



# Central Coast Dogs in Open Space

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**Action Plan 2023-2033**



**Draft**



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live work and play.

We pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continued connection to these lands and waterways.

We acknowledge our shared responsibility to care for and protect our place and people.

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# 1. GLOSSARY

## DIOSAP

Dogs In Open Space Action Plan 2023

## Off Leash Areas (OLAs)

Areas where dogs are permitted to run off-leash under 'effective control'

## Fenced Off Leash Areas (FOLAs)

Fenced dog off-leash areas. Also commonly known as Dog Parks.

## Off Leash Beaches

Beach areas where dogs are permitted to run off-leash under 'effective control'

## CAA

NSW Companion Animal Act, 1998

## LG Act

NSW Local Government Act

## LGA

Local Government Area

## COSS

Coastal Open Space System; a network of high value conservation reserves in the south of the LGA

## Planning Districts

For the purpose of the DIOSAP, the Central Coast LGA has been divided into 8 planning districts or catchments

### Documents that have informed this DIOSAP:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One - Central Coast Community Strategic Plan</li><li>• Dogs in Open Space Strategy (former Gosford City Council 2012)</li><li>• Our Coast Our Waterways</li><li>• Responsible Dog Ownership Policy 2022</li><li>• Disability Inclusion Action Plan</li><li>• Central Coast Active Lifestyle Strategy</li><li>• Dogs in Open Space Policy (former Gosford City Council 2002)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSW Companion Animal Act</li><li>• Central Coast Regional Plan</li><li>• Central Coast Council draft Dogs In Open Space Action Plan 2022</li><li>• Whelans Insights: Review of Environmental Factors May 2010</li><li>• Niche Environment and Heritage: Review of Environmental Factors 2013</li><li>• Future Ecology: Threatened Species Assessment for the portion of Illoura Reserve, Davistown known locally as "Pippi Point" May 2023</li></ul> |
|---|--|

## 2. OVERVIEW

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

This Dogs in Open Space Action Plan has been prepared in order to provide Council with a 10-year planning framework that will allow for the implementation of identified actions to support the harmonious interaction of dog owners and their dogs with non-dog owners and the environment (both built and natural), while considering a range of other factors such as those statutory considerations outlined in the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) and the Companion Animals Act 1998 (CAA).

This Dogs In Open Space Action Plan has also been prepared in recognition of the high rates of dog ownership within the Central Coast Local Government Area (LGA) as well as the sometimes-competing uses of Council's open space network, and the need by Council to balance those uses, as far as possible.

This Dogs In Open Space Action Plan will guide decision-making around the provision of off leash areas, education initiatives and compliance and enforcement functions across the Central Coast LGA.

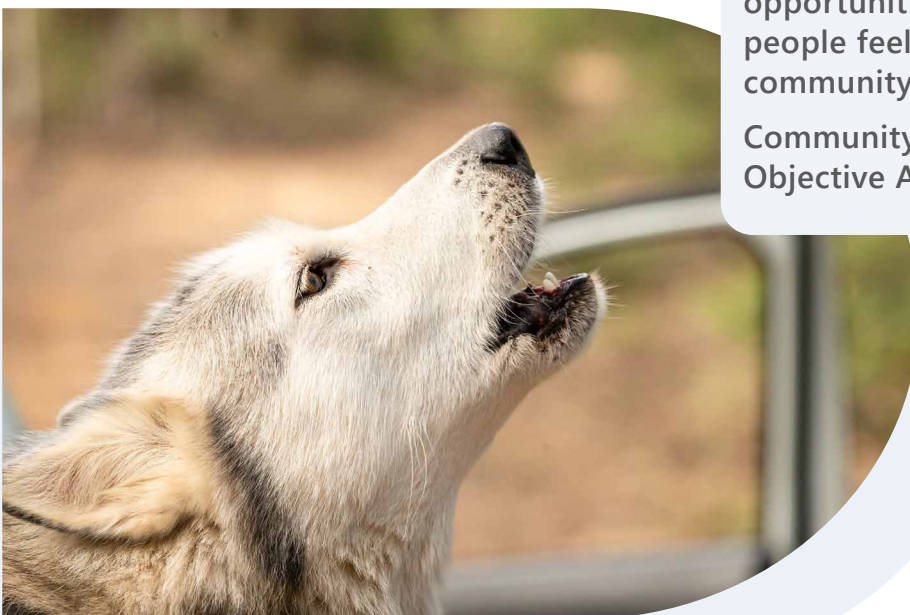
It has been prepared in consideration of;

- the protection and enhancement of natural environments
- the preservation of public amenity
- the availability of open space areas
- the recreation and sporting needs of the community
- the importance to dog owners of dog ownership and the emotional, physical and social benefits
- the importance of dog owners and non-dog owners sharing open space as far as practicable
- balancing risk, including public health and safety

This Dogs In Open Space Action Plan (herein referred to as the Plan) was developed in line with Council's One – Central Coast Community Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028 (CSP). The CSP was developed through engagement with the community to help set the priorities and confirm strategies and activities including that outlined below:

**Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life.**

**Community Strategic Plan 2018 – 2028:  
Objective A2 - Belonging**



## 2.1 Regulatory Context

The LG Act, at Chapter 3, outlines the principles for the effective operation of councils across NSW. Section 8A of the LG Act specifically outlines the principles that apply when making decisions by Council.

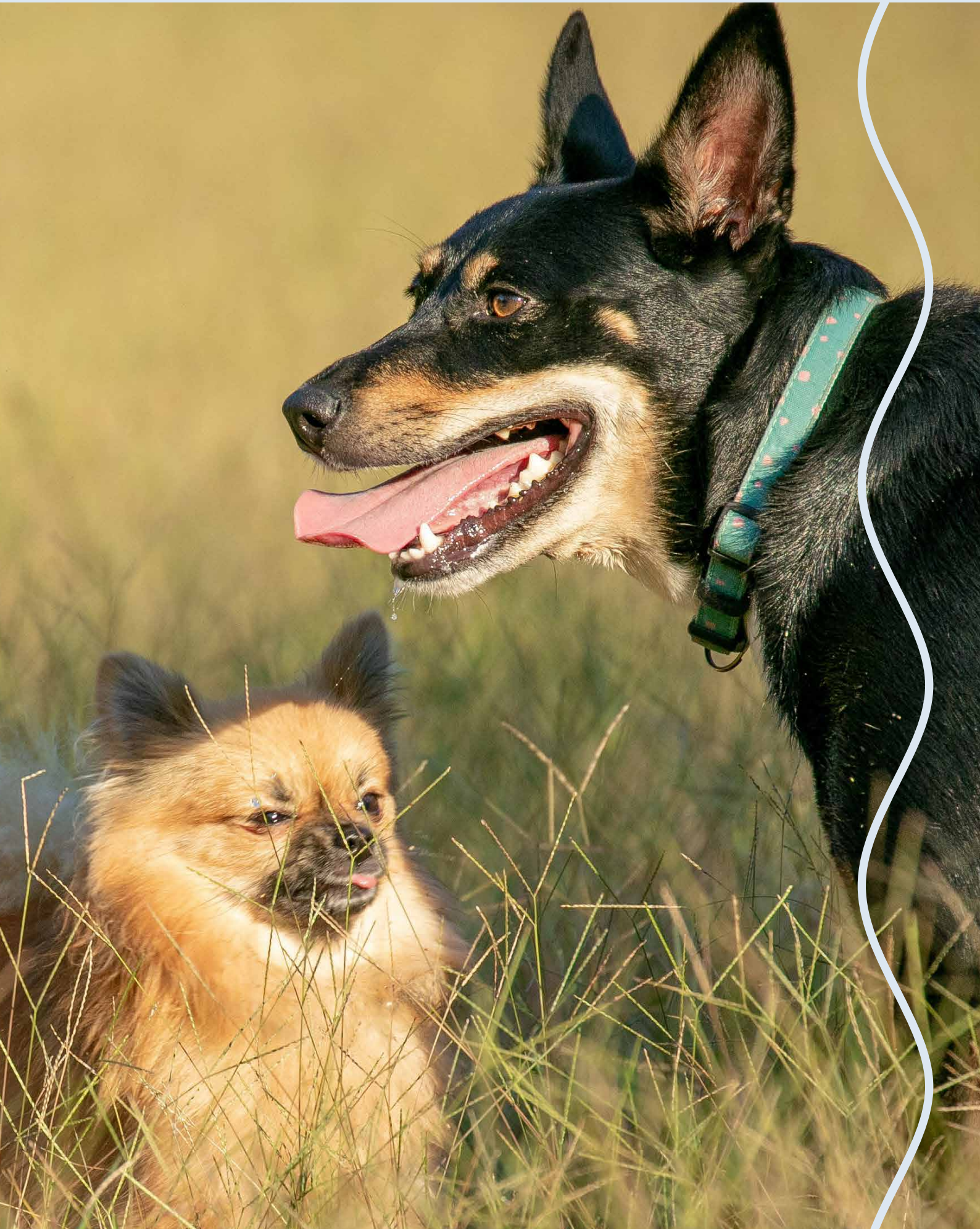
This Plan has been developed in recognition of these principles.

The CAA sets out several legal requirements relating to the management and control of dogs in public spaces, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Dogs must wear a collar that displays a name and owner contact details
- Dog owners must immediately pick up dog litter in a public place
- Dogs that are in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person (unless in a designated Off Leash Area (OLA)). A person must be at least 16 years to be in charge of a dog/s in a public place and that person has to be competent to handle the dog/s
- A person cannot be responsible for more than 4 dogs in a public place at any one time
- Dogs are not allowed:
  - within 10m of play equipment
  - on school, pre-school grounds or in shopping centres without the permission of the relevant person/organisation
- Council's must designate and clearly sign areas where dogs are prohibited
- Dogs are prohibited (unless permission is granted by the relevant authorities) to enter schools and kindergartens

The CAA also sets out the penalties that apply for alleged contravention of the provisions of the CAA. For example, fines can be issued under Section 32A of the CAA if a dog:

- repeatedly runs or chases at any person, animal or vehicle
- endangers the health of any person or animal
- repeatedly causes substantial damage to anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept.



### 3. DOGS ON THE CENTRAL COAST

The Central Coast LGA’s population is estimated to be **358,826** and to increase to **414,615 by 2036**.

The Central Coast LGA is the **3rd** most populous LGA in NSW.

The NSW Office of Local Government (OLG, March 2023) indicates that there are 150,000 microchipped dogs on the Central Coast with an approximate 110,000 of those dogs’ registered dogs in 2023. However, deceased and sold/relocated pets are not identifiable from database records. As a result, dogs registered since 1988 remain on the NSW Government database.

Therefore, and taking into consideration potential inaccuracies with the OLG data, Council estimated that there were approximately **65,000** dogs residing within the Central Coast LGA in 2022, with an estimated projection of **80,000** dogs by 2032.

Only dogs listed on the registration database as of 2008 were included in dog population counts use for this Plan.

The Plan proposes an **Increase in OLAs from 61 to 68**

The Central Coast has **6** Fenced off leash areas (FOLAs)

Suburbs with the most dogs <sup>1</sup>		Suburbs expected to have the most dogs by 2032	
Umina/Pearl Bch/Patonga	3,650	Legislated Umina/Pearl Beach/Patonga	3,926
Woy Woy/ Blackwal	2,865	Nth Gosford/ Wyoming	3,509
Nth Gosford/Wyoming	2,802	Terrigal/North Avoca	3,233

<sup>1</sup>Animal Medicines Australia



## 3.1 What you told us: Community Consultation

The draft Plan was exhibited from 1 July to 28 August 2022. Council released 3 media releases, 6 Coast Connect Articles, 40 Informative posters, sent over 7300 stakeholder emails and reached 44922 people through Facebook and 12517 people through Instagram.

Council received 3343 submissions from community members, politicians and interested parties Australia wide. A random selection of submissions are provided below:

**“Local biodiversity needs to be considered and protected by any Council strategy, especially one dealing with recreational use of natural areas.”**

**“Dogs should be allowed off leash on the beach at all times”**

**“There are so many dog owners using the beach that it has restricted the use for people to enjoy our beautiful beach without the fear of dogs or the unpleasantness of dog litter left & the smell of dog urine.”**

**“Dogs need space to run, people need interaction with others like minded.”**

**“Plan for more supervision of existing off leash areas.”**

**“Clear signage should be provided for all excluded areas.”**

**“Under current arrangements many walkers, particularly the elderly, are out at risk by poorly-controlled dogs and by owners who flout the on-leash rules.”**

**“On numerous occasions I have personally witnessed and experienced a ridiculous amount of dogs that are completely out of control, aggressive and poorly supervised.”**

Since the closure of the public exhibition period in August 2022, Council have held 3 workshops with the community to inform this revision.

Invitations were sent to approximately 503 potential participants with 53 community members contributing to the revised draft.

