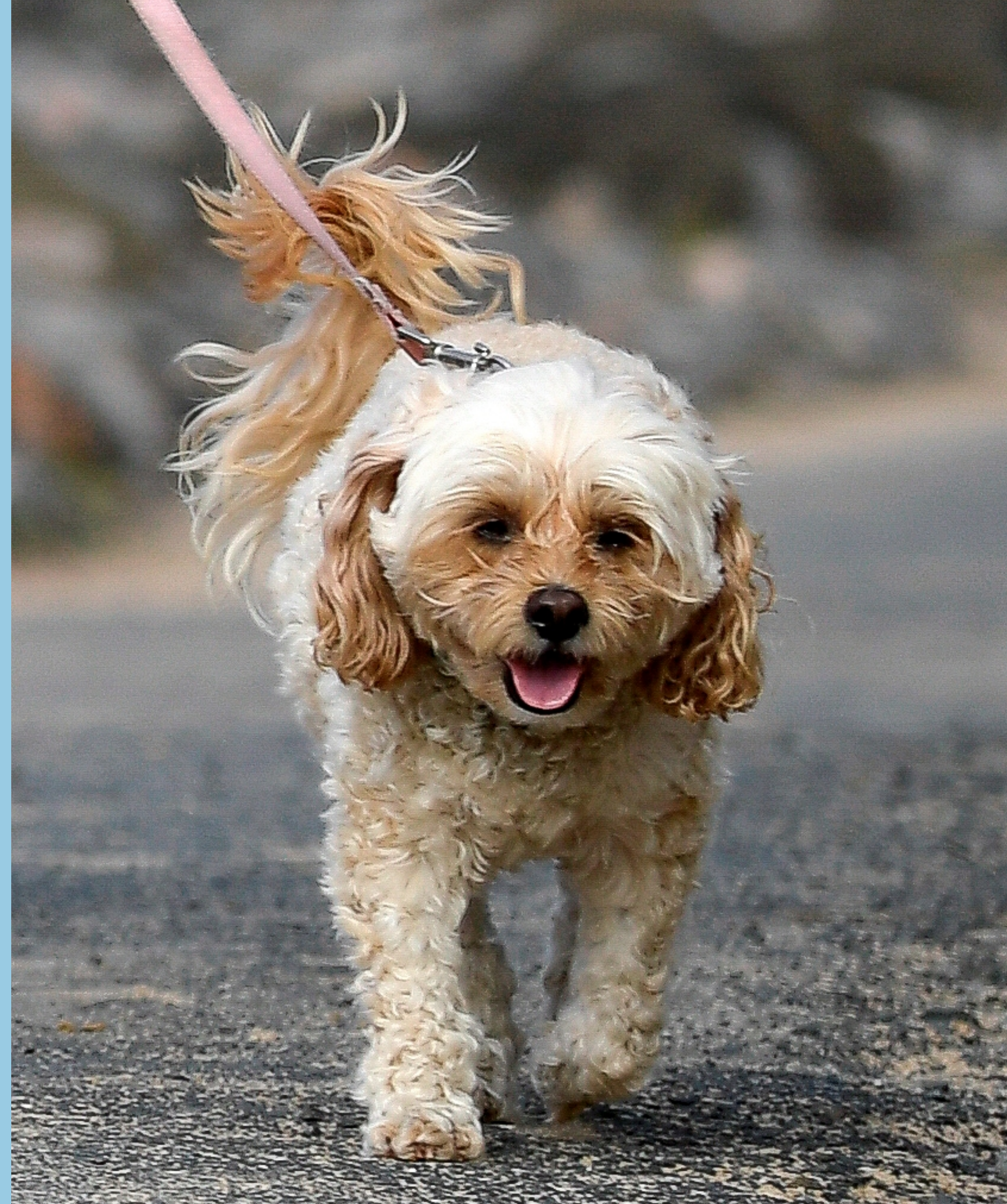


Dogs on beaches



Borough of Queenscliffe
engagement report
February 2023



More than 1,250 respondents from across the Borough and beyond let us know their thoughts on the potential changes to Council's dogs on beaches laws. Our community told us the myriad reasons for and against enacting these changes.

