



# Newport Residents Association Inc.

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22nd January 2019

The Chief Executive Officer  
Northern Beaches Council  
PO Box 82  
Manly, NSW 1655

Dear Sir,

## Station Beach Trial Dog Off Leash Area

The Newport Residents Association (NRA) has considered the information council has provided with regard to the above trial.

The members of the NRA acknowledge that this trial is not located in the Newport area, however as the members are always concerned with the protection of the total Pittwater environment we would like to raise a number of aspects of this trial that concern the members, as follows;

1. Station Beach at Palm Beach is one of the last pristine untouched environmentally attractive areas of Pittwater and the Northern Beaches and is an iconic Pittwater tourist attraction which could not be practically shared with the public and off-leashed dogs at the same time.
2. We do not consider that any decision for a proposed trial should be contemplated until the updated Review of Environmental Factors, Ornithological Report and survey of the existing seagrass have been provided, as this is such an environmentally sensitive area.
3. Whilst council has attempted to limit the times allowed for off-leashed dogs during the trial period to as follows;

4:00pm – 10:30am, 7 days a week during Australian Eastern Standard Time

5:30pm – 10:30am, Monday to Friday during Australian Eastern Daylight Time (in the summer)

We believe that before 5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard time and after 7.30am either Australian Eastern Standard time or Summer Daylight Savings time it is still not appropriate for dogs to be running off-leashed along Station Beach for the safety

and convenience of both the public and the users of the adjoining Palm Beach golf course

4. Parking at the southern end of the Station Beach is very limited given it is currently the main parking area for users of the golf course. The competition for parking spaces between the dog owners and the golfers after 7.30am in the mornings will, in our opinion, create a lot of angst.
5. Currently there is no fence between Station Beach and the Palm Beach golf course and therefore the grassed area of the golf course will become very attractive for an off-leashed dog. Without a fence it would be impossible to stop unleashed dogs running over the course. One of the attractions of the golf course is that there is no fence between the course and Pittwater and it would be a great shame to ruin that ambience by constructing same.
6. We note that council is having experts conduct a survey of the seagrass beds issues and we look forward to reading the resulting report. We note the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries have said in their comments with regard to this trial *'that dogs must not be allowed to run through seagrass beds at low tide'*. We would be doubtful that this restriction could actually work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Butler', is written over a light green rectangular background.

Gavin Butler  
President