



Dog Management Policy

POLICY TYPE	POLICY ADOPTED	AMENDMENT & MINUTE NUMBER	POLICY DOCUMENT NUMBER
Council	25/02/2003	20/06/2017 17/07/2018 – 11.2.1 19/09/2023 – 11.3	05:02:2003
DOCUMENT CONTROLLER	RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE	DATE OF NEXT REVIEW
Manager Development and Regulatory Services	Manager Development and Regulatory Services	4.3.1 Promote Responsible dog ownership including compliance with the Dog Control Act 2000 and Council's Dog Management Policy	July 2028
PURPOSE	The purpose of the policy is to provide information on responsible dog ownership, identify areas within the municipal area which are available for exercising dogs and which areas are restricted or prohibited.		
SCOPE	This policy applies to an owner or a person who has control of a dog/s, either residing within or visiting the Kentish Council local government area.		
POLICY	<p style="text-align: center;">1. Council's Responsibilities</p> <p>Within available resource allocation and consistent with priorities, determined by Council, for service provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Authorised persons who are appropriately trained to administer compliance of the Dog Management Policy and the Act • To provide information for dog owners and non-dog owners of their rights and responsibilities under the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i> • To provide exercise areas that recognize the needs of dogs and humans, and to consider any impacts on the environment • To consider the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners in the development of future recreation and urban planning processes 		

2. Dog Owner's Responsibilities

Council is committed to promoting responsible dog ownership through the following Code for Responsible Dog Ownership:

It is expected that dog owners or persons in control of a dog will comply with all requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and that they are responsible for: -

- ensuring that their dog is registered and microchipped once it is six (6) months of age (and older)
- ensuring that their dog is appropriately housed and contained within a secure yard
- ensuring that their dog wears its Council identification tag
- ensuring that their dog receives necessary care and attention in accordance with good veterinary practice, and is supplied with adequate food and water
- ensuring that their dog receives adequate exercise
- taking all reasonable steps to ensure that their dog does not cause a nuisance to others
- ensuring that their dog is under effective control when in a public place; and
- cleaning up after their dog.

3. Complaints and Nuisance Provisions

The Council recognizes the right for individuals to own and keep dogs; however, it also balances the rights with the communities right to seek assistance in dealing with nuisance caused by dogs.

Any valid complaint will be investigated as quickly as practicable and in accordance with Council's dog management procedures and Council's Customer Service Charter.

Council staff will not deal with complaints of a frivolous or vexatious nature or anonymous complaints.

3.1 Barking Dog Complaints

Barking dogs can be a difficult issue to deal with as every situation is different. In the first instance residents are encouraged to attempt to resolve these matters by directly dealing with the owner before contacting Council. Resources and the current procedure for Dealing with Barking Dogs is located on Council's website.

3.2 Managing other complaints about dogs

Council will consider complaints received relating to an alleged nuisance/ alleged breach to the *Dog Control Act 2000*; however, it may not act upon anonymous or unsubstantiated complaints. Concerns should be submitted to Council in writing and issues raised by complainants will be investigated in a manner which ensures that all facts are considered. A Council Officer may make enquiries as to the validity of a complaint by speaking to the dog owner, the complainant and surrounding neighbours and/or witnesses.

Where necessary, Council will institute proceedings against a dog owner for an offence relating to a nuisance or when dogs attack, threaten people or animals, or compromise community safety and health.

Enforcement actions Council may take include: -

- issuing a warning, an abatement or infringement notice
- impounding roaming dogs; and/or
- prosecuting when an offence or the impact of an offence is significant.

3.3 Dog at Large

Any dog that wanders off its own property without being under the effective control of a person, is contravening the *Dog Control Act 2000*. If a dog is found 'at large' and able to be contained or is causing a safety issue, a member of the public can call Council's Customer Service or After-Hours staff.

3.4 Dog Attack on Person or Animal

As a matter of public safety, dog attacks are taken very seriously. An owner must ensure that their dog does not attack a person or animal. If your dog attacks or chases people or other animals, Council will investigate where there is sufficient evidence and you may be charged with an offence under the *Dog Control Act 2000* and/or your dog may be seized, even if no actual injury is caused. **If your dog has attacked a person, you must notify Council within 24 hours of the attack.**

Councils' website has resources and report forms for dog attacks. It is recommended that as much detail as possible is provided to Council in the initial report (preferably in writing) to assist with the investigation.

If you have just been involved in a dog attack or there is a risk to your safety, please call Council's Customer Service or After-hours number for assistance.

