

13.0 TRANSPORT AND ASSETS DIVISION REPORTS

ITEM 13.1	FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS AT PALM BEACH (NORTH) AND MONA VALE BEACH (SOUTH)
REPORTING MANAGER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RECREATION
TRIM FILE REF	2020/737029
ATTACHMENTS	1 ↓ Draft Palm Beach (north) Dog Off-Leash Area Proposal 2 ↓ Draft Mona Vale Beach (south) Dog Off-Leash Area Proposal 3 ↓ Copy of Item 14.3 - Notice of Motion No 33/2020 - Activation of Beach Space for Dog Exercise

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To report on investigations into the feasibility of establishing dog off-leash areas on the northern end of Palm Beach and at the southern end of Mona Vale Beach.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council meeting held on 28 July 2020, Council resolved (Council Resolution 187/20) that:

The Chief Executive Officer prepare a report for the Council on the feasibility of the establishment of unleashed dogs areas – in a set area of north Palm Beach and southern most end of Mona Vale Beach.

In response to Council Resolution 187/20, feedback was sought from relevant NSW State Government agencies and Council teams including Environment and Climate Change.

In October 2019, Class 4 judicial review proceedings were commenced in the Land and Environment Court. These proceedings challenged Council's decisions regarding a dog off-leash area trial and an on-leash dog area at Station Beach. It was considered prudent to await the outcome of these proceedings before completing this report.

At the Council meeting held on 15 December 2020, Council resolved (Council Resolution 391/20) that:

1. *Council notes the judgment of the Land and Environment Court in Palm Beach Protection Group Incorporated v Northern Beaches Council [2020] NSWLEC 156 and that:
 - A. *Council's resolutions for an off-leash dog trial and on-leash dog area at Station Beach have been declared invalid and have no effect;*
 - B. *As the Court found that development consent is not required for an off-leash dog trial at Station Beach, a development application for a trial is not required at law; and*
 - C. *As a result, no further action is being undertaken in respect of Council Resolutions 267/19, 443/19 and 164/20.**
2. *The Chief Executive Officer continues to prepare a report for the Council on the feasibility of the establishment of unleashed dog areas in a set area of north Palm*

Beach and southern most end of Mona Vale Beach as required by Council Resolution 187/20.

3. *Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to give effect to the above.*

Staff have undertaken an initial review of site constraints, approvals and likely environmental issues. On the basis of these initial investigations, areas at both Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south) have been identified that could be suitable for dog areas.

The judgment of the Land and Environment Court and feedback received from the NSW Government agencies have reinforced the importance of ensuring appropriate environmental assessments are completed. On this basis (and should Council so resolve) staff will progress with this detailed work in consultation with relevant NSW Government agencies for these 2 sites. These environmental assessments will take approximately 6 to 12 months to complete.

As it will be necessary for dogs to be taken to and from any proposed off-leash areas and owners may prefer to have their dogs on a leash for some or all of the time they are within the proposed off-leash areas, consideration will need to be given to whether any further on-leash or off-leash areas should be created in conjunction with the proposed off-leash areas outlined in this report.

RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR TRANSPORT AND ASSETS

That:

1. Environmental assessments be undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (and other relevant legislation) into the possibility of establishing dog off-leash areas on Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south), as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 of this report.
 2. The assessments referred to in (1) be undertaken in consultation with the NSW State Government.
 3. The assessments referred to in (1) include consideration of additional on-leash or off-leash areas that may be required to allow for dogs to be taken to and from the possible dog off-leash areas at Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south).
 4. The Chief Executive Officer provide a further report to Council following the completion of the environmental assessments referred to above.
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REPORT

BACKGROUND

Notice of Motion considered on 28 July 2020

At the Council meeting held on 28 July 2020 Council considered *Item 14.3 - Notice of Motion No 33/2020 - Activation of Beach Space for Dog Exercise* (Notice of Motion). Attached to the Notice of Motion were two sketches which identified proposed dog off-leash areas at Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south). A copy of the Notice of Motion is attached (Attachment 3).

