	DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY	Policy 4.3		
		LAST REVIEW Jun 2017	NEXT REVIEW Jun 2018	MINUTE REF C278/13-17
POLICY STATEMENT:	<p>1.1 In accordance with the Dog Control Act 2000, Council has the responsibility for enforcing the Act within the municipal area.</p> <p>1.2 The Act requires Council to develop a Dog Management Policy, which as a minimum is to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A code relating to the responsible ownership of dogs; b) The provision of declared areas; c) A fee structure. 			
OBJECTIVE:	<p>2.1 The objective of the Dog Management Policy are to ensure owners of dogs in Kingborough comply with the requirements of the Dog Control Act 2000 so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Minimise nuisance caused by dogs to the public; b) Actively promote responsible dog ownership; c) Provide for the reasonable exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners. 			
SCOPE:	<p>3.1 To meet the legislative requirements of Council with regards to the Dog Control Act 2000.</p> <p>3.2 This policy applies to the owners of all dogs within Kingborough.</p> <p>3.3 Council's Compliance Unit has the primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the provisions of the legislation.</p>			
LEGISLATION:	<p>4.1 The primary legislation is the Dog Control Act 2000 and associated Regulations. The Local Government Act 1993 at Part 12, Division 5 relates to the impounding of animals, including dogs, and at Division 6 deals with nuisances and Abatement Notices.</p> <p>4.2 Council's By-Law No.3 – Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas, contains provisions in relation to dogs within parks and recreational areas.</p>			
POLICY:	<p>5.1 The substance of the Policy is appended as a separate document to this covering policy statement</p>			



Kingborough

KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL

DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

Amended June 2017

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INTRODUCTION

The legislation that directly relates to the control and management of dogs is the *Dog Control Act 2000*. This Act requires that councils develop and regularly review a dog management policy; adequate community consultation forms an essential part of those processes. The *Local Government Act 1993* contains provision relating to nuisance, including barking dogs, and the powers of a council to abate a declared nuisance.

In Kingborough approximately 30% of all residential property owners have a dog. Council recognises that dog ownership is therefore a lifestyle choice of a significant proportion of the community, and is committed to ensure a harmonious relationship between dog owners and non-dog owners is maintained, and that there are appropriate facilities and guidelines to ensure the quality of life for all residents, and for the dogs themselves.

Council acknowledges that dog ownership provides many benefits for those involved, including physical health associated with their exercise, companionship, responsibility related to the care and welfare of the animal, and the opportunity to interact socially with other dog and pet owners. Equally there is the potential for problems, with straying or poorly socialised dogs, and irresponsible owners who fail to properly train, control, or care for their pets, including appropriately disposing of waste.

Council is committed to responsible dog ownership, and the steps and processes that will assist in this objective being achieved are outlined in this Dog Management Policy.

OBJECTIVES

This Dog Management Policy is an advisory document that complements the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the *Local Government Act 1993*, which has the necessary legislative and regulative powers. The terms used in the Policy have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise defined in this document.

The objectives of Council are to:

- actively support and promote responsible dog ownership through the development of a code relating to responsible ownership of dogs, community education, and the provision of information accessible via a range of media, including the internet, direct customer contact, and Council publications;
- strive to achieve a balance between the needs of residents who own dogs and those that don't in the evaluation of future recreational and strategic development processes;
- provide, and regularly review, those areas where dogs are permitted, both on-lead and off-lead, and areas where dogs are prohibited or restricted;
- maintain an open dialogue with residents and concerned groups regarding present and future dog management issues; and
- reduce the risk to the community from anti-social and straying dogs through education, routine patrols, and the prompt investigation of concerns and complaints of dog-related issues. Where appropriate, enforcement provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the *Local Government Act 2003* will be utilised to penalise breaches of those statutes.

COUNCIL'S SERVICE CHARTER

To ensure a high standard of service for the community with regards to dog management within Kingborough, Council will apply this Policy and the *Dog Control Act 2000* in accordance with its Customer Service Charter and will:

- be understanding and helpful and treat customers with dignity, respect and courtesy;
- act professionally and with propriety;
- provide necessary and relevant information;
- maintain privacy; and
- be efficient and timely in dealing with issues.

Council will:

- appoint sufficient Compliance Officers to effectively meet the obligations of the Policy. Council will ensure that all Officers responsible for the handling of dogs receive relevant training, and execute their duties in a manner that creates minimal distress and avoids harm to the dog;
- ensure the Council Dog Pound is maintained and operated in a humane manner with proper regard to health, safety and welfare of all dogs in detention, including food, shelter and water, and where required, the services of a veterinary practitioner;
- transfer to an approved animal welfare organisation any dog deemed suitable for rehoming that has been impounded and not been claimed within the statutory holding period. Where rehoming is not appropriate or possible, the dog will be euthanized by a registered veterinary practitioner; and
- where practicable provide and maintain appropriate dog waste disposal bins at dog exercise areas.

During normal business hours Council will:

- conduct regular patrols throughout the municipality to enforce compliance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*; and
- respond as soon as practicable to:
 - reports of dogs attacking people or animals
 - formal complaints regarding dog nuisance
 - reports of dogs at large

After normal business hours Council will:

- conduct periodic, out-of-hours patrols, particularly during the warmer months, to ensure compliance within prohibited and restricted areas, particularly beaches;
- where a dog at large has been restrained within a property, arrange for collection or delivery to the Council Dog Pound the next day; and
- provide an emergency out-of-hours service to respond to reports of:
 - dog attacks on people and animals
 - dogs at large that are causing a traffic hazard on a major road

CODE OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Dog ownership has proven benefits to the community through better health, well-being, companionship, and social interaction.

Dog ownership and related exercise has shown to be beneficial to the owner with better cardiovascular health and lower levels of stress and depression. Dogs give us an opportunity to build social networks within the community and create opportunities for social interaction. An otherwise solitary walk may, when accompanied with a dog, result in conversations between strangers, thereby building a sense of community spirit worthy of fostering.

Conversely, irresponsible dog ownership, and nuisance dogs have a negative impact on the health and wellbeing of those affected, and can result in on-going poor inter- neighbour relationships.

The following Code of Responsible Dog Ownership is provided to assist dog owners in enjoying the benefits of dog ownership, while reducing negative impacts on the community.

