

Latrobe Council Dog Management Policy



Effective **DAY MONTH 2024**



Dog Management Policy

POLICY TYPE	POLICY ADOPTED	AMENDMENT & MINUTE NUMBER	POLICY DOCUMENT NUMBER
Council	XX/XX/XXXX		
DOCUMENT CONTROLLER	RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	DATE OF NEXT REVIEW
Manager Development and Regulatory Services	Manager Development and Regulatory Services	4.3.1 Promote Responsible dog ownership including compliance with the Dog Control Act 2000 and Council's Dog Management Policy	XXXX 2029
PURPOSE	The purpose of the policy is to provide information on responsible dog ownership, identify areas within the municipal area which are available for exercising dogs and which areas are restricted or prohibited.		
SCOPE	This policy applies to an owner or a person who has control of a dog/s, either residing within or visiting the Latrobe Council local government area.		
POLICY	<p style="text-align: center;">1. Council's Responsibilities</p> <p>Within available resource allocation and consistent with priorities, determined by Council, for service provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Authorised persons who are appropriately trained to administer compliance of the Dog Management Policy and the Act • To provide information for dog owners and non-dog owners of their rights and responsibilities under the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i> • To provide exercise areas that recognize the needs of dogs and humans, and to consider any impacts on the environment • To consider the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners in the development of future recreation and urban planning processes 		

2. Dog Owner's Responsibilities

Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership through the following Code for Responsible Dog Ownership:

It is expected that dog owners or persons in control of a dog will comply with all requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and that they are responsible for: -

- ensuring that their dog is registered and microchipped once it is six (6) months of age (and older)
- ensuring that their dog is appropriately housed and contained within a secure yard
- ensuring that their dog wears its Council identification tag
- ensuring that their dog receives necessary care and attention in accordance with good veterinary practice, and is supplied with adequate food and water
- ensuring that their dog receives adequate exercise
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not cause a nuisance to others
- ensuring that their dog is under effective control when in a public place; and
- cleaning up after their dog.

3. Complaints and Nuisance Provisions

The Council recognizes the right for individuals to own and keep dogs; however, it also balances the rights with the communities right to seek assistance in dealing with nuisance caused by dogs.

Any valid complaint will be investigated as quickly as practicable and in accordance with Council's dog management procedures and Council's Customer Service Charter.

Council staff will not deal with complaints of a frivolous or vexatious nature or anonymous complaints.

3.1 Barking Dog Complaints

Barking dogs can be a difficult issue to deal with as every situation is different. In the first instance residents are encouraged to attempt to resolve these matters by directly dealing with the owner before contacting Council. Resources and the current procedure for Dealing with Barking Dogs is located on Council's website.

3.2 Managing other complaints about dogs

Council will consider complaints received relating to an alleged nuisance/ alleged breach to the *Dog Control Act 2000*; however, it may not act upon anonymous or unsubstantiated complaints. Concerns should be submitted to Council in writing and issues raised by complainants will be investigated in a manner which ensures that all facts are considered. A Council Officer may

make enquiries as to the validity of a complaint by speaking to the dog owner, the complainant and surrounding neighbours and/or witnesses.

Where necessary, Council will institute proceedings against a dog owner for an offence relating to a nuisance or when dogs attack, threaten people or animals, or compromise community safety and health.

Enforcement actions Council may take include: -

- issuing a warning, an abatement or infringement notice
- impounding roaming dogs; and/or
- prosecuting when an offence or the impact of an offence is significant.

3.3 Dog at Large

Any dog that wanders off its own property without being under the effective control of a person, is contravening the *Dog Control Act 2000*. If a dog is found 'at large' and able to be contained or is causing a safety issue, a member of the public can call Council's Customer Service or After-Hours staff.

