



DOGS IN OPEN SPACE ACTION PLAN
Executive Summary
2022 - 2032

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dogs in Open Space Action Plan (DIOSAP) provides Council with a 10-year planning framework that will guide decision-making about how and where provision will be made for dog owners and their dogs. It includes:

- A discussion of issues and opportunities relating to dogs in public open space, in particular:
 - Additional Off Leash Areas (OLAs) recommended to address gaps in the off-leash network, and OLAs that are recommended for decommissioning or relocation
 - Compliance, management and operational requirements
 - Community education and information requirements
- A statement of the principles that will guide planning of opportunities for dog owners and their dogs
- A summary of the benefits and challenges of different provision options for dogs off-leash, including unfenced, partially and fully fenced options and sites from which dogs should be excluded
- A policy and planning framework
- An Action Plan that includes actions to address the findings of the project

Dogs are an important part of many Central Coast households and the DIOSAP recognises the physical, emotional, and social benefits that are derived from dog ownership.

The DIOSAP is informed by a comprehensive understanding of dog and associated human behaviour in public environments; the benefits and challenges of different off-leash settings, and 'good practice' policy and provision protocols. It is also informed by relevant Council and NSW State Government planning and policy documents.

According to the NSW Government registration database there are currently 55,257 registered dogs living on the Central Coast. Industry research indicates there is likely to be over 10,000 additional dogs residing in the Local Government Area that are not registered. By 2032 there is likely to be over 80,000 dogs residing on the Central Coast.

The DIOSAP recommends that 6 Off-Leash Areas (OLAs) be decommissioned, some of which are recommended for relocation to a more appropriate site. These sites include Illoura Reserve (relocation); Terrigal Haven (relocation); Fagan Reserve (relocation); Lees Reserve (decommission); Kariong Oval Recreation Reserve (decommission); and McEvoy Drainage Easement (decommission).

In addition to the 3 sites recommended to replace decommissioned sites, an additional 10 are recommended to address gaps in provision.

The DIOSAP proposes changes to the boundaries of 10 OLAs, primarily to require dogs to be on a leash on or near footpaths/trails, extend the area available for off-leash activities, and/or relocate away from sensitive environmental areas or household boundaries.

This will result in a total to 68 Council owned and/or managed off leash sites excluding the Mount Penang Gardens (NSW Government) fenced off-leash area in Kariong.

The DIOSAP reinforces the need for dogs to be excluded from sportsfields, Coastal Open Space System (COSS) areas, Natural Assets, and foreshore areas other than those designated as off-leash. It also notes several dog management challenges that need to be addressed. These include:

- Dogs not being controlled in line with Council and State Government regulations
 - Dog owners not complying with leashing regulations
 - Dogs being taken into 'dog exclusion' areas including foreshore/sand dune areas and National Parks
-

-
- The increase in the incidence of dog attacks, bites and rushes being reported
 - Growing community expectations for a higher profile of Council animal management staff, particularly at popular and problematic sites.

The DIOSAP will be reviewed every 4 years to ensure that new and emerging needs are identified and addressed.



ACTION PLAN

Council Staff will continue to explore funding opportunities to deliver the actions identified in this report in accordance with their listed priority. This may be through funding available in Council's recurrent annual budget or via other external funding opportunities (eg. Grants) as they become available.

	ACTION	PRIORITY 1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	RESOURCING
	PLANNING FOR DOG OWNERS AND THEIR DOGS		
1	Ensure future requests relating to OLAs (Off Leash Areas) and FOLAs (Fenced Off Leash Areas) are addressed in line with the DIOSAP	Ongoing	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
2	Ensure additional open space is incorporated in new subdivisions to cater for off-leash requirements as outlined in the DIOSAP	Ongoing	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
3	Ensure a coordinated and fully integrated approach to the planning and provision for OLAs that involves regulatory services, open space planning and management, community development, town planning	Ongoing	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
4	Prepare developer guidelines relating to OLAs and FOLAs (partially fenced only)	1	May be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget, \$5,000 if external advice required
5	Consider the preparation of a Companion Animal Management Plan that enables Council to quantify service needs and priorities for the next 5-10 years.	1	\$30,000
	CHANGES TO OLA PROVISION		
6	Decommission/relocate 6 OLAs at the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrigal Haven (decommission/relocate) • Illoura Reserve (decommission/relocate) • Lees Reserve (decommission) • Kariong Recreation Reserve (decommission) • Fagan Reserve (decommission/relocate) 	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.