THE CODE

It is the responsibility of every dog owner to:

- ensure that the size and breed of dog selected is appropriate to the owners circumstances;
- keep the dog in a secure location;
- ensure that the dog is provided with adequate health care, exercise, training, food, water and shelter;
- seek advice on any aspect of dog ownership and care from appropriate information sources, including veterinarian;
- ensure that the dog is registered with Council when it reaches six months of age;
- ensure that the dog wears a collar and registration tag, and is micro-chipped;
- notify Council of any change of ownership details;
- prevent the dog from being a nuisance to other people by:
 - ensuring it does not nuisance bark
 - ensuring it does not roam at large
 - ensuring it does not threaten, harass or attack any other animal or person
 - ensuring it does not chase vehicles, people or other animals;
- keep the dog under effective control whenever it is in a public place;
- do not allow the dog in a prohibited area or in a restricted area during restricted times;
- apply for a kennel licence if more than two dogs over the age of six months are housed on the property; and
- comply with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

COMMUNITY BALANCE

Council accepts the rights of dog owners to enjoy their association with their dogs whilst at the same time accepting the rights of non-dog owners to go about their normal daily activities unimpeded by nuisance or harassment by dogs. To achieve this Council will;

- liaise with the community and interest groups to ensure that current declared dog exercise areas, including off-lead and beach areas, are appropriate to the needs of dog owners and are maintained in a fit state for the declared use;
- give due consideration to the requirement for new dog exercise areas during recreational and strategic planning processes;
- liaise with local residents and the community in general in relation to any proposed new dog exercise areas prior to the establishment of such an area; and
- respond in a timely manner to reports of stray and nuisance dogs, and where appropriate enforce the relevant sections of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the *Local Government Act 1993* to deter irresponsible behaviour by dog owners.

COMMUNICATION

Council will maintain information on responsible dog ownership on its website, through the Kingborough Directory, and information brochures available at Council's Customer Service Centres.

Council will provide information sessions on responsible dog ownership and how to safely interact with dogs, when requested by schools and other community groups.

In order to maintain an open dialogue with residents and concerned groups regarding present and future dog management issues, Council will;

- notify the community by public notice of any intention to declare an area under the Dog Control Act 2000;
- review each declaration made within five years and notify by public notice its intention to review the declaration and invite public submissions;
- conduct a review of the Dog Management Policy at least every five years and notify by public notice its intention to review the policy and invite public submissions;
- give due consideration to requests from the community regarding dog recreation areas and access to beach and reserve areas;
- ensure that residents who may be affected by any new dog recreation area are given timely notice and the ability to make representations for Council consideration.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

DANGEROUS DOGS

To reduce the risk to the community, Council will as a matter of urgency investigate and act upon all incidents and allegations of injury and/or harassment caused by dogs. Should such an incident result in a serious injury, the dog may be declared a Dangerous Dog, or may be destroyed.

All guard dogs and dogs of a restricted breed (as defined in the Act) are declared to be a Dangerous Dog.

Where a dog is declared to be a Dangerous Dog pursuant to the *Dog Control Act 2000*, Council will monitor the property where the dog is housed to ensure the property and the owner complies with relevant provisions of the Act.

Dangerous dogs must be de-sexed and micro-chipped, and must wear an approved advisory collar at all times. When in a public place the dog must be muzzled and on a lead, even when in an off-lead area. When not in a public place the dog (other than a guard dog) must be housed in an enclosure that complies with the prescribed requirements. Approved warning signs must be displayed at every entrance to the property.

The following is an outline of the specifications that the enclosure is to meet:

- be childproof, with a self-closing and self-latching gate;
- have a minimum height of 1.8 m and a minimum width of 1.8 m;
- have an area of at least 10 square metres for each dog;
- have solid or mesh walls, or a combination of these materials;
- have a roof and gate made of similar materials;
- have a sealed concrete floor graded for drainage and connected to an approved drainage system;
- provide a weather-proof sleeping area adequate for each dog; and
- not require a person to pass through the enclosure to gain access to other parts of the property.

NUISANCE DOGS

Council recognises the health implications the community is exposed to by dogs creating a nuisance by barking inappropriately. When a formal complaint is lodged Council will investigate the matter in a timely manner and strive to have the matter resolved within four weeks.

The process will be:

- streamlined and focused on early resolution;
- educative to both the dog owner and the complainant;
- fair to all parties involved; and
- open and transparent.

Where there is evidence that a nuisance dog complaint is justified Council will issue the owner of the dog with an abatement notice. This presents the owner with a realistic definite timeline in which to take action to abate the nuisance. If requested Council will provide advice as to corrective measures that may be employed, but it remains the owners responsibility to determine and implement the necessary corrective action.

Where the nuisance has not been abated after the abatement period Council may issue an Infringement Notice. In the case of continued nuisance Council may refer the matter to the Courts for a Magistrate to determine the matter.

DOG REGISTRATION

The registration of dogs has benefits to both Council and the community. Fees and charges are applied to dog management, permitting Council to provide a safe and pleasant environment, free of the negative impacts of dogs in the community.

Dogs wearing a valid registration tag can quickly be returned to the owner if they accidentally stray. In most cases when Council finds a lost registered dog, it is directly returned to its owner.

All dogs over six months of age must be registered. Notwithstanding Council's advisory and enforcement measures, it is the owner's responsibility to ensure that their dog is registered.

Council will maintain a register of all dogs housed within the municipality, and will ensure that all eligible dogs are registered. To achieve this objective Council will:

- Conduct a registration renewal campaign each year by:
 - forwarding renewal letters to owners of all currently registered dogs;
 - placing advisory notices in the public notices section of newspapers; and
 - conducting an audit of the owners who have failed to re-register their dogs.
- Monitor dogs in public places to ensure that are wearing a collar with a valid registration tag.
- Ensure that any unregistered dog found at large is registered by the owner before being returned.
- Undertake regular patrols of the municipal area and compare evidence of dog ownership against the dog register.

Council will transfer dog registrations from other Tasmanian Councils at no cost to the owner, provided the registration is for the same registration period.

Pro rata adjustment of the registration fee applies within a registration period for:

- the voluntary initial registration of a dog that reaches six months of age;
- the voluntary initial registration of a dog that is newly housed within the municipality, to which the previous paragraph does not apply;
- the de-sexing of a dog; and
- the death of a dog, except where it has been destroyed following an attack on a person or animal, or at the direction of Council.

FEES

As per Council's annual approved fees and charges, published on Council's website.

Addendum to policy as adopted by Council, 13 June 2017.

KENNEL LICENCES

The owner of any property at which more than two dogs are proposed to be housed (or 4 dogs in the case of working dogs) is required to submit an application for a Kennel Licence.

All applications will be publically advertised, and the immediate neighbours notified, requesting any objections to be made within 14 days. Before consideration will be given to the application, the premises will be inspected to ensure that it is fit for the number and type of dogs proposed to be kept on the property, and that there will be adequate provisions for the health, welfare and control of the dogs.

If granted the Kennel Licence must be renewed each year and the property will be periodically inspected to ensure on-going compliance with licence conditions.

DECLARED AREAS

Please refer to the addendum on page 22 of this policy.

In line with Council's objective of maintaining balance within the community and in accordance with the provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, Council may declare and regulate areas of the municipality to be a:

- Dog Exercise Area
 - An area on which dogs may be exercised either on-lead or off-lead, subject to any specified conditions.
- Dog Training Area
 - Land on which dogs may be trained, subject to any specified conditions.
- Prohibited Area
 - An area containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife may be declared as prohibited to dogs, other than a guide dog or hearing dog.
- Restricted Area
 - Land on which dogs may not be taken at any time, or only on specified hours, days and seasons.
 - When dog are permitted it may be specified as to whether they must be on-lead or may be off-lead.
 - The above restrictions do not apply to a guide dog or hearing dog.

