

Fawkner Dog Park

New dog park



Merri-bek
City Council

Consultation summary report

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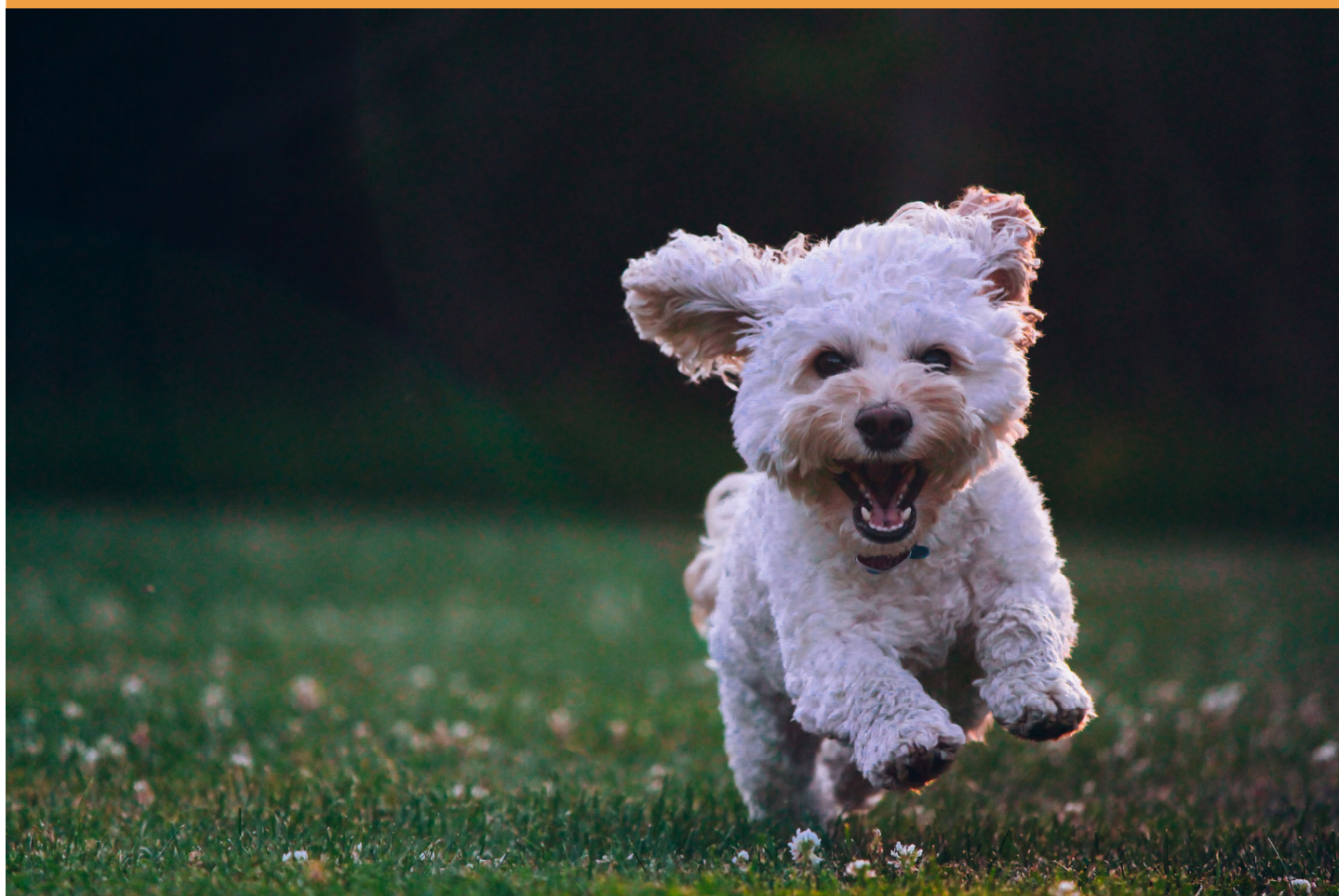
December 2022

Revision A

Revision A: voting exercise: November 2022

Revision B: draft concept plan

Revision C: final concept plan



Fawkner Dog Park – new dog park

Consultation summary report

December 2022

Following a council resolution in 2021 to provide two dog parks in the north in Glenroy and Fawkner, Council asked residents in these areas to vote for their preferred location out of three choices for Glenroy and three choices for Fawkner.

This report provides a summary of the Fawkner dog park consultation.

1. Background

Council's Open Space Design and Development unit are conducting two consultation phases with the local community for a new dog park in Fawkner, these being:

- Voting exercise

Council have asked the community in Fawkner in which of the three possible locations would they like their new dog park.

- Draft Concept Plan Consultation

Having determined the location from the voting exercise, Council will develop a draft concept plan for this new dog park.

- Final Concept Plan Consultation

This final concept plan will reflect changes from the draft concept plan, incorporating the community's feedback where possible. This final concept plan will close the consultation process, prior to the team proceeding to detailed design.

Consultation timings

Voting exercise: 6 November – 9 December 2022

Draft concept plan consultation: December 2022 – January 2023 (dates to be confirmed)

Final concept plan issued: February 2023 (dates to be confirmed).

For the voting exercise, postcards were distributed to households within 1km of each of the three possible locations, inviting them to vote. Letters were also emailed and posted to all registered dog owners in the north of Merri-Bek municipality, providing the same information.

For the draft concept plan consultation, postcards will be distributed to households within 1km of the selected location, advising residents that they can provide feedback on Council's website <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-parks-north>. Posters will also be displayed at the selected location, showing the draft concept plan and inviting people's responses.

The final concept plan will be displayed on site following completion of feedback on the draft concept plan. Thereafter the Open Space Design and Development team can proceed to detailed design.

2. Voting Exercise Feedback Findings

Council proposed three possible locations in Fawkner for a new dog park, these being: Moomba Park, Lorne Street and Jukes Road.

Moomba Park was the overwhelming choice from the voting exercise, gaining 126 points.

Lorne Street received 75 points and Jukes Road 39 points. There were 4 votes for other locations in Fawkner.

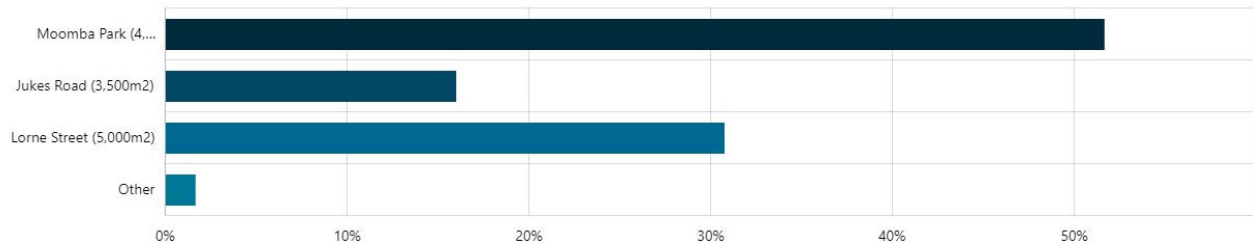


Figure 1: Graph showing voting results.

In addition to the voting exercise we also asked additional questions for each of the possible locations, which will help us shape the draft concept plan. Below is a chart showing results for Moomba Park:

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FEATURES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU FOR MOOMBA PARK?

