

MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday, 23 April 2013

Held at the
Council Conference and Reception Centre
City Hall, Little Malop Street, Geelong
commencing at 7.00pm

COUNCIL:

Cr. K. Fagg
- Mayor

(G21 Geelong Regional Alliance, Governance Regional Cities,
Women in Community Life)

Cr. T. Ansett (<i>Windermere</i>)	(Heritage, Rural Communities)
Cr. L. Ellis (<i>Coryule</i>)	(Coastal Communities, Infrastructure, Parks and Gardens)
Cr. J. Farrell (<i>Beangala</i>)	(Community Safety, Education and Youth)
Cr. K. Fisher (<i>Corio</i>)	(Community Development)
Cr. B. Harwood (<i>Kardinia</i>)	(Enterprise Geelong)
Cr. M. Heagney (<i>Brownbill</i>)	(Arts and Culture, Central Geelong)
Cr. J. Irvine (<i>Austin</i>)	(Sport and Recreation)
Cr. E. Kontelj (<i>Cowie</i>)	(Aboriginal Affairs, Multicultural Affairs)
Cr. Dr. S. Kontelj (<i>Kildare</i>)	(Finance)
Cr. R. Macdonald (<i>Cheetham</i>)	(Major Projects, Planning, Knowledge Economy)
Cr. R. Nelson (<i>Deakin</i>)	(Major Events, Tourism)
Cr. A. Richards (<i>Buckley</i>)	(Environment & Sustainability, Transport, Primary Industries)

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CLOSE OF MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION CENTRE
CITY HALL, LITTLE MALOP STREET, GEELONG
TUESDAY, 23 APRIL 2013
COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Cr K Fagg (Chair), Crs T Ansett, L Ellis, J Farrell, K Fisher, B Harwood, M Heagney, J Irvine, E Kontelj, S Kontelj, R Macdonald, R Nelson, A Richards * (7.12pm)

Also present: S Griffin (Chief Executive Officer), L Allan (Acting General Manager Corporate Services), P Bettess (General Manager Economic Development, Planning and Tourism), G Van Driel (General Manager City Services), J McMahon (General Manager Community Services), D Frost (General Manager Projects, Recreation and Central Geelong), S Sodomaco (Manager Health and Local Laws), J Brown (Manager Administration and Governance), D Chiller (Co ordinator Communication and Marketing)

OPENING: The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7.00pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Mayor acknowledged that we are here today on the land of the Wathaurong People and we pay our respects to Aboriginal elders past and present.

AWARD:

Cr Ansett presented the Mayor with an Award received in respect to the Restoration of Customs House.

APOLOGIES: Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Cr E Kontelj moved, Cr Macdonald seconded -

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 April 2013 be confirmed and signed.

Carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil.

QUESTION TIME:

Question Time is an opportunity for questions to be addressed to Council and while the minutes record the general content, they do not purport to be a transcript of what was said by individuals. Likewise Councillor or Officer verbal responses are in summary form only. Views expressed may not be the views of Council.

Council's practice is to provide a separate document on its website setting out questions and responses including any more detailed written responses which may be provided subsequent to the meeting.

Lionel McWilliam asked that in light of previous decisions by Council regarding trucking operations in a rural living zone, i.e. 65 Old Melbourne Road, Lara, and the effects on quality of life to people who choose to live in this lifestyle, this application is an indication of inappropriate businesses being allowed to operate in sensitive areas. Will Council stick by their previous decision and reject his application in the Planning Department?

Peter Bettess responded that Council has an obligation to consider each planning application on its merits and issues relating to this particular site. Council cannot express an opinion on an application, prior to the application being considered.

Lee Atkinson addressed Council as follows regarding staff parking at Grace McKellar:

- 1) Considering Council's response to the question time last meeting, Council has not fully responded in relation to the safety to residents and traders. My question is – "Do you consider the community as a whole"?
- 2) When the land of McKellar was upgraded and transformed into the new buildings and carparking areas it was from the State Government funds. It cost Barwon Health zero dollars. Now Barwon Health wants employees to pay for something already paid for including land donated to the public with hectares of open space for ample parking. We are requesting Council not to be biased but to work with us to work towards a solution that helps everyone.

Currently it's unsafe parking on the roadways with 80km per hour zone speeds. Also the paths are unlit, no security, violence in the area re slashing of tyres on nine vehicles. This issue is one where the local residents as well as local workers are on the same side. All the problems would be fixed though Barwon Health abandoning its anti-staff cash grab.

Then why are you not considering the employees of the McKellar Centre as community members and residents of the City of Greater Geelong?
Why is Council helping Barwon Health against community, past employees, present employees, future employees who are residents of the City of Greater Geelong?

QUESTION TIME (CONT'D)

Cr Eddy Kontelj responded that Council has, as recently as last Thursday, been advocating with Barwon Health on behalf of everyone concerned.

Council is just as challenged with this as the rest of the community and we are trying to work with the community, traders and residents to determine a solution. It is not about Council trying to help Barwon Health, but more trying to come up with some solution that will provide safety and also protect traders against loss of income and try to help out residents.

There has been no decision made on any restrictive parking, but Council are in the process of liaising with residents and traders in the affected areas.

All parties are working towards a fair and safe solution to this issue.

**Cr Richards entered the meeting room at 7.12pm*

Colin Wallace asked:

- 1) In relation to my wife Mary Wallace's first question at the last Council Meeting, 9th April 2013:
 - a) After my wife read her first question and there had been no response to her from any of those to whom her question had been addressed, ie the Mayor and other Councillors, Peter Bettess asked the Mayor if he could make a comment and the Mayor allowed it, even though my wife said she did not want a comment from Mr. Bettess. Mr Bettess's comment was so starkly irrelevant that not a trace of it appears in the Minutes and instead a response was attributed to the Mayor which he did not say. Would the Mayor, particularly in his roles as Chairperson and Governance portfolio holder, as well as the other Councillors note this and note also that when my wife twice said Mr Bettess was evading her question she was correct and that what happened subsequent to the Mayor imposing Mr Bettess's comment on my wife shows that my wife, in not wanting a comment from Mr Bettess and saying so, was vindicated?

The Mayor noted the comments.

Council determined that Question 1 b) not to be included.

- c) Has the CEO, Stephen Griffin, found out for himself if what my wife said in her first question at the most recent Council Meeting, 9th April 2013, concerning his employee Mr Bettess was valid and, if so, what was his assessment and, if not, who didn't he check for himself?

Stephen Griffin took the question on notice.

QUESTION TIME (CONT'D)

- 2) What is CEO Stephen Griffin's explanation for why the half-yearly summaries mentioned in Condition 7 of the Ropeworks Planning Permit were not provided to the permit holder/owner or even produced in the first place?

Stephen Griffin took the question on notice.

Mary Wallace asked:

- 1) To my second question at last Council Meeting, 9th April 2013, which ended in me asking if Condition 1 t) of the Ropeworks Planning Permit had been satisfied, would the Mayor and other Councillors note that I did not get an answer and Mr Bettess's response was ambiguous?

The Mayor noted the comments.

- 2) Would the Mayor and other Councillors note that the Road Safety Audit commissioned under Condition 16 of the Ropeworks Planning Permit, in recommending 'the installation of a raised pavement in First Street at the intersection with Waratah Street' stipulating that this raised pavement was to be constructed in the area of the then-existing concrete pavement across First Street, was faithful to and consistent with the Ropeworks Panel Report?

The Mayor noted the comments.

- 3) Would the Mayor and other Councillors note that Condition 1 t) of the Ropeworks Planning Permit says: 'Details of how the design complies with the Road Safety Audit as required in Condition 16 or this permit?'

The Mayor noted the comments.

- 4) Since I did not get an answer last time I am asking again: The road safety audit conducted in accordance with Condition 16 of the Ropeworks Planning Permit recommended 'the installation of a raised pavement in First Street at the intersection with Waratah Street' stipulating that this raised pavement was to be constructed in the area of the then-existing concrete pavement across First Street, the project manager accepted the recommendation and the Findings and Recommendations section of the audit report was endorsed by Council on 3rd December 2007, yet the raised pavement so described has not been installed, so I am asking if Condition 1 t) of the Ropeworks Planning Permit has been satisfied?

Peter Bettess responded that Condition 1 t) has been satisfied and the plans endorsed.

PETITIONS: Nil

1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN

Portfolio:	Planning – Cr Macdonald
Source:	Economic Development, Planning and Tourism
General Manager:	Peter Bettess
Index Reference:	Amendment C158 Port Structure Plan

Summary

- The State Government appointed an Advisory Committee in 2009 to review the planning controls in and around Victoria's four commercial ports; Hastings Melbourne, Geelong and Portland.
- Their Terms of Reference required the Advisory Committee to consider whether existing planning controls were adequate to protect the ports from encroachment by sensitive uses.
- Implementation of Council's *Geelong Port Structure Plan* was delayed in 2010 pending the outcome of this Advisory Committee process.
- The report of the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee was released in May 2012. In response the State Government;
 - applied an Environmental Significance Overlay to the North Shore residential area;
 - released a new Ministerial Direction which councils must consider in planning scheme amendments in the port's environs;
 - strengthened the State Planning Policy Framework to reflect the significance of the ports to Victoria; and
 - is developing a new Port Zone to be applied at the four ports.
 - is developing a new Planning Practice Note to guide decision making.
- The Environmental Significance Overlay seeks to "*manage potential conflicts between land in the port environs and the adjoining Port of Geelong*". The statutory interpretation and process to consider applications is of concern given the lack of clarity of this control and the uncertainty in its application in the assessment of medium density housing applications. The control is onerous as it triggers the need for planning permits for minor works. It is recommended that Council write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Ports and request changes to the control.
- Considerable strategic planning was undertaken in the preparation of the Geelong Port Structure Plan. It is recommended that Council proceed to implement the findings of the structure plan by recommencing the planning scheme amendment process to update Clause 21.12 Geelong Port as set out in Appendix 1-1.

**1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)**

Cr Macdonald moved, Cr Richards seconded -

That Council:

- 1) notes the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee Recommendations and the Government's response.**
- 2) requests authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to implement the Geelong Port Structure Plan generally in accordance with the amendment documents in Appendix 1-1.**
- 3) authorises the Mayor to write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Ports to inform them of concerns with the Environmental Significance Overlay recently applied to the North Shore residential area and request changes to make minor matters exempt from the requirement for a planning permit.**

Carried.

Report

Background

In 2007 Council prepared and adopted the Geelong Port Structure Plan. It seeks to address a number of issues around the port including the loss of industrial land for port related uses, industry emissions, traffic and the competing demands for land within the port precinct to balance the needs of industry and the community.

The structure plan was prepared at the same time as the Port Land Use Strategy (PLUS) for Geelong Port was developed by the State Government.

The two documents are largely consistent, the notable differences are

- The structure plan identifies four precincts and the PLUS identifies three precincts (the structure plan splits Corio Quay and Lascelles Wharf into two precincts)
- The structure plan seeks to limit bulk liquid storage to the Terminals' site
- The structure plan imposes additional requirements relating to the Terminal site (for example, chemical class zones, health and safety emergency plans etc)

In November 2009 Council sought authorisation to prepare Amendment C158 to implement the recommendations of the Geelong Port Structure Plan.

The authorisation request was refused in January 2010. In his letter the Minister for Planning stated that *"the changes to the planning controls at the Port of Geelong proposed by council's amendment clearly fall within the scope of the tasks I have set for the (Ports and Environs) Advisory Committee. The Terms of Reference already direct the Advisory Committee to have regard to the Geelong Port Structure Plan and the committee will also advise me on appropriate planning controls for land at the Port. The land adjacent to the Port and the zoning or overlay changes proposed by council's amendment are matters of state significance and it is essential that the planning controls over this land support the competitive and sustainable operation of the Port."*

1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)

The Geelong Port Structure Plan was effectively placed on hold pending the findings of the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee.

Discussion

The State Government released the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee Report and its response to the report in May 2012.

The State Government has responded by;

- Applying an Environmental Significance Overlay to land around the ports, in Geelong, Schedule 5 to the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO5) was applied to the North Shore residential area.
- Introducing *Ministerial Direction Number 14 Ports Environs*. The Direction states that *"in preparing an amendment affecting land in the port environs, a planning authority must ensure that the curfew free operations and future development of the port... will not be prejudiced"*. It also requires Council to consider the views of the Minister for Ports and the port manager in the preparation of planning scheme amendments at the Port.
- Making changes to the State Planning Policy Framework to strengthen the objectives and strategies related to planning for ports and their environs.
- Indicating that it intends to introduce and apply a Port Zone at the Port of Geelong and the ports of Hastings and Portland. The Port Zone will replace the existing Schedule 6 to the Special Use Zone which applies to all land owned by GeelongPort (the port manager). The provisions of the Port Zone have not been released to date.
- Noting its intention to develop a Planning Practice Note to provide further guidance on land use planning around the ports.

Environmental Significance Overlay-North Shore

The ESO5 was applied to the residential area of North Shore. It includes environmental objectives *"to minimise the potential for future land use conflicts between the port and the port environs"* and *"ensure that any use and intensity of development in the overlay area does not constrain the ongoing operation and development of the commercial port"*. ESO5 is included at Attachment 1.

This control triggers the need for a planning permit for any buildings and works associated with the use of the land for offices and accommodation including single dwellings. There is concern about the decision guidelines which require the City to consider whether development proposals would impact on the future development of the port and amongst other things;

- *Whether the proposed use or development has the potential to expose people unnecessarily to any off-site impacts associated with the 24-hour, 7 day a week operation of the port.*
- *Whether the siting and design of the proposed use or development includes appropriate measures to ensure that the amenity of the proposed use will not be impacted by off-site impacts associated with the 24-hour, 7 day a week operation of the port.*

1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)

- *Whether the proposal will result in an increase in the number of people affected by exposure to risk to health or life arising from port operations."*

Council will potentially face difficulties in determining the risks to health or life from existing port operations. Further, the need for "*appropriate measures*" in the siting and design of new developments to ensure that amenity is not impacted could in fact have the opposite effect and result in reduced amenity for residents, for example conditions requiring fixed glazing or which limit the location of open space to avoid impacts from nearby industry.

The ESO5 triggers the requirement for planning permits to be sought for minor works to existing dwellings, such as garages. This is considered unnecessary given that the objective of ESO5 is to manage the potential land use conflict between the port and the residential area.

It is recommended that Council write to the Minister for Ports and the Minister for Planning to highlight the potential difficulties Council faces in administering this control and request that the control be amended to provide exemptions for minor works to existing dwellings.

Advisory Committee Recommendations on the Geelong Port Structure Plan

The Advisory Committee commentary on the Geelong Port Structure Plan, the officers response, and changes to the proposed amendment are detailed below;

- *The draft Geelong Port Structure Plan should not be included as a reference document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.*

Officer response

This recommendation is accepted. The Advisory Committee's lack of support for the inclusion of the structure plan as a reference document was based on the need for consistency between reference documents (the PLUS and the structure plan), it was not based on the merits of the Geelong Port Structure Plan. As the key points from the structure plan have been translated into the proposed planning policy, Council will still be able to capitalise on the work done to prepare the structure plan. Whilst this is inconsistent with the approach used for other structure plans, it is accepted in this instance particularly as there has been a five year time delay since the Geelong Port Structure Plan was adopted.

- *Further strategic planning should be undertaken by GeelongPort and the City of Greater Geelong, including stakeholder consultation, to resolve the number and nature of precincts within the Port and of the location, capacity and conditions for Bulk Liquid Storage within the appropriate precinct in Geelong Port;*

Officer Response

This recommendation is not accepted. The strategic work and the stakeholder consultation suggested by the Advisory Committee was done in the development of the Geelong Port Structure Plan. Council has already formed a position on the nature and number of precincts at the port and this position should now be properly considered through the planning scheme amendment process.

1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)

- *Once agreement is reached on the strategic port planning matters noted above, the City of Greater Geelong should prepare a new local planning policy addressing, but not limited to, both the strategic importance of the ports and the need for the two-way management of port interfaces to be undertaken in a manner that protects efficient operation of the ports and the reasonable amenity of surrounding land uses, especially residential and other sensitive uses; and*

Officer Response

This recommendation is accepted. The proposed planning policy included at Appendix 1 is consistent with the Advisory Committee recommendation. The policy notes the strategic importance of the port to the economy and acknowledges that the port operates in an environment with sensitive interfaces to residential areas.

- *On the storage of chemicals at the port, the Advisory Committee stated "In relation to the Structure Plan's proposals for limiting the Bulk Liquid Storage to the Terminals site, this is a strategic planning matter that is beyond the scope of this Committee."*

Officer Response

The limiting of bulk chemical storage was recommended by the structure plan. This has been translated into the proposed local policy in Appendix 1 which includes the objective "*to direct bulk liquid chemical storage activity in the area adjacent to Refinery Pier*". This direction will be given full consideration through the planning scheme amendment process.

- *The Advisory Committee questioned "the appropriateness of including additional requirements relating to the Terminals site in a planning document. Such matters may be more appropriately addressed (in) SEMPS that port managers must prepare or in other documents that are required under environmental and public health legislation."* SEMPS are Safety and Environmental Management Plans which are required to be prepared by port managers under the *Port Management Act, 1995*.

Officer response

This recommendation is accepted. The structure plan recommended that health and safety requirements be addressed in planning applications for the bulk storage of chemicals. However given the Advisory Committee recommendation, and the requirement that planning doesn't duplicate other legislation, these aspects have been omitted from the proposed planning policy included at Appendix 1.

- *As noted in Section 6.2 (of the Advisory Committee Report), the Council also consider amending its local policy to recognise the buffering role played by the south side of Seabreeze Parade and Phosphate Paddocks*

Officer Response

This recommendation is accepted. The structure plan map which forms part of the proposed planning policy includes a notation to enhance the buffer role of land along the south side of Seabreeze Parade and on the land surrounding the Incitec Pivot administration building, known locally as Phosphate Paddocks.

1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)

- *Greater Geelong City Council consider whether any additional requirements relating to density and height of development in the North Shore residential area are appropriate*

Officer Response

The PLUS and the Geelong Port Structure Plan both identified the need for further work to be done on buffers around North Shore. The PLUS called for the development of a "Local Area Plan" and the structure plan included a direction relating to the development of a buffer strategy and community plan in consultation with the State Government, the community and the port manager. This work has not been undertaken to date. The Corio Norlane Structure Plan has also identified this as further work, it includes as an action to "*investigate application of an appropriate planning control to manage intensification of residential development within the North Shore residential area*".

The proposed local planning policy includes a recommendation for further work to examine this issue further in addition to monitoring of the operation of ESO5.

- In relation to the proposed Design and Development Overlay to the land at 309-363 and 365-377 Melbourne Road in North Geelong, the Advisory Committee accepted Council's motivation to ensure a high quality development at these gateway sites and saw "*no obstacles to this aspect from (of) the Amendment proceeding to exhibition.*"

Officer Response

The maps and the proposed planning policy which form part of the amendment at Appendix 1-1 include the application of the Design and Development Overlay on this land (the former Ford site which was the site of the previously proposed Hometown development).

Amendment C158

When the authorisation request for the amendment to implement the Geelong Port Structure Plan was refused, it was not based on any assessment of plan. Similarly, the Ports and Environs Advisory Committee has not considered the structure plan in detail.

The Council's strategic planning work undertaken in the preparation of the Geelong Port Structure Plan prior to 2007 can be given sufficient weight in planning permit applications if the relevant structure plan recommendations, which were supported by the Advisory Committee, are translated into a planning policy in the planning scheme to give effect to the structure plan.

Officers from the Department of Planning and Community Development have accepted that there is merit in pursuing an amendment to the scheme to clarify Council's position on development at the port. It is recommended that Council should therefore recommence the amendment process to implement the key strategic directions of Geelong Port Structure Plan.

1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)

The key elements of this amendment included at Appendix 1 are;

- The inclusion of a new planning policy to provide direction on the location of bulk liquid storage, future growth of port infrastructure, the application of zones and overlays.
- Rezoning of land and assets owned by GeelongPort to Special Use Zone 6 (or the Port Zone if the Minister for Planning has introduced it), consistent with the rest of the port
- Rezoning of land in smaller lots in the North Shore industrial area from Industrial 2 Zone to Industrial 3 Zone to reflect its location at the residential interface.
- Rezoning a strip of unused vacant Crown land on the coast from Industrial 2 Zone to Public Conservation and Resource Zone
- The application of a Design and Development Overlay (DDO) to a gateway site on the Melbourne Road (the former Ford land which was the site of the unsuccessful Hometown proposal)

Environmental Implications

The structure plan considers environmental issues relating to industrial operations. It also discusses the need to manage the impacts on sensitive environments along the foreshore. The proposed planning policy acknowledges that the port is in an environment with sensitive interfaces to coastal areas and includes objectives seek improved environmental outcomes.

Financial Implications

Council will incur the standard fee and panels costs associated with the processing of Council initiated amendments.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The amendment is consistent with the Geelong Port Structure Plan which was adopted by Council in 2007. It is consistent with the State and Local Planning Policy Frameworks and generally accords with the Port Environs Advisory Committee recommendations. The amendment process will provide a further opportunity for affected parties to make a submission about the amendment and the policy.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No council officers have any direct or indirect interest in the land, in accordance with Section 80(C) of the Local Government Act to which this amendment relates.

**1. STATE GOVERNMENT PORTS AND ENVIRONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AND PORT OF GEELONG STRUCTURE PLAN (CONT'D)**

Risk Assessment

It is considered that the risks associated with the preparation of this amendment are minimal, the amendment will provide greater direction for decision makers at the port.

Social Considerations

The structure plan examined social impacts associated with the development of the port. The proposed planning policy clarifies the strategic framework for the port and will provide certainty for the community.

Communication

The preparation of the structure plan was undertaken in consultation with the community and businesses at the port. Individuals who lodged a submission on the draft Geelong Port Structure Plan will also receive notice of the amendment. The amendment will be exhibited in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987* with notices in the Government Gazette, local papers and notices to affected landowners.

APPENDIX 1-1

21.12 GEELONG PORT

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C158

Importance and Key Issues

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C158

- The Geelong Port is a vitally important economic resource for the state, region and municipality and plays a key role in Victoria's Principal Freight Network.
- Forecast trade growth is likely to place significant demands on port infrastructure capacity requiring potential expansion.
- The availability of suitably zoned land in the port area is critical to the continued viability and growth of the port. Where demand for land cannot be met in the immediate port environs the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct offers potential for port related industries.
- Efficient freight movements by road and rail within and between industrial areas and the port are critical to the operation and growth of the port.
- The port area operates in an environment with sensitive interfaces to residential and coastal areas.
- The operation of the port and adjoining port related industry is reliant on the protection of buffers from sensitive and incompatible uses and land fragmentation.
- The maintenance of public amenity in surrounding communities needs to be a consideration in context of growth pressures at the port.

21.12-2

Objectives

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C158

- To provide for the continued growth of the Geelong Port as a key economic resource to the Victorian community.
- To maintain and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the port.
- To safeguard the port as a focal point for infrastructure development and economic prosperity within south-west Victoria.
- To direct bulk liquid chemical storage activity in the area adjacent to Refinery Pier.
- To give appropriate weight to the needs of a working port having regard to the amenity of the land uses at the port interface.
- To ensure that development in the port area is environmentally sustainable.

Strategies

- Ensure that development within and adjacent to the Port is generally consistent with the Structure Plan map included in this clause.
- Ensure that sufficient land is available for future port-related development by discouraging non-port related land use and development from locating in the 'Core Port Use' and 'Core Port Industry' areas as identified in the Structure Plan map included in this clause.
- Retain 'Industrial Interface' areas, as identified in the Structure Plan map in this clause, in an appropriate industrial zone and ensure land use and development is compatible with port industry while minimising amenity impacts at the residential interface.
- Ensure that the use of land primarily for bulk liquid storage of dangerous goods (as defined under the Dangerous Goods Act) occurs in the 'Core Port Use Liquid Bulk' area adjacent to Refinery Pier as identified in the Structure Plan map in this clause.
- Ensure that all new proposals involving bulk liquid storage of dangerous goods meet Clause 52.10 buffer distance requirements and consider potential impacts on the environment and public health and safety.
- Ensure, as appropriate to the scale of proposal, that use and development proposals identify site risks and practices to manage any offsite impacts on the environment.
- Discourage further fragmentation of land holdings in the port area where this threatens to close off strategic development options for the port.

- Protect the port area from encroachment by non-compatible land uses or developments.
- Ensure that the development of an industrial marine precinct in the St Helens area adjacent to Osborne House is compatible with the operation of the port and port related industry and provides an appropriate interface with residential areas to the south.
- Ensure that use and development does not compromise the role of the land adjacent to the Shell refinery as a landscaped buffer as identified in the Structure Plan map in this clause.
- Maintain and enhance the role of the Sea Breeze Parade residential-industrial interface buffer adjacent to the North Shore residential area as identified in the Structure Plan map in this clause.
- Support retention and enhancement of landscape, earth bunding or other treatments on the Midway site to mitigate against off site discharge of dust and materials.
- Ensure that housing development in the North Shore residential area maintains the existing low intensity housing character.
- Development of sites fronting Melbourne Road and Princes Highway should provide for appropriate landscaping treatments contributing to a high amenity landscaped gateway to Geelong.
- On site landscaping should use indigenous native species. Where on site landscaping opportunities associated with new development are limited encourage landscape restoration and environmental improvements to be undertaken offsite at sites of biological significance including public foreshore areas.
- Ensure new development does not compromise the functionality and safety of existing and identified future networks of pedestrian and cycle paths.
- Facilitate increased throughput at the port through the development of extended berths at Corio Quay North and South and Lascelles Wharf.
- Secure a dual gauge rail connection to Lascelles Wharf and appropriate road connections to Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct and Geelong Ring Road.
- Facilitate and advocate for growth of the development of port related industries in the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct.

21.12-3

Implementation

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C158

These strategies will be implemented by:

Using policy and the exercise of discretion

Ensure that subdivision, use and development applications in the Special Use Zone – Schedule 6 / Port Zone, are port related and port dependent.

Applications with the potential to impact on port operations and/or port related uses, or on existing sensitive uses are to be accompanied by a Reverse Amenity Impact report which demonstrates ‘two way’ buffering.

Where appropriate new use and development proposals with off site discharges to waterways, foreshore and marine environments must be accompanied by an Ecological Risk Assessment and Environmental Management Plan.

Applying Zones and overlays

Applying the Special Use Zone – Schedule 6 / Port Zone to new port facilities and assets including wharf extensions and land used for port purposes by the port operator.

Applying the Industrial 2 Zone to core port related industrial areas close to the port.

Applying the Industrial 3 Zone to small lot industrial areas to the west of the North Shore residential area.

Further Work

Facilitate the establishment of an industrial marine precinct in the St Helens area adjacent to Osborne House.

Work with the port operator and relevant agencies to develop a Comprehensive Buffer Strategy and Community Development Plan for the North Shore residential area.

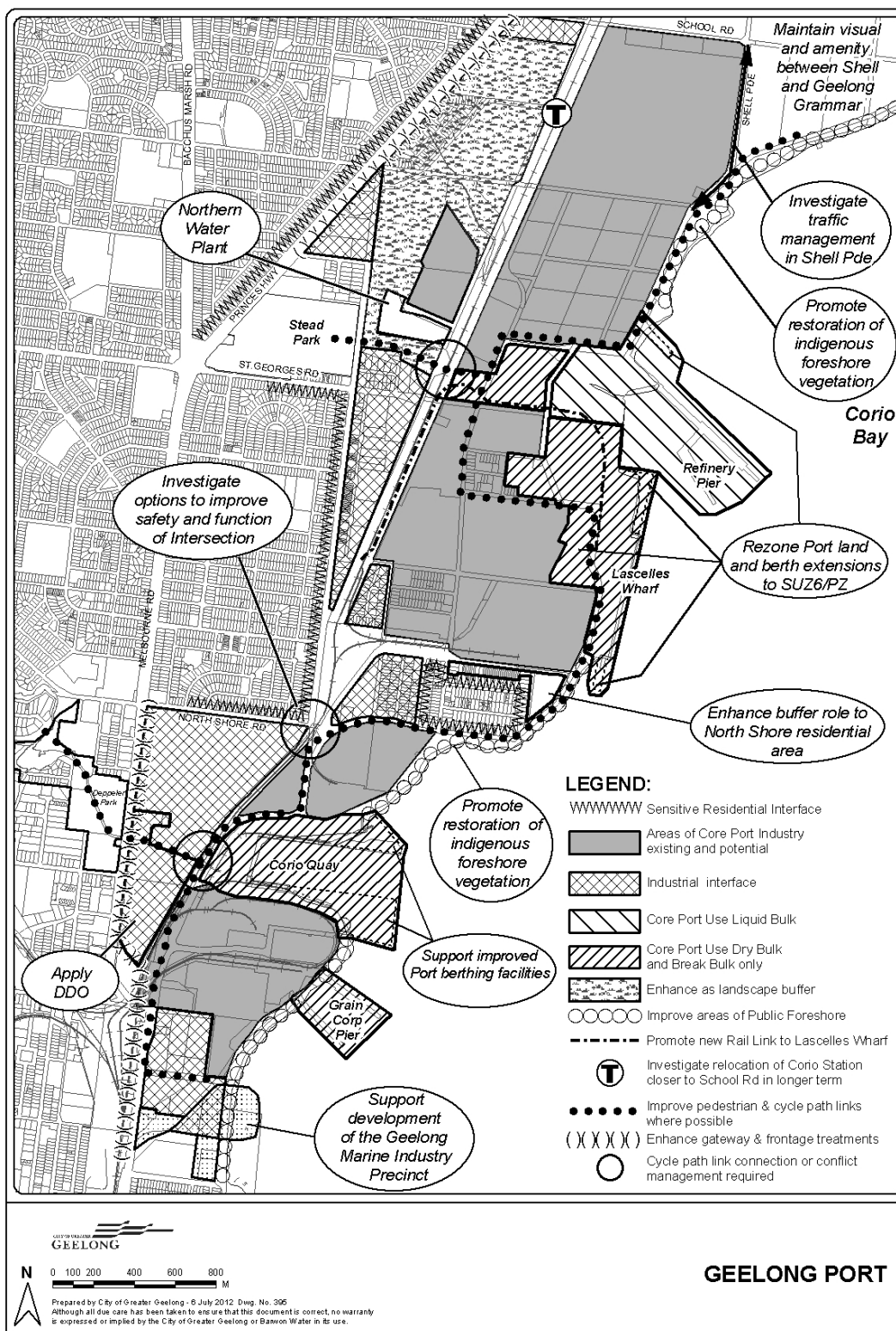
Liaise with VicRoads to investigate options for providing direct linkages between the port, the Geelong Ring Road and the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct.

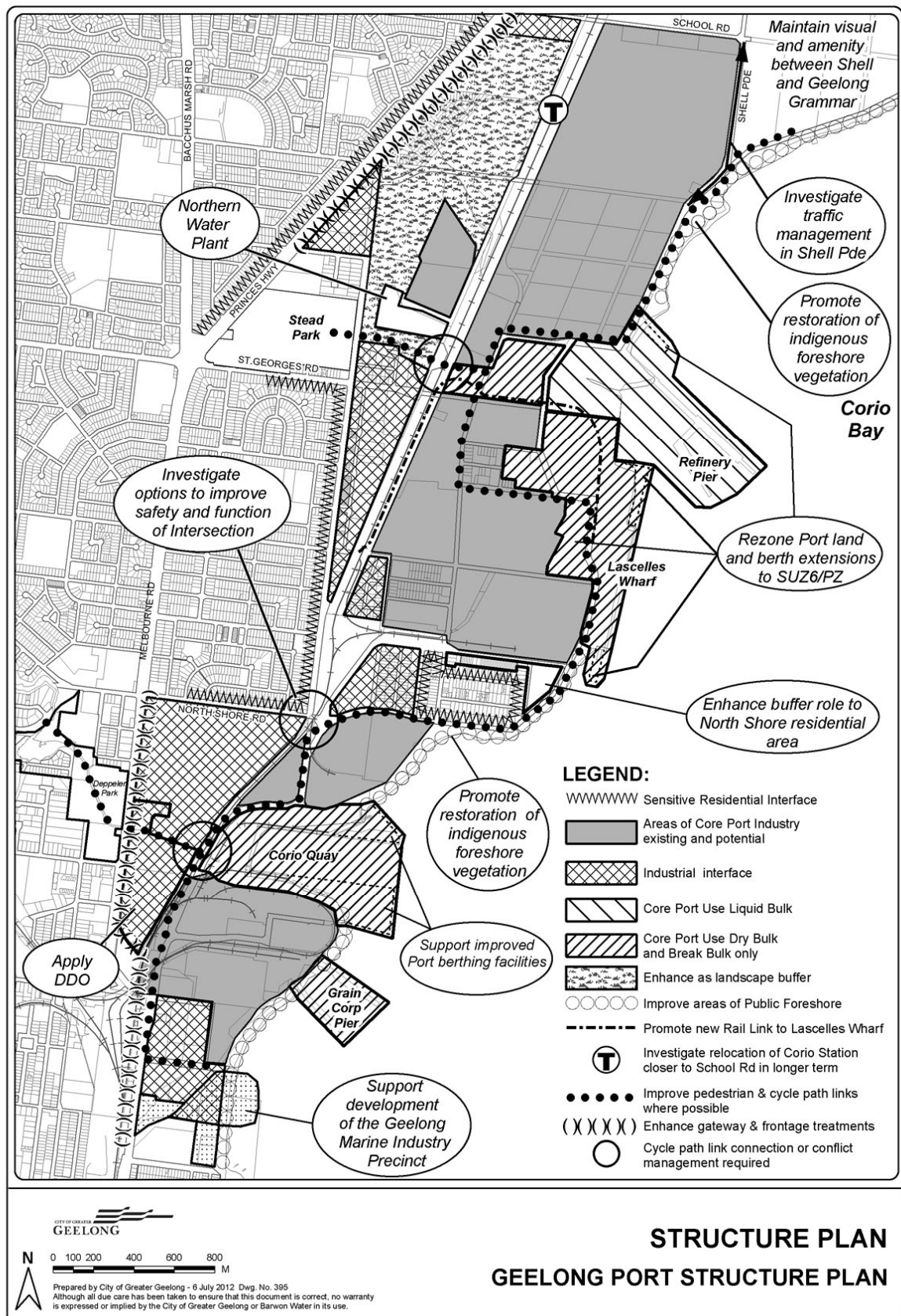
References

Port of Geelong, Port Land Use Strategy 2009, Geelong Port and Department of Transport.

21.12-4 **Geelong Port map**

--/20--
C158





24/05/2012
C263**SCHEDULE 5 TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OVERLAY**

Shown on the planning scheme map as **ESO5**.

PORT OF GEELONG ENVIRONS**1.0 Statement of environmental significance**24/05/2012
C263

The overlay manages potential conflicts between land in the port environs and the adjoining Port of Geelong. Land within this overlay should not be developed for any purpose that might compromise the long term protection and expansion of port operations, infrastructure and associated storage facilities.

2.0 Environmental objective to be achieved24/05/2012
C263

- Minimise the potential for future land use conflicts between the port and port environs.
- Ensure that any use and intensity of development in the overlay area does not constrain the ongoing operation and development of the commercial port.

3.0 Permit requirement24/05/2012
C263

A permit is not required to:

- Construct a building or construct or carry out works, unless the building or works is associated with the following uses:
 - Accommodation
 - Child care centre
 - Education centre
 - Place of Assembly
 - Office
- Subdivide land.
- Remove, destroy or lop any vegetation, including dead vegetation.

4.0 Decision guidelines24/05/2012
C263

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority must consider:

- Whether the proposed use or development is appropriate to the site by virtue of the proximity to the port.
- Whether the proposed use or development might impede the long term development and operation of the port.
- Whether the proposed use or development has the potential to expose people unnecessarily to any off-site impacts associated with the 24-hour, 7 day a week operation of the port.
- Whether the siting and design of the proposed use or development includes appropriate measures to ensure that the amenity of the proposed use will not be impacted by off-site impacts associated with the 24-hour, 7 day a week operation of the port.
- Whether the proposal is compatible with the present and future operation of the commercial trading port as detailed in a port development strategy approved under the Port Services Act 1995.

- Whether the proposal will result in an increase in the number of people affected by noise or road or rail traffic arising from port operations.
- Whether the proposal will result in an increase in the number of people affected by exposure to risk to health or life arising from port operations.

5.0

24/05/2012
C263

Reference

Port of Geelong – Port Land Use Strategy (GeelongPort and Department of Transport 2009).

2. SUBMISSION TO METROPOLITAN STRATEGY

Portfolio: Planning – Cr Macdonald
Source: Planning Strategy and Economic Development
General Manager: Peter Bettess
Index Reference: Council Reports 2013

Summary

- At the Council meeting on 26 February 2013 Council resolved to make a submission to the State Government about the Discussion Paper for the new Metropolitan Planning Strategy “*Melbourne lets talk about the future*”.
- The submission at Appendix 1 will be sent to the Department of Planning and Community Development as Council’s submission.
- Six key points are addressed in the letter:
 1. Support for closer links between Melbourne and regional cities and the need for additional investment in infrastructure particularly public transport,
 2. Support for the location of an employment cluster in Melbourne’s west which would benefit from the proximity of Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong and the accessibility provided by the Geelong Ring Road, Princes Highway and the standard and broad gauge rail lines,
 3. Acknowledgement of the Metropolitan Planning Strategy identifying the need for integration between the G21 Regional Growth Plan and the Metropolitan Strategy particularly on interface issues,
 4. The benefits that Geelong and the region can offer residents in the west of Melbourne in terms of service provision particularly in health and education, and the importance of ensuring infrastructure investment in health and education services in Geelong keeps pace with population growth in Geelong and west Melbourne,
 5. The continued support for transport projects including the east west link as an alternative to the West Gate Bridge and the rail link to Avalon
 6. The support and the need to consolidate investment in Avalon in advance of the development of a third airport for Victoria.

Cr Macdonald moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That Council endorse the response at Appendix 1 to be sent to the State Government as Council’s submission to the Metropolitan Planning Strategy Discussion Paper “*Melbourne lets talk about the future*”.

Cr Richards left the meeting room at 7.37pm

Cr Richards re-entered the meeting room at 7.40pm

Carried.

2. SUBMISSION TO METROPOLITAN STRATEGY (CONT'D)

Report

Background

Council resolved on 26 February 2013 to make a submission to the Discussion Paper for the new Metropolitan Planning Strategy "*Melbourne lets talk about the future*".

