

1 PURPOSE

Council must develop and implement a Dog Management Policy detailing how it will provide dog management within the Burnie municipal district in accordance with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

The *Dog Control Act 2000* provides a regulatory framework for balancing the rights and responsibilities of dog owners against the rights and expectations of the community at large to be free from likely risk of threat, harm and nuisance caused by dogs.

A Council must take all reasonable measures to enforce compliance to the requirements of the Act and to remedy any known breach.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Dog Management Policy is to provide an operational framework for the actions necessary to meet the Council's statutory obligations and responsibilities to ensure dog ownership within the municipality:

- a) minimises likely risk of threat of harm to the amenity and safety of the community; and
- b) facilitates the pleasures and benefits of dog ownership in a responsible and harmonious manner.

3 SCOPE

The Dog Management Policy will:

- a) provide information on responsible dog ownership;
- b) assist administration and enforcement of compliance to the *Dog Control Act 2000*;
- c) identify areas for exercise of dogs;
- d) identify areas where dogs are restricted or prohibited;
- e) identify the fees and charges to be applied to assist with funding of dog management responsibilities; and
- f) identify the Burnie City Council's approach to dog management and control.

4 POLICY

4.1 Code of Responsible Dog Ownership

Responsible dog ownership requires the owner of a dog or the person responsible for a dog to accept full responsibility for meeting all the care and attention needs of a dog and for ensuring the dog does not become a threat or nuisance to the safety or welfare of any other person or animal.

Council recognises dog ownership for assistance, companionship or business reasons is an established and constructive part of life for many people in the Burnie community.

The Code for Responsible Dog Ownership is advisory and does not replace any obligation under any law relating to the ownership or care of an animal.

Compliance to the Code will assist to increase the enjoyment from owning a dog and will enable other persons to equally enjoy being a resident or visitor to Burnie.

Responsible dog ownership requires a person to:

- a) Select a breed and temperament of dog that meets their personal needs and that is best suited to the nature of their budget, lifestyle, household composition, and the premises and location where the owner lives.

The Act identifies certain breeds to be *restricted breeds*; and requires specific additional control and management measures must be applied for dogs of these breeds.

The following are restricted breeds:

- *dogo Argentino*;
 - *fila Brasileiro*;
 - *Japanese tosa*;
 - *American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier*;
 - *Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario*;
 - any other breed, kind or description of dog whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the *Customs Act 1901* of the Commonwealth.
- b) Provide a dog with proper health care and attention, sufficient exercise, appropriate training, and with adequate food, water and shelter.
 - c) Acquire and apply adequate knowledge of the requirements for proper care and management of a dog.

The RSPCA, Tasmanian Canine Defence League, veterinary practitioners, and training and kennel organisations are good sources of information of how to keep a dog safe, happy and healthy.

Dog Management Policy **(DRAFT for consultation)**

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Doc Controller: **Deputy General Manager**

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- d) Register a dog with the council when it reaches six months of age and renew the registration according to Council's Fees and Charges Schedule.

The Council must be informed of any change in ownership or address of the dog, and of the loss or the death of a dog.

- e) Micro-chip a dog with an approved microchip and provide the details required by Regulation 3A before it reaches six months of age.
- f) Obtain a kennel license if more than two dogs or more than four working dogs are kept on a property.
- g) Make sure a dog is wearing a collar and a registration disc whenever in a public place.
- h) Recognise that not all people like or feel comfortable with dogs, and that such people have a right not to feel threatened or inconvenienced by a dog.
- i) Keep a dog under effective control at all times.

The premises at which a dog lives must be adequately fenced or an enclosure provided to prevent the dog from wandering onto other property, a road, or any other public or private place.

A dog must be on a lead and in the care of a responsible person when on any road or footpath or in a Council reserve, unless the Reserve is a declared dog exercise area.

A dog must respond immediately to commands if not on a lead when in a declared free-run dog exercise area.

Particular requirements apply for identification and control of guard dogs, and any dog declared under the Act to be a dangerous dog.

- j) Make sure a dog is not in a place where a dog is prohibited, including in a school or playground.
- k) Immediately clean-up any mess, including faeces, caused by a dog in a public place.
- l) Make sure a dog does not create a nuisance to any person by persistent or loud barking or by behaving in a manner that causes inconvenience or interference to another person's peace, comfort or enjoyment of any place or premises, including by chasing any person, animal, car or bicycle.
- m) Make sure a dog is not allowed, encouraged or provoked to threaten, attack, harass, endanger or otherwise cause apprehension or distress to any person or to any agricultural, domestic or native animal when in a public place or to any person having business on your property.

