

Submission in Response to Proposed Dog Beach at Blackwall Reach Parade

My name is Peter Neesham and I am Chairman of Bickton Environmental Action Group

It was recently brought to my attention that the Melville City Council is proposing to gazette an area along the foreshore next to Blackwall Reach Parade for a dog exercise beach. The Bickton Environmental Action Group, have conducted rehabilitation along Blackwall Reach foreshore for over 18 years. The group is well known to Council and has recently been partnering with the City in grant applications to restore the foreshore along Blackwall Reach.

I find it disappointing that we should have to find out third hand about this proposal, giving regard to all the work the group has conducted in this area. I would have expected, as a key stakeholder, it would have been common courtesy for this matter to be raised with the group. I understand that the matter has been widely canvassed through various media, but it did not come to the Group's attention.

There are a number of concerns that I have with the proposal. These include:-

1. The site is relatively small for the potential number of dog owners to congregate.
2. The area is bordered by a foot path and people of all ages use the path on a regular basis. There is no way to restrict dogs crossing the path and this could create a hazard for the elderly.
3. Immediately adjacent to the area the group has done significant rehabilitation and there will be no way to keep the dogs out of this area. Even though there is a requirement to keep dogs on leads in this area there is evidence that dogs are already trampling through this vegetation.
4. I suspect this was an area where rubbish had been dumped many years ago as there is concrete and rubble along the foreshore. For these reasons the area was not suitable for swimming. The area could be considered for inclusion in the rehabilitated bush land and foreshore described above.

The group has done considerable work along Blackwall Reach Parade foreshore. The most recent involvement has been the realignment of the foot path and extension of the bush revegetation area to the path. This has improved the visual amenity of the area and reduced the work load of the Council ground crews. I expected the area under consideration for the dog exercise area may have been included in this program once the foreshore further south along Blackwall Reach had been rehabilitated.

For your consideration

Peter Neesham