

Lights on for Dogs

Engagement Summary Report

October 2023

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Overview

This report presents the findings from the analysis of community feedback from Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Lights on for Dogs (LOFD).

A mixed method approach to community engagement was taken throughout the consultation periods in 2022 (30 May - 19 August) and 2023 (5 June - 2 September).

Consultation activities included online engagement through Have Your Say, with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback; correspondence including email, phone, and mail; and conversations with Local Laws Officer on patrol at sportsgrounds included in the trial.

Stakeholders reached throughout this process were dog owners, dog-owner community groups, resident sports clubs, neighbouring residents as well as the general Bayside community.

Across Phase 1 and 2 there were a total of 167 participants.

The feedback reflected the differing interests of sport users and dog walkers; the importance of the program for dogs and their owners, particularly if they work during the day; and the significance of feelings of safety for female participants.

In summary, the community engagement found:

There was overall support for LOFD project continuing – Across both years a large proportion of participants strongly supported the continuation of the project (2023=49/70 – 70%, 2022=81/95 – 85%). All reserves were given an average rating of 4 or more out of 5 for night-time use.

With Phases 1 and 2 of the project complete, this opens up the possibility for extending/expanding the project in the future, such as through alternative nights and locations for the project within Bayside.

‘Large, well lit and enclosed reserves’ was the most common positive feedback – with a total of 33 mentions across phase 1 and 2. When asked why they gave the reserve this particular rating, most participants commented on the importance of the facility itself and how the options were dog friendly. The selected reserves for 2022 and 2023 could continue to be used by Council in the future or act as a good precedent to expand to other options.

Positive comments and lighting and safety were most frequently mentioned by female participants – female participants were more likely to give positive feedback and talk about lighting in regard to safety. This is reflective of social/societal issues more broadly but should continue to be a consideration when planning similar projects and reaching stakeholders.

Sports club members were under-represented – While all stakeholders were reached in the community engagement both years, there was minimal participation of local sport club members compared to dog walkers.

Next steps

The findings of this report will be considered by Council at its November 2023 meeting as part of the annual Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-26 report.

1 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the Lights on for Dogs (LOFD) trial during winter in 2022 and 2023.

Lights on for Dogs is an opportunity for Bayside City Council (BCC) to better understand opportunities to facilitate structured and safe community access to Bayside sportsgrounds, on winter evenings outside of training and match allocation times. This is a key action in the Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2022-26.

The purpose of the trials was to understand if the increased night-time access to well-lit off-leash dog areas was considered to be of benefit to local dog owners. The trial programs were used to estimate the expected use and understand and address any impacts on sportsgrounds stemming from increased use.

Program information gathered throughout the 2022-23 winter months, including community and stakeholder feedback, is expected to be considered by Council at its November 2023 meeting as part of the DAMP 2022-26.

2 Definitions and scope

Council identified three sportsgrounds to trial the program between 30 May and 19 August 2022. To select locations for the trial, sportsgrounds were assessed against three key criteria:

1. Identified Dog Off-leash areas
2. Had no scheduled sporting activity on the selected evening
3. Had available sportsground lighting

The trial was continued in 2023, from 5 June to 2 September, after overall positive feedback from the previous year. Despite Council seeking to include more locations in the 2023 trial, the same locations were selected again because other locations did not meet the above criteria. Each reserve had allocated times for dog walkers outside of scheduled training sessions and match play:

Reserve	2022 times	2023 times
RJ Sillitoe Reserve, Hampton	5:30pm and 8:30pm on Mondays	5pm – 8pm on Mondays
William Street Reserve, Brighton	5:30pm and 8:30pm on Tuesdays	5pm – 8pm on Fridays
RG Chisholm Reserve, Sandringham	5:30pm and 8:30pm on Fridays	6:30pm – 8:30pm on Fridays

In conjunction with community feedback, Local Laws Officers documented observations from regular patrols of each sportsground to provide data on community use and dog owner compliance with responsible pet ownership requirements across both trial periods.

Additionally, routine inspections of sports grounds were conducted to assess the condition and cleanliness – in particular uncollected droppings and holes dug by dogs which require urgent maintenance to prevent sports injury.

2.1 Glossary

Within this document, reference is made to stakeholders. These stakeholders are:

- Dog owners
- Dog-owner community groups
- Resident sports clubs
- Neighbouring residents
- General Bayside community

The following is a list of acronyms/abbreviations for frequently used organisations and policies:

Item	Definition
DAMP	Domestic Animal Management Plan
LOFD	Lights on for Dogs program
SLTFD	Sportsground Lighting Trial for Dogs
BCC	Bayside City Council

2.2 Related Council documents and consultations

- 2022 Sportsground lighting trial for dogs Community Engagement Report
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022 – 2026 (DAMP)

3 Consultation process

3.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to receive feedback from the 2022 and 2023 community experiences of the LOFD winter trial. The engagement findings determine if the program should be continued, amended, or expanded.

The condition of sports grounds can naturally deteriorate over the winter season because of weather and increased recreational sports use. Part of the trials therefore included regular monitoring and evaluation, that was balanced against the respective winter sport loading and associated weather conditions that also contribute to deteriorating ground conditions.

The community could influence:

- If the winter program is continued, amended or expanded
- Off-leash sportsgrounds to be considered for future use, should the program continue
- Program amendments

The community could not influence:

- Selection criteria for sportsgrounds
- Duration of the programs
- Days, times, and locations
- Infrastructure changes to sportsgrounds, e.g. provision of gates
- Council also reserved the right to discontinue the delivery of the program without notice and for any reason, however, particular notice will be placed on the condition of sportsgrounds and behaviour of pet owners in regard to responsible pet ownership.

3.2 Consultation methodology

The 2022-2023 community consultation fits into a broader process of trialling whether LOFD will be beneficial for the Bayside community and among key stakeholders, in particular.

Project timelines

- Year 1- Winter off-leash sportsground lighting trial 2022: 30 May - 19 August 2022
- Evaluation: September - October 2022
- Year 2-Winter off-leash sportsground lighting program 2023: 5 June - 2 September 2023
- Evaluation: September - November 2023
- Consideration by Council: expected November 2023. Stakeholder and community feedback will be presented to Council to consider sportsground lighting program continuation, amendment, or expansion.

3.2.1 Consultation phase

Evaluation of the program included local community feedback from dog owners, sports clubs, and neighbouring residents to understand their experiences through an online survey, written submissions, online Q&A forums, and special request meetings.

