



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**

PROPOSED WEST EPPING PARK DOG OFF-LEASH AREA

Engagement Evaluation
and Key Findings

April 2022



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1. INTRODUCTION

In March 2022, City of Parramatta Council invited the community to comment on a proposal to create a dog off-leash area in West Epping Park.

In consideration of the adopted West Epping Park Masterplan, and in response to ongoing community interest including a petition, the Open Space team developed a Concept Plan for the proposed off-leash area and invited feedback via an online survey on Participate Parramatta, email or post.

The objectives of the consultation were:

- To seek feedback and gauge support from local residents and park users for the proposed dog off-leash area identified in the West Epping Park Masterplan
- To inform the community regarding proposed changes within the park prior to a Council decision

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposal for the **West Epping Park Dog Off-Leash Area** received 2050 views on Participate Parramatta and 221 contributions during the four-week consultation¹.

Overall, community feedback was positive with 81.9% supporting of the proposed dog off-leash area.

This result is notable due to the higher than average submission rate online (12.4%) and higher than average engagement rate generated by the paid social media campaign.

Among the 221 residents who completed the survey:

- 81.9% support the proposal
- 73% were frequent users of the park (1x week or more)
- 75% were residents of Epping (68.7%) and Carlingford (6.3%)
- 69.7% said they currently own a dog

The most important facilities named were:

Facility	Score (Ranking score)
1. Fencing	6.99
2. Waste bags/bins	5.91
3. Water	4.66
4. Shade	3.7
5. Seating	2.66
6. Signage	2.1
7. Lighting	1.94
8. Agility equipment	1.41

Fencing was a high priority for respondents with 98.2% preferring the dog off-leash area to be fenced.

If people indicated they **were opposed or were unsure** about an off-leash area, they could provide a reason and 34/221 chose to comment. The themes most frequently mentioned were:

- Perceived danger to children (12 mentions)
- The park's proximity to West Epping Public School (5 mentions)
- The loss of space for exercise/recreation (5 mentions).

All respondents were invited to make further comments and suggestions, with 118/221 providing

¹ All submissions were made on Participate Parramatta. There were no direct/email submissions.

answers. Figure 2.1 illustrates the most frequently mentioned themes including:

- Specific mention of the local need for the off-leash area (28 mentions)
- Comments about the essential/non-essential features within the off-leash area (21 mentions)
- General approval (17 mentions)
- Opposition due to perceived danger was the next most frequently mentioned comment (13 mentions)

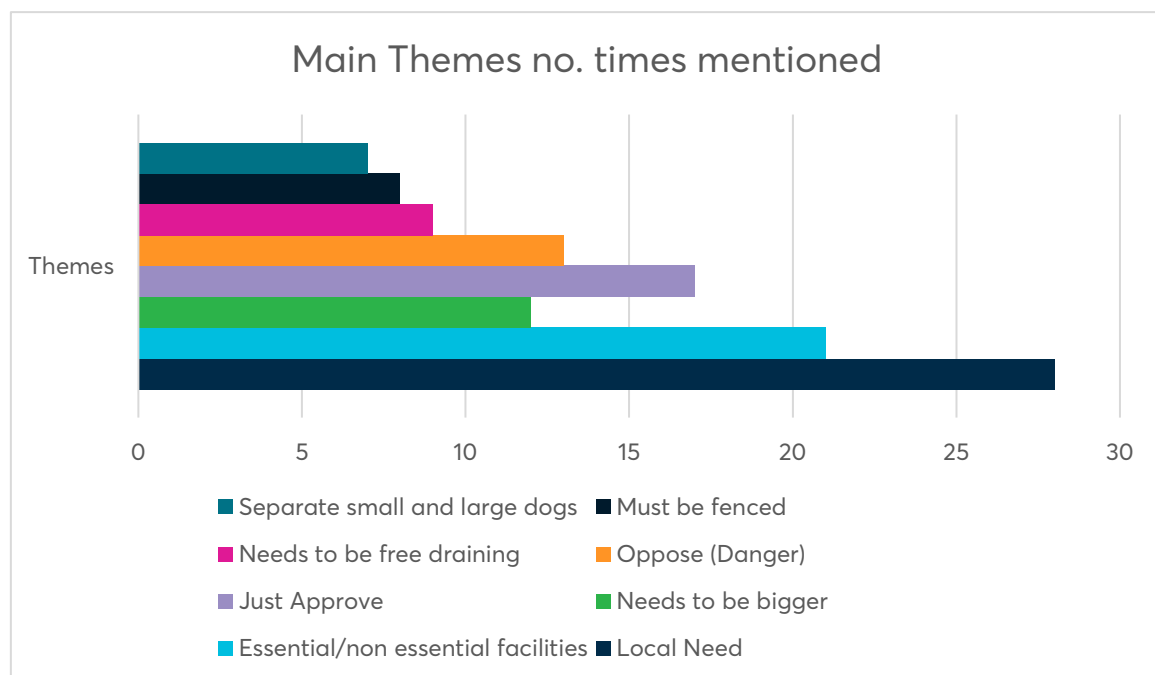
Comments outlining criticism of the concept plan focused on:

- Small and large dogs should be separated (7 mentions)
- Area needs to be larger (13 mentions)

Two negative comments were from adjoining property owners, each stating their opposition to the proposal.

Overall, most of the comments and suggestions were from people supporting the proposal (94/118 comments).

Figure 2.1



3. ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Several methods were used to promote awareness and engagement in the Epping community and West Epping neighbourhood. The engagement was promoted for four weeks from 9am Monday 28 February – 5pm Monday 28 March 2022. Overall, the opportunity to share feedback was presented on 33,893 occasions, culminating in 2,050 views of the project page and 221 engagements (survey submissions).

3.1. Resources

- 2250 flyers delivered with QR code inviting residents to comment on the proposal (Figure 3.1)
- Signage with QR code placed onsite at West Epping Park
- City of Parramatta website banner
- City of Parramatta website landing page
- Participate Parramatta project page and concept plan (Figure 3.2 & 3.3)

Figure 3.1



Figure 3.2



Proposed West Epping Park Dog Off-leash Area

+ Follow

View Council's proposal for a new fenced dog off-leash area at West Epping Park as per the adopted master plan!

[Home](#) / [Proposed West Epping Park Dog Off-leash Area](#)

Dogs are required to be on a lead when in a public park or reserve unless it has been declared as an 'off-leash' area. Council currently provides a number of 'off-leash' exercise areas in recognition of the benefits for the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

Consultation on the proposal for a Dog Off-Leash Area at West Epping Park has now closed. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Please **follow this page** for project updates!

A growing proportion of our residents are living in apartments and townhouses without access to large backyards. Research also indicates rising household rates of dog ownership, which together are increasing the demand for off-leash areas to provide safe opportunities for dog exercise and socialisation. The **Epping Ward currently lacks a dedicated dog off-leash area**, with the closest being located in adjoining local government areas.

The adopted **West Epping Master Plan** identifies a potential dog off-leash area at **Grant Close, Epping**. This open grassed area is free of obstacles to maximise running space and has clear sight lines to assist dog owners maintain effective control.