	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING
		1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McEvoy Drainage Easement (Umina Beach) (decommission) 		
7	Designate (and develop where necessary) areas at the following 13 reserves as additional OLAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pine Av. Reserve (Davistown/ Saratoga) Duffy's Rd. Reserve (Terrigal) Adelaide St. Reserve (Killarney Vale) Robertson Rd. Reserve (Killarney Vale) Wattle St. Reserve (Toukley) Tunkuwallin / Kanangra Dr. reserve (Gwandalan) Warwick Av. Reserve (Manning Park) Karrawa Reserve (Pt. Claire) Caraval St. Reserve (Hamlyn Terrace) Watanobbi Knoll (Watanobbi) Lara Cl. Reserve (Ourimbah) Linga Longa Reserve (Yarramalong) Hilltop Park (Woongarra) 	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
8	Modify the boundary of OLAs at the following 10 sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Avoca Beach (North Avoca) – Extension South to 'shark tower' (Avoca Beach) Greenvale Road Reserve (Green Point) – Extension Colongra Bay Reserve (Lake Munmorah) – Reduction to exclude dogs from sportsfields and natural environments and remove fencing (apart from along roadside) Peppercorn Av. Reserve (Woongarra) Mataram Ridge Park (Woongarra) – Relocation within the park Craigie Reserve (Kanwal) Adcock Memorial Park (West Gosford) Thames Dr. Reserve (Erina) James Watt Drive Drainage Easement (Chittaway Bay) Oberton Street Reserve (Kincumber) 	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
DOG EXCLUSION AREAS			
9	Review Council Orders to ensure all sportsfields are appropriately designated and signed as 'Dog Exclusion' sites in line with NSW Companion Animal Act, 1998 (CAA) requirements	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
10	Review Council Orders to ensure that the following natural environments are all appropriately designated and signed as dog exclusion zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all COSS sites areas designated by Council as Natural Assets 	1	\$10,000 for external advice/ support

	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING
		1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all beaches not designated as Off Leash Areas sand dune areas 		
11	Ensure any mapping of OLAs clearly designates a 10m exclusion zone for dogs around play equipment in line with requirements of the CAA.	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
12	Prepare a signage plan for OLAs.	2	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
COMPLIANCE WITH DOG CONTROL REGULATIONS			
13	Consider the introduction of seasonal timed access to beaches that are located in foreshore OLAs (e.g. sunrise to 9.00am and 5.00pm to sunset) for restricted summertime/peak season access for dogs.	3	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
14	Prepare a cost-benefit analysis for the reintroduction of proactive compliance monitoring and educational initiatives to address non-compliance matters raised in this report. Particularly as they relate to dogs off-leash in on-leash areas and control of dogs in line with regulations	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget
15	Continue to review areas of environmental sensitivity where dogs should be excluded or be required to be on a leash	Ongoing	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget
16	Liaise with the National Parks Service to identify projects that will help increase awareness of dog exclusion zones and minimise non-compliance with regulations	2	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget
ACCESS TO FORESHORE OFF-LEASH AREAS			
17	Consider signage, that includes 'informative mapping' of OLAs and permitted access points, at car parks commonly used by dog owners to access Putty Beach and Wamberal foreshore OLAs	1	\$20,000 for design, manufacture and installation signage

	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING
		1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	
18	Ensure information on Council's website clearly informs dog owners of permitted points of access to foreshore OLAs	Ongoing	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
19	Investigate the feasibility and cost benefit of providing off-street or on-street car parking at or near 25-25B Ocean View Drive, Wamberal	2	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
DOG REGISTRATIONS			
20	Consider targeted (e.g. by suburb) strategies to encourage owners to comply with dog registration regulations	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget. (Research successful LGA strategies & cost)
FENCING OF OFF-LEASH AREAS			
21	Adopt the guiding principles in this report and the Provision Framework for OLAs, noting Council's position is not to fence OLAs other than for management considerations contained in this document.	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
22	Ensure Council's rationale for fencing/not fencing OLAs is explained in information to the community (at a minimum on council website)	Ongoing	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
23	Prepare a Concept and Detailed Design Plan for the Tuggerah fenced dog off-leash area (FOLA) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enhance the amenity of the site improve sensory and development outcomes for dogs 	1	\$10,000 (ex GST)
24	Prepare a Concept Plan for the Maitland Bay (Ettalong) Rd FOLA to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities to expand improve the amenity of the site Address maintenance challenges (e.g surface degradation) Improve sensory and development outcomes for dogs 	2	\$5,000

