

DOGS IN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY 2022

Draft Analysis Report

July 2022



LAKE
MACQUARIE
CITY

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1 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the analysis undertaken to inform the development of the Dogs in Open Space Strategy for Lake Macquarie City Council. It is part of a suite of documents, which together comprise the overall Dogs in Open Space Strategy project.

The documents that will be completed to inform the development of the Dogs in Open Space Strategy are:

- Background Report
- Community Engagement Report
- Analysis Report (this report)

1.1 Purpose of the Dogs in Open Space Strategy

The purpose of the Dogs in Open Space Strategy is to:

Create a 10-year strategic direction that will plan for and enhance the dogs in open space experience for dogs and carers, while balancing the broader use of open space for all Lake Macquarie residents and visitors.

Objectives

The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Balance the needs of dog owners with the needs of the general community in access to and use of open space
- Assess the adequacy of Lake Macquarie's dog off-leash area provision and identify future needs, ensuring equitable distribution across Lake Macquarie
- Provide a clear framework to guide levels of infrastructure development and service level provision for dog off-leash areas
- Identify the priorities for the development, management and use of dog off-leash areas that responds to constraints, opportunities and the changing needs of the community over time.
- Define natural habitats and wildlife areas that are not suitable for access by dogs

1.2 Purpose of this Document

This report has been prepared based on background research, analysis of current dog off-leash area provision and engagement with the community, council staff and stakeholder groups. It provides a provision framework for Lake Macquarie's dog off-leash area network and provides a high-level summary of the provision analysis, adequacy assessment and future need.

The Analysis Report, details the planning framework for dog off-leash areas. It provides analysis of provision and potential opportunities for each catchment.

2 Glossary

Term	Meaning
Shared Dog Off-leash area	Open space where dogs are permitted off-leash within a designated area in which other activities may occur. Can include unfenced/partially fenced areas and timed/unrestricted access. Area shared with other open space uses.
Beach Dog Off-leash area	Sections of beaches where dogs are permitted off-leash. These spaces are shared with other beach users.
Dog Park	Exclusive fenced spaces designed just for dogs and their owners with a range of support facilities. Complete separation from other park activities.
Dog on leash	Open space areas where dogs are permitted on leash only.
Dog prohibited	Open space areas where dogs are not permitted on or off-leash.
Plan of Management (PoM)	A statutory requirement under the Local Government Act for community land. PoMs are developed with the community and act as an agreement as to how a place is to be managed and its values protected. They are required for all community land categories of park, sportsground, natural area, general community use and area of cultural significance.
Natural Area	A category of land within a plan of management, natural areas cover community land areas including, foreshore, watercourses, bushland, wetlands and escarpments.
Endangered Ecology Communities (EEC)	EEC are defined in the Biodiversity Conservation Act as threatened ecological communities of flora and fauna that are endangered due to (a) facing a very high risk of extinction in Australia in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the regulations, and (b) are not eligible to be listed as a critically endangered ecological community.
Park Hierarchy	The park hierarchy is classified in the Parks and Play Strategy and identifies three levels of parks including local, district and regional/major destination.
LGA	Local Government Area of Lake Macquarie
Planning Catchments	Planning catchments are combined suburbs of the local government area that are included in a Development Contributions Plan. For the purpose of this strategy there are five planning catchments consisting of Belmont (including North Wallarah), Charlestown, Glendale (including Northlakes), Toronto and Morisset (including North Cooranbong VPA)

3 Summary of Current Provision

There are currently 30 off-leash dog exercise areas in Lake Macquarie. This includes 2 dog parks, 3 beach off-leash areas and 25 off-leash areas.

In addition to the 30 designated off-leash areas, residents are able to exercise their dogs on leash in all open space not including those identified as dog prohibited.

3.1 Dog Off-leash Areas

Table 1 - Current Dog Off-leash Area Provision Lake Macquarie

Catchment	People Population 2021	Dog Population 2021	Dogs per person	Total Dog Off-leash Areas	Total Hectares	Total Ha /1000 Dogs	Dog Population per Off-leash Area
Belmont	25,186	10,184	0.40	5	13	1.08	1:2,037
Charlestown	63,366	25,895	0.41	9	32.9	1.27	1:2,877
Glendale	61,685	26,919	0.44	4	11.9	0.44	1:6,730
Morisset	26,408	13,573	0.51	4	9	0.66	1:3,393
Toronto	32,186	15,765	0.49	8	20.5	1.3	1:1,971
Total	208,813	92,336	0.44	30	111.4	1.21	1:3,078

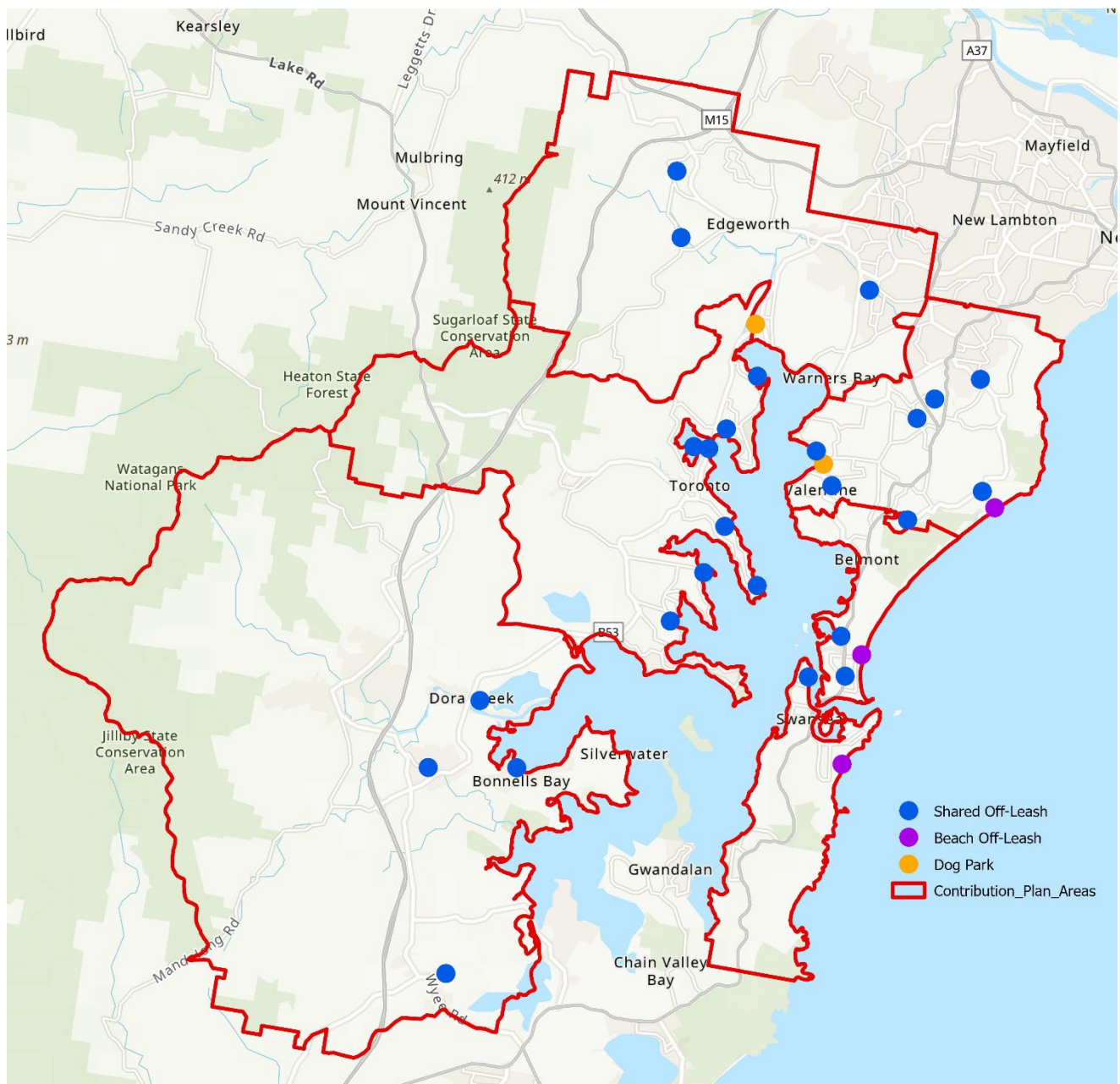
Key highlights:

Table 1 shows the current dog population for each of the planning catchments and the number of dogs to dog off-leash areas.

The table indicates:

- Morisset and Toronto catchments have the highest concentration of dog ownership (one dog to 0.51 and 0.49 per person respectively), while Charlestown and Belmont have the lowest concentration (one dog to 0.41 and 0.40 per person respectively)
- Toronto and Charlestown catchments have a significantly higher number of dog off-leash areas when compared to all other catchments (8 and 9 respectively).
- Glendale and Morisset catchments have lower number of dog off-leash areas than all other catchments (4 off-leash areas).
- The Toronto and Belmont catchments have the highest number of dog off-leash areas per dog (1:1971 and 1:2037)
- The Glendale catchment has a significantly less number of dog off-leash areas per dog (1:6730).
- The Toronto and Charlestown catchments have more land (area designated) for off-leash areas than all other catchments.

Figure 1 - Map of Current Dog Off-leash Areas

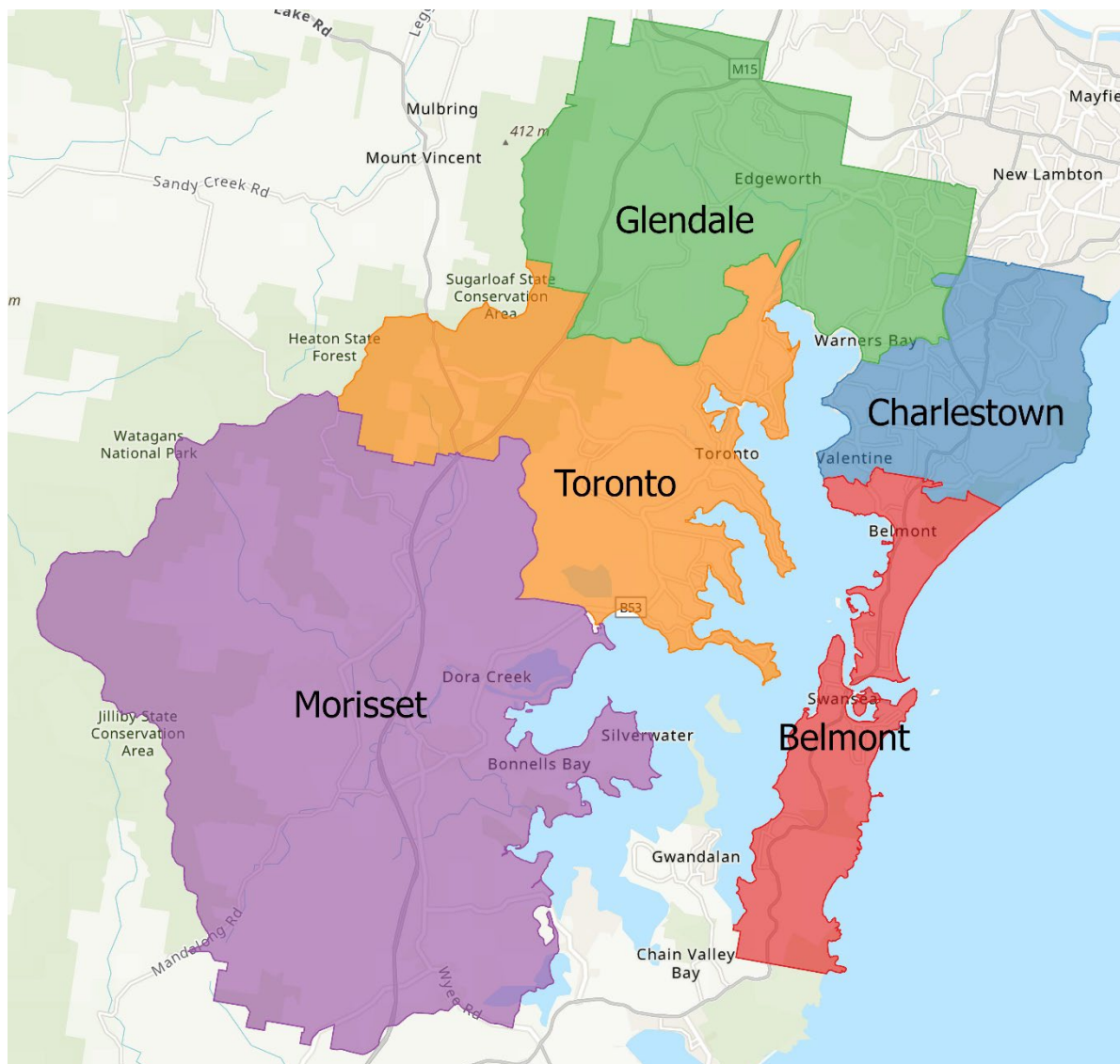


Key Highlights:

The current distribution of dog off-leash areas in Lake Macquarie is illustrated in figure 1.

- Eight shared dog off-leash areas on sportsgrounds that have significant time restrictions with access limited to sunrise to 10am weekdays only, i.e. all except Wye Oval
- Three of the four dog off-leash areas within the Glendale Catchment, are located on sportsgrounds with significant time restrictions on access.
- Three of the four dog off-leash areas within the Morisset catchment, are located on sportsgrounds
- There are no dog off-leash areas in the Belmont catchment south of Caves Beach
- There are no dog off-leash areas in the growing suburbs of Edgeworth/Cameron Park in the Glendale catchment and Warners Bay/Hillsborough/East Charlestown in the Charlestown Catchment.

Figure 2 – Map of Planning Catchments In Lake Macquarie



3.2 Dog Prohibited Areas

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1989 identifies the following open space areas to be prohibited to dogs:

- 10m of any children’s play spaces (any public place, or part of a public place, that is within 10 metres of any playing apparatus for the use of children)
- 10m of any food preparation/consumption areas
- Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited (any public place, or part of a public place, that is used for or in conjunction with public bathing or public recreation (including a beach), in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited)
- Wildlife protection areas (any public place or any part of a public place set apart by the local authority for the protection of wildlife)

In addition, Lake Macquarie City Council in accordance with the *Dogs in Public Open Space Policy* currently prohibits dogs in the following locations:

- Open space areas signposted as dog prohibited areas:
 - Green Point Foreshore Reserve
 - Within approximately 100m of beach flag patrolled area
- On sportsgrounds during use for games or training

4 Provision Framework

To enable the assessment of the provision of dog off-leash areas, a framework is required to be developed. The NSW Companion Animals Act 1989 requires all NSW local government areas to include one designated dog off-leash area. Outside of this requirement, there are no other legislative requirements or widely adopted provision framework for dog off-leash area provision. There is a current provision standard within Council's development contribution plans of one dog off-leash area for every 7,000 people, but this standard has not considered any other performance criteria or hierarchical standards.

To assist in the development of the provision framework a set of guiding principles has been developed and will provide the foundation for the development of the Dogs in Open Space Strategy.

4.1 Guiding Principles

The following are the draft guiding principles for dogs in open space. These may be further refined following the second phase of community consultation and will be finalised in the Dogs in Open Space Strategy.

Diversity	<p>Council will provide a range of dog off-leash areas to support a variety of opportunities and experiences for dogs to be exercised. These can include shared open space areas to exclusive fenced dog parks.</p> <p>Dog off-leash areas will provide a diversity of landscapes and settings, including beach and lake settings and other open spaces areas where appropriate.</p> <p>Dog off-leash area design and development will reflect the off-leash area type and the specific site and landscape opportunities.</p> <p>Dog on lead opportunities are provided in all opens space areas not identified as dog prohibited.</p>
Equity and Accessibility	<p>Equity of access to a range of dog off-leash areas will be central to planning future provision.</p> <p>A core aspiration is to ensure the majority of urban residential areas are within walking distance or a short drive of an off-leash area.</p> <p>Provision of dog off-leash areas will need to be balanced with the open space needs of other users as well environmental and cultural considerations.</p> <p>Dog off-leash areas will incorporate universal access where feasible. Safety of both dogs and people will be a key consideration in the provision of off-leash areas.</p>
Sustainable Management	<p>Investment in new and existing off-leash areas will be evidence-based and recognise ongoing financial management responsibilities.</p> <p>Council resources will be allocated to ensure dog off-leash areas are managed and maintained to agreed levels of service, to keep users safe and protect the investment on the asset.</p> <p>Dog off-leash areas will be fit for purpose.</p>
Education and Regulation	<p>Community information and education on the availability and use of dog off-leash areas, dog on leash areas and dog prohibited areas will be vital to their successful management.</p> <p>Signage will be integral to clearly delineate dog off-leash areas, from dog on leash areas and dog prohibited areas and enable consistent regulation.</p> <p>Dog prohibited area identification will require careful assessment of environmental and cultural significance impacts, other recreation user conflict and consideration of availability of resources to enforce.</p>
Lifestyle and Wellbeing	<p>Dogs are recognised as important companion animal for many people and have a positive impact on owners physical and mental health and overall wellbeing.</p> <p>Opportunities for dogs to be exercised in open space provides areas for dogs to learn important socialisation skills and improve their physical and mental health</p> <p>Providing open space areas for dogs provides opportunities for owners to connect with other like-minded people and promotes community cohesion and connection</p> <p>Dog off-leash areas provide opportunities for people to learn from others and encourages responsible dog ownership.</p>

4.2 Proposed Dogs in Open Space Provision Framework

The dogs in open space provision framework will guide the current and future provision of dog off-leash areas and dog prohibited areas across the city.

The proposed provision framework has been informed by a review of Council’s current provision standard and supply of dog off-leash areas, current dog prohibited areas, benchmarking and community consultation.

The framework recognises the need to balance open space requirements for dogs with other users and acknowledges the opportunity for dogs to be exercised on lead and off-leash in open spaces. While the ability to walk to a dog off-leash area would be desirable, it is acknowledged that public open space is finite and used for a broad range of recreation needs, meaning this standard is not always achievable. Instead on lead opportunities assist in providing local walking opportunities for most people, along with the physical, mental health and socialisation benefits for dogs and their owners.

Hierarchy of Supply

For many recreation facilities, like parks, playgrounds and sportsgrounds, there is a common hierarchy of supply generally providing the distinction between local, district and regional levels facilities. This hierarchical approach informs the catchment for facilities and associated level of service. While there may be parallels for the provision of open space areas for dogs, the distinction used for dog off-leash areas will instead be based on facility typology. This approach recognises that the type of facility (fenced/ unfenced), features (including water access) and social networks developed between dogs and dog owners mean that people frequently travel outside of their area to access off leash facilities.

This simplified typology allows a more informed development of site suitability criteria that recognise community perspectives and allows Council to define different levels of service.

