KING ISLAND COUNCIL

Dog Management Policy and Plan

2019

Introduction

King Island Council recognize that companion animals and working dogs play an important role in today's society and want people to enjoy them, be it for companionship, work or sport.

Dogs that are well managed cause few problems and rarely come to the attention of the council. Unfortunately, it is when dogs are acquired with little forethought or for the wrong reasons or when they are left unsupervised, problems occur.

As a result of community concern the King Island Council is introducing a Dog Management Plan. The Plan will have a significant impact on the individual dog owners' responsibilities, including the manner in which dogs have to be housed and controlled. The Dog Management Plan will also cover compulsory legislative requirement under the Dog Management Act 2000, this includes registration of all dogs over six (6) months of age and kennel licensing for people with more than two (2) domestic dogs or four (4) working dogs.

Thankfully the image of 'the dog catcher' has gone forever and in its place, we have Rangers whose task is to provide advice, education and assistance and where necessary enforcement of the Acts. Our Rangers will work towards the goal of where it will be rare to see a dog unaccompanied on our streets. Residents are urged to assist officers by confining stray animals for collection, in the knowledge they will be humanely treated and wherever possible returned to their owners or rehoused to a good home.

While Council has been given the responsibility of administrating the Plan it recognizes the need to promote responsible dog ownership and to provide programs that allow for changes in community standards. This plan is a base from which the council can take the next step by accommodating change, planning for the provision of resources and to provide animal services and programs in the future.

Most importantly the goal of this plan is to achieve a balance between meeting the needs of dog owners and the needs and expectations of others in the community.

Dog Management Plan

In consultation with the relevant Authorities and the community, prepare a Dog Management Plan and review every five years.

The Dog Management Plan will:

a. Set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council is adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Plan;

b. Outline programs, services and strategies which the council intends to pursue;

- To promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs
- To ensure that people comply with all Acts, Regulations and any related legislation
- The provision of declared areas
- Fee structure
- Consider any submissions and results of any consultation before finalising the policy
- To minimize the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
- To encourage the registration and identification of dogs
- To minimize the potential for dogs to create a nuisance
- To effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in the Municipality and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Acts and the regulations
- Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs in the Municipality that it thinks necessary, e.g. dog exercise areas
- Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.

c. Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Plan in the Council's Municipal District.

Statutory Compliance

The Municipality of King Island is required to provide an animal management service to ensure that animals do not degrade the amenity and community safety of the Municipality. The Council is required to respond to customer requests and complaints, and provide enforcement of the relevant Acts and Regulations. In doing so, Council must comply with the following:

- Dog Control Act 2000
- Dog Control Regulations 2010

Guidelines and Standards applicable to the required service include:

- Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016

Purpose

The purpose of the Dog Management Plan is to set out the arrangement that the King Island Council has in place to help manage dogs and work towards improved animal management in our Municipality.

The aim of this Plan is to:

- Support and facilitate the benefits of dog ownership and companionship on the health and wellbeing of residents;
- Education residents in ensuring that accepted standards of animal welfare are maintained including the care, feeding and physical wellbeing of dogs;
- Manage nuisance complaints about animals that may affect neighbouring residents;
- Ensure that the keeping of domestic animals does not compromise accepted standards of public health; and
- Identifying areas of the Municipality that dogs can and can't go, in line with community expectations and legislative requirements.

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Section 1. Fee structure

Objectives

- To minimize the reliance on the general rate contribution to dog management costs
- To maximize the level of dog registration in the Municipality of King Island
- To maintain total revenue received from dog registration fees in real terms
- To recognize responsible dog ownership in establishing a scale of fees

Policy

That Council aim to reduce the reliance on the general rates.

This will be achieved through a combination of setting appropriate registration fees, ensuring that all dogs are registered, and in containing costs.

Categories for registration

Registration fees will be set in line with these objectives and with the following categories of fees being identified:

- Entire dog
- Guide dog/hearing dog
- De-sexed dog
- Working dog
- Guard dog
- Dangerous dog

Evidence is required prior to registration of a dog in a particular category, as follows:

- Guide dog / hearing dog – Same meaning as provided under the Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967 or subsequent relevant legislation.
- De-sexed dog – Certificate of Sterilisation from a veterinary surgeon or other documentation confirming that the dog is sterilised, or the provision of a statutory declaration.
- Working dog – Provided a statutory declaration it is a working dog, also a provision of evidence may be required to prove to the satisfaction of the Rangers that the dog is a true working dog as defined under the Dog Control Act 2000. For stock working dogs this may include a demonstration of stock working abilities. For working dogs other than stock working dogs, supporting documentation is required from that organisation or business.

Level of Fees

- That Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs are not charged for registration.
- That a lesser rate be provided for a de-sexed dog in recognition of the responsible attitude shown by owners in relation to breeding. This rate to be set at 40% of the rate for an entire dog.
- That a lesser rate be provided for a working dog in recognition that these categories have been recognized in previous legislation. Further, dogs in this category are likely to be well trained which would reflect the outcomes relating to responsible dog ownership and are a fundamental part of King Islands agricultural based economy.
- That the fee for a Guard Dog be set at three (3) times the rate of an entire dog in recognition that it is declared dangerous for reason of its duties.
- That the fee for a Dangerous Dog be set at five (5) times the level of that for an entire dog and that no discount is provided for early payment.
- For any pensioner registering a dog, a reduced fee will apply to the appropriate category of dog registration. The discount will only apply to one dog. A pensioner, for the purpose of this discount, is a prescribed pensioner under the meaning of the Local Government (Rates and Charges) Remissions Act 1991.

Payment and setting of fees

- Registration fees will be paid annually.
- All fees will be rounded to the nearest $1.
- That registration fees in all categories be increased by a minimum of CPI (Hobart All Groups) for the twelve-month preceding period, to the end of the March quarter.
- That registration charges be due and payable before the 1st July each year.
- That kennel license fees be established annually on the basis of a single fee for application and for renewal. That these fees be increased by a minimum of CPI (Hobart All Groups) to the end of the March quarter.

Reductions and Reimbursements

- Applications for registration made after 31st December.
- A 50% reduction be applied to the applicable registration fee provided the dog has attained the age of six months in the preceding four weeks, or the dog is registered within four weeks of purchase, and the registration application is made voluntarily.
- Where registration is made at the direction of an authorised officer, no reduction is to apply.

