



**MEDIA RELEASE | 12 December 2023**

## **Dogs allowed additional hours to walk off-lead on Victor Harbor beaches, while sand dunes get extra protection**

**The City of Victor Harbor made several resolutions relating to dog leashing requirements at its meeting on Monday, 11 December 2023.**

In November, Council sought the community's feedback on dog leashing requirements across the Council area.

After considering community feedback, Council determined that:

- To protect vegetation and wildlife, the Hindmarsh River Estuary sand dunes, Inman River Estuary sand dunes and Wright Island will become 24/7 on-lead areas
- Hours for off-lead dog walking on beaches will be extended during daylight savings, meaning dogs can be walked off-lead from 6pm-10am (*previously this was 8pm-10am*)
- Other leashing requirements remain unchanged

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said community feedback informed Council's decision making.

"I would like to sincerely thank the community for taking the time to submit feedback on the application of Council's by-laws last month. I know it's a topic that is close to many people's heart, as a large number of us (including myself) love walking our dogs on Victor Harbor's stunning beaches," said Mayor Jenkins.

Over 200 surveys and 26 written submissions were received during the consultation period, plus more than 100 face-to-face conversations were had with Council staff. A full engagement summary can be [viewed online](#).

"The feedback told us that protecting our natural environment is equally as important as allowing ample access to open spaces for dog owners," said Mayor Jenkins

"The outcome is that dog owners now have an additional two hours to walk off-lead on our coastline during daylight savings time. They just need to take extra care by leashing their dog if they plan to venture up into the sand dunes near the Hindmarsh River Estuary and Inman River Estuary."

Although Petrel Cove was ultimately determined not to be an appropriate location for a designated off-lead area, community members can still utilise the Victor Harbor Dog Park (corner of George Main Road and Oval Park Road) for exercising their dogs.

"The Dog Park is an off-lead area for dogs to play, socialise and exercise around the clock. It's a great place for dog owners to connect with one another too – I've made many friends there!" said Mayor Jenkins.

During the consultation process, it was clear that community members had a desire for signage and enforcement to be improved at local beaches. Subject to budget deliberations, Council will review its signage to make dog leashing requirements clear and concise, while also encouraging respectful enjoyment of our stunning open spaces.

For more information about dog leashing requirements and to view a map, community members can visit [www.victor.sa.gov.au/dogs](http://www.victor.sa.gov.au/dogs).