

ITEM 14.3	NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33/2020 - ACTIVATION OF BEACH SPACE FOR DOG EXERCISE
TRIM FILE REF	2020/423210
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

Submitted by: Councillor Alex McTaggart, Ian White, and Kylie Ferguson

MOTION

That the CEO do all things necessary to prepare a report for Council's consideration regarding the public exhibition of a trial along a set portion of North Palm Beach, and at the southernmost end of Mona Vale Beach.

BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX MCTAGGART, IAN WHITE AND KYLIE FERGUSON

The process of allowing families with dogs shared access to some of our beach space requires careful thought. With respect to conducting a trial, the report to former Pittwater Council of 17 November 2014 included the considered opinion of the Manager – Reserves, Recreation & Building Services at page 21 that *“the better approach would be to run the trial over several beaches to lessen the load on any particular beach”*, and also at page 21 that *“Council could consider undertaking a trial and if so, it would be advisable to do so at a number of beaches”*.

This Motion reflects the above advice of the Manager – Reserves, Recreation and Building Services, and gives effect to the “future Motion” foreshadowed at Item 12.4 of the business papers for the Council Meeting of 26 June 2018 (Trim File 2018/370422). As a result, it would be fair to say staff have a good understanding of the issues, which are summarised in reply to questions 23 May 2018 (Trim File 2018/242857 and 2018/242691).

As Council is already in possession of advice from state agencies raising no objection to off-leash trials in the locations described (see attached sketches), and given the demands on our open space arising from COVID-19 and the need for activation of suitable space to meet these increased demands, it is timely for Council to be collating relevant materials relating to these two proposed trials with a view to preparing the matter for public exhibition.

Pittwater Ward Councillors, particularly Councillor White, who served as Chair of a Working Group assessing these matters, have a deep appreciation of the local community's need for additional off-leash space in Pittwater Ward, where we have several entire suburbs with no off-leash space at all. My own involvement with this matter dates back some 17 years.

The authorised off-leash trial at Station Beach, on its own, is not the answer to the underlying issue. If we are serious about promoting the active lifestyle, we have to explore options to activate space. People exercise their dogs every day. It is our duty to provide options for this, preferably within walking distance of home, so as to reduce reliance on the family car for this kind of thing.

Insofar as there is a cost associated with the preparation of the report, this Motion is brought on the basis that such cost would seem a reasonable expenditure to be drawn from the additional \$400,000, over four years, set by the Council Administrator on 28 March 2017 (Resolution 040/17) for the purposes of improving the off-leash provision across the LGA.

