

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Friday, 15 August 2025

## HAPPY POOCHES RUN FREE AT SMITH RESERVE

Fitzroy residents and their four legged friends can now enjoy freshly completed upgrades to the popular Smith Reserve off-leash park thanks to the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today announced the opening of the Smith Reserve Dog Park, the park now features an improved fenced dog off-leash area, along with new picnic tables, shelter, paths and lighting.

Located next to the iconic Fitzroy Pool, Smith Reserve was Fitzroy's most visited open space, based on feedback by Fitzroy residents and consultation on park design which revealed that fencing for dog off-lead use and better path access were high priorities for the local community.

City of Yarra was awarded \$300,000 to deliver the Smith Reserve Dog Park Upgrade through the Government's \$13.4 million New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program.

Through Rounds 1 and 2 of the Dog Parks Program, over 45 new or upgraded dog parks have been funded across metropolitan and regional Victoria, with construction expected to be completed on all projects by the end of 2026.

Dog owners and local residents are already enjoying the benefits of investment into dog parks with overwhelmingly positive feedback on the safer, more inclusive facilities.

This investment is all about creating more open space for families and their pets so they can get outdoors and explore nature close to home.

For more information visit, [environment.vic.gov.au/dog-parks](https://environment.vic.gov.au/dog-parks).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos

*"Smith Reserve now provides better use of open space in a popular inner-suburban location, new lighting and a sheltered area allows visitors and their pets a safer, more welcoming space to use year-round."*

*"More dog parks across Victoria means more open spaces for families and their pets to exercise, play and enjoy close to home."*

### Quotes attributable to Member for Northern Metropolitan Enver Erdogan

*"We are investing in our local parks and open spaces to bring local communities together, with upgraded playgrounds, park shelters and off-leash dog areas so local families and their pet dogs to enjoy the outdoors."*

### Quotes attributable to City of Yarra Mayor Cr Stephen Jolly

*"For a long time, Smith Reserve has been one of our most visited parks but has lacked the facilities it deserves."*

*"This park now features a much better playground, a new barbeque area, additional furniture and park shelters. And, with the help of the Victorian Government, an upgraded dog off-leash area that has been completed with new fencing, upgraded paths and improved lighting."*

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