During the consultation phase, the following activities were undertaken:

Details (2022)	Details (2023)	Activity
30 May - 19 August 2022 Online survey (n=95)	1 June 2023 - 2 September 2023 Online survey (n=70)	Have Your Say Online engagement through Have Your Say, including opportunities to provide input for future trials and provide feedback.
N/A	1 June 2023 - 2 September 2023 Online (n=2)	Q&A forum Opportunity for stakeholders/participants who wanted more information about Lighting for Dogs or to ask a specific question about the program.
30 May - 19 August 2022 N/A	1 June 2023 - 2 September 2023 N/A	Correspondence Opportunity for stakeholders/participants to speak to or submit a question to a council officer via email, post or face-to-face.
30 May - 19 August 2022 N/A	1 June 2023 - 2 September 2023 N/A	Officer patrols Local Laws patrols of included sportsgrounds to provide data on community use and dog owner compliance with responsible pet ownership requirements.

4 Participant profile

A comparison of the demographics from the 2023 online survey to the 2021 Bayside census data shows significantly more female participation than male or participants with a gender diverse identity. More female participation is typical for community engagement in general. The perceived safety benefits of lighting at nighttime could also affect females more than males.

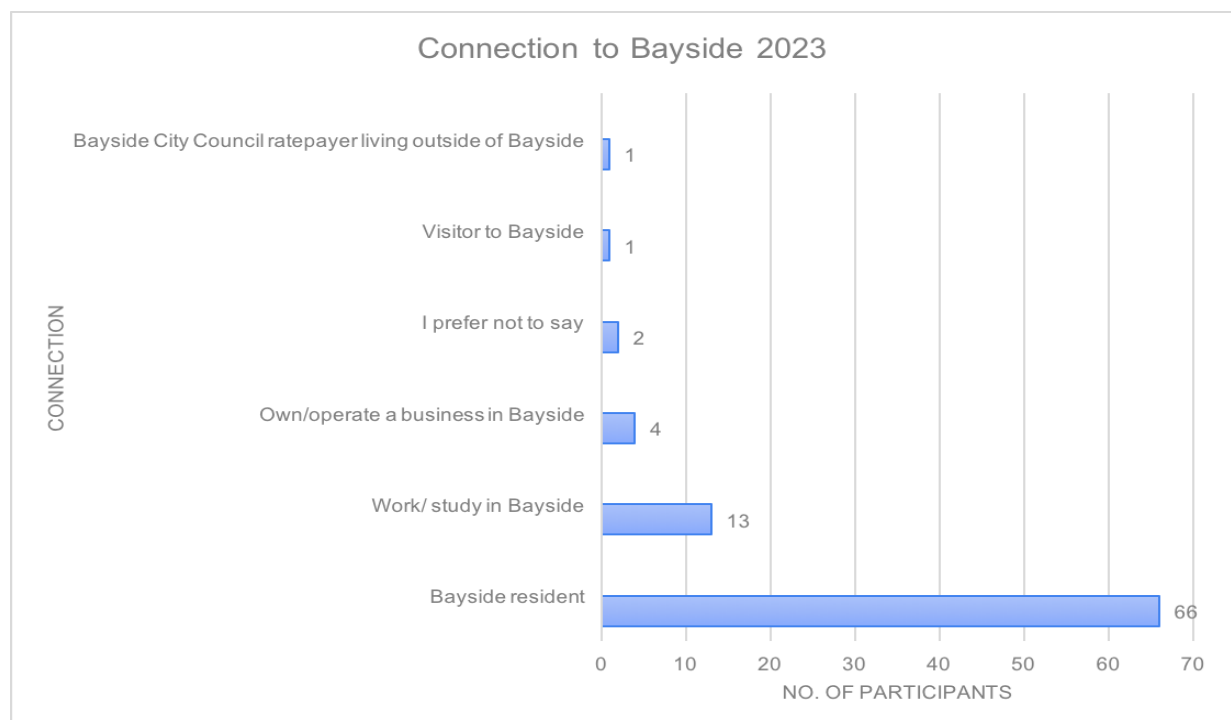
	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
G e n d e r	Male	47.8%	20 (28.6%)
	Female	52.2%	46 (65.7%)
	Unknown	-	4 (5.7%)
	Other identity	-	0
S u b u r b	Beaumaris	12.8%	2 (2.9%)
	Black Rock	6.2%	1 (1.4%)
	Brighton	23.7%	18 (25.7%)
	Brighton East	15.6%	3 (4.3%)
	Cheltenham	3.9%	0
	Hampton	13.6%	27 (38.6%)
	Hampton East*	4.9%	-
	Highett	7.6%	4 (5.7%)
	Sandringham	11.8%	12 (17.1%)
	Outside Bayside	-	3 (4.3%)

Data source: online survey. Age was not listed as a demographic question on the survey.

*Hampton East was not listed as a suburb on the survey.

To give context to stakeholders and further understand park users, 2023 participants were asked to provide their connection to Bayside. The vast majority of participants were residents, with other interested parties either working or studying in the LGA.

Participant connection is shown in the following graph:



5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on LOFD project. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics.

5.1 Scope and methodology

This engagement employed a mixed methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative data through various engagement activities (outlined on page 6). Qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis employing a coding framework to identify common themes and count responses.

5.2 Participation

There was a total of 167 participants in the project, with 95 in phase 1 and 72 in phase 2 (refer to page 10 for the breakdown). Participation according to the reserve, sports club and residential street provides a more holistic picture of the different interests of stakeholders in the project.

Reserve	No. of participants (%) 2022	No. of participants (%) 2023	No. of participants (%) total
RJ Sillitoe Reserve, Hampton	22 (23.2%)	25 (35.7%)	47 (28.5%)
William St Reserve, Brighton	42 (44.2%)	22 (31.4%)	64 (38.9%)
RG Chisholm Reserve, Sandringham	31 (32.6%)	23 (32.9%)	54 (32.7%)
Total	95 (100%)	70 (100%)	165 (100%)

