
Local dog access rules 2025

Aotea/Great Barrier local parks

**Comments from the local board area separated from
those outside the local board area**

Date published: Monday, 7 April 2025

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Sub #	Q4 AGB-A Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach	Q4 AGB-A Comment
AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD		
347	I do not support the proposed change	I dont think dogs off the leash near the picnic area of gooseberry flat . lots of small children play.
976	Other (please explain below)	I support the proposed changes but would like to table that a small area of Kaitoke beach be opened up for dogs from Oceanview Rd (where access is via the Ak Council reserve to the beach - not at the end of the road through private property). There are a small number of dogs living or who visit the street as holiday makers, all responsible and well controlled. Currently we need to drive every day to Medlands or Awana to walk our 12 yo dog on the beach (we are resident on Oceanview Rd)
1269	I support the proposed change	Protects the children/birds
1287	Other (please explain below)	Gooseberry Flat Beach is THE most heavily used family beach on the island. The concern is that there are dogs that are not under control. There have been two incidents recently, that I know of, one of which resulted in a friend being helicoptered off the island, as the result of a broken shoulder after being bowled over by a large dog, and the other a pensioner who was bitten. I am aware from elderly neighbours that they are fearful of being on the beach when large dogs are running loose. I would like to see a rule put in place during January in particular, that dogs may be off leash prior to 10am and again after 5pm.
1623	I do not support the proposed change	I would like to be able to continue to walk and swim My dog on leash at Pah beach, there are often less people there which makes it for a safer and less distracting place to walk my dog. I don't quite understand how it effects the birds if they are under control on leash.
1656	Other (please explain below)	This is a big Island. What about all the other beaches and recreational spaces on Great Barrier Island. Nothing of note for the rest of the Island. All owners of dogs should be required to do Bird Aversion. If a dog is caught wandering part of its return should be Bird Averson training.
1748	I do not support the proposed change	You havent clarified if dogs are allowed on or off a leash on gooseberry flat beach at the southern end south of the playground. there is signage at the playground that currently says you can have your dog on a leash there.
2392	Other (please explain below)	There are very few off leash areas on Aotea now. Pah beach is 50% off leash, yet it is probably the one beach where a dog off leash would have little impact on other users. There are usually a lot more people at Gooseberry Flats and so a dog can't get a good run around. The area south of Blackwell Drive to the northern end of the playground at Gooseberry Flats as a dog under control off leash area would be a good compromise.
2952	I support the proposed change	There's a dramatic increase in the amount of dogs on this beach out of control

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3452	I do not support the proposed change	The northern end of gooseberry flat beach under the pohutukawa trees is THE top island spot for local and visiting families to bring their children and young ones. Dogs off the leash in this area have been such a menace, often racing around terrorizing our small children. The south end is fine and pa beach fine but the spot at the north of gooseberry flat should be dog free to give greater security to our young ones and peace of mind to parents that their children can safely play on the beach and tide pools without constantly having dogs running around and bowling them over
4434	I support the proposed change	The council needs to say that beaches are not for dogs, and only in very limited circumstances can dogs be walked on leash on beaches , most beaches of aotea are used as dog exercise areas , I believe this is harmful to the birds that live on the beach and other beach users.
5182	I support the proposed change	Not a big change for dog owners but a big difference to the pāteke that live in the creek on Pah Beach.
5630	I do not support the proposed change	It seems that responsible dog owners are being penalised when they are not the problem. Under the new proposal, the only off-lead area is the most populated area for all beach goers. As a responsible dog owner I prefer to swim my dogs in less crowded areas so that I do not upset non-dog lovers. Banning dogs completely from these areas will make this impossible. A far bigger problem on Great Barrier Island is the dogs that are allowed to continually roam at all times of the day and night. You only have to read the local Facebook page to see the number of dogs found wandering, and I can personally provide security camera footage of various uninvited dogs on my property at 2am. I am only 400m from the beach and I'm sure the sleeping bird life in those areas are in more danger at that time of the day, than when I walk my dog on a lead during the day. Unfortunately the only dog ranger on the island would rather pick on the easy targets who overstep an imaginary line on the beach, than patrol the area and pick up vagrant dogs in the middle of the night.
OUTSIDE AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD		
417	I do not support the proposed change	I advocate for being allowed dogs under control and on leash in more of aucklands regional parks and within more areas of aucklands regional parks. Walking and hiking in Aucklands regional parks is a perfect activity for having canine companionship. There is plenty of space for everyone and when dogs are under control on leash there is little room for that to be problematic to anyone. Currently the options for getting fresh air and exercise for dog owners in Auckland are already incredibly limited. I do not support limiting this further. Again, the emphasis should be on policing and preventing nad dog ownership, not making it impossible le for good dogs and owners to enjoy wholesome, healthy activities in our own neighborhoods.
523	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs should be allowed on all publics areas under control at all times unless there is a non kauri die back conservation need
565	Other (please explain below)	If the places dogs can go reduces so should the fee for keeping them, it should also go down each year and be relative to the size of dog.

