How does Council assess the suitability of dog access at each location?

Council has developed a decision-making framework and multi criteria risk assessment tools to assess the potential impact of dog exercise areas on existing and future sites. Multi criteria risk assessments are important tools that provide a consistent and objective approach to evaluations to protect core values and guide rational and appropriate decision making into the future.

Three individual multi criteria risk assessments have been developed to assess the impact of dog access (consequence) within recreation parks and sport parks, beaches and foreshores and environment reserves based on identified criteria and can be found from page 53 to 57 of the draft plan.

The criteria for each assessment is weighted based on the outcomes of a pairwise analysis conducted by Council. This is a method of comparing options in pairs to determine their relative importance or preference based on the determined criteria.

This includes consideration of the potential impact of dog access on:

- Environmental values
    - including shorebird, turtle and endangered, vulnerable and near threatened (EVNT) habitat values on **beaches and foreshores**
    - including koalas, macropods, riparian habitat, and endangered, vulnerable and near threatened (EVNT) habitat values in **environment reserves** and **parks and gardens**
- Aboriginal cultural heritage values including known cultural heritage sites
- Social values including:
    - recreation values
    - scenic amenity values
    - public safety
    - accessibility (including equitable access)
    - residential amenity
- The ability of Council to manage the dog exercise areas safely and effectively.

The multi criteria risk assessment considers existing management activities or controls used to preserve the values the community has told us are important. The assessment process has been informed by the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan Community Focus Groups and key technical staff within Council.

Feedback received through the community engagement process will further inform the multi criteria risk assessment process and recommendations in the draft plan.