Dog Control Bylaw and Policy Review 2026

Summary of feedback

Submissions received 15 June to 15 July 2026

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Feedback received

	Total number of submissions
Draft Dog Control Bylaw & Policy	171

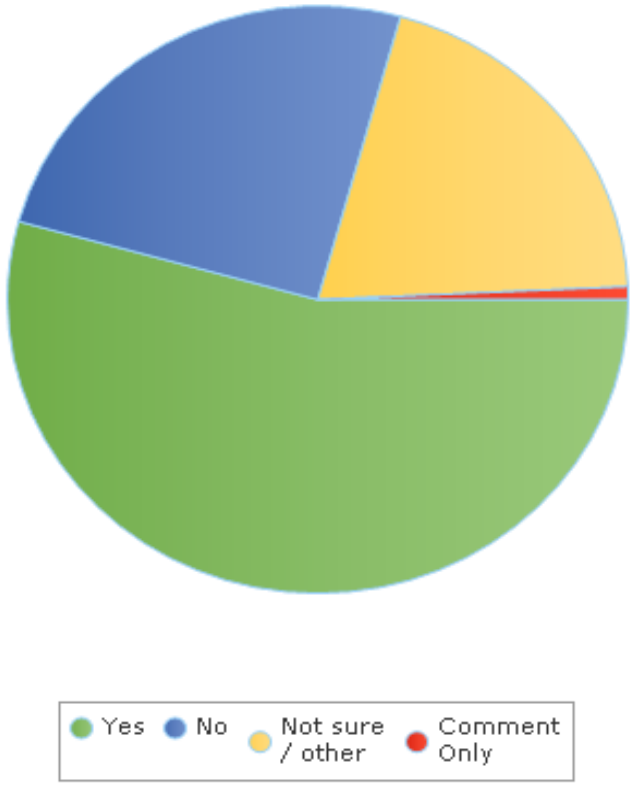
Two submissions of the 171 were received late and both were accepted.

Support

1. Do you support the Draft Dog Control Bylaw & Policy as presented?

	Number of people	%
Yes	76	54.29%
No	35	25.00%
Not sure / other	28	20.00%
Comment Only	1	0.71%
Total	**140**	

1. Do you support the Draft Dog Control Bylaw & Policy as presented?



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the drafts as presented		
Argyle Park		
27 - Ken Stirling	A step in the right direction. Good to see Argyle Park rules are being looked at. The current system is fragmented and confusing. The current signage is excessive a simple list of expected behaviours with reasons is all that is needed for the majority of dog owners. Too often the majority of dog owners are let down by a very small minority of dog owners disregarding respect and common sense. Unfortunately, these people seem to dictate the rules rather than a balanced more pragmatic view. Of course, it is an easier solution for rule makers to use a blunt instrument at the expense of the majority. Please bear this in mind for future rules.	*These comments have been copied to the 'Argyle Park' section of this document.*
82 - Wendy Severins	Yes for preferred option Argyle Park.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	Definitely increase the off leashes In Argyle Park, the new Industrial park and any other areas mentioned in your plans.	
Cemeteries		
31 - Rose Hawkes	It would be great to see that in cemeteries that pets can be present with a loved one on a leash as they are part of the family and give comfort to those that have lost a loved one.	*These comments have been copied to the 'Cemeteries' section of this document.*

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the drafts as presented		
88 - Kathleen Stringer	I believe most dog owners have proven they are responsible and so can go to other areas in the county. Cemeteries should allow dogs to enter as many people take their dogs when visiting family graves	
101 - Geraldine Francois	Dogs should be allowed in cemeteries to visit lived ones as long as they are on a leash and are controlled. Also I think the areas suggested should be extended for dog exercise areas and new dig exercise areas put in place as dogs get bored of the same places also.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	a dog is a family member and should be allowed to visit cemeteries with their owners. Keep them on the lead and provide poo-bags around the area so owners can be responsible for their dogs.	
Company Road/Ashburton Business Estate		
139 - Kirsty McGregor	Definitely increase the off leashes In Argyle Park, the new Industrial park and any other areas mentioned in your plans.	*This comment has been copied to the 'Company Road / ABE' section of this document.*
Enforcement/Education		
8 - Janette Martin	Fed up with dogs running over to mine while they are leashed and the owner is too far away to help.	The meaning of under "effective control" has been further clarified to provide animal control officers with greater certainty and authority when taking enforcement action in such situations.
General		

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the drafts as presented		
6 - Debbie Woods	well thought out updates, As long as they go through	
16 - Ceri Jones	sensible updates	
55 - Amanda Watson	Great to see the changes and will mean walking our dog a much more enjoyable activity.	
97 - Anne Treymane	seems reasonable	
121 - Aliyah Worner	It is a good idea as people in a public space might not like dogs and if you are not watching your dog it might slip away and start running up to people.	
128 - Courtney Sutton	Yes - formalises common sense responsibilities in words and tidies up the policy. Tweaking exercises areas and new additions seems to be inline with what responsible dog owners would like/appreciate.	
163 - Jeff Hyde	The changes are appropriate.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	Yes, I agree to this amendment. People should be proactive in their approach to dog control; mistakes happen of course but it's your responsibility to act accordingly to keep your own dog under control so as not to pose a risk to others.	
180 - guest user	I welcome the changes to allow more areas for exercising dogs and I like the definition of control.	
182 - Anne Watson	More defined guidelines	
192 - Lynette Fulton	Good Ideas submitted	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the drafts as presented		
194 - Lyn Womersley	I think the usage as it stands is growing and safe places for our pets is important	
Lake Camp/Clearwater		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Yes I support the draft bylaw and policy. I am pleased to see that the prohibition on dogs will continue at the Lake Clearwater settlement and shores, and Lake Camp reserve will continue. I don't believe the area is suitable for dogs to be brought there: the baches are very close together, there is insufficient space for suitable fenced areas for dogs to be housed on sections, there is inadequate rubbish collection for regularly collecting waste from dogs, and the settlement and lakes' proximity to the Hakatere Conservation Area require the digs/ prohibition in order to best protect the surrounding natural environment and habitats.	*This comment has been copied to the 'Lake Camp / Clearwater' area in the 'Further Comments' section of this document.*
Other suggestions		
56 - marion logan	we do need more off-lead areas to walk dogs. off lead is far superior quality for dogs ie they exercise more, they have independence to sniff and observe. i would also like to suggest the construction of a dog run area, alongside a vehicle run. ie fenced strip, fence vehicle drive. not all are able to exercise dogs to a sufficient level. could be the dogs require high exercise or owner is physically unable to exercise, helps in horrible weather too. lots already doing it but there needs to be a safe place to do it.	While such suggestions are appreciated it is considered that a dog cannot be under "effective control" if the owner is in a car.
101 - Geraldine Francois	I think the areas suggested should be extended for dog exercise areas and new dig exercise areas put in place as dogs get bored of the same places also.	
117 - Bob McDonald	We walk ourselves and dog around Argyle Park almost every day and sometimes more, i like the look of allowing dogs off leash around all the park, great stuff, but we would also like to see the top end ie farm road the area I am talking about is the old Cabouts market garden area as an off leash area as well, this area is only used a few days a year for kids rugby. and a great area to allow dogs to have a good run.	*This comment is also in the 'Argyle Park' section of this document.*

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Yes, support the drafts as presented		
219 - Lynnette Bridge	I think that all dogs should be on some kind of leash in the event that a dog gets carried away in either excitement or anger and cannot be controlled well. At least on a leash they can be pulled off with some safety and you can get very long leads now that allow animals a good length to run around	It is a legal requirement for dogs to be leashed at all times in public places until entering areas where signage indicates dogs can be exercised off leash (but still under effective control).

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
Argyle Park		
42 - Olivia Smith	more off lead exercise areas. Especially Argyle park.	*These comments have been copied to the 'Argyle Park' section of this document.*
107 - Chiyo Hunt	mainly Argyle park, we do need a change of the area where dog can be unleashed.	
Braebrook		
78 - Warren Maslin	I object to adding the Braebrook Swale off Braebrook/Magnolia Drive. As a Dog off -Leash area - The swale is currently used by a lot of families and dog walkers and is also used by the Stepping stones preschool, for outings and activities - Having an off leash area would increase risk to children and other smaller dogs walked in this area. It would also increase dog shit in this area as well as putting preschool children at risk of disease/ illness. The swale area also borders a lane way (Redhaven Rise) and all these properties have animals and no fencing that separates them from the swale area - this will	*This comment has been copied to the 'Braebrook' section of this document.*

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
	put all properties at risk of roving animals off Leash - endangering families and animals that live in the location - It will also stop us being able to open our garage areas safely. The swale also borders on a rural area with animals currently in this area - but this is changing to urban but has a area that is difficult to access for owners of dogs if the dogs head away whilst off leash over the current fence line. I have also talked to 4 dog walkers who walk their dogs in this area regularly but feel their smaller dogs would be in danger. This area is in a residential area and is not enough space to warrent dogs being unleased. As the area is a dead end area it makes no sense to encourage non residents to enter this area and allow their dogs to roam such a small area. It has no respect for the property owners and residents in this area , and no way to control them entering private properties. Dogs off leash do not have the owners pick up their dog shit as much as they may miss where the animals defecate. The issue of having more non residents coming into our area would also put our property security at risk as well. Just not a sensible idea - too much risk and no benefit to the current residents in this area.	
Cemeteries		
205 - Lal Mulligan	please keep dogs out of cemeteries. People need to visit loved ones without being concerned about noisy, stinky snffly dogs and bags of poop rotting in rubbish bins. Plenty of other places for dogs to be. No no no!!	*This comment has been copied to the 'Cemeteries' section of this document.*

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
Company Road/Ashburton Business Estate		
71 - Joanna Smith	Mostly see comment re company road area	
Effective control		
17 - Sue Norton	i support this policy but would like to see provision under Effective Control, to include noise control. As a Neighbourhood Support contact I fielded many complaints with regard to the persistent barking of several dogs in our neighbourhood. It should be much easier to lodge a complaint than the present system of contacting the Noise control officer. If a clause were to be included that suggests owners must make every endeavour to prevent this happening, it would give greater leverage when making a complaint of a barking nuisance and all else fails.	The nuisance created by loud and persistent barking is covered in Dog Control legislation. In turn, ADC has robust procedures in place for the reporting and investigation into barking dog complaints by trained and warranted Animal Control Officers, rather than Noise Control officers.
33 - Chris Pringuer	I feel some of the terms are vague such as the dog owner must be paying attention? how close is close enough to respond to issues? How could the vagueness of these rules be mis-used to target dog owners unfairly.	This will be on a case by case basis and allows our Animal Control Officers advise/warn or take action where they consider owners are not paying sufficient attention to their dogs activities
Enforcement/Education		
45 - Tony Foster	You do not seen interested in actually doing anything about upholding the laws snap solve sent provides no feed back to resolution and i have been advised buy council not to send any mor in as u wont address them as per below Good afternoon Tony Further to your recent emails and Snap, Send, Solve reports regarding dogs at Lake Hood, I'd like to take this opportunity to inform you that our Dog Control Policy and Bylaw are scheduled for review next year. Work is already underway to	Our Animal Control Officers have conducted regular patrols of Lake Hood (active monitoring) as well as the district as a whole. It has been recognised that greater clarity around owner obligations at Lake Hood is needed, which is reflected in the emails referred to and addressed in the current Bylaw review.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
	assess what is currently effective and identify areas for improvement. This includes clarifying where dogs must be kept on leash within the district and designating areas where off-leash exercise is permitted. In light of this, you will be most welcome to make a submission during the public consultation phase of the bylaw review. We encourage you to share any concerns or suggestions you may have regarding dog exercise restrictions and allowances at Lake Hood. In the meantime, you do not need to continue reporting observations of dogs off lead to ADC as we will maintain active monitoring of the area and take appropriate action in response to any breaches. Yours sincerely This was from Rick Catcpowle	
General		
40 - Neil English	With the increase of dog attacks on people and other dogs I think all dogs should be on a leash at all times in public places. I am a dog owner and my dog is on leash at all times in public, however we are regular visitors to Robilliard Park as it is fenced. It is an excellent well patronized facility.	
58 - Richard Mabon	My specific comments are below, but in general: • More work required on effective control • No dogs in cemeteries • Argyle Park on-leash only • The minor change around letting owners walk away from their tethered dog needs more work and either tighter restrictions or removal altogether.	
212 - Amie Griffiths for Huntingdon Park	Please see attached document for how it pertains to our members views	*Comments from attached document set out in 'Lake Hood' section of this document.*

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
Property Owners Association inc		
Lake Camp/Clearwater		
60 - Sherron Harrison	Lake Camp - Lake Clearwater dog prohibition bylaw - as a bach holder at the Ashburton Lakes I would like a concession that bach holders are permitted to have their own dogs at the the Lakes - under effective control, in enclosed spaces (around their baches) - behind effective fencing, inside their baches and then if they were required to exercise they would take them out of the Conservation (Dog) Area.	*These comments have been copied to the 'Lake Camp / Clearwater' area in the 'Further Comments' section of this document.*
64 - Melissa Mackay	I think the no dogs rule at lake Clearwater is outdated and would like to see it renewed. Your reason as below doesnt make sense. I agree with no dogs around Lake Clearwater waterfront as that is already designated as a wildlife reserve with no motor crafts. With motorboats allowed on Lake Camp how can dogs do any more damage to birds, fish and mussels. Maybe allowed on leash only around the huts as per the same as walking on town streets. Dogs should be allowed at hutowners private residences. If DOC would like to protect the crested Greb why dont they make a nesting platform like the ones build in Wanaka to prevent the boat waves destroying the nests. Dogs are currently prohibited from Lake Camp & Lake Clearwater (including the hut settlement), and we are not proposing to change this. There is significant biodiversity in the area, providing habitat to endangered species such as crested grebes, as well as NZ freshwater mussels, and numerous bird and fish populations.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
Lake Hood		
24 - Christina Cox	Dog owners are already ridiculous with not putting their dogs on leads. They should not be off lead at Lake Hood or any other public areas. I bet you got more support and opinions like mine than wanting more areas. You don't go with the majority ever so I don't know why I am wasting my time saying this.	*These comments have been copied to the 'Lake Hood' section of this document.*
50 - Zdena Kaspar-West	I am strongly opposed to the new off-leash dog area at Lake Hood. This large recreational area that ADC has proposed to be the new off -leash area for dogs was never intended for this purpose. This area was designed and developed for shared human recreation, not a dog excercise area. It is planted with trees and plantings, fitted with seating and laid out specifically as a picnic and recreational area for families. It is also used for many activities: from family picnics, playing rugby (rugby posts aleady in) clubs such as the sailing club, motorised boat competitions, kite flying , swimming access, kayaking, school sports days and many other activities. Turning it into a off- leash dog area changes its fundamental purpose. It would convert best part of Lake Hood recreation land,into something it was not intended for. This area get the most use, it's the nicest part of the reserve at the lake, mature trees, open grass area, lake access. That popularity is exactly why it's the wrong place for unleashed dogs. More people in this space means more potential for conflict, not less. Right now, children can play, swim, play rugby without their parents having to watch for roaming dogs. An off -leash designation removes that freedom. Parents would have to supervise constantly for dogs running onto the rugby play area, chasing the ball, approaching children while they eat and play or interupting swimming. That's a real loss of amenity for families- not a hypothetical one. People are entitled to a strees free, dog free recreational space to enjoy! Leave this area for humans and find an area that is fenced and away from water and children for dogs!	
35 - Jeanet Leferink	See Lake Hood dogs of leash exercise proposal	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
No, don't support the drafts as presented		
104 - Roger West	The Lake Hood proposal is unacceptable	
Other suggestions		
137 - Janet Hadley	I believe all dogs should be on leash in public areas unless it is a fenced dog park.	

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Not sure / other		
Argyle Park		
67 - Helen Andersen	As a regular walker in Argyle park with my well controlled dog, I would like the whole park to be considered off leash. The majority of dogs walking at the park are well behaved and controlled and the restrictions are arbitrary and don't make sense.	*This comment has been copied to the 'Argyle Park' section of this document.*
Enforcement/Education		
73 - guest user	I'm just putting my comment on here regarding dog control, or more specifically owner's responsibilities. Virtually a daily routine for me is cleaning up dog poo from the berm outside my property and occasionally off the lawn inside my property (I don't own a dog but like them). Also I was at the cemetery today, being the anniversary of my late son's passing, and there was dog poo on the pathway between the old and new cemeteries. I am well aware that some owners actually pick up their dog's poo in a plastic bag but some i know actually then throw it under a fence or into nearby longer grassed areas	

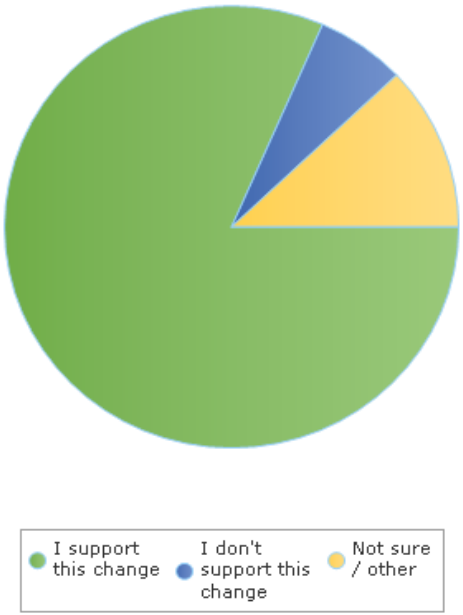
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Not sure / other		
General		
30 - Robyn Boyd	I'm only familiar with one area and have commented in that section.	
146 - nicole favel	well im just here to have my say	
181 - M J McLachlan	Response is targeted to specific issues where I have witnessed need for change	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	Companion Animals NZ partially supports the proposed Dog Control bylaw and policy, and we set out our reasoning via the attached document 'Ashburton District Council Submission July 2026.pdf'. *Summary:* We encourage dog guardians to adopt the following practices, and councils to support them: • Microchipping and registration • Early socialisation • Ongoing care and education • Keeping dogs under control • Desexing – dependent on individual circumstances. The 2026 government announcement of a comprehensive review of the Dog Control Act 1996 prompted by recognition that the current Act is outdated and restricts councils' ability to manage dog control effectively, has direct implications for the proposed Dog Control Bylaw and Policy. We recommend that the Ashburton District Council monitor the progress and outcomes of the DCA review closely, as any resulting legislative changes are likely to necessitate further amendments to this Bylaw and Policy once the review is complete.	
221 - John McGirr	New areas being open for free rang operation	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Not sure / other		
Other suggestions		
136 - Beth Mitchell	overall im in support. I would like to add a suggestion though. Many dogs need an off lead area but are not suited to a shared dog park. If you had a section of fenced field available to hire in 30/60 minute blocks that would be amazing.	Administratively difficult. Suggested alternatives - use dog parks at time when less likely to be shared, or make private arrangement with rural landowner.

