

Our ref: MR/DP161129

29 November 2016

Mr Dick Persson AM, Administrator
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE NSW 1660

Also by email: dick.persson@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

ADEQUACY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF OFF-LEASH AREAS PARALLEL ASSESSMENT

This organisation has prepared a "parallel assessment" pursuant to the resolution of Council on 9 August 2016.

We trust, by reading the attached, you will perceive our high degree of investment in this issue. This is explained by the high importance we attach to the simple twice or thrice-daily pleasure of walking the family dog. For our members, outings with the dog provide the means by which we regularly connect with our local environment and community whilst also gaining some exercise.

The report is not an argument for a particular case. Rather, it is simply a compilation of factual information that would reasonably be properly weighed in your own assessment.

We would be grateful to receive from you a letter of confirmation that you have received and read our report, and that you agree to weigh its contents when finalising your own report.

Sincerely,

Michele Robertson
HON. SECRETARY, PITTWATER UNLEASHED

encl. Adequacy of the Availability of Off-Leash Areas – Parallel Assessment (21 pages)



PITTWATER UNLEASHED

A voice for dog owners, and supporter of the Fair Share Alliance
in Sydney's Northern Beaches Local Government Area

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PARALLEL ASSESSMENT

ADEQUACY OF THE AVAILABILITY OF OFF-LEASH AREAS

FORMER PITTWATER COUNCIL LGA

November 2016

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1. Executive summary

This assessment has been prepared in parallel with the review contemplated by the related Council resolution of **9 August 2016**. It is submitted to Council as a resource to be consulted and weighed as Council finalises its own review.

Council resolved to review the “adequacy of availability”. As “adequacy” can be a largely subjective consideration – and one that would ordinarily be ruled upon by an elected body – particular care has been taken here to assemble relevant facts considered to be of assistance to the Administrator in his duty as substitute for the elected body. Accordingly, this assessment deals only with “availability”, leaving “adequacy” to the proper authority.

This assessment has examined availability using an auditable quantitative approach, together with qualitative data backed by photos. The *quantitative* work measures off-leash areas as a proportion of the total public open space inventory. It also measures the ability of users to reasonably access these areas. The *qualitative* work shines a light on the physical condition of the off-leash areas, as this also impacts availability.

The study area covers the Pittwater peninsula using Mona Vale Road and Robert Dunn Reserve as the southern limit.

As a proportion of all public open space within the study area, off-leash space constitutes **less than 1%** in the region north of Bilgola, and **1.5%** in the region from Mona Vale Road to Bilgola. In practical terms, this proportion of public open space is further reduced when considering periods of time when parts of these areas are not fit for purpose.

When considering reasonable access to off-leash areas in line with the overarching principles of the Community Strategic Plan, the proportion of the study area with reasonable walking access to leash-free areas equates to **12.29%** (on a conservatively high basis). For residents living within the other **87.71%** of the study area, daily exercise for the dog involves adding a car to local traffic congestion.

Those entire suburbs within the study area shown to be clearly cut off from reasonable access to off-leash options include **Palm Beach, Clareville, Bilgola Beach, Bilgola Plateau and Newport**. Residents of the northern parts of Pittwater also face a round trip of 30km to take the dog for a swim – or a run in a tick-free environment – placing another car in local traffic for up to an hour.

2. Introduction and interpretation of “availability”

Pursuant to the **9 August 2016** meeting of the Northern Beaches Council, where the Minutes record that Council resolved to “*review the adequacy of the availability of off leash dog areas on the Northern Beaches*”, Pittwater Unleashed has commissioned its own parallel assessment in the hope that the factual materials contained within such assessment will assist Council’s own review.

The study area for this parallel assessment is limited to the region broadly corresponding to the developed areas of the former Pittwater LGA (Mona Vale Road to Barrenjoey).

In order to assess the adequacy of the availability, attention is first given to the concept of “availability”. Pittwater Unleashed readily identifies three separate factors driving “availability”:

1. **Availability in spatial terms** – where off-leash open space areas can be measured as a subset of the broader open space inventory,
2. **Availability in temporal terms** – where off-leash open space areas can be assessed in terms of their ability - for reasons relating to their physical condition - to remain available to satisfy the statutory role required of them (the ability to continuously remain fit for purpose), and
3. **Availability in terms of proximity** – where off-leash open space areas can be assessed in terms of the catchment they serve (proximity to intended users).

Pittwater Unleashed is a registered community organisation with a Northern Beaches support network of over 5,000 members. These members are dog owners who are well positioned to provide relevant input to any review of “*adequacy of the availability of off leash dog areas*”. Within this assessment, care has been taken to present this input as a compilation of facts, rather than any argued case for a particular position. This is to ensure the report adopts the same structure to be expected of any report properly prepared by Council officers, where a dispassionate compilation of facts is to be found, free of the appraisal and advocacy elements that remain the province of the Administrator and the political process.

3. Spatial assessment methodology

Pittwater Unleashed has undertaken the spatial assessment of public open space in two categories:

1. Green Open Space (inclusive of cleared fields, bushland, but not paved parking lots), and
2. Tidal Open Space (inclusive of ocean beaches, rock pool/shelf areas, mud flats and estuary foreshore).

Using these two categories, Pittwater Unleashed has then assessed two geographical regions:

1. North of Bilgola (adopting Angophora Reserve as the southern limit of this region), and
2. North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola (including South Mona Vale Headland Reserve as southern limit of this region).

The spatial assessment examines the areal extent of the public open space, along with the natural and imposed constraints on usage of the public open space.

In determining the areal extent of the various land parcels, a process of polygon creation and area-calculation was adopted using Google Earth Pro. This process was undertaken without the benefit of fixed cadastral boundaries to help avoid error arising from the unknown orthorectification status of the photographs. Accordingly, a systematic error has been built into the process of area calculation, and this is acknowledged. However, as this potential error applies to the *whole* assessment, a reliably high degree of relativity is retained. This means land use expressed as a ratio is largely free of the error. It should also be noted that larger individual

parcels have a lower exposure to the error. The smallest parcels (pocket parks <3,000m²), where exposure to the error in relative terms is highest, are areas that are not typically suitable for the exercising of dogs anyway.

4. Spatial assessment results

The availability of off-leash dog areas is summarised in the following **Table 1**. When considering green open space north of Bilgola, for example, it can be seen that the permitted off-leash area accounts for **0.99%** of the total green space. Then when considering the fact that no tidal open space north of Bilgola is available to dogs, the permitted off-leash area within the combined green and tidal areas falls to **0.86%**. The corresponding numbers for the region between Mona Vale Road and Bilgola are **1.81%** and **1.74%**.