Council will provide and maintain signage appropriate to identify declared areas where access opportunities or restrictions for dogs apply.

In addition to the above, the *Dog Control Act 2000* prohibits dogs in:

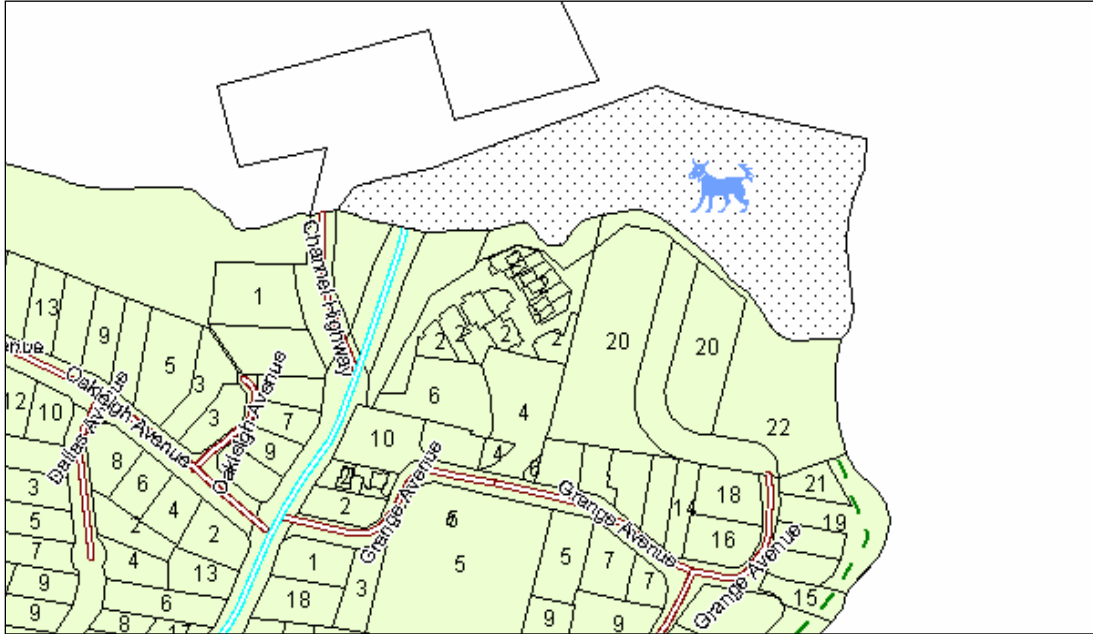
- any grounds of a school, pre-school, kindergarten, crèche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of the person in charge of the place; or
- any shopping centre, or any shop except a pet shop, premises of a veterinary surgeon, pet grooming shop, or any other premises related to the care and management of dogs; or
- any playing area of a sports ground on which sport is being played; or
- an area within 10 metres of a children's playground.

OFF LEAD EXERCISE AREAS

TAROONA

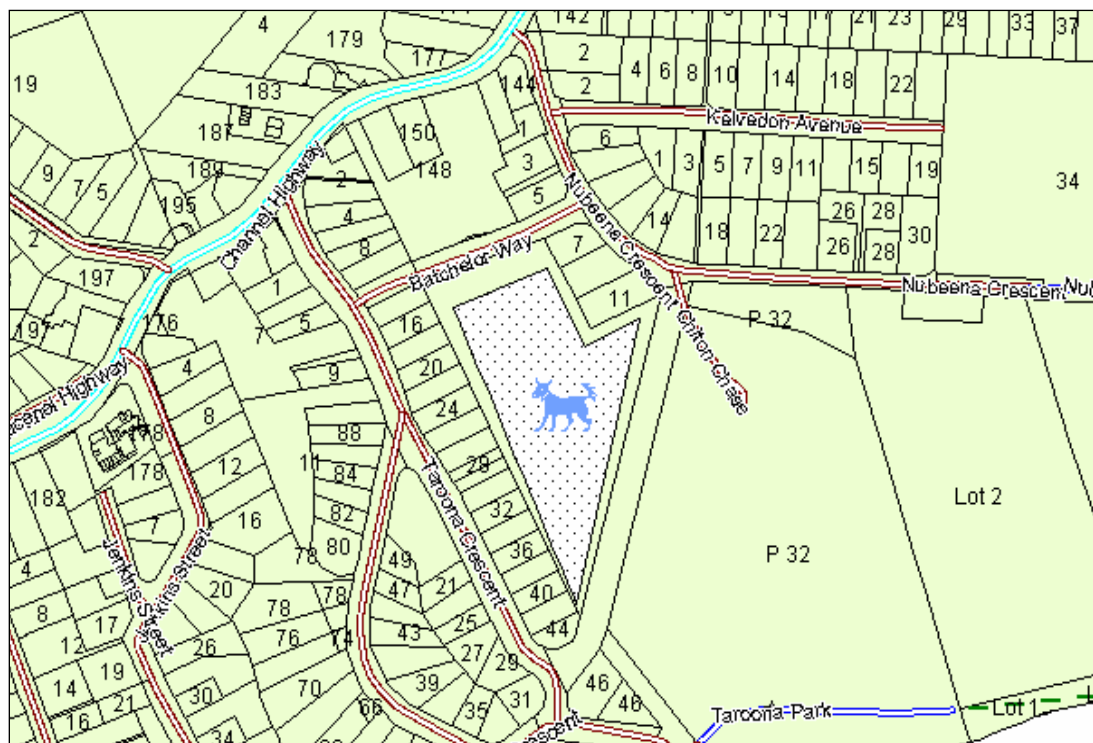
Cartwright Point Reserve

Within Hobart City Council municipal area but available to Kingborough dog owners.