Timeline

-  **March 2022**
Community consultation - concept plan
-  **April 2022**
Review community and stakeholder feedback
-  **May / June 2022**
Council report based on feedback
-  **Late 2022**
Detailed design phase
-  **Early 2023**
Anticipated construction

Figure 3.3





3.2. Social Media Campaign

Paid campaign results:

Paid Advertisements		Benchmarks
Impressions	29,397	
Reach	12,948	
Link clicks	778	
Post Engagements	736	
Total spend	\$200	
Frequency (no. times seen)	2.27	2-3
Cost per click	\$0.26	\$0.50-\$1
CTR (click through rate)	2.65%	More than 1%
Engagement rate (ER)	3.0%	More than 2%

- Overall, the campaign performed well achieving a \$0.26 CPC.
- Frequency was at 2.27 which is on par with what we aim to achieve, indicating the budget for audience size was appropriate.
- Interestingly the creative using the park plan was the preferred content type for the platform when optimisations were carried out; this is an insight to test further in future campaigns.
- CTR of 2.65% exceeded the CoP benchmark showing positive interest from the community.

Top performing ads:

 <p>City of Parramatta Sponsored · 🌐</p> <p>Council has created a concept plan for a dog off-leash area in West Epping Park and is inviting comments and ...see more</p> <p>cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au West Epping Park Dog Off-Leash Area</p> <p>Learn More</p>	 <p>City of Parramatta Sponsored · 🌐</p> <p>Council has created a concept plan for a dog off-leash area in West Epping Park and is inviting comments and ...see more</p> <p>cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au West Epping Park Dog Off-Leash Area</p> <p>Learn More</p>
715 link clicks, \$0.26 CPC	28 link clicks, \$0.20 CPC

Organic campaign results:

CoP FB/Insta Organic Advertisements		Benchmarks
Reach	1614	n/a
Post Engagements	90	n/a
Engagement rate	2.2%	2-3%

- Engagement for these posts were just about on par for Council organic posts.
- Majority of link clicks, and engagements came from the Facebook post.

Participate FB/Insta Organic Advertisements		Benchmarks
Reach	220	n/a
Post Engagements	3	n/a
Engagement rate	1.3%	2-3%

Social campaign comments:

Comment	No
Tagging friends	11
Support for proposal	10
Objection to proposal*	3
A comment unrelated to the project	1

*Needs to be bigger

Electronic Direct Notification

Channel	List	Open rate
Participate Parramatta community (Epping/Carlingford)	402	58.46%
Participate Parramatta Community Panel Newsletter - Mar	10,609	42.1%

City of Parramatta Corporate Website

Channel	Page views	Bounce rate
Banner on Homepage	77	34.29%
CoP project page	7	

3.3. PARTICIPATE Parramatta

The Proposed West Epping Park Dog Off-Leash Area engagement campaign directed community members to the Participate Parramatta website and ran from 28 February – 28 March 2022. The project page (Figure 3.2 & 3.3) was viewed 2,050 times and generated 221 contributions.

Project Page Events	
Views	2,050
Visitors	1,520
Visits where at least 1 contribution was made	12.41%
Visits lasting more than one active minute	33.33%
Total contributions	221

Engagement highlights:

- 1,429 people (94%) were new visitors to Participate Parramatta
- 62.7% were female, 33.1% male and 4.5% preferred not to answer
- 68.7% were located in Epping
- 221 submitted a contribution
- 139 followed the project
- The concept plan was downloaded 54 times

3.4. Other performance metrics

The engagement was promoted from February 28 to March 28, 2022. There were peaks in activity at the following milestones:

February 28	Letterbox drop commenced
February 28	Paid social media campaign commenced
February 28	Participate email to Epping/Carlingford residents

March 23

Participate Parramatta newsletter distributed

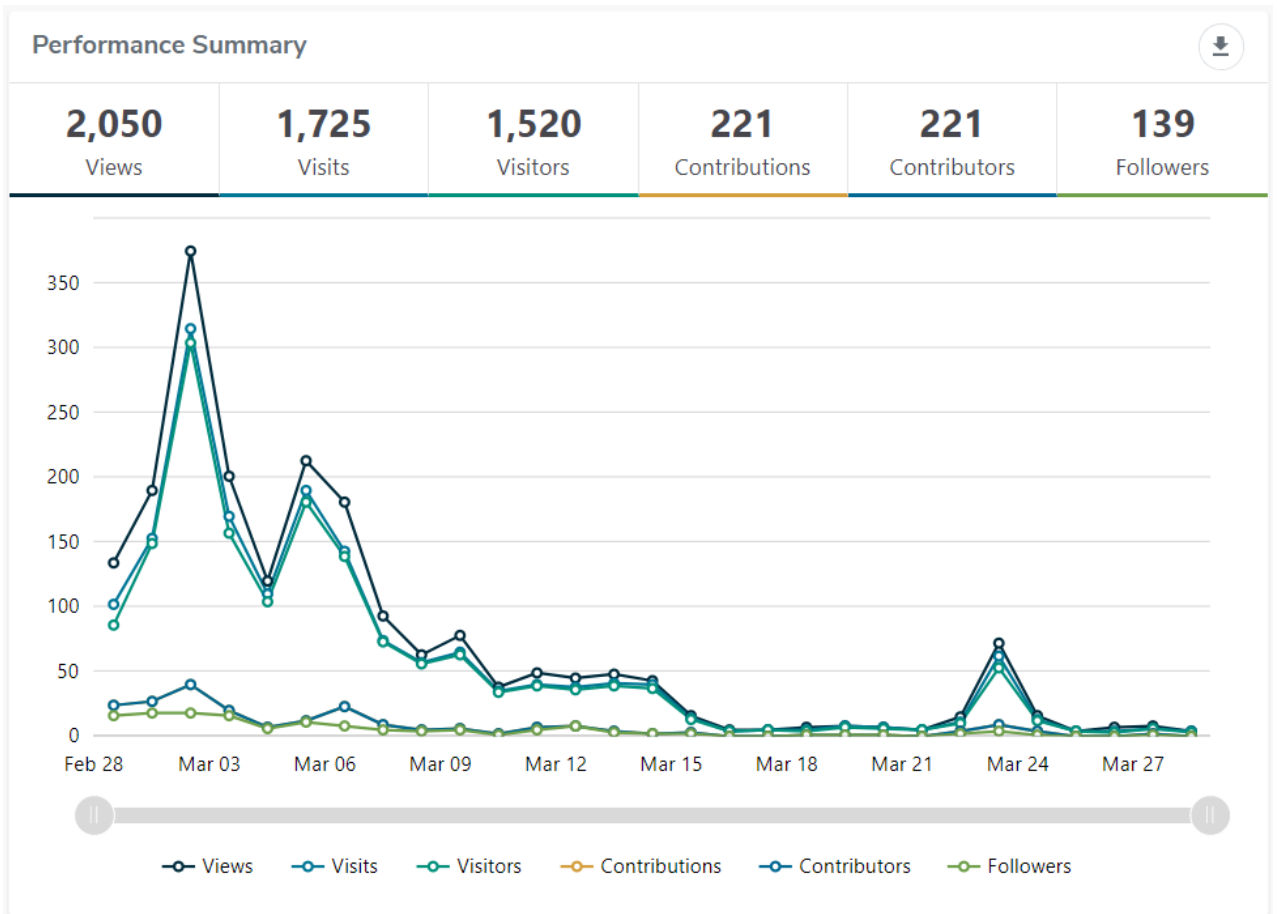
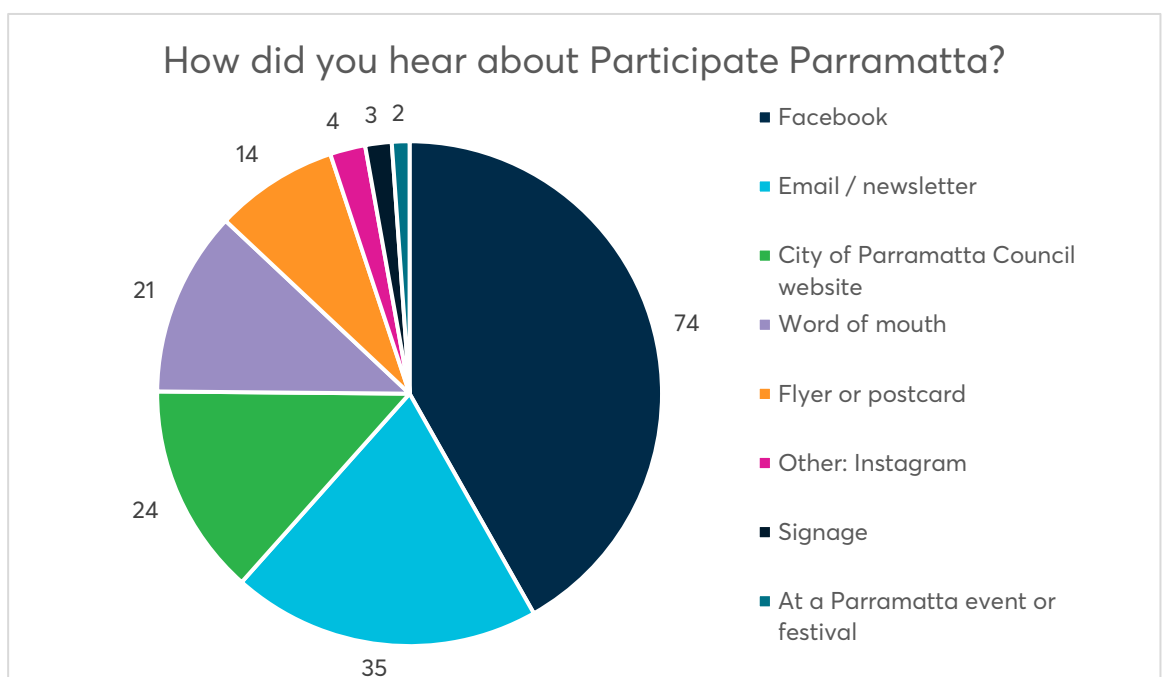


