



# Public Agenda Briefing Forum

Notes

7 October 2025

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**1. Official Opening**

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 6:32pm and welcomed Councillors, Staff, Members of the Public Gallery and those watching via live stream. The Presiding Member also acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet the Whadjuk Noongar people.

**2. Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Mayor

Margaret Thomas JP

Councillors

**South East Ward**

John Giardina

Geoff Stallard (Presiding Member)

**South West Ward**

Mary Cannon (online)

**North West Ward**

Lisa Cooper

Dylan O'Connor

**North Ward**

Kathy Ritchie

David Modolo (online)

Members of Staff

**Chief Executive Officer**

Anthony Vuleta - Chief Executive Officer

**Executive Team**

Sinead McGuire - Director Asset Services

Luke Ellis - Director Community Services

Gary Ticehurst - Director Corporate Services

Nathan Ritchie - Director Development Services

**Management Team**

Rhonda Bowman - Manager Governance

Jane Hogeveen - Manager People and Culture

Darren Jones - Manager Recreation and Leisure

Freya Ayliffe - Manager Community Hubs and Safety

**Staff**

Nic Daxter - Leisure Planning Project Manager

**Consultant**

Dr Suzanne Goodman - Goodman Solutions

**Administration Support**

Sarah de Jong - Executive Assistant to Director Development

**Members of the Public 0**

**Members of the Press 0**

**Apologies** Cr Brooke O'Donnell

**Leave of Absence Previously Approved** Nil.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

**3.1. Disclosure of Financial and Proximity Interests**

- a. Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matter to be discussed at the meeting. (Section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.)
- b. Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting. (Section 5.70 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.)

**3.1.1 Financial Interest – Anthony Vuleta – Chief Executive Officer**

Item 10.5.1 – CEO Performance Review

**Nature:** Mr Anthony Vuleta declared a financial interest as the item affects conditions of his employment.

**3.2. Disclosure of Interest Affecting Impartiality**

- a. Members and staff must disclose their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting in respect of which the member or employee had given or will give advice.

3.2.1 Nil

**4. Announcements by the Member Presiding Without Discussion**

4.1 Nil

**5. Public Question Time**

Public questions will be allowed and received following the presentation of the report.

**6. Public Statement Time**

Public statements will be allowed and received following the presentation of the report.

**7. Public Submissions Received in Writing**

7.1 Nil.

**8. Petitions Received**

8.1 Nil.

**9. Confidential Items Announced But Not Discussed**

9.1 Item 10.5.1 – CEO Performance Review

*Note: Item listed on Confidential Agenda at 10.5.1*

Reason for Confidentiality: Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.23 (2) (a) – “a matter affecting an employee of employees.”

**10. Reports to Council**

**10.1. Development Reports**

No reports presented

**10.2. Infrastructure Reports**

No reports presented

**10.3. Corporate Reports**

No reports presented

## **10.4. Community Reports**

### **10.4.1. Enclosed Dog Park Needs Assessment - In Response to Community Request in Wattle Grove**

*Declaration of financial / conflict of interests to be recorded prior to dealing with each item.*

A presentation on Enclosed Dog Park Needs Assessment - In Response to Community Request in Wattle Grove was provided by Nic Daxter, Leisure Planning Project Manager. The assessment aims to guide future planning and provision of enclosed dog parks across the City.

The Mayor sought clarification on how the City will find and engage with interested community leaders.

Director Community noted that within the attachment to the report, approximate timeframes have been outlined for Gooseberry Hill and Kalamunda by 2026–2027 and Lesmurdie and Walliston by 2030–2031. This long-term approach provides adequate time to seek community feedback. It is expected that once the Wattle Grove Dog Park is established, residents will see the opportunity and what can be contributed. Additionally, Place Leaders have been appointed within the City to begin engaging with residents to determine readiness and how the City can assist.

Clarification was also sought regarding how the City will ensure inclusive engagement for public consultation, not just feedback from dog park users or supporters.

The Leisure Planning Project Manager confirmed that broader community consultation will be undertaken before any changes are made to off-leash access areas and only existing gazetted sites (already approved for dog use) will be considered. For sites not currently gazetted, any future off-lead dog areas would involve detailed consultation through the planning process, the public open space process or targeted community engagement before changes are made.

Clarification was also sought regarding the accessibility differences between district and neighbourhood parks.

The Leisure Planning Project Manager confirmed that the intent is to ensure accessibility across all levels of dog parks, with higher standards applying to district-level parks due to their scale.