In respect of the Notice of Motion, Council resolved (Council Resolution 187/20) that:

The Chief Executive Officer prepare a report for the Council on the feasibility of the establishment of unleashed dogs areas – in a set area of north Palm Beach and southern most end of Mona Vale Beach.

The sketches attached to the Notice of Motion have been used by staff to identify the parameters for proposed dog off-leash areas that Council Resolution 187/20 requires be investigated for their feasibility. The parameters in the sketches were as follows:

1. Palm Beach (north) dog off-leash area (proposed)

- Length of the off-leash area is 400 metres.
- Northern boundary - 200 metres south of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park.
- Southern boundary - 400 metres north of the North Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.
- Western boundary - the eastern edge of the dunes in Governor Phillip Park.
- Eastern boundary - approximately 66 metres east from the eastern edge of the dunes.

The Palm Beach (north) dog off-leash area proposed in the Notice of Motion is illustrated in Figure 1 below (titled as Figure 2).

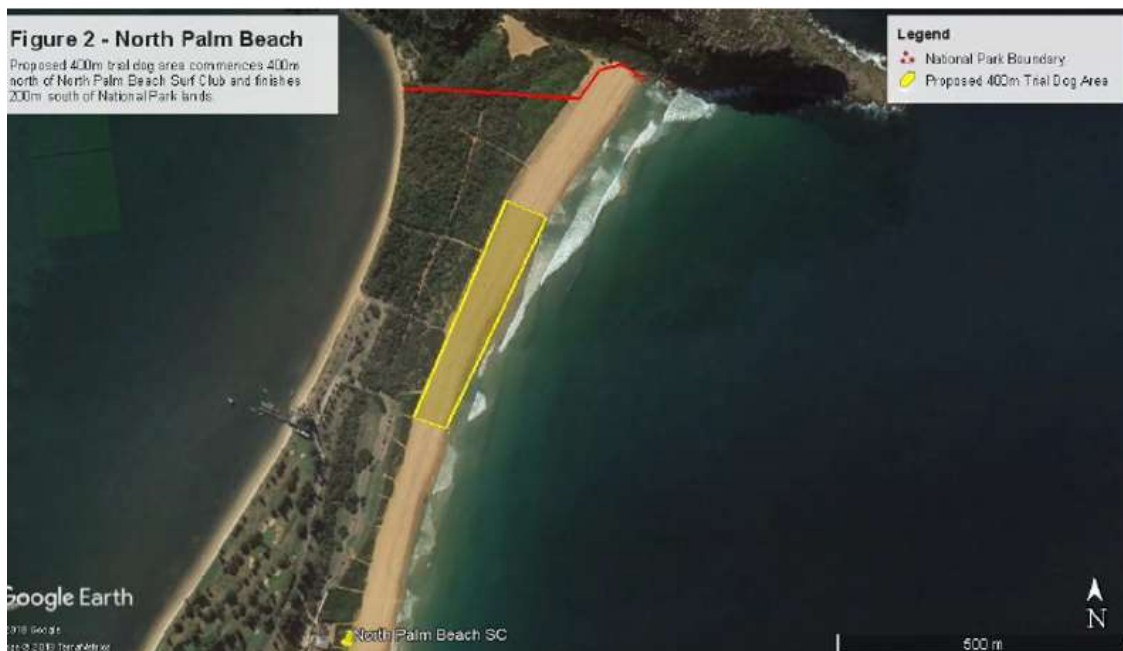


Figure 1: Excerpt from Notice of Motion No 33/2020 North Palm Beach

This area is:

- Adjacent to the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park (National Park) which is managed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).
- Located on Crown land in respect of which Council is Crown land manager (in Governor Phillip Park, above the mean high water mark) and on land which the NSW State Government is the land manager (below the mean high water mark).

2. Mona Vale Beach (south) dog off-leash area (proposed)

- Length of the off-leash area is approximately 260 metres and generally located below the existing off-leash area at South Mona Vale Headland Reserve (Robert Dunn Reserve).
- Northern boundary - 950 metres south of the Mona Vale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.
- Southern boundary - the northern edge of the escarpment that separates Mona Vale Beach and Warriewood Beach.
- Western boundary - the eastern edge of the dunes.
- Eastern boundary - varies from 40 metres to 75 metres east from the eastern edge of the dunes.