3.4 Dog Attack on Person or Animal

As a matter of public safety, dog attacks are taken very seriously. An owner must ensure that their dog does not attack a person or animal. If your dog attacks or chases people or other animals, Council will investigate where there is sufficient evidence and you may be charged with an offence under the *Dog Control Act 2000* and/or your dog may be seized, even if no actual injury is caused. **If your dog has attacked a person, you must notify Council within 24 hours of the attack.**

Council's website has resources and report forms for dog attacks. It is recommended that as much detail as possible is provided to Council in the initial report (preferably in writing) to assist with the investigation.

If you have just been involved in a dog attack or there is a risk to your safety, please call Council's Customer Service or After-hours number for assistance.

4. Council Pound

Council will operate a municipal pound in accordance with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Dog owners are encouraged to contact Council in the event of losing their dog to expedite the reuniting of impounded dogs with owners.

Where a dog is impounded and not claimed, Council will make reasonable efforts to secure an alternative home for the dog through a rescue organisation.

If a dog has been impounded by Council and is identifiable, a Council Officer will make

contact with the owner as soon as practicable.

A dog owner will be required to pay any fees and charges relating to the impoundment and daily maintenance fee for the dog. Any veterinarian fees incurred during impoundment are the responsibility of the owner.

5. After-Hours Service

Council will operate a limited after-hours service for emergency situations, e.g., dog attacks or animals causing a public risk to safety.

After hours attendance by a Council Officer or contractor will be at the officer's discretion after taking into consideration the risk and circumstance.

Council will not attend after hours for barking complaints. Residents experiencing barking nuisance should contact Council the next business day. Dog(s) at large will only be collected if they are appropriately restrained.

Collected dogs will be taken to the municipal pound. If an impounded dog is identifiable, the pound will contact the owner on the next business day.

6. Welfare of Dogs

Council does not manage sick or injured dogs. Enquiries regarding sick or injured dogs should be directed to the RSPCA in the first instance.

7. Kennel Licences

Any person who wishes to keep more than two domestic dogs or four working dogs (as defined under the *Dog Control Act 2000*) on a property, must apply to the General Manager for a Kennel Licence. Resources and Council's current procedure for Kennel Licences is located on Council's website.

All Kennel Licences are to be renewed at the beginning of each financial year in line with the Schedule of Fees and Charges as determined by Council.

8. Dog Control Zones: Declared Areas

Council under the provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* has declared certain locations where dogs may be exercised, subject to conditions.



No dogs allowed - exclusion area all year



Off leash - supervised area



Timeshare zone - check allowed times and conditions

Please refer to the attached maps for further details.

8.1 Dogs required to be on lead



Dogs on leash

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, in a built-up area, dogs must always be on lead not exceeding 2 metres.

There are some areas of bushland reserves where dog walking is acceptable but only using established tracks and trails with dogs remaining on lead to prevent them from straying into sensitive bushland habitat. Your dog must also be on a lead in all Council parks and recreation reserves, except those designated as off lead or prohibited areas.

8.2 Exercise Areas – Timeshare Zone



Timeshare zone - check allowed times and conditions

Latrobe Council has established special areas at Port Sorell and Latrobe to give your dog the chance to run around leash free without fear of attracting a fine provided it is still under effective control.

TimeShare Zone A - Active during Daylight Savings

- dogs allowed on or off-leash before 10am and after 7pm
 - dogs on leash during the day from 10am to 7pm
 - Outside of Daylight Savings, dogs allowed off leash.
- Squeaking Point 200m each way of the boat ramp.
 - Freers Beach from the Hawley Place Beach access walk- way round to the point that goes out towards Penguin Island.

8.3 Exercise Areas – Dog Off Leash



Off leash - supervised area

Council has declared several areas where dogs can be exercised off lead and although these areas have been created, dogs must be:

- In close proximity of the owner or persons in control
- In sight of the owner or person in control; and
- Be immediately responsive to the handler's commands.