The findings gathered from the online survey have been presented to Councillors alongside outcomes from key stakeholder discussions and existing strategies. This information will be used to inform Council's decision-making on the matter.

QUESTION 1

64.5%

of respondents **agreed** with the proposed change to Council's dogs on beaches laws



809 respondents voted **yes** to the proposal

446 respondents voted **no** to the proposal

1,255

total respondents

QUESTION 2

54.2%

of respondents **supported** adding a year-round designated dog-free zone



680 respondents voted **yes** to the proposal

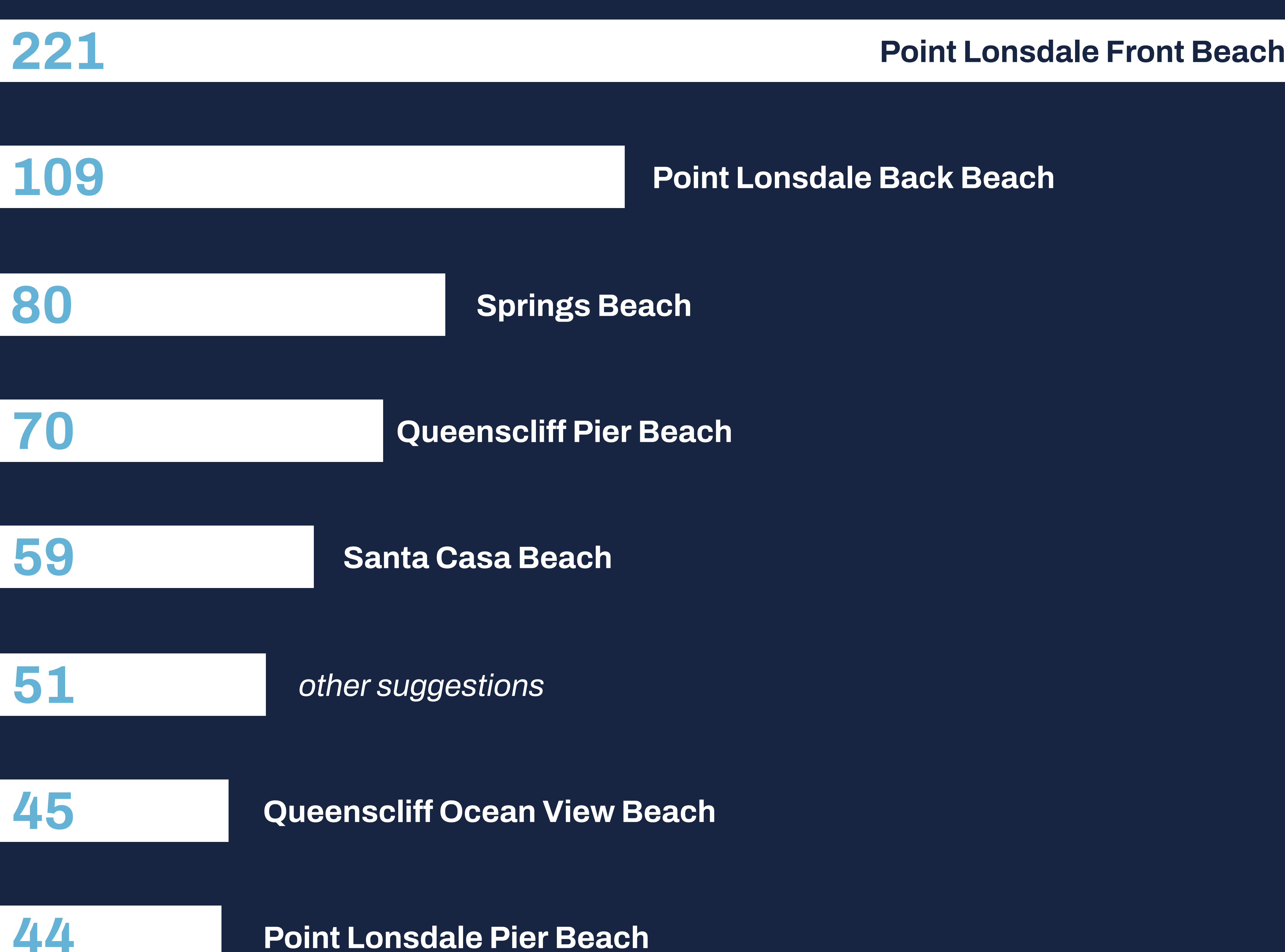
575 respondents voted **no** to the proposal