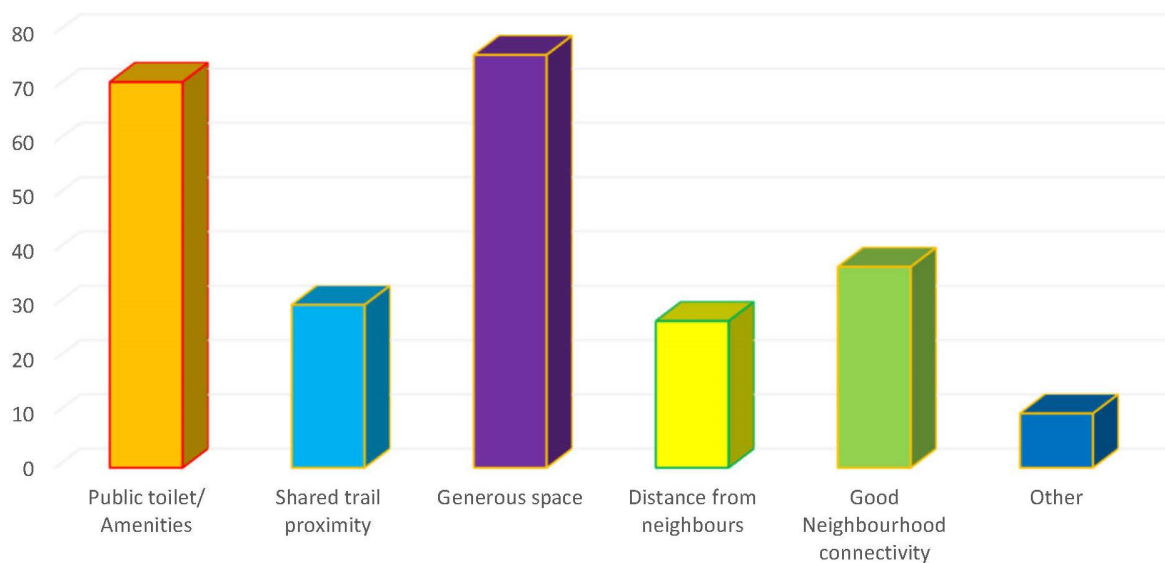


Figure 2: Graph showing importance of given features at Moomba Park.

This shows us that having a public toilet and amenities is the most important for this site, followed by having a generous amount of space available for the dog park.

Other requirements that local residents provided include the following:

- Include a segregated area for small dogs
- Provide drinking fountains with dog bowls

- Provide shade for humans (and dogs)
- Provide sufficient seating and bins
- Include signage showing dog park etiquette
- Consider a segregated area for small or nervous dogs
- Provide a larger space for bigger dogs to run around in
- Consider agility equipment and also land forms (mounds etc) to provide interest
- Provide a double gate entry system to prevent dogs escaping
- Consider safety for women using the dog parks
- Include trees for shade (and interest)
- Keep grass cut low to reduce allergies for dogs (and humans).

We will endeavour to address as many of these requirements as possible in the Fawkner dog park design.

3. Draft Concept Plan Consultation Feedback Findings

Consultation feedback from this stage will be included here.

4. Final Concept Plan

A summary of the final concept plan will be added once it has been completed.

5. Next Steps

The Open Space Design and Development team are developing a draft concept plan, using feedback received from the voting exercise stage. Once ready this draft plan will be displayed to the community including alerts by postcard and on posters, inviting review responses.

The final concept plan will then be developed, reflecting feedback on the draft concept plan. Thereafter the Open Space team will produce detailed design and procure materials so can construct with intention of completing works before end June 2023.

6. Further information

Any questions can be directed to Council's Open Space Design & Development Unit via email openspace@merri-bek.vic.gov.au or by phoning 9240 111.

7. Appendix

Below are all feedback received from the community for each stage of consultation for the Fawkner Dog Park and images of the posters and postcards issued.

7a Voting Exercise



For more information contact Council's Open Space team:

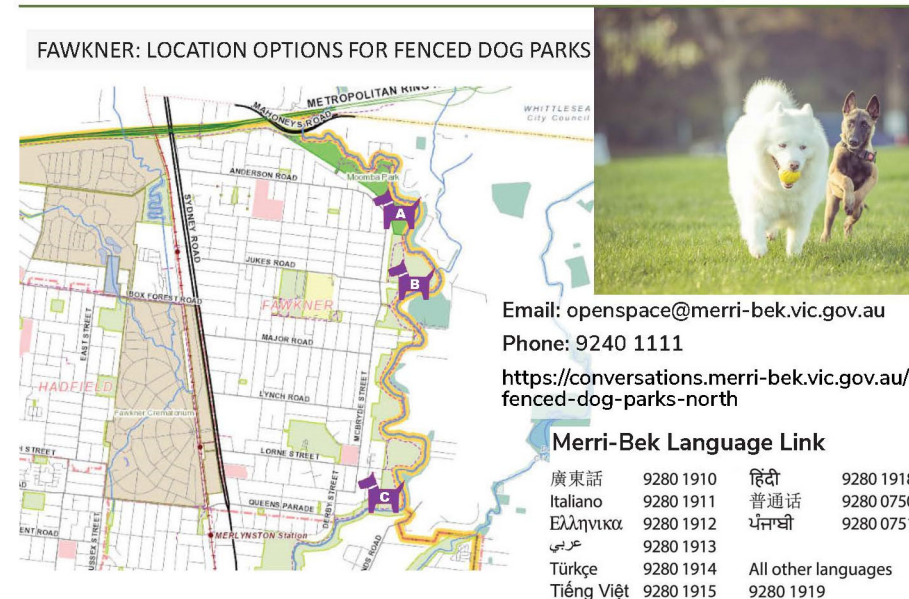


Figure 3: Postcards issued to households within 1km of each of the three possible locations.

Voting Exercise Consultation Responses

The following are responses to the voting exercise for the Fawkner dog park from 6 November – 9 December 2022:

Moomba Park: 126 points

Lorne Street: 75 points

Jukes Road 39 points

Other: 4 points.

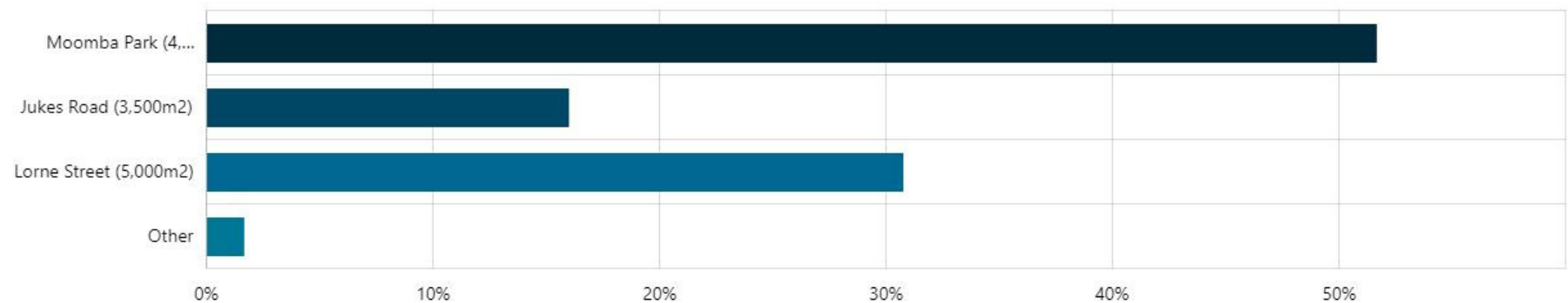


Figure 4: Graph showing votes for each of the three possible locations.

Below are other feedback received for the new dog park:

Feedback
While I think Jukes Road is better position for closer access to more people to walk to in Fawkner with their dogs, Moomba Park has a car park and better facilities. Close to popular picnic area and childrens playground.
Lorne Street location is close to where I saw a swamp wallaby (and I think this was where a wallaby was chased by dogs and mauled)
Please include a segregated area for small dogs.