The Discussion Paper is based around nine principles and identifies key themes and desirable principles to be achieved. There is limited geographic analysis on how and where the principles will be applied.

Discussion

The attached submission provides more detail on the six key points which Council should highlight.

The relationship between Geelong and Melbourne is quite unique given its proximity, and significant levels of migration from Melbourne to Geelong and the pattern of commuting to Melbourne for work.

The increasing population in fringe areas in Melbourne's west in Wyndham will be a greater influence on Geelong as this community looks to Geelong for services such as health and education.

The City welcomes the development of the Discussion Paper and the opportunities that it presents for Geelong. The need for appropriate investment in infrastructure is essential to ensure that these opportunities are realised.

Environmental Implications

The lodgement of a submission on the Discussion Paper will not result in direct environmental impacts.

Financial Implications

Lodging a submission to the State Government's Discussion Paper will not result in any financial implication for Council.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Council's submission is consistent with its existing policies including the adopted G21 Regional Growth Plan and its aim of developing a freight and logistics precinct in the north.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No Council officer has a direct or indirect interest in this report.

2. SUBMISSION TO METROPOLITAN STRATEGY (CONT'D)

Risk Assessment

The lodgement of a submission to the Discussion Paper will not result in any risks to Council.

Social Considerations

The submission notes that continued growth in Geelong will require appropriate levels of funding for infrastructure including social infrastructure such as education and health facilities. An increase in workforce participation is a key social consideration and Council's submission highlights the need for greater access to employment in Melbourne's west which will complement employment opportunities in Geelong.

Communication

Preparation of this report was done in consultation with G21. Council's submission will be provided to the Department of Planning and Community Development.



CITY OF GREATER GEELONG SUBMISSION: DISCUSSION PAPER METROPOLITAN STRATEGY

March 2013





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Introduction

The City of Greater Geelong welcomes the release of the Discussion Paper for the new Metropolitan Planning Strategy *“Melbourne, let’s talk about the future”*. The timing of the Metropolitan Planning Strategy provides an opportunity to capitalise on the forward planning work being undertaken by councils across the State to develop Regional Growth Plans. This provides an important opportunity to ensure that collective decisions are made across the State to ensure growth is sustainable and investment in infrastructure provides for liveable communities.

Geelong is Victoria’s second largest city. With our proximity to Melbourne and the significant growth occurring in Melbourne’s north and west, there is an opportunity for Geelong to provide an alternative central business district to Melbourne to serve the west of Melbourne and the south west region of Victoria. Planning is already in place with Council adopting the Regional Growth Plan to cater for a population of 500,000 plus.

The key point of our submission is the need for the State to plan for, commit to and deliver key infrastructure to support planned growth. Priority infrastructure includes improving road connections particularly an alternative Yarra River crossing to the West Gate Bridge; an alternative east west link to the M1/City Link; planning for fast rail connections beyond the regional rail link; and committing to the timely construction of the outer metropolitan ring road.

We have identified six key issues in the Discussion Paper which are of particular importance to Geelong:

Support for closer links between Melbourne and regional cities and the need for additional investment in infrastructure particularly public transport

Strengthening the economic and social links between Melbourne and regional cities could better integrate labour forces, create choice for fast growing sectors such as remote or mobile workforces and result in better use of existing infrastructure. Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo are growing strongly and provide a wide range of services and infrastructure for residents. The Discussion Paper cites consultation revealing that regional cities are prepared to make a *“step change”* to achieve higher growth rates.

The Discussion Paper states that intervention and investment is required to achieve above-trend growth *“Unless councils or the State Government act to make regional cities more attractive to Melbournians, there is no reason to suppose they will grow faster than they have done in the past.”* Potential actions identified include investing in the CBDs of regional centres to attract public and private investment, providing more frequent rail services and widening Regional Growth Fund funding opportunities. The Discussion Paper notes that the Strategy needs to take account of directions identified in Regional Growth Plans.

The need to improve transport links is highlighted specifically to ensure sufficient road and rail capacity between regional cities and Melbourne and the need to reserve land for Very Fast Train services to regional Victoria and interstate.

We welcome the recognition of the need for increased investment in transport links. This needs to be coupled with increased investment in other services that support population growth such as health and education as well as targeted support for regional economic growth.

Support for the location of an employment cluster in Melbourne's west which would benefit from the proximity of Avalon Airport, the Port of Geelong and the accessibility provided by the Geelong Ring Road, Princes Highway and the standard and broad gauge rail lines

Geelong is already the main employment centre to Melbourne's west, having a higher employment and population base than western Melbourne municipalities including Wyndham, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong and Melton. We support the change in emphasis from planning for activity centres to planning for employment clusters. However the true potential of employment clusters will be dependent on infrastructure investment to meet business needs through the availability of land, road/rail access and other services such as high speed broadband. We support the suggested development of an employment cluster in the west to include Geelong and see this as a priority for the Metropolitan Planning Strategy. A western cluster will provide employment for the growing populations of Wyndham and Geelong and avoid further congestion on the rail and road networks to Melbourne which are already operating beyond capacity at peak times.

A western employment cluster would have a freight and logistics competitive advantage due to proximity to the Western Intermodal Freight Terminal, the Outer Metropolitan Ring, Avalon Airport and the Port of Geelong. A number of distribution centres for national companies are also located in the west.

Synergies with increased port operations in the west could be developed in the future. This complements our vision to develop a national freight and logistics hub in the north -centred on Avalon and the Port of Geelong - which is a direction in the Regional Growth Plan and one of our 13 funding priorities.

As part of an objective to decentralise the freight network in addition to the Port of Hastings, the Discussion Paper states this will involve the exploration of *"new longer term port development options in the west of Melbourne"*. We welcome an investigation of new port development options in the west and recommend this be undertaken as a priority to complement planned port development announced for Hastings. The availability of land, existing road and rail access, existing location of warehousing, industry, national distribution centres, and the availability of a growing workforce (with complementary skills suited to freight and logistics) provide this area with a competitive advantage. We are working with the Port of Geelong and port users on a plan to grow its status as Victoria's premier bulk and break bulk port and its potential to serve a greater role in

handling Victoria's growing freight task. Appropriate levels of infrastructure investment will be required.

Additional port facilities to the west of Melbourne would maximise the investment in infrastructure such as the Geelong Ring Road, the Regional Rail Link, standard gauge rail upgrades, the Western Intermodal Freight Terminal, and the Outer Metropolitan Ring transport corridor. This would complement our proposed freight and logistics precinct based around Avalon Airport, Geelong Port and the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct (one of Council's 13 funding priorities and part of the Regional Growth Plan).

The need for integration between the Regional Growth Plan and the Metropolitan Strategy particularly on interface issues

The Discussion Paper references the need to integrate the work of the eight Regional Growth Plans with the new Metropolitan Planning Strategy. It recognises that Melbourne is part of a *"much bigger and more complex picture of growth and development"* and that regional cities can play a greater role in agri-business, manufacturing, education, tourism and can be attractive places to live given their accessibility. Potential cost advantages in upgrading connections to regional areas is noted. Geelong is experiencing population growth due to people relocating from Melbourne and this is identified as a key influence in the Regional Growth Plan. This trend needs to be recognised in the Metropolitan Planning Strategy to emphasise the need to facilitate investment in business and jobs growth in Melbourne's western suburbs, Avalon Airport and the broader Geelong-Werribee corridor.

The interface between the G21 Region and Metropolitan Melbourne requires careful consideration. The Regional Growth Plan identifies this area as the North Eastern Gateway and seeks to retain a clear delineation between Geelong as a regional city and Melbourne as a capital city. The objectives for this area include the protection of significant views and wetland habitat, farming activities and strategic opportunities for employment linked with Avalon Airport, Department of Defence and quarry sites.

The benefits that Geelong and the region can offer residents in the west of Melbourne in terms of service provision particularly in health and education, and the importance of ensuring infrastructure investment in health and education services in Geelong keeps pace with population growth in Geelong and west Melbourne

The development of the Metropolitan Planning Strategy is particularly important for Geelong with arguably closer connections with Melbourne than other regional locations. The westerly expansion of Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary has led to the establishment of significant communities on Melbourne's fringe.

With appropriate policy directions it is likely these communities will turn to Geelong for essential services such as health and education. Planning for Melbourne's future must consider the

opportunities which Geelong can provide. Similarly the delivery of infrastructure and services in Geelong will increasingly have to take account of our accessibility and wider 'catchment' region. The Regional Plan has identified that Geelong's population growth is largely being driven by people relocating from Melbourne. Geelong and Melbourne cannot be considered in isolation.

Our continued support for transport projects including the east west link as an alternative to the West Gate Bridge and the rail link to Avalon

The Discussion Paper states that the Metropolitan Planning Strategy will include a vision for Melbourne's transport system, and acknowledges that past under-investment in infrastructure, particularly in fringe areas, has resulted in traffic congestion and overcrowding on public transport. We strongly support the need to make more efficient use of existing infrastructure.

Future alternative funding arrangements for infrastructure may be required. Suggested options include development contributions, user pays, sale of assets such as surplus government land and value capture including special or differential rates. The Paper notes that *"Proper consideration should be given to providing greater flexibility for councils to source suitable funds to enable delivery of much-needed local services and facilities"*. Ideas explored under this principle include infrastructure investment as a way of transforming places, moving towards more holistic place-based approaches and identifying a long term framework for metropolitan infrastructure to include transport, health, education, recreation/open space and utilities. This longer term view should encourage private sector and community initiatives, whilst still allowing flexibility. We welcome further analysis of funding opportunities and flexibility for infrastructure provision.

No new specific infrastructure projects are identified other than the potential new airport in the south east. Reaffirmed commitments to projects which will impact upon Geelong include the Western Interstate Freight Terminal at Truganina, Melbourne Airport rail link, the Outer Metropolitan Ring and E6 and the East West Link (as an alternative to the West Gate Bridge). The Discussion Paper recognises the East West link, growth of Avalon for air freight and passengers and development of new freight precincts as part of a decentralised network as being necessary for global competitiveness. We support all of these as key drivers of economic growth.

Support and the need to consolidate investment in Avalon in advance of the development of a third airport for Victoria

Avalon Airport is currently in a developing phase. To allow build up of its position in the aviation market it is critical that Avalon's growth be fostered by both state and local government. As Victoria's second city, it is appropriate for the second international airport to be located here. However in order to consolidate its operations it is important that Avalon Airport be given sufficient support both in policy terms and through infrastructure investment.

There is minimal justification for a third airport for Victoria at this time. The proposed south east location should be subject to more robust demand analysis, particularly as the Discussion Paper identifies that population growth is shifting away from the south east. There are greater growth

rates in the west and the north of Melbourne. If a third airport is required in Victoria it would be advisable to consider its role and potential as part of the wider freight network. With established port facilities in the west at Geelong, this role could be maximised more efficiently.

The planned rail link to Avalon will increase the airport's accessibility and accommodate both domestic and international passengers. The rail link will be a significant driver for economic growth at Avalon and in the wider region. To realise its economic potential and to ensure the State Government achieves maximum return on its investment it is essential there is more certainty around development of Avalon Airport.

Future plans for an airport in the south east should be a long term consideration. Avalon Airport will fulfil national and international aviation needs (freight and passenger) of the Geelong and metropolitan communities well into the future - particularly when the rail connection is completed. We recommend the Government should maximise the efficient use of its planned infrastructure at Avalon.

Conclusion

We support the nine strategic principles identified in the Discussion Paper. The Metropolitan Planning Strategy should give greater emphasis to the role that Geelong can play as Victoria's second capital city. Any redirection of a greater share of Melbourne's growth to Geelong must be supported by planning and commitment to the necessary infrastructure to cater for growth. Local job creation is a key element to achieving the 20 minute city - with Geelong having the ability to serve as the central business district and employment cluster for the west of Melbourne. It is important Geelong retain its identity and 'separateness' from Melbourne and the western growth areas.

We welcome further opportunities to engage with the State Government in the development of the Metropolitan Planning Strategy.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017

Portfolio:	Community Safety – Cr Farrell Community Development – Cr Fisher
Source:	Community Services – Health & Local Laws
General Manager:	Jenny McMahon
Index Reference:	Local Laws/Animal Management

Summary

- Council has a legal obligation under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to develop and review the Domestic Animal Management (DAM) Plan every four years.
- The purpose of this report is to present to Councillors the review of the existing DAM Plan (2008–2011), which incorporates the Dogs in Public Places policy, and the development of the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM) Plan for 2013–2017. (See Appendix 1)
- Council's first DAM Plan 2008–2011 was adopted in June 2008. A range of actions focusing on compliance, policy education, promotion and marketing were implemented.
- A range of data has been collected to inform the proposed activities in the Draft Plan, including responses from the community highlighting their expectations and concerns, feedback from animal behaviourists and through the observations and experiences of Council's Animal Compliance Officers.
- As a consequence of feedback, some necessary improvements were identified in the 'Dogs in Public Places Policy'.
- Pet owners need to demonstrate individual responsibility in conjunction to the work of Council to ensure community safety and harmony.

Cr Fisher moved, Cr Farrell seconded -

That Council note the Draft:

- 1) Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013–2017 and release for community consultation for a period of four weeks;**
- 2) Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013–2017 and release for community consultation for a period of four weeks.**

Carried.

Report

Background

Council has a legal obligation under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to produce a four year DAM Plan. After considerable consultation with the community, stakeholders and interested groups in 2008, Council adopted its first DAM Plan 2008–2011. The purpose of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 is to promote animal welfare, responsible pet ownership and to protect the community and environment.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

In fulfilling its animal management responsibilities Council commits \$1.876M expenditure to deliver a range of compliance programs including the delivery of services to Councils Animal Pound. Council receives \$2.123M of revenue generated through user fees, charges and penalties. During the period of the first DAM Plan, the Department of Primary Industries further extended the expiry date from June 2011 to December 2012 so as to align the Plan with Councillors four year terms. Following feedback from the majority of Victorian Councils that this timeline was going to be difficult to achieve due to the Council elections and the 'caretaker' period, the Department of Primary Industries further extended the completion date for the 2013–2017 DAM Plan to 30 June 2013.

The first DAM Plan (2008–2011) identified three strategic objectives:

- Responsible Pet Ownership
- Dogs in Public Places
- Leadership.

Council adopted and implemented a range of dog control orders throughout the municipality including coastal, open space areas, public places and areas under the control of other Land Mangers, under the provision of Section 26 of the Domestic Animals Act. Dog control orders provide residents with the necessary information about where and when they can walk their dog/s on and off leash in order to protect community safety and the environment. The relevant Land Managers with whom Council has adopted Dog Control Orders include:

- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Barwon Coast Committee of Management.

With the review and development of a new DAM Plan (2013–2017), an extensive community feedback and survey process was conducted in June 2012. This focused on gaining feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses associated with the current Plan and any opportunities and suggestions that may be incorporated into the new Plan. This survey comprised a three week online questionnaire, which was also available in hard copy from various locations throughout the municipality.

Feedback was received from a wide audience including community members, special interest groups and both internal and external stakeholders of the City of Greater Geelong.

While pets, at times, can cause a degree of nuisance and impact on others, studies demonstrate that companion animals play a significant role in enriching the lives of many in the community and contribute to building happy, healthy and active communities.

Statistics provided by the Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS) state that 63% of Australian households have some type of pet, with 53% of households owning a dog or cat. The City of Greater Geelong has one of the largest animal populations of any Victorian municipality and currently has over 45,781 registered dogs and cats.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

The City of Greater Geelong is quite a large diverse municipality, which presents challenges in terms of conducting animal enforcement and compliance activities. The municipality includes:

- A total land area of 1,250 square kilometres
- 349 reserves and parks
- 1,300 kilometres of footpaths and shared use paths
- Over 115 kilometres of creeks and trails
- A vast coast line from Avalon Beach in the north-east, along the Bellarine Peninsula coastline to Breamlea in the south (approximately 100kms).

Community Feedback

To inform the community about the community feedback process, an extensive advertising campaign was implemented prior and during the period in which the survey was conducted. The advertising included print media, radio, web and community billboards.

A comprehensive mail distribution was carried out to over 300 target group contacts, including dogs clubs, kindergartens, local veterinarians, senior citizen groups, child care centres, primary and secondary schools, environment groups and Council departments with Council's Corporate Planning Department assisting with the evaluation process. Comparatively, the overall response rate was encouraging and provided a sound base upon which to make informed decisions and recommendations for the next DAM plan.

A total of 568 responses were received, including 349 on line responses and 219 written responses. The respondents' demographics included:

- 77% of respondents were aged between 35 and 69 years of age
- 75% of respondents were female
- Respondents came from all areas of the municipality with 81% of respondents residing in 20 suburbs
- 86% of respondents owned either a dog or a cat
- 14% were non pet owners.

Overall, it was felt that this sample cohort was a reasonable representation of community sentiments towards animal management and compliance issues.

Respondents evaluated the effectiveness of the programs within the existing DAM Plan resulting in the following findings:

- 90% declared dog attacks as the most important future direction needing to be addressed
- Compulsory de-sexing of cats and dogs was well supported with 97% supporting the de-sexing of cats from the pound, 82% agreed to de-sexing newly registered cats and 85% were supportive of de-sexing registered cats. 64% of respondents were in support of de-sexing dogs
- 77% stated that they wish to see a decrease in dogs at large and menacing/rushing dogs and 67% indicated a need for clearer dog control orders

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

- The cat curfew and education on pet selection were seen to be the least effective (28% and 23% respectively)
- Only 40% indicated the on/off leash areas were considered effective
- A general theme of support for increased patrols to address issues such as dog attacks, dog litter, dog control orders and other nuisance activities
- 49% believed the 'Dogs on Leash At All Times' sign/order was clear but only 29% found the observance of the sign to be effective
- The majority of respondents felt that the 'Dogs on Leash On and Within 5 Metres of a Path' sign/order was a major challenge to understand and may be leading to incidents
- 37% felt that the 'Dogs Under Effective Control' sign/order was clear but only 21% found the observance of the sign to be effective
- 32% were uncertain as to whether education on responsible pet ownership was effective
- The micro-chipping and registration road-shows were perceived to be the most effective by 61% of respondents
- 86% of respondents are respectful of Council being a dog friendly municipality while maintaining community safety through compliance and regulatory presence/programs.

Residents were informed that three actions remained outstanding from the 2008–2011 plan including pet selection, compulsory de-sexing and Dog Activity Parks.

Animal Compliance Trends and Data – Dogs

Animal behaviourist specialist, Dr Jacqui Ley, FVSc, hons MANZCV Sc (Veterinary Behaviour) PhD DECAWBN CMAVA, states: "Aggression in dogs is a major community concern. Aggressive behaviour in dogs develops through a combination of their genetics, their experiences and their environment".

The statistics relating to dog attacks and subsequent incidences during 2008–2011, indicate an increasing trend that requires corrective action and intervention by Council in the interest of community safety.

A study conducted by Monash University 'Hospital Treated Dog Bite Injury among Greater Geelong Residents 08/09–10/11', revealed the following statistics for the City of Greater Geelong:

- 112 Greater Geelong residents were hospitalised due to dog bite incidents during 2008 – 2011
- 99 Greater Geelong residents reported to Emergency Departments for dog bite related incidents
- 512 dog attacks were reported to Council in the same timeframe
- 177 dog attacks have been reported to Council during 2012 compared to 117 in 2011 (an increase of 51%)

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

- Over the past four years there has been a 24% increase in the number of dogs at large, escalating to over 3,435 at the end of 2011.

* The above figures do not include victims who may have reported to the police or to a local General Practitioner independently.

Dog Bite Emergency Department Admissions

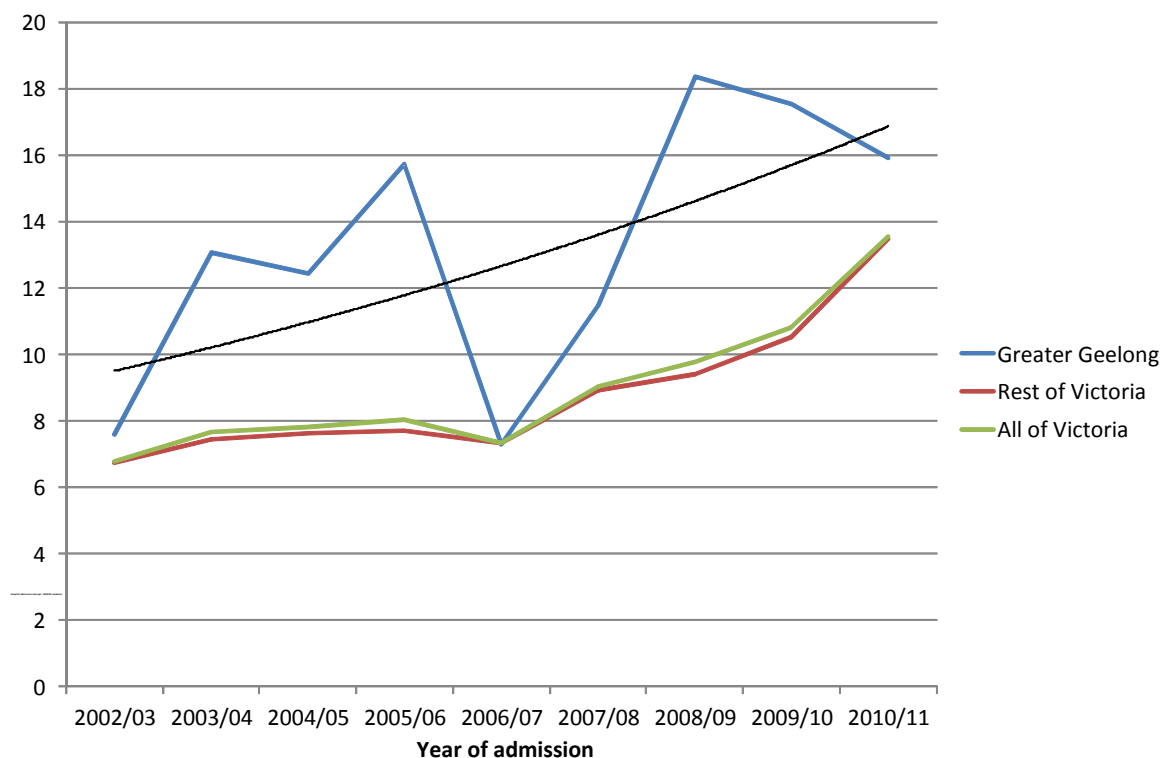
During 2002/03–2010/11 rates per 100,000 population for residents of Geelong, the rest of Victoria and all of Victoria show that the dog bite injury hospitalisation rate for Geelong increased significantly over the nine year period from 7.6 dog bite hospitalisations/100,000 population in 2002/03 to 15.9/100,000 in 2010/11 representing an estimated annual change of 7% and an overall increase of 109% based on the trend line.

The dog bite injury hospitalisation rate for the rest of Victoria increased, from 6.7/100,000 population in 2002/03 to 13.5/100,000 in 2010/11 with an overall increase of 103%.

The rate for all of Victoria (including CoGG rates) increased from 6.8/100,000 population in 2002/03 to 13.6/100,000 in 2010/11, an overall increase of 101%.

The City of Greater Geelong has had higher starting rates that have continued to increase. As the Council with the largest number of registered dog numbers, this increased rate translates to significant numbers as outlined in this report.

**Dog Bite Presentations to Hospital Emergency
Departments 2002/3 – 2010/11**



Dogs behave differently in difficult circumstances due to fear, being startled, excited, surprised, agitated, confronted etc. Council has a role in incident prevention by controlling situations, environments and circumstances where a dog may revert to aggression.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

A strong correlation exists between the number of dogs at large and the consistent influence this has on the number of dog attacks and menacing dogs. It could be argued that any measure that would reduce the number of dogs at large would most likely lead to a reduction in dog attacks simply by reducing any opportunities for such an incident to occur. Council's *Dogs in Public Places Policy* (Appendix 2) has been reviewed accordingly so as to reflect the community's concern and Council's need to meet its duty of care by addressing high priority issues in a preventative manner.

Four important determinants exist for safety and dogs; genetics, proper handling, training and care, and controlled environment that affords community safety.

While Council can influence handling, training and care practices through education and awareness programs, its greatest level of control exists through introducing measures that influence a safe environment with dogs in public places.

Over the past four years and as a result of Council's animal impounding responsibilities, there have been in excess of 2,400 cats and 800 dogs euthanised annually. In 2010/2011, 2,406 cats (many of these were either kittens or feral cats) and 803 dogs were euthanised. While this rate has reduced during 2011/2012 to 1244 and 283 respectively, these numbers remain unacceptably high, particularly for cats.

From the DAM Plan feedback process, the community has indicated strong support for the mandatory de-sexing of dogs and cats to reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned pets being impounded at Councils Animal Pound, many of which are subsequently euthanised. The introduction of mandatory de-sexing for any cat or dog being registered for the first time or any cat currently registered within the four year period of the Plan has been included for Council's consideration in Council's *Dogs in Public Places Policy* and as part of the new DAM Plan. To assist the community, it is envisaged that subsidised de-sexing programs may be able to be established through partnerships with veterinarians, relevant funding agencies and sponsors.

Respondents are supportive of Council providing fenced off spaces or Dog Activity Parks. This was also a popular activity in the DAM Plan (2008–2011). 65% of respondents are supportive of the establishment of areas that are fenced off or are a designated Dog Activity Park.

These spaces allow for the facilitation of dogs' socialisation, training and the opportunity for dogs to be walked off leash in a secure fenced area. The benefit of a dog participating in exercise, socialisation and interaction with its owner has the ability to reduce behavioural and anti social issues.

While residents regarded barking dogs and nuisance cats as lesser priorities at 52% and 63% support respectively, Council's Request For Service statistics show that these are areas of high concern and impact within the community as is the issue of dog attacks.

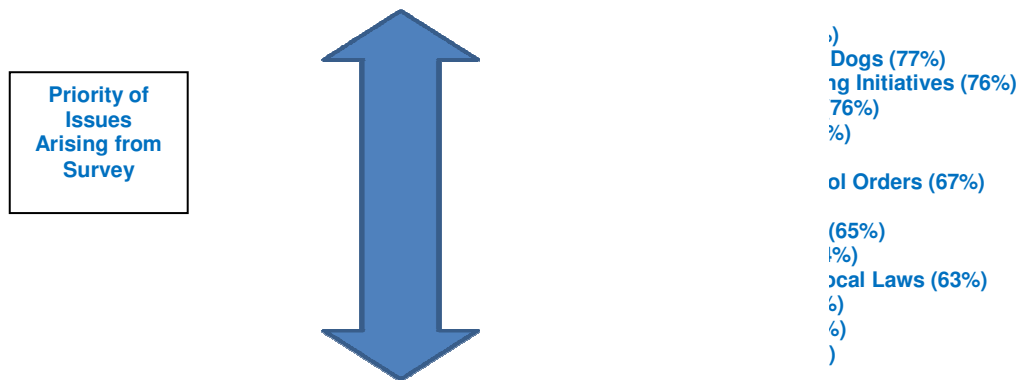
Research indicated that pet ownership provides a range of benefits to owners such as companionship, social interaction, exercise and an improved quality of life. Council recognises there is an opportunity to explore options for the development of a Health and Wellbeing program, a dog walking service which would be implemented for eligible dog owners unable to walk their dog/s due to ill health, age, impairment or disability. It is envisaged that this program would be assisted by trained volunteers. 76% of respondents supported this initiative.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

Discussion

Consideration was given towards prioritising those issues of highest concern to the community, which along with relevant data and officer feedback have informed the development of the Draft DAM Plan 2013–2017 (see Appendix 1). Actions have been developed in response to these issues and have been categorised under the following sections:

- Proposed Dogs in Public Places Policy Outline 2013–2017
- Training of Authorised Officers
- Registration and Identification
- Nuisance
- Dog Attacks
- Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breeds
- Over Population and High Euthanasia
- Domestic Animal Businesses
- Other Matters
- Annual Revision of Plan and Annual Reporting.



With respect to the changes and areas of program improvement to the Draft DAM Plan 2013–2017, the following can be summarised as key changes for Council to consider as part of adopting the proposed Plan and revised Policy;

- Amending the Dogs in Public Places Policy by providing greater clarity around 'On Leash' and 'Off Leash' areas. Due to the impracticality and cost of providing 'On Leash' signage in all public open spaces (where relevant), the policy has been re-worded so that in the absence of any sign and unless specifically designated as an off leash (supervised) area, the subject open space is proposed to be deemed to be an 'On Leash – Supervised' area. Many new 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas have been established and are included in the revised *Dogs in Public Places Policy* (Appendix 2).

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

The above amendments would reduce confusion within the community about what dog order prevails; places the onus on the dog owner to act responsibly; and enables Council to focus on providing signs in 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas and high activity 'On Leash – Controlled' areas.

- Re-badge the 'Off Leash' to 'Off Leash (Supervised)' and 'On Leash' to 'On Leash (Controlled)' in order to promote and clarify the responsibilities of dog owners when in such places with their dog/s.
- Amend the 'On Leash On or Within 5 Metres of a Pathway' to an 'On Leash On and Adjoining a Pathway' order. This is in response to the many incidents that have occurred along highly used linear tracks and pathways involving other dogs, walkers and cyclists and the need to reduce the opportunity for this to occur.
- A number of conditions have been attached to the 'Off Leash – Supervised' order. This is as a result of the misunderstanding or misinterpretation by some that this means that a dog can run at large at will. The most important condition, which aims to prevent the continuing increase of dog incidents is, 'when encountering others/other dogs using an off leash area, the dog must be recalled and restrained until both parties have moved apart at a safe distance'.
- Apart from the safety issues, many members of the public are opposed to the unwelcome attention of a dog while they are walking, running, riding etc.
- Some minor changes have been made to certain dog control orders. It is proposed to bring back the afternoon restriction time from 8.00pm (daylight savings) and 6.00pm (other times) to 5.00pm at any time. This will provide the community with greater opportunity to walk their dogs in safer circumstances.

An additional order has been created for stretches of ocean coastline, which are the habitat of the endangered Hooded Plover. It is proposed that the intent of the Order is reversed from 'Off Leash – except when hooded plover are nesting' to 'On Leash – Supervised – except when hooded plovers are not present'. This will be a clearer and fair message for the general community to abide by and easier for Council and Birds Australia officers to monitor for compliance.

Council has existing Dog Control Orders with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) and the Barwon Coast Foreshore Committee of Management (BCFCM). These Orders remain unchanged.

- Council is continuing to liaise with the Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management (BBCM) who has expressed interest in adopting Dog Control Orders that are in harmony with Council's existing Orders. As part of putting this draft plan (which includes the BBCM proposed Orders) to the community for further comment, it is envisaged that a final position will be reached with BBCM with respect to meeting the community's expectations. Previous community concerns about the break in continuity of the walking track for dog walkers and large sections of areas that could be better served as 'dogs on leash – controlled' areas rather than 'dogs prohibited' areas have been addressed and amended accordingly.
- As an extension to the existing mandatory micro-chipping order, it is proposed to introduce mandatory de-sexing as a condition of all new cat and dog registrations.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

- The adoption of an order which requires all existing (registered) cats to be de-sexed during the four year term of the Plan. This is due to the practical difficulty in enforcing cat containment breaches, cats' nomadic/roaming instincts, feral cats, the high number of abandoned cats and litters of kittens that lead to the high rates of euthanasia at the rate payers' expense. Council will explore funding and partnership opportunities for the implementation of de-sexing programs.
- Promote the fact that dog litter can be disposed of in any Council litter bin when wrapped/packaged in any type of bag. Currently the City has 71 dog litter bins (at a cost of \$1,130/annum operating/servicing costs) and over 1600 public place litter bins (at a cost of \$380/annum operating/servicing costs). With the new side loading functionality of waste collection trucks, there is no longer an OH&S issue associated with the loading of public place litter bins that may contain dog litter. Therefore, by adopting public place litter bins as acceptable containers for the deposit of dog litter, the City will provide a far more accessible and convenient waste facility as a more economical alternative to the existing dog litter bins.

Environmental Implications

The City of Greater Geelong is a municipality offering a great lifestyle mix of urban, coastal and rural living environments. The surrounds are perfect for providing a balance between the needs of the community and pet owners.

It is evident from the survey that respondents are proud of the region and value the natural beauty and aesthetics of the City. There is a high level of expectation by the respondents that dog owners should be more vigilant of their dog's behaviour in public spaces particularly in relation to dog waste, wildlife and protecting the environment. Also from the survey the respondents consider that it is the City's responsibility to make good the poor behaviour of irresponsible dog owners by providing dog litter bags and ample waste bins.

Equally, respondents despair at the number of feral cats in Ramsar Wetlands (Ramsar Wetlands are wetlands of international importance listed under the Convention on Wetlands), and around protected hooded plover sites along the coastline at Ocean Grove and Breamlea. With a number of new developments and subdivisions abutting reserves many of the respondents are calling for Cat Free Zones for estates that buffer onto areas of environmental value. There was no consideration from respondents on how this desire would be implemented. However, it is envisaged this course of action would require the expertise of the Environmental and Natural Resources Unit, together with relevant State and Federal bodies.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with the current consultative process are included in the 2012/13 departmental budget. On adoption of the final plan, a costing framework will be provided to Council on a four year project basis.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, every Council must prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan, which aims to promote animal welfare, responsible ownership of dogs and cats and to protect the environment. In adopting such a plan, the City has an opportunity to deal with specific issues relevant to its community and in response to any compliance matters that may impact on the health, safety and amenity of the community and environment.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No Council officer has direct or indirect interest in the preparation of the report.

Risk Assessment

There are no known risks associated with the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013–2017. The actions outlined in the Plan have been developed to minimise risks to the community and Council from a legal perspective. The deliverable actions undertaken during the life of the plan would be subject to relevant risk management assessments.

Social Considerations

The objectives of the DAM Plan recognise a community that values responsible pet ownership and high standards of animal welfare. The actions proposed to be undertaken in the 2013–2017 DAM Plan strive to promote safe and cooperative behaviour by pet owners and provide a municipality that is pet friendly. Council recognises that not everyone feels comfortable around dogs and some environments are sensitive to their use. The plan aims to provide a framework that offers a balanced approach to all members of the community having a fair and reasonable access to public places and spaces with their dogs while enabling Council to meet its legal and risk management responsibilities.

Communication

A Draft DAM Plan (2013–2017) will be put on exhibition for a period of four weeks by:

- being advertised in the Public Notices section
- being accessible on-line
- directly liaising with key stakeholders and industry bodies.

Leading up to the development of the draft plan, a four week advertising campaign with a mix of print and radio media, internet, mailing databases and community billboards was implemented inviting residents, pet owners and special interest groups to participate in the 'feedback' process.

3. DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (DAM) PLAN 2013–2017 (CONT'D)

A series of working group sessions were held with external and internal stakeholders and these included representatives from:

- Barwon River Parklands
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management
- Barwon Coast Committee of Management
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- CoGG Recreation and Open Spaces
- CoGG Environment and Natural Resources
- CoGG Infrastructure and Waste Services
- CoGG Local Laws, Animal Unit, Animal Officers

Discussion topics included:

- Dog waste littering
- Existing dog control orders
- Development of new dog control orders
- Standardisation of coastal dog control orders
- Environmental issues including the hooded plover
- Open space, parks and reserves
- The future of on/off leash open spaces in growth development areas.

Domestic Animal Management Plan

City of Greater Geelong

DRAFT 2013 - 2017

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DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT – 1994 (PART 1)

Purpose of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (as amended)

The purpose of this Act is to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment by providing for:

- A scheme to protect the community and the environment from feral and nuisance dogs and cats;
- A registration and identification scheme for dogs and cats which recognises and promotes responsible ownership;
- The identification and control of dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs;
- A registration scheme for domestic animal businesses promoting the maintenance of standards of those businesses;
- Matters related to the boarding of dogs and cats;
- The regulation of the permanent identification of dogs, cats, horses and other animals;
- Payments to the Treasurer from fees received by Councils under this Act; and
- Other related matters.

Domestic Animal Management Plans

Under Section 68A of the Domestic Animals Act, every Council must prepare a domestic animal management plan, as follows:

68A Councils to prepare domestic animal management plans

- 1) Every Council must, in consultation with the Secretary (*of the Department of Primary Industries*), prepare at 4 year intervals a domestic animal management plan.
- 2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—
 - a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and
 - b) Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and
 - c) Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district—
 - i) To promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and
 - ii) To ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and
 - iii) To minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and
 - iv) To address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and

- v) To encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and
 - vi) To minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and
 - vii) To effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and
 - d) Provide for the review of existing orders made under this Act and local laws that relate to the Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or local laws dealing with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and
 - e) Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and
 - f) Provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan.
- 3) Every Council must—
- a) Review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan; and
 - b) Provide the Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan; and
 - c) Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

INTRODUCTION

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAM Plan) caters for the needs of domestic pets, their owners and addresses the concerns of the general public in a fair and even manner.

The aim of this plan is to facilitate co-existence of pets, pet owners and the general population whilst addressing the welfare and legislative issues relating to animal management in the City boundaries. This plan also aims to promote responsible pet ownership and enhance the experience of animal ownership within the community, by so doing, make the City of Greater Geelong an even better place to live.

While the directive to create a plan is in line with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (DAA) which requires all Victorian councils to have a four year plan in place for the management of dogs and cats within their area, the City has used a consultative process to consider opinions and concerns from all relevant group and individuals.

It is now well recognised by the community and governments alike that there is more to animal management than merely collecting stray dogs and addressing compliances issues. Not so well recognised is the role that local government plays in protecting and promoting responsible animal ownership in the community and the environment, both essential to maintaining sustainable communities and a healthy environment.

This plan is designed to balance the needs of the community and at the same time manage the requirements of the act. This is an evolving practice as the community grows and changes and environmental concerns play an ever more important part of our City.

A key aspect of this plan is to manage domestic animals issues in a professional and efficient manner, provide education to the community of the responsibilities of pet ownership where possible at the same time address and minimise the problems generated by irresponsible pet owners.

Overview of the City of Greater Geelong

The City of Greater Geelong has one of the largest animal populations of any Victorian municipality and currently has over 46,000 registered cats and dogs (based at 2013).

The City has a total land area of 1,250 square kilometres, including a mix of coastal, rural and urban areas. Currently the municipality has a population of 215,151 with 95,753 dwellings. Annually the City has an average population growth of 1.51% and it is estimated by the year 2031, the population will be in excess of 303,000. With population growth, comes a likely increase in pet ownership.

Community Consultation

In developing this plan, in 2012 Council consulted with the community to gain an understanding of community perception in relation to animal management. Consultation involved a wide audience including community members, special interest groups, stakeholders and internal departments of the City of Greater Geelong.