Effective Control

2. Do you support the proposal to update the definition of effective control?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	115	81.56%
I don't support this change	9	6.38%
Not sure / other	17	12.06%
Total	**141**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
Effective control		
121 - Aliyah Worner	I am writing in regards to the Dog control and keeping of animals bylaw, if you own a dog you need to be able to keep a eye on it as well. Some dogs are violent so you need to watch them because nobody wants a random dog running up to them in a public area. So yes, I think what you guys are proposing is a good idea. I very much agree that dogs need to be watched, but they also need space to do stuff and be active so people just need to find the balance in between.	
Enforcement/Education		
56 - marion logan	many see off lead means any goes. have had people say just let the dogs sort it out. also had my dog off lead and another dog on lead pulled him over, (elderly man) and he blamed me even though my dog was heeled and did not go towards his dog. ie on lead does not necessarily mean controlled. more education is also required.	
136 - Beth Mitchell	a warden in the area ensuring correct behaviour at dog parks and issuing notices or fines would help people follow the rules and assist those pf us trying to familiarise our dogs on lead to new things without out of control off lead dogs ruining this	Our Animal Control Officers regularly patrol all exercise areas and have the warranted powers to take appropriate action as necessary. We encourage people to contact Council for specific issues so patrols can be adjusted if required.
137 - Janet Hadley	I don't think this will be able to be enforced however. Some people don't care if their dog is roaming free at a distance from them.	The Bylaw is intended to give greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which in turn will be enforced by our Animal Control Officers.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
156 - Daniel Trail	this is the key for adding the additional off leash exercise areas. Just wondering how this would be policed . I walk my dog in most of these areas on lead as she has poor recall in those types of environment there are alot of big poor trained dogs in this town and the fear of being attacked is real.	Our Animal Control Officers conduct regular patrols and will take appropriate action to address breaches of dog control legislation and associated Bylaws.
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Seems sensible.	
8 - Janette Martin	Responsibility needs to be taken by owners.	
27 - Ken Stirling	Agree this is common sense	
30 - Robyn Boyd	See my comment further down.	
55 - Amanda Watson	This makes perfect sense. Just like children you need to watch them.	
71 - Joanna Smith	any responsible owner has immediate recall of a dog off lease - if you don't then don't let it off lease. Your dog your responsibility to train it	
82 - Wendy Severins	Previous signage confusing.	
104 - Roger West	The dog owners must take responsibility	
117 - Bob McDonald	makes sense	
135 - Marel De Boer	dogs still often walk up to my kids and they can be the same size as my kids. Scary when owners don't call them back immediately.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
139 - Kirsty McGregor	All policies should be reviewed and updated as necessary every 5-10 years. Ashburton is s growing community laws/bylaws should be kept up to date as much as possible	Bylaws are required to be reviewed at least every ten years, as per section 159 of the Local Government Act 1991.
163 - Jeff Hyde	This change along with education gives better outcomes for dogs and their owners.	
166 - Bernadette Thompson	Many people pay little attention to their dogs and allow them to rush up to other dogs and people nearby. Not every person or dog likes this.	
170 - Deanna Walsh	An individual's interpretation of "effective control" and "close enough" could have limitations as this is subjective. This would apply to a dog owner and an observer who may have concerns about an owner's control or otherwise of a dog. However I wouldn't encourage further, more prescriptive policy wording as this ventures into police state mentality. I agree with the current educational approach of ADC.	
172 - Rasela S	As a member of the community who enjoy using local parks etc it is nice to go for a walk or exercise or take children to a park and feel safe knowing dogs are not free running around and away from their owners. It is good to see this update to the definition of effective control for dog owners.	
178 - Delia Achten	This goes with being a responsible owner.	
180 - guest user	Developing recall for dogs is considered difficult when training puppies and can take time and patience. Some breeds take time and a lot of sustained effort by the owner to get their dogs responding to the recall command. Extending leads and long lines are a great way to develop recall and still let the dog enjoy freedom.	
181 - M J McLachlan	Common sense - it is about personal responsibility for self, the animal and others in the community. In the 10 years I have been back in Ashburton District I have noted a decline in owners taking personal responsibility and flouting rules.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
202 - John Bell	owner should be in control when close to other people and play grounds	Dogs are required to be under effective control at all times.
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	CANZ supports the council's definition of 'Effective Control'. It provides clear, practical guidance for dog owners, and having a consistent standard also gives dog owners, the wider community, and enforcement officers a shared understanding of what responsible dog management looks like.	
221 - John McGirr	Owners must be held accountable for their actions and animals. Respect other users of the areas.	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the updated definition of effective control. We consider the proposed definition of 'effective control' is common sense and practical. An updated definition provides greater clarity about what is expected of dog owners and handlers, reducing ambiguity about what constitutes effective control in different situations. We note that this addresses a common concern raised in the early engagement survey. From an animal welfare perspective, dogs that are under effective control are also less likely to become involved in traffic accidents, fights with other animals, or situations that may result in injury. Promoting effective control therefore protects both the community and the dogs themselves.	
233 - Ian Fraser for Department of Conservation	We SUPPORT the proposed changes to the definition of effective control. We believe this will decrease the likelihood of dogs disturbing or harming native species.	
Incidents		
31 - Rose Hawkes	Important especially for elderly who could be knocked over, small children who may be fearful or had a traumatic experience. Both man and dog should be able to coexist peacefully. As one who has had a traumatic experience.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	I support it. I personally had an experience I wanted to raise however and I'm not sure where this falls in this conversation but I was involved in a situation at the small dogs section of the ashburton dog park where two men were talking and ignoring their free range dogs in the gated dog area, my dog was playing with their dogs, all was fine and i was close by and watching both my dog and theirs, then they decided to leave and call their dogs over. My dog followed, continuing to play but then the men opened up both gates on the dual gate system at once, allowing my dog to follow theirs out and toward the carpark. I can appreciate my dog should have been more responsive, but he was having a good time playing in a secured space and these two men were completely oblivious to any dogs in the area, including their own, and acting without consideration to other people and pets. When I went to retrieve my dog and said this is a dual gate system for a reason and it's this way to allow a buffer for dogs to be securely maintained, he said "Just train your f*n dog". Another lady in the park suggested the man apologise to me, as he was clearly in the wrong - he proceeded to yell "Shut up bi**h" at her. Can people who own dogs also be required to behave under effective control? Anyway, he drives a ford ranger with the numberplate [*redacted*] and owns a little Jack Russell Terrier if that's of interest	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will be of assistance to Animal Control Officers administering the Bylaw. In situations where the dog owner is acting aggressively or a person feels threatened this should be reported to the Police.
Other		
80 - Abbie Selwyn	i think it’s ridiculous to reduce ANY off-leash areas for dogs. There is not enough space to let our dogs roam as it is. Most dogs are energetic and need space to run, whilst i like the dog park behind Kmart it’s just not enough to take my high	The intention is to provide “safe” areas where dogs can be exercised off-leash.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
	energy dog to every day!! Not to mention if you remove areas that park is going to get ridiculously busy! Stop punishing us good responsible dog owners because there are lazy irresponsible ones.	
171 - Mary Schmack	How do dog walkers "control" up to 6 dogs in public spaces?	If necessary, control would need to be demonstrated to Animal Control Officers on request.
194 - Lyn Womersley	I have my pets microchipped and I believe that and desexing are the responsible ways for us to protect our pets and also ensure they are more in control of themselves	
232 - Margaret Heather Harrison-Lee	Some dogs are not trained and become a danger with their behaviour. The Council want to give dog owners more off leash areas but what about more enclosures to train dogs and their owners in obedience.	The draft Bylaw requires dogs to be under effective control, this is every owners responsibility. Dogs should be on leash by default unless they can be controlled.
Other suggestions		
6 - Debbie Woods	Would like to have also added "Off lead rules" Dog must come back when called Dog must not approach other dogs unless given permission by owner Owner to be close enough to intervene immediately Lead and Collar must be carried with owner at all times Owner to be paying attention to dog at all times	Suggestions by the submitter are already included in the draft bylaw/policy. In respect of dogs approaching other dogs, this is part of the responsibility of owners to demonstrate effective control.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I support this change		
16 - Ceri Jones	It still leaves it open to interpretation but it's clearer than before. I think it's worth considering a point where owners have multiple dogs	It is the responsibility of owners to have their dogs, either singly or multiple under effective control at all times.
74 - Jenifer Wiggins	I would recommend that in control means on a lead when in public walking areas.	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I don't support this change		
Cemeteries		
220 - Mohamed Diab for Ashburton Muslim Association Incorporated	**Subject: Feedback on Proposed Changes to Animal Control Bylaws – Dog Access to Cemeteries** **To:** The Ashburton District Council Policy Team **Regarding the proposal to allow leashed dogs into local cemeteries:** As members and representatives of the local Muslim community adhering to mainstream Islamic (Sunni) tradition, we welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the upcoming animal control review. While we recognize and respect that many people view their pets as family members and seek their comfort during times of grief, we must formally express our strong concerns regarding the proposal to allow dogs into cemeteries.	*This comment has been copied to the 'Cemeteries' section of this document.*

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I don't support this change		
	We respectfully request that the Council maintains the current restrictions prohibiting dogs from entering burial grounds for the following key reasons: **1. Spiritual Sanctity and Respect for the Deceased** In Islamic tradition, cemeteries are deeply sacred, solemn spaces dedicated entirely to reflection, mourning, and praying for the deceased. Islamic teachings dictate that the deceased retain their dignity and must be treated with the same respect in death as they were in life. Allowing animals to roam, even on a leash, directly compromises the quiet, contemplative, and reverent atmosphere required for grieving families. **2. Strict Ritual Purity and Cleanliness (*Najasah*)** Cleanliness is an absolute prerequisite for Islamic worship and remembrance. Muslims frequently visit cemeteries to perform supplications and funeral prayers directly on the ground or adjacent to gravesites. In Islamic jurisprudence, dog saliva and waste carry heavy ritual impurity. Even with well-intentioned owners, the risk of dogs urinating, defecating, or tracking impurities onto burial plots makes the ground ritually unfit for our religious practices, effectively restricting Muslims from freely using these communal spaces. **3. Inclusivity and Community Access** Cemeteries are public spaces intended to accommodate citizens of all faiths and backgrounds. Introducing dogs into these areas will inadvertently exclude or cause distress to many residents. Beyond religious restrictions regarding purity, many members of the community—including children, the elderly, and individuals with phobias or past traumas—will no longer feel safe or comfortable visiting their loved ones' graves if dogs are present.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I don't support this change		
	Regards, **Mohamed Diab** President, AMAN	
Enforcement/Education		
50 - Zdena Kaspar-West	Current behaviour of dog owners and their dogs at Lake Hood shows "effective control" is not being achieved. "Effective control" as the Council itself proposes to update requires a dog handler to be close enough to immediately intervene, if needed. What is currently happening at Lake Hood undermines confidence, that this would be achieved, if the area was formalised as off-leash. Currently dog owners are seen driving in this area while their dogs (often multiple) run loose alongside or away from the car. A person in a car, at a distance from their dog, cannot be said to be in "effective control" of their dog/s. They cannot quickly reach the dog/s, recall them, or intervene, if it approaches a child, another dog, a cyclist, or wildlife. If this standard of control is being exercised under the current rules, formalising the area as an official off -leash zone will only entrench and legitimise this non -compliant behaviour, not improve it. Having a paper based definition of "effective control" will achieve absolutely nothing, if this is not being monitored to ensure the dog owners comply. Currently the dogs are required to be on a leash everywhere at Lake Hood. In practice, this rule is not being enforced and is routinely ignored. Dog owners are frequently seen not picking up after their dogs, also. The behaviour persits because there is no one checking it and no one being spoken to about it. Writing down this requirement into a definition does not change behaviour on the ground, if there is no monitoring or enforcement to back it up. A	The intention of the Bylaw is to clarify owner obligations and requirements at Lake Hood, which in turn will then be actively monitored and appropriately acted upon by Animal Control Officers, should breaches occur. We encourage people to contact Council with concerns so they can be investigated. Dogs being “walked” while the owner drives a vehicle cannot be under effective control.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - I don't support this change		
	rule that is not followed does not become followed simply by being more precisely worded.	
General		
24 - Christina Cox	As above	
33 - Chris Pringuer	Vague definitions.	
146 - nicole favel	Not everyone likes dog or them running after children on bikes	Agreed, dogs must be under effective control at all times.
159 - Elizabeth Bell	no need for any changes.	
Other suggestions		
58 - Richard Mabon	I think it is a step in the right direction but you need to go further. I think that to be classified as a responsible dog owner, the owner must demonstrate effective control to an authorised officer.	Comment noted, however this has not emerged as an issue for staff or contractors. Should issues emerge with a specific owner, they could lose their responsible dog owner registration classification.

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - Not sure / other		
General		
17 - Sue Norton	See above *(i support this policy but would like to see provision under Effective Control, to include noise control. As a Neighbourhood Support contact I fielded many complaints with regard to the persistent barking of several dogs in our neighbourhood. It should be much easier to lodge a complaint than the present system of contacting the Noise control officer. If a clause were to be included that suggests owners must make every endeavour to prevent this happening, it would give greater leverage when making a complaint of a barking nuisance and all else fails.)*	The nuisance created by loud and persistent barking is covered in Dog Control legislation. In turn, ADC has robust procedures in place for the reporting and investigation into barking dog complaints by trained and warranted Animal Control Officers, rather than Noise Control officers.
Other		
219 - Lynnette Bridge	Monitoring will be an issue until it's too late and fining won't help as the cost of administration and surveillance probably outweighs the return.	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	*Please refer to full submission in Submission Booklet for details – the following comments are a brief summary of recommended changes:* While MCFF supports the amended definition of "effective control", we have significant concerns regarding its application within the wider Policy and Bylaw as the definition does not operate in isolation, it applies specifically to dogs in "public places". This means the practical reach of the new effective control standard, including the advisory note on leashing and prompt recall, is entirely dependent on how broadly "public place" is defined. We recommend the definition is updated to: ***Public place*** *has the same meaning as section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996, meaning a place that, at any material time, is open to or is being used by the public, whether free or on payment of a charge, and whether or not the owner or occupier of that place is lawfully entitled to exclude or eject any person from it. This includes privately owned land or premises while they are open to or being used by the public*	Realistically Council would be unlikely to restrict farm dog activity on private land as has been suggested in the submission. Submission also referred to extension of scope – this definition is not proposed to change and has been in place since 2016. Definition of 'public place' in the bylaw and policy could be updated to refer only to the definition in the Dog Control Act. Alternatively if Council wished, the definition recommended by the submitter could be adopted.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control - Not sure / other		
	but does not include privately owned land that is not, at that time, open to or being used by the public (for example, a farm paddock, woolshed, yard, or private dwelling). We recommend cl 3.3 be amended as follows: *Policy 3.3 All dog owners or those in charge of dogs must ensure their dog is on a leash at all times when in public places (except dog exercise areas specified in Schedule 1). For clarity, this does not apply to working dogs shifting stock on public roads or for other farming purposes.* We recommend cl 3.6 be amended to exclude working dogs while being worked, or while being taken to and from work. We recommend the advisory note either be removed, or be amended to make clear that it does not apply to working dogs engaged in farm work or in the process of training under direct handler supervision, consistent with the amendments we have proposed elsewhere in this submission.	
Other suggestions		
26 - Cheryl Palatchie	This I feel needs to be further defined. Individuals need to understand what control of a dog actually means. There are too many situations where uncontrolled or unruly dogs can cause havoc and in some cases injury to animals and people.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which will be of assistance to Animal Control Officers administering the Bylaw.
40 - Neil English	I support change but you are relying on dog owners to be responsible, unfortunately this is not going to be the case in an increasing number of situations. In the case of off leash dog exercise areas uncontrolled dogs are able to run up to people on the adjoining foot paths and potentially onto roads. Responsible people walking their dogs on a leash past or near these areas are also open to a nuisance dog, in actual fact anyone walking pastis. All designated off leash exercise areas must be fenced. This removes any confusion, i.e on a leash at all times in public unless in a fenced dog park.	

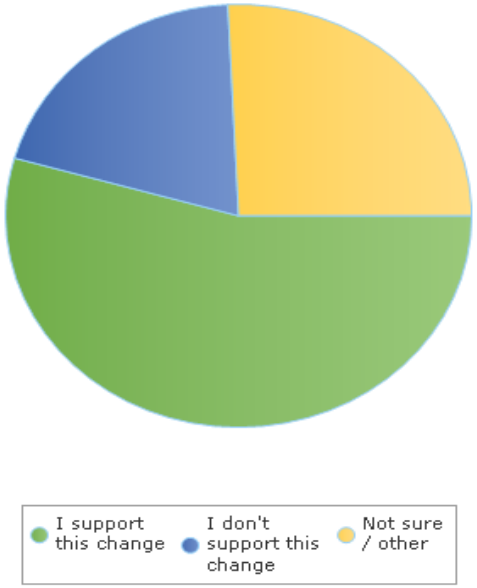
Further comments received

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Effective control		
183 - Clive Watson	There are a lot of dogs in the community, BUT people come first. A lot of dogs when off leash run up to me when walking - some growl - some jump up - people are **not** in control of their dogs. Dog sh*t is everywhere - so one has to constantly watch where walking.	
221 - John McGirr	Animals not restrained and under direct control of their owners are a liability to other peoples safety - especially the young and very old who are not able to defend themselves.	

Removals and reductions - Pioneer Park

3. Do you support the removal of Pioneer Park as an off-leash area?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	74	54.41%
I don't support this change	27	19.85%
Not sure / other	35	25.74%
Total	**136**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - I support this change		
Cemetery		
3 - Daniel Huisman	Support alongside the change of cemeteries bylaw.	
8 - Janette Martin	Its a cemetery	
33 - Chris Pringuer	It seems awfully disrespectful to allow people to walk their dogs among the graves where they may toilet on graves, people don't pick up after themselves as often as they should.	
55 - Amanda Watson	Make sense to have the same as all cemeteries, hope dogs on leash at cemetery is approved and it becomes only a little change.	
58 - Richard Mabon	Keep dogs out of cemeteries (apart from disability assist dogs). Just inappropriate.	
78 - Warren Maslin	Not appropriate to have animals in a cemetery area.	
137 - Janet Hadley	It is respectful to have dogs on leash in a cemetery area.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	If cemeteries are going to be open to dogs on a lead, then Pioneer Park (cemetery) should be allowing dogs on leashes only	
155 - guest user	Any area a dog is off leash there is going to be problems with urinating and people not picking up after there dogs no matter how many signs you have up do you want this in a cemetery	
172 - Rasela S	I support this change; I did not know that Pioneer Park is a former cemetery and is currently designated as an off-leash exercise area which is inconsistent with current rules which prohibit dogs from cemeteries. Having lost our beloved family member and visiting the cemetery daily, the proposed topic of dogs and cemetery has got our families attention. It is a good idea that	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - I support this change		
	Pioneer Park has that same as respect and rules as the other cemeteries and remove it from the list of exercise areas.	
202 - John Bell	dogs should be on leads in cemeteries	
221 - John McGirr	The cemetery is a sacred place, when people are being laid to rest you do not want animals roaming the area. Who cleans up when owners let their animals shit all over the place	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the proposal to remove Pioneer Park as an off-leash area. As Pioneer Park is a closed cemetery, with people buried there, off leash access is not appropriate as it may disrupt the access of other users and dogs may unintentionally cause distress with some behaviours, such as urinating on gravestones. SPCA supports on leash access for dogs in cemeteries, rather than a ban on dogs in cemeteries. A consistent approach to dog access in cemeteries is recommended for clarity	
General		
16 - Ceri Jones	Makes sense	
26 - Cheryl Palatchie	For cultural purposes I agree with this decision.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Where multiple people congregating can cause issues if dogs running around or over excited and not under control. For a dog or dogs to be present it is a privilege they can be out with owner and not left in car or at home so on a lead is not an imposition.	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	Respectively	
71 - Joanna Smith	respect	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - I support this change		
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	I don't see a problem with dogs on leached in this area	
152 - Kelly Foster	its important that our loved ones are respected	
Other		
40 - Neil English	Simple, It is not fenced.	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - I don't support this change		
Cemeteries		
97 - Anne Treymane	as explained dogs on a leash will be acceptable in any cemetery	
20 - Gretchen Hart	I don't think the people buried there will mind. It may as well be used as it's not being used for much else.	
113 - guest user	This is a former cemetery and should be left to use as an off leash area or remove it from the cemeteries lists don't include it under cemetery restrictions. It's already designated as an off leash area so why penalise Pioneer park is a FORMER CEMETERY and not a current one so don't include it under cemetery restrictions. It's already designated as an off leash area so why penalise dogs and dog owners for bureaucracies sake and dog owners for bureaucracies sake	As a closed Cemetery, human remains are still present on and in this site.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - I don't support this change		
179 - Robyn Kelland	There are no individual grave stones there & there are insufficient off leash areas as it is	
219 - Lynnette Bridge	Has it bothered anyone in the last 100 years	
General		
54 - Tessa McIntosh	there's nothing there for dogs to damage.	There is a memorial there with names of those known to have been interred on the site and some headstoned at the western side and remains exist onsite.
57 - Sara Webster	Its a good park run around option as there is no playground with kids	
117 - Bob McDonald	the people won't mind	
159 - Elizabeth Bell	its fine the way it is.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	There are a few off-leash areas in this space that people can casually attend. Given the cemetery is closed, the risk of danger that comes with an active cemetery or disruption to services is low. This would be a shame for the locals who frequent this park.	
178 - Delia Achten	There are few places easily accessible by foot from our home where our dog can run off lead. Removing Argyle Park and Smallbone Drive removes all of them. Driving a dog somewhere to allow them to run freely removes the benefit of the owner exercising at the same time by walking.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - I don't support this change		
Other		
80 - Abbie Selwyn	i think it's ridiculous to reduce ANY off leash areas for dogs. There is not enough space to let our dogs roam as it is. Most dogs are energetic and need space to run, whilst i like the dog park behind Kmart its just not enough to take my high energy dog to every day!! Not to mention if you remove areas that park is going to get ridiculously busy! Stop punishing us good responsible dog owners because there are lazy irresponsible ones.	
122 - James McNally	I think the possibility of getting rid of some off leash areas would be costly to families with dogs that need to lose more energy by running around without a leash. There would be extra fuel cost having to drive out to a place where they can walk their dogs off leash. This would also cost more time for dog owners who ether need to go to work or cook tea for their family. This is why i think the possibility of getting rid of some off leash areas would be costly.	Council is proposing to remove Pioneer Park as an off leash area, however the Ashburton Dog Park and Digby Park are within 10 minutes walk from Pioneer Park.
Other suggestions		
145 - Megan Allott	Dogs should be on a leash when in public places	
204 - Alexandra Krivanek	Would also be fine if they were allowed on leads and carrying poo bags to pick up after themselves.	This would be the case if the proposal to allow dogs in cemeteries is also adopted as part of the final Dog Control Bylaw and Policy.

Comments not sure / other

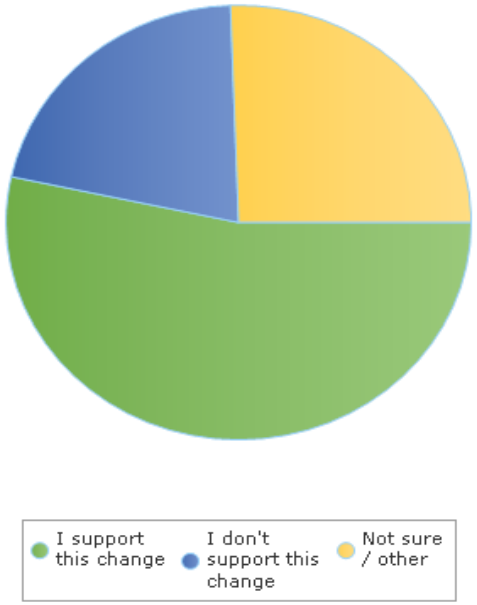
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
30 - Robyn Boyd	I dont know this area.	
35 - Jeanet Leferink	NA to us	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	I have not used this park area myself nor with my dog so cannot comment	
41 - Kate White	Not affected/ no opinion	
194 - Lyn Womersley	Don't live in Ashburton	
210 - Wendy Matthews	no opinion	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Promoting exercise through providing dogs (and their humans) with safe, appropriate spaces to walk contributes to better overall health and behaviour, and prevents obesity in dogs (Hurley et al, 2011). New Zealand's Code of Welfare for Dogs emphasises the importance of exercise for canine physical and mental well-being, warning that insufficient activity, or space for exercise can lead to behavioural and health issues, that may be problematic for humans, other animals	Noted

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Removal of Pioneer Park - Not sure / other		
	and the community. We also note that some dog guardians may be reluctant to exercise their dogs if they have limited flexibility about where they can do so. Ensuring that off-leash exercise areas are available, well-maintained, well signposted, and accessible across the Council is therefore likely to improve overall compliance, as guardians are better able to meet their animals' needs within the framework Council provides. Lead pulling can be a significant welfare issue, with negative effects on a dog's health and behaviour (Townsend et al, 2022). A 2021 study found that popular on leash activities often overlook the individual walking pace needed for dogs' physical, physiological, and cognitive well-being (Foltin, 2021). The research also highlighted that providing dogs with off-lead freedom, while maintaining effective control, and using longer leashes (such as longlines) can help address behavioural concerns by allowing dogs to release energy, explore, and engage with their environment. This supports natural behaviours like sniffing and interacting, which in turn enhances a dog's sense of safety and overall satisfaction.	
225 - Jeanette McLennan	Not in Ashburton so cannot answer any such geographic-specific questions	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	ADC is proposing to adjust some existing off-leash exercise areas to better reflect how they are currently being used. MCFF has no specific comment on these changes, as they relate to urban and township exercise areas and are unlikely to directly affect our rural membership. We ask that any reduction be based on evidenced use rather than isolated complaint, to ensure legitimate off-leash access is not lost on that basis alone.	