Table 2 - Proposed Hierarchy of Provision for Dogs in Open Space

Classification - Facility Types	Description
Dog On Lead Areas	<p>Areas of open space that are not designated either dog off-leash or dog prohibited, where dogs are required to be kept on lead.</p> <p>On lead areas provide local opportunities for people to exercise with their dog on lead.</p>
Shared Dog Off-leash area	<p>Open space where dogs are permitted off-leash within a designated area in which other activities may occur.</p> <p>These can include park areas, lake foreshore, some sportsgrounds and general open space.</p> <p>These areas may include partial fencing to address adjacent uses including roads, or include fencing for other user purposes, eg sportsgrounds.</p> <p>Some shared dog off-leash areas may provide dogs with access to swimming in the lake.</p>
Beach Dog Off-leash Areas	<p>Sections of beaches where dogs are permitted off-leash.</p> <p>Due to the opportunity for beaches only on the east side of the local government area, these areas are likely to draw people from a wide catchment.</p>
Dog Park	<p>Exclusive fenced spaces designed just for dogs and their owners with a range of support facilities. Complete separation from other park activities.</p> <p>Dog parks draw people from a wider catchment and as such require a higher level of support facilities.</p> <p>Separation of large and small or passive and active areas could be considered on a site by site basis.</p>

Dog Prohibited Area	<p>Open space areas where dogs are not permitted on or off-leash.</p> <p>These are areas where dogs are not permitted due to legislative requirements (Companion Animals Act), or areas that Council has designated as dog prohibited in accordance with the Dogs in Open Space Policy.</p>
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Developing a Provision Framework for Dogs in Open Space

A new provision framework for Dogs in Open Space is proposed. This new framework includes a combination of provision standards and site suitability criteria. In developing this new framework significant literature and benchmarking was undertaken. Below is a summary of the considerations involved in determining the provision standards and site suitability criteria.

Provision Standards

Provision standards provide guidance on the quantities of facility type required to service a given population of people and their optimal distribution in terms of equitable access for all dog owners.

Facility Type

Community engagement and current best practice recognises the preference for a diversity of dog exercise opportunity including on-leash, shared off leash, beach off-leash, dog parks and water access.

Distribution

An equitable distribution of dog off-leash areas, for example, to achieve access within a reasonable walk or short drive of most urban residences is preferred. The Dogs in Open Space Strategy Background Report highlighted that whilst there was no widely recognised standard, most provision rates were based on a walkability of 2km/ 20-minute walking distance.

Factors including a finite amount of open space available for community access in Lake Macquarie, the competing demands placed upon it and the geographical disparity around the lake, make it unachievable to provide off-leash areas within a reasonable walk for **all** urban residences.

Recent Lake Macquarie Council community consultation results¹ identified that more than two thirds of respondents currently travel by car to a dog off-leash area. In some cases, respondents stated that they travelled beyond their nearest off leash facility to access a preferable site on the basis of facility type, amenity and established social network.

A total of 45% of respondents stated they were willing to drive up to 10 minutes to a share off leash area, while 38% are prepared to drive 20 minutes to a beach dog off-leash area. A total of 39% and 35% of people were willing to drive up to 10 and 20 minutes to a dog park respectively.

Given this, it is extremely important to provide a hierarchy of opportunity from local on-leash opportunities to shared off leash, dog parks and beach off leash areas. It should be noted that on lead open space areas are supplemented with residential footpaths linkages that can provide an overall experience for exercising dogs on lead, rather than simply being destination focused.

On this basis, it is recommended a dog off-leash area is to be provided within a 10-minute drive of an urban residence.

Provision Ratios

In addition to accessibility standards, a ratio of supply is also required to ensure that dog off-leash areas have the capacity to service a given number of people. Council's current ratio of supply for dog off-leash areas is 1:7,000 people. This is consistent with actual current provision of dog off-leash areas in Lake Macquarie.

Benchmarking to surrounding Councils identified that Lake Macquarie has a higher ratio of supply than Newcastle (current 9,845 but revised ratio now 8,000), Maitland (12,485) and Cessnock (10,209), but lower than the Central Coast (5,962) and Port Stephens (4,657). It should be noted that Cessnock Council's recent strategic dog strategy has highlighted the need for an increased provision of dog off-leash areas that would increase their ratio of supply once implemented.

¹ Dogs in Open Strategy Community Engagement Report, Lake Macquarie City Council, May 2022

From a geographical and urban spatial perspective, Lake Macquarie is more consistent with Central Coast and Port Stephens Councils, with large bodies of water central to the urban sprawl surrounding them. These Council areas have pockets of urban residential areas that are isolated from other areas, and water bodies that create greater distances of travel compared to Council's that don't have these. This could be a significant reason why these three Council's have a higher ratio of supply, to ensure equity of access.

The Dogs in Open Space Strategy Background Report identified that there is significantly less dog off-leash areas in the Glendale and Morisset catchments when compared to Toronto and Belmont. This highlights that an increase in dog off-leash areas will be required to provide an improved equity in access in these catchments. Based on this, the existing ratio of supply of 1:7,000 is not considered adequate, with an increased ratio required.

A ratio of supply of 1:5,500 people is recommended.

Dog off leash Site Suitability Criteria

Site suitability criteria assesses the performance capacity of an area of open space to function for a specific purpose like a park, sportsground or dog off-leash location. While these criteria will vary from Council to Council, they all have the aim of ensuring that a specific location has the attributes to perform the proposed function.

Site suitability criteria to assess the performance capacity for a dog off-leash area can include site size, access, qualities, and boundaries, visibility and safety, the site infrastructure available, the impact on adjacent activities and uses, environmental, heritage and cultural impacts and other strategic directions for the open space area. Below is a discussion on each of these criteria.

Size Ideally a dog off-leash area will be large enough to meet demand without becoming degraded from overuse. Smaller areas also present an increased potential for conflict amongst dogs. Based on this a shared dog off-leash area is recommended to be a minimum size of 4,000m², with beach dog off-leash and dog parks having a larger area due to their increased catchment.

Site access refers to providing opportunities for people to physically access the site by walking including linkages to existing pedestrian paths and trails. The site should include the necessary support infrastructure to enable access via walking and driving including footpath connections and a level of on or off-street parking.

Site qualities include the topography of the site, surveillance, flooding, and drainage issues, contamination and opportunities for natural shade. In relation to parks there is a requirement for a large flat area, but for dog off-leash areas, sloping sites within reason can provide diversity and interest at the site. Slopes would still have to allow a level of access for people walking and to undertake maintenance. Sites with good drainage and some natural vegetation for shade and interest would be preferred.

Boundaries of the site are an important consideration in relation to proximity to adjacent land and park uses including adjacent roads. While it is preferred for boundaries to be flexible, a buffer of either space/vegetation or fencing between the dog off-leash area and high traffic roads is required.

Visibility and safety refers to the opportunities for passive surveillance from surrounding areas. Higher levels of passive surveillance encourages appropriate use of the site and provides a sense of safety. This requirement may not be as pertinent as it is for parks and playgrounds, but is still preferred where choices are available for dog off-leash areas.

Site infrastructure includes the facilities that support the use of a site as a dog off-leash area. Site infrastructure may be shared with other uses of the open space area and can include, depending on the classification of the dog off-leash area, bubbler/tap, bench seats, pathways, bins, signage, shade, parking and toilets.

Adjacent uses and activities are an important consideration when assessing a site for dog off-leash suitability. With legislative requirements for playgrounds and barbeque facilities to be dog prohibited, it is important that these are not included within an off-leash area.

Shared pathways that provide opportunities for cyclists as well as pedestrians should not be located within an off-leash area due to the high potential for conflict with other users. These should remain as dog on lead areas. Benchmarking undertaken as part of the Dogs in Open Space Strategy Background Report identified whilst there are no standards with regards the use of shared pathways by dog either on or off leash, a number of Council's have introduced a buffer (between 5 and 10 metres of a shared pathway) in which dogs must be on a leash.

If sufficient space/vegetation buffers cannot be effectively introduced between the off-leash area and the incompatible uses, then other factors may need to be considered. These include the opportunity to reduce the size of the dog off-leash area, or provide an alternate constructed buffer such as a fence.

Environmental, heritage and cultural sites includes those with high environmental values, cultural or heritage significance. Environmental considerations should assess if a site contains EEC, wetlands, biodiversity corridors and high

value habitat areas that would be impacted by dogs exercising off leash. Dog off-leash areas should not to be located in these if a significant impact is identified.

Similarly, any potential harmful impact of dogs on sites of heritage and cultural significance, notably artefacts and middens will need to be determined.

Strategic planning - Considered needs to be given to whether the proposed location has been identified in any other strategic plans. This could include if a new site it intended to be developed as a park for other recreational facilities or a sportsground, or an existing park or sportsground is to be upgraded or expanded that would not allow the provision of a dog off-leash area.

Site Suitability of Dog Off-leash Areas on Sportsgrounds

A last consideration that needs to be assessed is the suitability of dogs on sportsgrounds. There are currently nine designated dog off-leash areas on sportsgrounds in Lake Macquarie, with eight of those heavily restricted, only allowing dogs off-leash on weekdays from sunrise to 10am. All other sportsgrounds throughout the LGA allow dogs to be exercised on lead.

Council's Dogs in Public Open Space Policy identifies the preference for dog off-leash areas not to be located on sportsgrounds, and where these already exist, for these to be relocated to an alternate site within 1km where achievable. In addition, the policy states that new dog off-leash areas should not be located on sportsground.

This requirement stems from the reported conflict of dogs off-leash on sportsgrounds where irresponsible owners do not remove the dog faeces from the sports surface, allow dogs to cause damage to the surface, particularly, turf wickets, or conflict between sporting users and dogs when using at the same time. These issues are reported regardless if the sportsground is designated as dog off-leash areas or not.

Dog owners like to use sportsgrounds as they are large maintained grass open space areas, that generally have perimeter fencing and are unoccupied for large portions of the day, particularly during the summer season.

Review of the location of existing dog off-leash areas on sportsgrounds identifies the current inability to relocate these to an alternate location within 1km as specified by the policy. The review also acknowledges if the dog off-leash areas were removed from the sportsground there would be significant inequity and accessibility gaps around the LGA, particularly in the Glendale and Morisset catchments. Based on this the existing sportsgrounds with designated dog off-leash areas will remain until a suitable alternate can be identified.

In relation to the time restrictions currently imposed of sunrise to 10am weekdays on eight of the sportsground sites, it is acknowledged that these are not adhered to and Council does not have the resources to enforce these. With sportsgrounds having relatively limited use in the summer season and moderate use in the winter season, it is proposed that these time restrictions should be removed and replaced with a restriction of not being used as a dog off-leash areas during organised sport competition and training.

To combat irresponsible ownership in relation to faeces not being removed and damage to some sport surfaces, there will be a requirement to improve the community education on these aspects and for enforcement to be increased during periods when these issues consistently occur.

The Provision Framework for Dogs in Open Space

The provision framework for dog off-leash areas is provided in Table 3 below.

Council has received an increasing number of requests for the segregation of small and large dogs within Council's dog parks. Segregated dog parks have been implemented in both Newcastle and Central Coast Council areas. Should Lake Macquarie Council wish to trial this type of dog park, then it would be recommended that this be trialled and evaluated in one location before any further dog park sites would be considered.

Table 3 - Provision Framework for Dog Off-leash Areas

Function	Shared Dog Off-leash	Beach Dog Off-leash	Dog Parks
Ratio of Supply	One dog of leash area for every 5,500 people, including up to 7 fenced dog parks.		
Accessibility	Within a 10-minute drive of urban residential areas	Limited due to availability of beaches managed by Council	Access within a 20-minute drive of 85% of urban residential areas
Size	<p>Recommended minimum 4,000m²</p> <p>Where integrated into an existing park, the total area of open space will need the capacity to provide the minimum size requirements and serviceable buffer zones to other activities and surrounding land uses.</p>	Recommended minimum 20,000m ²	<p>Recommended minimum 5,000m², prefer 10,000m²</p> <p>Segregated dog parks require a minimum of 8,000m², prefer 12,000m²</p>
Site Access	<p>Dog off-leash area should be connected or have the potential to be connected to existing pedestrian paths and trails to maximise access and promote walking to the site.</p> <p>Sites should have high legibility and connectivity with surrounding residential areas.</p> <p>Access to on street parking is desirable.</p>	<p>Dog off-leash area should be connected or have the potential to be connected to existing pedestrian paths and trails to maximise access and promote walking to the site.</p> <p>Sites should have high legibility and connectivity with surrounding residential areas.</p> <p>Access to off street parking is preferred.</p>	<p>Dog off-leash area should be connected or have the potential to be connected to existing pedestrian paths and trails to maximise access and promote walking to the site.</p> <p>Sites should have high legibility and connectivity with surrounding residential areas.</p> <p>Access to off street parking is required.</p>
Slope and Topography	<p>Whilst relatively flat areas are preferred, opportunities for varied topography to add amenity and interest will be considered suitable subject to meeting base principles of CPTED, eg sight lines, surveillance, safety.</p> <p>Maintained grass area not steeper than 1:4 slope.</p> <p>Where possible dog exercise areas should be located to utilise existing trees for shade and amenity.</p>	NA	<p>Whilst relatively flat areas are preferred, opportunities for varied topography to add amenity and interest will be considered suitable subject to meeting base principles of CPTED, eg sight lines, surveillance, safety.</p> <p>Maintained grass area not steeper than 1:4 slope.</p> <p>Where possible dog exercise areas should be located to utilise existing trees for shade and amenity.</p>
Hazards and Constraints	Free of hazards and constraints to community use such as contaminated land.		
Boundaries	Sufficient buffer zones between adjacent uses such as play spaces, shared	NA	Fenced boundaries that enable a large open area, as opposed to a narrow linear area.

	<p>pathways and high traffic roads.</p> <p>Where a sufficient buffer cannot be achieved, vegetation or fencing will be considered.</p>		<p>Boundaries to provide a buffer between other adjacent recreation uses and private uses.</p> <p>Access gates not to open directly onto shared pathways to reduce potential conflicts.</p>
Flooding and Drainage	Majority of area to be free of regular flooding	NA	Majority of area to be free of regular flooding
Visibility and Safety	Good visibility for passive surveillance from surrounding residents/uses. Consider CPTED principles. Good road frontage where possible.		
Adjacent Activities and Uses	<p>Not within 10m of playgrounds, playspaces or food preparation areas include barbeque facilities.</p> <p>Shared pathways not to be within off-leash area</p> <p>Consider proximity to other use areas and impacts of having dog off-leash nearby</p>	Not to be within 400m of patrolled beach area	Locate to not adversely impact adjacent uses
Environmental/ Heritage/ Cultural Considerations	<p>Not to include EEC areas that can be significantly impacted by dogs or people.</p> <p>Not within natural areas categorised in a Plan of Management as bushland or wetland area.</p> <p>Not within biodiversity offset sites</p> <p>Consideration of impact to area of cultural and/or heritage significance, including values, visual appeal, landscape, archaeology and artefacts</p>	<p>Consider if off-leash areas impact other environmental uses, eg dune rehabilitation, creeks etc</p> <p>Consideration of impact to area of cultural and heritage significance, including values, visual appeal and landscape</p>	<p>Not to include EEC areas that can be significantly impacted by dogs or people.</p> <p>Not within natural areas categorised in a Plan of Management as bushland or wetland area.</p> <p>Not within biodiversity offset sites</p> <p>Consideration of impact to area of cultural and/or heritage significance, including values, visual appeal landscape, archaeology and artefacts</p>
Other Strategic Plans	Future dog off-leash areas should be compatible with current and future planned use of open spaces. This includes enhancements for recreation, sport and linear connections identified in Council strategies and master plans.		
Site Infrastructure/Embellishments			
Signage	Yes – Including dog off-leash boundaries, regulatory and education		
Pathways	Pathways to site preferred, may include internal footpaths	Pathways to area preferred	Pathways to site plus internal accessible footpaths
Rubbish Bins	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shade	<p>Natural shade only.</p> <p>Preferred, at least on the perimeter</p>	No	<p>Natural shade</p> <p>At least one built shade</p>

Bubbler/ Drinking Water	Yes if water service available at site	Yes if water service available at entry to site	Yes
Seating	Yes, 1-2 park benches	Only if includes adjacent grassed area – 1-2 park benches	Yes multiple park benches
Fencing and gates	Only partial fencing if required to make site safe from adjacent busy roads or incompatible uses	No	Yes – fully enclose site with at least one double entry gate.
Parking	On street parking	On and some off-street parking if available	Off street parking including accessible bays
Landscaping	Preferred Assist in defining boundaries from adjacent uses	N/A	Yes, should consider landscaping elements that provide interest to dogs
Lighting	No	No	No

Note: The site suitability criteria does not support in the first instance, areas identified as natural area for a dog off leash on the basis of its likely incompatibility with the management of the land. However, there may be certain circumstances where this would be acceptable e.g. the area incorporates a linear track or trail and/ or is highly disturbed by other activities. This will need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

Dog Prohibited Areas

As outlined in section 3.2, dog prohibited areas are prescribed in *The Companion Animals Act 1998* and Council's Dogs in Open Space Policy. Dog prohibited areas do not allow for dogs to be walked on or off-leash.

Wildlife protection area:

The Companion Animals Act 1998 identifies wildlife protection areas as dog prohibited areas. The definition of a wildlife protection area as per the Act is 'any public place or any part of a public place set apart by a local authority for the protection of wildlife and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited for the purposes of the protection of wildlife'.

The Lake Macquarie Dogs in Open Space Policy does not provide further detail with regards to the circumstances in which environmental areas will be considered for dog exclusion. Green Point Foreshore Reserve is currently the only dog prohibited area designated on the basis of environmental significance. The prohibition of dogs from the reserve was encompassed in the Green Point Foreshore Reserve Plan of Management 1997. Any changes to the current prohibition status at Green Point Foreshore Reserve would need to be considered during the review of the plan of management within the next few years and is not included in the scope of this strategy.

Dog owners often seek opportunities to exercise with their dogs in natural areas both on and off leash for the interest of both parties. The impact of dogs (on leash) on wildlife most commonly reported include:

- Physical and temporal displacement of wildlife by the presence of dogs, including their scent, the effects of which remain long after they are gone
- Repeated stress, effecting energy levels and subsequently feeding opportunities, reproduction and growth
- Indirect and direct mortality including transmission of diseases (such as canine distemper)
- Water quality impacts from dog waste
- Damage to sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands and saltmarsh

The following are environments within Lake Macquarie considered to be most susceptible to harm by the presence of dogs and/or prevent Council from meeting legislative requirements for environmental protection and rehabilitation:

- **Council owned Biodiversity Offset Sites**

The primary objective of biodiversity offset sites is to conserve and enhance biodiversity values to offset the impacts of development on biodiversity at another location. These sites are managed in accordance with site specific

management plans, the actions of which can include rehabilitation of native vegetation communities, fire management, nest boxes and management of pests including vertebrates.

