

Date: Wednesday 23 April 2025
Time: 10.00am
Venue: Kumeū Meeting Room
296 Main Road, Kumeū

Rodney Local Board Workshop

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Deliberation on the proposed changes to local dog access rules

File No.:

Te take mō te pūrongo Purpose of the report

1. To assist the local board's decision-making on whether to adopt proposed changes to local dog access rules in its local board area.

Whakarāpopototanga matua Executive summary

2. To assist the local board's decision-making on whether to adopt the proposed changes, staff have summarised public feedback and provided a structure for deliberations.
3. The proposed changes aim to respond to structural problems with the current rules (problems that place responsible dog owners, their dogs, other people, animals or property at significant risk or unreasonably restrict responsible dog owner access).
4. The local board received 1077 public feedback responses across all proposed changes. This includes feedback from seven organisations, one pro forma campaign (with 258 signatures), and one late feedback submission after the close of the public consultation period.
5. A summary of all feedback is in Attachment D to the agenda report, an extract of feedback by proposal is in Attachment E to agenda report and a copy of individual feedback in its original form is in Attachment F (unavailable due to file size, link to be provided) to the agenda report.
6. All feedback is summarised into the following topics:

Topic and description	Topic and description
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal 1 Parry Kauri Park - 178 responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal 2 Snells Beach - 611 responses (including pro forma campaign)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal 3 Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway - 147 responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal 4 Wonderview Road Esplanade - 140 responses• Other matters

7. Staff recommend the local board consider all public feedback on the proposed changes and then decide whether to adopt the proposed changes in accordance with its decision-making requirements. This approach will complete the statutory process the local board must follow.
8. There is a reputational risk that some people or organisations who provided feedback may not feel that their views are addressed. This risk can be mitigated by the local board considering all public feedback contained in this report and providing reasons for its decision.
9. Following a final decision of the local board, staff will publicly notify the decision and publish any changes as part of a regional process and install any updated signage funded by the local board. Animal management staff will provide compliance services for any changes and community facilities staff will maintain any signage, within existing budgets.

Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Rodney Local Board:

*[NOTE: Local board to pass resolutions (a) and (b) **BEFORE** commencing deliberations]*

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- a) mihi / thank those people and organisations who gave feedback on the proposed changes to local dog access rules in the local board area.
 - b) whakaae / accept the late feedback from one person received within a week after the close of public consultation for consideration alongside all other public feedback received.

[NOTE: Local board to pass remaining resolutions AFTER deliberations]

- c) whai / adopt the decisions contained in the deliberations table attached to this resolution in the minutes of this meeting of the local board that:
 - i) respond to the public feedback on the proposed changes
[NOTE: Text ii) to iv) to be amended as required to reflect decisions in deliberations table]
 - ii) adopt the proposed changes as publicly notified at *[insert locations, delete iii) if not applicable]*
 - iii) adopt with amendments, the proposed changes at *[insert locations, delete iii) if not applicable]*
 - iv) reject the proposed changes and retain the current rules at *[insert any locations, if not applicable]*.

[NOTE: Delete (d), (e), (f), and (g) if no change made]

- d) whai / adopt amendments to the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019 contained in the comparison table attached to this resolution in the minutes of this meeting of the local board that gives effect to the decisions in c), with a commencement date of 1 August 2025
- e) whakaū / confirm that the amendments to the policy in d):
 - i) are consistent with the policy, principles and criteria for deciding dog access rules in the Auckland Council Kaupapa mo ngā Kuri | Policy on Dogs 2019
 - ii) are not inconsistent with any decision in relation to region-wide dog access rules contained in the Auckland Council Kaupapa mo ngā Kuri | Policy on Dogs 2019
 - iii) are in accordance with all relevant legislative requirements, in particular the Local Government Act 2002 and Dog Control Act 1996.
- f) delegate authority through the chief executive to the manager responsible for the policy on dogs to make editorial changes or to correct errors or omissions to the amendments in d).
- g) allocate up to \$6900 from the local board's Community Facilities Asset Based Services budget for the installation of signage to implement the amendments the policy in d).

Horopaki Context

Local dog access rules provide spaces for dogs and their owners that are safe for everyone, are adopted by local boards and enforced by council staff

10. The Auckland Council Kaupapa mo ngā Kuri | Policy on Dogs 2019 contains dog access rules that seek to provide a balanced use of public places for dogs and their owners that is safe for everyone. This includes people, animals, the environment and property.
11. Local board's have delegated authority to decide dog access rules on local park, beach and foreshore areas in their local board area (GB/2012/157).
12. Council's Animal Management Team uses a modern regulator approach to increase voluntary compliance. This includes a focus on education through website information, signage and interactions with dog owners during patrols. Where appropriate, Animal Management can issue \$300 infringement fines.

The local board proposed changes to local dog access rules for public consultation

13. On 11 December 2025, the local board adopted a proposal to amend local dog access rules in the local board area contained in the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019 (RD/2024/222).
14. The proposal arose in response to requests for changes to local dog access rules that met regulatory criteria contained in the local board’s delegated authority, Policy on Dogs 2019, Dog Control Act 1996 and Local Government Act 2002 (See Attachment C to the agenda report).
15. The proposal seeks to improve rules that balance the needs of dogs, people, animals, the environment and property in public places in the local board area by amending rules at:
 - Parry Kauri Park
 - Snells Beach
 - Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway
 - Wonderview Road Esplanade
16. Details on the current and proposed rules are contained in Attachment A.

The proposal received 1077 public feedback responses

17. The proposal was publicly notified for feedback from 20 January to 23 February 2025. During that period, council received 1077 feedback responses from people and seven organisations, including one late feedback response and one pro forma campaign (with 258 signatures).
18. Public consultation initiatives for proposed changes to local dog access rules were combined with public consultation for proposed changes to local dog access rules in nine other local board areas and proposed changes to matters of regional significance in the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019 and Dog Management Bylaw 2019.
19. The consultation initiatives had a media reach to an audience of over 3.7 million (print, online, TV, Radio) and the ‘AK Have Your Say’ webpage received about 29,000 visits.¹
20. The Table below summarises public consultation initiatives and responses.

Public awareness initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification in New Zealand Herald and local papers² • Articles on ‘Our Auckland’ on 3 December 2024, 4 December 2024, 21 January 2025 • Email notification of known registered dog owners by using email or mailing address provided to council • Email notification to external stakeholders (e.g. SPCA) • Email notification to mana whenua and mataawaka • Appearance on radio and TV interviews³ • Information ‘drop-in’ sessions and ‘Have Your Say’ events⁴ • Information on the akhaveyoursay website

¹ The ‘AK Have Your Say’ webpage included proposed changes to the Dog Policy and Bylaw and local dog access rules in 10 local board areas. The website had around 29,000 visits over the consultation period, comprised of over 6000 ‘engaged’ participants (people who completed the online survey). Overall there were also over 18,000 ‘informed’ participants (people who downloaded a document) which included around 1700 people who downloaded the statement of proposal for proposed changes to local dog access rules).

² Franklin County News, Manukau and Papakura Courier, Central Leader, Eastern Bays Courier, North Shore Times, Rodney Times, Western Leader, The Times, Gulf News, Waiheke Weekender, Pohutukawa Coast Times

³ NZTV (1 time), Media Works (11 times) and Radio NZ (10 times)

⁴ An online drop-in session and an in-person Have Your Say event (at Town Hall) were held for proposed changes to matters of regional significance in the Dog Policy and Bylaw and plus 11 in-person drop-in sessions and ten Have Your Say sessions were held for the proposed changes to local dog access rules.

Public feedback opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In writing online, by email or post from 20 January to 23 February 2025 In person or online at 'drop-in' sessions or at 'Have Your Say' events The Rodney drop-in session was on 1 February 2025 and Have Your Say event on 12 February 2025. Verbally by phone.
Public responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local board received 1077 feedback responses from people and seven organisations through the online feedback form or by email. This included a pro forma campaign initiated by Dog Friends Auckland with 258 signatures, and one late feedback response. Six people attended the Rodney 'Have Your Say' event. Six provided verbal feedback, most also provided written feedback.

