to be considered were John Connell Reserve, Piney Lakes Reserve, Burke Drive and others
- 2. An indicative cost of the project, as well as a proposal for how the project will be funded, whether it be through existing budget provisions, funding in the 2019/2020 budget or through grants.
- 3. A plan for consultation with Melville residents and ratepayers.

#### Locations

In drafting the report and recommending suitable locations from amongst the 173 parks and reserves in the City of Melville, the following matters were taken into account:

- Activities within the reserves
- Proximity to schools and/or residential areas
- Parking facilities
- Classification of reserve in relation to whether dogs are permitted, restricted or prohibited
- Facilities/events held at the reserve, e.g. BBQs and playgrounds
- Size of the reserve

After extensive research it was determined that Attadale Reserve on Burke Drive was the most suitable location. The decision was supported on the grounds that the site is currently used as an off-lead reserve dog exercise area by the community and has actually been requested for this purpose.

#### Costs

The estimated cost for a 900mm chain-link fence with regular pedestrian access gates was \$108,000. No grants were available for this type of project and it would have to be approved (by Council) as a new capital project request in 2020/2021.

### **Purpose of engagement**

To engage with users of Attadale Reserve to determine levels of support for an existing dog exercise area to become fenced in one of two methods:

- Partially fenced, along the Burke Drive roadside
- Fully fenced area within Attadale Reserve approx. 25,000sqm

#### **Objectives**

To **inform** park users and local residents about the proposal by using signage on site referring them to the MelvilleTalks page.

To consult with park users and local residents on Melville Talks about:

- Their views on fencing the reserve
- Whether or not they support the idea
- Which of the fencing options they prefer

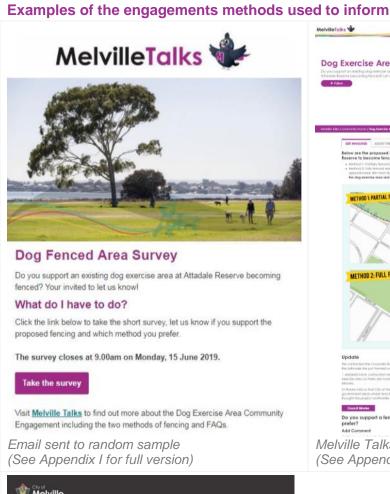
#### **Engagement Actions**

#### Inform

To inform park users and local residents, direct emails were sent to a random sample of Attadale residents and ratepayers along with registered dog owners inviting their participation in the project. The email contained links to both an online survey and to a dedicated engagement page on Melville Talks. Signage was also installed on site referring park users to Melville Talks.

Melville Talks contained detailed information on the engagement process; a timeline and a diagram of the two methods proposed.







Example of infographics featured on hotspot map (See Appendix I for full version)



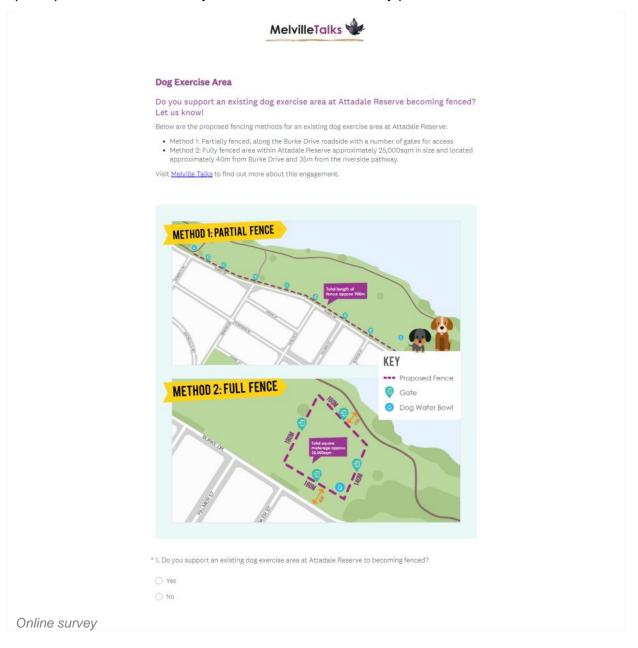
#### Other methods used to inform

In addition, the City advertised the engagement to the wider community via the following:

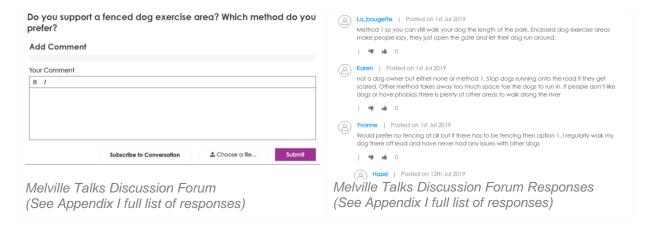
 Facebook posts published through the City of Melville Facebook account on the 1, 9 and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019

#### Consult

To **consult** with park users and Attadale residents and ratepayers by inviting them to participate in an online survey made available for a 14-day period.



**To consult with the wider community,** the dedicated page on Melville Talks contained an online forum inviting visitors to respond to the question, *do you support a fenced dog exercise area? Which method do you prefer?* 



#### Response

#### **Online Survey Responses**



The City of Melville sent 1,343 email invitations to a random sample of Attadale residents and ratepayers along with registered dog owners. 392 people responded to the online survey.

#### **Community Discussion Forum Responses**



Wider advertising resulted in 1,605 unique page views on the Melville Talks Dog Exercise Area page during the engagement period Monday, 1 July 2019 to Monday, 15 July 2019 with the open discussion board on the page receiving 617 comments from 474 contributors. 24 Comments were replies from our staff.

#### Response to other methods used to inform

In addition, the City advertised the engagement to the wider community via the following:

The Facebook posts received over 90 comments.

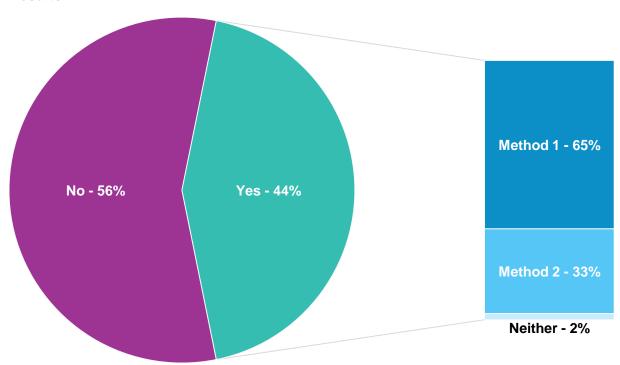
#### **Engagement Analysis**

#### **Quantitative Data**

The quantitative results of the online survey are listed below. Respondents were asked the following questions:

- Do you support an existing dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve to becoming fenced? Yes or No?
- Which method do you prefer?
  - Method 1: Partially fenced, along the Burke Drive roadside with a number of gates for access
  - Method 2: Fully fenced area within Attadale Reserve approximately 25,000sqm in size and located approximately 40m from Burke Drive and 35m from the riverside pathway.
  - None of the above
- Which is your suburb of residence?
- What is your age?
- What is your gender?
- Your household?

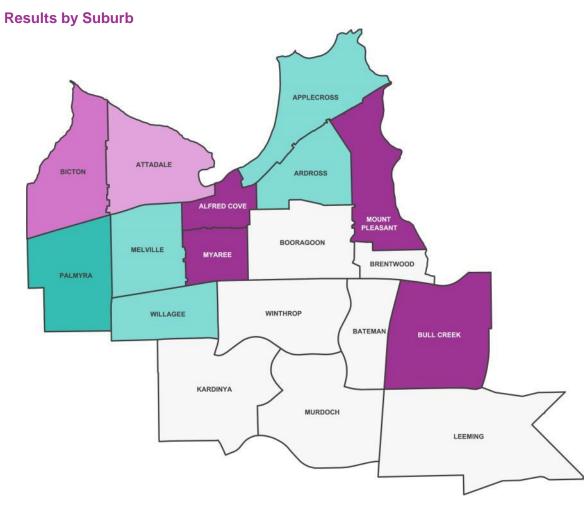
#### Results



The majority of the residents (56%) do not support the proposal of fencing the existing dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve.