The Mona Vale Beach (south) dog off-leash area proposed in the Notice of Motion is illustrated in Figure 2 below (titled as Figure 3).



Figure 2: Excerpt from Notice of Motion No 33/2020 South Mona Vale Beach

This area is:

- Located on Council land and Crown land in respect of which Council is Crown land manager (above the mean high water mark) and on land which the NSW State Government is the land manager (below the mean high water mark).

Consideration will need to be given as to how dogs will be taken to and from the proposed off-leash areas and how access to these areas will be achieved (including appropriate environmental assessments).

Station Beach Land and Environment Court proceedings

On about 8 October 2019, Palm Beach Protection Group Incorporated commenced Class 4 proceedings in the Land and Environment Court challenging the legal validity of Council Resolution 267/19 - Station Beach Dog Off-Leash Area Proposed Trial of 27 August 2019. On about 28 February 2020, the Group was granted leave to amend its summons to also challenge Council Resolution 443/19 - Station Beach Dog On-Leash Area Proposed Trial of 17 December 2019.

The Court's decision in *Palm Beach Protection Group Incorporated v Northern Beaches Council* [2020] NSWLEC 156 was handed down on 20 November 2020. In summary, the Court found that Council had breached Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979 by failing to obtain and consider an environmental impact statement in relation to Council Resolution 267/19 and Council Resolution 443/19. The Court also found that Council had breached Part 5 in that it failed to properly examine the likely impact on the environment in relation to Council Resolution 443/19. Accordingly, the Court declared that Council's decisions of 27 August 2019 and 17 December 2019 were invalid and quashed those decisions. The Court's decision has implications for the possible off-leash dog areas at north Palm Beach and the southern end of Mona Vale Beach as contemplated by Council Resolution 187/20 and these implications are still being worked through.

At the Council meeting held on 15 December 2020 Council resolved (Council resolution 391/20) that:

1. *Council notes the judgment of the Land and Environment Court in Palm Beach Protection Group Incorporated v Northern Beaches Council [2020] NSWLEC 156 and that:*
 - A. *Council's resolutions for an off-leash dog trial and on-leash dog area at Station Beach have been declared invalid and have no effect;*
 - B. *As the Court found that development consent is not required for an off-leash dog trial at Station Beach, a development application for a trial is not required at law; and*
 - C. *As a result, no further action is being undertaken in respect of Council Resolutions 267/19, 443/19 and 164/20.*
2. *The Chief Executive Officer continues to prepare a report for the Council on the feasibility of the establishment of unleashed dog areas in a set area of north Palm Beach and southern most end of Mona Vale Beach as required by Council Resolution 187/20.*
3. *Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to give effect to the above.*

Actions taken by staff

Following Council Resolution 187/20, Council staff commenced work contemplated by the resolution. In this regard, feedback on Council Resolution 187/20 was sought from relevant NSW State Government agencies and internal Council teams including Environment and Climate Change. However, given the legal challenge in respect of the Station Beach Council resolutions, it was considered prudent to await the outcome of these proceedings before completing this report.

Staff have undertaken an initial review of site constraints, approvals and likely environmental issues. On the basis of these initial investigations, areas at both Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south) have been identified that could possibly be suitable for an off-leash dog area/s.

The judgment of the Land and Environment Court and feedback received from the NSW Government agencies have reinforced the importance of ensuring that appropriate environmental assessments are completed. On this basis (and should Council so resolve) staff will progress with this detailed work in consultation with relevant agencies for these two sites including but not limited to the matters raised below.

Feedback From NSW State Government Agencies

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

On 4 September 2020 the NPWS provided the following feedback regarding an off-leash area on Palm Beach (north):

NPWS request consideration of the presence of a semi-permanent seal colony at Barrenjoey Headland and our pest animal management activities which may occur within the park.

NPWS would prefer to see the proposed area brought further south so the northern end of the off-leash area aligns with the northern end of the Governor Phillip Car Park. There is concern that the current proposal is only 200 metres from the boundary of the national park and, as it is at an isolated end of the beach, dog walkers may be tempted to let their dog continue north beyond the designated off-leash area.

