

1.20 Dog Exercise, Prohibited & Rural Leashing Areas Policy

Policy Owner	Executive Director Infrastructure, Development & Environment
Responsible Officer	Manager City Reserves
Date of Approval	01/07/2025
Amended/Revised	03/07/2025

Objective

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Determine:
 - Dog Prohibited Areas;
 - Dog Exercise Areas; and
 - Rural Leashing Areas.
- Inform and educate the community relating to dog ownership responsibilities when exercising of dogs.

Scope

This Policy identifies where dogs are prohibited and where dogs are permitted to exercise either on a leash or off-leash within the City of Albany Local Government Area.

This policy does not apply to registered companion dogs as specified in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* or persons engaged in the training of companion dogs.

Policy Statements

In accordance with Council's adopted Strategic Community Plan 2023, City of Albany's Dog Local Law 2017, and applicable legislation:

- Supports the designation of public land to create a welcoming, safe environment for exercising, and socialising of dogs.
- Promotes community safety and the regulated use of recreational areas by dogs and their handlers.

A: Dog Prohibited Areas (All dogs, exempt: Registered Companion Dogs)

Pursuant to section 31(2B) of the *Dog Act 1976* and section 8 of the *Dog Act 1976* and section 66J of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*, the following areas are established as Dog Prohibited Areas.

Note: This excludes any paths and trails within these areas where dogs are allowed on a leash as per section C.

Section A: Area/Reserve	Location
All Public Buildings	All
All Playgrounds, Basketball Courts & Skate Parks	All
Becker Park (R32523)	Areas of bushland in the reserve.
Cape Riche Campground (R1010, R33850)	The whole of Reserve R1010 and R33850.
Centennial Oval – Retravisson Stadium (Portion R405)	The main sporting oval associated with Retravisson Stadium at the corner of North Rd and Lockyer Ave.

Section A: Area/Reserve	Location
Emu Point Beach and Emu Beach West (R22698)	Being the beach areas from the corner of Boongarrie St/ Cunningham St around to the corner of Hunter St/Roe Pde.
Middleton Beach (R14789)	Being the beach area between the Ellen Cove Jetty and the southern walk track access from Surfers Beach Car Park to the beach. (Dogs are permitted on paths and grassed areas but must be on a leash at all times.)
Rushy Point (R35754)	Being the foreshore area extending from the boundary of Vacant Crown land in the west to the existing bollards along the eastern side of Rushy Point.

B: Dog Exercise Areas

Pursuant to section 31(3A) of the *Dog Act 1976*, the following town areas are established as Dog Exercise Areas.

Section B: Area/Reserve	Location
Barnesby Drive Reserve (R35088)	Area west of Barnesby Dr and 10m east of creek between Anuaka Rd and Target Rd.
Becker Park (R352523)	Park accessed from Baker St North in Lower King, excluding the bushland.
Bovell Park/Square (R30657)	Park surrounded by Jackson St, Mermaid Ave, Bedwell St and Miller St at Emu Point.
Centennial Park Central Precinct	All grassed areas between Lockyer Ave and Sanford Rd when not in use for events.
Clifton St Park (R25356)	Park bounded by Admiral St, Clifton St and Humphreys St in Lockyer exclusive of the playground areas.
Collingwood Park (Portion of R32341)	Areas surrounding but not including the main grassed oval area. Exclusive of when the area is in use for sporting events.
Eco Park (Portion R28725)	Park at corner of Reidy Dr and Warden Ave in Spencer Park, exclusive of bushland areas.
Emu Point Marina Beach (Portion R22698)	Beach area only between Hunter St and Swarbrick St adjacent to the Emu Point Marina.
Foundation Park	Park bounded by Mills St, Vancouver St and Parade St, exclusive of the playground area.
Lancaster Rd Drainage Basin (R49196)	Park bounded by Lancaster Rd, Pegasus Blvd. and Orion Ave exclusive of the playground and lake areas.
Le Grande Drainage Reserve (R36517)	South of Le Grande Ave between Valencia Cl and Salvado Rd.

Section B: Area/Reserve	Location
McGonnell Park (R33006)	Park bounded by Bayonet Head Rd, Evans Rd, Purdie Rd, and Sinclair St Bayonet Head exclusive of the playground areas.
Middleton Beach – Surfers Beach to Firth St (Emu Point) (Portion R14789)	Beach area only, north from the Surfers Beach Car Park to rock wall just south of Firth St as signposted.
The Esplanade (Portion R48199)	Grassed area east of The Esplanade north of Elizabeth St to the boat launching ramp.

C: Rural Leashing Areas

In all areas not described above (Policy Statements A & B), within the City of Albany boundaries (as gazetted), including all trails/paths in bushland reserves, dogs must be exercised on leash and under control at all times.

In rural areas pursuant to section 31(1) of the *Dog Act 1976*, the following areas are established as Rural Leashing Areas.

Section C: Area/Reserve	Location
Frenchman Bay Picnic Area and Beach (Portion R21337)	Beach area and day use sites at Frenchman Bay from Frenchman Bay Rd to the boat launching area at the eastern end of the access road.
Nanarup Beach (Portion R45631)	Beach west of the Taylor Inlet to the Lagoon.

Legislative and Strategic Context

This policy complies with the requirements of the:

- [Dog Act 1976](#); and
- [City of Albany Dog Local Law 2017](#).

This policy relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan 2032:

- **Pillars:**
 - People: A diverse and inclusive community.
 - Planet: Sustainable management of natural areas; balancing conservation with responsible access and enjoyment
- **Outcomes:**
 - Provide facilities and services to meet the needs of families and young children.
 - Provide sustainable protection, adaption and enhancement of the coastline, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, and estuaries.

Review Position and Date

Document and associated procedures to be reviewed annually.

Associated Documents

Associated legislation that has a bearing on this policy includes:

- *Local Government Act 1995*;
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*;
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*;
- *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*; and
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- **Bushland** - Area covered in trees, shrubs, or other natural vegetation.
- **Dog Exercise Area** - Area where dogs may be exercised off leash, but they must still be under control.
- **Dog Prohibited Area** - Area where dogs are not permitted, even on a leash, except for registered companion dogs.
- **Path** - Paved access way made of either concrete, paving or bitumen for the purpose of pedestrian and bike use.
- **Playground** - Area designed and constructed to encourage children's outdoor play including facilities suitable for the riding of bikes, scooters, skateboards, basketball courts etc.
- **Rural Leashing Area** - Area outside a gazetted townsite where dogs must be on a leash and under control at all times.
- **Sporting events** - Defined as an activity involving physical exertion and skill that is governed by a set of rules or customs and is often undertaken competitively. It is organised by a sporting association or club. Training for these activities falls under the definition of sporting event.
- **Trail** - Unpaved access way through parks and bushland areas for the purpose of pedestrian and bike use.