The basis of this plan has been formed from a range of data gathered from Animal Behaviourists, staff experience and observations and response from the community to the survey.

Summary of Respondents Concerns

In general the respondents consider themselves responsible pet owners and are respectful of the Council remaining a dog and cat friendly municipality. The respondents are supportive of Council's compliance and regulatory presence to ensure that all pet owners comply with the dog and cat control orders.

Respondents expressed the need to have an increased compliance presence in the community to address issues including non-compliance with dog control orders, dog waste, dog attacks, barking dogs, roaming cats and other nuisance issues. Respondents support the issuing of infringements and increasing penalties, if this would deter and improve poor behaviour of some pet owners.

A total of 568 responses were received. This included 349 online responses with 219 responses being via paper surveys.

The respondents' demographics included:

- 77% being aged between 35 and 69 years
- 75% of respondents were female
- Respondents came from 54 suburbs across the municipality with 81% of respondents residing in 20 suburbs
- 86% of respondents owned either a cat or dog with 14% being non pet owners.

Overview of the Community Consultation - Results

Community members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the outcomes achieved during the life of the DAM Plan 2008 – 2012. Perceptions of the effectiveness of the programs indicated that:

- The cat curfew and education on pet selection were seen to be the least effective (28% and 23% respectively)
- 39% of respondents indicated the on/off-leash areas were considered effective
- 32% were uncertain as to whether education on responsible pet ownership was effective
- The microchipping and registration roadshows were perceived to be the most effective by 61% of respondents
- Compulsory desexing of cats and dogs was well supported with 97% supporting the desexing of cats from the pound, 82% agreed to desexing newly registered cats and 85% were supportive of desexing registered cats. 64% of respondents were in support of desexing dogs
- 90% of respondents declared dog attacks as the most important issue to address for the future
- 67% indicated that the need for improved and clearer dog control orders. 77% indicated they wish to see a decrease in dogs at large.
- 49% felt that the 'Dogs On Leash on or within 5 metres of a pathway a major challenge to understand and may contribute to incidents

Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

The City of Greater Geelong like every Victorian Council has a statutory obligation to animal management in its municipality. The Domestic Animals Act (1994) Council Local Laws, Policies and Procedures are the regulations that are adhered too for addressing animal management issues.

Animal management encompasses but is not limited too:

- The registration and identification of dogs and cats
- Protecting humans and animals from dog attacks
- The confine of dogs and cats
- The overpopulation of dogs and cats
- Any impacts on the environment
- Nuisance behaviour
- Access to public open spaces by dogs and their owners
- The health and well-being of dogs and cats

Critical to animal management is the concept of responsible pet ownership as the mechanism for ensuring these issues are managed and setting parameters for dogs in public places.

As a representative body today for the community, Council plays a leadership role in partnering with others to enable a well informed community and innovative approaches to managing domestic animals.

The following is a list of the Orders and Local Laws that are relevant in animal management in the municipality today. Policies and procedures are listed as pertaining to the situation.

Orders & Policy

- COGG Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 – 2017
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Dog Control Orders
- Barwon Coast Committee of Management Dog Control Orders
- Cat Curfew Order 2008
- Currently consulting with Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee

General Local Law 2005

Within its General Local Law, Council has several clauses relating to the management of domestic animals within the municipality. These include:

Dog Excrement

A person:

- Must not permit excrement of a dog under his or her care of control to remain on a road or Council land; and

Who is in charge or control of a dog on a road or Council land must have in his or her possession a dedicated scooper device or bag for the purpose of removing from the road or Council any excrement from that dog deposited on the road or council land.

Permitted number of Dogs and Cats without the need for a permit

- The permitted number of dogs and cats by various land use zones are based on preserving the amenity of the area and not creating a nuisance or offensive/dangerous conditions to neighbouring or subject properties

Animal	Residential	Other	Rural
Dog/s	2 allowed	4 allowed	No permit required
Cats	2 allowed	4 allowed	No permit required

- Residential area means zoned as residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
- Rural area means zoned as rural under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
- Other area means zoned other than as Residential or Rural under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
- The Local Law also requires dog and cat owners to maintain yards and enclosures, in a clean and sanitary manner, and to control any nuisances and disturbances to others
- A permit is required to keep more than the number of listed animals. Council assesses each application on its merits to ensure that there is no impact on the neighbourhood prior to issuing permits

Glossary	
AMO	Animal Management Officer
BAW	Bureau of Animal Welfare
CCMA	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
COGG	City of Greater Geelong
COP	Code of Practice
DAA	Domestic Animals Act
DABs	Domestic Animal Business
DAM Plan	Domestic Animal Management Plan
DPI	Department of Primary Industry
DPPP	Dogs in Public Places Policy
GEMP	Geelong Emergency Management Plan
MERO	Municipal Emergency Resource Officer
POCTA ACT	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
RPO	Responsible Pet Ownership
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty in Animals
VCAT	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
VDDR	Victorian Declared Dog Register

PROPOSED DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY OUTLINE 2013 – 2017

As part of Council's on going role and responsibility to implement effective domestic animal management strategies in accordance with its 2013-2017 Domestic Animal Management Plan, Council has revised its Dogs in Public Policy Outline.

This Policy Outline will guide the community with respect to understanding the dog control rules and conditions that apply in open public spaces to ensure community safety, environment protection and fair and equitable access to such spaces for all users.

Based on community feedback of both dog owners and non-owners, it is recognised that a range of controls are required to represent the needs of all public space users who have a mix of on leash and off leash opportunities for them and their dogs.

The Policy Outline will be complimented by area maps that clearly outline the dog control rules that apply for that location or site.

In general, the municipality is declared an 'On Leash - Controlled' area except for all of those areas, public spaces and reserves that are specifically designated as 'Off Leash – Supervised' (dog friendly parks) where dogs are permitted to be effectively supervised off leash.

The following outlines the content of the policy.

Off Leash 'Supervised' Areas

Locations

Dogs are allowed off leash and supervised in specific designated public open space areas and/or any area as indicated by the relevant signage. This includes, amongst other public open spaces;

- Those paths located on the Fyansford Common and the shared path on the northern side of the Barwon River upstream from the Queens Park Bridge to Fyansford Common including Zillah Crawcour Park);
- Sporting grounds/ovals (playing area) outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with council)
- Sporting complexes/reserves – outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with council)
- A range of Reserves as listed in the attachment to this policy
- A range of broad open space parks as listed in the attachment to this Policy and as per Map 2.

Council will review the effectiveness of these 'Off Leash – supervised' areas on an ongoing basis and will also consider any request for new 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas to be established based on the following criteria, which will ensure safety, and equitable access to such spaces. These include:

- Linear open public spaces (i.e. green corridors, easements) may be considered if there is sufficient width to ensure safe use and passage

- Public open spaces that do not contain a playground or where the playground is fully enclosed/fenced. Open public spaces with centrally located playgrounds are not suitable as an off leash (supervised) area
- Public open spaces that is located at a safe distance from busy roads
- Any other public open space not mentioned above that is not adjoining/adjacent a water body and that no wildlife is present
- A high level accessibility either by walking or a short drive
- That there is no detriment to safety or the environment through the use of such open public spaces
- Suitable open spaces will be reviewed annually to monitor performance and identify any additional reserves that may be suitable as off leash 'supervised' areas.

Conditions Applicable to 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas

The following conditions must be followed when using the 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas:

The handler must have a dog lead in their possession and place their dog back on the leash when leaving the off leash area.

- The handler must be able to demonstrate audible control of the dog.
- When encountering others/other dogs using this area, the dog must be recalled and restrained until both parties have moved apart at a safe distance.
- Dogs must remain in visual and audible range of their handler to allow it to be effectively recalled at any time.
- Dogs must not enter water habitats that contain wildlife or chase wildlife in these areas;
- Dogs attracted to the motion of wheels must be controlled at all times.
- Dogs declared menacing/dangerous/restricted breed are not permitted to be walked off-lead in 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas, and
- Dogs that are aggressive to people or other dogs, behave in an anti social manner, or are over excitable should be muzzled when in public and not to be off leash.

Signage

- Signs will clearly indicate those parks, reserves or public open spaces where dogs are permitted to be off a leash and supervised. (see Appendix 1 and 2)

On Leash 'Controlled' Areas

- Within the City of Greater Geelong, unless otherwise designated by signage, all public open space areas shall be designated as 'On Leash - Controlled' areas. Public Open Space Areas (includes roads, footpaths, beaches, reserves, parks, playgrounds and other council lands and buildings)

More specifically this includes:

- All roads and footpaths/nature strips.
- Shopping centres.

- High use areas pedestrian and/or cycling areas (for example the Waterfront Precinct in Geelong).
- Sporting complexes and reserves (not including playing area) during times of organised sports (as defined by a formal booking with council which includes times booked for sports practice/training).
- At Council sanctioned events, markets etc.
- Shared use paths or walking paths and including areas either side of the abutting edge of the path; (except those in designated 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas).
- Dogs being within and/or tethered within ten (10) metres of children's play equipment.
- Dogs being within and/or tethered within ten (10) meters of picnic and barbecue areas (as defined by council provided barbecues and/or table and associated seating).
- In areas designated as environmentally significant
- Jetties and piers.
- Water bodies such as creeks, rivers, lakes, and beaches (ocean, bay) unless signposted as a dedicated swimming area for dogs.
- Beach foreshore and coastline areas (except those designated otherwise).

Other public open spaces including conservation, park and recreation, public and open zones including:	
– Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)	– Public Conservation and Resources Zone (PCRZ)
Other zones that may contain open space include:	
– Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) - e.g. some of Hovells Ck at Lara	– Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) – e.g. Armstrong Creek area

Conditions applying to all 'On Leash Controlled Areas' and 'Off Leash Supervised Areas'

- The handler must at all times have a means to pick up and dispose of dog droppings – penalties apply.
- Dogs when tethered must never be left unattended anywhere e.g. play equipment, shopping precincts.
- Leads must not exceed 2 metres in length.
- Retractable leads must be restricted to 2 metres in length in 'On Leash – Controlled' areas, but may be used more liberally in 'Off Leash - Supervised' areas where there remains a need to have control over a dog.

Dog Control Categories

Dog Control Categories (applicable to coastline areas and other public open spaces as designated) will apply to reflect the needs of all public open space users and ensure community safety and environment protection.

Category 1 (Green) – Off leash ‘Supervised’ Area

- Areas where dogs are permitted off leash and supervised all year round.

Category 2 (Yellow) – Conditional Off Leash ‘Supervised’ Area

- Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
- On land managed by the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management, allow dogs off leash and supervised at any times between May 1 and October 31 each year. Dogs would be prohibited during all other periods.

Category 3 (Blue) – Conditional On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area

- On land managed by the Barwon Coast Committee of Management, allow dogs on leash and controlled at any times between 1 December to 17 December and 1 February to 30 April each year. Dogs permitted off leash and supervised between 1 May to 30 November.
- Dogs would be prohibited at other times in designated areas as signed.

Category 4 (Brown) – On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas)

- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation

Category 5 (Purple) – Conditional On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area (Hooded Plover and Wildlife Zones)

- Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins). Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.

Category 6 (Red) - Exclusion Area All Year Round

- Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity;
 - where there is an Order by Council;
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order).

Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas

PROPOSED DESIGNATED 'OFF LEASH - SUPERVISED' AREAS			
Park/Reserve	Location	Zone	Melways Reference
North Zone			
Elcho Park	125 Elcho Road Lara	North	422 B7
Abe Wood Reserve	300 Evans Road Lovely Banks	North	431 A3
Sutcliff Reserve	240-268 Plantation Road Corio	North	431 J4
Stead Park	190-216 Princess Highway Corio	North	432 C10
Myers Reserve	5-35 Bluestone Bridge Road Bell Post Hill	North	441 C1
Seagull Paddock	380-400 Melbourne Road North Geelong	North	441 K3
Fyansford Common	Deviation Road Fyansford	North	451 A2
South Zone			
Rotary Centennial Park	188A West Fyans Street Newtown	South	451 E6
Frank Mann Reserve	5 Heal Street Ceres	South	450 C11
Grinter Reserve	125-177 Coppards Road Moolap	South	453 B12
Brearley Reserve	Grove Road Marshall	South	465 K4
Breakwater Road Reserve	Breakwater Road Belmont	South	466 C1
East Zone			
Portarlinton Recreation Reserve	4-22 Sproat Street Portarlinton	East	444 F6
Drysdale Recreation Reserve	30 Duke Street Drysdale	East	456 G11
Charles McCarthy Memorial Reserve	Leviens Road St Leonards	East	459 K11
Kingston Park	8-52 Adco Grove Ocean Grove	East	484 C9
Collendina Reserve	93A Sunset Strip Ocean Grove	East	484 E12
Beacon Point Reserve	Beacon Point Road Clifton Springs	East	457 A2

Sporting Grounds/Ovals (playing area only) available as an 'Off Leash - Supervised' Area
Outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with Council))

Reserve	Address	Melways Reference
Abe Wood Reserve	Evans Road, Lovely Banks	431 A3
Anakie Reserve	Demotts Road, Anakie	Key Map 11 A
Bakers Oval	Shannon Avenue, Geelong West	441 G12
Barwon Heads Reserve - CROWN LAND	Barwon Heads Road, Barwon Heads	497 A2
Belmont Common North- CROWN LAND	Settlement Road, Belmont	451 K8
Belmont Common South- CROWN LAND	Breakwater Road, Belmont	466 A1
Breakwater Reserve	Tanner Street, Breakwater	466 D2
Burdoo Reserve	Wingarra Drive, Grovedale	465 E9
Ceres Reserve - CROWN LAND	Cochranes Road, Ceres	450 B12
Collendina Reserve	Sunset Strip, Ocean Grove	484 D12
Corio Community Reserve	Hendy Street, Corio	432 C7
Drysdale Reserve - CROWN LAND	Wyndham Street, Drysdale	456 F10
Eastern Park - CROWN LAND	1-45 Garden Street, East Geelong	402 P6
Elcho Park	Elcho Road, Lara	422 A7
Elderslie Reserve	Read Street, Newtown	451 D2
Ervin Reserve	Richard Street, Newcomb	452 K9
Evans Reserve	Sparks Road, Norlane	431 K12
Flinders Peak Reserve	Hendy Street, Corio	432 C7, D6
Frier Reserve	West Fyans Street, Newtown	451 G7
Grinter Reserve	Coppards Road, Newcomb	453 B12
Grovedale Reserve - CROWN LAND	Reserve Road, Grovedale	465 H7
Hamlyn Park	Calvert Street, Hamlyn Heights	441 F10
Herne Hill Reserve	Finchaven Street, Herne Hill	451 D1
Highton Reserve	95-105 Barrabool Road, Highton	451 C10
Howard Glover Reserve - CROWN LAND	Limeburners Road, Geelong	452 H6
Hume Reserve	Thompsons Road, North Geelong	441 H5
Harold Hurst Reserve	Douglass Street, Herne Hill	441 E11
King Lloyd Reserve	Windsor Road, Newtown	451 E8
Lake Lorne Equestrian	Reserve Road, Drysdale	470 F1
Lara Reserve	Walkers Road, Lara	423 B5
Leopold Reserve	Melaluka Road, Leopold	468 D2
McDonald Reserve	Reynolds Road, Belmont	465 D1
Mount Duneed Reserve	Russells Road, Mount Duneed	479 A4
Myers Reserve	Creamery Road, Bell Post Hill	441 A2
Ocean Grove Reserve	Draper Street, Ocean Grove	483 J11
Osborne Park	Osborne Avenue, North Geelong	442 A8
Peter Lowe Reserve	Minerva Road, Herne Hill	441 F1
Portarlington Reserve	Sproat Street, Portarlington	444 F6
Queen's Park	150 Queens Park Road, Highton	451 B4
Rees Reserve	Old Melbourne Road, Little River	200 E9
Richmond Crescent	Richmond Crescent, South Geelong	452 C7
St Albans Reserve	Boundary Road, Whittington	452 G12
St Leonards Reserve	McLeod Street, St Leonards	460 A10
Shell Reserve	Purnell Road, Corio	432 B8
Shell Road Reserve (Surfside)	Shell Road, Ocean Grove	484 C10
South Barwon Reserve	Barwon Heads Road, Belmont	451 K10
Stead Park	St Georges Road, Corio	432 B10
Thomson Reserve	Godfrey Street, Thomson	452 F8
Tim Hill Reserve	Wandana Drive, Wandana Heights	450 K11
Vines Road	Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights	441 E10
Wallington Reserve	Wallington Road, Wallington	483 D4
Wathaurong Reserve	Collins Street, Drysdale	456 K9
Western Oval	Church Street, North Geelong	441 J11
Windmill Reserve	Mayfair Drive Newtown	451 D5
Windsor Park	Rose Avenue, Norlane	432 B12
Winter Reserve	Kidman Avenue, Belmont	465 F2

Reserves available as an 'On Leash - Controlled' Areas

Reserve	Address	Melways Reference
Milton Reserve	Milton Street, Bell Park	441 F7
Belmont Heights Neighbourhood Park	Cnr Regent Street and Amundsen Street, Belmont	451 H10
Herd Reserve,	2A Regent Street, Belmont	451 J11
Iona Reserve	28A Iona Avenue, Belmont	451 D12
Kindale Reserve	10 Kindale Court, Belmont	465 465 C3
Kyle Reserve	2A Kyle Avenue, Belmont	451 H9
Morris Reserve	18A Morris Street, Belmont	451 G10
Stork Reserve	26A Stork Avenue, Belmont	465 H1
Clunies Reserve	10 Clunies Court, Corio	431 H6
Rodborough Reserve	23A Rodborough Crescent, Corio	432 B6
Stradling Reserve	6 York Street, Geelong	452 A1
Osborne House	78 Osborne Avenue, Nth Geelong	441 H7
LJ Keavy Park	25 Eureka Street, Geelong West	451 G3
Bank Reserve	20 Bank Street, Lara	423 A6
Fairnie Reserve	1A Fairnie Street, Hamlyn Heights	441 D9
Bennett Reserve	6A Bennett Street, Highton	451 B9
Cara Reserve	5A Cara Road, Highton	451 D9
Ferndale Reserve	6A Ferndale Parade, Highton	451 E10
Lambhill Reserve	282 Mt Pleasant Road, Highton	451 A9
Thornbury Reserve	3A Thornbury Lane, Highton	451 C8
Cornthwaite Reserve	2 Cornthwaite Crescent, Leopold	468 G2
Ising Reserve	8 Ising Street, Newcomb	452 H8
Janet Reserve	3 Janet Court, Newcomb	452 J9
Lancaster Reserve	11 Nelson Avenue, Newcomb	452 K10
Pitman Avenue Reserve	2-6 Silver Street, Newcomb	452 J9
Tilly Reserve	7 Tilly Court, Newcomb	452 J9
Wilton Avenue Reserve	25 Wilton Avenue, Newcomb	452 H9
Buckingham Reserve	66 Buckingham Road, Newtown	451 E6
Fairmont Reserve	21 Fairmont Road, Newtown	451 E6
Maynooth Reserve	4A Maynooth Drive, Norlane	431 H10
Crane Reserve	9 Crane Court, Ocean Grove	483 J10
Hollywood Reserve	12 Hollywood Boulevard, Point Lonsdale	499 J10
McShane Reserve	6 McShane Court, Rosewall	432 F5
Chandos Reserve	4A McGill Court, St Albans	466 G2
Aitken Park	7 Aitken Court, Whittington	466 H1
Stan Swain Childrens Playground	50 Westmoreland Street, Whittington	466 H1
Vincent Park	59 Truscott Street, Whittington	452 J11

Dog Controls in Coastal and Other Open Space Areas

The following maps (15 in total) show various coastal beaches, reserves and open space areas within the City of Greater Geelong. The maps commence at the south western boundary of the municipality and work around the coastline to the north eastern boundary near Little River.

A summary of the maps are:

MAP NO	DESCRIPTION
Map 1	Overview of Municipality Coastline.
Map 2	Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas within Sporting Complexes and Reserves.
Map 3	Redgum Island, Fyansford Common – Barwon River.
Map 4	Breamlea Beach and Bancoora Beach.
Map 5	Ocean Grove, Collendina and Point Lonsdale Beaches.
Map 6	Black Rock; Thirteenth Beach; Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. Land is managed by Barwon Coast Committee of Management who has determined existing dog controls. Council has adopted these dog control controls.
Map 7	Swan Bay and Edwards Point. Land is managed by Parks Victoria.
Map 8	St Leonards; Indented Heads and Portarlington Beaches. Land is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management who determines their dog control orders. Council at its discretion may adopt such orders.
Map 9	Ramblers Road; The Dell; Jetty Road and west of Jetty Road Beaches Clifton Springs.
Map 10	Point Henry (east and west side).
Map 11	Waterfront Precinct, Geelong.
Map 12	Western Beach; Rippleside Beach and St Helens Beach.
Map 13	Moorpanyal Beach, North Shore; Shell Foreshore (beach area); Grammer School beach; Limeburners Lagoon and Avalon Beach.
Map 14	Batesford Reserve, Batesford.
Map 15	Land along Barwon River from Queens Park Bridge to Breakwater. This land is managed by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (with a small portion managed by Barwon Water near the MacIntyre Footbridge). Existing dog controls have been implemented by these land managers and Council does not have the authority to amend these controls.

Colour coding of the maps demonstrates dog controls at a glance. The category of controls in turn relate back to Council's Policy on Dogs in Public Places

It should be noted that the maps are not inclusive of all open space areas within the City of Greater Geelong. The areas depicted are those where Council has made a decision in relation to dog controls. As the plan evolves more open space areas may become subject to 'On Leash – Supervised' requirements.

TRAINING OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district.

Current Situation

The following information provides an overview of the City of Greater Geelong, for which Council's Animal Management Officers deliver service to:

- The Census population of the City of Greater Geelong in 2011 was 215,151 and living in 95,753 dwellings.
- The City encompasses 1250 square kilometres, 349 reserves and parks, 1,300 kilometres of footpaths and shared use paths, 115 kilometres of creeks and trails and a vast coastline covering approximately 100 kilometres
- As at 2012 the City had:
 - 35,918 registered dogs
 - 10,598 registered cats, and
 - 25 registered animal businesses including pet shops and boarding kennels
- The City's Animal Management Team consist of the following Authorised Officers including:
 - 1 x Team Leader Animals and Information Services
 - 5 x Animal and Information Services Officers
 - 1 x Animals Collection Officer
 - 1 x Registration & Patrol Officer

Councils Policies and Procedures

- Learning and Development Policy
- Performance Management Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Health and Local Laws OH&S Operational Guidelines
- Corporate Training Calendar
- City Safe Training Calendar
- Work Instructions are available to guide Officers in the performance of their duties.

Summary

All Authorised Officers are required to have qualifications in Certificate 4 Animal Control and Compliance as well as a Certificate 4 in Government Statutory Compliance to be employed with the City of Greater Geelong. Each Officer must successfully complete training in animal handling, and prosecutions including statement taking.

Council maintains a training register detailing all qualifications and training courses completed by each Authorised Officer. Annually a formal performance review is conducted at which time training and development opportunities for the subsequent year are discussed.

The City offers a number of training events via the Corporate Training Calendar which Authorised Officers are encouraged to participate in.

Our Plans

- Preferable to recruit all new staff with at a minimum Certificate 4 Animal Control and Compliance, and Certificate 4 Government Statutory and Compliance. Alternatively staff are trained within 15 months of employment
- Identify required training for Authorised Officers and source appropriate training
- All staff to be encouraged to participate in Council's Corporate Training Calendar
- Review the Local Laws training register to ensure appropriate training is being undertaken.

Objective 1: Ensure Animal Management Officers possess adequate qualifications and skills and undergo appropriate training/re-training relevant to the functions and roles of an Authorised Officer.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Certificate 4 Animal Control and Compliance	As required	Preferable to recruit staff with these qualifications and undertake all staff are trained within 15 months of employment
Certificate 4 Government Statutory Compliance	As required	Preferable to recruit staff with these qualifications and undertake all staff are trained within 15 months of employment
To incorporate the evaluation of training undertaken in the Annual Staff Review process	Annually	Identified in Annual Review Process
Additional corporate training such as OH&S, Customer Service, Risk Management, Community Education and Prosecutions	Ongoing	Completed
Undertake refresher training as required	Ongoing	As required

REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION

Outline programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

Current Situation

The City of Greater Geelong has the highest number of domestic animals of all Victorian municipalities. The Domestic Animals Act requires all dogs and cats to be registered with Council at 3 months of age.

A high proportion of lost unidentified animals consequently become unclaimed because these animals are not registered. When a pet is registered with Council they are provided with a registration identification tag. This enables Council to identify and return lost pets home. Additionally, registration enables Council to assist the community in complying through voluntary action and education processes.

There still continues to be misunderstanding by the community on the benefits and requirements as to why an animal is to be registered or microchipped, despite significant promotion and education.

As at December 2012 there were:

- 35,918 registered dogs, and
- 10,958 registered cats

Registration trends for the last four years have remained consistent.

Animal Registrations	2009	2010	2011	2012
Registered Dogs	33,387	34,084	35,783	35,918
Registered Cats	10,950	10,717	10,912	10,958

Council Policies and Procedures

- State Legislation applies under the Domestic Animals Act
- Work Instruction of Registration Procedures

Our current Education/Promotion Activities include:

- Annual Microchipping and Registration Roadshows
- Education workshops and seminars
- Extensive promotional/advertising of Microchipping and Registration Roadshows for dogs and cats via radio, local newspapers, Council's website, community billboards, Council's Community Update, letter box drops and Council's telephone on hold message system
- Extensive articles and media release promoting the benefits and requirements of microchipping and registration of dogs and cats in local media, on Council's websites, and Tag Time News (Council's annual newsletter to registered pet owners), and Council's Community Update

- The annual production of Council’s Tag Time News for registered pet owners
- The quarterly production of Council’s quarterly E newsletter Tag Time News for residents
- Focused registration and microchipping marketing campaigns on “the ability to return dogs and cats home”
- Subsidised microchipping and half price registration at Microchipping and Registration Roadshows
- Trained and authorised Council Officers to implant microchips
- The distribution of registration brochures and other material to local Vets and pet retailers for client distribution
- The provision of a range of registration payment options
- Encouraged dog clubs to promote the benefits of registration and microchipping to their club members
- Promote registration renewal dates via various advertising mediums

Our Current Compliance Activities

The City’s current compliance activities include:

- Registration and Microchipping Roadshows
- Annually issuing dog and cat registration renewal notices
- All non renewals are followed up with additional letters and property visits
- Conduct an annual update/audit of the registration database
- Carry out public patrols, conducting random dog and cat registration and microchipping checks
- Leave ‘Sorry we missed you’ cards detailing nature of call and contact name and number of Animal Officer
- Follow up on the sale of animals from Domestic Animal Businesses
- All authorised officers have microchip scanners enabling them to conduct random registration and microchipping compliance checks
- Ensure all advertisements of dogs and cats for sale in local papers contain microchip details of the animal being sold
- Ensure all seized and impounded animals are identified as required by Council and registered to their owner prior to their release
- Ensure all animal complaints are checked for registration and microchipping identification compliance as part of the process of dealing with the complaint
- All authorised officers are provided with laptop computers enabling access to animal owner’s details
- On the spot issue of infringements notices
- Monitor all points of sale of cats and dogs
- Provide online renewal service

Community Feedback

- At least 80% of respondents indicated that they had their dogs/cats registered, microchipped and desexed
- Registration rates were higher for dogs than cats (99% vs. 89%)
- Dogs were slightly more likely to be microchipped than cats (96% vs. 80%)
- Cats were slightly more likely to be desexed than dogs (96% vs. 91%)

Summary

Over the next four years Council will be seeking to increase the number of cats and dogs registered in the municipality. There is also a need to determine the actual number of pets residing in the community. This data would be invaluable in targeting service delivery, and education and compliance requirements for the future. These challenges will be done through conducting a pet census, education programs, registration checks during patrols, undertaken by Authorised Management Officers and checking registration details of all animals sighted during visits to residential/commercial properties.

Our Plans

- To increase the number of dogs and cats registered in the municipality
- To increase awareness of the requirement to register dogs and cats
- To continue to promote animal registration and identification using various media sources and Council's web page
- To continue to undertake an annual registration audit
- To have an animal officer specifically identify unregistered animals
- To investigate options for providing additional benefits to pet owners for registering their pets
- To promote the benefits of responsible pet ownership – focussing particularly on cats

Objective 1: Increase dog and cat registration numbers by 5% over the first 2 years of the plan. To be reviewed annually.

Activity	When	Evaluation
A dedicated animal officer will identify unregistered animals in the municipality.	Ongoing	Increase in registration numbers
Ensure all dogs & cats registered for the first time are microchipped & desexed prior to registration	Ongoing	Check all dogs are microchipped prior to registration
Develop strategy to ensure all cats that are having their registration renewed are microchipped and desexed during the life of this plan (4 years)	Ongoing	Strategy developed
Identify opportunities for funding and partnerships to deliver affordable desexing programs for the community	Ongoing	Source funding partners
To explore opportunities to appoint registration agents external to Council	Year 2	Conduct feasibility study to explore options
Conduct a pet census/survey to determine a base number of animals in the municipality with respect to delivery of service for the future including Microchipping and Registration Roadshows, Registration Door Knock Checks and Animal Patrols.	Year 1	Pet census/survey conducted and analyse
Conduct regular microchipping and registration roadshows annually.	October – December	Increase in registration and microchipped animals

Activity	When	Evaluation
	Annually	
Reconcile the National Microchip Registry with Council's registration data prior to renewal period each year	Annually	Check all microchipped animals in the municipality are registered by cross-referencing registration database with information from microchip registries
Investigate the value in Council making an additional Order requiring dogs and cats to be microchipped at time of registration (i.e. those registered prior to 1 May 2007)	Year 2	Investigation conducted and decision made
To reconcile the registration outcomes for all animals that are gifted to organisations bound by agreements after their impoundment period.	Annually	Annual reconciliations and audits undertaken
Offer free registration for any dog or cat purchased from the Geelong Animal Welfare Society shelter or any other shelter in the Municipality at the point of sale. That such registration maybe reversed after seven day cooling off period.	Ongoing	Processes and procedures developed to enable offer to be implemented
Continue to send out registration reminder notices to those pet owners who have not re-registered their pets on receipt of annual renewal notice Contact to be made via letter, phone call or Animal Officer registration door knock check Investigate SMS technology as a medium for advising pet owners of non renewal	Annually	Number of animals re-registered after receiving the registration reminder notice SMS technology investigated

Objective 2: To promote the benefits, value and opportunities of dog and cat registration to pet owners.

Activity	When	Evaluation
To develop and distribute educational material about dog and cat topical issues incorporate as part of the animal renewal process. Topical issues could be dog/cat containment desexing etc.	Ongoing	Material developed and distributed at animal renewal time.
Develop appropriate educational materials and distribute with registered owners of lost dogs and cats to promote containment measures	Year 1	Develop relevant material on containment measures
To issue all owners of lost dogs/cats an information package advising them of containment measures	Ongoing	Material Distributed
Promote the benefits of having dogs or cats wearing registration tag to enable the public to assist Council in reuniting dogs and cats expediently with their owners on the day without being impounded.	Ongoing	Education and promotion activities undertaken
Return any lost/wandering dog or cat to its registered owner without penalty* - where the dog/cat is currently registered and found at large for the first time. A formal warning to be issued in such circumstances.	2014	Conduct research on the viability of introducing this action to improve registration rates and lower impound rates. *Penalties may apply where negligence is established rather than misfortune.
Explore the benefit/value of providing “free registration” for kittens & puppies from 10 October until 10 April annually.	Year 2	Conduct research to determine viability of initiative

Objective 3: Develop relationships with visitors to the municipality – keeping them informed of options to keep their pet safe in the during their visit

Activity	When	Evaluation
Explore opportunities to develop relationships with real estate agencies, accommodation houses and Visitor Information Centres to include relevant pet material in tenancy packs and visitor packs.	2014	Opportunities investigated Relevant material developed and distributed Reduction in lost visiting animals

NUISANCE

Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Current Situation

With a current registered dog and cat population of 45,876 the City experiences significant cat and dog nuisance complaints. With continued population growth, pet numbers will generally expand. Unless a range of measures are adopted and put into place, nuisance complaints will increase affecting the well being of the community. There was a slight drop in the total dog incidents for 2012. (See Dog Attacks for more information)

Each of Council's Animal Managements Officers (AMOs) is responsible for community education and compliance patrols in a specific geographic area of the municipality. In some areas such as the Barwon River, Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads these patrols are undertaken in conjunction with the relevant land managers of the area who have established the dog controls – e.g. Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Coast Committee of Management and under discussion with Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management. During August – March the coastal dog control regulations (Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and Breamlea) change to protect the Hooded Plover during its breeding season.

Council introduced the brand of 'Lead the Way' encouraging pet owners to demonstrate Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO), setting examples by being a pooper scooper, addressing barking dog problems and as a reminder to always walk your dog on a lead. 'Lead the Way' will continue in future campaigns, communications and advertising.

Dog Incidents	2009	2010	2011	2012
Menacing & rushing dogs	306	318	376	289
Dog attacks	163	182	117	177
Dogs at large	2981	2820	3435	3635
Barking Dogs	473	463	603	404
Total Dog Incidents	3923	3783	4531	4505

Cat Incidents	2009	2010	2011	2012
Cat impounds by Council	645	1185	1050	645
Cat Impounds by Other (handed in)	1627	1669	1279	1154
Total Cat Incidents	2272	2854	2329	1799

Community Feedback

- 34% of respondents had experienced barking dog problems
- Only 24% believed the cat curfew program had been effective

Council's Dog in Public Places Policy

Under the 2008 DAM Plan, Council developed and adopted relevant dog control orders to provide pet owners with the information on where they could walk their dog/s on and off-leash.

Through the number of community complaints and incidents including dog attacks, menacing and rushing dogs, and dog litter controls, there is an indication that dog owners were having difficulty in understanding the regulations and/or were choosing to ignore the signage.

Community Feedback

- 55% of respondents felt the "Pick Up Dog Litter" sign was the clearest sign however only 26% believe the observance of the sign to be effective
- 37% of respondents felt the "Dogs Under Effective Control" sign was clear and only 21% found the observance of the sign to be effective
- 49% of respondents believed the "Dogs on Lead At All Times" sign was clear with only 24% found the observance of the sign to be effective
- 30% of respondents felt the "Dogs on Lead on and within 5 Metres of the Path" sign was clear with only 19% finding the observance of the sign to be effective.

The interpretation of the "Dogs on Lead on and within 5 Metres of the Path" order has been a major challenge for dog walkers to clearly understand. The correct interpretation of this dog control allows for dog owners to move 5 metres off the path where dogs are then permitted off-leash but under effective control. Otherwise the dog is to remain on-leash as it is walked down the path, and the area abutting the path up to and including 5 metres.

In practical terms not only is this a difficult dog control order for the community to understand, it is very difficult for Councils Animal Officers to monitor for compliance, especially when trying to establish proof following an incident. Furthermore a number of incidents involving pedestrians, cyclists and other dogs have eventuated due to this confusion.

Our current Education/Promotion Activities**All nuisances**

- Provide information on cat and dog confinement, barking, dogs at large etc, cat curfew to new cat/dog owners in registration information packs each year
- Provide information on Council's website and Council's telephone 'on hold' message system, Tag Time Newsletter, local newspapers and radio about the types of nuisances and relevant Local Laws and Orders, and how to report a nuisance and record ongoing nuisances as well as completing support documentation (eg barking dog diary)

- Distribute relevant brochures, fact sheets and other material developed by the Bureau of Animal Welfare and/or Council via, vets, pet shops, breeders, shelters, schools and Council's Customer Service Centres
- Held responsible dog/cat ownership courses and highlight nuisance issues

At large and trespass (see 'All nuisances' and the following)

- Promote DIY cat enclosures booklet, information on commercially produced cat enclosures, dog and cat containment fencing, confinement of cats to residence, via Council website, Council newsletters, vets, pet shops, shelters, breeders, local papers and registration information packs
- Encourage desexing of pets to reduce wandering
- Provide the use of 'loan' cat traps for residents experiencing trespassing cats, complete with operating and well being instructions for the cat
- Provide clearly identifiable designated off-leash areas to meet the 'free-running' and playing needs of dogs
- Provide clear signage and walking maps (eg Walk Time – pocket size dog map) which clearly identifies those open public places that are either off-leash, on-leash or excluded areas in which dogs are required to be effectively controlled/on-leash, during certain times
- Hand out 'Well done and Thank you' cards to those dog owners complying with requirements – e.g. walking dog on lead, 'scooping the poop', having dog under effective control, registering and microchipping animal, observing dog control signage

Barking dogs (see 'All nuisances' and the following)

- Provide information on the causes of excessive barking, including: separation anxiety, boredom, external stimuli (passers-by, other dogs barking, cats trespassing), territorialism (when there are visitors to the property), communication with other dogs
- Encourage owners of barking dogs to seek advice from Council/professional dog trainer/animal behaviourist on how to reduce their dog's barking
- Loan owners bark count collars to control barking problems

Dog poo (see 'All nuisances' and the following)

- Advise dog owners of legal requirements relating to cleaning up of dog poo, by distributing education material (see 'All nuisance' section for methods), providing owner/person in charge of dog in parks and other public places with information and dog poo bags during patrols
- Provide signage regarding requirement for owner/person in charge to pick up and dispose of dog poo in litter bins
- Provide complimentary Dog Pooch Paks enabling dog owners to carry a supply of dog poo bags on their dogs lead
- Provide free dog poo bags at community events and high use areas
- Provide dog poo bag dispensers and disposal bins in parks (in high use areas) to encourage owners/person in charge of animal to clean up the animal's poo

Our current Compliance Activities

All nuisances

- Record all nuisance complaints on a database to track resolutions, repeat offenders
- Investigate nuisance complaints within Council guidelines
- Ensure nuisance investigation timeframes are as short as possible to reduce complainants' frustration
- Review Council policies and procedures relating to nuisance as per Council guidelines
- Ensure notices to comply, notices of objection, infringements, prosecutions are in line with Council Policy and Procedures

At large and trespass (see 'All nuisances' and the following)

- Patrol public places to check for dogs or cats at large or in prohibited public areas
- Increase patrols during holiday periods
- Proactive in feral cat trapping programs (in specific areas where there are identified problem such as wildlife reserves or lane ways)
- Seek community compliance with cat owners on the Cat Curfew Order
- Seek community compliance with dog owners on the Dogs in Public Places Policy
- Provide loan cat cages (free of charge) to local residents for trapping cats trespassing on their property (specify whether use is free of charge, deposit required, or fee charged)
- Purchase an additional cat cages that is compliant with POCTA Regulations on confinement traps
- Ensure Council has the required local laws to enforce the need for excess animal permits

Barking dogs (see 'All nuisances' and the following)

- Encourage complainant to contact owner of barking dog and advise them of their concerns as first step to resolving issue
- If not resolved, contact owner of barking dog and provide them with information and ideas to reduce barking to attempt rapid resolution
- Provide barking dog diary to complainant
- Encourage parties to seek mediation where possible
- Carry out investigation following protocols to establish nuisance or otherwise
- Provide for the loan of anti-bark collars (citronella, electronic), provide information to owners regarding requirements under POCTA Regulation 19 for electronic collars
- Note barking dogs can also be considered unreasonable noise under Section 48A of the Environment Protection Act 1970, according to the EPA publication 'Annoyed by Noise?'