## 3.2 How we listened:

The following changes have been made from the first draft Plan to this revision as a result of community consultation and further investigations of specific sites:

**Table 1 – Adjustments to DIOSAP version 1**

Topic	Proposed change to DIOSAP	Comments
Revised document layout	Document revised to be more accessible to readers	Document revised
Leash Length requirement	Leash length limitations now extended to 2.4m	Extended leashes are dangerous to dogs, their owners and nearby pedestrians
Off Leash Beaches	Proposed time/seasonal access retracted	Off Leash Beach access to remain unlimited by timed access or seasonal access
Lake Munmorah, Fenced OLA	Fencing to remain or to be extended in size	Fencing retained on site to delineate between road and playspace
Sportsgrounds	Sportsgrounds no longer proposed to be dogs prohibited. On leash only.	Sportsgrounds to be a on leash only areas, off leash use prohibited
Illoura Reserve, Davistown	Boundary change and additional site proposed at Memorial Oval, Davistown. Alternative sites retracted.	Previous proposed site at Pine Ave was not preferred by community groups. Environmental sensitivities remain at current site, site size reduced to mediate risk
Terrigal Haven, Terrigal	New proposed site at Wiles Ave, Wamberal	This alternate site offers parking, amenities as well as social and accessibility options
Caravel St, Hamlyn Terrace	Proposed OLA retracted	No alternative site required as proposed Hilltop site is within 3km.
Adelaide St, Killarney Vale	Alternate site proposed at Wyong Rd, Killarney Vale	Adelaide St Site Conflicts with lease of facility to local sportsgroups Alternative site proposed off Wyong Rd
Adcock Park, West Gosford	Boundary Change retracted	Area outside of shared path not significant enough to cater for off leash activity. OLA to remain as is
Thames Drive, Erina	Boundary Change retracted	Shared path not formalised through area so prohibition from this path is not required
Captain Cook Reserve, Green Point	Boundary Change retained	Boundary change to exclude 10m buffer zone from playspace
Oberton Street Reserve, Kincumber	Boundary Change retracted	Shared path not formalised through area so prohibition from any path is not required
Effective Control Requirements	Leash length amended, recall, tethering and site line requirements amended	These requirements have been amended to more inclusive for responsible dog owners

# 4. CHANGES TO OFF LEASH PROVISION

Community consultation highlighted the need to protect the environment as well as keep community members safe while providing appropriate and easily accessible areas for dog use. The Central Coast is constrained in finding appropriate provisions that satisfy all of our community due to limitations associated with National Parks, sensitive environments, available sites, conflict with other recreation activities, topography of available sites and risk management considerations. For these reasons the below sites have been recommended for change.

## 4.1 Sites recommended for conversion to on leash or decommissioning

**Table 2**

Site	Change and Rationale for Decommissioning/Relocating
Terrigal Haven, Terrigal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed as on leash only with new OLA proposed at Wiles Avenue, Wamberal</li> <li>Subject to complaints about the conflict between dogs and other users of the site</li> <li>High levels of constant vehicle activity within immediate proximity</li> <li>High pedestrian traffic areas along its boundary and associated pathways</li> <li>The natural amenity of the site has been severely impacted by dog activity because of its gradient</li> <li>Proximity of cliff edges</li> <li>Alleged non-compliances regarding leashing for those access the OLA</li> </ul>
Fagan Reserve, Point Claire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommissioning and relocation of the OLA to Kurrawa Reserve (Point Clare)</li> <li>To remove the conflict with sporting activity and close proximity to Brisbane Water Drive</li> </ul>
Lees Reserve, Chittaway Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommissioning</li> <li>This is a densely vegetated site being regenerated for catchment protection</li> <li>There is no evidence that the site is used for dog walking/off-leash activities</li> </ul>
Kariong Recreation Reserve, Kariong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommissioning</li> <li>Skatepark sits within this reserve, with a playspace proposed in coming years and remaining space is limited</li> </ul>
McEvoy Drainage Easement, Umina Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommissioning</li> <li>Conflicts with shared use thoroughfare</li> <li>Not currently listed as an OLA on Council's website/promotional material</li> <li>Site adjacent to McEvoy Oval. The Plan does NOT propose any changes to Umina Off Leash Beach.</li> </ul>

## **Davistown OLA: Recommend boundary change**

Council recognises the diversity of opinion on the best use of this site, commonly referred to as Pippi Point, amongst the Central Coast community and received a high volume of submissions regarding this site during relevant community consultation activities. Not all submissions opposed the decommissioning and conversion of the OLA to an on-leash area with some submissions supporting the proposed changes on both amenity and environmental grounds.

Council's considerations in respect of Pippi Point do not solely relate to community submissions, as required under Section 8A of the LG Act. As such, an ecological study conducted in 2023<sup>2</sup> supported similar studies undertaken in 2010<sup>3</sup> and 2013<sup>4</sup> in regard to the presence of vulnerable species at Pippi Point and concludes that a new location for a leash free dog exercise area be located away from Pippi Point. The objectives of these studies were to investigate and where required, provide recommendations for the protection of vulnerable wildlife that frequent on or around Pippi Point, and provide a safe space for these species without the deterrent of off leash dogs.

Council recognises that this site is popular with dog owners and to accommodate the interests of dog owners and the requirement to consider ecological sustainable development principles in Council's decision making, this Plan recommends reducing the size of the Pippi Point OLA and expanding the conservation area that prohibits dogs.

This plan further recommends an additional OLA at Memorial Oval, Davistown.

Mapping of the proposed site is provided in APPENDIX 10.2 and boundary change map is provided in APPENDIX 10.3.

## **Terrigal OLA: Recommended for on leash only**

Council recognises that there were also diverse views on the best use of this site amongst the Central Coast community and received a high volume of submissions regarding this during relevant community consultation activities. Council recognises that this site is popular with dog owners and for this reason, the Plan does not recommend the prohibition of dogs from Terrigal Haven, but rather the leashing of dogs in the reserve and along pathways adjoining the reserve.

The Terrigal OLA has been the subject of ongoing complaints regarding the conflict between dogs and other users of the site, leashing compliance, effective control on pathways, dogs off leash in car parks and associated accidents, and the lack of control of dogs around cliff tops.

The natural amenity of the site has been impacted by dog activity because of its gradient, and maintenance has proven to be consistently costly. It is not recommended that the site be fenced or partially fenced to address these risk management issues because the amenity and aesthetic of the site would be significantly compromised.

A risk assessment of the reserve undertaken in 2023 further determined that the reserve is inappropriate for off leash use.

The Plan notes that the 3km provision radius of the nearby Wamberal Beach Off Leash Area encompasses the current Terrigal OLA however an additional OLA site within the catchment is proposed at Wiles Ave, Wamberal. Wiles Ave was preferred as an alternate site during community workshops as it offers an open flat green space close to parking, toilets and nearby coffee shop. Although in close proximity to Wamberal Beach, the Plan recognises that grassed OLA's are often more accessible than Off Leash beaches.

A potential FOLA at Terrigal Haven will also be explored during the consultation period to seek community input on potentially retaining the ability to have dogs off-leash while addressing safety and conflict of use issues (by fencing an area for dogs off leash at Terrigal Haven). A preliminary Terrigal FOLA option plan has been developed and is available on [yourvoiceourcoast.com/dogs](http://yourvoiceourcoast.com/dogs)

Mapping of the proposed site is provided in APPENDIX 10.2

<sup>2</sup>Future Ecology, Threatened Species Assessment 2023

<sup>3</sup>Whelans Insights, Review of Environmental Factors 2010

<sup>4</sup>Niche Environment and Heritage, Review of Environmental Factors 2013



## 4.2 New OLAs

The Plan proposes the below additional OLAs across the Central Coast LGA and its 8 planning catchments.

	<b>Proposed new site</b>	<b>Reason for additio</b>
1	Wiles Ave (Wamberal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accommodate the relocation of the OLA from Terrigal Haven</li> </ul>
2	Wyong Rd (Killarney Vale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
3	Robertson Rd. Reserve (Killarney Vale)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
4	Wattle St. Reserve (Canton Beach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
5	Tunkuwallin / Kanangra Dr. reserve (Gwandalan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision (site will need significant development prior to use)</li> </ul>
6	Warwick Av. Reserve (Manning Park)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
7	Kurrawa Avenue Reserve (Pt. Clare)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accommodate the relocation of the OLA from Fagan Reserve</li> </ul>
8	Watanobbi Knoll (Watanobbi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
9	Lara Cl. Reserve (Ourimbah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
10	Linga Longa Reserve (Yarramalong)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
11	Hilltop Park (Woongarah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address gap in provision</li> <li>Considers further growth of Warnervale area</li> </ul>
12	Portside Close (Bensville)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To address a gap in provision</li> </ul>
13	Memorial Oval, Davistown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accommodate additional provision within Davistown</li> </ul>

For detailed mapping see APPENDIX 10.2.

## 4.3 Boundary changes

The Plan proposes boundary adjustments to the below OLAs to:

- Clearly define OLAs using site landmarks
- Delineate between OLAs and surrounding recreation areas (e.g., playspaces or sportsgrounds)
- Reinforce the regulatory requirements to keep dogs on a leash on footpaths

**Table 4**

	<b>Site</b>	<b>Reason for OLA boundary change</b>
1	North Avoca Beach (North Avoca)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension to the North 'Shark Tower' to easily identify boundary</li> </ul>
2	Greenvale Road Reserve (Green Point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension from 1400sqm Ha to 3000sqm to include more open space</li> </ul>
3	Lake Munmorah fenced OLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define boundary to exclude off leash dogs from sportsground and bushland</li> </ul>
4	Peppercorn Av. Reserve (Woongarrah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To exclude playspace and shared pathways from OLA</li> </ul>
5	Mataram Ridge Park (Woongarrah)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocation of OLA within reserve to resolve environmental conflicts in existing OLA</li> <li>• Evidence of significant use by dogs off-leash in proposed area</li> </ul>
6	Craigie Reserve (Kanwal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To exclude playspace from OLA</li> </ul>
7	James Watt Drive (Chittaway Bay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To exclude shared footpaths and sportsground from OLA</li> </ul>
8	Captain Cook Reserve (Green Point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To exclude playspace from OLA</li> </ul>
9	Illoura Reserve (Davistown)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable expansion of environmental conservation areas</li> </ul>

For detailed mapping see APPENDIX 10.3.

## 4.4 Site access constraints

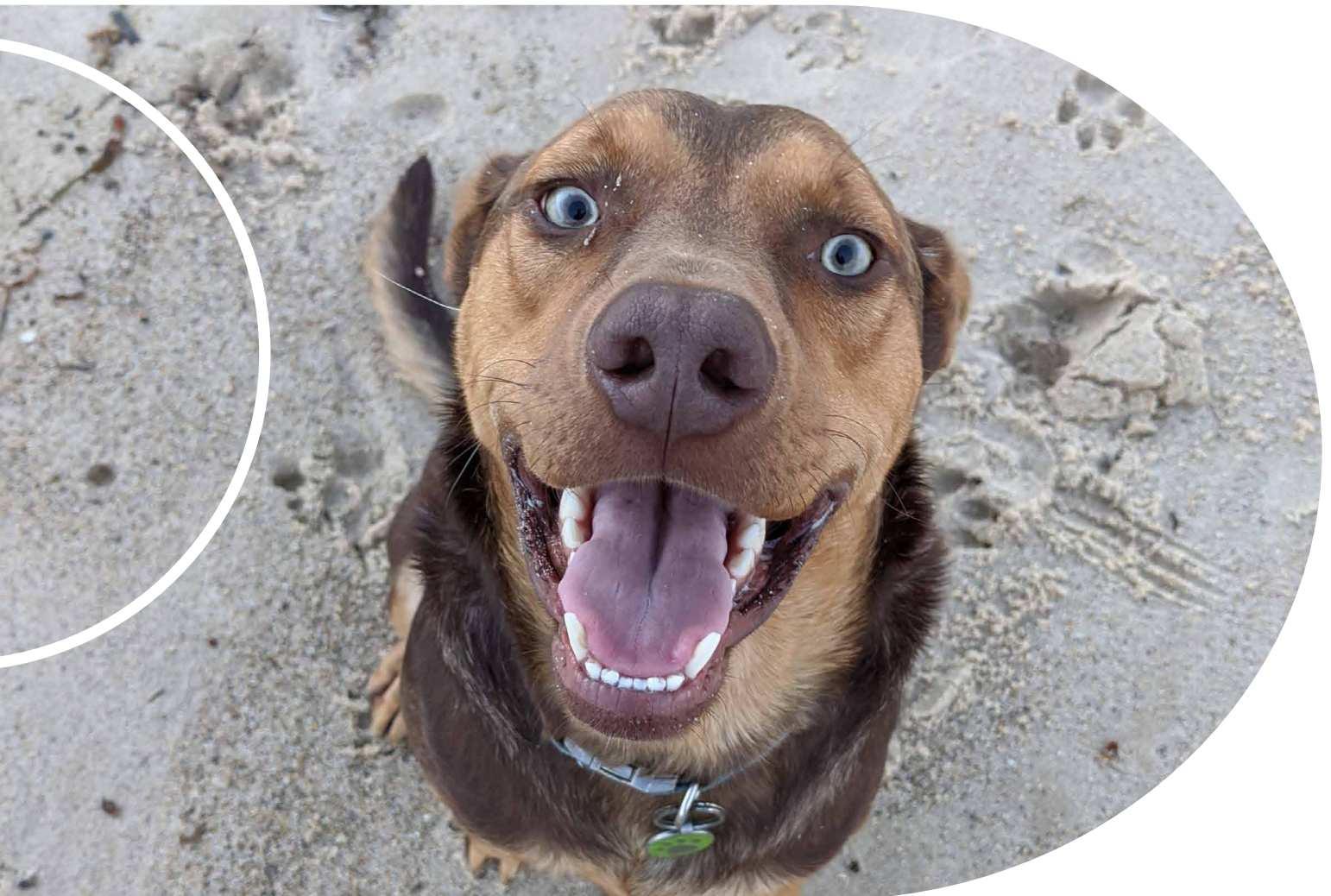
The following Off Leash Beaches are challenging to access:

### Wamberal Beach OLA

- Direct access off Surfers Road is a narrow residential road with no car park access.
- The Public commonly use Wamberal Surf Club entrance which is a dogs prohibited area (National Park buffer zone).
- Direct OLA access is available via parkland allotments 25-25B on Ocean View Drive, with street parking only along Ocean View Drive. A small car park may be investigated at this site for improved access to Wamberal Beach OLA. Cost-benefit and environmental impacts will be considered.
- Detailed and mapped signage is required at the Remembrance Drive car park and the Wamberal Surf Club car park. This information will be reinforced on Council's website.

### Killcare Beach OLA

- The only access for the Killcare Beach OLA is via the north-east end of the Beach Drive car park. Public commonly use the car park along Putty Beach Road to access the OLA where the connecting pathway is dogs prohibited (National Park buffer zone).
- Detailed and mapped signage is required at both car parks. This information needs also to be reinforced on Council's website.