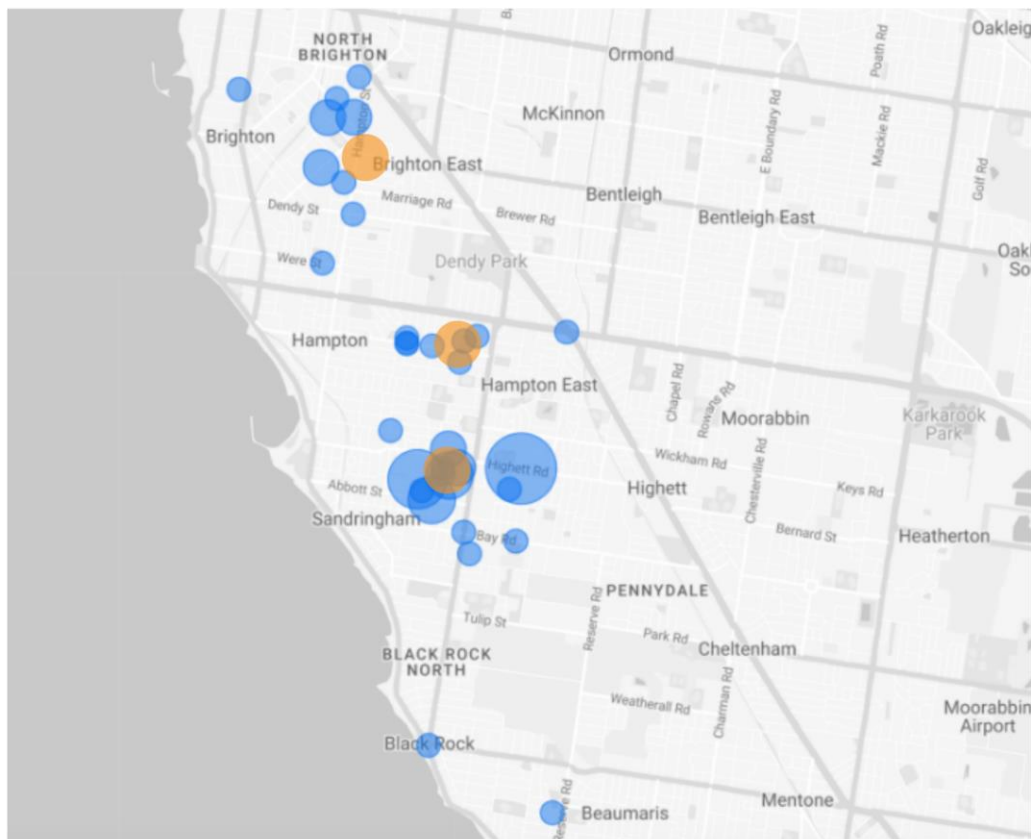
To further understand participants' connection to sportsgrounds, participants were asked to provide the name of their street and the name of their sporting club if they identified themselves as sports club users/members. There was low participation from sports club users across both phases of the engagement.

The following table shows participation from local sports clubs across both trial periods:

Sports Club	No. of participants 2022	No. of participants 2023	No. of participants total
Beaumaris FC	1	-	1
East Sandringham Zebras	5	1	6
East Sandringham Junior FC	-	1	1
Cluden CC	1	2	3
Hampton CC	-	1	1

Residential streets of participants indicated whether they would be affected by the extended hours of lighting. A total of 27 streets were listed across the 2022 and 2023 engagements. The most mentioned streets were Highett Rd (5), Grange Rd (4), Condington St (3), Duncan St (3), Conifer St (3), Kenneth St (2) Halifax St (2), William St (2) and Edgar St (2).

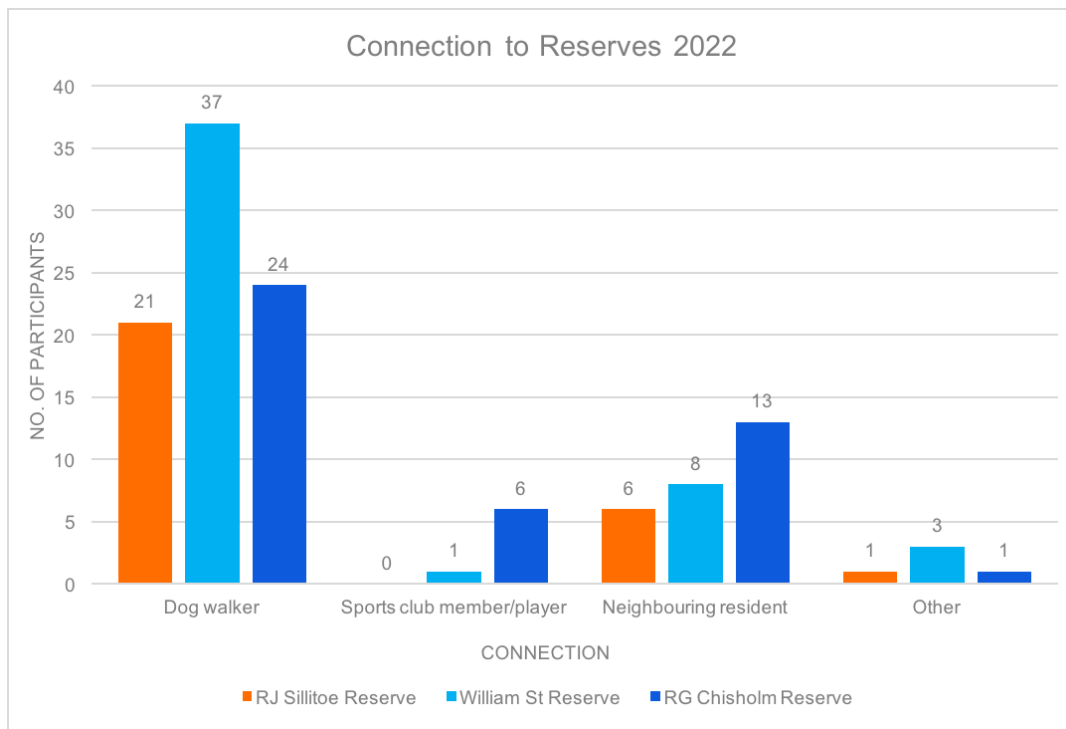
The following heat map shows the residential streets of participants in Bayside:



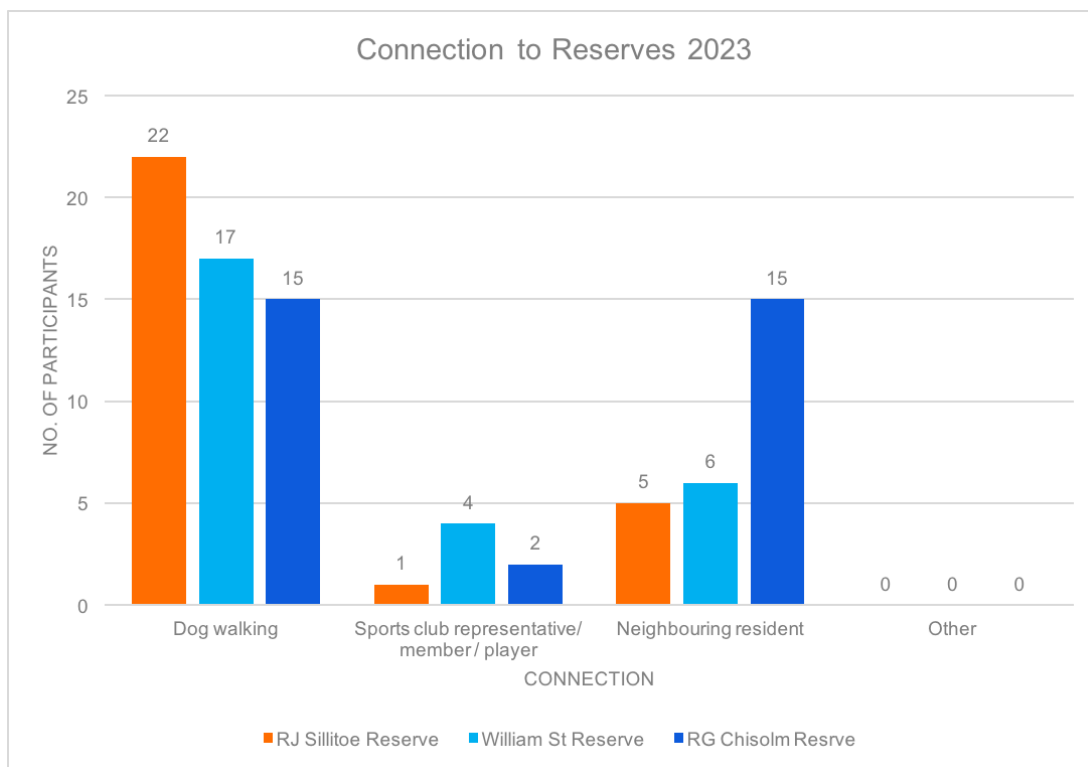
Reserves are represented in orange while the residential streets are represented in blue.

5.2.1 Connection to reserves

The following charts show the distribution of participation in the trial according to connection to the reserve for the 2022 trial period as well as the 2023 trial period, respectively.



Data source: 2022 online survey.



Data source: 2023 online survey.

Both years had similar distribution of interests in use of the extended hours at the reserves, with dog walking being the most popular both years. William St Reserve had a decrease from the previous year (2022=37, 2023=17) as did RG Chisholm Reserve (2022=24, 2023=15), however, dog walking remained the most popular connection for participation. It is also important to note that the 2023 trial had lower participation (n=70) than 2022 (n=95).

Sports club representatives/members/players were underrepresented across both years. It is important to consider this as a factor when weighing up the interests of the different stakeholders in the project feedback. The ongoing tension between sports clubs and dog walkers should also be acknowledged as an issue not specific to Bayside alone.

5.3 Ratings and feedback

This section summarises participants' experiences using the reserves during the 2022-2023 LOFD program. Community and stakeholder feedback was provided through quantitative and free-text responses.

5.3.1 Ratings

Participants across the two winter trial periods were asked to rate their experiences using the reserves at night. The overall rating for the reserves given were 4.1 (out of 5) for both RJ Sillitoe Reserve and William St Reserve and 4 for RG Chisholm Reserve. Averages were slightly lower in 2023 when compared to 2022. This could be due to more investment in the project from people who used the grounds for sports, or residents in the area who were affected by the lights being on for extended periods in 2023.

Reserve	Average 2022 rating (out of 5)	Average 2023 rating (out of 5)	Overall average rating (out of 5)
RJ Sillitoe Reserve, Hampton	4.1	4.1	4.1
William St Reserve, Brighton	4.4	3.5	4.1
RG Chisholm Reserve, Sandringham	4.2	3.8	4.0

5.3.2 Positive feedback

Participants were asked the open-ended question; 'Why did you give it this rating?', in both the 2022 and 2023 engagements. Overall, there was positive feedback from participants who gave the parks a higher rating (4 or 5), with multiple comments of support for the project to continue.

Overall, comparing the positive comments from 2022 and 2023 engagements, comments surrounding the park features and extended use for dogs in addition to safety benefits from lighting remained consistently important for participants. Positive comments surrounding a space for community was less mentioned by 2023 participants, with increased mentions of lighting as a good way to cater to people who have busy daytime working hours.

The following table shows positive feedback given by all participants. Some comments mentioned more than one topic and have been sorted as such. The total mentions, therefore, does not equal the number of participants.

Topic	2022: 67/84 response s in total 80%	2023: 51/70 response s in total 73%	Community feedback
Large, light, well facilitated enclosed park	(n=19)	(n=14)	Choice of park, fully fenced, well maintained and well facilitated for dogs. (24 mentions) The park is enclosed but large enough for the dogs to have a good walk. (3 mentions) Improved wellbeing from utilising additional hours at park.

Lighting/safety	(n=20)	(n=13)	Feels safer walking the dogs in a park with lighting in the darker winter months. Lights bring more people to improve feelings of security (15 mentions). Safer for dogs (2 mentions) Appeals to more people and provides greater accessibility (4 mentions). Lighting means it's easier to clean up after the dog.
After hours for people who work during the day	(n=3)	(n=10)	Good for full-time workers/ people who don't always get to walk their dogs during daytime (5 mentions). Safer experience of walking the dog after getting home from work (2 mentions). Essential for dogs who require lots of exercise.
Well behaved dogs	(n=10)	(n=8)	Friendly/well behaved dogs (6 mentions). Able to let the dog have a run around and play (3 mentions). Good dog infrastructure (poo bags, water etc) (3 mentions).
Community	(n=14)	(n=3)	Creates a specific time of the evening where dog owners and dogs can meet (4 mentions) Provides a safe, social area for people to walk their dogs. Familiarity with the dogs that use this space is a benefit (8 mentions)
General support for initiative	(n=1)	(n=3)	General positive comments about the initiative.

5.3.3 Feedback for improvements

Participants who generally rated their experience a lower score out of 5 (3 or below) raised a number of issues with their experiences across the different sites. This was with the exception of 'fencing issues' which was commented on despite the participants giving a higher rating in two cases.