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689	I support the proposed change	This makes sense; it does cut down the off-leash area close to the water but at least you have compensated by extending the area overall so this is less of an issue.
779	I don't know	Good lord it's confusing enough as it is now it's mind boggling! As a property owner on Great Barrier Island there are absolutely NO signs ANYWHERE restricting or allowing dogs in any particular area AT ALL one takes their chances on whether the access is safe for person & dog with total consideration of what exists in that area. Having listened to several dog owners that own properties there who normally reside on the mainland they too are shocked that the current rules are verbal if you happen to come across animal control. I have to say though there has never been a problem of "roaming dogs" on Great Barrier Island that'd be due to the fact people look after their dogs respectively unlike the mainland.
1325	I support the proposed change	Please improve enforcement.
1358	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs should be allowed on leash in all park areas. Provision for off leash play should be made in all parks.
1379	I do not support the proposed change	More dogs in Auckland and your solution is to restrict where and when they can go places, removing areas of much needed off leash areas and giving nothing in return. This makes absolutely no sense.
1833	I do not support the proposed change	Having dogs on leash should protect the shore birds and keep things simple rather than having 3 rules for one beach. A lot of the dogs on aotea are visitors rather than residents so having clear, simple rules makes them easier to follow.
1854	Other (please explain below)	Please have an end or area of a beach which is fine for beach goers to have controlled dogs off leash by their owner. People get so uppity about dogs off leash during the summer. Animals are just as entitled to enjoy our beaches (behaving controlled and respectfully - like humans)

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1875	I do not support the proposed change	Dear council I am writing to urge you not to ban dogs from our beloved regional parks, beaches, and public spaces. As a vibrant part of our community, these natural areas should be open to everyone, including responsible dog owners, who are an integral part of our society. Why Dogs in Parks Matter: 1. Health and Well-being: Dogs are not only wonderful companions, but studies have shown that walking with dogs encourages more physical activity, which can help combat the rising rates of sedentary lifestyles and chronic diseases. These outings promote better mental health, lower stress levels, and a deeper connection to nature—benefits that extend to the whole family. 2. Economic Impact: Dogs help generate revenue for our parks. Local businesses benefit from dog owners spending on pet-related products, pet services, and park fees. Tourism also sees a positive impact as people often choose destinations where they can bring their dogs, boosting the local economy and increasing the sense of community. 3. Social Responsibility: Responsible dog ownership is a core part of being a good community member. Many dog owners are highly committed to respecting public spaces—cleaning up after their pets, keeping dogs on leashes when required, and ensuring their pets do not disrupt others. Banning dogs punishes those who are mindful and courteous, while the real challenge lies in enforcing responsible behaviour. Ensure you are fining and implementing consequences for those who do not follow the rules.
1914	I support the proposed change	Protection of native wildlife is the only time I agree with the restrictions to dog access. Mistakes can't happen here. It's not an appropriate training ground.
2086	I do not support the proposed change	Never had issues before, punishing everyone for a small handful of irresponsible owners isn't fair. The less our dogs are out in society the more harmful to their behavior moving forward
2139	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs are family members it is already difficult to find activities you can do with your dog. Banning them from beaches and parks will be a step back as a society. In fact more and more people is opting for not having kids and having dogs instead. This will new proposed policy will definitively have a huge negative impact on the wellbeing of NZ dog owners. We should promote healthier, active lifestyle. What other alternatives we have as dog owners is the equivalent of banning kids in parks. that does not make sense.
2184	I do not support the proposed change	Keep current