- Attachments A to G in this report contain a deliberations table (A), proposal (B), summary of regulatory decision-making requirements (C), consultation feedback summary (D), extract of feedback by proposal (E), full copy of public feedback received online or by email, post or verbally (F), at 'drop-in' sessions and 'Have Your Say' events (G).
- Note there is a separate report on the agenda that provides summary feedback for the proposed changes to matters of regional significance in the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019 and Dog Management Bylaw 2019 to seek the local board's feedback.

Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu

Analysis and advice

Public feedback generally opposed the proposal

- To assist the local board in its deliberations, staff have summarised the public feedback into topics in Attachment A. This enables the local board to deliberate and record its decisions on each topic to meet statutory requirements.
- The majority of public feedback opposed the proposals, with the exception of local board area feedback to proposed changes to the local dog access rules at Parry Kauri Park.

Topic	Total support from local board area	Total support from people across Auckland
Proposal 1: Parry Kauri Park	54 per cent support (33 of 61 responses) 44 per cent opposed 2 per cent 'other'	37 per cent (65 of 178 responses)
Proposal 2: Snells Beach	31 per cent support (39 of 125 responses) 62 per cent opposed 6 per cent "I don't know"	27 per cent (97 of 353 responses)
Proposal 3: Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway	29 per cent support (10 of 34 responses) 65 per cent opposed 6 per cent 'I don't know'	31 per cent (45 of 147 responses)
Proposal 4: Wonderview Road Esplanade	37 per cent support (13 out of 35 responses) 60 per cent opposed 3 per cent 'I don't know'	31 per cent (44 of 140 responses)

The local board must comply with regulatory decision-making requirements when considering public feedback and making a final decision

25. The local board must comply with regulatory requirements in the Local Government Act 2002, Dog Control Act 1996, Policy on Dogs 2019 and its delegated authority (See Attachment C). This includes the Board:
- giving all public feedback due consideration with an open mind
 - being consistent with the policy, principles and criteria for making dog access rules
 - not being inconsistent with any region-wide dog access rule
 - having regard to the matters in section 10(4) of the Dog Control Act 1996
 - providing a clear record or description of the decisions.

**Tauākī whakaaweawe āhuarangi
Climate impact statement**

26. There are no implications for climate change arising from decisions sought in this report.

**Ngā whakaaweawe me ngā tirohanga a te rōpū Kaunihera
Council group impacts and views**

27. Input from relevant council teams was sought to inform the development of the proposal and the deliberations report, and those teams are aware of the impacts of any final decision and their implementation role.

**Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe
Local impacts and local board views**

28. Local dog access rules have a direct impact on the use of public places of local significance.
29. There was a total of 255 responses across all the proposed changes from submitters identifying with the local board area (Summary in Attachment D, extract of feedback by proposal in Attachment E, and copy in Attachment F).
30. Local boards have delegated authority to decide local dog access rules in their area. This means the local board must consider all public feedback before making a final decision.
31. Staff have summarised public feedback and provided a structure for deliberations to assist the local board in making a decision on whether to adopt the proposed changes (Attachment A).

**Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori
Māori impact statement**

32. Local dog access rules support whanaungatanga (vibrant communities), manaakitanga (quality of life) and kaitiakitanga (sustainable futures) in Houkura | the Independent Māori Statutory Board’s [Māori Plan](#) for Tāmaki Makaurau and [Schedule of Issues of Significance](#) by helping to protect the safety of people and the environment.
33. Staff engaged with mana whenua and mataawaka during the public consultative process to ensure Māori are able to provide their views on the proposal.
34. No particular impacts on mana whenua and mataawaka have been identified. Feedback from individuals who identified themselves as Māori shows no marked difference to the feedback provided from non-Māori. One organisation, Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, supported the proposed changes. The summary of feedback from individuals who identified themselves as Māori are provided below:

Topic	Total support from Māori
Proposal 1: Parry Kauri Park	36 per cent support (5 of 14 responses)

	57 per cent opposed
Proposal 2: Snells Beach	30 per cent support (7 of 23 responses) 61 per cent opposed
Proposal 3: Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway	8 per cent support (1 of 12 responses) 83 per cent opposed
Proposal 4: Wonderview Road Esplanade	9 per cent support (1 out of 11 responses) 82 per cent opposed

Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea Financial implications

35. There may be financial cost to the local board of up to \$6900 if all the proposed changes were adopted as publicly notified. The local board would need to fund the cost, most likely out of capital budgets.
- Parry Kauri Park: \$2000 (covers two new signs, courier and installation).
 - Snells Beach: \$2500 (covers 11 new signs, courier and installation).
 - Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway: \$1600 (covers new and replacement signs, courier and installation).
 - Wonderview Road Esplanade: \$800 (covers one new sign, courier and installation).
36. The local board should progress this discussion with Parks and Community Facilities staff as part of the 2025/2026 work programme development budgets.

Ngā raru tūpono me ngā whakamaurutanga Risks and mitigations

37. The following risks have been identified:

If...	Then...	Mitigation
Some people or organisations feel their feedback was not considered or addressed	There may be a reputational risk of negative public perception about the decision-making process.	The Board ensures it considers all public feedback contained in this report and records its decisions (with reasons).

Ngā koringa ā-muri Next steps

38. Following a final decision of the local board:
- staff will publicly notify the decision and publish any changes on council's website and Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2019 as part of a regional process that includes changes adopted by the Governing Body and other local boards
 - staff will install updated signage funded by the local board
 - animal management staff will provide compliance services for any changes and community facilities staff will maintain any signage, within existing budgets.

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Deliberations table	
B	Statement of Proposal [click link to view]	

21 September 2021

No.	Title	Page
C	Local board decision-making criteria	
D	Summary of public feedback	
E	Extract of feedback by proposal	
F	Online and written feedback unavailable due to file size	
G	Drop-in sessions and Have Your Say sessions feedback	

Item 3

Attachment A

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Attachment A – Deliberations Table

This attachment provides a structure for deliberations. It contains a summary of public feedback on the proposal, information to assist deliberations and a structure for recording decisions.

The local board will have read all the feedback and views in Attachments D to G.

Important:

- The local board must receive the views in public feedback with open mind and give those views due consideration.
- A local board decision to change a local dog access rule must meet regulatory criteria in their delegated authority, Policy on Dogs 2019, Dog Control Act 1996 and Local Government Act 2002 (See Attachment C).

Note:

- The number of comments for key themes may not equal the total number of comments stated for the proposal because they include general comments, exclude operational and non-bylaw related matters or reflect that some comments may also include more than one key theme.
- Percentages for feedback responses may not equal one hundred per cent because responses other than 'support' or 'oppose' are excluded.
- The numbers do not include the 11 feedback responses¹ on local dog access rules in response to questions in a separate proposal about changes to the Policy and Bylaw on Dogs of regional significance. However, the themes and key changes sought in that feedback are reflected in the deliberations table.

¹ Feedback reference numbers are: 1573, 1722, 2294, 2716, 2789, 3642, 3883, 4186, 4527, 4938, 5165.