Of those who are supportive, 65% support Method 1 a partially fenced area; 33% support Method 2 a fully fenced area.

The graph above includes 5 respondents from non-City of Melville suburbs. They have been excluded from the rest of the analysis.



Suburbs	Not Supportive	Supportive
Alfred Cove	4 (100%)	-
Mount Pleasant	2 (100%)	-
Bull Creek	1 (100%)	-
Myaree	1 (100%)	-
Bicton	7 (77.8%)	2 (22.2%)
Attadale	199 (55.9%)	157 (44.1%)
Applecross	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Ardross	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Melville	2 (50%)	2 (50%)
Willagee	1 (50%)	1 (50%)
Palmyra	-	4 (100%)

Responses from most suburbs lean towards not supporting the proposal:

- 4 suburbs fully opposing the idea (100% saying 'No'); and
- 2 suburbs where majority of the residents (>50%) said 'No'.

One suburb (Palmyra) is fully supportive of the proposal.

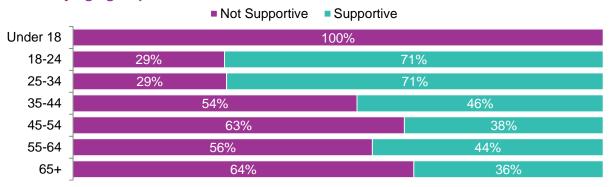
#### Results from respondents who support

Method 1: Partially fenced, along the Burke Drive roadside with a number of gates for access	109 (65%)
Applecross	1
Ardross	1
Attadale	99
Bicton	1
Melville	2
Palmyra	4
Willagee	1
Method 2: Fully fenced area within Attadale Reserve approximately 25,000sqm in size and located approximately 40m from Burke Drive and 35m from the riverside pathway.	55 (33%)
Attadale	55
None of the above	4 (2%)
Attadale	3
Bicton	1

Out of the respondents who support the fencing proposal:

- Only respondents from Attadale support Method 2;
- 2% picked neither of the methods; and
- All of the respondents from Applecross, Ardross, Melville, Palmyra and Willagee selected Method 1 as their preferred proposal.

#### Results by age group



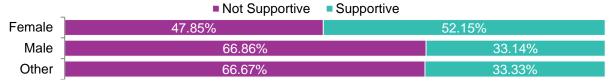
Respondents between 18 and 34 years old are more supportive of the proposal. Those under 18 are completely against it while majority of the respondents above 35 are not supportive.

Age Groups	Method 1	Method 2	Neither
18-24	4 (80%)	1 (20%)	-
25-34	20 (74.1%)	6 (22.2%)	1 (3.7%)
35-44	12 (46.1%)	14 (53.9%)	-
45-54	35 (72.9%)	12 (25%)	1 (2.1%)
55-64	23 (62.2%)	14 (37.8%)	-
65+	15 (60%)	8 (32%)	2 (8%)

Out of the respondents who support the fencing proposal:

- Respondents from most age groups favour Method 1; but
- Preference for respondents between 35 and 44 years old is more evenly distributed between Method 1 & 2.