It is noted that the calculation of off-leash area for the Mona Vale Road to Bilgola region is heavily affected by the inclusion of Dearin Reserve – an area that is not returned to by dog owners once the funnel web infestation has been observed (see **Section 5**). After making allowance for the general non-use of Dearin Reserve, the permitted off-leash area for the Mona Vale to Bilgola region drops from **1.74%** to **1.50%**.

Table 1. Off-leash Space as a Proportion of Total Public Open Space

		Reference
North of Bilgola - Green Open Space		
Total Green Open Space area (m ²)	2,257,700	Sheet 1
Available OFF LEASH area (m ²)	22,384	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total	0.9915%	
North of Bilgola - Tidal Open Space		
Total Tidal Open Space area (m ²)	347,931	Sheet 2
Available OFF LEASH area (m ²)	0	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total	0.0000%	
North of Bilgola (combined Green & Tidal Open Space areas)		
Total Green & Tidal Open Space area (m ²)	2,605,631	Sheet 3
Available OFF LEASH area (m ²)	22,384	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total	0.8591%	
North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola - Green Open Space		
Total Green Open Space area (m ²)	2,351,113	Sheet 4
Available OFF LEASH area (m ²)	42,650	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total	1.8140%	
North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola - Tidal Open Space		
Total Tidal Open Space area (m ²)	406,488	Sheet 5
Available OFF LEASH area (m ²)	5,330	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total	1.3112%	
North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola (combined Green & Tidal Open Space areas)		
Total Green & Tidal Open Space area (m ²)	2,757,601	Sheet 6
Available OFF LEASH area (m ²)	47,980	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total	1.7399%	
OFF LEASH area as % of Total (discounting Dearin Reserve)	1.5038%	

5. Physical conditions impacting “availability”

As mentioned at **Section 2**, the “availability” of an off-leash area can be impacted by its physical condition. In general, an off-leash area is “available” when it is fit for purpose and being used as intended. When an off-leash area falls into an unsuitable state and is not being used as intended, at the required duty, it becomes unavailable.

Rowland Reserve, Bayview

As part of this assessment Pittwater Unleashed contracted a third party to conduct a usage audit over consecutive weekends as summarised in **Table 2**:

Table 2. Rowland Reserve usage audit

Date	Saturday, 1 October 2016
Weather	Sunny, 23°C max, 70-90kph nor westerly winds from 1PM
Tidal information	High at 8:19AM low at 2:24PM
Count commenced	6:45AM
Count finished	5:17PM
Morning arrival rate	114 dogs/hour
Total count for day	871 dogs
Other factors	Sydney Swans playing in AFL Grand Final in the afternoon Gale force winds lifting sand in the afternoon
Date	Saturday, 8 October 2016
Weather	Fine with intermittent showers, 25°C max
Tidal information	Low at 7:14AM, high at 1:46PM
Count commenced	6:45AM
Count finished	5:45PM
Morning arrival rate	88 dogs/hour
Total count for day	734 dogs

These samples indicate that in favourable conditions (warm, clear, weekend days) Rowland Reserve generates a dog arrival rate of over 100 dogs/hour for a daily total in the order of 1,000 dogs. The number of people accompanying dogs is similar to the number of dogs.

There is evidence indicating this usage rate is unsustainable – that the open space as currently managed is not up to the duty – with foot traffic compaction and wear rates exceeding the ground surface’s ability to recover. The Council appears to have become aware of this, having famously used Rowland Reserve in December 2015 as the disposal site for contaminated excavation spoil from drainage works in nearby Kitchener Park.



Emily (left), 12, Sean and Christa with glass removed from Rowland Reserve. Picture: Troy Snook

Press reports at the time suggested Council had been opportunist in finding a use for trench spoil that had been cursorily assessed as “OK” – that the relocation of this spoil could do some good at the seriously degraded Rowland Reserve whilst saving Council the task of finding somewhere else to dump it. The ensuing public relations disaster for Council management left many in the community feeling that areas permitting shared use by dogs off-leash do not attract the same commitment to maintenance enjoyed by areas set aside for other uses. Fragments of glass are still being gathered-up by dog owners 11 months after the event.



Rowland Reserve September 2016

Dearin Reserve, Newport

As mentioned in **Section 4**, Dearin Reserve is not popular with users once the funnel web infestation has been observed. This condition alone therefore impacts the availability of this public space. Nonetheless, the space is passively enjoyed by locals for its impressive tree canopy, and also as an attractive shortcut from Crystal Bay to the Newport Arms Hotel. The established footway runs across the upper half of the park. It is the lower half of the park that serves as habitat for the funnel web spiders and rabbits.



Dearin Reserve November 2016



Dearin Reserve November 2016

The noticeable presence of rabbits helps confirm one of two things. Either the rabbits are demonstrating that the presence of dogs is not an automatic cause of relocation of so called “prey” fauna, or the rabbits are demonstrating that the dogs are not there in any troubling number. The funnel webs are a feature of the lower (western) half of the park in the shady understorey.

While the Dearin Reserve dog exercise area includes a section of foreshore that theoretically presents as an option for dog swimming, again this space becomes unavailable when considering its physical character.



Dearin Park funnel web infestation area



Dearin Park foreshore oyster hazard

As can be seen in the above photo of the Dearin Park foreshore, the intertidal zone is colonised by something of an oyster field. At mid to high tides, when foreshore areas are generally more attractive to those who take their dogs for swims, this oyster field presents as a submerged hazard in depths of approximately 300mm. This depth sees the oyster's razor edges coincide with the same zone that would be used by frolicking dogs, were they ever to be found there. At low tide, dogs would still risk shredding their paws as they necessarily made their way through the exposed oyster field in order to access the water's edge.

Hitchcock Park, Careel Bay

Hitchcock Park has traditionally been a popular off-leash area due to the attractive swimming options for dogs at high tide. However, following a Council decision in 2003 to close the area to dog swimming and find a replacement swimming area north of Bilgola, the exercising of dogs at Hitchcock Park has been limited to the 2.24ha portion of the former Council landfill/tip facility that was not shaped for organised sports. The tree cover within this remnant provides shaded areas that are well appreciated by users of the dog exercise area, but a string of other problems is observed from time to time, impacting upon the availability of the park for its intended use.