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Public Feedback on main proposals

Public feedback on Proposal 1 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<p>Change dog access rules at Parry Kauri Park</p> <p>178 feedback responses from survey and emails: 65 support (37 per cent), 105 oppose (59 per cent) and 64 comments. This includes feedback from 3 organisations (2 in support, 1 opposed).</p> <p>Key themes in support (23):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people in support of the proposal said it would help protect native Kauri: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed change would support the protection of kauri from disease. Kauri dieback needs consistent mitigation protocols in place. The proposed change supports conservation goals. All sensible steps must be taken to prevent kauri dieback. Parry Kauri Park is an important ecological area and should not have dogs off-leash who could disturb native flora and fauna. Many people in support of proposal are concerned with risk caused by irresponsible dog ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of respect of the current rules by some dog owners. More enforcement is needed. Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch felt the existing rules were not respected by dog owners or sufficiently enforced. Some people are concerned with personal safety. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The small track means you can bump into others, so having control of dog seems right. The proposed change would prevent people being approached by dogs, bitten or harassed, which would protect children and vulnerable people. <p>Key themes opposed (36):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people opposed to the proposal said dogs need to exercise off leash for their wellbeing / council should provide more off leash and dog friendly spaces 	<p>About the current and proposed rules:</p> <p>Current dog access rule Dogs allowed under control off a leash at any time (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Proposed dog access rule Dogs allowed under control on a leash at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).</p> <p>Reason: To protect kauri forest from Kauri Dieback disease from off-leash dogs off walking tracks.</p> <p>About 'protection of native Kauri' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Services staff advised that off-leash dogs pose a significant risk of causing and spreading kauri dieback disease. New legislation recently introduced (National PA Management Plan section 21, Plan rule 7) requires dogs to be under control of a person whilst moving through a kauri forest, and free of visible soil and organic matter prior to entering and after leaving, a kauri forest. In 2019, the Rodney Local Board approved a proposed mitigation programme to protect healthy kauri and reduce the impact of kauri dieback disease in the Rodney Local Board area, to be funded by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (RD/2019/411). \$3.8 million was allocated to upgrade the whole track network at Parry Kauri Park to kauri-safe standards, including new boardwalks, cleaning stations and viewing platforms. Kauri dieback is easily spread, and Kauri roots are very delicate, grow very close to the surface, and spread outwards as far as three times the tree's branches, so are particularly susceptible to disease. Currently dogs are allowed off-leash in Parry Kauri Park. Dogs bring the risk of carrying the disease on their paws and fur whilst walking off the tracks. Soil needs to be cleaned from the recesses of a dog's paws and their coat before and after entering a kauri forest. This is to avoid transferring the disease to new areas, or more widely in areas already affected. The disease has no cure and could result in the death of kauri trees, and possibly indefinite partial or full park closure to treat the disease. This would reduce recreational opportunities for both dog owners and other visitors of the park, and be a loss for the ecological environment. <p>About "risk due to irresponsible dog ownership" feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Policy on Dogs sets out dog access rules that help responsible dog owners avoid significant risks. The Policy relies on compliance initiatives, including patrols, education and fines, to manage

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Public feedback on Proposal 1 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people opposed to the proposal felt the risk was caused by irresponsible dog ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is unfair and discriminatory to impose rules that penalise responsible dog owners due to the actions of a few irresponsible dog owners. ○ Irresponsible owners should be targeted. ○ Maintain the status quo and charge higher fines for those who do not comply. • Some people felt the proposals were too restrictive or did not balance public and dog needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public parks and reserves are for the public, including dogs, to enjoy and should not be subject to restrictions. ○ Dogs are a part of the family and owners have a lack of options and are already limited on where they can go. ○ People want less restrictions, not more. • Some people said the proposal was ineffective or that current signage needed to be improved. 	<p>irresponsible dog owners, such as those who ignore the current rules, do not control their dog or who allow their dog to roam unaccompanied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This approach recognises that the personal circumstances of individual responsible dog owners and their dogs vary greatly, and that these responsible dog owners cannot always be expected to know the risks to be avoided or the best way to avoid them. <p>About 'too restrictive' / not 'balanced use' of public space' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog owners and dogs under control on a leash will still be able to access and use Parry Kauri Park, under the proposed change. • There are 237 places in the Rodney Local Board area where dogs are allowed off-leash and several are located in or near Warkworth, for example, Lucy Moore Memorial Park (2.6km away from Parry Kauri Park) offers an experience with manicured grass, clusters of trees, and different pathways.

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Public feedback on Proposal 1 – Key changes sought	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Local Board recommendation
<p>Change dog access rules at Parry Kauri Park Key changes sought (retain current rules – Option 1) (105 responses including Zoomies Dog Training & Adventures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current rules that allow dogs to be under control off a leash at any time. <p>Key changes sought (adopt proposed rules – Option 2) (65 responses including Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend rules to allow dogs under control on a leash at all times. <p>Key changes sought ('operational responses') (9 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase presence of animal control officers and issue more fines at the associated parks/reserves. upgrade signage in the park to clarify rules and educate visitors to the area. <p>Key changes sought ('only maintain restrictions as long as risk continues') (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> should be conditional on conservation need, access rule changed back once kauri dieback no longer a risk. require periodic reviews. 	<p>About 'operational responses' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These matters are best addressed in Other Matters <p>About 'maintaining restrictions based on risk' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Services staff advised that dogs off a leash pose a persistent threat to kauri forests. However, dog access rules can be reviewed again should, for example, a 'cure' to prevent kauri dieback be developed in the future. <p>About the local board decision-making criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the most relevant criteria in Appendix C for decisions resulting in less dog access, focus on determining whether there is a significant risk of conflict, whether there are no practicable alternative solutions to address that conflict, whether (to the extent practicable) displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other areas, and whether the rule is easy to understand.² In the context of this proposal at Parry Kauri Park, this includes for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> noting there is national legislation that requires animals to be under control in kauri forests noting the local board investment in park infrastructure to prevent the spread of kauri dieback considering whether off-leash dogs risk spreading kauri dieback in the park considering whether on-leash dogs help reduce the risk of spreading kauri dieback noting that there are a number of similar opportunities in Warkworth for off-leash experiences Note: If a change is made to the dog access rules, the local board must consider allocating funding for any new signage (indicative figures provided in Attachment B of December 2024 agenda report). 	<p>That the proposal to require dogs to be on-leash at Parry Kauri Park Either [Local Board to decide] be adopted as publicly notified [insert any funding for signage]. OR be amended to [Local Board to insert]. OR be rejected and the proposal amended to [Local Board to insert]. AND Reasons include to [Local Board to insert].</p>

² Refer Appendix C - Summary of Policy on Dogs 2019 dog access rule policy, principles and criteria – "1. Provide dog access rules that are comprehensive, consistent and easy to understand ..." and "4. Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access".

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Public feedback on Proposal 2 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	
<p>Change dog access rules at Snells Beach (north of the Sunburst Reserve boat ramp)</p> <p>611 feedback responses from survey and emails: 97 support (27 per cent), 231 oppose (65 per cent) and 253 comments. This includes feedback from 5 organisations (3 in support, 2 opposed) and one pro forma by Dogs Friends Auckland (opposed, 258 signatures)</p> <p>Key themes in support (38):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people in support of the proposal said it provides protection to vulnerable wildlife (including Forest and Bird) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snells Beach is an important feeding and roosting area for shorebirds, including the bar-tailed godwit and South Island pied oystercatcher, both classified as At Risk – Declining and more endangered than our local kiwi. As development and human disturbance increase, the shore birds are losing safe spaces to rest. Some people said the proposal also provides protection to people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed changes would keep children playing on the beach safe and give people the freedom to walk on the beach safely. Some people said the proposal strikes a balanced use of public space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed changes would provide protection to wildlife and people, and still provide off-leash opportunities for dog owners and their dogs. Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch supported the proposal, but felt the issues which prompted this change stemmed from a lack of compliance rather than a deficiency in current regulations. <p>Key themes opposed (108):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most people who opposed the proposal said the proposed rules are too strict and should be kept as they are now (including Zoomies Dogs Training and Adventure) 	<p>About the current and proposed rules:</p> <p>Current dog access rule</p> <p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash at Whisper Cove, time and season rule on the beach and under control on a leash at all times on adjoining reserves north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Current rules that prohibit dogs on the playground (Schedule 1(1)) and allow dogs under control on a leash near the playground (Schedule 1(4)) continue to apply.</p> <p>Note: A temporary ban has been put in place in the last five years to protect wildlife (bird breeding).</p>	<p>Proposed dog access rule</p> <p>Dogs are prohibited at all times on the beach north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp and under control on a leash at all times on adjoining reserves north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp (this includes all of Whisper Cove and the north section of Sunburst Reserve after the boat ramp) (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Current rules that prohibit dogs on the playground (Schedule 1(1)) and allow dogs under control on a leash near the playground (Schedule 1(4)) continue to apply.</p>
<p>Reason: To provide year-round protection for shorebirds in the northern third of a significant ecological area where protected birds (such as dotterels) forage, roost and nest and can easily be disturbed by dogs, even on-leash, causing failed breeding and migrations.</p> <p>About 'protection to vulnerable wildlife' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence from the council's Environmental Services team shows Snells Beach is a significant ecological area with vulnerable shorebirds (in the hundreds) nesting and roosting on the ground during nesting season, particularly at the north end of the Sunburst Reserve Boat ramp. Shorebirds use the area all-year round for roosting. The number is lower, outside breeding season, but still around 50 plus of Threatened and At-Risk birds on most days (e.g. Royal spoonbill, White faced heron, Black backed gull, Red-billed gull). They utilise high tide areas of the beach for roosting and are vulnerable to disturbance during this time because there is less beach space available. Roosting shorebirds are easily disturbed by beachgoers and their dogs, even on-leash. The current local parks management plan (page 257) recognises the risks and disturbances to roosting and breeding shorebirds, posed by beach goers, dogs and other mammals. The plan seeks to enhance the high tide area for shorebird roosting and breeding, to raise awareness and continue to support community initiatives. A temporary ban has been implemented in the last 5 years, resulting in a dog ban north of the boat ramp and requiring dogs on-leash at adjacent reserves (the entire Whisper Cove and the north part 		

