KING ISLAND COUNCIL

Policy

Dog Management Policy

Responsible Officer: GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 2025

Review Date: May 2030

KING ISLAND DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

2025 - 2030

To be reviewed prior or during April 2030 and advertised for public consultation before 1st September 2030.

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1. Introduction

The *Dog Control Act 2000* is the primary dog management legislation for Tasmania. It is supported by, and to be read in conjunction with, the *Dog Control Regulations 2021*, Animal Welfare Act 1993 and *Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016*.

Section 7 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* requires Council to develop and implement a policy relating to dog management within its municipal area.

2. Principles and Objectives

This management policy ensures that King Island Council complies with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Under the Act, the policy must include:

- a code relating to the responsible ownership of dogs;
- to ensure dog owners comply with all Acts and Regulations;
- the provision of declared areas;
- a fee structure, and
- any other relevant matter.

Council must review the management strategy at least every five years, and this process must include community consultation. Council is committed to ensuring all voices in the community are heard; both those of dog owners and non-dog owners.

Council acknowledges that dog ownership places significant responsibility on Council, and on owners themselves, to ensure that dogs do not become a nuisance, pose a danger to the community or damage the environment.

King Island Council is committed to ensuring the needs of all residents are met. This management plan helps to ensure that dogs, their owners and other residents can live in a safe and peaceful community.

Council will continuously collect data to assess the rates of dog ownership on the island and the effectiveness of this management policy.

3. Code of Responsible Dog Ownership

The Code for Responsible Dog Ownership has been developed to help dog owners or prospective dog owners to understand the importance of being a responsible owner and to encourage more responsible behaviour by dog owners.

Whilst this code is voluntary it outlines best practices to achieve a caring and responsible environment for dogs and their owners with the aim of minimising neighbourhood inconveniences, animal welfare concerns (including oversupply and homelessness) and the destruction of wildlife and its habitat.

Responsible dog ownership means accepting full responsibility for your dog's needs and the standards set in relation to dog management within our community.

3.1 Council's Responsibilities

Council seeks to promote responsible dog ownership on the Island, ensure adequate facilities for dog owners, and reduce the negative impacts caused by dogs.

As a Council, we will:

- Promote and educate members of the community about responsible dog ownership.
- Respond to complaints about dogs in the community.

- Maintain and develop areas where dogs can exercise and socialise.
- Patrol the municipality.

3.2 Owner's Responsibilities

The privilege of owning and enjoying the companionship of a dog carries responsibilities of care for the animal, and respect for your neighbour and the local community.

The following guide is designed to help you decide whether dog ownership is right for you, what type of dog you wish to own, and then how to ensure your dog is a healthy and happy member of your family and the King Island community.

Before you acquire a dog, please consider the following:

- Is your home and yard big enough for a dog?
- Do you have a secure yard, or do you need to improve or install fencing?
- Are you able to meet any costs for its care including food, toys and veterinary care?
- Is your chosen dog of the appropriate size and temperament to suit your individual circumstances? Think about the people who may come into contact with your dog such as children or vulnerable people
- Do you have the time to exercise and train a dog?

Once you've decided to bring a dog into your home, you have the responsibility of keeping them healthy and happy. This means:

- Getting your dog vaccinated and microchipped.
- Consider de-sexing your dog. Council strongly encourages you to do this by offering a discounted registration fee for de-sexed dogs.
- Taking your dog to see a veterinarian regularly.
- Training and exercising your dog.
- Keeping your dog in a secure, clean location.
- Giving your dog access to food, clean water, and comfortable shelter.
- Spending time with your dog; they are social animals who need companionship and affection.

It is also crucial that you take steps so that your dog doesn't cause a nuisance and is compliant with Council regulations and the *Dog Control Act 2000*:

- Ensure your dog is registered once it turns 6 months old and wears a sturdy collar with its registration tag attached at all times.
- Keep your dog under effective control when out in public. Your dog must always be on a lead unless in a declared off-lead area.
- Clean up any dog faeces in a public place and on private property immediately.
- Prevent the dog from going into a prohibited area (see section 9 for a list of prohibited areas).
- If you own more than two dogs, you need to apply for a kennel licence (see section 4.1).
- Prevent your dog from barking at, chasing or threatening people, other animals or vehicles.