Sub #	Q4 AGB-A Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach	Q4 AGB-A Comment
2185	Other (please explain below)	It is already too difficult to find a place to walk my dog (legally). I strongly urge you to not make it more restrictive in this regard. I am happy to walk my dog on a lead. If changes must be made, I recommend limited off-lead dogs and requiring them to be on-lead as an alternative for outright banning them. Thank you for your time.
2343	I do not support the proposed change	Responsible dog owners are already highly restricted on area and times if access. Increasing those limitations is unfair and discriminating. The majority should not be penalized for the minority who are not responsible dog owners.
2469	I do not support the proposed change	Council needs to stop removing access to public parks and sports fields for dogs off leash. There is no reason to do this in areas that are not being used by others. Clearly whoever came up with this draconian idea does not have a dog. Dogs need lots of space to run and play, not just one small corner of a park. If you want a protest of dogs outside Albert st this is the way to do it.
2488	I do not support the proposed change	It's already to minum the parks and areas that you currently can walk with your dog, and to keep a healthy and balanced dog at least the dog need to be walked once a day.
2692	I do not support the proposed change	See previous
2713	I do not support the proposed change	We should be allowed to have access to these places as well
2837	I support the proposed change	Better wording and easier to visualise than some imaginary line.
2871	I do not support the proposed change	Too restrictive
3309	I do not support the proposed change	There's already so few places to walk dogs, with doc control on most of the island ,, there needs to be more open space available, not less
4412	I do not support the proposed change	I do not support any further restrictions on where dog owners can take their dogs for a walk. There are so many restrictions already! The focus should be on education and licensing, not access.
4489	I do not support the proposed change	I want less restrictions not more
4821	I do not support the proposed change	If dogs are under control there is no problem.
4851	I do not support the proposed change	The rules are restricting too much the dog access, people want to be with their dogs.
4879	I support the proposed change	Personal safety
4947	I do not support the proposed change	This is reducing the amount of space available for off leash/on leash walking. I do not support this.
4950	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs should be allowed to be walked on all beaches, at all times provided they are on leash and controlled.
5103	I do not support the proposed change	There is no reason for the change, it is an attack on dog owners
5452	I do not support the proposed change	The current rules work fine and there is no reason to change something that isn't broken

Sub #	Q4 AGB-A Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach	Q4 AGB-A Comment
5522	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs under control have great owners, owners that have trust with their dog will only take them off leash
5661	I do not support the proposed change	Responsible dog owners should be able to walk their dogs here. Stop limiting the good owners and restricting them. It is not fair on them or the dogs.
5712	I do not support the proposed change	I am also deeply concerned by Auckland Council's plan to increase on-leash and dog-free areas. These restrictions further reduce dogs' access to exercise and socialisation—key factors in preventing behavioural issues. It seems clear that dog welfare is not the Council's priority, as these proposals not only limit safe exercise spaces but also restrict access to trained professionals who can provide it. a key factors of animal welfare are the "5 freedoms", one of these main pillars is freedom to express natural behavior. it is natural for a dog to run freely! I think there has been an overall lack of insight from professionals in the animal welfare, medical, training and walking community.
5722	I do not support the proposed change	This is too restrictive and the on leash provision was satisfactory
5822	I do not support the proposed change	Why the need to change any of the rules?
5906	I do not support the proposed change	The rules to prevent dogs from beaches, bush walks, reserves and gardens seek only to punish good dog owners.
5918	I do not support the proposed change	Current Rules clear.
6344	I do not support the proposed change	Keep off leash areas intact!
6434	Other (please explain below)	I support the clarity for unleash control but do not support off leash
6447	I do not support the proposed change	Expand areas and times that dog owners can access with their companions
6610	I do not support the proposed change	Nothing wrong with the current rules.
6940	Other (please explain below)	The proposed off-leash area is too close to the playground

