

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Ordinary Meeting of Social, Cultural, and Economic Hearings Panel Ngā Meneti | Minutes

9:30 am Rāapa Wednesday, 1 Whiringa-ā-rangi November 2023
Ngake (16.09), Level 16, Tahiwī
113 The Terrace
Pōneke | Wellington



PRESENT

Councillor Abdurahman (Chair)
Councillor Apanowicz
Councillor Chung
Councillor Free
Councillor Pannett
Councillor Wi Neera
Councillor O'Neill

IN ATTENDANCE

Pouiwi Hohaia
Councillor Young
Councillor Randle
Councillor Calvert
Deputy Mayor Foon

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 NOVEMBER 2023

| Business | Page No. |
|---|-----------------|
| <hr/> | |
| 1. Meeting Conduct | 5 |
| 1.1 Karakia | 5 |
| 1.2 Apologies | 5 |
| 1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations | 5 |
| 1.4 Confirmation of Minutes | 5 |
| 1.5 Items not on the Agenda | 5 |
| 1.6 Public Participation | 5 |
| 2. General Business | 9 |
| 2.1 Animal By-law, Dog Policy, and Domestic Animal Policy - Oral Submissions | 9 |

1. Meeting Conduct

1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson declared the meeting (hui) open at 9:30am and read the following karakia to open the hui.

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.
Kia mākinakina ki uta,
Kia mātaratara ki tai.
E hī ake ana te atākura.
He tio, he huka, he hauhū.
Tihei Mauri Ora!**

Cease oh winds of the west
and of the south
Let the bracing breezes flow,
over the land and the sea.
Let the red-tipped dawn come
with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost,
a promise of a glorious day

1.2 Apologies

Moved Nureddin Abdurahman, seconded Councillor Apanowicz

Resolved

That the Social, Cultural, and Economic Hearings Panel:

1. Accept the apologies received from Councillor O'Neill for early departure.

Carried

(Councillor Wi Neera joined the hui at 9:34am)

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

There were no minutes to confirm.

1.5 Items not on the Agenda

There were no items not on the agenda.

1.6 Public Participation

There were no public participants.

(Councillor O'Neill left the hui at 9:52am)
(Councillor O'Neill returned to the hui at 9:53am)

The hui adjourned from 10:17am and resumed at 10:50am with the following members present: Councillor Abdurahman, Councillor Apanowicz, Councillor Chung, Councillor Free, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Wi Neera, Councillor O'Neill.

(Councillor Wi Neera left the hui at 11:18am)
(Councillor Wi Neera returned to the hui at 11:22am)
(Councillor Free left the hui at 11:45am)
(Councillor Free returned to the hui at 11:49am)

The hui adjourned from 12pm and resumed at 12:24pm with the following members present: Councillor Abdurahman, Councillor Apanowicz, Councillor Chung, Councillor Free, Councillor Pannett, Councillor O'Neill.

The hui adjourned from 12:55pm and resumed at 1:39pm with the following members present: Councillor Abdurahman, Councillor Apanowicz, Councillor Chung, Councillor Pannett, Councillor O'Neill.

(Councillor Free returned to the hui at 1:43pm)
(Councillor Wi Neera returned to the hui at 1:44pm)
(Councillor Wi Neera left the hui at 2:06pm)
(Councillor Wi Neera returned to the hui at 2:52pm)
(Councillor Free left the hui at 2:55pm)
(Councillor Free returned to the meeting at 2:57pm)

Meeting duration

Moved Nureddin Abdurahman, seconded Councillor O'Neill the following procedural motion:

Resolved

That the Social, Cultural, and Economic Hearings Panel agree to extend the meeting beyond six hours, in accordance with standing order 11.7.

Carried

The hui adjourned from 2:58pm and resumed at 3:11pm with the following members present: Councillor Abdurahman, Councillor Chung, Councillor Free, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Wi Neera.

(Councillor Wi Neera left the hui at 3:28pm)
(Councillor Wi Neera returned to the hui at 3:30pm)
(Councillor Apanowicz returned to the hui at 3:32pm)

Secretarial note: The following members of the public addressed the committee regarding their written submissions on Item 2.1 Animal By-law, Dog Policy, and Domestic Animal Policy – Oral Submissions

| Name | Organisation |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Thomas Kay | |
| Trish Wheeler | |
| Petra Jaeger-Letts | |
| Rachel Ann Steele | |
| Jen Abernethy | |
| Jacqui Lane | |
| Deborah East | |
| David Harkness | Capital BMX |
| Hanne Jøstensen | |
| Kate | |
| Sam Valentine | |
| Elli Benseman | |
| Tracy Kent | |
| Susan Scott | |
| Rhys Phillips | |
| Monica Dunkley | |
| Robyn Lonergan | |
| Mary Wootton | |
| Graham Howe | |
| Matthew Plummer | |
| Ellen Blake | |
| Debbie Bidlake | |

**SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC
HEARINGS PANEL
1 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Peter Walls | |
| Noeline Holt | |
| Philippa Yasbek | |
| Carol West | Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust |
| Lisa Snow | Island Bay Dog Beach users group |
| Fiona Drummond | |
| Anne Tuffin | |
| Jan Voss | |
| Peter Ng | |
| Tanya Ashken | |
| Barbara Fill | |
| Jan Voss | Central Allbreeds Dog Training |
| Gary Beecroft | Friends of the Tawa Bush Reserves |
| John Burnet | Beekeepers Association |
| Kate Littin | Wellington Branch Forest & Bird |
| Mladen Ivancic | |
| Rachel Allan | |
| Joan McCarthy | |
| Miriam Moore | Tawa Community Board |
| Myfanwy Hill | Urban Wildlife Trust |
| Leo Lonergan | |

2. General Business

2.1 Animal By-law, Dog Policy, and Domestic Animal Policy - Oral Submissions

Moved Councillor Apanowicz, seconded Councillor Chung

Resolved

That the Social, Cultural, and Economic Hearings Panel:

1. Receive the information.
2. Hear the oral submitters and thank them for their submissions.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Hand out Petra Jaeger-Letts
- 2 Presentation Rachel Steele
- 3 Presentation Jacqui Lane
- 4 Presentation Deborah East
- 5 Presentation David Harkness
- 6 Presentation Hanne Jostensen
- 7 Presentation Sam Valentine
- 8 Hand out Robyn Lonergan
- 9 Hand out Mary Wootton
- 10 Presentation Peter Walls
- 11 Presentation Lisa Snow
- 12 Hand out Central Allbreeds Dog Training
- 13 Hand out Leo Lonergan

The hui concluded at 4:01 pm with the reading of the following karakia:

| | |
|---|---|
| Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui | Draw on, draw on |
| Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua | Draw on the supreme sacredness |
| I te ara takatū | To clear, to free the heart, the body and the spirit of mankind |
| Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga | Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace) |
| Kia wātea, kia wātea | Let this all be done in unity |
| Āe rā, kua wātea! | |

Authenticated: _____
Chair

The “Dog Friendly Wellington” Proposal:

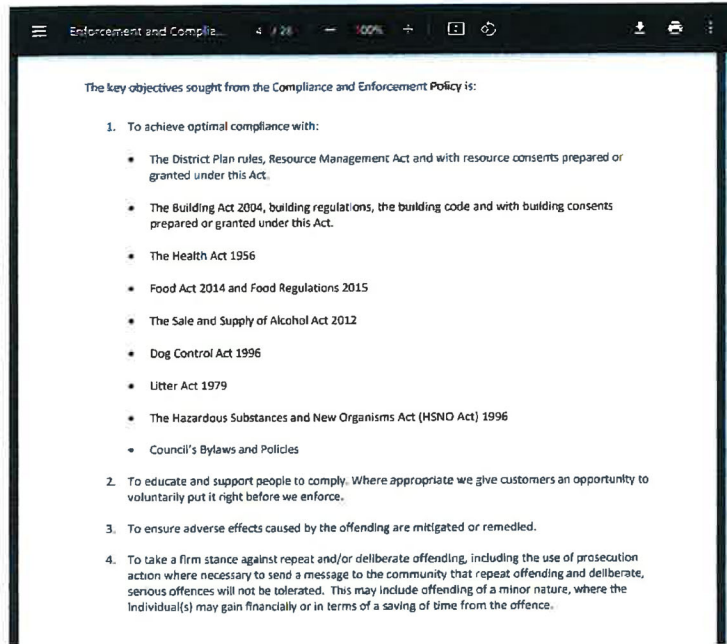
Addressing Safety Concerns and the City Council’s Obligations to the Public



Submission by Petra Jaeger-Letts

Existing Laws and Regulations

The Wellington City Council's Enforcement and Compliance Policy of 2 October 2023 states that its objectives are to...



