

**9.9****Dogs on Beaches Northern Region - Research Paper**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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**Purpose**

To report to Council the results of a Council resolution made on 24 August 2010. The resolution was as follows:

That Council:

*“Allocate \$20,000 to undertake a research paper on Dog Swimming on Beaches in the Northern Area, with the paper to come to Council within six months for consideration.”*

**Summary**

Extensive research and consultation was undertaken on this topic including:

- environmental assessments
- online discussion forums
- random telephone research.

As a result of the research, this report concludes that due to primarily environmental reasons there are no beaches in the northern area (i.e. north of Dee Why) of Warringah that are suitable for dog access for exercise.

**Financial Impact**

Nil.

**Policy Impact**

Nil.

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**RECOMMENDATION OF ACTING DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER  
STRATEGIC AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

- A. That Council note the results and conclusions of the research paper.
  - B. That Council not proceed with any further investigation for leash free dog exercise areas on the northern beaches of Warringah.
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## REPORT

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### Introduction

Council resolved on 24 August 2010 that Council:

*“Allocate \$20,000 to undertake a research paper on Dog Swimming on Beaches in the Northern Area, with the paper to come to Council within six months for consideration”*

For the purposes of this paper the Northern Area was defined as beaches north of Dee Why.

This paper has been compiled based on the following sources:

1. Dog Ownership information in Warringah
2. The requirements to provide dog exercise areas with the Local Government Area
3. Councils current policy on Dog Control, Free Run Areas
4. Planning papers related to pets and open spaces
5. Previous research undertaken by Council relating to dog swimming areas
6. Review of other NSW Councils approach to dogs on beaches
7. Community consultation via on-line forum
8. Community consultation via random phone survey
9. Previous Council community research
10. Environmental Assessment of suitable locations within the northern area
11. Other research papers of relevance

Due to the complexity and scope of the research and consultation the completion of the research exceeded the original timeframe. Interested parties were informed of the delays in the research paper.

### Issue

Since the introduction of the Companion Animals Act 1998 dogs have been effectively banned from all beaches. However there are numerous people that contravene this prohibition and regularly take their dogs to Warringah's beaches. This is particularly an issue when people take their dogs to environmentally sensitive areas such as Long Reef Aquatic Reserve.

In order to potentially allow people to legally have access to a beach for unleashed dog exercise, including swimming, Council has requested a research paper to look at the potential to open up beach areas for dogs to be exercised in the northern area of Warringah.

### 1. Dog Ownership in Warringah

Research has shown that pets are good for your health (Pets in the City 2010). Pet owners show lower risk of cardiovascular disease, visit the doctor less and use fewer medications. Owning a dog increases the likelihood of achieving recommended levels of exercise by seven times. People walking a dog are more likely to have conversations with other people while children with pets have been shown to have higher self-esteem and are less likely to be over weight (Pets in the City 2010). With such an overall positive benefit to people and community it is important Council support pet ownership in a responsible and positive way.

According to the Division of Local Government Companion Animals Register Warringah has approximately 23,000 dogs residing in the area. With around 144,000 residents and 48,000 households it is estimated 30 - 40% of households own a dog or 15% of the population. As dog ownership is significant, Council has a responsibility to ensure that access for these dogs to our public places is provided in a way that is consistent with this significance.

## **2 The requirements to provide dog exercise areas with the Local Government Area**

The Companion Animals Act 1998 requires Councils to provide at all times at least one unleashed dog exercise area. Warringah Council currently provides nine (9) unleashed dog exercise areas at unrestricted hours, which includes Curl Curl Lagoon for swimming. Another four locations are available on restricted hour's access. (Attachment A – list of dog exercise areas)

## **3 Councils current policy on Dog Control, Free Run Areas**

Councils current Policy relating to unleashed Dog exercise (ENV-PL 310) defines the following principles:

- Dogs are permitted free run only under effective supervision and in the locations identified in Attachment A.
- The person in charge of the dog takes full responsibility for the activity and behaviour of the dog.
- Before allocating an area as a free-run area for dogs Council will ensure there is no conflict with other users of the area.
- All free-run areas for the exercising of dogs will be adequately signposted.
- Free-run areas are to be allocated on the basis that faeces deposited by dogs are collected and removed by the person supervising the dog.