A semi-permanent wild seal population occupies rock shelves at Barrenjoey Headland. There may be potential for conflict between dogs and seals if they were to interact. Seals can consider dogs as a threat and equally dogs may consider seals a threat. If the proposal is progressed NPWS would ask Council to consider any potential risks of interaction between seals and domestic dogs and how the chance of interaction might be prevented.

National Parks undertakes a number of pest management activities within Ku-ring-gai National Park (KCNP), including 1080 baiting. Although 1080 baiting is used within KCNP, it is not currently used within the Barrenjoey Headland Precinct. An off-leash area within the vicinity of the Barrenjoey Headland area may limit our ability to use 1080 as a control method to manage pest animals in the future. If it was to be used it may pose a risk to off-leash domestic dogs. If the proposal is progressed NPWS would ask Council to consider potential risks to NPWS pest control programs and domestic dogs.

If this proposal goes ahead, NPWS would expect the area to be clearly signposted and defined and that Council will enforce compliance with the boundaries.

On 12 November 2020 the NPWS indicated that an off-leash area that commences 400 metres south of the National Park boundary at Barrenjoey Headland at Palm Beach (North) is a compromise that looks reasonable.

On 25 March 2021 the NPWS was asked for comment on an off-leash area that commences 280 metres south of the National Park boundary at Barrenjoey Headland and provided the following feedback:

NPWS comments remain the same as previous and are consistent with comments provided in 2018. NPWS do not object to the proposal. Given the proximity to bushland and the park and the potential for impacts described below, we suggest NBC assess the proposed activity for any environmental impacts and other risks and develop a risk treatment plan or strategy to reduce.

NPWS would prefer to see the proposed area brought further south so the northern end of the off-leash area aligns with the northern end of the Governor Phillip Car Park. There is concern that the current proposal is in proximity to the boundary of the national park and, as it is at an isolated end of the beach, dog walkers may be tempted to let their dog continue north beyond the designated off-leash area.

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If this proposal goes ahead, NPWS would expect the area to be clearly signposted and defined and that Council will enforce compliance with the boundaries.

Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries, Coastal Systems Unit (Fisheries)

On 26 August 2020, Fisheries provided the following feedback regarding an off-leash area on Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south):

These beaches are less sensitive than the beaches within Pittwater with regards to marine vegetation. There are no seagrass beds off our ocean beaches. DPI Fisheries has no concerns regarding off-leash dog activities in the areas nominated in Item 14.3 of Notice to Motion 33/2020.

DPI Fisheries recommends that appropriate facilities, signage and monitoring to ensure dog droppings are disposed of properly.

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Housing and Property, Crown Lands (Crown Lands)

In September 2020, Council requested feedback from Crown Lands on the proposed off-leash areas. Crown Lands were at that time awaiting the outcome of the proceedings in the Land and Environment Court regarding Station Beach. Their preliminary verbal advice provided in March 2021 is that approval and an agreement, such as a licence, would likely be required for the land below the mean high water mark. A formal response to the request for feedback is yet to be provided to Council.

Environmental Matters for Further Investigation

A number of environmental considerations have been identified that need investigation in accordance with relevant legislation before consideration is given as to whether or not dogs should be permitted, on or off-leash, on Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south). These include (but are not limited to):

Palm Beach (north)

- Investigations that include specialist assessment of potential direct impacts (e.g. trampling, access pathways, fencing) and indirect impacts (e.g. noise, pollution, traffic, lighting) to

migratory and non-migratory shorebirds, dune vegetation, associated fauna habitats, water quality and aquatic ecology. This would include impacts from dogs on-leash also.

- Investigations that consider how to minimise impacts to adjoining sensitive receivers including highly erodible sand dunes and associated vegetation likely to be used by dogs and dog walkers. This would include impacts from dogs on-leash also.
- Given the location is proximate to the National Park, environmental assessments would need to take into account any requirements from the NPWS.