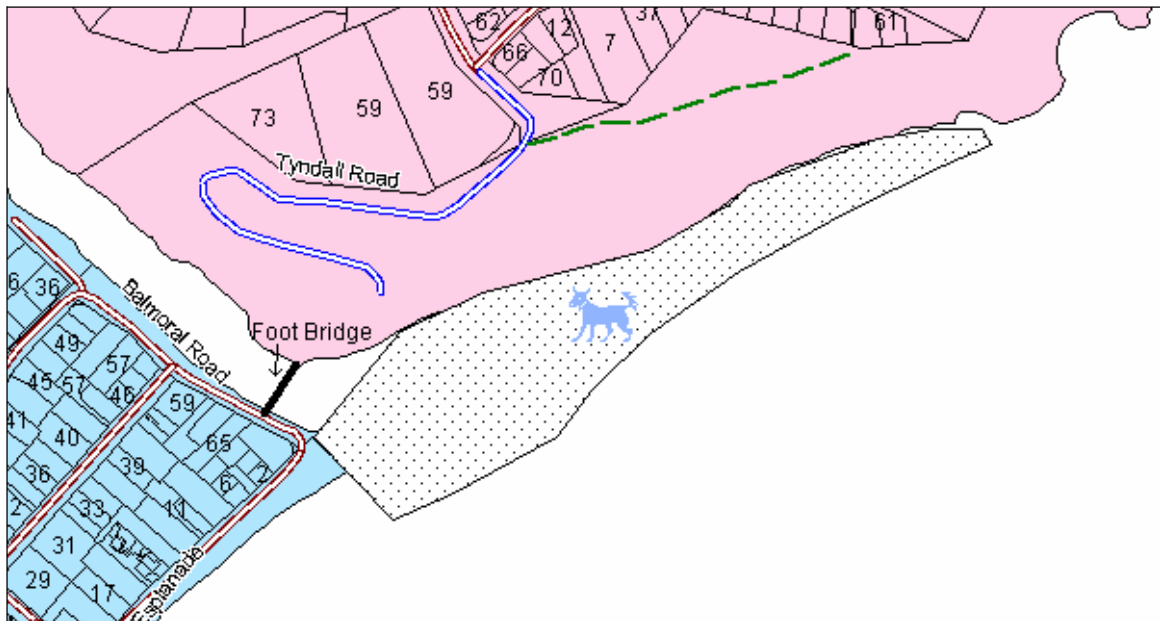
Taroona Park

North West of the Tennis Courts to the rear of the Community Hall only. Dog refuse bins and bags on site.



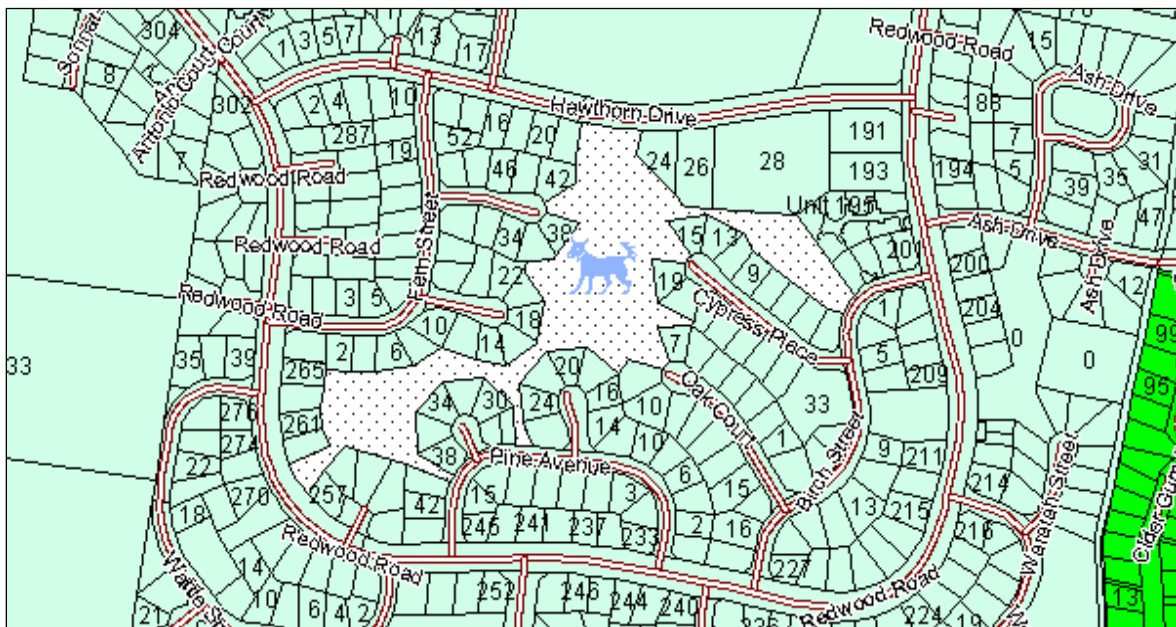
Tyndall Beach

The off-lead area begins at the end of the car park at the bottom of Tyndall Road. Access can also be gained via the footbridge across Browns River at the end of the Esplanade. Dog refuse bins and bags on site.



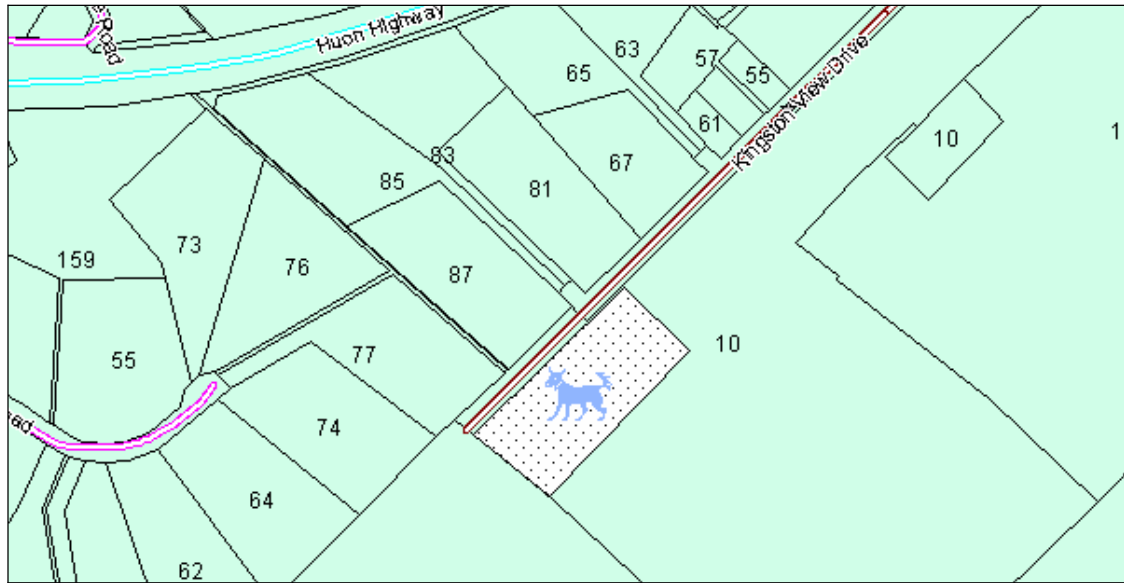
Maranoa Heights Reserve

Located south of the Kingston Fire Brigade Station.



Kingborough Sports Complex, Kingston View Drive

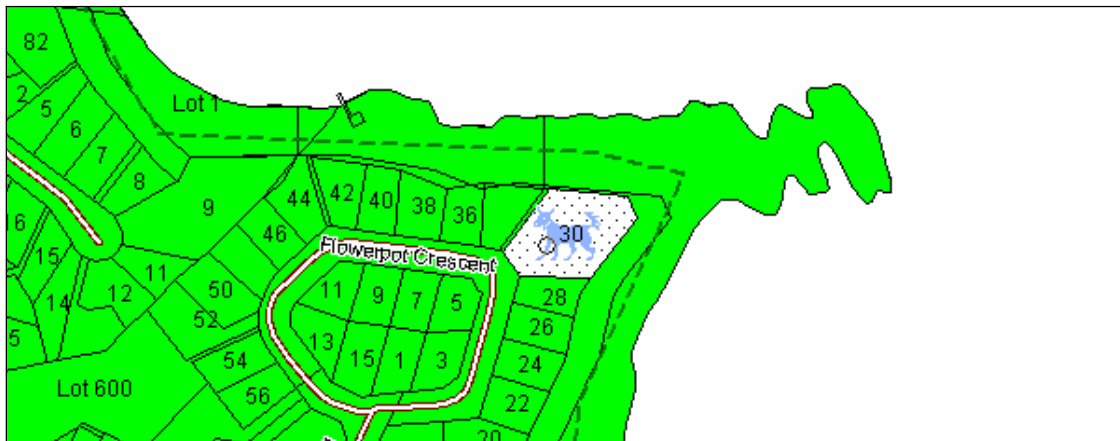
Near the end of Kingston View Drive, past the Kingston Tennis Club courts. Dog refuse bins and bags on site.