## **4 Planning papers related to pets and open spaces**

When reviewing the issue of unleashed dog exercise Council should consider the work of Harlock Jackson (1995) in his paper "Public Open Space and Dogs – A design and management guide for open space professionals and Local Government". This is considered the most comprehensive guide on the subject of dogs in open spaces.

Jackson 1995 cites four principles when Council is assessing access by dogs to public open space:

1. Formal recognition of the legitimacy of dog owners as being a deserving group of clients as any others.
2. Understand more clearly the needs of both dogs and their owners. The most fundamental need for dogs is that they are taken out with their owners, while for dog owners we need to recognise their needs are likely to be very different dependent on age, housing type, inclination etc.
3. We should aim for integration of dogs with other public space users while recognising that separation is warranted in some instances.
4. Councils should apply a strategic approach that considers access on a comprehensive council-wide basis rather than a piecemeal approach.

The basic premise is that with 30-40% of households within Warringah owning a dog this population should have facilities consistent with this significant level of ownership. The purpose of Council providing plentiful off leash areas for dogs to be easily exercised and socialised is to reduce problems such as barking and other nuisance behaviour as well as increasing the well being of the owners and their dogs.

In Jackson's paper (1995) the author reminds us that many issues are easily inflamed by community, media and political interest but still require impartial assessment. He states we need to be wary of accepting uncritically many assertions made against dogs' use of public open space. Many reported problems may represent a challenge but are not insurmountable.

The problems generally attributed to dogs and their owners whilst in public places include defecation, aggression to humans and other animals, non-compliance with leash laws and other nuisance behaviour. Non-compliance with leash laws or picking up droppings occurs for a number of reasons which may include protest, lack of awareness, laziness or because offenders think they can escape prosecution. Council needs to ensure an effective combination of education and enforcement are used to achieve compliance.

## **5 Previous research undertaken by Council relating to dog swimming areas**

In 2000, a dog swimming trial at Manly Dam was abandoned following environmental impacts, in particular water quality, in the area due to dog faeces, (it must be noted however that as a closed water system the impacts of dog faeces on water quality at Manly Dam are likely to be greater than an open water system such as the ocean).

Council has previously reviewed the potential to allow dogs to access Long Reef beach for swimming in 2005 but this was rejected on environmental grounds. In the Report by Avifauna (2005) it was noted that Long Reef Aquatic Reserve provided important foraging and roosting areas for a large number of migratory and/or threatened bird species listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1999 and/or the Commonwealth Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. They recommended, following the advice of Wader Bird experts, a buffer zone of 200 metres for activities such as dog exercise swimming.

In 2009, as a response to dog owners, Council granted access to dog owners to swim in Curl Curl lagoon at their own risk.

## **6 Review of other NSW Councils approach to dogs on beaches**

Of other Councils in NSW there are a number that offer ocean beach swimming. These include Wollongong, Gosford, Kiama, Eurobodalla, Sutherland, Coffs Harbour, Wyong, Ballina, Byron Bay and Clarence Valley.

Many of the Councils that allow dog access to beaches have timed access. Kiama Council for example has one area that is before sunrise and after sunset. Another area offers dog swimming before 9am and after 5pm from September to April as well as before 9am and after 3pm from May to August.

Wollongong Council has undertaken some very comprehensive work on the issue of beach access for dogs and their owners. They have approached dog exercise areas with a three tiered approach. This consists of a system of green, orange and red zones for beaches. The green areas are off-leash, the orange areas are time share access areas on leash only and red areas are dog prohibited areas. The orange areas are timed so when the flags are up no dogs are allowed and when the flags are down dogs are allowed on leash. All rock pools and rock platforms are prohibited areas. Nine beaches have at least partial unleashed dog beach access.

## **7 Community consultation via on-line forum**

Council has been offering the "Your Say Warringah" online forum since March 2010 and the Dogs on Beaches topic has been one of the more active topics to date.

The online forum encourages debate within the community and ensures that we gain a better understanding of the range of views on a topic - however it is not a statistical voting tool. The online discussion comments are considered to be comparable to a focus group and offer more qualitative input.