3.3 Reporting and Managing Nuisance Behaviours

Council relies on members of the community reporting incidents and nuisance behaviours so that we can work with dog owners to achieve a safe and happy community.

If you have any concerns or something to report, please don't hesitate to contact us:

- email: kicouncil@kingisland.tas.gov.au

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- telephone: 03 6462 9000
- in writing to the General Manager, King Island Council, PO Box 147, Currie 7256
- in person at King Island Council, 10 George Street, Currie

3.3.1 Roaming Dogs

Dog owners may be fined if their dogs roam on their own.

If you find a dog roaming, please report it immediately to Council on (03) 6462 900.

If it is safe for you to do so, we recommend you capture the dog and keep it securely on your premises until one of our officers can collect it or it can be returned to its owner.

3.3.2 Dog Attacks

If a dog attacks or chases any person or animal the owner of the dog is guilty of an offence.
If you have been involved in an incident with an aggressive dog, please let us know by:

- email: kicouncil@kingisland.tas.gov.au
- telephone: 03 6462 9000
- in writing to the General Manager, King Island Council, PO Box 147, Currie 7256
- in person at King Island Council, 10 George Street, Currie

3.3.3 Barking

Most dogs bark as it is their main form of communication, but if you believe it is happening more often and more loudly than is reasonable, Council may be able to assist. In some cases, the owner may not realise that the barking is causing a problem, particularly if it is happening when they are not home.

If you have a problem with a barking dog, contact us by:

- email: kicouncil@kingisland.tas.gov.au
- telephone: 03 6462 900
- in writing to the General Manager, King Island Council, PO Box 147, Currie 7256
- in person at King Island Council, 10 George Street, Currie

Once we receive a request there are several stages involved in dealing with barking problems.

First Stage

Council officers will contact the complainant and the owner of the dog to discuss the matter, and strategies may be discussed to reduce or minimise the nuisance. Council officers may request that the complainant keep an accurate record of the barking over a period to assist council in determining a pattern of barking, this record may be used as evidence later if the matter were to go to Court.

Second Stage

The owner of the dog is given a reasonable amount of time, normally two weeks to address the nuisance and if requested an Authorised Officer may inspect the property and offer advice to overcome the problem such as the use of an anti-bark collar or other methods. The aim of the discussion is to reach agreement acceptable to both the complainant and the dog owner without the need for legal action.

Third Stage

If no attempt has been made by the dog owner to alleviate the problem, or no contact made with Council Officers, the complainant is requested to complete the appropriate form in accordance with Section 47(2) (a) of the *Dog Control Act 2000*. The person is required to pay a fee that will be refunded if their complaint has substance. After receipt of an official complaint, Council Officers will investigate

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the complaint speaking to neighbours in the vicinity and inspecting the offending property at various times to assess if the dog is considered a nuisance.

The complainant must also be prepared to appear in court as a witness if legal proceedings are instigated. It is only by this means that formal action can be initiated.

If a complainant is not prepared to lodge a Formal Notice of Complaint and / or not prepared to appear as a witness in court, Animal Management Officer's may determine that no further action will be taken regarding the complaint.

If the complaint is found to be genuine, the Council may institute proceedings for an offence under Section 46 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Advice for managing barking

Dogs bark to communicate with each other, and this may become a nuisance behaviour if it is frequent or sustained. More frequent barking is often caused by dog feeling lonely, bored distressed or anxious. If your dog is barking, we recommend you take the following steps to manage it:

- Take your dog for more regular walks.
- Access obedience training help online and give it a go at home. This provides mental stimulation that is very important for dogs.
- Block the ability of your dog to see people moving past a boundary fence if that triggers the barking.
- Ensure your dog is left with adequate food and water when alone as well as toys to play with.
- Consider leaving your dog with a friend or neighbour if they struggle with separation anxiety.
- Seek professional advice from a veterinarian or a dog trainer.

4. Fees

All fees payable under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, including registering your dog and applying for a kennel licence, are set annually by the Council.

Once a dog is six months old it must be registered by a person over 16 years of age. If a dog belongs to a child, the registration must be in the name of a parent or guardian.