A range of specific concerns were raised during the consultation regarding use of the reserve. The following table shows the total sum of negative comments for this question across both phases of engagement:

Topic	2022 total responses 23/84 27%	2023 total responses 27/70 39%	Community feedback
Uneven surfaces from dogs causing issues	(n=1)	(n=5)	Council are not fulfilling their obligation to maintain the surface of the sites/enforce

			<p>good dog ownership (3 <i>mentions</i>).</p> <p>Impact on sports clubs with uneven surface (2 <i>mentions</i>).</p> <p>Injury from the uneven surface caused by dogs.</p>
Tension between interests of sports and dog owners	(n=5)	(n=4)	<p>Lighting times clash with sports - dogs are unable to use it (2 <i>mentions</i>).</p> <p>Soccer players are unnecessarily aggressive and do more damage to the ground than dogs.</p> <p>The needs of dog owners are being preferred over sport-players.</p> <p>Creating a boundary in the park is futile when dog walkers are constantly at the park.</p>
Owners not cleaning up after their animals	(n=3)	(n=4)	<p>Dog faeces being left at ground because owner won't pick it up (4 <i>mentions</i>)</p> <p>Have to remove dog faeces or avoid it before playing sport (3 <i>mentions</i>).</p>
Fencing/gate issues	(n=2)	(n=3)	<p>Insert missing gate to make the area fully-fenced (4 <i>mentions</i>).</p> <p>Gaps in fencing.</p>
Lighting issues	(n=0)	(n=3)	<p>Lights are overly bright.</p> <p>Lights are negatively affecting nocturnal wildlife such as bats and owls.</p> <p>The lights being left on at these times disturbs residents and animals other than dogs.</p>
Aggressive dog behaviour	(n=1)	(n=2)	<p>Owners not responding when dogs are overly aggressive.</p> <p>Aggressive dogs scare other dogs at the park (2 <i>mentions</i>).</p>
Extend times or locations	(n=10)	(n=4)	<p>Desire for more hours of lighting (4 <i>mentions</i>).</p> <p>Desire for trial to be extended to other areas for easier</p>

			accessibility in other suburbs (6 mentions).
Park use was impacted during the initiative	(n=1)	(n=2)	Comments surrounding the impact on available space of the park during the trial due to construction (3 mentions).

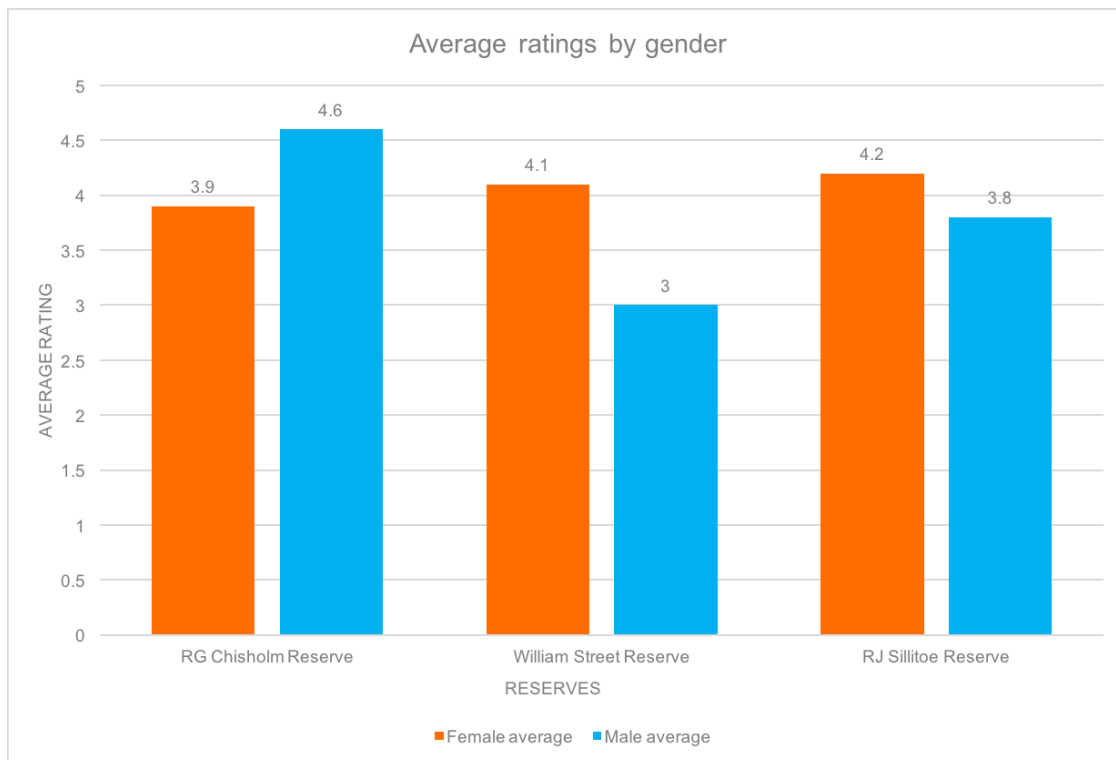
Comparing data between 2022 and 2023, there was a slight decrease in positive comments and increase in negative comments. This reflects community sentiment towards the trial continuing explored in section 5.4.4. This may be due to more interest in the project from participants who played sports and, therefore, wanted the grounds to be kept for sporting only. At the same time, it is also important to consider the fact that participation for the 2023 engagement was slightly lower.

There was a total of 14 'other' comments that did not address the trial itself or could not be sorted into the above categories:

Topic	2022	2023	Community feedback
General comments about parks chosen	1 mentions	2 mentions	Accessibility, maintenance, water etc.
Mixed responses	5 mentions	4 mentions	Comments on the communications surrounding times lights would be on. Negative comments surrounding the engagement process. General comments surrounding the park and dog ownership.

5.3.4 Considerations shaping feedback - gender

Participants were asked to give their demographic information in the 2023 survey only. Females were more represented than males in this engagement with 40 female participants, 20 male participants and 4 participants who preferred not to share this information.



Data source: 2023 online survey.