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Public feedback on Proposal 2 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applying a bird season rule is sufficient to protect wildlife and has been in place for the last five years ● Many people said dogs need exercise off-leash / council needs to provide more off-leash, dog friendly spaces ● Some people said the proposed rules unfairly punished responsible dog owners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most dog owners are responsible and would keep their dogs under control, away from vulnerable shore birds ● Some people said dogs do not pose any risk / other factors such as human activities (e.g. running and kite surfing) and other animals (e.g. black-backed gulls and cats) are more harmful to wildlife. ● Some people said there should be more enforcement by animal control officers targeting irresponsible dog owners. ● Pro forma by Dog Friends Auckland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ had concerns with the potential overcrowding of more dogs in fewer spaces, especially during summer and bird seasons ○ changes to access can significantly alter local people's daily routines, driving to other locations ○ requested keeping certain areas off-leash and planning new off-leash areas in new subdivisions 	<p>of Sunburst Reserve after the boat ramp) during the breeding season (September to March). This was to better protect endangered birds (particularly breeding dotterel) from potential disturbance, distress, injuries or death.</p> <p>About 'balanced use of space' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The proposed changes only applies to the area north of the Sunburst Reserve Boat ramp. The rest of the beach (around two thirds of the beach, approximately 1.3km long) would have the current time and season rule that allows dogs to be under control off a leash between 5pm-10am during summer time (1 December to 1 March) and at any time outside summer. ● The proposal also retains year round on-leash dog access on adjoining reserves. <p>About "irresponsible dog owners" feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Policy on Dogs sets out dog access rules that help responsible dog owners avoid significant risks. The Policy relies on compliance initiatives, including patrols, education and fines, to manage irresponsible dog owners, such as those who ignore the current rules, do not control their dog or who allow their dog to roam unaccompanied. ● This approach recognises that the personal circumstances of individual responsible dog owners and their dogs vary greatly, and that these responsible dog owners cannot always be expected to know the risks to be avoided or the best way to avoid them. ● The risk to responsible dog owners and their dogs is significant if a dog causes the death of protected wildlife - up to three years in prison or a fine up to \$20,000 and destruction of the dog. <p>About 'impacts of human activities and other animals' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The impacts of human activities and cats are outside the scope of this review.

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Public feedback on Proposal 2 – Key changes sought	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Local Board decision
<p>Change dog access rules at Snells Beach (north of the Sunburst Reserve boat ramp)</p> <p>Key changes sought (retain current rules – Option 1) (141 responses including Zoomies Dog Training & Adventures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current rules that allow dogs under control off a leash at Whisper Cove, a time and season rule on the beach that prohibits dogs on the beach between 10am and 5pm, 1 December to 1 March (dogs allowed under control on a leash on the beach at all other times) and under control on a leash at all times at the adjoining reserves north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp. <p>Key changes sought (adopt shorebird breeding season rules – Option 2A) (58 responses, including 1 pro forma with 258 signatures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend rules so that dogs are prohibited on the beach north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp during shorebird breeding season (from 1 September to 31 March and under control on a leash at all other times) and under control on a leash at all times on adjoining reserves north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp (this includes the entire Whisper Cove and the north section of Sunburst Reserve and Tamatea Esplanade after the boat ramp). <p>Key changes sought (adopt proposed rules – Option 2B) (97 responses including Ngāti Manuhiri Trust and Birds NZ Auckland Regional Branch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend rules so dogs are prohibited at all times on the beach north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp and under control on a leash at all times on adjoining reserves north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp (this includes all of Whisper Cove and the north section of Sunburst Reserve after the boat ramp). <p>Key changes sought ('other suggestions') (10 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If dogs are prohibited on the beach north of Sunburst Reserve Boat ramp, then keep the rest of the beach /adjacent reserves off-leash Outside bird breeding season, allow dogs under control off a leash north of boat ramp. A total dog ban on all of Snells beach and on-leash access only at adjoining reserves during bird breeding season (1st September – 31st March). Dogs 	<p>About the local board decision-making criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the most relevant criteria in Appendix C for decisions resulting in less dog access, focus on determining whether there is a significant risk of conflict, whether there are no practicable alternative solutions to address that conflict, whether (to the extent practicable) displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other areas, and whether the rule is easy to understand.³ In the context of this proposal at Snells Beach, this includes for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> noting a temporary ban has been in place for the last five years to protect wildlife (bird breeding) noting the <u>local parks management plan</u> seeks to enhance the high tide area for shorebird roosting and breeding considering whether there is a significant risk to endangered shorebirds during the breeding season (September to March) as well as risks to responsible dog owners of significant statutory penalties considering whether the level of risk to wildlife and to responsible dog owners is also significant outside the breeding season Note: If a change is made to the dog access rules, the local board must consider allocating funding for any new signage (indicative figures provided in Attachment B of December 2024 <u>agenda report</u>). <p>About 'more enforcement' and 'other suggestion' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These matters are best addressed in Other Matters. 	<p>That the proposal to prohibit dogs at all times on the beach north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp and require dogs to be under control on a leash at all times on adjoining reserves north of Sunburst Reserve boat ramp Either [Local Board to decide] be adopted as publicly notified [insert any funding for signage]. OR be amended to [Local Board to insert]. OR be rejected and the proposal amended to [Local Board to insert]. AND Reasons include to [Local Board to insert].</p>

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Public feedback on Proposal 2 – Key changes sought	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Local Board decision
<p>are also prohibited from entering 50 metre cordoned off zones if and only if a breeding nest is clearly identified on an adjoining reserve (from Restore Hibiscus and Bays).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a fenced off-leash area <p>Key changes sought ('operational measures') (11 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase presence of animal control officers and issue more fines in the park • more education and support for responsible dog owners. 		

³ Refer Appendix C - Summary of Policy on Dogs 2019 dog access rule policy, principles and criteria – “1. Provide dog access rules that are comprehensive, consistent and easy to understand ...” and “4. Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access”.