The registration period is between 1 July and 30 June each year. Renewal notices will be issued prior to the expiration of your dog's registration. Please ensure that you promptly pay the renewal fee and update any incorrect details to ensure that your dog remains registered and the records accurate. Failure to pay the registration fee means that your dog is not registered, and you may be issued with a fine. Council will send you a registration reminder, however, it is your responsibility to renew your dog's registration.

For new dog registrations, owners can print a Dog Registration Application from Council's website and submit with required certificates and payment in one of the following ways:

- by mail: PO Box 147, Currie, 7256
- in person: King Island Council, 10 George Street, Currie

4.1 Fee Structure

The fee for registration is set annually by the Council in accordance with section 205 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

A standard annual fee is set for non-desexed dogs.

Higher fees apply to dogs that are:

- Declared dangerous.
- Guard dogs.
- Restricted breeds.

Lower fees apply to dogs that are:

- De-sexed*
- Working dogs**

A pensioner's discount applies for one dog per owner.

It is free to register Assistance Dogs. Assistance dogs are defined as certified Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs.

*Please note that owners must provide evidence to Council of sterilisation in the form of a vet certificate.
**Owners of working dogs must provide evidence that they are used for business purposes, such as farming.

If your dog moves away from King Island or in the unfortunate circumstances of your dog's death, you are required to notify Council in writing. This can be done using our Change of Circumstances for Dog Registration form available on our website or by writing to Council:

- email: kicouncil@kingisland.tas.gov.au
- in writing to the General Manager, King Island Council, PO Box 147, Currie 7256
- in person at King Island Council, 10 George Street, Currie

The following refund will be available:

- A full refund if notified between July and September.
- A 50% refund if notified between October and December.
- No refund is notified between January and June.

If you have moved to King Island from another municipal area and provide evidence of your dog's registration from your previous council for the current financial year, no registration is payable for the balance of that financial year. You will, however, be required to purchase a King Island Council dog registration tag.

4.2 Kennel Licences

If you want to keep more than two dogs over the age of six months on your property (or four dogs in the case of working dogs) you must apply to Council for a kennel licence.

A new kennel licence fee and annual fee determined by the Council under section 205 of the Local Government Act 1993 is payable.

How do I apply for a licence?

Step 1: Contact us

If you are thinking of having more than two dogs on your property and haven't spoken to us, we encourage you to do so. This will allow us to answer any questions you may have and go through the application process with you. You can contact Council on 03 6462 9000 during business hours Monday - Friday.

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Step 2: Advertise your intention to apply for a licence
You will need to advertise your notice of intent to apply for a licence in The Advocate newspaper (there is no specific day that it is required to be shown). To make sure the required information is included in the advert please refer to the Notice of Intention to apply for a kennel licence template which can be located on, and printed from, Council's website. Please note the cost to place the advertisement payable to The Advocate is in addition to the licence application fee.
Any person who lives within 200 metres of the property may submit a written objection to Council within 14 days of The Advocate advertisement.

Step 3: Submit your application
You can now complete and submit the kennel licence application. You will need to attach a copy of The Advocate advertisement. Once we receive your application one of our officers will contact you about payment of the licence fee.
Alternatively, you can print the form available on the King Island Council website and submit in one of the following ways:

- email: kicouncil@kingisland.tas.gov.au
- in writing to the General Manager, King Island Council, PO Box 147, Currie 7256
- in person at King Island Council, 10 George Street, Currie

What happens next?
After we receive your application and payment of the licence fee, we will arrange to visit your property to assess the suitability of the premises, including the yard size, fencing, shelter, bedding, and health of the dogs.

We cannot consider your application until 28 days after the 'Notice of Intention' has been published, in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

When assessing whether to grant a kennel licence, the following factors will be considered:

- The proximity of shelter to a fence or boundary
- The size of the area where you propose to keep the dogs.
    - The area must be fully secure and large enough for all of the dogs to be able to roam freely.
    - The area must be safe for dogs, and this includes being cleared of any hazardous materials (such as barbed wire) and chemicals.
- That there is adequate ventilation and insulation in any indoor spaces where the dogs will be kept.
- That there is a strategy for managing faeces and other waste, including the provision of appropriate equipment as required.
- Whether having three or more dogs at that property is likely to cause a nuisance.
- The breed of the dogs you propose to acquire.
- That there are adequate provisions for the welfare, health and control of all the dogs kept at the property.

Current fees can be found at: https://kingisland.tas.gov.au/live/pets-animals/

5. Out and About with Your Dog

King Island has several designated spaces where you can take your dog.

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This section aims to protect the urban and natural environment by supporting dog owners to care for these areas when exercising their dog.

To support dog owners, Council has installed dog tidy dispensers at Currie Harbour, Kelp Track (South End), Currie Airport and Naracoopa foreshore.

5.1 Prohibited areas

There are some areas under s28 of the *Dog Control Act 2000* where dogs are prohibited from entering:

- Grounds of a school, kindergarten, crèche or other place for the reception of children without prior permission of the individual in charge.
- Any shopping centre or shop.
- A public swimming pool, or any playing area or sportsground where sport is being played.
- Within 10 metres of a children's playground.

The exemptions to this are:

- Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs may enter any premises.
- Pet or pet-grooming stores.
- Veterinary premises.
- Other premises related to the care and management of dogs.

5.2 Dog recreation and exercise areas

Council provides locations in Currie, Grassy and Naracoopa to exercise your dog both on and off-lead. Regular exercise may reduce nuisance behaviour such as uncontrolled barking and digging, as it helps relieve boredom and release pent-up energy.

There are off-lead, on-lead and restricted areas on the island (either time restricted or, in the case of sports fields, activity restricted).

There are also areas where dogs are not allowed, and you may be fined if you take your dog in those areas or allow a dog off the lead in an on-lead area.

5.3 Managing your dog's behaviour while out and about

It is crucial that when you are out in public that your dog is always kept under effective control. This means that the dog is not being aggressive and is responsive to your commands. Dogs must be in control of someone strong enough, so it is important you closely supervise children who are walking or playing with dogs. When your dog is happy and relaxed, they are less likely to cause a nuisance or pose a danger to other dogs and people.

The best way to ensure your dog is happy and calm in public is to ensure they enjoy lots of safe, onlead exposure from an early age. Keeping your dog on lead even in off-lead areas allows you to exercise more control until the dog can learn appropriate behaviours.

Remember that not everyone feels comfortable with dogs.

5.4 Walking your dog

There are certain things that you need to remember when walking your dog that are set out in the *Dog Control Act 2000.*

- When in a designated off-lead area, dogs must always remain under effective control of the person in charge of the dog.
- If your dog defecates in a public place you are required to pick up after it. Council provides dog tidy bags at locations in Currie and Naracoopa to dispose of your dog's droppings, so please use them. You should also always carry your own plastic bags.

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- Dogs must always remain on lead when on a road or road-related area such as footpaths.
- Restricted breeds and dogs declared dangerous are still subject to conditions in an off-lead exercise area.
- You are not permitted to walk more than two dogs at a time on a footpath.
- Greyhounds must always be on-lead when in a public place.

6. Captured Animals

Management of captured dogs

If Council becomes aware of a stray dog, an officer will attend the location to capture the dog.

Once a dog has been captured, it will be checked for a microchip. If the dog has a microchip, the owners will be contacted and advised their dog has been captured. Arrangements will be made to have the dog returned home.

If a captured dog is unregistered and/or not microchipped, the owner will need to register the dog and have it microchipped prior to it being released.

If a dog is required to stay in the Council pound for any length of time, the owner will be required to pay an initial impoundment fee and then ongoing daily fees. These fees are to be paid before the dog is returned to the owner.

Fines for the dog being unregistered and at large will be at the discretion of Council.

7. Dangerous dogs

Council takes public safety very seriously. Any incidents involving a dog will be quickly and thoroughly investigated. If a dog has been found to cause serious injury, or demonstrates that it is likely to do so, the General Manager can declare the dog to be a dangerous dog.

Restricted breeds and guard dogs are by default treated as dangerous dogs.

7.1 Declaring Dogs Dangerous

The General Manager has the power to declare a dog dangerous.

If you disagree with this declaration, you can lodge an appeal of this decision in the Magistrates Court within 14 days of being informed of the General Manager's declaration.

7.2 Requirements for owning a Dangerous Dog

If you own a dangerous dog, you must ensure your premises and dog meets the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000*. You cannot keep more than two (2) dangerous dogs on your property at any one time.