Exercise areas open 24 hours/day/all year

1. Port Sorell Foreshore from the boat ramp south to Panatana Rivulet
2. Thompson Park – Latrobe
3. Pig Island – Bells Parade - Please note there is an on-leash area (see maps)
4. Warrawee Reserve Walking Trail – On Leash Area.
5. Bosworth Park – Dog Park – Latrobe

During Daylight Savings – Open Dawn to Dusk. Upon resumption of Eastern Standard time off leash 24 hours/day

- Hawley Beach from the end of Vine Street - north to Boom gate into Point Sorell Reserve (Start of Larooma Road)

8.3 Prohibited Public Areas

The *Dog Control Act 2000* specifies certain prohibited areas and enables Council to declare additional areas where a person **must not take a dog** other than a guide dog or assistance animal, these are:



No dogs allowed - exclusion area all year

No dog is allowed in the following areas at any time without written permission from the General Manager (excluding Guide Dogs).

Port Sorell

- All schools/crèches
- All playgrounds
- All sports grounds/ovals
- Beach area in front of the Surf Club around to Boat Ramp
- Port Sorell Jetty and Pontoon
- Point Sorell (from the boom gate end of Hawley Esplanade)
- Narawntapu National Park
- Penguin Island (including 100m of the surrounding sand)

- Rabbit Island
- Shell Island
- ALL ISLANDS IN THE RUBICON ESTUARY
- Hawley Beach Foreshore from Hawley Place Beach access walkway (South of Surf Club) to the Hawley Beach exercise area starting at Vine Street/Esplanade
- Port Sorell foreshore from end of Rice Street to the Port Sorell Boat Ramp
- Port Sorell Caravan Park –dogs permitted in certain areas on leash with Management Approval. (See Map).
- Camp Banksia
- Shearwater and Thirlstane Golf Course
- Hawley Reserve
- Panatana Park and beach area near Panatana boat ramp
- Aub Luck Reserve and Rubicon Reserve

Latrobe

- All schools/crèches
- All playgrounds
- All Sports grounds/ovals
- Hospital
- Bells Parade (other than access to Pig Island off leash area and western bank of river on-leash area). Restricted on leash is permitted on pathway from Bells Parade Carpark to the Coastal Pathway.
- Cemetery
- Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Trail designated Mountain Bike Trails Only (Excluding shared pathways/intersecting pathways and Tasmanian Trail)

Further information about Exercise Areas, Restricted and Prohibited Areas can be located on Councils Website.