Where these sites are set up under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* the implementation of management actions are required to be reported to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Permitting dogs within biodiversity offset areas would impede implementation of some actions including management of vertebrate pests and would be deleterious to the purpose for which the sites have been established.

- **Threatened ecological communities and threatened species habitat**

These communities provide vital wildlife corridors and habitat refuges for many plant and animal species, including threatened species and other Australian plants and animals that are in decline.

- **Shorebird nesting and roosting sites**

There are a number of shorebird nesting and roosting sites in the city. In some cases, the presence, sound or scent of a dog can cause nesting birds to abandon their nests.

- **Sites adjacent to National Park and Wildlife Estate**

Dogs are prohibited from National Parks. There may be case to extend this area of prohibition where part of a contiguous habitat with unclear boundaries.

- **Sites gazetted as wildlife refuges**

- **Aboriginal or European culturally significant sites**

Aboriginal or European culturally significant sites **where** dogs are determined to have a direct negative impact on the artefacts, eg middens or the cultural significance eg, burial sites.

Based on the above the following are identified to become dog prohibited:

- Pirrita Island. This is a saltmarsh and threatened shorebird habitat, nominated as part of a recent Development Application for dogs to be excluded.
- Biodiversity off set sites at Jewells, Valentine, Awaba and Ryhope. Dogs off leash at these sites are incompatible to the objectives of these sites and do not allow for the management vertebrate pests.

5 Assessment of Supply and Demand

An assessment of the existing supply of dog off-leash areas has been undertaken using quantitative assessment against the proposed provision standards and qualitative assessment considering the site suitability criteria.

The following section provides a summary of the analysis. More detail is contained within Section 6 Catchment Summaries.

5.1 Assessment Summary

There is a current supply of 30 dog off-leash areas in Lake Macquarie. Based on a 2021 population of 208,813, the current provision rate is 1:6,960 people. With a recommended provision standard of 1:5,500 people approximately, the current population is approximately underserved by eight dog off-leash areas. With a forecasted population of 232,543 in 2036, there will be a need for a total of 42 dog off-leash areas.

Table 1 in section 3 of this report, highlighted the highest need for additional dog off-leash areas, based on the existing number of off-leash area to population, in the Glendale, Morisset and Charlestown catchments. Toronto catchment appears to be well supplied both now and into the future. The Belmont catchment has a good supply, however, there are no dog off-leash areas south of Caves Beach, which will need to be addressed.

Below is a summary of the three classifications of dog off-leash areas.

Dog Parks

Lake Macquarie currently has two (2) dog off-leash areas classified as dog parks.

Table 4 - Dog Parks by Catchment

Catchment	Dog Parks	Area (Ha)
Glendale	Speers Point Dog Park	1.0
Charlestown	Thomas H Halton Dog Park	0.2

These dog parks provide a fully enclosed area for the exclusive use to exercise dogs off-leash. These dog parks offer a higher level of embellishment and include built shelter, landscaping, park furniture and water bubblers with dog bowls. Dog parks generally require a higher level of maintenance and can include a range of surface treatments. Speers Point Dog Park, being a larger dog park that includes a large proportion of grass also includes irrigation and is managed during periods of wet weather where it can be closed to minimise damage to the turf surfaces.

The current supply of Dog Parks in Lake Macquarie is 1:104,407 people (2021 Remplan population data).

The existing two dog parks are not considered to be adequate for the existing population. By 2036 an additional 23,730 people are projected to be living in the LGA, further exacerbating the undersupply of dog parks. There is a strong community desire for additional dog parks in all catchments of the LGA. Based on this, and the recommended provision standard, it is proposed for one dog park to be available in each of the planning catchments, with an additional dog park in the Charlestown and Glendale catchments due to the high population and density, dog ownership, and limited access to lake and beach access off-leash areas. This would provide a total of 7 dog parks throughout the LGA.

The proposed future supply for dog parks for the forecasted future population is 1:33,220 people (2036 Remplan forecast population data).

The Community Engagement Report has also identified a desire for segregated dog parks that has separate areas for big/active dogs and small/passive dogs. These have been successfully built and managed in a number of locations including in Newcastle, the Central Coast and other Sydney Council areas. Segregated dog parks would require a larger area to ensure adequate space for both areas. It is recommended for one dog park to include segregation as a trial to assess the operation, regulation and management of these before it is considered for any further locations.

Beach Dog Off-Leash Areas

Lake Macquarie currently has three (3) beach dog off-leash areas.

Table 5 - Beach Dog Off-Leash Areas by Catchment

Catchment	Beach Dog Off-Leash Area	Area (Ha)
Charlestown (1)	Redhead Beach	12.4
Belmont (2)	Blacksmiths Beach (north)	5.5
	Hams Beach	3.5

The three beach dog off-leash areas provide opportunities for dogs to be exercised on the beach and provide opportunities for water access for playing and swimming. Only the two coastal catchments of Belmont and Charlestown have the ability to provide beach off-leash areas. Beach dog off-leash areas require minimal embellishment, with the highest requirements for access to drinking water and car parking.

The current supply of Beach Dog Off-Leash Areas in Lake Macquarie is 1:69,604 people.

The existing three dog off-leash areas are well utilised. There is a strong desire for an additional beach dog off-leash area to be established in the growing south eastern area of the Belmont catchment.

Redhead Beach dog off-leash area draws users from outside of the LGA, particularly from the City of Newcastle. This could be due to Newcastle only providing one beach dog off-leash area.

Shared Dog Off-Leash Areas

Lake Macquarie has twenty-five (25) shared dog off-leash areas in Lake Macquarie.

Table 6 - Shared Dog Off-leash Areas by Catchment

Catchment	People Population	Dog Population	No. of Shared Dog Off-Leash Areas	Area (Ha)
Belmont	25,168	10,184	3	4.0
Charlestown	63,366	25,895	7	20.3
Glendale	61,685	26,919	3	10.9
Toronto	32,186	15,765	8	20.5
Morisset	26,408	13,573	4	9.0

The 25 shared dog off-leash areas vary considerably in location, size, opportunity and embellishment. Shared off-leash areas range from less developed open space areas with limited other use, to developed park areas used for various recreation purposes to sportsgrounds that have limited access times for dogs off-leash.

There are nine shared dog off-leash areas that are located on sportsgrounds. In line with the Dogs in Public Open Space Policy, these were all assessed as to whether they could be relocated to an alternate site within 1km. There were no alternate suitable locations found within a 1km radius to relocate these off the sportsgrounds.

The current supply of Shared Dog Off-Leash Areas in Lake Macquarie is 1:8,353 people.

Key findings:

- The Toronto catchment has the highest provision of shared off-leash areas, with five providing access to the lake for swimming.
- Lake access is also provided in Belmont, two location and Morisset and Charlestown catchments with one location each.
- Sportsgrounds shared off-leash areas where access is day and time limited account for 75% of Glendale, 43% of Charlestown and 25% of Morisset catchment's shared dog off-leash areas.
- There are no shared off-leash areas on sportsgrounds in the Toronto or Belmont catchments.

Demand Assessment

Based on the existing and forecasted population to 2036 and the ratio of supply identified in the provision framework, the total number of dog off-leash areas has been calculated for each catchment (see Table 7 below).

Table 7 - Supply and Demand for Dog Off-Leash Areas by Catchment

Catchment	Population			Dog Off-Leash Areas			
	2021	2036	Change %	No. Existing	Existing Surplus/ Deficit	No. required for 2036	2036 Surplus/ Deficit
Belmont	25,168	27,380	8.8%	5	0	5	0
Charlestown	63,366	65,219	2.9%	9	-2	12	-3
Glendale	61,685	69,180	12.2%	4	-7	13	-9
Toronto	32,186	35,414	10%	8	+2	6	+2
Morisset	26,408	35,350	33.9%	4	-1	6	-2
Total	208,813	232,543	11.4%	30	-8	42	-12

This demand assessment only provides analysis of quantities, and does not take into consideration the classification of dog off-leash areas, the spatial distribution of population within a catchment and the suitability of existing dog off-leash areas. These will be explored further in Section 5.2, 5.3 and 6 below.

5.2 Suitability Assessment of Existing Dog Off-Leash Areas

The existing supply of dog off-leash areas has been assessed against the site suitability criteria identified in the Framework (see Section 4.2.2 and Table 3). The outcomes of the assessment of existing dog off-leash areas are summarised below:

- Seven are recommended to remain unchanged
- Eleven are proposed to have changes to the boundaries of the off-leash area
- Seven have been identified to have functionality issues to their operation
- Eight located are located on sportsgrounds and are recommended for changes to time restrictions
- Two are recommended for relocation

Appendix A provides an aerial map of each existing dog off-leash area and a second map of the proposed recommendation. The recommendations proposed will be tested with the community, before a final assessment will be undertaken with consideration to community feedback. The final recommended dog off-leash areas will be identified in the Dogs in Open Space Strategy once developed.

Dog Off-Leash Areas Recommended to Remain Unchanged

Following a suitability assessment, the following seven dog off-leash areas have remained unchanged:

1. Thomas Humphrey's Reserve, Swansea
2. Corner of Haddon and Docker Street, Marks Point
3. Corner of Ruston Avenue and Crusade Close, Valentine
4. Thomas H Halton Dog Park (fenced), Croudace Bay
5. Speers Point Dog Park, Speers Point
6. Blackalls Park Reserve, Blackalls Park
7. Gurranba Reserve, Coal Point

Dog Off-Leash Areas Recommended for Boundary Changes

Suitability assessments have proposed boundary changes to the existing dog off-leash areas due to two main reasons. The first is to remove natural areas, generally bushland and wetland areas. While many of these natural areas may still enable dogs to be exercised on lead, it is believed that dogs off-leash have the ability to wander away from tracks, into more sensitive environmental areas and therefore will have a greater impact.

The following dog off-leash areas have been recommended to remove natural areas from within the boundary:

1. Hams Beach, Caves Beach
2. Booragul Foreshore, Booragul
3. Corner Quigley Rd and Bay Rd, Bolton Point
4. Hampton St Reserve, Carey Bay
5. Wyee Oval, Wyee

The second boundary adjustment relates to realignment of existing dog off-leash areas to reduce conflict with other or adjacent users of the park/beach. This has considered balancing the needs of all users of the park, and removing sections that may include shared pathways, playgrounds, barbeque areas, and skate parks. Proposed future recreation works have also been considered at these sites. The Companion Animals Act prohibits dog from within 10m of playgrounds and food preparation/consumption areas such as barbeques and this has been considered in this assessment.

The following have been recommended to be realigned due to conflicting use:

1. Dobinson Reserve, Blacksmiths
2. Thomas H Halton Park (unfenced), Croudace Bay
3. Bahloo Reserve, Windale
4. Gregory Park, West Wallsend
5. Toronto Lions Park, Toronto
6. Redhead Beach, Redhead (on-lead area only)
7. Hampton St Reserve, Carey Bay
8. Hams Beach, Caves Beach

Dog Off-Leash Areas Recommended to Improve Functionality Issues

A number of dog off-leash areas have functionality issues that impact their usability as a dog off-leash area. The majority of these are due to the proximity to a high traffic road, with no barriers in between. For these sites, it is proposed mitigating measures should be considered including vegetation or partial fencing. For Nine Mile Beach, Blacksmiths, the interaction between dogs off-leash and 4WDs on the beach needs to be addressed. This will require further investigation on current and proposed 4WD access points and the extent of areas allowed.

1. Dobinson Reserve, Blacksmiths
2. Nine Mile Beach, Blacksmiths
3. Molly O'Connor Park, Redhead
4. Adjacent Charlestown Netball Courts, Charlestown
5. Toronto Lions Park, Toronto
6. Rathmines Park, Rathmines
7. Foreshore Reserve, Buttaba



Dog Off-Leash Areas on Sportsgrounds Recommended for Changes to Time Restrictions

Existing off-leash areas that are located on sportsgrounds (with the exception of Wye Oval) are currently restricted to use from Monday to Friday from sunrise to 10am only. Wye Oval is currently off-leash at any time. Many sportsgrounds are underutilised during the day and are predominantly used on some afternoons and on one day on the weekend. Winter season sees higher use, while summer generally has much lower use. Based on this, it is proposed that dog off-leash areas located on sportsgrounds, can be used for off-leash unless they are being used for games or training.

The following have been recommended to have time restrictions changed as stated above:

1. Lenaghan Oval, Belmont North
2. Bahloo Reserve, Windale
3. Goundry St Oval, Gateshead
4. Cardiff Oval No.3, Cardiff
5. Gregory Park, West Wallsend
6. Taylor Park, Barnsley
7. Douglas St Oval, Dora Creek
8. Wye Oval, Wye

Dog Off-Leash Areas Recommended for Relocation

Two existing dog off-leash areas are recommended for relocation to nearby new locations. They are:

1. Pendlebury Park relocated to Bonnells Bay Park
2. Bernie Goodwin Reserve relocated to Gibson Oval

Pendlebury Park dog off-leash area has been reduced from the original area due to environmental sensitivities in the uncleared area. In addition, there has been high levels of complaints from park users, identifying dogs are continued to be exercised off-leash in the adjacent playground, picnic and boat ramp areas. Based on this, the nearby Bonnells Bay Park has been identified as a replacement site for the dog off-leash area as this park has not been embellished for recreation use like Pendlebury Park has, and it provides a larger area for dogs to be exercised off-leash.

Bernie Goodwin Reserve has been recently developed to include a much larger playground, with picnic facilities and a skate park. The oval is also heavily used in the winter season, and used for cricket in the summer season. Due to the increased use of this site and the potential for conflict with other users, it is proposed that the dog off-leash area is to be relocated to Gibson Oval. Gibson Oval is used by one sporting team in the winter season, and has no identified summer use.

6 Catchment Summaries

The following catchment summaries provide the key outcomes of a catchment-by-catchment assessment of population and growth, current dog off-leash area supply and demand and preliminary opportunities to address future need.

6.1 Belmont Catchment

Belmont is the eastern most planning area in Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Belmont, Belmont South, Moonee, Nords Wharf, Catherine Hill Bay, Pinny Beach, Murrays Beach, Swansea, Caves Beach, Blacksmiths, Pelican, Marks Point, Swansea Heads, Little Pelican and Cams Wharf.

Current Dog Off-Leash Supply

Table 8 - Belmont Catchment Current and Future Population

Belmont	2021			2036		
	People Population	Dog Population	% Dogs to People	People Population	Dog Population	Growth to 2036
Totals	25,168	10,184	40.5%	27,380	10,916	8.8%

Largest existing dog populations in the suburbs of Belmont, Swansea and Caves Beach

Largest people population growth expected in North Wallarah (Murrays Beach, Pinny Beach), Catherine Hill Bay and Nords Wharf Urban Release Areas.

Table 9 - Belmont Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply

Classification	Quantity	Area (ha)	People per Site	Dogs per Site	Average size
Shared Dog Off-Leash	3	4.0	8,389	3,395	1.33
Beach Dog Off-Leash	2	9.0	12,584	5,092	4.5
Dog Park	0	0	0	0	0
Catchment Total	5	13	5,034	2,036	2.6

Figure 3 provides a map of the existing supply and classification of dog off-leash areas in the Belmont Catchment. Table 10 provides an assessment of the dog off-leash area supply in this catchment.

Figure 3 - Belmont Catchment Current Dog Off-Leash Areas by Classification

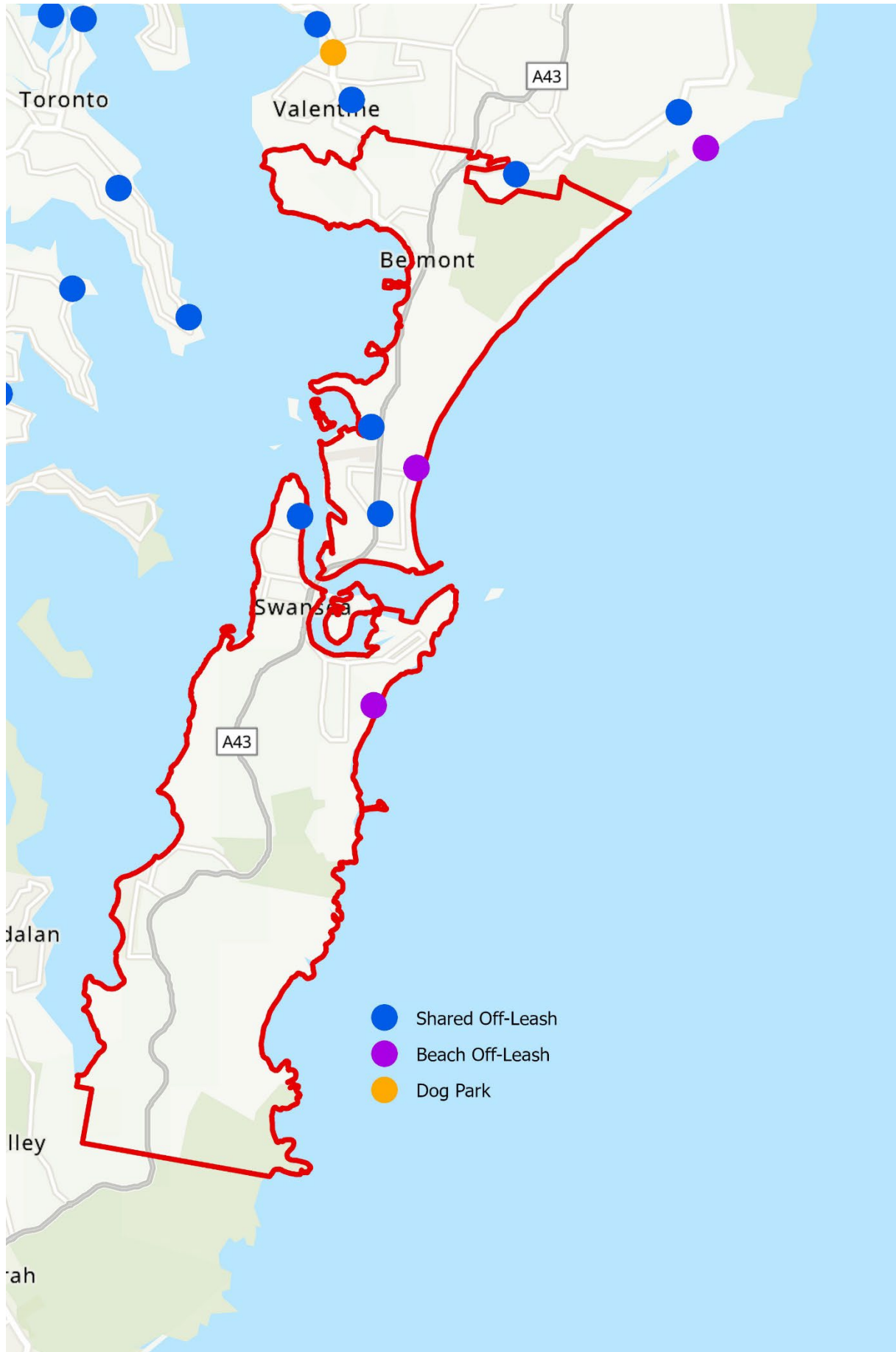


Table 10 - Belmont Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply Assessment