Removals and reductions - Smallbone Drive

4. Do you support the reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	71	53.38%
I don't support this change	28	21.05%
Not sure / other	34	25.56%
Total	**133**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I support this change		
General		
3 - Daniel Huisman	As long as on-leash access remains.	
24 - Christina Cox	Should never have been an off leash area	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	In support of the safely of multiple activities in the park	
67 - Helen Andersen	Most dog owners are responsible and control their animals well.	
71 - Joanna Smith	its a shared recreational space not all dog owners are responsible and have recall	
221 - John McGirr	Never been to the area to comment but can see the merit in the changes	
Disc Golf		
78 - Warren Maslin	Use has changed and risk has changed so makes sense.	
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	It seems a good idea to have dogs on leash near the golf space	
112 - guest user	Some dogs & "discs" are not a great mix	
117 - Bob McDonald	Don't want the dogs to get in the way of someone's sport	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I support this change		
137 - Janet Hadley	It is dangerous to have dogs off leash around the disc golf area, both for them and the disc golfers.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	There are plenty of other dog spaces available but as far as i know this is the only disc golf area in Ashburton. Must cater for all people snd pets	
155 - guest user	Kuds will be playing golf so you don't want fogs running in same area with potential fights with otver dogs or frightening kids	
172 - Rasela S	I support this change also to ensure safety to people playing disc golf but also the dogs. I support on-leash for dogs.	
182 - Anne Watson	With the disc golf there now I don't think dogs are appropriate there.	
202 - John Bell	dogs may think objects being thrown for them	
41 - Kate White	Makes sense for those playing disc golf.	
55 - Amanda Watson	I use this park early morning for a walk and our dog off lead. Too early for the disc golfers but during the day can see this being an issue. Also see the dogs having a great time with flying discs.	
57 - Sara Webster	no need for fogs to run around people playing a sport	
58 - Richard Mabon	The disc golf space is regularly used from my observations. This is a sensible move.	
59 - Terrie Cresswell	The area is very close to traffic and is used by the public playing disc golf.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Yes just in case they get hit with a missile traveling at a rapid rate. Or run after one out in front of a car, person etc.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I support this change		
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	Though I don't use the area except heading to work, more folk use it for sport therefore having dogs controlled on leash seems a fair proposal	
6 - Debbie Woods	Disk golf is becoming more popular and off leash areas should be away from areas of high public use	
8 - Janette Martin	Need control so they don't chase discs	
Other suggestions		
83 - Kathryn Cochet	i am reluctant as it removed a great off leash space. But because there are no rules such as when someone is playing golf vs when the area is empty. There is probably no option. As i also don't want to be hit by a frizbee while walking. Could it be off leash outside of day hours (like beaches are in summer)	Idea has merit but may be administratively difficult to enforce effectively and unclear to users. Removal provides clarity for all.
219 - Lynnette Bridge	I feel all dogs need to be on some length of a leash with exception their own yard	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I don't support this change		
Effective control		
135 - Marel De Boer	many dogs do not listen to their owners. On leash only.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I don't support this change		
General		
16 - Ceri Jones	Is there a problem which prompted this proposal?	There have been no formally recorded incidents, however there have been near misses, including by staff and their families. There is a potential for conflict between users which has been identified.
20 - Gretchen Hart	I think the two activities can co exist. People do actually respect each other while the two things are going on at the same time.	
33 - Chris Pringuer	Seems like an un-necessary cost at a time when we should be looking for ways to reduce costs.	The funding required would be for a new signage / change of signage where necessary, poo bag and bins provision and emptying of bins. This would be covered by existing budgets.
43 - Tom Smith	Dogs are fine here, no need to limit to just disc golf.	
56 - marion logan	effectively controlled is sufficient. dogs need quality of life too.	
63 - Cat user	No reason to make this change	
90 - Simone Hopwood	don’t think it needs to be reduced everyone can coexist	
113 - guest user	why should dog owners be penalised just because you have decided to allow disc golf in a public area.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I don't support this change		
146 - nicole favel	They need somewhere to be hasn't this always be the allocated dog park	
159 - Elizabeth Bell	its ok as it is	
163 - Jeff Hyde	Restricts the space too much for off leash exercise	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	It was an off-leash dog park before it was a disc golf space. As someone who uses this park daily, we have never had an issue. My dog being on or off the lead during disc golf is irrelevant. We are still going to get in the way of people playing so why not allow the dogs freedom while doing it? If someone is actively waiting for us to move, we always make the effort to get out of their way as quickly and best we can. That will never change. As long as people are all operating respectfully, I see no reason why this arrangement needs to be altered. The permitted small bone drive off-leash area proposal is miserable, unmaintained, and a much more significant danger to off-lead dogs running on to the road compared with the space currently used for frisbee, which is much more secluded and away from traffic. We never cross the road to that area which is being proposed as the reduced off-lead space because it's always full of rubbish, flooding, the grass is long, there's tree roots and fallen branches everywhere, and it feels unsafe and unsettling.	Council has a responsibility to reduce the potential for dog-related harm, particularly in spaces where children frequent. The reserve area adjacent to Cates is being improved with plantings near the swale and clearance of overgrown plants.
166 - Bernadette Thompson	This is a lovely area for dogs to run free and very often there are no disc golfers on site.	
178 - Delia Achten	As above.	
179 - Robyn Kelland	It was a dog exercise area before disc golf was put there. Perhaps a more appropriate place for the disc golf, perhaps combining on a golf course.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - I don't support this change		
Other		
80 - Abbie Selwyn	i think it's ridiculous to reduce ANY off leash areas for dogs. There is not enough space to let our dogs roam as it is. Most dogs are energetic and need space to run, whilst i like the dog park behind Kmart its just not enough to take my high energy dog to every day!! Not to mention if you remove areas that park is going to get ridiculously busy! Stop punishing us good responsible dog owners because there are lazy irresponsible ones.	Council is proposing to reduce this area, however there are also proposals to introduce new off leash areas at Lake Hood, Braebrook and Methven.
204 - Alexandra Krivanek	There aren't many off leash areas for dogs already.	
Other suggestions		
106 - Lorraine Robinson	once Range St dog exercise area reopens, i would approve this	Range Street area is currently closed for public safety reasons, however it is expected to reopen in the future.
145 - Megan Allott	Dogs should be on a leash when in public places	

Comments not sure / other

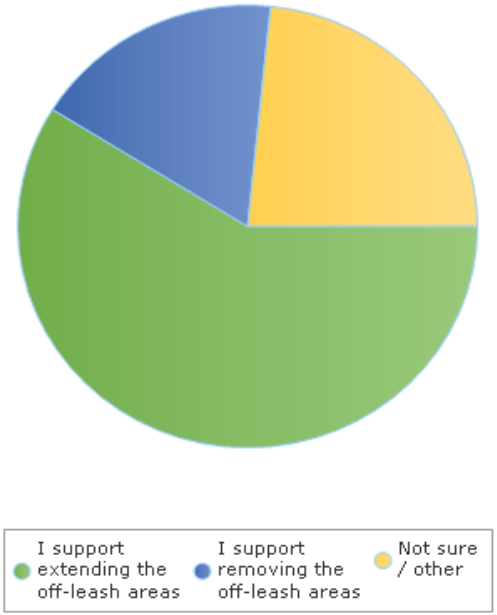
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
30 - Robyn Boyd	I dont know this area	
152 - Kelly Foster	i do agree to extent with people using it and there are other areas that are better suited to off lead activities	
177 - Donna-Marie Field	I am concerned that the area you are recommending remains off leash is very small and close to the road. Access is difficult with fences not making it easy to know where you can go.	Comment noted. As in all areas it will be for owners to ensure that their dogs remain under control and the precautionary
194 - Lyn Womersley	Same as previous reason *(Don't live in Ashburton)*	
210 - Wendy Matthews	no opinion	
214 - Gerry Power	Not sure of the layout in the area concerned	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Reduction of Smallbone Drive Reserve off-leash area - Not sure / other		
Other		
40 - Neil English	Once again it is not fenced.	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA does not have sufficient knowledge of the specifics of the concerns related to off-leash access at Smallbone Drive Reserve to take an official position. We note that the proposal would remove off-leash access from the disc golf course. However, we did not identify any concerns about this shared use in the early engagement survey or supporting information provided. Where changes are proposed to reduce opportunities for off-leash exercise, we encourage the Council to clearly outline the evidence supporting the change, including the nature and frequency of any incidents, complaints, or demonstrated risks that cannot be effectively managed through less restrictive measures. Off-leash exercise provides important welfare benefits for many dogs, including opportunities for physical exercise, exploration, play and species-typical behaviour. Where safe and appropriate, these opportunities should be retained. If there are specific safety or conflict issues associated with the disc golf course, we encourage the Council to explain these in the consultation material so submitters can provide informed feedback on whether the proposed restriction is justified and proportionate.	Council has a responsibility to reduce the potential for dog-related harm, particularly in spaces where children frequent. Council is proposing to reduce this area, however there are also proposals to introduce new off leash areas at Lake Hood, Braebrook and Methven.
Other suggestions		
62 - Stefan van Vliet	The dog off-leash area at Smallbone Drive Reserve pre-dates the disc-golfing that was added later. While a common sense change, as needs of reserves change over time, I'm concerned that the simple addition of a disc-golf course at any reserve that has off-leash areas will suddenly make them no longer off-leash zones. A rough survey of usage before changing would be preferable - is the site used more for disc golf than dog exercise?	Submitters comments noted. Can review status during the next bylaw and policy review if complaints are received.

Extensions - Argyle Park

5. Do you support the extension of Argyle Park off-leash area?

	Number of people	%
I support extending the off-leash areas	83	58.87%
I support removing the off-leash areas	25	17.73%
Not sure / other	33	23.40%
Total	**141**	



Comments in support of extension

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
Enforcement/Education		
6 - Debbie Woods	I support this if the new Off leash rules go through and are INFORCED CORRECTLY	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	I use this park often with my dog and though most of the time she is on leash, when we know other dogs playing and off-leash, I let her off. I am still like others, annoyed with a few users who have their dogs off leash while they are running or walking around the part - then fail to pick up their poop as "don't see it happen". There are still many who let off when sports are going which makes it bad for the rest of us - so better signage may help when changes apply	
General		
16 - Ceri Jones	More opportunities for locals to Allenton to access an off-leash area	
27 - Ken Stirling	Majority of dog owners using this area are responsible and respect other users. Cyclists should always give way to pedestrians and keep speed down. Understand dogs should be closely supervised when near children's play areas and sports fields.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Dogs can be with their owners for exercise so win win situation.	
41 - Kate White	I don't mind either way to be honest. I understand where my dog is allowed to be off lead and am happy to keep him on lead elsewhere.	
42 - Olivia Smith	Yes great idea!!!	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
55 - Amanda Watson	This needs to happen - best park for so many reasons and enjoyed by so many. Thank you for making this an option.	
57 - Sara Webster	the area js so big and should have more off leash	
67 - Helen Andersen	This is one of the few areas where responsible owners can give their dog the freedom to exercise without a lead.	
75 - Di Davidson	Support Argyle Park off leash dog areas but note that big dogs still need to be well behaved so that small dogs are still safe.	
101 - Geraldine Francois	Dogs need more off the leash areas to be able to socialize and play. If they get this opportunity they learn to be calm around other dogs that are calm and learn to play. Following other behaviour of dogs (not aggressive) but calm, playful, learning commands etc....	
106 - Lorraine Robinson	there is plenty of room for all walkers at Argyle Park & dogs off leash won't impede anyone	
107 - Chiyo Hunt	It's a great community area for various dog owners. It's safe enough to do off leash all round.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	When there is sports on i tend not to take my dog or keep her on a lead as we go through Argyle Park. if there is no sport it would be lovely to have a longer walk with my dog unleashed around the park	
152 - Kelly Foster	argyle park is used by alot of people i would however be concerned about dog poo not being picked up on sports grounds	
166 - Bernadette Thompson	it's a fabulous park for dog walking. However, I think dog owners there need to be more responsible for their dog's behaviour and not allow them to interact with others (people and other dogs) without first asking permission.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
175 - Rachael and Greg Tait	We are in full support of extending the off-leash areas of Argyle Park as shown in the plan. This park is a credit to the Council and is a wonderful community asset. It is extensively used by dog walkers, families and individuals from early mornings till evenings 7 days a week. Being daily users ourselves and living with the park as an extension of our own garden we see how much the park is used by dog walkers living in this area and beyond. We fully agree that no dogs should be allowed on the sports fields and play grounds and new signs would be appropriate in the car park area and also at all entrances to the park for users to be able to read and abide by. An additional bag dispenser at the Farm Road entrance would be much appreciated as this entrance is widely used by people arriving in vehicles with dogs.	Officers support the addition of a bag dispenser at the Farm Road entrance.
176 - Heather and Jim Gordon	We do think the extending of the off leash areas should be adopted. Personally we will probably leave dog on leash along the Farm Road and Middle road boundaries simply because of the road frontage (dogs are unpredictable no matter how well trained they are) . If others choose to off lead there that is up to them. The Argyle Park Dog walkers far out number walkers without dogs. We walk there everyday along with many others. These are well behaved but sometimes there have been the odd dog that is not a regular that causes trouble.	
178 - Delia Achten	Dogs need to be able to run. This will be the only area available for dogs to be off keash so make it as large as possible.	
204 - Alexandra Krivanek	It makes sense to have dogs off leash all the way alongside the creek even more so than the middle road area.	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the extension of off leash areas around Argyle Park and at Company Road.	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	ADC is proposing to expand the off-leash area at Argyle Park. MCFF has no objection to this change.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
82 - Wendy Severins	Yes for preferred option Argyle Park.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	Definitely increase the off leashes In Argyle Park, the new Industrial park and any other areas mentioned in your plans.	
42 - Olivia Smith	more off lead exercise areas. Especially Argyle park.	
107 - Chiyo Hunt	mainly Argyle park, we do need a change of the area where dog can be unleashed.	
Current area issues		
20 - Gretchen Hart	The rules there are not clear enough, and people believe the area you are changing to is off lead anyway. It's great to see so many users of the park all doing different activities together.	
62 - Stefan van Vliet	A surprising number of dogs are currently loose right around the perimeter of Argyle Park anyway - existing signage makes it rather ambiguous as to what the rules actually are.	
63 - Cat user	Most people don't obey this anyway, i always leash where i am supposed to but when others are not leashed it makes dogs behave badly. Make it a fully non leashed place and lots more people will come back. Talbots behaviour there has been appalling and very regrettable. Non leashed and tell Talbots to get lost!	Members of the public are encouraged to contact Council with any matters of concern so they can be investigated and fully understood.
70 - Brianna Tait	The blocked areas where dogs are not allowed off leash around Argyle Park is rediculous and pointless. Its also very confusing. If people are scared of dogs or don't want them off the lead then walk the streets. I am not sure what the point of it is? What is being proposed is a great idea. Also to add, having [contractors] threaten to destroy my speagle after seeing him off leash just outside the "off leash area" was shocking.	
83 - Kathryn Cochet	yes this is much less confusing.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
90 - Simone Hopwood	currently used as an off leash area for a lot of dogs anyway in practice so updating it to reflect reality just makes sense	
94 - Grant McFaull	current are is too small	
112 - guest user	At present the off leash areas are too restricted, dogs under control should be able to move freely to exercise.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	I thoroughly support the extension of Argyle Park's off-leash area. The current arrangement is very confusing! I can't see any reason why walking a dog along the same loop path requires leashing and unleashing at multiple points. Keeping off lead dogs to the perimeter and within 5m of the path is perfectly reasonable when under effective control. If ever the park is busy, we will always use common sense and leash him up if it appears he will get in the way of anyone else.	
179 - Robyn Kelland	Excellent idea, the current on/off areas are confusing	
27 - Ken Stirling	A step in the right direction. Good to see Argyle Park rules are being looked at. The current system is fragmented and confusing. The current signage is excessive a simple list of expected behaviours with reasons is all that is needed for the majority of dog owners. Too often the majority of dog owners are let down by a very small minority of dog owners disregarding respect and common sense. Unfortunately, these people seem to dictate the rules rather than a balanced more pragmatic view. Of course, it is an easier solution for rule makers to use a blunt instrument at the expense of the majority. Please bear this in mind for future rules.	
67 - Helen Andersen	As a regular walker in Argyle park with my well controlled dog, I would like the whole park to be considered off leash. The majority of dogs walking at the park are well behaved and controlled and the restrictions are arbitrary and don’t make sense.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
43 - Tom Smith	Most people ignore current off leash area as it is not well communicated. It should be extended.	
82 - Wendy Severins	Previous signage confusing and people ignoring it.	
Other		
80 - Abbie Selwyn	i think it's ridiculous to reduce ANY off leash areas for dogs. There is not enough space to let our dogs roam as it is. Most dogs are energetic and need space to run, whilst i like the dog park behind Kmart its just not enough to take my high energy dog to every day!! Not to mention if you remove areas that park is going to get ridiculously busy! Stop punishing us good responsible dog owners because there are lazy irresponsible ones.	
Other suggestions		
7 - Jocelyn Jones	But would like a fenced off area	Argyle Park is a Recreation Reserve Sports Park.
117 - Bob McDonald	We walk ourselves and dog around Argyle Park almost every day and sometimes more, i like the look of allowing dogs off leash around all the park, great stuff, but we would also like to see the top end ie farm road the area I am talking about is the old Cabouts market garden area as an off leash area as well, this area is only used a few days a year for kids rugby. and a great area to allow dogs to have a good runY.	Comment noted, however allowance for dogs to be on part of playing field areas is likely to be confusing to users and difficult to administer. Options for dogs to run are provided at other locations.
175 - Rachael and Greg Tait	We are in full support of extending the off-leash areas of Argyle Park as shown in the plan. This park is a credit to the Council and is a wonderful community asset. It is extensively used by dog walkers, families and individuals from early mornings till evenings 7 days a week. Being daily users ourselves and living with the park as an extension of our own garden we see how much the park is used by dog walkers living in this area and beyond. We fully agree that no dogs should be allowed on	Officers support the addition of a bag dispenser at the Farm Road entrance.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support extending the off-leash areas		
	the sports fields and play grounds and new signs would be appropriate in the car park area and also at all entrances to the park for users to be able to read and abide by. An additional bag dispenser at the Farm Road entrance would be much appreciated as this entrance is widely used by people arriving in vehicles with dogs.	

Comments in support of removal

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support removing the off-leash areas		
General		
5 - Zak Moodie	People need to be better at picking up after their dog here	
8 - Janette Martin	Again fed up with dogs off leash annoying mine and owners far away	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	I support any area where residents can exercise dogs safely	
66 - Alison Driscoll	Argyle Park is used by many people and children each week, to use the playgrounds, walk or walk dogs…as well as use the playing fields. I disagree with extending the off leash area, there are too many people ignoring the rules there now and there does not appear to be any enforcing of the rules. Having dogs running around off leash is not fair or safe to park users or other dogs.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support <u>removing</u> the off-leash areas		
71 - Joanna Smith	its a good safe space and open visible area to have as an off lease space	
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	Many elderly enjoy walking at Argyle Park. Not all people feel save around larger dogs. If you have a small dog it is a worry if big dogs approach you off lead. We have been there when dogs have been quiet a distance from the dog so recall could be to late.	
132 - Harriet McBride-Benger	I believe that requiring dogs to be on-leash at Argyle Park is a more appropriate approach, particularly given the high level of activity in the area, including sports fields and playgrounds. When children are playing, or families are using the park for recreation, it is important that everyone feels safe and comfortable. Off-leash dogs can sometimes run towards children, other pets, or adults without warning. While many dog owners are responsible, some dogs are allowed to roam at a distance from their owners, which can create uncertainty for other park users. This may cause anxiety and, in some cases, lead to difficult or unsafe interactions. Requiring dogs to be on-leash would help reduce these risks and ensure the park can be enjoyed safely by all users. It would also provide greater predictability for other park visitors and help prevent situations where dogs could unexpectedly enter nearby roads, creating potential hazards for both drivers and animals.	
135 - Marel De Boer	on leash only. Too much poo not being picked up. Dogs of leash and sometimes on playgrounds. Dogs walk up and sniff small kids. Owners to far away to do anything. Dogs only off leash in dog parks.	
137 - Janet Hadley	With sports fields and playgrounds there it is unrealistic to make the park an off leash area. Many people don’t have the control over their dogs to ensure they don't go into these areas.	
155 - guest user	Argyle Park is full of off leash dogs every day no one listens to the areas you already have its ridiculous. Theres dogs on the playing fields, round the playground, big groups of dogs and	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control”

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support <u>removing</u> the off-leash areas		
	entitled people thinking there dog is fine off lead and letting them run up to people with dogs on leads. Its an accident waiting to happen and they don't clean up after there dogs as who's there to monitor it anyway	which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw This includes addressing owners who have not cleaned up after their dog(s).
163 - Jeff Hyde	Could never understand the current restriction of part of the path around the park. This change is a logical one in conjunction with the requirement for effective control. Unsure why the two car parking areas remain on leash, seems unnecessary if dogs are under effective control.	The car parks remain as on leash in order to ensure safety around vehicles – for both the people in vehicles and the dogs.
172 - Rasela S	I support removing the off-leash areas for Argyle park. As someone who is not very confident with different types of dogs especially large dogs, I do feel safe when I am walking with my family or friends and see a dog on a leash rather than a dog off the leash. This is also a park that gets very busy with families that consists of younger children to senior people and so I think it is still a good idea to have dogs there but on-leash.	
180 - guest user	This area is popular with walkers, children playing and of course the playing fields so having dogs on a leash here is sensible. I walk here often and dog faeces is often not picked up and I see dogs on the playing fields.	
202 - John Bell	dogs can stray from owners and become a nuisance	
221 - John McGirr	Understand that the community needs to have some areas available for pets etc. Map 6 is a good result - animals are directly controlled by their owners	
135 - Marel De Boer	map 6 on-leash only. Preferably no dogs. Too much dog poo not being picked up. I see dogs poo close or even on the kids playground. Dogs should be on leash near any playground.	Dogs are currently prohibited from within 1m of a playground. Dogs are always expected to be under the effective control of the owner, including on leash as required.
Incidents		

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - I support <u>removing</u> the off-leash areas		
49 - David West	Has been a lot of accidents from dogs frightening Cyclists and Walker/runners	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
58 - Richard Mabon	Dogs and children can be a dangerous combination. we should be grateful that this community has not experienced an horrific dog attack and remain vigilant. I know one man who suffered an injury when he fell from his bicycle when he was rushed by a dog at Argyle Park.	
104 - Roger West	I have relatives who have had serious injuries from dogs ,some falling off their bike after a dog intercepted ,one attacked by an off leash dog Dec 25	
210 - Wendy Matthews	The poor behaviour of many dogs had made the playground an unsafe space for my family. Being scratched, having food stolen out of my kids hands and being rushed every other time we visit. Yes there are plenty of considerate dog owners, but there are many others who don't see any problem with their dog bowling my kid over because "don't worry, he's friendly". People already ignore the requirement to be on leash passing the playground. If you want to make this a dog area, give us a safe neighbourhood playground somewhere else in allenton.	