WCC Dog Policies and Bylaws:

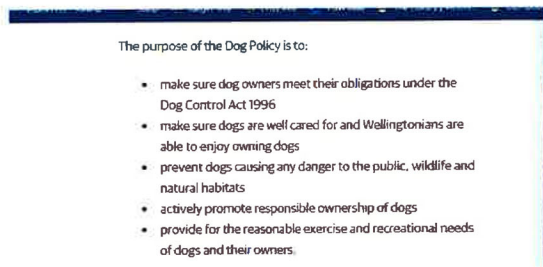
Bylaws

The [Wellington Consolidated Bylaw 2008: Part 2 - Animals](#) gives legal powers to enforce the Dog Policy 2016 and determines requirements for keeping dogs in a way that:

- protects the public from nuisance
- maintains and promotes public health and safety
- safeguards the welfare of animals.

All the relevant bylaws are detailed in the policy, including the following:

- Dog owners shall prevent their dogs from becoming a nuisance, injurious or hazardous to the health, property or safety of any member of the public. An animal control officer may issue a notice stating conditions that must be met to ensure the nuisance is avoided.
- Owners must restrict diseased dogs or dogs on heat from being in any public place.
- Dog owners shall remove their dog's faeces from any public place or property and must not allow their dog's faeces to cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties
- Written permission is required to keep more than three dogs on a property.





Above left and centre: result of dog attack on my dogs (not shown is my broken finger from fighting the husky that attacked my dogs)



Above right: large off leash dogs in a public space where small children walked past on their way to school (not a dog exercise area)

Centre right: "Charlie", a regular walker in the gardens, charged to me and my dogs. I asked the owner if she was aware she was required to have her dog on a leash, she just exclaimed her dog is friendly and never hurt anyone. When asked if she had a leash with her, she got angry. She did not have a leash, nor did she have poop bags.

Below: This black dog ran towards me and my dogs yesterday (he was off leash). The owner was texting all the way down the path and had no idea what his dog was doing.



Signage in the Botanical Gardens, Kelburn



Above: Short faded signs, one of which is covered in moss

Left: New sign in the Gardens next to the cable car lookout. Very subtle. Small symbols easily missed.

Right: Signs found throughout metropolitan Toronto parks and walkways. Friendly, eye-catching, clear message that dogs must be on leash, and indicates the sign is put there by the city council.



A 20 meter stretch of my street:

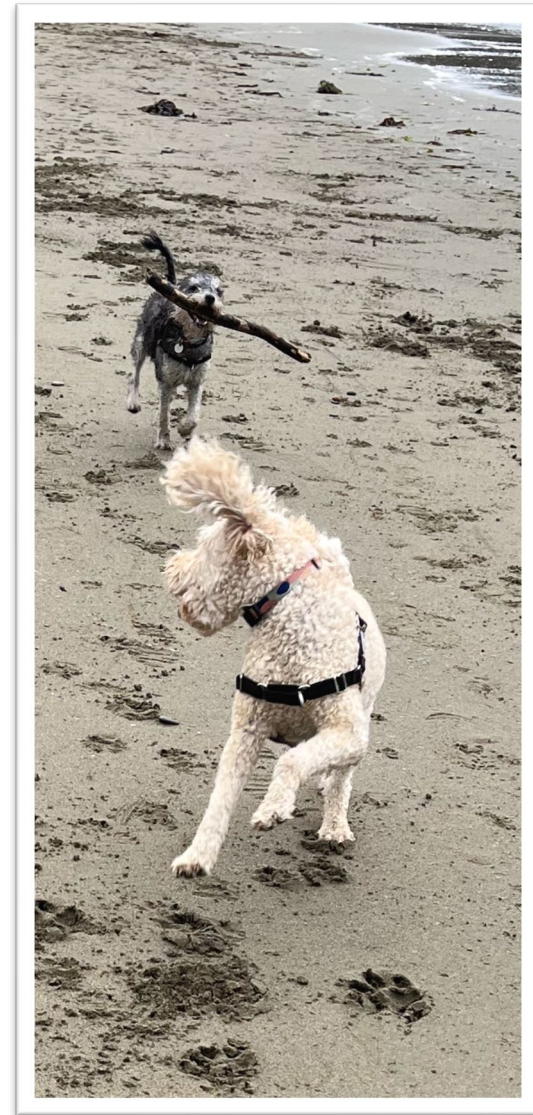




You can see we love our Dogs



Jess October
2013







Summary of points made

- Banning dogs from Island Bay in Summer will create greater problems in Owhiro Bay, particularly past the Information Centre
- The problem of erosion in Island Bay is not the dog's fault.
- The problem of dogs amongst the sandhills can be learnt by dogs and owners with better education.
- The problem of limiting beach access in summer can be forgotten if you can allow dogs to stay off leash where they are at present
- To deny dogs on the beach all year around is to deny people's rights to well-being.
- To force us to climb into our cars to find freedom to walk our dogs off leash defeats the green ethic so predominant in our current council's policies.

Summer 2023

Summer 2024...







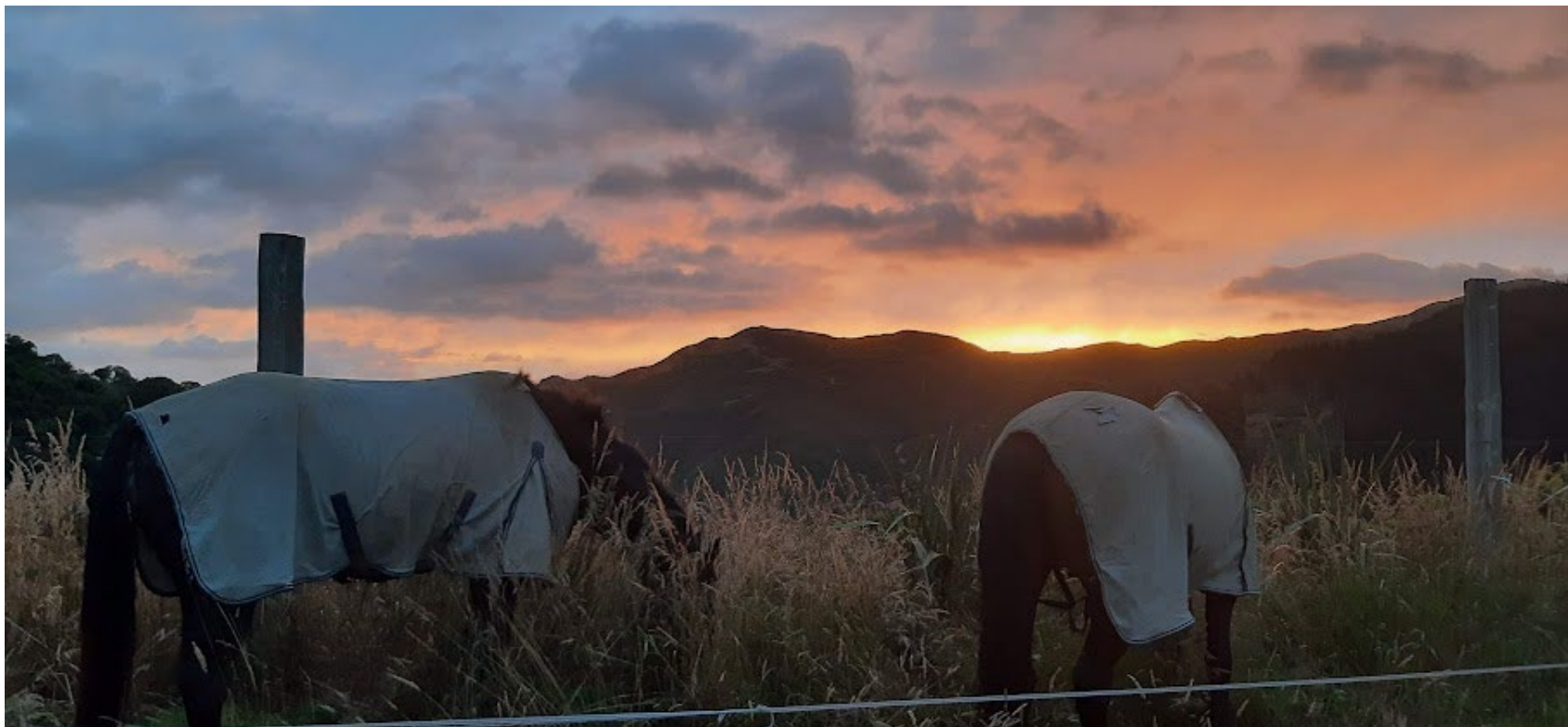












THANK YOU!





Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke



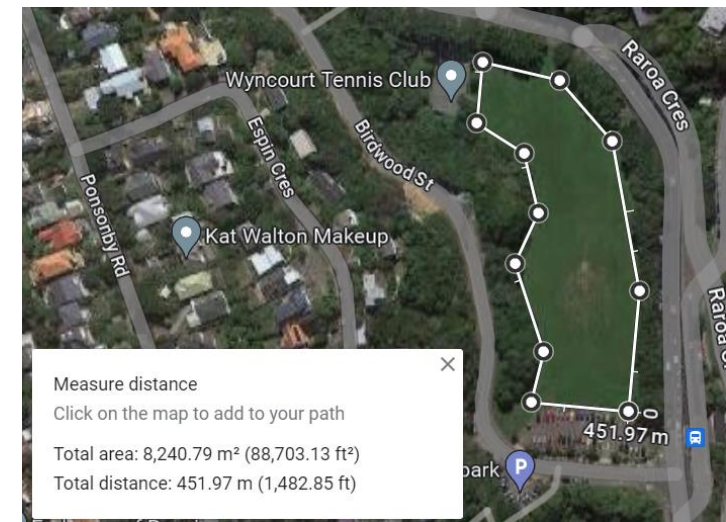
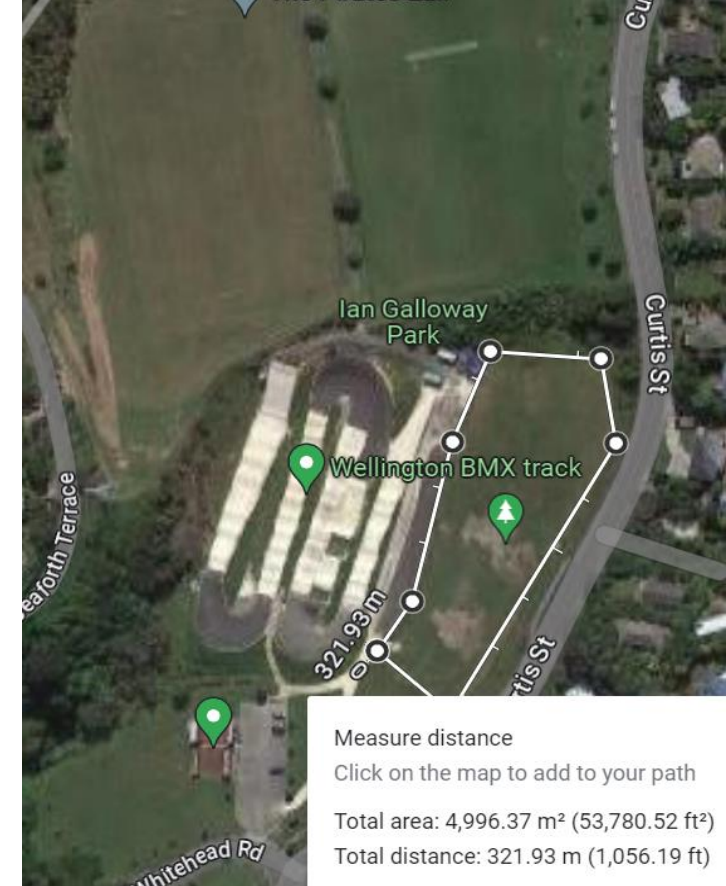
Capital BMX

Draft Dog Policy Consultation

October 2023

We welcome the proposed Appleton Park dog area, but *please* remove the Ian Galloway Park dog park

- At 8,000 sqm Appleton Park provides for a much larger dog park than the current 5,000 sqm.
- There is more parking at Appleton Park, so less contention with skaters, BMXers and sports field users for the car park.
- It's only 700 metres from the existing site, so those not driving can still walk there.
- It's closer to Zealandia's Rātā cafe for dog owners to grab a coffee.
- Many current IGP users treat the surrounding sports areas as off-leash, creating conflict and nuisance.



Dogs and little kids on bikes don't mix well



- Off leash dogs on the track during racing is a huge safety risk.
- Dogs often run ahead of their owners off leash through the site.
- Dog poo where the kids pit their bikes and where spectators stand.
- Dog prints on the track surface allows water ingress and requires more work
- Removing the IGP dog park will help



Until the IGP dog park is removed, please mitigate the risks

- Permanently close the gate connecting the dog park into the BMX site
- Designate the BMX site as a Dogs Prohibited area
- Install signage at north and south entrances advising *dogs prohibited* and alternate routes



Accelerate the IGP Master Plan & create a Wheels Hub



Regional Scale Destination Pump Track

Enable Wellington to host
major BMX events

Public Toilets/Shared Club Rooms

Car Parking

Baseball diamond; basketball; lighting;
playground; dirt jumps & slopestyle; skate
ramps; shelter & shade

An initial proposal creates a starting point

One option to meet the identified stakeholder needs is illustrated by the graphic to the right, and can act as a baseline from which to further develop and refine:

A. Create a 'Wheels Hub' at the south end of IGP

Add a pump track, dirt jumps and skate park to the existing BMX track and skate ramps to create a co-located hub for wheel based sport in the Western suburbs.

A regional scale asphalt pump track would be a star attraction generating significant use in its own right and increased use of existing BMX/skate facilities due to the complementary nature of skills.

A wheels hub is enabled by relocating the current fenced dog park (e.g. to nearby Appleton Park with good parking, or to a sheltered but steeper area next to the Wests Club rooms facilities and CADTS).

B. Hub building – shared club rooms at a central location

Modelled on the successful Toitū Pōneke hub, build a two story shared facility incorporating changing rooms, public toilet facilities, multi-code equipment storage, café / bar, multi-use club rooms which can be booked and used by different groups. Central location allows for viewing decks to see multiple fields. Co-locate with outdoor basketball courts and extended parking.

C. Pitch upgrades – for extended usage

Continue to maintain pitch 1 (The Cage); resolve drainage challenges on pitches 3 & 4, inc. considering all weather surfaces. Install lighting to enable winter / evening training. Design for multi-code use, inc. rugby, football, GAA, hockey, cricket.

D. Create a home for Diamond sports

Build a full size fenced baseball diamond and additional junior baseball pitches to provide a home from which this growing sport can further develop (e.g. staged approach progressing from grass & lime to an all-weather surface & enhanced spectator facilities over time as funding allows).



Presentation in support of oral submission regarding Wellington City Council's Dog Policy amendments and their impact on the use of Island Bay Beach

1 Nov 2023

Hanne Jøstensen, MSc



Island Bay Beach in Tapu te Ranga
Marine Reserve

Eastern side of the beach



Lovely sand and safe for swimming.
Ideal for recreational activities. Photo
taken at low tide so beach appears
very large



Note how close to the sea-wall the high tide line on 31/10/23 is (drawn in red). How will people and off-leash dogs co-exist without conflict here?
Photo taken an hour after high tide

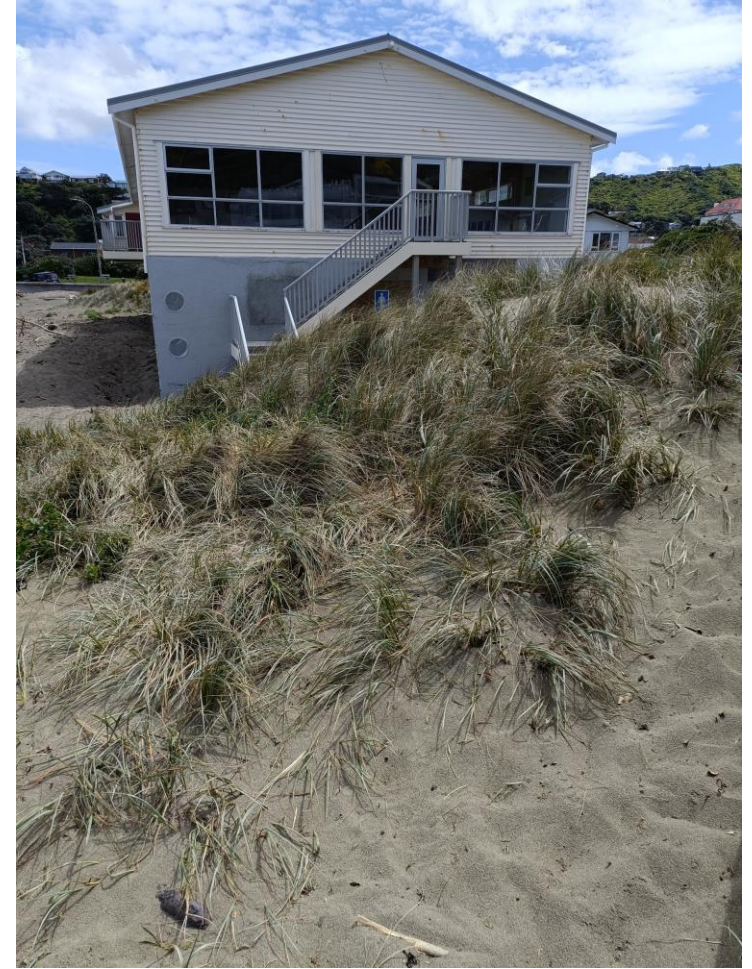
Sand dunes on the eastern part of Island Bay Beach around the Marine Education Centre