Criteria	Comments
Provision	<p>While there is an overall good catchment supply of dog off-leash areas, there are gaps in supply with no dog off-leash areas in the suburbs of Belmont and Belmont South, and the southern area of the catchment including Catherine Hill Bay, Nords Wharf and Murrays Beach.</p> <p>While there are no dog parks within the catchment, there are two beach off-leash locations that provide large areas with water access for swimming.</p>
Access/Distribution	<p>There is no access to a dog off-leash location within a 2km walk of the following suburbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Hill Bay • Nords Wharf • Murrays Beach • Belmont • Belmont South <p>The following suburbs are not within a 10-minute drive of an off-leash location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Hill Bay • Nords Wharf <p>Figure 2 illustrates a 1.5 km buffer around each of the dog off-leash areas in the Belmont catchment to provide an estimate of the population that are likely to be within a 2km walk. This does not include analysis of walkability factors, including barriers of main roads that don't allow pedestrian access, footpath availability, etc. The intention of this figure is to highlight the areas/suburbs that are a significant distance away from the 1.5km buffer of an existing dog off-leash area.</p>
Dog Off-Leash Area Size	<p>Shared off-leash areas within the catchment are well over the recommended 4,000m² size, ranging from 7,000m² to 12,000m².</p> <p>The two existing beach off-leash locations provide areas of between 35,000m² to 55,000m², well over the recommended minimum of 20,000m². If proposed changes that are to be tested with the community are implemented the Hams Beach dog off-leash area would change from 35,000m² to 26,000m², but remain over the recommended minimum of 20,000m².</p>

Proposed Changes to Current Dog Off-Leash Areas

Site Suitability Assessments completed have recommended changes to the following current dog off-leash areas. Maps identifying proposed changes can be found in Appendix 1:

Table 11 - Belmont Catchment Proposed Changes to Existing Dog Off-leash Areas

Dog Off-leash Area	Proposed Changes
Dobinson Reserve, Blacksmiths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 18,000m² to a new area of 8,000m² • Reduction to remove dog off-leash area from playground/kickaround area and to create more balance within park for other users • Will require partial fencing to provide barrier to high traffic roads of Pacific Hwy and Tirriki St.
Hams Beach, Caves Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase beach area to the north • Remove beach dunes to protect Landcare dune rehabilitation • Remove grass area due to conflict with vehicular movements • Total area change from 35,000m² (including dunes) to 26,000m²

Planned New Dog Off-Leash Areas

The North Wallarah Catchment Contribution Plan has identified the provision and funding for one 5,000m² enclosed dog park to be provided in the suburb of Pinny Beach. The provision of the land for this dog park is aligned to the subdivision development of Pinny Beach, that is when 300 lots area created in the Northern Sector. Once this occurs, the dog park can be designed and constructed. Figure 3 identifies the proposed location of this dog park.

Belmont Catchment Gap and Opportunity Analysis

While the Belmont Catchment meets the ratio of supply for dog off-leash areas, there are still a number of areas that have limited access.

The suburbs of Catherine Hill Bay and Nords Wharf, both areas forecasted to grow to 2036, do not meet the accessibility criteria of being within a 10 minute drive of a dog off-leash area. In addition, the suburb of Belmont, the most populated within the catchment, does not include a dog off-leash area, with the closest being located in Marks Point and in the adjacent Charlestown catchment at Lenaghan Oval, Belmont North and Ruston Ave, Valentine.

Assessment of Council community land opportunities to provide new dog off-leash areas to service these gap areas has identified possible solutions for Catherine Hill Bay and Nords Wharf. These are located at:

- Catherine Hill Bay Beach (north) – beach dog off-leash area
- Nords Wharf Oval – shared dog off-leash area

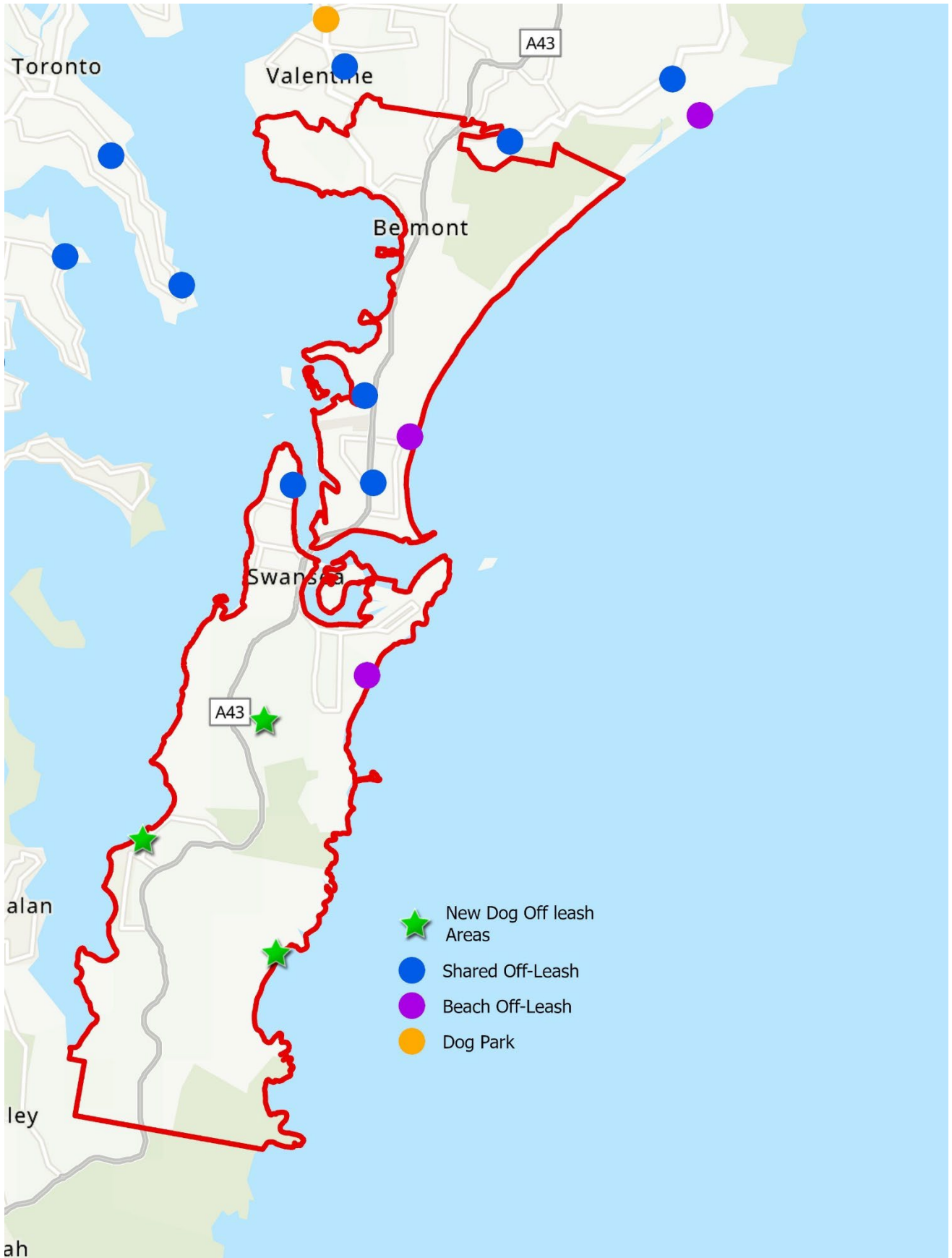
Unfortunately, there is no available community land within the Belmont suburb to provide a dog off-leash location that could be within walking distance for some of the community. There are, however, seven dog off-leash areas within a 10 minute drive of the community in Belmont.

Appendix 1 provides a map of these new dog off-leash sites.

Figure 4 illustrates the potential future dog off-leash areas and includes:

- Current dog off-leash areas
- Proposed new dog off-leash area (includes planned and proposed)

Figure 4 - Belmont Catchment Proposed Future Dog Off-Leash Areas



6.2 Charlestown Catchment

Charlestown is the north-eastern most planning area in Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Belmont North, Floraville, Valentine, Eleebana, Tingira Heights, Mount Hutton, Charlestown, Kotara South, Highfields, Whitebridge, Kahibah, Redhead, Jewells, Bennetts Green, Windale, Gateshead and Dudley.

Current Dog Off-Leash Supply

Table 12 - Charlestown Catchment Current and Future Population

Charlestown	2021			2036		
	People Population	Dog Population	% Dogs to People	People Population	Dog Population	Growth to 2036
Totals	63,366	25,895	40.9%	65,219	26,637	2.9%

Largest existing dog populations in the suburbs of Charlestown, Eleebana, Belmont North and Valentine.

Largest people population growth expected in Redhead, Dudley/Whitebridge

Table 13 – Charlestown Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply

Classification	Quantity	Area (ha)	People per Site	Dogs per Site	Average size
Shared Dog Off-Leash	7	20.3	9052	3,699	2.9
Beach Dog Off-Leash	1	12.4	63,366	25,895	12.4
Dog Park	1	0.2	63,366	25,895	0.2
Catchment Total	9	32.9	7,041	2,877	3.7

Figure 5 provides a map of the existing supply and classification of dog off-leash areas in the Charlestown Catchment. Table 14 provides an assessment of the dog off-leash area supply in this catchment.

Figure 5 - Charlestown Catchment Current Dog Off-Leash Areas by Classification

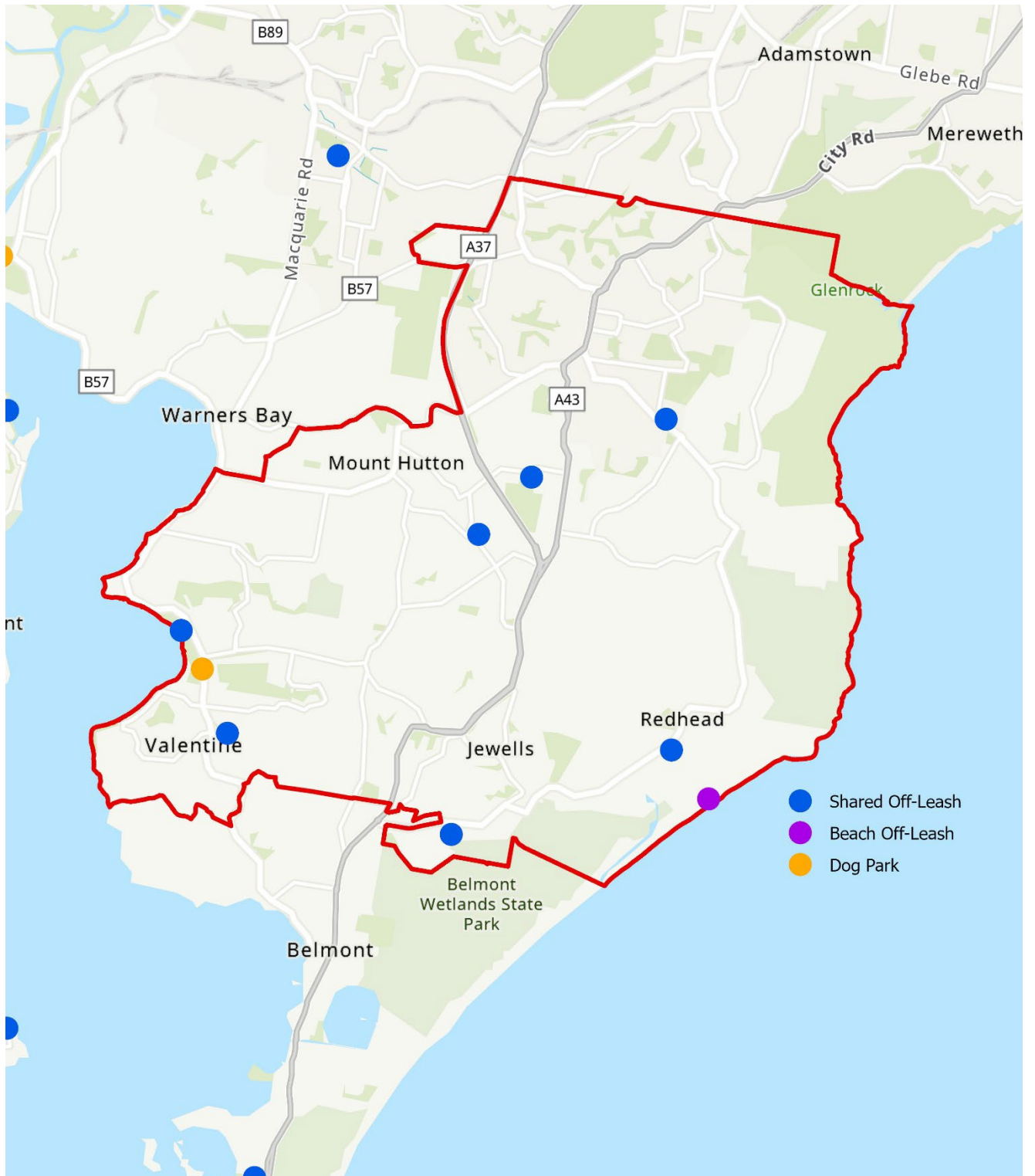


Table 14 - Charlestown Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply Assessment

Criteria	Comments
Provision	<p>The Charlestown catchment is currently undersupplied by two dog off-leash areas from a ratio of supply. Gaps are identified in the suburbs of Charlestown (west), Kahibah/Highfields and Dudley.</p> <p>Two locations provide water access for swimming at Redhead Beach and Thomas H Halton Park. There is also a small enclosed dog park at Thomas H Halton Park.</p>
Access/Distribution	<p>There is no access to a dog off-leash location within a 2km walk of the following suburbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dudley • Charlestown (west) • Highfields/Kahibah • Hillsborough <p>All suburbs are within a 10-minute drive of a dog off-leash location.</p> <p>Figure 2 illustrates a 1.5 km buffer around each of the dog off-leash areas in the Charlestown catchment to provide an estimate of the population that are likely to be within a 2km walk. This does not include analysis of walkability factors, including barriers of main roads that don't allow pedestrian access, footpath availability, etc. The intention of this figure is to highlight the areas/suburbs that are a significant distance away from the 1.5km buffer of an existing dog off-leash area.</p>
Dog Off-Leash Area Size	<p>Shared off-leash areas within the catchment are well over the recommended 4,000m² size, ranging from 7,000m² to 66,000m².</p> <p>The existing beach off-leash area at Redhead Beach provides an area 124,000m² well over the recommended minimum of 20,000m².</p> <p>The dog park at Thomas H Halton Park is 2,000m², well under the recommended minimum of 5,000m².</p>

Proposed Changes to Current Dog Off-Leash Areas

Site Suitability Assessments completed have recommended changes to the following current dog off-leash areas. Maps identifying proposed changes can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 15 - Charlestown Catchment Proposed Changes to Existing Dog Off-leash Areas

Dog Off-leash Area	Proposed Changes
Thomas H Halton Park (unfenced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 66,000m² to a new area of 15,000m² • Removal of dog off-leash area from recreation areas including playground/kickaround area, BBQ and court areas, shared pathway to reduce conflict with these users and to comply with the Companion Animals Act that prohibits dogs within 10m of a children's playground and food consumption/preparation areas. • Removal of natural area of bushland from the dog off-leash area to protect environmental values of this area • Change current time restrictions of 'sunrise to 10am daily and 4.30pm to sunset Monday to Friday excluding public holidays' to 'off-leash at all times'.
Redhead Beach, Redhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog off-leash area remains the same size • Change dog on lead area between first and second creek to dog prohibited to create more balance within beach for other users
Bahloo Reserve, Windale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove dog off-leash area from park area that includes playground, skate park and toilets • Remove dog off-leash area from the natural area including bushland

<p>Molly O'Connor Park, Redhead</p> <p>Adjacent Charlestown Netball Courts, Charlestown</p> <p>Lenaghan Oval, Belmont North</p> <p>Goundry St Oval, Gateshead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training' • New area approximately 25,000m2 • Functionality improvements to provide a barrier to high traffic road of Kalaroo Road. Barrier could include partial fencing or vegetation. • Functionality improvements to provide a barrier to high traffic road of Dudley Road. Barrier could include partial fencing or vegetation. • Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training' • Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training'
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Planned New Dog Off-Leash Areas

The Charlestown Catchment Development Contributions Plan identifies fenced dog parks for Kaleen St Charlestown and Wakool St, Windale, taking the total provision of fenced dog parks to three. This is considered an over provision of dog parks, with the provision framework in this analysis report recommending only two. An assessment of both sites has been undertaken.

The Windale site is adjacent to a proposed new park and playground that has been designed. The remaining area, would likely meet the recommended minimum requirements of 5,000sqm, but would have a significant impact on the adjacent property at 1 Corona St. In addition, there is an existing dog off-leash area at the nearby Bahloo Reserve.

The Charlestown site at Kaleen St is planning for a number of recreation areas, including a district park, playground, BMX track, with a fenced dog park being one of these. The site requires significant further feasibility investigations to ascertain if this site will be suitable for all of the desired embellishments. Based on this it is not proposed to include this site as a future provision until these significant feasibility studies are undertaken. Should future investigations identify this site as suitable for a dog off-leash site or dog park, then this can separately seek Council approval for this designation.

Charlestown Catchment Gap and Opportunity Analysis

The Charlestown Catchment requires two additional dog off-leash areas to meet the ratio of supply for dog off-leash areas.

The suburbs of Charlestown (west) and Hillsborough are identified as a significant gap area, given the population density of these suburbs and the high level of dog ownership. The suburbs of Highfields, Kahibah, Dudley, Tingara Heights and Floraville are considered pocket gap areas.

Assessment of Council community land opportunities to provide new dog off-leash areas to service all gap areas has identified a possible solution for Charlestown, located at:

- Hillsborough Reserve, 62 Hillsborough Rd, Charlestown – shared dog off-leash area

The future feasibility investigation of the Kaleen St, Charlestown site, may provide an additional location that would also service the Highfields/Kahibah areas and provide a second enclosed dog park. As identified in Section 6.2.3, this site is not being considered as part of this dog off-leash strategy due to the significant investigation work required and the other recreation embellishments proposed for this site.