Sub #	Q4 AGB-A Gooseberry Flat and Pah Beach	Q4 AGB-A Comment
7272	I do not support the proposed change	• Lives at Gooseberry Flat and is a dog owner • Would like to see reduced access for dogs on Gooseberry Flat Beach, particularly during summer • Concerned about children and other users of the beach as Gooseberry Flat Beach is the main beach people take their families to and is especially busy during the summer period • Dogs are currently left to roam free on Gooseberry Flat and are not under control by their owners • Wants to sit down with council and work together about how to do this properly. Wants to be involved in coming up with a solution together. • Does not want Gooseberry Flat to be prohibited entirely and enjoys walking her dog along the waters edge when the tide is far out as it is away from the dry sand beach area • There are other bays nearby that dog owners can take their dogs to • Question from staff: would you want to see a time and season rule on the beach? o A time and season rule would be a good starting point, potentially as a trial run • Not 'anti' either way and does not want to be overly restrictive, but wants to find a solution that works for everyone • Most problematic dogs on Gooseberry Flat Beach are from visitors, others are from irresponsible local dog owners.

Sub #	Q4 AGB-B Sandhills Reserve	Q4 AGB-B Comment
AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD		
1269	I support the proposed change	Good idea
1608	I support the proposed change	More options for dogs and their carers with off leash time really helps me exercise the dogs and me.
1748	I support the proposed change	yes great idea. where is the map?
2796	I do not support the proposed change	This is a very limited space for properly exercising your dog. At present most responsible dog owners walk their dogs along the low tide area of the beach providing far better exercise and well away from being any danger to birds or other wildlife.
2952	I support the proposed change	Give them their own special area where they can't bother animals or people
3715	I support the proposed change	I am a member of the wetland restoration group at Oruawharo and am aware that rules for dogs on the beach are quite restrictive (which I support) because of the vulnerable dotterel and torea pango populations. I think it would be good for people to have an alternative place close by to exercise dogs and socialise both dogs and adults. There is parking handy. It is critical that the reserve is well fenced with cyclone or similar fencing that is also pigproof as the reserve is a key playground and access route for pigs invading the wetland. A couple of bench seats would enhance the social utility of the place and a few more trees might be useful!
4434	I support the proposed change	A dedicated dog exercise area for dogs is a very good idea lto transition dog owners frpom using the beaches as exercise areas.
4748	I support the proposed change	I think this would bring new life to this unused reserve. It would be a good alternative to beach access for some people and their dogs and it could provide a venue for social contact. I think there would need to be fencing provided around the reserve to restrict dogs from accessing the DOC wetland and the neighbouring private properties. This would also prevent pigs from using the reserve as a highway to Sandhills rd and the dunes. Some amenities for humans at the reserve would be welcome - eg picnic table etc. The development and planting of the adjacent DOC controlled land by the OME team will be complementary and should make the area more appealing.
4749	I support the proposed change	I support the change to dogs under control off a leash at any time since the area will be fenced and access to the DOC land/wetlands will be closed off from Sandhills Reserve. I am Chairman of the Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision group who are planting in the wetlands including directly below the Sandhills Reserve. The reserve is an underutilised park at present and could also be much improved for human visitors with further planting and provision of seating, tables and possibly a BBQ area. Because of the sensitive wetland ecosystem adjacent to the reserve it is imperative that dogs do not gain access (it is prohibited already) from the Sandhills Reserve which fencing the reserve would achieve. However access is needed for OME and DOC workers and a gate would be vital for that purpose. It would need to be secured by a lock with a combination lock perhaps the most sensible choice.