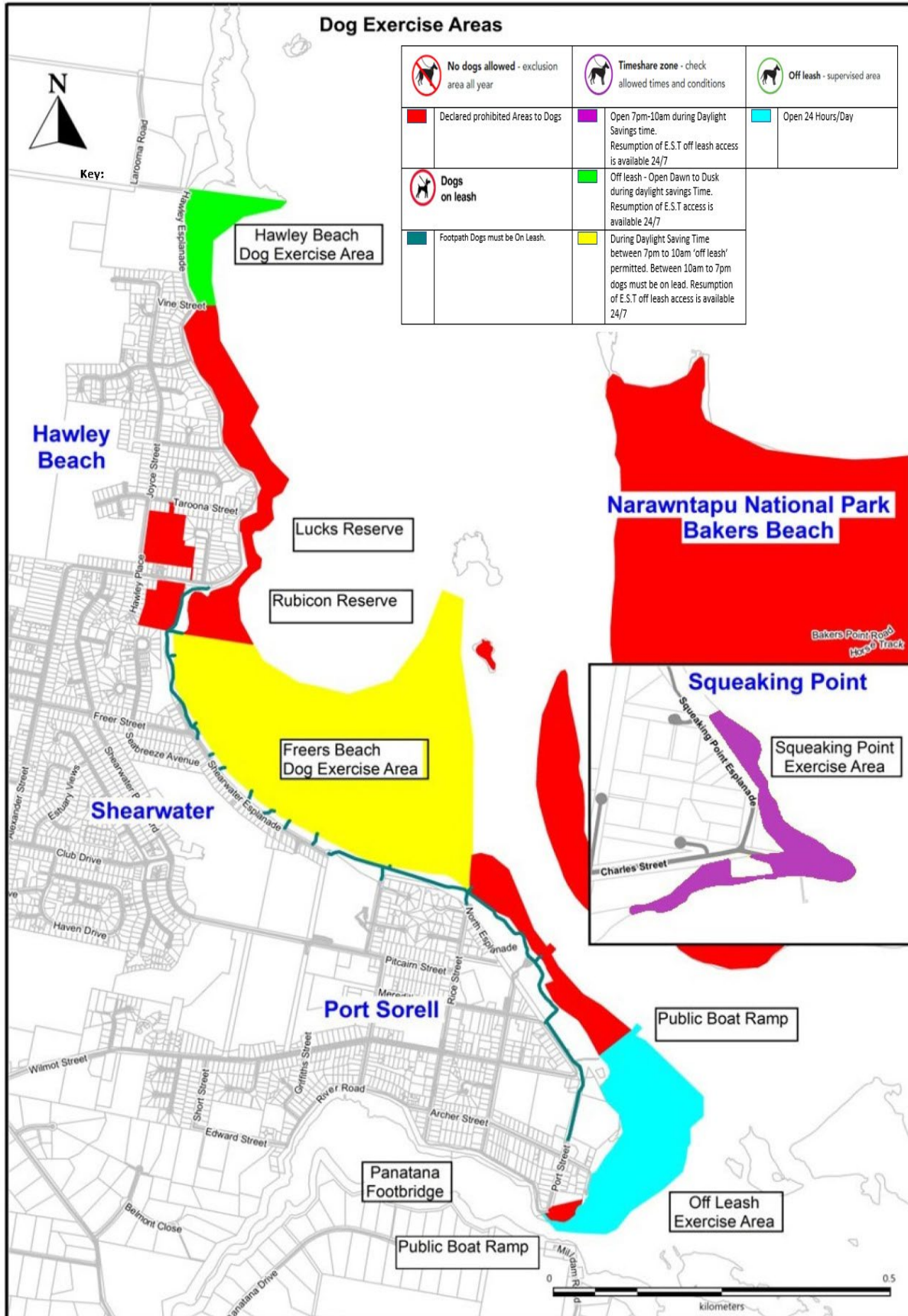
8. Education

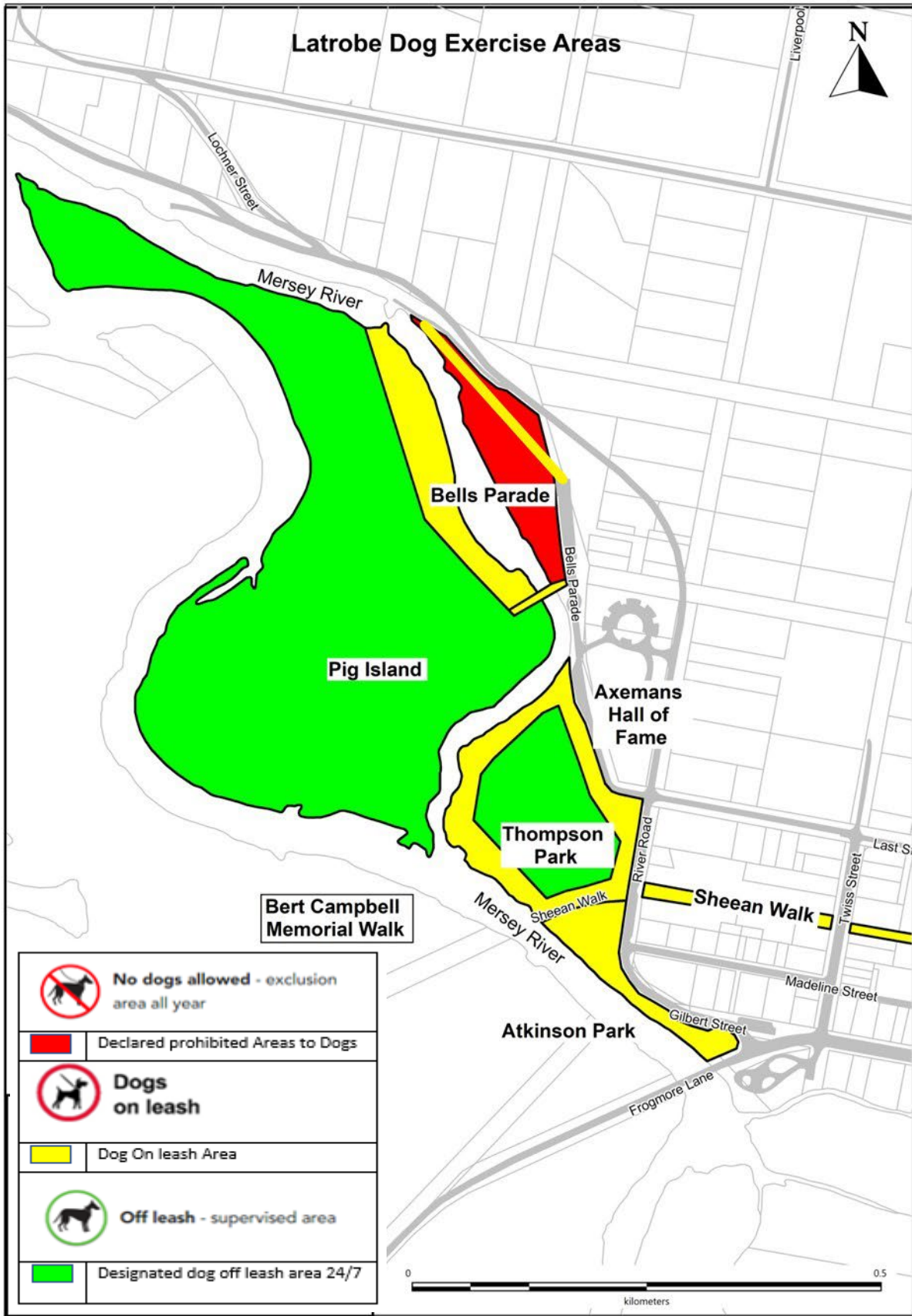
Council provides information resources on their website which complement the administration of the *Dog Control Act 2000*. Council will periodically use media platforms to raise awareness of current issues or provide further clarification to assist with the administration of the Act. A series of informative fact sheets are available on Councils website.