West of the building



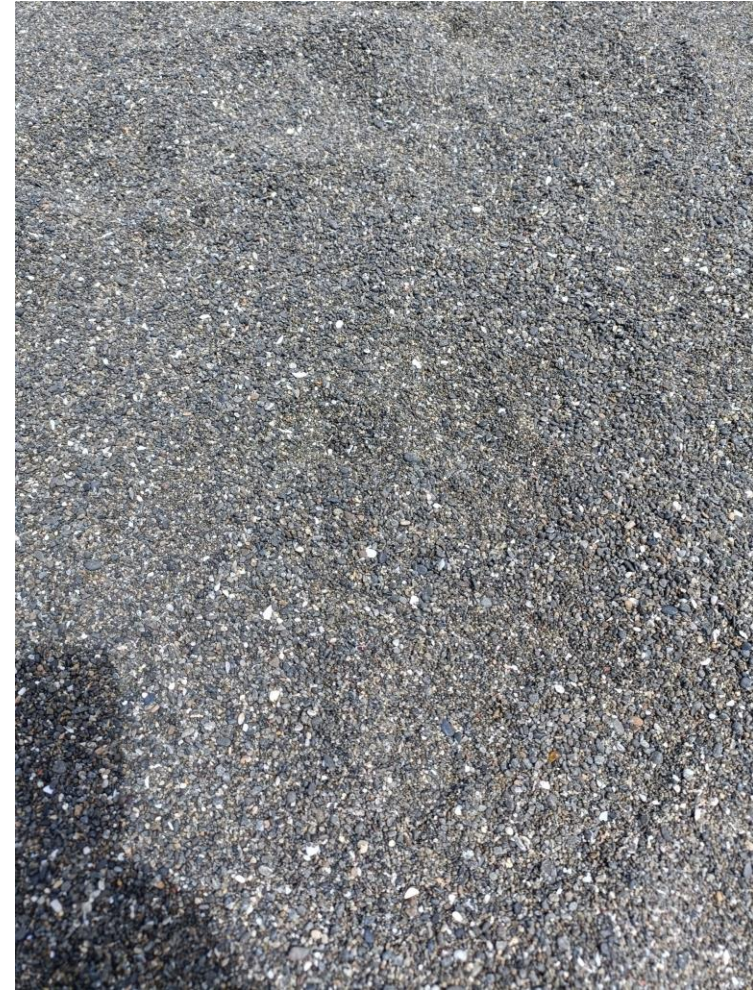
North of the building



East of the building

The western side of Island Bay Beach is much more rugged and has stronger currents, making it less safe for swimming and less suitable for recreation.

It's the only part of the beach that should be considered for dogs, off-leash or on-leash.



Proposed changes to animal bi-laws at Island Bay Beach

A SOLUTION LOOKING FOR A PROBLEM

Social, Cultural, and Economic Hearings Panel - 1 November 2023

Proposed change 4:

Swap around the “off-leash” and “prohibited” areas at Island Bay Beach to minimise the effect of dogs on the dune restoration



Presenter: Sam Valentine, Island Bay resident and dog owner

Photo taken: Labour Day - 23 October 2023

Timeline and Context – Island Bay Dog Beach

2002 – South Coast Management Plan – regarding Island Bay beach states “To the western end, planting (pingao) will be maintained and extended where possible – this area is more natural in character with rocky foreshore and dunes”.

2009 – Island Bay Five Year Restoration Plan (Coastline Consultants) commissioned by WCC and GWRC.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AREA A

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

- Continue the successful management of established spinifex and pingao along the lower parts of the foredune slope including:
 - maintaining access-ways,
 - providing guiding fences where required,
 - selective removal of problem exotic species,
 - broadcast application of fast-release fertiliser as required, and
 - planting any gaps in vegetation cover caused by high seas or disturbance by beach users.
- Interplant the unthrifty pingao on steep slope faces in spinifex where sand accretion is expected to continue. Otherwise on semi-stable sites plant with a range of

2014 – Island Bay Seawall Alternatives Analysis (Tonkin and Taylor) commissioned by WCC.

See Figure 9, Pg 10 of report and recent photos (right) of recent erosion of western dunes which is unlikely to be significantly affected by dogs accessing the dunes. Of the 100’s of dog visits every day, very few enter the upper section of the dunes and have any interaction with dune restoration efforts. Note that the upper photo shows dense / healthy vegetation with no apparent effects of dogs.

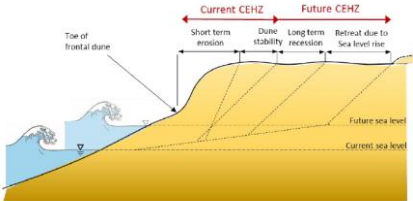


Figure 9 Definition sketch for open coast coastal erosion hazard zones

Circa 2014-16 – WCC proposed to cut board walk into western dunes. Sign of early work to cut a track into the dunes still present with levelled areas of the dunes and patching of vegetation apparent.

2016 – WCC Proposal “allow dogs to walk off-leash full-time, on the allowed area of the beach from the pier to the western end of the beach.” (Statement of Proposal, Dog Policy Proposal 2016).

Since this proposal was enacted, the western end of Island Bay Beach has become a much-loved public space where many locals walk, swim and picnic in the company of dogs. Prior to 2016 few people utilised this section of the beach. Dogs are prohibited at the eastern end which is more accessible and closer to the toilets at Shortland Park is more desirable for swimmers and families. The existing situation works extremely well at present and should not be changed.

2023 (this proposal) – WCC propose closing the dog beach at the western end at all times and introduce conflict between dogs and other beach users during off-peak times at the eastern end on the basis that dogs are having an unsubstantiated effect on dune restoration efforts.



WCC Consultation Approach

| Available Consultation and Assessment Methods | | Key Considerations |
|--|---|---|
| Statement of Proposal published on WCC website | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Insinuates that dogs have more than a minor impact on dune restoration without providing evidence, considering other more significant drivers of coastal erosion, impact of children playing in the dunes, or investigating other options (e.g. fencing, education etc).▪ Downplays the change via labelling it as a “swap” of the allocated dog beach where the proposal imposes far greater restrictions on dog access.▪ Does not consider the existing users of the beach, particularly at the eastern side. |
| Registered Dog Owners notified by email of proposal | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The changes proposed for Island Bay beach are ‘buried’ within a myriad of other changes being proposed across the Wellington district.▪ Many dog owners that I have spoken with did not receive the email or were not prompted that there were changes proposed in their area. |
| Public notice in The Post newspaper (assumed?) | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ if this did occur it will have been the main method used to inform the general public of changes proposed. Readership having significantly declined in recent years it will not have been an effective method of engaging the public, alone. |
| Online survey loaded to Lets Talk | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Discussed on later slide. |
| Signs presented clearly at Island Bay beach entry points | ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Discussed on following slide. |
| Letter drops for affected residents | ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A letter drop of within a couple of kilometres of the proposal site would have been appropriate but did not occur. |
| Provide drop-in sessions for the community to discuss the proposal | ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Given the proposal at Island Bay will trigger a significant change in the land use for local residents and ratepayers it seems reasonable and in scale with other (e.g. roading and infrastructure proposals) that WCC would organise engagement events for the public to attend prior to a ‘solution’ being proposed. |
| Advertise proposed bi-law changes at local community facilities (e.g. Island Bay New World, Vet, Cafes, etc) | ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No notices were erected at prominent locations within Island Bay or surrounding suburbs of the pending proposal. |
| On-site (Island Bay) engagement of beach users | ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No evidence that Council Officers have made efforts to engage with beach users in person on at the site of the proposal. |
| Survey of beach users (i.e. how many people use the beach and for what purpose) | ✗ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No evidence that Council Officers have considered or counted the number and breakdown of beach users to understand the significance of the changes proposed. |

WCC Consultation Approach – SURVEY RESULTS

Concerns raised about the Survey Question:

- Does not reflect the extent of the proposal (i.e. effectively closing the beach for 6 months of the year during peak periods).
- Identifies dogs as a causal factor when no evidence is provided to prove that this is the case, to what extent or consideration of other factors that hinder dune restoration efforts.
- Given most people support dune restoration efforts they are likely to support the proposal which will have provided skewing of results particularly from non-locals towards support for the proposal.

