



FRIENDS OF BUDDINA LTD.

ACN 636 176 764

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2023 submission: Proposed amendments to Local Laws - Pt Cartwright

Friends of Buddina make this submission to the Proposed amendments to Local Laws - Pt Cartwright recreation area. Our response to Question 7 was “Disagree” as a balance of the components that we do support (Agree) and others that we do not support (Strongly Disagree).

Friends of Buddina (we) support and agree with:

- the intention for *Dog Access* along all designated pathways and open space to be **on-leash, at all times** as mapped on the *Consolidated Reference Map* (Point Cartwright Master Plan);
- the intention for *Dog Access* on *Coastal Reserve* land, to be **prohibited** (except for the Beach Access walkways where *all dogs must be kept on a leash, at all times*) – along the eastern beach as mapped on the *Consolidated Reference Map* (Point Cartwright Master Plan);
- an altered position by Council and a modification to the proposed Local Law amendment within the Pt Cartwright mapped area for *Dog Access*:
 - (i) **on-leash, at all times** along the northern beach and the rocky headland (BA196-BA198); **OR**
 - (ii) **retention of the current access** along the northern beach (Carties BA196-BA197);

AND, in addition

 - (iii) **on-leash, at all times** along the eastern beach (BA198-BA201).

Friends of Buddina (we) do **NOT** support and strongly disagree with:

- the intention for *Dog Access* on the northern beach (Carties BA196-BA197) to be **prohibited**;
- the intention for *Dog Access* on the headland and rocky foreshore (BA197-BA198) to be **prohibited**;
- the intention for *Dog Access* on the eastern beach (BA198-BA201) to be **off-leash, at all times**
- the mapping labelled SLL 2.5.19 (as presented) and propose this map be modified to remove the prohibition between BA196 to BA198 and further modified to reflect **our supported position**, noted as alternative options (i) or (ii) plus the addition of (iii), noted above.

Our position We acknowledge that provisions for dog access within this recreational park will change. We propose Council adopts a middle-ground approach that supports environmental considerations, but without the harsh prohibitions.

A more palatable outcome for the community, as a whole, might include dogs **on-leash, at all times** with **prohibition only applying in the area designated as Littoral forest (at risk) and the Coastal Reserve**, excluding the pathways through these 2 areas for which *Dog Access* is on-leash, at all times.

Community expectations for a recreational park include reasonable restrictions for Matters of Environmental Significance (MSES) plus adoption of the vision of the Council’s Environment and Liveability Strategy.

We note that Pt Cartwright “reserve” is largely zoned Open Space and is a “**reserve**” in name only. It does not have the same conservation zoning status that applies to the Buddina beach foreshore Coastal reserve which is both a “reserve” in name and as zoned. The proposed prohibitions generally apply to designated *Environmental Management and Conservation Zones* (such as the Buddina beach foreshore Coastal reserve) and not to an Open Space zoning of a *district recreational park*, such as Pt Cartwright.

In its current form, these *Proposed Dog Access changes*, as mapped, do **NOT** reflect the recommendations in the versions of the Environmental Values report and Recreational Values report that were shared during community consultation of the Draft Master Plan, noting the Master Plan reflects some variants.



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- Those key recommendations of the Environmental Values Report are outlined from page 31-39 which states, with reference to 5.6 Dog Access: “..... the requirement for all dogs to be on leads and to remain with their owners within the reserve.”
The Environmental Values Report does **NOT** recommend prohibition of dogs on the northern beach (BA196-BA197) **NOR** the Rocky Headland (BA197-BA198).
- The inconsistencies with the external consultants’ advice in the Environmental Values Report is concerning. The scientific research and empirical evidence does not support such a divergent position that devalues the eastern beach whilst elevating the environmental values of the northern beach and rocky headland.
- The proposed prohibition of dogs on the northern beach (Carties BA196-BA197) **and** the Rocky Headland BA197-BA198) whilst also proposing off-leash, at all times on the eastern beach appears “confused”. Council’s own mapping tools clearly identifies the MSES values along the northern beach and the rocky headland are substantially less than the MSES values along the eastern beach at Buddina.

Proposed Local Law changes create a HIGH RISK to Matters of Environmental Significance (MSES) along the Buddina eastern beach from BA198 to BA201.

The *eastern beach from BA198 to BA201* is the most densely nested beach habitat by endangered loggerhead turtles on the Sunshine Coast. There are also shorebirds utilising this same section of beach. The environmental values for the *eastern beach from BA198 to BA201*, as mapped on Council’s website, are significantly higher than the northern beach and rocky headland (BA196-BA198). Endangered loggerhead turtle nesting numbers are also a clear indication that the priority beach for protection should have been the eastern beach.

Removal of off-leash *Dog Access* from the Pt Cartwright recreational park (by limiting access) will result in some retention of those visits, but on-leash. However, concurrently and by default, off-leash dogs are highly likely to be redirected to the *eastern beach from BA198 to BA201* as the alternative, unless *Dog Access* is also restricted to on-leash, at all times.

Any added “load” to an already fragile beach has significant environmental implications plus workplace health and safety implications for the TurtleCare volunteers to whom Council also has a duty of care and responsibility to ensure a safe and healthy workplace on the eastern beach.

Conclusion

We propose Council adopts a middle-ground approach that supports both environmental considerations and community expectations.

Environmental considerations ought to be based on scientific and empirical evidence, as reflected in Council’s own mapping and the external consultant’s report recommendations. The term “migratory shorebirds” ought not be confused with endemic and resident shorebirds.

A more palatable outcome for the community, as a whole, might include dogs **on-leash, at all times** with **prohibitions only applying in the area designated as Littoral forest (at risk) and the Coastal Reserve**, excluding the pathways through these 2 areas with *Dog Access* is on-leash, at all times.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback through this consultation process.