Dangerous dogs must:

- be de-sexed and micro-chipped; and
- always wear an approved collar advising that it is a dangerous dog; and
- be muzzled when in a public area, and never be let off lead even in an off-lead area; and
- be kept in an approved enclosure when on private property.

The enclosure must:

- be childproof, with a self-closing and latching gate; and
- have a minimum height and width of 1.8m; and
- each dog must have an area of 10 square metres; and

- have solid or sturdy mesh walls, roof and gate; and
- have a sealed concrete floor with adequate drainage; and
- have a sleeping area for the dog out of the elements; and
- be on a part of the property that does not have to be walked through to access any other part of the property.

Warning signs must also be placed on the perimeter of the property.

If you are unable to comply with these requirements, you must surrender the dangerous dog(s) to the Council.

7.3 Restricted Breeds

Restricted breeds in Tasmania are specified in the *Dog Control Act 2000* and include:

- Dogo Argentino.
- Fila Brasileiro.
- Japanese Tosa.
- American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier.
- Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario.
- Any other breed, kind or description of dog whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the Customs Act 1901 of the Commonwealth.

7.4 Transferring the ownership of a dangerous dog

If you own a dangerous dog, you cannot give or sell your dog to a new owner unless you have sought prior permission from Council by writing to the General Manager. The General Manager can refuse to give permission, and you can appeal this decision in the Magistrates Court.

8. Management Action Plan

King Island Council is committed to enforcing and developing animal management on King Island to ensure a safe and happy community for all residents, pets and wildlife.

This management action plan outlines what Council will do to ensure this goal is met.

8.1 Ensuring registration

Council will ensure all dogs living on island are registered by issuing reminder notices, for previously registered dogs, prior to the annual registration period.

Council will conduct patrols of the island (resources permitting) to identify dogs that are not registered and serve notice on their owners to register their dogs.

In both instances, Council may issue infringement notices to owners who do not register their dogs after two notices.

8.2 Public Education and promotion

Council will continue to disseminate Responsible Dog Ownership information sheets with registration notices and maintain up to date information on the Council website.

Relevant information and announcements can also be made by Council on the King Island Community Noticeboard.

8.3 Consultation and Community Partnerships

Council is committed to community engagement. This is demonstrated by the whole of Island consultation conducted to review this Dog Management Strategy.

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Between consultation periods, Council is open to feedback from all members of the community.

Council Officers are accessible and encourage individuals to make reports and provide information about dog issues.

8.5 Patrols and Enforcement

Council aims to increase the number of patrols throughout the municipal area to increase compliance. Areas of focus are:

- unregistered dogs;
- dogs at large; and
- dogs being off-lead in on-lead areas

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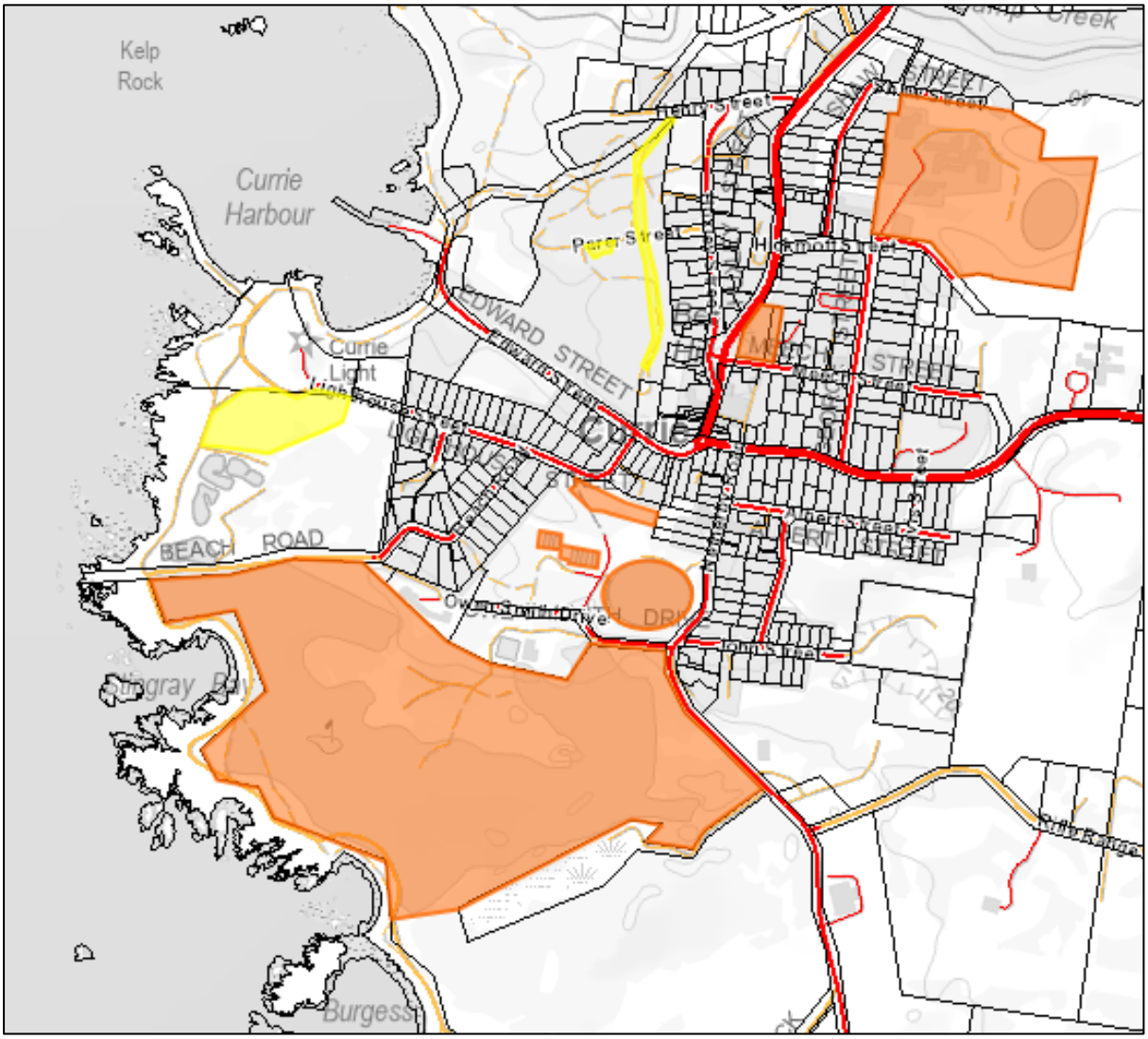
9. Declared Area Maps