The Forum was run from 6 to 31 March 2011 asking people's opinion about the possibility of allowing dogs on Warringah's beaches.

This proved to be an extremely active forum which drew over 5,000 site visits, 421 registered participants of which 325 of these commented. A total of 1,408 comments were received.

Many comments were quite emotive and a small number had to be removed by the moderator.

The questions posed and a summary of main points raised were:

**Q1. How do you feel about dogs having access to beaches in general for unleashed exercise?** (820 comments from 282 people)

An analysis of this showed 162 people (57%) were in favour of the idea for allowing dogs on at least some beaches while 121 people (43%) were against dogs being allowed on any beaches.

Those in favour of the proposal noted the enjoyment of being able to exercise their dog on the beach as well as health benefits for the dog and owners through exercise as reasons. Most of these recognised that it would likely be a limited area on a small number of beaches with time restrictions.

Those against predominately felt that dog owners did not pick up the dogs droppings, do not effectively control their dogs (leading to dog attacks) and were generally irresponsible. A number of people had previous bad experiences with dogs and were frightened by dogs thus did not want to encounter dogs on a beach.

Some against dogs on beaches also claimed to be dog owners who felt the beach was not a suitable place for dogs to go.

**Q2. What are your main concerns, if any, about dogs being on beaches?** (219 comments)

Again the topic of dog droppings was high on the list of issues as well as potentially aggressive dogs. People also did not want the quiet relaxation of being on a beach disrupted by dogs running around. Mixing of children and dogs was also an issue for many people.

The issue was raised that most dog owners would self regulate the issue of dog droppings not being picked up by peer pressure.

Regulation by Rangers was seen to be a priority – if there is not enough to regulate the area then people will do as they want. People need to be fined for not doing the right thing.

**Q3. What beaches in Warringah would you consider suitable for dogs to exercise on and why?** (132 comments)

Long Reef, Mid North Curl Curl, northern end of Dee Why and Narrabeen were mentioned as possibilities. Many still wanted no beaches with particularly Curl Curl mentioned as not suitable.

Note – Northern end of Dee Why and Long Reef are both unsuitable due to proximity and inclusiveness of wildlife protection areas. Curl Curl is not within the brief from Council which only asked for northern beaches to be considered.

**Q4. Are there any conditions you would consider should be put in place if dogs are allowed access to any beaches for swimming and exercise?** (110 comments)

Dog waste bins at all access points to beach, limited timed access – mornings before 8am or 10am and after 4-5pm, longer access hours in winter, at least 200m from flagged areas, dog poo bags provided, effective control of dogs, fresh water, ranger regulation, license fees for beach use, trial only, all dog owners attend training.

Many still commented that they were totally opposed to dogs on beaches under any conditions.

**Q5. Have you got any other suggestions relating to the use of beaches for dogs? (128 comments)**

Carrying bags with you should be mandatory, no dogs in public places, dogs are associated with dirt, disease and danger, number of dogs in Warringah shows a big demand for beach access, dogs do not need beach access for exercise, pro dogs asking for fair, equitable, responsible, restricted, time share access for beaches, quality of life would be greatly improved if I could share time on the beach with my dog, concern over time restrictions for people who don't work 9-5, dogs survive out west without swimming at the beach, great examples on Central Coast of dog friendly beaches, having a single beach approved will lead to people from all over Warringah flocking to that beach, thereby driving away visitors and infuriating local residents, lets trial it and see what happens, people's enjoyment of beaches must come first, charge users, as a dog owner I feel discriminated against, concentration of dogs to one beach would be detrimental to beach goers, visible signage and regular patrolling, dogs attacking & biting people and wildlife, dog poo in current dog parks, a dog friendly beach would add tourism to the area, beaches will not grow but the population will.

In addition to the comments of the dog forum, 28 people wrote directly to Council as a response to the Manly Daily articles which were reporting on the online forum. Of these 18 were against having dogs on any beaches and 10 were in favour.

**8 Community consultation via random phone survey**

A random telephone survey of 600 Warringah Residents conducted by Jetty Research in July 2011 was undertaken to provide a more representative view.