4. Council Pound

Council will operate a municipal pound in accordance with the requirements of the *Dog Control Act 2000* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Dog owners are encouraged to contact Council in the event of losing their dog to expedite the reuniting of impounded dogs with owners.

Where a dog is impounded and not claimed, Council will make reasonable efforts to secure an alternative home for the dog through a rescue organisation.

If a dog has been impounded by Council and is identifiable, a Council Officer will make contact with the owner as soon as practicable.

A dog owner will be required to pay any fees and charges relating to the impoundment and daily maintenance fee for the dog. Any veterinarian fees incurred during impoundment are the responsibility of the owner.

5. After-Hours Service

Council will operate a limited after-hours service for emergency situations, e.g., dog attacks or animals causing a public risk to safety.

After hours attendance by a Council Officer or contractor will be at the officer's discretion after taking into consideration the risk and circumstance.

Council will not attend after hours for barking complaints. Residents experiencing barking nuisance should contact Council the next business day. Dog(s) at large will only be collected if they are appropriately restrained.

Collected dogs will be taken to the municipal pound. If an impounded dog is identifiable, the pound will contact the owner on the next business day.

6. Welfare of Dogs

Council does not manage sick or injured dogs. Enquiries regarding sick or injured dogs should be directed to the RSPCA in the first instance.

7. Kennel Licences

Any person who wishes to keep more than two domestic dogs or four working dogs (as defined under the *Dog Control Act 2000*) on a property, must apply to the General Manager for a Kennel Licence. Resources and Council's current procedure for Kennel Licences is located on Council's website.

All Kennel Licences are to be renewed at the beginning of each financial year in line with the Schedule of Fees and Charges as determined by Council.

8. Dog Control Zones: Declared Areas

Council under the provisions of the *Dog Control Act 2000* has declared certain locations where dogs may be exercised, subject to conditions. Please refer to the attached maps for further details.

8.1 Exercise Areas – Dog Off Lead

Council has declared several areas where dogs can be exercised off lead and although these areas have been created, dogs must be:

- In close proximity of the owner or persons in control
- In sight of the owner or person in control; and
- Be immediately responsive to the handler's commands.

The declared off-lead areas are as follows:

- Railton Recreation Reserve (Designated fenced off area only)
- Sheffield Recreation Reserve (Designated fenced off area only)

8.2 Dogs required to be on lead

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, in a built-up area, dogs must always be on lead not exceeding 2 metres.

There are some areas of bushland reserves where dog walking is acceptable but only using established tracks and trails with dogs remaining on lead to prevent them from straying into sensitive bushland habitat. Your dog must also be on a lead in all Council parks and recreation reserves, except those designated as off lead or prohibited areas.

8.3 Prohibited Public Areas

The *Dog Control Act 2000* specifies certain prohibited areas and enables Council to declare additional areas where a person **must not take a dog** other than a guide dog or assistance animal, these are:

- King George V Park Sheffield
- Railton Recreation Reserve (except where otherwise permitted)
- Sheffield Recreation Reserve (except where otherwise permitted)
- Wilmot Recreation Reserve (except where otherwise permitted)
- Park at Wilmot Hall
- Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Trails – Designated Mountain Bike Trails Only (Except Shared pathways/intersecting pathways)
refer to [Trails - Wild Mersey \(ridewildmersey.com.au\)](http://ridewildmersey.com.au) for full trail map.