Question 11 from Lets Talk is a **leading question**

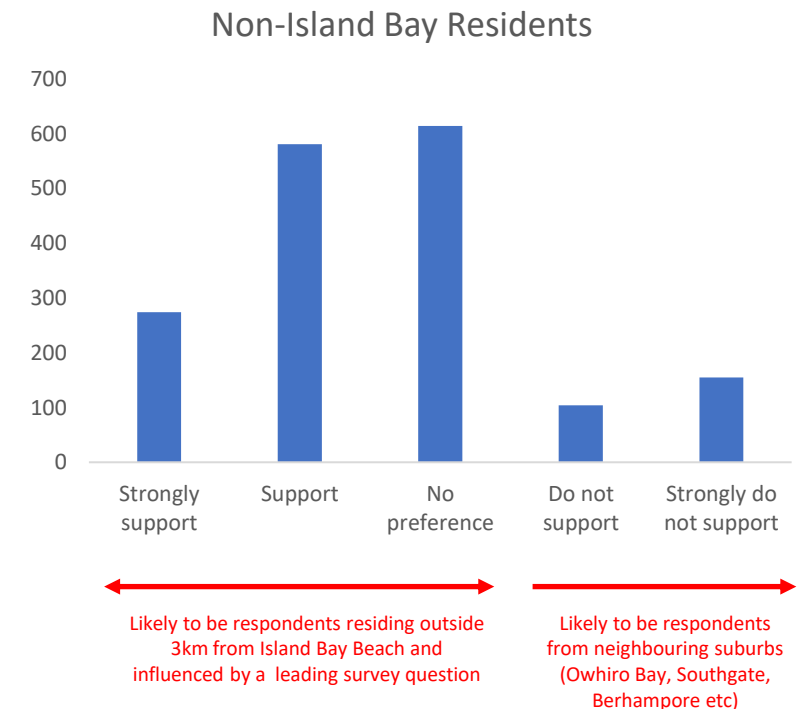
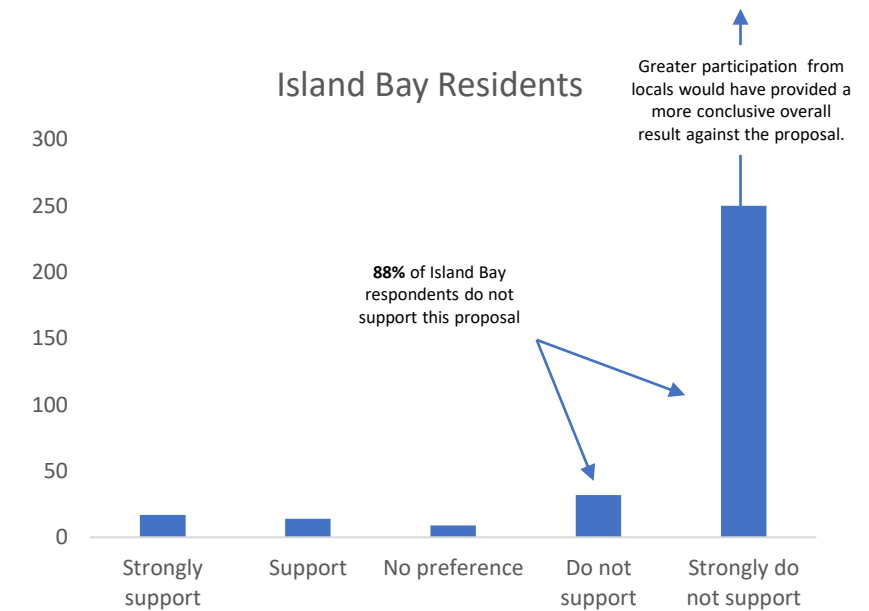
Swap around the “off-leach” and “prohibited” areas at Island Bay Beach to minimise the impact of dogs on dune restoration and introduce seasonal specified times during the warmer months.

A **more appropriate** question would read:

Swap the off leach and prohibited areas on Island Bay beach and to introduce further restrictions on dog access during the warmer months of the year?

Considerations regarding the Survey sample:

- The sample has been taken across the full district providing consultation on 5+ proposals.
- Primary method used to prompt respondents was via a email to registered dog owners.
- Many survey respondents will not be familiar with the site or the proposal at Island Bay Beach and will increase the skewing driven by a leading survey question.



WCC Consultation Approach - SIGNAGE

Two small signs erected across nine entrances at Island Bay Beach



| Entry / Exit | Description / usage | Proposal Signage |
|--------------|--|--|
| 1 | Main southern entry/exit point for dog walkers. Many people enter/exit on walk to and from Owhiro Bay. | No |
| 2 | Low volume entry/exit point for public/dog walkers. Mainly people using adjacent car parks (x4) | Yes – most prominent |
| 3 | Low volume entry/exit point for public/dog walkers. Steep and hazardous access point which people avoid using. | No |
| 4 | Main entrance for beach users including dog walkers, swimmers etc. | Yes - In response to public complaint during consultation period |
| 5 | Secondary entry/exit for non-dog beach users, usually families or swimmers. | No |
| 6 | Secondary entry/exit for non-dog beach users, usually families or swimmers. | No |
| 7 | Secondary entry/exit for non-dog beach users, usually families or swimmers. | No |
| 8 | Secondary entry/exit for non-dog beach users, usually families or swimmers. | No |
| 9 | Secondary entry/exit for walkers at low-tide approaching the beach from Houghton Bay. | No |

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COUNCIL OFFICIALS ON PROPOSED CHANGE 4

Proposed change 4:

Swap around the “off-leash” and “prohibited” areas at Island Bay Beach to minimise the effect of dogs on the dune restoration

1. Acknowledge:
 - Limitations present in Councils approach toward engaging with the local community.
 - Statistical bias present in multi-choice survey results driven by a leading question.
 - An overwhelming majority of Island Bay respondents (88%) are unsupportive of this Council proposal.
2. Reject this proposal on the basis that the current process has not allowed the definition of a clear problem statement. This will be required to effectively identify, consider and assess of a full range of potential solutions.
3. Use the information gathered during this process to inform the next steps and to identify the problem Council are trying to solve.
4. Re-engage with the full Island Bay Community (not just dog owners) on a future proposal to slow down the effect of climate change on the dune systems at Island Bay.



Council Meeting - Oriental Bay.

Kia Ora

Thank you for the opportunity to speak . I am here to speak about the portion of the survey that affects Oriental Bay.

My name is Robyn Lonergan . I have lived in the city for 10 years and walk on an average 5 times a week around Oriental Bay.

I have 3 main points to bring up today.

1. How the current consultation has been implemented.
2. Health and Safety of having dogs on the Beach with people during the summer.
3. Why was the survey conducted at the same time as a General Election.

1. I was personally unaware of the changes being proposed until I spotted a notice in the garden at Fryberg Beach on the 1st October. No other signs were evident on Oriental Bay. I took the survey and was quite dismayed about what was proposed for Oriental Bay. I emailed and spoke to the council to enquire where others could find out about the proposals. I did get replies but no answers.

I am disappointed as a Rate Payer and a resident of the area that insufficient consultation has taken place. Everyone I have spoken to or contacted has had no idea about the changes proposed.

2. Health and Safety. I would like to be able to go to Oriental Bay at any time during the summer with family (especially grandchildren) or friends and not have to watch out for Dogs or suffer from the Health Hazards from Dog poo or Urine. A lot of adults and children are nervous of dogs and should be able to relax and enjoy their time at the beach without constantly checking if dogs are nearby or likely to interfere with their enjoyment. I have noticed during the winter months. Dogs are running everywhere, some controlled, some not. Some owners pick up the poo, some don't. Does the council have a policy on how the beach is going to be cleaned and controlled?

Ironically new clean sand has just been added to the Beach.

3. Why was the survey conducted during a General Election when people were busy concentrating on other issues. It does appear that the survey timing was such that very few people would know about it.

In Summary, Oriental Bay is a Wonderful City Beach. The show case for Wellington and a Beach for People to enjoy.

Dogs are very lucky to be able to use it during the winter months but during the summer it should be for the People.

Not a Dog Park that allows People on it.

Mary Wootton- Oral Submission -2nd November 2023- Oriental Bay

The Actual Survey

- ☐ The current consultation process has been insufficient, inequitable.
- ☐ An accurate representation would be those using the area on a regular basis and impacted by the proposed changes i.e. non-dog owners, beach users, pedestrians and anyone else who uses the spaces currently.
- ☐ Signage was scarce, whereas the small Frederick Street Park project- has signs all around town and links are clear what consultation is about. *See pic*
- ☐ Why were there no signs on the two beaches that are going to be affected-Both sides of Oriental Bay? Rather on a neighbouring beach where no dogs are allowed Freyberg Beach- note off the footpath and in long grass and a very small sign. *See pic*
- ☐ There was a link in the WCC newsletter, 18 - 24 September 2023 but the title didn't exactly make someone who doesn't own a dog think the survey was for them. *"It's raining cats and dog policies We're reviewing our Dog Policy, Animal Bylaw and Domestic Animal Policy, and we want to hear your thoughts on the proposed changes."*
- ☐ I believe the survey was emailed to all dog owners- this massively skews the results of the submissions toward animal owners who will benefit. Note: A "Dog-lover" or "Dog-hater" could totally skew the data.
- ☐ Respondents are allowed to comment on the whole region, why not just the place where they live and/or pay rates?
- ☐ Many people filling out the survey, who have a dog but no interest in Oriental Bay in particular, will click support just because of the way the questions written.