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Public feedback on Proposal 3 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<p>Change dog access rules at Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway.</p> <p>147 feedback responses from survey and emails: 45 support (31 per cent), 96 oppose (65 per cent) and 47 comments. This includes feedback from 3 organisations (2 in support, 1 opposed).</p> <p>Key themes in support (10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people in support of the proposal are concerned about vulnerable wildlife: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed change would help to protect kiwi, an endangered species. On-leash is a way to minimise impact on wildlife. The proposed change would help to support conservation goals and efforts made over years – a decade of pest trapping has created a safe habitat for birds. Some people in support of proposal are concerned with risk caused by irresponsible dog ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of respect of the current rules by some dog owners. More enforcement is needed. Dogs off-leash are not under control, even if they are well-trained. Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch felt the existing rules were not respected by dog owners or sufficiently enforced. One person was concerned with personal safety. <p>Key themes opposed (35):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people opposed to the proposal felt the risk was caused by irresponsible dog ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is unfair and discriminatory to impose rules that penalise irresponsible dog owners due to the actions of a few irresponsible dog owners. Maintain the status quo and charge higher fines for those who do not comply. Some people felt the proposals were too restrictive or did not balance public and dog needs: 	<p>About the current and proposed rules:</p> <p>Current dog access rule Dogs allowed under control off a leash at any time (Schedule 2) at Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway.</p> <p>Proposed dog access rule Dogs allowed under control on a leash at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)) at the three associated reserves.</p> <p>Reason: To protect kiwi dispersing from Tawharanui Regional Park into the three associated reserves where they are vulnerable to being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs.</p> <p>About 'protection to vulnerable wildlife' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Specialists have been advised of an increased presence of kiwi in the three associated reserves. This has resulted in increased signage along Baddeley's Beach Road (which leads to all three reserves) to make the public aware that kiwi are in the area. Environmental Specialists concluded that if dogs can be kept on-leash, risk to kiwi is minimal. Kiwi are highly mobile (travelling up to 4 kilometres to set up a territory) and highly vulnerable to off-leash dogs. They emit a strong, unique scent that makes them attractive to dogs. They are small relative to most dogs, and they lack a breastplate. It will be difficult to control off-leash dogs from disturbing and/or harming kiwi if they pick up on a kiwi scent. This makes kiwi highly susceptible to injuries or death from dog attacks. Even though they only come out at night, they tend to nest in grassy / shrubby / forested areas during the daytime, where off-leash dogs can potentially find and harm them, and/or destroy their nests if they can easily access these areas. The <u>Department of Conservation's Kiwi Recovery Plan 2018–2028</u> sets goals and objectives to help secure kiwi from extinction and advance their recovery, including limiting threats from dogs, which are increasing where kiwi habitats overlap or are close to human populations or activity. <p>About "risk due to irresponsible dog ownership" feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Policy on Dogs sets out dog access rules that help responsible dog owners avoid significant risks. The Policy relies on compliance initiatives, including patrols, education and fines, to manage irresponsible dog owners, such as those who ignore the current rules, do not control their dog or who allow their dog to roam unaccompanied. This approach recognises that the personal circumstances of individual responsible dog owners and their dogs vary greatly, and that these responsible dog owners cannot always be expected to know the risks to be avoided or the best way to avoid them.

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Public feedback on Proposal 3 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public parks and reserves are for the public, including dogs, to enjoy and should not be subject to restrictions. ○ Dog owners have a lack of options and are already limited on where they can go. ○ Dog owners want less restrictions, not more. ○ Kiwi should adapt to the presence of humans, dogs and cats. ○ Kiwi should be returned to Tāwharanui Regional Park. ● Some people opposed to the proposal said dogs need to exercise off-leash for their wellbeing / council should provide more off-leash and dog friendly spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The risk to responsible dog owners and their dogs is significant if a dog causes the death of protected wildlife - up to three years in prison or a fine up to \$20,000 and destruction of the dog. <p>About 'too restrictive / not 'balanced use' of public space' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dog owners and dogs under control on a leash will still be able to access and use all three reserves, under the proposed change. ● The proposed changes are for three reserves that are not very popular or busy, with Vera Reserve and Baddeleys Creek lacking any formal infrastructure and/or amenities. ● There are 237 places in the Rodney Local Board area where dogs are allowed off-leash and several are located in or near the Tāwharanui Peninsula, for example, Baddeleys Beach Reserve (beach experience, time and season rule applies) and Campbells Beach Reserve (beach experience, time and season rule applies), are both within 1 km distance of the three associated reserves. ● Kiwi are strongly territorial and have been known to travel widely in order to set up a territory, meaning returning or restricting them to an area such as the nearby regional park, is not a viable solution.

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Public feedback on Proposal 3 – Key changes sought	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Local Board recommendation
<p>Key changes sought (retain current rules – Option 1) (96 responses including Zoomies Dog Training & Adventures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current rules that allow dogs under control off a leash at any time. <p>Key changes sought (adopt proposed rules – Option 2) (45 responses including Ngāti Manuhiri Trust and Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend rules to allow dogs under control on a leash at all times. <p>Key changes sought (apply time-based or seasonal restrictions) (4 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> across all areas, apply seasonal restrictions to a section for off-leash access during summer. allow off-leash access except for bird breeding areas in season. apply time of day restrictions for off-leash use. <p>Key changes sought (more enforcement) (2 responses including Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase presence of animal control officers and issue more fines at the associated parks/reserves. 	<p>About feedback to 'apply time-based or seasonal restrictions':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A time and season rule would not be sufficient to provide protection for kiwi at the reserves. <p>About 'more enforcement' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These matters are best addressed in Other Matters <p>About the local board decision-making criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the most relevant criteria in Appendix C for decisions resulting in less dog access, focus on determining whether there is a significant risk of conflict, whether there are no practicable alternative solutions to address that conflict, whether (to the extent practicable) displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other areas, and whether the rule is easy to understand.⁴ In the context of this proposal at Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway reserves, this includes for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> noting there is a national plan to support the recovery of kiwi considering whether off-leash dogs risk disturbing, harming, or killing kiwi considering whether on-leash dogs help reduce the risk of harm to kiwi noting that there are other opportunities for off-leash experiences in the Tāwharanui Peninsula Note: If a change is made to the dog access rules, the local board must consider allocating funding for any new signage (indicative figures provided in Attachment B of December 2024 agenda report). 	<p>That the proposal to require dogs to be on leash at the associated reserves Either [Local Board to decide] be adopted as publicly notified [insert any funding for signage]. OR be amended to [Local Board to insert]. OR be rejected and the proposal amended to [Local Board to insert]. AND Reasons include to [Local Board to insert].</p>

⁴ Refer Appendix C - Summary of Policy on Dogs 2019 dog access rule policy, principles and criteria – “1. Provide dog access rules that are comprehensive, consistent and easy to understand ...” and “4. Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access”.