Dog poo (see 'All nuisances' and the following)

- Seek community compliance of Council's Local Law regarding the compulsory collection and disposal of dog poo by owner/person in charge of the dog

Summary

As part of Council's recent community consultation process a section of the survey was devoted to the 2008 Dogs in Public Places Policy which largely addresses where dog walkers are permitted to walk their dogs on or off leash during relevant times. The feedback received

from the community together with stakeholders, animal behaviourists and Officers input has formed the basis for the 2013 -2017 Dogs in Public Places Policy.

The most significant change to this policy has been the removal of the dog control ‘Dogs on Lead on and within 5 Metres of the Path’ and the subsequent introduction of a large number of dedicated Off Leash ‘Supervised’ Areas that must be used in conjunction with conditions of use. These conditions have been specifically implemented to reduce dog attacks, allowing all community members to feel safe whilst enjoying the public open spaces of the municipality. The remainder of the municipality will remain as an ‘On Leash Controlled Area’ which is consistent with the 2008 policy.

Council will continue to seek compliance and provide education and information to address barking dog nuisance complaints, as well the Cat Curfew Order which is in existence. Animal patrols will remain ensuring the compliance of the 2013 – 2017 Dogs in Public Places Policy with a strong focus on reminding dog walkers that under the local law they must carry a litter receptacle and pick up their dog’s waste.

Our Plans

- To reduce cat nuisance problems within the community particularly trespassing cats
- To reduce barking dog complaints within the community
- To promote the benefits of Responsible Pet Ownership
- To seek community compliance with the Dogs in Public Places Policy

Objective 1: To reduce cat nuisance problems within the community particularly trespassing cats.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Seek community compliance with cat owners on the Cat Curfew Order by issuing infringements in line with operational procedures and the Cat Curfew Order	Ongoing	Cat trespassing complaints reduced Number of infringements issued
Provide education material on cat enclosures, and nuisance issues to cat owners with registration information packs	Ongoing	Information provided via : Customer Service Centres Microchipping and Registration Roadshows Number of brochures distributed recorded in brochure management system
Provide residents experiencing cat trespassing problems with complimentary loan cat traps for trapping nuisance animals	Ongoing	Record number of traps issued to determine problem level
Review the Local Law as to the number of cats permitted on a property (particularly for areas located closely to wetlands and eco-systems)	Year 2	Review of the Local Law undertaken
Explore options to introduce “Cat Free	Year 2	Options explored

Activity	When	Evaluation
Zones” in new subdivision especially those that are located close to wetlands and eco-systems environmentally sensitive areas		
Maintain partnerships with Local and State Government Departments and community groups to work actively on reducing cat nuisance problems		Partnerships cemented Cat nuisance problems reduced

Objective 2: To reduce barking dog complaints and nuisance behaviour in the community

Activity	When	Evaluation
Update barking dog information kits to provide to owners of alleged barking dogs	Year 1	Barking dog kit updated
Review and update website with information to assist owners of barking dogs and complainants on what options are available	Year 1	Review of current material undertaken and website updated
Encourage residents to report barking dogs to enable Council to assist in resolving the problem before it escalates	Year 1	Reduced barking complaints Reduced neighbour conflicts
Provide information on the causes of excessive barking and techniques for managing the situation eg separation anxiety, boredom, external stimuli, territorialism	Year 1	Brochure produced and distributed to barking dog owners Animal Officers trained in solutions for barking dogs Website updated
Establish relationships with local animal behaviourists/trainers with the view of having the community access beneficial information and knowledge.	Ongoing	Persons experiencing behavioural problems with their dogs are able to change/improve those behaviours.

Objective 3: To promote the benefits of Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO)

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote and provide RPO education programs and material for cat and dog owners with a focus on: Preventing dog attacks Keeping your cat and dog contained prevent straying and possible euthanasia Barking Dogs Keeping the environment clean Where to walk your dog Benefits of desexing your dog and cat Benefits of registration and microchipping Legislation changes	Annually	Promotion of RPO programs via a variety of mediums RPO workshops held and target numbers met Marketing material produced Decrease in nuisance complaints Target non compliant owners
Provide advice to pet owners on pet care during fireworks, thunderstorms and holidays	Ongoing	Place updated information on website Promote in local media
Invite guest speakers from local dog clubs, animal behaviourists or training specialist to present at educational forums	Annually	Education programs held Guest speakers attended
Identify opportunities for funding and partnerships to deliver affordable RPO programs for the community	Annually	Funding opportunities explored
Actively promote the benefits of desexing to reduce fewer unwanted animals, reduced aggression in dogs, reduced wandering tendencies, no surprise litters	Ongoing	Benefits of desexing actively promoted via various mediums and campaigns Reduced number of unwanted animals Reduced number of trespassing/straying animals Reduced number of dog attacks
Continue to utilise 'Lead the Way' in future marketing campaigns, communications and advertising	Ongoing	'Lead the Way' utilised in campaigns associated with the Domestic Animal Management Plan
Develop and actively promote "Pets for Life" campaign focussing on Correct pet selection and things you need to know before becoming a pet owner	Year 1	Campaign developed and implemented
Educate community about key dog behaviours can lead to incidents including the proper handling and management of young puppies.	Ongoing	Deliver educational material to community.

Objective 4: To seek community compliance with the Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 - 2017

Activity	When	Evaluation
Actively promote and educate the community on the Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 – 2017 in particular Designated Off Leash Supervised Areas and conditions of use Ensure the public pay particular attention to coastal areas that are zoned 'Conditional On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Hooded Plover and Wildlife Zones)	Ongoing	Increased awareness of where dogs can be walked on or off leash Dog owners complying to Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 - 2017 Reduced dog incidents in public open spaces Improvement in compliance by the community in 'Conditional On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Hooded Plover and Wildlife Zones)
Update compliance signage to conform to the Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 – 2017	Ongoing	Signage updated
Strongly promote the message “Be a Pooper Scooper – Bag it & Bin it” – in any litter bin	Ongoing	Message promoted Reduction in dog waste left uncollected in public places Cleaner environment
Seek compliance from dog owners in carrying dog litter receptacles as in accordance with the Local Law – Dog Pooch Paks are available complimentary from Customer Service Centres	Ongoing	Infringements issued
Seek compliance from dog owners in the picking up of dog faeces as in accordance with the Local Law	Ongoing	Infringements issued
Develop a policy in partnership with COGG internal stakeholders e.g. Waste, Environment, Recreation and Open Space on the placement and supply of dog poo bags in high use areas, events and Council's Customer Service Centres	Ongoing	Policy developed Dog poo bags supplied in accordance with policy guidelines
Produce updated version of “Walk Time” pocket size dog walking map inline with Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 – 2017	Year 1 Year 3	“Walk Time” produced and distributed
Actively promote the benefits of exercising and socialisation the family dog to reduce nuisance behaviour e.g. barking, dogs at large	Annually	Nuisance behaviour reduced
Prepare a feasibility study to investigate the implementation of	Year 2	Feasibility study completed Recommendations implemented

Activity	When	Evaluation
volunteer “Animal Ambassadors” to assist with: A dog walking program for eligible dog owners (due to ill health, age, impairment or disability) To provide information to dog owners at high use areas (eg Fyansford Common, Coastal areas) on where dogs can be walked off leash (particularly relevant in peak times) To assist with events e.g. Microchipping and Registration Roadshows		
Review and identify opportunities to increase designated Off Leash ‘Supervised’ Areas particularly in relation to new suburban developments	Annually	Review undertaken in accordance with criteria adopted in Dogs in Public Places Policy 2013 – 2017
Prepare a feasibility study to investigate the establishment of Dog Activity Parks	Year 2	Feasibility study completed Recommendations implemented based on budget implications
Maintain relationships and continue to liaise with stakeholders eg Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Barwon Coast Committee of Management and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority on Dog Control Orders in their respective Land Management Areas	Ongoing	Relationships maintained Dog Control Orders reviewed and updated as required Education and enforcement patrols conducted as agreed upon

DOG ATTACKS

Outline programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals.

Current Situation

Injury statistics relating to dog bites within the City of Greater Geelong were obtained from the Monash University – Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit. **“Hospital treated dog bite injury among Greater Geelong residents, between 2008/09 – 2010/11”**.

This study has identified that hospital admissions for dog bite injuries among Greater Geelong residents compared unfavourably with Victorian residents between 2002/03 – 2010/11. Over the nine year period, there has been an increase from 7.6 dog bite hospitalisations/100,000 population in 2002/03 to 15.9/100,000 in 2010/11.

In the three-year period from July 2008 to June 2011, there were 112 dog bite hospital admissions among Greater Geelong residents compared to 1,749 admissions among residents of the rest of Victoria for dog bite injury. This represents 6% of the state totals.

The numbers of dog attacks reported to Council for the period 2008 – 2011 were 679. It is difficult to determine if incidents captured in the Geelong Council data are duplicated in the Monash University data. If it is not, there is a very real possibility that there are more incidents of dog attacks than Council is aware of.

Dog Incidents	2009	2010	2011	2012
Menacing & rushing dogs	306	318	376	289
Dog attacks	163	182	117	177
Dogs at large	2981	2820	3435	3635

The 2012 statistics continue to grow and are of concern particularly as there was a 51% increase in dog attacks from 2011 to 2012. Council believes there is a strong correlation between the number dogs at large and the subsequent dog attacks or menacing and rushing dogs. Based on these statistics Council will be implementing an array of measures and programs with the aim to reduce these numbers.

Council Policies and Procedures:

- Policy relating to seizure of dogs found at large or not secured to owner’s premises (s.24)
- Work procedure relating to attacks or bites by dogs (s.29)
- Procedure for serving notices of seizure relating to seizing of identified dogs (s.84H)
- Procedure for owners when recovering dogs that have been seized by Council (s.84M)
- Policy associated with disposal of seized dogs (s.84O)
- Policy associated with registration of dogs and the fee structure for registration) (Schedule to the Act)
- Policy and procedure associated with seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack

- Enforcement strategy associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding dog attacks

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Raise awareness of risk of dog attacks in the home, in the street and in parks and how to reduce these risks
- Provide residents with information on how to report dog attacks – if bitten or witness an attack on a person or animal. Promote and encourage the reporting of dog attacks whether on public or private property
- Identify clearly those public places that are off-leash areas, areas in which dogs are required to be effectively controlled/on-leash, and areas in which dogs are prohibited at all times/certain times – by signage, in brochures, and produced pocket fold-out map 'Walk Time'
- Promote effective confinement and control of dogs
- Provide residents with information on implications for their dog and themselves if the dog attacks a person or animal
- Set up a 'Dob in a dog' hotline for dog attacks
- Run responsible dog ownership course and highlight ways of minimising the risk of dog attacks
- Promote the importance of appropriate breed selection – that the dog fits the family situation – such as being hyperactive with children/herding them, not being too small that it can be hurt by children and then bite them, good temperament, if no time to walk not needing too much activity and becoming anxious or unsettled around people etc
- Promote desexing of dogs to reduce aggressive tendencies and wandering at large
- Promote early socialisation of dogs to other animals and humans
- Promote puppy pre-school and dog obedience training, provide web links to these on Council website
- Promote regular exercise of dogs
- Provided police with dog cages for out of hours service
- Promote environmental enrichment for dogs at home
- Issue press releases at strategic times to minimise risk of dog attacks on livestock (e.g. lambing season, calving season)

Our current Compliance Activities

- Develop dog attack investigation and enforcement policy and procedures
- Respond to/attend dog attack reports immediately and as the top priority for animal management officers
- Provide an after hours number to report dog attacks
- Identify numbers of dog attacks in the community on a monthly basis, including information relating to the attacks: date, time, location, breed of dog, person attacked, animal attacked, category of injuries sustained, any information about owner/person in charge
- Conduct regular patrols at locations where there is a high incidence of attacks. Conduct patrols during periods of the day when there is a high incidence of attacks
- Conduct regular patrols to make sure dogs are confined to premises
- Ensure any Magistrate's Orders to confine dogs are being adhered to by unannounced inspections

- Ensure all reported dog attacks are recorded and investigated to meet all points of proof provided in the Act. Seize dogs and prosecute owners in accord with Council's enforcement strategy
- Enforce on-leash requirements – if not in an off-leash area, dogs must be on leash
- Be proactive in declaring dogs dangerous or menacing (using the provisions of Sections 34 and 41A respectively)
- Maintain database with details of each animal reported/found to have attacked people, pets, wildlife, and livestock. Historical data will be useful to Council
- On an as needs basis inform construction workers in new estate areas, etc, of the requirement to prevent their dogs from roaming
- Conduct patrols to minimise risk of dog attacks by transient populations in holiday areas
- Ensure unclaimed dogs at the pound are temperament tested to determine whether they are suitable for rehoming
- On an as needs basis - partner with Australia Post, meter readers, and similar parties to identify potential risk situations where dogs may escape confinement and attack, all dog attacks, rushes, wandering animals. Provide hotline number for these people to report to authorised officer

Community Feedback

- 34% of respondents reported they had experienced dogs at large whilst 20% of respondents reported experiencing menacing/rushing dogs with 12% involved in some form of dog attack

Summary

Council has significant concerns over the increased number of dog attacks in the municipality and the effect on public safety that these incidents have. The proposal to change the "Dogs in Public Places Policy" providing designated Off Leash 'Supervised' Areas including conditions of use will assist in reducing dog attacks in public open space.

Further education and enforcements on dog attacks is a key priority as is the importance to encourage victims to report the incidents. Dog owners are strongly encouraged to conduct regular backyard checks to ensure your dog is properly contained to your property. By doing this alone 80% of dog attacks in public places could be prevented (www.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets/dog-care/preventing-attacks-in-the-community).

Our Plans

- To continue to investigate the incidents of dog attacks, reducing and minimising the risk
- Raise community awareness on how to prevent them occurring and encourage reporting of all dog attack incidences
- Decrease the number of dog attacks in the community each year
- Promote the benefits of containing dogs to backyards

Objective 1: Encourage reporting of dog attacks in the community to reduce dog attacks, educate owners and the public, improving community safety

Activity	When	Evaluation
Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report using media articles, public notices in parks A-frame billboards, website updates, direct mail, etc	Year 1	Evaluate this activity (and overall objective) by comparing number of dog attacks reported to council pre and post campaign
Ensure all education workshops include information on how and when to report a dog attack	Year 1	Evaluation survey conducted at workshops
Promote the 'Dangerous Dogs Hotline' 1300 101 080 on all marketing material, Tag Time News and website	Ongoing	Hotline included in all materials, website etc

Objective 2: Decrease the number of reported dog attacks in the community each year

Activity	When	Evaluation
Implement an awareness and education campaign publicising key dog attack prevention messages (eg confinement of dogs to property, leash laws etc) through media articles, mail outs, website info, A-frame signage or billboards, targeted patrols and Tag Time News	Year 1	Compare number of reported dog attack incidents pre and post campaign.
Promote dog training and education on dog attack awareness early socialisation to prevent dog attacks, through Local Dog Clubs and trainers Council's web site, Tag Time News, new owner packs and Local Media		Record type and number of education materials distributed
Facilitate Responsible Pet Ownership workshops with dedicated sessions on dog attacks and community safety		Number of media articles published
		Responsible Pet Ownership workshops held
		Website links established and exposure increased
Increase the presence of officers to conduct routine compliance patrols through a spread of hours and days ie. evenings, weekends etc.	Ongoing	Increase the number and frequency of areas patrolled.
Review dog attack enforcement and investigation policy	Annually	Procedure reviewed and reflects current legislation
Provide residents with information on the implications for their dog and	Ongoing	Information produced on website and available for inclusion in Tag

Activity	When	Evaluation
themselves if their dog attacks a person or animal		Time News etc
Display signage in public places to notify residents that Officers are patrolling for dogs at large to prevent dog attacks	Year 1	A-frames signs produced and displayed in residential areas, public places and shopping centres by officers
Ensure any Magistrates Orders to confine dogs are being adhered to by unannounced inspections	Ongoing	Number of audits/inspections undertaken
Issue infringements for dog rush offences that have been proven through an investigation but prosecutions not proceeding (considered intermediate level of education)	Ongoing	Number of infringements issued
Work in partnership with Royal Children's Hospital on co-branding dog's 'n' kids resource kit for health professional promoting dog bite prevention and socially responsible dog ownership	Year 1	Resource kit produced and distributed Number of dog attacks reduced
Produce material to inform construction works on the requirement to prevent their dogs from roaming on work sites and new estate development website.	Year 1	Material produced Construction workers informed, website update.

Objective 3: Advocate and educate dog owners to contain their dogs to their property to reduce dogs at large and subsequent dog attacks

Activity	When	Evaluation
Produce educational material targeting backyard containment including: A checklist to ensure your backyard is safe and secure for containing your dog with regular community reminders Reminder of fence heights for rural residential blocks	Year 1	Backyard containment material produced Checklist developed and available on website, through mailouts and Customer Service Centres
Implement media campaign focussing on containing your dog to reduce dog attacks	Year 1	Media campaign implemented Dogs at Large numbers reduced Dog attacks reduced
Establish partnerships with hardware industries on holding construction workshops on fencing repairs, containing animals to backyards etc	Year 1	Partnerships developed Workshops held Dogs at large numbers reduced

DANGEROUS, MENACING AND RESTRICTED BREED DOGS

Outline programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with the Act and regulations.

Current Situation

Council takes very seriously any reports of suspected Restricted Breed Dogs and inspect and investigates these promptly to eliminate the risk to the community. Council will continue to utilise all available legislation to control and manage restricted breeds and dangerous dogs within our municipality. As at December 2012 the following information was applicable:

- Number of declared Dangerous Dogs/Guard Dogs registered – 26
- Number of Dangerous Dogs - 19
- Number of declared Menacing Dogs registered - 13
- Number of Restricted Breed Dogs registered - 17
- Number of compliance inspections conducted (Dangerous and Restricted) in the past 12 months - 75

Council Policies and Procedures

- Work Instruction associated with the declaration of a Dangerous and Menacing Dog
- Work Instruction associated with the declaration of a Restricted Breed Dog
- Multi Animal Permit Work Instruction
- Multi Animal Permit Work Instruction with investigating dog attacks and rushing dogs
- Dog Incident Work Instruction associated with seizure and impounding of dangerous and restricted breed dogs
- Council's animal registration form requires all owners of dogs to sign a declaration stating that the dog's breed has been correctly identified and if it is or is not a restricted breed dog. Registration can be refused if this declaration is not signed
- All proposals to declare dogs to be menacing or dangerous are considered by Senior Council officers and declaration signed off by Manager
- Council includes the steps in DPI's flowchart for Restricted Breed Declaration and Process in conjunction with COGG's Identification and Declaration Process form. These forms includes the approved breed standard for any dog that falls within the standard of pit bull terrier
- A nominated Administration Officer enters details of all declared dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry. This officer also updates the Victorian Dangerous Dog Register (VDDR) with details of declared dogs destroyed
- The VDDR is audited annually to ensure the details of all declared dogs in COGG are up to date
- All notices to comply, infringement notices and filing of charges for prosecution regarding dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs is undertaken in accordance with Council's enforcement guidelines
- Operational procedures including work instructions are available to guide Officers in the performance of their duties. These are listed on Council's file storage system

- Authorised Officers will attend VCAT hearings to hear appeals of declared dog owners when required
- Dog Handling Procedure and associated Risk Assessment

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Provide residents with information on:
 - The types of declared dogs and how they are to be identified and kept in compliance with the Act and Regulations, including prescribed collars, signage at premises, housing requirements, muzzling, etc
 - How to report menacing dogs, dog bites
 (See Registration and Identification Education/Promotion Activities section for methods of providing information to residents – Council website, mail outs, media articles, signage at parks, etc)
- Ensure all owners of declared dogs are aware of their obligations under the Act regarding identification and keeping these dogs by providing them with relevant sections of the Act, brochures, fact sheets/develop information kit
- Patrol industrial sites or building sites that may have guard dogs to promote legislative requirements
- As required communicate with owners with dogs on the Victorian Declared Dog Register (VDDR) to provide them with information on requirements and changes, to improve compliance
- Provide educational information on dangerous and menacing dogs/restricted breeds on Council website
- Provide all owners of registered Declared Dog with information requirements and updates on any legislative changes, to improve compliance
- Promote the Dangerous Dogs Hotline 1300 101 080

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Ensure that Council has effective declaration policies and procedures to avoid declarations being overturned at VCAT (establish partnerships with other Councils that have success at VCAT for ideas and assistance). Ensure Council has specific declaration procedures for each of type of declaration:
 - dangerous dogs
 - menacing dogs
 - restricted breed dogs
- Ensure all declared dogs are accurately registered on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry and that details regarding change of owner/change of address/death of dog are updated as soon as possible. Link is www.ddvic.registry-service.com
- Ensure declared dog registration information on the Victorian Declared Dog Registry and Council's registration database is the same
- Conduct inspections of declared dogs annually to ensure they are identified and being kept in compliance with the Act and Regulations
- Follow-up non-compliance issues until owner complies
- Respond to complaints regarding menacing dogs/dangerous dogs within Council guidelines
- Establish Council policies and procedures for non-compliance – infringements, prosecutions

- Patrol industrial and commercial areas/non-residential premises after hours to check dangerous dogs guarding premises have been declared, are identified as required (collar of the kind prescribed), and are being kept in compliance with the Act and Regulations
- Ensure all declared dogs are implanted with a microchip by scanning prior to renewal of registration
- Examine registrations on Council database to identify and follow-up on suspected (non-declared) restricted breed dogs
- Seize unregistered, suspected restricted breed dogs
- Actively prosecute owners of restricted breed and declared dogs involved in serious dog attacks
- Review all dog attack cases to determine if it is appropriate to declare a dog dangerous and commence the statutory declaration procedure
- Maintain a register of all declared dangerous/menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs registered and housed in the municipality to ensure Officers are aware of these locations

Summary

Over the next four years, Council will work to ensure that all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs are kept in a manner which is compliant with the Code of Practice.

To achieve this aim Council Officers will regularly conduct inspections to monitor compliance. Where breaches of the code are observed, enforcement will be swift. Council Officers will work actively within the community to detect breaches and investigate complaints, providing education and information to help ensure a safer community.

Our Plans

- To continue to identify and register all Declared Dogs in the municipality
- Inspect and audit all Declared Dog premises to ensure they adhering to the keeping requirements
- Identify all suspected unregistered Restricted Breed Dogs and enforce the provisions of DAA

Objective 1: Identify and register all Declared Dogs in the municipality

Activity	When	Evaluation
Develop a policy regarding how and when to exercise the power of immediate destruction of a dangerous dog found at large	Year 1	Policy developed and adopted
Inspect all industrial properties in the municipality for dogs housed or kept for guarding purposes	Ongoing	Number of patrols conducted Number of detected animals investigated
Educate the community about what is a declared dog	Year 1	Website updated Media articles published Promotional materials

Objective 2: Effectively inspect and audit all declared dog premises annually to ensure they are following the keeping requirements.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Undertake annual program of audits of all properties that house declared dangerous dogs and restricted breeds using inspection templates to ensure all requirements are in place	Annually	Documented evidence of inspections and Notices issued Full compliance with all the legislative requirements
Undertake audits of all properties that house declared dangerous dogs and restricted breeds using inspection templates to ensure all requirements are in place	Annually	Documented evidence of inspections and Notices issued Full compliance with all the legislative requirements

Objective 3: Identify all suspected unregistered Restricted Breed Dogs and enforce the provisions of DAA

Activity	When	Evaluation
Educate the community about what is a Restricted Breed Dog	Year 1	Website updated Media articles published Promotional materials
Encourage the reporting of suspected Restricted Breed dogs being housed in the COGG and promote reporting options available through website and educational material	Annually	Number of registered reports and investigations

OVERPOPULATION AND HIGH EUTHANASIA

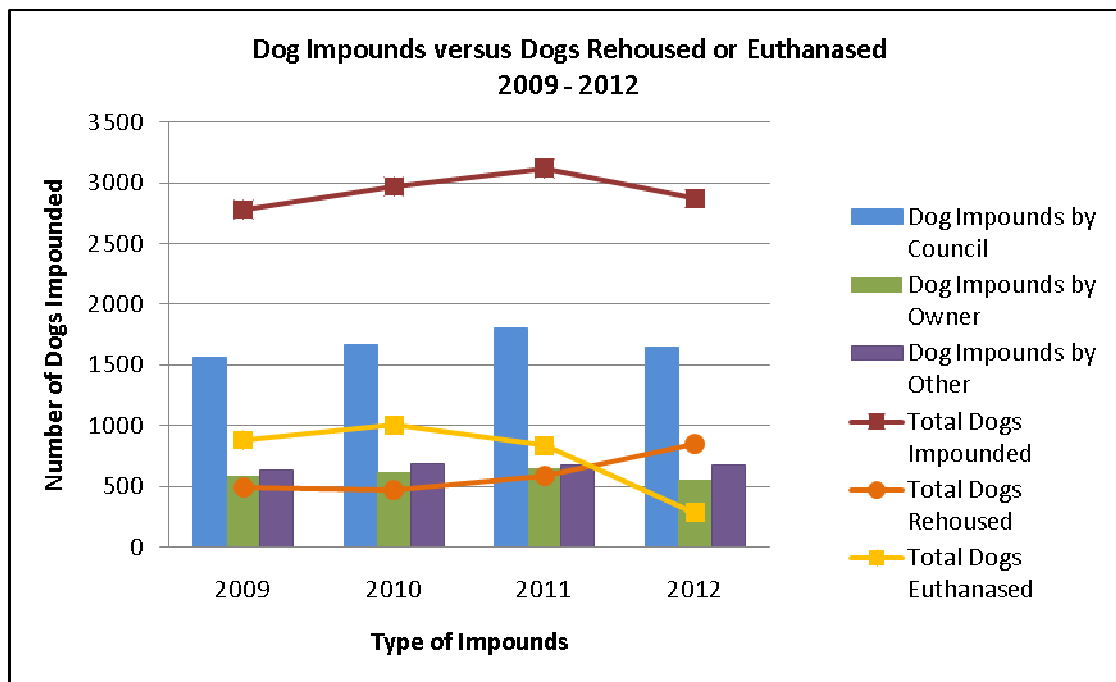
Outline programs, services and strategies to address any over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

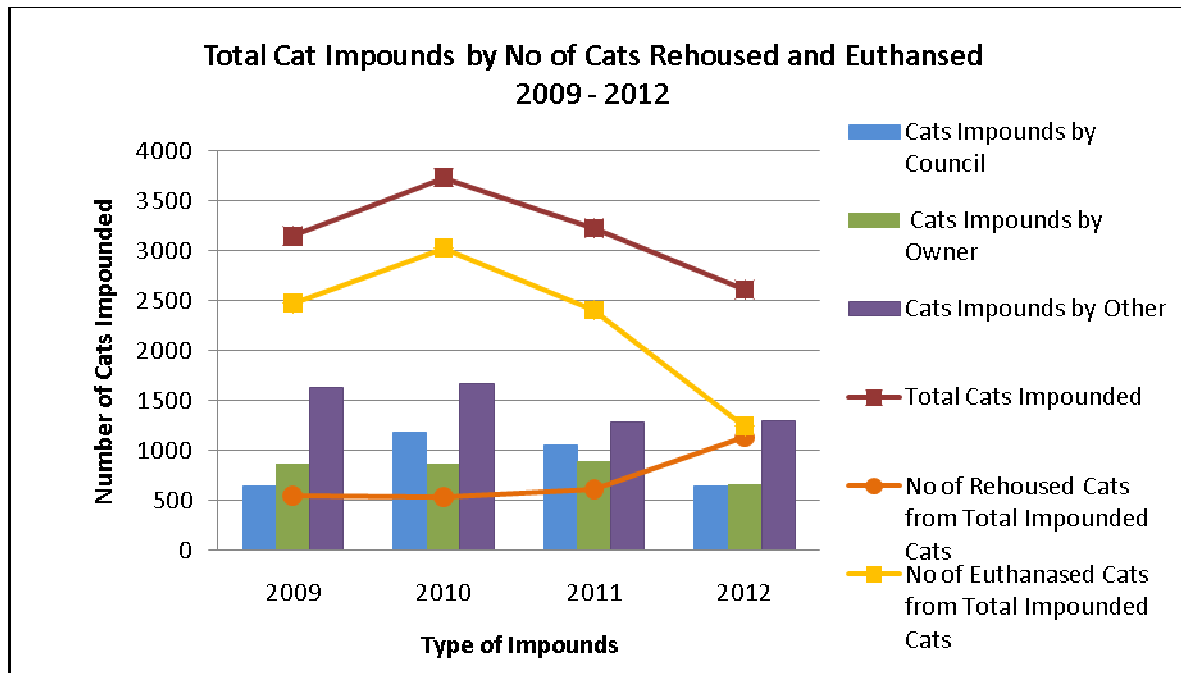
Current Situation

Due to the large cat population in Geelong many cats/kittens risk being euthanised due to trespassing and unidentified cats. Of the 3,227 impounded cats in 2011, 205 cats were claimed by their owner, 616 were rehoused and 2,406 were euthanased. Many of the euthanased cats were kittens.

In comparison dogs are more likely to be reunited with their owner. In 2011, of the 3,119 impounded dogs, 1,704 were claimed by their owner, 582 were rehoused and 833 dogs were euthanased. Not all dogs are suitable for rehoming due to temperament issues.

Because of the excess quantity of unclaimed animals Council's Animal Pound reaches capacity due to overpopulation.





Council Policies and Procedures

Procedures associated with seizure and impounding of dogs and cats in the community
Enforcement strategy associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding dogs and/or cats that are not desexed

State legislation is applicable in regards to:

- Seizure of documents
- Written agreements with animal shelters or community foster care networks to provide impounding or rehoming services
- Attendance at VCAT to hear appeals of dog and/or cat owners

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Promote the benefits of desexing – no surprise litters, fewer unwanted animals in the community, fewer animals euthanased, reduced aggression, reduced wandering
- Distribute desexing, overpopulation and high euthanasia rate brochures, fact sheets and other material developed by the Council
- Continue registration and microchipping programs to ensure pet cats and dogs can be returned to their owners (see 'Registration and Identification' section for activities), to reduce euthanasia rates
- Provide information on how to find a lost pet on Council website, and other material distributed by Council

Our current Compliance Activities

- Determine whether the municipality has an overpopulation of cats and/or dogs by analysing relevant statistics and other information
- Determine whether euthanasia rates of cats and dogs are acceptable or unacceptable to Council and the community

- Investigate reports of animal hoarding
- Investigate reports of unauthorised 'backyard breeders' to ascertain whether they should be registered as a domestic animal business
- Provide loan cat cages (free of charge) to local residents for trapping trespassing cats
- Review policies and procedures for impounded animals to investigate rehoming options
- Review policies and procedures on temperament testing of dogs and cats admitted to the pound
- Conduct patrols to pick up feral and stray cats and dogs to reduce breeding
- Introduced a cat curfew to reduce incidence of breeding with unowned cats, to decrease the number of unwanted litters in the community

Summary

City of Greater Geelong actively promotes desexing and RPO within the community through education and media programs including pet selection advice. Council works closely with their pound provider to develop business practices with an increased focus on rehousing animals. Council has also entered into a number of agreements with other Animal Shelters and Animal Rescue Groups in order to increase the opportunities to find homes for unclaimed dogs and cats which has significantly lowered the euthanasia rate over the past 12 months. Opportunities remain to further investigate compulsory desexing and to continue with cat trap loan program to reduce the number of stray or unwanted cats.

Our Plans

- Reduce the number of registered dogs and cats that are currently entire (and not part of a Domestic Animal Breeding Business)
- Raise the awareness of semi-owned cats in the area and reduce the number of feral cats
- Increase reclaiming and rehoming rates of dogs and cats impounded in the pound

Objective 1: Reduce the number of registered dogs and cats that are currently entire and not part of a Domestic Animal Breeding Business (DABs) each year.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Introduce a compulsory desexing order for cats and dogs to reduce multiple births, oversupply of dogs and cats Campaign will be phased in over the life of this plan (conditions apply e.g. Domestic Animal Breeding Business or medical reason) All cats and dogs released from the pound are to be desexed, registered and microchip All newly registered cats/dogs are to be desexed All existing registered cats to be desexed All existing registered dogs to be	Ongoing	Order adopted by Council and implemented

desexed		
Conduct feasibility study to investigate a subsidised desexing scheme for pets in partnerships with local vet clinics, and or other organisations such as the National Desexing Network	Year 1	Feasibility study conducted Outcomes implemented
Investigate partnership with local vet clinics and other organisations such as National Desexing Network to establish a discount desexing month of pets with local vet clinics	Year 1	Partnerships established Discount desexing month campaign developed Number of animals desexed as part of the scheme

Objective 2: Raise awareness about semi-owned cat population and reduce the number of feral cats in Geelong

Activity	When	Evaluation
Implement “Who’s for cats?” education campaign in local area including media promotions such as radio, local newspapers, ‘on hold’ phone messages and advertising campaigns Promotions to encourage people to take full ownership of cats eg discount desex/microchip/vaccinate offers, free products	Annually	Measure number and type of education materials distributed Record number of campaign queries received by council Record number of semi owned cats handed into local pound / shelter Community survey to measure knowledge about semi owned cat problem before and after campaign Number of media stories published Measure uptake on any promotions to encourage people to take ownership of cats
Identify any cat colonies in Geelong, try to identify ‘feeder’ and co-ordinate a trapping program	Ongoing	Number of cats trapped in public places
Review current cat trapping procedure ensuring clear guidelines available for Officer’s and residents	Year 3	Procedure reviewed and implemented
Implement cat trapping programs in conjunction with Parks Victoria and other relevant entities	Year 3	Cat trapping program implemented Number of homeless cats reduced

Objective 3: Increase reclaims and rehoming rates of impounded dogs and cats from Council's pound provider

Activity	When	Evaluation
Promote Online adoption program of dogs and cats in animal shelters – provide links on Council website to shelters to promote adoption of unclaimed animals to prospective new owners	Year 4	Links established on Council's website
Increase the opening hours of the pound to increase reclaim and rehousing rates	Year 1	Pound opening hours reviewed in consultation with the pound operator Reclaiming and rehousing rates increased
Work in partnership with Council's pound provider to promote the benefits of adopting animals from the pound	Year 1	Benefits promoted Rehousing rates increased

DOMESTIC ANIMAL BUSINESSES

Outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation.

Current Situation

Council takes very seriously any reports of suspected ‘backyard breeders and any Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) that may not be operating in accordance with the DAA and relevant Codes of Practice. Council will inspect and investigate these reports promptly to eliminate the risk to the community and to protect the welfare of animals involved. Council will continue to utilise all available legislation to control and manage Domestic Animal Businesses and eliminate any ‘backyard breeders’ within our municipality. As at December 2012 the following information was applicable:

- 10 registered Domestic Animal Businesses
- 15 boarding establishments
- 1 dog training business under consideration

All DABs are audited annually and followed up on non-compliance issues. Council also monitors all animals sold to ensure they have been microchipped and registered.

Council Policies and Procedures

- State Legislation applies to the management and operation of Domestic Animal Businesses
- Forms for registration and information DAB’s are available on Council website and at Council offices
- All DABs must be registered and audited annually
- Each registration to be individually considered against checklist as to whether specific conditions are required
- Council maintains a standard record/audit sheets on database of registered DABs
- Education and enforcement strategy associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding management of dogs and cats
- Operational procedures including OHS Work Instructions are available to guide officers in the performance of their duties.
- Authorised Officers will attend VCAT hearings to hear appeals of proprietors of domestic animal businesses when and if required

Our Current Education/Promotion Activities

- Provide all DAB’s with relevant Codes of Practice
- BAW fact sheets on DABs available in Council offices and with website links established

Our Current Compliance Activities

- Register all DABs
- Conduct an annual audit of all DAB's including relevant audit documentation
- Follow up any non-compliance as required
- Regular patrols for new/non-registered DAB's – on notification
- Conduct random inspections of DABs
- Regular 'Google' and local paper check to search for possible undiscovered DABs
- Follow up registration on animals sold from DAB's
- Conduct annual re-registration audits annually to allow any non compliance to be addressed
- Ensure that any non compliance with permit conditions is rectified using notices to comply, information sheets etc
- In cases of serious non compliance, permits may be suspended or cancelled
- Non complying DABs will not receive re-registration until legislative requirements are met
- Procedures in place for DAB's to notify Council of any animals sold or given away
- Investigate all reported complaints about DAB's within operational response timeframes
- Provide educational information to people making queries about setting up a DAB to let them know of all the requirements involved, before they start making too many plans
- DAB registration fees are set to reflect the cost of annual audits and inspections
- Investigate reports of unauthorised 'backyard breeders' to ascertain whether they should be registered as a DAB

Summary

Over the next four years, Council will work to ensure that all Domestic Animal Businesses are compliant with the Code of Practice and that 'backyard breeders' are eliminated.

To achieve this aim Council Officers will regularly conduct inspections to monitor compliance. Where breaches of the code are observed, enforcement will be prompt and relevant action taken in accordance with the Act. Council Officers will actively work within the community to detect breaches and investigate complaints particularly in relation to 'backyard breeders', providing education and information to protect the welfare of animals.

Our Plans

- Ensure that all Animal Management Officers (AMOs) and their supervisors are updated on the legislation in relation to DABs
- Annually inspect and audit all registered DABs and investigate any suspected unregistered DABs.
- Identify and close down all illegally operating Domestic Animal Breeding establishments in the municipality
- Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality

Objective 1: Ensure that all Animal Management Officers (AMOs) and their supervisors are updated on the legislation in relation to DABs.

Activity	When	Evaluation
Form a working group within council of AMOs to review all of the fact sheets, documents, matrix of changes and new DAA.	Ongoing	Add to skill matrix that officers have been to AMO seminars and read all DPI provided information
Be involved with the Code review for Breeding and Rearing Establishments – though MAV, public meetings, etc	Ongoing	Make a Council approved submission on the Breeding Code document at formal public comment stage

Objective 2: Annually inspect and audit all registered DABs and investigate any suspected unregistered DABs.