# 5. OFF LEASH FRAMEWORK

The Off Leash Framework will assist with the planning and design of off leash areas, as well as resourcing of both Rangers and Parks and Reserves maintenance.

## 5.1 Off leash categories:

### Local OLAs

Current 35, Proposed 44

Local OLAs cater for users that live within approximately 1km radius of the site.

### District OLAs

Current 26, Proposed 24

District OLAs cater for users that live within approximately 3km radius of the site.

## 5.2 Providing quality OLAs

All of the Central Coast's OLAs should contain sensory elements necessary to help manage dog activity and provide stimulation. Focus should be given to the development and maintenance of OLAs to deter off leash use from other reserves. In addition to this, the accessibility enhancements of OLAs should be considered, such as providing access to disabled car spaces and amenities, providing Continual accessible path of travel (CAPT), Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSIs) for adjoining pathways, etc.

**Table 5 OLA requirements**

**Inland OLAs**

Local	District and/or fenced
<p><b>Local Inland OLAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are relatively small</li> <li>• Attract short stay visitations 15-30 mins</li> <li>• Are walked to either directly or indirectly as part of a longer walk</li> </ul> <p><b>Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating (may be elsewhere in the reserve)</li> <li>• Water (may be elsewhere in the reserve)</li> <li>• Natural shade and vegetation</li> <li>• Bins</li> <li>• Signage / wayfinding</li> <li>• Incidental maintenance inspections</li> <li>• Scheduled Ranger patrols if required</li> <li>• Landscape or sensory elements (e.g., shade trees/vegetation plantings)</li> <li>• 1-2 types of ground surfacing to manage wear and tear</li> <li>• On-street parking*</li> </ul> <p><b>Don't include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing other than to address risk management considerations and protect natural environmental assets (e.g., sensitive vegetation, wetland areas)</li> <li>• Litter bag dispensers</li> </ul>	<p><b>District Inland OLAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are in large reserves that include multiple natural sensory environments.</li> <li>• Attract longer stays (30 mins+) from people outside the immediate residential catchment and short stays (15-30 mins) by people who live locally</li> </ul> <p><b>Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating (may be elsewhere in the reserve)</li> <li>• Water (may be elsewhere in the reserve)</li> <li>• Natural shade and vegetation</li> <li>• Bins</li> <li>• Signage / wayfinding</li> <li>• Regular maintenance inspections</li> <li>• Routine Ranger patrols</li> <li>• Landscape or sensory elements (e.g shade trees/vegetation plantings)</li> <li>• 1-2 types of ground surfacing to manage wear and tear</li> <li>• Accessible toilet facilities*</li> <li>• Off-street parking *</li> <li>• Accessible paths leading to and through the off-leash area</li> <li>• Dog activity elements</li> <li>• Etiquette signage</li> <li>• Community education programs considered on site</li> <li>• Continual accessible path of travel (CAPT)</li> </ul> <p><b>Don't Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing other than to address risk management considerations and protect natural environmental assets (e.g sensitive vegetation, wetland areas)</li> <li>• Litter bag dispensers</li> </ul>

**Table 5 OLA requirements****Foreshort and beach OLAs**

Local	District
<p><b>Local foreshore and beach OLAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract dog owners from a local residential catchment</li> <li>• Will not include any introduced features or built features such as seating, shade shelters or enclosed fencing</li> </ul> <p><b>Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Incidental maintenance inspections</li> <li>• Scheduled Ranger patrols if required</li> </ul>	<p><b>District foreshore and beach OLAs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract dog owners from an extended catchment (e.g tourists) as well as from locals</li> <li>• Will not include any introduced features or built features such as seating, shade shelters or enclosed fencing</li> </ul> <p><b>Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bins</li> <li>• Signage</li> <li>• Off street parking where available*</li> <li>• Regular maintenance inspections</li> <li>• Routine Ranger patrols</li> </ul>

\* May be available if the OLA is part of a larger reserve or park

### 5.3 New subdivisions

OLAs should be considered in new subdivisions where possible.

Requirements for OLAs will be drafted for new subdivisions to include provisions relating to Dog Exercise. Consideration will be given to minimum standards and recommended sizes and will be developed separately to this Plan.

### 5.4 To fence or not to fence?

Fenced OLAs (FOLAs) are an important consideration for any dogs in open space plan. However, experience has shown that FOLAs can present a number of challenges such as those outlined below:

- Excludes shared use of open space
- Dog owners can be less vigilant due to the perception that less oversight is required
- Can concentrate dogs that are hard to control, unsocialised or aggressive due to the perception that the fence will contain these dogs\*
- Can increase likelihood of dog bites, attacks and rushing
- Can prevent quick exits in the case of an emergency, particularly for those with mobility impairments
- Can concentrate ground erosion

\*FOLAs are not intended for uncontrolled, unsocialised or aggressive.

For these reasons, the fencing of an OLA will only be considered if in close proximity to a sensitive environment or for safety reasons (e.g., close proximity to a busy road, playspace or sportsground). In these cases, preference should be given to partial fencing or natural landscape barriers (e.g., planting).

All of Council's 6 FOLAs (Narara, Tuggerah, Buff Point, Ettalong, Lake Munmorah, Gorokan) will remain fenced.

### 5.5 Enhancing OLAs

Council recommends the following allocations be made to enhance existing OLAs over the next 10 years.

**Table 6**

<b>OLA</b>	<b>Budget required</b>	<b>Enhancements</b>
Tuggerah Fenced OLA	\$450,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept design</li> <li>• \$300,000 required for installation of landscape features and sensory elements to help manage dog behaviour and distribute activity across the site.</li> <li>• \$150,000 required for drainage/sub surface works.</li> </ul>
Buff Point Fenced OLA	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of landscape features and sensory elements to help manage dog behaviour and distribute activity across the site.</li> <li>• Connecting and circulatory pathways</li> <li>• Accessibility enhancements.</li> </ul>
Narara Fenced OLA	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of landscape features and sensory elements to help manage dog behaviour and distribute activity across the site.</li> <li>• Circulatory pathways</li> <li>• Accessibility enhancements.</li> </ul>
Ettalong Fenced OLA	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of landscape features and sensory elements to help manage dog behaviour and distribute activity across the site.</li> <li>• Circulatory pathways</li> <li>• Additional seating and accessibility enhancements</li> </ul>
Lake Munmorah Fenced OLA	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reshaping of existing fence</li> <li>• Installation of landscape features and sensory elements to help manage dog behaviour and distribute activity across the site.</li> </ul>
Gorokan Fenced OLA	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install water fountain inside fenced area/s</li> <li>• Installation of landscape features and sensory elements to help manage dog behaviour and distribute activity across the site.</li> <li>• Circulatory pathways</li> <li>• Accessibility enhancements.</li> </ul>
District Inland OLAs	\$15,000 / OLA (\$390,000 total)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility enhancements</li> <li>• Ancillary Infrastructure such as seating, water, shade and bins</li> <li>• Landscape features (e.g rock-scapes), sensory elements (plants and ground textures) and interactive play (mounds, tunnels etc)</li> <li>• Accessibility enhancements.</li> </ul>
OLAs	\$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all OLAs have access to bins and appropriate signage, seating and water (can be elsewhere in reserve), and shade (natural or otherwise) as required.</li> <li>• Accessibility enhancements.</li> <li>• Ensure all OLA boundaries are clearly delineated.</li> </ul>

## 5.6 Maintaining OLAs

Future funding for maintenance of OLAs should allow for the following maintenance works

- Site clean-up (litter)
- Turf reinstatement
- Bindii/weed management
- Tree and vegetation (watering/mulching)
- Equipment repairs
- Ensuring pathways are maintained and un-obstructed by vegetation etc for accessibility.

## 5.7 On Leash Areas

Dogs must be on leash at all times in a public place except in designated OLAs.

### Sportsgrounds

Off leash dogs on sportsgrounds present a risk to children and other members of the community who use the fields for recreation. Sportsgrounds are also maintained for sporting use which conflicts with dog litter, digging and general wear associated with off leash dogs. For these reasons, dogs are not permitted off leash on sportsgrounds. Dogs are permitted on sportsgrounds where they are leashed and under complete effective control by their owners. The owner is responsible and liable for the actions of their animals.

## 5.8 Dogs Prohibited

Dogs are not permitted in National Parks, within 10m of play equipment, on Coastal Open Space System (COSS)<sup>5</sup> sites, on beaches not designated as OLAs, on sand dunes, within bathing areas and area Council has designated 'Wildlife Protection Areas' or 'Natural Assets'.

	Status
National Parks	Currently prohibited
The grounds of schools, pre-schools etc. (unless access has been approved)	Currently prohibited
Within 10m of play equipment	Currently prohibited
Coastal Open Space System (COSS) sites	Currently prohibited
Areas designated as 'Natural Assets'	Currently prohibited
Crommelin Native Arboretum (Pearl Beach)	Currently prohibited
Saratoga Conservation Area	Currently prohibited
Davistown Conservation Area	Currently prohibited
Sand Dunes	Proposed prohibited
Bathing Areas (between flags and 20m each side of patrolled or designated bathing areas)	Proposed prohibited

<sup>5</sup>Coastal Open Space System Strategy. The COSS is a network of reserves has been identified because of its importance in protecting native flora and fauna, Aboriginal and European cultural and heritage sites, local water catchments, geological formations and urban environmental amenity.

## 6. EDUCATION

Changing community behaviour is challenging and requires a multi-faceted approach. Residents need to know that information is available and be able to access it. Initiatives to encourage behaviour change should be addressed via community-led strategies that involve school-aged children and strong partnerships between community stakeholders and interest groups .

Outgoing communications should consider content across a variety of mediums.

Any education and engagement program should:

- Focus on a key behaviour change in specific areas. (e.g., leash compliance in high use on-leash areas OR compliance with dogs prohibited areas at a specific site)
- Ensure outward communications are simple, consistent and ongoing and are appropriate to all audiences
- Engage with key community stakeholders (e.g., dog trainers, veterinarians, schools and non-dog owners)
- Consider incentivised initiatives
- Address dismissive justifications commonly used by non-compliant dog owners (e.g., "don't worry, he is friendly")

Key behaviour change projects should address:

- Dog littering
- Effective control
- Non-Compliance with on leash, off leash and dogs prohibited requirements

### 6.1 Signage

Signage plays an important role in the regulation and education of off leash, on leash and dogs prohibited areas. This document encourages the consistent rollout of traffic light signage at Council reserves:

- Red signs indicate dogs are prohibited in these areas
- Amber signs are a reminder that dogs must be on a leash.
- Green signs indicate designated Off Leash Areas

OLAs that are not clearly defined and/or have site access constraints should be clearly outlined with mapped signage.



<sup>6</sup>Dogs in Parks; Managing the Waste, R. Dolesh, Nov 2018

## 7. REGULATION

There is significant community frustration with common non-compliances such as dog litter, dogs being off leash when not in OLAs and dogs not being under effective control.

Dog control and compliance issues affect all public reserves, therefore Council resources need to be applied to on leash areas and dog prohibited areas in addition to OLAs.

It is a requirement of the CAA that a dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash that is attached to the dog and that is being held by (or secured to) the person.

In addition to the above, It is recommended that Council adopt the following requirements to define 'effective control' of dogs and the expectation of their owners:

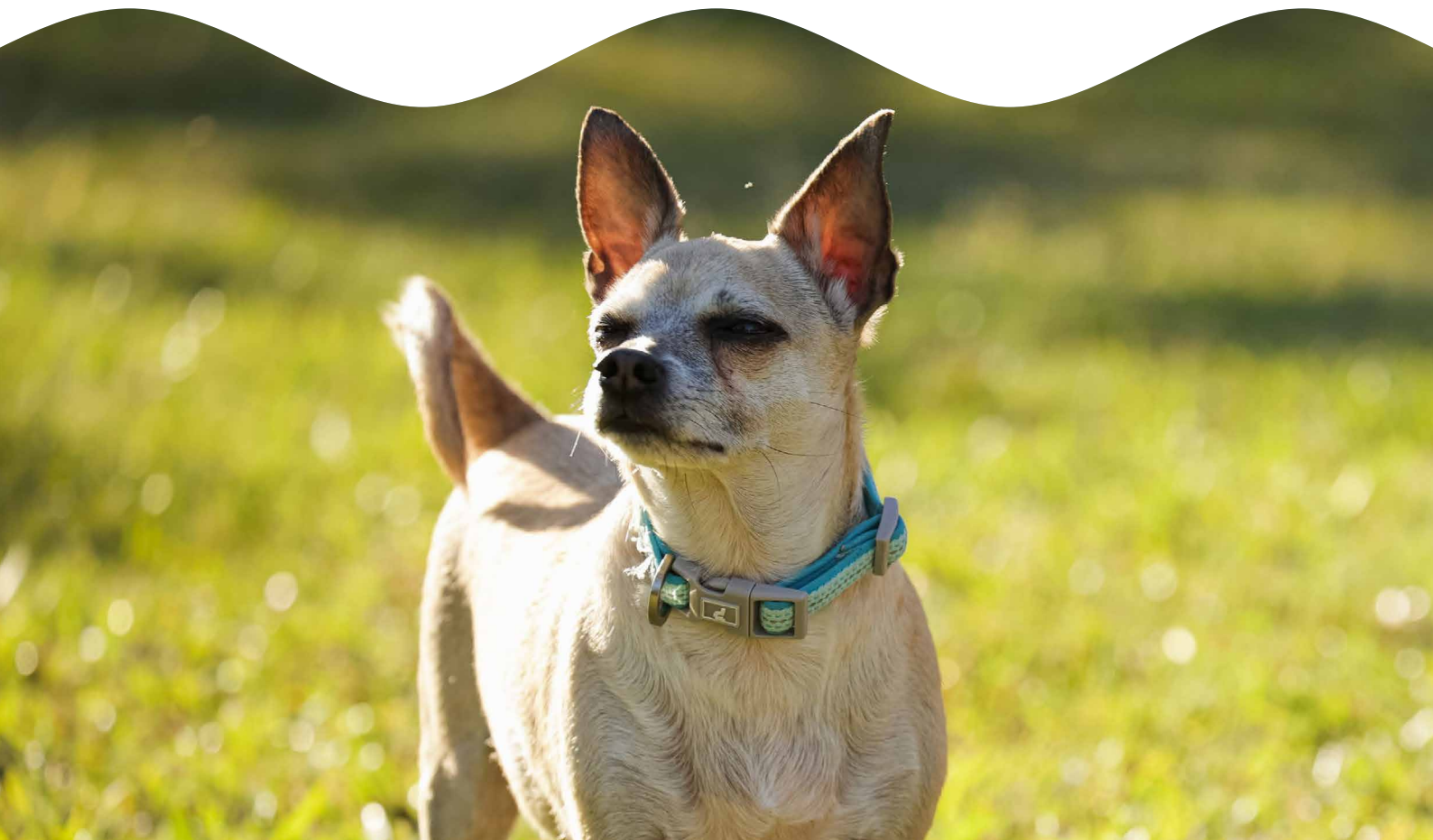
### **In on-leash areas dogs are;**

- to be on leash at all times and within CAA age and capability requirements
- to be on a leash (max length 2.4m)
- not be tethered to a fixed place or object whilst unattended by their owner