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - Not sure / other		
General		

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - Not sure / other		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
24 - Christina Cox	I don't support extending the off leash areas	
33 - Chris Pringuer	I dont support any un-necessary changes as we are trying to save money not spend it.	
145 - Megan Allott	Dogs already off leash in Argyle Park in on leash areas and causing problems	
167 - guest user	Argyle Park has been a free for all for years for dogs. Dogs off leads all the time where they are supposed to be on the lead. eg. in one hour in the morning a count of 49-52 dogs were off the their lead 4 only on leads. Where are dog control? We have never seen them. Dogs are all the time on the playing field. We hear all the time. Education first well that has'nt ever sunk into anyone - if at all it has been directed to the people. Company Road/Ashburton Business Estate is a wonderful area for all to be off the leash. Argyle Park the dogs race into the creek up setting the fish, birds and lizards/various other creatures - Company road area this would not be an option for them. Are we Dog Lovers yes very much so but not to the extent of disruption of other water life when the dogs are off the leash. Much simpler, big signs off Middle and Farm roads stating they must be on a leash as this is the where dogs go straight into the water along this streach.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw. All dog signage will be revisited once Bylaw is finalised
230 - Phil & Alison Straw	Have never used Argyle Park	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - Not sure / other		
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	
Retain status quo		
1 - Anne Mitchell	It would be a shame to change the rules that allow dogs off leads at Argyle Park. The present rules make for a relaxed and friendly atmosphere that is ideal for park users. Please retain the park as is	
170 - Deanna Walsh	I support keeping the CURRENT off-leash areas for Argyle Park ie no changes.	
146 - nicole favel	as a parent who uses argyle park a lot. my child is scared when dogs are off leach and are running up near him. is this dog park or family friendly ? perhaps keep it how it is	
Incidents		
30 - Robyn Boyd	I live near Argyle Park and am not a dog owner, but sometimes have my daughters golden retriever to stay, and we walk around the park. Because he isn't my dog, I always have him on the leash because I'm not sure how well he would come when I call, and I have pain issues and can't run after him. What I have a problem with is that dogs let off the leash don't know the boundaries and their owners aren't being responsible and keeping them under control.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - Not sure / other		
	I recently had a problem with a large dog running towards us, not aggressively, I must add, just wanting to play, but it wound my daughters dog up, jumping, bouncing, twisting and lunging and as I said I have pain, so it was not nice, I was wanting a gentle stroll around the park, not a stressful encounter. There were 4 young children on scooters and such, with the dog, but no adult to be seen to control the dog who only came running because I got loud. I don't feel there should be more off leash areas at the park, but there should perhaps be more education and policing of the off leash areas, possibly better marking or signage, I'd prefer to think that people aren't aware of the boundaries rather than they just don't care. I don't think there should be less because that wouldn't be fair to the people who keep their dogs under control.	
39 - Lucille Brown	I walk around Argyle Park everyday and meet many dogs. Some owners are very responsible and others not so. Some always have their dogs on a leash and are careful that they do not jump up on you. Others just let them run wild taking no notice at all of the control area. I know of one person who was badly hurt with dogs jumping up on a bike and was hospitalized and ever since has not been so good. There are some who have never taken any notice of the control area and dogs just run over the sports fields that ADC keep looking so good as they do the entire park it is a credit to ADC.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
74 - Jenifer Wiggins	Please do not allow more off leash dog freedom in Argyle Park. As a frequent elder walker, and grandmother I express my concerns. The walking path is a credit to the council but twice I have been accosted by off leash dogs. I have become nervous about walking the park and now avoid the larger loop when I see loose dogs there. When small children are playing in the Northern play area dogs frequently zoom through the trees and enter the playground before their owners come into sight of	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - Not sure / other		
	parents and children using the playground. This could be a accident waiting to happen. If dogs are allowed to continue to enter this area unsupervised then that playground should be fenced off to prevent them from doing so	
Other suggestions		
40 - Neil English	All the designated areas should be on leash, unless there is a fenced area provided.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
141 - Debbie Niles	hi - just suggesting - Argyle Park is a great assets, however what concerns me is the elderly people on walking sticks, walkers etc - it is there right to be there & use the paths, however the speed of some dogs (the one i walk included) i would hate to see an elderly person (or young child on trike) taken out by dog, I exercise said dog at Devon Park (designated dog park and was wondering if it could possibly be “pool fenced” or similar (especially Creek Road side) an over excited dog if it decides to chase another dog could create havoc if it got out to Creek Road (sometimes their ears dont work - just like humans!) would be great to have other side “pool fenced” as well (although that road is not so busy) Thank you for opportunity to make suggestions ??	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw. The emphasis on “effective control” is to address situations like this. If a dog is known to get over excited and chase dogs when exercised then it should be kept leashed. Fenced dog areas are available. The responsibility sits with dog owners to ensure their dogs are under control and these should be leashed if owners cannot be confident of recall and behaviour.
182 - Anne Watson	I think 1 metre is too close to children's play area - 10m from playground. Poo on sports grounds not picked up. On leash only best option.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw. This includes addressing owners who have not cleaned up after their dog(s).

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park - Not sure / other		
		Dogs should be on leash as required, even in off leash areas if they can't be controlled.
183 - Clive Watson	Keep it as it is BUT 10m away from play area.	Refer to previous comment.
219 - Lynnette Bridge	As stated, I prefer all dogs to be on a leash of some length	

Further comments provided

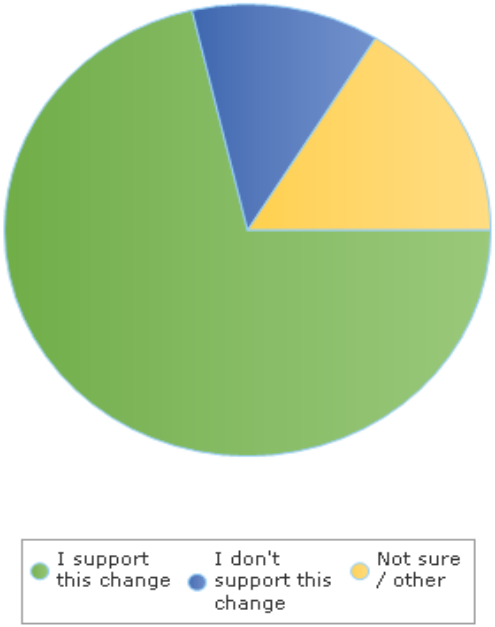
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park		
39 - Lucille Brown	As I have said before the Argyle Park is a credit to ADC but with many young mums and children using the park daily there needs to be some control over dogs and I note also around the play equipment.	
146 - nicole favel	Its going to be hard for young children to feel safe at local parks if you change it at argyle park my child is already chased by dogs and had careless owners see him frighten avoiding the dogs throw there balls in his direction so the dog runs over his way no this is not necessary	Dogs must be under effective control of their owners at all times, including being leashed if they cannot respond to commands.
111 - Maurice & Aeja McGrath	Argyle Park - As regular walkers and users of this wonderful facility, we have become increasingly troubled by the dogs running all over the place, and the increase in canine faeces in the grass, adjacent to the paths and on the paths themselves. It is both messy, unsightly and most unpleasant.	It is the responsibility of owners to clean up after their dog. Complaints should be reported to Council.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Argyle Park		
	We note that a dog park exists elsewhere that provides for animal exercise. Uncontrolled dogs are a frequent nuisance and their owners increasingly less perturbed by the disturbance they may cause in Argyle Park. We disagree that allowing the dogs to run on the Argyle Park paths be perceived as an 'improvement'. Young children, mothers' and families frequently use these paths. With canine faeces frequently seen, its presence is both unhygienic and potentially most unhealthy to both dogs and humans alike. It also detracts from and despoils the attraction of the Park. Furthermore, it is impossible to ensure the dogs remain constrained to the paths. They will inevitably stray over the adjacent green space while chasing birds for example. Under such circumstances, their faeces may soil the area and readily defeat the guidance set in place. This much is self-evident already. Finally, why not do something genuinely useful in Argyle Park? Create the draw card of a city amenity, one of a significant lake derived from the adjacent stream on the N.Western side of the area that would serve to provide a dimension of use and compelling attraction for many?	
130 - Di Davidson	Sealed paths help keep dogs claws trim. For example, Argyle Park paths are ideal for my elderly dog and I hope the changes don't ruin the seal. The fine chip of the domain paths is tough on dogs paws so I almost never go there with my elderly dog who struggles to walk on the chip, which is a shame as the gardens are beautiful. Sealed paths do not need to be wide, just sealed.	There are sealed paths in the Ashburton Domain. Sealing all paths would require significant additional capital and renewal expenditure

Extensions - Company Road / ABE

6. Do you support the extension of the Company Road / Ashburton Business Estate off-leash area?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	97	71.32%
I don't support this change	17	12.50%
Not sure / other	22	16.18%
Total	**136**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I support this change		
Effective control		
166 - Bernadette Thompson	Again, owners here should be able to recall their dogs and not allow them to go off chasing cyclists, runners, other dogs.	
General		
16 - Ceri Jones	great spot and it's currently treated as off-leash so just remove the threat of fines	
20 - Gretchen Hart	The swale is unused and perfect for exercising dogs. It is mostly dog owners using the place anyway and dog owners seem to enjoy stopping for a chat and seeing dogs.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Will give more choice for both dog and owner.	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	I support any area where residents can exercise dogs safely	
41 - Kate White	I strongly support this change!! It's such a great area for the dogs. And not many people are there so I can't see the dogs causing any problems off lead.	
55 - Amanda Watson	Again, an awesome walking location. Thank you for making a fun place even funner.	
57 - Sara Webster	good idea	
58 - Richard Mabon	As per 7. below. *(having opposed the off-leash area at Argyle Park, I recognise the need to provide some alternative spaces- even though something like 80% of dog owners thought there was enough space)*	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I support this change		
59 - Terrie Cresswell	It makes a lot if sense to have that area, including the pathways, available for off leash dogs.	
67 - Helen Andersen	This park is very suitable for dogs to be off leash and have a good run without being near a busy road.	
78 - Warren Maslin	Works as a transition area.	
90 - Simone Hopwood	its a really good area to exercise your dog off leash so extending would be great	
98 - Philippa Young	Any dog that is well trained and controlled should be allowed off leash. A responsible dog owner should hopefully know if their dog is required to be on a leash if unable to control them. Yes dogs run up to other people, but most of those dogs are friendly. Unfortunately the owners of dogs who don't take care of them are the ones this applies to. They are not concerned about any council laws.	
104 - Roger West	Good place a long way from walkers and cyclists	
106 - Lorraine Robinson	we need more options for dogs off leash in Ashburton.	
112 - guest user	On leash area walking into "off leash area" is crazy at present, no houses around & barely see any other walkers when there, occasionally another dog walker but nobody on own	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	excellent place to take your dog for a walk Lots of trees and bushes for our dogs to explore	
154 - guest user	9	
163 - Jeff Hyde	Logical use of the area.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I support this change		
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	Everyone already does this to be frank. It's one of the only spaces that is truly safe from cars where dogs can be walked off-leash, and it is hardly used for other activity aside from dog walking anyway. As always, dogs should still be expected to be under effective control, but you shouldn't risk being fined for walking along the path with your dog beside you in a space mostly unused otherwise.	
178 - Delia Achten	Don't use this area as it would involve driving there but same principal as above.	
180 - guest user	This is a wonderful area for walking dogs and ideal for running free under owner supervision.	
202 - John Bell	great area for dogs	
204 - Alexandra Krivanek	Good to have more off leash options.	
214 - Gerry Power	Being an immediate neighbour since the area was made a dog park, most dogs are off leash when they should be on leash. There are two issues here, practical policing of the on leash area , we have never seen or heard of any conflicts over this non compliance.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the extension of off leash areas around Argyle Park and at Company Road.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	Definitely increase the off leashes In Argyle Park, the new Industrial park and any other areas mentioned in your plans.	
Other		
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	if owners keep them under control, great to extend. more fenced areas could help when extended. two paddocks within the exercise area are sometimes electrified	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I support this change		
	by owners without signage, so I am very cautious there as we got zapped once and did report it	will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
Other suggestions		
6 - Debbie Woods	Should be the entire area	
16 - Ceri Jones	the one thing that doesn't make sense is having one bin in that entire area. There are so many entry ways to access to area and one bin is crazy - should be one at every entry point to the off leash area	Officers agree that an additional bin could be added at JB Cullen Drive entrance if proposed area goes ahead.
230 - Phil & Alison Straw	Would request a rubbish bin at the opposite end of park to the 1 current bin	
56 - marion logan	could be extended even further	
62 - Stefan van Vliet	Most dogs are already loose on the footpaths prescribed, but I think the way the off-leash zone is being applied makes little to no sense. If its being marked as off-leash it should extend out to the fences. Nobody is going to put their dog on a leash if it runs off onto the grassed areas off the path, it will remain loose. It'd also make understanding the and implementing the rule much easier due to it being not just the path itself that is off-leash.	There are no plans to extend the exercise area at this stage. This provision was to allow dogs to be off leash (but under effective control) while being walked from cars to exercise areas, so that dog owners were not instantly in breach of the bylaw as it currently stands.
97 - Anne Treymane	the off leash exercise area is too far away from reasonable parking the only parking for the off leash area is on the side of company road and it is totally unacceptable being full of massive water filled cavities, staff insist it's not their responsibility to maintain the roadside	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
174 - Betty King	It should be a rule that if you know your dog isn't safe near other dogs, they should be muzzled, not for every dog to be on a lead because of a couple.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I support this change		
		will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
179 - Robyn Kelland	Excellent idea. Any thoughts of upgrading/planting fences to protect stock paddocks & neighbouring properties from dogs entering?	Comment noted, however this could incur significant expense given length of fence and is difficult to justify without record of complaints/issues.

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I don't support this change		
Effective control		
221 - John McGirr	Bad owners will have no control and the animals have access to property each side of the track	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under "effective control" which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
General		
24 - Christina Cox	Ridiculous	
33 - Chris Pringuer	Un-necessary expense.	The funding required would be for a new signage / change of signage where necessary, poo bag and bins provision

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I don't support this change		
		and emptying of bins. This would be covered by existing budgets.
182 - Anne Watson	There is enough area there now and the new proposed area is too confined.	
183 - Clive Watson	I walk there a lot with no dog. The extension area is too confined. There is sh*t everywhere now - so imagine? Plus - would be hard to keep dogs under control when they are out of sight of owner.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw. This includes addressing owners who have not cleaned up after their dog(s).
205 - Lal Mulligan	lots of walkers and biking here and dangerous to have loose dogs especially with children walking and on bikes.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
Incidents		
134 - R Chapman	its such a lovely path to walk/3km loop track, which my daughter and I do numerous times a week (we don’t have a dog), its extremely unnerving dogs that already get walked out there off their leash, that don’t have recall, and aren’t controlled by their owner. We have had dogs approach us in an aggressive manner, with owners telling us "sorry they aren’t normally like that". Maybe areas completely separate to the pathways would be better. Everyone should be able to enjoy the pathways without the fear that dogs approaching don’t need to be placed on the lead.	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw.
Other		
71 - Joanna Smith	i support all but the expansion of Company Rd exercise area. I live on Company Rd and frequently ride my horse around the estate bypassing the dog exercise area. If this is increased i will have even more scary dangerous encounters as people let their dogs off	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control”

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - I don't support this change		
	well before the designated area and have no recall. This could result in my horse being attacked, me being hurt or my horse killing a dog. Please keep the current area as it is as it is working well, most locals now are starting to respect my space (has only taken 5 years). Be a leading council on shared space in this area please!	which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw. This includes having dogs on leash by default and includes off leash areas if they cannot reliably respond to commands.
Other suggestions		
137 - Janet Hadley	I believe dogs should be on leash in all public places. It becomes a problem when there are both on and off leash dogs in an area.	

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
30 - Robyn Boyd	I'm not familiar with this area.	
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	Not been to this area	
210 - Wendy Matthews	no opinion	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/ABE extension - Not sure / other		
Other		
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	

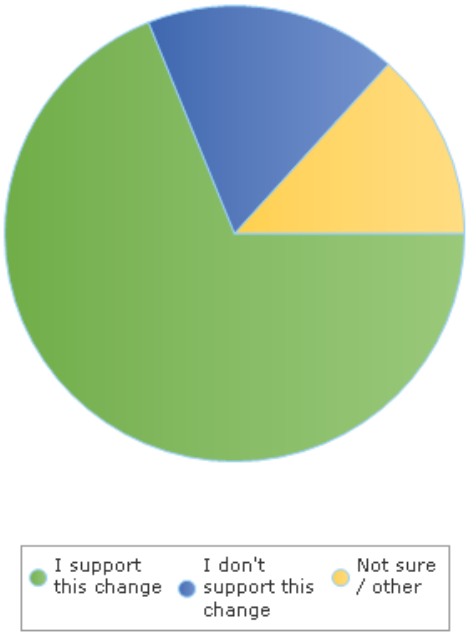
Further comments provided

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Company Road/Ashburton Business Estate		
71 - Joanna Smith	please consider the Company Rd area carefully and include ALL who use it not just dog owners. Please.	
97 - Anne Treymane	only regarding the neglect of the Company road entrance to the off leash area. The state of this is disgraceful and it would be a responsible idea for a person in a position of authority to inspect and arrange repairs	Comments noted and will request consideration of this provision from the transport team.

New additions - Lake Hood

7. Do you support our proposal to introduce an off-leash area at Lake Hood?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	93	68.89%
I don't support this change	24	17.78%
Not sure / other	18	13.33%
Total	**135**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I support this change		
General		
16 - Ceri Jones	Would be a great asset to the lake	
31 - Rose Hawkes	As long as animals are under control and are within the rules	
44 - Rosemary Hinchliffe	It would also be great for Lake Hood to allow non-residents' dogs into more areas since the adjoining Lake Hood trail allows dogs on-leash.	
55 - Amanda Watson	Open spaces to have a good run.	
57 - Sara Webster	good idea	
58 - Richard Mabon	Having opposed the off-leash area at Argyle Park, I recognise the need to provide some alternative spaces - even though something like 80% of dog owners thought there was enough space.	
71 - Joanna Smith	Residents need somewhere designated to exercise off leash	
78 - Warren Maslin	Open area not near residential dwellings.	
83 - Kathryn Cochet	great idea. As lake hood is an expansive place for dogs.	
112 - guest user	Great area for this	
118 - Henry Phillips	I am writing in regards to the new areas bylaw. I think that Ashburton District Council should add those new off leash areas in Ashburton and Methven as they said they are thinking about doing. I think this idea is good so that dogs can run around free without	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I support this change		
	harm and burn off their energy, because they have a lot of it. As someone who has dogs I can see why we need more of these. It would help a lot of people because most dog owners are at work for most of the day the dogs get no exercise and when the owner gets home they have to drive all the way to the dog park, but it can only be a small walk or drive away to give your dog exercise. In conclusion it would be great to have more off leash dog areas and I support this bylaw	
166 - Bernadette Thompson	There is plenty of room here for everyone and also a fabulous place for dogs to have a swim.	
178 - Delia Achten	As above	
179 - Robyn Kelland	Excellent idea, many families take their dogs	
202 - John Bell	another good area for dogs to run free and play	
210 - Wendy Matthews	it might reduce the number of lose hazardous dogs on the river/lake walking trail if they had somewhere else to be	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	ADC is proposing new off-leash exercise areas in Methven, Lake Hood and Braebrook. MCFF has no objection to this change and notes it may benefit rural families using these townships and reserves.	
Other		
183 - Clive Watson	But 1m? from jumping platform?	The jumping platform meets the definition of a playground in the bylaw, and therefore dogs would be prohibited, from being within 1m of the entrance to the area. We do not expect there to be

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I support this change		
		problems as the off-leash area is not proposed to be within 1m of the platform. Council have the option to adjust the proposed off leash area to be further away from the jumping platform if deemed necessary.
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the introduction of new off leash areas at Lake Hood, Braebrook and Methven Walkway. We note that almost a quarter of respondents to the early engagement survey indicated that they consider there are not enough off leash areas. There is a legitimate need for safe, appropriate designated off-leash areas to provide alternatives to those areas where the presence of off-leash dogs is potentially detrimental to wildlife, farmed animals and other users of public lands. On-leash exercise is not a substitute for off-leash exercise. Dogs walk faster than people and providing off-leash time allows them to work off excess energy. Research suggests that off-leash dog exercise areas can benefit owners' and dogs' physical and social health, as well as community connectedness (Cutt et al., 2007; Eldering & Martin, 2017; Toohey et al., 2013). Canine obesity is now considered to be the number one health concern in companion dogs worldwide (Kipperman & German, 2018). Dogs walked less often and for a shorter time are more likely to be obese; this can shorten their life and put them at risk of health complications such as diabetes and heart disease (German et al., 2017). Dogs who are not provided an appropriate outlet for their energy can develop problem behaviours such as nuisance barking and destructive behaviours or depression (Instone & Sweeney, 2014). Exercise is an easy, inexpensive, welfare-friendly tool to assist with nuisance barking (Righetti, 2005). Thus, provision of off-leash exercise opportunities is a key component	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I support this change		
	of the Council's obligations to prevent or abate nuisances. Legally, all dog owners must meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of their animals, and providing sufficient exercise is a part of this requirement. Some dog owners may be reluctant to exercise their dogs if they have less flexibility about where they can do this within their local area. Provision of alternative designated dog exercise areas to compensate for those removed, is likely to improve compliance with the introduced restrictions and allow dog owners to meet their physical, health and behavioural needs.	
Other suggestions		
6 - Debbie Woods	Well overdue. Does this include a safe swimming area for dogs away from public and boats ??	Dogs can already swim in the lake
139 - Kirsty McGregor	will our dogs be able to jump in the water when it us safe to do so?	
20 - Gretchen Hart	I support this change, however think the area should be extended so dogs can be walked right around the lake.	Dogs can be walked around the lake on-leash
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	I support controls to increase the safely of users (children)	
62 - Stefan van Vliet	While I do support adding this off-leash area at Lake Hood, I suggest that the "peninsula" between the water-ski and main lakes is also included as off-leash. This area is already extensively used by off-leash dogs as the water either side contains them. Signage at Lake Hood should also be improved, it is very common to see loose dogs on the access road to the golf course, for example and other signage refers to "residents dogs" being the only permitted dogs, with no definition of what a resident is.	Concerns are noted. The proposals made for exercise areas took into account what could easily be patrolled by our contractors. Adding to or subtracting from the areas agreed as “exercise” areas would need to take what is enforceable into account. I understand the signage referring to “residents” was initially put up by the residents committee. All signage to be revisited

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I support this change		
		once Bylaw is in place and only Council approved signage in line with the Act to be installed.
206 - Kara GILBERT	I also think it would be great to be able to have dogs off lead at the back of Lake Hood as there is nobody over there and the dogs live walking and jumping in the lake over that side. They are far away from people and there is plenty of time to see who is coming and put them on lead if necessary. It is lovely to walk around the lake with the dogs off leash. I understand they might need to be on lead in the high traffic areas, but rhe back stretch of the lake is not high traffic.	Noted
221 - John McGirr	Increases the area where animals are permitted to roam - but will need to be correctly fenced to keep owners land around free of animals	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
General		
8 - Janette Martin	Irresponsible owners	
33 - Chris Pringuer	There are plenty of off-leash spaces in Ashburton within a reasonable drive time why spend more money?	The funding required would be for a new signage / change of signage where necessary, additional monitoring, poo bag and bins provision and emptying of