BLACKMANS BAY

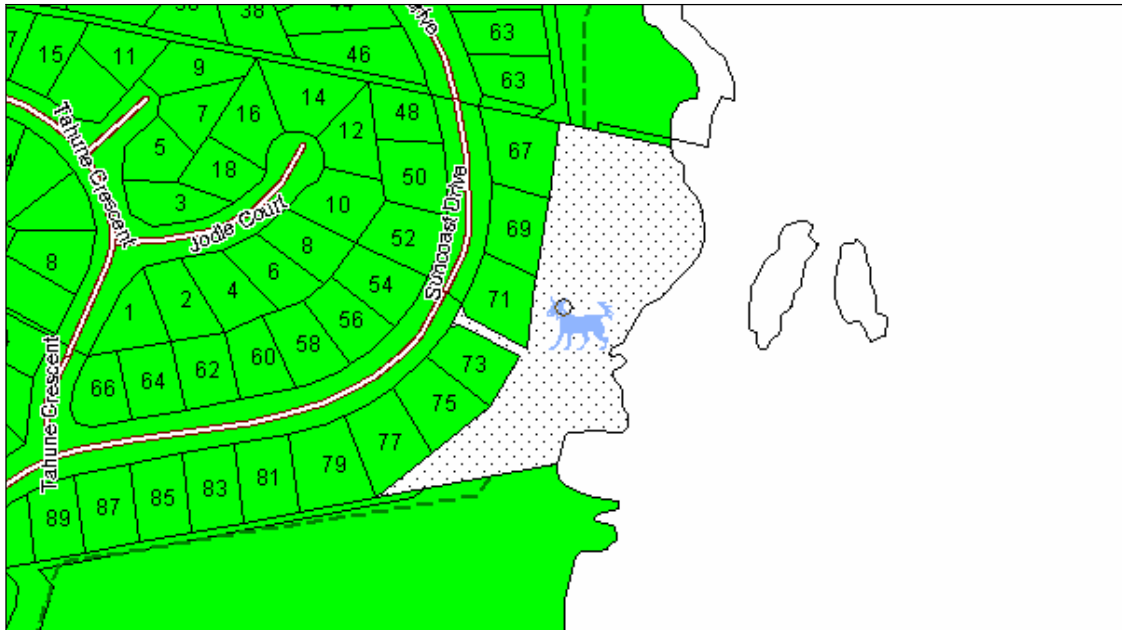
Flowerpot Point Reserve

Access from Flowerpot Crescent.



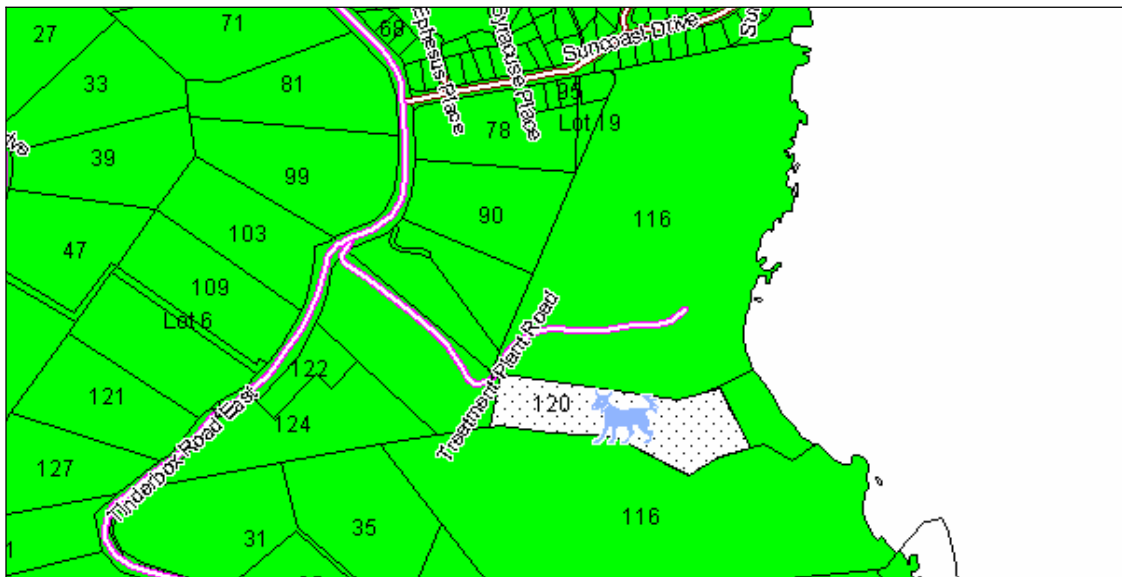
Soldiers Rocks Reserve

Access from Suncoast Drive.