- n) Acknowledge the Burnie City Council has authority to require compliance to the standards and regulations for responsible dog ownership, and that the Council may be required to take action against an owner or a dog under the *Dog Control Act 2000* for any breach of a regulatory requirement.
- o) Comply with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and with any declaration or direction of an authorised person with respect to a dog; and
- p) Comply with any other legislative requirement relating to the care or treatment of an animal and to the protection of the safety and convenience of the community, including the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

4.2 Declared Areas

Under Division 2 – Declared Areas of the *Dog Control Act 2000*, allows a Council to declare areas that allow, restrict or prohibit dogs.

A declaration must be made in accordance with requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* following a period of community consultation and consideration of comments.

Declared areas to restrict or prohibit dogs do not apply for a guide dog or a hearing dog as defined by the *Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967* or for a dog training to be a guide dog or a hearing dog.

All declared areas are classified as one of the following:

- **Exercise Areas** – Are for the exercise or training of dogs at sites reasonably accessible to dog owners and in locations attractive to use by dog owners and where conflict with other users and values can be minimised.
 - A dog not on a lead in a declared exercise area must be under effective control in accordance with section 4(3) of the Act¹.
 - Use of Exercise Areas must be without exclusion, threat or inconvenience for other dogs. The owner must immediately address excessive barking, aggressive or nuisance behaviour, and disposal of faeces.
- **Restricted Areas** – Access by dogs is restricted or excluded under certain circumstances or conditions for purposes of protecting the amenity, convenience and safety of other persons or activity, whether –
 - On a permanent basis in areas of high and regular levels of use, such as beaches, parks and sports grounds; and

¹ Effective control means the dog must at all times be in close proximity to the person, in sight of the person, and immediately responsive to the person's commands

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- On a temporary or seasonal basis in locations where use by others is limited to a more definable or seasonal period
- Any **Public Reserve** defined under Burnie City Council Public Places By-law No 1 of 2025 within which a dog must –
 - i) be on a lead at all times unless within that part of any reserve that has been declared as a Dog Exercise Area; and
 - ii) not at any time be on that part of a reserve that is a sporting ground.
- Any **cemetery** under the care, control or management of the Burnie City Council to require a dog must be on a lead at all times and under the control of a person attending on a grave site;
- **Prohibited Areas** – Dogs are prohibited in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000* at all times within the following places:
 - Any grounds of a school, preschool, crèche or other place where there is a presence of children unless with the permission of the person in charge of the place;
 - Any shopping centre or any shop unless a pet shop, veterinary surgery, pet grooming shop, or other premises related to the care and management of dogs;
 - The grounds of any swimming pool;
 - Any playing area of a sportsground on which sport is being played;
 - Any area within 10m of a children's playground; or
 - Any location where it is necessary to provide protection to sensitive habitats for native wildlife, with particular emphasis on habitat of the Little Penguin, and river and streamside reserves.

All declared areas: Dog Exercise – off leash (Green), Prohibited (Red) and Restricted – on Leash (Yellow) Areas will be identified by the following or similar signage:



The Council has made the following declarations in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*:

Location	Park / Reserve Name	Declaration
Bass Highway	Blythe Reserve / Tioxide Beach	OFF LEASH
Bass Highway	Wivenhoe Beach	OFF LEASH
Bass Highway	South Burnie Beach – East of Jetty	OFF LEASH
Cooee Point Road	Cooee Creek Beach / Cooee Foreshore Reserve	OFF LEASH
View Rd	View Road Reserve – Fenced Dog Exercise Area	OFF LEASH
Barker St	Barker St Reserve	ON LEASH
Bass Highway	Burnie Park – Pathway between Oldaker and Bass Hwy	ON LEASH
Bass Highway	South Burnie Beach – Boat Ramp and Jetty	ON LEASH
Brickwell St	Oakleigh Park	ON LEASH
Burnie	Mount Street – Landcare Reserve	ON LEASH
Burnie	Bird Street Reserve	ON LEASH
Burnie	Coronation Park Reserve	ON LEASH
Burnie	Coastal Pathway (excluding Burnie Waterfront Reserve / West Beach and the Boardwalk which are prohibited)	ON LEASH
Cooee	Durham Road Reserve	ON LEASH
Hillcrest	Hayes Street Reserve	ON LEASH
Ocean Vista	Jago Reserve	ON LEASH
Park Grove	Richardson Crescent – Eastwood Reserve	ON LEASH

