

ACCESS AREAS FOR DOGS

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1. PURPOSE

This policy has been prepared to provide dog owners with public domain conduct guidelines as well as to define off-leash, on-leash and prohibited dogs areas for land and assets within the ownership, management, care and control of Council.

2. STATEMENT

This policy supersedes the previous *Access Areas for Dogs* policy and was adopted by Council at its meeting of 17 February 2015.

3. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions provide clarity to meaning and terminology for which this policy applies:

3.1 Foreshore Reserve – Council Land (Community Land) or Crown Land (Council as Trust Manager or having a Care, Control and Management responsibilities) that adjoins permanent water bodies or intermittent watercourses including oceans, estuaries, lakes, rivers, creeks, watercourses and wetlands.

3.2 Beach – Land (as described above) that is situated on the water's edge and forms a transition zone between the aquatic and terrestrial environment. For the purpose of this policy the term 'waters edge' refers to a depth of 10 metres from the low tide mark.

3.3 Dangerous or Menacing Dogs – Any dog breed that is declared as 'Dangerous' or 'Menacing' under the Companion Animals Act.

3.4 Restricted breed dogs – any dog breed that is declared as "Restricted" under the Companion Animals Act.

3.5 Off-leash – Dogs are allowed off leash, however, a collar must remain on the dog.

3.6 On-leash – an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person.

3.7 Under Effective Control – Dogs that behave in an acceptable manner in social environment and are at minimum, basic trained and will respond to their owner's commands.

3.8 Patrolled or "flagged" areas – Land (as described above) or a section of beach, water and/or foreshore reserve that is supervised or used by individuals, volunteers, organisations, operators or public officers, with the authorisation of Council.

3.9 Owner – for the purpose of this policy an 'owner' refers to any person who has permission to take the dog into a public domain; maintain the dog under effective control; and willing to accept responsibility for which this policy applies.

4. DOG OWNERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Dog owners have a responsibility to the social and natural environment of the Shoalhaven community. For that reason and for the purpose of this policy, dogs must be under control at all times, when in the public domain.

Dog owners who use off-leash areas must be within view of their dog/s and within close proximity of their dog/s.

Dog owners have a responsibility to remove all waste faeces created by their dog/s and disposing of the waste in the appropriate manner. Council has dog tidy bags for sale at the Visitor Information Centre and at Council's Administrative Centres.

5. PROVISIONS

5.1. On-Leash Areas for Dogs

Outside Council's 'dog prohibited' areas and 'prohibited boundary' areas as governed by the Companion Animals Act, a dog may be taken onto any Council land as described by this policy providing it is kept on-leash at all times. There are exemptions, which are identified in section 5.5.

5.2. Dog Prohibited Areas – Companion Animals Act

This policy is governed under the Companion Animals Act, therefore the recognised dog prohibited areas legislation applies city wide as an enforceable regulation.

- Dogs are prohibited in the following places (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled):
 - (a) *Children's play areas*
 - (b) *Food preparation/consumption areas.*
 - (c) *Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited*
 - (d) *Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited*
 - (e) *School grounds*
 - (f) *Child care centres*
 - (g) *Shopping areas where dogs are prohibited.*
 - (h) *Wildlife protection areas*

5.3. Dog Prohibited Areas – Site Specific

In addition, to the generic prohibited areas as defined above, Council has zoned designated site specific areas of managed land or land within the care and control of Council to be enforced as dog prohibited (24 hours). The prohibited zoning of the below listed areas were influenced by either the natural or social environment.

To define the applicable boundary, dogs are prohibited at the greatest distance set by either the Companion Animals Act or Council site specific boundary.

Bendalong

- Flat Rock Beach

Berrara

- Berrara Beach

Callala Beach

- Callala Beach between Parkes Crescent and Centre Street.
- Southern end of Callala Beach south of the Beach Street car park at Myola.

Culburra

- Lake Wollumboola Foreshore Reserve - southern end of The Lake Circuit to Kiah Lane.

Huskisson

- Huskisson sand / rock foreshore area between Currambene Creek and Nowra Street.
- Moona Moona Creek sand/rock foreshore area between Jervis Street and northern end of Ilfracombe Avenue.
- Council managed land which forms Currambene Creek Mudflats Sanctuary Zone.

Lake Conjola

- Lake Conjola Spit

Lake Tabourie

- Within the reserve north of Lake Tabourie entrance – foreshore adjacent to Lake Tabourie Tourist Park.

Mollymook

- Mollymook Beach - North and South ends

Narrawallee

- Narrawallee Beach and reserve from Narrawallee Creek to the unnamed Island.
- Narrawallee Beach and reserve from the northern end of Victor Avenue to Surfers Avenue.

Sanctuary Point

- Palm Beach and Red Head Reserve to the headland stairs and the southern end of John Williams Reserve

Shoalhaven Heads

- Shoalhaven River entrance sand spit at the southern end of Seven Mile Beach south-east of the River Road car park.