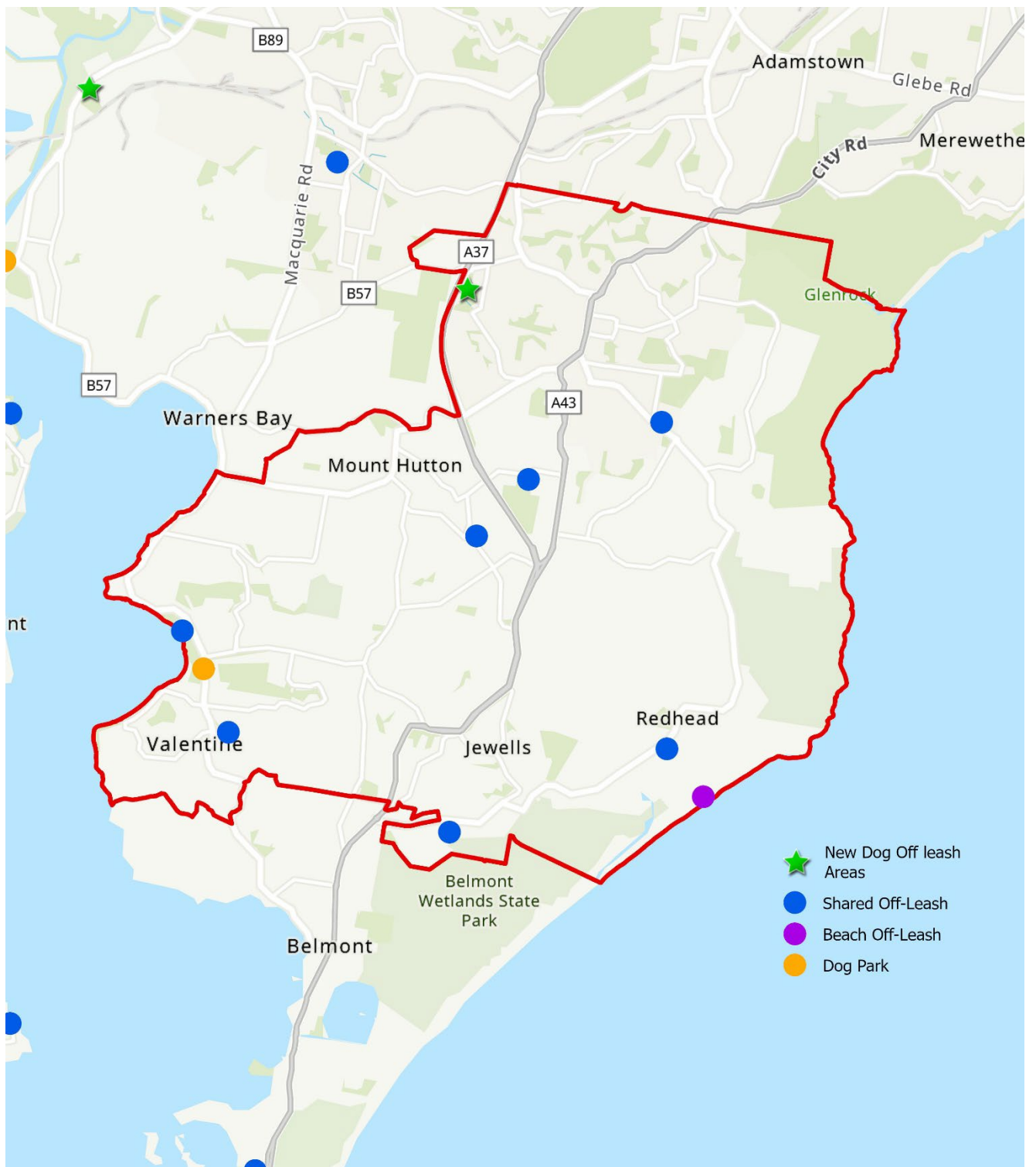
A second dog park is required for the Charlestown catchment. The location of this has not been identified, to allow flexibility in identifying an appropriate site one future investigations of potential new dog off-leash areas has been completed.

Appendix 1 provides a map of this new dog off-leash site.

Figure 6 illustrates the potential future dog off-leash areas and includes:

- Current dog off-leash areas
- Proposed new dog off-leash area (includes planned and proposed)

Figure 6 - Charlestown Catchment Proposed Future Dog Off-Leash Areas



6.3 Glendale Catchment

Glendale is the northern most planning area in Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Warners Bay, Wakefield, Killingworth, West Wallsend, Seahampton, Cameron Park, Edgeworth, Holmesville, Barnsley, Teralba, Speers Point, Hillsborough, Garden Suburb, Cardiff Heights, Glendale, Argenton, Boolaroo, Cardiff South, Lakelands, Macquarie Hills, Cardiff, New Lambton Heights and Elernmore Vale.

Current Dog Off-Leash Supply

Table 16 - Glendale Catchment Current and Future Population

Charlestown	2021			2036		Growth to 2036
	People Population	Dog Population	% Dogs to People	People Population	Dog Population	
Totals	61,685	26,919	43.6%	69,180	30,190	12.2%

Largest existing dog populations in the suburbs of Edgeworth, Warners Bay, Cardiff and Cameron Park.

Largest people population growth expected in Cameron Park, and Edgeworth

Table 17 – Glendale Catchment Existing Dog Off-Leash Area Supply

Classification	Quantity	Area (ha)	People per Site	Dogs per Site	Average size
Shared Dog Off-Leash	3	10.9	20,562	8,973	3.6
Beach Dog Off-Leash	0	0	0	0	0
Dog Park	1	1.0	60,685	26,919	1.0
Catchment Total	4	11.9	15,421	6,730	3.0

Figure 7 provides a map of the existing supply and classification of dog off-leash areas in the Glendale Catchment. Table 18 provides an assessment of the dog off-leash area supply in this catchment.

Figure 7 - Glendale Catchment Current Dog Off-Leash Areas by Classification

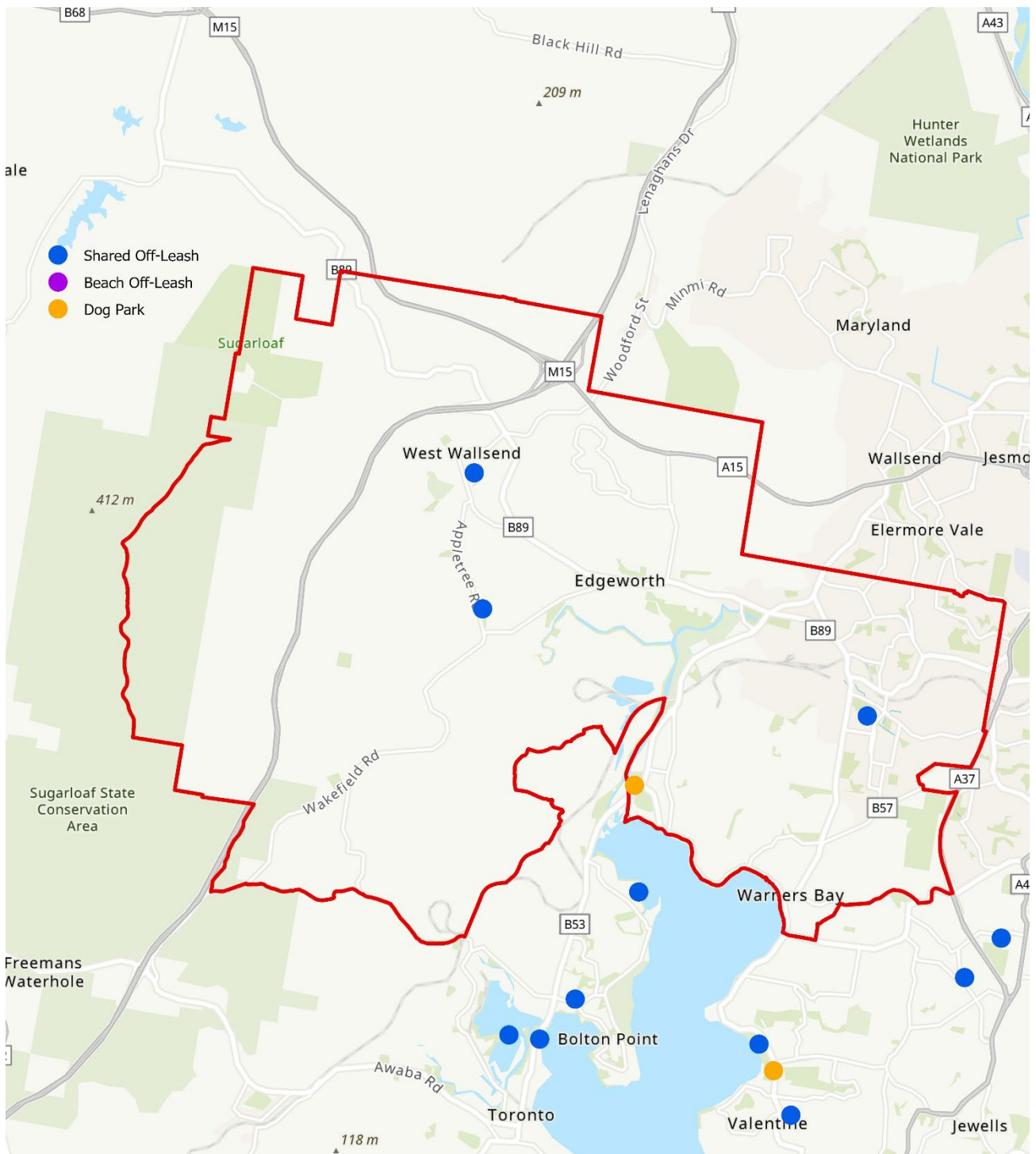


Table 18 - Glendale Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply Assessment

Criteria	Comments
Provision	<p>The Glendale catchment is currently undersupplied by seven dog off-leash areas from a ratio of supply. Gaps are identified suburbs of Edgeworth, Cameron Park, Warners Bay, Macquarie Hills, Argenton, Glendale, Cardiff Heights, New Lambton Heights and Garden Suburbs.</p> <p>There is an enclosed dog park at Speers Point Park. The remaining dog off-leash areas are located on sportsgrounds that have time restrictions of weekdays from sunrise to 10am.</p>
Access/Distribution	<p>There is no access to a dog off-leash location within a 2km walk of the following suburbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameron Park • Edgeworth • Argenton • Glendale • Cardiff Heights • New Lambton Heights • Macquarie Hills • Lakelands • Warners Bay <p>All suburbs are within a 10-minute drive of a dog off-leash location.</p> <p>Figure 2 illustrates a 1.5 km buffer around each of the dog off-leash areas in the Charlestown catchment to provide an estimate of the population that are likely to be within a 2km walk. This does not include analysis of walkability factors, including barriers of main roads that don't allow pedestrian access, footpath availability, etc. The intention of this figure is to highlight the areas/suburbs that are a significant distance away from the 1.5km buffer of an existing dog off-leash area.</p>
Dog Off-Leash Area Size	<p>Shared off-leash areas within the catchment are well over the recommended 4,000m² size, ranging from 17,000m² to 61,000m². This large size is due to these all being located on sportsgrounds.</p> <p>The dog park at Speers Point Park is 10,000m², well over the recommended minimum of 5,000m², and sits at the preferred size of 10,000m².</p>

Proposed Changes to Current Dog Off-Leash Areas

Site Suitability Assessments completed have recommended changes to the following current dog off-leash areas. Maps identifying proposed changes can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 19 - Glendale Catchment Proposed Changes to Existing Dog Off-leash Areas

Dog Off-leash Area	Proposed Changes
Gregory Park, West Wallsend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 60,000m² to a new area of 41,000m² • Removal of dog off-leash area from recreation areas including playground/kickaround area, court areas to comply with the Companion Animals Act that prohibits dogs within 10m of a children's playground. • Removal of natural area of bushland from the dog off-leash area to protect environmental values of this area • Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training'
Taylor Park, Barnsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training'
Cardiff Oval No.3, Cardiff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training'

Planned New Dog Off-Leash Areas

The Glendale Catchment Development Contributions Plan identifies a new fenced dog park at Edgeworth. The site identified has been assessed for feasibility and has been determined as unsuitable. The funding for this new dog park will remain, but will require a new site to be identified.

Section 6.3.4 has identified a possible site for this new dog park north of the Pasterfield Sporting Complex at Cameron Park.

Glendale Catchment Gap and Opportunity Analysis

The Glendale Catchment requires seven new additional dog off-leash areas to meet the ratio of supply for dog off-leash areas.

The suburbs of Cameron Park, Edgeworth and Warners Bay are identified as a significant gap area, given the population density of these suburbs and the high level of dog ownership. The suburbs of Glendale, Argenton, Cardiff Heights, New Lambton Heights, Macquarie Hills and Lakelands are considered pocket gap areas.

Assessment of Council community land opportunities to provide new dog off-leash areas to service all gap areas has identified possible solutions in Edgeworth, Cameron Park and Argenton. These are located at:

- Pasterfield Sporting Complex (north), Cameron Park – Dog park, possibly segregated
- 87 Neilson St, Edgeworth – shared dog off-leash area
- Kindyerra Park, Argenton – shared dog off-leash area

Unfortunately, there is no available community land within the suburbs of Warners Bay, Lakelands, Macquarie Hills, Glendale, Cardiff Heights and New Lambton Heights to provide a dog off-leash location that could be within walking distance for some of the community. There are, however, at least one dog off-leash areas within a 10-minute drive of the each of these suburbs. Due to the lack of available land it is not possible to achieve the ratio of supply for this catchment.

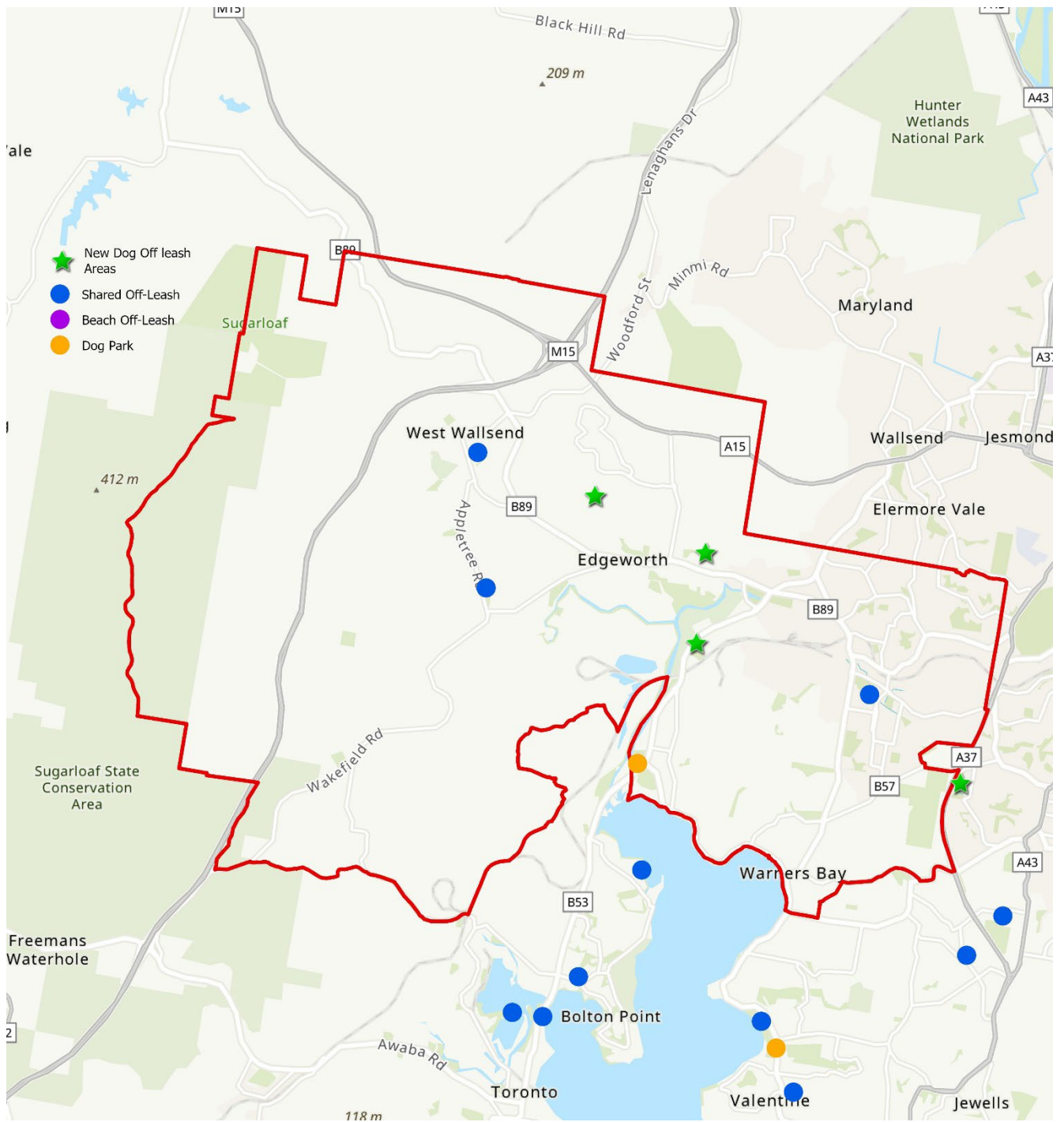
A second dog park is required for the Glendale catchment. It is proposed the location of this to be at the Cameron Park site, should the results of the feasibility investigations allow this. It is proposed that due to the lack of off-leash locations in this area of the catchment, the high dog ownership, and the potential size of the land available, that this site be trialled as a segregated dog park. This would provide separate areas for large/active dogs and small/passive dogs.

Appendix 1 provides a map of these new dog off-leash sites.

Figure 8 illustrates the potential future dog off-leash areas and includes:

- Current dog off-leash areas
- Proposed new dog off-leash area

Figure 8 - Glendale Catchment Proposed Future Dog Off-Leash Areas



6.4 Toronto Catchment

Toronto is the central western most planning area in Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Freemans Waterhole, Ryhope, Awaba, Blackalls Park, Toronto, Fennell Bay, Marmong Point, Booragul, Bolton Point, Woodrising, Fassifern, Kilaben Bay, Coal Point, Carey Bay, Rathmines, Balmoral, Fishing Point, Arcadia Vale, Buttaba, Myuna Bay and Wangi Wangi.

Current Dog Off-Leash Supply

Table 20 - Toronto Catchment Current and Future Population

Charlestown	2021			2036		
	People Population	Dog Population	% Dogs to People	People Population	Dog Population	Growth to 2036
Totals	32,186	15,765	49%	35,414	17,341	10%

Largest existing dog populations is in the suburb of Toronto, followed by Blackalls Park

Largest people population growth expected in Fennell Bay and Teralba

Table 21 – Toronto Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply

Classification	Quantity	Area (ha)	People per Site	Dogs per Site	Average size
Shared Dog Off-Leash	8	20.5	4,023	1,971	2.6
Beach Dog Off-Leash	0	0	0	0	0
Dog Park	0	0	0	0	0
Catchment Total	8	20.5	4,023	1,971	2.6

Figure 9 provides a map of the existing supply and classification of dog off-leash areas in the Toronto Catchment. Table 22 provides an assessment of the dog off-leash area supply in this catchment.