1,255

total respondents

QUESTION 3

Year-round designated dog-free zone beaches by number of suggestions



DEMOGRAPHICS

75.9%

of respondents listed **3225** as their postcode when submitting their votes

2% of respondents listed **3226** as their postcode

No other postcodes were listed enough to form any statistical significance

FURTHER COMMENTS

61.4%

of respondents chose to provide further comments when submitting their votes

48% of respondents who voted 'yes' provided further comments

85% of respondents who voted 'no' provided further comments

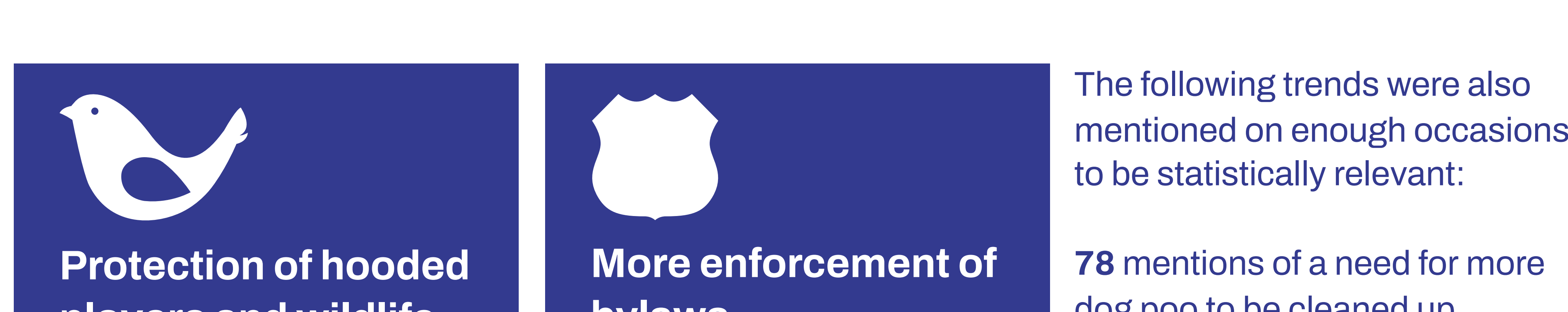
Trending themes by prevalence in comments



Low compliance with existing rules
A current lack of compliance with existing dog laws was mentioned in **198** individual comments, proving the most popular reason for opposing the proposed change

Safety of children and the elderly
Many respondents felt that young children and frail elderly people were vulnerable to injury or attacks by dogs, with this mentioned in **136** individual comments

A welcome and positive change
A total of **112** individual comments went out of their way to praise the proposal, with some describing it as 'overdue' and many highlighting its potential positive community impact



Protection of hooded plovers and wildlife
Concern was raised for the protection of fragile bird and marine life, particularly the hooded plovers which nest on Point Lonsdale Back Beach, in **111** individual comments

More enforcement of bylaws
A need for increased law enforcement, both in regard to the current laws and with potential to the proposed change, was listed in **79** individual comments

The following trends were also mentioned on enough occasions to be statistically relevant:
78 mentions of a need for more dog poo to be cleaned up
78 mentions of the potential to extend the existing off-leash area, including new dog parks
45 mentions of a lack of existing presence on beaches from bylaws officers