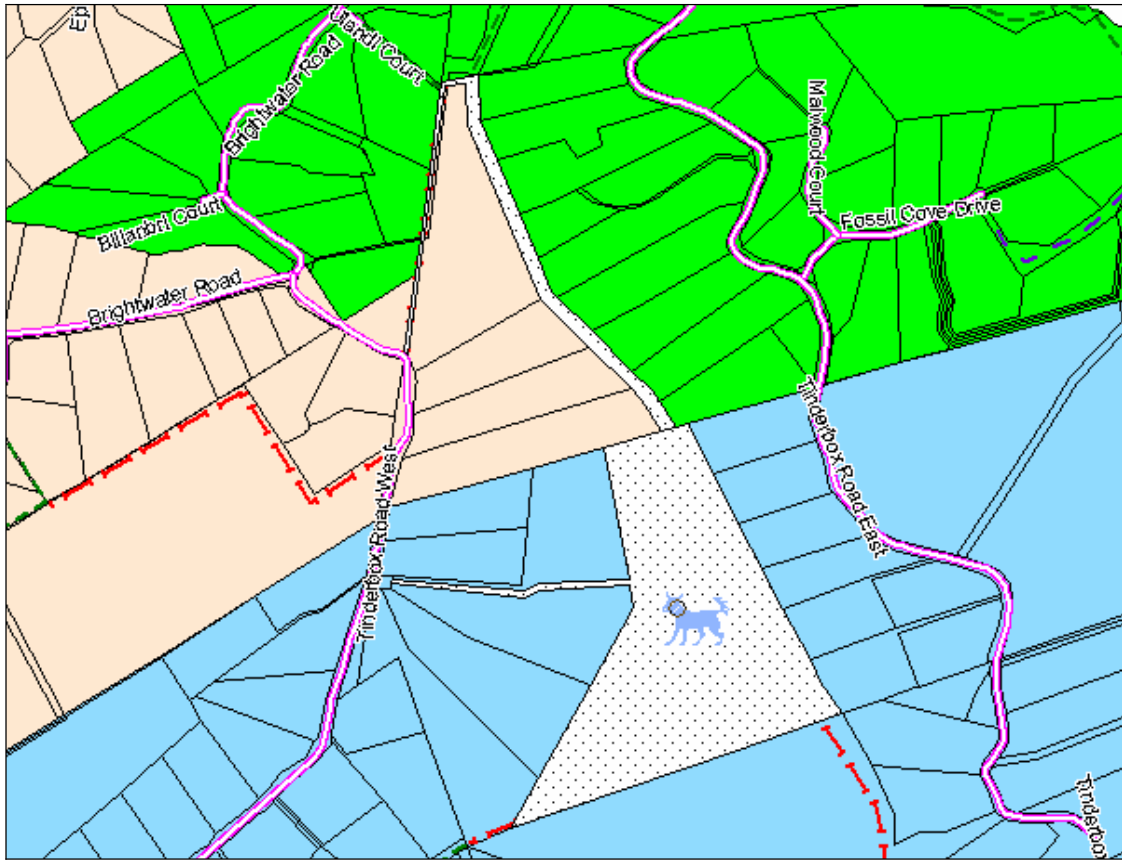
Wastewater Treatment Plant

Access from the Treatment Plant Road off Tinderbox Road East. Paddock area to the south of the plant only.



Tinderbox Hills Reserve

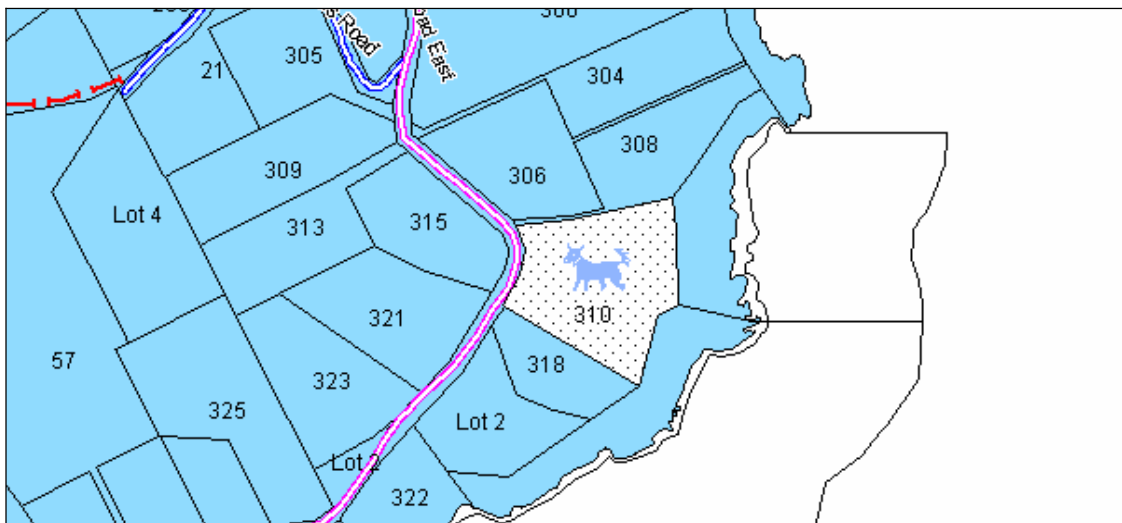
Access from Tinderbox Road West



TINDERBOX

Piersons Point Reserve

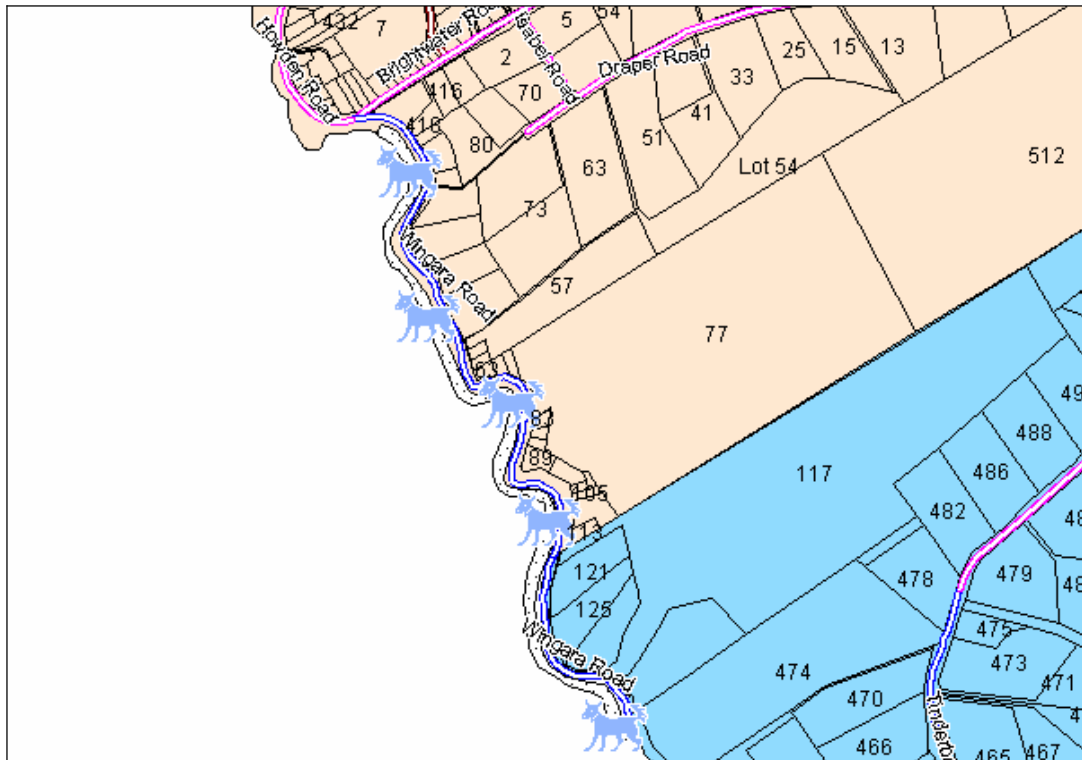
Access from Tinderbox Road East.



