

Gideon Cordover

KDWA Dog Survey 2022	Gideon Cordover's answers
<p>1. Council and KDWA currently meet quarterly to discuss dog-related issues. The meeting is between the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and our President and Vice President and lasts less than an hour. Do you support the continuation of these meetings? If you nominated for Mayor or Deputy Mayor, would you attend these meetings in person?</p>	<p>Yes, if elected Deputy Mayor, I would attend these meetings in person. This is an important opportunity to hear directly from KDWA about their ideas, issues and concerns. As a supporter of the KDWA, I would be pleased to attend these meetings and work together to enhance dog-walking options in Kingborough whilst protecting the natural environment and collaborating with other user groups. I also support the meeting minutes being supplied to other Councillors to keep them informed about the content of the meetings and the ideas proposed. I would be a Deputy Mayor who fosters a positive working relationship with KDWA where all ideas are welcome and all discussion is on the table. I'll be upfront about my commitment to preserving and protecting our natural areas and biodiversity and my passionate belief that, despite many user-groups sometimes having competing priorities, we can all work together, coexist and compromise for the benefit of the greater good.</p>
<p>2. Do you support the allocation of funds in the next budget for the development of a Kingborough dog strategy (similar to many other strategies such as waste, green-space, cycling etc)?</p>	<p>Yes. I support an integrated plan for dog-walking in Kingborough that would draw heavily on dogwalkers' input, expert opinion, broader community feedback. The strategy could be a great foundational tool for emphasising the positives about dog-ownership and dogs in our community such as the well-known health & wellbeing benefits, plus it could draw on the knowledge and experience of other important stakeholders like our Natural Areas & Biodiversity Team, Compliance Coordinator, and environmental experts and groups .</p>

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<p>3. Do you support connecting the Alum Cliffs track to Taroona for dog walkers? This might involve permitting dogs on-lead across a small part of Hinsby Beach.</p>	<p>I acknowledge this is a well-loved area by dog-walkers and other recreational users. I support an integrated plan for dog-walking in Kingborough which is why a Dog Strategy would be able to address this and other opportunities for improved dog-walking linkages. A Dog Strategy for Kingborough would draw heavily on dogwalkers' input, expert opinion, and broader community feedback. I support the consideration of the proposal to connect Alum Cliffs track to Taroona for dogwalkers contingent on the recommendation from Council's Natural Areas & Biodiversity officers and our Derwent Estuary Program counterparts. According to the Derwent Estuary Beach Watch program, Hinsby Beach is currently sitting at a long-term rating of 'Good', compared with Kingston Beach North which has a long-term rating of 'Poor'. I support an open and evidence-based dialogue for new on-lead dog-walking connections in harmony with the natural environment.</p>
<p>4. What are your views on permitting dogs on most or all beaches during the colder months when the beaches are otherwise rarely used? Should this access be limited to certain times?</p>	<p>I support a Dog Strategy for Kingborough which would address the issue of permitting dogs on beaches and make evidence-based recommendations for times and locations are appropriate for dogs. The Strategy would draw heavily on dogwalkers' input, expert opinion, and broader community feedback. I support the consideration of this proposal in collaboration with Council's Natural Areas & Biodiversity officers and other stakeholders including the Derwent Estuary Program.</p>
<p>5. About 40% of households own dogs and these owners need access to on-lead and off-lead dog exercise areas; this is becoming more challenging with rapid development in our area. Do you support continued growth and development of community facilities that are designed for and/or accessible to dog owners?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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<p>6. If the current Taswater site at Dru Point becomes Council land, would you support the development of this land as an extension of the existing dog exercise area? Would you consider the construction of a large all-weather covered section for the use of the whole community via a booking system?</p>	<p>I would consider both the extension of the existing dog exercise area at Dru Point and also a large all-weather covered section for the use of the whole community. As Deputy Mayor, I would also help KDWA navigate the Council budgeting process to ensure ideas like this are workshopped and costed. A Dog Strategy would be able to prioritise and recommend the most feasible options and identify the easy 'wins' and 'low-hanging fruit' that could be achieved in the near term.</p>
<p>7. Kingborough Council and KDWA developed a very effective Dog Management Policy in 2019 and this is due for review in 2023. What are your priorities when it comes up for review?</p>	<p>I think the Dog Management Policy is an effective tool. My priority is to see it thoroughly reviewed from the perspective of all stakeholders so that we can see which bits, if any, need to be amended. I think it is essential that Council acknowledges that dog ownership provides many benefits for those involved, including physical health associated with their exercise, companionship, responsibility related to the care and welfare of the animal, and the opportunity to interact socially with other dog and pet owners.</p>
<p>8. Are there any other comments related to dogs that you would like to make?</p>	<p>In my three years on Council, I have been impressed by KDWA's commitment and work ethic. I am thrilled with the Dog Owners Handbook and it is collaborations like this that I would continue to support and encourage. I am a collaborative and positive person who likes to listen and work together. When issues relating to dog walking are raised on Council they evoke enormous community reaction. I recall watching the debate before I was elected to Council as over 100 submissions were made to Council and hundreds of dogwalkers rallied at Kingston Beach. The key role of a Councillor or Deputy Mayor is to listen to their community, be responsive to their needs and also to have a long-term vision for the protection and enhancement of the liveability of the municipality. I believe in listening to the voices around the table and also keeping in mind those who can't raise their voice. I will be a compassionate Deputy Mayor whose door is always open to groups like KDWA and I hope that together we can achieve some great outcomes.</p>