General

- ☐ Many people drive to Oriental Bay with their dogs- they could drive elsewhere- if they want a swim go by the lighthouse or further around the bays to the 'woof woof' beach
- ☐ Oriental Bay Beach is used by children before 10am and after 7pm for family time, swimming, picnics etc. These times are when the sun is least likely to cause skin damage.
- ☐ Dogs should not be allowed on the Oriental Bay beach during the summer months.

Health and safety of proposal

- ☐ There is a range of responsible dog ownership, depending on this some dogs are very risky to small children playing at the beach.
- ☐ So can we expect uncontrolled dogs around children who may not be used to them- and we all know everyone says *"my dog doesn't bite"*- but then a toddler pokes it in the eye, gone is relaxing on the beach. So on so many levels I do not support this for our local beach.
- ☐ Unpredictable nature of dogs, threatening dogs, and bites have devastating long term effects- families should be able to relax at Oriental Bay

- Dog waste- poo and urine: Please explain how dog waste will not be an issue - where kids dig in the sand, and put it in their mouths and people relax and have picnics

Proposed Hours- Oriental Bay-7pm-10am- Unleashed

- Maybe the time could be 8pm-8am allowed on the beach on the condition the beach is cleaned nightly as even if poo is gone the urine will not be.
- Too many children play on the beach early in the morning and night-time- in the sand and put the sand in their mouths.
- So any changes to the time **dogs must be on a leash**
- The far side of the band rotunda closest to the lighthouse- could be ok- but still not ideal. The beach is often packed and there is no room for roaming unleashed dogs.

Consequences from untrained dogs.

- A Dog Without Training becomes uncontrollable and will not obey commands or return to their owner, on or off-leash.
- A Dog Without Training can be aggressive and dangerous to dogs, adults, and particularly children, and especially so if off-leash.
- Examples of these types of dogs are evident at every unleashed dog area in Wellington.
- WCC own dogs' reports show a significant number of dogs attack each year.

Inconsistencies about animals on leashes



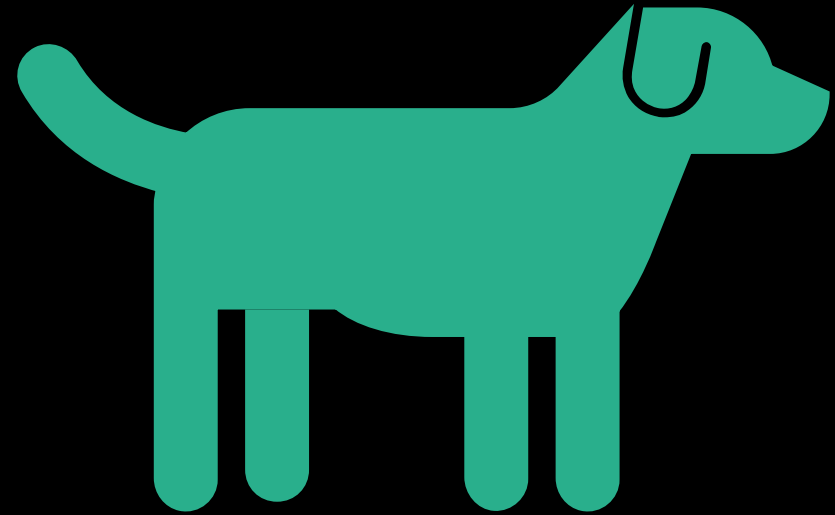
I was also surprised to see at Anderson Park a sign that allowed dogs on the park if not in use for sports- BUT they had to be on a leash. A place where there are no or very few people. Very confusing!! A crowded beach? No Leash! (See pic)

The Hutt City Council approach is clear and concise.
123456



Why take a dog to a beach?

- To exercise the dog
- To exercise the responsible dog owner
- To allow responsible dog owners **to swim** without having to leave the dog at home (frustrated, lonely, and possibly barking)
- To be part of a **family picnic** without . . .

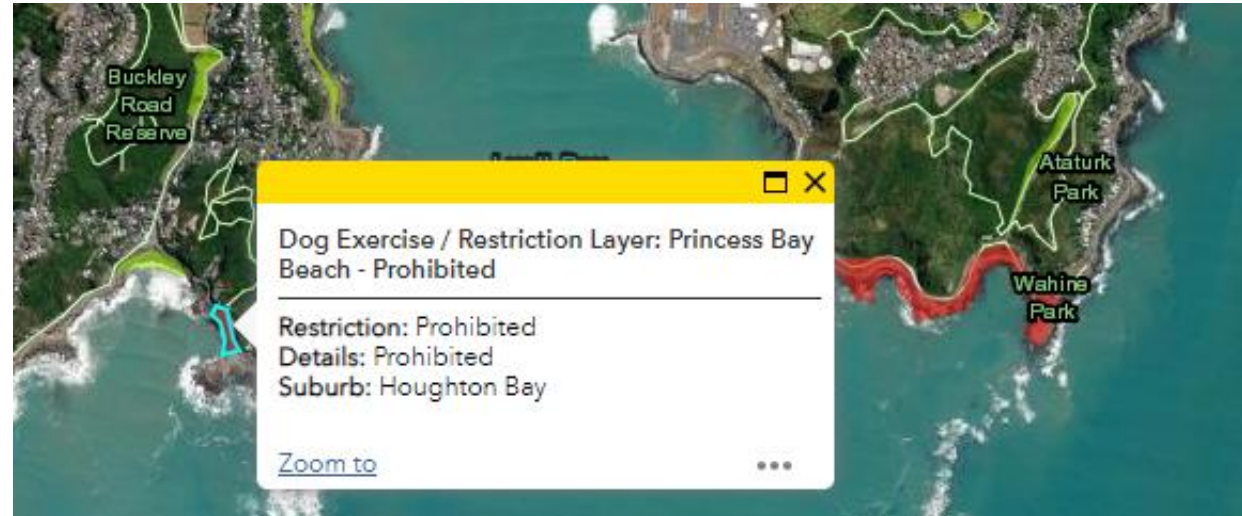


Off-leash and on-leash beach areas (restrictions may apply - [check the map](#) for details):

- Hataitai Bay Beach
- Houghton Bay Beach
- Island Bay Beach
- Kio Bay Beach
- Little Karaka Bay Beach
- Lyall Bay Beach
- Makara Beach
- Oriental Bay Beach (not including Freyberg beach)
- Palmer Head (along coastal path only)
- Princess Bay Beach
- Seatoun Beach
- Tarakena Bay Beach (along coastal path only)
- Weka Bay Beach
- Worser Bay Beach

Beach areas where dogs are not permitted:

- Balaena Bay Beach
- Freyberg Beach
- Scorching Bay Beach
- Taputeranga Island
- Tarakena Bay Beach





“beach”

Dog
exercise
path



footpath



Cycleway

Kio Bay Beach

Weka Bay Beach





Seatoun Beach





Except during summer
between 10 am – 7 pm

Dog exercise map

Off-leash and on-leash beach areas (restrictions may apply - [check the map](#) for details):

- Hataitai Bay Beach
- Houghton Bay Beach
- Island Bay Beach
- Kio Bay Beach
- Little Karaka Bay Beach
- Lyall Bay Beach
- Makara Beach
- Oriental Bay Beach (not including Freyberg beach)
- Palmer Head (along coastal path only)
- Princess Bay Beach
- Seatoun Beach
- Tarakena Bay Beach (along coastal path only)
- Weka Bay Beach
- Worser Bay Beach

Island Bay



Princess Bay



Meanwhile, up the
Coast . . .