Reimbursement of Dog Registration on Death of Dog

On receipt of a certificate of euthanasia from a recognised veterinary clinic or submission of a Statutory Declaration, refund of dog registration charges will be provided according to the rates given below:

- Dog deceased within 3 months of date of registration - 75% refund of registration fee paid
- Dog deceased after 3 months and within 6 months of date of registration - 50% refund of registration fee paid
- Dog deceased after 6 months and within 9 months of date of registration - 25% refund of registration fee paid
- Dog deceased after 9 months - no refund

Refunds are only to apply if application is made in the same financial year as registration has been paid.

Reimbursement of Dog Registration Fee in the event of Spayed Dog

This reimbursement is to apply to all registered dogs that are subsequently spayed, and is based on the difference between the registration fee paid and the spayed rate.

On receipt of a certificate of neutering from a recognised veterinary clinic, refund of dog registration rates will be allowed according to the rates given under:

- Dog spayed within 3 months of registration - 75% refund of difference
- Dog spayed after 3 months and within 6 months of registration - 50% refund of difference
- Dog spayed after 6 months of registration - 25% refund of difference
- Dog spayed after 9 months of registration - no refund

Refunds are only to apply if application is made in the same financial year as registration has been paid.

Complaints Bond

That a complaints bond be set at $75, in line with Formal Complaints Pursuant Sections 47 & 48 of the Dog Control Act 2000. The fee is refunded if the complaint is proven.

Section 2. Service provisions

KIC Data FY2017-18

Number of registered dogs	429
De sexed dogs registered	283
Entire Dogs registered	146

Future provisions

- Provide for online registration / renewal
- Promote the benefits of registration and identification, being able to reunite a lost dog with its owner and other services provided
- Use the Council website to provide information to residents on registration
- Conduct random door knocking across the Municipality each year to check for unregistered and unidentified dogs
- To conduct a door-knock for pet owners that failed to renew registrations
- Conduct micro chipping days in conjunction with the local veterinarian
- Distribute registration and identification brochures, fact sheets and other material to pet owners
- Issue registration renewal notices annually and perform follow up to nonrenewal with additional letter, contact owner, face to face visit (targeted door knocking)
- Ensure that dog complaints are checked for registration and identification compliance as part of the process of dealing with the complaint. Often people know where the animal they are complaining about resides
- Ensure all authorized offices have access to microchip scanners
- Keep records of dogs found injured or dead and notify owners of identifiable animals to enable them to seek veterinary treatment for injured animals and help provide 'closure' to owners of dogs that have died. Retain dead dogs for a period of time to enable owners to collect them if desired
- Regularly update / audit registration database to ensure information is current (e.g. amend data to reflect notifications of deceased dogs, change of address, change of owner) to ensure owners are not distressed or annoyed by receiving unnecessary or incorrect renewal notices or not receiving a renewal notice at all
- Ensure all seized and impounded dogs are identified as required by the council and registered to their owner prior to their release
- Ensure that owners are charged for each dog registration for the council determined fees

- Promote registration and obligation of dogs to wear a collar with registration attached in line with legislative requirement through the Council's publications and other media. This can be

done by using "good news" stories about pets being returned to their owners because they were micro chipped and registered.

Current Situation

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Ensure that all renewals of registrations are followed up each year and that failing to renew infringements are issued where necessary	Administration / Ranger	Yearly	By 1st July of each year, all owners have received a renewal, a final reminder and the property received a targeted door knock to determine if the animal is still on the property
Ensure that all animals identified from a complaint are registered	Ranger	Ongoing	Recorded on Customer Service Requests when Rangers dealt with the new complaint
Hold numerous registration door knocks randomly around the Municipality which will include all full time authorized Officers at Council	Ranger	Ongoing	Determine how many new registrations by keeping statistics

Objective 1: To decrease the number of unregistered animals in the Municipality

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Include registration, identification and renewal information in rates notices. The Council's newsletters, in Council displays and Council's on hold message	Administration Personnel	Ongoing	Provide information where necessary
Include registration forms, registration and identification requirements, brochures and factsheets in kits for new residents	Administration personnel	Ongoing	Ensure all new resident kits contain this information by regularly making sure those responsible for new resident kits have the relevant information

Objective 2: To increase registration rates by each year for dogs using improvements in technology

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Introduction of text messaging owners who have not renewed their registration	Ranger	Ongoing / future development	Owners able to apply over internet and make payment at time of application. Determine the number of customers using this service.

Section 3 - Nuisance Complaints

The most common nuisance complaints received by the Council are stray and barking dogs (please note that dog at large and dog attacks are dealt with under Section 6 of this plan and are not considered nuisance complaints).

The majority of time spent by Ranger's is dealing with customer complaints contained in this section. Therefore, it is seen that education and compliance activities combined with future objectives and activities is critical in reducing complaints and issues raised by the community. It is important that an emphasis is placed on reducing barking dog complaints. Barking dog complaints require far more time for the Ranger to resolve the complaint given the need to be able to substantiate a nuisance which can often lead to some frustration to the affected parties. The introduction of a bond system in regard to complaints will also go some way to minimizing time spent by Rangers on neighbour's making complaints in baseless disputes.

Barking Dog Complaints (see 'All Nuisance' and the following)

- Constantly review current processes regarding neighbourhood complaints about nuisance barking
- Provide information on the causes of excessive barking, including separation, anxiety, boredom, external stimuli, territorialism, communication with other dogs etc.
- Encourage owners of barking dogs to seek advice from the Municipality / Professional dog trainer I animal behaviourist on how to reduce their dogs barking
- Encourage any complainant to contact owner of a barking dog and advise them of their concerns as first step to resolving issue prior to commencing investigation process
- Implementation of a $75 bond for ongoing nuisance complaints (refunded on finalisation of proven nuisance case)

Dog Excrement

- Provide education to the public around their obligation to remove dog excrement under the act from all streets, recreation areas and beaches
- Encourage persons to carry the means to pick up their dog's excrement
- Encourage a person to pick up their dog excrement and dispose of it in an appropriate waste container

What we will do

- Advise dog owners of the legal requirements relating to cleaning up of dog litter, by distributing education material (see 'All nuisance' section for methods), providing owner I person in charge of dog in parks and other public places with information during patrols
- Enforce the act regarding the compulsory collection and disposal of device for collection

Objective 1: Reduce number of nuisance complaints using education

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Provide further information to residents about the Dispute Settlement	Administration Personnel/ Ranger	ongoing	Provide figures as to how many residents use the Dispute Settlement
Provide an Animal Management Bulletin with renewal notices each year about either dog confinement, barking, dogs at large, dog litter, dog attacks, etc.	Administration Personnel / Council Media Officer / Ranger	Annually	Prepared for October to go out with pet registration renewals
Council purchase and Officers to hand out dog poo bag holders to tie on leads for complying with requirements e.g. walking dog on lead, collecting dog litter, having dog under effective control, registering and micro chipping animals	Administration Personnel / Ranger	Ongoing	Increase in compliance and awareness
Review enforcement policies and procedures	Supervisor / Ranger	July / Annually	Review undertaken

Objective 2: Reduce the number of nuisance complaints using compliance

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Report owners who fail to collect their dog litter	Ranger	Ongoing	Increase compliance through statistics
Ensure complaints are dealt with effectively, efficiently and satisfactorily	Ranger	Ongoing	Use Customer Requests to track complaints

Section 3 Responsible Dog Ownership

Purpose

To provide guidelines for dog owners, and prospective owners on actions that will assist in producing healthy and happy dogs, and provide a harmonious community for all residents.

