



# Newport Residents Association Inc.

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[www.newport.org.au](http://www.newport.org.au)

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30<sup>th</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 Residents Association meetings. At the last meeting, a motion was carried that the Newport Residents 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.
- A very recently installed, semi-permanent, Beach Volley Ball net. As this is very likely to be used pre and post school or work, throughout the year, there is real potential for conflict between unleashed dogs and the Volley Ball players.

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.

As a general comment, and non-specific to Newport, it is felt that by mandating certain beaches for off-leash dog areas, this not only formalises but actively advertises and encourages such usage. In turn, this will inundate the area with dogs from not just Pittwater but from other Council areas. We understand the current proposal is to limit the Pittwater beaches selected, to only Pittwater residents but we do not believe this will work in practice, resulting in this becoming a new 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. If that were to be the case, Pittwater residents should be given time to make submissions, as the submission currently under consideration covers only the views of the supporting dog owners.

We would appreciate a response outlining the procedure Council would adopt once the report is received in November.

Yours sincerely

Peter Middleton  
Secretary  
Newport Residents Association

Cc Cr Sue Young  
Cr Kylie Ferguson