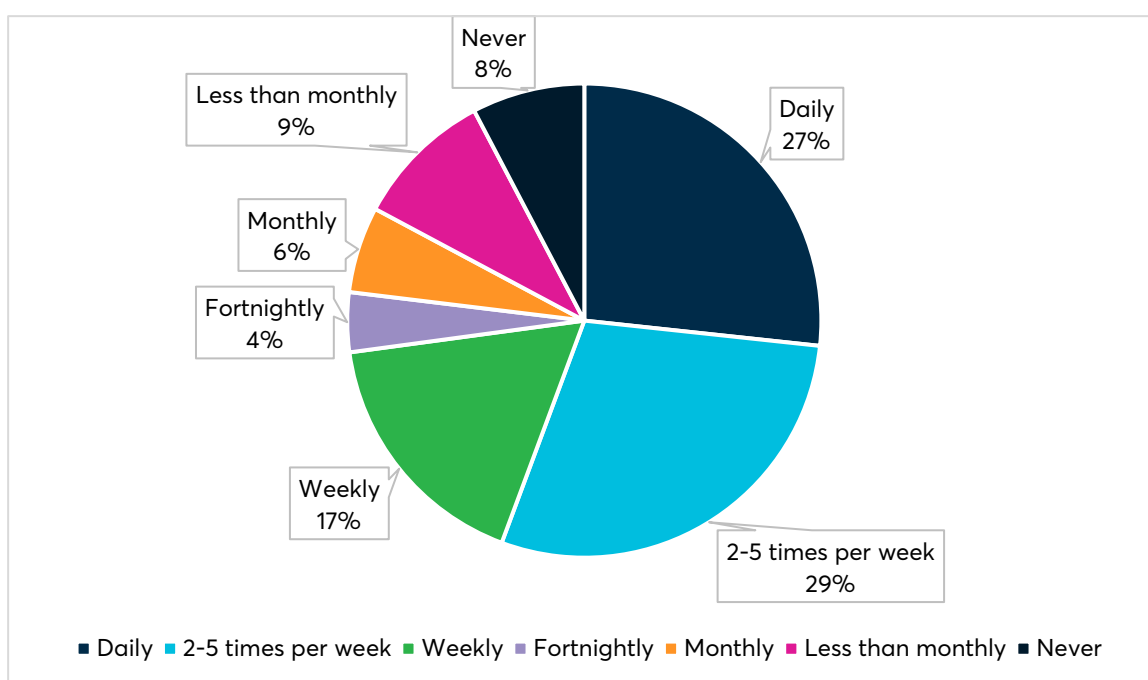
Figure 3.4



4. KEY FINDINGS

The survey captured the following answers to questions about use of the park and desirable park features.

Question 1: How often do you visit West Epping Park? Answered: 221 (100%)



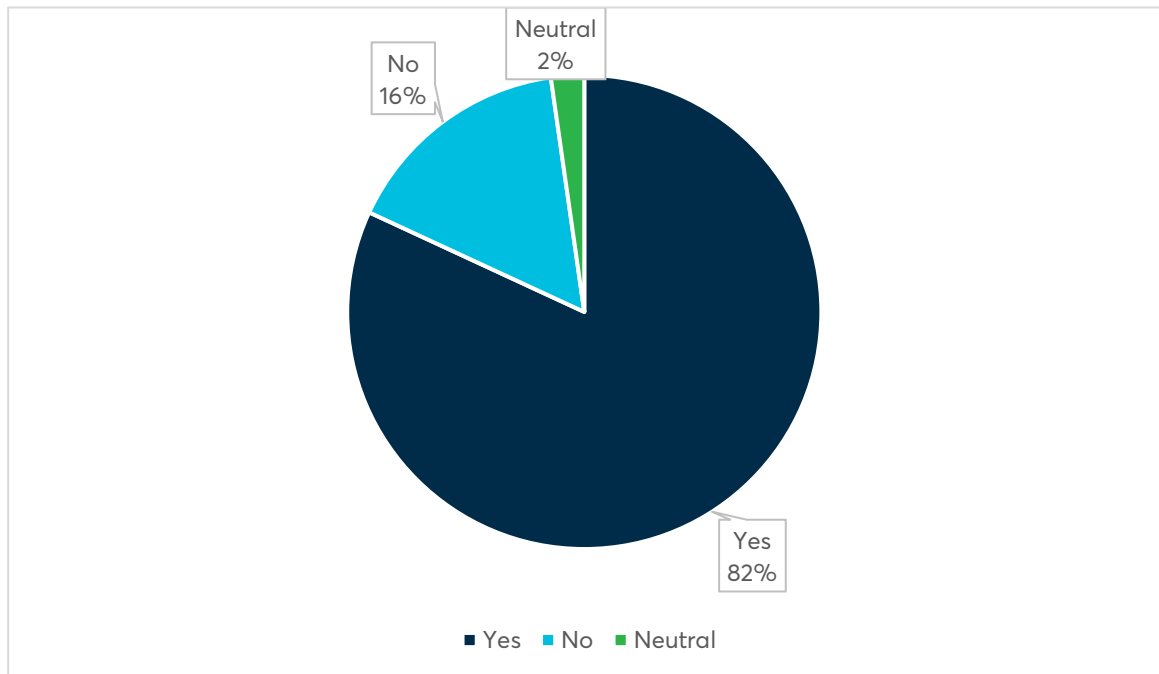
Answer choice	Percent	Count
Daily	26.70%	59
2-5 times per week	28.96%	64
Weekly	17.19%	38
Fortnightly	4.07%	9
Monthly	5.88%	13
Less than monthly	9.50%	21
Never	7.69%	17
Total	100%	221