Objectives

Dogs are an important part of society and many value their companionship. As with any animal there are standards of care and welfare that need to be observed. The views and concerns of neighbours and other members of the community need to be considered.

Responsible dog ownership requires accepting full responsibility for dogs, in terms of their needs and the standards for dog management that are expected by the community.

The following code has been developed to help owners maximise:

- Appropriate dog behaviours;
- Understanding of dog control regulations; and
- The health and welfare of dogs.

Adherence to Code

The code is a voluntary code, which defines best practice actions to achieve the aim and objectives of the code.

Pre-Purchase Guidelines

Dogs are valuable companion animals that require a commitment to their welfare over their entire lifespan. In order to fully understand the obligation, research should be undertaken prior to making the final purchase decision.

Some issues that need to be considered before purchasing a dog are:

- The breed of the dog, and its suitability to the home environment e.g. the number and age of family members, compatibility with other pets, size of the yard, adequacy of fencing, proximity of neighbours, housing of dog
- Vaccinations and ongoing veterinary requirements
- Dietary requirements
- Arrangements if going on holidays - proximity and cost of kennels
- Familiarisation with the community environment - e.g. proximity and location of dog exercise areas, areas in which dogs are prohibited, location of veterinary clinics, location of pet shops, availability of obedience classes
- Initial and continuing costs - purchase, vaccination, microchipping, de-sexing, veterinary costs, registration costs, dietary requirements, obedience classes, grooming

- Regulations governing dog management - Dog Control Act 2000, Dog Management Policy, Animal Welfare (Dogs) Regulations 2016

Post-Purchase Guidelines (First Six Months)

Having made the decision to purchase a companion animal, the following actions are recommended to ensure a healthy and happy dog:

- Socialisation and education of your dog, providing access and exposure to a variety of experiences
- Appropriate vaccination and veterinary checks
- Access to training and opportunities for playing
- Microchipping., new mandatory reporting of chip numbers to Council
- Identification for the dog prior to registration
- De-sexing if being undertaken
- Appropriate diet
- Registration by six months of age

The previous actions are important in the first six months, but an ongoing commitment in the following areas is important to ensure the happiness and safety of your dog and to add to your enjoyment:

- Health and welfare aspects
- Ongoing obedience training
- Opportunities for exercise and play
- Adherence to regulatory requirements

Consideration of Others

As a member of the broader community, there are obligations for us all in considering the impact of our actions on others. For the dog owner this includes taking action to:

- Ensure your dog does not bark excessively
- Ensure your dog does not wander off your property boundary
- Clean up after your pet
- Keep no more than two dogs or four working dogs on your property without a kennel licence
- Ensuring your dog is under effective control at all times
- Not allowing your dog to jump at, or lick people. This playful nature might not be accepted by all persons

Lost Dogs

If your dog is lost, it may have been collected by the Ranger and transported to the pound. Owners should make every effort to locate missing dogs by contacting the Council.

Implementation

Implementation of the code and ongoing awareness will be provided through the following mechanisms:

- Distribution to owners of newly registered dogs
- Promotion by Rangers in daily activities
- Promotion through participating organisations
- Education through schools and community events

Section 4. Kennel Licences

Kennel Licences

The Dog Control Act 2000 provides that a kennel licence is necessary if more than two domestic dogs over the age of six months are to be kept at a property; in the case of working dogs this is higher at four dogs.

An application for a Kennel licence will only be considered in the following circumstances:

- The premises are in non-residential styled zoning
- The property has an area equal to or greater than 1 hectare

Council's assessment of a kennel licence will include consideration of issues such as zoning of the land including any adjacent residential styled zoned properties and location of residential zoned buildings, local amenity, environmental health issues and animal welfare. Council will be taking into consideration the kennel standards for dogs which reflect the State Government's proposed Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Dogs in respect to the keeping of dogs on private premises.

A kennel licence will not be granted if the premises to which the licence relates is unfit for the purpose for which it is to be used, if it is not in the public interest or it is not compatible with the principles of the Code of Responsible Dog Ownership.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, a short-term exemptions may be issued for a kennel licence to be granted in residential styled zoned premises.

Section 5. Declared Areas

Classes of Declared Areas

The Dog Control Act 2000 defines specific classes of declared areas:

- Exercise Areas – an area where a dog may be exercised subject to any specified conditions. The two types of exercise areas are:
    - On-lead exercise area - a dog can only be exercised on-lead, subject to any restrictions specified
    - Off-lead exercise area - a dog can be exercised off-lead, subject to any restrictions specified. Dogs must remain within reasonable proximity, sight and be immediately responsive to the controller's commands.
- Restricted Area – an area where dogs are restricted from entering during specified days, hours or seasons; or during specified hours, days or seasons
- Training Areas – an area where a dog may be trained subject to any specified conditions
- Prohibited Areas – an area containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife

Declared Areas Policy

Objectives

- To recognise the needs of people in the Municipality of King Island who own dogs
- To facilitate responsible dog ownership and support compliance to leash laws by providing a range of opportunities for dog exercise in the Municipality of King Island
- To consider the provision of dog exercise areas in planning for future public recreation areas
- To provide training areas where dog training is conducted on a formal basis
- To protect sensitive areas including areas of cultural significance, native flora and native fauna
- To recognise the needs of non-dog owners in the appropriate declaration of areas
- To provide safe and appropriate environments for the community

Process of Declaration

- Council is the only authority with the ability to declare areas for the exercise, restriction or prohibition of dogs under the Dog Control Act 2000 within its land tenure
- That Council will primarily exercise this authority on parcels of land under its ownership
- That Council may, where it is considered appropriate, enter into negotiations with the owners of other parcels of land for the declaration of their land, in relation to exercise, restriction or prohibition of dogs
- That where negotiations are conducted, discussions will also be held in relation to management, policing and provision of signage for that land. In conducting such negotiations,