Sub #	Q4 AGB-B Sandhills Reserve	Q4 AGB-B Comment
5177	I support the proposed change	Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision is a small community group in Medlands who, among other things, advocate for the safety of our shorebirds. Having this reserve put to good use as a dog park will mean people with puppies, or dogs that have a keen eye for birds, can still exercise their dogs off leash safely. We support this as an extra off leash option, not a substitute for beach off-leash areas. We are restoring the wetland adjoining the reserve and would love to see a secure access point through the fence between the reserve and the DOC wetland. We currently use this reserve to access the bank below where a lot of planting and weed work has been undertaken. Having a bench or two in the dog park area would be a great addition so people can enjoy the view while visiting the reserve/dog park. The proposed and important fencing around the dog park area will have the added benefit of keeping feral pigs from travelling through the reserve, though they will likely find another way through using private properties.
5182	I support the proposed change	Great to see this initiative. As mentioned in your terms, fencing will be crucial to further protect wildlife. This will give owners of a new, yet untrained, puppy an opportunity to take them to a secure area to be socialised and trained off leash. There could be potential to run a puppy school or other training sessions in that area. Having this option will take the pressure off the beach areas, if you have a dog that can't be trusted around the birds, although it is not a large area and can't be offered as an alternative to the off leash beach access for most owners of well trained dogs. Thanks for offering this, otherwise largely unused, reserve up for something useful.
OUTSIDE AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD		
417	I do not support the proposed change	I advocate for being allowed dogs under control and on leash in more of aucklands regional parks and within more areas of aucklands regional parks. Walking and hiking in Aucklands regional parks is a perfect activity for having canine companionship. There is plenty of space for everyone and when dogs are under control on leash there is little room for that to be problematic to anyone. Currently the options for getting fresh air and exercise for dog owners in Auckland are already incredibly limited. I do not support limiting this further. Again, the emphasis should be on policing and preventing nad dog ownership, not making it impossible le for good dogs and owners to enjoy wholesome, healthy activities in our own neighborhoods.
523	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs should be allowed on all publics areas under control at all times unless there is a non kauri die back conservation need
689	I support the proposed change	A pleasant change from all the restrictions so far.
706	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs should be prohibited.
779	I support the proposed change	Obviously wildlife & fauna are subject to have changes in an area of a location & therefore any changes need to be made.
1325	I do not support the proposed change	Off leash dogs are a danger to my children.

Sub #	Q4 AGB-B Sandhills Reserve	Q4 AGB-B Comment
1358	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs should be allowed on leash in all park areas. Provision for off leash play should be made in all parks.
1833	I support the proposed change	This would be amazing. So many dogs would appreciate this (including ours when we visit my mum!)
1914	I support the proposed change	More access is good
2086	I do not support the proposed change	Never had issues before, punishing everyone for a small handful of irresponsible owners isn't fair. The less our dogs are out in society the more harmful to their behavior moving forward
2139	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs are family members it is already difficult to find activities you can do with your dog. Banning them from beaches and parks will be a step back as a society. In fact more and more people is opting for not having kids and having dogs instead. This will new proposed policy will definitively have a huge negative impact on the wellbeing of NZ dog owners. We should promote healthier, active lifestyle. What other alternatives we have as dog owners is the equivalent of banning kids in parks. that does not make sense.
2185	Other (please explain below)	Please provide as many opportunities as possible for on-lead walking.
2343	I do not support the proposed change	Responsible dog owners are already highly restricted on area and times if access. Increasing those limitations is unfair and discriminating. The majority should not be penalized for the minority who are not responsible dog owners.
2488	I support the proposed change	Finally some freedom!
2692	I do not support the proposed change	See previous
2713	I do not support the proposed change	We should be allowed to have access to these places as well
2871	I support the proposed change	Fair
3263	I do not support the proposed change	More leashes at all times.
3309	I support the proposed change	We need more of leash areas, so support this!
4412	I support the proposed change	More off leash areas would be great.
4489	I support the proposed change	I want less restrictions not more
4821	I do not support the proposed change	If dogs are under control there is no problem.
4879	I support the proposed change	Personal safety
4893	I do not support the proposed change	This is ridiculous, dogs should be allowed on the beach and all public areas at anytime. This is not required. The cost of the fenced area is an unnecessary cost for the council.
4950	I support the proposed change	Dogs should be allowed to be walked on all beaches, at all times provided they are on leash and controlled.