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
		bins. This would be covered by existing budgets.
Existing use of the proposed area		
35 - Jeanet Leferink	We are writing this to voice our concern for the proposed off leash dog exercise area at Lake Hood. We are opposed to the proposal. The area the council has proposed to change into this dog exercise area is now a beautifully created recreational area used by many residents, yachting club, jumping platform, miniature boat club and other visitors. You don't want to be having your family picnic there while the dogs are running around through your gathering. There are many other waste areas on the NorthEast side of the Lake adjacent to the river which would be a perfect area for an off leash dog exercise area. Kind regards, Jeanet Leferink	Concerns noted. This was a collective proposal by staff, while also taking into account the views of our contractor. The area was considered to be fair for all visitors of Lake Hood and an area which can easily be patrolled. All proposals will have their pros and cons.
45 - Tony Foster	I believe this particular location is completely inappropriate for an off-leash dog area. The reserve is already heavily used by a wide range of people. Families regularly picnic there, children use the area for swimming and kayaking, and it is a popular recreational space. Its proximity to the jump platform is particularly concerning, as it places dogs directly beside a play area without any clear physical boundary. This could encourage owners to allow dogs off-leash in areas where children are present. The location is also adjacent to the sailing club and remote-control boat club, both of which attract regular visitors. Establishing an off-leash area here may encourage some dog owners to extend off-leash activity into surrounding areas, including the bridge and boat ramp. Unfortunately, many local residents already disregard existing signage and dog control bylaws. It is common to see dogs off-leash from the bridge boat ramp where they should not be. In my view, signage alone is unlikely to be effective. Those who already ignore current regulations are unlikely to comply with additional signs. A walk through the reserve would quickly reveal the amount of dog waste already being left behind. While not all dog owners	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	are irresponsible, there is clearly an existing issue that should not be overlooked. In my experience, owners who keep their dogs on leads generally demonstrate a greater degree of responsibility. Another concern is the impact on other users of the reserve. Many people enjoy walking and relaxing in the area without wanting to be approached by dogs. Consideration should also be given to individuals who have a fear of dogs or who have previously been attacked. Such experiences can have lifelong effects. While many owners believe their dog is friendly and harmless, that does not change the fear or anxiety someone may experience when an unfamiliar dog runs toward them. The proposed site also provides vehicle access to the lake edge. It seems unusual to establish a dog area in a location where vehicles regularly pass through. Furthermore, if members of the public see dogs off-leash in this area, it may create confusion about where dogs are permitted to be off-leash and encourage further disregard for existing bylaws. I believe a designated dog area would be a better solution if it were located away from the main public recreation spaces, perhaps in a less visible area behind the lake wall overflow. This would allow dog owners to exercise their dogs while reducing conflicts with other reserve users and protecting the character of this popular community space.	
47 - Carmen Foster	**Submission on Proposed Dog Control Review 2026** **Regarding Proposed Off-Leash Dog Exercise Area – Lake Hood** Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed Dog Control Review 2026. While I support, in principle, the provision of designated off-leash areas for dogs, I wish to formally oppose the proposed location at Lake Hood for the reasons outlined below. **Incompatibility with the Established Purpose of the Reserve** Lake Hood was originally established as a recreational reserve where dogs are required to be on leads. This expectation should be well understood by residents and visitors to the	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	Huntingdon area. The proposed change represents a significant departure from the reserve's intended purpose and risks undermining its established character as a shared, family-oriented recreation space. **Conflict with Existing Recreational Use** The reserve is already heavily utilised by a wide cross-section of the community, including: • Families using picnic areas • Children swimming, kayaking, and using the jump platform • Users of the yachting club and remote-control boat club • Walkers and general visitors The proximity of the proposed off-leash area to the jump platform is of particular concern. This is an active play area for children, and introducing off-leash dogs in such close proximity without physical separation presents unnecessary safety risks and may discourage public use. **Lack of Physical Containment and Reliance on Compliance** The proposed area does not include fencing or sufficient physical controls. As a result: • Dogs are unlikely to remain within the designated area • There is a high risk of dogs moving into adjacent spaces, including children's play and water access areas • The proposal relies heavily on owner compliance with rules While dog owners are expected to: • Actively supervise their dogs • Maintain close proximity and control • Ensure immediate recall	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	• Prevent nuisance to people, animals, and wildlife the current level of compliance within this area indicates that these expectations are not consistently met. In the absence of active enforcement, rules alone are unlikely to be effective. **Existing Non-Compliance and Enforcement Concerns** There is already evidence of ongoing non-compliance within the reserve: • Dogs are frequently observed off-leash in areas where this is not permitted • Some owners do not actively supervise their dogs • Dog waste is regularly left behind These issues demonstrate that: • Existing bylaws are not consistently adhered to • Additional signage is unlikely to influence behaviour • Expanding off-leash access may exacerbate current problems **Impact on Other Reserve Users** The proposal does not adequately consider the needs of all users of the reserve. Many individuals: • Do not wish to interact with dogs • Experience fear or anxiety around unfamiliar dogs • Have had previous negative experiences Even well-behaved dogs can cause distress when approaching people uninvited. A public reserve of this nature should remain inclusive and comfortable for all members of the community.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	Safety and Location Concerns The proposed site presents additional practical concerns: • It includes vehicle access to the lake edge, creating potential safety risks • It is located near key access points such as the bridge and boat ramp • Off-leash activity in this area may spread beyond designated boundaries • It may create confusion about where off-leash access is permitted **Availability of More Suitable Alternative Locations** There are more appropriate areas that could be considered for a dog exercise space, including: • Underutilised land on the north-east side of the lake • Areas behind the lake wall or overflow zones • Future development areas associated with planned housing expansion Such locations would provide greater separation from high-use public spaces and enable better design outcomes, including the potential for secure fencing. **8. Design Considerations for Any Future Dog Exercise Area** Should an off-leash area be developed, it should incorporate: • Full fencing to ensure containment • Clear boundaries and controlled access points • Separation from high-use recreational and family areas • Appropriate enforcement measures **9. Objection to Provision of Dog Waste Bins**	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	I also wish to raise an objection to the proposed introduction of dedicated dog waste bins in this location. The responsibility for the proper disposal of dog waste rests with dog owners. The introduction of dog-specific bins in an area where general public rubbish bins are not provided creates an inconsistency in approach and sends the wrong message regarding personal responsibility. Rather than installing additional infrastructure, emphasis should be placed on: • Owner responsibility and accountability • Compliance with existing obligations to remove and appropriately dispose of dog waste The current presence of dog waste within the reserve suggests that the issue is not a lack of facilities, but rather a lack of compliance. **Conclusion** In conclusion, while I support the provision of off-leash dog exercise areas in appropriate locations, I consider the proposed site at Lake Hood to be unsuitable. The current proposal: • Conflicts with the established use and character of the reserve • Presents safety and usability concerns • Relies on compliance levels that are not currently being achieved • Fails to adequately balance the needs of all users I encourage Council to reconsider the proposed location and instead investigate more suitable, appropriately separated sites that can accommodate a well-designed and properly managed dog exercise area.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
49 - David West	This is a great recreational area which gets a lot of passive use from picknickers /sports groups, sailors , model boat enthusiasts, there are goal posts which get regular use for kicking practise. Extended parking for rowing and other events. There are several much more appropriate areas in my opinion. I suggest although the intention is to keep un leashed dogs 1m from the jumping platform this is not practicable as the dogs can't read. Also this area was planted with funding from former Ansco company with the intention of the company taking pride in the area for their staff and all the users of the park. Signage was later requested but not acted on Ansco Recreational area. Just got lost in the system but prior to ADC direct management.	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35. All signage will be reviewed after Bylaw approved.
104 - Roger West	The area suggested is a busy sports area with ,many passive ,small model boat ,jumping platform ,kite testing and exhibitions ,picnicking and many other activities . I have personally been bitten by an off leash dog at Lake Hood , the dog was subsequently put down after biting another person. I could support a different area being made available but strongly object to the proposal as subject to this consultation. There are areas which are partially fenced and free from passive use which would be perfect. I will oppose this at all lengths as I have had similar views expressed during social, bike, and community gatherings.	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35
50 - Zdena Kaspar-West	I am strongly opposed to the new off-leash dog area at Lake Hood. This large recreational area that ADC has proposed to be the new off -leash area for dogs was never intended for this purpose. This area was designed and developed for shared human recreation, not a dog exercise area. It is planted with trees and plantings, fitted with seating and laid out specifically as a picnic and recreational area for families. It is also used for many activities: from family picnics, playing rugby (rugby posts already in) clubs such as the sailing club, motorised boat competitions, kite flying, swimming access, kayaking, school sports days and many other activities. Turning it into a off- leash dog area changes its fundamental purpose. It would convert best part of Lake Hood recreation land, into something it was not intended for. This area get the most use, it's the nicest part of the reserve at the lake, mature	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 62The proposed area doesn't include / impact on the rugby field. Other uses in this area will still be able to continue under the proposal, as dogs off leash will be required to remain under effective control.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	trees, open grass area, lake access. That popularity is exactly why it's the wrong place for unleashed dogs. More people in this space means more potential for conflict, not less. Right now, children can play, swim, play rugby without their parents having to watch for roaming dogs. An off -leash designation removes that freedom. Parents would have to supervise constantly for dogs running onto the rugby play area, chasing the ball, approaching children while they eat and play or interrupting swimming. That's a real loss of amenity for families- not a hypothetical one. People are entitled to a stress free, dog free recreational space to enjoy! Leave this area for humans and find an area that is fenced and away from water and children for dogs!	
114 - Kara Steenhart for MCMPBC mid Canterbury model power boat club	our club uses this part of the lake there every Month. Starting up our boats is very dangerous if dogs are running around they can try bite the moving propellers or run into them. They could try chasing the boats into the water	Concerns noted. Even when off leash dogs would be required to be under effective control.
137 - Janet Hadley	For the reasons given above. *(I believe dogs should be on leash in all public places. It becomes a problem when there are both on and off leash dogs in an area.)*	
170 - Deanna Walsh	Lake Hood is a high pedestrian traffic, high activity area, along with being nearby to wildlife from the Ashburton river. It is inappropriate to have an off-leash area where there is such a mix of high use and potentially at risk groups, including the dogs at risk when big events are on at the lake bringing significant vehicle traffic. Lake Hood must remain an on leash only area.	
194 - Lyn Womersley	seems to be a potential conflict of interest between pets and people	
219 - Lynnette Bridge	I consider this area especially to be leash worthy with water and park surrounds and many different people walking around.	
24 - Christina Cox	Dog owners are already ridiculous with not putting their dogs on leads. They should not be off lead at Lake Hood or any other public areas. I bet you got more support and opinions like	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	mine than wanting more areas. You don't go with the majority ever so I don't know why I am wasting my time saying this.	
212 - Amie Griffiths for Huntingdon Park Property Owners Association inc	*Below is a summary. Please see full submission for further details.* We recognise the value of providing appropriate spaces where dogs can be exercised off leash. However, we do not believe the proposed Lake Hood site is suitable. Our concern is not with the concept of dog exercise areas, but with placing one in this particular location. Reasons as set out in attached submission: • Does not fit well with Lake Hoods existing purpose & character • Pressure on an already busy recreation area, too close to busy family, water and access areas • No clear containment or separation to manage dogs safely • Current compliance issues – relies on compliance that is currently not evident • Fair access to all reserve users – does not sufficiently protect the comfort and safety of all reserve users. Suggestions in attached submission include: • Better sites should be considered • What any future dog area should include In summary, support well-planned dog exercise areas in suitable location, but oppose the proposed off-leash area in its current form and location. We request that Council reconsider this proposed location and explore alternative sites that can be properly separated, securely designed, and managed in a way that works for dog owners while also protecting the wider community's use of Lake Hood. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on behalf of our residents	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
Incidents		
188 - Brent & Jacqui Williams	I wish to record my objection to the proposed dog off leash area adjacent to the lake. I moved here from Timaru in 2023 because of the natural beauty and peaceful nature of the area and was surprised and disappointed at the lack of dog control. In the first few months of moving here I was attacked and bitten by a dog being walked off its leash outside my home. That resulted in a fine for the owner who is a prominent business woman in Ashburton and it turned out that the dog wasn't registered. This was a family pet being walked by a family member who had no control of the animal. This dog attack was the third that I have suffered in as many years. Two had taken place in my former home town of timaru. Both of those attacks were by unrestrained dogs and took place in the presence of their respective owners. One attack required medical attention. The owner of that dog knew me but failed to Enquiry as to my health or offer any compensation for the $180 medical fees. The other attack was from 2 dogs. The Alsatian hit me twice in the back of my legs but thankfully was muzzled. I was recovering from hip replacement surgery at that time so this lunging animal almost knocked me to the ground. Since moving to lake hood it has become very evident that there is a dog problem here and this was acknowledged by my animal control when attending the dog attack in 2024. Dogs can be seen off the leash in every area of lake hood at different times of the day. I have been rushed at by dogs barking aggressively. Sometimes these animals are on a long leash but it is still intimidating for walkers and bikers using the same path. The area you identify as a dog off leash area is adjacent to the lake where yachting is popular. Both full size and model yachting. I frequently call to watch this activity and would	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	hate to have to negotiate uncontrolled dogs and risk another dog attack. I am aware that this is a view shared by the sailers who use this area of the lake. In my experience most dog owners lack real sense when it comes to their animals. They put their dogs welfare ahead of fellow humans. Dog droppings are evident around the walkways and grassed areas here. I just managed to avoid standing in some when playing on the golf course yesterday. I've even seen numerous plastic bags of dog excrement on the ground. Presumably an owner has picked it up in the bag only to discard it somewhere where they aren't being observed. Please do not allow dogs off the leash here. Please do more to control the dogs that are here.	
Other		
132 - Harriet McBride-Benger	Lake Hood, particularly around the lake margins, is home to a wide variety of birdlife. I have concerns about the potential impact of dogs in this environment, particularly in relation to disturbance of birds and damage to nests. For the protection of these species and their habitat, I believe that dogs should be required to remain on-leash in this area at all times. This would help reduce disturbance to wildlife and provide greater protection for nesting and feeding areas around the lake.	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35
Other suggestions		
50 - Zdena Kaspar-West	Lake Hood has many areas where an off -leash area for dogs would be a much better option, not the one proposed above. One area could be behind the spill way. There is enough room for separate areas for big and small dogs, an obedience zone, agility equipment. to provide a fully fenced area would protect the wildlife, cyclists and walkers. there is enough space for car parking and a toilet too. remove dogs from human recreation areas and provide a fully fenced dog zone in the right place for everyone to enjoy. with a fenced area , there	Concerns noted. See above under Submission 35

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - I don't support this change		
	would be no need to monitor the dog situation at Lake Hood and prevent any accidents from occurring.	
104 - Roger West	I could support a different area being made available but strongly object to the proposal as subject to this consultation. There are areas which are partially fenced and free from passive use which would be perfect.	
135 - Marel De Boer	dogs should not be of leash in any urban area only dog parks.	

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	I was there last weekend with my dog and went around the entire area with her on leash. there were allot of owners with their dogs off leash and some failed to control them when we walked past. Very annoying especially when no poop bags so they don't pick up their mess	
163 - Jeff Hyde	No experience of this area so unable to comment.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	We never go here, so I don't have any strong feelings on it; however, I'm sure the locals with dogs would appreciate	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood - Not sure / other		
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	
Other suggestions		
120 - Jahziah Parrett	I am writing regards to new exercise areas I think that Ashburton district councils proposed changes to identify 3 locations that could be used as new off leash areas falls into category 2. I think even more areas need to be thought of. Why because dog is stuck in their dog Kenel or house with nothing to do because their care givers are busy at work or out doing to and come home to a crazy dog that has a lot of energy and needs to burn it off. But have to waste more gas. That's where the idea of more dog parks is positive so you can just walk instead of using more gas to travel to dog parks. That's why I think we should add more dog parks.	

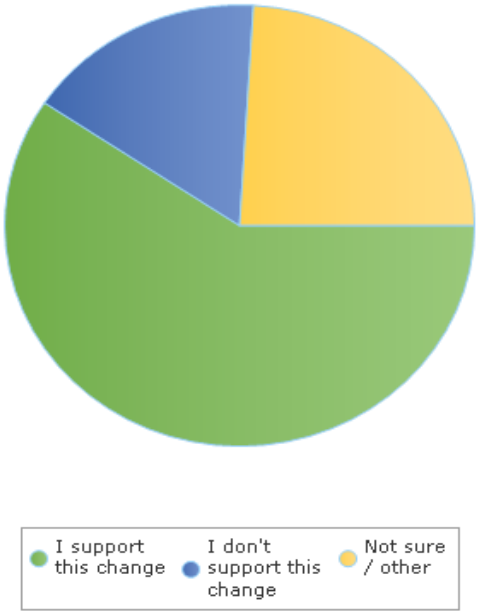
Further comments received

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Hood		
197 - Kim Waghorn	The area at lake Hood will be great , i live down here and we really need a place where our dogs can run freely , its perfect spot . Not many people use that area other than people walking there dogs so this would be ideal for off leash exercise.	

New additions - Braebrook

8. Do you support our proposal to introduce an off-leash area at Braebrook?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	79	59.40%
I don't support this change	22	16.54%
Not sure / other	32	24.06%
Total	**133**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I support this change		
General		
16 - Ceri Jones	Great to have another area locally	
31 - Rose Hawkes	those living in this area can exercise dogs and enjoy the outdoors there.	
55 - Amanda Watson	Good, logical place, contained.	
56 - marion logan	quality of dog life	
57 - Sara Webster	good idea	
58 - Richard Mabon	As per 7. *(having opposed the off-leash area at Argyle Park, I recognise the need to provide some alternative spaces- even though something like 80% of dog owners thought there was enough space.)*	
70 - Brianna Tait	Great idea.	
71 - Joanna Smith	Residents need somewhere safe and designated too	
94 - Grant McFaull	we currently allow our small dogs off anyway sometimes as no one is there	The draft Bylaw provides greater clarity on the meaning of under “effective control” which will assist Animal Control Officers administering the bylaw. This includes addressing owners who have not cleaned up after their dog(s).

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I support this change		
112 - guest user	Dogs need exercise to run	
118 - Henry Phillips	I am writing in regards to the new areas bylaw. I think that Ashburton District Council should add those new off leash areas in Ashburton and Methven as they said they are thinking about doing. I think this idea is good so that dogs can run around free without harm and burn off their energy, because they have a lot of it. As someone who has dogs I can see why we need more of these. It would help a lot of people because most dog owners are at work for most of the day the dogs get no exercise and when the owner gets home they have to drive all the way to the dog park, but it can onley be a small walk or drive away to give your dog exercise. In conclusion it would be great to have more off leash dog areas and I support this bylaw	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	beneficial if you live in this area	
178 - Delia Achten	As above.	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the introduction of new off leash areas at Lake Hood, Braebrook and Methven Walkway. See comment above re the need for dog to have adequate exercise	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	ADC is proposing new off-leash exercise areas in Methven, Lake Hood and Braebrook. MCFF has no objection to this change and notes it may benefit rural families using these townships and reserves.	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
General		
33 - Chris Pringuer	Again, waste of money	The funding required would be for a new signage / change of signage where necessary, additional monitoring, poo bag and bins provision and emptying of bins. This would be covered by existing budgets.
40 - Neil English	The proposed area is a swale, not a dog exercise area. I can tell you now that a lot of dog owners conveniently to themselves fail to pick up their dogs poo on level ground, do you really think they will bother slipping and sliding into a swale to get. What a very convenient excuse that will be. I am sure the adjoining property owners will be thrilled.	
137 - Janet Hadley	As above. My dog is on leash in all public areas. If I want him off leash, I take him to the fenced dog park. I think problems occur when there are unfenced areas for dogs to run off leash in.	
167 - guest user	Once again beautiful bird life there. Dogs would only upset them	
221 - John McGirr	Animals need to be leashed at all times in this area, the area is used by children and a lot of people walking through the area. Security to other users is very limited and the area is not fenced at the ends and along the East boundary	
Other		
173 - Brenda Lester	See full submission attached for points and appendices:	Concerns noted.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	• Swale area assigned as Local Purpose Drainage area, required to collect and drain Ashburton Council waste water • Not designated by Environment Canterbury as Local Purpose Reserve but purposely designed for a Local Purpose Drainage System. ECan have installed monitoring water well within the swale area to measure presence of any effluent that may enter the swale as it sits above a known aquifer. The soil structure and sparse grassing composition means any lengthy dog activity will damage the soil and grassing environment resulting in a compromised water drainage system for Braebrook subdivision. • Incidents have been experienced by residents bordering the swale, where dogs enter residents' property and defecate on lawns and gardens and cause upset for residents' dogs. • Distances included in submission to support point that other exercise areas already available are closer to Strowan Fields and have better facilities than this swale. Suggests there could be possible inclusion of area in Strowan Fields. • Notes importance of including adequate and purposeful exercise areas for dogs and recreational facilities for residents in new subdivisions.	The monitoring bore sited at the facility is a shallow bore installed by ADC that is used for monitoring groundwater. We sample and test for copper, zinc and E-coli quarterly. Officers think it is unlikely if existing and/or increased dog use would have a noticeable impact on the functioning of the facility or impact on groundwater quality.
184 - Neil Lester	See full submission attached for points and appendices: • Swale area assigned as Local Purpose Drainage area, required to collect and drain Ashburton Council waste water • Not designated by Environment Canterbury as Local Purpose Reserve but purposely designed for a Local Purpose Drainage System. ECan have installed monitoring water well within the swale area to measure presence of any effluent that may enter the swale as it sits above a known aquifer. The soil structure and sparse grassing composition means any lengthy dog activity will damage the soil and grassing environment resulting in a compromised water drainage system for Braebrook subdivision.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	• Incidents have been experienced by residents bordering the swale, where dogs enter residents' property and defecate on lawns and gardens and cause upset for residents' dogs. • Distances included in submission to support point that other exercise areas already available are closer to Strowan Fields and have better facilities than this swale. Suggests there could be possible inclusion of area in Strowan Fields. • Notes importance of including adequate and purposeful exercise areas for dogs and recreational facilities for residents in new subdivisions.	
232 - Margaret Heather Harrison-Lee	See full submission for more details, including a copy of resource consent showing swale as Local Purpose Drainage, required to retain Ashburton Councils Roading DOG effluent free wastewater. Swale has been purposely designed for roading water retention by Environment Canterbury and a monitoring bore hole has been installed to measure the presence of any effluent that should enter, as the swale sits above a known main aquifer. The soil structure is fragile, and any lengthy dog activity will damage it. Subdivision considered safe as it had a NO DOG off leash regulation. The fact that the swale was not a park or local purpose recreation reserve was a significant attraction as a safe environment for us as a farming couple retiring from Central Otago to Ashburton. Magnolia Drive also has 40kmh speed zone limit as a Children's safety zone for the existing preschool. The preschool uses Magnolia Drive to the swale for teaching the children road safety and to take 10 to 20 children in a line with teachers, and they have morning tea on the banks of the swale. They are SAFE in this environment with the present dog regulation (dogs on leash).	Concerns noted. The monitoring bore sited at the facility is a shallow bore installed by ADC, that is used for monitoring groundwater. We sample and test for copper, zinc and E-coli quarterly. Officers think it is unlikely if existing and/or increased dog use would have a noticeable impact on the functioning of the facility or impact on groundwater quality.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	This proposal will also make it unsafe for local residents who walk the swale for exercise. In the 9 years we've been here we have seen the swale exceed its water capacity and overtop both contaminants then drain uncontrolled, its contents eastward. The swale is regularly 1/4 to 1/2 full when a cycle of continuous rain falls over 3 to 5 days. The surrounding area also lacks a Council buffer zone as provided in other locations. Presently, residents are experiencing dog owners of small dogs releasing their dogs off leash without control and allowing these small dogs to enter private property through permanent fencing to poo on a residents back lawn. This is not acceptable and is an indication of society's growing disrespect and social inconsiderate behaviour and Council must be aware and take this on board when developing new regulations and standards. The swale has also not been provided with any off road parking and over weekends what parking is available is occupied by the local residents. It should be recorded that the area surrounding the sewerage pumping station that borders the swale requires to be always free 24 hourly for the servicing contractor. For the Ashburton District Council to recommend a dog off leash area here is quite un responsible for a local authority and unjustified on the evidence I have produced.	
235 - Robert Edward Harrison-Lee	See full submission for more details, including attached photos and documents such as resource consent plan showing swale as Local Purpose Drainage, required to retain Ashburton Councils Roading DOG effluent free wastewater.	Concerns noted. The monitoring bore sited at the facility is a shallow bore installed by ADC, that is used for monitoring groundwater. We

