

6.3 DEDICATED FENCED DOG OFF LEASH RESERVES

Submitting Councillors: Stuart James & Rebecca Paterson

MOTION

That Council;

- 1. Directs officers to identify possible locations (at least one per ward if possible) for dedicated fenced dog off leash areas strategically positioned across the municipality*
- 2. Receives a report/update by November 2021 on possible locations, associated costs, implications and any implementation recommendations to allow consideration as part of Council's 2022/23 Budget process*

INTRODUCTION

Community interest in fenced dog off leash reserves was identified in the *2021 and Beyond Survey (2017)*. Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan also identified a need to investigate the feasibility for a dedicated off leash park within the Municipality. Many residents have also contacted Councillors regarding the creation of accessible and dedicated dog of leash parks.

DISCUSSION

There are currently 31 designated dog off leash areas within the municipality, of which there are currently seven fenced sports ovals/reserves (see list below) designated as dog off-leash areas for use by dog owners outside of those times when organised sport is occurring.

The following reserves are currently fenced, however none of these reserves are exclusively dedicated to dogs nor do they provide specific infrastructure to exercise and develop dogs.

1. Batesford Reserve;
2. Mt Waverley Reserve;
3. Jack Edwards Reserve;
4. Mulgrave Reserve;
5. Southern Reserve;
6. Gladeswood Reserve; and
7. Gardiners Reserve South.

It is time for Council to consider dedicated and suitable dog off leash parks, and seek to identify possible strategically located areas in each word so as to make them accessible and proximate to as many residents as possible.

Some suggestions from the community have been the block of land on the corner of Ferntree Gully & Dandenong Roads, the corner of Haughton Road & Princess Street in Oakleigh and Heany Street Reserve in Mount Waverley

BUDGET

The development of a dedicated fenced dog off leash reserve will require funding which will can be determined as part of the investigation by officers and considered for inclusion in the 2021-2022 budget.

CONCLUSION

It is open to the Council to consider the creation of a dedicated fenced dog off leash area which can be facilitated through an investigation by officers of this concept.