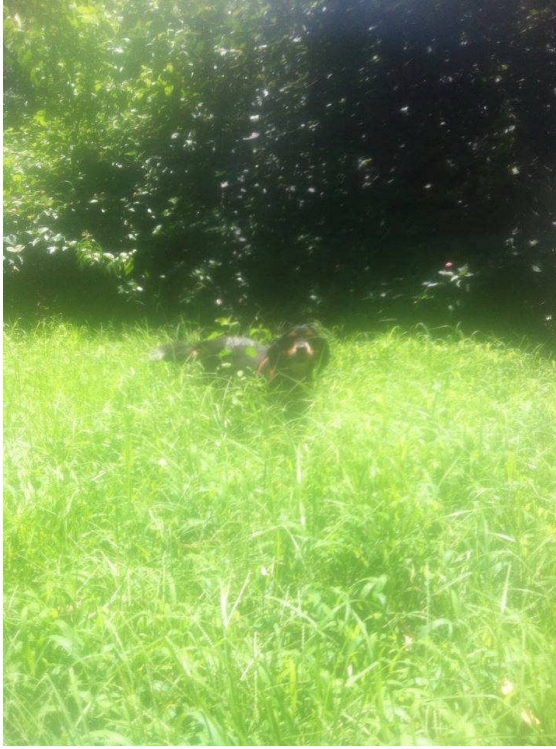
Hitchcock Park October 2016



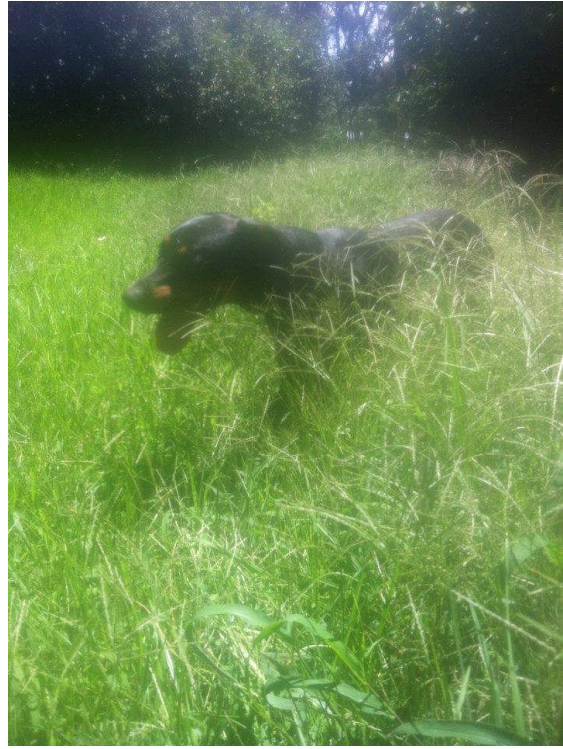
Hitchcock Park October 2016

As detailed above for Rowland Reserve, Hitchcock Park also exhibits clear evidence of overuse. During dry periods, the inability of the grass to withstand and recover from the foot traffic sees the development of broad, dusty expanses of bare earth.

Without the competition from the preferred grass species, various weed species are then free to take hold. Council appears to have recognised the problem of weed infestation at Hitchcock Park, given the observed application of glyphosate herbicide in the general area. The application of these herbicides (and the period for them to take effect and wash away into the adjacent wetlands) is another impact on the park's availability for those who are concerned about exposing their dogs to these poisons.



Hitchcock Park February 2015



Hitchcock Park February 2015

But when the park is not dusty and bare, Council's mowing schedule at times is clearly seen to be unable to cope with the duty. Grassed areas left to grow to the heights shown above become ideal habitat for paralysis tick infestation. Again, as with the contaminated top dressing that was assessed by Council staff as satisfactory for the dog park at Rowland Reserve, members of the community observe the lack of care for this dog park and cannot reconcile this with the care clearly displayed by Council when maintaining other open space areas.



Hitchcock Park August 2016



Hitchcock Park August 2016

As for the replacement dog swimming areas north of Bilgola contemplated in the 2003 resolution, the above photos indicate the current state of play and significant compromise while awaiting a demonstration of commitment from Council to its own resolution. This dog swimming facility is managed and maintained by Council in an informal partnership with local volunteers. While the dogs enjoy cooling off here, the often-dusty walk back to the car makes for a messy trip home.

For those residents of the northern parts of Pittwater who are unprepared to risk an encounter with the Council ranger, yet do not find the above facility up to standard, their option for swimming the dog is to commit to the 30km round trip to Rowland Reserve, thereby adding another car to local traffic congestion for up to an hour.



Hitchcock Park June 2016



Hitchcock Park June 2016

The above photos indicate some of the temporary fixes undertaken to protect dogs from the adjacent Barrenjoey Road hazard, and to stop them falling into the deep hole at the end of the drainage pipe discharging into Careel Bay. The hole at the discharge pipe is a significant hazard to small dogs, and any owners who find themselves in need of rescuing a dog from this pond of muck. The photo of the Barrenjoey Road boundary also indicates the prevalence of Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) within parts of Hitchcock Park, an invasive species well known for its cause of serious irritation to dogs.

Robert Dunn Reserve, Mona Vale

As with the Rowland Reserve and Hitchcock Park examples, Robert Dunn Reserve exhibits signs of stress from heavy use.



Robert Dunn Reserve September 2016



Robert Dunn Reserve 2015

The photo on the left is an example of the heavily compacted ground unable to regenerate due to the high rate of foot traffic. The photo on the right indicates part of the same area near the top of the steps leading down to the beach, with dog clearly enjoying the fact that the watering point created a cooling pond due to inadequate drainage design (a design that has since been modified). Under the current arrangements, cooling off after a run here risks an encounter with the Council ranger as the Robert Dunn Reserve dog exercise area does not extend down the steps to include the largely disused southern limit of Mona Vale Beach.

The issue of paralysis tick

On the subject of paralysis ticks, Pittwater Animal Hospital says:

*"The best possible advice regarding ticks is: **Avoid them.***

*Unfortunately, that's easier said than done, especially in this area. The Northern Beaches can claim one of this country's highest incidences of the paralysis tick *Ixodes holocyclus*. The female of this species is the one that poses the greatest danger to your pets. Not to mention yourself and anyone else in the family.*

Because these ticks prefer bushy native terrain and long grass, the worst areas are Avalon, Bilgola Plateau, Newport, Bayview, Church Point and North Narrabeen. But if you live anywhere on the Peninsula, especially on the Pittwater side, you're likely to encounter ticks. Although the worst time is from August through February, you can find ticks all year round. Particularly when rain follows a period of warm weather.