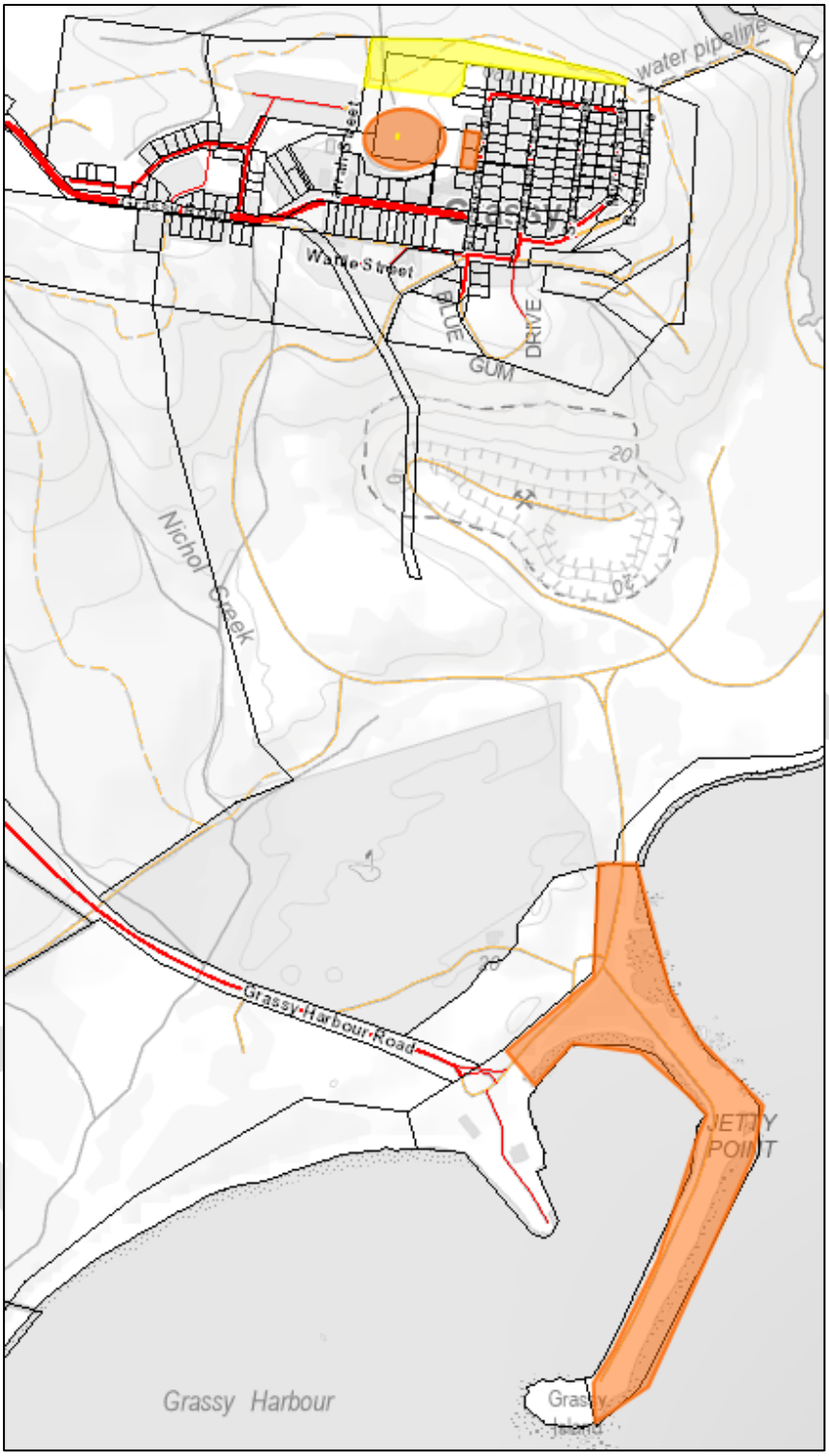


CURRIE

On-lead only

Off-lead permitted

Prohibited

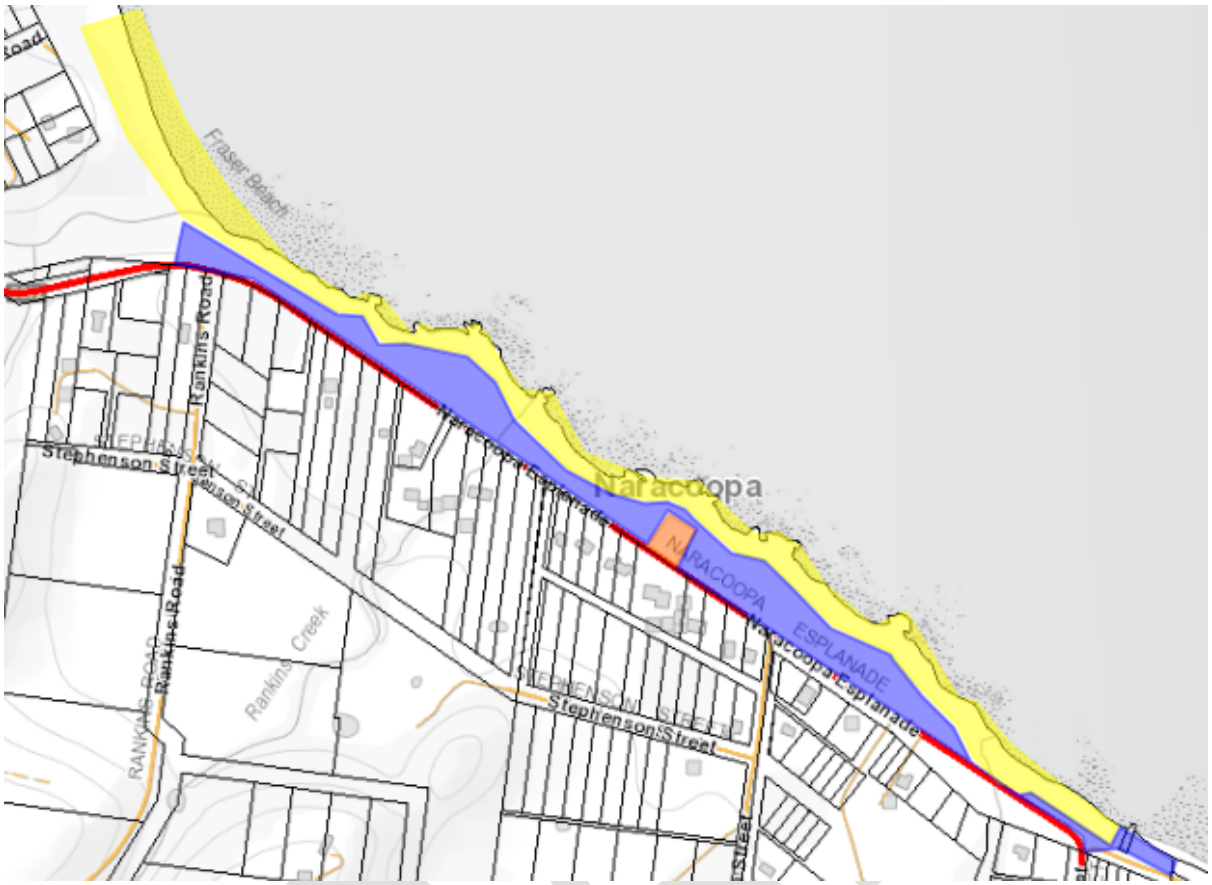


GRASSY AND GRASSY HARBOUR

On-lead only

Off-lead permitted

Prohibited



NARACOOPA

On-lead only

Off-lead permitted

Prohibited

STATE RESERVES

Conservation Area
Game Reserve
Historic Site
National Park
Nature Recreation Area
Nature Reserve
Regional Reserve
State Reserve
Public Reserve
CAPE WICKHAM
Cape Farewell
Wickham Hill
Disappointment Bay
Rocky Pt
B25
Lake Flannigan
Wickham
L Martha Lavinia
Egg Lagoon
PHOQUES BAY
New Year I
Christmas I
Cooper Bluff
Whistler Pt
Yambacoona
Yellow Rock River
North Road
Reekara
ROAD
Bungaree
Lavinia Pt
Nine Mile Beach

Conservation Area
Game Reserve
Historic Site
National Park
Nature Recreation Area
Nature Reserve
Regional Reserve
State Reserve
Public Reserve
KING
ISLAND
Bungaree
Loorana
King Island Airport
Currie
Peerless Pt
Nugara
Pegarah
Parenna
Naracoopa
Fraser Bluff
Cowper Pt
Councillor I
SEA ELEPHANT BAY
Fraser Road
Grassy Road
North Road
Main Street
Pass River
Elephant River
Sea Elephant
Blowhole Cr
Eldorado Cr
Porky Cr
Box Cr
Badger
Mary Hill
Barrier ROAD Cr
OLD GRASSY

Conservation Area
Game Reserve
Historic Site
National Park
Nature Recreation Area
Nature Reserve