**Among the survey's major conclusions:**

1. Thirty per cent of respondents had one or more dogs living in their home, with 78 per cent of these residents owning only one dog.
2. Of dog owners, 40 per cent "mainly" exercised their dog in the streets around their suburb, with 30 per cent preferring nearby parks. Interestingly 7 per cent said their major place of exercise was already a beach.
3. Seventy-one per cent of dog-owning respondents already exercised their dog off-leash. Of these, the most popular location was Curl Curl (32 per cent) followed by Long Reef dog park (11 per cent) and Bayview (8 per cent).
4. When asked whether they agreed or disagreed with opening up selected beaches in the Warringah area to dogs off-the-leash, 29 per cent were strongly opposed with a further 9 per cent slightly opposed (i.e. 38 per cent in all). Conversely 24 per cent were strongly supportive and 22 per cent slightly supportive (for a total of 46 per cent). The balance (16 per cent) were neutral or unsure.
5. As one would expect, support levels varied strongly by whether one owned a dog: 69 per cent of dog owners supported the idea, against 37 per cent of those without dogs.
6. Of those (46 per cent) agreeing with the idea of off-leash dogs on beaches, opinion was almost evenly split as to whether this should be allowed at all times, or only in the early morning and late afternoon.
7. Of those (54 per cent) opposed or neutral, the major concerns noted were uncollected dog waste (mentioned by 69 per cent of these respondents), children's safety (56 per cent), dogs jumping up on people (31 per cent) and amenity/peace of area (18 per cent). Ten per cent of these residents claimed that they or a family member had been hurt or harassed by a dog, as a reason for non-support.

8. Those less supportive were asked if three specific conditions would make them more agreeable to the concept; banning dogs from within 100 metres of flagged areas; restricting access to early morning and late afternoon; and requiring a ranger be present to regulate activity. Each of these conditions achieved support of between 32 and 38 per cent. Conversely, around half of the less supportive respondents answered “no” to all three questions.
9. Those supportive of the idea specified Long Reef and Curl-Curl (both North and South) as their preferred beaches for off-leash dog activity.
10. For those less supportive but answering “yes” to one of the three conditions (mentioned in point 8, above), Long Reef was again a clear choice. In this instance it was followed distantly by Dee Why, North Curl Curl and Narrabeen beaches.
11. Combining these two sets of respondents, it appears that Long Reef is a clearly preferred venue for off-leash dog activity, followed by North- and (then) South-Curl Curl.
12. Beaches deemed definitely not suitable for off-leash dog activity were Freshwater (nominated by 32 per cent of all respondents), Dee Why (30 per cent) and Collaroy (15 per cent). A further 26 percent said that no beaches should be used, making the “real” figures for Freshwater and Dee Why 58 and 56 per cent respectively.
13. Seventy per cent of all respondents were supportive of a trial for off-leash dogs on beaches of up to 12 months. This included 87 per cent of dog owners, and 62 per cent of non-dog owners.

The findings of this survey would suggest majority support for a 12-month trial of dogs off-the-leash on selected beaches, with Long Reef clearly the preferred venue.

## **9 Previous Council community research**

In July 2010, Council’s Natural Environment Unit commissioned a report on the Environmental Perceptions of the community. While the focus was on the environment such as the lagoons and climate change two questions were posed regarding dog access to beaches. The questions were:

1. Do you think that all beaches in Warringah area should be dog free?
2. What are some of the reasons beaches should be dog free? The options offered for this included: Affects water quality, safety of other beach users, there are too many dogs to allow everyone to have dogs on beaches, Some people won’t pick up droppings, dogs are a nuisance or bother, dogs intrude on beach experience, human health reasons, other.

The findings based on a survey of 601 participants showed that 76% of those surveyed thought that all beaches should be dog-free. The biggest concerns were 79% focussed on dog droppings and the perception they were not being picked up followed by health and safety concerns for beach users (58%).

It should be noted however that these were only two questions of a survey comprising of 34 questions which were all based on environmental issues (and all respondents were invited to participate in the survey which was made clear to be based on environmental management).