Activity	When	Evaluation
AMOs will audit all DABs in their relevant geographic area of responsibility	Annually	All DABs audited Number of prosecutions
AMOs will conduct random patrols of all DABs in their relevant geographic area of responsibility	Annually	Number of new DABs identified Number of prosecutions
Investigate any report of unregistered DAB within operational response timeframes	Ongoing	Number of reports Number of prosecutions

Objective 3: Identify and close down all illegally operating Domestic Animal Breeding establishments in the municipality

Activity	When	Evaluation
Undertake education campaign to promote awareness about definition of breeding DABs, and COP requirements for businesses: Advertisements in local classifieds Website information Follow up people advertising pets for sale (eg in local papers or on local noticeboards), to determine if they are a DAB and are registered with council	Ongoing	Compare number of council registered breeding establishments before and after campaign (would expect an increase)

Objective 4: Identify and register all Domestic Animal Businesses in the municipality

Activity	When	Evaluation
Identify all businesses that should be registered DABs in the municipality, using yellow pages, local newspapers and markets (or similar including online sites) identify businesses selling pets/pet products/services in the municipality. Follow up to determine whether they are and should be registered with Council	Ongoing	Compare number of register DABs before and after activity
Distribute BAW fact sheets regarding changes to the definition of DABs	Ongoing	BAW sheets distributed BAW links placed on Council's website
Provide information to the public on how to register a complaint regarding a DAB that they believe is non compliant	Year 1	Website updated Number of complaints received
Continue to provide a DAB registration number system for our municipality. These numbers have to be placed in advertisements by DABs of animals for sale, along with the name of the Council that issued the number		DAB Registration number system and on all DAB Registration Certificates issued as required

OTHER MATTERS

Provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary

Current Situation

- AMOs are all authorised under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act) and actively investigate all reported animal cruelty matters. Assistance is also provided to the RSPCA in their investigations of alleged cruelty
- AMOs provides assistance to our community during emergencies and periods of community need. AMOs provide assistance to the State, Local Police when required during emergencies such as recovery or domestic issues
- Liaise with key stakeholders regarding animal management issues including access to public open spaces, control of domestic animals, canvassing on proposed Councils Orders
- Promote Responsible Pet Ownership through the community
- In-house Prosecutions Team dedicated to ensuring statutory obligations met, quality investigation briefs and cases managed efficiently and actively prosecuted in the relevant courts

Council Policies and Procedures

- Education and enforcement strategy associated with issuing notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution regarding management of dogs and cats
- Operational procedures including OHS Work Instructions are available to guide Officers in the performance of their duties
- City of Greater Geelong Emergency Management Plan (GEMP)

Our current Education/Promotion Activities

- Advise residents of fireworks situations in City News so owners can reduce animal fear and escape

Our current Compliance Activities

- Long established relationship with RSPCA
- Develop a contact list for regarding animal emergency planning – Council contacts, shelters, animal welfare organisations, DPI. And work out your arrangements with those contacts in the event of emergencies.
- Annual inspection of excess animal permit properties, particularly those with permit for large number of animals
- Establish Animal Management Liaison Group with neighbouring Councils for sharing of ideas, policies and procedures, etc
- Seek assistance from RSPCA and other authorised POCTA Act officers in implementing and enforcing the POCTA Act, Regulations and Codes of Practice (COPs)

Summary

The city of Greater Geelong is a municipality with great lifestyle and strengths that balances pet ownership with the needs of the community and the environment. The following principles underpin actions with regard to dogs and cats:

- The belief that pets contribute to our quality of life
- A requirement to balance the needs of those who own pets and those who do not
- To value responsible pet ownership
- Proactive animal management and education
- Ensuring the environment is protected from the negative impacts of dogs and cats
- To work in partnership with others
- Play a leadership role in animal management

Our Plans

- Promote emergency planning to ensure the welfare of animals in emergencies
- Continue to educate the community on responsible pet ownership and the benefits of pet ownership
- To provide a safe, balanced and harmonious community for all

Objective 1 Promote emergency planning to ensure the welfare of animals in emergencies:

Activity	When	Evaluation
Liaise with breeding and boarding DABs regarding their emergency plans	Year 3	Number of visits to discuss emergency management
Discuss emergency animal welfare plans and Council Policy for evacuation/relief centres with MERO	Year 3	Item considered by Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Proposed actions identified and implemented
Provide education to residents regarding planning for their pets in emergencies	Year 3	DPI information distributed and link available on website

Objective 2 Continue to educate the community on responsible pet ownership and benefits of pet ownership aimed at community harmony and reduced nuisances

Activity	When	Evaluation
Provide web links to Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTA Act) information, codes (dog and cat private keeping, etc), brochures, etc, via Council's website.	Year 2	Links available on website
Promote the role of Council Animal Management Officers (Authorised Officers) through web site, education programs and media	Ongoing	Education programs modified Information on website Articles on social media Number of media articles

Activity	When	Evaluation
Review the visibility of Councils AMO to residents by providing highly visible uniforms and vehicles	Year 1	AMO vehicles and uniform clearly identified incorporating the 'Lead the Way' brand
Continue to keep community, pet owners, stakeholders informed through Tag Times and E Mail newsletter – distribute to registered pet owners, vets and DABs	Ongoing	
Develop RPO programs targeting students in Secondary Colleges as the next generation of pet owners	Year 2	Programs developed Education delivered to Secondary Students
Encourage the BAW to provide translated material (oral and/or printed) on RPO and Nuisance issues in multi-cultural languages	Year 3	Multi-cultural material produced by BAW on RPO and Nuisance issues

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORTING

Council must

- Review its domestic animal management plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the plan
- Provide the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary with a copy of the plan and any amendments to the plan
- Publish an evaluation of its implementation of the plan in its annual report.

Each year Council conducts a review of the Domestic Animal Management Plan. A copy of this review is presented to Council annually for information. This report is then forwarded to the Department of Primary Industries' Secretary with any proposed amendments. Additionally a copy of this report is included in Council's Annual Report which community have access to via Council's website.

Annual and Ongoing activities will be reported in the following format

Objective	Activities Undertaken	Evaluation
Training of Authorised Officers	▪ Conducted annual performance review ▪ Attended workshops and seminars ▪ Conducted refresher training in house	

Yearly activities will be reported in the following format

Objective	When evaluated	Activities Undertaken	Evaluation
Reconcile the National Microchip Registry with Councils registration data prior to renewal period each year	Year 1	▪ Conduct a pet census/survey to determine total number of cats residing in the municipality	

PROPOSED DOGS IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY OUTLINE 2013 – 2017

As part of Council's on going role and responsibility to implement effective domestic animal management strategies in accordance with its 2013-2017 Domestic Animal Management Plan, Council has revised its Dogs in Public Policy Outline.

This Policy Outline will guide the community with respect to understanding the dog control rules and conditions that apply in open public spaces to ensure community safety, environment protection and fair and equitable access to such spaces for all users.

Based on community feedback of both dog owners and non-owners, it is recognised that a range of controls are required to represent the needs of all public space users who have a mix of on leash and off leash opportunities for them and their dogs.

The Policy Outline will be complimented by area maps that clearly outline the dog control rules that apply for that location or site.

In general, the municipality is declared an 'On Leash - Controlled' area except for all of those areas, public spaces and reserves that are specifically designated as 'Off Leash – Supervised' (dog friendly parks) where dogs are permitted to be effectively supervised off leash.

The following outlines the content of the policy.

Off Leash 'Supervised' Areas

Locations

Dogs are allowed off leash and supervised in specific designated public open space areas and/or any area as indicated by the relevant signage. This includes, amongst other public open spaces;

- those paths located on the Fyansford Common and the shared path on the northern side of the Barwon River upstream from the Queens Park Bridge to Fyansford Common including Zillah Crawcour Park);
- Sporting grounds/ovals (playing area) outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with council)
- Sporting complexes/reserves – outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with council)
- A range of Reserves as listed in the attachment to this policy
- A range of broad open space parks as listed in the attachment to this Policy and as per Map 2.

Council will review the effectiveness of these 'Off Leash – supervised' areas on an ongoing basis and will also consider any request for new 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas to be established based on the following criteria, which will ensure safety, and equitable access to such spaces. These include:

- Linear open public spaces (i.e. green corridors, easements) may be considered if there is sufficient width to ensure safe use and passage
- Public open spaces that do not contain a playground or where the playground is fully enclosed/fenced. Open public spaces with centrally located playgrounds are not suitable as an off leash (supervised) area
- Public open spaces that is located at a safe distance from busy roads

- Any other public open space not mentioned above that is not adjoining/adjacent a water body and that no wildlife is present
- A high level accessibility either by walking or a short drive
- That there is no detriment to safety or the environment through the use of such open public spaces
- Suitable open spaces will be reviewed annually to monitor performance and identify any additional reserves that may be suitable as off leash 'supervised' areas.

Conditions Applicable to 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas

The following conditions must be followed when using the 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas:

The handler must have a dog lead in their possession and place their dog back on the leash when leaving the off leash area.

- The handler must be able to demonstrate audible control of the dog.
- When encountering others/other dogs using this area, the dog must be recalled and restrained until both parties have moved apart at a safe distance.
- Dogs must remain in visual and audible range of their handler to allow it to be effectively recalled at any time.
- Dogs must not enter water habitats that contain wildlife or chase wildlife in these areas;
- Dogs attracted to the motion of wheels must be controlled at all times.
- Dogs declared menacing/dangerous/restricted breed are not permitted to be walked off-lead in 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas, and
- Dogs that are aggressive to people or other dogs, behave in an anti social manner, or are over excitable should be muzzled when in public and not to be off leash.

Signage

- Signs will clearly indicate those parks, reserves or public open spaces where dogs are permitted to be off a leash and supervised. (see Appendix 1 and 2)

On Leash 'Controlled' Areas

- Within the City of Greater Geelong, unless otherwise designated by signage, all public open space areas shall be designated as 'On Leash - Controlled' areas. Public Open Space Areas (includes roads, footpaths, beaches, reserves, parks, playgrounds and other council lands and buildings)

More specifically this includes:

- All roads and footpaths/nature strips.
- Shopping centres.
- High use areas pedestrian and/or cycling areas (for example the Waterfront Precinct in Geelong).
- Sporting complexes and reserves (not including playing area) during times of organised sports (as defined by a formal booking with council which includes times booked for sports practice/training).
- At Council sanctioned events, markets etc.

- Shared use paths or walking paths and including areas either side of the abutting edge of the path; (except those in designated 'Off Leash – Supervised' areas).
- Dogs being within and/or tethered within ten (10) metres of children's play equipment.
- Dogs being within and/or tethered within ten (10) meters of picnic and barbecue areas (as defined by council provided barbecues and/or table and associated seating).
- In areas designated as environmentally significant
- Jetties and piers.
- Water bodies such as creeks, rivers, lakes, and beaches (ocean, bay) unless signposted as a dedicated swimming area for dogs.
- Beach foreshore and coastline areas (except those designated as off leash-supervised).

Other public open spaces including conservation, park and recreation, public and open zones including:	
– Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)	– Public Conservation and Resources Zone (PCRZ)
Other zones that may contain open space include:	
– Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) - e.g. some of Hovells Ck at Lara	– Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) – e.g. Armstrong Creek area

Conditions applying to all 'On Leash Controlled Areas' and 'Off Leash Supervised Areas'

- The handler must at all times have a means to pick up and dispose of dog droppings – penalties apply.
- Dogs when tethered must never be left unattended anywhere e.g. play equipment, shopping precincts.
- Leads must not exceed 2 metres in length.
- Retractable leads must be restricted to 2 meters in length in 'On Leash – Controlled' areas, but may be used more liberally in 'Off Leash - Supervised' areas where there remains a need to have control over a dog.

Dog Control Categories

Dog Control Categories (applicable to coastline areas and other public open spaces as designated) will apply to reflect the needs of all public open space users and ensure community safety and environment protection.

Category 1 (Green) – Off leash 'Supervised' Area

- Areas where dogs are permitted off leash and supervised all year round.

Category 2 (Yellow) – Conditional Off Leash ‘Supervised’ Area

- Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
- On land managed by the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management, allow dogs off leash and supervised at any times between May 1 and October 31 each year. Dogs would be prohibited during all other periods.

Category 3 (Blue) – Conditional On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area

- On land managed by the Barwon Coast Committee of Management, allow dogs on leash and controlled at any times between 1 December to 17 December and 1 February to 30 April each year. Dogs permitted off leash and supervised between 1 May to 30 November.
- Dogs would be prohibited at other times in designated areas as signed.

Category 4 (Brown) – On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area (includes Environmentally Sensitive Areas)

- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation

Category 5 (Purple) – Conditional On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area (Hooded Plover and Wildlife Zones)

- Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins). Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.

Category 6 (Red) - Exclusion Area All Year Round

- Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity;
 - where there is an Order by Council;
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order).

Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas

PROPOSED DESIGNATED 'OFF LEASH - SUPERVISED' AREAS			
Park/Reserve	Location	Zone	Melways Reference
North Zone			
Elcho Park	125 Elcho Road Lara	North	422 B7
Abe Wood Reserve	300 Evans Road Lovely Banks	North	431 A3
Sutcliff Reserve	240-268 Plantation Road Corio	North	431 J4
Stead Park	190-216 Princess Highway Corio	North	432 C10
Myers Reserve	5-35 Bluestone Bridge Road Bell Post Hill	North	441 C1
Seagull Paddock	380-400 Melbourne Road North Geelong	North	441 K3
Fyansford Common	Deviation Road Fyansford	North	451 A2
South Zone			
Rotary Centennial Park	188A West Fyans Street Newtown	South	451 E6
Frank Mann Reserve	5 Heal Street Ceres	South	450 C11
Grinter Reserve	125-177 Coppards Road Moolap	South	453 B12
Brearley Reserve	Grove Road Marshall	South	465 K4
Breakwater Road Reserve	Breakwater Road Belmont	South	466 C1
East Zone			
Portarlinton Recreation Reserve	4-22 Sproat Street Portarlinton	East	444 F6
Drysdale Recreation Reserve	30 Duke Street Drysdale	East	456 G11
Charles McCarthy Memorial Reserve	Leviens Road St Leonards	East	459 K11
Kingston Park	8-52 Adco Grove Ocean Grove	East	484 C9
Collendina Reserve	93A Sunset Strip Ocean Grove	East	484 E12
Beacon Point Reserve	Beacon Point Road Clifton Springs	East	457 A2

Sporting Grounds/Ovals (playing area only) available as an 'Off Leash - Supervised' Area
Outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with Council))

Reserve	Address	Melways Reference
Abe Wood Reserve	Evans Road, Lovely Banks	431 A3
Anakie Reserve	Demotts Road, Anakie	Key Map 11 A
Bakers Oval	Shannon Avenue, Geelong West	441 G12
Barwon Heads Reserve - CROWN LAND	Barwon Heads Road, Barwon Heads	497 A2
Belmont Common North- CROWN LAND	Settlement Road, Belmont	451 K8
Belmont Common South- CROWN LAND	Breakwater Road, Belmont	466 A1
Breakwater Reserve	Tanner Street, Breakwater	466 D2
Burdoo Reserve	Wingarra Drive, Grovedale	465 E9
Ceres Reserve - CROWN LAND	Cochranes Road, Ceres	450 B12
Collendina Reserve	Sunset Strip, Ocean Grove	484 D12
Corio Community Reserve	Hendy Street, Corio	432 C7
Drysdale Reserve - CROWN LAND	Wyndham Street, Drysdale	456 F10
Eastern Park - CROWN LAND	1-45 Garden Street, East Geelong	402 P6
Elcho Park	Elcho Road, Lara	422 A7
Elderslie Reserve	Read Street, Newtown	451 D2
Ervin Reserve	Richard Street, Newcomb	452 K9
Evans Reserve	Sparks Road, Norlane	431 K12
Flinders Peak Reserve	Hendy Street, Corio	432 C7, D6
Frier Reserve	West Fyans Street, Newtown	451 G7
Grinter Reserve	Coppards Road, Newcomb	453 B12
Grovedale Reserve - CROWN LAND	Reserve Road, Grovedale	465 H7
Hamlyn Park	Calvert Street, Hamlyn Heights	441 F10
Herne Hill Reserve	Finchaven Street, Herne Hill	451 D1
Highton Reserve	95-105 Barrabool Road, Highton	451 C10
Howard Glover Reserve - CROWN LAND	Limeburners Road, Geelong	452 H6
Hume Reserve	Thompsons Road, North Geelong	441 H5
Harold Hurst Reserve	Douglass Street, Herne Hill	441 E11
King Lloyd Reserve	Windsor Road, Newtown	451 E8
Lake Lorne Equestrian	Reserve Road, Drysdale	470 F1
Lara Reserve	Walkers Road, Lara	423 B5
Leopold Reserve	Melaluka Road, Leopold	468 D2
McDonald Reserve	Reynolds Road, Belmont	465 D1
Mount Duneed Reserve	Russells Road, Mount Duneed	479 A4
Myers Reserve	Creamery Road, Bell Post Hill	441 A2
Ocean Grove Reserve	Draper Street, Ocean Grove	483 J11
Osborne Park	Osborne Avenue, North Geelong	442 A8
Peter Lowe Reserve	Minerva Road, Herne Hill	441 F1
Portarlington Reserve	Sproat Street, Portarlington	444 F6
Queen's Park	150 Queens Park Road, Highton	451 B4
Rees Reserve	Old Melbourne Road, Little River	200 E9
Richmond Crescent	Richmond Crescent, South Geelong	452 C7
St Albans Reserve	Boundary Road, Whittington	452 G12
St Leonards Reserve	McLeod Street, St Leonards	460 A10
Shell Reserve	Purnell Road, Corio	432 B8
Shell Road Reserve (Surfside)	Shell Road, Ocean Grove	484 C10
South Barwon Reserve	Barwon Heads Road, Belmont	451 K10
Stead Park	St Georges Road, Corio	432 B10
Thomson Reserve	Godfrey Street, Thomson	452 F8
Tim Hill Reserve	Wandana Drive, Wandana Heights	450 K11
Vines Road	Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights	441 E10
Wallington Reserve	Wallington Road, Wallington	483 D4
Wathaurong Reserve	Collins Street, Drysdale	456 K9
Western Oval	Church Street, North Geelong	441 J11
Windmill Reserve	Mayfair Drive Newtown	451 D5
Windsor Park	Rose Avenue, Norlane	432 B12
Winter Reserve	Kidman Avenue, Belmont	465 F2

Reserves available as an 'On Leash - Controlled' Areas		
Reserve	Address	Melways Reference
Milton Reserve	Milton Street, Bell Park	441 F7
Belmont Heights Neighbourhood Park	Cnr Regent Street and Amundsen Street, Belmont	451 H10
Herd Reserve,	2A Regent Street, Belmont	451 J11
Iona Reserve	28A Iona Avenue, Belmont	451 D12
Kindale Reserve	10 Kindale Court, Belmont	465 465 C3
Kyle Reserve	2A Kyle Avenue, Belmont	451 H9
Morris Reserve	18A Morris Street, Belmont	451 G10
Stork Reserve	26A Stork Avenue, Belmont	465 H1
Clunies Reserve	10 Clunies Court, Corio	431 H6
Rodborough Reserve	23A Rodborough Crescent, Corio	432 B6
Stradling Reserve	6 York Street, Geelong	452 A1
Osborne House	78 Osborne Avenue, Nth Geelong	441 H7
LJ Keavy Park	25 Eureka Street, Geelong West	451 G3
Bank Reserve	20 Bank Street, Lara	423 A6
Fairnie Reserve	1A Fairnie Street, Hamlyn Heights	441 D9
Bennett Reserve	6A Bennett Street, Highton	451 B9
Cara Reserve	5A Cara Road, Highton	451 D9
Ferndale Reserve	6A Ferndale Parade, Highton	451 E10
Lambhill Reserve	282 Mt Pleasant Road, Highton	451 A9
Thornbury Reserve	3A Thornbury Lane, Highton	451 C8
Cornthwaite Reserve	2 Cornthwaite Crescent, Leopold	468 G2
Ising Reserve	8 Ising Street, Newcomb	452 H8
Janet Reserve	3 Janet Court, Newcomb	452 J9
Lancaster Reserve	11 Nelson Avenue, Newcomb	452 K10
Pitman Avenue Reserve	2-6 Silver Street, Newcomb	452 J9
Tilly Reserve	7 Tilly Court, Newcomb	452 J9
Wilton Avenue Reserve	25 Wilton Avenue, Newcomb	452 H9
Buckingham Reserve	66 Buckingham Road, Newtown	451 E6
Fairmont Reserve	21 Fairmont Road, Newtown	451 E6
Maynooth Reserve	4A Maynooth Drive, Norlane	431 H10
Crane Reserve	9 Crane Court, Ocean Grove	483 J10
Hollywood Reserve	12 Hollywood Boulevard, Point Lonsdale	499 J10
McShane Reserve	6 McShane Court, Rosewall	432 F5
Chandos Reserve	4A McGill Court, St Albans	466 G2
Aitken Park	7 Aitken Court, Whittington	466 H1
Stan Swain Childrens Playground	50 Westmoreland Street, Whittington	466 H1
Vincent Park	59 Truscott Street, Whittington	452 J11

Dog Controls in Coastal and Other Open Space Areas

The following maps (15 in total) show various coastal beaches, reserves and open space areas within the City of Greater Geelong. The maps commence at the south western boundary of the municipality and work around the coastline to the north eastern boundary near Little River.

A summary of the maps are:

MAP NO	DESCRIPTION
Map 1	Overview of Municipality Coastline.
Map 2	Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas within Sporting Complexes and Reserves.
Map 3	Redgum Island, Fyansford Common – Barwon River.
Map 4	Breamlea Beach and Bancoora Beach.
Map 5	Ocean Grove, Collendina and Point Lonsdale Beaches.
Map 6	Black Rock; Thirteenth Beach; Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. Land is managed by Barwon Coast Committee of Management who has determined existing dog controls. Council has adopted these dog control controls.
Map 7	Swan Bay and Edwards Point. Land is managed by Parks Victoria.
Map 8	St Leonards; Indented Heads and Portarlington Beaches. Land is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management who determines their dog control orders. Council at its discretion may adopt such orders.
Map 9	Ramblers Road; The Dell; Jetty Road and west of Jetty Road Beaches Clifton Springs.
Map 10	Point Henry (east and west side).
Map 11	Waterfront Precinct, Geelong.
Map 12	Western Beach; Rippleside Beach and St Helens Beach.
Map 13	Moorpanyal Beach, North Shore; Shell Foreshore (beach area); Grammer School beach; Limeburners Lagoon and Avalon Beach.
Map 14	Batesford Reserve, Batesford.
Map 15	Land along Barwon River from Queens Park Bridge to Breakwater. This land is managed by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (with a small portion managed by Barwon Water near the MacIntyre Footbridge). Existing dog controls have been implemented by these land managers and Council does not have the authority to amend these controls.

Colour coding of the maps demonstrates dog controls at a glance. The category of controls in turn relate back to Council's Policy on Dogs in Public Places

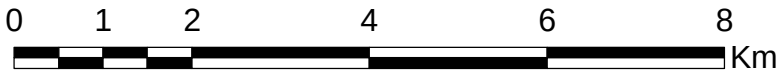
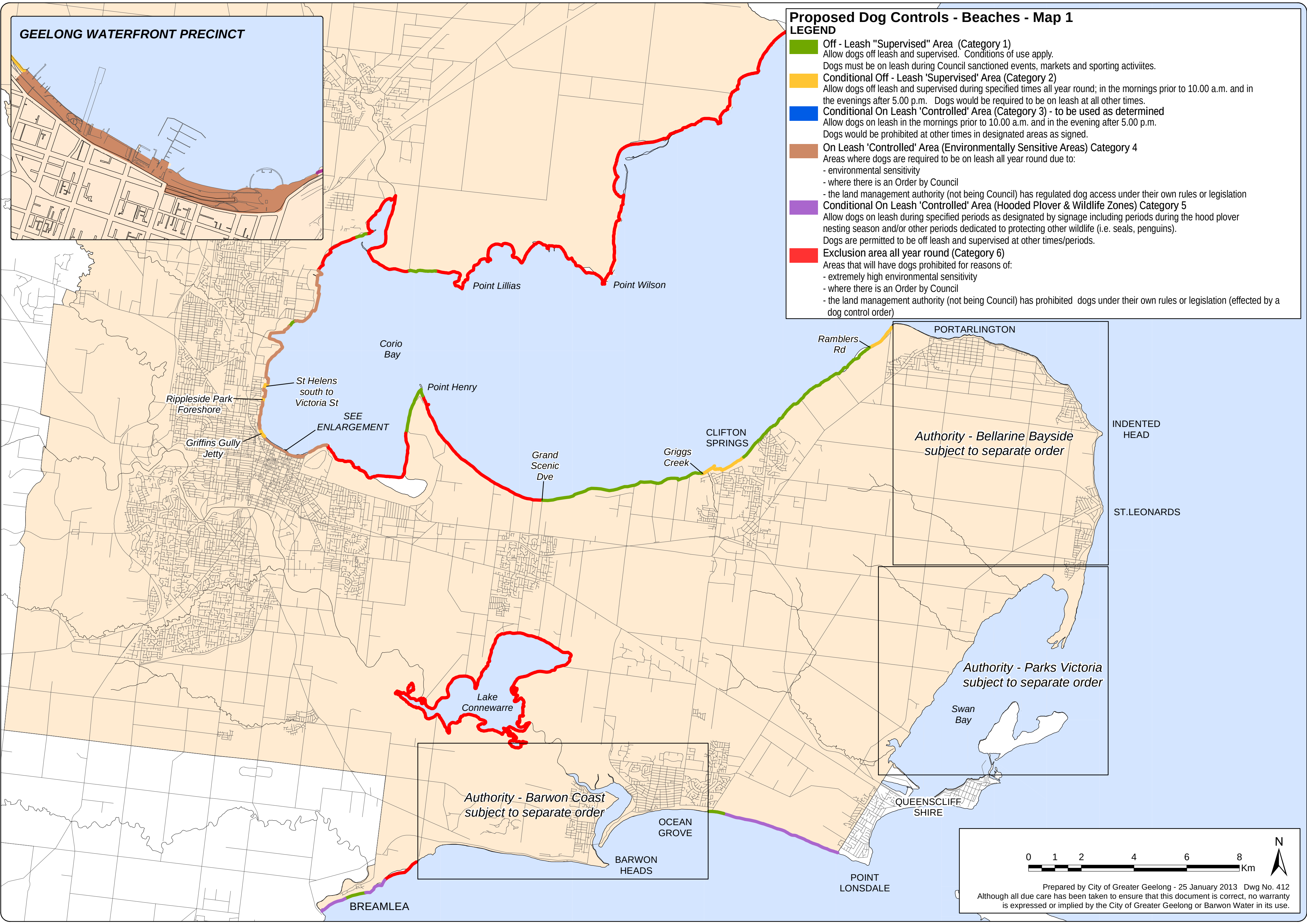
It should be noted that the maps are not inclusive of all open space areas within the City of Greater Geelong. The areas depicted are those where Council has made a decision in relation to dog controls. As the plan evolves more open space areas may become subject to 'On Leash – Supervised' requirements.

GEELONG WATERFRONT PRECINCT

Proposed Dog Controls - Beaches - Map 1

LEGEND

- Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- Conditional Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 2)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
- Conditional On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Category 3) - to be used as determined**
Allow dogs on leash in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evening after 5.00 p.m.
Dogs would be prohibited at other times in designated areas as signed.
- On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4**
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
- Conditional On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Hooded Plover & Wildlife Zones) Category 5**
Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins).
Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.
- Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)**
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)



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Dog Controls - Map 2

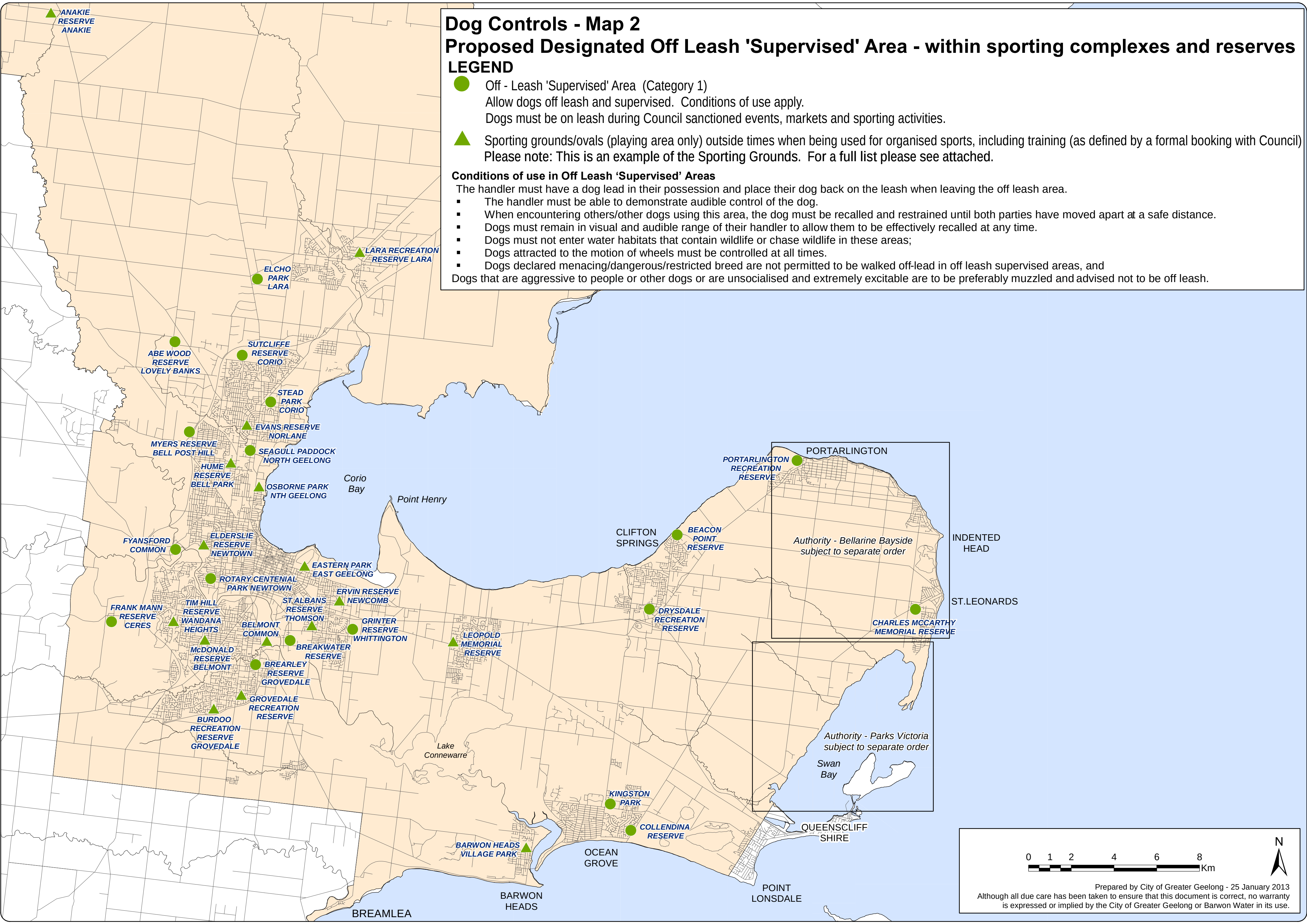
Proposed Designated Off Leash 'Supervised' Area - within sporting complexes and reserves

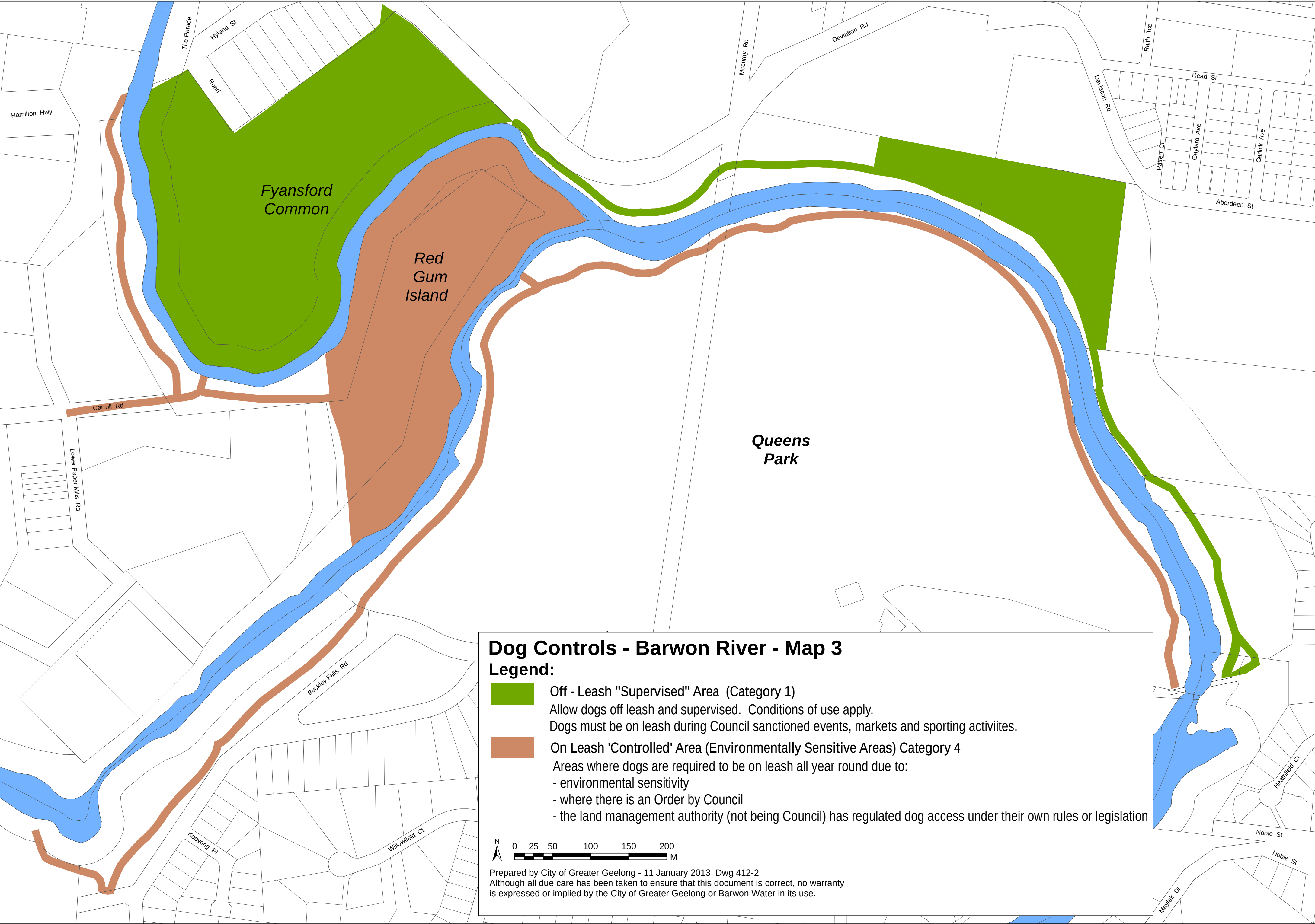
LEGEND

- Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- ▲ Sporting grounds/ovals (playing area only) outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with Council)
Please note: This is an example of the Sporting Grounds. For a full list please see attached.

Conditions of use in Off Leash 'Supervised' Areas

- The handler must have a dog lead in their possession and place their dog back on the leash when leaving the off leash area.
- The handler must be able to demonstrate audible control of the dog.
 - When encountering others/other dogs using this area, the dog must be recalled and restrained until both parties have moved apart at a safe distance.
 - Dogs must remain in visual and audible range of their handler to allow them to be effectively recalled at any time.
 - Dogs must not enter water habitats that contain wildlife or chase wildlife in these areas;
 - Dogs attracted to the motion of wheels must be controlled at all times.
 - Dogs declared menacing/dangerous/restricted breed are not permitted to be walked off-lead in off leash supervised areas, and
- Dogs that are aggressive to people or other dogs or are unsocialised and extremely excitable are to be preferably muzzled and advised not to be off leash.