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	Swale has been purposely designed for roading water retention by Environment Canterbury and a monitoring bore hole has been installed to measure the presence of any effluent that should enter, as the swale sits above a known main aquifer. The soil structure is fragile, and any lengthy dog activity will damage it. Subdivision considered safe as it had a NO DOG off leash regulation. The fact that the swale was not a park or local purpose recreation reserve was a significant attraction as a safe environment for us as a farming couple retiring from Central Otago to Ashburton. In the 9 years we've been here we have seen the swale exceed its water capacity and overtop both contaminants then drain uncontrolled, its contents eastward. The swale is regularly 1/4 to 1/2 full when a cycle of continuous rain falls over 3 to 5 days. The surrounding area also lacks a Council buffer zone as provided in other locations. Presently, residents are experiencing dog owners of small dogs releasing their dogs off leash without control and allowing these small dogs to enter private property through permanent fencing to poo on a residents back lawn. This is not acceptable and is an indication of society's growing disrespect and social inconsiderate behaviour and Council must be aware and take this on board when developing new regulations and standards. The swale has also not been provided with any off road parking and over weekends what parking is available is occupied by the local residents. It should be recorded that the area surrounding the sewerage pumping station that borders the swale requires to be always free 24 hourly for the servicing contractor. For the Ashburton District Council to recommend a dog off leash area here is quite un responsible for a local authority and unjustified on the evidence I have produced	sample and test for copper, zinc and E-coli quarterly. Officers think it is unlikely if existing and/or increased dog use would have a noticeable impact on the functioning of the facility or impact on groundwater quality.
52 - Brenda & Alvin Lord	Previously was in support, but after further thought wished to rescind support for following reasons:	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	• immediate neighbouring properties not keen, especially with their own dogs and low, see-through fences • increase in dogs frequenting the area, when the number of dogs/people that walk around the swale is ok as it is.	
78 - Warren Maslin	I object to adding the Braebrook Swale off Braebrook/Magnolia Drive. As a Dog off -Leash area - The swale is currently used by a lot of families and dog walkers and is also used by the Stepping stones preschool, for outings and activities - Having an off leash area would increase risk to children and other smaller dogs walked in this area. It would also increase dog shit in this area as well as putting preschool children at risk of disease/ illness. The swale area also borders a lane way (Redhaven Rise) and all these properties have animals and no fencing that separates them from the swale area - this will put all properties at risk of roving animals off Leash - endangering families and animals that live in the location - It will also stop us being able to open our garage areas safely. The swale also borders on a rural area with animals currently in this area - but this is changing to urban but has a area that is difficult to access for owners of dogs if the dogs head away whilst off leash over the current fence line. I have also talked to 4 dog walkers who walk their dogs in this area regularly but feel their smaller dogs would be in danger. This area is in a residential area and is not enough space to warrent dogs being unleased. As the area is a dead end area it makes no sense to encourage non residents to enter this area and allow their dogs to roam such a small area. It has no respect for the property owners and	Concerns noted.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	residents in this area , and no way to control them entering private properties. Dogs off leash do not have the owners pick up their dog shit as much as they may miss where the animals defecate. The issue of having more non residents coming into our area would also put our property security at risk as well. Just not a sensible idea - too much risk and no benefit to the current residents in this area. Also this area has no link to current non Lease areas whilst all the other areas do.	
Other suggestions		
223 - Abby Andrews	Kia Ora, I'm writing to express concerns over the Braebrook swale being proposed as a new off leash dog exercise area. This green space is a safe area where children play, elderly go for walks, and residents who live nearby enjoy the peace and quiet of an open space. Creating an off leash dog area here poses a serious safety risk to our tamariki, and the peaceful enjoyment of the neighbourhood. In addition to these concerns, the site is not appropriately fenced to function as a dog park. Has the council consulted with residents who live adjacent to the swale about these changes? Has the council consulted Stepping Stones ECE centre who use the swale for outings with their tamariki? Please address these concerns before making any of the proposed changes. Nga mihi, Abby Andrews	Concerns noted. As part of consultation on this proposed Draft Bylaw & Policy, officers conducted a mailbox letter drop to properties directly impacted by this proposed off-leash area, advising of the proposed change and how submissions can be made. No contact was made with the Stepping Stones ECE, as officers were unaware they frequented this area.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
226 - Caroline Andrews	Hi, We have the longest boundary of all the properties that adjoin the Braebrook swale. In addition, we boundary on to the new subdivision at the rear of our property. Both of our boundary fences are low. We have no problems with the present dog walkers as we know the owners and their well-behaved dogs. However, if council makes this a new off-leash area for dogs, this is going to appeal to the many new owners who build in the new subdivisions adjoining us. There will be a substantial increase in the number of dogs let loose here! We won't know these owners or the types of dogs. This makes me very anxious as the increase in dog numbers will mean the following: more dogs on the run, potential for harm, nuisance, and an increase in noise. We bought this property eight years ago due to it being a lovely quiet area. We are now grandparents to a 1-year-old, a 1.5-year-old and a 2-year-old. The children stay with us regularly, and we are concerned that our boundary fence will not stop dogs either getting through the fence or jumping into our section. I am fearful of this happening when the children are outside on our main lawn adjoining the swale. The local preschool, Stepping Stones regularly uses the swale as an outing for their enrolled children. Has the Council informed them directly of the new proposed off-leash dog area?	Concerns noted. No contact was made with the Stepping Stones ECE, as officers were unaware they frequented this area.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - I don't support this change		
	Braebrook swale is used by all ages including babies in prams, toddlers, primary school children playing, adults, and the elderly on walkers. An increase of 'unknown dogs' will negatively impact our neighbourhood. Please acknowledge and address our concerns. Kind regards, Caroline Andrews	

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	Don’t use this area so no comment	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	I have no experience here	
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	not been to this area so can't decide	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook - Not sure / other		
163 - Jeff Hyde	No experience of this area so unable to comment.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	We never go here, so I don't have any strong feelings on it; however, I'm sure the locals with dogs would appreciate	
182 - Anne Watson	not familiar with this area	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	

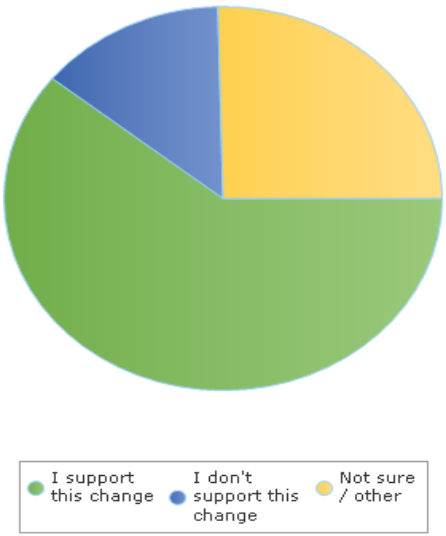
Further comments provided

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Braebrook		
78 - Warren Maslin	It makes no sense to add a small non Leash area in a residential area - Braebrook is a closed off subdivision and having non residents coming to this area makes no sense and has no benefit to the owners in this area - it is too small and will put kids and families at risk.	

New additions - Methven Walkway

9. Do you support our proposal to introduce an off-leash area at the Methven Walkway?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	79	60.77%
I don't support this change	18	13.85%
Not sure / other	33	25.38%
Total	**130**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - I support this change		
General		
31 - Rose Hawkes	For those that enjoy the walkways and bush can enjoy this freedom	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	This is a nice walkway so if owners are responsible with their dogs, i agree	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	I support any area where residents can exercise dogs safely	
41 - Kate White	Great to have an off leash area in Methven to visit - beyond the dog park.	
55 - Amanda Watson	Seams sensible option	
57 - Sara Webster	good idea	
58 - Richard Mabon	My support presumes that the Methven Community Board supports this proposal.	This is supported by the MCB.
62 - Stefan van Vliet	This works as long as it extends to the fences either side, not just the 'path' portion.	
63 - Cat user	Too fee places there, would be great	
71 - Joanna Smith	residents need somewhere safe too	
90 - Simone Hopwood	good idea	
112 - guest user	Hardly see any other walkers apart from dog owners	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - I support this change		
113 - guest user	excellent idea	
118 - Henry Phillips	I am writing in regards to the new areas bylaw. I think that Ashburton District Council should add those new off leash areas in Ashburton and Methven as they said they are thinking about doing. I think this idea is good so that dogs can run around free without harm and burn off their energy, because they have a lot of it. As someone who has dogs I can see why we need more of these. It would help a lot of people because most dog owners are at work for most of the day the dogs get no exercise and when the owner gets home they have to drive all the way to the dog park, but it can only be a small walk or drive away to give your dog exercise. In conclusion it would be great to have more off leash dog areas and I support this bylaw	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	beneficial to those who use it	
202 - John Bell	good spot for dogs to exercise free	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the introduction of new off leash areas at Lake Hood, Braebrook and Methven Walkway. See comment above regarding importance of adequate exercise for dogs	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	ADC is proposing new off-leash exercise areas in Methven, Lake Hood and Braebrook. MCFF has no objection to this change and notes it may benefit rural families using these townships and reserves.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - I support this change		
Other suggestions		
20 - Gretchen Hart	and the whole walk way should be off leash.	There are other sections of the Methven Walkway that are popular with families and small children (such as the enchanted fairy forest). This suggestion would not be well received by the community due to popularity of this area with families and small children.

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - I don't support this change		
General		
33 - Chris Pringuer	Waste of money	The funding required would be for a new signage / change of signage where necessary, additional monitoring, poo bag and bins provision and emptying of bins. This would be covered by existing budgets.
81 - Stuart Stratton	Main reasons for objection are: 1. Area is unfenced and closely follows a roadway. Unleased dogs will be able to reach the road with potential to cause an accident or be injured. 2. Walkway is used by many walkers and cyclists, not just dog walkers. Unleashed dogs can be a hazard for cyclists especially.	Accept not well fenced currently but is separated from the road by a wide berm. Regarding predator trapping, there is no conflict if appropriate traps used.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - I don't support this change		
	3. This area is part of the predator trapping scheme of Methven Birdsong Trust and it is good practice to prevent dogs from being able to access traps	
148 - Annie Jacobs	When people are walking on Methven Walkway, it isn't always welcome to have loose dogs running up or jumping up on you. This section of the walkway opens out onto a state highway at one end and a busy road at the other and runs parallel to another residential road and area, so I don't think its the safest place to have dogs off lead. It's also an area actively trapped for predators, which is better if loose dogs are kept away from that.	The presumption is that dogs are leashed even in off leashed areas if they not able to respond to commands to be considered under effective control.
152 - Kelly Foster	this is a big area of multiple different activities and not suitable if there is bikes and dogs	
Other		
194 - Lyn Womersley	Too many little people use this area and may be frightened by a suddenly emerging dog. this applies to older people using the walkway. My dogs are happy to be on the lead there although it makes for a slower movement through the area.	The presumption is that dogs are leashed even in off leashed areas if they not able to respond to commands to be considered under effective control.
221 - John McGirr	No security for owners each side of the walk way or other people using the area	

Comments not sure / other

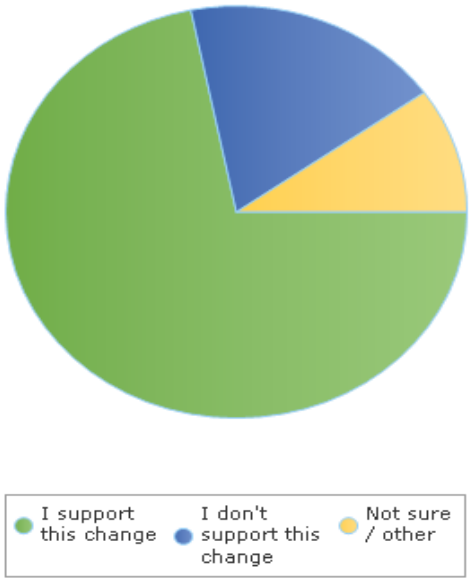
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - Not sure / other		
General		

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Methven Walkway - Not sure / other		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
137 - Janet Hadley	I dont know this area so am not in a position to comment.	
163 - Jeff Hyde	No experience of this area so unable to comment.	
174 - Betty King	I dont take my dog there as live in Ashburton.	
182 - Anne Watson	not familiar with this area	
230 - Phil & Alison Straw	Can't comment as we do not know it!	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	

Prohibited areas - Cemeteries

10. Do you support the proposal to allow dogs into cemeteries on a leash (and to update our Cemeteries Bylaw to reflect this)?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	102	71.83%
I don't support this change	26	18.31%
Not sure / other	14	9.86%
Total	**142**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I support this change		
Enforcement/Education		
66 - Alison Driscoll	This would be great, but is it going to be enforced ???	
30 - Robyn Boyd	As long as dogs are on a leash and people are respectful, I see no problem.	
40 - Neil English	If it is aheard to there should be no problem.	
202 - John Bell	yes good for dogs to be in cemetery but always on a lead	
101 - Geraldine Francois	Dogs should be allowed in cemeteries to visit lived ones as long as they are on a leash and are controlled. Also I think the areas suggested should be extended for dog exercise areas and new dog exercise areas put in place as dogs get bored of the same places also.	
Part of the family / grief support		
26 - Cheryl Palatchie	As a dog owner myself I believe in many cases a family dog is very much an important part of the family and to be able to visit the grave of a lost love one with the family can be a source of comfort and I am sure can help with the healing process. I do not see any harm in having a dog, on a leash, visiting a cemetery and have often thought it is a shame, under present laws, that they can't.	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	I do agree as they are part of our family, they can support those visiting sites of loved ones passed away. I like walking around cemeteries especially to see historic sites, so if I can take my dog on these visits then I am happy with the change	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I support this change		
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	Dogs are part of families, so visitors may wish their dog to be with them at a cemetery	
41 - Kate White	Yes, I think dogs provide comfort and are part of the family so it is appropriate to allow them on leash with their loved ones in these areas.	
44 - Rosemary Hinchliffe	Bernie, my dog, would like to visit our dead grandparents.	
55 - Amanda Watson	For some people the comfort of family (dog included) to visit the past can bring comfort. As long as respect is shown to our cemeteries.	
57 - Sara Webster	yes, i have to keep my dog in the car, would be nice if he could sit there with me while visiting family	
62 - Stefan van Vliet	Dogs are key members of a lot of peoples families, and should be permitted as they are in a number of other regions.	
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	Dogs are part of a family	
90 - Simone Hopwood	dogs are part of the family and when visiting those who have passed it would be nice to bring them along	
97 - Anne Treymane	important to allow dogs with family	
100 - Rosalee Duncan	As dogs are part of many peoples families I believe they should definitely be allowed in to cemeteries on a lead as long as they are under control and the owners clean up after their dogs.	
104 - Roger West	Dogs can be very important family members to some.	
107 - Chiyo Hunt	some family strongly want to take family dogs to Cemetery to greet loved ones.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I support this change		
110 - Kem Johnson	Dogs should be allowed on leash in cemeteries. The bond between the deceased, the survivors and the dog may be significant. There may be laughter, tears or both on those visits.	
117 - Bob McDonald	People like to take their dogs to see loved ones	
119 - Sofia Althea Salazar	I am writing in regards to the changes of the bylaw to allow on leash dogs into local cemeteries. Dogs are deeply valued, family members who provide vital emotional support and comfort to grieving owners visiting their loved once. For example, for many people, losing a family members is a devastating experience, and their dogs tied up outside or at home. By updating the current policy to permit leashed dogs, I think by changing the bylaw about allowing on leashed dogs into local cemeteries would make a big impact to many people.	
137 - Janet Hadley	Dogs are part of the family and grieve too. I would like to think my dog could visit if I, or someone in my family passed.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	It's outlined: dogs are family members too.	
174 - Betty King	Yes definitely. The owner may be sad visiting the grave site and their dog will help with that. Also some dogs are attached to the person that has passed away.	
177 - Donna-Marie Field	I agree that dogs would be a welcome addition to cemeteries if under control, as often people want to take the do along as part of the family and friend network.	
199 - Philippa Westwood	dogs are family	
229 - Maxine Morgan	Dogs can be a support for grieving owners. Also are part of families.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I support this change		
31 - Rose Hawkes	It would be great to see that in cemeteries that pets can be present with a loved one on a leash as they are part of the family and give comfort to those that have lost a loved one.	
88 - Kathleen Stringer	I believe most dog owners have proven they are responsible and so can go to other areas in the county. Cemeteries should allow dogs to enter as many people take their dogs when visiting family graves	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	a dog is a family member and should be allowed to visit cemeteries with their owners. Keep them on the lead and provide poo-bags around the area so owners can be responsible for their dogs.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	100% agree as important for those grieving of a loved one. Dogs are such a great comfort and part of the family. Providing people stay within the rules of cleaning up after their dog/dogs.	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We support allowing dogs in cemeteries, provided they are kept on a leash and owners take full responsibility for their behaviour and for cleaning up after them. Dogs provide important companionship, comfort, and emotional support for their owners, particularly during times of grief and loss. Allowing people to have their dogs with them when visiting a loved one's resting place would be a compassionate and practical step, while maintaining respect for these important shared spaces through responsible ownership requirements.	
General		
6 - Debbie Woods	I think for visiting only not a dog walk area. Owner should be Picking up after their dog regardless	
8 - Janette Martin	Common sense	
70 - Brianna Tait	Absolutely. I have only recently learnt of this rule and was shocked. It is so sad dogs are currently not allowed in the cemetery.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I support this change		
75 - Di Davidson	Of course dogs should be allowed in cemeteries on a lead. I remember that stupid rule that was brought in, many years ago - time to get rid of the rule.	
78 - Warren Maslin	Animals under control in this area makes sense whilst visiting loved ones.	
82 - Wendy Severins	Common sense.	
178 - Delia Achten	If there are other places to be off leash then they don't need to be in cemeteries off leash. Not appropriate.	The amendments to not propose allowing dogs in cemeteries off leash.
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the proposal to allow on leash access into cemeteries. Cemeteries can be important to dog owners in several ways. Pets play an important role in companionship, especially for people who are recently bereaved (Thompson & Kim, 2023). Dogs also facilitate connection and community cohesion (Wood et al., 2007). Cemeteries may also be used by owners of dog-reactive dogs. Most cemeteries are relatively quiet compared to parks or popular walking tracks. This typically means fewer unexpected encounters with off-leash dogs. On leash access to these areas facilitates dog owners meeting their dog's physical, health and behavioural needs.	
Other suggestions		
16 - Ceri Jones	You would need to provide bins appropriately to support this change.	Comments noted. Bins may be considered by Open Spaces
139 - Kirsty McGregor	Dogs are family members. As long as there are bins, responsible owners signs etc to remind that the cemetery is a respectful place. Any barking dogs should leave as cemeteries are a place of quiet reflection	
194 - Lyn Womersley	As long as people pick up any dog pooh..bags provided as in the dogpark?	
204 - Alexandra Krivanek	Yes as long as things are in place to ensure that owners pick up after their dogs.	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I don't support this change		
General		
5 - Zak Moodie	I don't agree with dogs being allowed in open cemeteries.	Comments noted
33 - Chris Pringuer	No dogs should be allowed into cemeteries.	
58 - Richard Mabon	The rights of people to visit their deceased without disturbance should take priority over the rights of dogs.	
71 - Joanna Smith	Respect and not all owners are responsible	
172 - Rasela S	I chose to not support this change I chose to not support this change. However, while many people consider their dogs to be part of the family and believe that dogs should be allowed within cemeteries provided they are on a leash. As a family who recently loss a dear and much-loved family member and, we also have family dogs, we don't support this change. We know that this change can mean that dogs can provide companionship and support for people during visits, however we feel that it should be made clear that it is not a exercise cemetery or exercise park for dogs but rather that dogs can go and only visit their loved one's grave site only and must be on a leash. And, that all other rules should still apply, such as cleaning up after your dog. We understand that there are many responsible dog owners and also recognise this is a sensitive area too.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I don't support this change		
Hygiene / respect		
34 - Hayley Thomson	Dogs in cemeteries is wrong! I'm sure not every owner will pick up their dog poo, so visitors will have to avoid that. I don't like the thought of a dog urinating in the ground my loved one is on, it's disrespectful. I would feel very upset if i went to see my loved one and a dog has left its business there. Some dog owners will respect the grounds but plenty wont! Our cemeteries are clean and beautifully maintained, please keep it that way.	Comments noted
79 - guest user	not very respectful owners letting dogs in the cemeteries running over graves & leaving messes where people go to respectful loved ones. Completely against this	
155 - guest user	Dogs don't belong in cemeteries no one listens to the laws about cleaning up after them and there will be complaints if this happens	Comments noted
170 - Deanna Walsh	While owners may clean up after their dogs, there will be dogs that urinate on everything upright which will include headstones. This would be a desecration and is deeply offensive. Dogs must remain excluded from cemeteries.	Comment noted, this is a potential risk for allowing dogs in these areas.
181 - M J McLachlan	Dogs, even on leashes still foul and while most take care of faecal matter there is no way to clear urine. Granted many dogs are like family members and I understand the sentiment but consider you would be opening the door to those who want to bury their dogs in cemetery too!! I recently read about the issues council had getting dog owners to vaccinate against dog measles in Ashburton - with new viruses around I think you best not open this door. Hard to retract.	Council has previously considered a pet burial area in the Ashburton Cemetery Extension and chose not to proceed with this.
182 - Anne Watson	Dogs don't belong in cemeteries. Their loved one is unaware of their presence. Dogs wee everywhere and this would be ghastly on your loved ones grave. Keep dogs out of cemeteries please. Not all people are responsible.	
183 - Clive Watson	No dogs in cemeteries. Not all people clean up their dog do. Peaceful quiet area, NO DOGS	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I don't support this change		
203 - Faauma Sa	once we allow dogs on leash, it will eventually lead to dogs off leashes! already have people walking dogs off leashes in the cemetery areas. I am also a dog owner and have recently lost my mother and have been spending my days there. Its a beautiful well kept area for families to come thru and relax, and enjoy the peace, the fresh air. And not have to worry about a dog walking thru, potentially urinating on top on someones graveyard site! It would break my heart if it was my Mothers. I love my dogs, and i love all animals. But i think a cemetery is place of moaning, reflection, peace and just to get away from the chaos of the life. My dogs stay at home, or they wait in my car	
205 - Lal Mulligan	keep dogs out of cemeteries please. Its not respectful. NO!!! please keep dogs out of cemeteries. People need to visit loved ones without being concerned about noisy, stinky snffly dogs and bags of poop rotting in rubbish bins. Plenty of other places for dogs to be. No no no!!	
221 - John McGirr	The cemetery is a sacred place and in used by people at all times, make no difference if on a lead - visitors need peace of mind. Who cleans up the shit.	
232 - Margaret Heather Harrison-Lee	I visited the cemetery recently with my daughter. She was amazed at how tidy it was. We loved the peace there and the absence of all dog urine smells. The cemetery is a credit to the Council, keep it as it is.	
Cultural and religious reasons		
218 - jane Wallace	From a Muslim perspective, I respectfully disagree with allowing dogs to be off leash within a cemetery. For many Muslims, a cemetery is a sacred place of remembrance, reflection, and prayer. It is a place where families visit loved ones with dignity and reverence. While we recognise that dogs are valued companions for many people, Islamic teachings place particular emphasis on cleanliness and respect within places associated	Comments are noted. Dogs would be required to be under the direct control of their owners and not allowed off leash in any cemetery. It is an expectation that people would show respect to other visitors generally.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I don't support this change		
	with burial and prayer. The presence of dogs roaming freely, particularly off leash, can cause distress for Muslim families who may feel uncomfortable visiting graves if there is a risk of dogs approaching them or entering burial areas. Allowing dogs to remain on a leash, or preferably excluding them from cemetery grounds altogether, would provide a respectful balance between the needs of dog owners and the cultural and religious beliefs of those who visit cemeteries for remembrance and prayer. Such an approach reflects New Zealand's commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that public spaces are welcoming and respectful of the diverse faiths and cultures within our community. I encourage decision-makers to consider the perspectives of Muslim communities, alongside those of other cultural and faith groups, when developing policies for cemetery use. A cemetery should remain a place where all members of the community can honour their loved ones with peace, dignity, and without unnecessary concern.	
220 - Mohamed Diab for Ashburton Muslim Association Incorporated	**Subject: Feedback on Proposed Changes to Animal Control Bylaws – Dog Access to Cemeteries** **To:** The Ashburton District Council Policy Team **Regarding the proposal to allow leashed dogs into local cemeteries:** As members and representatives of the local Muslim community adhering to mainstream Islamic (Sunni) tradition, we welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the upcoming animal control review. While we recognize and respect that many people view their pets as family members and seek their comfort during times of grief, we must formally express our strong concerns regarding the proposal to allow dogs into cemeteries.	Comments noted. There is a mix of TAs which allow dogs and those which prohibit entry. For example, Auckland/ Hamilton/ Central Otago/ Waikato/ Waipa Councils all prohibit dogs from council cemeteries. Christchurch/ Wellington/ Waikato/ Kapiti/ Kaipara/ Selwyn Councils all allow dogs (on leash) in cemeteries Some TAs structurally segregate blocks, but there is nothing enforceable to require dog owners to “bypass” for example a Muslim section.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - I don't support this change		
	We respectfully request that the Council maintains the current restrictions prohibiting dogs from entering burial grounds for the following key reasons: **1. Spiritual Sanctity and Respect for the Deceased** In Islamic tradition, cemeteries are deeply sacred, solemn spaces dedicated entirely to reflection, mourning, and praying for the deceased. Islamic teachings dictate that the deceased retain their dignity and must be treated with the same respect in death as they were in life. Allowing animals to roam, even on a leash, directly compromises the quiet, contemplative, and reverent atmosphere required for grieving families. **2. Strict Ritual Purity and Cleanliness (*Najasah*)** Cleanliness is an absolute prerequisite for Islamic worship and remembrance. Muslims frequently visit cemeteries to perform supplications and funeral prayers directly on the ground or adjacent to gravesites. In Islamic jurisprudence, dog saliva and waste carry heavy ritual impurity. Even with well-intentioned owners, the risk of dogs urinating, defecating, or tracking impurities onto burial plots makes the ground ritually unfit for our religious practices, effectively restricting Muslims from freely using these communal spaces. **3. Inclusivity and Community Access** Cemeteries are public spaces intended to accommodate citizens of all faiths and backgrounds. Introducing dogs into these areas will inadvertently exclude or cause distress to many residents. Beyond religious restrictions regarding purity, many members of the community—including children, the elderly, and individuals with phobias or past traumas—will no longer feel safe or comfortable visiting their loved ones' graves if dogs are present. Regards, **Mohamed Diab** President, AMAN	If Council maintains allowing dogs on-leash in cemeteries, education is one option with appropriate signage.