## **10 Environmental Assessment (see Attachment Booklet)**

As the Council brief was to research beaches in the northern part of Warringah, beaches from Dee Why to North Narrabeen were assessed based on current environmental knowledge and other practical issues. It was recognised that dogs should not have access to any areas normally containing the flagged swimming areas to allay fears of dog droppings in these family areas. Rock pools were also excluded due to both family use and the environmentally sensitive rock platforms surrounding.

Dee Why Beach was excluded based on the adjacent Wildlife Protection Zone, Long Reef and Fishermans Beach were excluded based on the Aquatic Reserve/wildlife protection zone. The southern end of Collaroy was excluded based on the location of the rock pool and flagged areas.

This left the area of Narrabeen beach from Goodwin Street to King Street as a possible location. This strip is approximately 830 metres in length and would allow a reasonable area for dog exercise. (See Attachment B for location map).

Eco Logical Australia was engaged as consultants to undertake a Flora and Fauna assessment of this area. A total of seven threatened species were identified which had known or potential habitat within the proposed site. (See Attachment Booklet for full report)

One endangered plant species, Sand Spurge (*Chamaesyce psammogeton*) is known to occur at this site and was found to be of particular concern at this location. Formally regarded as widespread, is now listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The key threats to Sand Spurge include trampling due to its small size and prostrate growth habit.

The research found that it is likely that the entire dune bay area of Ocean Street is habitat for Sand Spurge. This is the only known location for this species in the Warringah LGA. Habitat may also be present, in the form of seed bank in the dune vegetation which extends northwards from the park to the entrance of Narrabeen Lagoon.

The report found that the off leash proposal at Ocean Street was likely to result in a significant impact on the local population of Sand Spurge due to access to the dune by dogs. Dogs are likely to be attracted to the dunes when the beach area is low, and also due to their instinctive hunting behaviour exacerbated in this location due to the presence of rabbits. In doing so dogs may disturb habitat for Sand Spurge through digging and trampling.

As neither Eco Logical Australia or Council have been unable to find examples of where fences have been able to exclude dogs in sand dunes, which is the only mitigating measure acceptable (apart from continuing the prohibition on dogs), a Species Impact Statement (SIS) would be required to proceed further with a proposal to allow dogs on the beach in this location.

In this instance a SIS is likely to cost in excess of \$30,000, take a minimum of nine months and would still not necessarily arrive at a determination that would allow dogs on this section of beach without external concurrence from the Director General of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The issue with dog exclusion fencing in sand dunes is that the fence must be designed in a way that the height of the fence can be changed in line with erosion and accretion of sand at the site to ensure dogs cannot crawl under or jump the fence. It would need to be regularly maintained and monitored to ensure correct height and integrity of the fence. This would be at some significant cost to council.

As the site is within the coastal zone consideration must be given to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Coastal Protection Act 1979*, *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 71 – Coastal Protection* and the *Warringah Local Environment Plan (WLEP) 2000* before any development of this nature could be considered.

Most notably a fence of this nature would be inconsistent with the provisions of the WLEP 2000 in this area. The site forms part of a significant coastline which has a distinct continuity to the natural landscape character.

In part WLEP 2000 states that a consent authority must be satisfied that a development is consistent with any relevant general principles of development control set out in part 4 of the WLEP 2000. The proposal is not consistent with the general principles in particular of section 56 and 63A of the WLEP 2000 demonstrating an unacceptable environmental impact.

## Discussion

There is no doubt that the prospect of allowing dogs onto any of Warringah's beaches is a contentious issue as seen by the responses in the Your Say Warringah online forum and associated publicity. There are strong community opinions to both sides of the discussion.

Dog owners represent a substantial but minority proportion of residents (15% residents or 30-40% of households based on current figures) and Council needs to ensure that the needs for this part of the community are met through providing them with suitable avenues for exercise.

Under the Companion Animals Act 1998 Council is required to provide at least one unleashed dog exercise area available at all times. Currently we have nine areas available at all times for dog unleashed exercise with another four areas available at restricted times. This includes Curl Curl lagoon for swimming.

The Dog Free Run Policy states that "*Before allocating an area as a free-run area for dogs Council will ensure there is no conflict with other users of the area*". From many responses to the online forum it is clear many residents feel that dogs on beaches would conflict with their use of these resources. This includes dog owners failing to pick up after their dogs.