### **In OLAs dogs are to;**

- be able to be recalled at owner's commands
- remain within clear sight of their owner

### **Dogs are not permitted to enter dogs prohibited areas**



## 8. ACTION PLAN

Action		Priority 1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	Cost
<b>Planning considerations</b>			
1	Ensure additional open space is incorporated in new subdivisions to cater for off-leash requirements where possible. Ensure a coordinated and fully integrated approach to the planning and provision for OLAs that involves open space planning and management, community development, town planning, regulatory services etc	Ongoing	In-kind
2	Prepare developer guidelines relating to OLAs and FOLAs	1	In-kind
<b>Changes to OLA provision</b>			
3	Decommission/relocate OLAs at the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>McEvoy Drainage Easement (Umina Beach) (decommission)</li> <li>Lees Reserve (decommission)</li> <li>Kariong Recreation Reserve (decommission)</li> <li>Fagan Reserve (relocate)</li> </ul>	1	In-kind
4	Designate the following OLA as on leash only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terrigal Haven</li> </ul>	1	In-kind
5	Designate (and develop where necessary) areas at the following reserves as additional OLAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wiles Ave, Wamberal</li> <li>Robertson Rd. Reserve (Killarney Vale)</li> <li>Wyong Rd, (Killarney Vale)</li> <li>Wattle St. Reserve (Toukley)</li> <li>Tunkuwallin / Kanangra Dr. reserve (Gwandalan)</li> <li>Warwick Av. Reserve (Mannering Park)</li> <li>Karrawa Reserve (Pt. Claire)</li> <li>Watanobbi Knoll (Watanobbi)</li> <li>Lara Cl. Reserve (Ourimbah)</li> <li>Linga Longa Reserve (Yarramalong)</li> <li>Hilltop Park (Woongarrah)</li> <li>Portside Close (Bensville)</li> <li>Memorial Oval (Davistown)</li> </ul>	1	In-kind
6	Modify the boundary of OLAs at the following sites; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Avoca Beach (North Avoca)</li> <li>Greenvale Road Reserve (Green Point)</li> <li>Lake Munmorah Fenced OLA (Lake Munmorah)</li> <li>Peppercorn Av. Reserve (Woongarrah)</li> <li>Mataram Ridge Park (Woongarrah)</li> <li>Craigie Reserve (Kanwal)</li> <li>Oberton Street Reserve (Kincumber)</li> <li>James Watt Drive Drainage Easement (Chittaway Bay)</li> <li>Illoura Reserve (Davistown)</li> </ul>	1	In-kind
7	Enhancement of OLAs according to Table 6	3	\$1.29M



	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority 1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Off leash framework</b>			
8	Publishing rationale for off leash fencing on Council's website	Ongoing	In-kind
9	Establish service levels for maintenance of OLAs in line with similar open space assets	1	Determined Upon review
10	Establish service levels for Ranger Services of OLAs	1	Determined Upon review
<b>Dogs on leash and dogs prohibited</b>			
11	Ensure all sportsgrounds are appropriately signed as 'Dogs on leash' sites in line with CAA requirements	1	In-kind
12	Ensure that the following natural environments are all appropriately designated and signed as dogs prohibited zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all COSS sites</li> <li>areas designated by Council as Natural Assets</li> <li>all beaches not designated as Off Leash Areas</li> <li>sand dune areas</li> </ul>	1	\$10,000
13	Prepare a signage plan for OLAs, sportsgrounds, dogs prohibited and on-leash areas	2	In-kind
14	Continue to review areas of environmental sensitivity where dogs should be prohibited or be required to be on a leash	Ongoing	In-kind
14	Continue to review areas of environmental sensitivity where dogs should be prohibited or be required to be on a leash	Ongoing	In-kind
<b>Enhancing off leash areas</b>			
15	Prepare a Concept Plan for Tuggerah fenced Off Leash Area	1	\$10,000
16	Prepare a Concept Plan for the Ettalong fenced Off Leash Area	2	\$5,000
17	Prepare a Concept Plan for Narara fenced Off Leash Area	1	\$5,000
18	Reshape and extend fencing at Lake Munmorah Fenced Off Leash Area	3	Included in Action 8
19	Install mapped signage detailing boundary and access to Putty Beach and Wamberal Beach OLAs	1	\$20,000
20	Install mapped signage detailing boundary and access to Putty Beach and Wamberal Beach OLAs	1	\$20,000
21	Install mapped signage detailing boundary and access to Putty Beach and Wamberal Beach OLAs	1	\$20,000

Action		Priority 1=High, 2=Med, 3=Low	Cost
<b>Education</b>			
22	Consider GIS incident mapping of dog behaviour complaints internally to assist Ranger Services	1	\$20,000
23	Review and streamline/enhance dogs in open space information on Council's website	Ongoing	In-kind
24	Consider strategies to incentivise attendance at dog and puppy training and education classes	3	In-kind
25	Develop targeted (e.g., by suburb) projects to encourage owners to comply with dog registration regulations	2	In-kind
26	Consider the stand up of a Companion Animals Working Group	1	In-kind
27	Consider strategic initiatives and partnerships with community stakeholders and interest groups	2	In-kind
28	Consider targeted initiatives and activities during holiday periods	3	In-kind
<b>Regulation</b>			
29	Review the resourcing of Ranger Services, in consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing service demands</li> <li>• Education initiatives</li> <li>• The impact and effectiveness of current strategies</li> <li>• The cost-benefit of implementing proactive strategies to address matters relating to animal management</li> </ul>	1	Determined upon review
30	Adopt the following requirements in a Council Order to define 'effective control' of dogs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In on-leash areas dogs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to be on leash at all times and within CAA age and capability requirements</li> <li>- to be on a short leash (max 2.4m)</li> <li>- not be tethered to a fixed place or object</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In off-leash areas dogs are to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be able to be recalled at owner's commands</li> <li>- not be tethered to a fixed place or object whilst unattended by their owner</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dogs are prohibited to enter dogs prohibited areas</li> </ul>	1	In-kind

## 9. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

This document supersedes the 'Dogs in Open Space Areas Policy (2002)' and the Dogs in Open Space Strategy (2012).

This Plan will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure that new and emerging needs are identified and addressed.







## 10. APPENDIX

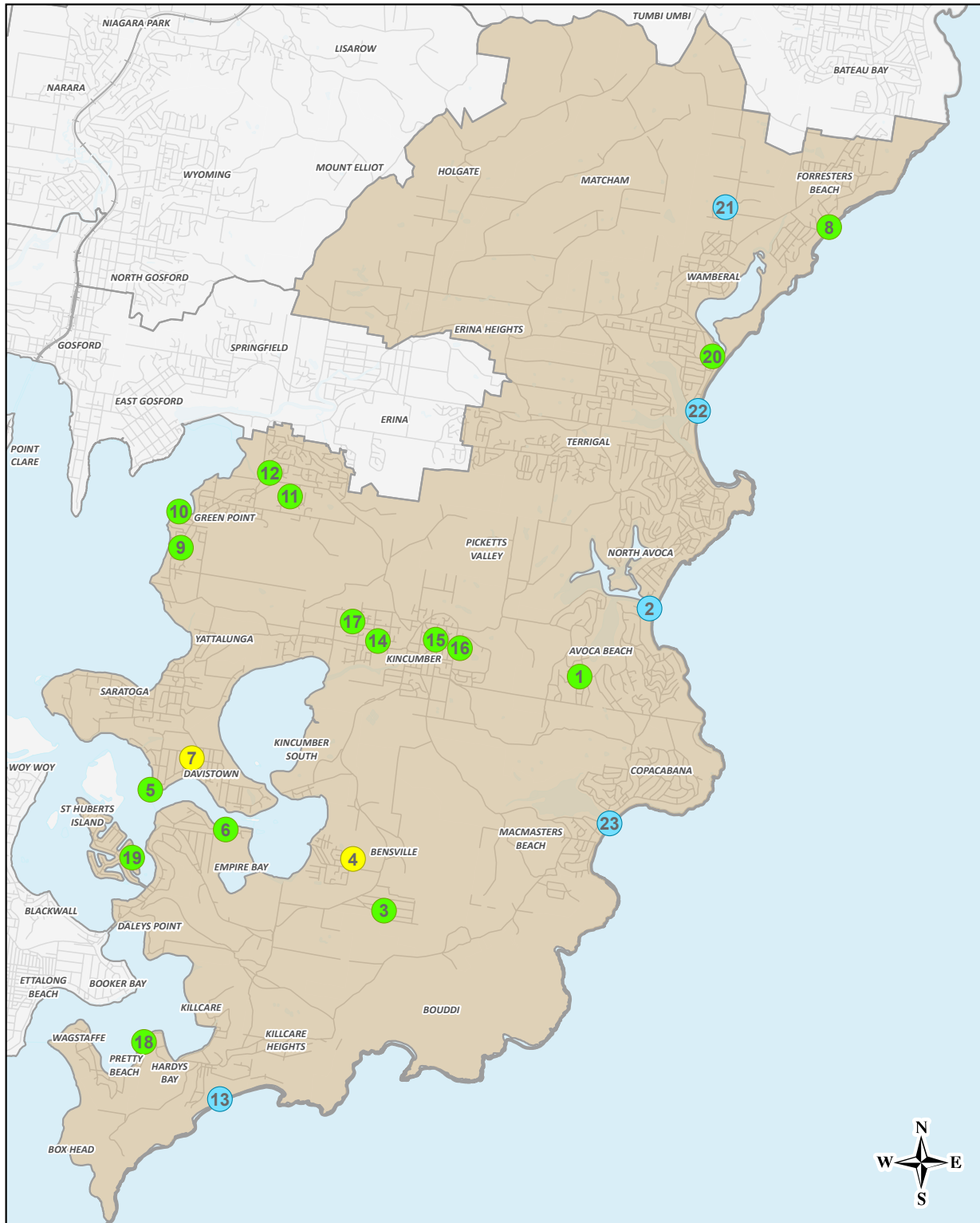
### 10.1 Maps by Planning District

The following maps articulate off leash provision across the LGA. Distribution aligns with residential density and for some social planning districts with limited available open space, upgrades of existing Off Leash Areas ensure provision is met.

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:

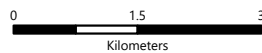
**NOTE: Improved mapping resources will be included in the adopted plan.**

# East Brisbane Water and Coastal District



## EAST BRISBANE WATER AND COASTAL DISTRICT

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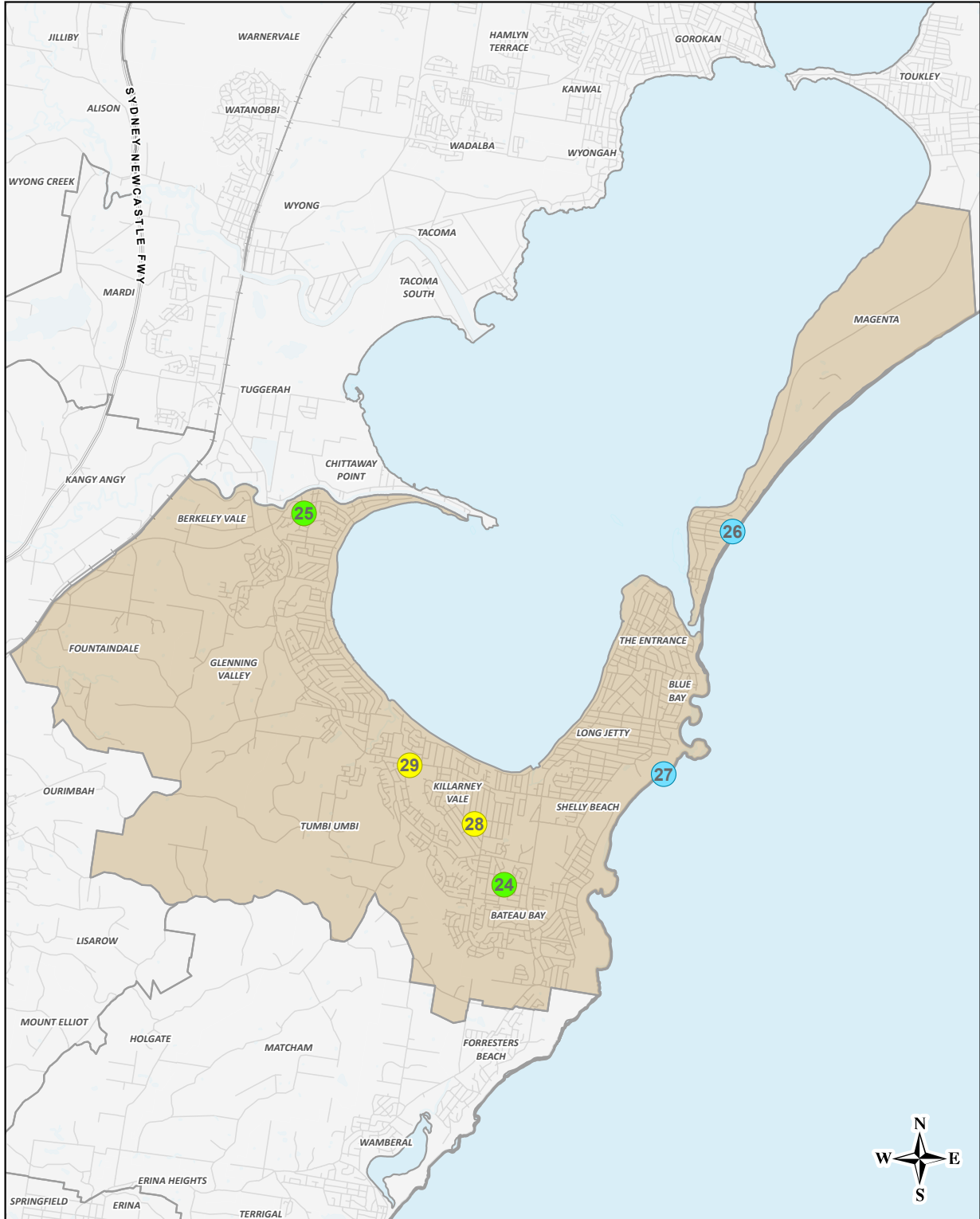
- Road
- +—+ Railway
- === M1 Motorway