Dog Controls - Barwon River - Map 3

Legend:

-  Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activiites.
-  On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation

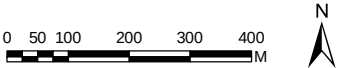
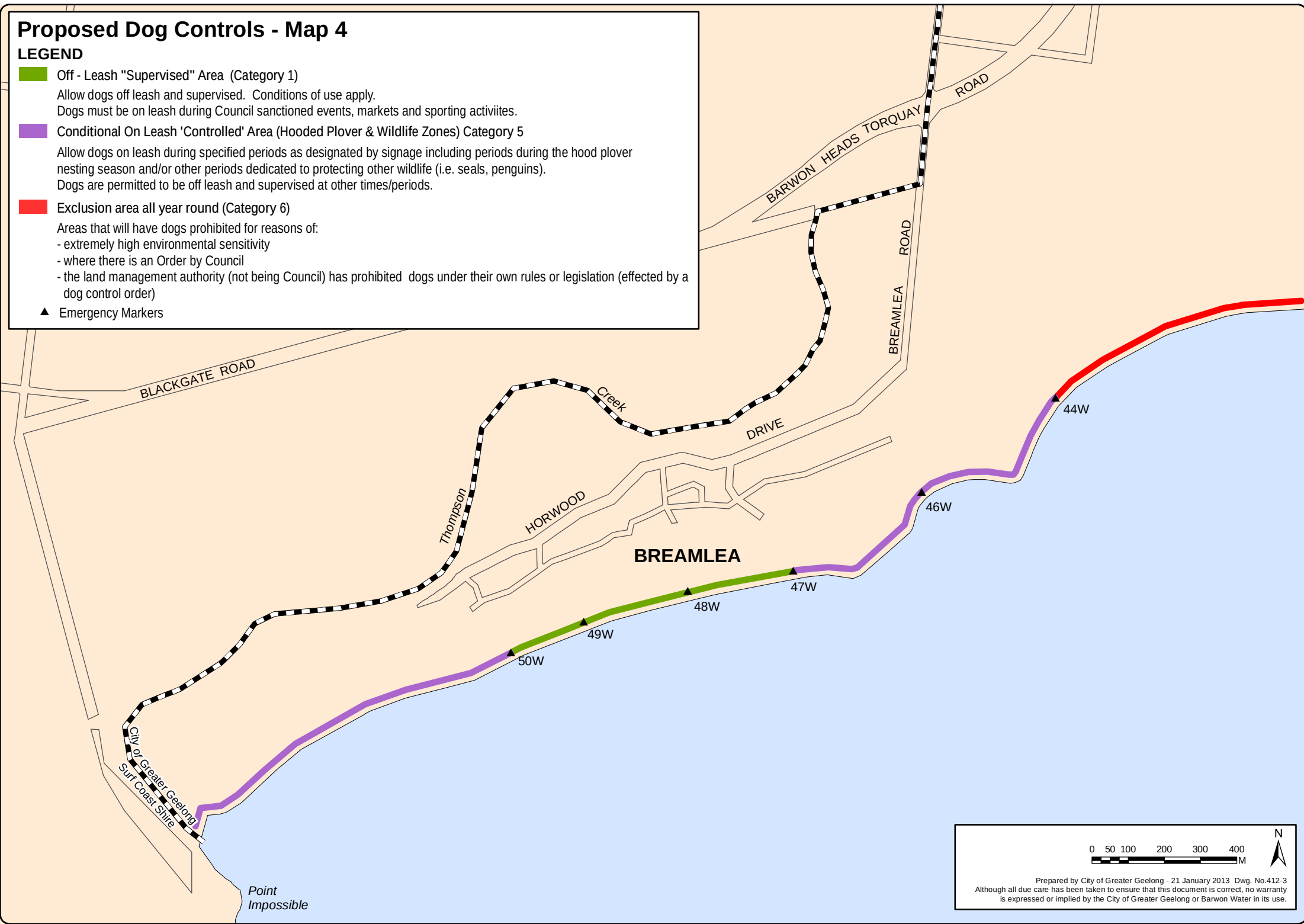
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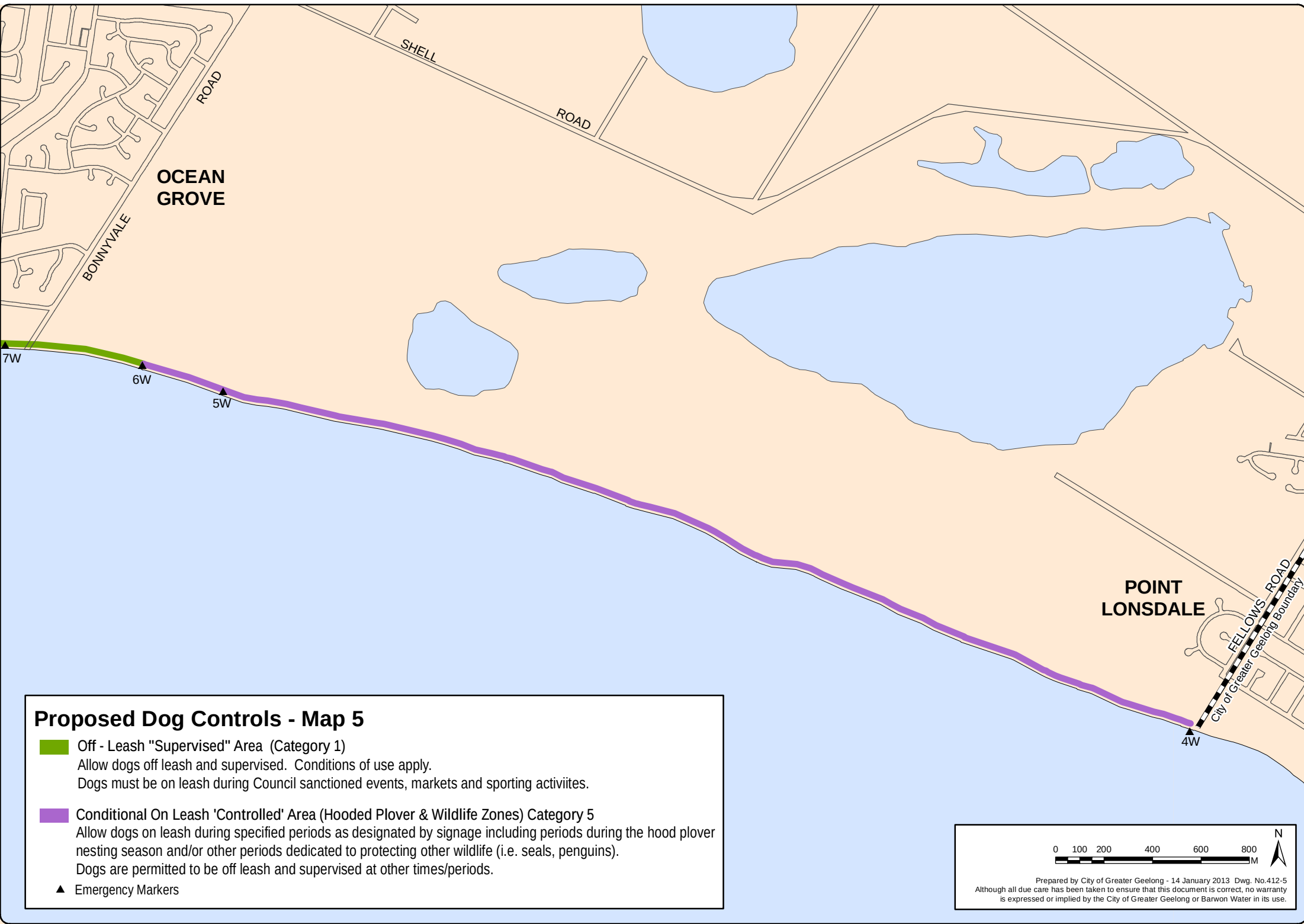
Proposed Dog Controls - Map 4

LEGEND

- Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- Conditional On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Hooded Plover & Wildlife Zones) Category 5
Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins).
Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.
- Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)
- ▲ Emergency Markers

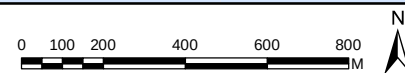


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Proposed Dog Controls - Map 5

-  Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
-  Conditional On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Hooded Plover & Wildlife Zones) Category 5
Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins).
Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.
-  Emergency Markers



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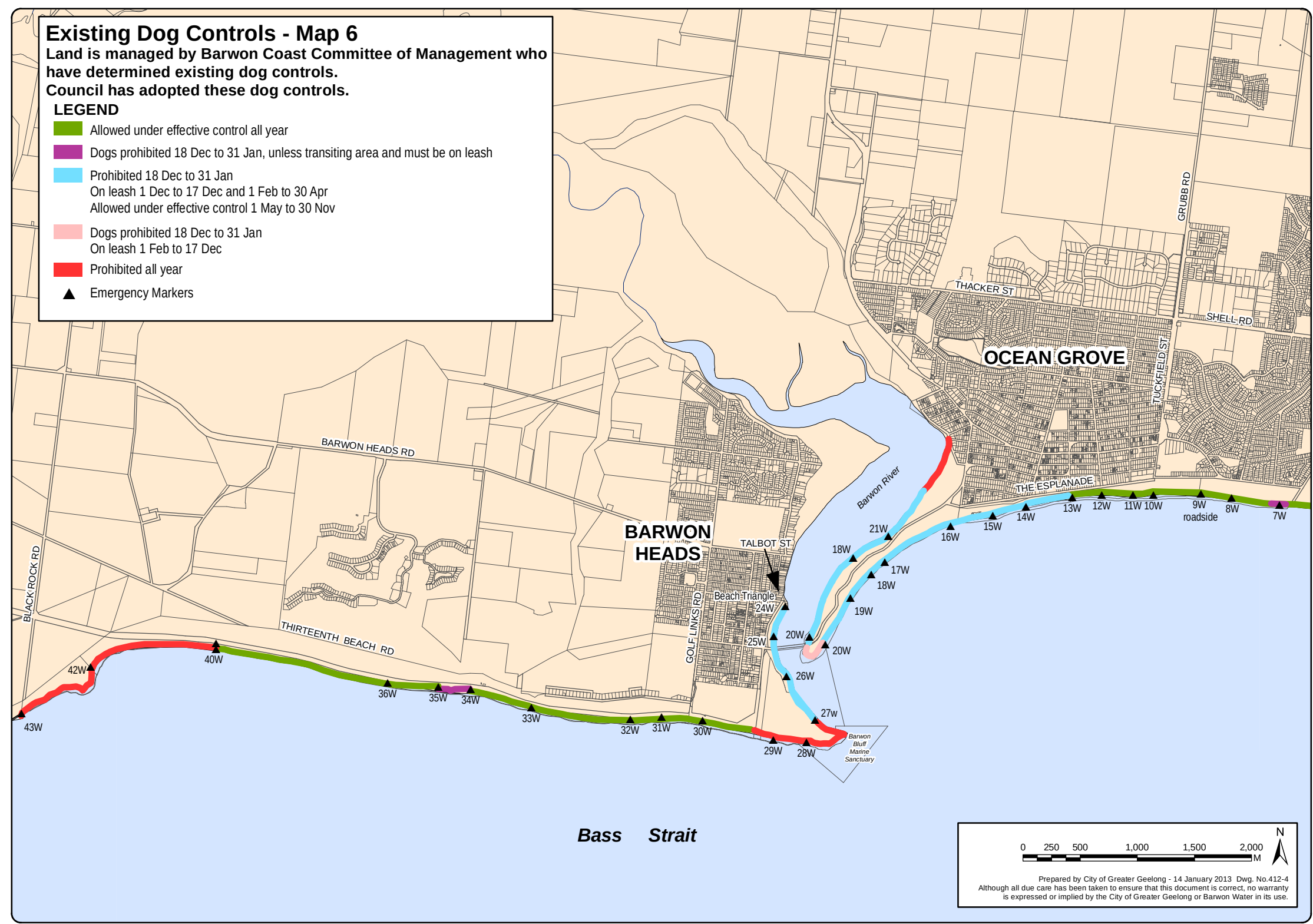
Existing Dog Controls - Map 6

Land is managed by Barwon Coast Committee of Management who have determined existing dog controls.

Council has adopted these dog controls.

LEGEND

- Allowed under effective control all year
- Dogs prohibited 18 Dec to 31 Jan, unless transiting area and must be on leash
- Prohibited 18 Dec to 31 Jan
On leash 1 Dec to 17 Dec and 1 Feb to 30 Apr
Allowed under effective control 1 May to 30 Nov
- Dogs prohibited 18 Dec to 31 Jan
On leash 1 Feb to 17 Dec
- Prohibited all year
- Emergency Markers



Existing Dog Controls - Map 7

This area is managed by Parks Victoria
who have determined the following controls.

LEGEND

-  Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)
- Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)
-  Emergency Markers



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 KM



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PORTARLINGTON

Existing Dog Controls - Map 8

Land is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management who determines their dog control orders.

Council at its discretion may adopt such orders

LEGEND

 Dog friendly all year round, dogs must be under effective control and preferably on a lead

 No dogs permitted at any time of year

 On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4

Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:

- environmental sensitivity
- where there is an Order by Council
- the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation

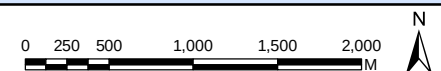
No dogs are permitted within 10 metres of a public BBQ or Children's Play Park

▲ Emergency Markers



INDENTED HEAD

ST LEONARDS

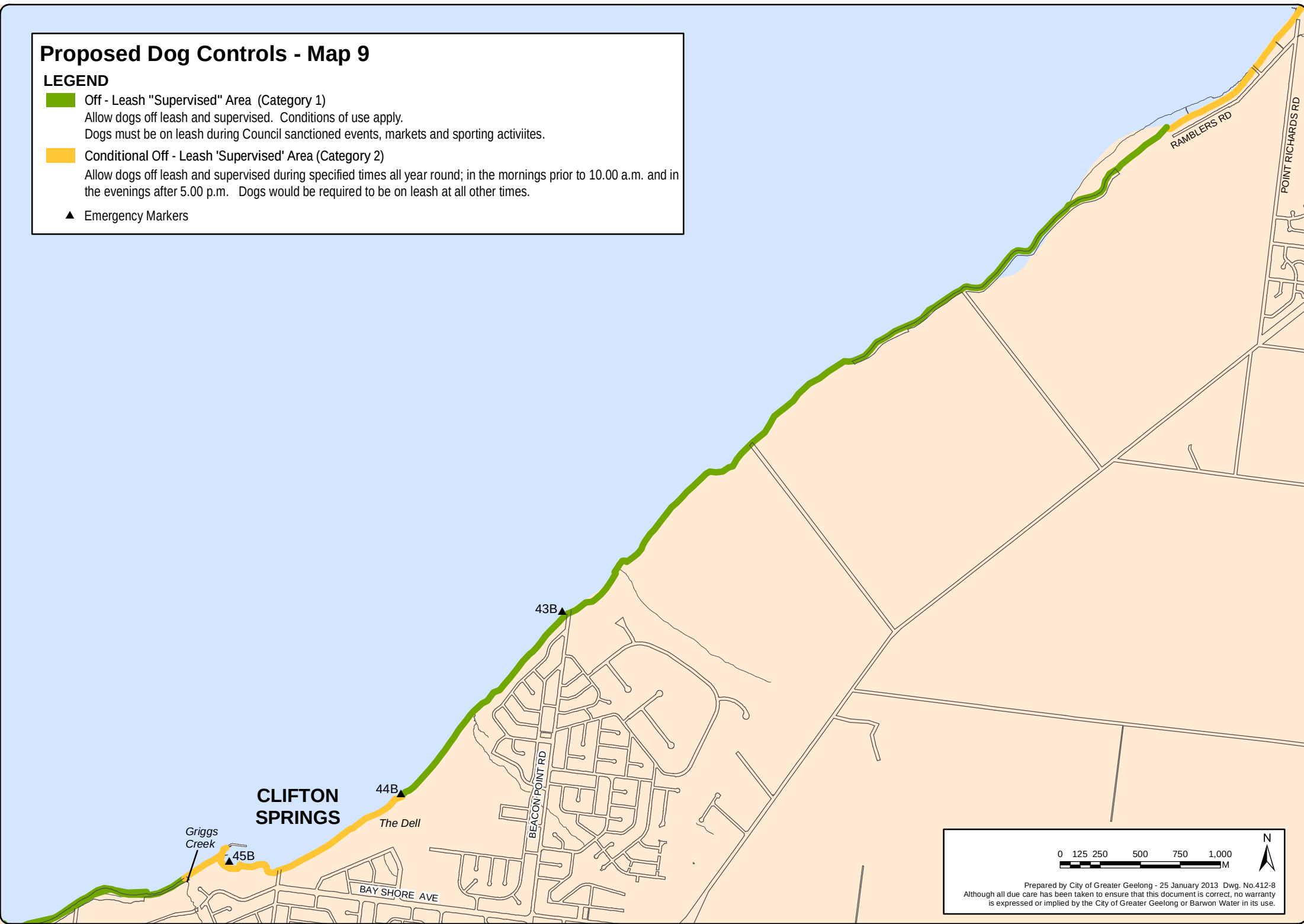


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Proposed Dog Controls - Map 9

LEGEND

-  Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activiites.
-  Conditional Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 2)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
-  Emergency Markers



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Point Henry

46B

Proposed Dog Controls - Map 10

LEGEND

-  Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
-  Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)
-  Emergency Markers

POINT HENRY RD

POINT HENRY RD

0 100 200 400 600 800
M



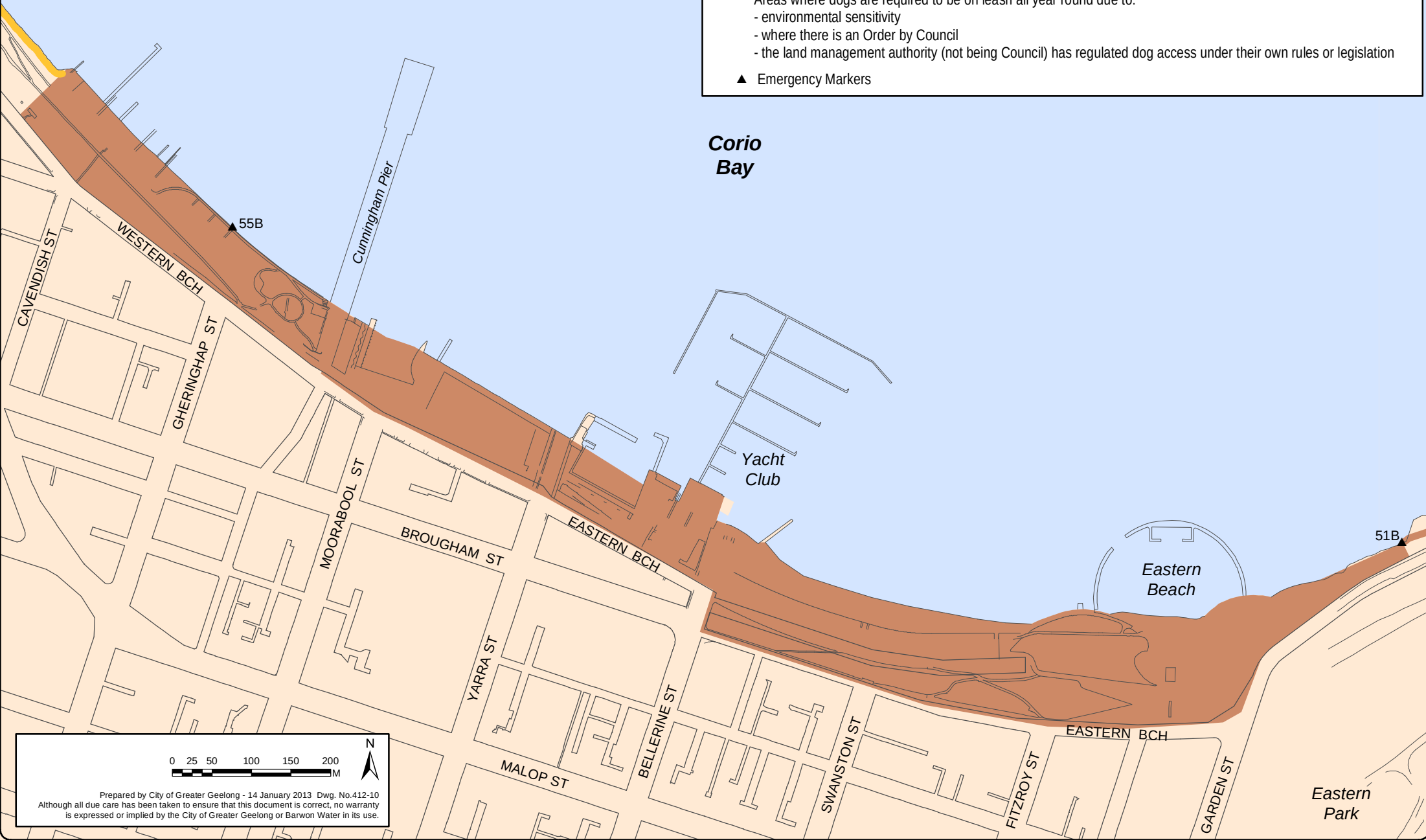
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Proposed Dog Controls - Map 11

LEGEND

-  Conditional Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 2)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
-  On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
-  Emergency Markers

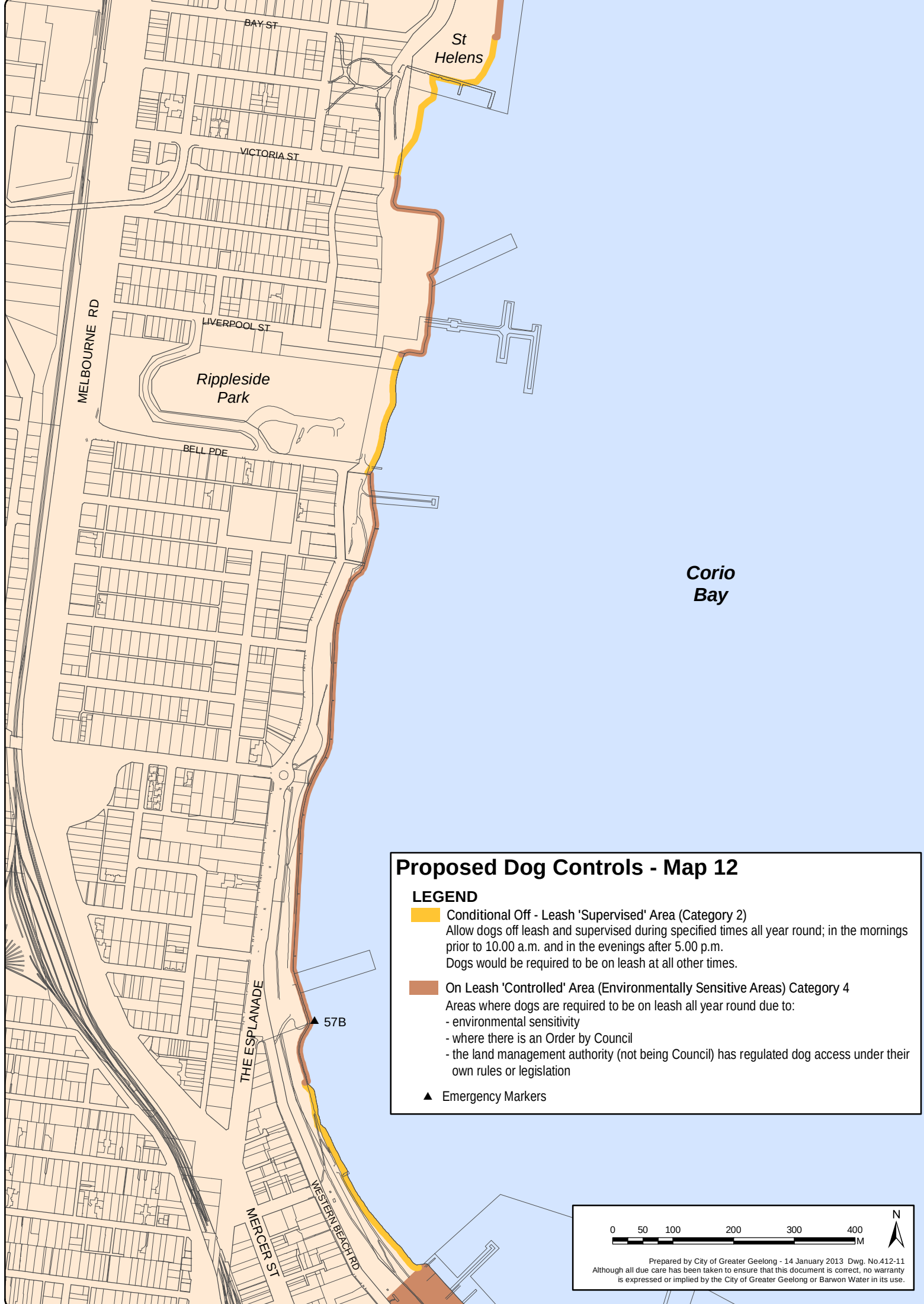
Corio Bay



0 25 50 100 150 200
M



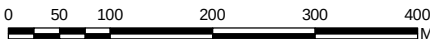
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Proposed Dog Controls - Map 12

LEGEND

- Conditional Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 2)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m.
Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
- On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
- Emergency Markers

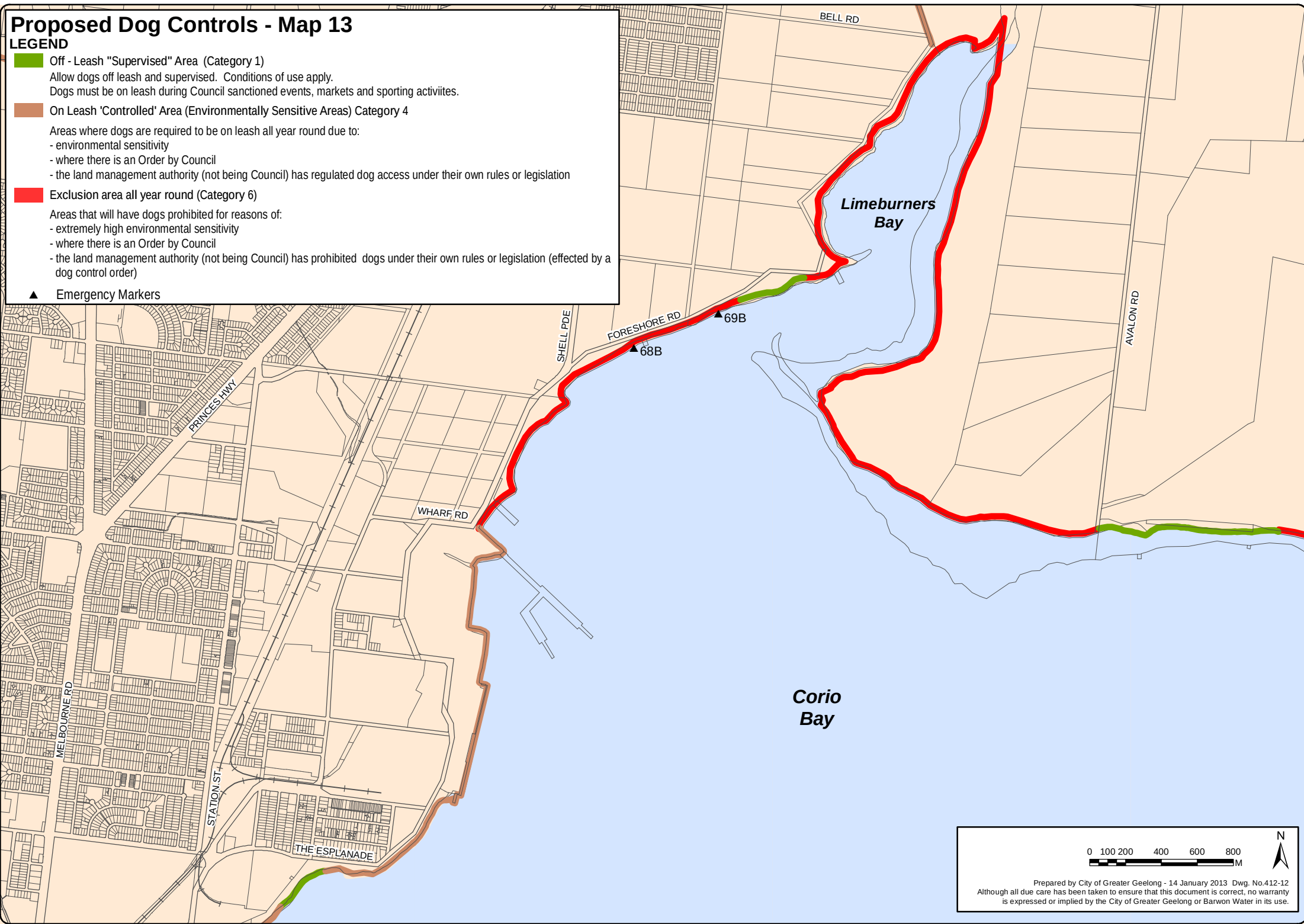


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Proposed Dog Controls - Map 13

LEGEND

-  Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
-  On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
-  Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)
-  Emergency Markers



0 100 200 400 600 800 M



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Proposed Dog Controls - Map 14

LEGEND

-  On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4
- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation

DOGS ROCKS RD
City of Greater Geelong Boundary

Batesford Reserve

HASSETT ST

HOPE ST

CROSS ST

BALLARAT RD

BRIDGE ST

BATESFORD

0 25 50 100 150 200 M

N

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4. BARWON REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP – APPOINTMENT OF SKILLS BASED DIRECTORS

Portfolio:	Environment & Sustainability – Cr Richards
Source:	City Services – Infrastructure Operations and Waste
General Manager:	Gary Van Driel
Index Reference:	Customer: Barwon Regional Waste Management Group
	Subject: Strategy – Waste Management

Summary

- The Board of the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group comprises of six Directors nominated from councillors of the Member Councils.
- The Group's constitution enables the appointment of additional Directors with specific skills by a meeting of duly authorised representatives from the Member Councils, as convened by the Board.
- The Group's constitution states:
 - "2.3 The Members may by agreement appoint persons with appropriate skills and section expertise as additional Directors for such period or periods as the Members shall decide from time to time.
 - 2.4 The appointments by Member Councils of Directors, other than Councillor(s), to the Board may be made at a meeting of duly authorised Member representatives convened by the Board."
- The Group has developed an independent skills audit process to determine any skills gap in the Board and an appointment and evaluation process to identify the preferred candidates for consideration at this meeting.
- It is considered that the appointment of these additional Directors represents a responsible approach and should be supported.
- It is also considered that the Council representatives nominated as Directors on the Board are the most appropriate persons to be the duly authorised Member Council representatives to attend this meeting.

Cr Richards moved, Cr E Kontelj seconded -

That Council:

- 1) agree to the appointment of a maximum of four skills based Directors to the Board of the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group, in accordance with the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group constitution;**
- 2) endorse the process for the appointment of these Directors, and**
- 3) duly authorise the appointed Councillor representatives to be the Council's representatives at the meeting to be convened by the Board for the purpose of appointing these Directors.**

Cr Macdonald moved, Cr Irvine seconded –

That Standing Orders be suspended to enable further discussion on the report.

Carried.

4. BARWON REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP - APPOINTMENT OF SKILLS BASED DIRECTORS (CONT'D)

Cr Richards moved, Cr Macdonald seconded –

That Standing Orders be resumed.

Carried.

Upon resumption of Standing Orders the motion was carried.

Carried.

Report

Background

The Barwon Regional Waste Management Group Board has resolved to seek the appointment of skills based directors to this Board. This is a continuation of a previous practice that has been developed over recent years and the Board now wishes to confirm the process for this to occur with the support of its Member Councils.

The Group's constitution outlines a process for the appointment of skills based directors, which involves:

'Clause 2.3: The Members may by agreement appoint persons with appropriate skills and expertise as additional Directors for such period or periods as the Members shall decide from time to time.

Clause 2.4 The appointments by Member Councils of Directors, other than Councillor(s), to the Board may be made at a meeting of duly authorised Member representatives convened by the Board'.

The Group has developed a process whereby the skills of the Member Council appointed Directors are independently audited against a list of required skills and where there is a skills 'gap' expressions of interest are called for from persons possessing these skills.

Through an evaluation process the preferred candidates are selected and considered 'at a meeting of duly authorised Member representatives'.

In identifying the skills gap the independent audit process provides a score out of six, with best practice being a score of at least five.

Discussion

The Board currently comprises of six Member Council nominated councillors, three from the City of Greater Geelong and one each from the other Members.

While the Group's responsibilities do not include significant expenditures, outside its operating costs and some programs, it does have responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the management of waste in the Barwon Region. Therefore, it is considered that the concept of ensuring that the Regional Waste Management Group Board has the appropriate skills represents a responsible approach.

It is therefore recommended that the appointment of additional Directors with the skills to cover any shortfall, at least to meet best practice, be supported.

4. BARWON REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP - APPOINTMENT OF SKILLS BASED DIRECTORS (CONT'D)

It is proposed that the process for appointment of skills based directors be subject to the independent skills audit and that through the expression of interest and evaluation process additional directors may be appointed as required.

With regards to the duly authorised Member Council representatives, the Council appoints its representatives to the Board annually and these representatives then become Directors on the Board with fiduciary responsibilities to the Group.

Council may duly appoint another councillor to be its duly authorised representative or representatives, however, there appears to be no reason why the appointed representatives to the Board should not be the duly appointed representatives to attend the meeting and in fact these representatives are most likely to be those in the best position to make a well informed appointment.

It is therefore also recommended that the duly authorised Member Council representative be the councillors appointed to the Board.

The tenure of a skills based Director is four years.

Environmental Implications

The Barwon Regional Waste Management Group plays a significant role in the protection and enhancement of the local environment through its strategic input to waste management. The higher skill level of the Board should result in better outcomes.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications. The Group's operating costs, including any Board expenses, are met by State Government funding derived from the landfill levy. Council does contribute funding of \$89K to specific projects.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The recommendations proposed have no implications for Council policies and ensure compliance with the constitution of the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group which in itself is an instrument of the Environment Protection Act 1970.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No Council Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest in the matter to which the report relates.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks identified as a consequence of the recommendations.

Social Considerations

There are no social implications as a consequence of the recommendations.

4. BARWON REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP - APPOINTMENT OF SKILLS BASED DIRECTORS (CONT'D)

Communication

The Barwon Regional Waste Management Group will be advised of the outcomes of this report in order for it to proceed with the process of appointment of skills based directors.

5. 2009-2013 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN STATUS REPORT

Portfolio: Community Development - Cr Fisher
Source: Community Services / Aged and Disability Services
General Manager: Jenny McMahon
Index Reference: Subject: Municipal Public Health Plan

Summary

- The 2009-2013 Geelong Health and Wellbeing (H&WB) Plan was adopted by Council on 23 February 2010.
- The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires Council to adopt, annually review and amend, as appropriate, their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- The plan is based on the social model of health which identifies the environmental and social factors that impact on wellbeing.
- The 2009-2013 Geelong H&WB Plan is structured around six priority themes and is consistent with previous regional and Local Government plans.
- There are 24 strategies outlined in the Plan and 119 actions.
- Actions arising from the plan are listed in CORVU and are the responsibility of respective managers and departments across Council.
- Reporting on the H&WB Plan progress is part of the corporate reporting process.
- This report contains a summary of key outcomes over the last 12 months.
- A staff evaluation of the 2009-2013 Geelong H&WB Plan points to the need for improvements in the reporting process and scope of the next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- A new Geelong H&WB Plan is being drafted for 2013-2017.

Cr Fisher moved, Cr Farrell seconded -

That Council note the progress in the implementation of the 2009-2013 Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan over the last 12 months.

Cr S Kontelj left the meeting room at 8.14pm

Cr S Kontelj re-entered the meeting room at 8.16pm

Carried.

Report

Background

The 2009-2013 Geelong H&WB Plan outlines how the City of Greater Geelong is working to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community. The plan is based on a social model of health which aims for improvements in health and wellbeing by addressing the social and environmental factors that impact on community wellbeing.

5. 2009-2013 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN STATUS REPORT (CONT'D)

The six priority themes of the plan are:

- Safe and Healthy Environment
- Preparing for Population Change
- Better Access to Services
- Community Strengthening, Social Inclusion and Mental Wellbeing
- Physical Activity and Healthy Eating
- Healthy Transport

Discussion

Some of the key achievements and issues in each of the priority themes include:

Priority Theme 1 - Safe and Healthy Environment

All precinct structure plans (PSP) prepared for Armstrong Creek (Armstrong Creek East & North East Industrial, Armstrong Creek West, Horseshoe Bend Precincts and Armstrong Creek Town Centre) have been developed using Healthy Spaces and Places guidelines. (Strategy 1.1 Action 1.01)

Council's Community Development Department have developed a new referral process which enables Council to consider the social impact that new and existing liquor licenses have on drinking culture. Data can now be fed directly into relevant information management systems and will enable mapping of licenses for the first time. (Strategy 1.1 Action 1.05)

Council continues to promote sustainable development assisted by a positive working relationship with Sustainability Victoria. The partnership with Sustainability Victoria has included a business case for sustainable development across Armstrong Creek. (Strategy 1.1 Action 1.06)

A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy has been adopted by Council and work is underway to implement the strategy. (Strategy 1.2 Action 2.04)

Community consultation is ongoing in relationship to open space and recreation reserve master planning and neighbourhood shopping centres. Active transport has been a focus within and around 3214 and the work of local health based initiatives such as Food Skil's 2&5 social enterprise in Corio/Norlane has been supported. (Strategy 1.2 Action 2.05)

Council's Environmental Health Department continues to provide and advocate for environmental health safeguards through their statutory role. This includes monitoring safe and sanitary healthy housing stock, work environments and rooming houses. The Health and Local Laws department is also concerned about compliance for disability access within rooming houses. (Strategy 1.3 Action 3.01) The Communicable Diseases Focus group continue to monitor and respond to incidents of Mycobacterium and Chlamydia rates, immunisation status and school health programs. (Strategy 1.3 Action 3.01 & 3.02)

5. 2009-2013 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN STATUS REPORT (CONT'D)

Priority Theme 2 - Preparing for Population Change

A broad program of performances, workshop events, and exhibitions has been held in the newly renovated space at the Old Courthouse Building and Council continues to maintain a presence on the Courthouse Board of Management. (Strategy 2.2 Action 2.02)

Council has expanded the Positive Ageing Strategy and is developing a strategic plan to build on the Live Well Plan. This will address areas of the Commonwealth Governments Living Longer Living Better strategy, and in particular the issues associated with an ageing population and workforce. (Strategy 2.3 Action 3.03)

The Economic Development Unit continue to develop strategies to attract funding and investment for the provision of adequate infrastructure, improving adequate workforce skills and capacity and providing necessary business support services. Geelong Small Business Festival continues to grow and worked collaboratively with G21 Councils in the development of the Regional Victoria Living Expo. (Strategy 2.4 Action 4.02)

Council has taken responsibility for the delivery of the Skilled Migration Program and has been supporting the scoping of a Transport and Logistics training program for the Northern suburbs which also supports the Northern Futures Strategic Plan. (Strategy 2.4 Actions 4.03 & 4.06)

Priority Theme 3 - Better Access to Services

Council continues to work with community partners for seamless service delivery of a number of community services some of those partnership outcomes are:

The G21 Health and Wellbeing Pillar are reviewing the activities of the Service Coordination and the Chronic Disease Management groups during 2013. Some pilot activities have commenced. Post-acute care partnerships with Barwon Health and the development of a client centred Action Service Model for Aged Care will be continued. (Strategy 3.1 Action 1.01)

Best Start Partnerships in Rosewall and with Wathaurong continue to improve health outcomes for children 0-8 in these target groups. Both have developed new action plans and brokerage projects have been funded to address key local priorities. (Strategy 3.1 Actions 1.06 & 1.07)

Information about services in the City of Greater Geelong has been increased by the maintenance of the web based and customer service directories. This includes translations for our CALD communities. Information is provided using the Community Update newsletter, City News and providing appropriate and timely community information in marginalised groups. (Strategy 3.2 Actions 2.01, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05)

Council's Community Development Department have continued to improve access to services in target populations concentrating on Whittington, Corio and Norlane. This has been achieved by supporting and delivering a number of actions outlined in the Corio Norlane Healthy City Plan. The Community Development department continues to support activities of the Community Renewal Action Strategy for Whittington and works with G21 Health and Wellbeing Pillar seeding projects through a number of working groups. (Strategy 3.3 Actions 3.01, 3.02 & 3.04)

5. 2009-2013 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN STATUS REPORT (CONT'D)

Priority Theme 4 - Community Strengthening, Social Inclusion and Mental Wellbeing

Council has supported a number of initiatives that promote mental health and wellbeing in the community - particularly in services directed at Children and Youth. These have included programs like Youth Linx and Headspace which has a base at the Potato Shed and Bellarine Secondary College. Further work continues on embedding the importance of child safety in Council's Community Safety Plan. (Strategy 4.1 Actions 1.01, 1.02, 1.03 & 1.04)

Opportunities for participation in community life was demonstrated by the successful Live Well Age Well event for seniors which included a cooking demonstration by the Gordon, presentation on Food Safety in the home by our Environmental Health Department, a healthy lunch and a demonstration of line dancing. Over 250 participants, many clients and or isolated people were brought to the event by carers, community organisations and nursing homes. (Strategy 4.2 Action 2.04)

The Geelong L2P program was awarded the L2P Excellence Award at the Victorian Community Road Safety Partnership Conference. Over 100 mentors have completed training and 110 young people have been provided with supervised driving practice. (Strategy 4.2 Action 2.05)

Reducing social isolation has been addressed in part, making access to volunteering activities easier. Online application forms for volunteering are available on City Web and Geelong Australia website and Council has strengthened its working relationship with Volunteering Geelong. (Strategy 4.3 Actions 3.01)

Council has commenced planning for a Children and Family Hub to be co-located at North Shore Primary School which includes purchase of the land and budgeting \$1.5M towards the project. (Strategy 4.3 Action 3.07)

A Geelong Gambling Advisory Committee has been established with representation from key stakeholders including neighbouring Councils, key agencies and venue operators to provide advice on matters relating to reducing problem gambling. (Strategy 4.4 Action 4.07)

Priority Theme 5 - Physical Activity and Healthy Eating

Data on food premise inspections indicate that the food sampling program is on track. Council's Environmental Health Officers have participated in a region wide survey of gluten free foods and will be active in enforcing new regulations with regard to egg safety, traceability of eggs, unsafe eggs and egg products. (Strategy 5.1 Action 1.03)

The Food Security Network, as led by Council, has completed a Needs Assessment across the whole of the municipality. Recommendations have been made using the "environments for health" framework to address the determinants of food security; to support local initiatives addressing food insecurity in disadvantaged areas; to plan for a food policy; and to continue to resource, support and grow the coordination of food security activity within the region. (Strategy 5.1 Action 1.07).