The two phone surveys showed some conflicting results regarding community opinion on whether dogs should have access to Warringah's beaches. The random phone survey based on environmental perceptions showed that 76% of people surveyed did not want dogs on any beaches. This point of difference with the more recent random phone survey, where the response was 46% in favour and 38% against (the remainder neutral), may have been due to the sampling methodology. We can see that there is some support from a reasonable portion of the community for partial access to some beaches.

One of the big issues noted by participants in both surveys and also from the online forum was the non compliance by people in relation to picking up their dogs droppings. Council staff have on a number of occasions observed people either distracted and not noticing their dogs have gone to the toilet or else intentionally ignoring their dogs and failing to pick up their dogs droppings. This included in designated unleashed areas with bags and bins supplied. Thus the issue of non-compliance is felt warranted.

The initial environmental assessment narrowed the suitability of the northern beaches for dog unleashed exercise to an area approximately 830 metres long on Narrabeen Beach between Ocean Street and Goodwin Street. The issue of keeping dogs away from bird roosting sites such as Long Reef headland is supported by research by Banks and Bryant (2007) which found that dogs can affect the abundance of wildlife. In their study it was shown that in areas of woodland where dogs were walked there was a 35% reduction in bird diversity and a 41% reduction in abundance. Although this was not coastal habitat it does show that dogs do have an impact on wildlife.

Following the engagement of an environmental consultant, Eco Logical Australia, to survey this area a total of seven threatened species were identified which had known or potential habitat within the proposed site.

Of particular concern was one endangered plant species, Sand Spurge (*Chamaesyce psammogeton*) which is known to occur at this site which is the only known site within the LGA. The key threats to Sand Spurge include trampling due to its small size and prostrate growth habit. As currently the area where this species resides is unable to be suitably fenced to keep out dogs due to both practical and planning reasons, it is potentially prohibitive and costly, with no guarantee of success, to progress with the requirements to allow a dog access area.

Thus the beaches in the northern area of the LGA, after environmental assessment, show that due to their environmental sensitivity and the presence of threatened species, allowing access by dogs to the beaches would compromise their environmental sustainability and should not be permitted.

## **Conclusions**

Due to fundamental environmental reasons there are no beaches in the northern area of Warringah (north of Dee Why) that are suitable for dog access for exercise.