### Dogs In Open Space Off Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW

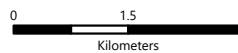
1	Fitzgibbon Close Reserve	Fitzgibbon Close	Avoca Beach
2	North Avoca Beach	View Street	Avoca Beach
3	Yarram Road Park	Yarram Road	Bensville
4	Portside CI Reserve	Portside CI	Bensville
5	Illoura Reserve	1 Mirreen Ave	Davistown
6	Sorrento Road Reserve	Sorrento Road	Empire Bay
7	Memorial Oval	Davistown Rd	Davistown
8	Forresters Beach	Kalakau Avenue	Forresters Beach
9	Blessington Reserve	Kanangra Street	Green Point
10	Captain Cook Reserve	Orana Street	Green Point
11	Greenvale Road Reserve	Greenvale Road	Green Point
12	Sun Valley Park	14A Highland Rd	Green Point
13	Putty Beach Road Reserve	Putty Beach Road	Killcare Heights
14	Carlo Close Reserve	Carlo Close	Kincumber
15	Oberton Street Reserve	Oberton Street	Kincumber
16	Edmondson Cres Reserve	31 Melville Street	Kincumber
17	Tuross Close Reserve	Tuross Close	Kincumber
18	Araluen Drive Road Reserve	Araluen Drive	Pretty Beach
19	Long Arm Parade Reserve	Long Arm Parade	St Huberts Island
20	Wiles Ave Reserve	3 Wiles Ave	Wamberal
21	Tumbi Road Reserve	Longview Road	Wamberal
22	Wamberal Beach	Dover Road	Wamberal
23	Copa/Macmasters Lagoon	Marine Parade	Macmasters Beach

# Southern Lakes and The Entrance District



## SOUTHERN LAKES AND THE ENTRANCE DISTRICT

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- Road
- +—+ Railway
- === M1 Motorway

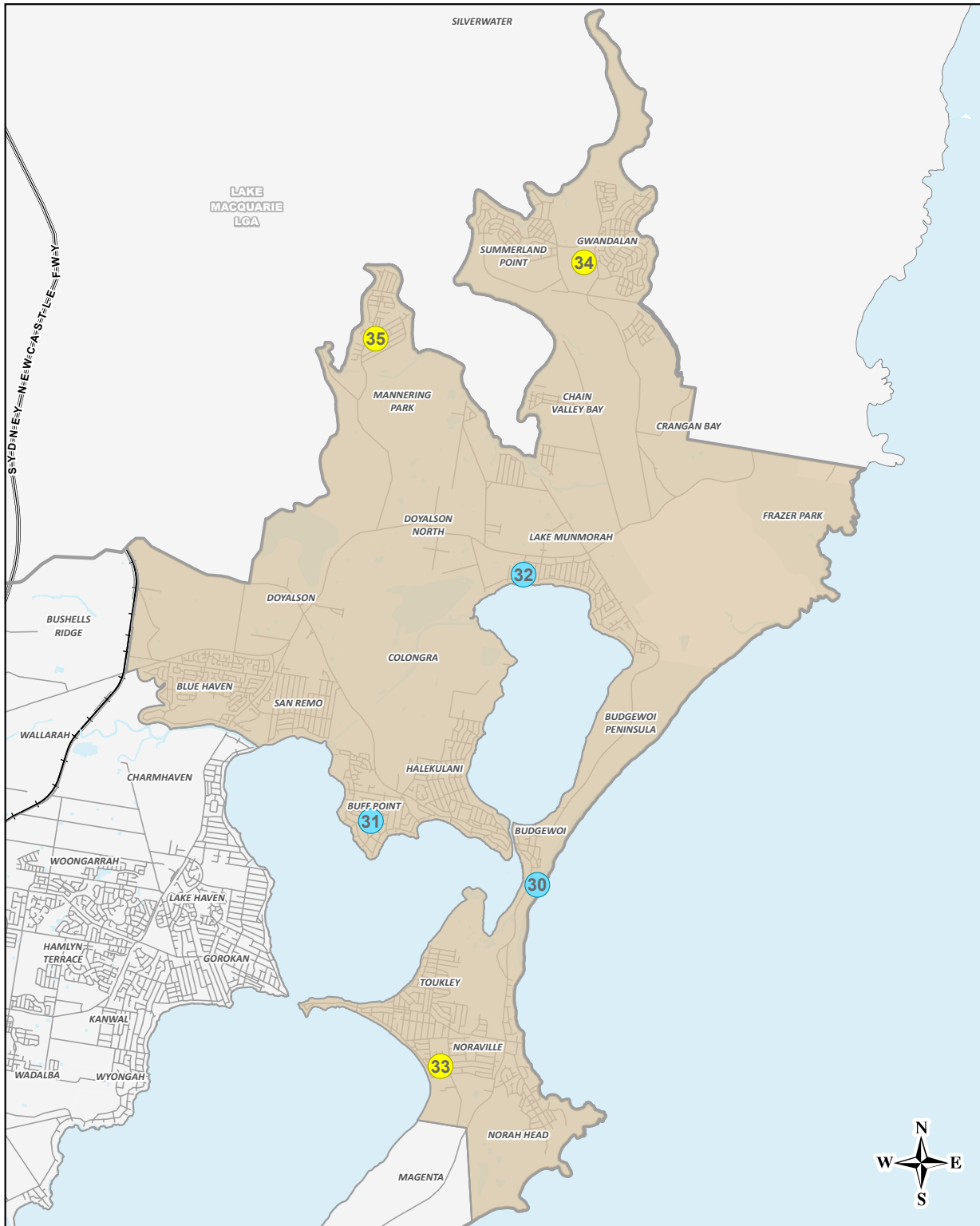
### Dogs In Open Space Off Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW



24	Bateau Bay Reserve	Fishermans Bend	Bateau Bay
25	James Watt Drive Drainage Easement	James Watt Drive	Chittaway Bay
26	The Entrance North Beach	Hutton Road	The Entrance North
27	North Shelly Reserve	Oaks Avenue	Toowoan Bay
28	Robertson Rd Reserve	Robertson Rd	Killarney Vale
29	Wyong Rd Reserve	Wyong Road	Killarney Vale

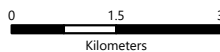
# Northern Lakes, San Remo Budgewoi and Toukley



## NORTHERN LAKES, SAN REMO - BUDGEWOI AND TOUKLEY DISTRICT



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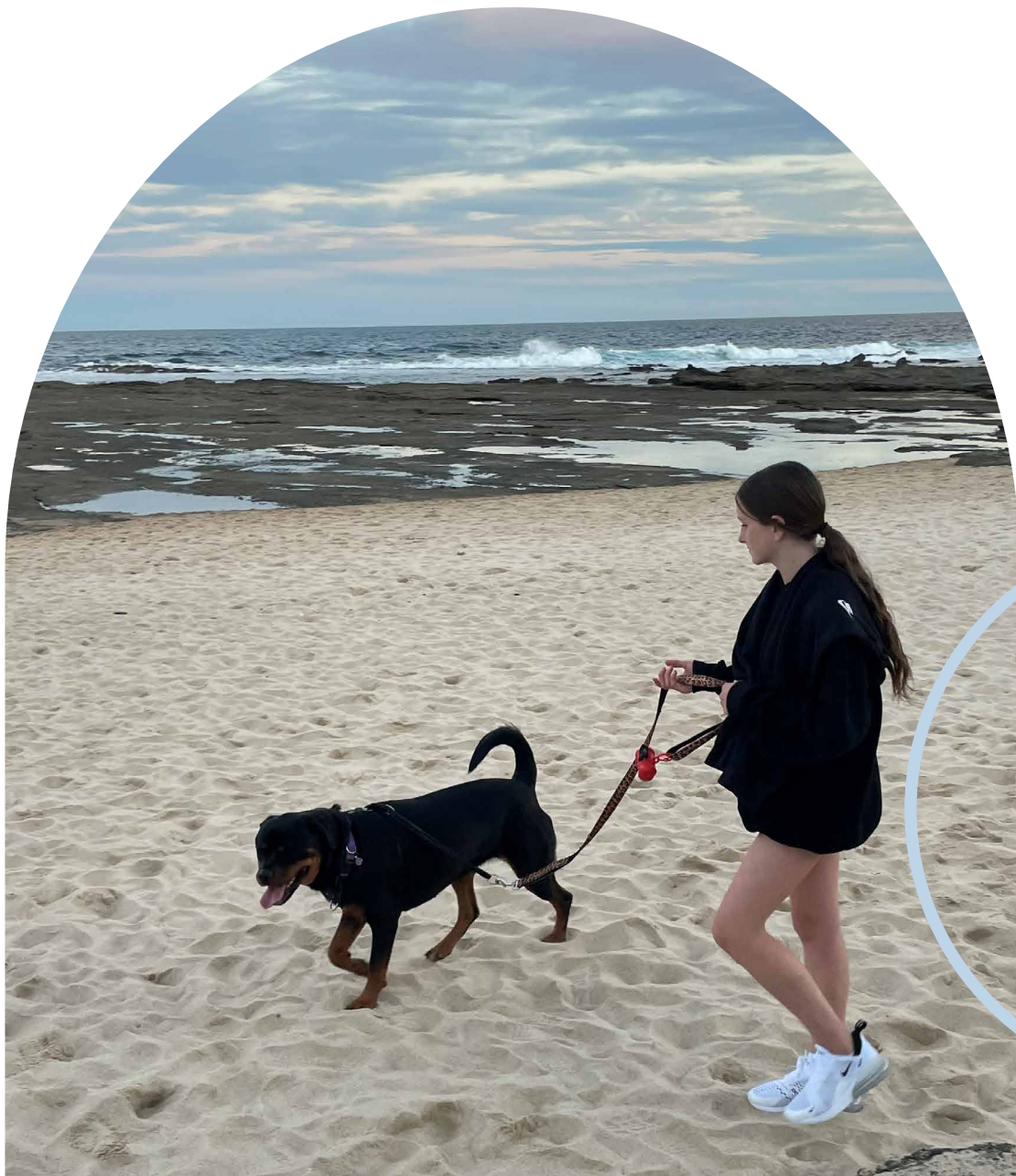


- Road
- +— Railway
- ==== M1 Motorway

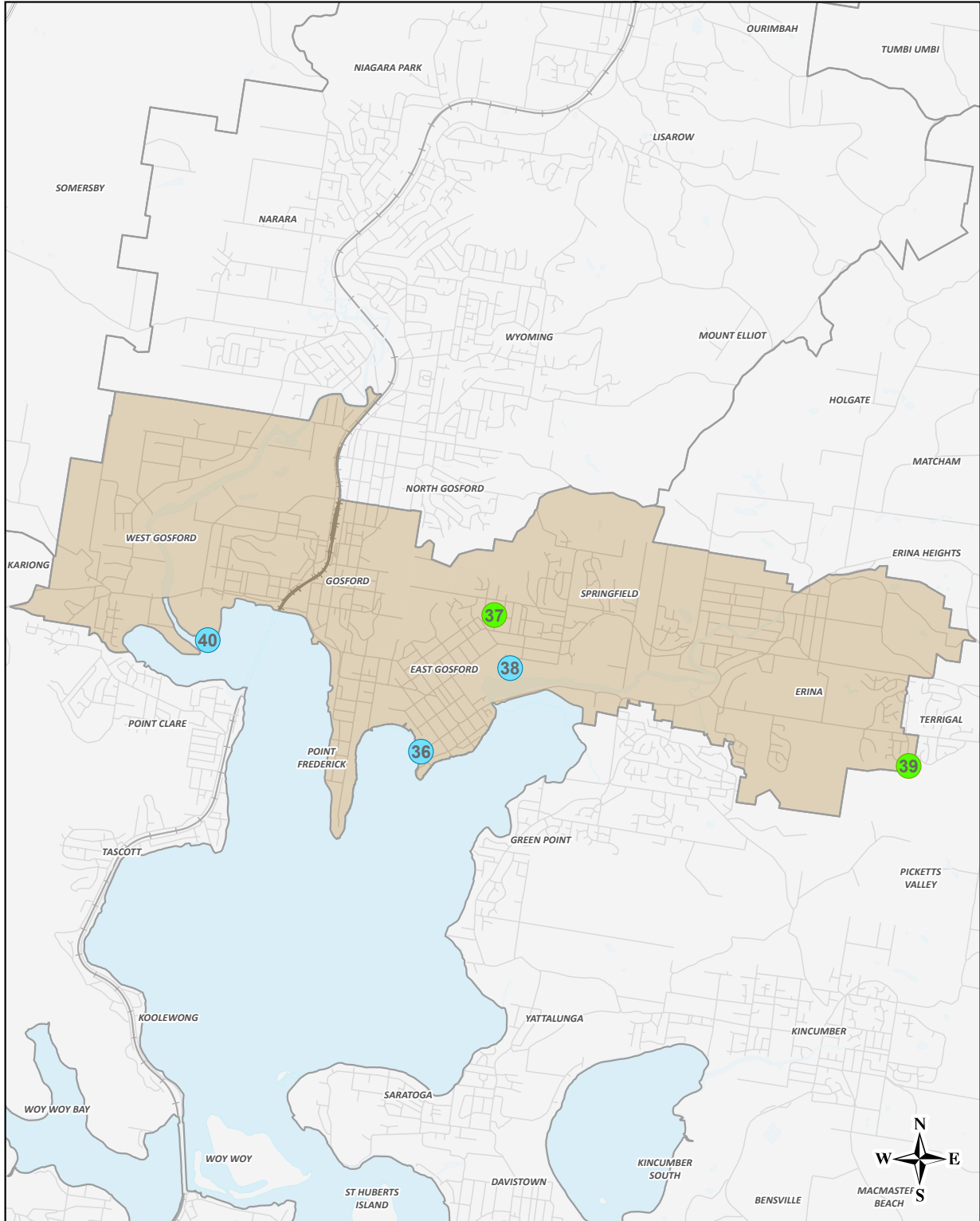
### Dogs In Open Space OFF Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW

30	Lakes Beach	Budgewoi Rd	Budgewoi
31	Buff Point FOLA	Buff point Oval, Matumba Road	Buff Point
32	Lake Munmorah FOLA	Colongra Bay Road	Lake Munmorah
33	Wattle St Reserve	Wattle St Toukley	Toukley
34	Kanangra Drive Reserve	Tunkuwallan	Gwandalan
35	Warwick Av. Reserve	Warwick Ave	Mannering Park



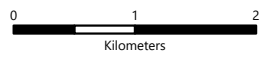
# Gosford Central



## GOSFORD CENTRAL DISTRICT



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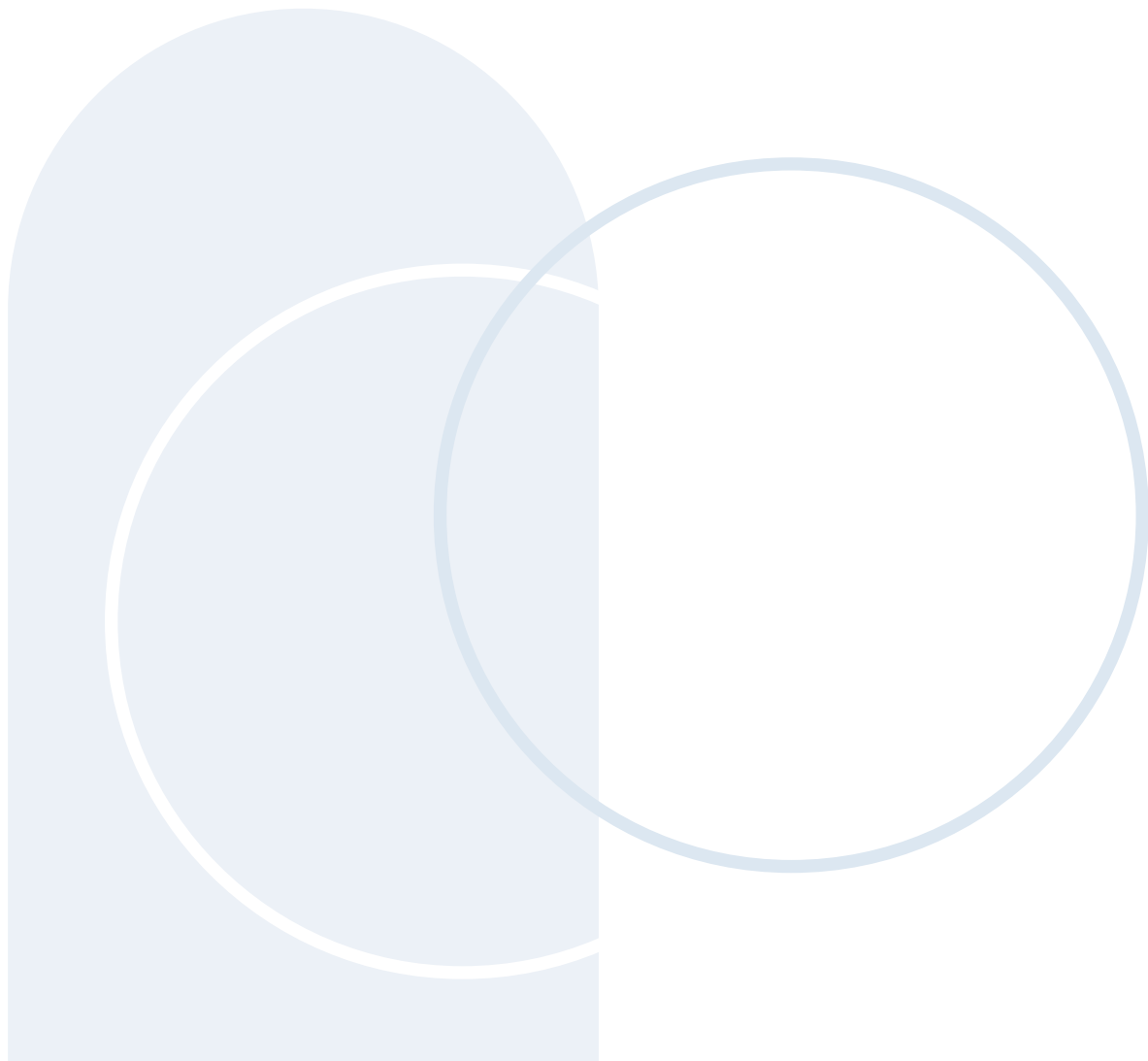


- Road
- +— Railway
- === M1 Motorway

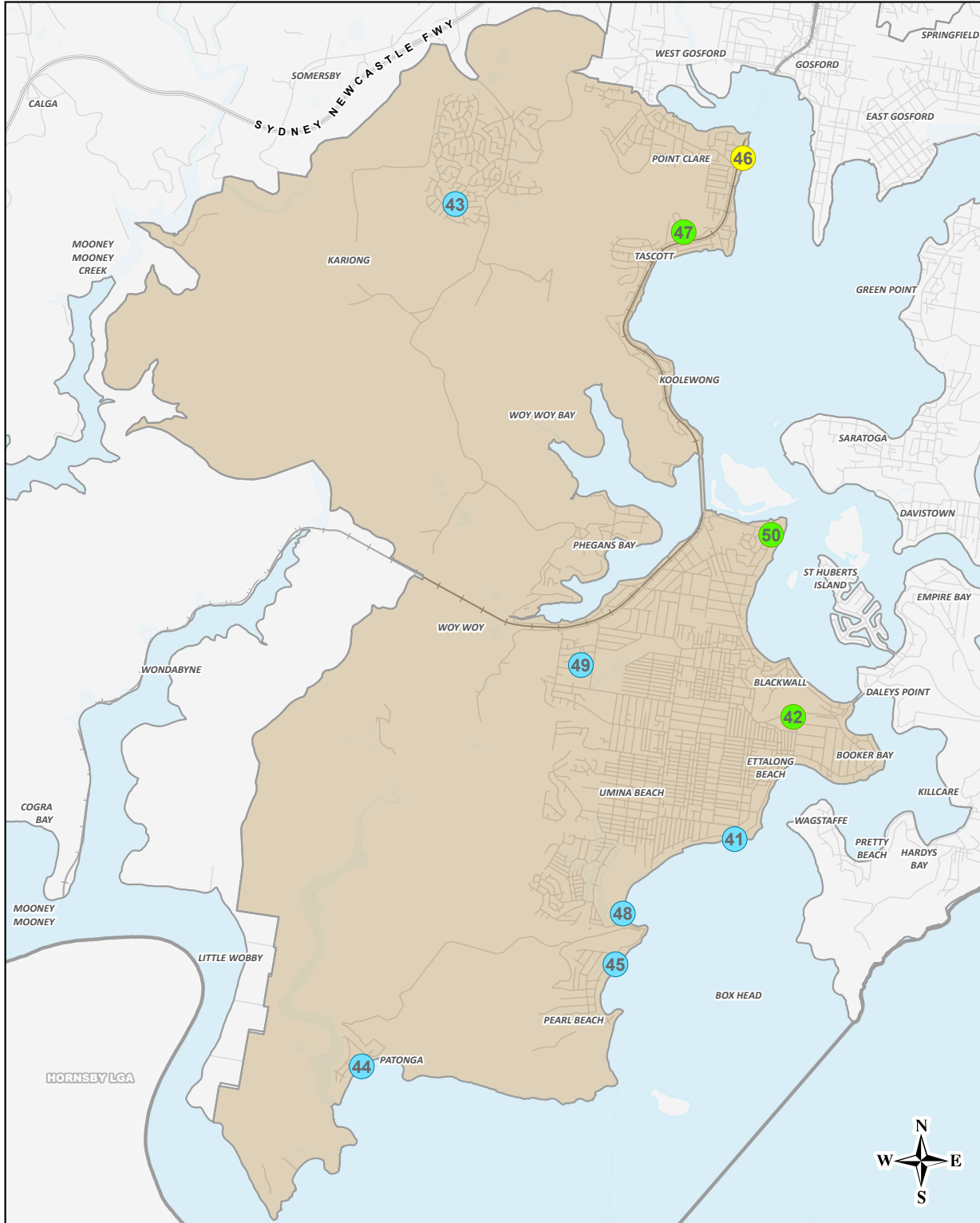
## Dogs In Open Space OFF Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW

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



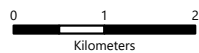
# West Brisbane Water and Peninsula



## WEST BRISBANE WATER AND PENINSULA DISTRICT

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- Road
- +—+ Railway
- === M1 Motorway

## Dogs In Open Space Off Leash Areas

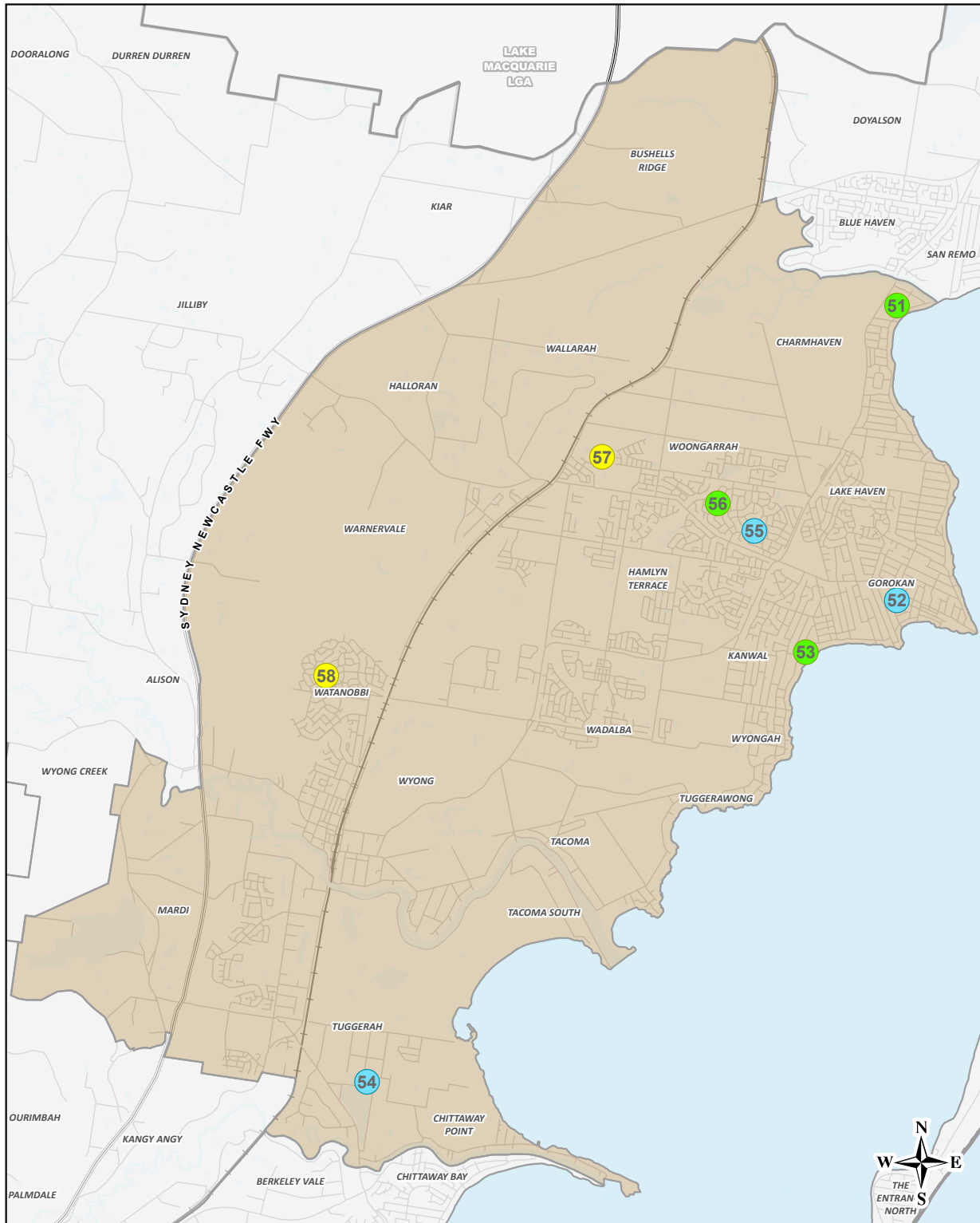
- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW

41	Ettalong Beach	The Esplanade	Ettalong Beach
42	Ettalong FOLA	Cnr of Maitland Bay Drive and Pacific Parade	Ettalong Beach
43	Peppermint Park	Langford Drive	Kariong
44	Patonga Beach	Bay Street	Patonga Beach
45	Pearl Beach	Agate Avenue	Pearl Beach
46	Kurrawa Av. Reserve	Kurrawa Ave	Point Clare
47	Seabrook Reserve	Jacaranda Crescent	Tascott
48	Umina Beach	The Esplanade	Umina Beach
49	Dulkara Rd Reserve	Dulkara Road	Woy Woy
50	North Burge Road Reserve	North Burge Road	Woy Woy

Kariong Dog Park Mt Penang Gardens is not owned and/or managed by Central Coast Council

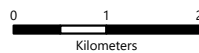


# Wyong, Warnervale and Gorokan District



## WYONG, WARNERVALE AND GOROKAN DISTRICT

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- Road
- +—+ Railway
- === M1 Motorway

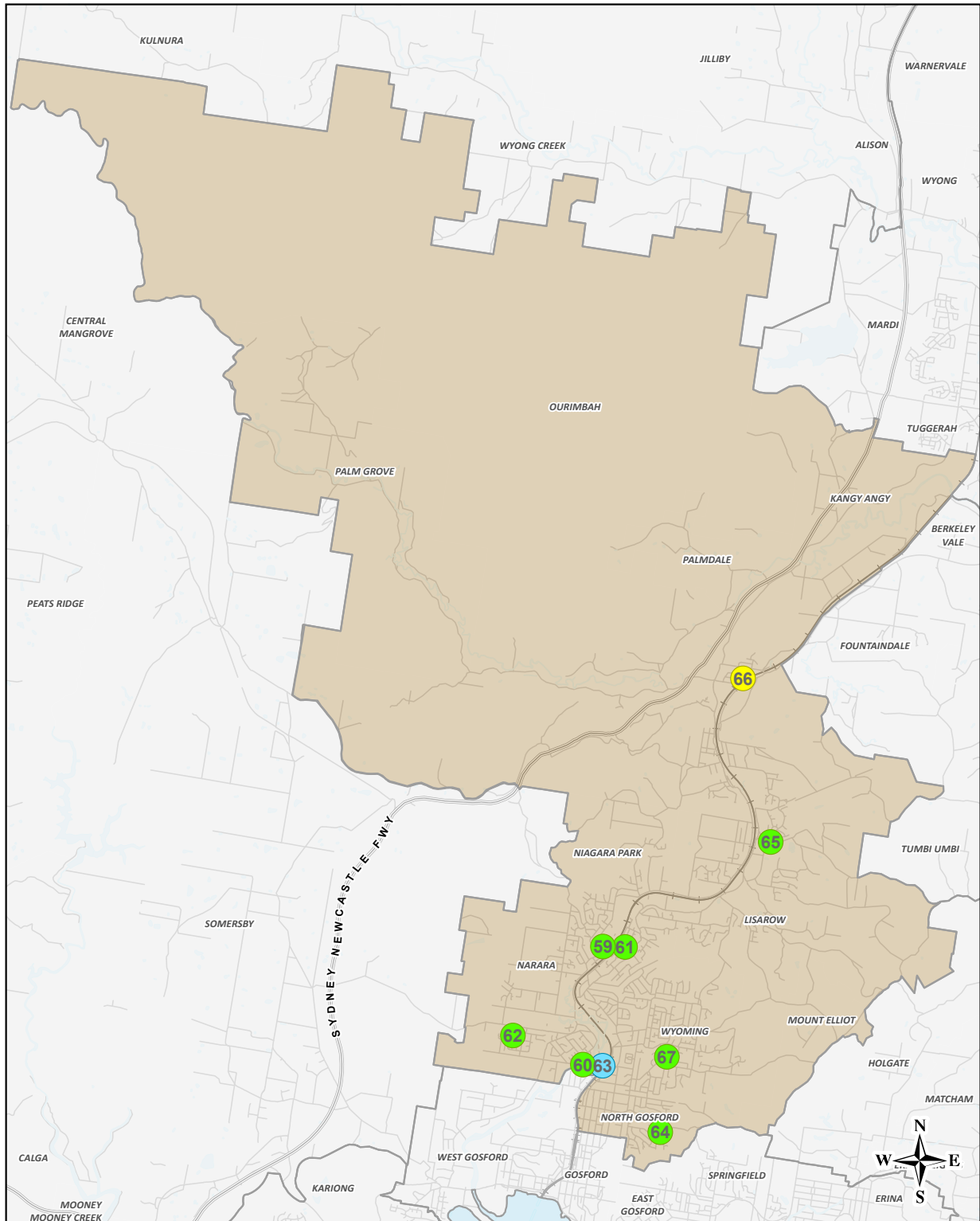
### Dogs In Open Space Off Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW



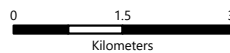
51	Charmhaven Reserve	207W Panarama Ave	Charmhaven
52	Gorokan FOLA	Helen Reserve, Gascoigne Road	Gorokan
53	Craigie Reserve	Donald Avenue	Kanwal
54	Second Av. Reserve	Second Avenue	Tuggerah
55	Mataram Ridge Park	Mountain View Drive	Woongarra
56	Peppercorn Av. Reserve	Peppercorn Avenue and Ivory Crescent	Woongarra
57	Hilltop Park	Hakone Road, Woongarra	Woongarra
58	Watanobbi Knoll	The Terrace	Watanobbi

# Narara Valley and Ourimbah District



## NARARA VALLEY AND OURIMBAH DISTRICT

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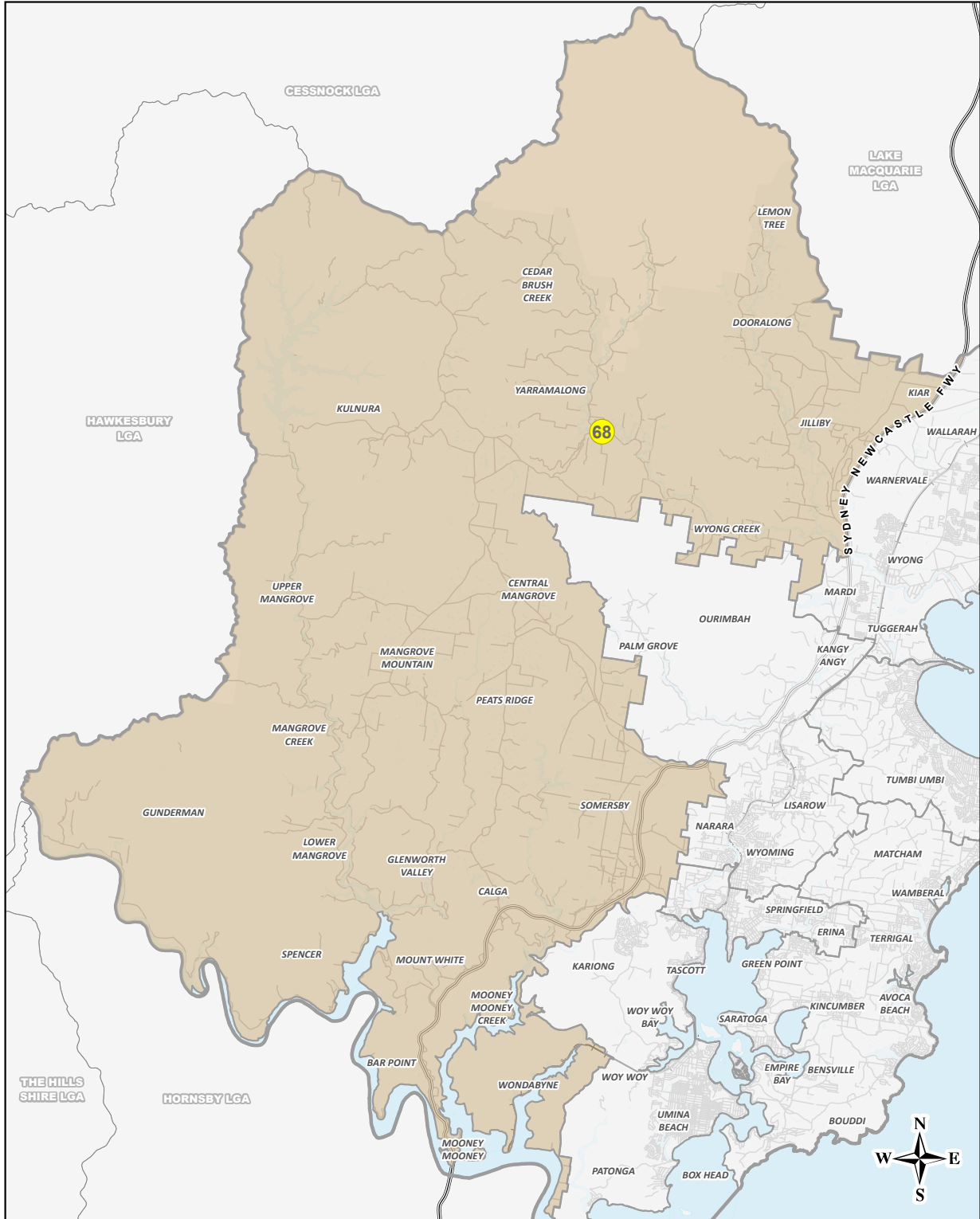
- Road
- Railway
- M1 Motorway

### Dogs In Open Space OFF Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW

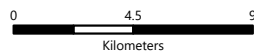
59	Apara Close Reserve	6A Willari Ave	Narara
60	Rowena Rd Reserve (Gavenlock Oval)	Adam Street	Narara
61	Karina Dr. Reserve	49 Karina Drive	Narara
62	Mitchell Park	Corella Crescent	Narara
63	Narara FOLA	Sensory Park, 162 Showground Road	Narara
64	Stachon St. Reserve	Stachon Street	North Gosford
65	Tallowood Cres. Reserve	Tallowood Crescent	Ourimbah
66	Lara Cl. Reserve	Lara Close	Ourimbah
67	Warrawilla Rd. Reserve	Warrawilla Road	Wyoming

# Mountains and Valleys



## MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS DISTRICT

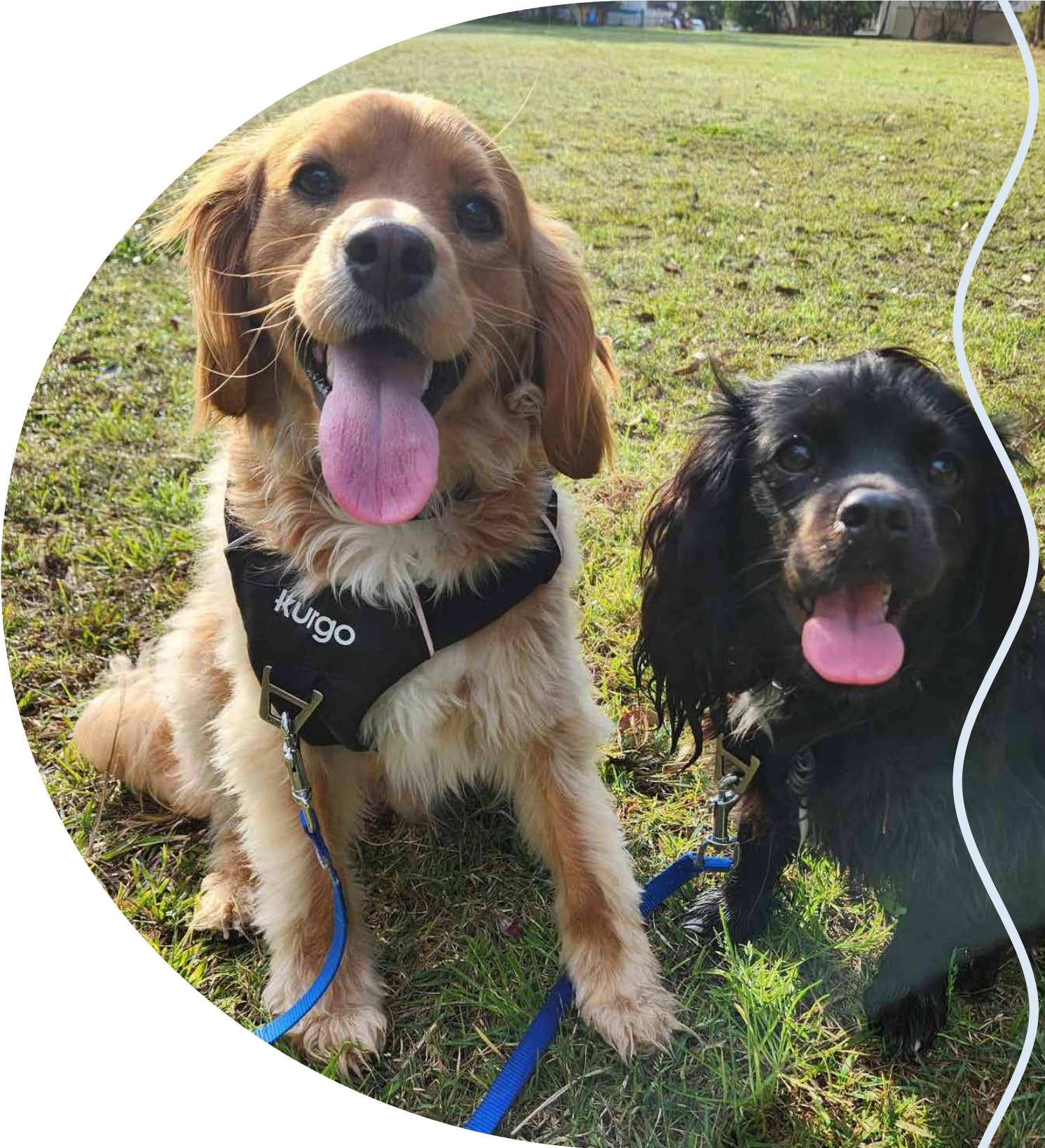
Date: 29/08/2023  
 Source: Central Coast Council  
 Projection: GDA\_1994\_Transverse\_Mercator; GCS\_GDA\_1994  
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- Road
- +—+ Railway
- === M1 Motorway