Mona Vale Beach (south)

- Investigations that include specialist assessment of potential direct impacts (e.g. trampling, access pathways, fencing) and indirect impacts (e.g. noise, pollution, traffic, lighting) to migratory and non-migratory shorebirds, dune/headland vegetation, associated fauna habitats, water quality and aquatic ecology. This would include impacts from dogs on-leash also.
- Assessments in relation to the southern boundary and proximity to geotechnical hazards (including the escarpment). This would include impacts from dogs on-leash also.
- Investigations that consider how to minimise impacts on adjoining sensitive receivers including highly erodible sand dunes, associated vegetation and receiving waters likely to be used by dogs and dog walkers.

Environmental assessment would consider impacts at the proposed off-leash areas as well as any surrounding areas that could potentially be impacted.

Appropriate Planning and Approval Pathways

Should Council wish to undertake further environmental assessments into the feasibility of establishing dog off-leash areas on Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south), consideration will also need to be given to the appropriate planning and approval pathways. The Court's decision in *Palm Beach Protection Group Incorporated v Northern Beaches Council [2020] NSWLEC 156* has implications for the relevant planning and approval pathways. This work would assist Council to be in a position to determine whether or not Council should proceed to the next steps.

The former Pittwater Council Dog Control Policy (No 30) is still in force. This policy states that all beaches are prohibited areas for dogs. This includes Palm Beach and Mona Vale Beach. This policy would need to be amended, by a resolution of Council, to allow off-leash or on-leash areas on these beaches. An order of Council is also required to declare an off-leash area under section 13(6) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Amendments may also be required to Pittwater's Ocean Beaches Plan of Management (2005).

The next steps are likely to include; undertaking community engagement, seeking approval and a licence for use of NSW State Government land, seeking any planning approvals required, amending the current policy, amending Plans of Management as required and declaring off-leash areas, conducting a trial and reviewing the outcomes of the trial.

Recreational Considerations

Community consultation conducted by Council about off-leash areas over the last 4 years has indicated that existing off-leash areas are becoming busier and there is a desire for more off-leash areas in parks and on beaches.

The provision of an off-leash area at Palm Beach (north):

- Would provide new opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise their dogs off-leash at the beach.
- May impact beach users who access the proposed off-leash area for recreational activities.
- Would be in proximity to the North Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club and the flagged area that operates in summer in front of the Surf Club and may impact users who access this area of the beach.
- Would increase demand for car parking in the nearby car parks, particularly on weekends and holidays.

The provision of an off-leash area at Mona Vale (south):

- Would provide new opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise their dogs off-leash at the beach.
- Would link with the adjacent existing off-leash area in South Mona Vale Headland Reserve (Robert Dunn Reserve) creating a larger off-leash area.
- May impact beach users who access this section of beach for recreational activities.
- Would increase demand for car parking in the adjacent car parks, particularly on weekends and holidays.

After significant storm events beach access to off-leash areas at both locations could be compromised.

Proposed Trial Areas for Assessment

In response to the feedback from the NSW State Government agencies and internal teams, it is considered that the original areas provided with the Notice of Motion No 33/2020 should be revised.

Accordingly, the following parameters are proposed should Council wish to proceed with further investigations and environmental assessments into the feasibility of establishing dog off-leash areas on Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south):

- Palm Beach (north) dog off-leash proposed trial area (Attachment 1).
 - Length of the off-leash area is 400 metres (no change to the length indicated in the Notice of Motion sketches).
 - Northern boundary - 280 metres south of the National Park boundary (80 metres further south than indicated in the Notice of Motion sketches).
 - Southern boundary - 300 metres north of the North Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (100 metres closer to the Surf Club than indicated in the Notice of Motion sketches).
 - Western boundary - the eastern edge of the dunes in Governor Phillip Park (no change from the Notice of Motion sketches).
 - Eastern boundary – 130 metres east of the eastern edge of the dunes.
 - Off-leash on specified pathways from the car park to the beach to provide connectivity (the Notice of Motion sketches did not mention these pathways).
- Mona Vale Beach (south) dog off-leash proposed trial area (Attachment 2).