HOWDEN

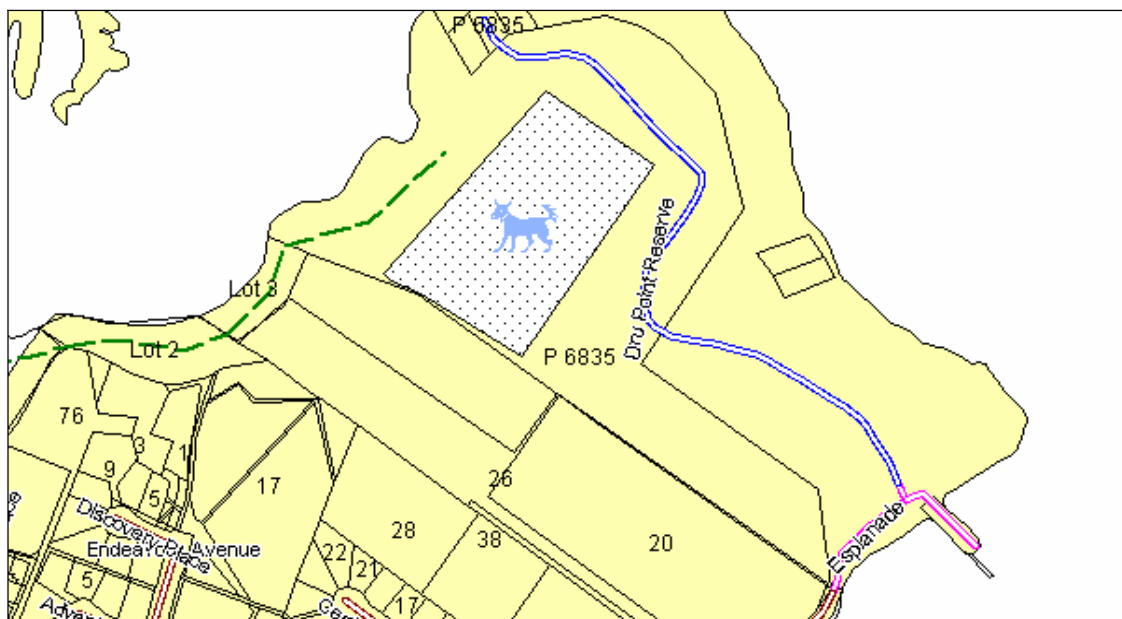
Foreshore Areas

Between the boat ramp and Brightwater Road junction with Howden Road.



MARGATE

Dru Point Bicentennial Park and Cycleway

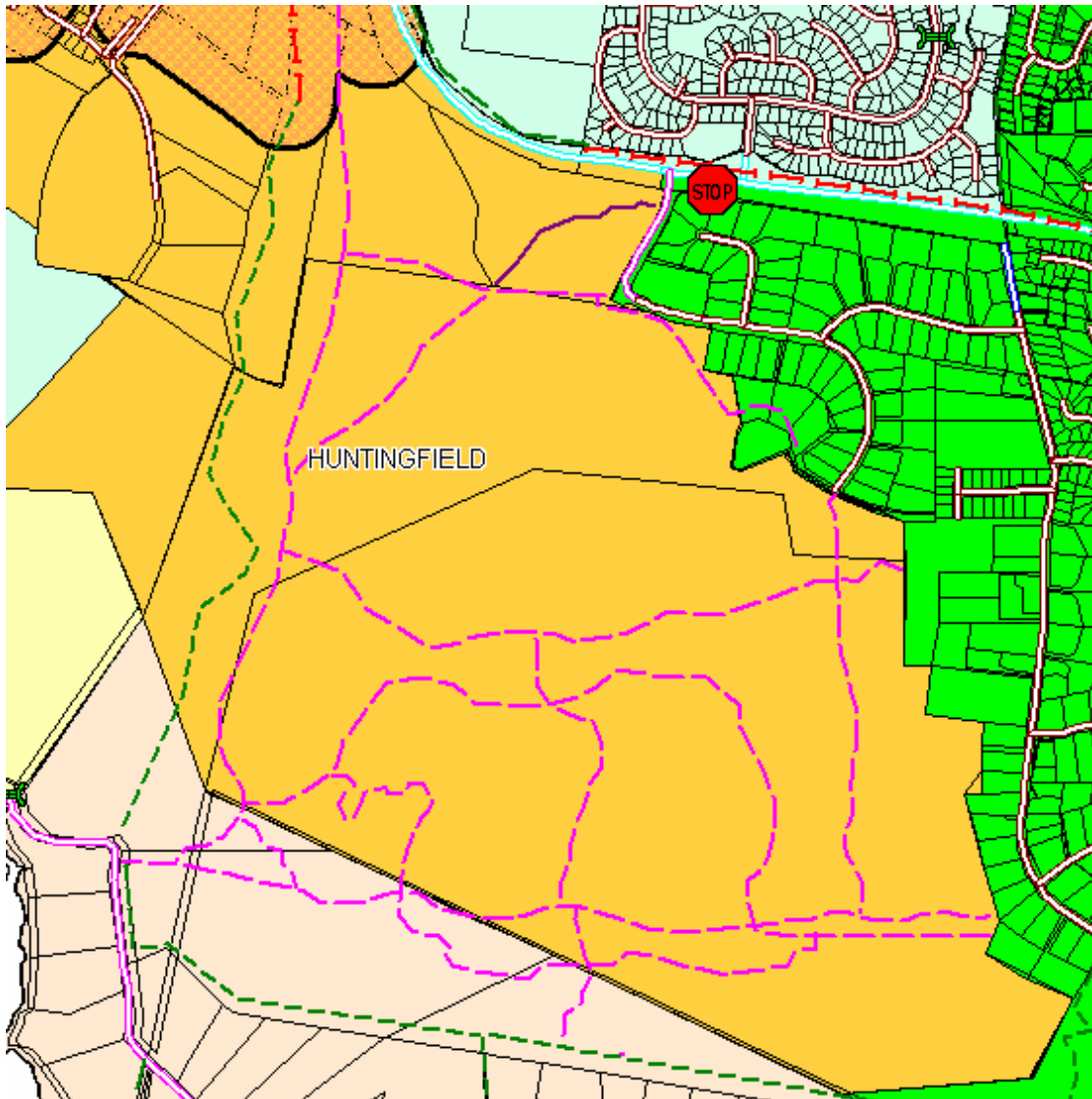


Designated fenced area only. Excludes the sports fields, children's cycle way and playgrounds, public BBQ's and picnic shelter areas, the tennis courts and the Sewage Treatment Pondage.