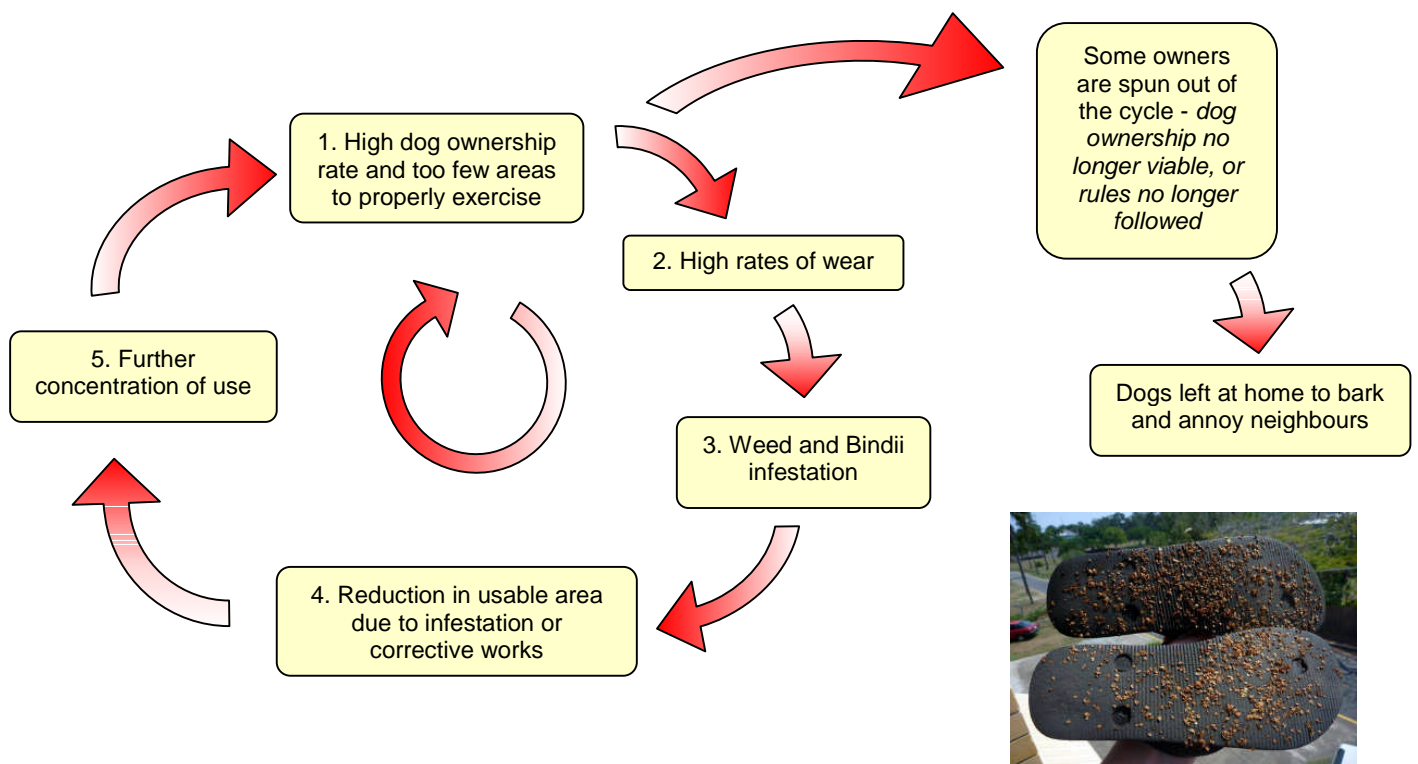
As if that weren't bad enough, scientists suspect that a combination of global warming, recent weather patterns, overgrown gardens, composting and mulching as well as growing bandicoot numbers is contributing to a steady increase in Sydney's tick populations. Compounding the problem are all those shady patches under overhanging branches in overgrown public recreational areas that prove so attractive to pets and their owners."

The advice relating to "shady patches under overhanging branches in overgrown public recreational areas" and the note about Avalon and "especially on the Pittwater side", would suggest that Hitchcock Park, from a tick-exposure perspective, is far from ideal as the only dog exercise area north of Bilgola. Therefore, even though Hitchcock Park is "available" in terms of space, to some (who will not risk tick paralysis/death), it is not available in terms of *function*.

Bindii (*Soliva pterosperma*)

Bindii infestation is a typical response to overuse of public grounds. There is no need for this assessment to delve into an issue/concern in which Council is no doubt well-versed. The relevance of Bindii to this assessment however, is in its ability to render a public space unavailable to the exercising of dogs. Many dogs recognise Bindii (most likely through an olfactory cue) and will not walk near it, having learned of the terror it brings to their pads.

This means, without due care and consideration, Councils face a system of management that creates its own feedback loop and spins out of control.



6. Availability in terms of proximity or “walkability”

Over the years, Council has invested considerable effort and funds consulting with the community, commissioning research, and compiling reports, to help record the Pittwater community's main aspirations and priorities. These main aspirations and priorities are used to set the structure around which policies are then developed and implemented.

In terms of recreational pursuits and the need to facilitate these, “walking for exercise” has consistently rated the most popular local activity. Indeed, dog walking (specifically) has rated more highly than surfing, playground visits, golf, fishing and football (*Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy 2014, p37*).

At the same time, threats to the treasured local environment and “liveability” qualities have also been carefully identified and collated with a view to addressing, and not exacerbating, these. A regular issue of concern in this respect relates to local traffic congestion and use of the private vehicle when other options could be available.

This pro-walking, anti-traffic disposition of the people has been captured by Council in any number of places, including:

“Promote Pittwater as a community that embraces sustainable living options such as riding a bike, walking, and car pooling.”

(Pittwater Social Plan 2012-2016, Executive Summary p22)

“Limited transport options can lead to increased car-use, as well as the growing number of cars per home. This, in turn, can contribute to traffic congestion around Pittwater and a decline in healthy lifestyle choices.”

(Pittwater Social Plan 2012-2016, Executive Summary p22)

“To use recreational opportunities to encourage a fit and healthy community for all abilities.” Recreational Management Strategy, Objective No.9.

(Pittwater 2025, Our Community Strategic Plan p12)

“Enhancing the environment for passive activities such as walking.” Recreational Management Strategy, Identified Opportunity No.6.

(Pittwater 2025, Our Community Strategic Plan p13)

“To reduce the use of and reliance on private motor vehicles.” Traffic & Transport Strategy, Objective No.2.

(Pittwater 2025, Our Community Strategic Plan p14)

“To improve road and footpath safety to encourage (foot) use by community.” Traffic & Transport Strategy, Objective No.7.

(Pittwater 2025, Our Community Strategic Plan p14)

“Increasing congestion on arterial roads due to increasing development, population and use.” Traffic & Transport Strategy, Identified Challenge No.4.

(Pittwater 2025, Our Community Strategic Plan p15)

“High level of car dependency.” Key Climate Change Issue No.4.

(Community Strategic Plan Towards 2028, Issues Paper p12)

“Air pollution associated with increased traffic and congestion.” Key Clean Environment Issue No.5.