Question 2: Do you currently own a dog? Answered: 221 (100%)

Answer choice	Percent	Count
Yes	69.68%	154
No	30.32%	67

Total	100%	221
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Question 3: Do you support the proposed dog off-leash area in West Epping Park? Answered: 221 (100%)



Answer choice	Percent	Count
Yes	81.90%	181
No	15.84%	35
Neutral	2.26%	5
Total	100%	221

Question 4: Please tell us more. Answered: 34 (15.4%)

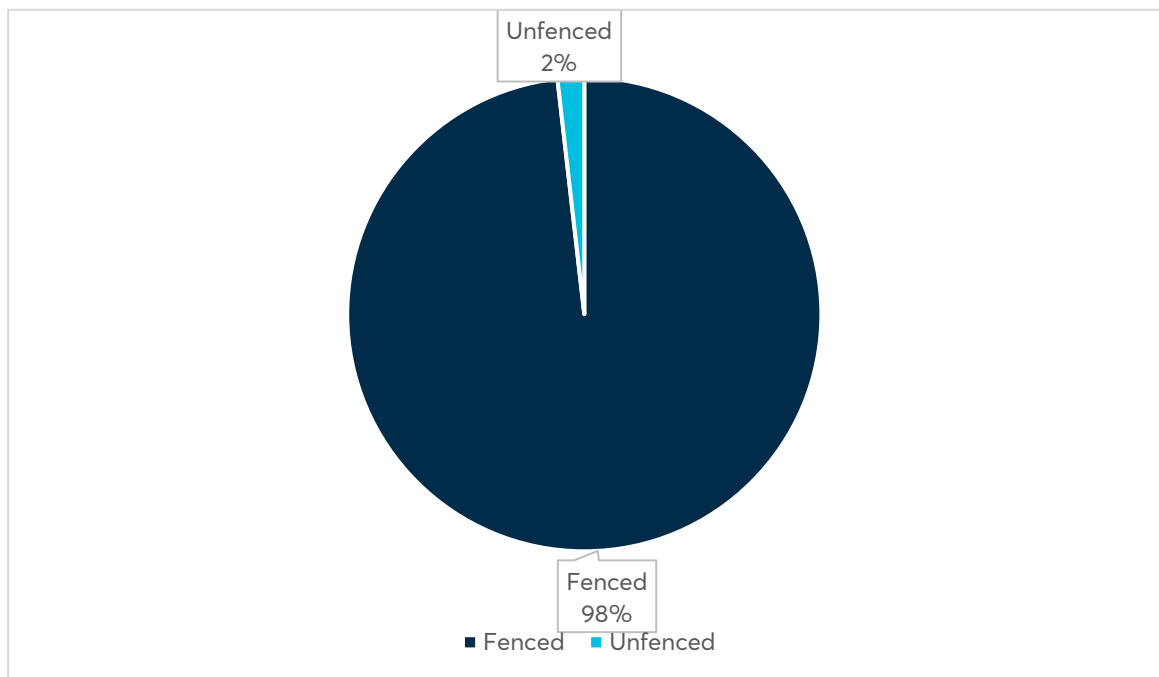
This was a conditional question, which prompted people who answered no or neutral in Question 3 to share more detail. There were 34 responses overall to this question. Some responses mention more than one theme which are counted in the table below.

Full comments are in the Appendix. Below are **key themes** with an example from the comments.

Key theme	Mentions	Example
Danger to children	12	Lots of children having activities in the park, and I have seen dog attacking young child there, strongly against the proposal.
Loss of space for general recreation	5	A dedicated dog fenced area would be good for dogs and dog owners. However for non dog owners that mean we lost an area of relax and exercise.
Proximity to school	5	The park is so close to Epping West School and West Epping preschool. It's not safe for kids to walk around there with dogs.
Risk	4	There were big dogs around which were not friendly and many of us do not feel safe even there is fence.
Owner behaviour	3	Currently, lots of dog owners do not obey the law and let their dogs off-leash on the all area of Epping West Park.

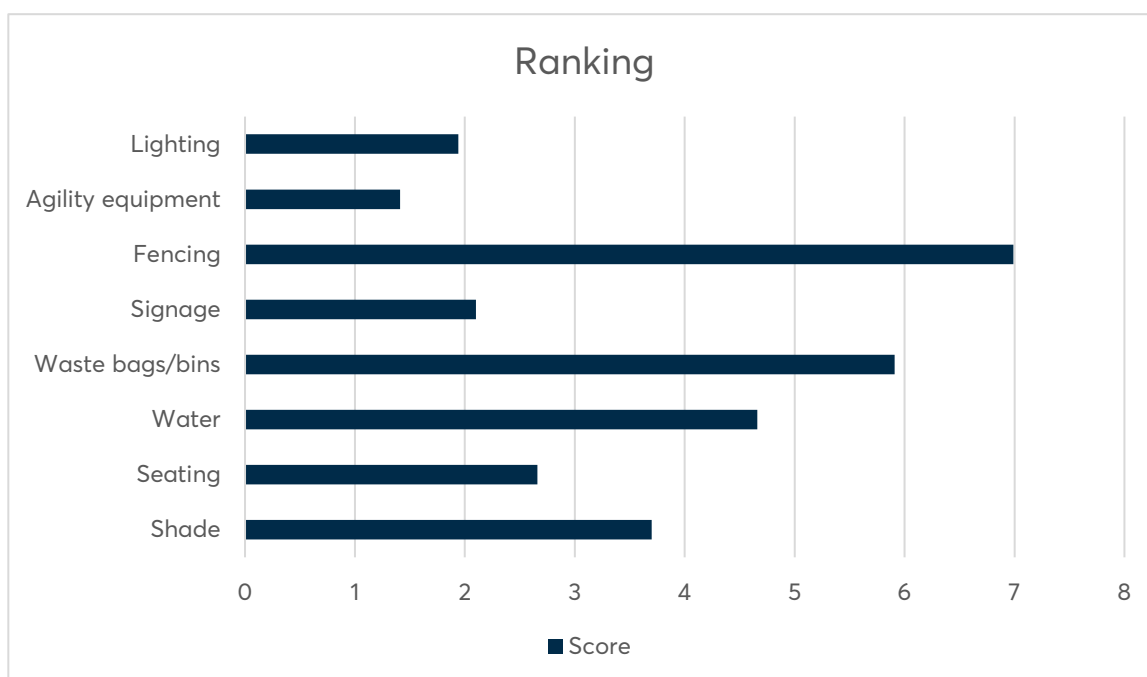
Parking pressure	3	Car parking will be a big issue with the added use of a dog park. When sport is being held at West Epping the car park is frequently full as is the adjacent road. It is unsafe as parents drop off kids for sport.
Noise	3	Too much noise from yapping dogs. Owners do not control their dogs and understand that others don't want to hear constant barking from their dog. Let alone the area does not have the parking to support this.
Danger to elderly	2	Dangerous for kids and old people; Dog poo
Poo/Mess	2	The park has many kids and other people, the proposed project would disturb people's current activities and incur cleaning issues
Need to separate small & large dogs	1	There have been lots of accidents with big and little dogs running in off leash area by owners who have no clue and have no recall training. Suggest have separate area for small dogs
Park too small	1	Not sure if the size is sufficient
Criticism of design	1	Bland boring functional proposal with no art or colour
Other / various	4	Would like to see the area between Willow Close and Dent St or Ray Park on Plympton Rd used for a dog park.