## **Group Manager Development and Compliance**

***Attachment Booklet*** – Dogs on Beaches Northern Region – Research Paper

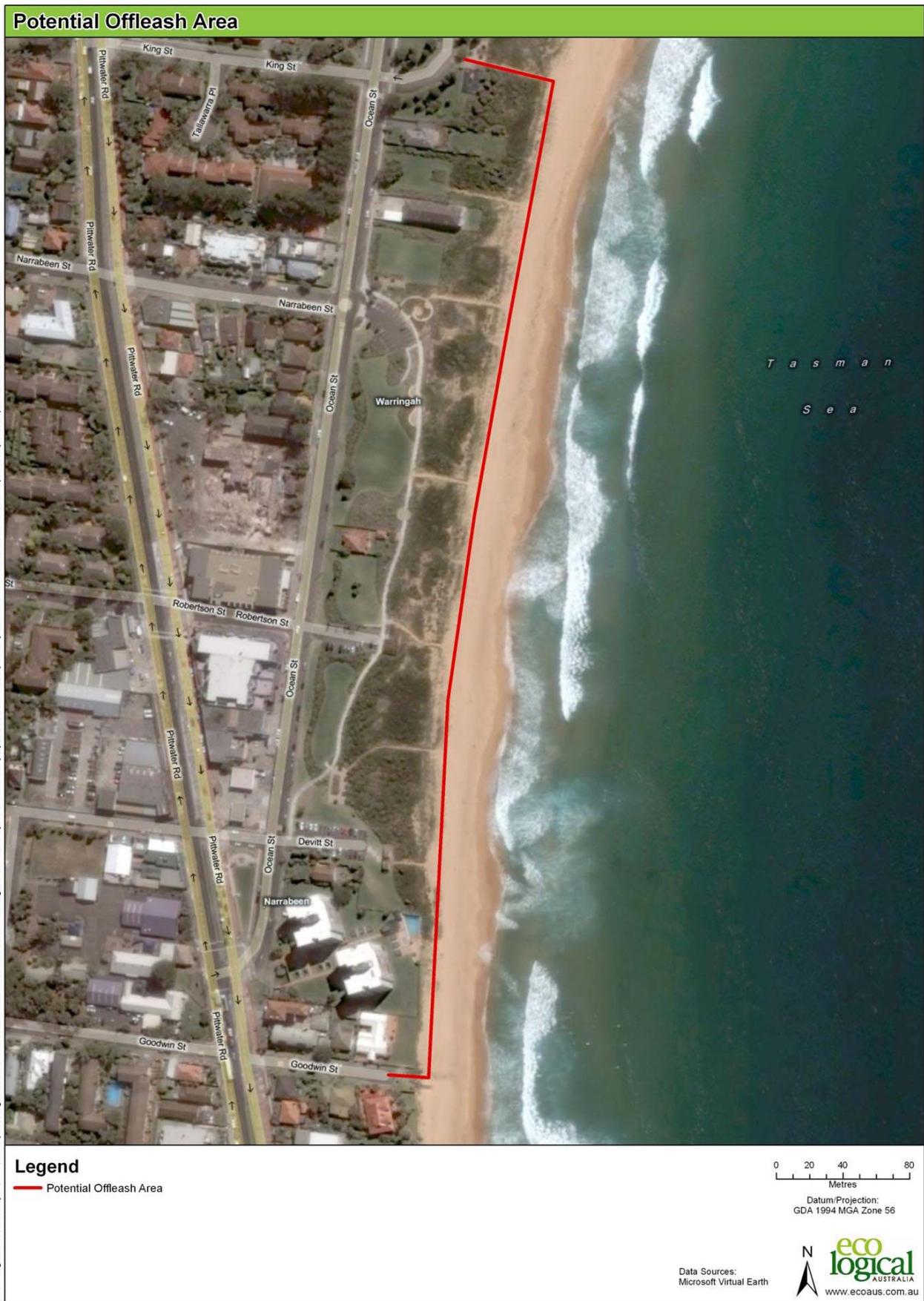


## Current Unleashed Dog Exercise Areas

<b>DOG UNLEASHED EXERCISE AREAS</b>
Frenchs Forest Showground, Frenchs Forest
Griffith Park, Collaroy
John Fisher Park, Adams St, Curl Curl
Flora and Ritchie Roberts Reserve Curl Curl
Curl Curl Lagoon
Hinkler Park, North Manly
Beverly Job Park South, Narraweena
Currie Road, Forestville
Truman Reserve, Cromer
<b>RESTRICTED TIMES ONLY</b>
Allambie Oval, Allambie Heights
Terrey Hills (Karl Brown) Oval, Terrey Hills
Beacon Hill Oval, Beacon Hill
Melwood Oval, Forestville



Potential Off Leash Area Narrabeen Beach



## References

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2. The requirements to provide dog exercise areas with the Local Government Area  
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3. Councils current policy on Dog Control, Free Run Areas  
Dog Control, Free-Run Areas policy ENV-PL 310
4. Planning papers related to pets and open spaces  
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5. Previous research undertaken by Council relating to dog swimming areas  
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Environmental Impact Assessment for proposed trial dog swimming area Long Reef, Collaroy. Report No. 1 to Warringah Council. February 2005. Avifauna Research & Services.
6. Review of other NSW Councils approach to dogs on beaches

## References

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<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/services/household/pets/Pages/DogsonBeaches.aspx>

Wollongong City Council Dogs on Beaches Policy

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/governance/Policies/Dogs%20on%20Beaches%20and%20Parks.pdf>

- 10 Environmental Assessment of suitable locations within the northern area (Attachment Booklet)

Narrabeen Beach Off-leash Exercise Area – Flora and Fauna Assessment. Prepared for Council by Eco Logical Australia 2011.

Warringah Local Environment Plan 2000. A Plan for Controlling Development in Warringah. Warringah Council.

- 11 Other research papers of relevance

Banks, P. and Bryant, J (2007) Four Legged Friend or Foe? Dog walking displaces native birds from natural area *Biol. Lett.*(2007) **3**, 611-613.