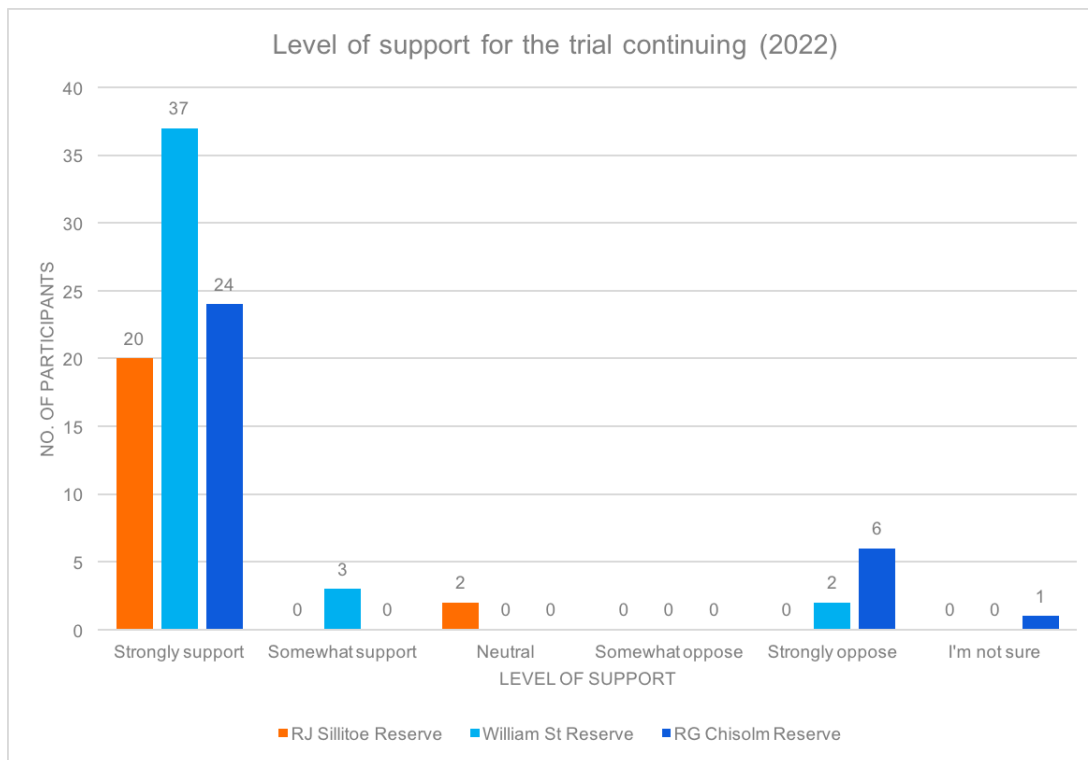
The trial had a more positive reception among those who identified as female than those who identified as male. Males were evenly divided over the trial between positive and negative reflections with the majority of females sharing positive feedback. Women prioritised lighting for safety more frequently than men.

5.3.5 Continuation

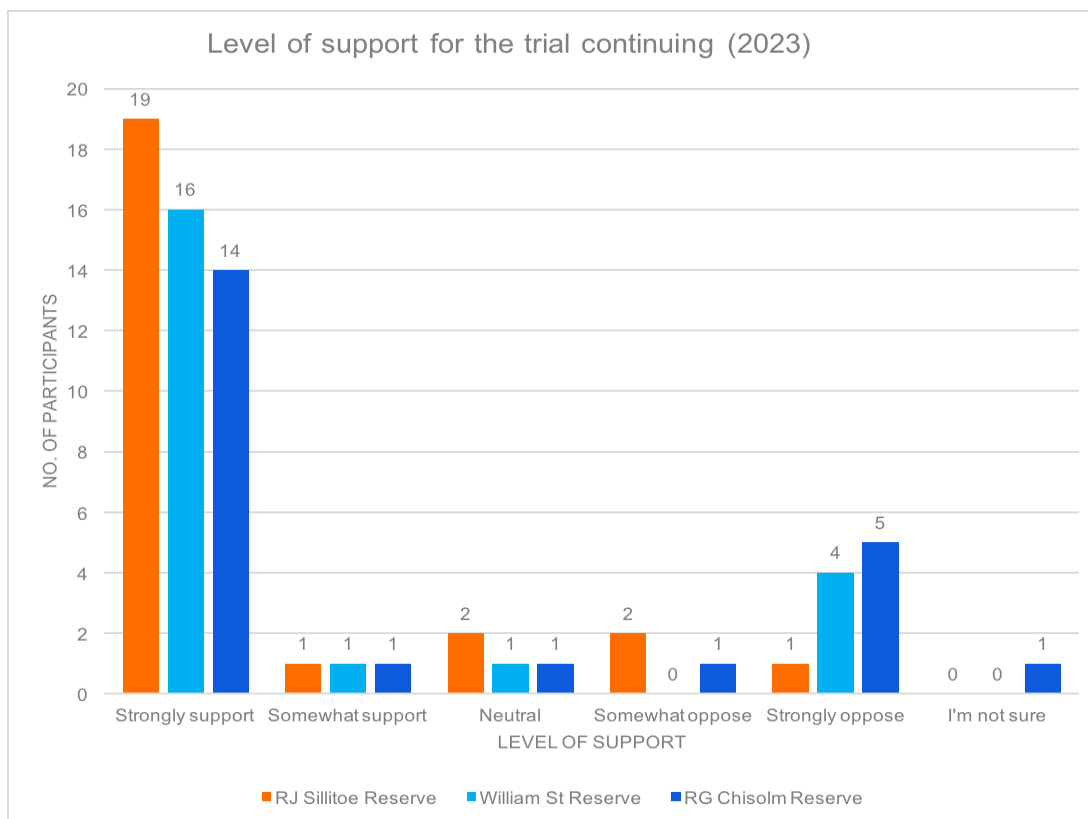
The following section summarises support for the continuation of the trial and anticipated use of the reserves. Community and stakeholder feedback is given through quantitative responses.

5.3.6 Support

The following graphs show the level of support for the trial continuing, with 'strongly support' being the highest level and 'strongly oppose' being the least level of support.



Data source: 2022 online survey.