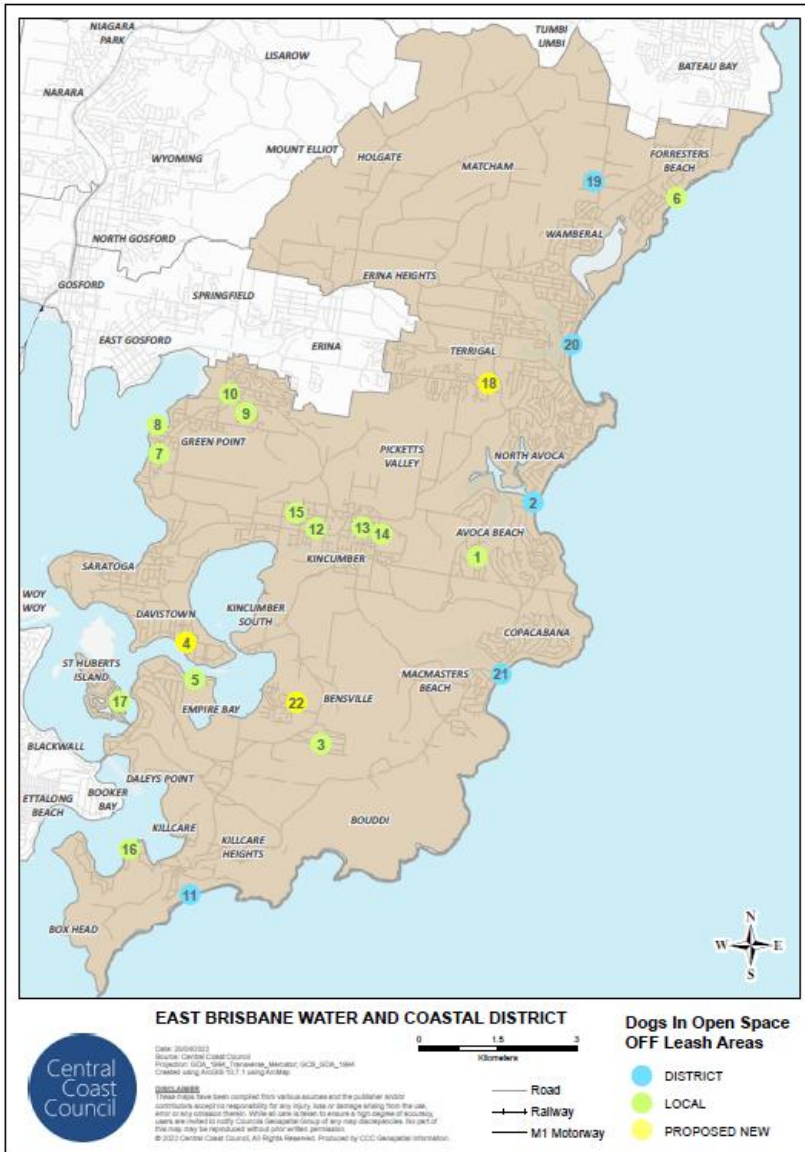
	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING
		1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	
25	Prepare a Concept Plan for the Sensory Park (Narara) FOLA to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate fencing options Improve the amenity of the site Address maintenance challenges (e.g surface degradation, tree protection) Improve sensory and development outcomes for dogs 	1	\$5,000
26	Remove the fencing around the Colongra Bay Reserve OLA, apart from barrier fencing along the roadside and incorporate landscape features to enhance the amenity of the site and sensory features appealing to dogs	1	\$5,000 (fencing removal) \$5,000 tree plantings, seating
EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF DOGS			
27.	Consider the incorporation of some or all of the following requirements in a Council Order to effectively define 'effective control' of dogs: <p>a) In on-leash areas</p> Dogs must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be held on a leash at all times and in line with CAA age and capability requirements be on a short leash (max 1.5 mt) when on or within 5m of footpaths or trails not be tethered to a fixed place or object <p>b) In off-leash areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dogs can only be off the leash if they always immediately respond/recall at owner's voice and/or hand commands Dogs must remain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> within 100 m of their owner within clear sight of their owner Dogs must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> run or rush at another dog or person make unwanted approaches to another dog or person be allowed into 'dog exclusion' areas 	1	Can be facilitated ongoing with existing Council staff resources and no additional budget.
MANAGEMENT OF OFF-LEASH AREAS			
28	Review the resourcing of maintenance for inland OLAs in consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing service levels in line with similar open space assets (public amenity) FOLAs good practice design and management 	1	To be determined upon review
29.	Review the resourcing of Ranger Services, in consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing service demands The impact and effectiveness of current strategies The cost-benefit (e.g public amenity, financial, public relations, staff morale) of implementing proactive strategies to address matters relating to animal management 	1	To be determined upon review

	ACTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING
		1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	
	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION		
30	Incident Mapping Consider the GIS mapping of dog control/behaviour complaints. (This will help identify problematic sites where community education initiatives should be first focused)	1	\$20,000 if additional hardware & software resourcing required
31	Council website Review and update information on Council's website relating to dogs in public spaces so information is consolidated clear and concise information	Ongoing	\$15,000 for external support with content writing/editing & graphics etc.
32	Community Development Appointment Appoint dedicated Community Development Role (Behaviour change specialist)	1	\$110,000 plus overheads & oncosts
33	Dog Education/training Consider strategies to incentivise attendance at puppy classes and adult dog training classes	3	Achievable only if a Community Development role is introduced &/or additional resourcing provided to Animal Management Services
34	Mobile Dog Education Service Consider the employment or engagement of a dog behaviourist and acquisition of a mobile Dog Owner Education Van	2	\$200,000