(Community Strategic Plan Towards 2028, Issues Paper p13)

“The overarching challenge is to ensure that all members of our community are supported and feel connected; that health and wellbeing is enhanced...” Key Connected Community Issue.

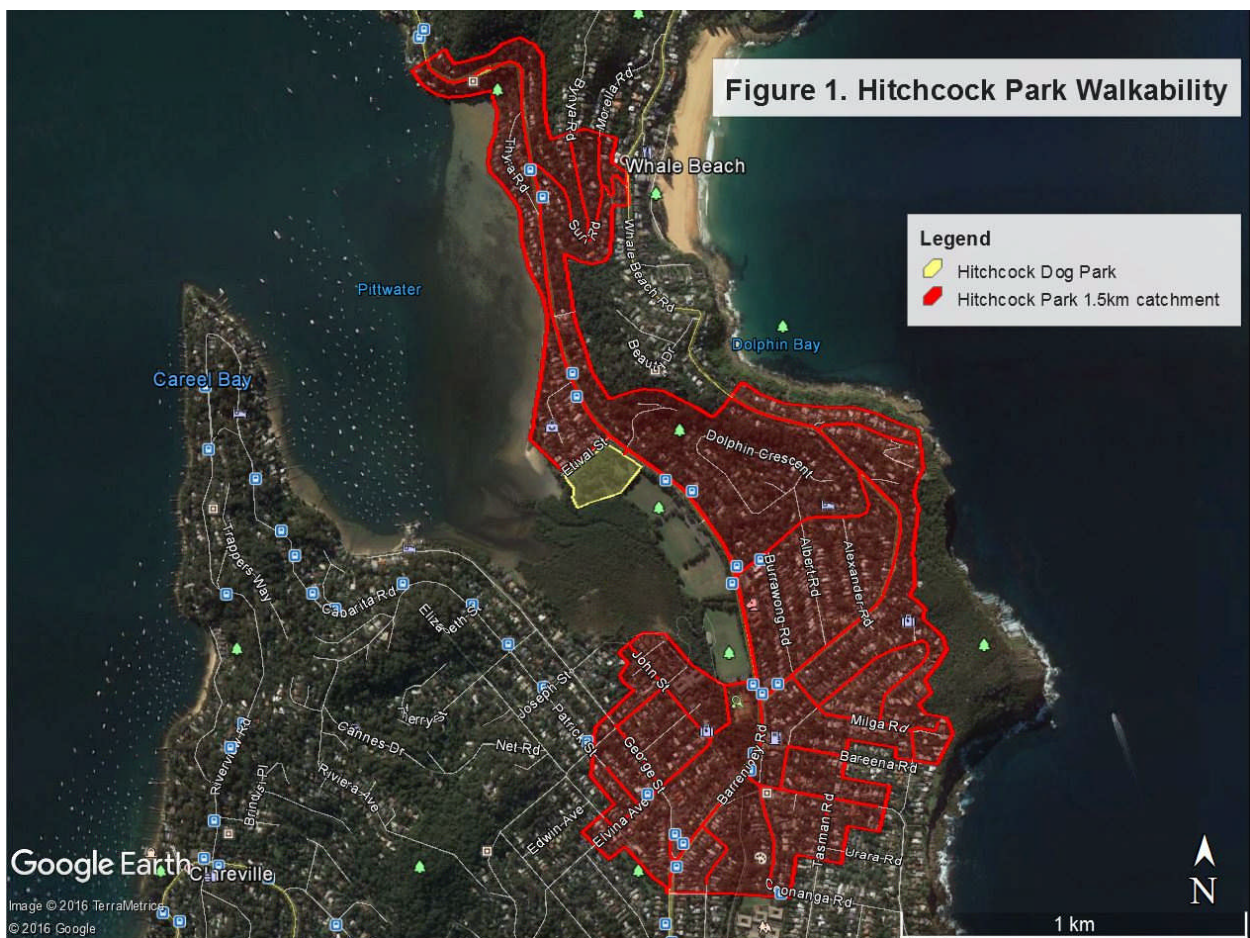
(Community Strategic Plan Towards 2028, Issues Paper p20)

Guided by the clear pro-walking, anti-traffic disposition of the community, Pittwater Unleashed has assessed the availability of off-leash areas in terms of “walkability”. The “walkability” of an off-leash area, in this context, refers to the catchment within which people could readily choose to walk to a particular dog park. Pittwater Unleashed identifies this approach as entirely consistent with Council's well established “Needs Based Approach” used when assessing

adequacy of open space provision, and in particular, *Performance Criterion No.1* that the space be “*within a reasonable distance of residential areas*”. (*Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy 2014, p42*).

Any alternate approach, crudely examining a theoretical catchment based on how long it might take to drive the dog by car to a dog park, would not appear to be at all consistent with the recorded wishes of the community and the *pro-health, pro-walk, and anti-traffic objectives* of the Council.

Accordingly, Pittwater Unleashed has examined the dog park walking catchments based upon a reach of 1.5km. This distance was considered a conservatively high limit, serving to depict a catchment that is greater in size than it would likely be in practice. The 1.5km distance is set to correspond to a half hour walk each way, adding 1 hour to the dog’s exercise time at the actual park. The 1.5km reach has not been discounted for reasons of grade and hostility of the roadside environment (where it is sometimes highly unsafe to be walking dogs).



As can be seen in **Figure 1**, the 1.5km catchment for Hitchcock Park is shown to run well north along Barrenjoey Road to just beyond Dark Gully Park. Due to the hostility of the Barrenjoey Road environment, walkers are rarely seen with dogs approaching Hitchcock Park from the north. In practice, the walking catchment is more reasonably constrained to just the North Avalon area. The Hitchcock Park catchment, as depicted here, measures 123.5ha.



The 1.5km catchment for Rowland Reserve shown above in **Figure 2** relies on walkers using the access through the Winnererremy Bay protected bushland area. The Rowland Reserve catchment, as depicted here, measures 101.1ha.



The 1.5km catchment for Robert Dunn Reserve shown above in **Figure 3** saw this assessment consider the area slightly further south (as this fell within the 1.5km walking reach). By way of clarification, the **Section 4** Spatial Assessment did not include any public open space areas south of Robert Dunn Reserve, as this park was taken as the southern limit for that assessment. The Robert Dunn Reserve catchment, as depicted here, measures 103.4ha.

