

Dear Donna

Thank you for contacting YRA to explain the situation as you saw it with parking options for the dog park on Vennor Reserve. We know that you have received other communications on this matter since your reply to YRA and have taken that into consideration in the YRA Committee's response to your email (**see comments in RED to assist with clarity**) after which we will then leave the matter in your capable hands.

Thanks,

Cavell

Cavell Dorman
YRA Database Coordinator

On behalf of the YRA Committee and Members



MISSION STATEMENT: "A Community voice surrounding topics which impact the lifestyle, health and environment of residents near commercial and industrial developments in the Yatala Enterprise Area"

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From: GATES Donna [<mailto:DGATES@goldcoast.qld.gov.au>]

Sent: Tuesday, 24 February 2015 8:20 AM

To: 'cdtms@bigpond.com'

Cc: Division1

Subject: FW: Vennor Park and Dog Exercise Area

Dear Cavell

Jacob Mohar provided me a copy of your email regarding parking Vennor Drive. I thought I should advise that there are inaccuracies within your email – it's no big deal, but an "urban myth" that there is a gazetted road, named Darlington Ridge Road. If there is a gazettal, I'd appreciate someone showing me evidence because I've been unable to get that from Council Officers who maintain there is absolutely no gazettal, there is absolutely no intention of opening the road to public access – never was – never will be planned as far as I'm aware.

Darlington Ridge Road, and its extension road (unnamed), are dedicated roads. Councils (past and present) have acknowledged their existence. The roads are drawn on all state government and Council maps (see SmartMap) and there is ample evidence to prove that the public have been using the roads since the 1850's.

Residents of Vennor Drive who live closest to the park want the gate to continue to be locked at Peachey Road. They are the people most affected by the dog exercise area – they are the people who suffer an inundation of illegal bikes and 4 wheel drive vehicles when the gate lock is deliberately broken and vehicles access the area. It is every ratepayer who is then affected by the costs to reinstate the damaged parkland.

YRA understands that the majority of Vennor Drive residents believe the current dog parking situation on their street will continue to be dangerous when cars try to turn/park on the verge or street, and that Option 1, which does little to accommodate these safety concerns, and only allows a minimum of 6 cars anyway, is not a sensible solution. Option 2 at least takes the parking issue away from Vennor Drive and no doubt the Council planners can work out a method to stop illegal use and at the same time make safety a priority for the community.

As the area representative there will be numerous issues to focus on for the 15/16 budget year – and that close to \$150,000 to build a road, fence the park and block the access again (as is the case now, but at Peachey Road rather than further to the south) would not be sensible.

The community understands there are always budget constraints, but Option 1 is not a sensible alternative/compromise and spending money on this option will only prolong the problem - that of cars parking and turning on a dangerous location on a very steep street. Option 2 offers flat land, improved access, a greater number of car parking places (and potential for more), longer term benefits and far better community safety. Yes, Option 2 comes at a higher cost (and includes an apparently unnecessary gate), but it actually solves the safety issue while Option 1 is really, at best, a short term stop gap measure.

However, I've surveyed the residents and will consider the options in the forthcoming budget discussions. It will also be necessary to gain the support of other councillors should it be decided to proceed with a car parking area and, on this score, there is a possibility they will consider there to be far more important links that require attention in our city.

The safety of the Vennor Drive residents and the entire community who will use the park is YRA's primary focus and opting for an option simply because it is cheaper is not always a sensible move as it ends up costing more in the future – better to do it right in the first place!

It is legal to park along Vennor Drive, but people have historically parked on the very wide road verge adjacent to the park. It accommodates a lot of vehicles. But there was a complaint about safety which caused me to respond in the way of getting estimates for formalised parking.

The big problem is that Vennor Drive is very steep, and narrow, and having to turn and park here is difficult at the best of times. Any visitor that has actually tried to park at the site

in difficult conditions (peak times, inclement weather, etc) will quickly appreciate this. Parking on Vennor Drive has issues for everyone - driver, passenger or dog for that matter.

I'm doing my best to address issues of concern as they arise across the Division and sometimes, some are going to be disappointed with the decision that is ultimately reached. I hope on this occasion we can find middle ground.

The community is very appreciative of your efforts and a dog park is a wonderful community resource, as evidenced by its increasing patronage. What is sought by all (including Council) is an appropriate solution to parking safety so that the problem does not arise again in the future.

Regards
Donna.

Donna Gates
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Councillor Division 1 & Deputy Mayor
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