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Location	Park / Reserve Name	Declaration
Park Grove	Uplands Place Reserve	ON LEASH
Park Grove	Brickport Road Reserve	ON LEASH
Park Grove	Janet Drive Reserve	ON LEASH
Ridgley	Circular Road Reserve	ON LEASH
Romaine	Manuka Drive Reserve	ON LEASH
Romaine Reserve	Romaine Reserve – Formed Footpaths Only	ON LEASH
Shorewell Park	Mylan Crescent Reserve	ON LEASH
Shorewell Park	Wright Street Reserve	ON LEASH
Shorewell Park	Curraghmore Aveune Reserve	ON LEASH
Upper Burnie	Euroka Court Reserve	ON LEASH
Upper Burnie	Bathurst Street Reserve	ON LEASH
Upper Burnie	Wilfred Campbell Memorial Reserve	ON LEASH
Upper Natone Rd	Upper Natone Reserve	ON LEASH
View Rd	View Road Reserve (excluding the mountain bike pump track and the Jeremy White basketball court which are both prohibited)	ON LEASH
West Ridgley Rd	Guide Falls	ON LEASH
Wiseman St	Wiseman St Reserve	ON LEASH
Bass Highway	Burnie Park – Areas of park including playground, soundshell and BBQ area	PROHIBITED
Bass Highway	Burnie Skate Park	PROHIBITED
Bass Highway	South Burnie Beach – Yacht Club Beach	PROHIBITED
Cooee Point Road	Cooee Point Reserve	PROHIBITED
Fern Glade Rd	Fern Glade Reserve	PROHIBITED
Main Rd	Wivenhoe Showground	PROHIBITED
North Terrace	Waterfront Reserve and Board Walk	PROHIBITED
Romaine Reserve	Romaine Reserve – excluding formed walking paths.	PROHIBITED
Upper Natone Rd	Natone Reserve / Football Oval	PROHIBITED
West Park / UTAS	Little Penguin Observation Centre	PROHIBITED

4.3 Fee Structure

The Council may establish the fees payable under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

The following principles underpin the fee structure for dog control:

- a) Dog registration fees are to be affordable to all persons;
- b) Dog registration fees are not intended to recover the full cost to Council for dog management obligations from dogs owners;
- c) No distinction is made in the fees applying for companion and working dogs;
- d) Registration fees are payable annually in order to ensure accuracy and currency of the Dog Register;
- e) Fees are to be reviewed annually against CPI movements for the preceding 12 months, and will be set in conjunction with the adoption of fees and charges in the annual Council Budget process;
- f) Discounts are to apply for sterilised dogs to encourage responsible dog ownership.

Proof of sterilization or micro-chipping must be provided from a registered veterinary surgeon or accredited person;

- g) A higher fee is to apply for a dog declared or deemed under the Act to be a dangerous dog;
- h) A discount on the registration fee may apply for registration of a whole dog within 28 days from the date of the annual notice of a requirement to register a dog
- i) Registration fees do not apply for guide and hearing dogs.

Proof of status is required to accompany an application to register a dog;

- j) A replacement registration tag fee is to apply for transfer of a dog currently registered within another municipal district;
- k) A pro-rata payment is to apply for a new dog registration made after the annual renewal or registration period, such fee to be reduced by 25% for each 3-months elapsed from the annual renewal date;
- l) A dog owner is responsible for the costs associated with seizure of a dog;
- m) A dog owner is responsible for the costs associated with detention of that dog at the Council pound;

The fee for detention of a dog at the Council pound is that fee as is from time to time set by the Canine Defence League (operating as Dogs Homes Tasmania), and must be paid to the pound prior to release of the dog;

- n) A fee in addition to the dog registration fee for each dog applies for a kennel licence;
- o) A fee may be applied for the making of a complaint alleging the existence of a nuisance under Section 47 of the Act; and
- p) Council may provide a discount registration fee to persons holding a pension card of a kind creating eligibility for a rebate on Council rates