## Dogs In Open Space OFF Leash Areas

- DISTRICT
- LOCAL
- PROPOSED NEW



# 10.2 Maps of New OLAs

## Wiles Ave (Wamberal)



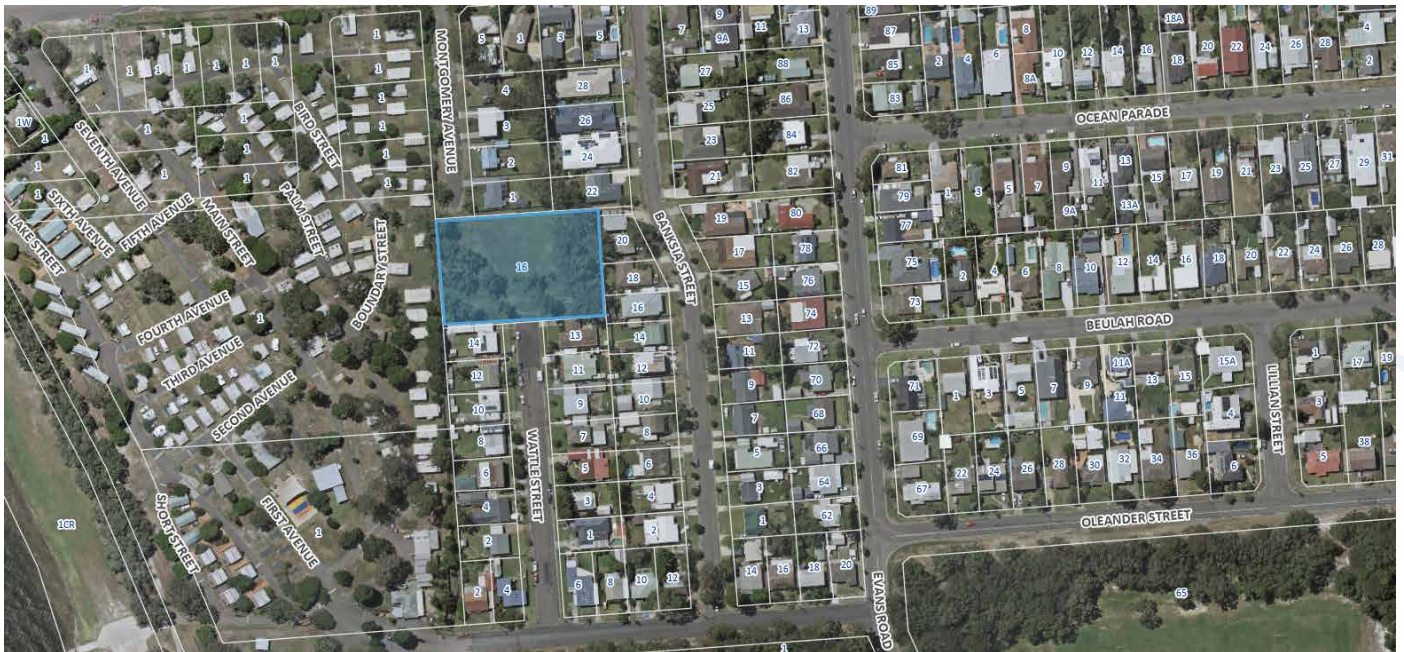
## Wyong Road Reserve (Killarney Vale)



## Robertson Road Reserve (Killarney Vale)



## Wattle Street Reserve (Canton Beach)



## Tunkuwallin Reserve (Gwandalan)



## Warwick Avenue Reserve (Manning Park)

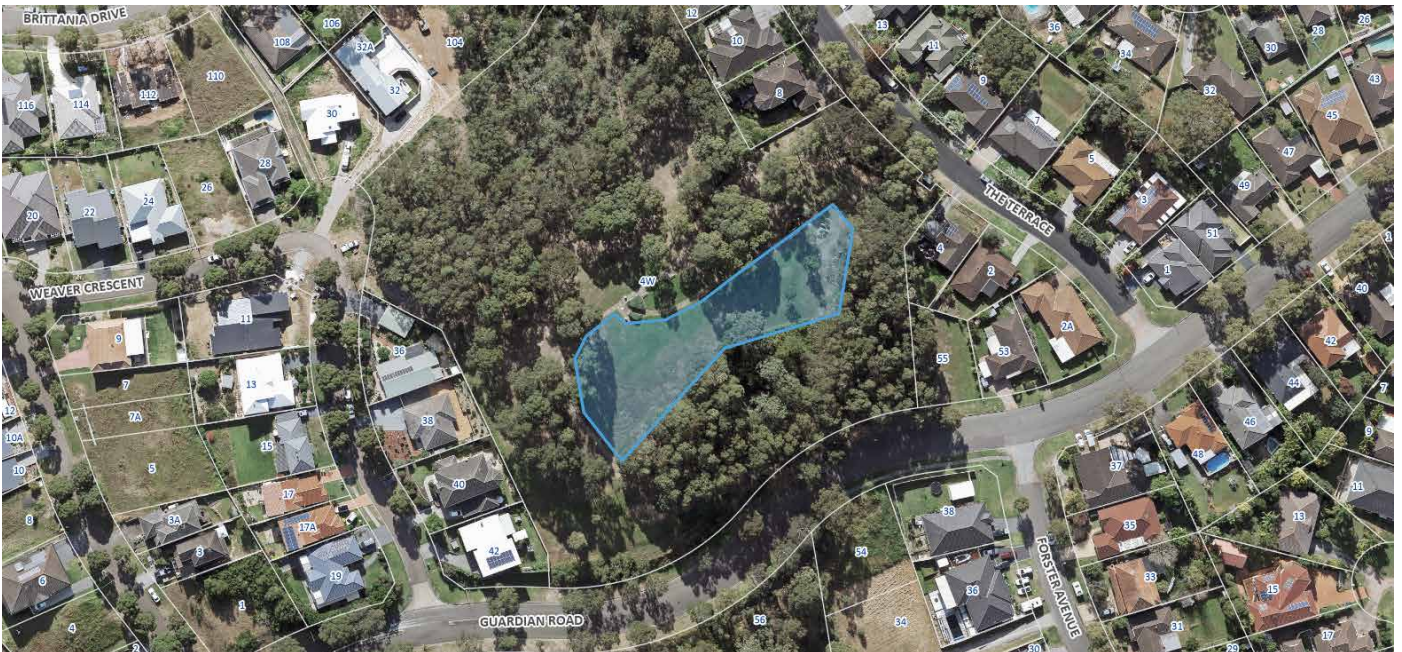




## Kurrawa Ave Reserve (Point Clare)



## Watanobbi Knoll (Watanobbi)



## Lara Close Reserve (Ourimbah)



## Portside Close (Bensville)



## Hilltop Park (Woongarrah)

Off Leash Area boundaries to be determined when masterplans for reserve are finalised.

## Memorial Oval (Davistown)



## Linga Longa Reserve (Yarramalong)



# 10.3 Maps of Boundary Changes

## North Avoca Beach (North Avoca)



## Greenvale Road (Green Point)



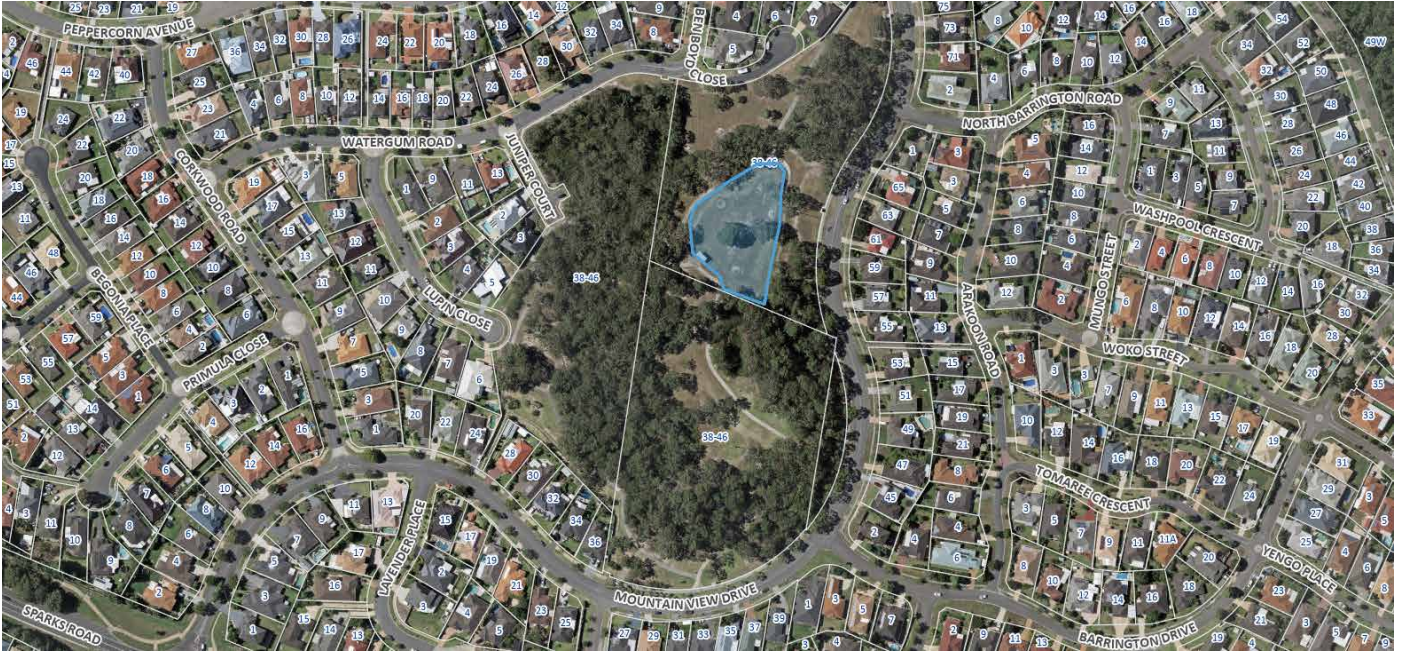
## Colongra Bay Reserve (Lake Munmorah)



## Peppercorn Av. Reserve (Woongarra)



## Mataram Ridge Park (Woongarrah)



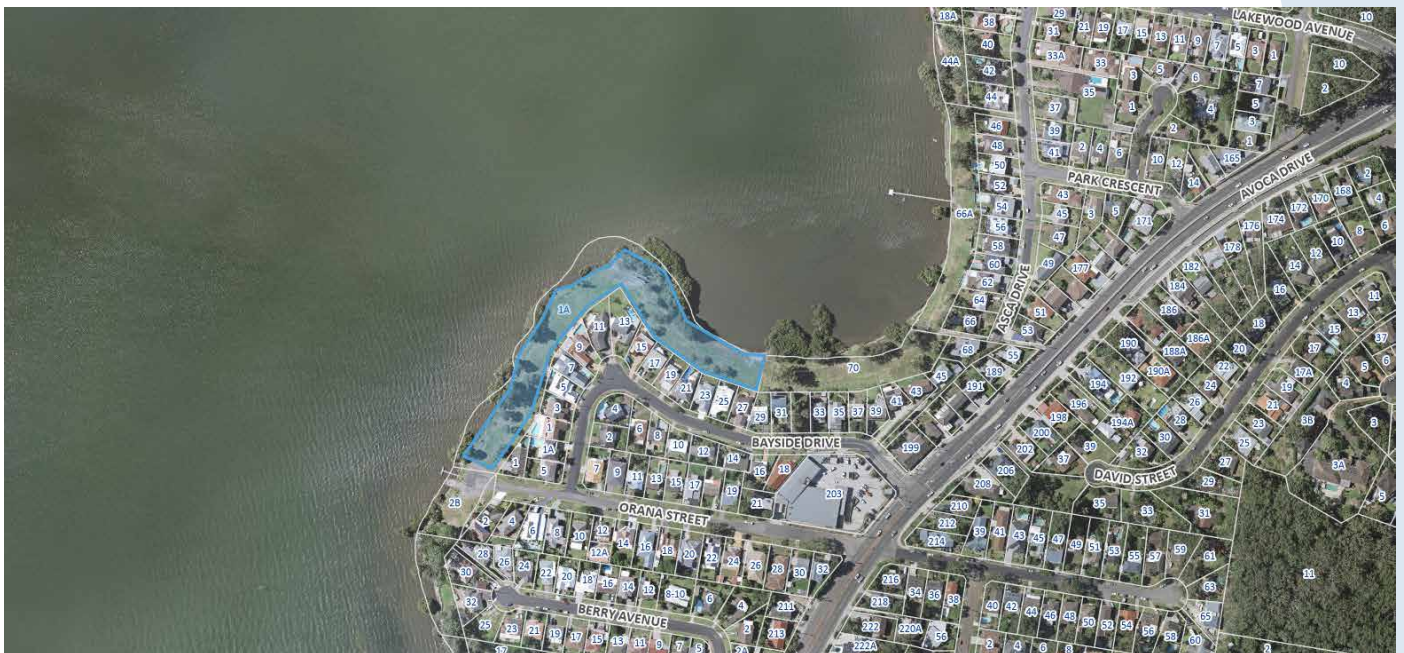
## Craigie Reserve (Kanwal)



## James Watt Drive Drainage Easement (Chittaway Bay)



## Captain Cook Reserve (Green Point)



## Iloura Reserve (Davistown)



Green – revised protected area, Blue – revised OLA, Note: polygons align with Council’s cadastre overlays







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