#### Result by gender

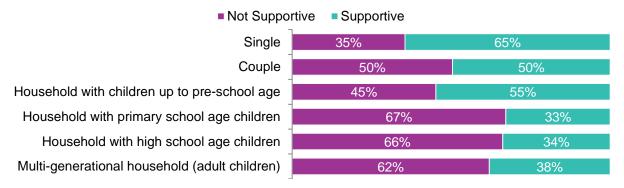


Gender	Method 1	Method 2	Neither
Female	73 (67%)	34 (31.2%)	2 (1.8%)
Male	35 (60.3%)	21 (36.2%)	2 (3.5%)
Other	1 (100%)	-	-

Women are more supportive than men with the preference of method by gender similar to the overall result i.e. prefer Method 1 over Method 2.

#### **Result by Household**

The majority of respondents in households with children are not supportive of the proposal.



Respondents who are single (regardless of age and gender) are more supportive than others. While respondents with children up to pre-school age are also more supportive:

- This group of respondents are mostly in the 25-34 age group, corresponding to the result based on age group; but
- Male in this category are not supportive (61.5% said 'No') while female are significantly more supportive (70.6% said 'Yes').

Household & Age Group	No	Yes	Total
Household with children up to pre-school age	14	17	31
25-34	4	11	15
35-44	2	4	6
45-54	4	2	6
55-64	1	-	1
65+	3	-	3

Household & Gender	No	Yes
Household with children up to pre-school age	45.2%	54.8%
Female	29.4%	70.6%
Male	61.5%	38.5%
Other	100%	0.0%

Out of the respondents who support the fencing proposal, households with primary school age children are equally supportive for both methods.

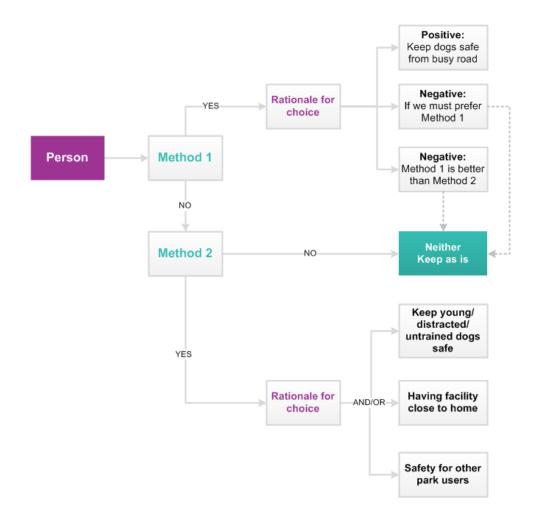
Household	Method 1	Method 2	Neither
Single	14 (70%)	5 (25%)	1 (5%)
Couple	42 (71.2%)	16 (27.1%)	1 (1.7%)
Household with Children Up to Pre-School Age	10 (58.8%)	7 (41.1%)	-
Household with Primary School Age Children	10 (47.6%)	10 (47.6%)	1 (4.8%)
Household with High School Age Children	15 (62.5%)	9 (37.5%)	-
Multi-Generational Household	18 (66.7%)	8 (29.6%)	1 (3.7%)

#### **Qualitative Data**

To consult with the wider community on their views, a discussion forum was made available on Melville Talks. The responses were uploaded and analysed using Nvivo, software for qualitative data analysis.

On this occasion, the process involved Word Frequency Queries (WFQ) to segment the data into references to Method 1 – a partially fenced area and Method 2 - a fully fenced area within the park and coding them within the context in which they occurred.

The diagram below describes how forum contributors talked about their preferences and shows their commentary as thematic responses.



Many more references to Method 1 than Method 2 were made. However, other than Method 1's noted value as a dog safety measure, most references concerned the idea of being compelled to make a choice (when they'd rather not have any fencing at all) or having made a choice on the grounds that Method 1 was a huge improvement on Method 2. At least with Method 1, they could carry on enjoying the space as they always had.

People rejecting Methods 1 and 2 clearly identified a preference for leaving things as they are.

The three main reasons people gave for selecting Method 2 included keeping young, distracted or untrained dogs safe, having this type of facility close to home as they have to go elsewhere at present and commentary from potentially non-dog owning people, about making the park safer for other users.