The Be Active initiative has commenced following a VicHealth allocation to Council of \$488,000 from 01/07/2012-30/06/2015. (Strategy 5.2 Action 2.01).

5. 2009-2013 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN STATUS REPORT (CONT'D)

The Healthy Together Geelong (HTG) team commenced its activities into increasing the consumption of fruit and vegetables and increasing physical activity, following the appointment of the team in 2012. The Program is based within Aged and Disability Services and is supported by a governance group representing Council, Barwon Health, Bellarine Community Health and the Department of Health.

Council continues its strategic partnerships with G21, the Corio Norlane Advisory board, GRAND and participates in a regional Human Services Network to provide a platform to address regional health and wellbeing priorities. The HTG team is working with schools, early childhood settings and with medium to large workplaces. All Council City and Learning Care centres and childhood services are participating in the initiative. (Strategy 5.3 Action 3.01 Strategy 5.5 Action 5.01)

Priority Theme 6 - Healthy Transport

In partnership with Roadsafe Barwon, Council delivered 13 Fit2Drive Year 11 workshops and continues to promote road safety and active travel during 'Walk and Ride to School' events during the year. (Strategy 6.1 Action 1.02)

A local social media, marketing and education campaign 'On the Buses' occurred in February 2013 to increase the use and awareness of public and community transport in targeted areas. (Strategy 6.2 Action 2.01)

New parking options have meant less demand for the Park and Ride in the CBD. Night bus use is low due to taxis impacting on rank availability. The Safe taxi rank is well supported and serves approximately 1200 travellers per week. (Strategy 6.2 Action 2.04)

Active transport will continue to be promoted through recommendations to Council from the Streets Ahead project, and some projects may be supported and incorporated into activities of the Healthy Together Geelong Team. Principal Pedestrian Network assessments for Marshall and Grovedale with Department of Transport and foot path programs in Corio/Norlane are underway. Grant funding was received for the Community Infrastructure Program for Leopold with the Melaluka Road footpath now complete. G21 Bicycle Infrastructure Group projects have been submitted to VicRoads for funding. The Walkability/Wayfinding signage program will be progressively extended to outer areas. (Strategy 6.4 Actions 4.01 & 4.02)

Staff Evaluation of H&WB Plan

A staff evaluation of the 2009-2013 Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan was recently conducted and incorporated an internal cross-departmental meeting followed up by an online survey (20 respondents).

Findings from this evaluation included:

- that 74% of staff had used the Plan in their current role
- that health data was the aspect of the Plan the most number of staff were satisfied with (55%)
- that the reporting process was the aspect of the Plan the most number of staff were dissatisfied with (30%)
- the collective view of respondents was that the Plan needs to be more integrated, strategic and aspirational.

5. 2009-2013 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN STATUS REPORT (CONT'D)

This feedback will be considered as part of the process for developing the next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan which is due to be completed by October 2013.

Environmental Implications

A key priority of the 2009-2013 Geelong Strategic Health Plan 2006-2009 is 'Safe and Healthy Environment' with actions designed to enhance and preserve the natural environment, whilst creating a supportive built environment for the health of residents.

Financial Implications

All actions within the Health and Wellbeing plan are provided for in individual departmental budgets or are dependant upon external funding.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The annual update of the 2009-2013 Geelong H&WB Plan fulfils the requirements outlined under Section 26 (4) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any direct or indirect interest relative to the advice provided in the report.

Risk Assessment

The preparation of this report ensures compliance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and contributes to Council's aim to achieve the actions outlined in the Plan by February 2014.

Social Considerations

The 2009-2013 Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan reinforces Council's commitment to addressing the social determinants of health through planned and sustained action.

Communication

This report will be available to the community via the Geelong Australia website and on request.

6. 2013-2017 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT

Portfolio:	Community Development - Cr Fisher
Source:	Community Services / Aged and Disability Services
General Manager:	Jenny McMahon
Index Reference:	Subject: Municipal Public Health Plan 2013-2017

Summary

- The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (the Act) requires that each Council develop and implement a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of a general Council election.
- The 2013-2017 Geelong Health and Wellbeing (H&WB) Plan will come to Council for consideration to be placed on public exhibition at its July 2013 meeting and to Council's September meeting for adoption. Timelines for delivery of the 2013-2017 H&WB Plan are attached (Appendix 6-1).
- In developing and when approving the H&WB Plan, Council is expected to have regard to the Council Plan as well as other relevant legislation such as the Climate Change Act 2010 and Tobacco Act 1987.
- The H&WB Plan also takes account of associated Council policy that impacts on the social, economic, natural and built environments as they effect community health and wellbeing.
- The Community Wellbeing Arena formed out of Council's City Plan has officer oversight of the development of the H&WB Plan. A Preventive Health Planning Group has been developed to prepare the plan under the direction of the Community Wellbeing Arena.
- In the development of the 2013-2017 H&WB Plan Council also needs to consider the VicHealth Physical Activity Framework (Appendix 6-2); the Regional Physical Activity Strategy and the health and social data from the Department of Health, other LGA's and Community Health Services.
- Council is hosting a stakeholder forum on 23 April 2013 at the Geelong Conference Centre.

Cr Fisher moved, Cr Farrell seconded -

That Council note the timeframes for the development of its Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Carried.

Report

Background

Council's H&WB Plan is a requirement of the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (the Act) which sees that a plan needs to be delivered to the Minister for Health within 12 months of a general Council election.

6. 2013-2017 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT (CONT'D)

The previous 2009-2013 Geelong H&WB Plan outlined how the City of Greater Geelong worked to enhance the health and wellbeing of the community. The plan was based on a social model of health which aimed for improvements in health and wellbeing by addressing the social and environmental factors that impact on community wellbeing.

City Plan is Council's overarching document guiding Council's strategies and action. One of the three proposed strategic directions in City Plan is 'Community Wellbeing'. The Strategic Directions of City Plan are supported by cross-divisional arenas which are attended by General Managers and Managers. The Community Wellbeing Arena has convened a Preventive Health Planning Group to develop Council's 2013-17 H&WB Plan.

In the development of the 2013-2017 H&WB Plan Council also needs to consider congruence of planning and collaboration opportunities with the other regional LGA's. The Victorian Department of Health has agreed to provide funding to assist regional collaboration in H&WB planning.

The VicHealth Physical Activity Framework (Appendix 6-2)

Council received \$488,000 from VicHealth to address low rates of physical activity. A requirement of the funding is for Council to consider the VicHealth Physical Activity framework when developing its H&WB Plan.

The VicHealth Physical Activity framework is being supported by Councils Recreation departments and this work will feed into the H&WB plan.

Discussion

A stakeholder forum is being held 23 April 2013 from 9.00am – 12.00pm at the Geelong Conference Centre to obtain input from stakeholders into the development of Council's H&WB Plan.

Council is utilising the Department of Health's 'Guide to municipal public health and wellbeing planning' to undertake the development of the 2013-17 H&WB Plan. The Plan provides a summary of current Victorian legislative and policy requirements; outlines key elements for effective planning for a healthy community represented within a six-stage planning cycle; recommends actions and milestones at each stage in this planning cycle to develop and implement a municipal public health and wellbeing plan; and provides references to relevant data and further resources.

The six stages in the planning cycle are:

- 1) Pre-planning
- 2) Municipal scan
- 3) Engagement
- 4) Planning decisions
- 5) Implementation
- 6) Evaluation

6. 2013-2017 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT (CONT'D)

Attachment 1 to this report outlines the timelines for the development of Council's 2013-17 H&WB Plan from stage 1-4. Stages five and six will occur after adoption of the Plan.

Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Planning will deliver a relatively small number of high-level strategic priority issues that are common for the five municipalities and that can be jointly implemented and evaluated. It will link to other completed or potential plans addressing regional growth, public transport and physical activity. It will also assist in the delivery of the H&WB Plan for each Council in the region that meets the requirements of the Act.

Councils H&WB Plan will be developed in conjunction with Council officers, local stakeholders and service providers and will reflect the unique LGA population profile and issues. Opportunities exist to link or extend stakeholder feedback currently being sought for other Council planning processes to avoid consultation fatigue and to ensure a broad spread of community, services and local organisations are engaged.

VICHEALTH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FRAMEWORK

The VicHealth physical activity framework has been provided to Council through the Be Active funding for Council to consider how the framework may fit within Council's H&WB Plan.

The VicHealth Be Active funding awarded to Council is providing funding for the development of the Regional Strategy. Council's Sport, Recreation and Open Space Department is contributing funding to the development of a City of Greater Geelong local action plan to implement the Regional Strategy locally. Colac-Otway Shire is also funding development of a local action plan for the Colac-Otway Shire.

Environmental Implications

In developing its H&WB Plan Council is required to have regard for legislation such as the Climate Change Act 2010.

Financial Implications

The development of Council's H&WB Plan is being undertaken by Council staff and staff funded through VicHealth's Be Active grant. The Regional Physical Activity Strategy is being funded through the VicHealth Be Active funding together with a contribution from Council for the development of a Council wide local action plan.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The development and delivery of Council's 2013-2017 Geelong H&WB Plan will fulfil the requirements outlined under Section 26 (4) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and will have regard for legislation such as the Climate Change Act 2010 and Tobacco Act 1987.

6. 2013-2017 GEELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING DEVELOPMENT PLAN REPORT (CONT'D)

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any direct or indirect interest relative to the advice provided in the report.

Risk Assessment

The preparation of this report ensures compliance with the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Social Considerations

The 2013-2017 Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan will outline in part Council's commitment to addressing the social determinants of health through planned and sustained action.

Development of the 2013-17 H&WB Plan will benefit from community consultation through the following forums:

- a) City Plan
- b) Municipal Early Years Plan survey
- c) Council H&WB Plan stakeholder forum 23 April 2013
- d) Key informant interviews for the Regional Physical Activity Strategy
- e) Regional Physical Activity Strategy stakeholder forum (date yet to be confirmed).

Communication

This report will be available to the community via the Geelong Australia website and on request.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

[illegible]

Key social and economic determinants of physical inactivity								
Individual/family		Organisational/clubs		Community		Societal		
• Inability of individuals to implement strategies to maintain their health		• Organisational cultures and practices prohibit participation for some groups		• Communities are developed with a focus on profit at the expense of health		• Institutional practices and social norms prohibit participation		
Key contributing factors								
Individual/family		Organisational/clubs		Community		Societal		
• Lack of time • Cost • Lack of motivation, support or companionship • Parental restrictions on children’s activity • Low self-esteem • Increased screen use time (online, television) • Illness or injury		• Lack of inclusive policies and practices • Increased regulatory burden for volunteers • Inadequate sport and recreation facilities • Sedentary work		• Poor planning mechanisms leading to inadequate facilities and open space • Over-reliance on cars and limited access to public transport • Limited relationships and connections between community members		• Fear of strangers and crime • Fear of litigation • Increased use of technology • Social norms support poor spectator behaviour		
Priority populations				Actions to increase physical activity				
• Children and young people • Women and men • Older people • Indigenous communities		• Culturally diverse communities • Rural communities • Low socioeconomic communities • People with a disability		• Research, monitoring and evaluation • Direct participation programs • Organisational development • Strengthening communities and community environments		• Communication and social marketing • Advocacy • Legislative and policy reform		
Priority settings for action								
Transport	Community sector	Education	Workplace	Sport and active recreation	Health	Academic	Local government	Arts
Intermediate outcomes								
Individual/family		Organisational/clubs		Community		Societal		
Individuals/families who: • are more physically active • have improved self-esteem • spend less time online or watching television • have more social connections • are more involved in community and group activities.		Organisations/clubs that: • are safe, accessible and inclusive • have policies and structures to reduce sedentary behaviour and increase physical activity • work in partnership to support active living • build collaborative partnerships with a range of stakeholders.		Environments that: • support and promote active living • reflect awareness of health issues • are safe, accessible, inclusive and supportive.		A society with: • strong legislative platforms for active living • appropriate resource allocation that reflects the value of physical activity • citizens who confidently access public spaces.		
Long-term benefits								
• Improved physical and mental health • Stronger relationships • Increased sense of belonging • Improved problem-solving and academic performance		• Improved productivity and lower absenteeism • Greater workforce retention • Resources and activities integrated across sectors and settings		• Active communities • Increased social connection • More resilient to societal and environmental change • Reduced health care costs • Reduced carbon emissions		• Reduced health inequalities • Improved quality of life and life expectancy • Reduced burden of disease		

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN

Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Parks and Gardens – Cr Ellis
Source:	Projects, Recreation and Central Geelong / Sport & Recreation
General Manager:	Dean Frost
Index Reference:	Property: #253244, 3 High Ridge Drive, Clifton Springs

Summary

- The purpose of this report is for Council to formally endorse the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan.
- The Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan was commissioned by Council to guide the development of the reserve in line with the Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan (2008), the Drysdale Clifton Springs Structure Plan (2010), the Bellarine Peninsula Recreation and Leisure Needs Study (2005), and the expectations of the local community.
- Key recommendations of the Beacon Point Master Plan include retaining the reserve as parkland for passive recreation, protecting and improving coastal biodiversity values, protecting cultural heritage values, improving recreational access to the beach and involving the local community in the ongoing implementation of the master plan's actions.

Cr Ellis moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That Council endorse the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan.

Cr Heagney left the meeting room at 8.28pm

Cr Heagney re-entered the meeting room at 8.30pm

Carried.

Report

Background

Beacon Point Reserve including the Scarborough Creek open space corridor is a 12 hectare local open space reserve located on the North East fringe of the Drysdale township. The reserve currently plays a dual role as a passive piece of open space and drainage reserve. Beacon Point Reserve is the largest relatively flat open grassed area within the narrow coast reserve east of the boat harbour at Clifton Springs. There is no formal access to the beach from the cliff-top east of Beacon Point (the point) and steep, unformed and eroding cliff tracks are used informally by locals.

The Drysdale Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan (2008) and the Drysdale Clifton Springs Structure Plan (2010) recommend an investigation of beach access from Beacon Point Reserve, revegetation of the coastal reserve, improvement of bicycle and pedestrian networks and establishment of new picnic facilities. The aim of the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan is to develop a guide for the future development of the reserve in line with these existing strategic documents and having regard to the local community's aspirations.

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN (CONT'D)

Discussion

The master planning process involved a review of background information, including a detailed review of the Drysdale Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan (2008), the Drysdale Clifton Springs Structure Plan (2010) and the Bellarine Peninsula Recreation and Leisure Needs Study (2005). A summary of general actions and those specific to Beacon Point Reserve is included in the master plan report.

Key objectives of the Beacon Point Master Plan include the following:

- To ensure the reserve retains its character consistent with its surroundings and coastal setting;
- To identify, maintain and enhance key viewing points across Port Philip Bay;
- To implement environmentally sustainable design practices to ensure the long term viability of informal recreation in the reserve;
- To investigate locations for paths, seating, shelters, signage and new facilities as appropriate;
- To investigate trail links to nearby significant foreshore reserves, including The Dell;
- To consider and incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and best practice access and mobility principles;
- To indicate appropriate ecological vegetation class (EVC) references for use of indigenous species in revegetation including proposed trees and areas of shrubs and grasses/ groundcovers/ wetland plants;
- To provide recommendations to restore habitat, establish links and reduce the impact on the environmental and heritage values of the park; and
- To incorporate recommendations for registered sites and areas of indigenous and European cultural heritage sensitivity as previously identified.

The following formal reference groups were established to provide input into the planning process:

- Project Control Group (PCG) to provide high level strategic direction;
- Project Working Group (PWG) to provide technical advice on the project; and
- Project Reference Group (PRG) to provide advice on local values and uses of the reserve during the research and analysis phase.

The consultation and research undertaken during the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan confirmed a number of issues that had been raised during the more extensive community consultation carried out in the preparation of the Drysdale Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan during 2007.

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN (CONT'D)

Items suggested for consideration in the master plan included:

- Investigate beach access using a previously disturbed route starting near Scarborough Creek and angling west down the cliff;
- Retain the informal, natural character of the reserve;
- Improve pedestrian circulation; the existing goat tracks are uneven and restrict access by the elderly and people with less mobility;
- Identify ways for the Friends of Beacon Point Reserve to contribute to the improvement of the reserve;
- Develop guidelines for appropriate species to be used for revegetation works and identify strategic locations for planting in order to retain passive surveillance and views to the bay; and
- Improve the ground surface through weed management and more frequent maintenance.

Initial consultation with key council officers from across CoGG departments and relevant agencies has indicated support.

Section 4 of the master plan report outlines the recommended implementation schedule and indicative capital costs for the works identified. The total cost of works is estimated at \$1,724,050 and is broken down as follows:

Mandatory	\$6,750
Critical	Nil
High	\$174,300
Medium	\$938,000
Low	\$605,000

Key recommendations of the draft Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan include:

- Continuing the existing fence along the extent of the coastal foreshore and installing new cautionary signage;
- Establishing a new walking trail from Beacon Point Reserve to the beach access at Cantata Way;
- Investigating access to the beach between Beacon Point and Scarborough Creek;
- Providing a new picnic area with upgraded picnic facilities and tree planting if beach access is provided at Beacon Point Reserve;
- Replacing the existing recycled plastic tables with tables of more natural materials;
- Installing new seats at key locations in Beacon Point Reserve and along the coastal reserve, in association with new walking paths;
- Providing additional dog bins and biodegradable plastic bags to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs in accordance with Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan;

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN (CONT'D)

- Investigating the formalisation of open grass areas away from the new picnic area as 'dog off lead' in accordance with the current City of Greater Geelong Domestic Animal Management Plan;
- Liaising with adjoining landholders and the local community to carefully site planting areas for additional indigenous trees and shrubs along private property boundaries;
- Investigating the establishment of an off-line water quality treatment wetland at Beacon Point Reserve; and
- A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for any ground-disturbing works in Beacon Point Reserve including new beach access, paths, wetland/drainage and picnic area works.

Implementation of these and the further recommendations in the report will improve the overall amenity and biodiversity of the reserve, improve its capacity for passive recreation and provide consistent safe access.

Environmental Implications

The master plan includes recommendations on footpath linkages to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists along the Clifton Springs foreshore and from the Drysdale town centre. The reserve is also serviced by the bus network running along Beacon Point Road. Implementation of the linkages recommended in the master plan report would make Beacon Point Reserve very accessible by non-motorised means and/or public transport, minimising greenhouse emissions by people visiting the reserve.

Beacon Point Reserve will continue to draw minimally on potable water supplies. Future development of the reserve will include very low-use items such as a tap associated with a barbecue and a public toilet. The reserve is not currently nor is it proposed to be irrigated.

The Master Plan proposes an investigation into an offline water quality treatment wetland to treat low flows that currently discharge untreated stormwater to the beach. The untreated stormwater runoff released into Port Phillip Bay may have an adverse effect on the existing marine life and a significant seagrass meadow in the adjoining coastal water. The installation of a low flow diversion pipe from the reserve's existing pit system into a new offline weir would improve the quality of low flow stormwater runoff. Using the natural mounded topography around the Barwon Water Pumping Station would minimise the earthworks required to construct a wetland. Wetland planting would improve biodiversity and habitat values in the reserve.

Wetland planting, as well as revegetation of coastal vegetation along the cliff and Plains Grassy Woodland along Scarborough Creek will improve biodiversity and habitat values in the reserve. An increased setback of the fencing along the cliff top will provide protection for the natural geomorphological values of the cliffs while revegetation will minimise threats to erosion and water quality caused by urban stormwater.

Financial Implications

The Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan makes a number of recommendations and provides indicative costings for the recommended projects.

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN (CONT'D)

Where the implementation of specific recommendations will require a new capital allocation from Council, these will be presented and considered during the process of annual budget considerations. Opportunities for contributions from funding sources external from Council are listed against specific items in the implementation schedule.

The implementation schedule provides a broad estimate of costs specific to each recommended action. The actions are prioritised according to the following categories: mandatory, critical, high, medium, low; these are used to guide Council's decision-making in relation to development at the reserve.

While the adoption of this report does not have any direct financial implications, the listed actions within the plan will cost in the order of \$1,724,050. It is expected that the master plan will be implemented over an approximate timeframe of 10-15 years.

The total cost of works at the reserve is estimated at \$1,724,050 and is broken down as follows:

Mandatory	\$6,750
Critical	Nil
High	\$174,300
Medium	\$938,000
Low	\$605,000

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The Equal Opportunity Act (1995) protects Victorians against discrimination based on a wide range of personal characteristics or associations. These include (but are not limited to) age, gender, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, religion and employment status. The Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan recognises that all community members have equal rights to participate in and enjoy the benefits of recreation and the natural environment. Any development at Beacon Point Reserve will consider design solutions to facilitate access for all.

Cultural Heritage Management Plans are mandatory for listed high impact activities proposed for listed areas of cultural heritage sensitivity, as defined in the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007. There is a registered aboriginal archaeological site (AAV 7821-0387) within the study area and the Clifton Springs coastal reserve has significant cultural heritage values. A CHMP may be required for any ground disturbing works in Beacon Point Reserve including new beach access, fencing, paths, wetland/drainage and picnic area works.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No Council staff or persons engaged under contract have a direct or indirect interest in the development of the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan.

Risk Assessment

The Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan provides guidance for the development of this important piece of open space over the next 10-15 years.

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN (CONT'D)

There are no immediate risks associated with endorsing this report. Appropriate risk management measures will be put in place when implementing the recommendations of the report.

Council is currently exposed to risk through the easy public access to the steep and unstable cliff-top at Beacon Point Reserve. The mandatory items in the Implementation Schedule relate to the extension and repair of fencing along the cliff-top and associated cautionary signage to deter public access.

Social Considerations

Implementation of the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan will enhance recreational and social opportunities in the reserve through improvements in connections and circulation as well as by improving facilities for people to spend longer periods at the reserve.

Included in the recommendations of the master plan is an unsealed all ability walking trail through the reserve and improvements to the grading and surface of the grass area which will increase the ease with which people with limited mobility can move through the reserve.

Communication

The Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan process has been overseen by a three-tiered management structure. The three tiers are:

- Project Control Group (PCG) consisting of the Ward Councillor and key council officers to provide high level strategic direction on key issues and opportunities.
- Project Working Group (PWG) consisting of council officers from across CoGG departments and relevant agencies to provide technical advice on the project.
- Project Reference Group (PRG) consisting of representatives of Friends of Beacon Point Reserve, Drysdale Clifton Springs Community Association, Bellarine Landcare Group and a number of local residents who had made contact with Council expressing interest in the project. The PRG provided advice on local values and uses of the reserve during the research and analysis phase.

The planning process involved a comprehensive review of background material, including the significant body of information generated by the public consultation process conducted in 2007 for the Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan. As a result of having such relevant and significant information already to hand, the public consultation for the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan was limited to a workshop with local interest groups and associations and residents who had made contact with Council expressing an interest in the reserve.

The consultation included:

- Two Project Working Group meetings. These included council officers, Barwon Water (first meeting) and Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (second meeting).
- Community stakeholder workshop attended by 20 community members, including representatives from the Friends of Beacon Point Reserve, Drysdale Clifton Springs Community Association Inc. and the Bellarine Landcare Group.

7. BEACON POINT RESERVE MASTER PLAN (CONT'D)

- An article in the Have Your Say section of City News, distributed to all readers of the Geelong Advertiser and the Independent, invited feedback to be submitted via Council's website, email or phone.

Public submissions and notes from the community stakeholder workshop at the analysis stage can be found at Appendices A and B, respectively, of the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan Report. These and the historic consultation results were used to inform the identification of issues and major themes for consideration in the Master Plan.

The Beacon Point Reserve Draft Master Plan was released for public comment between 9 November and 7 December 2012. The following steps were taken to provide opportunities for the community to provide feedback on the report:

- Copies of the master plan were available for viewing at the Drysdale and City Hall Customer Service Centres;
- Copies of the master plan were emailed or posted to all participants in the community stakeholder workshop and to all those who submitted comments by telephone or email during the research and analysis phase;
- Copies of the one-page illustrative master plan with notes were distributed via letter box drop to the 70 properties that share a boundary with the reserve or are in very close proximity; and
- The public comment period of four weeks was advertised in City News on 16 November 2012 and on the Geelong Australia website between 9 November and 7 December 2012.

In total, 16 public submissions were received and are included in full at Appendix C of the Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan Report. A summary of the comments received by Council regarding the draft Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan is outlined in Appendix 1.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT MASTER PLAN FEBRUARY 2013

No	Summarised Comments	Response
1	Concerned that the removal of woody weeds and replacement with inappropriate plant species will negatively impact habitat for resident native birds.	The Draft Master Plan did not undertake surveys of existing fauna. Investigation of any future beach access location will be subject to geotechnical, archaeological and flora and fauna assessments as required by DSE. Major weed control works are a low priority. Recommendation: Add note clarifying that existing vegetation including declared weeds such as boxthorn and gorse provide important stability and habitat in absence of natural vegetation on the steep eroding cliffs. Management options will focus on control of spread and removal will not be undertaken until revegetation provides equivalent habitat.
2a	Open grass area of Beacon Point Reserve: supported.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
2b	New wetland: supported.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
2c	Picnic Area: supported in principle. Public toilets (closed at night) should be an integral component of the picnic area upgrade (independent of the formalisation of beach access) and be given a high priority.	As noted in the Draft Master, the establishment of toilet facilities at Beacon Point Reserve will only be considered when there is a significant increase in visitation levels following the successful provision of beach access. Recommendation: No change to plan
2d	Foreshore & cliff top area: supported in principle. The extension to the unsealed walking track along the cliff top should be independent of the creation of beach access to improve safety and access to Scarborough Creek and minimise erosion. Beach access east of Beacon Point is not strictly necessary, which would be a cost saving.	Implementation of new unsealed walking paths at Beacon Point Reserve will be staged and aim to provide loop walking experience. If beach access cannot be established east of Beacon Point, a formal unsealed path extension of the trail will become lower priority. Recommendation: No change to plan
2e	Scarborough Creek: supported in principle, but propose an unsealed track along Scarborough Creek rather than leaving it as grass with a muddy goat track.	There is no open space link south out of Scarborough Creek and therefore establishment of a formal path is a low priority. Recommendation: No change to plan
2f	Tree planting must consider the maintenance of bay and rural views from adjoining landholders' properties. A note as such is missing from Section A.	The Draft Master Plan recommends liaising with the adjoining land holders to establish new indigenous trees along the property boundaries to ensure that views are maintained. Recommendation: Add text to notes in Section A about maintaining views along property boundaries.
2g	Weed and pest control measures along Scarborough Creek should be increased and the problem brought under control before planting commences.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
3a	Post and rail fence is required along the length of Edgewater Drive to prevent vehicles parking on the grass.	There is extensive on street parking and vehicles accessing grass areas does not appear to be a significant problem. Recommendation: Liaise with CoGG Traffic Engineering to confirm the need for additional vehicle control barriers along Edgewater Drive.
3b	Install more wooden seats along the Edgewater Drive reserve.	The Master Plan recommends that new seats be installed at key locations along the coastal reserve. Recommendation: No change to plan
3c	Install a walking track right along the water's edge at the base of the cliffs from Scarborough Creek along the foreshore to The Dell.	Establishment of a walking track at the base of the cliff is not possible due to the risks associated with the naturally occurring cliff erosion and high tides. Investi-

		gation of links to The Dell is proposed in accordance with the Clifton Springs Management Plan. Recommendation: No change to plan
3d	Install a walking path along the western side of Scarborough Creek through to the Geelong-Portarlington Road.	Refer to 2d Land adjacent Geelong Portarlington Road is privately owned. The Master Plan and Structure Plan recommend investigation of this link if land is redeveloped. Recommendation: No change to plan
3e	Include drinking water facilities at the Beacon Point Reserve and more along Edgewater Drive.	Provision of drinking fountain will be considered as part of the investigation to upgrade picnic and toilet facilities at Beacon Point Reserve, following successful provision of beach access. Recommendation: No change to plan
4a	Need to accommodate extreme weather conditions and climate change effects, and utilise and conserve our resources, as well as keeping it as a people friendly place. I believe it is more appropriate to work this into a long term plan rather than short term modifications which will not achieve the desirable outcomes indicated above. Concern over the proposal for a wetland on a cliff top known to be fragile and unstable. Not logical and not likely to be structurally sound (like the pool at The Dell). There are caverns under the ground in the area, discovered when the pump station infrastructure was installed.	The proposed water quality treatment wetland is aimed at removing nutrients and sediment from low flows before these are released back into the bay via the main stormwater drain. Installation of a clay lining to the wetland will ensure minimal seepage into the natural ground and a full geotechnical investigation will be completed as part of detailed design. Recommendation: No change to plan
4b	A water feature would be better suited to the Scarborough Creek area in the form of a series of dams for water capture and reuse rather than discharge to the bay. Dams could provide water for irrigation of the reserve and the fire brigade and be easier to monitor..	Scarborough Creek is a natural waterway and existing flora and fauna values preclude the modification of this system to install dams. Recommendation: No change to plan
4c	Beach renourishment at the foot of the cliff would extend the beach further into the bay and protect the foot of the cliff from erosion and rising sea levels. The fill area could be planted out and a picnic area established.	Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) are responsible for beach renourishment works. There are no planned works east of Beacon Point. Recommendation: No change to plan
4d	Cannot see any beach access at the end of Beacon Point Road.	The Draft Master Plan recommends the investigation of a new beach access east of Beacon Point, subject to geotechnical, flora & fauna and archaeological investigations. Recommendation: No change to plan
5	A larger wetland would have more benefits for local birds.	The wetland catchment is relatively small and would be aimed at treating low flows only to ensure sustainability of planting. Beacon Point Reserve also provides the largest open flat grassed area along the coastal reserve and use must be balanced against the need for passive recreation. Recommendation: No change to plan
6	Support the reserve plan but would like to see more improvements (paths, beach access, parking and bollards) at the western end of the coastal reserve, near Edgewater/Centaurus intersection, where there are more tracks and access is easier. This would be a more efficient use of funds because there is more existing infrastructure and better connections to other attractions such as The Dell.	The Draft Master Plan provides recommendations for the staged development of facilities including beach access at Beacon Point Reserve, which is a key open space area along the coastal foreshore as identified in the Clifton Springs Management Plan 2008. Improvements to other beach access points along the coastal reserve is outside the scope of this project. Recommendation: No change to plan

7	Would have liked to see a playground or interactive equipment for children as other local playgrounds are not well located or much used.	The two existing playgrounds are located within walking distance to Beacon Point Reserve and are accessible to the local community. Provision of additional playground facilities at Beacon Point is not proposed in the short-medium term but may be reconsidered if beach access and upgraded picnic facilities are established. Recommendation: No change to plan
8a	Opposed to upgrading the picnic facilities and installation of a public toilet. Require clarification on proposed timeframe for public toilet installation.	The potential provision of beach access at Beacon Point will prompt a potential increase in use and visitation levels at Beacon Point Reserve. The facilities in the park will be then required to appropriately provide the level of service and infrastructure to cater for this increase. Until there is beach access however there will be no toilet facility required. Recommendation: No change to plan
8b	Beach access east of Beacon Point should be a high priority. There should be mention of the walking/bike path link from The Dell to Portarlinton. The Reserve already has a number of regular users and any increase after beach access is provided will need careful management	The investigation of the location and feasibility of beach access to the east of Beacon Point is identified as a high priority in the Draft Master Plan. The Draft Master Plan also identifies the future need to complete the trail link to the Dell, as identified in the Clifton Springs Management Plan. Noted. Recommendation: No change to plan
8c	A nature play space near the wetlands would be nice. Concerned about mosquitos that may breed in the lake. More information about tree species. Not sure about public toilets. A lake may enhance the area. More information needed on the following: method of filling with water; keeping it from stagnating; keeping it free from mosquitos; safety controls and restrictions; types of wildlife and fish to be introduced; OH&S rules; how the passive feel of the area will be retained.	There is no intention to establish a lake. The Draft Master Plan recommends the establishment of a water quality treatment wetland. This will dry out in periods of warm weather and will not increase levels of mosquitos. Refer 4a and 5. The potential water quality treatment wetland will improve biodiversity and habitat values for birds however there will be no other wildlife introduced and the wetland will not support fish. Recommendation: No change to plan
8d	Recreation: where is the narrow path to link High Ridge Drive with Cantata Drive shown on the Plan?	The narrow 1.5m unsealed path runs along the eastern boundary of the reserve and along the foreshore reserve through to the access stairs at Cantata Way. The new path is shown as a thin yellow strip on the plan. Recommendation: No change to plan
8e	Park facilities: more information regarding the timing of beach access and public toilet.	Refer to 8b. Recommendation: No change to plan
8f	Barwon Water Pumping Station: should be sensitively fenced in.	The Draft Master Plan recommends liaising with Barwon Water to improve the visual exterior of the pumping station building. Recommendation: No change to plan
8g	Prefer Option B for beach access at the mouth of Scarborough Creek subject to the findings of a CHMP. Such an access could be built running along the creek embankment and should be designed in consultation with the Friends of Beacon Point Reserve.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
8h	The strip of reserve along Scarborough Creek should be 'dog off lead' to be consistent with the main part of the reserve.	The Draft Master Plan recommends 'dog on lead' along the Scarborough Creek corridor to protect the existing environmental values in the creek and minimise disturbance to other dogs and livestock in the adjoining properties along the corridor.