Question 5: Would you prefer the dog off-leash area to be fenced/unfenced? Answer: 221 (100%)



Answer choice	Percent	Count
Fenced	98.19%	217
Unfenced	1.81%	4
Total	100%	221

Question 6: What are the most important facilities for a dog off-leash area? Answered: 220 (99.5%)



Question 7: Do you have comments or suggestions? Answered: 118 (53.4%)

This was an optional question. There were 118 responses overall. Some responses mention more than one theme which are counted in the table below.

Key theme	Mentions	Example
Local need	28	To take my dog to a dog park I currently have to drive him as there is no dog park close by. There are so many dogs this side of Epping, and this is the perfect use of a currently underutilised space.
Comment about proposed facilities	21	Suggest u keep in mind many older residents with dogs in area so easy access shade & seating very important.
Just approve	17	None- just do it! Fantastic park and dogs already play off lead in that area. Would be fantastic for it to be official
Oppose	13	I don't support the proposal. Epping West Public school and West Epping Preschool are next to the park. A lot of children walk and play in the park. Too many dogs are dangerous to the kids. I have two little daughters going to the park every day. I don't think a dog park is a good idea in this location.
Needs to be bigger	12	Better to include the grass field on the left of the proposed area. That grass field is on a slope which is hardly used by anyone. Would be utilised by dogs. I go to the park everyday, have never seen anyone having a picnic or exercising on that grass field.
Needs to be free draining	9	Please attempt to make the area as free draining as possible- thank you
Must be fenced	8	Important it is fenced, due to adjacency with sports fields and nearby school
Separate small and big dogs	7	May you please strongly consider dividing the dog park into two areas - one for small dogs and one for large dogs. I have seen this implemented in various areas e.g. South Sydney, St. Ives, etc. and it is really helpful and makes the dog park experience a lot more enjoyable for everyone.
Other locations	7	I suggest that the dog off-leash area should be established on the Boronia Park.

Strengthen community	3	Apart from obvious benefits for dogs, there is an undoubted community benefit. It would provide an avenue for meeting and socialising with residents of our area whom we would not otherwise meet. We could make new friends and strengthen our sense of community.
Parking provision	3	All parking space around the park are extremely crowded. The Dog off-leash area will attract people from other area and cause more pressure on the parking issue. There are many young school children play on the park and in the tennis court. Off-leash dogs are not safe for children even if the area will be fenced. Definitely disagree.
Negative impact on residents	2	We live in Grant Close Epping. Our neighbor and us definitely opposing the proposal. We needed quiet, clean community, and a safe area for the school kids.
Not enough space	2	West Epping Park are often overcrowded. Dog off-leash area would cause less area for people without dogs. It will be more crowded especially under COVID situation, it's not a good idea.
Other / various		Keep untrained dogs on-leash; Security camera needed; Spend the money on something else; Will improve owners health; No to late access.

The table above provides **one example comment** for each theme. Full comments are in the Appendix.

Overall, the majority of people who provided comments / suggestions were supportive (95 of 118) while 23 of 118 were opposed/unsure.

This was the end of the survey.

5. APPENDIX

5.1. De-identified answers to Question 4:

Do you support the proposal?			Please tell us more.
Yes	No	Unsure	Answer
	1		A dedicated dog fenced area would be good for dogs and dog owners. However for none dog owners that mean we lost an area of relax and exercise.
	1		Lots of children having activities in the park, and I have seen dog attacking young child there, strongly against the proposal.
	1		Currently, lots of dog owners do not obey the law and let their dogs off-leash on the all area of Epping West Park.
	1		It's risky
	1		Car parking will be a big issue with the added use of a dog park. When sport is being held at West Epping the car park is frequently full as is the adjacent road. It is unsafe as parents drop off kids for sport.
	1		I prefer leashed concept as I have seen some dogs being very aggressive in the park when they see kids running as part of playing any sport
	1		I am concerned for the safety of children
		1	There have been lots of accidents with big and little dogs running in off leash area by owners who have no clue and have no recall training. Suggest have separate area for small dogs
	1		This park is very popular with families with young children. As a surgeon I have operated on numerous dog bite injuries. While most dog owners are responsible I have seen many with their dogs off leash not following the rules. separate dog park sought
		1	Not sure if the size is sufficient
	1		Epping West Public school is near the park. A lot of students walk and play in the park. Too many dogs are dangerous to the kids. I have two little kids going to the park every day. I don't think a dog park is a good idea in this location.
	1		It is very difficult to walk in the park especially in that area as dogs can come running to you. This happens very often
	1		Dangerous for kids and old people; Dog poo
	1		Not safe to young kids
	1		There are many kids and other people.
	1		near the school
	1		Too many kids playing in west epping park. It's not safe. And too noise
	1		Too close to school, there r many young children round there
	1		There were big dogs around which were not friendly and many of us do not feel safe even there is fence.
	1		It will cause big pressure on parking area which has been a huge problem during school drop-off and pick-up time already.
	1		The park is so close to Epping West School and West Epping preschool. It's not safe for kids to walk around there with dogs.
	1		The park close to Epping West School and has many kids play there
	1		It's not safe. There are lots of little kids in West Epping Park, and some of them are very scared of dogs. The off-leash dogs may attack the kids.
	1		The park has many kids and other people, the proposed project would disturb people's current activities and incur cleaning issues
	1		Too much noise from yapping dogs. Owners do not control their dogs and understand that others don't want to hear constant barking from their dog. Let alone the area does not have the parking to support this.
	1		There are so many people play in the park every day. With the limited place, dogs should not allow to occupy the place. There are often many small kids play and old people exercise in the park. It is not safe to have the dogs there.
	1		there are so many children in this area

	1		it's quite busy during the school time. Lots of students walk through the park to Epping West Public school. And it will be noisy for the neighborhood..
	1		I do not want more dogs in the area.
	1		My young kids and I go through this area on daily basis as the safest way to go to school. Building this unnecessary infrastructure not only removing grass areas for people with no dogs to use but also attracts more dogs into the area which is not safe.
		1	would like to see the area between Willow Close and Dent St or Ray Park on Plympton Rd used for a dog park.
	1		I am terrified of dogs especially when they are not on a leash. I've been bitten by a dog before and needed stitches
		1	I would not personally take my dog, but appreciate that there are people who would likely use the facility.
		1	Bland boring functional proposal with no art or colour

De-identified answers to Question 7:

Do you support the proposal?			
Yes	No	Unsure	Do you have any other comments or suggestions?
1			May you please strongly consider dividing the dog park into two areas - one for small dogs and one for large dogs. I have seen this implemented in various areas e.g. South Sydney, St. Ives, etc. and it is really helpful and makes the dog park experience a lot more enjoyable for everyone.
1			Great idea
1			Much needed in the local community as closest fenced dog park in the local area is either north epping oval, ermington or north rocks
1			Important it is fenced, due to adjacency with sports fields and nearby school
1			Great idea. So looking forward to having an off-leash area.
1			Seating inside the dog park is unnecessary as it always seems gets dirty when other dogs jump on seats. Waste bags, bins and water accessible to dogs within fenced area is essential for a functioning dog park.
1			great spot for it
1			Currently we have to make the inconvenient drive to Nth Epping to access a dog park. I am so pleased that one will soon be available at West Epping.
1			Plan generally acceptable. Area needs additional shade both within the area and outside.
		1	Strongly against the proposal as there are so many children having activities in that area. I have seen dog unleashed in the area chasing child and hopped over the child and the child fall off. The parents of the child had argument with the dog owner. Council should spend more on the useful facilities instead of spending huge funding on this risky facility upgrade.
1			I am about to get a dog and would love a fenced in area to improve outside training and socialisation. I love visiting dog friendly parks around Sydney. To have one in walking distance of my home would be fantastic.
1			the proposed off leash dog park is small in size. Can it be enlarged
	1		I suggest that the dog off-leash area should be established on the Boronia Park.
1			Please attempt to make the area as free draining as possible- thank you
1			I think this would be excellent for dog owners in the area. I regularly take my dog for a walk in this area while my kids do sports at the YMCA. There is nothing my dog loves more than playing in an off-leash dog area.
1			Separation of small and large dogs is preferable (based on weight probably the best). Consult a vet, but I suspect that the dividing line would be about 15kg. Otherwise you might get lawsuits from tiny dogs being eaten by rottweilers
1			More space than what is proposed. That area is okay for small dogs.
1			Please we really need this dog park. There are no other dog parks close by or in Epping at all. This proposed space in this park is barely used so it would be good to see the unused park land being used as a dog park.
1			Great idea. In lock down unable to get to any off leash area when Epping caught as area of concern.
1			Enforcing handlers to keep the leash on if they are not well trained. Off leash if great but ample signage is key!
1			Security camera in case of attacks by dogs or people.
1			There are a significant number of dogs in our area and this will be a fabulous place to walk to as our closest dog parks are all driving distance over major traffic intersections (Epping Oval, John Wearn). West Epping has desperately been missing an off leash area for a long time so this is a wonderful initiative. My dog loves

		walking to and around West Epping Park and this will give us even more reason to walk there, encourage fitness (for both humans and dogs) and strengthen the local dog community.
	1	We need footpath on priority, I m surprised how council promoting dangerous dog off leash while there are no foot path for kids and human to walk leading to Epping west park
	1	As above, car parking is a big issue. The car park is frequently full with sport users as is the adjacent street. It is also narrow with cars parked on the street resulting in traffic blockages in the road as cars try to pass. It will also be unsafe as parents drop kids off when running late. As a soccer coach needing to carry a lot of equipment to the pitch from the car park I do not want to have to walk from further away which is inevitable. (The larger "main" car park is also frequently full so is not an option / will be worse). Ironically I believe the initial intention on the plans did show the proposed area as future potential car parking.
1		Suggest u keep in mind many older residents with dogs in area so easy access shade & seating very important.
1		I just moved to the area and have been looking for any kind of off leash area for my dog! It's a shame all the other parks have partial fencing or broken fencing as I don't trust him not to run out on to Carlingford road. This new park would be absolutely amazing for those of us who work full time and just need somewhere to take our dogs to get all their energy out.
1		small separate enclosed area for smaller dogs and puppies
1		Apart from obvious benefits for dogs, there is an undoubted community benefit. It would provide an avenue for meeting and socialising with residents of our area whom we would not otherwise meet. We could make new friends and strengthen our sense of community.
1		Ray Park on Plympton Rd is also a good option for a dog park. I am not sure that one park is enough.
1		Yes can we please have some lighting for the poor teenage boys trying to play basketball in the dark every night at west Epping? A few lights on the court at night would make a huge difference. I go to the park every day and regularly count 20+ teens and young adults trying to play in semi darkness
1		Have needed one for years. Please proceed ASAP
1		Fencing is important to keep the dogs contained and away from people who are nervous of inquisitive dogs. Dogs in our ward need a safe place to exercise and run freely and safely. Some agility equipment would provide a focused interest and stimulation
1		None- just do it! Fantastic park and dogs already play off lead in that area. Would be fantastic for it to be official
1		The proposed area is not very big. Could the adjacent green space on other side of the carpark be used also?
1		hi, this is a great idea; at present i have to drive to North Rocks (JW Reserve) or North Epping or Cheltenham. There are very many dog owners in the vicinity of west epping so the park will be popular. Please note: - the water fountain must be placed somewhere/somehow that it will drain properly away from the park else there will be a large mud area around it (as in the large dog park at the JW Reserve) - signage is essential for new dog owners, even though it did not fit in my top 3. Signage should include a mention that dogs must wear either a collar or a harness in case they need to be restrained. - shade is critical for both dogs and owners, so if the trees are small when the park opens, a temporary shade cloth of suitable dimension would be very useful, else the park will no be used in hot weather - in the proposed location, there are two grassed areas; you should pick the one that drains best; the proposed one may not drain as well as the area situated between the car par and the tennis courts. I note that this area is designated as a multi-use recreational and event space but i have very rarely seen anyone using it aside from ball chasing dogs. - last spring, the proposed area was infested with bindi weed, they will need to be removed! - under the heading 'why is the off-leash area to be fenced, you could add that most dog owners want a fenced area so that their dogs do not run into the streets when chasing each other; this is very applicable to young dogs.
1		Happy to discuss further my experience with the local dog parks.
1		Drainage issues to be addressed in the chosen area,
1		I hope the dog park can be built soon, There's never been a place to walk a dog properly, A fenced dog park is a must for dog lovers, It's also a very good thing for people who don't like dogs, It's better and safer for everyone
1		We are waiting for the off leash park for such a long time and there are more and more dog owners concern about well-being of our loved ones! Please do something now!
1		The area you nominate is not the same as the one in the original Councils plans. The land listed by Council presently is sloping and too small. Residents have written a petition signed by 660 residents asking for the land you nominate together with the next to it, placed on the lower level ground on the other side of foot path. These both grounds are poorly used, in fact they stand most of the time empty , even in Friday and