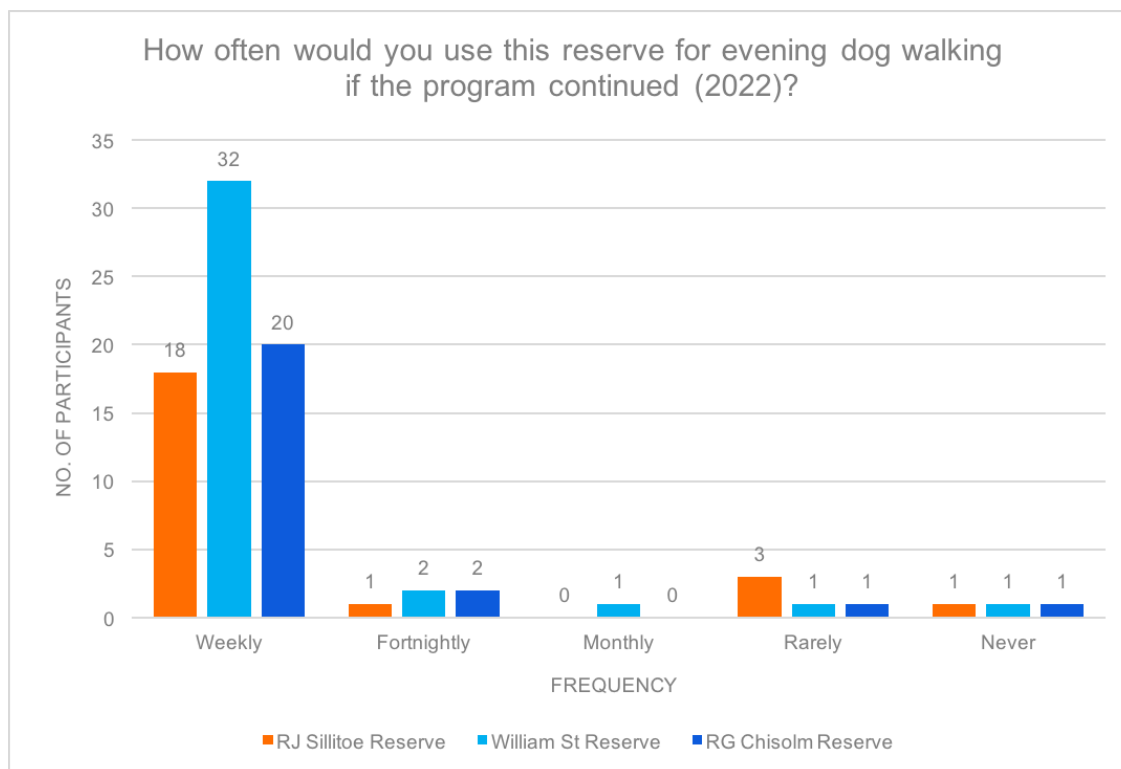


Data source: 2023 online survey.

Overall, 2023 had a large proportion of participants who strongly supported the continuation of the project (49/70). Compared to the 2022 data (81/95), there was a slight decrease in the numbers for 'strongly support' and a slight increase in 'strongly oppose' (2023=10/70), (2022=8/95).

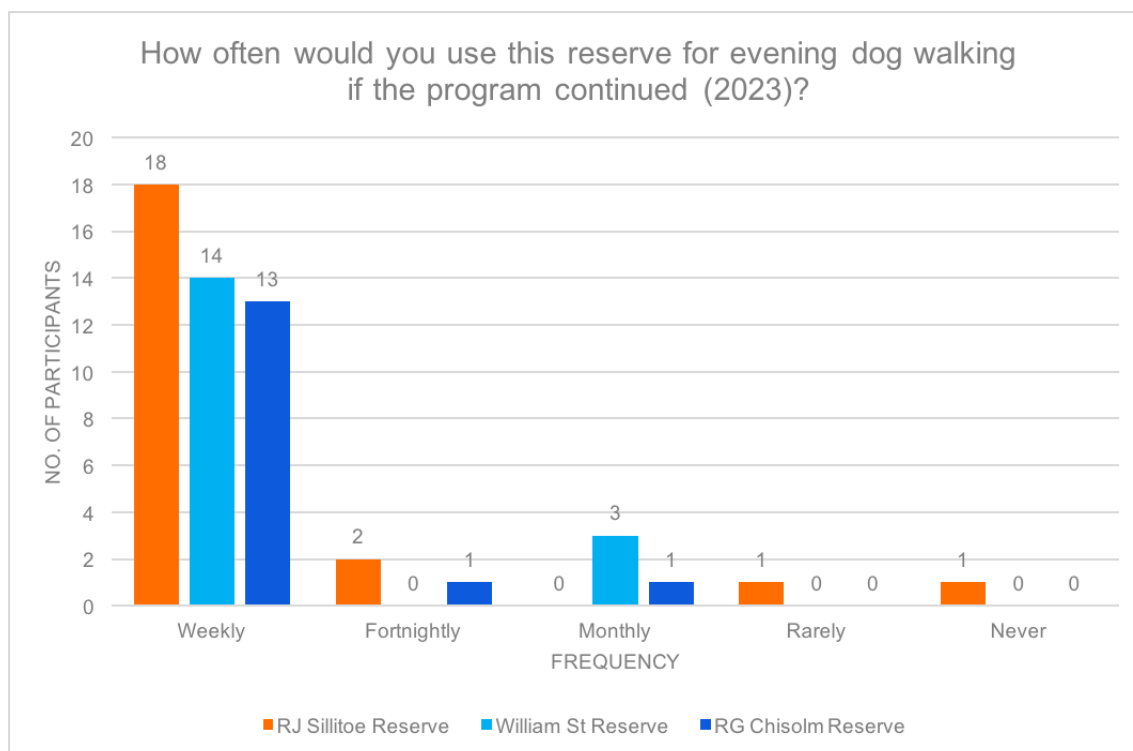
5.3.7 Frequency of use

The following graphs use the 2022 and 2023 data respectively to show how often participants would use the reserve for evening dog walking if the program continued.



Data source: 2022 online survey.

The 2022 data demonstrates how the majority of participants (70/95 - 73.7%) across all 3 reserves voted that they would walk their dog 'weekly'. The distribution of numbers in the chart generally correlates to the support for the project continuing into the next year.



Data source: 2023 online survey.

There was a slight decrease in 'weekly' (45/70 - 64.3%) in 2023, however, this was still by far the frequency with the most votes. Again, the pattern follows the overall support for the continuation of the program into 2024. Participants have shown that they not only support the continuation but have also shown that they would frequently use the selected reserves for evening dog walks.

5.3.8 Dog patrol

The following section is a breakdown and analysis of the dog patrol observations across the two trial periods in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

5.3.9 Observations and community feedback- 2022

The following table is a summary of the observed patrol data during the trial months in 2022:

Reserve	Occasions	Hours of observation data	No. of dogs observed	No. of offences observed	Compliance rate of observed animals (%)
RG Chisholm	6	11 hrs of observational data – sometimes attended 2-up or solo	267	13	95.1
William St	4	9 hrs observational data – sometimes attended 2-up or solo	177	3	98.3
RJ Sillitoe	3	4.3 hrs of observational data – sometimes attended 2-up or solo	149	1	99.3
Total	13	24.3hrs	593	17	Average= 97

Compliance issues observed across all three parks included:

- Two instances of owners not picking up after their dog defecated
- Three instances of dog owners being too close to the playground exclusion
- Four instances of dogs entering the reserve already unleashed
- Eight instances of 'other – non specified' listed as 'Not Under Effective Control'

Community feedback was given on two out of three of the reserves for the 2022 trial period:

RG Chisholm Reserve

- Positive Feedback for the lighting and extended hours, requested more comms to advertise the extensions via social media – specifically Instagram rather than Facebook.