- Length of the off-leash area is 300 metres and aligns with the existing off-leash area at South Mona Vale Headland Reserve (Robert Dunn Reserve). 40 metres longer than indicated in the Notice of Motion sketches.
 - Off-leash on pathways from the existing off-leash area to the beach to provide connectivity (the Notice of Motion sketches did not mention these pathways).
 - Northern boundary - aligns with the northern edge of the existing off-leash area. 720 metres south of the Mona Vale Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (230 metres closer to the Surf Club than indicated in the Notice of Motion sketches).
 - Southern boundary - 45 metres from the escarpment that separates Mona Vale Beach and Warriewood Beach to provide a buffer (the Notice of Motion sketches indicated a southern boundary at the escarpment).
 - Western boundary - the eastern edge of the dunes (no change from the Notice of Motion sketches).
 - Eastern boundary – 120 metres east of the eastern edge of the dunes at the northern end and 50 metres east of the base of the cliff face at the southern end.
- Off-leash days and times are proposed to be (at both locations) 4pm to 10am, Monday to Sunday (seven days a week). The proposed times include popular times to exercise a dog, in the mornings before work and after school drop-off and in the afternoons after work and school drop-off. No days and times were indicated in the Notice of Motion sketches.

On 22 March 2021 a discussion about the amended parameters was held with representatives of Pittwater Unleashed. In principle, Pittwater Unleashed were supportive of the amendments.

Subject to the necessary environmental assessments, determinations and approvals, a 12 month trial is proposed to be conducted at each location based on these amended parameters and proposed days and times.

CONSULTATION

It is proposed that community engagement would be undertaken after the environmental assessments recommended in this report has been completed and reported to Council. A community engagement plan would be developed at that time for Council's endorsement.

TIMING

Should Council agree with the recommended approach, the environmental assessments outlined in this report could commence in May 2021. It is anticipated that this would take 6 to 12 months to complete. Concurrently, discussions would continue with the relevant NSW State Government agencies about their requirements.

LINK TO STRATEGY

This report relates to these Community Strategic Plan Outcomes:

- Protection of the Environment – Goal 1: Our bushland, coast and waterways are protected to ensure safe and sustainable use for present and future generations.
- Protection of the Environment – Goal 3: Our community is well supported in protecting the environment.
- Places for People - Goal 8: Our neighbourhoods inspire social interaction, inclusion and support health and wellbeing.

- Places for People - Goal 9: Our community is healthy, active and enjoys a broad range of creative, sporting and recreational opportunities.
- Good Governance - Goal 19: Our Council is transparent and trusted to make decisions that reflect the values of the community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is estimated that in the order of \$150,000 to \$200,000 would be required to undertake the environmental assessment outlined in this report and preparation of any planning documentation regarding off-leash areas for Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south). This assessment and investigation would be undertaken over financial years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Dogs play an important role in human companionship. General health and well-being can be enhanced through the physical, emotional and social benefits of owning a dog. Similarly, dogs depend on their owners to obtain an appropriate level of physical activity.

Council currently provides 28 off-leash dog areas including Sandy Bay, Clontarf and Rowland Reserve, Bayview which have access to beaches.

Many dog owners have expressed their views that there is a need for more off-leash areas in our parks and for multiple beach locations to be considered. Council has also received community feedback that dogs should not be allowed on any beaches on-leash or off-leash.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental assessments are to be undertaken as required by the relevant legislation including the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. In this regard, further assessment is required before a decision may be made as to whether or not dogs should be permitted, on-leash or off-leash, on Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south). This advice is outlined in the *Environmental Matters for Further Investigation* section of this report.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Given the judgment of the Land and Environment Court in *Palm Beach Protection Group Incorporated v Northern Beaches Council [2020] NSWLEC 156* all relevant environmental and planning assessments shall be undertaken before Council will be in a position to determine whether to establish off-leash areas at Palm Beach (north) and Mona Vale Beach (south). In the above case, the Court found that Council failed to undertake the requisite environmental assessments with the result that Council decisions in August and December 2019 were declared invalid. Should Council fail to undertake the requisite assessments and undertake the relevant determinations according to law, Council's decision(s) may be subject to legal challenge.





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.

