

Public Question Time – answers to questions taken on notice*

Questions from Virgil Hesse:

Q1: Requested that Council change the current dog off leash area between the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron and Cowderoy Street outlet to on leash at all times, as the damage done by dogs is increasing the amount of dead organic material, causing pools of toxic waste.

The Mayor, Cr Voss, responded that the question would be taken on notice and a response would be provided by officers.

Response

Council's Domestic Animal Plan 2017-21 was endorsed in November 2017. The extensive consultation conducted as part of the plan's development did not identify the need to rezone the beach from Royal Melbourne Yacht Club and Cowderoy St outlet (Westbeach pavilion) from dog off leash to dog on leash.

Council has received no complaints in the last 3 years regarding this particular location even though the area is extremely popular with the dog community within the City of Port Phillip. Our Animal Management Officers are aware of your concerns and will ensure that they monitor the area of beach for dogs and dog owners causing a nuisance.

In keeping with the objectives of the Domestic Animal Plan, Council's Animal Management Officers will continue to educate the community about the environmental impacts of dog poo, promote the benefits of dog training initiatives to the community, and provide education and advice to enhance effective and responsible pet ownership.

All dog off leash areas within the municipality have been endorsed by Council in accordance with and included in Order No. 3 of Port Phillip City Council, Section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Council has no plans to change the current off the leash areas at this stage.

**Note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*