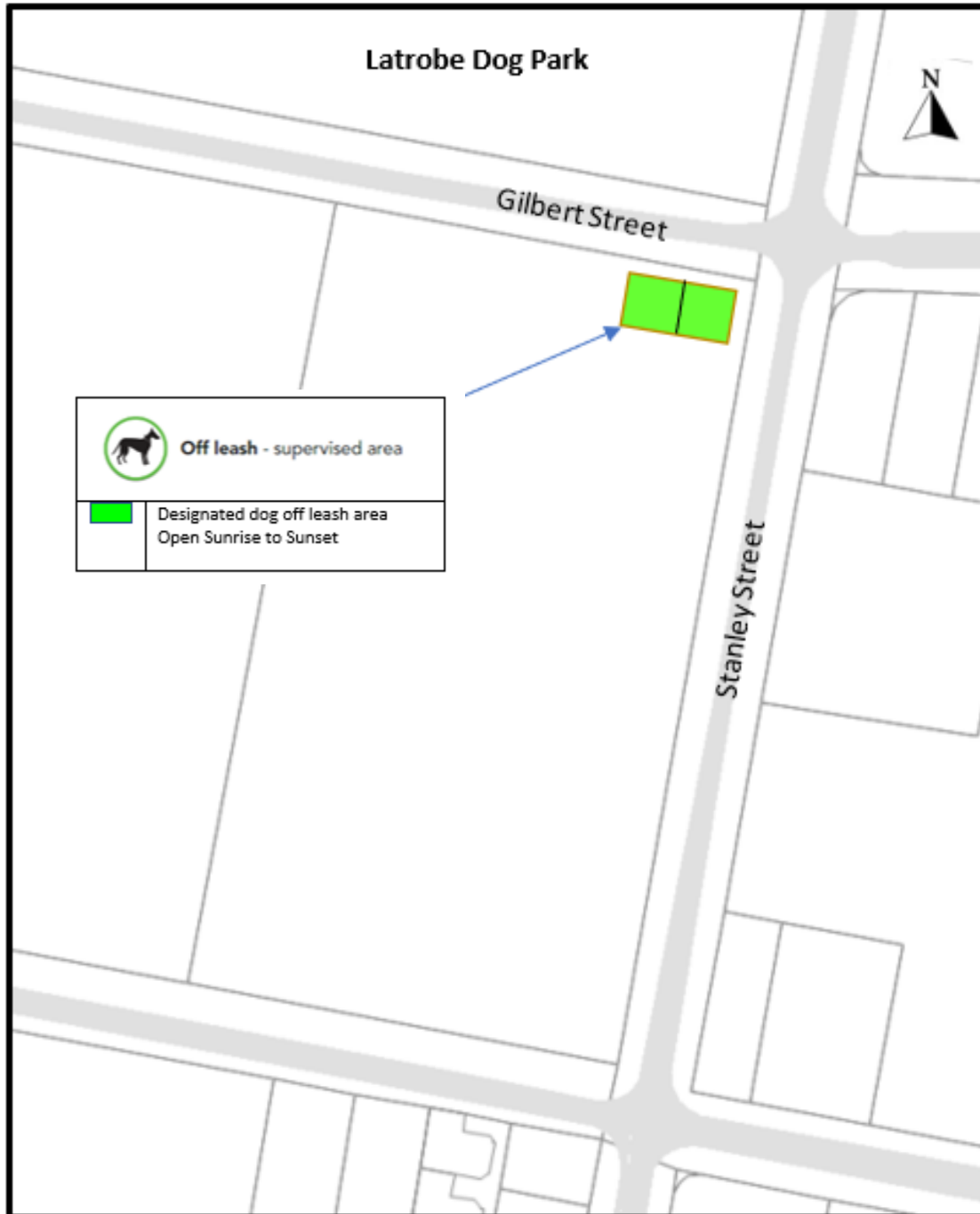
	<p>9. Fee structure</p> <p>Council utilizes the Schedule of Fees and Charges to establish the current fees payable. Fees are subject to annual review and pro-rata fees apply December to March and March to June for new registrations.</p>
	<p>10. Policy Review</p> <p>Every 5 years as required under the Dog Control Act 2000.</p>
<p>Legislation and Related Documents</p>	<p>Dog Control Act 2000 Dog Control Regulations 2010 Local Government Act 1993 Customer Service Charter Dog Management Fact Sheets and Procedures Schedule of Fees and Charges</p>