		<p>Saturday, as people gather on the upper level of the park around the children playground, sports oval, table tennis, toilets, tables with shade and seats and basket ball area.</p> <p>There is enough green flat area on the upper level of the park where YMCA and all facilities are. The area we talk about is currently not used. I hardly ever see anyone there, except dogs.</p> <p>Numbers of dog ownership has significantly increased since the original plans were proposed to us 7-8 years ago. Dog parks need space for safety reasons. Big dogs can not be mixed with small dogs and enough space for them must be provided. That has been stressed by Vets who attended injured dogs in Dog Parks.</p> <p>The Council has to go forward with time and with residential needs that have changed.</p> <p>In addition, Epping area and surrounds has no off-leash facilities whatsoever. Therefore we can expect that West Epping Dog Park will attract dog owners from Beecroft, Cheltenham and Carlingford area where high density houses are built which did not exist 7-8 years ago at the time when the original Park plans were drawn.</p>
1		We live very close to the park on Grant Close. We are pleased that the off-leash dog area as per the original Masterplan for the West Epping Park redevelopment is now being followed up. We have previously had dogs run into/across our front yards when their owners let them off the leash and feel that a dedicated, fenced area for dogs to do this is a worthy investment in the structure of the park for both social and safety reasons.
1		Please plant eucalyptus and understory grevilleas for birdlife
1		As a parent with children suffering from dog phobias, I fully support a fenced dog's off-leash area. Too many dog owners think it's ok to have their dog off the leash in public and it's infuriating.
1		Good drainage so doesn't get boggy
1		<p>Bins. Please leave current bins where they are/ move outside the zone</p> <p>Add another bin inside new zone</p> <p>Underfoot is often very wet can be slushy, it is a very small although very welcome space for the number of dogs living close by. Area has potential to become a mud pit very quickly like John Wearn does.</p> <p>Can the area be expanded please, perhaps across and up to the tennis court area. It is a very small space, regularly John Wearn is not large enough for number of dogs and people accessing it.</p> <p>We visit John Wearn, Cowell Lane, Epping Oval, Ron Payne, Lyne Park at least once a day currently. And walk through west Epping oval area each evening.</p>
	1	Agility equipment would be good... ideally owners should have some sort of card to get in and out so you know who is there if problems occur. Could give out guest cards for access.
1		Seating is also important, preferably shaded. If the area is poorly drained then it needs to be improved to avoid becoming a problem with dogs finding places to wallow in mud. Bins need regular emptying otherwise they become very smelly.
1		<p>There definitely needs to be 2 sections</p> <p>One for small dogs ONLY & one for mixed. Small dogs (& owners) can feel safe & free from harassment in a separate section. If they don't mind mixing they can go in mixed section. I've seen small dogs aggressively attached by larger dogs at other mixed parks.</p> <p>This is long OVERDUE. Esp in lockdown when Nth Epping was out of radius. Plus we need something on THIS side of the railway.</p>
1		A fence is an absolute must. Dogs can run onto roads and it could be dangerous. I've been to some parks where a fence divides the park into 2 which is very useful if someone wants to use the park for training while someone else wants to play or if a dog isn't great with others
	1	While most dog owners are responsible Epping is home to many families with children and elderly residents whom use the park for exercise. Many dog owners simply don't follow the rules and take their dogs off-leash. Epping west park caters to many young kids and this is a public liability to mix these young children with potential dog injuries. Having a totally separate dedicated dog park away from Epping West Park perhaps in the Cheltenham area near the M2 or Mobbs Lane would be more suitable. People travel from afar to use Epping West. It houses cricket, soccer sports and tennis and the dog park will reduce the facilities of families, create chaos, traffic, waste etc. I would very much oppose the dog park
1		Sectioned zones for dogs of different sizes. E.g. Big dogs, medium dogs, small dogs. This could greatly prevent conflicts between dogs less sociable as well as allow owners to keep a closer eye on their dogs.
1		Paths within the off-leash area would be good to keep the grass in good shape. Hoxton Dog Park is a great concept - lots of paths through the park which means the park can be used in all weather, and the grass is less likely to be ripped up/worn down.
1		We visit Epping West at least once a week. It would be great to have an off-leash dog area. Good drainage would be important in addition to fencing, water, waste bags/bin and lighting. The door/lock to get into the park should be easy to operate especially when your hands are full while the dog is excited to get in. We frequently go to ESL Hall in Ryde and North Epping Oval dog parks and they are good examples of good dog parks.
1		The ovals behind Carlingford High should also have a designated dog area

1		Please include Carlingford in future off leash park projects
1		Dog training and play equipment
1		It's a long overdue facility for the numerous local dog owners in the Epping area. There is absolutely no doubt that this would be a well utilised park.
1		Thank you, much needed with the sheer number of dogs, and there is plenty of room
1		I would absolutely love it if agility equipment was present, but I acknowledge that practical things such as fences and water may have to come first. It would be so exciting if. Dog park was near me.
1		Better make the dog park bigger and can be divided into two, one for large dogs, the other for small dogs. The current grass area beside the tennis court for flooding can build a runway for dogs running.
1		Better to include the grass field on the left of the proposed area. That grass field is on a slope which is hardly used by anyone. Would be utilised by dogs. I go to the park everyday, have never seen anyone having a picnic or exercising on that grass field.
1		It should be the whole grassed area down the bottom not just the 1 small section that is the furthest away from anything. The fence could go inside the existing walking path around the grass
1		I don't currently have a dog who lives with me but have a dog who comes to stay with me. A dog park in the area would be beneficial for when the dog comes to visit and for other dogs in the area as there are no dog parks in close proximity
1		Discussing the fenced in off leash dog park with other dog owners; we are very tired waiting . Is it possible to accelerate this process; rather than wait till 2023?
1		With increasing development, I believe more (or at least better utilisation of) green space is vital for residents. It has multiple advantages: Direct positive impact on residents using the facilities Positive impact on locals and visitors passing by parks etc Allows the increasing number of dog owners to socialise together Provides an area for dogs to socialise and continue training I would have liked to include seating and shade in the above list to facilitate use by mobility impaired or aged users. Shade would also increase the number of hours the off-leash area would be available during the summer. I also believe a secure fence is vital - this gives other park users (especially any nervous of dogs) peace of mind and also gives dog owners some security that their dogs are safe within a boundary and unable to react to anything out of the ordinary and perhaps take off into traffic. Both Epping and North Epping ovals are enjoyable and (as far as I'm aware) trouble-free off-leash areas which are all the better for being dog inclusive and apparently attract dog owners from a range of other suburbs. Thumbs up for considering this idea, perhaps even on a trial basis. AnneS
	1	I don't support the proposal. Epping West Public school and West Epping Preschool are next to the park. A lot of children walk and play in the park. Too many dogs are dangerous to the kids. I have two little daughters going to the park every day. I don't think a dog park is a good idea in this location.
	1	If the offleash area is approved, please fence it so that people who walk in that area are not afraid of being attacked or chased by dogs.
1		This area has a drainage problem and is always wet. Running dogs will turn this area into a mud pit and therefore render the area dangerous and useless.
1		There are so many dog owners who used to visit west Epping oval before the park was renovated. This would be an awesome addition to the new park and to the dog community.
1		I highly support that a dog park be put in Epping. There are so many dogs in this area that would benefit from an off-leash dog park
1		Great idea, much needed
1		This would be SO NICE pls do it soon
1		I currently don't use the park however if there was a dog park there I would use it daily. Currently, I'm going all the way to Parramatta whereas Epping West would be much closer for me. Lighting is very useful especially in winter when we need to take our dogs in the evening after a long working day. Thank you for proposing this :)
	1	Please concern about children's safety
1		Strongly support a dog off-leash area. I have to drive to Ryde or North Ryde to walk my dog every time. Fencing is recommend, because it is too close to the school.
	1	There are other parks with less children and senior visitors maybe more suitable for off-leash dogs.
	1	All parking space around the park are extremely crowded. The Dog off-leash area will attract people from other area and cause more pressure on the parking issue. There are many young school children play on the park and in the tennis court. Off-leash dogs are not safe for children even if the area will be fenced. Definitely disagree.
	1	Please do not allow West Epping Park to be a dog off-leash area. Because there is so many school and young kids study and walk around there. It's not safety for kids and dog owners. I think the dog off-leash area