Feedback
This area can become quite muddy, please ensure it has appropriate drainage.
In regards to shade you could build some small shelters with bench seats underneath. Craigieburn dog park has this and it works well.
I don't have any particular preference so will not vote but please have plenty of parking because all sites will need to be driven to.
<p>Thanks for your options but none of your options are acceptable!!! You have provided no safety options for women who need to walking their dogs!!! So basic!! It'd be very easy to allow people who are responsible pet owners to exercise their pets (necessary for their needs) within a safe environment.... Instead you go to extremes to counter that option !!! You're very misinformed and underestimate the problem!!!</p> <p>While Jukes Road is my preferred option, one of the problems with all three options is 'poor passive surveillance' - in other words poor safety for women. Several middle aged women, including myself feel too unsafe to use the current Moomba Park space after being intimidated by men on dirt bikes, and this area isn't any better. We would like 2 hours per day (preferably 6-8am) of the fenced second oval at CB Smith reserve to be made available to dog walkers, especially women dog walkers. I know you will say that you think dog poo is an issue, but this group of middle aged women were using this soccer space for a long time, and picking up our dog's poo for a long time before the recent new signs went up. This allowed us to socialise as well as our dogs. Now we are missing those community connections and you are pushing us to unsafe areas. You are laying the groundwork for another attack like the one near CERES market garden a couple of years ago.</p>
MOOMBA PARK IS PERFECT LOCATION
<p>I am a dog owner who would use this park regularly and do not want it at Lorne St. Even though this location is the closest to my house, there is not enough parking as the streets are all cul-de-sacs. We already have a major problem with traffic and off-lead dogs. As a resident, I do not want the traffic or mess associated with the dog park. Moomba Park is the best option because it's larger, has better parking availability, and will have the toilet facilities.</p> <p>I think its important to have public toilet and parking .. the imaroo st is a tiny street and this site is not good as there is no parking and that area is prone to flooding (the bin chickens love to congregate in the field)</p>
Dogs are perceived as predators by many species of wildlife. Attracting more dogs to the Merri Creek Parklands and Trail by constructing a fenced dog park would negatively impact on this important wildlife habitat and movement corridor. The Jukes Rd option is least preferable in this regard because it is a significant bird habitat area. Charles Mutton Reserve, an existing off leash park, is closer to more residents than the Lorne St option and would have minimal wildlife impacts.
A large space for small and shy dogs and not just a little pen for those and a huge area for big dogs. The new dog park at Edwards Lake in Reservoir is a Great example on what a fantastic dog park looks like and gives space for all dogs to have fun
Trees planted to provide shade
This site (and option 2) is more centrally located for everyone to access by walking there. Moomba Park is already a designated off leash area. Shade, access to water and an area that feels safe for owners is important. This area is the most open to visually see across and assess the space.
Car park space for driving, close to the creek for walking there/back, already a dog drinking station, close to playground for kids, nice area of the creek

Feedback
I know funds would be limited but I feel as though option 1 and 3 would both be well utilised and appreciated but the community
Enough bench seats for owners. Grass so the dogs don't get too dirty when it has rained. Water fountain w dog bowl.
Dog poo bags to be readily available and good fencing around dog area
Toilets are the main thing space as well as an owner of dog myself they need space to run around so my preference is Moomba park
Some signage about good shared behaviour, gates that close properly so there are no escapees. Maybe a coffee cart on weekends to celebrate when it opens so humans can socialize too, activating the park will make it feel safer because there is not much passive surveillance from the residential area. I'm moving to Fawkner soon, and chose my new home because of its location to Moomba park. My doggo and I are so excited it will be a dog park! Thankyou Merri bek Xx"
Some sort of water fountain/tap so that the dogs can have water to drink please.
Divide the area into two sections - a smaller section for small dogs, and a larger section for large dogs. Refer to Alf Pearce Dog Park in Strathmore.
A lot of dog owners in Fawkner are selfish. This combined with the number of people obtaining lockdown dogs has resulted in an increase in dog attacks, dog rushes, and dogs off lead on the shared Merri creek path. The Jukes road site should not be used as it is too close to the shared path and dog owners don't do the right thing as it is already. Council needs to increase the number of patrols on the Merri creek trail and fine the selfish people with their dogs off lead, those dogs are often breeds which are more likely to attack people.
Will there be any water stations for people/dogs? Can we have 2 sections, one for smaller dogs and one for bigger dogs? Will this park be regularly patrolled by council park ranger?
Water as a must with drains for the water to drain into
Please consider install benches for dog owners to use. Thanks xx
We actually need more available off lead open dog parks. Please stop over allocating to formal team sport already existing of-lead reserves such as at Hosken Reserve. Fenced in dog parks attract poorly behaved and poorly controlled dogs. What you are doing is adding to a problem instead of resolving it through fair allocations, etc.

