

Port Elliot Dog Waste project – Dog Park Trial



Objective 1 – Trial environmentally friendly dog waste options at the Port Elliot dog park to reduce dog waste and plastic bags to landfill.

The project had 3 objectives.

Intro

For the first time, the introduction of compostable dog waste bags into all dog waste bag dispensers by Alexandrina Council enabled dog waste to be collected via green bins in the dog park. The green bins were collected and transported weekly to Peats to be turned into useable compost.



The diversion of dog park dog waste from landfill commenced on 7 January 2020 with the first 'green' collection of dog waste took place at the start of the 12-week dog park trial (1 January 2020 to 24th March 2020). The 'green collection stayed in place at the end of the trial.

Two green bins were installed on 1 January 2020 with bright lime green signage and a poster on the front gate and dog park fence to explain the trial. One green bin was a normal 240 Litre wheelie bin was locked and had a small round hole in the top lid and the other a 55 Litre Doggie Dunnie (a specially designed bin to help avoid contamination by other rubbish).



Four Friends of the Port Elliot Dog Park volunteers were recruited to weigh the dog waste each Tuesday evening using a set of platform scales and to monitor the two bins for contamination. Contamination included plastic bags, coffee cups, food wrappers etc. The Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority green waste truck collected the waste on Wednesday mornings and this waste ends up at Peats.

All three dog waste bag dispensers in the dog park contained lime green compostable bags. The number of rolls of waste bags supplied to the dog park via all three dispensers was also monitored during the trial.

Results

- Dog waste collected in the 12-week trial was 201kg, an average of 16.7kg/week (max 19.3kg, min 14.1kg), equates to about 870.4kg/year (~5.5m crocodile)
- Green wheelie bin 129.4kg collected over 12 weeks (average 10.8kg/week)
- Doggie Dunnie 75 litre bin 71.5kg collected over 12 weeks (average 6.0kg/week)
- For one week 214 dog waste bags were counted for bin weights of 15.21 kg in total (average 71g per bag) or approx. 2,568 for the 12-week trial
- Bag weights data was used to estimate the number of bags diverted from landfill ~12,246 bags per year (870.4kg/71g)
- Number of rolls of compostable bags used pre-trial was 16 plus 3 ends of rolls
- Number of rolls of compostable bags used during the trial was 20 rolls plus 11 ends of rolls
- There was little contamination in the green wheelie bin and almost none in the Doggie Dunnie bin.