Regional Reserve
State Reserve
Public Reserve
Mary Hill
GRASSY ROAD
ROAD
Ettrick
Yarra
Cr
Yarra Creek Road
Lymwood
Grassy
Yarra Creek
River
Gentle Annie
Bold Head
Fitzmaurice Bay
Pearshape
Cataraqui Pt
Mount Stanley
Grassy
Grassy Bay
Seal
Big Lake
Seal Pt
Surprise Pt
Surprise Bay
Bay
Seal
STOKES POINT

The highlighted areas are Tasmanian State Reserves. Dogs are generally not allowed in State Reserves to protect native wildlife. They may be welcome in some conservation areas and nature reserves, if they adhere to signposted rules.

Public areas, such as beaches, may have signposted rules regarding dogs. It's important to respect these rules for the safety of your pet and the protection of local wildlife. Dog owners are asked to be aware of shore bird and marine bird nesting areas around the coast, including those beaches outside the reserves. Dogs must be kept on lead unless in a designated off- lead area.

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History:

Any previous policies used by Council: 19/03/2019 Policy Adopted – Res No: 61/19

POLICY VERSION AND REVISION INFORMATION

Title:	Dog Management Plan 2019
Policy Maintained by:	XXX
Policy Commencement:	
Policy Review:	April 2030

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