PROPOSED OFF LEASH AREAS

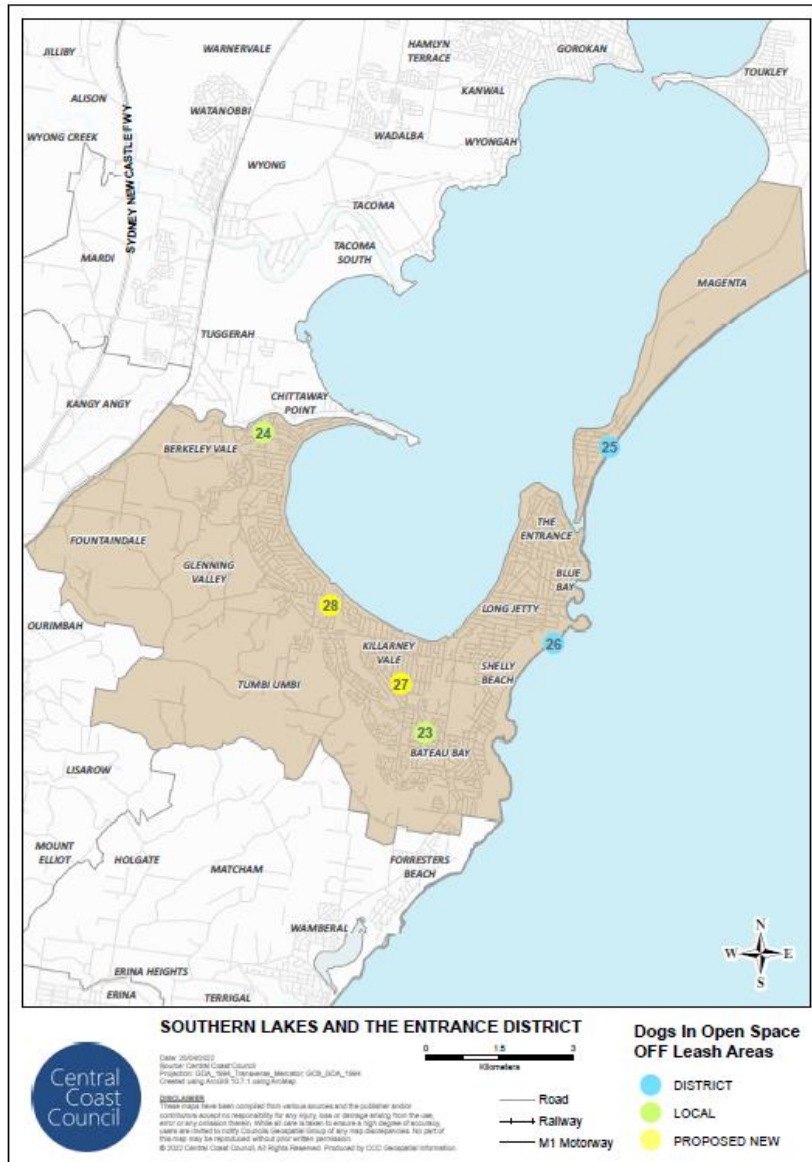
For the purpose of the Dogs In Open Space Action Plan, the Central Coast Local Government Area has been divided into 8 planning districts. These districts, and their proposed OLAs, are as follows:

EAST BRISBANE WATER AND COASTAL DISTRICT



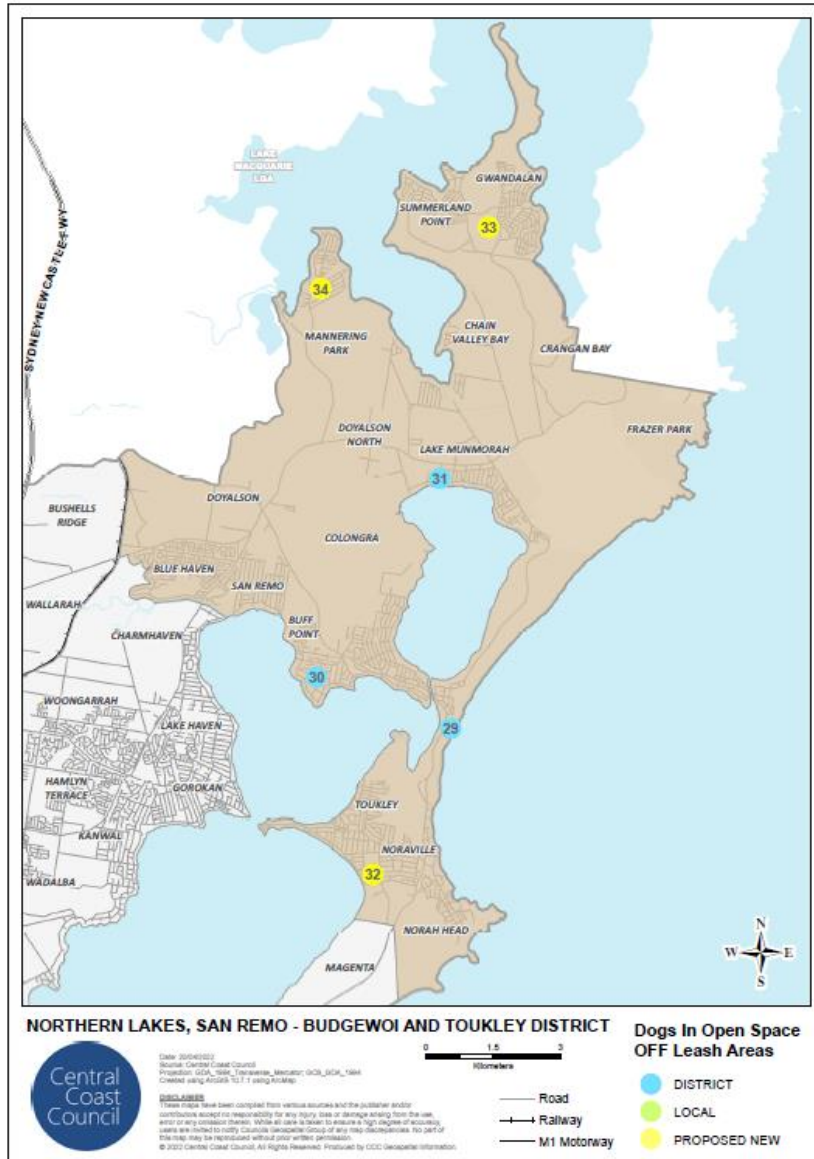
1	Fitzgibbon Close Reserve	Fitzgibbon Close, Avoca Beach NSW 2251	Avoca Beach
2	North Avoca Beach	View Street, North Avoca Beach NSW 2260	Avoca Beach
3	Yarram Road Park	Yarram Road, Bensville NSW 2251	Bensville
4	Pine Ave Reserve	30A/30B Pine Ave / 27 Illawaong Davistown	Yattalunga/Saratoga/Davistown
5	Sorrento Road Reserve	Sorrento Road, Empire Bay NSW 2257	Empire Bay
6	Forresters Beach	Kalakau Avenue, Forresters Beach NSW 2260	Forresters Beach
7	Blessington Reserve	Kanangra Street, Green Point NSW 2251	Green Point
8	Captain Cook Reserve	Orana Street, Green Point NSW 2251	Green Point
9	Greenvale Road Reserve	Greenvale Road, Green Point NSW 2251	Green Point
10	Sun Valley Park	14A Highland Rd, GREEN POINT NSW 2251	Green Point
11	Puffy Beach Road Reserve	Puffy Beach Road, Killcare Heights NSW 2257	Killcare Heights
12	Carlo Close Reserve	Carlo Close, Kincumber NSW 2251	Kincumber
13	Oberfon Street Reserve	Oberfon Street, Kincumber NSW 2251	Kincumber
14	Edmonson Cres Reserve (formerly Patrick Croke Oval)	31 Melville Street, Kincumber NSW 2251	Kincumber
15	Tuross Close Reserve	Tuross Close, Kincumber NSW 2251	Kincumber
16	Araluen Drive Road Reserve	Araluen Drive, Pretty Beach NSW 2257	Pretty Beach
17	Long Arm Parade Reserve	Long Arm Parade, St Huberts Island NSW 2257	St Huberts Island
18	Duffy's Road Reserve	55-73 Duffys Rd	Terrigal
19	Tumbi Road Reserve	Longview Road, Wamberal NSW 2260	Wamberal
20	Wamberal Beach	Dover Road, Wamberal NSW 2260	Wamberal
21	Copa/Macmasters Lagoon	Marine Parade, Macmasters Beach NSW 2259	Macmasters Beach
22	Portside CI Reserve	Portside CI	Bensville

SOUTHERN LAKES AND THE ENTRANCE DISTRICT



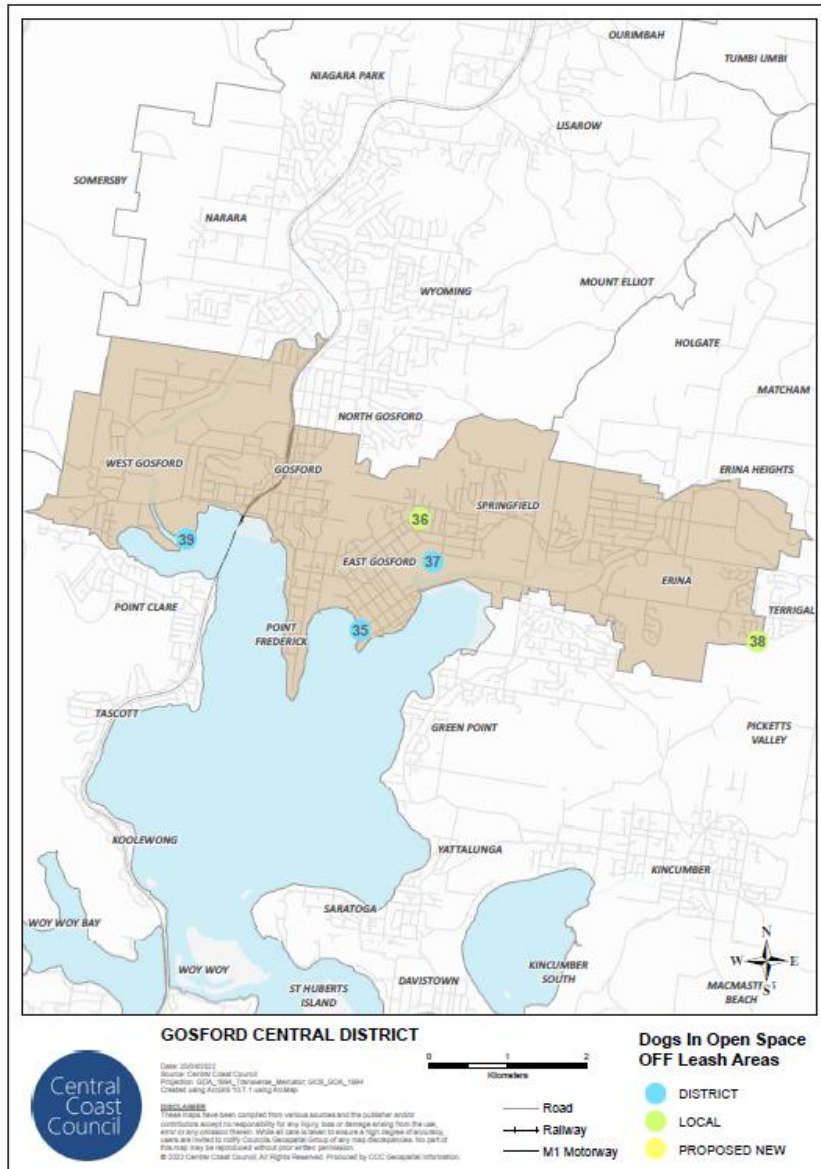
23	Bateau Bay Reserve	Fishermans Bend, Bateau Bay NSW 2261	Bateau Bay
24	James Watt Drive Drainage Easement - Check out	James Watt Drive, Chittaway Bay NSW 2261	Chittaway Bay
25	The Entrance North Beach	Hutton Road, The Entrance North NSW 2261	The Entrance North
26	North Shelly Reserve	Oaks Avenue, Toowoan Bay NSW 2261	Toowoan Bay
27	Robertson Rd Reserve	Robertson Rd	Killarney Vale
28	Adelaide St Reserve	Adelaide St Reserve	Killarney Vale

