

## DTI:Planning Review

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**From:** Vicki Poupoulas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 December 2022 9:07 PM  
**To:** DTI:Planning Review  
**Cc:** badcoe@parliament.sa.gov.au  
**Subject:** Planning laws under review: Planning for child safety in public parks and playgrounds  
**Attachments:** IMG20220420170218.jpg; IMG20220420170156.jpg

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to suggest measures to ensure child safety in public parks and playgrounds.

In my local neighbourhood, both St Georges Avenue Reserve and Jubilee Park are a shared space with dogs. On Thurs 10/11/22 at about 5:15pm, a Jack Russell (I think that was the breed), might have been named Audrey, ran up to and started barking and swiping at my toddler (2 years, 5 months old) before I started yelling at the dog to get away, and I could pick him up and out of reach of the dog. The owner did nothing throughout this episode and just said to me after I picked up my toddler that the dog "wasn't going to do anything". Already running at my toddler and swiping and barking aggressively, therefore scaring him before I could grab him, caused him to become frightened and now he is very wary around dogs. If I hadn't grabbed him out of the reach of the dog, who knows how far things would have gone. I have video footage of the aftermath, of my toddler in extreme distress wanting to leave the park.

In addition to the dangers posed to toddlers through attacks, dog owners do not always clean up after their dogs.

Several times I have seen dog droppings at St Georges Reserve and Jubilee Park. How can children run and play if there are dog droppings on the lawn? My toddler's ball once rolled into a dog dropping pile, so that ended his play. I have complained of this on 3 occasions to West Torrens Council and been ignored. I more recently took these issues to the West Torrens Council and was most patronisingly rebuffed by Dean Ottanelli, Manager of City Property.

Jayne Stinson took this issue to Council at the last state election after I complained to her prior to the incident on 10/11/22, and then extra signage regarding surveillance was posted at Jubilee Park (which is no longer there when I checked last week), and this has unfortunately not solved the dog dropping problem. The signage (currently only posted at Jubilee Park) speaks of "effective control" which is a joke - obviously effective control is not any sort of safety guarantee considering the statistics regarding children being mauled by dogs, and often by the family dog, no less.

There is a list of rules for dog owners posted at Jubilee Park which states dogs should be kept at least 3 metres away from play equipment (in contrast to Dan Yates' (Animal Management Officer at West Torrens Council) initial response to my CityWatch report about the law stating that a 5 metre radius is to be kept). It is therefore illogical that parks should be shared between children and dogs, if owners plan to (and actually do) exercise their dogs, letting them off their leash to run, which they easily do within less than a 5 metre radius of the playground, and also run across the playground. These parks are not even big enough to accommodate the space needed to exercise the dogs, and keep the play area and playground safe and decontaminated for children to play, so should not be a shared space.

We experienced another incident at St Georges Avenue Reserve where a dog ran right up to my toddler, whom I picked up immediately, and the dog continued running at my ankles.

On several occasions I have been pushing my toddler on the swing at both Jubilee Park and St Georges Avenue Reserve, where the dogs come right up to us, and at St Georges Reserve, my toddler actually swung right into a dog that trotted past the moving swing, and made contact with the dog's ribs.

Dogs run amok at Jubilee Park posing the same dog attack risks, and I don't see the logic of dogs having access to play equipment to "mark their territory".

Please provide separate parks for children and separate parks for dogs. Dan Yates has added the proposal that a fence could be put in place allowing for a portion of the reserve (less some grass area and the playground), left for the dogs.

I have video footage that I can forward if necessary, which shows my distressed toddler (whom you can only hear as by that stage I was holding him), and you can see 3 dogs running around not on leashes, within less than 5 metres of the playground, which Dan states in his email is a breach of the law. I have screenshots from these videos I filmed which clearly show the dogs running around within much less than a 5 metre radius of the playground, which I can forward if required. The attached photos are from a separate visit to Jubilee Park on 20/4/22, again showing a dog not on a leash within 5 metres of the playground, and sniffing around the play equipment.

The risks are too great in mixing toddlers and even older children with unknown dogs, where animals cannot be trusted, particularly around children they don't know.

There is no point addressing this after an actual dog attack occurs, it needs to be addressed now.

Regards,

Vicki