The table below provides direct quotations which illustrate the thematic responses.

Method	Theme	Quotation
Method One	Keep dogs safe from busy road	<ul> <li>Our family dog was hit by a car when it strayed onto Burke Drive some years ago, so I am in favour of a protective barrier.</li> <li>Partially fenced to stop puppies running into road.</li> <li>it's such a great place to let our dog run freebut the hazard of the busy road with cars and bikes nearby creates stress that would be greatly reduced with such a fence.</li> </ul>
	If we must have a fence, Method One is better.	<ul> <li>Method One if it must happen, but personallydon't think there needs to be any fencing at all. Owners need to be responsible for their dog's behaviour.</li> <li>I don't think there needs to be a fence, but if its going to happen then option [method] one, the partial fence would be better as this is one of the biggest open spaces for dogs to run</li> <li>I would prefer no fence. I rarely see any dogs run onto the road and if dogs are not trained they should not be off the lead. It is very nice as it is for dog walking. I would choose the partial fence Method One if anything.</li> </ul>
	Method One is a much better option than Method Two	<ul> <li>walk my dog there daily. It is a unique space for dog ownersEnclosed exercise spaces are unattractive and my observations indicate that they condense, and so exacerbate behaviour issues – human and canine.</li> <li>Option [method] onethe size of the park is wonderfulDogs forced into smaller areas can become over stimulated and act likewell a dog off a leash.</li> <li>partial fence only, the best exercise area for km's around. The dogs have plenty of space to run and chase flying objects.</li> </ul>
Neither method	Unjustifiable project  – no need for change	<ul> <li>I do not agree with any of the two proposals presented. If no other choice leave the reserve as it is currently.</li> <li>I support no change to the existing park. My family regularly use the park, both with our dogs and without. It is a great open area and for the most part dogs and owners are responsible. I question the intent behind this proposal as it appears to have not originated from the many dog owners who regularly use this dog park.</li> <li>I find it disturbing that the members would consider using our funds in such a way. Committing the initial and the ongoing costs of maintaining the fence in order to cage in those who use the area not to mention the visual deterrent that even the best looking fence would create seems unlikely to please anyone except the fence contractor.</li> </ul>

Method	Theme	Quotation
Method Two	It will keep young/distracted/unt rained/small dogs safe	<ul> <li>method 2 for our dog. The possibility of him getting spooked and running onto the road being the main reason.</li> <li>These types of enclosed park provide great [peace] of mind too - I have a dog who is friendly and well-trained but who has previously bolted due to loud unexpected noises, so enclosed parks are a great solution to avoid road accidents etc</li> </ul>
	It will be good to have such a facility in the City of Melville	<ul> <li>if you are like us, our dog is not trained, as a rescue dog at an older age. He should have the right to interact with other dogs, and be safe in doing so. We attend other fully enclosed parks throughout Perth but living in the Melville area .this can be time consuming and at times inconvenient with the distances we have to travel. the area is certainly large enough to accommodate this facility without restricting other owners enjoyment.</li> <li>[It's] not about Burke Drive as a dog park, but the need for an enclosed dog exercise area in the City of Melville. I have a young dog who struggles with recall due to distractions of other dogs, people and smells when she is out and I therefore do not take her to Burke Drive at all.</li> </ul>
	It will make the park safe for other users	<ul> <li>option 2 would be the better of what is offered. This would reduce the runaway dogs accessing the busy Burke drive, impacts with small children, people with dog phobias or concerns, and reduce the impact on the local reserve.</li> <li>To protect the surrounding reserve. To minimise dog attacks on small children To minimise the chance of stepping in dog doo.</li> <li>I think there should be a full fence but it could be bigger. So many times I have had dogs running at myself or family while riding bikes on the path - dangerous. Too many owners ignore or don't control their dogs near the paths. Plus give some space back to the golf driving range that used to be there, too much space for dogs.</li> </ul>
		•

#### Conclusion

The process of engagement provided opportunities for input from two groups of people:

- Residents and ratepayers of Attadale who were also registered dog owners
- People who use the park for recreational purposes

The first group were invited to participate through being randomly selected and invited to participate using an online survey. The second via signage on site, inviting them to visit Melville Talks and contribute to a discussion forum.