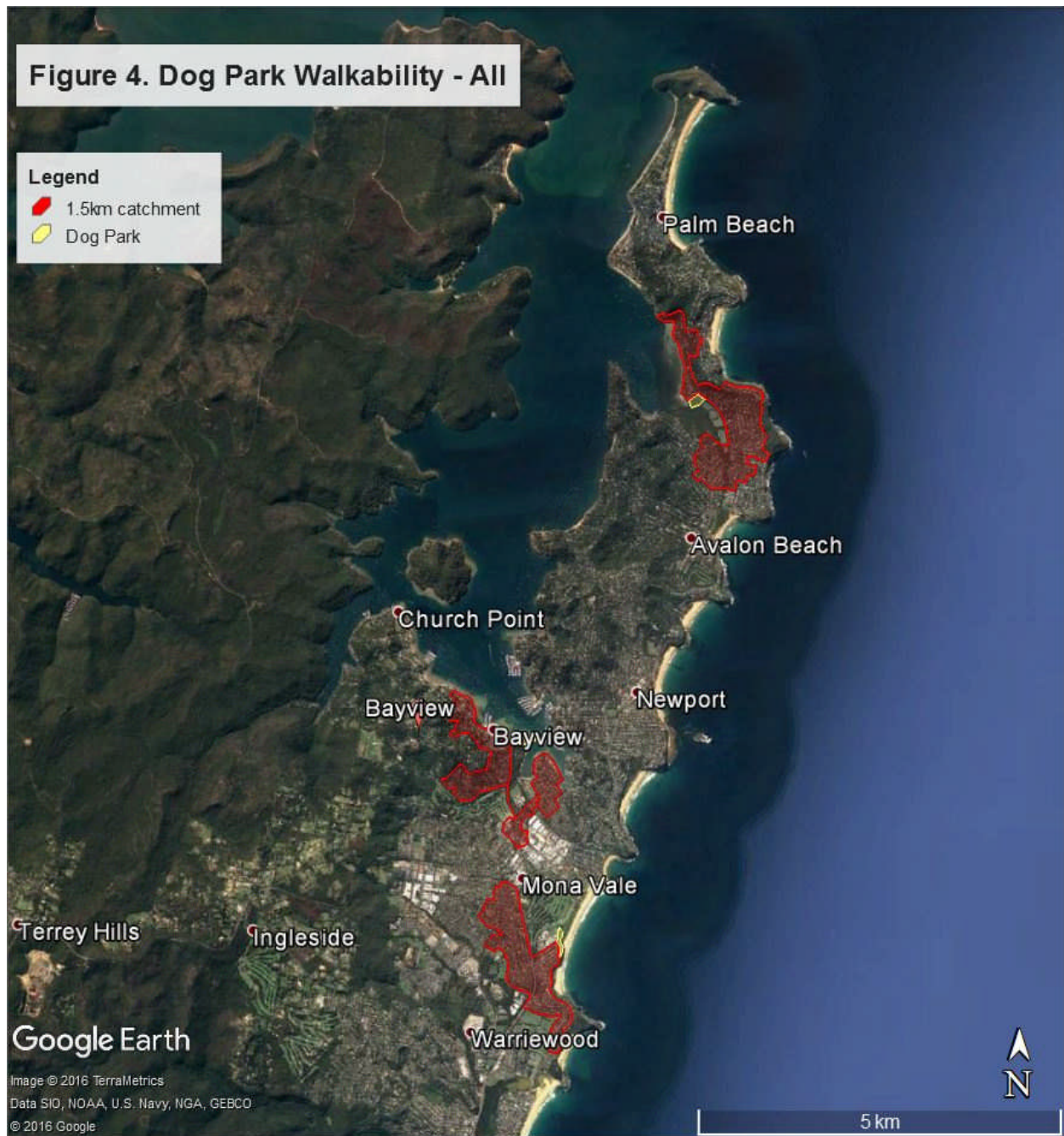


Figure 4 provides some context around the dog park areas and walking catchments as they sit within the former Pittwater LGA.

