



INNER WEST COUNCIL

Engagement outcomes report

Dog Off-Leash Areas in Parks Policy

Summary

- The draft Dog Off-Leash Areas in Parks Policy was on public exhibition from the 4 September to the 2 October 2019.
- 771 people visited the Your Say website and 122 people made a submission.
- The dominant participant group was local residents who visit parks.
- 74 people (61%) support the Policy, 24 people (20%) do not support the Policy and 24 people (20%) are uncertain/ neutral.

Background

The purpose of the Policy is to identify appropriate dog off-leash areas in parks so that public spaces can be enjoyed by all members of the community and natural areas are protected.

Council is responsible for the management of all activities within parks, reserves, sporting grounds and public open space. There is an ongoing high demand for open space resources within the Inner West, particularly with increasing densities. Council must actively manage access to the parks.

Many Inner West residents own dogs and wish to walk and exercise them in public spaces and public parks.

Council encourages the appropriate use of public spaces for dog walking as it helps contribute to the health, wellbeing and liveability of the Inner West. It is Council's objective to ensure that dog walking in public spaces is suitable and managed in a manner which is safe and appropriate to the local natural environment and surrounding community.

The draft Policy was placed on public exhibition in order to obtain community feedback and input into the Policy before finalising.

Engagement Methods

The method of engagement was online on yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Promotion

The engagement was promoted via the following:

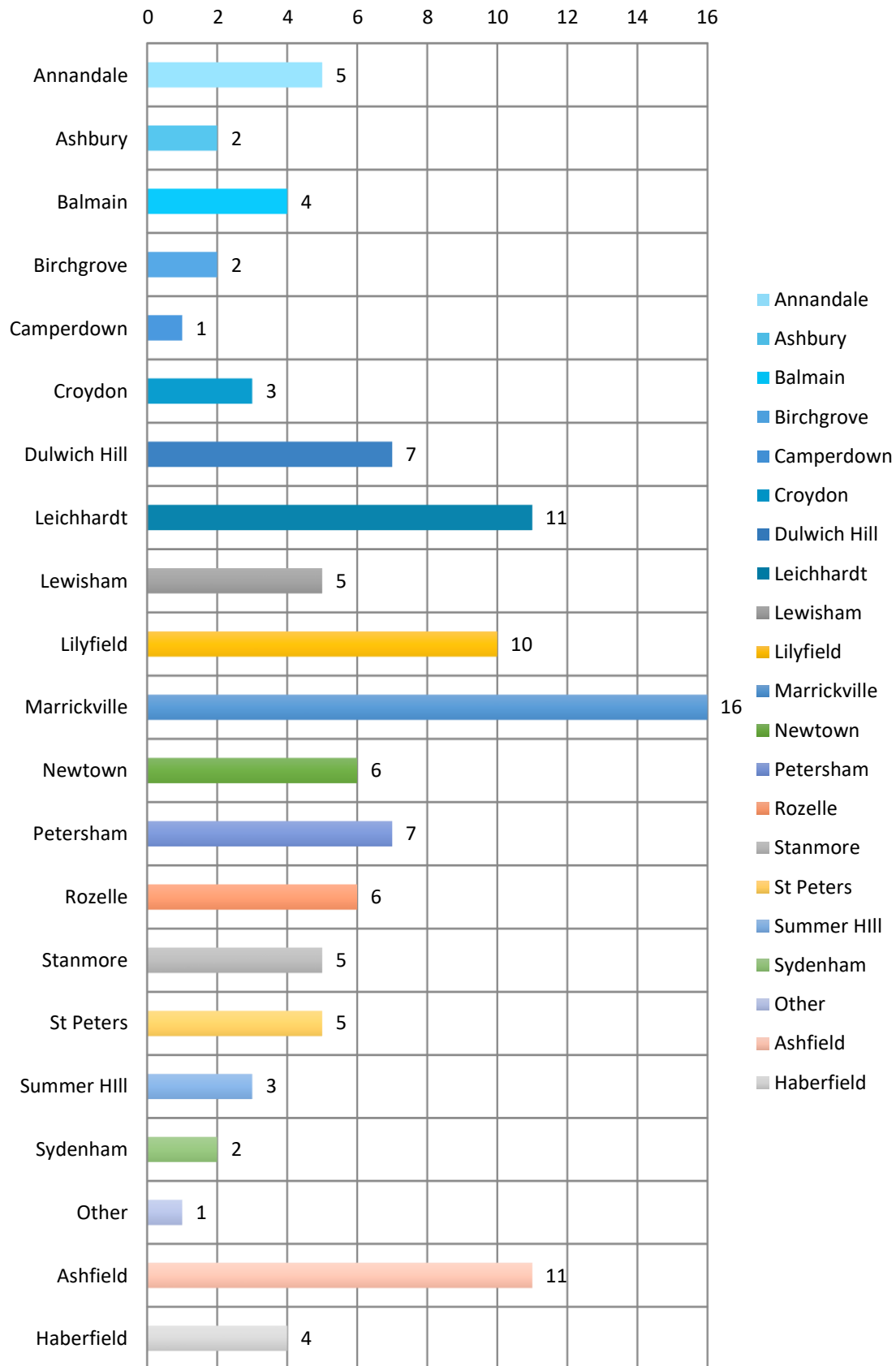
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Council page in the Inner West Courier
- Dulwich Hill Village Fair
- Summer Hill Neighbourhood Feast