HUNTINGFIELD

Peter Murrell Reserve Conservation Area

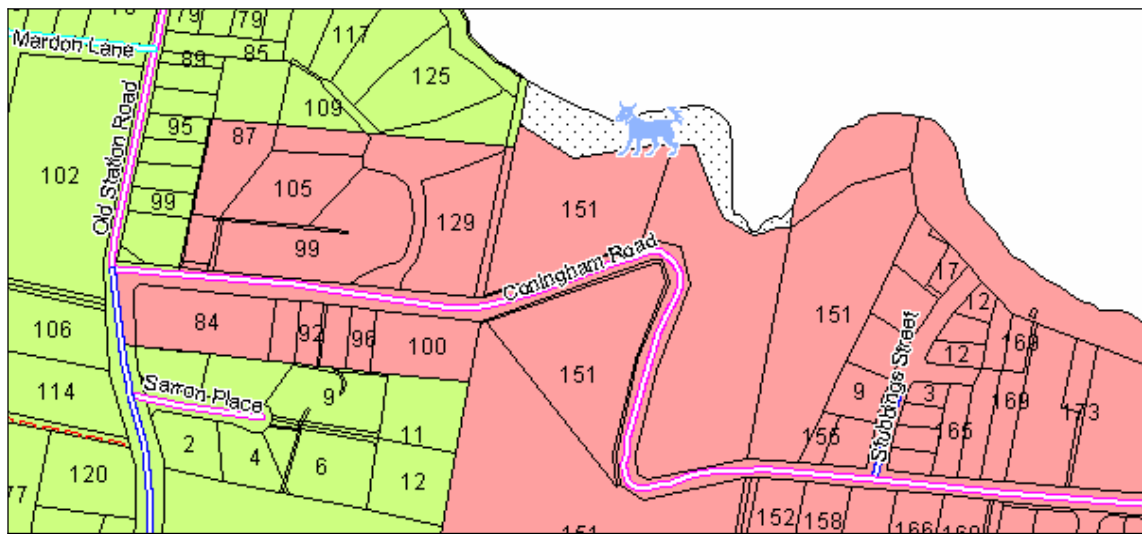
Multiple access points including Algona Road, Lady Penrhyn Drive and Howden Drive. Perimeter fire breaks only.



CONINGHAM

Clarks Beach

Access from Coningham Road.



BRUNY ISLAND

All beaches and public foreshore areas other than Reserved Lands under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970.

PROHIBITED AREAS

With the exception of guide dogs or hearing dogs, the following areas are declared as areas prohibited to dogs as they provide sensitive habitats for wildlife;

- All State Reserves and the South Bruny National Park;
 - Excluding the prescribed paths and areas within Peter Murrell Reserve
- Yellow Point Reserve, Birches Bay;
- Dripstone Point Reserve, Flowerpot;
- Boronia Beach within the fenced reserve area;
- The section of the Mt Wellington Pipeline Track between the intersection of the walking track and Wellington Park Boundary and Snake Plains Track; and
- Kaoota Tramway Track.

The *Dog Control Act 2000* prohibits dogs in:

- any grounds of a school, pre-school, kindergarten, crèche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of the person in charge of the place; or
- any shopping centre, or any shop except a pet shop, premises of a veterinary surgeon, pet grooming shop, or any other premises related to the care and management of dogs; or
- any playing area of a sports ground on which sport is being played; or
- an area within 10 metres of a children's playground.

RESTRICTED AREAS

With the exception of guide dogs or hearing dogs, dogs are prohibited from entry at all times from the following area:

- all Council sports grounds, halls, indoor sports buildings, clubrooms, churches and cemeteries without specific authority of the property owner or in the case of Council properties, the written approval of the General Manager;
- all beaches and foreshores other than those declared as Off-Lead Exercise Areas

The following areas are set aside principally for native flora and fauna conservation. However the exercising of dogs, on-lead, and on the formed and designated pathways and tracks is permitted at all times:

- Boronia Hill Reserves (Kingston to Blackmans Bay)
- Peter Murrell State Nature Reserve (Huntingfield to Howden and to Blackmans Bay)
- The trail connecting Mathinna Road and Balleny Drive Reserves, Oyster Cove

TRACKS AND TRAILS

Dogs, off-lead, but under effective control, are permitted on the following tracks and trails:

- Alum Cliffs Track
- Tinderbox Hills Track

Dogs, on-lead, are permitted on the following tracks and trails:

- Leslie Vale Track
- Picket Hill Track
- Tarooma Foreshore Track
- Whitewater Creek Track
- Boronia Hill Flora Track
- Boronia Beach Track
- Blowhole Track
- Suncoast Headlands Track
- Peter Murrell Reserves Track
- Wingara Gully Track
- Allens Rivulet Track
- Nierinna Creek Track
- Margate Rivulet Track
- Dru Point Track
- Tramway Hill Track
- Harts Hill Track
- Snug River Track
- Manuka Hills Track
- Kettering Township Tracks
- Alonnah Dray Track

Dogs are not permitted on the following tracks and trails:

- Cathedral Rock Track
- Wellington Falls Track
- North West Bay Track

- Fossil Cove Track
- Snug Falls Track
- Coningham Foreshore Track
- Cape Queen Elizabeth Track
- Fluted Cape Track
- Labillardiere Peninsula Track
- East Cloudy Head Track
- Kaoota Tramway Track

REVIEW OF POLICY

A review of this policy will be undertaken at least within five years of its adoption by Council, and more regularly should there be significant changes in community expectations, or there be amendments or changes to the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Council does have the right to declare additional areas in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Act, without having to review the entire Dog Management Policy.

Addendum to policy as adopted by Council, 13 June 2017

Table 1 – Inclusions and Amendments to 2010 Dog Management Policy

Reserve	Locality	Current Dog Zone	Recommended Dog Zone	Recommended Restrictions
Utiekah Gully track	Taroona	none	Restricted	on lead
Illawong Reserve	Taroona	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Kingston Wetlands	Kingston	none	Prohibited	
Hawthorn Reserve	Kingston	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Algona Reserve	Kingston	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Stinkpot Bay Reserve	Howden	none	Prohibited	
Lunawanna Coastal Reserve	Lunawanna	none	Restricted	on lead
Taroona Bushland Reserve	Taroona	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Bonnie Brae Reserve	Bonnet Hill	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Browns River Reserve (northern side river)	Kingston Beach	none	Prohibited	
Browns River Reserve (end Balmoral Road)	Kingston Beach	none	Prohibited	
Browns River Rotary Park (excluding playground)	Kingston Beach	none	Restricted	on lead
Denison Street Reserve	Kingston	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Hackford Drive Bushland Reserve & Tracks	Kingston (off Summerleas Rd)	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Coffee Creek Reserve	Kingston	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Mt Louis Reserve	Tinderbox	none	Prohibited (July to March due to Wedge Tail Eagles)	Restricted April-June, on lead and on formed tracks only
Margate Bluff	Margate	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Dave Burrows Walk	Margate	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Cookes Rivulet Reserve	Sandfly	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Barretta Reserve	Electrona	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only

Reserve	Locality	Current Dog Zone	Recommended Dog Zone	Recommended Restrictions
Snug River Reserve	Snug	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Kettering Oval Bushland Reserve	Kettering	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Kettering Cemetery bushland	Kettering	none	Prohibited	
Gordon Jetty Reserve	Gordon	none	Restricted	on lead (prohibited within 10m of playground)
Jannali Reserve	25 Jannali Rd, Alonnah	none	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Adventure Bay Reserve	Adventure Bay (behind Bowls Club)	none	Prohibited	
Cartwright Reserve	Taroona	Off lead exercise area	Restricted	on lead
Soldiers Rocks Reserve (bushland and rock platforms on coast)	Blackmans Bay	Off lead exercise area	Restricted	on lead and on formed tracks only
Tinderbox Hills Reserve	Tinderbox	Off lead exercise area	Prohibited (July to March)	Restricted April-June, on lead and on formed tracks only
Piersons Point Reserve	Tinderbox	Off lead exercise area	Restricted	on lead in bush areas