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Public feedback on Proposal 4 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<p>Change dog access rules at Wonderview Road Esplanade</p> <p>140 feedback responses to survey and email responses: 44 support (31 per cent), 89 oppose (64 per cent) and 42 comments. This includes feedback from 4 organisations (3 in support, 1 opposed).</p> <p>Key themes in support (10):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people in support of the proposal are concerned about protect vulnerable wildlife (including Leigh Penguin Project and Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed change would help protect blue penguins and their nesting sites and minimise impact of dogs on native wildlife and natural environment. The proposed change would support conservation goals and efforts (e.g., conservation of native species, efforts that have been made through community education and communication, extra signage) Several people in support felt there was a public safety concern. Several people in support expressed that all dogs should be required on a leash or banned completely. Several people in support felt stronger enforcement was needed (including Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch). <p>Key themes opposed (32):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of people opposed to the proposal felt the risk was caused by irresponsible dog ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible dog owners are being punished for actions of minority. Dog owners already face limitations on access and lack of options. The emphasis should be on policing and preventing bad dog ownership. Some people felt the proposals were too restrictive or did not balance public and dog needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require dogs on leash on full Coastal Trail is unreasonable and unfair. Owners already respect signposted area. Dog owners want less restrictions, not more. Change is unnecessary. 	<p>About the current and proposed rules:</p> <p>Current dog access rules Dogs allowed under control off a leash at any time (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Proposed dog access rules Dogs allowed under control on a leash at a times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).</p> <p>Reason: To protect blue penguins that nest along this coastline vulnerable to being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs.</p> <p>About 'protection to vulnerable wildlife' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue penguins are nesting along the track at Wonderview Road Esplanade. Local community conservation groups support penguin conservation through animal pest control, installing nest boxes and engaging with local schools. Blue penguins tend to burrow under rocks or vegetation on this coastline. They are most vulnerable to off-leash dogs at dawn and dusk (when they depart from or return to their nest daily), and during moulting (a time when they cannot swim) and breeding season. Dogs are likely to be the greatest threat to blue penguins. Environmental Services staff have advised that requiring dogs under control on a leash at all times is appropriate to protect the blue penguins on this reserve. <p>About 'risk due to irresponsible dog ownership' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Policy on Dogs sets out dog access rules that help responsible dog owners avoid significant risks. The Policy relies on compliance initiatives, including patrols, education and fines, to manage irresponsible dog owners, such as those who ignore the current rules, do not control their dog or who allow their dog to roam unaccompanied. This approach recognises that the personal circumstances of individual responsible dog owners and their dogs vary greatly, and that these responsible dog owners cannot always be expected to know the risks to be avoided or the best way to avoid them. The risk to responsible dog owners and their dogs is significant if a dog causes the death of protected wildlife – up to three years in prison or a fine up to \$20,000 and destruction of the dog. <p>About 'too restrictive / not 'balanced use' of public space' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog owners and dogs under control on a leash will still be able to access and use Wonderview Road Esplanade, under the proposed change. There are 237 places in the Rodney Local Board area where dogs are allowed off-leash and several are located in the Leigh area, for example, Ferndale Avenue Recreation

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Public feedback on Proposal 4 - Themes	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people opposed the proposal said dogs need to exercise off leash for their wellbeing / council should provide more off-leash and dog friendly spaces. 	<p>Reserve (900m away from Wonderview Road Esplanade), Spray Crescent Reserve (1.5 km away) and Matheson Bay Reserve (1.8km away, time and season rule applies), offer scenic reserve or beach experiences.</p>
Public feedback on Proposal 4 – Key changes sought	Local Board recommendation
<p>Key changes sought (retain current rules – Option 1) (89 responses including Zoomies Dog Training & Adventures))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain current rules that allow dogs under control off a leash at any time at Wonderview Road Esplanade. 	<p>That the proposal to require dogs to be on leash at Wonderview Road Esplanade Either [Local Board to decide] be adopted as publicly notified [insert any funding for signage]. OR be amended to [Local Board to insert]. OR be rejected and the proposal amended to [Local Board to insert]. AND Reasons include to [Local Board to insert].</p>
<p>Key changes sought (adopt proposed rules – Option 2) (44 responses including Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, Leigh Penguin Project and Forest and Bird – Warkworth Area Branch)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend rules to allow dogs under control on a leash at all times at Wonderview Road Esplanade. <p>Key changes sought ('operational measures') (4 responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More enforcement - increase presence of animal control officers and issue more fines at the associated esplanade. 	<p>About 'more enforcement' feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These matters are best addressed in Other Matters <p>About the local board decision-making criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the most relevant criteria in Appendix C for decisions resulting in less dog access, focus on determining whether there is a significant risk of conflict, whether there are no practicable alternative solutions to address that conflict, whether (to the extent practicable) displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other areas, and whether the rule is easy to understand.⁵ In the context of this proposal at Wonderview Road Esplanade this includes for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> noting the conservation work done in the community in response to the blue penguins considering whether off-leash dogs risk disturbing, injuring or killing blue penguins considering whether on-leash dogs reduce the risk of harm to blue penguins noting that there are other opportunities for off-leash experiences nearby. Note: If a change is made to the dog access rules, the local board must consider allocating funding for any new signage (indicative figures provided in Attachment B of December 2024 agenda report).

⁵ Refer Appendix C - Summary of Policy on Dogs 2019 dog access rule policy, principles and criteria – “1. Provide dog access rules that are comprehensive, consistent and easy to understand ...” and “4. Consider the following before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches that would provide less dog access”.

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Other matters

Other matter	Staff comment (information to assist deliberations)	Decision
<p>Operational and non-local dog access rule-related feedback</p> <p>Key comments</p> <p>The Local Board could, if it wishes, deliberate on any of the matters in raised Attachments D to G in relation to the following requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to increase presence of animal control officers and issue more fines increase signage at all locations 	<p>About 'Operational and non-local dog access rule-related' feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an opportunity for the Local Board to deliberate on any matters contained in Attachments D to G that it considers require more direction from elected members. <p>About 'more enforcement' requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's Animal Management team administer dog owner obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 and Policy on Dogs. The team's priority focus is on dogs that are dangerous, menacing, attack, cause distress or roam unaccompanied. In relation to dog access rules, areas of high non-compliance ('hot-spots') are identified from public complaints and included in scheduled patrols. Officers use a 'modern regulator' approach to compliance that includes education, warnings and infringement fines (\$300) to change people's behaviours. <p>About 'more signage' requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any change to a dog access rule requires consideration of clear boundaries and signage. 	<p>Either [Local Board to decide]</p> <p>That matters related to operational or non-local dog access rule-related feedback in Attachments D to G be referred to relevant council areas for consideration. OR</p> <p>That in relation to the operational or non-local dog access rule-related feedback contained in Attachments D to G:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Local Board to insert decision] any matters not referred to above be referred to relevant council areas for consideration.
<p>Requests for changes to other local dog access rules</p> <p>Key changes sought and reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brick Bay Beach (1): Want on-leash access. Buckleton Beach Reserve (3): Want on-leash access. 	<p>About new requests for changes to local dog access rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests for changes to dog access rules require assessment against regulatory criteria. If the request meets the criteria and the relevant decision-making authority considers a change is appropriate, the change must be publicly notified (including to all known dog 	<p>That requests for changes to local dog access rules at specific locations received in public feedback not related to the proposed changes be referred to the relevant council department for inclusion in the next</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huapai Domain (1): Want dogs prohibited. • Martins Bay (1): Want a time and season rule. • Omaha (4): Want dogs prohibited (1) or want a time and season rule (1) or off-leash access (1) or on-leash access (1). • Omaha Beach (3): want a time and season rule (1) or off-leash access (1) or on-leash access (1). • Point Wells (1): Want on-leash access. • Rautāwhiri Park, Helensville (1): Want on-leash access. • Red Beach (1): Want on-leash access. • Sandspit Reserve (1): Want on-leash access. • Snells Beach (5): want a time and season rule (1) or off-leash access (2) or on-leash access (3). • Warkworth Showgrounds (1): Want on-leash access. • Locations not specified or not local access rule specific (e.g. all parks, regional beaches, regional parks, Department of Conservation land). (18) <p>Additional matters raised by local board members Comment (any other matters) The Local Board should deliberate on any matters contained in public feedback in Attachments D to G it considers has not been adequately addressed in this Attachment A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • owners in Auckland) for feedback prior to a final decision being made. • There are 22 decision-making authorities, the Regulatory and Safety Committees for regional rules and 21 Local Boards for local rules. • Individual requests are considered as a 'batch'. The timing for each 'batch' is scheduled within council's wider bylaw review work programme that includes the periodic review of all 17 council bylaws, 14 associated bylaw controls and input in to legislative reviews related to bylaws. • The timing of the next 'batch' is yet to be determined with a focus in 2025/26 on the review of bylaws about waste, food, navigation and health and hygiene. <p>About 'any other matters'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an opportunity for the decision-maker to raise and deliberate on any matter contained in public feedback in Attachments D to G it considers have not been adequately addressed in this Attachment A. 	<p>'batched' consideration of dog access change requests.</p> <p>Reasons include to comply with the local boards regulatory requirements in their delegated authority, Policy on Dogs 2019, Dog Control Act 1996 and Local Government Act 2002 and coordination of decision-making across all 22 decision-making authorities for dog access rules in Auckland.</p>
		<p>Either [Local board to decide] That all matters raised in public feedback have been given adequate consideration. OR That in relation to the matters raised in public feedback, the Local Board: [Local Board to insert decision, suggestions, notes].</p>



Ko nga whakahoutanga e whakaarohia ana mo nga ture uru kuri mo nga papaa me nga takutai o te rohe

Proposed updates to dog access rules at local parks and beaches

Statement of Proposal to amend the Kaupapa mo ngā Kurī Policy on Dogs 2019

Have your say from 20 January 2025 to 23 February 2025

January 2025, Version 1.0

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



1 What this is about

Local boards are recommending changes to dog access rules at some local parks and beaches.