Council will only exercise those functions over its own land, unless there is mutual benefit in deciding otherwise

- For areas seen by the public as a single parcel of land, but under management by different authorities, a consistent pattern of use in relation to dog exercise will be maintained over the entire parcel of land if feasible. For areas where this is not feasible, separation of restrictions is to be visually obvious to the user

Principles for declaration

Subject to above, areas will be declared according to the following principles:

- Where possible the provision of either an on-lead or off-lead area within reasonable walking distance of the majority of residences in each suburb
- Recognition of the community's desire to exercise their dogs in natural areas
- Protection of natural flora and fauna, and areas of cultural significance
- Recognition of the community's desire to exercise their dogs in beach environments
- Shared and restricted access rights to beaches during summer periods
- Consistency of restriction provisions across parcels of land
- Recognition of the need to retain some areas as dog free, due to the use of those areas by other groups in the community, e.g. sporting fields and perimeters, play equipment, family oriented parks
- Consistency with land management and development plans, recognised by Council

Priorities for development of future exercise areas

If it is not possible to provide exercise areas within reasonable walking distance, future plans for the development of exercise areas within townships be prioritised on the basis of:

- Areas of urban consolidation, and where registration levels are above the average registration level for the population of that township;
- Areas in which there is a high level of population growth, in which case the provision of exercise areas should be considered in relation to public open space requirements for any subdivisions; and
- Lower priority will be given to those areas where there is low residential density and large lot sizes.

Criteria and level of declaration

Beaches

- Where appropriate, beaches in the Municipality of King Island will be subject to shared and restricted usage by dog owners

- At all other times of the year, effective control provisions will apply to dogs on beaches unless separately declared otherwise
- The definition of beach will include the foreshore area of the beach only, and not extend to the dune system, or approved tracks on dunes parallel to the beach. Access ways are excepted

Multi User Pathway

Will be designated as being an on-lead exercise area. Under the provisions of the Dog Control Act 2000, all dogs in road or road-related areas in a built-up area, are required to be on lead. The definition of road-related area includes any footpath or track that is designed for use by cyclists or pedestrians. This declaration includes areas immediately adjacent to the track to a distance of 2 metres.

Natural Recreation Areas

Where there is a need to protect natural flora, fauna and/or areas of cultural significance, on-lead exercise will be allowed for dogs provided, exercise is limited to defined track areas.

Natural Areas Managed by Parks and Wildlife

On request by Parks and Wildlife, Council may consider the declaration of areas under the management of Parks and Wildlife.

Regional Parks

Depending on the use and facilities provided in the park dogs may be restricted, on lead or effective control provisions will apply.

Horse Racing/ Show Grounds and Perimeters

Dogs will not be restricted to approved training events and shows on the race track and perimeters.

Other Public Recreation Areas

Other public recreation areas under Council control will be considered on a case by case basis having consideration to the needs of the community, and any management plans existing for the area. In areas that have not been declared, effective control provisions shall apply.

Prohibited Areas under the Dog Control Act

In addition to the list provided above, the Dog Control Act 2000 requires the following areas be prohibited to dogs:

- Any grounds of a school, preschool, creche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of the person in charge of the place
- Any shopping centre or any shop
- The grounds of a public swimming pool
- Any playing area of a sportsground on which sport is being played
- Any area within 10 metres of a children's playground

Areas where restrictions are not defined

When restrictions are not defined, normal effective control provisions apply.

For road or road related areas in most residential areas, this means a dog is required to be on a lead.

Implementation

Following adoption of this policy, Council is required to formally notify by public notice the declaration of areas. This notice is also to include the date from which the declaration is to take effect.

A list of the areas to be declared is provided as an attachment to this policy.

Signage of Declared Areas

It is a requirement under the Act for Council to erect and maintain signs sufficient to identify any exercise area, training area, prohibited area or restricted area.

Section 6. Dog Attacks and Dog Confinement

A critical role for the Council is to minimize the number of dog attacks in the community due to the potential damage that can occur in the event of an attack.

It is important that the Council raise awareness in the community on how to reduce the risk of a dog attack.

The identification of dogs including declared dogs and dangerous dogs is important as well as ensuring dogs are contained to their property at all times in the prescribed manner under the legislative requirement stated in the dog control act given that most dog attacks occur in the direct vicinity of the property or on the premises where the dog resides.

Current Situation

The Customer Requests for dog attacks are all in one category and include all minor injury to serious injury reports, a rating may need to be developed to distinguish between types.

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Raise awareness of risk of dog attacks in the home, in the street and in parks and how to reduce these risks through ▪ distribution of brochures, fact sheets and other material regarding dog attacks ▪ information with registration renewals ▪ new resident packs	Ranger / Council Media Officer	Ongoing	Monitor number of dog attacks and complaints
Promote effective confinement and control of dogs	Ranger	Ongoing	Monitor number of dog attacks and complaints
Promote de-sexing of dogs to reduce aggressive tendencies and wandering at large	Ranger / Council Media Officer	Ongoing	Monitor number of dog attacks and complaints
Respond to dog attack reports within 30 minutes, as the top priority for Rangers	Ranger	Ongoing	Monitor number of dog attacks and complaints
Ensure all reported dog attacks are recorded & investigated to meet all points of proof provided in the Act. Seize dogs and prosecute owners in accordance with the Dog Control Act 2000	Administration Personnel / Ranger / Supervisor	Ongoing	Monitor number of dog attacks and complaints

Section 8. Training of Authorized Officers

King Island Council recognises that people are its greatest assets and that improved performance and customer service will only occur with intensive training and development of staff. Council is committed to providing an ongoing development program so that staff can develop to their full potential.

It is critical that all staff involved in animal management have the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out their work and have the necessary authorizations and delegations.

Future Plans

Objective 1: To ensure all staff involved in Animal Management have the knowledge and expertise to carry out their duties and functions of Council

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Conduct annual performance reviews and identify further training needs for individual officers	Supervisor	Annually	Performance Review

Objective 2: To successfully induct and performance manage new staff

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Establish and communicate performance standards	Supervisor	Ongoing	Performance Review
Monitor performance and provide guidance to employee where needed	Supervisor	Ongoing	Performance Management

Summary

Identifying and registering dogs is seen as the cornerstone of a successful animal management program.

