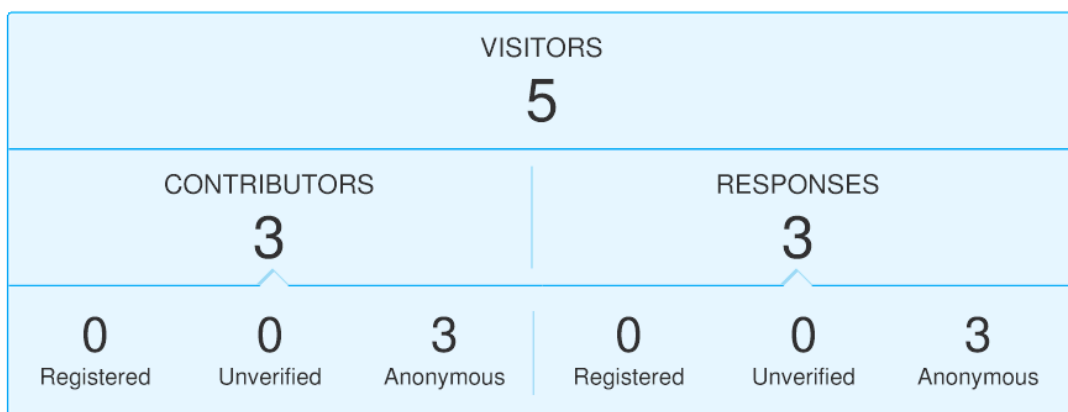


Survey Responses  
02 October 2018 - 28 October 2020

## Draft Companion Animals Management Policy - Feedback Form

**Your Voice Snowy Valleys**  
Project: Draft Companion Animals Management Policy

Document Set ID: 3072619  
Version: 1, Version Date: 29/10/2020



**Respondent No:** 1  
**Login:** Anonymous  
**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Oct 01, 2020 16:40:58 pm  
**Last Seen:** Oct 01, 2020 16:40:58 pm  
**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **Full Name**

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Q2. **Email**

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Q3. **Postcode** 2653

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Q4. **What is your feedback?**

Regarding section 4.7 Off Leash Areas: It is totally unrealistic and unfair to have only one declared off-leash area in the whole LGA, especially one of our geographical size. Up until June this year there were four advertised on the SVC website (Khancoban, Jingelic, Tumbarumba, Tumut), which were removed without any notice or community consultation. It is my opinion that every town in the LGA should be given the option of having a dog off-leash area. In respect to Tumbarumba, Bi-centennial Park should be reinstated as a declared dog off-leash area. It has functioned as one as long as I have been a resident (well over a decade) and is the only place where dogs could enjoy an off-leash swim in creek in the warmer months. As the act explicitly places all responsibility on the dogs owners in all circumstances, clear signage (where all users of the space know what to expect) should be sufficient.

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Q5. **You can also choose to upload a pre-prepared submission document here (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 2**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Oct 16, 2020 00:18:36 am**Last Seen:** Oct 16, 2020 00:18:36 am**IP Address:** n/a**Q1. Full Name**

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**Q2. Email**

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**Q3. Postcode**

2653


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**Q4. What is your feedback?**

The Tumbarumba Council Animal Management Policy named Bicentennial Park as an off leash area in 2012. <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20141210173010/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/39090/20141211-0017/www.tumbashire.nsw.gov.au/environment-tumbashirecd/animals-pets-tumbashire.html>. Up until last week the SVC website stated that Bicentennial Park was an off leash area and customer service staff were not aware that it was no longer an off leash area. The change to the website occurred only when I alerted council that a ranger had verbally informed us of this and stated it had not been off leash for 'quite a while'. When did this change? Why was this change made? How was the community informed? Why is Bila Park in Tumut the only designated off leash area in the LGA? It is not feasible to drive 100km to take your dog for a walk off leash especially in an LGA of around 8600 square kms. I am aware that there has been some discussion regarding The Common becoming an off leash area. This area is used by mountain bikers - surely the safety risk in a location like that should be considered. Please include Bicentennial Park into this policy as the designated off leash area for Tumbarumba as it has been since 2012.

**Q5. You can also choose to upload a pre-prepared submission document here (optional)** not answered

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	<b>Respondent No:</b> 3	<b>Responded At:</b> Oct 28, 2020 12:48:54 pm
	<b>Login:</b> Anonymous	<b>Last Seen:</b> Oct 28, 2020 12:48:54 pm
	<b>Email:</b> n/a	<b>IP Address:</b> n/a

Q1. **Full Name**

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Q2. **Email**

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Q3. **Postcode** 2653

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Q4. **What is your feedback?**

see the attached letter

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Q5. **You can also choose to upload a pre-prepared submission document here (optional)**

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Tumbarumba

Executive Director, Community & Corporate

Snowy Valleys Council

#### Draft Companion Animals Policy

Please accept my feedback on the above draft policy.

I refer specifically to section 4.7 Off Leash Areas which states that "Council has only one declared leash free area within the Snowy Valleys Council LGA. That area is located at Bila Park in Tumut."

To have only one off leash area in the vast area of SVLGA is, frankly, absurd and unacceptable.

Until it was revealed in the Tumbarumba Times, 7 October 2020, that Bicentennial Park in Tumbarumba was not (or rather "no longer") and off leash area, I, together with many other dog owners were under the impression that this was an off leash area. As reported, at some point since 2015 the park was declassified as off leash. By all reports there was little if any consultation and no notices published or displayed. I am aware that the legislation requires NSW LGA's to have at least one off leash area but I think it is reasonable to say this is a minimum, not an arbitrary statutory requirement and does not reasonably take into account the size of most non-metropolitan LGAs.

With no off leash area in Tumbarumba dog owners would only be allowed to run their dogs off leash in their own back yard or on another person's private property. This is quite unreasonable.

Simply walking a dog on a leash or playing in a small area such as a back yard is not sufficient for the health, well-being and behaviour of a dog, especially working type breeds such as kelpies, collies, cattle dogs and the like. For many older dog owners "running" a dog on leash is not an option.

Running a dog in a park or designated area is not only good for the dog but good for the dog owner. Not only does it encourage owners to exercise it is also socially and mentally beneficial. In these Covid-19 times of restricted social activity taking your dog for a run in the park and meeting other owners and dogs is of tremendous value.

It is also an opportunity for the many tourists and visitors to the area to get decent exercise for their dogs which have been tied up or restricted in caravans and

campers and in campgrounds. Tumbarumba, in terms of tourists, needs to be a dog friendly destination.

I have been walking my dog in Bicentennial Park almost every day for the best part of twelve years. In that time I have not been involved in or witnessed any incidents involving dogs off leash. Aside from the occasional aggressive behaviour toward other unfamiliar dogs I have not seen any dogs fighting or attacking each other. I have not seen any dogs harass or be aggressive to other park users such as pedestrians, children or cyclists. I have seen no damage caused by any off leash dogs. Although the draft policy refers to Council's desire to "reduce the number of Companion Animal complaints", I have not heard of or seen reported any complaints regarding dogs off leash in Bicentennial Park. In my view this is a solution in search of a problem.

For these reasons I can see no justification for not restoring the off leash designation for this park. I would go further to suggest that off leash areas should also be available in all townships within the LGA such as Khancoban, Talbingo and others.

I therefore submit that SVC review this section of the policy and modify the policy to provide for an appropriate and easily accessible off leash area in Tumbarumba, namely Bicentennial Park.

regards

28 October 2020