NORTHERN LAKES, SAN REMO – BUDGEWOI AND TOUKLEY



29	Lakes Beach	Budgewoi Rd, Budgewoi NSW 2262	Budgewoi
30	Moola Rd Reserve (former Buff Point Oval)	Matumba Road, Buff Point NSW 2262	Buff Point
31	Colongra Bay Reserve	Colongra Bay Road, Lake Munmorah NSW 2259	Lake Munmorah
32	Wattle St Reserve	Wattle St Toukley	Toukley
33	Kanangra Drive Reserve	Tunkwallan - Option 1	Gwandalan
34	Warwick Av. Reserve	Warwick Ave	Manning Park

GOSFORD CENTRAL



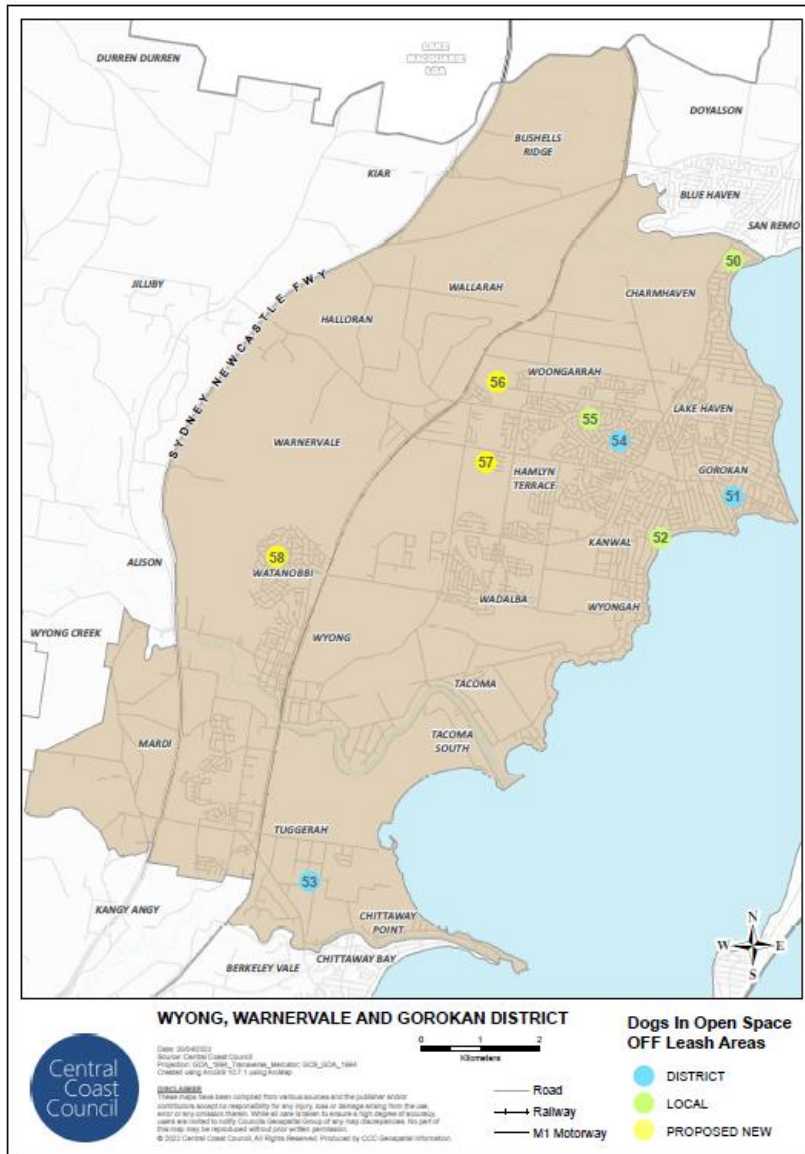
35	Caroline Bay Reserve	George Street, East Gosford NSW 2250	East Gosford
36	Emma James St. Reserve	Emma James Street, East Gosford NSW 2250	East Gosford
37	Coburg St Reserve (formerly Hylton Moore Oval)	Allthorpe Street, East Gosford NSW 2250	East Gosford
38	Thames Dr. Reserve	Thames Drive, Erina NSW 2250	Erina
39	Adcock Memorial Park	Central Coast Highway, West Gosford NSW 2250	West Gosford