Dog registration fees provide the majority of funding for dog management programs therefore registration is an important function of management. Identification of dogs is also critical in investigating complaints.

It is planned to attempt to decrease the numbers of unregistered dogs in the Municipality using a variety of different available methods and attempt to focus on the lacks levels of registrations in the community. Different methods will be trialled to determine what activity performs best.

Section 9 – Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs

This is the current legislation and regulations in Tasmania relating to 'Dangerous Dogs' and 'Restricted Breeds' of dogs.

If you are contemplating obtaining a dog that may be a restricted breed or disposing of a dog you may already own, contact our Rangers for advice and assistance in the matter.

Restricted Breeds

The Government of Tasmania has introduced regulations relating to restricted dog breeds. The following information is published to assist Rangers and Animal Control Officers, identify these breeds and to assist the general public with enquiries about restricted breeds and provisions regarding the keeping of these dogs.

The keeping of these dogs is not prohibited, however special requirements to apply. Below is a profile on each of the restricted breeds.

RESTRICTED (Dogo Argentino - Argentinian Fighting Dog)

Breed History

One of the few breeds developed in Southern America, the Dogo Argentino is the result of a breeding programme undertaken in the 1920's by an Argentinian breeder, Dr Antonio Nores Martinez, to produce a Puma and Jaguar hunter.

Key Facts

First use: Game hunting, dog fighting

Use today: Companion

Life Expectancy: 10 - 11 years

Weight Range: 36 - 45kg
Height Range: 61 - 69 cm

RESTRICTED (Filo Brasileiro - Brazilian Mastiff/ Brazilian Fighting Dog)

Breed History

One of Brazil's two native breeds (the other one being the rare Brazilian Tracker), this powerful mastiff was developed from Spanish and Portuguese mastiffs and Bloodhounds in order to track and control livestock and large game.

Key Facts

First use:	Tracking, large game hunting
Use today:	Companion, security
Life Expectancy:	9-11 years
Weight Range:	41-S0kg
Height Range:	61-76cm

RESTRICTED (Tosa lnu – Tosa Fighting Dog / Japanese Fighting Dog)

Breed History

Initially bred in Japan's Kechi Prefecture, from crosses between native Shikoku fighting dogs and imported mastiffs, Great Danes, bulldogs and bull terriers, this breed was once called the Japanese Mastiff.

Key Facts

First use: Dog Fighting
Use today: Companion
Life Expectancy: 9 - 11 years
Weight Range: 89.5 - 90.5kg
Height Range: 62 - 65cm

RESTRICTED (American Pit Bull Terrier - Pit Bull Terrier/ American Pit Bull)

Breed History

Throughout the World Dogs have, at one time or another, been bred to fight. This breed descends from the Staffordshire Bull Terrier crossed with other fighting dogs, including the extinct fighting Bulldog.

Key Facts

First use: Dog Fighting
Use Today: Companion
Life Expectancy: 12 years
Weight Range: 14-36kg
Height Range: 46-56cm

RESTRICTED (Perro de Presa Canario)

Breed History

The Canario has recently been reborn, although once near extinction. The Canary Islands belonging to Spain were actually named for the fierce dogs found there, not for its little yellow singing birds. From the Latin came the "Island of the Dogs". These tough, smooth coated, livestock and farm dogs, called Bardino Majera, were probably similar to the Perro de Pastor Mallorquin and the Cao de Castro Labor-eiro and were present before Hispanic Times.

Key Facts

Country:	Spain
Weight:	38 – 49 kg maximum
	Height: 211/2-25 ½ inches
Coat:	Short, smooth, but coarse
Colour:	brindles, fawn, some white permissable
Other Names:	Canary Dog
Group	Mastiff

Dog (Restricted Breeds) Regulations

The Dog (Restricted Breeds) under the Dog Act 2000. Outline the manner in regards to how these breeds are to be kept.

These Regulations apply provisions similar to those currently imposed on dogs declared dangerous to those breeds of dog prohibited from importation under Commonwealth legislation.

Under the legislation, a 'restricted breed dog' is defined as a breed whose importation into Australia is prohibited under the Commonwealth Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. At present this includes either pure or cross breeds of the following dogs:

- Dago Argentina (Argentinian Fighting Dog)
- Fila Brasileiro (Brazilian Fighting Dog)
- Japanese Tosa
- American Pit Bull Terrier
- Pit Bull Terrier breeds and
- Perro de Presa Canario

The regulations also provide for a restricted breed dog to include any dog of a mixed breed that visibly contains any of the above prohibited breeds.

The Regulations include provisions relating to:

- Dogs to wear specified collars indicating a dangerous dog and property access points to display signs indicating a dangerous dog;
- Escape Proof and Child Proof Fencing;
- A requirement for the Owner to leash and muzzle the dog while in public places;
- Persons in charge in public places must not be under 18;
- A maximum of two (2) restricted dogs per person without a permit from the Council;
- Owners must be 18 or over;
- Compulsory notification of a prospective owner that the dog is a restricted breed dog;
- Compulsory notification to local government if the dog escapes, dies or there is a change of ownership;
- Greater powers for seizure and destruction; and
- Compulsory sterilization.

The regulation provides that the owner of a restricted breed dog is to provide an enclosure in which a restricted breed dog is to be kept that is capable of preventing a young child from entering the enclosure and which prevents the dog from escaping from the premises. This provision applies whether or not the enclosure is at the premises at which the dog is ordinarily kept.

The regulation also provides that the owner of a restricted breed dog must display a sign confirming that there is a restricted breed on the premises at all entrances to the premises, where the dog is ordinarily kept. That is, a sign must conform to the same specifications as applying to dangerous dog signs.

Where there is any breach of the Dog (Restricted Breeds) Regulations, there are provisions for a maximum penalty of $5000. It also provides for the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Department of Agriculture to certify that a dog is of a restricted breed for prosecution purposes.

Dangerous Dogs (current legislation) Dog Control Act 2000

Division 3 - Dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs

29. Declaration of particular dangerous dog

1) A General Manager, by notice served on the owner of a dog:
   a. may declare that dog to be a dangerous dog if:
      i. the dog has caused serious injury to a person or another animal; or
      ii. there is reasonable cause to believe that the dog is likely to cause serious injury to a person or another animal
   b. is to give reasons for the declaration in the notice; and
   c. is to advise the owner of the right of appeal under section 31 .
2) If a dog is declared to be a dangerous dog under subsection (1) due to the dog causing, or there being reasonable cause to believe that the dog is likely to cause, serious injury to a person, the General Manager who made the declaration is to ensure that all the information known about the dog, and the events taken into account when making the declaration, are:
   a. recorded; and
   b. retained, with a copy of the notice served on the owner of the dog under subsection 1), for at least 15 years.

