



# Newport Residents Association Inc.

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Hon. Secretary - (wendydunnet@gmail.com) 0418 161 074  
Hon. Treasurer - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962  
[www.newport.org.au](http://www.newport.org.au)

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16<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Mr Dick Persson,  
Administrator  
Northern Beaches Council  
725 Pittwater Road,  
Dee Why NSW 2099

Dear Mr Persson,

Re: **Unleashed Dog Exercise Areas Review**

We note council's recent proposals to classify four new locations as UDEAs across the Northern Beaches. We believe this is a generous offer, bearing in mind that staff's research found our existing UDEA allocations compare very favourably with those of other LGAs, and, we suggest, that this is particularly so when one considers that UDEAs tend to be "NO GO" areas for the general public and many cautious dog owners .

We have separately completed the "Feedback Form" on this matter, however we feel the need to restate our concerns about the unleashed proponent's publicly advertised dissatisfaction with the proposals and their renewed demands for access to ocean beaches and, in particular, we are concerned about the few vocal ones who may again claim access to both ends of Newport Beach.

The attached copy of our September 2014 submission to Pittwater Council sets out our strong objections to the claims by Pittwater Unleashed for a UDEA at the Northern End of Newport Beach. The specific characteristics of the northern end of Newport Beach are that it is;

- A reserve dedicated to preserving Pittwater's unique natural environment- a memorial to the late Eric green
- A wild life corridor leading to the sanctuary on South Bilgola Headland.
- A sensitive dunes cluster undergoing revegetation by Council, the Green Army and some volunteers from our association.
- Bisected by the Bi-centennial Walkway which is heavily trafficked by local walkers, joggers, and on-leash dog folk, especially early mornings and evenings. It becomes a weekend promenade for families, tourists and all.

- A section of beach and rock platform used by walkers, joggers and sun bathers and the area frequented by Plovers, Cranes and Oyster Catcher families in the early mornings and at dusk. Its dune fringes shelter ground feeding Wagtails, Robins, Silvereyes and occasional Warblers and Honey Eater groups.

It is NO place for free running dogs at any time.

The Southern end of Newport Beach is heavily used by surfers, joggers, walkers and pool swimmers early mornings and evenings. On weekends it is also used by out-of-town beach going families and sun bathers, and it provides access for those young families seeking the safety of a shallow ocean pool. It is also not a place for free running dogs at any time.

We already have problems with owners running their dogs free on the southern end of the beach, with some even encouraging their dogs to swim in the pool. This is most frequent in the evenings. Your assistance to provide Ranger patrols would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler  
President



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23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014

The General Manager,  
Pittwater Council,  
PO Box 882,  
Mona Vale NSW 1660

Dear Sir,

## Re Proposal for allowing Unleashed Dogs on Pittwater Beaches

We refer to the above proposal being considered by council staff at the moment for comment and reporting back to council in November 2014.

This matter has been discussed at recent Newport Resident Association meetings and at the last meeting a motion was carried that the Newport Resident Association wishes to remind Pittwater Council that the northern end of Newport Beach comprises;

- A reserve dedicated to Eric Green's vision of preserving Pittwater's unique natural environment.
- A wildlife corridor leading to the sanctuary on South Bilgola headland.
- A sensitive dune system undergoing re-vegetation.
- A section of the Bi-centennial Coastal Walkway used by international visitors as well as local Pittwater residents and other Australian visitors.

Taking into consideration the above the Newport Residents Association does not believe that the northern end of Newport Beach is suitable for an off-leash dog area.

A general comment and non-specific to Newport it is felt that by mandating certain beaches for off-leash dog areas actually formalises and advertises the fact. This in turn will inundate the area with dogs from not only Pittwater but from other council areas. We understand the proposal is to limit the Pittwater beaches selected to only Pittwater residents but we do not believe this will work in practice and become an area of cost to the council for monitoring and policing.

The Newport Residents Association is certainly not against allowing leashed dogs in the areas currently allowed and many of its members are dog owners and use the current off-leash dedicated areas as well as the current allowed walkways. The Newport Residents Association is also concerned about what the process will be when the report comes before council in November. We do not believe that a trial should be allowed without full community consultation of the details if a trial is recommended and if that were the case Pittwater residents should be given time to make submissions. We would appreciate a response outlining the procedure council would adopt once the report is received in November.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Middleton  
Secretary