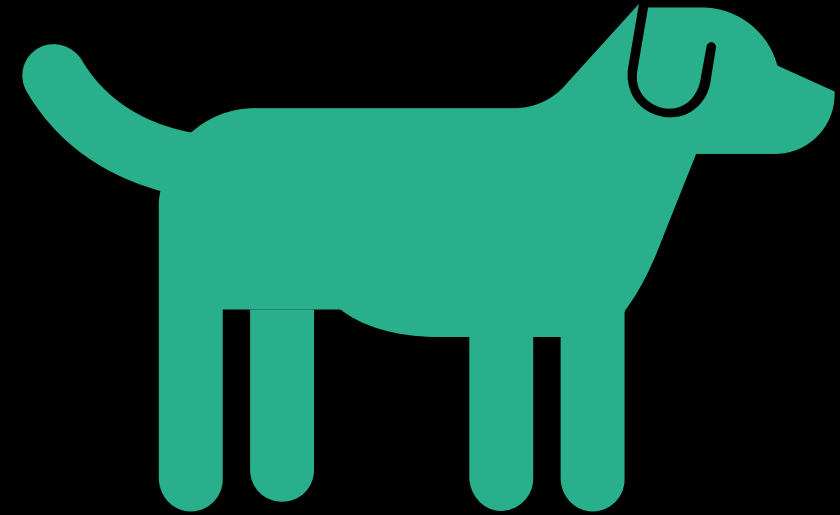


Happy
grandchildren

Happy
George

How to take a dog to a popular swimming beach in the summer

- recognize that swimmers and families don't want to leave their dogs at home.
- Create separate dog-allowed areas on more beaches
- Allow access to more beaches provided the dogs are on a leash or tethered
- Require a dog on a beach to be accompanied by an active carer (one member of the whanau)



A scenic view of Island Bay Dog Beach. In the foreground, a dark sandy beach is populated with several people and dogs. Some people are sitting on towels, while others are standing or walking. A few dogs, including a small white one and a black and white one, are visible. The middle ground shows a calm blue bay with a few people swimming. In the background, a lush green hill rises from the water's edge, dotted with houses. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

ISLAND BAY DOG BEACH USERS GROUP

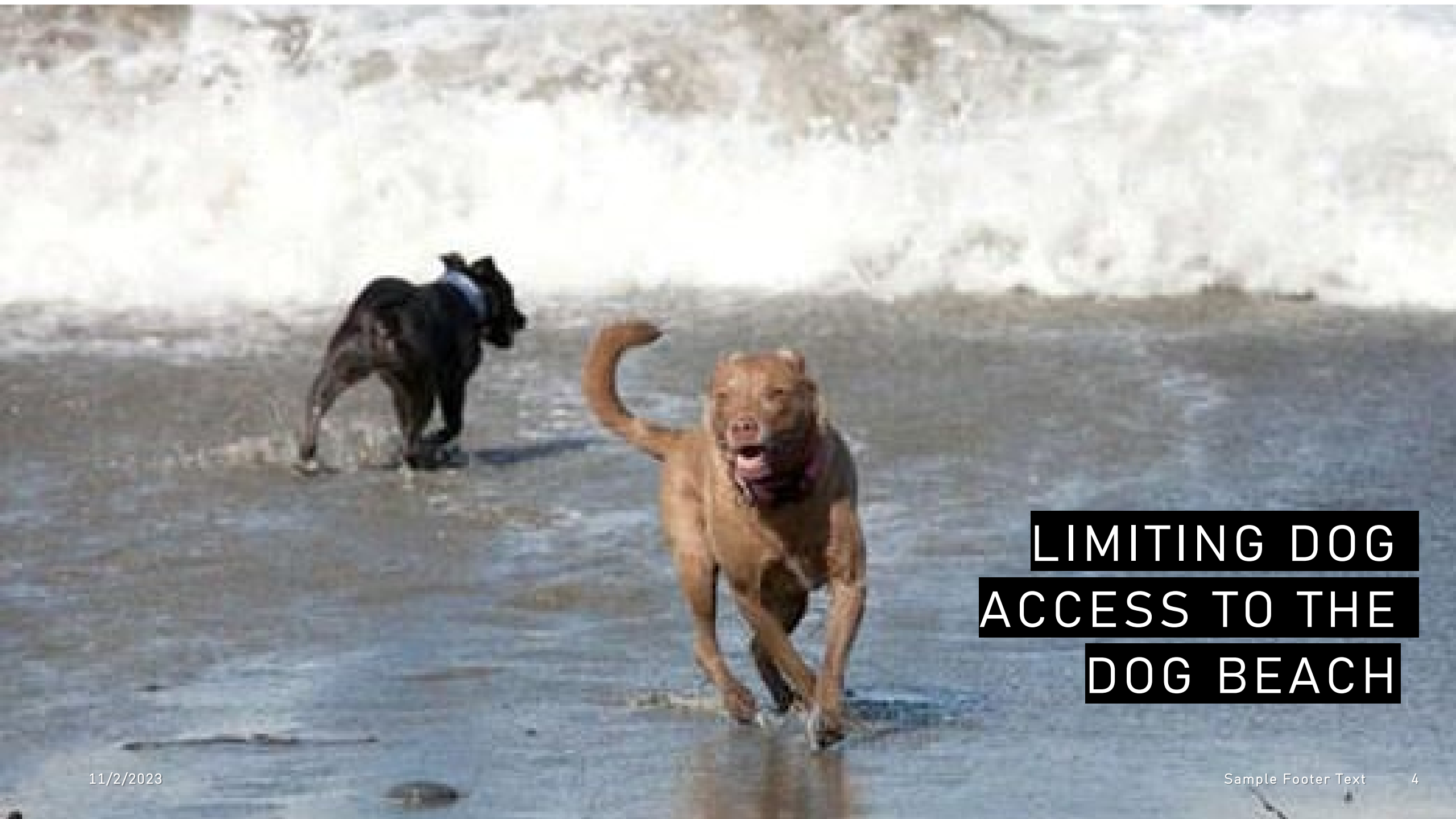
REPRESENTING 70+ PEOPLE

WE ARE A RECREATION GROUP

11/2/2023




BENEFITS OF DOG OWNERSHIP



LIMITING DOG ACCESS TO THE DOG BEACH

KEEPING OTHER ANIMALS SAFE





PROPOSAL TO SWITCH THE DOG AREA TO THE EASTERN END OF THE BEACH

WHAT IS REALLY DAMAGING THE SAND DUNES?





EXISTING SIGNAGE IS INADEQUATE

PROTECTING THE SAND DUNES

- Research
- Education
- Signage



THANK YOU



Central Allbreeds Dog Training School

Oral Presentation to Wellington City Council on Dog Control Policy Review 2023

Presentation made by Jan Voss, Vice-President of CADTS

Central Allbreeds Dog Training School or CADTS as we call it, is a not-for-profit Club with a long history of support for the Council goals of “actively encouraging responsible dog ownership”.

Established in 1962 we have been operating on our current site at Ian Galloway Park since 2019. We have a strong and growing membership. According to our records there are 179 currently financial members at this time.

Each school term CADTS conducts between 4 to 6 classes specifically for the RDO certification and so is responsible for helping more than 150 dog owners in this regard annually. Dog clubs are still the backbone of the dog training available to Wellington dog owners. I stress that the Club is a volunteer-based organisation. With the rapid increase in dog ownership post covid we continually struggle to keep up with demand and bringing in additional instructors of sufficient standard to deliver our programmes is a continual work in progress.

We would like to bring to your attention two issues that arise relating to the proposed policy regarding changes to RDO posted on the website as part of this consultation process.

The first is the reduction in value placed on undertaking practical obedience training with a dog.

The second is the definition of training classes within the policy that is making the delivery of these education programmes financially and practically more difficult.

First point.

A stated intention of the drafted Dog Policy if listed at 3.1 under responsibilities of Council to:

- encourage the use of approved education and obedience courses for dogs.

This sentence states the courses are for the dogs, not just the owners.

While we recognise it is important for dog-owners to know bylaws and be aware of requirements when taking their dog into public areas, the skills needed to become a good dog-owner are not just theory based.

Practical skills such as managing a dog safely on lead, coming when called, staying still when asked and basic socialisation manners are equally important. They are the criteria, additional to owner knowledge assessed at our Practical Canines Grade-outs. We contend these cannot be achieved just by attending a 2-hour dogless visual presentation. We also believe they are most valuable when the skills can be practised in the “real world” i.e., in public, with appropriate supervision and support.

We recognise the Council’s desire to encourage as many dog owners as possible to undertake an RDO application. Having Animal Services listed as a Training Provider and so able to conduct free workshops assists in this goal. We recognise too that not everyone needs to attend formal classes to achieve the skills assessed under the programme.

But as it stands a completely “Either/Or” option sets two very different sets of criteria for what is supposed to be the same end.

Our first change to the proposed Dog Policy therefore is to ask Council to add a clause stating that those who are applying for the RDO status using the free workshop option will also have themselves and their dogs assessed for basic obedience by the Animal Services Officer when undertaking a property check as part of the RDO process. This would be gauged at a basic level, but based on the same criteria as is expected when achieving an RDO through obedience classes.

We suggest that in this day and age perhaps, technology could be utilised to reduce costs – with a real time Zoom walk through, or video submissions offered as possible alternatives to an onsite visit. The time needed to demonstrate the owner has appropriate equipment, ability to manage and the dog or dogs have an appropriate skill can be achieved within a few minutes – and in this case within the confines of the owner's own property.