Engagement outcomes

Who did we hear from?

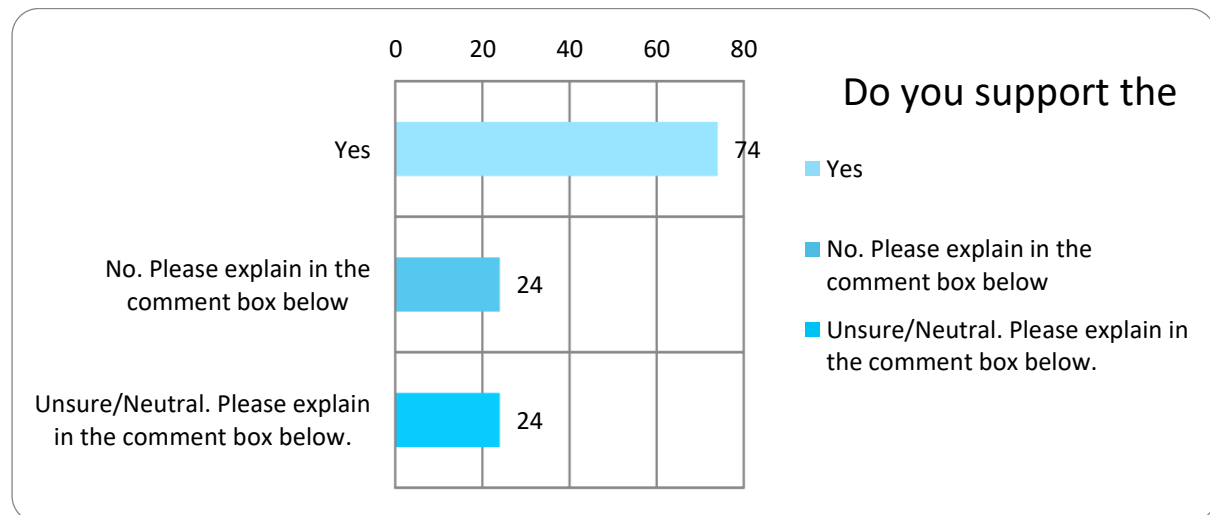
771 people visited the Your Say website and 122 people made a submission. The dominant participant group was local residents who visit parks. Respondents to the survey were from the following suburbs:

Suburb



What did they say?

74 people (61%) support the Policy, 24 people (20%) do not support the Policy and 24 people (20%) are uncertain/ neutral.



Of the people who responded to the survey, 94 provided comments. The key themes outlined in the comments were as follows:

Community Comment	Number Mentioned
Off-leash areas are important for dogs to socialise and for people to participate in a healthy activity with their dogs	10
Additional dog bins are required	2
Fences are required around off-leash areas	16
Additional lighting is needed in off-leash areas	2
Access to water and shade is needed in off-leash areas	5
Request more off-leash areas/ suggestions for specific locations for off-leash areas in parks	18
Concerns raised regarding the safety of children, adults and/ or other dogs	15
Concerns raised that people are not picking up their dog's faeces	8
Request for additional enforcement of requirements relating to dog management	11