29A. Declaration of restricted breed dogs

1) An authorised person, by notice served on the owner of a dog, may declare that dog to be a restricted breed dog if the authorised person, having regard to any approved guidelines relating to restricted breeds, is satisfied that the dog is a dog of a restricted breed.
2) A notice under subsection 1) is to:
   a. state the reasons for the declaration; and
   b. advise the owner of the right of appeal under section 31 .
3) For the purposes of subsection 1) , the following breeds of dog are restricted breeds:
   a. Dogo Argentino;
   b. Fila Brasileiro;
   c. Japanese tosa;
   d. American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier;
   e. Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario;
   f. any other breed, kind or description of dog whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the Customs Act 1901 of the Commonwealth.

30. Guard dogs

1) The owner of a dog used to guard premises that are not residential premises must notify the General Manager, by notice in writing, that the dog is a guard dog.
   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.
2) On receipt of the notification, the General Manager is to declare the dog to be a dangerous dog.
3) If a dog ceases to be a guard dog, the owner of the dog may apply to the General Manager to revoke the declaration that the dog is a dangerous dog.
4) On receipt of the application, the General Manager may revoke the declaration if satisfied that the dog:
   a. is no longer a guard dog; and
   b. is not a dangerous dog.

31. Appeal against declaration

1) An owner of a dog declared to be a dangerous dog under section 29 may appeal against the declaration to the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) within 14 days after service of the notice.
   a. An owner of a dog declared to be a restricted breed dog under section 29A may appeal against the declaration to the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) within 28 days after service of the notice.
   b. The onus of proving that a dog is not a restricted breed dog is on the person making that assertion.
2) The Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) may order that:
   a. the declaration is confirmed; or
   b. the declaration be set aside.
3) If the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) orders that a declaration in respect of a dangerous dog be set aside, a General Manager may only declare the dog to be a dangerous dog in respect of behaviour of the dog that occurs after that order.

32. Effective control of dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs

1) A dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog is under the effective control of a person when not on premises at which the dog is usually kept, including an area where a dog must be on a lead or is not required to be on a lead, if:
   a. the person is over the age of 18 years; and
   b. the dog is wearing a muzzle so as to be unable to bite a person or animal; and
   c. the dog is:
      i. on a lead that is not more than 2 metres long, is held by hand, and is sufficient to control and restrain the dog; or
      ii. restricted in or on a vehicle so that it is unable to leave the vehicle or attack any person or animal outside the vehicle; and
   d. the dog is wearing an approved collar.
2) A dangerous dog is under the effective control of a person on premises at which the dog is usually kept if:
   a. the dog is in an enclosure that complies with the prescribed requirements; or
   b. the person is over the age of 18 years and the dog:
      i. is wearing a muzzle so as to be unable to bite a person or animal; and

ii. is on a lead that is not more than 2 metres long, is held by hand, and is sufficient to control and restrain the dog; and
iii. is wearing an approved collar.

3) The owner or person in charge of a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog must ensure that:
   a. the dog is under the effective control of a person; and
   b. the dog wears an approved collar at all times; and
   c. the microchip implanted in the dog is not removed without the approval of the General Manager.

   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
4) A person, at any one time, must not have in his or her charge, on a lead, more than:
   a. one dangerous dog; or
   b. 2 restricted breed dogs.

   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
5) This section does not apply in respect of a dangerous dog, or a restricted breed dog, that is guarding premises that are not residential premises if the owner of the dog has notified the General Manager, in writing, that the dog is a guard dog.

32A. Dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs to be de-sexed and microchipped

1) The owner of a dog that is declared to be a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog must ensure that the dog is de-sexed and implanted in an approved manner with an approved microchip within:
   a. 28 days after service of the notice, if an appeal is not made under section 31 ; or
   b. 7 days after an order is made under section 31(2)(a) , if an appeal is made under that section and such an order is made.

   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
2) The owner of a dog, that at any time before the commencement of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2009 was declared to be a dangerous dog, must ensure that the dog is de-sexed within 28 days after the commencement of that Act.

   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
3) The owner of a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog must provide the General Manager of the Municipal area in which the owner normally resides with a copy of a veterinary surgeon's certificate, stating that the dog has been de-sexed or implanted with a microchip, within 7 days after the de-sexing or implanting.

   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.
4) A dog that is declared to be a dangerous dog under section 30(2) is not required to be de-sexed.

33. Warning signs

The owner or person in charge of a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog must ensure that signs of an approved type warning of the presence of the dog are displayed at every entrance to the premises on which the dog is kept.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 10 penalty units.

34. Dangerous dog or restricted breed dog missing, dying, &c.

If a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog goes missing, strays or dies, or is lost, sold or given away to another owner, the owner or a person on behalf of the owner of that dog must notify the General Manager:

a. of that fact as soon as practicable after becoming aware of that fact; or

b. of the name and address of the new owner within 24 hours after the dog is sold or given away.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.

34A. Application for approval to transfer ownership of dangerous dog or restricted breed dog

1) A person who wishes to have ownership of a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog transferred to him or her (the "prospective owner") is to apply to the General Manager of the Municipal area in which the prospective owner normally resides for approval to transfer ownership of the dog.
2) An application is to:
   a. be in writing; and
   b. identify the dog to be transferred; and
   c. state the name and address of the prospective owner; and
   d. be signed by the owner and the prospective owner.
3) On receipt of an application, a General Manager may:
   a. approve the transfer; or
   b. disallow the transfer and notify the prospective owner of the decision and the reasons for it within 14 days.
4) The prospective owner may appeal to the Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) against a decision of a General Manager to disallow a transfer, within 14 days after being notified of the decision.
5) The Magistrates Court (Administrative Appeals Division) may order that:
   a. the decision is confirmed; or
   b. the decision be set aside.

34B. Offence to transfer ownership of dangerous dog or restricted breed dog without approval

1) A person must not, without the written approval of a General Manager, sell, or otherwise transfer ownership of, a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog.
   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
2) A person does not commit an offence under this section by reason only of surrendering a dog to a pound or an approved animal welfare organisation.

34BA. Change of Municipal area in which dangerous dog or restricted breed dog is usually kept

An owner of a dangerous dog, or a restricted breed dog, who ceases to usually keep the dog on premises situated in a Municipal area must, within 14 days of beginning to usually keep the dog on premises situated in another Municipal area, notify the General Manager of the other Municipal area.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.