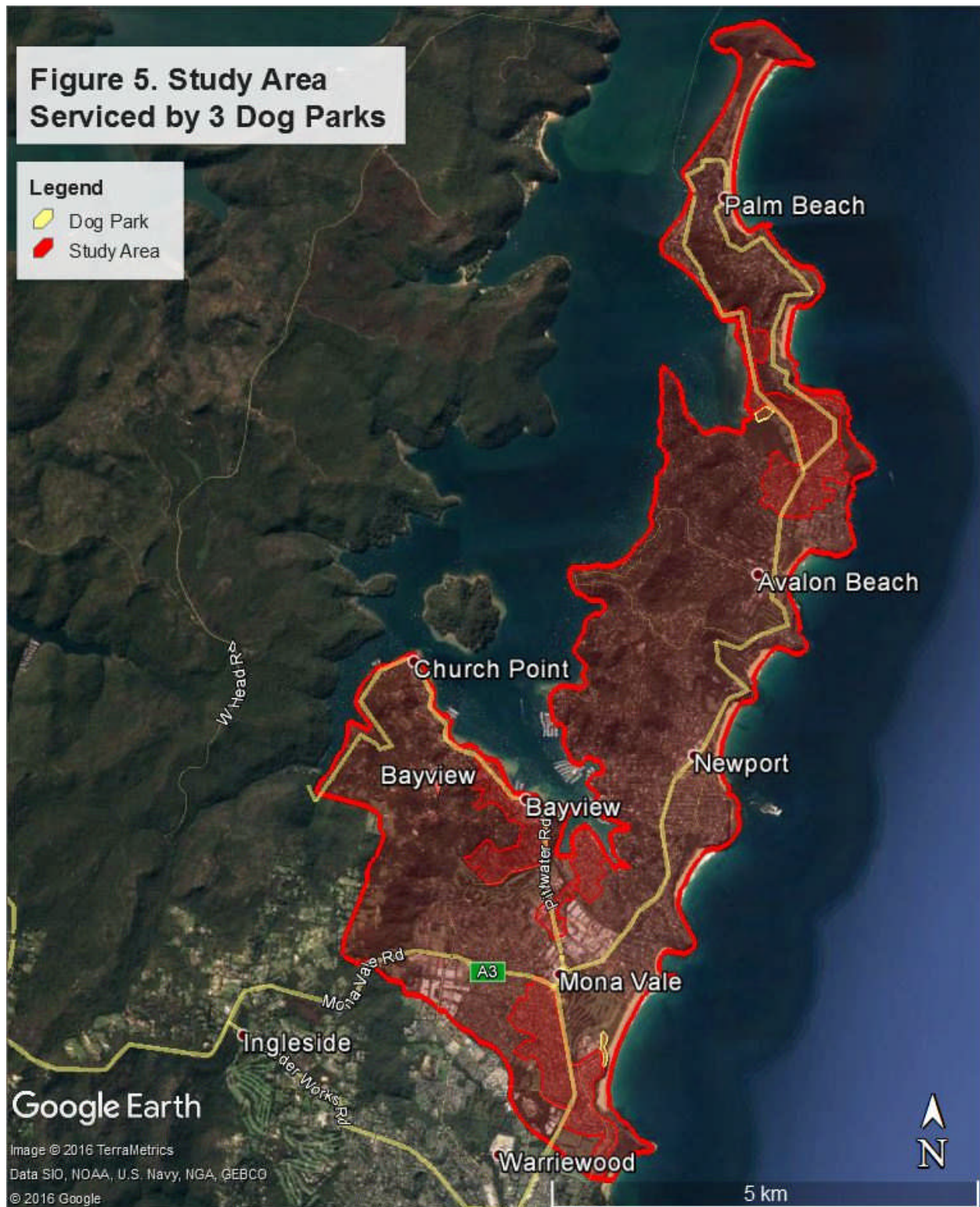


Table 3. Summary of Dog Park 1.5km Catchments Within Study Area

Hitchcock Park 1.5km area	123.5 ha
Rowland Reserve 1.5km area	101.1ha
Robert Dunn Reserve 1.5km area	103.4ha
Sum of all three dog park 1.5km catchments	328.0ha
Study area total	2,669.4ha
Percentage of study area “walkable” to dog park	12.29%

As can be seen from the **Table 3** summary, the proportion of the study area falling within reasonable walking access to leash-free areas equates to **12.29%**. For residents living within the other **87.71%** of the study area, daily exercise for the dog involves adding a car to local traffic congestion.

Figures 4 and 5 also show those entire suburbs within the study area clearly cut off from reasonable access to off-leash areas. Most notably these are shown to include **Palm Beach, Clareville, Bilgola Beach, Bilgola Plateau and Newport**.

7. Conclusion

In arriving at a determination of **adequacy** of availability, other (non dog-related) uses of public open space must inevitably be weighed.

Within the former Pittwater LGA, the importance of habitat provision is often raised by special interest groups who advocate that suitable areas must be set aside for fauna (whether native or exotic). With this in mind, Pittwater Unleashed draws attention to the overwhelmingly vast proportion of public open space lands serving as habitat (to the near exclusion of all other uses) even before the introduction of the LGA's National Park lands west of McCarrs Creek and along Pittwater's western shore. Inclusion of these habitat areas within the **Section 4** calculations would have forced the availability of dog exercise areas into the realm of statistical insignificance.

And even within the **<1%** (*north of Bilgola*) and **1.5%** (*Mona Vale Road to Bilgola*) of total public open space providing for off-leash exercise, the facts set down in **Section 5** indicate that availability, in practice, is lower than that suggested by these spatial determinations alone.

When considering availability of off-leash areas in line with the overarching principles of the Community Strategic Plan and related documents – *that social connectedness, health and fitness are not served by piling into the car, and exercising the dog ought not unnecessarily add to local traffic congestion* – only **12.29%** of the study area (on a conservatively high basis) reasonably provides for this. This statistic would appear to reveal ample opportunity for the improvement contemplated at Council's *Main Recommendation No.3: "To improve equity in the distribution of public space and recreational opportunities"* (*Pittwater Public Space and Recreation Strategy 2014, p5*).

8. Attachments

Sheets 1-6, summarising green and tidal open space within LGA north of Mona Vale Road

Sheet 2: North of Bilgola - Tidal Open Space (includes surf beaches, rock pool areas, mud flats, estuary foreshore)

Parcel ID	Area (ha)	Area (m ²)	Dog Status	Condition
North Palm Beach (to Ocean Road)	9.63	96,297	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Palm Beach (south of Ocean Road bend)	7.04	70,366	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Palm Beach Rock Pool area	0.20	1,990	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Whale Beach	6.58	65,832	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Whale Beach Rock Pool area	0.65	6,472	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Avalon Beach	2.37	23,669	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Avalon Beach Rock Pool area	0.23	2,348	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Station Beach (to Boathouse)	0.85	8,464	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Golf Course foreshore (Boathouse to Beach Road)	0.60	6,010	UNCERTAIN	
Waratah Road foreshore	0.16	1,606	UNCERTAIN	
Pittwater Park foreshore	0.20	1,953	UNCERTAIN	
Snapperman foreshore	0.60	5,950	UNCERTAIN	
Sand Point foreshore (south of Sand Point)	2.10	21,011	UNCERTAIN	
Dark Gully Park mudflat	0.71	7,052	NO ACCESS	
Reserve 81895 (879 Barrenjoey Road) foreshore	0.21	2,144	NO ACCESS	Dangerous proximity to Barrenjoey Rd
Etival Street and Currawong Ave foreshore	1.49	14,877	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Paradise Beach Reserve foreshore	0.27	2,666	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Old Wharf Reserve foreshore	0.17	1,668	UNCERTAIN	
Clareville Beach Reserve foreshore	0.67	6,656	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Taylors Point Reserve foreshore	0.09	900	UNCERTAIN	
Summary				
	Area (ha)	Area (m²)		% of Total Tidal Open Space
Subtotal "Dogs Prohibited"		TBC		
Subtotal Dogs permitted leash-free	0.00	0		0.0000%
Subtotal Dogs permitted on lead		TBC		
Total Tidal Open Space	34.79	347,931		

Sheet 3: North of Bilgola (combined Green & Tidal Open Space areas)

	Area (ha)	Area (m ²)	% of Total Green & Tidal Open Space
Subtotal "Dogs Prohibited"		TBC	
Subtotal Dogs permitted leash-free	2.24	22,384	0.8591%
Subtotal Dogs permitted on lead		TBC	
Total Green & Tidal Open Space	260.56	2,605,631	

Sheet 4: North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola - Green Open Space