WEST BRISBANE WATER AND PENINSULA



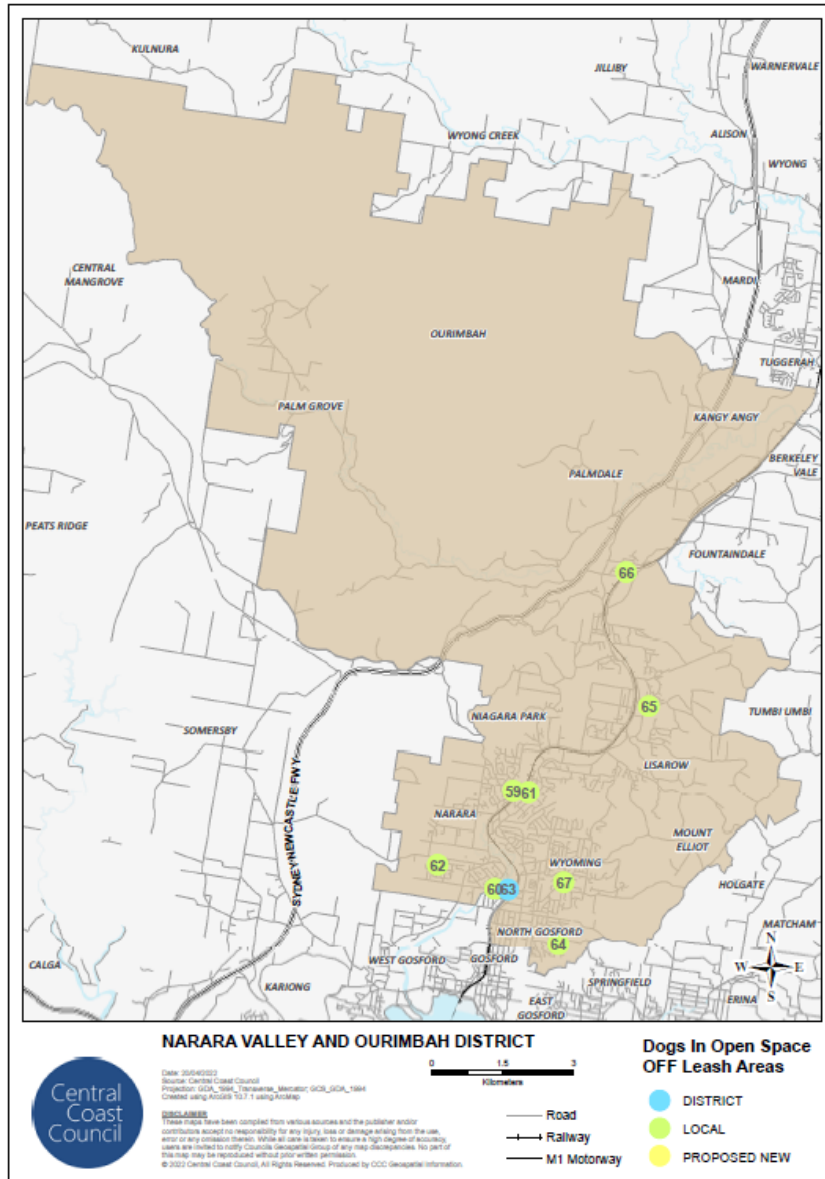
40	Ettalong Beach	The Esplanade, Ettalong Beach NSW 2257	Ettalong Beach
41	Maitland Bay Drive Reserve (formerly Ettalong Oval)	Pacific Parade, Ettalong Beach NSW 2257	Ettalong Beach
69	Kariong Dog Park*	Mt Penang Gardens	Kariong
42	Peppermint Park	Langford Drive, Kariong NSW 2259	Kariong
43	Patonga Beach	Bay Street, Patonga Beach NSW 2256	Patonga Beach
44	Pearl Beach	Agate Avenue, Pearl Beach NSW 2256	Pearl Beach
45	Kurrawa Av. Reserve	Kurrawa Ave, Point Claire	Point Claire
46	Seabrook Reserve	Jacaranda Crescent, Tascott NSW 2250	Tascott
47	Umina Beach	The Esplanade, Umina Beach NSW 2257	Umina Beach
48	Dulkara Rd Reserve	Dulkara Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256	Woy Woy
49	North Burge Road Reserve	North Burge Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256	Woy Woy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Kariong Dog Park Mt Penang Gardens is not owned and/or managed by Central Coast Council 			