34C. Limit on number of restricted breed dogs

1) A person must not own, keep, or allow to be kept on any premises, more than 2 restricted breed dogs over the age of 6 months.
   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of a dog that immediately before the commencement of the Dog Control Amendment Act 2009 was not a restricted breed dog.

34D. Interstate dangerous dogs and restricted breed dogs

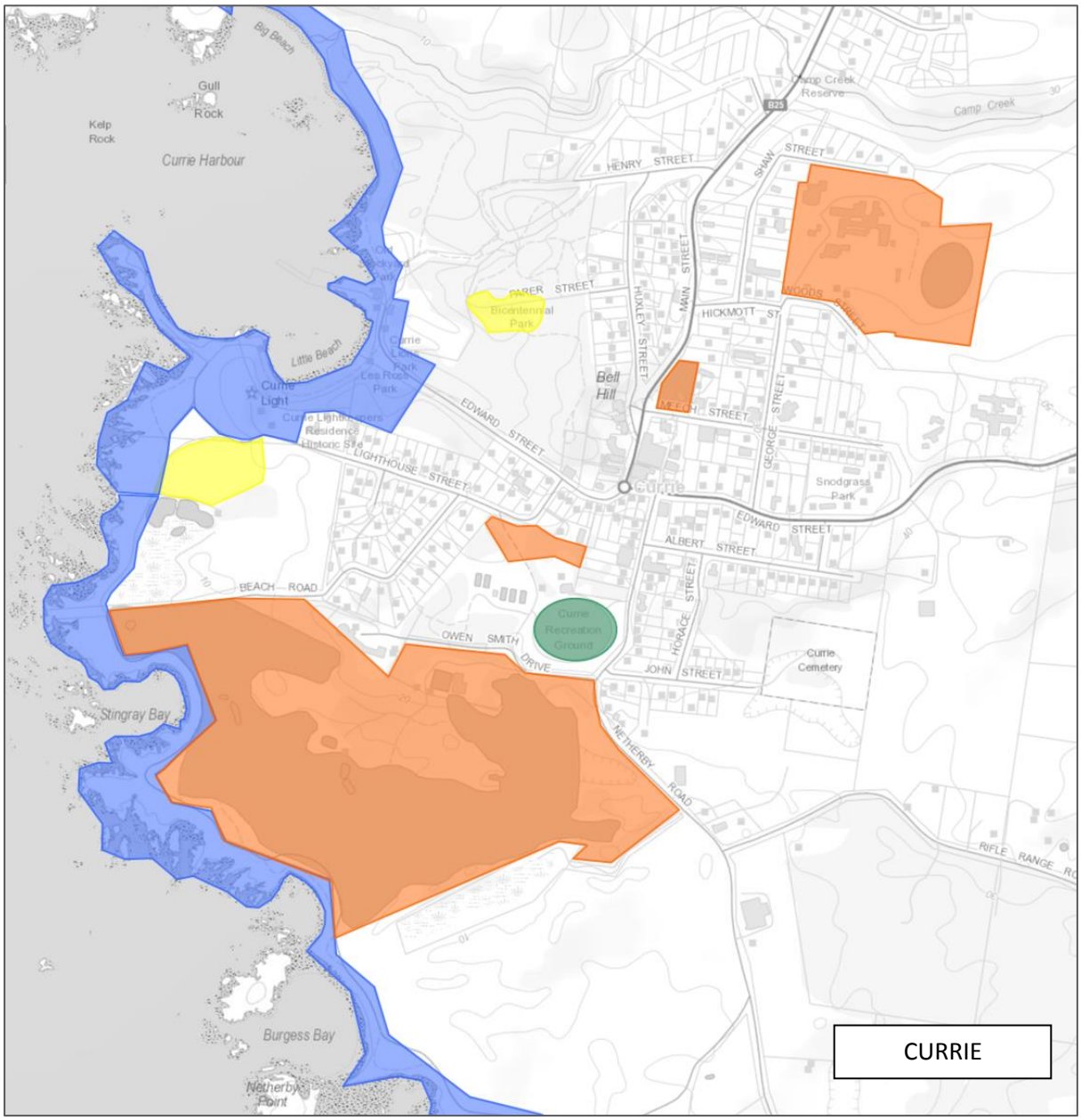
1) A dog that is declared under a corresponding law to be equivalent to a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog, is taken to be a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog for the purposes of this Act.
2) A person who imports into this State a dog to which subsection (1) applies must, within 7 days after the importation, notify the General Manager of the Municipal area in which the person normally resides that the dog has been imported.
   Penalty: Fine not exceeding 20 penalty units.
3) In this section *corresponding law* means a provision of a law of another State or a Territory that relates to the declaration of dogs as dangerous dogs or restricted breed dogs or equivalent

Current Situation - Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs Our Current Data

The Municipality currently has 1 Dangerous and no Menacing or Restricted dogs registered.

Activity	Responsible Officer	When	Evaluation
Ensure that all owners of declared dogs are aware of their obligations under the Act regarding identification and keeping these dogs by providing them with relevant sections of the Act, brochures and factsheets, development of an information kit	Administration Personnel / Ranger	At registration of all dogs	Report yearly to determine number of declared animals
Examine registrations on Council database to identify and follow up on suspected (non-declared) restricted breed dogs such as Amstaffs and other Staffordshire Cross Breeds	Administration Personnel	Ongoing	
Follow up any non-compliance issues until owner complies	Rangers	As they become aware of the issues	Ranger Reports
Respond to complaints regarding declared dogs within 1 hour	Rangers	When Called	Incident reports
Review Council policies and procedures for non-compliance, warning, infringements, notices and prosecutions	Supervisor	July 2014	Compile Report

