Vic Park Wetlands – Dogs on Leash

Tuesday, 31 January 2023 Council

Council MemberCouncillor Snape

Public

Contact Officer: Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Snape will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That Council:

In order to protect much-welcomed native waterfowl:

- 1. The area inside Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi (Park 16) that is known as the South-East Wetlands, be designated as 'Dogs on leash at all times.'
- 2. Asks administration to install appropriate signage at every entrance to the wetlands including a brief explanation why.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

- 1. The City of Adelaide's <u>dog on-leash and off-leash areas</u> form part of the <u>General Provisions of the Community Land Management Plan</u>, which were adopted by Council in December 2021.
- 2. Council's decision followed a public consultation process which received a significant amount of feedback, with responses from both those supporting off-leash areas, and others preferring on-leash areas.
- 3. In Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) dogs may be off-leash, apart from the area east of the Criterium Track and north of the central path where they must be on-leash. At the time of consultation this was where pedestrian/recreational activity was highest.
- 4. The current dog leash provisions were developed, and the community consulted, well in advance of completion of the Brownhill Keswick Creek Project 'Victoria Park Wetlands' in May 2022.
- 5. Shortly after the Victoria Park Wetlands were completed, members of the community raised concerns about the potential impact of dogs off leash on the new wildlife.
- 6. In response, the Brownhill Keswick Creek Project Team installed advisory signage to raise awareness and educate dog owners on the need to protect the new plants and wildlife.
- 7. This signage states: "Please stay on the pathways and keep dogs out of the water and off planted areas. Our new wetland needs time to establish. Aquatic plants, surrounding landscaping and lawned areas may be easily damaged."
- 8. If this Motion is carried, we will:
 - 8.1. Amend the Community Land Management Plan to include the Victoria Park Wetlands within Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) as a designated 'Dogs on leash at all times' area and update maps accordingly.
 - 8.2. Install appropriate signage at entrances to the Victoria Park Wetlands to communicate this change to the community.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Extensive community consultation was undertaken in 2021 and further consultation is not considered necessary should this motion be carried.
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (e.g. contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	The installation of signage will be managed within existing budgets
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 4.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -