

MEDIA RELEASE

26 February 2019

Call for Northern Beaches Council to release updated environmental impact report and extend consultation for Station Beach off leash dog trial

26 February 2019 – The Palm Beach Protection Group today called on the Northern Beaches Council to extend the consultation period for the proposed trial to allow dogs off leash on Station Beach, on the Pittwater side of Palm Beach, to enable the community to review an updated Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

Under the current timeframe, the period for public submissions on the proposal is set to close this Thursday 28 February. This is despite the fact the updated REF has yet to be released, forcing the community to rely on an outdated review conducted more than a decade ago.

“We are asking Council to immediately release the updated environmental report so the public are informed about the impacts this trial will have on the environment and give people an opportunity to have their say once the issues are fully known. In the past, similar proposals have been rejected by Pittwater Council on environmental grounds and these concerns still exist today,” said Palm Beach resident Richard Kovacs.

“We think it’s important that this is a transparent process that provides all relevant information to the public before they have their say,” Mr Kovacs said.

Palm Beach Protection Group has received legal advice that displaying the original review is a possible contravention of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and that the 2008 review is assessed against now outdated and repealed legislation.

The Palm Beach Protection Group, an association of residents who are committed to preserving the pristine beaches of Palm Beach for future generations, opposes the off leash dog trial for Station Beach. These concerns relate to public safety and the prospect of unprovoked dog attacks; pollution impacts including dog faeces being left on the beach or in the water which will harm marine life; and increased traffic congestion on the already overstretched peninsula.

Station Beach is a family-friendly beach which is adjacent to the unfenced Palm Beach Golf Club.

Other major beachside Councils in Sydney do not allow dogs on their beaches – including Waverley (Bondi and Bronte) and Randwick (Coogee, Clovelly and Maroubra).

“We’re encouraging people who care about our beaches to vote ‘No’ to the proposed trial on the Council’s website and to join us in demanding that Council immediately releases its Review of Environmental Factors,” Mr Kovacs said.

To vote ‘No’ to the trial, visit the Council’s website: www.yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/stationbeachtrial.

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For media enquiries contact: 0413 285 186 / info@protectpalmbeach.com.au

About Palm Beach Protection Group

Palm Beach Protection Group is a grassroots community-based group whose members love Palm Beach and want to ensure our pristine beaches are preserved for future generations.

For more information – www.protectpalmbeach.com.au or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/protectpalmbeach.