William St

- Positive for the extension, one request was for the lights to come on at 5pm rather than 5:30pm.

- Attendance of officers made some park users feel safer
- Request for more advertisement for the program on socials
- Additional feedback was related to provided gates to the reserve for smaller dogs

5.3.10 Observations - 2023

The following table is a summary of the observed patrol data during the trial months in 2023:

Reserve	Occasions	Hours of observation data	No. of dogs observed	No. of offences observed	Compliance rate of observed animals (%)
RJ Sillitoe	4	6.5 hrs of observational data – sometimes attended 2-up or solo	148	2	99
William St	3	3 hrs of observational data – attended solo	63	1	98
RG Chisholm	2	2 hrs of observational data – attended solo	18	0	100
Total	9	11.5 hrs	229	3	Average=99

The compliance rate was slightly higher in 2023 than 2022, however, there were more than double observational hours in the previous year leaving more scope for observed issues. Overall, the compliance rate of dog walkers and other users was very high at 97-99% across the two different years. It is also important to note that the presence of dog patrol officers could have acted as a deterrent. This means that the data is not fully indicative of the compliance rate of the trials as a whole.

5.3.11 Additional reserves

Participants across both phases of the engagement were asked the open-ended question: 'Are there any other off-leash sportsgrounds you would like Council to consider including in a future program?'.

Data analysis across both 2022 and 2023 trial years indicated, in order of preference:

1. Dendy Park
2. Elsternwick Park
3. Banksia Reserve.

The following table lists other sportsgrounds suggested by participants in 2022:

Sportsground	Number of mentions
Dendy Park	14
Banksia Reserve	4
WL Simpson Reserve, Elsternwick park, Hurlingham Park, Donald MacDonald,	2 mentions each

Royal Avenue, Cheltenham Park, Beaumaris soccer oval	2 mentions each
Bailey House, Halifax, Brighton beachside, Merindah, Ludstone St, Outer Cres Reserve, RG Chisholme	1 mention each

Respondents also mentioned other responses to this question including disagreement with the proposal or felt no need to expand further (16 mentions), and participants wanting extended lighting hours or improved facilities for dogs in general (6 mentions).

Participants also mentioned suburbs or locales that they wished the trial be expanded to including: Beaumaris, Sandringham, Highett, Blackrock and Brighton.

The following table lists other sportsgrounds suggested by participants in 2022:

Sportsgrounds	Number of mentions
Dendy Park	13
Elsternwick Park	6
Wishart Dog Park	4
Tulip St, Fewster Rd, Whyte St, Beaumaris Reserve, Tjilatjirrin Reserve, Royal Avenue Off-leash Park, Halifax, Outer Crescent oval, Donald MacDonald Reserve, Chisholm oval	1 mention each

Participants responding to this question also provided other responses including a desire to extend the hours of operation or other park facilities in Bayside parks generally (9 mentions), participants who disagreed with the initiative and did not want to expand lighting to other parks (6 mentions), and participants who desired further enforcement surrounding dogs if this initiative were to be expanded (3 mentions).

Respondents across all open-ended questions commonly mentioned expanding lighting in parks to general neighbourhoods or suburbs. The suburbs most commonly mentioned were Highett, Castlefield, Blackrock and Beaumaris.

6 Project evaluation

Process Evaluation:	Commentary (2022)	Commentary (2023)
Stakeholder reach - Did the engagement or research reach the stakeholders identified during the project planning stage?	The stakeholder engagement was successful and reached stakeholders identified throughout the project planning phase. Participants included dog owners, resident sport clubs and neighbouring residents to the reserve.	The stakeholders identified in the planning phase were successfully reached in the community engagement phase. Participants included dog owners, dog-owner community groups, resident sports clubs, neighbouring residents (to reserves) and the general Bayside community. As previously mentioned in the report, sports club members were underrepresented especially in comparison to dog walkers despite the fact they

		are key stakeholders. Only 5 participants across the 2023 trial belonged to this group.
Quality of analysis and reporting - Were the findings of the engagement analysed and presented with clarity to Council/ delegated decision maker?	Phase 1 & 2 allowed for interim findings to integrate into the project for refinement.	The demographic questions in the online survey were compulsory for participants to answer in phase 2. This allowed for more specific data analysis of trends based on gender. The success of the three reserves were also trialled in phase 1 and had positive feedback meaning they were continued as the sites in phase 2.
Reliability of data - Was Council or the delegated decision maker confident in the reliability of data?	An ongoing issue from the previous year was the reliability of observed compliance. The dog patrol officers were an inherent deterrent, meaning there could have been a greater lack of compliance rate than recorded.	Furthermore, phase 2 had less hours of observations than phase 1 and a higher compliance rate. The deterrent effect of officers should again be considered in the outcomes of compliance rate across both years.
Age and gender diversity (if appropriate)	Demographics were not answered by any participants in the 2022 survey, meaning this cannot be commented on for this year.	There was a much higher rate of female participation (65.7%) in the trial over male (28.6%) and self-identifying (0%). A higher level of female participation is generally typical for community engagement. In this project in particular, however, safety and lighting were factors meaning the gender distribution of participants is reflective of gendered social issues.
Stakeholder satisfaction - How satisfied were participants with the consultation process?	Satisfaction questions not included in the survey	Survey respondents said that project information was very easy to find and understand (67.1%); mostly easy to find and understand (22.9%); mostly hard to find and understand (1.4%); very hard to find and understand (0%) and 8.6% were unsure.

What have been the short-term impacts of this engagement process? Were these the desired impacts?

The engagement process aimed to receive feedback from stakeholders in the LOFD trials in 2022 and 2023. In particular, it was important to get an understanding of whether the benefits of the program outweighed the wear and tear to reserves as well as the impacts on neighbouring residents. While representation from all stakeholder groups was achieved in the community engagement process, sports club members were underrepresented in the data. Additionally, the tension between sports club members and dog walkers was evident in the data from the community engagement. For the program to be continued or expanded there needs to be correct management of the sites to cater to the needs of these different stakeholder groups. Furthermore, there should be a point of consulting female/gender non conforming participants as safety has been identified as a trend by females in the findings from the 2023 online survey. Across phase 1 and 2, there has been overall support for the project and its continuation.