4.4 Dog Management and Control

In order to meet its responsibilities under the *Dog Control Act 2000* the Council will:

- a) Recognise the owner of a dog has a right to enjoy in all respects a lawful association with their dog;
- b) Recognise the community has a right to be protected against the risk of harm, threat, and nuisance caused by the action or behaviour of a dog;
- c) Achieve compliance with provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* through a process of community awareness and information and regulatory inspection and enforcement action;

Council will:

- (i) provide information on responsible dog ownership and on the obligations and rights of all persons under the *Dog Control Act 2000*;
 - (ii) engage with the community and persons and organizations with a relevant specialist knowledge or interest in the preparation and review of its Dog Management Policy;
- d) Apply a fee for the registration of a dog;
 - e) Declare areas to be for dog exercise, and areas where access by a dog is restricted or prohibited.

Council will:

- (i) provide and maintain appropriate and approved signage to identify declared areas where access opportunities or restrictions apply for dogs;
- (ii) provide and maintain dedicated bins for the collection and disposal of dog waste at all Dog Exercise Areas;

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- f) Use its power and authority under the *Dog Control Act 2000* to identify and investigate any alleged offence, and to remedy any known breach;

The Council may seize and detain a dog if it is at large, or if it has threatened or caused harm to others.

A dog allegedly at large and recovered and delivered to the pound by a private person will not be considered to be a dog seized and detained in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

- g) Enforce compliance through regulatory action where there is evidence of a disregard for the obligations of responsible dog ownership;
- h) appoint persons employed by the Council as an authorised officer under the *Dog Control Act 2000* to monitor and enforce compliance;
- i) Make sure all staff responsible for the seizure and handling of dogs receive relevant training in the safe handling of dogs and execute their duties in a manner that causes minimum distress and avoids harm to a dog;
- j) Approve and resource patrols for the purposes of monitoring compliance and for engaging with the community to achieve a consistently high standard of performance in responsible dog ownership;
- k) Provide as a minimum an after-hours dog management capacity to respond in situations where there is an actual harm or immediate threat of harm to a person or animal;
- l) Consider in accordance with the allocation priorities of the Council the provision of resources to allow the conduct of patrols during daylight hours on weekdays before and after Council's normal hours of business and on weekends and public holidays for the purposes of monitoring compliance and for engaging with the community to achieve a reasonable level of compliance to responsible dog ownership;
- m) Contract the Canine Defence League (operating as Dogs Homes Tasmania) to provide and operate its premises at Stowport Road as a pound in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* for the purposes of detaining any dog seized or held under provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000*;
- n) Make sure the pound is maintained and operated in a humane manner with proper regard to health, safety and welfare of all dogs in detention, including by the provision of food, water and shelter, and veterinary attention as required;
- o) Make all attempts to contact the owner of a dog seized for being at large within the statutory detention period;
- p) Dispose of an unclaimed dog to the Canine Defence League at conclusion of the statutory detention period in accordance with provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

The Council will require the Canine Defence League make all reasonable endeavour to re-home abandoned dogs.

If re-homing is not appropriate or possible, a dog may be euthanised by a registered veterinary surgeon at the discretion of the League.

5 LEGISLATION

Dog Control Act 2000
Dog Control Regulations 2010

6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Dog Registration Form
Kennel License Application Form
Map of Declared Dog Areas

7 OTHER REFERENCES

No further references

Policy Endorsement	
Responsibility:	It is the responsibility of the Executive Manager Compliance Services to oversee the implementation of this policy. It is the responsibility of the Governance Unit to maintain this policy in the corporate document framework. This policy must be reviewed at least once every five years in accordance with the process set out in section 7 of the <i>Dog Management Act 2000</i> .
Minute Reference:	TBC
Council Meeting Date:	TBC
Strategic Plan Reference:	Strategy 7.1.1 Formulate policy that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to current needs, and ensure decision-making is informed and accountable.
Previous Policies Replaced:	This policy replaces the previous Dog Management Policy version 6.0 approved on 17 September 2019 (Item AO248-19)
Date of Commencement:	TBC
Publication of policy:	Members of the public may inspect this policy at the City Offices where copies can be obtained free of charge. Alternatively, it can be accessed on Council's website (www.burnie.tas.gov.au)







