



Matt Fregon MP

MEMBER FOR MOUNT WAVERLEY DISTRICT



Dear Mayor James,

Feedback submission to Monash Council's draft Off-Leash Areas Policy

I am writing to you as both a resident of Monash and the Member for Mount Waverley District to submit a response to Monash Council's community consultation process for its Off-Leash Areas Policy.

I congratulate Monash Council on their work in reviewing off-leash areas in our local government area. Our community has many open spaces that we can enjoy with our furry friends, and I appreciate the considerable work of you and your officers in producing this draft policy.

There is one aspect of the review however, of which many of my constituents have raised concerns. The draft policy as it currently stands rules out the possibility of a fenced off-leash area within the Monash municipality.

I feel that this does not leave room to improve safety to areas that would be improved by the addition of some fencing. I am aware that many other councils do offer these options and many people who live in Monash travel further to these areas. I have also had it raised with my office that people, especially seniors, would appreciate being able to use park facilities where the off-leash areas are contained.

Several local sports clubs have raised their ongoing problems in co-existing with dogs on their grounds and I appreciate that council works pro-actively to assist in this area.

For your further information, I have also received mixed feedback on the proposed changes to the Damper Creek off-leash area.

This issue was raised many times with my office, so I have recently asked for feedback in the form of a petition to show support for the possibility of a fenced off-leash area within my District of Mount Waverley. To date I have received nearly 500 responses to this petition and have included the names and addresses attached with this letter.

I thank you for your ongoing work in improving our community and its assets. I hope that this information assists the council in making the best decisions going forward for us all.

Should I or my office be able to assist any further in regard to your draft policy please contact me at your convenience.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M Fregon', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Matt Fregon MP
Member for Mount Waverley