

FENCED OFF-LEASH DOG EXERCISE ENCLOSURE PROPOSAL

The purpose of this proposal is to determine the need and feasibility of providing an Enclosed Off-leash Dog Exercise Area within the Shire of Narrogin.

The Shire has a large registered dog population and no dedicated enclosed facility specifically set aside for dog exercise. The current dedicated off-leash dog exercise areas are shared with other community members and clubs. These areas become unavailable for use when occupied by others. An enclosed off-leash dog exercise area, which is solely for this purpose, will reduce conflicts around the use of space between dog owners and non-dog owners / users of the public open space.

Dogs that are well socialised and exercised are likely to be healthier, happier and less aggressive. A designated enclosed off-leash exercise area provides a safe community setting where dogs can play and interact. This also promotes responsible dog ownership. There is also evidence on the benefits for dog owners, assisting with social interaction and community involvement. An enclosed off-leash area will also provide ease of exercise for those with physical restrictions preventing other forms of dog exercise.

It is recommended the Shire develop an enclosed off-leash dog exercise area in the most suitable location. Site evaluations were undertaken on five potential sites and conclude that the most suitable location is Gnarojin Park Reserve on the site of the old tennis courts. With the recently upgraded skate park and increasing family/community activities for this area, along with the already established walking paths, it is considered this site would be the most appropriate location. The facility would incorporate a 1.5m high mesh enclosed area within the reserve. Currently there is a an unused shelter with seating, which the park could be built around, utilising an already existing feature. The grassed enclosed area can offer great health and well-being activities not only to dogs but their owners as well.

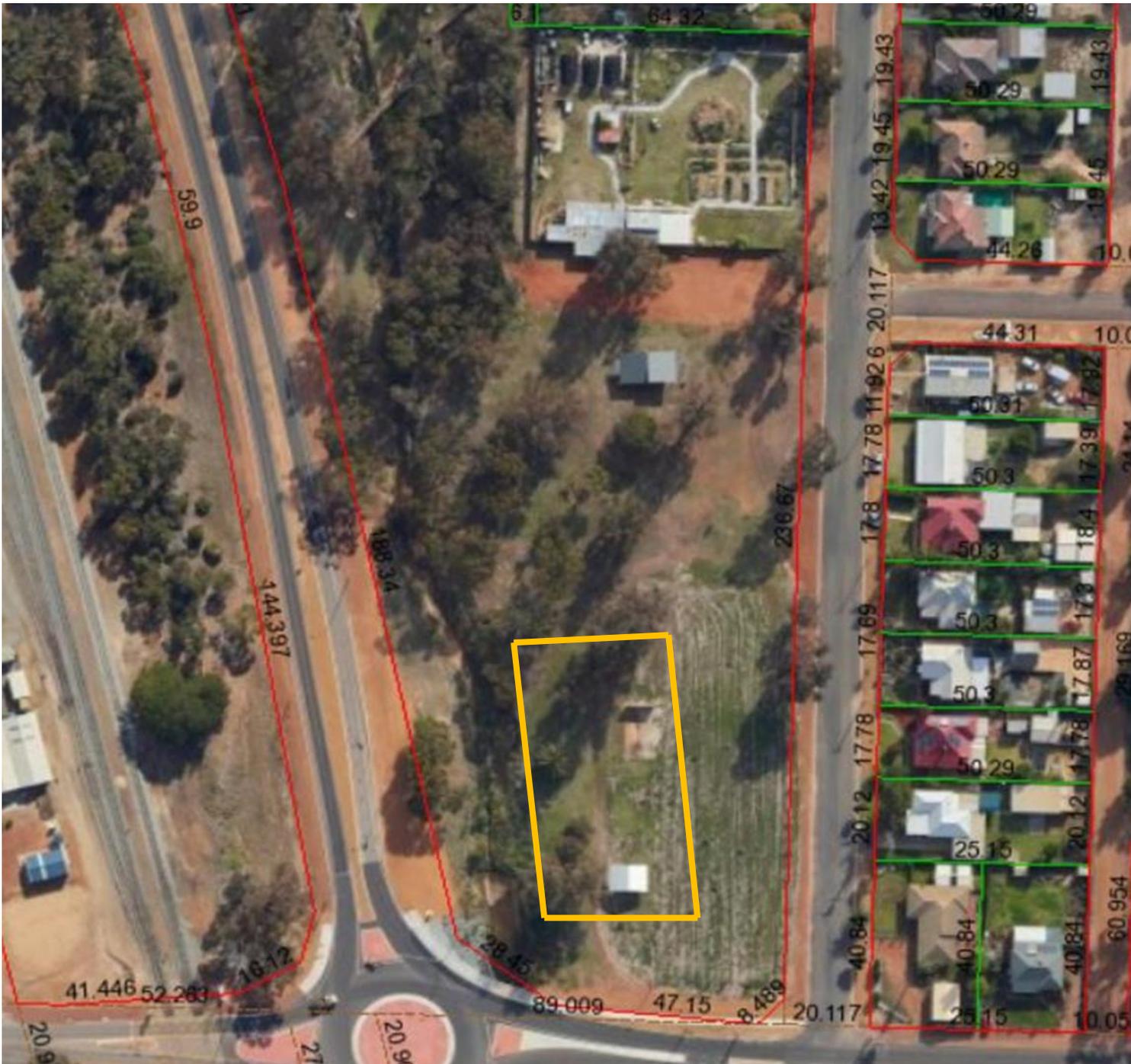
It is evident that there is a need and associated benefits that an enclosed off-leash dog exercise area could bring to the Shire. The access to a dog park within the Shire will encourage travelling dog owners to the location to exercise their dogs in a safe area. Whilst visiting the Shire, it is assumed they would utilise the local shopping and tourism facilities.

Gnarojin Park Reserve has been recommended for the following reasons:

- Larger Public Open Space, less impact on other reserve users
- Existing park infrastructure and pathways
- Accessible parking space
- Minimal environmental impact
- Reserve not required as a sporting area
- Within the town for ease of access

Research of the past 10 years shows a continuous growth of registered dog numbers as the Shire of Narrogin's population increases. Dog registrations have increased 300% from 2008 to 2018.

SITE MAP – Lot 1721 (Reserve 49048) Hale Street, Narrogin



VISUAL EXAMPLE ONLY