WYONG, WARNERVALE AND GOROKAN DISTRICT



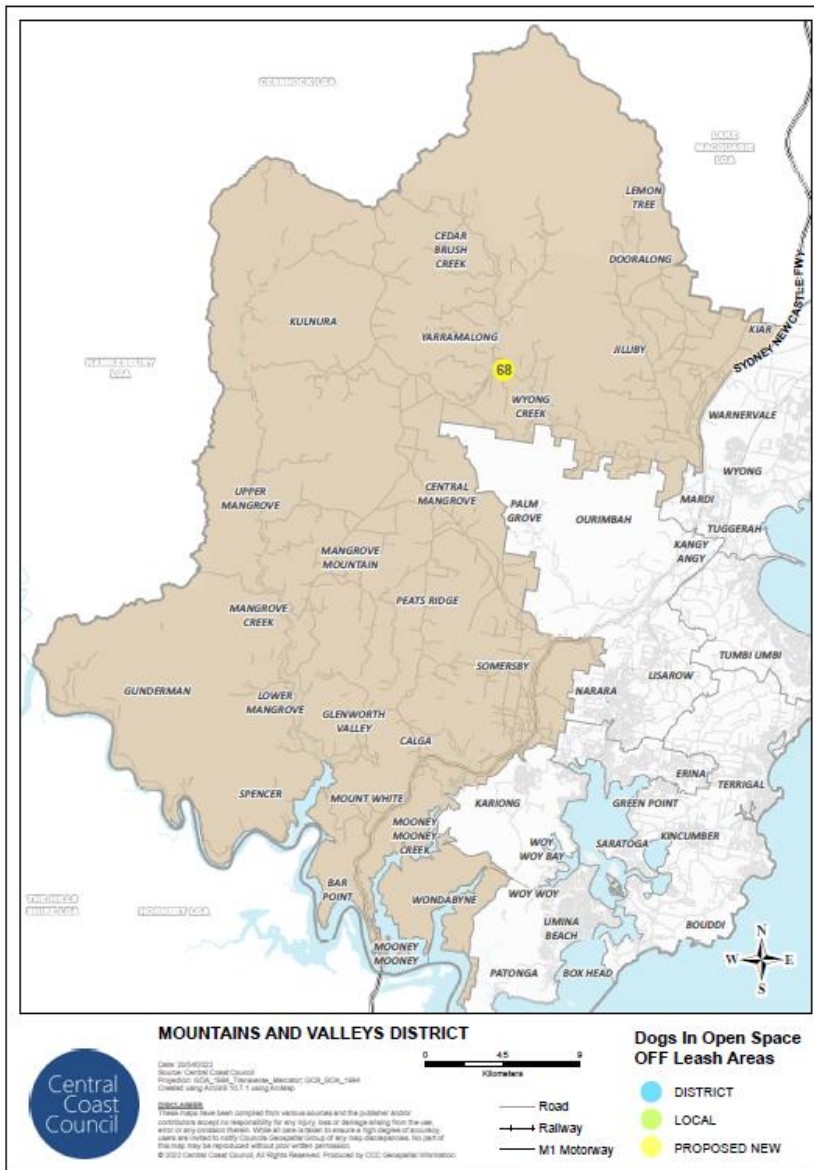
50	Charmhaven Reserve	207W Panorama Ave	Charmhaven
51	Helen Reserve	Gascoigne Road, Gorokan NSW 2263	Gorokan
52	Craigie Reserve	Donald Avenue, Kanwal NSW 2259	Kanwal
53	Second Av. Reserve	Second Avenue, Tuggerah NSW 2259	Tuggerah
54	Mataram Ridge Park	Mountain View Drive, Woongarra NSW 2259	Woongarra
55	Peppercorn Av. Reserve	Peppercorn Avenue and Ivory Crescent, Woongarra NSW 2259	Woongarra
56	Hilltop Park	Hakone Road, Woongarra NSW 2259	Woongarra
57	Caraval St. Reserve	Caravel St	Hamlyn Terrace
58	Watanobbi Knoll	The Terrace	Watanobbi

NARARA VALLEY AND OURIMBAH DISTRICT



59	Apara Close Reserve	6A Willari Ave, Narara NSW 2250	Narara
60	Rowena Rd Reserve (formerly Gavenlock Oval)	Adam Street, Narara NSW 2250	Narara
61	Karina Dr. Reserve	5A Yera Close, Narara NSW 2250	Narara
62	Mitchell Park	Corella Crescent, Narara NSW 2250	Narara
63	Sensory Park	162 Showground Road, Narara NSW 2250	Narara
64	Stachon St. Reserve	Stachon Street, North Gosford NSW 2250	North Gosford
65	Tallowood Cres. Reserve	Tallowood Crescent, Ourimbah NSW 2259	Ourimbah
66	Lara Cl. Reserve	Lara Close	Ourimbah
67	Warrawilla Rd. Reserve	Warrawilla Road, Wyoming NSW 2250	Wyoming

MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS



68	Linga Longa Rd Reserve	18-19 Linga Longa Rd	Yarramalong
----	------------------------	----------------------	-------------