		should be placed in a park that far away from schools. My son is six years old but still very very scared of dogs. Sometimes he even cried when he saw a dog passing around him. Thank you so much for understanding.
1		A water area for dogs to play in, would be awesome. Our area does not have enough places for dogs to interact with water.
	1	We live in Grant Close Epping. Our neighbor and us definitely opposing the proposal. We needed quiet, clean community, and a safe area for the school kids.
	1	Please do not approve this area to the off-leash dogs area! It's dangerous!
1		Much needed off leash area for the community and their dogs. It's already frequented with many local families with their dogs. Fencing would be needed. Thank you for considering this proposal.
1		This park would mean a lot to a lot of people
	1	West Epping Park are often overcrowded. Dog off-leash area would cause less area for people without dogs. It will be more crowded especially under COVID situation, it's not a good idea.
	1	We live in Grant Close Epping. Our neighbor and us are definitely opposing the proposal. This area was quiet and clean but since the park was built, visitor volume has increased dramatically, if the proposal is processed, we can't imagine how the environment will be affected! Dogs bark people run dog shit...please consider stopping the proposal seriously!
	1	No off leash dog park in the area would be good.
1		I have often encountered dogs and their owners when using the tennis courts at West Epping and find my interactions with the dogs and their owners delightful.
1		A path around the edge of the space will encourage the dog owners to exercise by walking (in all weather conditions) rather than just sitting. Socialising is great but keeping the owners moving is important as well.
	1	Strongly object to set up a dog off-leash area in west Epping park. Find other place for it. There is a big safe concern to the small kids and old people. Some people doesn't like dogs. Some dog owners doesn't clean up dog poo. It make the park terrible smelly.
	1	i dont think every area should have an area specific for dogs. maybe find a less. used park if they want an unleashed area
1		It will be great to have a dog off leash area - but I am concerned it will be too small for the large number of dogs which may come - and too small to play "fetch" with even a medium sized dog. Can the grassy area between the tennis court and car park also be included in the zone? Perhaps a split "small dog" and "large dog" enclosure (Like at John Wearne Reserve) using this extra piece of land may help?
1		Fencing is very important as there are a lot of young children using Epping West park in different capacity and some may be scared of dogs. Extra maintenance (e.g. rubbish bin, clean up) will be needed to reduce odour and rubbish. As there are residences close to the proposed off leash area, time restriction (e.g. during daylight hours for off leash) will help to reduce potential noise complains. Overall, I support the proposal as it brings more people to use the Epping West park facility.
1		As the owner of 3 Grant Close Epping my property is directly adjacent to the proposed off leash dog park. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss this proposal. While supporti be in principle, I would like to talk through the plans for managing waste as long am concerned about the smell and health and welfare of my children. Further - there is a significant drainage problem with this land where the current drainage does not work in heavy rain and this should be reviewed and rectified as part of this proposal. Please contact Antoinette Sedwell on 0417269966. Thankyou
	1	I am against having dogs off leads near the tennis courts and park where there are elderly and children about.not all dog owners are responsible people.
	1	My young kids and I go pass this area every day to go to school as this is deemed to be the safest route, as well as weekend for exercise. By introducing this unnecessary infrastructure, it has removed the right for people like us, with no dogs, to access and use this the space. It also creates danger to young kids by attracting more dogs into the area. The grass area above, next to carpark, is too dangerous for kids as it is too close to the carpark with balls rolling into the carpark. If a designated off leash area is a must (which I totally disagree), then I would prefer unfenced. This will not only reduce the cost and avoiding the disturbing infrastructure but also continue to allow others to use the areas. I would also suggest a time limit to avoid dogs visiting wildly during early morning, school hours and night time to minimise disturbing the neighbours. This area is busy enough during school hours. Attracting others to come into this area during the busy hours will only create more problems. Hope you could seriously reconsider other options keeping in mind of those who are currently using this space.
1		Is this available for other pets such as cats? Or is this only for dogs?

1		The area nominated at West Epping is small, the drainage is not really good.... But we really need an off leash area so I say yes.
1		The proposed area is quite small compared to other fenced dog parks in the Council. This makes the proposed park less functional by not allowing for distance between the dogs and not allowing dogs to play in smaller groups. I would strongly encourage Council to explore opportunities to create two sides to the park - using the currently proposed space as a small dog off lead area, and fencing the other open green space as a larger dog area. There would still be green space in other areas of the park for other recreation, but would create a more useable space that aligns with the intent of the proposal.
1		An off-lead area was promised at the beginning of this project - I simply want the promise fulfilled. A petition in this regard recently acquired hundreds of supporters.
1		Really needed. Will be very popular
1		To take my dog to a dog park I currently have to drive him as there is no dog park close by. There are so many dogs this side of Epping, and this is the perfect use of a currently underutilised space.
1		So glad there are plans for an off leash dog park in Epping! Long overdue!
1		We really need this - please
1		Shade and seating needed.
1		100% fenced required
1		Too many cars around and dogs like my own that are fast and hard to catch if unfenced, i think fenced park at west Epping will be a fantastic idea
1		Definitely a great idea... at the moment people are letting their dogs off on the synthetic grass without a care for other users of the area.
1		The park needs to be large! The only decent sized off lease in Epping is the oval on the other side of the train line. And that is unavailable at least half the time. A large park is much safer as the dogs won't feel hemmed in.
1		It is an area that is currently not used, and this would mean we could walk to an off leash area - rather than having to drive
1		I know Lorraine Wearne has quoted publicly that she thinks this area should be left for children but I challenge here to find any children who actually use it - they use the play equipment and sports areas of the park so the situation is perfect to dedicate this area to dogs and their owners. The bonus is that the cost would surely be negligible.
1		I believe that signage is important to establish ground expectations for people using the space. Given the multicultural community, it might be considered having signage in multiple languages. It would also need to be considered how regularly waste bags would need to be supplied in order to meet demand by users.
1	1	Agility equipment is a great idea but may also restrict the space available for dogs to socialise.
1		Having a path to walk around inside the fenced area that is accessible for all (eg wheelchair, scooter), and usable in all weather may also encourage owners to walk and not stand/ sit around chatting to each other and ignoring their dogs (that is when fights start or poos are missed). Trees and plants are not only important for shade but provide enrichment to the dogs, sniffing is a highly beneficial and calming activity and uses they instincts. Maybe research some more on what plants are safe and might be good to plant, other councils have done some work on this. Would be great to see some equipment included like you have at Silverwater, but the park on the map looks tiny so may not be appropriate (I'm usually at Cowell's Lane but like to visit other off leash areas at times for variety). On a separate note, a safe dog beach within the parramatta council would be awesome, it is so hot in this area.
1		A great idea and I look forward to taking my dog there when it's ready
1		An off leash dog park is really necessary in the Epping area especially with the number of dogs who live in units. For the safety of all the dogs 2 areas are best, one for smaller dogs and one for larger dogs. A number of people will not take dogs to an off leash park if there is only one area as many of the larger dogs really frighten and intimidate smaller breeds. This happens all the time at Epping Oval and at Ron Payne Oval. The off leash park at John Wearne North Rocks is excellent!
1		I think it is a great idea to have this facility. In addition, although most dog owners are responsible, a few aren't, so I think education in the form of signage, in different languages, would be of benefit.
1		This proposal is wonderful and most important. It will certainly be well received if approved.
1	1	Why are you afraid of art and colour?
1		Also need to consider a small fence to protect the walkers on the cement path around the west epping sports field to prevent injury from balls hitting pedestrians
1		Considering the other sporting facilities using this park area, it may be prudent to extend the available parking area.
1		Perhaps consider a timed allocation for the dog park to allow consideration for local residence? i.e. only between certain times on certain days?