The findings from both datasets indicated that the current amenity should be retained as it is and preferably without any fencing at all, or at best, partial fencing, to keep dogs safe from traffic.

With respect to the fully fenced option within the park, far less support was indicated both quantitatively and qualitatively because, according to most participants, it would detract from the value of the park which lies in its extensiveness and location.

Whilst some could see the benefit of a fully fenced area for young or untrained dogs, or as a way of keeping children and cyclists safe from energetic animals, debate about whether this would be a good or bad thing for pets was contested.

### **Appendix I - Engagement Materials**

#### **Email sent to Random Sample**

View this email in your browser





### Dog Fenced Area Survey

Do you support an existing dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve becoming fenced? Your invited to let us know!

#### What do I have to do?

Click the link below to take the short survey, let us know if you support the proposed fencing and which method you prefer.

The survey closes at 9.00am on Monday, 15 June 2019.

Take the survey

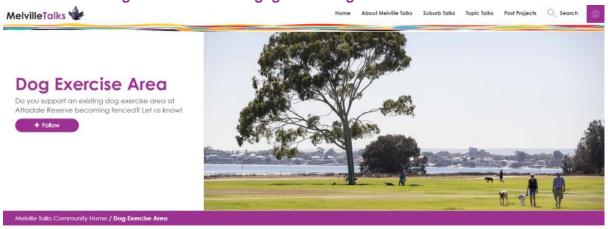
Visit <u>Melville Talks</u> to find out more about the Dog Exercise Area Community Engagement including the two methods of fencing and FAQs.

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You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

#### Melville Talks Dog Exercise Area Engagement Page – Get involved



GET INVOLVED ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

Below are the proposed methods for an existing dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve to become fenced, let us know what you think below!

- Method 1: Partially fenced, along the Burke Drive roadside with a number of gates for access
- Method 2: Fully fenced area within Attadale Reserve approximately 25,000sm in size and located approximately 40m from Burke Drive and 35m from the riverside pathway. This area is an addition to the dog exercise area and will NOT restrict dogs to just the fenced area at Attadale Reserve.



#### Stay up to date

Sign up to Melville Talks and click the follow button above to be notified about key developments with this project. Alternatively sign up to our eNews to find out more about this project and others.

#### Sign up to our eNews

#### Timeline

Community discussion

Monday, 1 July 2019

Community discussion and survey closes

Engagement results available

See less

We contacted the Councillor Robins for comment about the proposed fenced area and she referred to the rationale she put forward with her original motion, which begins:

"..residents have contacted me asking about the possibility of the City of Melville providing a dog exercise area as there are none provided in the local area." Click the link below to see the Council Minutes.

Cr Robins told us that City of MelVille residents were taking it on themselves to go to other local government areas where fenced dog exercise areas were available, which is one of the reasons she thought the project worthwhile.

Council Minutes

Do you support a fenced dog exercise area? Which method do you prefer?

Add Comment

#### Melville Talks Dog Exercise Area Engagement Page – About the consultation



GET INVOLVED ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

#### Background

A notice of motion carried at 17 July 2018 meeting concerning the construction of a fenced dag area requested a report for presentation at an Elected Members Information Session included, but not limited to:

- Possible options for a location for a fenced dog area, Locations to be considered were John Connell Reserve, Piney Lakes Reserve, Burke Drive and others
   An indicative cost of the project, as well as a proposal for how the project will be funded, whether it be through esting budget provisions, funding in the 2019/2020 budget of through grants.
   A plan for consultation with Melville residents and ratepayers.