Where the applicant does not meet the criteria and hasn't sufficient levels of control or skill then Animal Services would issue a requirement to undertake obedience classes first and so achieve the goal, but without incurring additional resources themselves.

If there is concern that this eliminates an owner's ability to comply due to financial hardship, we suggest a small fund could be established, perhaps for Community Services Card holders (via Animal Services) to cover that cost when enrolling for the necessary training.

Second Point

Our second concern relates to the introduction of the Commercial Dog Walkers license and how that is being applied to training organisations such as us.

CADTS, along with the majority of the RDO Training Providers listed on the Council website rely on volunteer instructors to deliver these education programmes.

Approximately two years ago the Commercial Dog Walking License was added to the requirements for those conducting training sessions in a public place. This is noted in the draft Dog Policy at 7.4

The Club fully supported the introduction of the Commercial Dog Walkers licensing, although we continue to have reservations about the effectiveness of it when there are no restrictions placed on the number of dogs permitted under the care of a single operator when in public parks and off leash zones.

However, an unexpected outcome was the inclusion of dog training classes under this licence criteria. This requires individuals to apply for and complete a workshop, quiz and be assessed by Animal Services. To meet this requirement, it significantly increases the financial burden on our Club and other similar dog training organisations. Multiple instructors give their time and energy to conducting RDO focused courses each term. Nationally we are considered a small operation with 8 full-level Instructors but the financial burden and disincentive to become an instructor for us is still significantly increased since it is not the organisation but the individual who must complete it. We don't believe this was the intention, but it has become the outcome.

Even though the Club operates as not-for profit we do charge a fee to those undertaking classes. So as written it has been interpreted that we receive payment, and our instructors were asked to complete the license requirements when it began. Several have done so.

When introduced the issue the license aimed to resolve was public safety where handlers and/or trainers were directly managing multiple dogs in a public space.

But when conducting RDO class training the owners are always present and THEY are responsible for the behaviour of their dog. Therefore, the ratio of humans to dogs is a positively biased one. Our argument is that the trainer's job is to educate the owner, not the dog. We also believe this is best proofed in a real-world environment, and not just the club grounds.

We ask the Council to add an exemption clause in 7.4 that the requirement to hold the Commercial Dog Walkers license does not apply when the training class is conducted with owners handling their own dogs, or when undertaking the training directly in relation to obtaining an RDO (to be re-termed ADO) certification.

This would better match the statement in the Policy Introduction:

"Outlines the importance of education and training programmes for both dogs and owners".

Thank you for the opportunity to raise these matters with you. We would be happy to answer any questions and assist in any way possible with making these changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Voss' with a stylized flourish.

Jan Voss

Vice-President
Central Allbreeds Dog Training School
www.dogschool.net.nz
Mail to: cadtssecretary@gmail.com
Phone 021 818 222

Updated all day at **Stuff****Letters****Opinion****19**

Going to the dogs

With cars going from the Golden Mile, the council now wants whānau gone from our golden beach. Yes, the council wants to turn Oriental Bay beach into New Zealand's top doggy park.

A tiny sign located on nearby Freyberg beach asks "Wellingtonians to have their say". Buried in the survey is a proposal that dogs roam freely on Oriental Bay beach prior to 10am and after 7pm during summer, when the sun is low, and kids can play.

Dog excrement and urine can mix in with sea, sand, and sandwiches – health and safety be damned. Currently dogs aren't allowed on the beach from November through April, a rule which our council plans to overturn. Don't get me wrong, I like dogs and my immediate family has six dogs – but to open one of the best city beaches in the world to dogs is simply wrong.

I suspect that most people aren't aware of the planned change, and with the survey taking place during the general election the council may wish you to remain unaware. We have until October 18 to keep our (golden) beach golden.

Leo Loneragan, Te Aro

No easy access

In *New parking meters spark concern about limited footpath space* (October 7), Ellen Blake, of pedestrian advocacy group Living Streets Aotearoa, indicates that adding the new design of parking meters to our footpaths will exacerbate the problems pedestrians face with the existing parking meters.

Compound these problems with the parked bicycles and e-scooters, recycling bins, rubbish bags and bins, advertising flags, planter boxes, tables, chairs, traffic lights, signs, etc. Then add these risks to the safety of walkers to the risks imposed by cyclists illegally cycling on footpaths plus speeding e-scooters and it is obvious that the lot of pedestrians is not a happy one.

J Chris Horne, Northland

Rail fail

I wholeheartedly agree that it is unacceptable it has taken over four years to install a simple ramp for the disabled to access the railway station (October 9).

However, it is even more unacceptable that 20 years after it was first proposed (and strongly supported by the Evening Post at the time), there is still no continuous rail spine extending south, so that most people (disabled and able-bodied) don't have to get out and mill about with thousands of others at the



The beach at Wellington's Oriental Bay.

Letters

We welcome letters to the editor, which should be sent to letters@thepost.co.nz or PO Box 1297, Wellington 6040. They should include the writer's full name, home address and contact phone number; should not exceed 200 words, and be exclusive. In keeping with Stuff's editorial commitments, we will reject or edit letters that are discriminatory or express prejudice on the basis of race, ethnicity, country of origin, gender, sexuality, religion or disability. Letters may be edited for clarity.

station to get to their final destination.

Several studies in the 1990s, culminating in the 1999 Regional Land Transport Strategy, foresaw a tram-train system (as per the Karlsruhe model, not a heavy rail extension as some of your readers have misinterpreted), which by now could easily have covered the wider region from Masterton and Palmerston North as far as Miramar and the airport, but were subsequently ignored. And here we are today with Let's Get Wellington Moving still not getting us moving after nearly 10 years of its existence, and the National Party and its sidekicks braying for more road space and road tunnels.

Demetrius Christoforou, Mt Victoria

Not equal

May I add a further point to Martyn Drew's letter (October 9)? Renters, if they want to buy a house of their own instead of buying the house for their landlord, must save for a deposit. But when it comes to approaching the bank with their deposit for a loan to buy the house of their choice they may well find themselves competing with a landlord – possibly even their own landlord.

In the eyes of the bank they are not equal. A landlord has assets and a good credit record; no contest. Banks are a

Media Council

The Post is subject to the NZ Media Council. Complaints must be directed to editor@thepost.co.nz. If the complainant is unsatisfied with the response, the complaint may be referred to the Media Council, PO Box 10-673, Wellington, 6143 or info@mediacouncil.org.nz. Further details at mediacouncil.org.nz.

business. And guess who a National-led Government would favour?

Selwyn Boorman, Waikeano

Good luck with that

Your Friday letters correspondent comments in closing that "as a ratepayer I expect better financial management by this council" (Wellington City Council). Best of luck with that. If you find a solution to the financial messes that our amateur-run local city councils invariably visit upon their financiers (ratepayers) please write again and share the solution with us all.

D B Smith, Napier

Park it up

We "rip out" car parks beside the new convention centre. I walk past Courtenay and Cambridge through winter and notice "no-one" sitting outside during bad weather where about 9-10 car parks used to be.

All of this so a "handful" of "cotton-clad" people can drink beer or visit an exhibition. Environmental Health Intelligence NZ reports 2 million more motor vehicles in NZ from 2001 to 2021. It's gone from 2.5m to 4.5m. Say it slowly, 2 million.

Why it still seems easier to blame cycleways for all the problems of the world? PS: If you didn't pick up the humour in speech marks, it relates to clichés like cyclists are always lycra-clad and no-one uses cycleways in winter, etc.

Mark Coburn, Mt Victoria

We have spoken

Matt Carey says Upper Hutt residents should have their say about installing smart water meters (*Upper Hutt loses 52% of its water to leaks, October 10*).

Matt, I'm surprised that as a councillor you don't know we have twice already, and the answer is no thanks. I call on Wellington Water to prove its claim that Upper Hutt has the highest water loss in the region. Perhaps if it fixed its leaks, this wouldn't be the case.

Interesting too that this new improved data has emerged when Upper Hutt is the only city in the region strong enough to voice its opposition to revenue-gathering water meters that will not fix one leak on any private property, but will cost ratepayers in future privatised water.

There are many alternative ways of finding and funding the fixing of leaks on private properties. There are more creative ways of encouraging water conservation than charging more for water, which serves only those waiting to make a quick buck by capturing our water and returning it to us with an increased price tag.

Upper Hutt, say no again to "smart" water meters and lead ratepayers in other areas to stand up too, against their councils, who are making decisions for them without even putting the question to them.

Teresa Homan, Upper Hutt

AI WON'T HOLD POLITICIANS TO ACCOUNT. THAT'S OUR JOB.

There are no shortcuts when it comes to in depth political journalism. It takes time and expertise to unravel the spin and get to the truth. It takes an independent media that's 100% New Zealand owned. It takes Stuff.

Visit stuff.co.nz/contribute to support our work.

Stuff
**ELECTION
2023**