Clarification was sought regarding the reference to Elmore Dog Park in the financial considerations section of the report.

It was confirmed that the figure noted is the estimated replacement value of the park and not an upgrade commitment.

Councillors acknowledged both staff and Councillors for their collaborative and proactive approach. The analysis of community needs was viewed positively and particular praise was given to the Wattle Grove Town Team for their role in leading community engagement on the first dog park project.

Previous Items	OCM 2025/66
Directorate	Community Services
Business Unit	Recreation and Leisure
File Reference	
Applicant	
Owner	
Attachments	1. Dog Park - Enclosed Dog Park & Off Lead Exercise Area - Needs assessment [ <b>10.4.1.1</b> - 28 pages]

**TYPE OF REPORT**

Advocacy	When Council is advocating on behalf of the community to another level of government/body/agency
Executive	When Council is undertaking its substantive role of direction setting and oversight (e.g. accepting tenders, adopting plans and budgets
✓ Information	For Council to note
Legislative	Includes adopting Local Laws, Town Planning Schemes and Policies. When Council determines a matter that directly impacts a person’s rights and interests where the principles of natural justice apply. Examples include town planning applications, building licences, other permits or licences issued under other Legislation or matters that could be subject to appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal

**STRATEGIC PLANNING ALIGNMENT**

*Kalamunda Advancing Strategic Community Plan to 2031*

**Priority 1: Kalamunda Cares and Interacts**

**Objective 1.2** - To provide a safe and healthy environment for community to enjoy.

**Strategy** - 1.2.3 Provide high quality and accessible recreational and social spaces and facilities.

**Strategy 1.2.2** - Advocate and promote healthy lifestyle choices by encouraging the community to become more active citizens.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an assessment on the need for enclosed dog parks and off-lead dog exercise areas across the City, in response to a community led petition for a new dog park in Wattle Grove.
2. A needs assessment was undertaken as provided in Attachment One that identified the City has:
  1. Sufficient district level enclosed dog parks to meet current and future population projections through to 2046.
  2. A distribution and accessibility gap for enclosed dog parks at a Neighbourhood level in the hills suburbs.
  3. A gap in the City's provision of dog exercise areas in:
    - a. High Wycombe south;
    - b. Wattle Grove south;
    - c. Sections of Forrestfield; and
    - d. Pickering Brook (pending population thresholds)
3. It is recommended that Council:
  1. ADOPT the needs assessment including the standards of provision to guide future development as per Attachment One.
  2. ENDORSE the City engaging with interested community leaders / parties to investigate and plan the development of two new neighbourhood level enclosed dog parks at existing gazetted sites within:
    - Kalamunda / Gooseberry Hill
    - Lesmurdie / Walliston
  3. ENDORSE the City conducting location assessments to identify future off-lead dog exercise areas to inform strategic land use planning within the areas of:
    - High Wycombe south
    - Wattle Grove south
    - Sections of Forrestfield
    - Pickering Brook (Pending population thresholds)

## BACKGROUND

4. At the Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) held on 25 March 2025 a petition was presented to Council requesting an investigation into the suitability of an enclosed dog park in Wattle Grove. The basis for the request is that Wattle Grove does not currently have an enclosed dog park, with dog owners having to drive to surrounding areas within the City.



5. At the OCM held on 27 May 2025, Council resolved to request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to Council by October 2025 on:
1. A suburb-based priority ranking on the need for enclosed dog parks within the City.
  2. A standard of provision for enclosed dog parks within the City with an indicative costing.
  3. A recommended approach to program the install of enclosed dog parks within the City.

6. In response to the community petition, the City undertook a preliminary assessment that identified a potential need for an enclosed dog park in Wattle Grove, thus supporting a community led enclosed dog park in Wattle Grove, however noting a City-wide strategic assessment was planned.

The enclosed dog park will be constructed on the Promenade Public Open Space (POS) (also referred to as Lenihan Reserve), Wattle Grove, which is an existing permitted dog exercise area. The community-led project is progressing well, making use of recycled fencing and material from an existing site within the City, supporting both sustainability and cost-efficiency.

A community design day will be held on site on 25 October, with construction/build day scheduled to occur on 8 November 2025.

The project is a strong example of a cost-effective approach to achieving positive community outcomes, driven and led by the community itself.