Figure 9 - Toronto Catchment Current Dog Off-Leash Areas by Classification

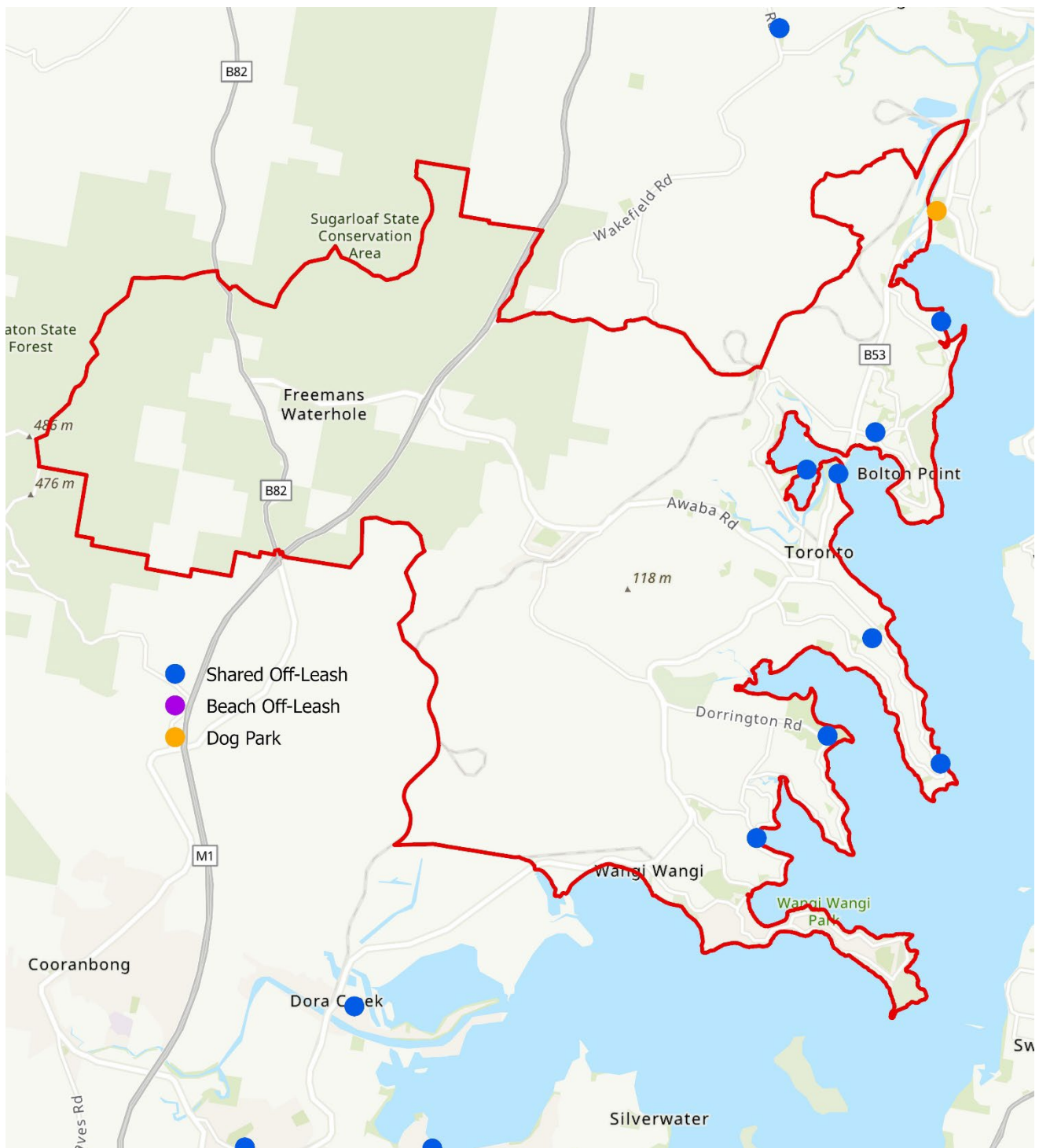


Table 22 - Toronto Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply Assessment

Criteria	Comments
Provision	<p>The Toronto catchment is currently oversupplied by two dog off-leash areas with a ratio of supply of 1:4,023. While there is an overall good catchment supply of dog off-leash areas, there are gaps in supply with no dog off-leash areas in the suburb of Wangi.</p> <p>Five locations provide water access for swimming on lake foreshore areas.</p>
Access/Distribution	<p>There is no access to a dog off-leash location within a 2km walk of the following suburbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto West • Awaba • Wangi Wangi <p>All suburbs are within a 10-minute drive of a dog off-leash location.</p> <p>Figure 8 illustrates a 1.5 km buffer around each of the dog off-leash areas in the Toronto catchment to provide an estimate of the population that are likely to be within a 2km walk. This does not include analysis of walkability factors, including barriers of main roads that don't allow pedestrian access, footpath availability, etc. The intention of this figure is to highlight the areas/suburbs that are a significant distance away from the 1.5km buffer of an existing dog off-leash area.</p>
Dog Off-Leash Area Size	<p>Shared off-leash areas within the catchment are well over the recommended 4,000m² size, ranging from 20,500m² to 41,800m².</p>

Proposed Changes to Current Dog Off-Leash Areas

Site Suitability Assessments completed have recommended changes to the following current dog off-leash areas. Maps identifying proposed changes can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 23 - Toronto Catchment Proposed Changes to Existing Dog Off-leash Areas

Dog Off-leash Area	Proposed Changes
Booragul Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 21,300m² to a new area of 5,400m² • Removal of natural area of bushland from the dog off-leash area to protect environmental values of this area
3 Bay Rd, Bolton Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 28,400m² to a new area of 14,000m² • Removal of skate park from dog off-leash area • Removal of natural area of bushland from the dog off-leash area to protect environmental values of this area • Functionality improvements to provide a barrier to high traffic road of Bay Road. Barrier could include partial fencing or vegetation.
Toronto Lions Park, Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 34,000m² to a new area of 20,000m² • Remove dog off-leash area from park area that includes playground, BBQ/picnic facilities and toilets • Functionality improvements to provide a barrier to high traffic road of Anzac Parade. Barrier could include partial fencing or vegetation.
Hampton St Reserve, Carey Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 41,800m² to 14,000m² • Removal of natural area of bushland from the dog off-leash area to protect environmental values of this area • Reduce dog off-leash area in cleared open space area to allow for identified future recreation embellishments
Rathmines Park, Rathmines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functionality improvements to provide a barrier to high traffic road of Dorrington Road. Barrier could include partial fencing or vegetation.
Buttaba Foreshore Reserve, Buttaba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functionality improvements to provide a barrier to high traffic road of Ilford Avenue. Barrier could include partial fencing or vegetation.

Planned New Dog Off-Leash Areas

The Toronto Catchment Development Contributions Plan identifies for a fenced dog park to be developed at either Rathmines Park or Hampton St Reserve, Carey Bay. The development of a new dog park would provide the first dog park in the catchment. An assessment of both sites has been undertaken.

The provision of a dog park was considered in the development of the Rathmines Park Plan of Management and Masterplan. The outcome of this was that this site was not suitable for a dog park, given the dual use of the existing shared dog off-leash area as an event space, and the Heritage of the area being part of the Parade ground of the World War 2 Catalina Base Camp.

Hampton St Reserve has an existing dog off-leash area, and is also identified in the Toronto Contributions Plan for a potential half court and BMX pump track, and in the Parks and Play Strategy as a potential new park and playground location. Due to the array of potential recreation uses of this site, further investigation, community consultation and the development of a masterplan is required before a decision can be made on the suitability of this location for a fenced dog park.

Toronto Catchment Gap and Opportunity Analysis

While the Toronto Catchment is oversupplied by two dog off-leash areas from a ratio of supply for dog off-leash areas, there are still two suburbs that have limited access.

The suburbs of Awaba, Toronto West and Wangi Wangi are identified as gap areas. Awaba only just meets the 10-minute drive accessibility criteria to an existing dog off-leash area, while Toronto West and Wangi Wangi have high level of dog ownership.

Analysis of potential sites has not provided any possible solutions at Toronto West and Awaba. The only community land in both of these areas is either used as sportsground or drainage reserves or is small and already contains a playground. The Dogs in Public Open Space Policy does not permit new dog off-leash areas to be located on sportsgrounds, while the Companion Animals Act prohibits dog within 10m of a playground.

Assessment of Council community land opportunities to provide new dog off-leash areas to service gap areas has identified a possible solution for Wang Wangi, located at:

- Myuna Bay Foreshore – shared dog off-leash area (providing access to water for swimming)

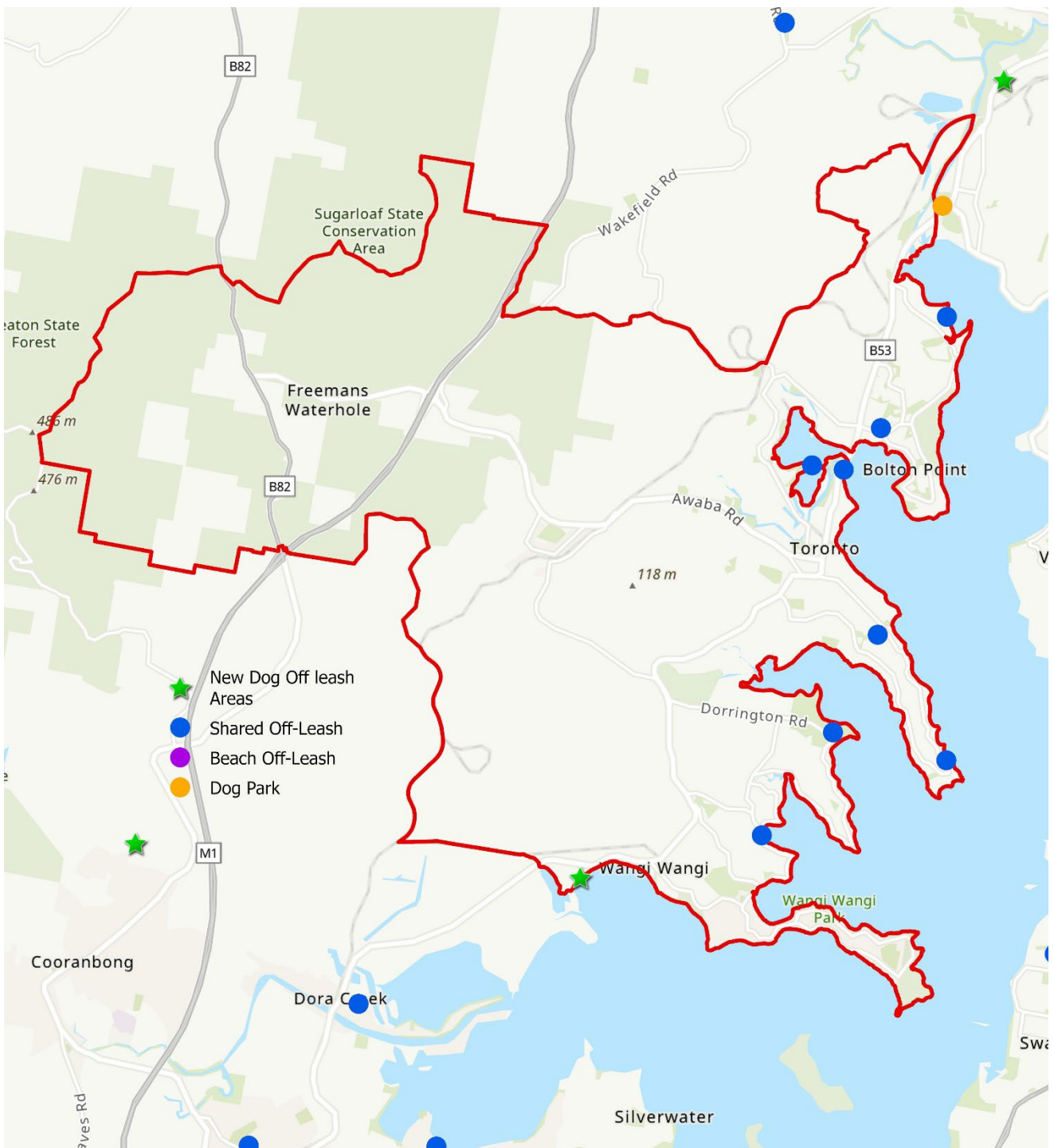
As identified in Section 6.4.3, a dog park is required for this catchment, with Hampton St Reserve, Carey Bay identified as potential solution, pending further investigation, community consultation and master planning. Should this site not provide a viable option, then existing dog off-leash areas will need to be further assessed as to their potential to be converted to a fenced dog park.

Appendix 1 provides a map of this new dog off-leash site.

Figure 10 illustrates the potential future dog off-leash areas and includes:

- Current dog off-leash areas
- Proposed new dog off-leash area

Figure 10 - Toronto Catchment Proposed Future Dog Off-leash Areas



6.5 Morisset Catchment

Morisset is the south-western most planning area in Lake Macquarie. It includes the suburbs of Cooranbong, Martinsville, Mandalong, Wyee, Wyee Point, Morisset, Dora Creek, Eraring, Bonnells Bay, Brightwaters, Sunshine, Mirrabooka, Silverwater, Morisset Park, Windermere Park, Yarrawonga Park, and Balcolyn.

Current Dog Off-Leash Supply

Table 24 - Morisset Catchment Current and Future Population

Charlestown	2021			2036		Growth to 2036
	People Population	Dog Population	% Dogs to People	People Population	Dog Population	
Totals	26,408	13,573	51.4%	35,350	18,169	33.9%

Largest existing dog populations in the suburbs of Cooranbong, Wyee and Bonnells Bay.

Largest people population growth expected in Cooranbong and Wyee.

Table 25 – Morisset Catchment Existing Dog Off-Leash Area Supply

Classification	Quantity	Area (ha)	People per Site	Dogs per Site	Average size
Shared Dog Off-Leash	4	9	6,602	3,393	2.3
Beach Dog Off-Leash	0	0	0	0	0
Dog Park	0	0	0	0	0
Catchment Total	4	9	6,602	3,393	2.3

Figure 11 provides a map of the existing supply and classification of dog off-leash areas in the Glendale Catchment. Table 26 provides an assessment of the dog off-leash area supply in this catchment.

Figure 11 - Morisset Catchment Current Dog Off-Leash Areas by Classification

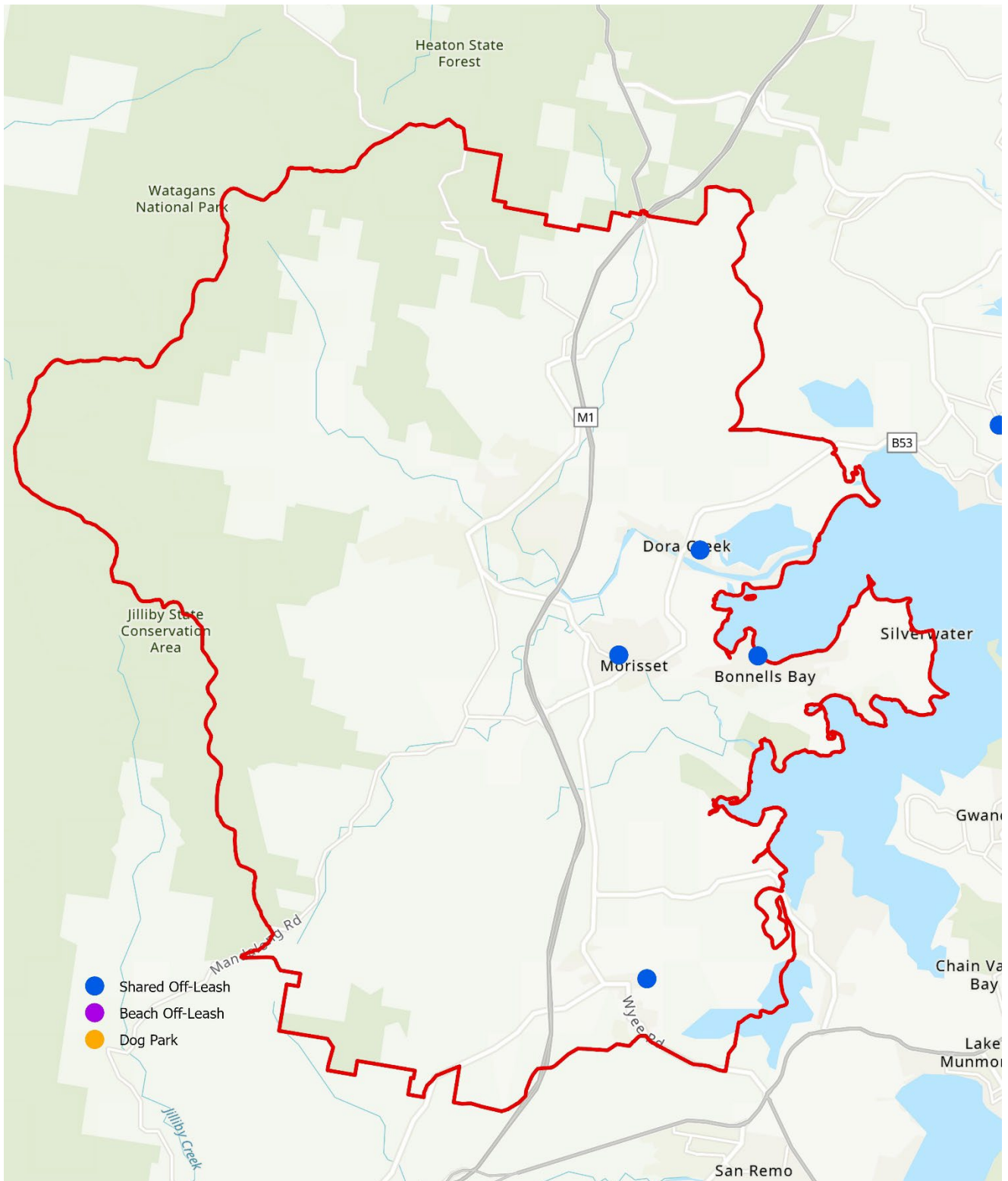


Table 26 - Morisset Catchment Dog Off-Leash Area Supply Assessment

Criteria	Comments
Provision	<p>The Morisset catchment is currently undersupplied by two dog off-leash areas from a ratio of supply. Gaps are identified suburbs of Earing, Cooranbong, Yarrawonga Park, Balcolyn, Silverwater, Sunshine, Brightwaters, Windermere Park, Morisset Park, and Wyee Point.</p> <p>Of the four shared dog off-leash areas, one is located on a sportsground that has a current time restriction of Monday to Friday from sunrise to 10am.</p> <p>There are no fenced dog parks within the catchment.</p>
Access/Distribution	<p>There is no access to a dog off-leash location within a 2km walk of the following suburbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earing • Cooranbong • Yarrawonga Park • Balcolyn • Silverwater • Sunshine • Brightwaters • Windermere Park • Morisset Park • Wyee Point <p>All suburbs are within a 10-minute drive of a dog off-leash location.</p> <p>Figure 10 illustrates a 1.5 km buffer around each of the dog off-leash areas in the Morisset catchment to provide an estimate of the population that are likely to be within a 2km walk. This does not include analysis of walkability factors, including barriers of main roads that don't allow pedestrian access, footpath availability, etc. The intention of this figure is to highlight the areas/suburbs that are a significant distance away from the 1.5km buffer of an existing dog off-leash area.</p>
Dog Off-Leash Area Size	<p>Shared off-leash areas within the catchment are over the recommended minimum 4,000m² size, ranging from 5,700m² to 36,100m².</p>

Proposed Changes to Current Dog Off-Leash Areas

Site Suitability Assessments against the framework set out in Section 4.2.3 have been completed and have recommended changes to the following current dog off-leash areas. Maps identifying all dog off-leash areas, including proposed changes can be found in Appendix 1.