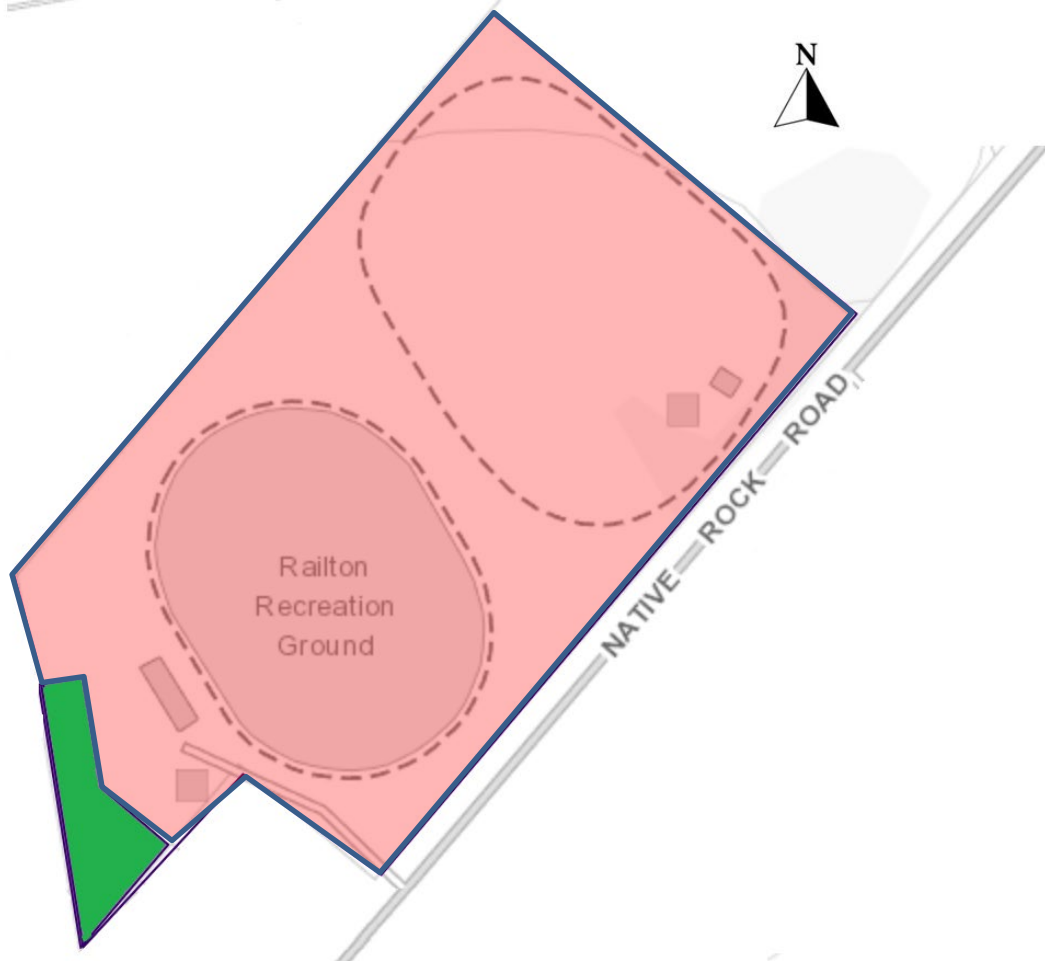
Further information about Restricted and Prohibited areas is located on Council's website.



	<p>9. Education</p> <p>Council provides information resources on their website which complement the administration of the <i>Dog Control Act 2000</i>. Council will periodically use media platforms to raise awareness of current issues or provide further clarification to assist with the administration of the Act. A series of informative fact sheets are available on Councils website.</p>
	<p>10. Fee structure</p> <p>Council utilizes the Schedule of Fees and Charges to establish the current fees payable. Fees are subject to annual review and pro-rata fees apply December to March and March to June for new registrations.</p>
	<p>11. Policy Review</p> <p>Every 5 years as required under the Dog Control Act 2000.</p>
<p>Legislation and Related Documents</p>	<p>Dog Control Act 2000 Dog Control Regulations 2010 Local Government Act 1993 Customer Service Charter Dog Management Fact Sheets and Procedures Schedule of Fees and Charges</p>

Appendix: Declared Areas

Railton Recreation Reserve (Designated fenced off area only)

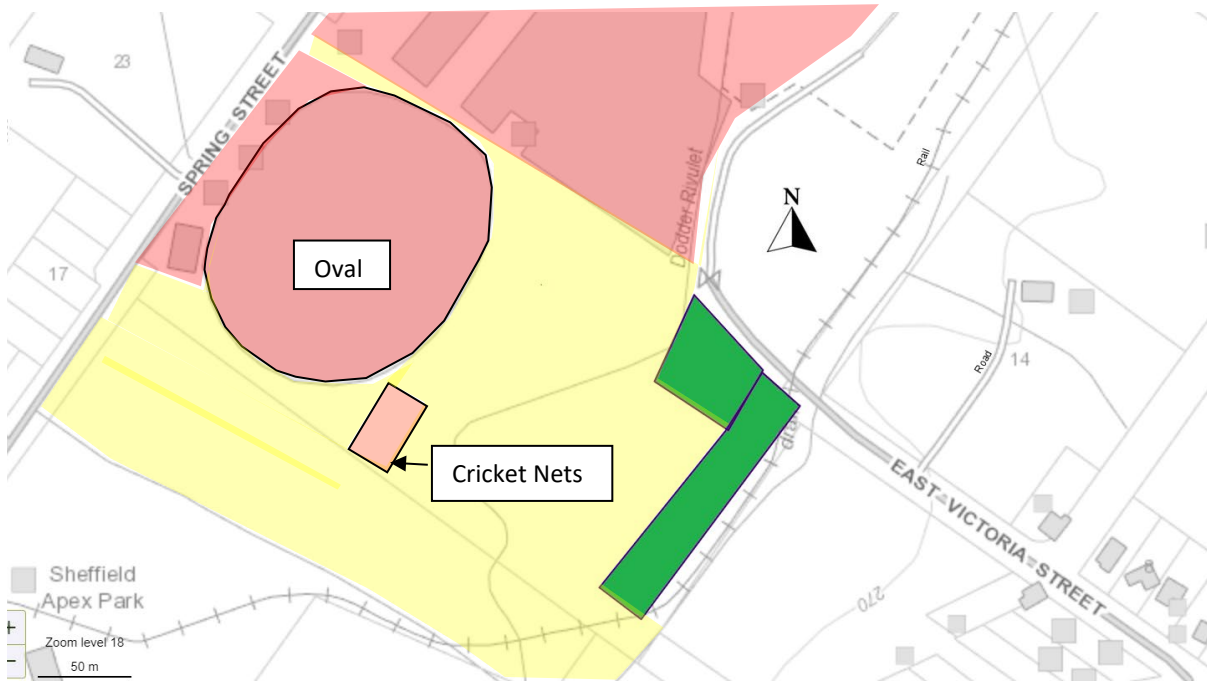
Entry off Native Rock Road.