#### Determining a location

In draftling the report and recommending suitable locations from amongst the 173 parks and reserves in the City of Melville, the following matters were taken into account:

- A Activities within the reserves

  Proximity to schools and/or residential areas

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  Porting facilities

  Classification of reserve in relation to whether dogs are permitted, restricted or prohibited

  Facilities/eventi held at the reserve, e.g. BBQs and playgrounds

  Size of the reserve

After extensive research it was determined that 172 of these locations were unsulfable and that the only option was Attackie Reserve on Burke Drive. The decision was supported on the grounds that the site is currently used as an off-lead reserve dog exercise area by the community and has actually been

#### Costs

The estimated cost for a 900mm chain-link fence with regular pedestrian access gates was \$108,000, No grants were available for this type of project and it would have to be approved (by Council) as a new capital project request in 2002/2021.

#### Who is being consulted?

We are consulting with users of Attacke Reserve to determine levels of support for an existing dag exercise area to become tenced in one of two methods:

#### How can people get involved?

### What will happen with the information from the survey and online discussion?

? Can I have a fenced dog exercise area in my suburb?

? Is this project guaranteed to go ahead?

? What type of fence is proposed to be installed?

? What would this project cost to install?

? If approved, where would the funding come from?

 $\ref{eq:constraint}$  Will there be a dedicated large dog and a small dog exercise area?

 $\ref{eq:constraint}$  WIII there be play equipment / dog agillty equipment available? ? What facilities will be available at the fenced dog exercise area?

The fence is only proposed to be 900mm high. My dog is able to jump higher than that and may be oble to except

 $\ref{eq:constraint}$  If the project gets approved, when will it be built?

Will fencing this area with either Option 1 or Option 2 increase the amount of dog excreta on the reserve?

Sign up to Melville Talks and click the follow button above to be notified about key developments with this project. Alternatively sign up to our eNews to find out more about this project and others.

Community survey opens

Community discussion and survey closes ngagement results available

See less

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#### Melville Talks Dog Exercise Area Engagement Page - FAQs

#### Can I have a fenced dog exercise area in my suburb?

As per a Council Resolution in July 2018, City Officers were requested to research an area which would be appropriate to either fully or partial fence for a dog exercise area. All 173 parks and reserves within the City of Melville were assessed and the following were considered:

- Any activities that may take place within the reserve
- Proximity to schools and / or residential areas
- Adequate parking facilities
- The classification of the reserve in relation to whether dogs are permitted, restricted or prohibited
- Facilities / Events held at the reserve ie: BBQs and playgrounds
- Size of the reserve

After considering the above for all reserves, the following was noted (some reserves fell into more than one category):

- 30 reserves have BBQ / picnic facilities
- 124 reserves have childrens playgrounds
- 44 reserves regularly hold sporting events
- 35 reserves are either dog prohibited and / or restricted

This left 40 possibly suitable reserves. Of these 40 only 2 reserves were deemed to have suitable parking available.

This does not mean other reserves cannot be assessed in the future.

#### Is this project guaranteed to go ahead?

No funding is currently available for this project. Feedback from the community will be presented to Council at the August 2019 meeting. Council are then required to decide if this project should proceed.

Should this project receive approval from Council, funding will need to be made available in the 2020-2021 budget.

No grants area available for this type of project.

#### What type of fence is proposed to be installed?

The fence will be 900mm high and be black powder-coated chain-link fence. This fence will also include regular pedestrian access gates.

#### What would this project cost to install?

Should either option be approved by Council, the costs of installing the fence will be approximately \$120.00 per metre.

Should "Option 1" (partial fence along Burke Drive roadside) be the preferred option and approved by Council, the approximate length of the fence would be 900 metres. This would cost \$108,000.

Should "Option 2" (fully fenced area) be the preferred option and approved by Council, the approximate meterage of fencing required would be approximately 640 metres. This would cost \$76,800.

