

ATTACHMENT C

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ASSESSMENT OF SUBMISSIONS

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Attachment C - Hugo Street Off-Leash Proposal: Submissions Received

Comments	Response
General message of support (1)	Noted
Dog ownership is popular in the local area	Noted. Dog walking is a popular activity in the City's parks and open spaces. The Companion Animals Register indicates that 10,304 dogs are registered within the City of Sydney LGA.
Many people and dog owners live in apartments with no access to gardens or yards to exercise their pets. (1)	Noted. Apartment living is becoming increasingly common within the local government area. The City has a responsibility to provide for the recreational needs of all residents including dog owners living in apartments.
The park is convenient for dog owners living locally and existing off-leash parks are too far away to meet their needs. (2)	The nearest off-leash park is Charles Kernan Reserve (400m) which contains a small open grass area which is off-leash at all times. Gibbons Street Reserve (500m) is an off-leash open grassed area steeply sloping in parts and adjacent to a busy road. The largest off-leash area (2.5 hectares) is within Prince Alfred Park, 550m away.
Allowing dogs off-leash in the reserve would provide opportunity for owners to socialise their dogs and would contribute to community building.	Off-leash areas provide valuable opportunity for owners to socialise their dogs which assists in reducing nuisance behaviour. Off-leash parks also contribute to community interaction.
The area is often used by local dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash and this has not generated any issues or conflict. (1)	City Rangers patrols indicate that the park is sometimes used by dog owners (only 4 dogs witnessed in the Reserve in 9 visits during June, July, August 2014). The City has received an anonymous complaint about a recent dog attack within the adjoining Basketball court.
The enclosed area provides a safe place to exercise and socialise dogs including small dogs and puppies. (3)	Only one of the off-leash parks within the City of Sydney area is fully enclosed (Embarkation Park, Potts Point). The City does not generally create enclosed areas for off-leash recreation. Hugo Street Reserve contains an enclosed area which may provide reassurance for dog owners.
Dogs were previously allowed off-leash in the park. (5)	Dogs have never been permitted off-leash in the park. Under the Companion Animals Act, off-leash areas must be formally designated as such by the local authority. Neither the City of Sydney nor the former South Sydney Council designated Hugo Street Reserve to be an off-leash area.
Verbal Comments	
Two residents contacted the City by telephone to voice their opposition to the proposal citing noise nuisance and conflict between dog owners and some local residents.	The City's customer service records indicate two complaints about noisy dogs, and one complaint about unattended dogs at the Reserve in the past two years. An anonymous complaint was recently received about a dog attack (park visitor allegedly bitten) within the Reserve basketball court.