Vincentia

- Within Blenheim Beach Reserve - Fredrick Street to Elizabeth Drive.
- Vincentia foreshore and reserve from northern end of Ilfracombe Avenue to the boat ramp at the end of Holden Street, Vincentia, including Collingwood Beach and foreshore excluding the Collingwood cycleway which is an on-leash area.

5.4. Off-leash Areas for Dogs

Off-leash areas for each of the sites listed below are subject to time variations and may be altered on the application of reserves, beaches and open space hire / lease bookings made through Council.

Basin View

- Basin View foreshore reserve west of boat ramp, bordered by Basin View Parade
 - *off-leash 24 hours*

Bawley Point

- Cormorant Beach
 - *off-leash 24 hours*

Bendalong

- Washerwomans Beach
 - *off-leash 24 hours*

Berry

- Berry Sporting Complex (between the Skate park and North Street)
 - *off-leash 24 hours*
- Camp Quality Park
 - *off-leash 24 hours*

Bomaderry

- Cricket oval immediately adjacent to the Bomaderry Aquatic Centre
 - *off-leash 24 hours when no used by user groups*

Burrill Lake

- Public reserve east of Princes Highway, bounded by Racecourse Creek & opposite Kings Point Drive
 - *1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am*
 - *1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am*

Callala Beach

- Callala Beach foreshore reserve between Callala Creek and Currambene Creek
 - *1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am*
 - *1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am*

Culburra

- Culburra Beach and foreshore reserve between Gateway Caravan Park & Tilbury Cove
 - *1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am*
 - *1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am*

Currarong

- Currarong Beach and foreshore reserve from Currarong Creek extending westwards to Peel Street.
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am

Huskisson

- Huskisson Beach and foreshore reserve between Nowra Street & Tapalla Avenue.
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am

Milton

- Milton Showground
 - off-leash 24 hours except during scheduled events

Mollymook

- Public reserve adjacent to Mitchell Parade and south east of buildings and playing fields off (north of Donlan Road).
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am
- Collers Beach
 - off-leash 24 hours

Narrawallee

- Beach access steps off Victor Avenue to the un-named Island
 - 1 October – 30 April – off leash from 6pm – 8am
 - 1 May to 30 September - off leash from 3pm – 10am

Nowra

- Area north of Worrige Street at the Nowra Showground.
 - off-leash 24 hours

Sanctuary Point

- Clifton Park
 - off-leash 24 hours

Shoalhaven Heads

- Jerry Bailey Reserve cricket field
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am
- Shoalhaven Head Beach 200m north of the Surf Club building to the public access way through the Shoalhaven Heads Golf Course.
 - off-leash 24 hours
- River Road Reserve adjacent to the river edge - from the boat ramp in the east to the wharf at the end of Jerry Bailey Road.
 - off-leash 24 hours

Swan Lake

- Swan Lake foreshore reserve between northern boat ramp (end of Yaroma Avenue) and SLWSC boat ramp.
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am

Ulladulla

- Beach north of the Northern Breakwater in Ulladulla Harbour
 - off-leash 24 hours

Vincentia

- Nelson Beach and foreshore reserve
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am

Worrigeer

- Ratcliff Park cricket field.
 - 1 October to 30 April – off-leash from 4pm to 8.00am
 - 1 May to 30 September – off leash from 3pm to 10am

5.5. Exemption

This policy does not apply to police dogs, emergency service dogs or dogs used to assist people with a disability.

The boundary restriction of 10 metres from food preparation/consumption areas does not apply should the preparation / consumption area be located within a public thoroughfare where a 10 metre separation distance is not possible. Cafes can allow dogs outside at their discretion – S14A Companion Animals Act.

In the event that a prohibited or restricted area enforceable under this policy be hired/leased out by Council to a group/individual/organisation, the terms and conditions of that hire / lease will determine the regulatory role of this policy.

In the event that an off-leash area is hired / leased out by Council to a group / individual / organisation / operator, the area will default to an on-leash area and a 10 metre separation from the event boundary will apply.

5.6. Penalties for Non Compliance

Penalties apply in accordance with the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The Finance Corporate & Community Services Group will administer this policy and the Planning & Development Services Group (Ranger Services) will enforce the policy.

7. REVIEW

Council will monitor the access areas and policy over a 12 month period, from date of revision. The policy, in its entirety, will be reviewed within 12 months of the appointment of local government elect.

8. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

The provision of dog off leash and on-leash areas in the Shoalhaven has the capacity to contribute to the economy of the region through tourism. Defining access areas for dogs assist in the conservation of the natural environment and provide a holistic solution to balancing economic tourism income and protection of the environment.

9. RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

NSW Companion Animals Act 1998

Community Strategic Plan, Shoalhaven Council 2020

Council Policy – Dog Control – Holiday Tourist Parks

Council Policy – Foreshore Reserves Policy

Council Policy – Companion Animals Policy