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the areas sufficiently to have a view	
135 - Marel De Boer	do people really pick up poo? Some don't and imagine you come to see your loved ones grave with a dog poo on it.	
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	ADC is proposing to allow dogs into district cemeteries, provided they are kept on a leash. This effectively removes a current prohibition rather than adding one. MCFF defers to the wider community on this change, noting Council has itself acknowledged the cultural and religious sensitivities involved, and recommends Council weight that feedback accordingly.	
166 - Bernadette Thompson	I'm personally not against this but some may find it culturally insensitive.	
Other suggestions		
3 - Daniel Huisman	Support but with consideration of additional criteria. Dog prohibited within 1m of headstones (similar to playgrounds)	Suggestion noted. However this may be difficult to enforce in practice.
98 - Philippa Young	I agree with dogs being allowed on leash, but there will always be owners who don't abide. Could it be trialled for 6 months?	Comment noted. Trialling is not possible when setting a bylaw.
163 - Jeff Hyde	I can see both sides but feel any cultural issues regarding dogs and cemeteries should take precedence as a matter of respect even if inconvenient.	

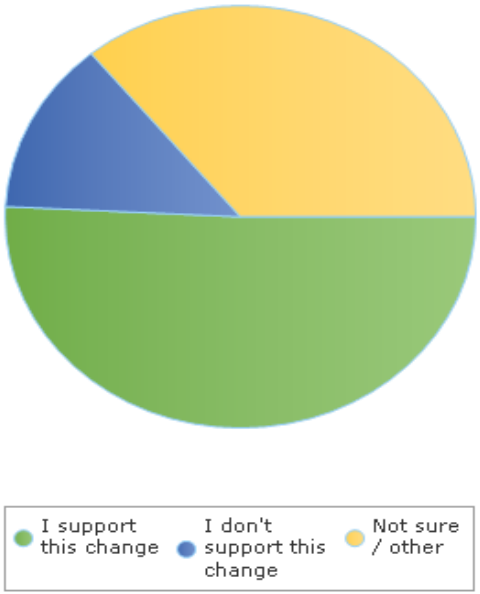
Further comments provided

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Cemeteries		
181 - M J McLachlan	As there are people who for a variety of reasons do not vaccinate themselves or their animals. I in large part, understand this however feel quite strongly that cemeteries must be kept as safe as can be, most particularly in environs where there is significant rural persons visiting.	
182 - Anne Watson	I also feel strongly that cemeteries are a quiet place to pay respects to loved ones. Dogs are not welcome - humans first - dogs are animals. They don't know person (dead) is in the grave!! They urinate wherever they like. Yukk!! Some people are irresponsible, there will be poo left behind. P.s. we have had dogs all our lives, so don't dislike dogs - just some owners behaviours!!	In all areas it is the responsibility of owners to clean up after their dog and to take responsibility generally for them. This includes showing respect to others.
205 - Lal Mulligan	Many people in the community will tolerate dogs in certain places and on leads but there are places that no dogs should be... eg Cemeteries.	

Prohibited areas - Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth

11. Do you support our proposal to extend the prohibited area at Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth?

	Number of people	%
I support this change	65	50.78%
I don't support this change	17	13.28%
Not sure / other	46	35.94%
Total	**128**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - I support this change		
General		
31 - Rose Hawkes	Agree as there are a lot of other places to take your dog/dogs we have a great choice in Ashburton District such as dog parks specifically designed for our dog/dogs. Water fountain and dog bags over by KMart. Really great.	
Wildlife		
58 - Richard Mabon	Protect wildlife from dogs.	
85 - Lyne Middlemiss	To keep wild life save.	
137 - Janet Hadley	It is a farming area and also has other birds and wildlife.	
139 - Kirsty McGregor	must try and accommodate all types of bird life and nature	
177 - Donna-Marie Field	I support this recommendation as a measure to help protect the bird and mammals that haul out, nest and feed in the area. In the Ashburton Hakatere Shorebird Management Strategy, by Nikki McArthur for ECAN (revised 2023) the Ashburton river mouth and hapua is one on the most important braided rivers in Canterbury for bird life. The shingle spit provides important breeding and roosting habitat for a wide variety of shorebird species year-round and is particularly important for roosting spotted shags. Dogs have the potential to disturb shorebirds, resulting in localised losses of eggs and chicks and lower annual productivity.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - I support this change		
	One of the aims of the strategy is: Disturbance of shorebirds and waterfowl at the Ashburton River mouth by people , dogs and vehicles is minimised year-round and the river mouth continues to support a high diversity of shorebirds and waterfowl. The prohibition of dogs in the northern section helps achieve this aim. I have observed dogs accompanying owners who are riding their quads along the beach. The dogs are not in control and although it may look harmless fun the dog chasing a flock of seagulls , the impact on the birds is huge. Thank you for reading my submission showing support to the proposed prohibition of dogs on the northern end of the Ashburton River mouth.	
202 - John Bell	can be lots of bird's and maybe seals, not all owners responsible owners	
213 - Mindy Morrison	Wild life in the area	
221 - John McGirr	Very hard area to control. No protection for wild life and the general public use of the beach	
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA supports the slight extension of Ashton Beach prohibited area to include more of the Hakatere River Mouth, in line with the Hakatere Shorebird Habitat Management Strategy. SPCA supports the restriction of dog access in specific areas where a credible threat to vulnerable wildlife has been identified. SPCA considers this a reasonable compromise between protecting wildlife from disturbance by dogs and meeting the recreational needs of dogs and their owners. However, SPCA also believes that Council must take on board feedback from local residents regarding whether the dog	Noted. This process is proposing to introduce additional areas considered suitable as exercise areas.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - I support this change		
	policy and bylaw provide adequate provision of appropriate dog exercise areas to balance those areas where dogs are prohibited.	
233 - Ian Fraser for Department of Conservation	We SUPPORT the proposed extension to the Prohibited Area at Ashton Beach. This area is a nationally significant roosting area for the endemic and protected spotted shag and is recognised as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Birdlife International due to the presence of a number of shore and river bird species – including breeding populations of a number of species.	

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - I don't support this change		
General		
33 - Chris Pringuer	Waste of money.	The only funding required would be for a change of signage and would be covered by existing budgets.
43 - Tom Smith	dogs should be allowed at beaches as long as they are under control	
48 - Paul Cornelius	people have exercised dogs on the foreshore for generations it must be allowed to continue.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - I don't support this change		
71 - Joanna Smith	it's enough currently	
117 - Bob McDonald	Its a beach and open space	
179 - Robyn Kelland	Is a safe place for dogs to run	
Other suggestions		
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	Firstly, Id like to thank those involved in the review of dog controls. My location of interest is the Hakatere River Mouth and bird breeding areas on the Ashburton River. I have significant experience with dogs, I mind dogs for residents who need temporary dog care and I foster for the SPCA. Is it necessary to extend the dog exclusion area across the Ashburton River mouth as shown in Map 13. Please remove the lagoon area. I take dogs under my control into the lagoon for a swim – great exercise for the older dogs with arthritis issues. I see Ashburton families swimming with dogs in the lagoon in summer. Is there any seasonal exclusion of dogs (and vehicles) on the actual river bed where the terns, dotterels, oystercatchers etc nest?	The Hakatere River mouth is an important habitat for protected bird species and lies within 200 m of the lagoon. As birds commonly perceive dogs as predators, the presence of dogs in the lagoon area can disturb feeding, roosting, and breeding birds. Given the high abundance of protected and endemic avifauna using the spit, unrestricted dog access has the potential to adversely affect bird behaviour and habitat use. The Hakatere River mouth also provides year-round habitat for several rare bird species, indicating that potential effects associated with dog disturbance are not limited to a particular season. Environment Canterbury manages vehicle access and birds exclusion within the actual river during nesting season.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - I don't support this change		
	We desperately need a dog exercise area here in the Hakatere village. All of the area has 'dog on leads only' signs. There are more than 15 resident dogs and campers bring a number of dogs with them. Dogs need an area to RUN and play. It is 20km to the nearest dog park!! There are three reserve areas which could cheaply be fenced and gated to create exercise areas. Residents would welcome consultation with the Council on this.	Request noted.
84 - Deborah Roberts	All dogs must be kept on lead in this area.	Dogs should be kept on leash by default unless in designated areas and under effective control.

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - Not sure / other		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Not familiar with the area	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	Have not been here, cannot comment	
55 - Amanda Watson	Not an area I visit or know much about.	

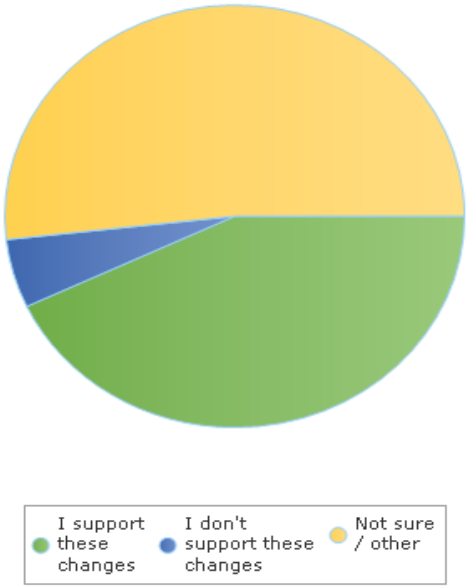
Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - Not sure / other		
56 - marion logan	im not familiar with the exact area	
163 - Jeff Hyde	No experience of this area so unable to comment.	
166 - Bernadette Thompson	It all comes down to whether people respect the area and have satisfactory control of their dogs.	
181 - M J McLachlan	Do not go there but leaning to change given your reasoning	
182 - Anne Watson	not familiar with this area	
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	We are not positioned to comment on the dog access rules for specific locations in the Ashburton District Council, but we broadly support approaches that enable responsible dog guardians to participate in community life with their dogs, provided effective control requirements remain in place. We refer to local community feedback on these matters. We do, however, wish to draw Council's attention to the importance of adequate off-leash exercise provision, particularly where access restrictions are introduced or extended in some areas. Further information provided in full submission.	
Other		
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	When there is a true risk to biodiversity, evidenced by past destruction to native habitats for wildlife, it is perfectly reasonable to prohibit dogs from attending. I assume these instances are well documented and the impacts are evidenced by historic examples that I don't have access to. However, if this proposal is only based on an assumed risk, I probably don't support it. Dog owners who make the effort to take their pets out for exercise should be rewarded with access to pleasant dog areas. We pay rates and	The proposal is evidence based, as documented in the Hakatere River mouth Management Plan, is supported by the high level of endemism and the presence of protected bird species at the River mouth.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Ashton Beach / Hakatere River Mouth - Not sure / other		
	registration with little to no tangible pay-off, so I would like to think that if this change is being implemented, the foundation for this decision is true and strong. Again, I also feel that having dogs on a leash is a good compromise for dogs that are not under effective control off lead and that would pose a risk to these biodiversity Initiatives	
Other suggestions		
135 - Marel De Boer	only if dogs go back on leash when other people are on the beach. Ie fishing or kids.	Councils proposal is to prohibit dogs from the area.
229 - Maxine Morgan	Although I agree that this area is unsuitable for off leash due to wildlife and proximity of housing, I would like to see another area for off leash in this area.	Noted.

Other changes

12. Do you support the other changes we are proposing?

	Number of people	%
I support these changes	49	42.98%
I don't support these changes	6	5.26%
Not sure / other	59	51.75%
Total	**114**	



Comments in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - I support these changes		
General		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Seem sensible	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Yes these have been proposed with a lot of thought gone into them.	
36 - Jo Greig Jo Greig	The wording changes seem reasonable and I definitely support change to rule of dogs suffering in hot vehicles	
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	Excellent administration work to clarify the bylaws etc.	
55 - Amanda Watson	Good to have aligned and tidied up.	
221 - John McGirr	Need to keep documents up to date and reflect the wishes of the general public	
Other suggestions		
137 - Janet Hadley	I am sick of attending events in Ashburton and people have their dogs, (even though they have been told not to). The events are usually crowded and the dogs are stressed. We need to have better enforcement. The other minor changes all make sense. Can we have better registration tags please? The ones currently bend and break easily.	Comments noted. Owners must take responsibility for the welfare of their animals. New tags coming through from the supplier are thicker and damaged tags can be replaced free of charge.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - I support these changes		
139 - Kirsty McGregor	all areas should have at least one rubbish bin and bags to clean up with. all policies should be reassessed every 5-10 years	Councils current review schedule for the Dog Control Bylaw & Policy is every 5 years. We are required to review the documents at least every ten years.

Comments not in support

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - I don't support these changes		
Cemeteries		
182 - Anne Watson	I don't want dogs in cemeteries. Not necessary in these spaces.	
General		
2 - Roger Drower for Disability Assist/Service Dogs NZ Advocate for CDEM	Do not agree with domestic pet dogs in the CBD - for safety reasons. Examples attached of assist/working dogs being attacked.	It is the responsibility of owners to ensure their dogs are under effective control. Concerns from the public should be reported to Council.
33 - Chris Pringuer	waste of money.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - I don't support these changes		
Other suggestions		
58 - Richard Mabon	I do not support the proposal that enables an owner to tether their dog and walk off. It contradicts your definition of effective control. Also your bylaw and policy place no restrictions on leash length, except when a dog is on the back of a truck. If a dog is tethered on a 5 metre leash it can roam in an area over 75m2. No problems with the other changes.	NOTE: Need to add in to Bylaw that this refers to “temporarily” tethering dogs e.g outside shops. Officers don’t consider a maximum leash length is required for ‘absentee control’. Dogs that are tethered or confined are only considered to be under effective control if not creating nuisance or annoyance (including obstructing the lawful passage of a person in a public place). In terms of leash length in general (not under absentee control), as part of the definition of ‘effective control’ owners are required to be close enough to respond quickly to any issues and to ensure the dog does not create a nuisance. Officers consider this adequately restricts very long leashes.
182 - Anne Watson	1m near a playground is too close near children - 10m.	Comments noted. Owners must ensure their dogs are under control whether on or off lead.

Comments not sure / other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - Not sure / other		
General		
71 - Joanna Smith	still undecided	
78 - Warren Maslin	Not sure on this part	
Other		
217 - Nicola McDonald for Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)	Please see the attached document 'Ashburton District Council Submission July 2026.pdf'. The below is a summary. • Dogs in season and diseased dog – suggests to separate these clauses, and suggests addition of wording. • Clause 19- note on dangerous and menacing dogs – Encourage councils to exercise caution when applying classification criteria that rely on perceived breed characteristics. Recommend a clear review or appeal pathway for dogs classed as menacing, allowing owners to demonstrate responsible and proactive guardianship and where appropriate, evidence that risk can be effectively managed. • Clause 20 – dogs becoming a nuisance or injurious to health – suggest inserting the word 'temporarily'. • Support moves towards encouraging RDO status • Agrees with clause 11 of policy on education and training, however, encourage Council to ensure that education and information materials are available in accessible formats across the full diversity of the community, and where possible, in languages other than English. Encourage Council to consider CANZ's range of online educational resources. • Notes that dog training industry in NZ is currently unregulated. Suggests Council direct new dog owners to CANZ accredited trainers.	Officers are happy to separate the clauses for dogs in season and dogs with contagious diseases as suggested by submitter. The Act sets out standard requirements of menacing classifications. Dog owners can already appeal those requirements and put forward points for the Panel to consider as "additional conditions" if the classification is to remain in place e.g. Panel may agree to a review period linked with specific dog training. Officers can update bylaw and policy to clarify that dogs tied up, confined or tethered should only be temporarily. The provision of education and information materials in languages other than English can be investigated, however there would be a cost to this.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - Not sure / other		
Other suggestions		
227 - Dr Arnja Dale for SPCA	SPCA suggests amending the new clause stating that Dog Control Officers may work with Police to release a dog suffering in a hot vehicle, to also include SPCA, for clarity. SPCA notes the proposed new clause stating that a dog may be considered as under control if kept securely tethered or effectively confined. We recommend that this clause is amended to explicitly acknowledge that prolonged tethering of dogs and tethering of vulnerable categories of dogs are infringeable regulations under the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations (15A, 15B).2	Officers can update both clauses as suggested.
228 - Kerry Harmer for Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers of New Zealand	**Dog registration fees** While the Policy and Bylaw do not directly address dog fees, MCFF would like to take the opportunity to comment on the Council's registration scheme. We request that these comments are considered by officers when assessing the fees and charges for 2027/28. We support a tiered user pays registration fee structure with a lesser fee for rural dogs compared to urban dogs. Farm dogs have effectively no impact on Council resources and facilities as they work well away from urban areas (where dog control is an issue). Farmers are also responsible and professional dog owners. Beyond the question of relative impact, there is a practical compliance issue with the current fee structure. Under the current fees and charges, rural registration is $80 for each of the first two dogs and $38 for each subsequent dog. The services this revenue funds, such as dog exercise areas and the Ashburton pound, are urban facilities that working dogs do not use, so registration offers rural owners essentially no corresponding benefit. For a shepherd running a team of six to eight dogs, annual registration costs of $312 to $388 buy nothing of value to that owner, and the realistic outcome is that some of these dogs simply will not be registered. A fee structure that prices rural owners out of compliance undermines the registration	The policy refers to dog owners obligation to pay registration fees which are set by Tas and registration types. All dog owners have the choice to use exercise facilities. Registration fees pay for animal control services - running the pound, responding to complaints, investigating incidents, patrolling areas, supporting the National Dog database system of registered dogs etc. The submitter is encouraged to make a submission on the Long Term Plan on this subject.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other changes - Not sure / other		
	system itself, since Council's dog control database is only as useful as its coverage. We encourage ADC to introduce a registration fee for a team of working dogs which provides the ability for a lesser fee to register multiple dogs. For example, a fee of $100 for a team of 3 dogs could incentivise farmers to register their dogs. It is also important that Council communicate the value of registration to the rural community. Bylaw cl 1.7 states that Council encourages de-sexing by offering a discount on fees for de-sexed dogs. However, the fees and charges schedule only provides this discount for urban de-sexed dogs. There is no principled reason why rural de-sexed dogs should not be offered a similar discount. If de-sexing is a genuine Council priority, as cl 1.7 suggests, the incentive should apply consistently across both urban and rural registration categories. We recommend Council extend the de-sexed discount to rural dogs in the 2027/28 fees and charges. **Responsible Dog Owner (RDO) status** Council offers RDO status to recognise good, responsible dog owners, entitling them to a discounted registration fee. This status is currently only available to urban dog owners. There is no principled reason why rural dog owners should be excluded from this recognition. Farmers are, by the nature of their profession, responsible dog owners, and many would readily meet the compliance history and good-behaviour criteria that underpin RDO status in the urban context. We recommend Council extend RDO status, and its associated discount, to rural dog owners.	