Feedback
My dog is often uncomfortable in fenced dog parks. unless they are HUGE. when she's uncomfortable around another dog, she puts space between them - this is more easily accomplished in unfenced off lead areas. Her recall is excellent - I think in general councils should focus on teaching people how to train their dogs, and not on restricting dogs. if more dogs are properly trained and cared for, we can utilise many shared unfenced areas (like a lot of other councils do in Melbourne).
Public toilets would be great since there's a children's playground. Could also have some BBQ added.
Possibility to have 2 sections of the dog park: one for small/sensitive dogs and one for all other dogs
Having the fenced off-leash dog area in this spot will be great, however we hope the surrounding areas continue to be off-leash. Fenced areas have the potential to become quite intense when there are lots of dogs so having quieter off-leash areas are important to us!
Considering the area and there are not great surveillance in any location I believe the council should install cameras there to make people feel safe. Also can there be 2 sections to the dog park, one for both big and small dogs separately.
I've never used a public toilet while walking my dog! So that's a lower priority IMO. Most important issues for me relate to the dogs: Is there plenty of space to run around? Are there drinking fountains for the dogs? Are there council bins for the poo bags and will they be emptied regularly? Is there parking nearby so it's easy to access by those who live further away? Is there shade so it will be used in the summer? Will it be maintained by the council?
For dog parks to thrive it is important there is a strong residential community nearby with dogs. E.g. Alf Pierce in Strathmore is great, while the one in Pascoe Vale is an absolute failure.
So my answer is - whichever location already has a strong dog community visiting to build on (e.g. Cole reserve in Pascoe Vale). It would also be good to make sure it's a really large area with trees etc to explore. Shade is essential.
Tap & bowl, good fencing & gates, provide some shade/cover
Needs drinking water for dogs and poo bags. Large space for large dogs for playing fetch games.
Despite the rules that this is an on-leash area only, this park is currently used as an 'unofficial' off-leash area, including by large uncontrolled dogs, especially in the afternoons. My hope would be that by creating an official off-leash fenced area, people could be encouraged to leash their dogs in the rest of the space.
2 spaces: one space for the confident dog and one space for the puppy or non-confident or elderly dog to be able to be a part of the experience

Feedback
Maybe some obstacles course
I am a dog owner who backs onto Moomba park. I know about 10 other dog owners who use the soccer oval as a dog off leash play area. The oval is great but has the drawback of not being enclosed (open fence) and when our large dogs are running around it can be intimidating for other park users. This will solve both problems meaning we are not using communal space for our dogs and they are safe and enclosed. Thanks very much!
Can you please make sure that the public toilets (hope there's none than one for this busy park) are regularly maintained. The ones at Mutton Reserve (unisex toilets) were disgustingly dirty last time I went.
Water fountain for dogs and no mud!!
A separate fenced area for small dogs or more timid puppies which is separate from the larger dog area is important so all breeds can safely enjoy the space and interact with breeds of a similar size and energy level.
A small dog area and larger dog area is really important, water for dogs and shade. Be awesome to have some dog agility equipment too.
Some kind of landscaping - not all grass, all dirt or all gravel.
The dog parks must have shade (same can be said for the Glenroy options), otherwise the spaces cannot be used in summer. If the locations chosen in Fawkner and Glenroy don't have shade at them, the park design must include ample shade (trees, shelter etc) so dogs (and their humans) don't over heat in summer. Access to water is also critical. Preferably the parks would include separate fenced areas for big and small dogs with access to water in both parts of the park (Moonee Valley City Council didn't think of this when designing the Alf Pearce Reserve dog park in Strathmore). Seating would also be helpful, as would double fencing entrances to prevent dogs escaping.
Agility / equipment in area for dogs use
Access to water, seating, waste disposal, shade, parking as well as some sort of agility stations to make it more interesting for the dogs...
Please make sure that you install covered bicycle parking with space for cargo bikes to that are used to bring dogs to the park.
It would be great to have water taps for the dogs and signage to ensure that people don't enter the park with more dogs than they can reasonably care for (i.e. max of 2 dogs at a time per person).