## **DETAILS AND ANALYSIS**

7. The City has now completed a City wide needs assessment into the provision of enclosed dog parks and off-lead dog exercise areas as provided in Attachment One.
8. Enclosed dog parks are defined as spaces that are enclosed by a fence with various amenities provided, whereas an off-lead dog exercise area is a public open space that allows dogs to exercise off lead.
9. The needs assessment process involved the following:
- a review of industry standards, to determine applicable facility hierarchies and catchments;
  - analysis into City demographics and dog registration rates;
  - a review of existing facilities provided;
  - a benchmark review of the type and quantity of facilities provided in other local governments;

- development of a standards of provision relevant to the City's unique geography and residential density; and
- analysis of catchment mapping to determine facility distribution and accessibility.

### **Enclosed Dog Park Assessment Findings**

10. The City currently provides three enclosed dog parks including:

- Elmore Dog Park, located off Elmore Way, High Wycombe
- Hales Dog Park, located off Crimson Boulevard, Forrestfield
- Promenade POS site, located off Hale Road, Wattle Grove

The Wattle Grove Dog Park (Promenade POS) was initiated from a community led petition, resulting in the City supporting the community to develop a low cost / small scale project. It is planned for installation in late 2025.

11. The 2023 community engagement surveys on dog exercises areas identified that 83% of the 203 survey respondents supported more enclosed dog parks, particularly within hills suburbs.

12. The review into relevant industry standards identified that there is limited guidance for local governments to guide the quantity and type of enclosed dog parks in Perth, Western Australia. As such, the City conducted a benchmark assessment of six other Perth metropolitan, local governments, which determined that on the basis of population, on average one enclosed dog park is provided for every 35,000 residents.

13. Industry standards supported the classification of both Elmore Way Dog Park and the Hales Dog Park as district level amenities, as they attract a higher level of users due to its size and quality of the amenity. The Wattle Grove Dog Park is a neighbourhood level as it is smaller in size and quality.

14. Based on a current estimated City population of 64,570 and a forecast population of 73,445 to 2046, the City is sufficiently provisioned for district level dog parks when applying the benchmark standard of 1:35,000. The catchment mapping analysis however identified a gap in the hills suburbs based on accessibility and distribution of amenity at a neighbourhood level. The mapping further evidences that the foothills suburbs are well serviced for enclosed dog parks.

15. In order to address the accessibility and distribution gap in the hills suburbs it is proposed to engage with interested community leaders / parties to investigate and plan the development of two new neighbourhood level enclosed dog parks at existing gazetted sites within Kalamunda / Gooseberry Hill and Lesmurdie / Walliston.

### Off-Lead Dog Exercise Areas Findings

16. The City has 24 gazetted off lead dog exercise areas, that are geographically spread across the City's public open space network, while there are seven dog prohibited areas.
17. Local governments across Perth use the State Governments Public Open Space Classification Framework to classify its various Public Open Spaces. The framework provides a guide to the purpose, function, accessibility, size, hierarchy and design public open space.
18. In assessment of the framework an 800m catchment radius is determined as being an appropriate walkability catchment for off lead Dog Exercise Areas.
19. Mapping analysis of the 24 gazetted exercise areas identified that the hills suburbs are well serviced, whilst there are identified gaps in several areas including High Wycombe south, sections of Forrestfield, Wattle Grove south and Pickering Brook subject to future population thresholds.
20. In order to address the accessibility and distribution gap in the hills suburbs it is proposed to conduct location assessments for future off lead dog exercise areas to inform strategic land use planning in those areas.

### Standards of Provision

21. A standards of provision for enclosed dog parks and off lead dog exercise areas as per Table 1 has been developed to guide future planning and development within the City.

Table 1: Standards of provision for enclosed dog parks and off lead dog exercise areas

Hierarchy	Catchment / Distance	Type of Dog Exercise Areas	Minimum Requirements
<b>Local</b>	800m catchment	Off lead dog exercise areas only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Bins &amp; Bag dispenses</li> </ul>
<b>Neighbourhood (Community led)</b>	1.5km catchment 15 min walk 5–10-minute drive	Off lease dog exercise areas & small scale enclosed do parks (0.2-0.5ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost approach</li> <li>• Fenced/Enclosed Area</li> <li>• Bench/seating</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Bins &amp; Bag dispenses</li> </ul>
<b>District</b>	3km catchment 30min walk 15 minute drive	Off lease dog exercise areas & Medium scale enclosed do parks (0.5 to 1ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fenced/Enclosed Area</li> <li>• Dual dog areas</li> <li>• Dual lock gates/entry</li> <li>• Agility equipment</li> <li>• Bench/seating</li> <li>• Signage</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bins &amp; Bag dispenses</li> <li>• Accessible pathways</li> <li>• Car parking</li> </ul>
<b>Regional</b>	Regional level provision is considered beyond the City's capacity and responsibility to provide, therefore provision should be focused at a Neighbourhood and District level.		

