



Engagement outcomes report Companion Animal Action Plan

Summary

Between 28 October and 24 November 2019, the community provided feedback on the draft Companion Animal Action Plan. The project page on Your Say Inner West was viewed 383 times, with 20 individuals providing feedback.

Participants were mainly local residents, choosing to remain anonymous. Of these:

- 12 participants (60%) support the draft Plan
- 5 participants (25%) do not support the draft Plan
- 3 participants (15%) were unsure/neutral.

Background

There are approximately 35 500 dogs and 29 200 cats residing within the Inner West Local Government Area. (NSW Companion Animal Register)

The Companion Animal Action Plan 2019-2023 details how Council is going to manage companion animal matters over the next four years.

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* requires local government to be responsible for many issues regarding companion animals. The draft Companion Animal Action Plan 2019-23 details the way we will manage companion animal related matters for the next four years. This includes:

- Responsible companion animal ownership
- Companion Animal identification and lifetime registration
- Companion animal education

‘Walking the dog’ is one of the Inner West’s most popular recreational activities as evidenced by over 1000 responses to the community survey across the local government area (Recreational Needs Study: A Healthier Inner West, 2018).

Engagement Methods

The community could provide feedback online via yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au. Hard copies of the draft Plan were delivered to local veterinary hospitals.

Promotion

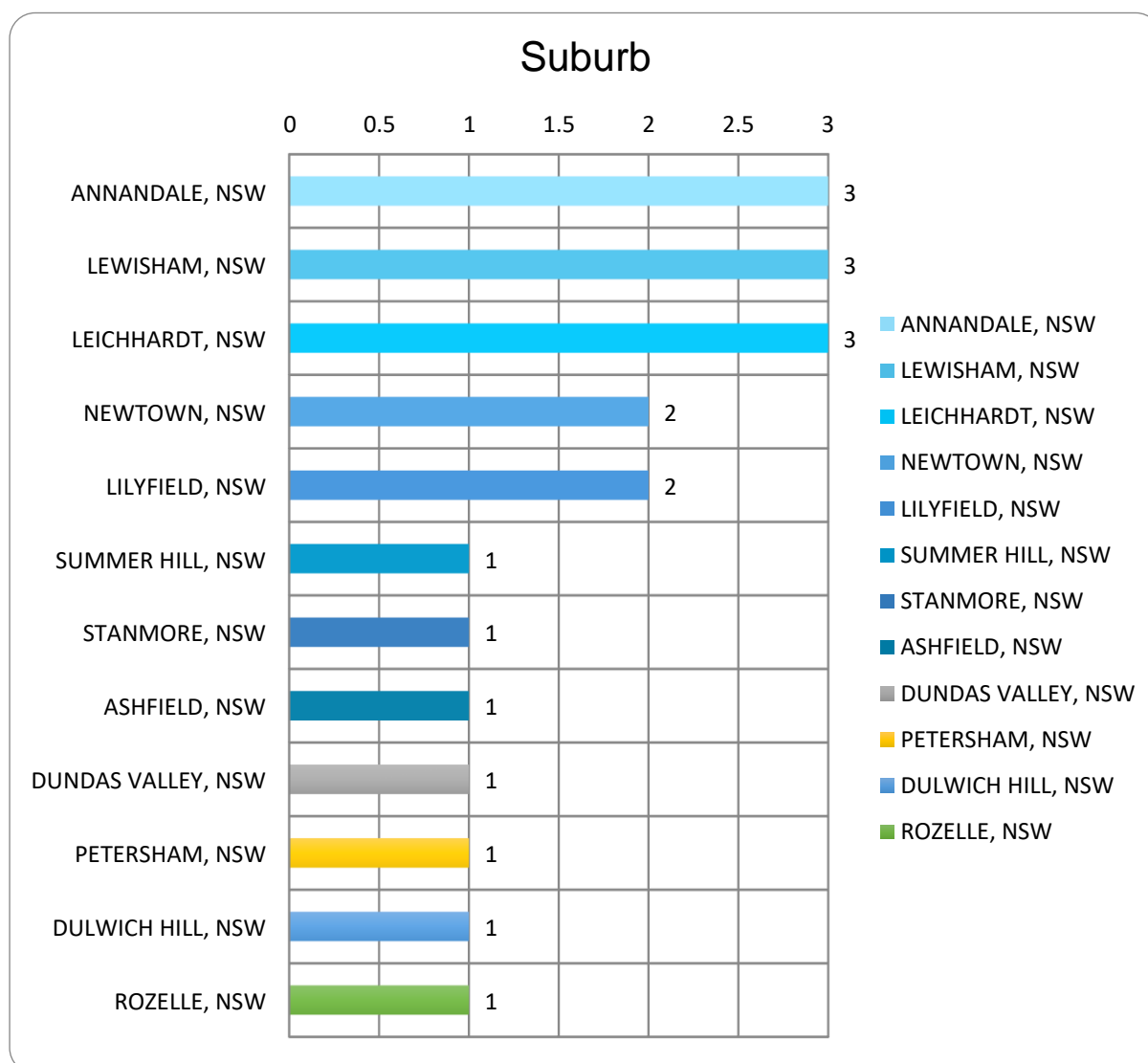
Engagement was promoted via

- Facebook
- Council’s website, via the ‘Pets’ home page
- Direct email to local veterinary hospitals, Sydney Dogs and Cats Home, and Cat Protection Society
- Posters hand-delivered to local veterinary hospitals

Engagement outcomes

Who did we hear from?

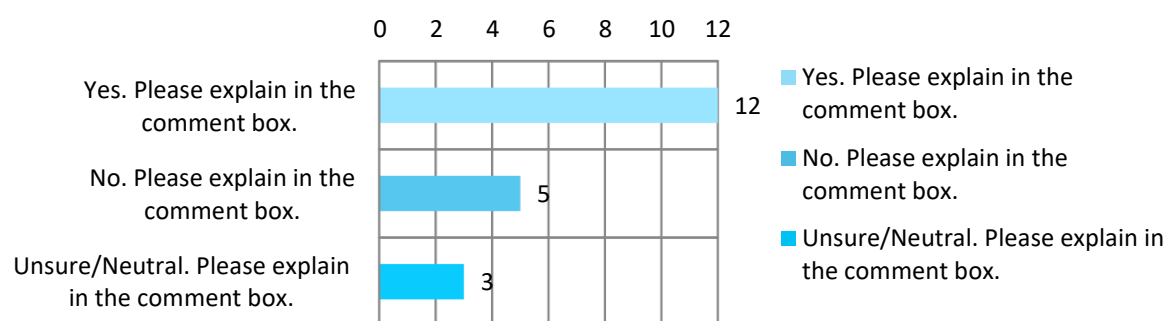
The Your Say Inner West Companion Animal Action Plan project page was viewed 383 times and 20 people made a submission. Most responses were collected from residents of the Inner West Council local government area, with one response submitted by a member of the public residing out-of-area. Most responses were submitted by users who chose to remain anonymous.



What did they say?

12 people (60%) support the Plan, 5 people (25%) do not support the Plan and 3 people (15%) are unsure/neutral. Participants were asked to submit a comment with their response.

Do you support the draft Companion Animal Action Plan?



Common themes raised in the comments included:

- usage of off-leash areas
- monitoring of public spaces by Council officers
- financial assistance for pet owners experiencing economic hardship
- the impact that cats and dogs have on the environment.