Feedback
Brilliant location for a dog park. The existing open space in Moomba Park is currently unutilised and I believe a dog park in this location would also help to prevent the motorcycles and hooning which happen in this area.
<p>1. Surveillance - install camera asap. No visual security and cameras.</p> <p>Before having a dog I was followed twice around this area, to later find out after reporting this to the police, that this person had tried it on others. We have a lot of strange people around that just show up randomly.</p> <p>2. Seating - park benches would help near the enclosure</p> <p>3. Fawkner overall has no shade .. with kids shade is important for hot and cold days so seating with shade?</p> <p>4. Even with so much rain, park grounds are not kept short, this would be good if this could be kept short</p>
Water stations more than one please
My dog suffers from allergies and her vet maintenance is expensive and always going to Moomba park she is allergic to a plant along the trail and it would be worthwhile to make sure lawns are kept short to avoid issues I know a lot of doggy friends have the same issues with rashes, yeast infections etc
There are too many aggressive off lead dogs on the Merri Creek trail and down by the Merri Creek itself. One runner was bitten recently. Council needs to enforce fines.
I'm not sure a toilet is that necessary for a dog park as visits tend to be short. No other dog parks we visit have a toilet.
Bin with dog poo bags
Can you please ensure that additional bins are provided at all entry/exit points of the fenced dog park, and, that dog poo bags are also provided. There is often a lot of litter in and around Moomba Park, and bins have often been overflowing. There is also a lot of dog poo not picked up along the trail, and general street footpaths. It's important to get this right from day 1 and ensure this is managed properly to make it successful. It would also be great to have at least one of the dog drink fountains within the area too. Great initiative - thanks!!
We need much more rubbish bins, seats with tables, shade, taps
<p>Please ensure there are big signs in different languages (to make sure everyone understands) explaining important rules (Dog Park Etiquette) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dogs must wear collar - Be up to date on registration, vaccinations, and parasite control - Arrive on-leash - Take off their leash to play - Stick to designated size areas - Ask before sharing treats - Keep your eyes on your pet - Leave favourite toys at home

Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don't bring a dog with behavioural/social/aggression issues/no recall control, or who is unwell - Do pick up your dog's poop - Don't get distracted - Dogs must be fully supervised - NO children inside the dog park <p>Thank you for considering my feedback.</p>
<p>It needs seating, agility course, either plant trees/gardens or put up shade sails, make it interactive and interesting. Not just a fenced off area.</p>
<p>I would love to see a site with mains water (with a drinking bowl), shade and seating.</p>
<p>All options proposed seem to be at high risk of snakes (as they are in the Merri ck corridor). What is planned to manage this?</p>
<p>Secure area, toilets are important. Bins available for disposing of dog poo. Easy access. Thank you.</p>
<p>Water tap, obstacle courses, doggy bags available, seating throughout, native plants (where appropriate), large log, area for smaller or old dogs</p>
<p>I find it disappointing that the Council has put forward three options that fail to address security concerns of residents. While you may consider distance from neighbours as a positive, for dog owners who are concerned about their safety and the safety of their dog, this is worrying.</p>
<p>I think Jukes Rd is the best location as Moomba Park and Mutton Reserve already accommodate people wishing to have their dogs off lead. It's great the council is doing this as there is certainly demand for it. I would add that it's important to have a dedicated area in the dog park for small/shy dogs, as well as tough plants so the space isn't so barren (Lalor dog park is an example of a space that gets very dusty or muddy at different times of year). Contours in the space can also be great to make it enriching for dogs - my dog loves the skate park at CB Smith Reserve as she can get a lot of exercise running up and down the ramps, so a similar thing custom made for dogs would be great.</p>

7b Draft Concept Plan Consultation

Draft concept plan posters and postcards will be displayed here once ready.

7c Draft Concept Plan Consultation Responses

Draft concept plan feedback will be displayed here once draft concept plan consultation stage has closed.

7d Final Concept Plan

An image of the final concept plan will be added here when the final concept plan has been developed.