Key:	
	Prohibited Area to Dogs at all times
	Designated Dog Off Lead Exercise Area

Sheffield Recreation Reserve (Designated fenced off area only)

Entry Off East Victoria Street



Key:


-  Prohibited Area to Dogs at all times
-  Dogs Permitted On-Leash
-  Designated Dog Off Lead Exercise Area

King George V Park

Entry Off High Street and Albert Street

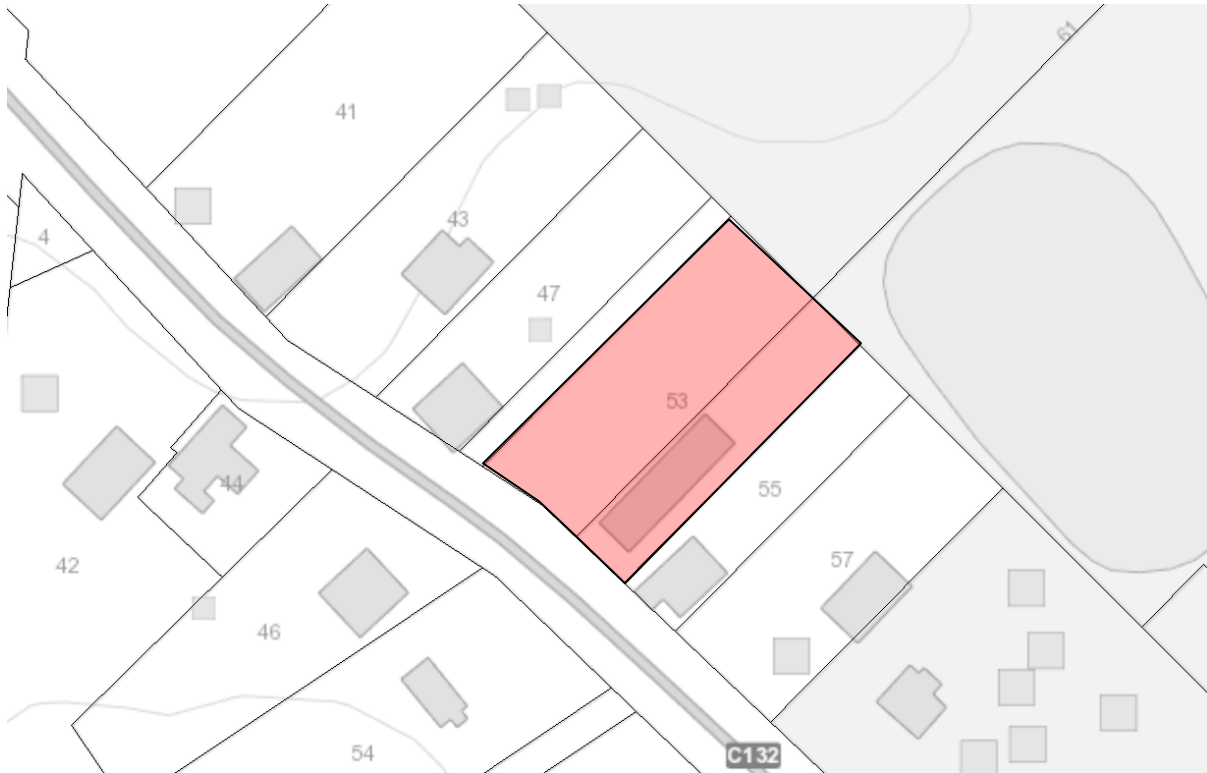


Key:


 Prohibited Area to Dogs at all times

Park at Wilmot Hall

Entry Off Main Street

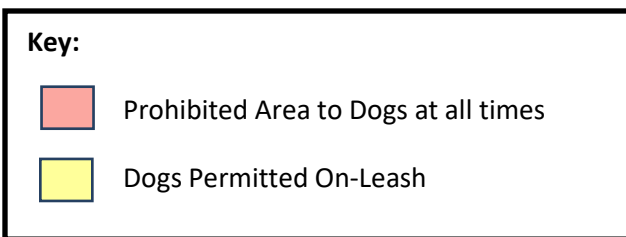
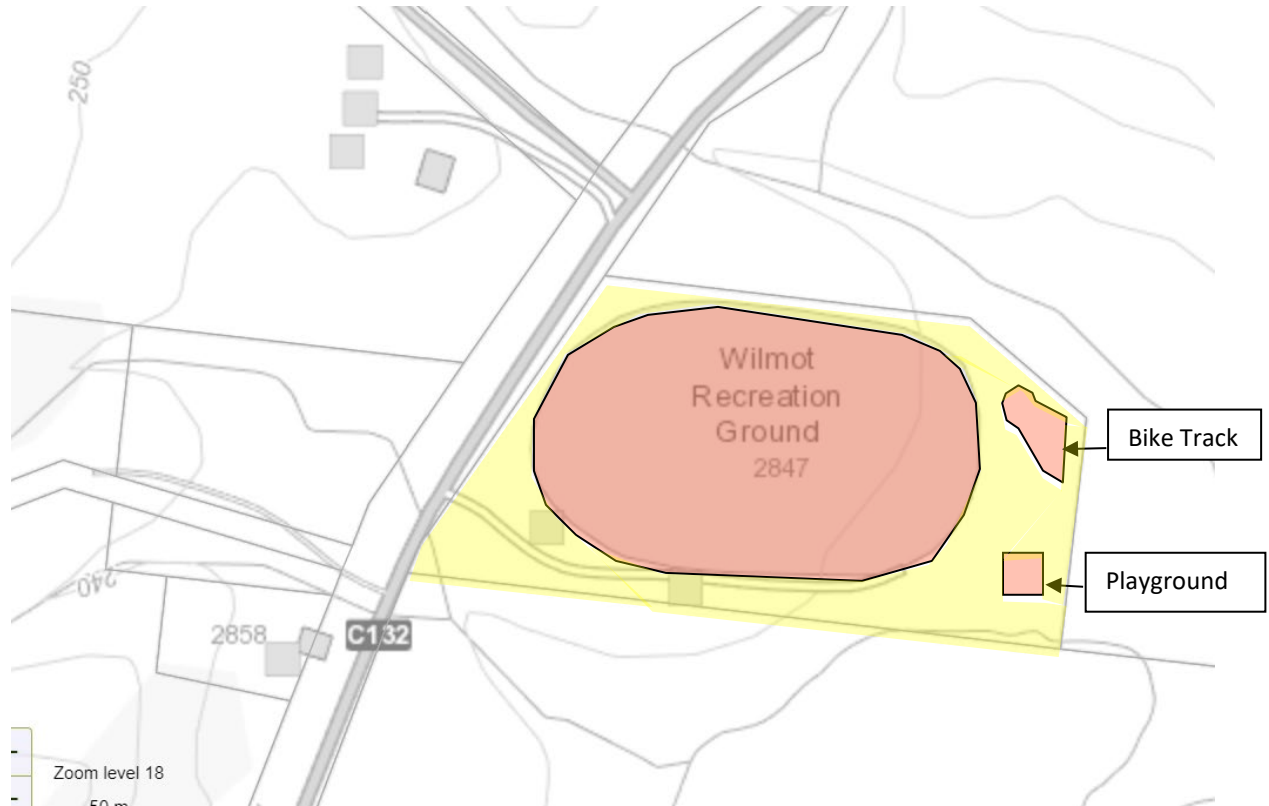


Key:

 Prohibited Area to Dogs at all times

Wilmot Recreation Reserve

Entry Off Wilmot Road



Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Trails – Designated Mountain Bike Trails Only (Except Shared pathways/intersecting pathways) refer to [Trails - Wild Mersey \(ridewildmersey.com.au\)](http://ridewildmersey.com.au) for full trail map.