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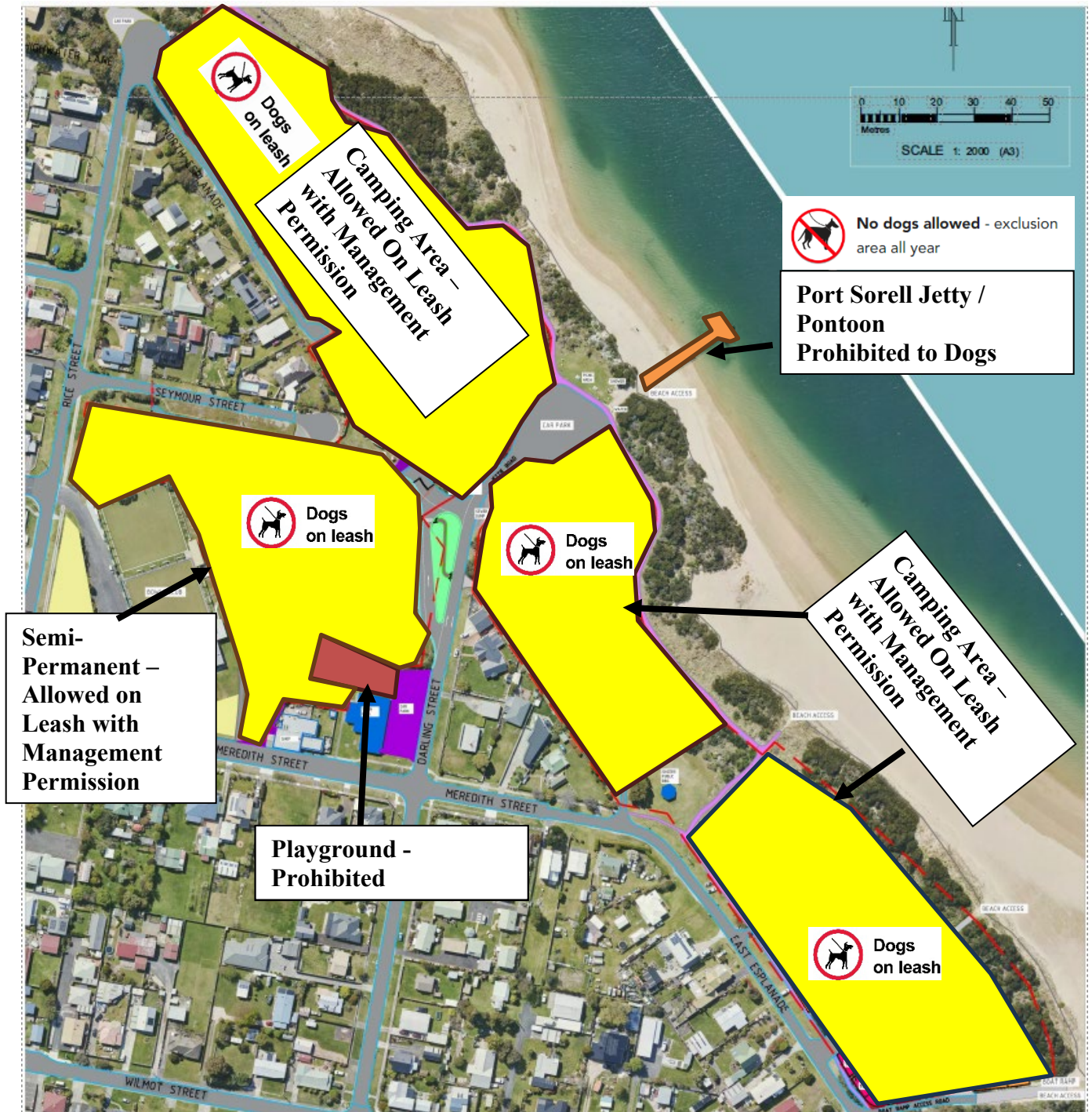
Appendix: Declared Areas







Port Sorell Caravan Park – Latrobe Council





Bringing your dog t's and c's

Dogs are welcome at the Port Sorell Caravan Park all year round subject to compliance with the following Terms and Conditions -

1. Park management must be advised at the time of booking if you are proposing to bring a dog/s. Park management reserves the right to refuse or decline your request to accommodate a dog or dogs within the park at any time.
2. A maximum of two registered dogs are permitted per site. Evidence of registration is required.
3. We charge a dog bond, in the form of pre-authorisation of \$50 per dog on your credit card, that will be charged for non-compliance with these terms and conditions.
4. It is the guest's responsibility to always control and manage their dog/s within the park.
5. Dogs must be secured on a lead no longer than 2 meters in length and contained within your site.
6. Dogs must not be left by themselves at your site.
7. When walking through the park, dogs must always be on a lead and under effective control.
8. Dogs are not allowed within 10m of the playground or taken into the camp kitchen, amenities, laundry, or park office.
9. All dog faeces must be immediately removed and disposed of in the waste bins provided around the park.
10. The guest shall be responsible for any damage or injury caused by the dog/s and shall be liable immediately for any costs incurred because of damage or injury caused.
11. Park management may, at any time, terminate the occupancy of any guest whose dog/s is/are deemed to be displaying anti-social (including nuisance barking) behaviour or receives complaint/s from other guests witnessing anti-social behaviour by your dog/s.

Port Sorell Caravan Park
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