Parcel ID	Area (ha)	Area (m ²)	Dog Status	Condition
Kiah Reserve	0.12	1,192	UNSUITABLE	
Refuge Cove Reserve	1.49	14,888		
Salt Pan Cove Reserve	2.16	21,626		
Newport Heights Reserve	0.88	8,824		
Plateau Park	1.95	19,487		
Bilgola Plateau Primary School	0.98	9,761	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Hewitt Park	2.96	29,627	NO ACCESS	
Hamilton Reserve	3.49	34,949	NO ACCESS	
Cheryl Crescent Reserve	0.14	1,400	NO ACCESS	
Crown of Newport Reserve	4.40	43,974		
Eric Green Reserve	1.95	19,452	NO ACCESS	
Bilgola Beach Reserve	0.22	2,246	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Attunga Reserve	12.25	122,463	NO ACCESS	
Kanimbla Reserve	0.42	4,158		
Porter Reserve	4.30	43,038	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Newport Lookout & North Newport	4.08	40,812		
Algona Reserve	2.47	24,726		
Florence Park	0.64	6,432		
Regatta Reserve	0.31	3,091		Pocket park, but with water access
Newport Beach Reserve (including Bert Payne Park)	2.13	21,316	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Spurway Park	1.42	14,225	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Newport Park	1.97	19,697		
Woolcott Reserve	0.10	1,032	UNSUITABLE	
Trafalgar Park	1.85	18,509		
Newport Primary School	0.05	509	DOGS PROHIBITED	Almost entirely paved
Dearin Park	0.65	6,510	OFF LEASH	Funnelweb spider infestation
Bungan Head Reserve	0.97	9,729	NO ACCESS	
Betty Morrison Bungan Beach Reserve	8.61	86,089	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Bushranger's Hill Reserve	0.49	4,949	UNSUITABLE	
Crescent Road Reserve	1.04	10,439		
Beaconsfield Street Reserve	0.36	3,564		
Yachtsmans Paradise Reserve	0.18	1,846	UNSUITABLE	
Rednal Street Reserve	0.07	706	UNSUITABLE	
Winji Jimmi Reserve	0.44	4,354		
Winnererremy Bay Foreshore Reserve	5.75	57,450		
Bangalow Reserve	1.50	15,011		
Pavich Reserve	0.22	2,231	UNSUITABLE	
Mona Vale Headland Reserve (north)	3.96	39,610		
Apex Park	1.83	18,309		
Mona Vale Beach Reserve	2.38	23,784	DOGS PROHIBITED	
South Mona Vale Headland Reserve (including Robert Dunn)	2.00	20,005	OFF LEASH	
Mona Vale Golf Course	40.70	406,986	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Kitchener Park and bowling club area	7.16	71,645	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Village Park	1.59	15,900	UNSUITABLE	
Additional Mona Vale Beach green reserve area	4.87	48,714	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Pittwater High School	5.01	50,062	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Rowland Reserve (dogs permitted area)	1.61	16,135	OFF LEASH	
Rowland Reserve (other open space including Kooroowall)	10.27	102,715	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Bayview Golf Course	40.03	400,303	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Kamilaroi Park	0.29	2,921		
Annum Road Reserve 48C	0.43	4,325		
23 Uttingu Place (Bimbimbie)	0.53	5,280		
Pindari Reserve	1.08	10,758		
Loquat Valley Reserve	0.81	8,057		
Minkara Reserve	2.67	26,695	NO ACCESS	
19A Ilya Ave Reserve	0.44	4,427		
Riddle Reserve	0.27	2,695		Pocket park, but with water access
Griffin Park	0.16	1,644	UNSUITABLE	
Church Point Reserve	0.00	0	UNSUITABLE	Given over totally to offshore parking
Bothams Beach	0.47	4,656		
Kennedy Park	0.92	9,219		
Kennedy Place Reserve	0.10	1,041	UNSUITABLE	
McCarrs Creek Reserve (dog trial area)	1.10	11,000		Check
McCarrs Creek Reserve (other open space)	6.84	68,356		
Waratah Street Reserve (Woodlands)	0.81	8,106		
Mona Vale Public School	1.57	15,735	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Briony Reserve	0.39	3,910		
Katrina Reserve	0.22	2,236	UNSUITABLE	
Whitney Reserve	1.57	15,727		
Fazzolari Ave space	3.06	30,641		
Minmai Reserve	0.08	837	UNSUITABLE	
Peita Reserve	0.11	1,131	UNSUITABLE	
Marie Crescent Reserve	0.08	806	UNSUITABLE	
Katandra Sanctuary	16.64	166,430	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Summary	Area (ha)	Area (m²)		% of Total Green Open Space
Subtotal Dogs Prohibited		TBC		
Subtotal Dogs permitted leash-free	4.27	42,650		1.8140%
Subtotal Dogs permitted on lead		TBC		
Subtotal Dogs permitted on lead (usable, accessible, >3,000m ²)		TBC		
Total Green Open Space	235.11	2,351,113		

Sheet 5: North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola - Tidal Open Space (includes surf beaches, rock pool areas, mud flats, estuary foreshore)

Parcel ID	Area (ha)	Area (m ²)	Dog Status	Condition
Bilgola Beach	4.00	39,965	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Bilgola Beach Rock Pool area	1.26	12,577	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Newport Beach	6.99	69,891	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Newport Beach Rock Pool area (and platform south)	4.97	49,692	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Bungan Beach (and narrow platform south)	6.48	64,842	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Bongin Bongin Bay	3.01	30,144	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Bongin Bongin Bay Rock Pool area	1.06	10,643	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Mona Vale Beach	8.02	80,164	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Refuge Cove foreshore	0.54	5,445	UNCERTAIN	
South Beach south of Refuge Cove	0.27	2,748	UNCERTAIN	
Salt Pan Cove foreshore	0.34	3,396	UNCERTAIN	
Florence Park foreshore	0.27	2,662	UNCERTAIN	
Regatta Reserve foreshore	0.32	3,189	UNCERTAIN	
Dearin Park foreshore	0.08	796	NO ACCESS	Oyster hazard
Beaconsfield Street Reserve foreshore	0.01	133	UNCERTAIN	
Winji Jimmi Reserve foreshore	0.28	2,758	UNCERTAIN	
Winererremy Bay Foreshore Reserve foreshore	0.32	3,211	UNCERTAIN	
Rowland Reserve foreshore (south of dragonboats)	0.30	3,018	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Rowland Reserve foreshore (dog swimming area)	0.53	5,330	OFF LEASH	
Rowland Reserve foreshore (north and western habitat protection zones)	1.00	10,021	DOGS PROHIBITED	
Riddle Reserve foreshore	0.12	1,219	UNCERTAIN	
Griffin Park foreshore	0.11	1,140	UNCERTAIN	
Church Point Reserve foreshore	0.16	1,574	UNCERTAIN	
Botham Beach foreshore	0.09	913	UNCERTAIN	
McCarrs Creek Reserve foreshore	0.10	1,017	UNCERTAIN	
Summary				
Subtotal "Dogs Prohibited"		TBC		
Subtotal Dogs permitted leash-free		5,330		1.3112%
Subtotal Dogs permitted on lead		TBC		
Total Tidal Open Space	40.65	406,488		

Sheet 6: North of Mona Vale Road to Bilgola (combined Green & Tidal Open Space areas)

	Area (ha)	Area (m ²)	% of Total Green & Tidal Open Space
Subtotal "Dogs Prohibited"		TBC	
Subtotal Dogs permitted leash-free	4.80	47,980	1.7399%
Subtotal Dogs permitted leash-free (less Dearin Park)		41,470	1.5038%
Subtotal Dogs permitted on lead		TBC	
Total Green & Tidal Open Space	275.76	2,757,601	