Additional costs of approximately \$2,000 to install another drinking fountain would also be added.

#### If approved, where would the funding come from?

No grants are available for this type of project. If approved, funding would be included as a new capital project request within the 2020-2021 financial year budget.

#### Will there be a dedicated large dog and a small dog exercise area?

All dogs will be able to utilise the dog fenced area, however, the area will not be divided into separate areas for big and / or small dogs.

#### Will there be play equipment / dog agility equipment available?

This project will not include any types of play or agility equipment.

#### What facilities will be available at the fenced dog exercise area?

The City will provide an additional drinking fountain at the opposite end of the reserve (should Option 1 be selected), or inside the fully fenced area (should Option 2 be selected).

## The fence is only proposed to be 900mm high. My dog is able to jump higher than that and may be able to escape.

The proposed fencing projects are designed to assist in containing the animal. All owners of animals are required to have their dog under effective control at all times. This means, if the owner calls the dog, the dog must respond at all times.

#### If the project gets approved, when will it be built?

Funding would need to be secured within the 2020-2021 budget. If approved, construction should commence within the 2020-2021 financial year.

## Will fencing this area with either Option 1 or Option 2 increase the amount of dog excreta on the reserve?

The area is currently used as an exercise area, so the City is not expecting any increase in the amount of excreta. Several "dog poo" bins will also be placed within the area for responsible owners to clean up after their dog.

#### On site signage



#### Proposed fencing methods include:

becoming fenced?

- Method 1: Partial Fence, approximate length of the fence would be 900 metres at a cost of \$108,000.
- Method 2: Full Fence, approximate meterage of fencing required would be approximately 640 metres at a cost of \$76,800.

### Let us know what you think!

Visit www.melvilletalks.com.au/dogexercisearea to share your feedback online by 9.00am on Monday, 15 July 2019.

You can also access more information about the proposed fencing including answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and a timeline for the engagement.

Got a question? Email melinfo@melville.wa.gov.au

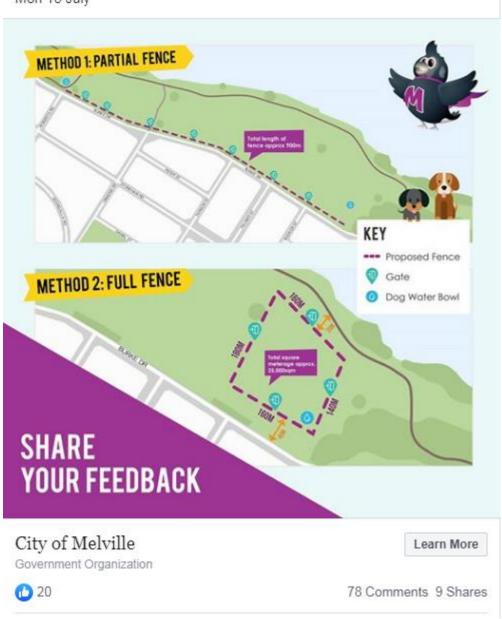




## Facebook Post on City of Melville Facebook Page 1 July 2019



Have your say on the dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve. Would you like to see it enclosed or not? Tell us what you think by heading to www.melvilletalks.com.au/dogexercisearea Share your thoughts by 9am Mon 15 July



## Facebook Post on City of Melville Facebook Page 9 July 2019





Have your say on the dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve. Would you like to see it enclosed or not? Tell us what you think by heading to www.melvilletalks.com.au/dogexercisearea. Share your thoughts by 9am Mon 15 July



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#### Facebook Post on City of Melville Facebook Page 14 July 2019





ONE MORE DAY! Have your say on the dog exercise area at Attadale Reserve. Would you like to see it enclosed or not? Tell us what you think by heading to www.melvilletalks.com.au/dogexercisearea. Share your thoughts by 9am Mon 15 July

