

# **Council Community Environment grant – 2019**

Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park part of the  
Port Elliot Town and Foreshore Improvement Association  
South Australia

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## **Project Title: Reduce dog waste and plastic to landfill trial**

### **Brief Project Description**

The Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park will work with a range of volunteers and partners to trial strategies to reduce dog waste to landfill.

Dog waste and plastic will be reduced by implementing a range of strategies at the dog park and increasing partner and community knowledge and awareness of waste landfill options.

We will also investigate dog waste disposal options on-site at the dog park and for residents.

We will collect and evaluate current dog park waste data, provide equipment to collect compostable dog waste from the dog park, implement a range of educational strategies and conduct research.

We will evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies for ongoing practice and provide a report with recommendations on lessons learnt. Currently Alexandrina Council dispenses ~31,000 plastic dog waste bags/year at the dog park which are not compostable and go to landfill. All dog waste from the dog park currently goes to landfill (~100+kg/week or ~5T/year).

The cost of waste to landfill is \$140/T. Compostable bags are still quite new so cost a few cents more per bag than current plastic bags. This cost is likely to come down, making it cost effective.

### **Project objectives and desired outcomes**

1. Trial environmentally friendly dog waste options at the Port Elliot dog park to reduce dog waste and plastic bags to landfill
2. Improve community knowledge about more environmentally friendly ways to manage dog waste.
3. Investigate the feasibility of installing in-situ (dog park) and in-home composting options at the dog park.

## **Proposed project activities**

### **Obj 1 – Trial environmentally friendly dog waste options at the Port Elliot dog park to reduce dog waste and plastic bags to landfill**

- Conduct a 4-week pre-trial baseline evaluation of the current dog park waste collected each week (kg), and number of plastic bags dispensed at the dog park
- # Implement trial strategies for 12 weeks including weekly weighing of dog park waste (kg) and number of plastic bags dispensed
- Purchase a maroon general waste bin 240L and modify the lid to reduce non-dog park waste in the baseline 4-week phase
- Purchase, modify and decorate with local art, two 240 Litre green waste kerbside bins to be used in the dog park
- Purchase a portable weighing device (up to 150kg) and two bin lid locking mechanisms
- Provide information and training to at least five Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park volunteers who will help implement the trial, for example weigh the bins each week, monitor bag use and conduct interviews with dog owners at the dog park
- Arrange for weekly green bin collection
- Organise compostable bags and bag monitoring
- Develop and purchase large bold signs and stickers for the bins and dog park entrance to inform dog park users of the trial
- Conduct a survey to monitor dog owner interest, compliance, behaviour and interview dog owners at the dog park to get their feedback and views of the trial

### **Obj 2 - Improve community knowledge about more environmentally friendly ways to manage dog waste.**

- Develop and distribute dog waste management material for residents using signage at the dog park, flyers and social media strategies

### **Obj 3 - Investigate the feasibility of installing in-situ (dog park) and in-home composting options.**

- Research and report in-situ composting options both within Australia and overseas, and use trial data to explore the options that would be needed and possible at Port Elliot Dog Park
- Research and report in-home composting options both within Australia and overseas suitable for residences in Alexandrina Council region

## **Long term benefits or flow-on effects from the project and how they will be sustained beyond the life of the project**

- Reduce over 7000 plastic bags and approximately 5T of waste to landfill during the trial
- For 12 weeks, reduce EPA levy costs to Council by \$500 (5T x \$100), \$140 landfill less \$40 green waste levy
- Demonstrate a low-cost way to reduce up to 324,000 plastic bags and 36T to landfill each year
- Influence Alexandrina Council to be an early adopter of compostable dog waste bags and to be prepared when the single use plastic ban comes into effect possibly 2021 (Yankalilla Council are already trialing compostable dog waste bags in all of their dog bag dispensers)
- Improve community awareness and knowledge of environmentally friendly dog waste options
- Assist Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority to manage enquiries regarding dog waste disposal
- Increase knowledge of in-situ and in-home options to reduce dog waste and plastic to landfill

### **How the project will help to achieve the policy objective -**

***“Enhance environmental outcomes and increase community awareness of environment issues”.***

There is an opportunity to change dog waste management at the Port Elliot Dog Park to reduce waste to landfill. Some adjustments to current processes could reduce the amount of dog waste and plastic bags to landfill each year (approximately 5T of dog waste and 32,000 plastic bags).

The Port Elliot Dog Park is a popular place in Alexandrina Council where many dogs and their owners congregate every day.

Dog waste is currently deposited by owners into a landfill bin collected weekly by Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority. It is estimated the weight of this weekly collection is approximately 100kg per week.

Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority regularly receive requests from residents about dog waste management so it is clear there is good interest from the community.

Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park engage regularly with the local dog park community via a variety of social media portals. These, along with the dog park noticeboard and Friends

volunteers, provide a variety of low-cost ways to share information about dog waste options with residents.

## **How the project helps to achieve the strategy - “*Managing our waste sustainably*”**

### Reduce waste to landfill

- Decrease dog park dog waste to landfill at the Port Elliot Dog Park (5T/year)
- Decrease the number of dog waste plastic bags to landfill (32,000/year)
- Increase use of compostable dog waste bags and provide information on dog bag dispenser design when compostable bags are in use
- Increase partner and community knowledge of environmentally friendly dog waste strategies
- Use the lessons learnt from the trial to inform future strategies to reduce waste to landfill

Share lessons learnt with partners and other councils to help engage others in any lessons learnt.

## **Funding Details**

### Proposed project in-kind co-contributions:

- Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority – media and publications, educational materials, fortnightly collection, assist with final report (operational and educational perspective)
- Uni SA – Janette Young research and evaluation expertise
- Flinders University – Zoei Sutton research and evaluation expertise
- Balancing Act Adelaide - Fiona de Rosa Principal, Dog Behaviourist, Urban Planner
- KESAB – Educational information support (Grace Barila)
- Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park Volunteers – project management, implement project strategies, reporting
- AMS Products – discounted compostable bags

## Budget Details

**Total project cost: \$12,394**

**Items sought from grant funding - \$1,981**

Item details	Cost \$
240 Litre green waste bins and one general waste bin with small opening 3 @ \$67 = \$201, Bin lid lock keys x 2 @\$80 = \$160	\$361
Costs to modify bin opening x3 \$50 and enhance compostable bins with art by young people \$200	\$350
Bin weighing apparatus for baseline and evaluation (guesstimate)	\$120
Compostable bags (\$13 for 200), need 600/week for 12 weeks @\$39/week	\$400
Educational material e.g. posters, flyers, corflutes and signs	\$550
Dog waste bin collection fees – two extra green waste bins weekly for 6 months	\$200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,981</b>

**In kind volunteer contribution - \$10,413**

In kind (Volunteer rate \$41.72/hour, ABS 2018)	Hours	Cost \$
Project development, planning and reporting	45	1877
Equipment purchase collection	5	209
Bin alterations and art 5 hours	5	209
Sign and sticker development and installation	7	292
Pre-test baseline 3 hours @4 weeks	12	501
Trial measurement and recording incl travel 3hr @12 weeks	36	1502
Social media	6	250
Survey development, implementation, review and report	10	417
Dog owner interviews, reporting	10	417
Project acquittal	10	417
Partner consultation and admin	15	626
Partner contributions in development, reviewing, consulting	25	1043
Volunteer information and training 6@2hrs	12	501
Monthly reporting to association 2@6	12	501
Research and report for in-situ	20	834
Research and report for residential composting	10	417
Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park – cash donations		400
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,413</b>