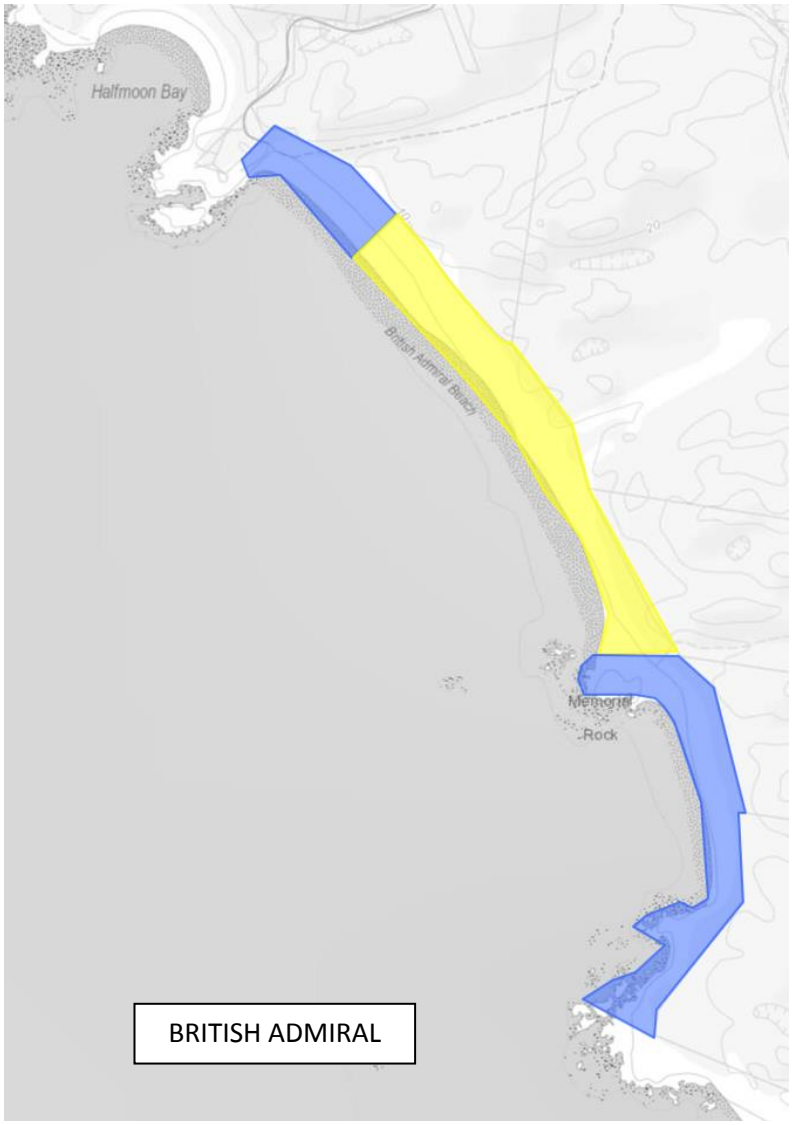
Declared Areas



Legend

- On-lead only
- Off-lead permitted
- Prohibited
- Sports grounds - off-lead when not otherwise in use

Note. The King Island Race Course is also a prohibited area other than permitted activities which can be granted an exemption by applying to council.



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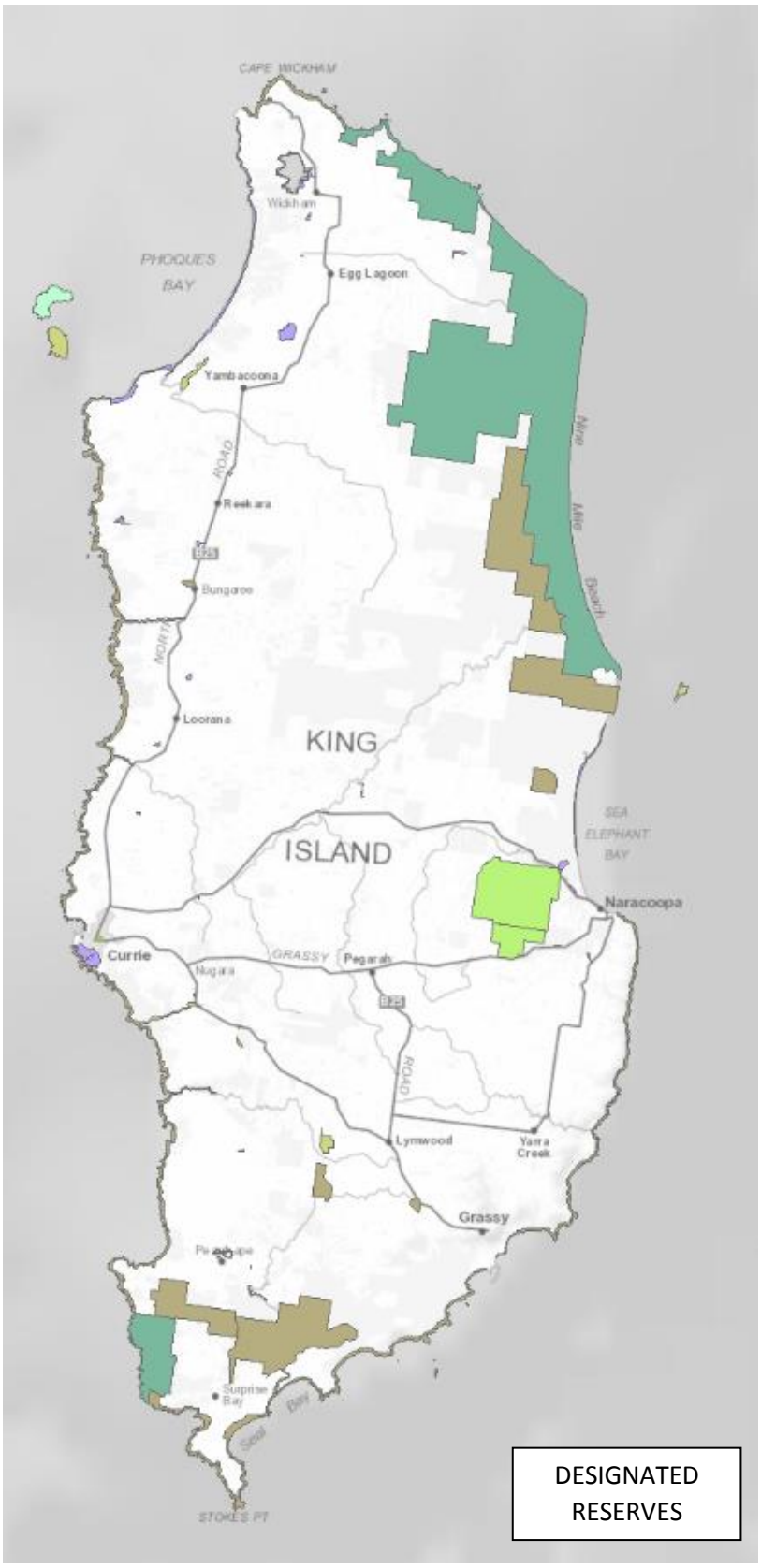
- On-lead only
- Off-lead permitted
- Prohibited
- Sports grounds (when not otherwise in use)

The highlighted areas are Tasmanian State Reserves. All dogs are prohibited from these areas.

Dog owners are also 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.