### Strategic Directions

22. Based on the above needs assessment analysis and findings the below strategic directions have been developed to guide future decision making in relation to enclosed dog parks and off lead dog exercise areas.
23. Enclosed Dog Parks
- The City has sufficient district level dog parks to meet current and future population projections through to 2046.
  - The City has a distribution and accessibility gap for access to enclosed dog parks at a neighbourhood level in the hills suburbs.
24. Dog Exercise Areas
- There is a gap in the City's provision of dog exercise areas in:
    - High Wycombe south;
    - Wattle Grove south;
    - sections of Forrestfield; and
    - Pickering Brook (Pending future population thresholds).

### APPLICABLE LAW

25. *Local Government Act 1995*  
*Dog Act 1976*

### APPLICABLE POLICY

26. Nil.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

27. Community engagement was undertaken with the community in 2021 and 2023 on the Dog Exercise Management Areas Plan, with the key findings summarised in paragraph 11 of the report.

28. Officers have worked closely with the lead members of the Wattle Grove dog park petition to plan for the new low cost community led enclosed dog park.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

29. The most recent District level enclosed dog park project undertaken by the City was the Elmore Dog Park, which began in 2018 and was completed in 2021. The current replacement value is estimated at \$513,000 in 2025.
30. The neighbourhood level community led enclosed dog park approach is a place making initiative that aims to provide safe and suitable public amenities at a low cost. This low cost approach can be achieved through the donation of construction labour and materials and/or repurposing of materials in collaboration with community.
31. The estimated cost to the City for providing an additional neighbourhood level community led enclosed dog parks is \$5,000 - \$10,000 each. The estimated life cycle value of each is estimated at \$41,000 over 30 years.
32. It should be noted that whilst the City will be responsible for ongoing maintenance costs, this may potentially be reduced (in comparison to other park maintenance) due to the enhanced community ownership and care of the space.

## SUSTAINABILITY

33. The neighbourhood level community led enclosed dog park approach encourages sustainability through the repurposing and recycling of suitable materials.
34. Facilities such as fenced dog exercise areas encourage responsible pet ownership, promotes healthy pets and pet owners and creates safer, more cohesive communities.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

- 35.
- |  |                   |               |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Risk:</b> Without a City wide needs assessment and development of strategic directions for enclosed dog parks future development will be ad hoc and unsustainable for the City. |                   |               |
| <b>Consequence</b>   | <b>Likelihood</b> | <b>Rating</b> |
| Significant  | Possible          | High          |
| <b>Action/Strategy</b>   |                   |               |

The City has now undertaken a City wide needs assessment that identified strategic directions to guide future decision making and provision levels for enclosed dog parks and dog exercise areas across the City.

## CONCLUSION

36. The City has completed a City wide needs assessment into the provision of enclosed dog parks and off-lead dog exercise areas as provided in Attachment One.
37. The needs assessment identified that:
- The City has sufficient district level dog parks to meet current and future population projections through to 2046.
  - The City has a distribution and accessibility gap for access to enclosed dog parks at a neighbourhood level in the hills suburbs, which is to be achieved through a low cost / community led approach, similar to the Wattle Grove Dog Park.
  - There is a gap in the City's provision of dog exercise areas in:
    - High Wycombe south;
    - Wattle Grove south;
    - sections of Forrestfield; and
    - Pickering Brook (Pending future population thresholds).

### Voting Requirements: Simple Majority

## RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. ADOPT the needs assessment including the standards of provision to guide future development as per Attachment One.
2. ENDORSE the City engaging with interested community leaders / parties to investigate and plan the development of two new neighbourhood level enclosed dog parks at existing gazetted sites within:
  - Kalamunda / Gooseberry Hill
  - Lesmurdie / Walliston
3. ENDORSE the City conducting location assessments to identify future off-lead dog exercise areas to inform strategic lane use planning within the areas of:
  - High Wycombe south
  - Wattle Grove south
  - Sections of Forrestfield
  - Pickering Brook (Pending population thresholds)



**10.5. Office of the CEO Reports**

**10.5.1. CEO Performance Review**

*Note: Item listed on Confidential Agenda at 10.5.1*

Reason for Confidentiality: *Local Government Act 1995 Section 5.23 (2) (a) – “a matter affecting an employee of employees.”*

Discussed behind closed doors at 6.53pm.

**11. Closure**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.53pm.