Table 27 - Morisset Catchment Proposed Changes to Existing Dog Off-leash Areas

Dog Off-leash Area	Proposed Changes
Wyee Oval, Wyee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce from approximately 31,900m² to a new area of 20,000m² • Removal of natural area of bushland from the dog off-leash area to protect environmental values of this area • Time restrictions changed from 'off-leash at all times', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training'
Bernie Goodwin Memorial Park, Morisset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocated from Bernie Goodwin Memorial Park to Gibson Oval, Morisset due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Existing off-leash area including newly developed playground, skate park, picnic area and car park, causing high levels of conflict. In contradiction to Companion Animals Act. ○ Existing off-leash area on highly used sportsground that has poor drainage ○ Gibson Oval having minimal use by sporting club in winter season and no use in the summer season

Pendlebury Park, Bonnells Bay

- Time restrictions changed from 'sunrise to 10am Monday to Friday', to 'leash free when not in use for organised sport or training'
- Area changed from 36,100m² (not functional) to 11,000m²
- Relocated from Pendlebury Park to Bonnells Bay Park due to:
 - Existing off-leash area requiring the removal of natural area bushland that includes incompatible Endangered Ecological Communities and salt marsh areas. Reduces off-leash area to 4,700 m²
 - Identified conflict of use with other adjacent recreation users of the picnic areas, playground and boat ramp within Pendlebury Park.
 - Bonnells Park having a large open space area of 13,500m² that has minimal embellishments and significantly lower use.

Planned New Dog Off-Leash Areas

The Morisset Catchment Development Contributions Plan identifies a new 5,000m² fenced dog park within the new residential development area at Wyee. In addition, the North Cooranbong Voluntary Planning Agreement identifies a new 5,000m² fenced dog park adjacent to the proposed new on-site sporting oval within the new North Cooranbong residential development.

The land for the proposed dog park at Wyee has recently been the subject of negotiation with the residential land developer, along with other recreation facilities. From these negotiations, suitable land has not been identified to allow the development of the dog park at this location.

The proposed dog park at Cooranbong is required to be delivered by the residential land developer of the Watagans Estate. This 5,000m² dog park will be delivered in line with the release of subdivision certificates for the residential development, which is timed at 1,250 lots. This dog park will be important to address the high number of dogs already existing in Cooranbong and the significant population growth forecasted to 2036.

Morisset Catchment Gap and Opportunity Analysis

The Morisset Catchment requires two new additional dog off-leash areas to meet the ratio of supply for dog off-leash areas to 2036.

The suburbs of Cooranbong, and the eastern suburbs of the Morisset Peninsula are identified as significant gap areas, given the population density of these suburbs and the high level of dog ownership. The suburb of Wyee Point is considered a pocket gap area.

Analysis of potential sites has not provided any possible solutions at Wyee Point. The only community land of the required size available is in Wyee Point Reserve. However, due to high populations of kangaroos that graze in this grass area, it is not considered that dogs off-leash would be a compatible use.

Assessment of Council community land opportunities to provide new dog off-leash areas to service all gap areas has identified possible solutions in Cooranbong and Sunshine. These are located at:

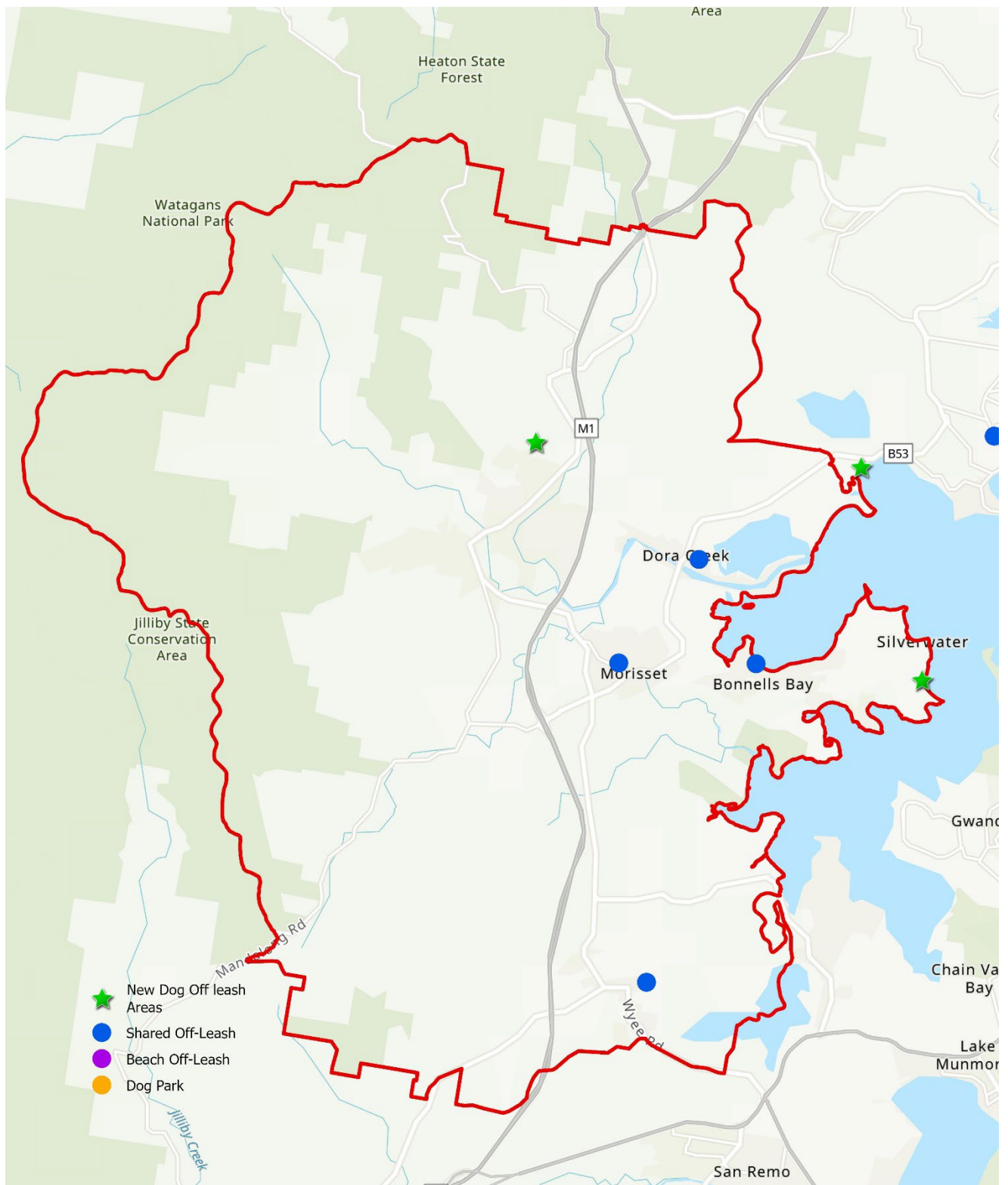
- Watagan Park onsite Sporting Complex – dog park
- Sunshine Park, Sunshine – shared dog off-leash area

Appendix 1 provides a map of these new dog off-leash sites.

Figure 12 illustrates the potential future dog off-leash areas and includes:

- Current dog off-leash areas
- Proposed new dog off-leash area

Figure 12 - Morisset Catchment Proposed Future Dog Off-leash Areas



7 Education and Regulation

Education and regulation are important components to the success of any dog off-leash area. Clear information is required for users of open space to ensure that they understand the difference between dog off-leash areas, dog on-lead areas and dog prohibited areas, and the responsibilities for exercising dogs in public open spaces. The regulation of dogs in open space relies on the clarity and understanding of this information. Dog owners need to understand that not everyone wants to encounter dogs when they visit a park or beach.

7.1 Education

Community education and awareness is paramount to the management of dogs in open spaces. Opportunities to enhance awareness for dog owners of their responsibilities in Council managed open spaces areas should be facilitated through a variety of options. Council currently has a brochure on the availability and location of dog off-leash areas, and online maps that can be accessed through Council's website.

To further improve education and awareness of dogs in open space, it is recommended to:

- Further develop the brochure to include information on the distinction between dog off-leash, on-lead and prohibited areas; maps of all dog off-leash areas; responsibilities of dog owners when dogs are in open spaces; signage used in open spaces to delineate dog on and off leash and prohibited areas; consequences of not adhering to the rules and regulations
- Distribution of this brochure at all Council run facilities as well as online
- Partnership with dog training operators, veterinarians, puppy schools to distribute the brochure to dog owners
- Inclusion of the brochure in the spring edition of the hard copy distributed Council newsletter in the first year following adoption of the strategy, and then every second year following
- Provision of new signage in open spaces to provide clarity on areas that are off-leash, on lead or prohibited (discussed further in Section 7.2) and owners responsibilities.

7.2 Signage

Signage is an on-site tool that is essential for all users of open space to understand the rules and regulations applied to that area. Signage specific for dogs in open space is required to provide on the ground information for dog owners and other users to clearly delineate where dogs can be off-leash, on lead or prohibited from and what their responsibilities are.

Assessment of our existing signage for dog off-leash areas has identified incorrect, contradictory and unclear signage at a number of locations. Poor location of some signs doesn't provide users the opportunity to identify dog off-leash areas, as they are not located near major entry points to the area.

A good example of a site location sign can be found at Redhead Beach, see below. This sign is located at major entry points and clearly defines the areas where dogs are permitted off-leash, on lead and prohibited.

Figure 13 - Example of a Clear Site-Specific Dog in Open Space Location Sign



Assessment of other Council's signage has identified some good examples that could be used in Lake Macquarie to ensure simple, easy to interpret signs are incorporated. The Central Coast Council has incorporated a traffic light system of signage that make people aware when they are entering a dog off-leash, on lead or prohibited area. These signs are simple to read, and use the colours of a road traffic signal – green (off-leash), orange (on lead), red (prohibited).

Figure 14 - Central Coast City Council Traffic Light Dog Sign System



In the Redhead Beach example, above, these could be used at the beach end entry points and transition point (first, second, third creek) to identify if people are entering a dog off-leash, on lead or prohibited area.

Based on these factors it is recommended that three types of signage should be used in Council's open space areas where appropriate:

- Site location signs at major entry points to a dog off-leash area (similar to Figure 11).
- Traffic light system in open space areas where this will provide clear direction for all users of the open space, including dog owners (similar to Figure 12).
- Regulation signage identifies specific regulations for dog in open space, owner responsibilities and possible infringement fines. These signs identify the rules for dogs in open space and differ depending on if they are for off-leash areas, on lead areas or dog prohibited areas.

7.3 Owner Responsibilities

Dog owners assume responsibility for their dogs when exercising them in open space areas. These include:

- Ensuring dogs are registered and wearing a dog collar with a tag identifying the name of the dog and contact number for the owners
- All dog waste is picked up and correctly disposed of in an appropriate bin
- A person 16 years or over is present and responsible for the dog in the open space area
- One person does not have more than 4 dogs in their care and control within open space areas
- Restricted breeds or dogs declared as dangerous are not taken into open space areas
- Not entering dog prohibited areas including within 10m of playgrounds, skate parks, patrolled beach areas, Green Point Foreshore Reserve or other areas signposted as dog prohibited
- Keeping their dog on lead when not in dog off-leash areas
- Keeping their dogs under effective control when in an off-leash area
- Understanding that owners can be held liable if their dog attacks another person or animal.

7.4 Regulation

The regulation of dogs in Council managed open space requires a combination of self-managing and when required enforcement by Council rangers. Dog off-leash and on lead areas in open space are provided on the understanding that owners are responsible for their dogs and their actions. These have been identified in Section 7.3 of this report.

Community education and self-managing, is considered the primary tool for regulating dogs in open space. This includes dog owners knowing their responsibilities and other users understanding the open space areas dogs are permitted to be in. Signage is a good support tool for on the ground knowledge of a specific site, so it is clear where dogs are permitted on lead, off-leash or prohibited.

The final tool for regulation is education and enforcement through Council rangers. Rangers have the authority to issue fines in line with the Companion Animals Act, should breaches with dogs in open space occur. As rangers have a vast breadth of responsibility within a Council area, and are a finite resource, it is unrealistic to shoulder the majority of responsibility of dogs in open space to them.

Rangers, being at the frontline with the community, have an important role in education, building relationships, as well as enforcing rules and regulations. On the ground community education is particularly important when there are changes to dog off-leash, on lead or prohibited areas.

Appendix 1 Site Suitability Assessment Outcomes

Belmont Catchment

Hams Beach, Caves Beach



Existing off leash area

Proposed off leash area

Address	The Esplanade, Caves Beach
Area	19,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash and Beach off leash
Assessment summary	<p>Relatively flat grassed area encompassing car parking, dunes and beach. Spatial buffer to the adjoining properties but no visual demarcation or signage to denote boundary extents of the off leash space within the grassed area or beach. Buffer of approximately 250m between the beach off leash area and full (potential) extent of the beach patrol area. Dunes form part of a rehabilitation corridor and Landcare site.</p> <p>Existing facilities include a bin and water.</p>
Recommendation	<p>Remove sand dunes from the dog off leash area to assist with rehabilitation objectives and encourage use of existing beach access points.</p> <p>Removal of grassed area to address conflict with the car park and extend the current beach off leash area north by approximately 220m.</p>

Thomas Humphrey's Reserve, Swansea



Existing off leash area

Address	Corner Wallarah Street and Dobinson Drive, Swansea
Area	13,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Forms part of broader Swansea Foreshore District Park. Relatively flat, well draining open space with shade trees. Considered a sufficient size to provide a buffer to adjacent local roads and car parking. Good accessibility, linked to the shared pathway network and adjacent to car parking. Existing facilities include public toilets, drinking water, seat and natural shade.
Recommendation	No changes proposed

Dobinson Reserve



Existing off leash area



Proposed off leash area

Address	Corner Tirriki Street and Pacific Highway, Blacksmiths
Area	20,300sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Off leash area encompasses full extent of this local park which includes a fenced playground, open grassed area and shade trees. Level site with good surveillance from adjoining streets. Limited off-street parking and connected via adjacent shared pathway. No physical barrier or sufficient spatial buffer to the adjoining Pacific Highway and future shared pathway (Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Track).
Recommendation	Reduce extent of shared off leash area to southern section of the park to provide a sufficient buffer to the playground and adjacent recreation space free of dogs off leash. New off leash area approximately 8,000sqm. Further investigate the need for a barrier to the adjoining Pacific Highway including vegetation or partial fencing.

Nine Mile Beach



Existing off leash area

Address	Awabakal Avenue, Blacksmiths
Area	54,700sqm
Facility Type	Beach off leash area
Assessment summary	Off street parking provided at the main access point to the beach. Four-wheel drives (4WD) are permitted to drive on this section of the beach, creating risks for dogs off leash.
Recommendation	Liaise with relevant stakeholders regarding current and future plans for 4WD access on this section of beach.

Marks Point



Existing off leash area

Address	Corner Haddon Crescent and Docker Street, Marks Point
Area	6,800sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Level open space encompassing shade trees with good surveillance from surrounding streets. Cable fence along Haddon Crescent and low-level vegetation adjacent to Docker Street demarcating boundary to adjacent local/low traffic roads. No footpath links to the facility, but within quiet residential streets with provision for on street parking. No existing facilities.
Recommendation	No change

Charlestown Catchment

Lenaghan Park, Belmont North



Existing off leash area

Address	Wommara Avenue, Belmont North
Area	27, 000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Local sports facility, encompassing main, surrounding turf areas and internal informal access way. Bordered by residences and adjacent sports facilities.
Recommendation	Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.

Red Head Beach



Existing off leash area



Proposed off leash area

Address	Redhead Beach
Area	124,000sqm
Facility Type	Beach off leash area
Assessment summary	<p>Beach off leash area currently encompasses 700m section of beach extending from Second Creek to boundary of Council land, accessed from Cain Street car park via a concrete path and beach track or Webb Park via the Ken and Audrey Boardwalk. On leash area between First and Second Creek. Dog prohibited area encompassing patrolled beach area, comparatively small when compared to on/off leash area, exacerbated by recent erosion events. Issues of dogs off leash in on-leash area.</p> <p>Existing facilities include public toilets at Webb Park and tap at Cain Street car park.</p>
Recommendation	Remove dog-on-leash section of the beach and extend prohibited area north to current off leash area (Second Creek). Dog off leash area retained as current.

Molly O'Connor Park



Existing off leash area

Address	Kalaroo Road, Redhead
Area	22,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Relatively level area with shade trees. Passive surveillance provided by adjacent residences and roads. A level of off-street parking and on street parking. Adjacent to main road requiring a physical boundary to address safety. Existing facilities include a tap.
Recommendation	Further investigate the need for a barrier to the adjoining Kalaroo Road including vegetation or partial fencing.