Further comments

13. Do you have any other comments?

Enforcement / Education

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Enforcement/Education		
45 - Tony Foster	It is all very well having these by laws but policing is another thing. Ie a letter all dog owners at lake hood for example reminding them of their responsibilities and the consequences if they fail meet their responsibilities. I live opposite the boat ramp and all day ever day locals continue to remove dog leads at this point. A simple Email would be a cost effective way to remind them and outline the consequences. You have all the details of them already and this is actually being proactive. To be told stop reporting as there is a by law proposal is giving the self entitled people a free pass. Stop and consider the fear children can have of dogs and people who have been attacked. My daughter was attached and if it happens again I believe ADC has direct accountability. A dog owner yelling out don't worry he is friendly dose nothing to calm there fairs of a dog running at them	Any concerns should be reported to Council for investigation.
56 - marion logan	maybe support a couple of community pet education events	Comment noted
66 - Alison Driscoll	Whatever happens with dog on or off leash areas in the district, the problem as I see it - as a dog owner - is a complete lack of enforcement of the existing rules. I constantly see people with off leash dogs in the domain, particularly off Walnut Ave where they park up and let their dogs loose. Same applies at Argyle Park. There is not sufficient clear and sizeable signage explaining the rules.	All logged complaints are investigated.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Enforcement/Education		
132 - Harriet McBride-Benger	These rules are only effective if they are actively enforced. For example, in leash-only areas such as the Domain, dogs are often seen off-leash. Without consistent enforcement, those who choose not to comply are likely to continue ignoring the rules. Strengthening monitoring and enforcement would help ensure that the rules achieve their intended purpose and are respected by all park users.	Comment noted, reporting of concerns helps staff and contractors to identify areas to focus on.
11 - Les Hunter	dogs should be kept on leads in public places.go to dog parks.	*This comment was received in a submission on the draft Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw*
31 - Rose Hawkes	Safety is top priority for all concerned as i have seen some horrible injuries especially to our daughter and a neighbour where dog lunged for her neck and because of her height latched onto her shoulder and if it had been a child i dread to think. Thank you for putting people first and their emotional wellbeing and health. Some injuries can be life long especially emotional.	*This comment was received in a submission on the draft Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw*
108 - Robin Burton	For dogs, there has to be a set time of minutes per hour after which the animal is deemed a nuisance	*This comment was received in a submission on the draft Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw*
149 - Grahame Kelly	Having been bitten by a dog, as a pensioner, I am aware that some people keep (angry) dogs on their property, and sometimes these dogs venture off the property and put people or road users at risk. So better containment measures should be required for dog owners.	*This comment was received in a submission on the draft Keeping of Animals, Bees & Poultry Bylaw*

General

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
General		
2 - Roger Drower	Additional information attached in full submission - including points on: • Disability assist dogs, how to identify them and their rights • Dog attacks on assist dogs • CBD/street hazards • Fake service dogs • Disability assist dog discrimination	Authorised organisations currently require their disability assist dogs to be on a lead and wear identifying jackets or harness. Recently new National Service Dog ID cards have become available which patrolling officers will be able to check to see if the dog in question is trained and certified. Submitter is welcome to submit complaints about possible fake service dogs in use which can be investigated.
15 - Katrina Palmer	Good and sensible changes. I support them all.	
20 - Gretchen Hart	Why do you feel that there needs to be so much control over where dogs can be off leash. Generally it is responsible dog owners out walking their dogs anyway. The small percentage of irresponsible dog owners don't care about or follow the rules anyway.	
31 - Rose Hawkes	Thankful for the council and fair rules.	
33 - Chris Pringuer	stop wasting money	
58 - Richard Mabon	There are many good, responsible dog owners in the community. But not everyone meets this description, and most "bad dogs" are simply dogs with "bad owners". there are also people in your community who have had bad personal experiences with dogs, having been rushed or bitten. Their rights to enjoy public places MUST take priority over the rights to have dogs off-leash.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
General		
74 - Jenifer Wiggins	have not commented on other than Argyle Park as I don't use any of the other areas and hope that those who do will be of help in this survey	
82 - Wendy Severins	No	
90 - Simone Hopwood	great idea to have new exercise areas for dogs and to extend current areas	
135 - Marel De Boer	**I** believe there are some responsible dog owners but the unresponsible ones spoil it for the rest. There is a dog owner who either doesn't pick up the poo or lets it out by itself. There is always dog poo on the sidewalk on the way to school. (Allenton). Kids walk and scooter through poos on a weekly basis. argyle park is no different. So often see poos that is not picked up. Dogs of leash near playgrounds not safe. Dog once pooed on the playground. Dog poo on my kids scooters or bikes or shoes. In my opinion (i do like dogs) dog parks is the only play for dogs to go off leash.	It is the responsibility of the owner to clean up after their dog.
154 - guest user	I find 99% of dogs are friendly and just love to run around and socialise. I restrain my dog when people who don't appear to like dogs come along I believe the owners who don't pick up their dog's poop are a disgrace. People like me often pick up others mess so people don't get put off dogs.	
165 - Ashley McCarty-Carnahan	For all, this feels like a positive step from the Council acting in good faith towards responsible dog owners, which is most appreciated. I feel most strongly about: • extending the Argyle Park off-lead area and • **Not** making the proposed changes to the smallbone drive Frisbee Golf/off-lead dog exercise area.	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
General		
167 - guest user	....what about the Dog Park down near the bridge ...that's what it was created for.	

Incidents

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Incidents		
98 - Philippa Young	Most dog owners are good. Always a few that don't abide. My husband recently collected a dog wandering on the road early morning. No rego, no tags ID. It was really sad, as beautiful puppy. Was handed into the pound. I hope you make them register their dog before handing it back to owner. We all need to be responsible and accountable for our animals.	Comment noted, systems are in place to ensure that registration occurs before dogs are reunited with their owners.

Lake Camp / Clearwater – requests to allow dogs

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - request to allow dogs		
187 - Jacqui & David Howden	Dear Mayor and Councillors,	Open Spaces do not support the request for dogs at Lake Camp and Clearwater for biodiversity reasons.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - request to allow dogs		
	We are writing to request that the Ashburton District Council reconsider the current prohibition on dogs at Lake Camp and allow bach owners and their families to have dogs at their properties under appropriate conditions. For many bach owners, dogs are valued members of the family. Preventing them from bringing their pets to Lake Camp means they are often unable to enjoy their bach as frequently or for extended periods. This restriction places an unnecessary burden on responsible pet owners who simply wish to spend time with their families at their holiday homes. We acknowledge that any change must balance the needs of all users of Lake Camp while protecting the environment and ensuring public safety. We believe these objectives can be achieved through sensible regulations rather than a complete ban. Conditions such as requiring dogs to be under effective control at all times, kept on a leash in shared public areas where appropriate, owners cleaning up after their dogs, and penalties for irresponsible behaviour would encourage responsible ownership while addressing concerns. Many parks, reserves, and holiday destinations throughout New Zealand successfully allow dogs under clear rules. There is no reason why Lake Camp could not adopt a similar approach that respects both the environment and the enjoyment of all visitors. Allowing dogs would improve the experience of bach owners and their families without compromising the values of Lake Camp. Responsible dog owners understand their obligations and are committed to ensuring their pets do not disturb wildlife, other visitors, or neighbouring properties. We respectfully ask the Council to review the current policy and consider introducing a controlled dog access policy for Lake Camp. This would better reflect the needs of today's bach owners while maintaining the unique character and natural beauty of the area.	The request to allow dogs just within the bach areas is impractical given the small size of baches, their proximity to each other, and the absence of fenced off areas around baches. Prohibition of dogs at Lake Camp/Clearwater is consistent with Department of Conservation's "no pets allowed on conservation land, which makes up greater part of the lakes area, except open dog areas. Public places where dogs are permitted typically require them to be kept on a leash. However, this requires active enforcement, with rangers available to monitor compliance and enforce the rules.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - request to allow dogs		
	Thank you for considering this submission. We appreciate the opportunity to have our views heard and hope the Council will give careful consideration to a balanced and practical solution.	
189 - Lara & Andy Lewthwaite	I would like to request that my submission be treated carefully, with consideration and openness without bias. I am happy to communicate further with Mayor & Councillors, if they have any questions for me- from their meeting. My submission is primarily to discuss the dog policy at Lake Camp and Clearwater- at the huts particularly. I submitted a letter to the Hutholders AGM regarding doing a survey for all hutholders to have a voice if they would like to see having their pet dog at their bach. I have not had feedback on if that is going to happen but my letter was read out at the AGM. I believe the Mayor and one or two councillors were there. I have since heard of other hutholders that would like to be able to bring their dogs to their bach. I would also like it noted that if a submission of no dogs is presented to council from the hutholders committee that they do not speak on behalf of all hutholders. As they have submitted in previous years. I do not agree with their submission if one is presented by them of a no dog policy. My submission is that hutholders be allowed to have a dog at their bach. In a secure environment of the bach and land that we lease from ADC. Dogs shall be on a leash in the area of the other baches and not off leash until in designated areas that allow dogs off leash. With the new rules of tenants, and pets are allowed. Does ADC allow pets at their properties that are on ADC lease land? If so why should this be any different? We own the building and lease the land from ADC. I'm not expecting that we allow dogs to free roam over both lakes and I do understand the importance of birdlife etc.	The request to allow dogs just within the bach areas is impractical given the small size of baches, their proximity to each other, the absence of fenced off areas around baches, presence of high biodiversity values in the lakes including “Threatened–Nationally Vulnerable” crested grebes, and proximity of the bachs to the public conservation land which has already prohibited dogs.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - request to allow dogs		
	But I do believe it is unfair we can't have a well loved member of our family enjoy quality, relaxing downtime at our bach. I would expect the normal rules of the dog policy to be upheld eg on leash, some areas not allowed and so forth. My submission is for the hutholders to have dogs. This does not include freedom campers and those in the campground to have dogs. This submission is for rate paying hutholders to have a dog at their bach and land. To be contained or on leash in that area of the baches. Thank you for your time and I hope my submission is given the discussion time it deserves. Just because something has always been one way doesn't mean we can't have change, as I have noted with ADC view on changing dogs allowed on leash at cemeteries. A survey of all hutholders might be interesting to see what hutholders would like. Thank you again.Kind Regards Lara and Andy Lewthwaite	
60 - Sherron Harrison	Lake Camp - Lake Clearwater dog prohibition bylaw - as a bach holder at the Ashburton Lakes I would like a concession that bach holders are permitted to have their own dogs at the the Lakes - under effective control, in enclosed spaces (around their baches) - behind effective fencing, inside their baches and then if they were required to exercise they would take them out of the Conservation (Dog) Area.	As above
64 - Melissa Mackay	I think the no dogs rule at lake Clearwater is outdated and would like to see it renewed. Your reason as below doesnt make sense. I agree with no dogs around Lake Clearwater waterfront as that is already designated as a wildlife reserve with no motor crafts. With motorboats allowed on Lake Camp how can dogs do any more damage to birds, fish and mussels. Maybe allowed on leash only around the huts as per the same as walking on town streets. Dogs should be allowed at hutowners private residences.	As above

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - request to allow dogs		
	If DOC would like to protect the crested Greb why dont they make a nesting platform like the ones build in Wanaka to prevent the boat waves destroying the nests. Dogs are currently prohibited from Lake Camp & Lake Clearwater (including the hut settlement), and we are not proposing to change this. There is significant biodiversity in the area, providing habitat to endangered species such as crested grebes, as well as NZ freshwater mussels, and numerous bird and fish populations.	

Lake Camp / Clearwater – support for prohibition

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - support for prohibition		
4 - Adair Bruorton	Yes I support the draft bylaw and policy. I am pleased to see that the prohibition on dogs will continue at the Lake Clearwater settlement and shores, and Lake Camp reserve will continue. I don't believe the area is suitable for dogs to be brought there: the baches are very close together, there is insufficient space for suitable fenced areas for dogs to be housed on sections, there is inadequate rubbish collection for regularly collecting waste from dogs, and the settlement and lakes' proximity to the Hakatere Conservation Area require the digs/ prohibition in order to best protect the surrounding natural environment and habitats. As above, I am pleased to see that the prohibition on dogs will continue at the Lake Clearwater settlement and shores, and Lake Camp reserve will continue. I don't believe the area is suitable for dogs to be brought there: the baches are very close together,	Noted

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Lake Camp/Clearwater - support for prohibition		
	there is insufficient space for suitable fenced areas for dogs to be housed on sections, there is inadequate rubbish collection for regularly collecting waste from dogs, and the settlement and lakes' proximity to the Hakatere Conservation Area require the digs/ prohibition in order to best protect the surrounding natural environment and habitats.	
163 - Jeff Hyde	Support the status quo remaining for the following areas. i.e. to remain prohibited areas. Lake Clearwater reserve area, Lake Camp reserve area, Lake Clearwater hut area and Lake Heron & Maori Lakes shore. Allowing dogs in these areas would create conflicts with areas that are currently wildlife refuges, and potential problems for stock management in the surrounding areas. Dogs being allowed in the Clearwater settlement is not appropriate given the close proximity of neighbours. The lack of fencing between properties makes it difficult to meet the code of a responsible owner by having an enclosed property. Dog related issues would also be difficult to manage given the distance any dog control officer would have to travel in the case of a problem. While it is unfortunate dog owners, friends or family cannot bring their dogs to these areas as they are such wonderful areas, the problems saved far out way the potential for problems if allowed.	Noted
233 - Ian Fraser for Department of Conservation	We support the continuation of Prohibited Areas at Lake Camp and Lake Clearwater. These lake margins are habitat for numerous native waterfowl and other bird species – including the threatened Australian crested grebe/puteketeke that could be disturbed or preyed on by dogs if they were allowed in this area.	Noted

Other

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other		
180 - guest user	Regarding the dog park area where the sign says small dogs. Is there any way that some larger dogs could have access too? Elderly dogs. Well behaved dogs belonging to disabled people ie. in wheelchairs or needing crutches or walking stick. These people and elderly dogs are vulnerable when in the section for all dogs when young dogs become exuberant during their games of chase.	We expect that people will use common sense and respect others when using these areas. This includes thinking of others and their pets and ensuring their dogs are under effective control at all times.
217 - Nicola McDonald	Please see the attached document 'Ashburton District Council Submission July 2026.pdf'.	The document referred to covers the views from the Companion Animals NZ which supports responsible dog guardianship. ADC equally supports responsible dog ownership/ guardianship and this is reflected in the draft policy and bylaw. Additionally, staff agree that reference to tethering dogs should clarify that this refers to “temporary” tethering only.
227 - Dr Arnja Dale	**Feedback on the dog control policy** **Pet friendly communities** SPCA supports the addition of clause 9.2.1 to clarify that business that wish to be pet-friendly may allow dogs in outdoor dining areas.	Officers will update wording to clarify American Pit Bull Terrier as a type and not a breed. The incorrect date on the Dog Control Act will also be updated. The Act sets out standard requirements of menacing classifications. Dog owners can already appeal those

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other		
	SPCA supports dog-friendly communities. New Zealanders overwhelmingly consider their companion animals part of their whanau (Companion Animals New Zealand, 2024). Creating dog-friendly communities facilitates socialisation of puppies and dogs. Dogs which have been adequately and appropriately socialised are less likely to show undesirable behaviours, such as barking and aggression (Dietz et al., 2018). We encourage councils to take proactive steps to foster positive community attitudes and practices. **Menacing classification** The Council's updated policy incorrectly lists American Pit Bull Terrier as a breed, instead of a 'type'. It also has the incorrect date for the Dog Control Act 1996 (listed as Dog Control Act 1966 in clause 10.3.2). **SPCA encourages councils to provide a pathway for owners of dogs with a menacing by behaviour classification to request a review of their dog's classification, provided they take specific steps to demonstrate responsible dog ownership.** This approach has been successfully adopted by other Territorial Authorities (for example, see Auckland Council Dog Bylaw), which provide an opportunity to apply for review after 12 months of holding this classification. This incentivises human behaviour change and adoption of responsible dog ownership practices. **SPCA recommends councils assess risk based on the behaviour of the individual dog, using standardised methods to assess severity of injury and risk of reoffending.** The Dog Control Act 1996 currently lacks clear, consistent guidance for councils on how to classify dogs as 'menacing' or 'dangerous' based on their behaviour. This absence of national standards can result in inconsistent decisions across Territorial Authorities, which may undermine both public safety and animal welfare.	requirements and put forward points for the Panel to consider as “additional conditions” if the classification is to remain in place e.g. Panel may agree to a review period linked with specific dog training.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other		
	SPCA recommends councils assess risk based on the behaviour of the individual dog, using standardised methods to assess severity of injury and risk of reoffending rather than subjective or inconsistent interpretations of incidents. Well established tools, such as the Ian Dunbar Dog Bite Scale, support objective, evidence-based assessments. 3 The Ian Dunbar Bite Scale offers advantages as it provides insights into the prognosis for a training intervention and objective assessment of future risk. A consistent, evidence-based, behaviour-focused approach would: • Promote fairness and clarity by ensuring that similar incidents are treated with equivalent seriousness • Improve public safety through more accurate identification of genuinely high-risk dogs and identifying opportunities for early intervention through proportionate measures to reduce future risk • Support animal welfare by reducing arbitrary or disproportionate restrictions on dogs who pose little or no threat. **SPCA encourages councils to consider impacts of menacing classification, and the high rates of error in visual identification of cross breeds, when determining their criteria for classifying dogs as 'menacing' based solely on appearance.** SPCA understands that councils are required to comply with the Dog Control Act 1996, which currently requires classification of dogs listed in Schedule 4 (as assessed based on visual assessment of the dog's physical characteristics) as "menacing". SPCA strongly opposes breed specific legislation, such as New Zealand's Dog Control Act 1996, as evidence shows that targeting specific dog breeds or types is subjective, does not reduce the risk of dog bites, and places additional obligations on responsible owners. The Act does not contain a definition of what constitutes an "American Pit Bull Terrier type" and thus it is left up to each Territorial Authority to determine how they establish reasonable grounds for believing a dog is wholly or predominantly one of the impacted dog breeds or types. SPCA cautions that research has clearly and repeatedly shown that visual assessment of the breed make up of mixed breed dogs is highly inaccurate, even when conducted by experts such as	

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other		
	shelter workers, veterinarians and dog control officers (Hoffman et al., 2014; Olson et al., 2015; Voith et al., 2013). Classification as menacing has serious consequences for a dog's welfare and can impact responsible dog owners in terms of their access to housing, services and pet insurance costs. We encourage Council to be mindful of these impacts when considering their guidelines for classifying dogs based on their visual appearance.	

Other suggestions

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other suggestions		
3 - Daniel Huisman	Could a section of Tinwald Domain be considered for an off-leash exercise area? The large field bordered by trees in the South-West of the Domain (with the Arboretum) seems like a suitable place. Disc golf is played there, but it's rarely busy and the openness of the area would help it work well as a shared space. It's fenced on the boundaries with the campground and railway, and a good distance away from the toilets, playground and lake where most visitors spend time.	Has not been proposed or consulted on in this review.
7 - Jocelyn Jones	You havent mentioned the river dog park area! We would like another seating area in the small dog area and also another bin at the actual car park area.	Request for extra seating area and bin noted.
63 - Cat user	As i said earlier get rid of Talbots who threaten to impound dogs all the time when they are jot doing anything wrong. They do not represent the council well at all	The public are encouraged to report any concerns to Council staff for investigation.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other suggestions		
84 - Deborah Roberts	I support all dogs to be kept on lead at all times unless in a designated dog park.	The presumption is that dogs are leashed even in off leashed areas if they not able to respond to commands to be considered under effective control.
110 - Kem Johnson	I think that rules restricting off leash rules for dogs should be lessened where there is little concern about poos or consequential confrontations with humans or other dogs. One should always have a handy leash and a dog that can be trusted to remain at heel. I understand that some people are fearful of dogs for a plethora of reasons and owners should respect that by being able to hold that dog when approaching other walkers.	
126 - Robyn Clark	Can you please add another criteria to the RDO status. Dogs should be currently vaccinated as part of the criteria as parvo is huge & the only way to prevent it is by being vaccinated.	Officers agree that this could be included as a requirement in order to be considered as a 'responsible dog owner' for the purposes of the responsible dog owner registration classification.
131 - Terrie Cresswell	Would it be possible to have a bench seat in the Company Rd park , perhaps on the north side of the path by the arboretum. It is a beautiful facility but nowhere to sit and watch the dogs play. I am elderly and find that my legs run out before my dogs energy does and it would be wonderful to be able to sit down.	Request noted.
136 - Beth Mitchell	I would like to add a suggestion though. Many dogs need an off lead area but are not suited to a shared dog park. If you had a section of fenced field available to hire in 30/60 minute blocks that would be amazing.	Administratively difficult. Suggested alternatives - use dog parks at time when less likely to be shared, or make private arrangement with rural landowner.
176 - Heather and Jim Gordon	Another concern we have is the use of ebikes bikes and scooters on the walk paths at Argyle Park. These are often using the path and come up behind walkers and dogs very quietly and fast without indicating they are coming. The path is only just wide enough for two walkers together. It could be an accident waiting to happen when they come up behind and even coming towards walkers. They seem to expect walkers to give way for them. Should there be some rules for the riders. There are signs at the lake that says bikes to give way to walkers.	Staff could investigate the provision of such signage further if considered an issue. This would be difficult to enforce.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other suggestions		
182 - Anne Watson	I really think 1m next to a children's play area is too close. Many dogs are a long way form their owners when off leash and hence dogs not under control.	Dogs are to be leashed even in off leash areas if they not able to respond to commands to be considered under effective control.
228 - Kerry Harmer	Policy cl 2.1 states 'under the Dog Control Act 1996, Councils are...'. "Councils" should have a small "c". Policy cl 3.5 still includes the term "under effective control" (within quotation marks) despite this definition being recommended for removal from the Policy. For consistency with the new definition of "effective control", this should only include "effective control" within quotation marks, not "under effective control". Policy cl 3.6 uses the term 'under control'. The terminology within the policy should remain consistent with the term under 'effective control' used throughout. Alternatively, 'under control' should also be defined.	Officers can make these changes as suggested.
228 - Kerry Harmer	As listed in the full submission document, MCFF recommend changes to: • Definition of public place (bylaw and policy) – as mentioned earlier in this summary • Advisory note (bylaw and policy) – to exclude working dogs • Bylaw cl 7.5 and Policy cl 3.7 (requirement to carry plastic bags or other effective means to remove dog faeces) - – remove wording where on land that is not the dog owners land • Policy cl 3.3 (requirement to ensure dogs on leash) – to exclude working dogs on public roads • Policy cl 3.6 (considered under effective control if kept securely tethered or confined) – to exclude working dogs • Policy cl 3.8 (requirement to remove faeces) – remove wording where on land that is not the dog owners land • Policy cl 3.9 (requirement for person in charge of dog to be physically capable of controlling the dog on a leash) – to exclude working dogs	Officers will assess these recommendations and will discuss with Council at the deliberations.

Submitter name	Submitter comments	Staff comments
Other suggestions		
229 - Maxine Morgan	I live in Hakatere. There is no area here to exercise dogs. I have identified 2 prospective suitable areas one which is already fenced, one which is not. 1) small strip at top end of Hakatere Drive near public toilets. 2) larger unfenced area as you come around long bend into area at entrance to Hakatere Huts. This could be suitably fenced and still provide access to river walk. It would also provide a safe area for campers at reserve to exercise dogs. I believe this land is council owned.	Has not been consulted on as part of this review
38 - Sheryl Hendriksen	Please consult with residents here in Hakatere with the purpose of creating an off leash dog exercise area.	
234 - Siobhan Smith	Allow dogs who have previously been classified menacing or dangerous a chance to be reassessed by a behaviourist or by animal control themselves to ensure they are eligible for a chance of redemption as the reason for their label could have been a one off incident, or due to having a new owner being rehomed very recently, or the complainant giving false information. Having a behaviourist or a member of animal control to reassess dogs after a few years gives the dogs owner a chance to act responsible and engage in training if it's an ongoing issue, or find out the reason for the one off incident.	All situations are assessed on their merits and in certain situations behaviourists can be used to assess or reassess animals.