Sub #	Q4 AGB-B Sandhills Reserve	Q4 AGB-B Comment
4974	I do not support the proposed change	I have owned land at Aotea for 40 years and have a house at Medlands Beach. In that time we have planted numerous trees from what used to be farmland. the birdlife has proliferated dramatically in the 40 years i have been there. i have had 3 dogs out there and they ignore the bird life completely. From what i can see the Pukekos and Wekas are a bigger menace to young chicks and threats and mice love the eggs. As for the walking there is hardly anyone there for 50 weeks of the year so annoying beachgoers is not an issue. so i do not understand why things need to change except to appease a very small group of bird lovers who would like to see humans banned from the beach. the proposed change would be a symbol of bureaucracy ruling in favor of the minority. Waiheke is the same as I live there permanently. I have had 1 complaint in 10 years out there. and the complainant was a little unusual and started screaming and yelling when the dog got within 20 meters of her. it who you change bylaws for? maybe i should start yelling and screaming in defense of the dogs.
5103	I do not support the proposed change	There is no reason for the change, it is an attack on dog owners
5452	I do not support the proposed change	The current rules work fine and there is no reason to change something that isn't broken
5522	I do not support the proposed change	Dogs under control have great owners, owners that have trust with their dog will only take them off leash
5549	I do not support the proposed change	See Attached: Summary of Attachment Opposition to Proposal: The author, representing a client with interests on the island, strongly opposes the proposal to amend dog access rules at Sandhills Reserve. Current and Proposed Rules: Current rule: Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Proposed change: Allow dogs off-leash at any time, with appropriate fencing and signage. Concerns Raised: Amenity and Usability: The proposal could deter non-dog owners from using the reserve and exacerbate issues with uncontrolled dogs. Wildlife Protection: Increased off-leash dog access poses risks to protected native wildlife, including rare and threatened bird species. Inconsistency in Council's Approach: The author points out an inconsistency in the Council's approach, as they propose to protect wildlife in other areas by restricting dog access but increase dog access near a wildlife reserve. Relief Sought: The author requests that the Council abandon the proposal and retain the current rule requiring dogs to be on a leash at all times in Sandhills Reserve.
5661	I do not support the proposed change	Responsible dog owners should be able to walk their dogs here. Stop limiting the good owners and restricting them. It is not fair on them or the dogs.

Sub #	Q4 AGB-B Sandhills Reserve	Q4 AGB-B Comment
5722	I support the proposed change	We need more off leash areas
5798	I do not support the proposed change	With the authorised dog area of Medlands beach a preferred walking zone for responsible dog owners, there is no need to add Sandhills Reserve. This reserve means a walk along a road with no paths and is surrounded by residences which would have a negative impact on the property owners. The beach zone is safe, no traffic, with the added benefit of swimming for owners and dogs should they choose.
5918	I do not support the proposed change	Current Rules clear.
6434	I do not support the proposed change	Needs to be on leash to respect the environment and its inhabitants
6447	I do not support the proposed change	Expand areas and times that dog owners can access with their companions
6610	I support the proposed change	Great to have more areas to exercise dogs
6940	I don't know	This is an excellent example of appropriate leash-legislation within a recreational park. This will protect animals, wildlife and children (often young) who attend. Of note, a roaming dog recently killed a horse at the nearby Pony club. My own daughter and son volunteer at the farm feeding the animals. I am very grateful for this change prohibiting dogs