Valentine



Existing off leash area

Address	Corner Ruston Avenue and Crusade Close, Valentine
Area	19,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Sloping site encompassing a fenced detention pond. Topography of the site impairs functionality and accessibility. Site encompasses shade trees and provides local off leash opportunity.
Recommendation	No changes

Thomas H Halton Park (unfenced)



Existing off leash area



Proposed off leash area

Address	Thomas H Halton Park, Macquarie Drive, Eleebana
Area	66,800sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed sunrise to 10am every day and 4.30pm to sunset Monday to Friday. No off leash public holidays)
Assessment summary	<p>A popular off leash area providing a large open space with walking paths, lake access and shade trees. Part of a destination park providing multiple recreation opportunities. Off leash area encompasses shared pathway, BBQ facility, bushland area and adjacent to fenced playground. Proximity of BBQ facility and playground to the off leash area contravenes the Companion Animals Act.</p> <p>Existing facilities include off street parking, public toilets, seating, bins, tap and signage.</p>
Recommendation	<p>Reduce the extent of the off leash area to address the conflict between dogs exercising off leash and cyclists and meet the requirements of the Companion Animals Act for dogs to be 10 metres from a playground and BBQ. Remove current time restrictions to provide for off leash within the reduced area at all times.</p> <p>Remove the natural area bushland located between the shared pathway and Macquarie Drive. New area approximately 16,000sqm.</p>

Thomas H Halton Park (fenced)



Existing off leash area

Address	Thomas H Halton Park, Macquarie Drive, Eleebana
Area	2,000sqm
Facility Type	Dog Park
Assessment summary	<p>A recently developed fully fenced dog park encompassing rock scramble and landscaping. Surface treatment is decomposed granite.</p> <p>Existing facilities include off street parking, shade shelter, seating and drinking water.</p> <p>Environmental site constraints dictated the area of this facility which is less than that recommended in the Site Assessment Criteria.</p>
Recommendation	No change

Bahloo Reserve



Existing off leash area



Proposed off leash area

Address	Munro and Merrigum Streets, Windale
Area	44,300sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	<p>The off leash area applies to the whole reserve, encompassing the cricket oval, playground, skate park and surrounding bushland. The site is bordered by roads on three sides providing passive surveillance and off street parking. Overlapping of the off leash area with the skate park and playground contravenes the Companion Animals Act. The size of the sports oval and trees adjacent to Merrigum Street provide a level of buffering to the road.</p> <p>Existing facilities are seating and public toilet associated with the recreation area.</p>
Recommendation	<p>Reduce the extent of the off leash area to address the overlap with the recreation facilities and meet the requirements of the Companion Animals Act for dogs to be 10 metres from a playground/ skatepark. Remove the natural bushland area.</p> <p>Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.</p>

Goundry Street Reserve



Existing off leash area

Address	Goundry Street, Gateshead
Area	15,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	<p>Informal cricket facility, adjacent to natural area watercourse and bushland identified as Endangered Ecological Community. Level of off street parking and car park associated with the adjacent higher level sportsground. Bordered on one side by a local level road with adequate passive surveillance.</p> <p>No existing facilities.</p>
Recommendation	Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.

Adjacent Charlestown Netball Courts, Charlestown



Existing off leash area

Address	Adjacent netball courts, Dudley Road, Charlestown
Area	9,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (when netball courts are not in use)
Assessment summary	<p>Relatively level site adjacent to netball courts, cemetery and main road. Shade trees, but at the periphery of the site, in close proximity to the road. Car parking associated with the netball facility. No barrier to the adjacent Dudley Road. Timed off leash addresses the potential conflict with sporting use of the adjacent netball courts.</p> <p>No existing facilities.</p>
Recommendation	Further investigate the need for a barrier to the adjoining Dudley Road including vegetation or partial fencing.

Glendale Catchment

Cardiff Park



Existing off leash area

Address	Orchard Road, Cardiff
Area	16,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	Off leash area located on local sportsground bounded by an open concrete drain and residences discreet from the broader sports facility and separated from the road. Linkage of the site to the broader pedestrian network is convoluted. Level of natural shade. Car parking associated with the main sportsground. No existing facilities.
Recommendation	Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.

Speers Point Park



Existing off leash area

Address	Creek Reserve Road, Speers Point
Area	10,000sqm
Facility Type	Dog Park
Assessment summary	A level turfed off leash area with shade trees and good passive surveillance from adjacent shared pathway and roads. Off street parking (approximately 20 formal spaces plus informal). Existing facilities include shade shelter, seating, agility equipment and water. Public toilets at Speers Point (approximately 400m via the shared pathway. Meets the requirements for a dog park.
Recommendation	Address the gates opening directly onto the shared pathway.

Gregory Park



Existing off leash area



Proposed off leash area

Address	Hyndes Street, West Wallsend
Area	60,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	<p>The off leash area applies to the whole reserve, encompassing two sportsgrounds, multi-court, playground and car parking. Overlapping of the off leash area with the playground contravenes the Companion Animals Act.</p> <p>Existing facilities associated with the sportsground.</p>
Recommendation	<p>Reduce the extent of the off leash area to meet the requirements of the Companion Animals Act for dogs to be 10 metres from a playground and remove the car parking area. New area approximately 41,000 sqm.</p> <p>Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.</p>

Taylor Park



Existing off leash area

Address	Government Road, Barnsley
Area	31,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	<p>The off leash area applies to one of two sportsgrounds and adjacent area. Bordered by roads on three sides with good surveillance from residences.</p> <p>Off street parking and a level of informal parking associated with the sportsground.</p>
Recommendation	Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.

Toronto Catchment

Booragul Foreshore Reserve

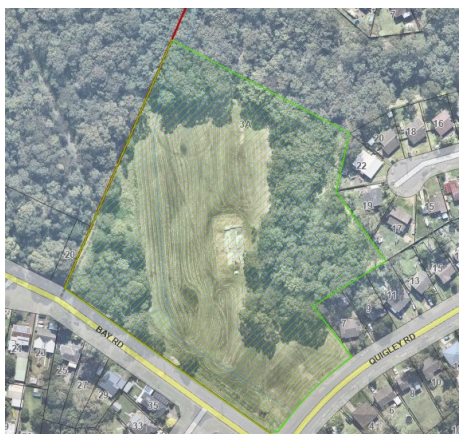


Existing off leash area

Proposed off leash area

Address	First Street, Booragul
Area	20,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Highly utilised foreshore park adjacent to the art gallery and Awaba House. Off leash area is a linear space with access to the lake. Low level vegetation providing minimal shade. Southern section encompasses native EEC. Existing facilities within the broader reserve include off street car parking, water connections, seating and within proximity to public toilets. Future shared pathway identified in the Art Gallery Precinct Master Plan (2011) and Bike Strategy (R3-05 Museum of Art and Culture and Marmong Point Marina).
Recommendation	Amend the boundaries of the shared off leash area to remove the land categorised as natural area (EEC). New area approximately 4,500sqm.

Corner Bay Road and Quigley Street



Existing off leash area

Proposed off leash area

Address	Corner Bay Road , Bolton Point
Area	28,300sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Shared off leash area encompassing natural area bushland and skate park (demarcated by a cable fence). Bordered by local roads on two sides, providing passive surveillance. Land area provides an opportunity to concentrate off leash activity back from the roads. A level of shade provided by trees and on street parking. Water connection (bubbler within the skate park area).
Recommendation	Amend the boundaries of the shared off leash area to remove the land categorised as natural area and the fenced skate park. New area approximately 14,000 sqm.

Toronto Lions Park



Existing off leash area

Proposed off leash area

Address	Corner Main Road and Anzac Parade, Toronto
Area	32,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed to 10am daily except market days)
Assessment summary	Off leash area encompasses the entire reserve including a boat ramp, informal car parking, access road, playground and BBQ facilities. Identified in the Parks and Play Strategy as a District Park. A Landcare site with trees providing a level of shade. Linked to adjoining residential areas by footpaths. No physical barrier or sufficient spatial buffer to the adjoining Main Road. Existing facilities include a public toilet, off street parking, water connection and seat.
Recommendation	Reduce extent of shared off leash area to provide a sufficient buffer to the playground, BBQ area, boat ramp and internal road. New off leash area approximately 20,000sqm. Further investigate the need for a barrier to the adjoining Pacific Highway including vegetation or partial fencing.

Blackalls Park Reserve



Existing off leash area

Address	Blackall Avenue, Blackalls Park
Area	19,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	Peninsula site, providing good lake access and natural shade. Informal track around the lake encourages walking with dogs rather than congregation in one area. Off leash area part of a broader local park including a recently developed playground. Facilities in the broader reserve include a public toilet, off street parking, water connection and seat.
Recommendation	Realign the boundary of the off leash area, 10 metres back from the playground.

Gurranba Reserve



Existing off leash area

Address	Skye Point Road, Coal Point
Area	14,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	<p>The off leash area applies to the whole reserve with the exception of small parcel of privately owned land. The Parks and Play Strategy identifies the site as a local park, with no future planned embellishments. The site slopes down from the road to the lake with some level of passive surveillance from surrounding residences. Mature trees provide shade and a buffer to the adjacent residences.</p> <p>Existing facilities include off street parking, public toilets and picnic bench.</p>
Recommendation	No change

Hampton Street Reserve



Existing off leash area



Proposed off leash area

Address	Hampton Street, Carey Bay
Area	41,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	The off leash area applies to the whole reserve, encompassing land categorised natural area bushland. The Parks and Play Strategy identifies the site as a local park and Council's Developer Contribution Plans identify a number of future recreation facilities in addition to a dog exercise area. The site is bordered by local roads on two sides. Good surveillance provided by the adjoining residences and streets and on street parking. Off leash area encompasses land categorised as natural area bushland which is also a Landcare Site. Existing facilities include public toilets and dog tap and bowl.
Recommendation	Reduce the extent of the off leash area to remove the area categorised as natural area bushland and to allow space for recreation facilities in accordance with a future master plan. New area approximately 14,000 sqm.

Rathmines Park



Existing off leash area

Address	Dorrington Road, Rathmines
Area	29,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	<p>Rathmines Park is a State Heritage item identified in the Parks and Play Strategy as a city-wide Park. The off leash area is used for events and overflow parking. The Rathmines Master Plan identifies the establishment of more substantive RAAF use interpretive elements within the space. The master plan does not recommend a fenced dog park, given the heritage significance and need to retain the flexibility of the space.</p> <p>An expansive level site with shade trees and adjacent off street parking. Bordered by roads on two sides, with no physical or spatial buffer. Existing facilities within the broader reserve include public toilets, water connection and seating.</p>
Recommendation	Further investigate the need for a barrier to the adjoining Dorrington Street including vegetation or partial fencing.

Foreshore Reserve, Buttaba



Existing off leash area

Address	Ilford Avenue, Buttaba
Area	21,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	<p>Large linear off leash area with lake access, encompassing the entire reserve. Site split into two sections by a creek, navigated via the adjoining footpath. No physical barrier to the adjacent local road.</p> <p>Existing facilities a small number of off street parking spaces</p>
Recommendation	Further investigate the need for a barrier to the adjoining Ilford Avenue including vegetation or partial fencing.

Morisset Catchment

Pendlebury Park



Current off leash area



Proposed off leash area: Bonnell's Bay Park

Address	Pendlebury Park, Grand Parade, Bonnell's Bay
Area	16,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	<p>Linear off leash area with lake access, forming part of a district park including playground, picnic facilities and boat ramp. The off leash area encompasses a large section of saltmarsh identified as an EEC which is not mown.</p> <p>No physical barrier to the adjacent local road. Existing facilities within the broader reserve include public toilets, car parking, water connections and seating.</p>
Recommendation	Consider relocation of the off leash area to address the EEC (the nature of which has the potential to be negatively impacted by dogs) and provide separation to the recreation facilities provided in the park. New area approximately 13,500 sqm.

Bernie Goodwin Memorial Oval, Morisset



Current off leash area



Proposed off leash area: Gibson Oval

Address	Kahibah Street, Morisset
Area	36,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area
Assessment summary	<p>Off leash area encompasses the entire reserve and overlays recently developed recreation facilities including skate park, playground, picnic facilities, playground and local sportsground.</p> <p>No physical barrier to the adjacent local road. Existing facilities within the broader reserve include public toilets, car parking, water connections and seating.</p>
Recommendation	<p>Consider relocation of the off leash area to address functionality issues and non-compliance with Companion Animals Act with regards overlay with recreation facilities. Consider relocation to Gibson Oval, a winter season facility with a lower usage comparative to Bernie Goodwin. New area approximately 11,000 sqm.</p> <p>Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.</p>

Douglas Street, Dora Creek



Current off leash area

Address	Douglas Street, Dora Creek
Area	5,500sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	Off leash area encompasses the smaller of two sportsgrounds identified in the Sports Strategy as a local level facility. Bordered by local road on one side with a low level chain wire fence. On street parking
Recommendation	Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.

Wye Oval, Wye



Current off leash area

Proposed off leash area

Address	Summerhayes Road, Wye
Area	33,000sqm
Facility Type	Shared off leash area (timed)
Assessment summary	Off leash area encompasses sportsgrounds identified in the Sports Strategy as a local level facility. Site encompasses surrounding land categorised as natural area bushland. Bordered by local road on one side with oval set back behind a low level pole fence. Informal off street parking and amenities.
Recommendation	Reduce the extent of the off leash area to remove the area categorised as natural area bushland. New area approximately 20,000 sqm. Amend time restrictions consistent with all off leash facilities on sportsgrounds, to enable dog off leash access outside of training and formal games.

Potential Off Leash Areas

Catherine Hill Bay Beach



Address	Catherine Hill Bay (north), off Northwood Road, Middle Camp
Assessment summary	Current vehicle access and associated parking at the beach at Middle Camp is on private land. The northern boundary of the proposed off leash area borders National Park land that would need to be suitably managed through signage and education. Located within a State Listed Heritage Area and adjoining locally listed Catherine Hill Bay Cemetery. Beach area to the south of the proposed off leash area is owned by Crown Lands. Located a suitable distance from the patrolled beach area.
Recommendation	Beach off leash area (untimed) in conjunction with the implementation of the Catherine Hill Bay Precincts Master Plan and securing public access and parking to the northern section of the beach. Proposed area approximately 17,000 sqm

Nords Wharf Oval



Address	Crangan Bay Drive, Nords Wharf
Assessment summary	Site categorised as sportsground and identified in the Sports Strategy as an informal football facility. Site not of a size to meet required dimensions for a sportsground. Level site with lake access and passive surveillance offered from the adjacent road. Meets size requirements for a shared off leash area. Trees at the periphery provide some shade. Identified as partial flood prone – low hazard. Minimal off street parking adjacent to the site, plus off street parking provided approximately 600m along an informal path along the lake edge. Adjacent bushland area identified as an EEC. Existing facilities include public toilets.
Recommendation	Shared off leash area (untimed) and unfenced. Proposed area approximately 10,000 sqm

Pasterfield Reserve, Cameron Park



Address	Comel Avenue, Cameron Park
Assessment summary	<p>Land categorised as general community use, previously identified as a potential dog off leash area in the Pasterfield Master Plan.</p> <p>Site large enough to provide a shared off leash area (including appropriate buffers to adjacent uses) or as a fenced dog park. Relatively level site vegetated with small tree saplings. Land identified as flood prone, requiring further investigation.</p> <p>Limited on street parking, plus off street parking and public toilet associated with sport and recreation precinct linked via a shared pathway.</p>
Recommendation	Potential shared off leash area or dog park, subject to further investigation. Proposed area approximately 15,000 sqm

Kindyerra Park, Argenton



Address	Cnr Lake Road and Mary Street, Argenton
Assessment summary	The site is bordered in two sides by roads. The site would meet the minimal recommended area for a shared off leash area.
Recommendation	<p>Shared off leash area (untimed). Proposed area approximately 6,500 sqm.</p> <p>May require partial fencing to improve functionality, subject to further investigations.</p>

Myuna Bay Foreshore, Myuna Bay



Address	Wangi Road, Myuna Bay
Assessment summary	<p>Land identified in the Parks and Play Strategy as a local park and encompassing potential future cycle route (Belmont to Morisset).</p> <p>No footpaths linking the site to surrounding developments but with off street car parking to support vehicle access. Adjacent to high trafficked road and playground, requiring appropriate setbacks and buffers, achievable through the linear section of the park. Area meets the criteria for a shared off leash area.</p> <p>Lake access with existing trees provide level of shade. Existing facilities include a public toilet, car parking, seating and water connections.</p>
Recommendation	Shared off leash area (untimed). Proposed area approximately 14,000 sqm

Edgeworth (Turnbull Street)



Address	Turnbull Street, Edgeworth
Assessment summary	<p>Land categorised as general community use, the primary role of which is a power easement. Linear space bordered by residences on two sides, slopes up from Turnbull Street to Neilson Street. Potential impact with regards proximity to adjacent residences might need to be monitored, but as a local facility, not anticipated to be a significant issue.</p> <p>Within the centre of a residential area, with no footpaths linking to the site, but relatively quiet local roads which also provide for on street parking.</p>
Recommendation	Shared off leash area (untimed). Proposed area approximately 8000 sqm

Sunshine Park, Morisset Peninsula



Address	Silverwater Road, Silverwater
Assessment summary	<p>An open area categorised as park and identified in the Parks and Play Strategy as a local park. Surrounded by natural area bushland encompassing EEC and a Landcare site.</p> <p>Forms part of the broader Sunshine Park which includes a playground, boat ramp and jetty.</p> <p>Playground is approximately 50 metres from the proposed shared off leash area, providing a sufficient buffer between these incompatible uses.</p> <p>Existing facilities include a public toilet, parking and access to water.</p>
Recommendation	Shared off leash area (untimed). Proposed area approximately 6000 sqm

Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough



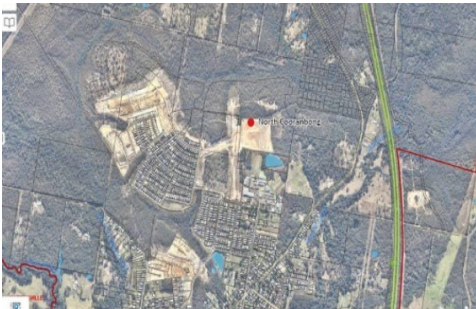
Address	62 Hillsborough Road, Hillsborough
Assessment summary	<p>Large open, level area bounded by bushland and a school. Land categorised as general community use, with no formalised existing usage. Vehicular access off Hillsborough Road. Further investigation required to understand feasibility of providing pedestrian access to the site from Waratah Avenue and the broader residential area.</p> <p>Some level of passive surveillance provided from the school, however surrounding vegetation prevents a visual connection to the adjacent roads.</p> <p>Site not identified as flood affected. Adjacent native vegetation includes an area of EEC.</p>
Recommendation	Shared off leash area (untimed) subject to further feasibility work regarding access to the site. Proposed area approximately 25,000 sqm

Pinny Beach



Address	Future subdivision, Pinny Beach
Assessment summary	
Recommendation	Dog park. Proposed area 5000 sqm. Identified in the North Wallarah Contribution Plan and completed in line with the timing of the plan.

North Cooranbong



Address	Future subdivision, Cooranbong
Assessment summary	
Recommendation	Dog park. Proposed area 5000 sqm. Identified in the North Cooranbong Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). Completed in line with timing of the VPA.