Keeping dogs a positive part of the lives of Aucklanders

Taking a dog to a local park or beach can be great for the wellbeing of the dog and their owner.

Sometimes, however, it is not appropriate to take a dog to certain places off-leash or at all, due to the risk to people, stock, poultry, domestic animals, protected wildlife, natural habitat or property.

What Auckland Council does

We help keep dogs a positive part of the life of Aucklanders by updating rules that balance the needs of dogs, people, animals, the environment and property in public places. The existing rules are set in the Auckland Council Kaupapa mo ngā Kuri Policy on Dogs 2019.

Updating local park and beach dog access rules

We recently reviewed how local parks and beaches are being used and identified improvements.

Our proposal is to amend local dog access rules at the following locations (local board area):

- Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach (Aotea / Great Barrier)
- Sandhills Reserve (Aotea / Great Barrier)
- Clevedon Showground Reserve (Franklin)
- Designated dog exercise areas (Franklin)
- Kawakawa Bay Beach (Franklin)
- Shell banks and coastal areas from Waiau Pa to Ellets Beach (Franklin)
- Sports fields in former Franklin District (Franklin)
- Big Manly Beach (Hibiscus and Bays)
- Tindalls Beach (Hibiscus and Bays)
- Lloyd Elsmore Park near Howick Historical Village (Howick)
- Foreshore between Sulphur Beach Reserve and Gold Hole Reserve (Kaipātiki)
- Kauri Glen Reserve, Kauri Point Domain, Leigh Scenic Reserve, Soldiers Bay Reserve (Kaipātiki)
- Kauri Park (including unformed road), Muriel Fisher Reserve, Søren G Christensen Reserve (Kaipātiki)
- Kukari Park (Kaipātiki)
- Soldiers Bay (Kaipātiki)
- Te Ara Awataha Greenway (Kaipātiki)
- 54 Tonar Street (Kaipātiki)
- Madills Farm Recreation Reserve and Glover Park (Ōrākei)
- Freeland Reserve (Puketāpapa)
- John Moore Reserve (Puketāpapa)
- Monte Cecilia Park (Puketāpapa)
- Smallfield Reserve (Puketāpapa)
- Underwood Park (Puketāpapa)
- Walmsley Park (Puketāpapa)
- Parry Kauri Park (Rodney)
- Snells Beach (Rodney)
- Vera Reserve Baddeleys Road, Baddeleys Creek Reserve and Pigeon Place Accessway (Rodney)
- Wonderview Road Esplanade (Rodney)
- Rosedale Park (Upper Harbour)
- Big Oneroa Beach (Waiheke)
- Black Pool Beach (Waiheke)
- Onetangi Beach (Waiheke)

We want to know what you think

From on 20 January to 23 February 2025 we want you to tell us what you think.

Visit akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/ for more information and to find out how to give your feedback in writing, in-person or by phone. Free internet access is available at our libraries.

2 What are local dog access rules?

Local dog access rules support responsible dog ownership. They set out which local parks, beach and foreshore areas are dog friendly and which are dog-free. These rules:

- identify where you can take your dog under control off a leash, on a leash and where they are prohibited, at all times or during certain times and seasons
- do not apply to regional parks – they have their own rules
- have been in place since 1996 and the council’s approach was last reviewed in 2019
- are contained in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Auckland Council [Kaupapa mo ngā Kurī Policy on Dogs 2019](#) and are sorted by [local board area](#).

The Kaupapa mo ngā Kurī Policy on Dogs 2019 seeks to keep dogs as a positive part of the life of Aucklanders’ by providing access to public spaces that balance the needs of dogs, people, animals, the environment and property.

Our focus now is on managing change that [support responsible dog owners](#), for example:

- identifying new opportunities for dog friendly places in neighbourhoods with limited off-leash areas
- only restricting access for new park developments, or where there are more people, increased presence of protected wildlife and new threats to natural habitat where the presence of dogs creates significant risk to people, stock, poultry, domestic animals, protected wildlife, natural habitat or property.

This approach means changes to local dog access rules are not used to address the actions of irresponsible dog owners or to reconsider previous decisions. The actions of irresponsible dog owners are addressed by animal management officers (for example patrols, education and fines).

Our [21 local boards](#) are responsible for keeping local dog access rules up to date by:

- periodically checking for opportunities and changes at local park, beach and foreshore areas
- seeking public feedback on improvements before making a final decision.

Local board decisions are guided by regulatory criteria in the Dog Control Act 1996 and our Policy.

3 Implementing local dog access rules

Modern approach to compliance

We carry out activities to ensure compliance with the Policy using a modern regulatory approach:

- provide information about local dog access rules on signage at every park or beach
- provide on-line information on [‘where and when you can walk your dog’](#) and in the [Policy](#).
- promote responsible dog ownership and dog safety to local communities
- patrol popular parks and beaches
- use education to increase voluntary compliance
- respond to complaints using a prioritised response framework and enforcement matrix to decide the most appropriate response to an offence (for example education, warning or \$300 infringement fine)
- use other existing powers and penalties to respond to dogs that are dangerous, menacing, attacking, rushing or causing distress, or roaming unaccompanied by their owner.

4 What council proposes to change

Updating local park and beach dog access rules

We recently checked for opportunities and changes at local parks and beaches and identified improvements to the dog access rules at the following locations.

Our main proposals are:

Local Board Area	Location	Change and reason					
Aotea / Great Barrier	Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="606 678 946 741">Current Dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> <th data-bbox="946 678 1292 741">Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="606 741 946 1568"> <p>For the beach areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs allowed under control on a leash east of a line drawn from the public toilets to the southern headland of Pah Beach, continuing southeast across the headland to a point in line with the ramp opposite 11 Blackwell Drive (Schedule 2) Dogs allowed under control off a leash from the northern headland of Pah Beach to the northern end of the playground on Gooseberry Flat (excluding the on-leash area between the public toilets and the boat ramp) (Schedule 2). <p>Current rules that prohibit dogs on the playground (Schedule 1(1)) and allow dogs under control on a leash near the playground, on the southern end of Gooseberry Flat Beach and on all park and reserve areas (Schedule 1(4)) continue to apply.</p> <p>Note: There is uncertainty regarding the Department of Conservation’s (DoC) rule for Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach. Staff are continuing to engage with them to clarify the situation.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="946 741 1292 1568"> <p>For the beach areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs allowed under control on a leash on the southern end of Pah Beach (southwards of Blackwell Drive) and around the Pah Point Reserve headland (Schedule 2). Dogs prohibited on the northern area of Pah Beach (northwards of Blackwell Drive) (Schedule 2). Dogs allowed under control off a leash from the southern end of the Pah Point Reserve headland to the northern end of the playground on Gooseberry Flat Beach (Schedule 2). <p>Current rules that prohibit dogs on the playground (Schedule 1(1)) and allow dogs under control on a leash near the playground, on the southern end of Gooseberry Flat Beach and on all park and reserve areas (Schedule 1(4)) continue to apply.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Current Dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	<p>For the beach areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs allowed under control on a leash east of a line drawn from the public toilets to the southern headland of Pah Beach, continuing southeast across the headland to a point in line with the ramp opposite 11 Blackwell Drive (Schedule 2) Dogs allowed under control off a leash from the northern headland of Pah Beach to the northern end of the playground on Gooseberry Flat (excluding the on-leash area between the public toilets and the boat ramp) (Schedule 2). <p>Current rules that prohibit dogs on the playground (Schedule 1(1)) and allow dogs under control on a leash near the playground, on the southern end of Gooseberry Flat Beach and on all park and reserve areas (Schedule 1(4)) continue to apply.</p> <p>Note: There is uncertainty regarding the Department of Conservation’s (DoC) rule for Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach. Staff are continuing to engage with them to clarify the situation.</p>	<p>For the beach areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs allowed under control on a leash on the southern end of Pah Beach (southwards of Blackwell Drive) and around the Pah Point Reserve headland (Schedule 2). Dogs prohibited on the northern area of Pah Beach (northwards of Blackwell Drive) (Schedule 2). Dogs allowed under control off a leash from the southern end of the Pah Point Reserve headland to the northern end of the playground on Gooseberry Flat Beach (Schedule 2). <p>Current rules that prohibit dogs on the playground (Schedule 1(1)) and allow dogs under control on a leash near the playground, on the southern end of Gooseberry Flat Beach and on all park and reserve areas (Schedule 1(4)) continue to apply.</p>	<p>Reason: To better protect vulnerable nesting shorebirds on Pah Beach and clarify the rule (and effectively extend the off-leash area slightly) on Gooseberry Flat Beach.</p>
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Aotea Great Barrier	Sandhills	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="606 1664 946 1697">Current dog access rule</th> <th data-bbox="946 1664 1292 1697">Proposed dog access rule</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="606 1697 946 1769">Dogs allowed under control on a leash at all times at Sandhills Reserve (Schedule 1 (4)(a)).</td> <td data-bbox="946 1697 1292 1769">Dogs allowed under control off a leash at any time at Sandhills Reserve (Schedule 2).</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Current dog access rule	Proposed dog access rule	Dogs allowed under control on a leash at all times at Sandhills Reserve (Schedule 1 (4)(a)).	Dogs allowed under control off a leash at any time at Sandhills Reserve (Schedule 2).	
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Local Board Area	Location	Change and reason				
		<p>Reason: To provide a new off-leash area on Great Barrier without significant risk to protected wildlife, flora, private property or dog owners (fence required to define boundaries and sign that dogs prohibited from adjoining Department of Conservation area).</p>				
Franklin	Clevedon Showgrounds Reserve	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Current dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> <th>Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash on areas of the showgrounds not restricted (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Restricted areas: Dogs continue to be prohibited on sports surfaces (e.g. sports fields, tennis courts, skate park and dressage arena) and areas not under council control (e.g. leased areas), and under control on a leash in vicinity of sports surfaces when in use and on parking areas (Schedule 1).</p> </td> <td> <p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash on grass areas south of the area used as sports fields and west and north of equestrian areas (Schedule 2), except during events where temporary dog access rules may apply (Bylaw clause 10).</p> <p>Dogs allowed under control on a leash on all other areas of the showgrounds not restricted (Schedule 1)</p> <p>Restricted areas: Dogs continue to be prohibited on sports surfaces and areas not under council control, and under control on a leash in vicinity of sports surfaces when in use and on parking areas (Schedule 1).</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Reason: To minimise significant risks within sports field and equestrian areas while providing for off-leash and on-leash opportunities in appropriate areas</p>	Current dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	<p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash on areas of the showgrounds not restricted (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Restricted areas: Dogs continue to be prohibited on sports surfaces (e.g. sports fields, tennis courts, skate park and dressage arena) and areas not under council control (e.g. leased areas), and under control on a leash in vicinity of sports surfaces when in use and on parking areas (Schedule 1).</p>	<p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash on grass areas south of the area used as sports fields and west and north of equestrian areas (Schedule 2), except during events where temporary dog access rules may apply (Bylaw clause 10).</p> <p>Dogs allowed under control on a leash on all other areas of the showgrounds not restricted (Schedule 1)</p> <p>Restricted areas: Dogs continue to be prohibited on sports surfaces and areas not under council control, and under control on a leash in vicinity of sports surfaces when in use and on parking areas (Schedule 1).</p>
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Local Board Area	Location	Change and reason					
Franklin	Kawakawa Bay Beach (See Map of Zones in Appendix B)	<p>For beach, foreshore and adjoining parks:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="608 427 1283 987"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="608 427 951 495">Current Dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> <th data-bbox="951 427 1283 495">Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 495 951 987"> <p>A time and season rule applies on both beaches, foreshore and adjoining 'parks' (including headland Whitford Point Reserve and Kawakawa Coast Road Reserve, Department of Conservation land and other 'narrow grass areas' between Clevedon-Kawakawa Road and the foreshore that prohibits dogs between 10am and 5pm, 1 December to 1 March (dogs allowed under control off a leash at all other times) (Schedule 2).</p> </td> <td data-bbox="951 495 1283 987"> <p>Apply a bird breeding season rule on both beaches, foreshore and adjoining parks between Turei Road and Rautawa Stream next to Ferndale Drive, including Whitford Point Reserve and parts of Kawakawa Bay Foreshore Reserve - Zones 3, 4 and 5 that prohibits dogs from 1 September to 31 March (dogs allowed under control off a leash at all other times) (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash on remaining areas (on beach, foreshore and adjoining parks from the western shoreline to Turei Road and from Ferndale Drive to (but not including) the boat ramp at 39R Kawakawa Bay Coast Road next to Kawakawa Bay Coast Road Reserve - Zones 1 and 2) (Schedule 2).</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Reason: To protect people during summer busy time and protect endangered and at-risk species of shorebirds (including migratory birds) from being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs.</p>		Current Dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	<p>A time and season rule applies on both beaches, foreshore and adjoining 'parks' (including headland Whitford Point Reserve and Kawakawa Coast Road Reserve, Department of Conservation land and other 'narrow grass areas' between Clevedon-Kawakawa Road and the foreshore that prohibits dogs between 10am and 5pm, 1 December to 1 March (dogs allowed under control off a leash at all other times) (Schedule 2).</p>	<p>Apply a bird breeding season rule on both beaches, foreshore and adjoining parks between Turei Road and Rautawa Stream next to Ferndale Drive, including Whitford Point Reserve and parts of Kawakawa Bay Foreshore Reserve - Zones 3, 4 and 5 that prohibits dogs from 1 September to 31 March (dogs allowed under control off a leash at all other times) (Schedule 2).</p> <p>Dogs allowed under control off a leash on remaining areas (on beach, foreshore and adjoining parks from the western shoreline to Turei Road and from Ferndale Drive to (but not including) the boat ramp at 39R Kawakawa Bay Coast Road next to Kawakawa Bay Coast Road Reserve - Zones 1 and 2) (Schedule 2).</p>
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Franklin	Shell banks and coastal areas from Waiiau Pa to Ellets Beach - beach, foreshore and adjoining esplanade reserves from the shell banks adjacent to the coastline near Seagrove Road on Clarks Beach to the shell banks adjacent to the coastline on Ellets Beach.	<table border="1" data-bbox="608 1090 1283 1218"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="608 1090 951 1158">Current dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> <th data-bbox="951 1090 1283 1158">Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="608 1158 951 1218">Dogs allowed under control on a leash at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).</td> <td data-bbox="951 1158 1283 1218">Dogs prohibited at all times (Schedule 2).</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The location includes Waiiau Pa Esplanades, Clarks Beach Marginal Strip (DoC), Ellet Road Esplanade Reserve and Clark Road Esplanade Reserve.</p> <p>Note: The rules stated above do not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarks Beach where a time and season rule applies. • Clarks Beach Marginal Strip, which is managed by DoC and where dogs are already prohibited on this section of coastline. <p>Reason: To protect endangered and at-risk species of shorebirds (including migratory birds) from being disturbed, harmed or killed by dogs.</p>		Current dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	Proposed dog access rule (see map in Appendix B)	Dogs allowed under control on a leash at all times (Schedule 1(4)(a)).	Dogs prohibited at all times (Schedule 2).
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