		Recommendation: No change to plan
8i	Support the recommendations under 'Flora and Fauna' but it is important that the height of any trees and shrubs is kept to a minimum.	Noted Refer 2f. Recommendation: Amend Draft Master Plan as per recommendation in 2f.
8j	Pest animal control is required to preserve native vegetation, encourage native fauna and to prevent ground disturbance.	The unfenced eastern boundary along the undeveloped rural properties to the east of Scarborough Creek presents a significant challenge to management of pest species. The impact of pests on the environmental values and cliff stability will be monitored and pest control programs will be coordinated with adjoining land holders and DPI when required. Recommendation: No change to plan
8k	Direction is required for adjacent landholders with regard to allowing their livestock roaming along the Scarborough Creek part of the reserve.	Council by laws do not allow the access of livestock within public open space. Recommendation: No change to plan
8l	Require guidance on whether the non-indigenous vegetation that some adjacent landholders have planted in the reserve should be allowed to remain.	Planting within the open space corridor is not permitted without Council approval. Exotic species are frequently weeds in coastal reserves and will eventually be moved and replaced with local indigenous species. Recommendation: No change to plan
8m	Suggest pedestrian access from the south end of the Scarborough Creek reserve to Panorama Court.	There is no existing public access from Scarborough Creek to Panorama Ct. As outlined in the Structure Plan opportunities for future links will be considered if they arise. Recommendation: No change to plan
8n	Archaeological sites should be protected but not formally signposted so as not to risk vandalism and desecration.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
8o	Support fences along the cliff being moved back into the reserve to protect the cliff area but better control of stormwater is required to prevent erosion.	The cliffs will continue to naturally erode. The establishment of new low indigenous planting along the top of the cliff area will minimise the impact of stormwater erosion along the cliff. The existing grassed swale along the foreshore corridor will also be retained to catch overland flows before these reach the cliff. Recommendation: No change to plan
8p	Friends of Beacon Point Reserve would like to be involved in discussions about the water quality treatment wetland in order to better understand it.	Noted. The master plan only suggests investigation of a wetland and this will involve further consultation if it proceeds. Recommendation: No change to plan
8q	Need for signage and dog waste bags and bins. Friends of Beacon Point Reserve willing to participate in planting programme to help instil a sense of local ownership over the reserve.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
9	Footpaths should be sealed as they are in many other coastal locations around the country.	The proposed unsealed walking paths outlined on the Draft Master Plan will provide significant improvements in all weather all ability access. There are few footpaths in Clifton Springs and staged cost effective improvements to the network are seen as the most equitable way to improve access. Recommendation: No change to plan
10	The master plan should encourage walking along the beach to Portarlington. There should be a cycling/walking trail along the coastline, through Beacon Point and connecting to the Geelong/Portarlington Road.	The Draft Master Plan supports the establishment of future trail link to the lower Dell to the west, as identified in the Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan. Beach access at Beacon Point will also be investigated and this would assist informal beach walking access

	Need for improved beach access for the mobility challenged.	through to Portarlington. Refer to 2f Recommendation: No change to plan
11	Propose a path around the edge of the park and through the centre in crushed rock/gravel or bitumen.	Beacon Point Reserve provides the largest open flat grassed area along the coastal reserve, which is to be retained for informal recreation. A new unsealed walking path is proposed to provide walking link through the park from High Ridge Drive to the beach access stairs at Cantata Way. This new walking trail is located around the perimeter to maximise the grassed area available for informal recreation and diversity of use of the open space. Recommendation: No change to plan
12a	Support improvements to enhance the reserve's use for informal recreation, including paths, open space, weed control and planting.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
12b	Tree planting is appropriate but must be balanced with consideration of views from adjacent properties. Clumps of trees central to the reserve especially toward its southern end would also be appropriate if carefully sited.	Further planting within the reserve, including changes using mounds can be considered as part of investigation for the wetlands and proposed upgrade of picnic facilities. Recommendation: No change to plan.
12c	More visual interest and play opportunities could be added through the construction of low scale mounding or rockwork; children tend to gravitate to the one existing mound. The design is conservative in this respect but could be more interesting with minor modifications. Glad to see the visual appearance of the pumping station is addressed.	Refer 12b. Recommendation: No change to plan
12d	Wetland proposal is fully supported for stormwater treatment/environmental and aesthetic interest reasons. Its implementation would show environmental leadership by Council. The railing around the drainage pit is an eyesore and should be addressed through planting or relocation of the pit.	Refer to 4a. Recommendation: No change to plan
12e	Concerned that the recommendation for beach access is non-committal even though there is strategic justification for it. The beach below Beacon Point Reserve is one of the best in the area but is not well maintained or valued because of lack of access. Would like to see Council commit to the beach access and work with DSE to achieve it on the residents' behalf. The removal of steps and construction of new access at Edgewater seems counterproductive when there is already access in the area, the beach requires artificial nourishment and the stormwater drain is unattractive and dangerous. Access would be better provided east of Beacon Point Road. A cost saving could be found if funds for beach renourishment works at Edgewater were directed towards Beacon Point Reserve revegetation.	The Clifton Springs Coastal Management Plan recommended investigation and this has been supported as a high priority in the Master Plan. Until detailed geotechnical, Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage assessments have been completed it is not possible to confirm if access is feasible east of Beacon Point. Recommendation: No change to plan
12f	Public toilets should be considered as part of a public toilet strategy. Toilets must have appropriate separation from residences and casual surveillance opportunities. The isolated nature of the area proposed for the toilets is a concern and a position on the west side of Beacon Point Road, near the parking area, would offer better	Refer 2c. The location of the proposed public toilet facilities has been chosen for its proximity to the existing sewer pumping station as well as the recessed nature of the topography to minimise the visual impact of this new built structure in the reserve. Its location in proximity and view from Beacon Point Road and adjoining resi-

	casual surveillance. It is appropriate for the toilets to be closed at night.	dential properties will ensure passive surveillance in maintained while minimising impacts on views. Recommendation: No change to plan
13	The Draft Master Plan is mostly supported. Concerned that the wetland may increase fauna, especially snakes, in the reserve.	The proposed wetland will be located away from housing and as it is not connected to bushland or a natural waterway it is not likely to attract snakes. Recommendation: No change to plan
14a	Would like to see more access to the beach but the effects of sea level rise and recent shipping channel deepening should be considered to make the most financially appropriate decisions on funding beach access and renourishment.	Climate change is a key element of all Council planning. The Master Plan is consistent with Council's Coastal Processes Study and Current Climate Change policies. The beach renourishment program is run by DSE and is outside the scope of the Master Plan. Geotechnical and Coastal Engineering assessment will be required as part of investigation for new stair access east of Beacon Point. Recommendation: No change to plan.
14b	Observes that sea level rise has been accelerated by the shipping channel deepening and questions whether there will be any beach remaining at Clifton Springs in 2050.	Refer 14a. Recommendation: No change to plan
14c	Extensive comments on issues including: DSE beach renourishment and groyne work; channel deepening; coastal erosion; success or failure of past infrastructure works in the area; anecdotal evidence of sea level rise.	Refer 14a. Recommendation: No change to plan
14d	Dog poo bins should be located approximately every 150 metres. The reserve as an off-lead area is supported.	CoGG to provide dog bins at the entries to the reserve at Beacon Point Road and High Ridge Drive. It is important that bins can be accessed from roads for collection of rubbish, therefore spacing of 150m is not practical in many areas. Recommendation: No change to plan
14e	Concern over safety of the drainage pits throughout the reserve.	The pit is a surcharge pit and is required to receive and discharge stormwater. Recommendation: Liaise with CoGG Engineers to review safety of grills at existing pits.
14f	Concern over levels of pollution in the bay's fisheries.	The issue of water quality is a total catchment issue. The water quality treatment wetland proposed in the Master Plan will treat stormwater flows before these are discharged into the bay and therefore reduce the impact of untreated run off on the existing marine life and intertidal and sub tidal sea grass located in the adjoining coastal water. Detailed assessment of the marine values in outside the scope of this project. Recommendation: No change to plan
15a	Beach access most logically located at the mouth of Scarborough Creek.	Refer 16b. Recommendation: No change to plan
15b	Walking paths would be good.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
15c	Request a rubbish bin at the High Ridge Drive side of the park.	Noted. Refer to 14d. Recommendation: No change to plan
16a	Footpath should be asphalt to improve all-weather access and bench seats should be positioned along the cliff top between Centaurus Avenue and Scarborough Creek to provide viewing opportunities and rest stops. The current goat track can be hazardous.	Refer 9 Recommendation: No change to plan

16b	Beach access is critical and should be located as close as possible to the future picnic/barbecue area.	Beach access investigation is noted as a high priority. Recommendation: No change to plan
16c	The rapid growth of Drysdale Clifton Springs means that areas of natural beauty need to be user friendly with appropriate amenities.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan
16d	Past improvements to the beach (groynes, renourishment) have been welcome and promoted increased use of the area. Keep up the good work done so far in improving this asset.	Noted Recommendation: No change to plan



THOMPSON BERRILL LANDSCAPE DESIGN P/L





EXISTING VEGETATION COMMUNITIES
Refer Clifton Springs Vegetation Communities Report NOV 2006
prepared by Mark Trengove Ecological Services

- EVC 175 GRASSY WOODLAND**
Drooping Sheoke Woodland, Location No. H2
EVC Conservation Status: Endangered
The condition of these areas are relatively intact at Location No. H2. Indigenous species include *Allocasuarina verticillata* Drooping Sheoke, *Boobialla*, *Goodenia ovata* Hop Goodenia, and a range of native grasses.
- EVC 10001* BELLARINE COASTAL COMPLEX**
Cliff, Location No. E3, F1
EVC Conservation Status: Endangered
Dominated by exotic species and bare areas. Indigenous species present are predominantly ground layer and shrub species including *Acacia parodora* Hedge Wattle, *Atriplex semibaccata* Berry Saltbush, *Myoporum insulare* Boobialla, *Diaphyna crassifolium* Rounded Noon-flower and native grasses
* Provisionally described by Ecology Australia (2001)
- EVC 311 BERM GRASSY SHRUBLAND**
Dune Shrubland, Location No. C1, E1
EVC Conservation Status: Endangered
Dominated by *Atriplex cinerea* Coast Saltbush
- EVC 891 PLAINS BRACKISH SEDGE WETLAND**
Rear Dune Swale, Location No. C2
EVC Conservation Status: Vulnerable
Dominated by indigenous species including Boobialla, Seaberry Saltbush, *Poa polyformis* Coast Tussock-grass, *Acaena novea-zelandiae* Bidgee-widgee, Austral Salt-grass, *Ficinia nodosa* Nodding Club-rush, *Juncus kraussii* Sea Rush, Common Reed, Austral Sea-blight and Bower Spinach
- EVC 891 PLAINS BRACKISH SEDGE WETLAND**
Rear Dune Outwash, Location No. E2
EVC Conservation Status: Vulnerable
Dominated by exotic species; indigenous species include Boobialla, Seaberry Saltbush, Austral Salt-grass, Common Reed, *Clematis microphylla* Small-leaf Clematis and *Dionella brevicaulis* Small-flower Flax-lily
- EVC 891 PLAINS BRACKISH SEDGE WETLAND**
Creek Mouth, Location No. D1
EVC Conservation Status: Vulnerable
Dominated by indigenous species including Coast Saltbush, Boobialla, Common Reed, Austral Sea-blight and *Tetragonia implexicoma* Bower Spinach
- EXOTIC SLASHED/MOWN PARKLAND**
Location No. E4
- AREAS OF**
Atriplex sp. paludosa x stipitata Saltbush

8. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL MEETING

Portfolio: Governance – Cr K Fagg, Mayor
Source: Corporate Services – Administration & Governance
General Manager: Jeff Wall
Index Reference: Municipal Association of Victoria

Summary

- The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting will be held on 16 May 2013 and Councils have been requested to submit motions for consideration.
- Decisions made at the meeting constitute policy direction of the MAV for the immediate future.
- Issues proposed by the City of Greater Geelong are set out in this Report.
- The State Council meeting is primarily for Council appointed representatives and Cr Richards will be attending on behalf of the City of Greater Geelong.

Cr Richards moved, Cr E Kontelj seconded -

That the motions set out in Appendices 1 – 3 of this report be submitted to the MAV State Council.

Carried.

Report

Background

At the State Council Meeting, there is an opportunity for Councils to submit motions for consideration. If supported, the motions form part of the policy direction of the Association. The MAV requested input from Councils, with a closing date of 18 April 2013.

Discussion

Motions must be of state-wide significance to Local Government and must be accompanied by background information which provides the rationale behind the motion.

Environmental Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in presenting motions to the MAV. However, if some of the proposals achieve success, financial benefits may result.

8. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION STATE COUNCIL (CONT'D)

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

If supported at State Council, the issues raised by Council will have the backing of the MAV whose role includes lobbying other levels of government to promote the views of Local Government.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest.

Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with endorsement of these proposals by the MAV.

Social Considerations

Nil.

Communication

The issues will be canvassed with other Councils through State Council, and if endorsed, will be pursued with the State or Federal Government by the MAV.



FORM

MAV State Council Meeting – 16 May 2013

To submit a motion for consideration by State Council on 16 May 2013, please complete this form and email to [State Council](#), **not later than 18 April 2013**. Please note, deadlines are strictly observed.

MOTION VCGLR AND GAMING EXPENDITURE TRANSFER

Submitted by: *City of Greater Geelong*

MOTION:

That the MAV advocate for the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) to carry out the necessary research to enable greater clarity and understanding of predicted expenditure and likely transferred expenditure arising from proposals involving the installation of additional electronic gaming machines.

Note: Motions must be submitted by **one council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***

RATIONALE:

All applications to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation for an increase in the number of electronic gaming machines (EGMs) must provide a social and economic impact assessment of the increase in the EGMs on the local community. Applicants generally argue that the majority of their income will come from nearby gaming venues in the form of a transfer of expenditure; the result being a minimal increase in gambling (and by implication, problem gambling) in the community.

In recent examples, Dun-ra Investments with regard to the Sphinx Hotel argued that 71% of their new income would come from neighbouring venues and the PJ Cook Investments Pty Ltd regarding the Fyansford Hotel argued for a 75% transfer. One of the difficulties faced by expert witnesses in producing transferred expenditure forecasts and by councils in assessing and scrutinising such figures, is that the VCGLR does not release all of the relevant data required to form an accurate prediction of the likely transferred expenditure in gaming applications. The lack of available expenditure data, coupled with the lack of input from the VCGLR in this area, undermines the reliability of transferred expenditure predictions.”

However, in recent months, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Tribunal) has handed down a number of decisions which involve an application for review of a decision of the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (Commission). In a number of these recent decisions, the Tribunal has expressed significant dissatisfaction with the quality of analysis regarding predicted expenditure and likely transferred expenditure arising from the proposal to install additional electronic gaming machines.

Bendigo Stadium case – Bendigo Stadium Ltd v Greater Bendigo CC [2012] VCAT 1698

In the Bendigo Stadium case, the Tribunal expressed extensive criticism of the expenditure analysis evidence that had been filed with the Tribunal. At paragraph 31, the Tribunal noted:

This leads us to the view that there is no real sophistication or rigour to the assessment of transferred expenditure in the gaming industry – a matter we find somewhat disturbing if it is to be relied upon as part of a socio-economic assessment to determine the net impact of gaming on a community.

And at [33]:

Given our comments, we would expect to see better evidence on these issues in future cases before the Commission and Tribunal, particularly for cases involving new venues or a greater number of EGMs, or where the socio-economic debate is potentially more finely balanced than here. Indeed, the Commission itself might be able to take a more pro-active role on these issues given its access to relevant industry data.

Francis Hotel case – Francis Hotel Pty Ltd v Melbourne CC [2012] VCAT 1896

In the subsequent decision concerning the Francis Hotel, the Tribunal endorsed the comments of the Tribunal in the Bendigo Stadium case. It specifically noted, at [51]:

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It seems to us the range of 60% to 80% is often put to the Commission and the Tribunal in gaming cases, and in some instances without specifics as to how the estimate has been derived.

And at [52]:

Overall, it is surprising to us how little information is available about actual versus predicted transferred expenditure, particularly when transferred expenditure is a factor of some significance in many gaming decisions. Mr Whitehouse pointed out VCGLR information is restricted and not always available. In Bendigo Stadium, the Tribunal suggested the Commission itself might be able to take a more pro-active role given its access to relevant industry data. What this case demonstrates to us is the need for expert witnesses to have access to data to understand actual transferred expenditure in order to best predict transferred expenditure. As such, we see relevant industry data is an essential ingredient to the assessment of transferred expenditure in the gaming industry.

Peppermill Hotel case – Mount Dandenong Tourist Hotel Pty Ltd v Greater Shepparton CC [2012] VCAT 1899

In this decision, the Tribunal cited the "lack of publicly available information" as an issue in relation to projected expenditure analysis. It noted, at [91]:

In light of this, and in the light of the emergent issue of the conflict facing PVS, one course which suggests itself as highly desirable is for the VCGLR to take on a much more active role in the provision of baseline information relevant to EGM approvals under s 3.3.7 of the Gambling Regulation Act.

Maryborough Highland Society case – Mount Alexander SC v Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation & Ors [2013] VCAT 101

In this recent decision, the Tribunal cited the "specialist expertise and unique experience of the Commission" and "in dealing with difficult concepts such as gaming expenditure or transferred expenditure". It noted, at [131]:

"the Commission needs to more clearly demonstrate that expertise and experience in dealing with difficult concepts such as gaming expenditure or transferred expenditure and/or by indicating why conflicts in the expenditure forecasts are (or are not) important in a particular case"

The Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation is an independent statutory authority that aims to reduce the prevalence and harms of problem gambling and to help those who choose to gamble, to do so responsibly. The Foundation collaborates with local and international researchers and organisations to deliver a meaningful program of research. This research supports the Foundation's objectives to reduce the prevalence of problem gambling and the severity of harm related to gambling.

Conclusion

The current quality of analysis regarding predicted expenditure and likely transferred expenditure arising from proposals to install additional electronic gaming machines appears

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to be flawed and is in need of further examination and re-modelling.

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FORM

MAV State Council Meeting – 16 May 2013

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MOTION VCGLR TIMELINES

Submitted by: *City of Greater Geelong*

MOTION:

That the MAV advocate for the State Government to amend the relevant section of the *Gambling Regulation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2010* to ensure Councils have sufficient time to respond to planning permit applications for a new EGM venue, or for an existing venue to increase its number of EGMs.

The State Government should undertake further consultation with local governments about what the reasonable time period should be. It is neither reasonable nor good governance practice for submissions to be made without the formal consideration of the elected council acting on advice and information gathered by council staff. It is imperative that an appropriate limit is found that goes beyond the 60 day (44 working days) currently allowed by the Bill

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RATIONALE:

Council's have limited meeting times available with which to deal with matters affecting its community. The matter is compounded when limited time is made available to Council staff to consider and recommend to Council on critical matters. The following scenarios demonstrate the severity of the tight timelines both on staff and Council itself:

(The applicant gives a copy of the proposed application to the Responsible Authority (Council) before filing the application with the VCGLR. Within 3 days of Day 1, the applicant must file the application to the Commission)

Day 1: The VCGLR writes to the Responsible Authority (Council) that an application has been received.

Before Day 37 Council must notify the Commission in writing if it intends to make a submission/ objection

Before Day 60 Council must make its submission/objection

Working Days Allowed:

The following examples illustrate the reality of the 60 day timeframe for Councils to make a submission to the Commission:

Example 1:

If Day 1 were to commence in a period of **no public holidays**, Councils under this timeline proposal, would be expected to prepare a submission in full within 60 days, minus sixteen or eighteen weekend days (depending on which day in the week Council receives the VCGLR notification). That is, within 42 (or 44) working days with the relevant Council officer preparing the submission not having any unexpected sick days or other leave.

Example 2:

If an application was received on 1 March 2013 Council would have 39 working days to prepare a submission in full. That is:

- 19 working days out of the 31 days of March, because March includes two public holidays and ten weekend days. And,
- 20 working days in the 30 days in April, because April includes two public holidays and eight weekend days.

A 60 day period means a maximum of 42 working days to prepare

A proposal to impose a 60 day limit on Council submission time means in real terms that Councils are being expected to prepare a submission in full - on a complex economic, health and wellbeing issue - within 39 working days or, in the best case scenario within 44 working days.

Councillor Meeting Cycles

Note: Motions must be submitted by **one council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***

Planning meetings for Councillors in the City of Greater Geelong are held once per month on an as needed basis, generally before a Council meeting. If an application is received in the days immediately after a scheduled Planning Meeting the timeline of 60 days cannot work. This is illustrated by the example below:

Example 3:

14 May 2013:	Councillor Planning Meeting
16 May, <u>Day 1</u>	Letter is received from VCGLR
17 – 18 May	The application letter to Council proceeds through
<u>Day 2 – 3</u>	Council's Central Records Management System and is received by the relevant Council officer.
6 June <u>Day 21</u>	Decision is made by Council to make a submission to the VCGLR
09 July Day 54	Scheduled Council meeting date – reduces Council's timeline down to 38 working days (53 calendar days)
15 July Day 60	Too late for Councillors to approve a submission to VCGLR (The last day of submission (5pm).

Conclusion

Ninety, or preferably 120 days is the minimum time in which local governments could produce a reasonable quality submission for consideration of the Commission.

Note: Motions must be submitted by **one council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***



FORM

MAV State Council Meeting – 16 May 2013

To submit a motion for consideration by State Council on 16 May 2013, please complete this form and email to **State Council**, ***not later than 18 April 2013***. Please note, deadlines are strictly observed.

MOTION

SPECIAL INTEREST ADVISORY GROUP FOR VCAT APPEALS RELATING TO THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT

Submitted by: City of Greater Geelong

MOTION:

That the MAV establish and facilitate a 'Special Interest Advisory Group' to discuss, collate data, evaluate program activity and evaluate VCAT appeal data with a view to advocating legislative reform which will remove ambiguity and enable Councils to effectively administer the Domestic Animals Act and meet the objectives of this Act, in particular with respect to dangerous dogs.

As an example, it is suggested that the MAV represent Council to collate the following information:

1 The total number of application appeals lodged with VCAT against Council's (all Councils) original decision to declare a dog dangerous.

2 Of these appeals, how many were contested and how many were uncontested due to the non appearance of the applicant?

3 How many of these appeals were upheld in favour of the dog owner and what were the main reasons supporting the decision?

4 How many of these appeals have been in favour of Council's original decision? (ie. VCAT ruled in Council's favour).

5 This information (1-4) is to form the basis of local government lobbying the State Government to review and update legislation in response to the serious flaws existing with the current legislation/VCAT appeal processes.

Expecting Councils to commit ratepayer money to fund expensive and on- going appeals in order to implement State enacted legislation is unsustainable and unwarranted in terms of community safety and effective use of resources.

RATIONALE:

Council expresses its serious concern relating to a recent VCAT Appeal against a dangerous dog declaration that was upheld in favour of the applicant, despite the attack causing serious injury to a person and long lasting effects, being unprovoked, the dog having a propensity for aggression in such circumstances, medical costs and consequences and general trauma. It would appear that many other Councils have also experienced similar decisions which appear to be at odds with the objectives of the Domestic Animals Act.

In another case, a dog that had allegedly attacked and killed another dog or animal was released back out in the community without having to wear a muzzle or comply with all of the dangerous dog

requirements when outside the owner's premises.

The government acted swiftly following the death of a child in August 2011 by introducing new dangerous dog laws. In light of the spate of recent unfavourable cases appealed at VCAT, it would appear that the 'system is broke' and needing important and prompt attention to ensure that the objectives of the Domestic Animals Act are able to be effectively administered, whereby the Courts and VCAT take a fair, reasonable and balanced approach to such matters, rather than having a favourable slant to dog owners. It needs to be stressed that the dangerous dog declaration is a legal instrument to enable a dog owner to conditionally keep their dog, rather than having it destroyed. The elevated risk associated with such decisions is self explanatory and would affect all stakeholders, particularly Councils and Council Officers.

In the City of Greater Geelong case (VCAT decision (ref: G1114/2012) – Jarrod Luke Quinn V Greater Geelong City Council, 6 March, 2013), the Senior Member has assessed this matter in an inverse manner by focussing on the 'reasonableness' or otherwise of the structural conditions that apply to a 'Dangerous Dog Declaration' (i.e. the enclosure in this instance) rather than whether, on a point of law, the act of the dog constituted a serious injury and consequently whether this correctly or incorrectly translated to the declaration of that dog as a dangerous dog in accordance with the prescribed criteria and definitions contained within the Act.

The Senior Member appears to adopt a selective and minimalist view of the objectives of the Act that are restricted *"to promote animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats and the protection of the environment by providing for a scheme to protect the community and the environment from feral and nuisance dogs and cats"*. One of the key and critical objective statements that have not been addressed by the Senior Member and are critical to such a Hearing is that of, *'the identification and control of dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breeds'*. Nowhere in the decision is there mention about needing to ensure that this objective is adhered to, or the need for a balanced view of the impact to the victim to be taken as validated where the Senior Member states, *"this is a significant imposition in terms of cost, the owner's enjoyment of the dog and while there is no direct evidence on this before me, I assume it is in the interest of a dog's welfare to be in a large outside enclosure rather than in a relatively small roofed in enclosure. It would appear that the Senior Member has taken great license to the definition of 'may' as opposed to 'shall' in respect to making a declaration"*.

These decisions unfortunately become a precedent for future VCAT cases, which will ultimately and potentially affect any of the LGA's.

Another key concern is the Senior Member's preparedness to approve an 'agreement' which would appear to exceed the discretionary power that would have been available to the original decision maker. Furthermore, the Member suggested that Council needs to determine whether this dog poses a greater threat to people/other animals than any other dog within the community, taking into account the following;

- Conduct of the owner before the attack;
- Circumstances of the attack;
- Likelihood of the circumstances being repeated and the dog repeating the attack;
- Apparent nature of the dog;
- Conduct of the owner and those around him or her;
- Skill of the owner and those likely to be in charge of the dog in controlling the dog ;
- Conduct of the owner since the offending conduct in attempting to minimise future risk;and
- Insight of the owner and those likely to be in charge of the dog into future risk posed by the dog .

It should be noted that as part of this agreement, the Senior Member has approved this offending dog being off leash in off leash areas despite all of the evidence presented.

Council is not obliged at law to do this, but rather, to determine whether a serious injury has eventuated, that the dog has not been provoked or teased, and that the proper processes have been implemented with respect to effecting a declaration. In effect, the implementation of an 'agreement' is a downgraded dangerous dog declaration whereby increased onus of proof, compliance and monitoring is placed on Council with no protection at law against future incidents. A minimal onus of responsibility is placed on the owner of the dog and little justice exists for the victim, the community and Council/s.

A result of this could be that a dangerous dog is allowed back into the community with minimal and token controls, elevating the level of risk to the community. Furthermore, if a repeat offence occurs and serious injury or death occurs, the imposition of criminal law may have been jeopardised and more importantly, an unnecessary and avoidable injury may have been prevented. This places Council and Council officers at risk of litigation.

****Note: Motions must be submitted by **one** council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***

9. ROAD RENAMING - NORTHERN SECTIONS OF CHARLEMONT ROAD, CHARLEMONT AND ARMSTRONG CREEK

Portfolio:	Governance – Cr Fagg, Mayor
Source:	Corporate Services - Financial Services
General Manager:	Jeff Wall
Index Reference:	Subject/Financial Management - Reporting Subject/Roads, Footpaths & Streets

Summary

- Urban development at Charlemont and Armstrong Creek has resulted in Charlemont Road no longer being a continuous roadway.
- In order to comply with legislation and provide properties with a unique identifiable street address, it is proposed to rename two sections of Charlemont Road.
- It is proposed to rename a section of Charlemont Road to “Harriott Road, Charlemont and Armstrong Creek” (refer Appendix 9-1, Section 1). The section to be renamed connects to the Barwon Heads road at two points, commencing in the suburb of Charlemont and ending in Armstrong Creek.
- The proposed renaming to “Harriott Road” was advertised in The Independent newspaper on 22 February 2013 and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 23 February 2013.
- No submissions were received.
- It is also proposed to rename another section of Charlemont Road to “Carter Road, Armstrong Creek” (refer Appendix 9-1, Section 2). The section to be renamed commences at the Barwon Heads Road, heads south and terminates at Lake Road, Armstrong Creek.
- The proposed renaming to “Carter Road” was advertised in The Independent newspaper on 17 August 2012 and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 18 August 2012.
- One submission was received which was against the proposal.

Cr Richards moved, Cr Macdonald seconded -

That Council approve the renaming of the section of:

- 1) Charlemont Road that connects to the Barwon Heads road at two points, commencing in the suburb of Charlemont and ending in Armstrong Creek to “Harriott Road, Charlemont and Armstrong Creek” (refer Appendix 9-1, Section 1).**
- 2) Charlemont Road that commences at the Barwon Heads Road, heads south and terminates at Lake Road, Armstrong Creek to “Carter Road, Armstrong Creek” (refer Appendix 9-1, Section 2).**

Carried.

9. ROAD RENAMING - NORTHERN SECTIONS OF CHARLEMONT ROAD, CHARLEMONT AND ARMSTRONG CREEK (CONT'D)

Report

Background

The northern end of Charlemont Road in Charlemont is currently accessed off the Barwon Heads Road and continues in a generally southerly direction crossing the Barwon Heads Road and continuing into Armstrong Creek.

Charlemont Road continues south crossing Lake Road, Lower Duneed Road, McCanns Road and terminating at the Charlemont property within Surf Coast Shire.

Urban development (ie. Warrally development) occurring in Charlemont and Armstrong Creek has resulted in a truncation of Charlemont Road at Lake Road.

The road is no longer navigable as a continuous roadway. This does not comply with legislative guidelines.

Based on principle 4(f) of the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010, Council is required to rename both sections of the roadways.

Principle 4(f) states that "if the course of a road is obstructed perhaps due to the construction of other roads or features, a new unique name is to be applied to one end of the road. This is particularly important when an emergency service vehicle cannot navigate the entire course of the road from one end to the other".

The Guidelines state that when a road becomes or is disjointed, a separate name is required for both sections of the roadway.

Discussion

With the truncation of Charlemont Road at the approximate mid point, it was necessary to consider renaming either the northern section or southern section of Charlemont Road.

Emergency Services have previously requested Council to rename the northern section of this roadway due to confusion in locating properties north and south of Barwon Heads Road.

The proposal is to rename the sections of Charlemont Road north of the point of truncation at Lake Road.

Renaming these sections of road will enable all properties to have a unique identifiable street address and will enable emergency services and visitors to the area to locate properties in a timely manner.

It is proposed to rename the section of Charlemont Road that connects to the Barwon Heads road at two points, commencing in the suburb of Charlemont and ending in Armstrong Creek to "Harriott Road, Charlemont and Armstrong Creek" (refer Appendix 9-1, Section 1).

It is proposed to rename the section of Charlemont Road that commences at the Barwon Heads Road, heads south and terminates at Lake Road, Armstrong Creek to "Carter Road, Armstrong Creek" (refer Appendix 9-1, Section 2).

9. ROAD RENAMING - NORTHERN SECTIONS OF CHARLEMONT ROAD, CHARLEMONT AND ARMSTRONG CREEK (CONT'D)

The proposed names have been chosen from a recently compiled list of suitable ANZAC names, namely:

- Captain Harriott served on the western front within the 19th Light Horse and was promoted throughout his service to Captain and was also recommended for a Military Cross. Captain Harriott was killed in action at Broodseinde Ridge, Belgium, aged 26, in what was known as the third battle of Ypres.
- Mr Carter was a Presbyterian Chaplain with the AIF 2nd Brigade 5th-8th battalions. He served on the Western front for three years and ministered to units and interred the deceased.

The proposed renaming of both sections of this roadway meet the requirements of the Geographic Place Names Act 1998 and the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010.

The proposed names were advertised separately in The Independent newspaper and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper. All abutting land owners were notified at the time.

Council only received one submission in total. The submission was against the name "Carter Road" and proposed another name. However, the suggested name does not meet the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 as it would be a duplicate name within a 15km radius. This submission was responded to accordingly.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental issues arising from this report.

Financial Implications

Council is responsible for street signage.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The Geographic Place Names Act 1998 and the Guidelines for Geographic Names 2010 have been followed and met.

The proposals were advertised separately.

The proposed naming of "Harriott Road" was advertised in The Independent newspaper on 22 February 2013 and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 23 February 2013, with no submissions being received.

The proposed naming of "Carter Road" was advertised in The Independent newspaper on 17 August 2012 and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 18 August 2012, with one submission against the proposal being received.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

There is no Council Officer direct or indirect interest involved in this report.

Risk Assessment

Should an emergency situation occur in this area, Council's proposal to rename these sections of roadway will minimise the risk of emergency services not being able to locate the situation.

9. ROAD RENAMING - NORTHERN SECTIONS OF CHARLEMONT ROAD, CHARLEMONT AND ARMSTRONG CREEK (CONT'D)

Social Considerations

These renamings will allow for easy identification to the public and utility services in case of an emergency.

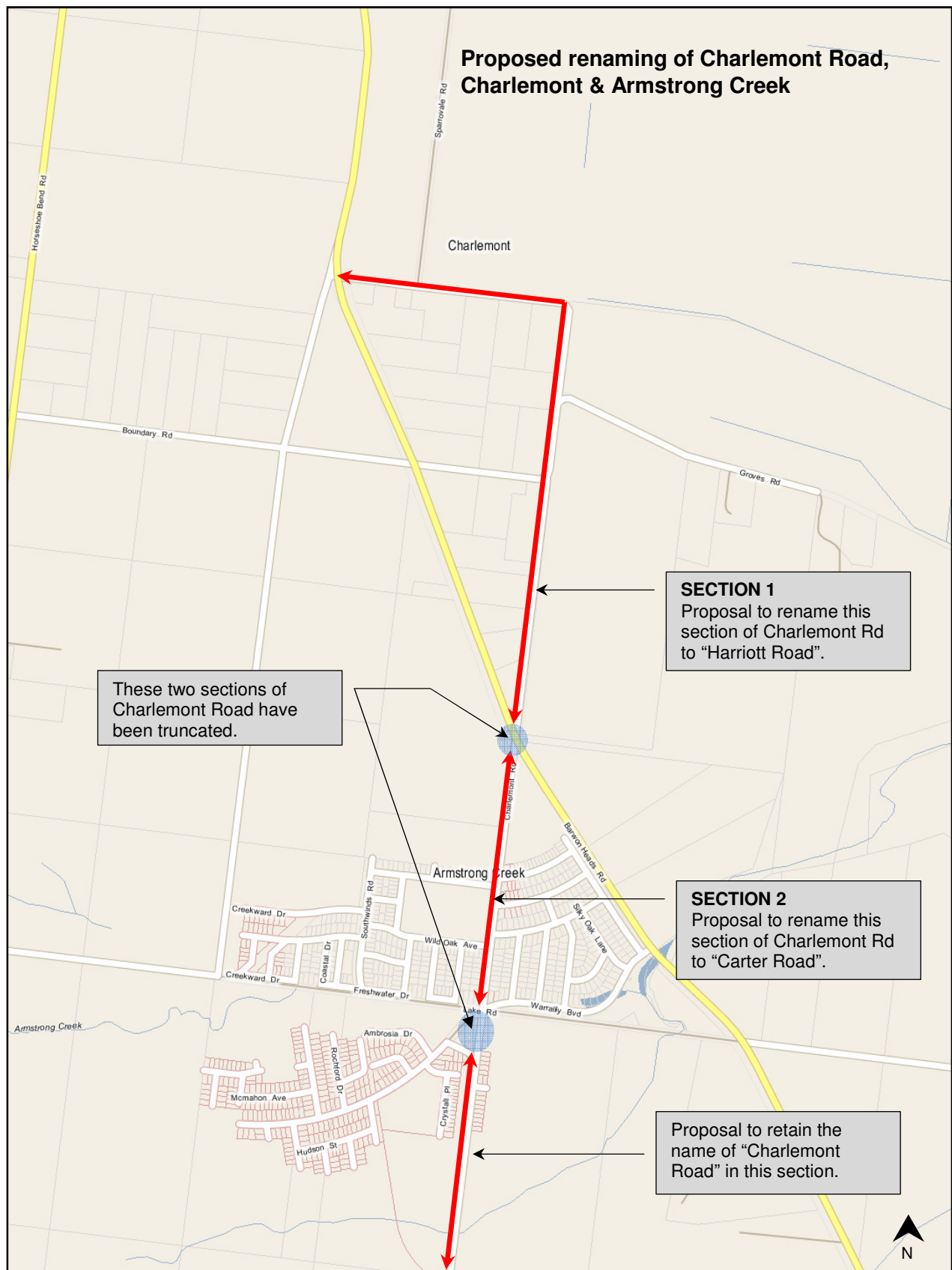
Communication

The proposals were advertised separately.

- The proposed naming of “Harriott Road” was advertised in The Independent newspaper on 22 February 2013 and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 23 February 2013 with no submissions being received.
- The proposed naming of “Carter Road” was advertised in The Independent newspaper on 17 August 2012 and the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 18 August 2012 with one submission being received.

Subject to Council and The Registrar of Geographic Names approval, the relevant authorities and abutting owners will be notified of the official registration of these road renamings.

Appendix 9-1



10. COUNCIL ELECTION 2012 – VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Portfolio:	Governance – Cr Fagg, Mayor
Source:	Corporate Services – Administration and Governance
General Manager:	Jeff Wall
Index Reference:	Council General Election 2012

Summary

- The October 2012 Greater Geelong City Council elections were held by postal ballot conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC).
- The VEC have now presented its report on the conduct of the election that provides an overview of:
 - Electoral process
 - Voter and Candidate participation, and
 - Statistical information and results.

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Macdonald seconded -

That Council notes the report from the VEC in respect to the 2012 General Elections.

Carried.

Report

Background

The MAV acting as agent for 54 Councils published and facilitated a tender for the provision of electoral services for the 2012 Council general elections. The VEC was appointed to conduct these elections on behalf of the 54 Councils. The Greater Geelong City Council election included 12 Single-Councillor Wards and the Directly Elected Mayor.

Discussion

The VEC has submitted its report on the conduct of the 2012 Council election which provides a summary of the electoral process, voter and candidate participation together with statistical data.

In managing the Election, the VEC had a ballot paper issue which they responded promptly to address. The VEC wrote to all voters as well as issuing media releases in the local paper, radio and their website to explain the anomaly.

There were 170,408 voters on the roll. As a percentage of the total enrolment for the Greater Geelong City Council, the number of ballot papers counted (formal and informal) was 76.29% for the Mayoral election and 77.7% for the Ward elections. This compares with 75.91% at the last Council Ward elections.

10. COUNCIL ELECTION 2012 – VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CONT'D)

The informal voting rate was 3.29% for the Mayoral election and 2.41% for the Ward elections. The elections for all wards were determined by manual count and distributing the preferences marked on the ballot paper, using the preferential counting method. Preference distributions were required for Austin, Beangala, Brownbill, Buckley, Coryule, Cowie and Windermere wards, as no candidate received an absolute majority of first preferences.

The election result for the Directly Elected Mayor was also determined using the preferential counting method, however due to the large number of ballot papers, the VEC used a computer count to capture preferences and perform the calculation of the result.

Candidates Information Sessions

The Municipal Association of Victoria and the VEC held two information sessions for prospective candidates in the lead up to the elections.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

The election was conducted under contract with the VEC, with a budget estimate of \$650,000. Costs are yet to be finalised but we expect to be within the budget.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The Election was conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and there were no formal complaints lodged.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the content of this report.

Risk Assessment

The appointment of the VEC ensured the election was conducted in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Social Considerations

Participation in the election of the Directly Elected Mayor and Councillors was made available to all eligible voters.

10. COUNCIL ELECTION 2012 – VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CONT'D)

Communication

The report of the VEC provides details of the information campaign, newspaper and radio advertising, media releases, VEC's website and direct mailouts. The VEC worked with a number of partners to provide suitable communication services for blind and low vision voters, voters with a disability, and culturally and linguistically diverse voters.

11. 2012-2013 BORROWING PROVISION

Portfolio:	Finance – Cr S Kontelj
Source:	Corporate Services - Financial Services
General Manager:	Jeff Wall
Index Reference:	Financial Management\Reporting

Cr S Kontelj moved, Cr Richards seconded -

That in accordance with Section 89 (2) (d) of the Local Government Act 1989, this contractual matter be considered at the conclusion of all other business at which time the meeting be closed to members of the public.

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr Heagney

REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS – BROWNBILL WARD

As part of the 12/13 budget, Council allocated \$4,200 to East Geelong Football Club – (Lighting Design) (C12817) and in the 12/13 budget Council allocated \$16,508 to Parks & Playgrounds Improvements (C12853).

At present \$2850 remains unspent from C12817 and \$4,044 from C12853.

It is therefore appropriate that Council consider reallocating excess project funds to other projects.

It is proposed that a portion of the funds are re-allocated to the following project:

- **Kenworthy Reserve – reserve upgrades**
This project involves the planting of Kikuyu grass and the installation of public art at Kenworthy reserve. These works will provide an improved piece of open space for the local community.

Reallocation of \$2,850 from project C12817 and \$4,044 from C12853 to this project will mean the community have improved recreation facilities.

Cr Heagney moved, Cr Richards seconded –

That Council support the following reallocations:

WARD	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	BUDGET ID
Brownbill	East Geelong Football Club (Lighting Design)	-\$2,850	C12817
Brownbill	Parks & Playgrounds Improvements	-\$4,044	C12853
Brownbill	Kenworthy Reserve – Park upgrades	\$6,894	

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr Harwood

REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS

Following discussions with the all relevant parties and Councillor Nelson, a decision has been made to reallocate a portion of the \$43,185 capital funding originally allocated to the Belmont Lions Netball Court project. This amount of \$15,000 will be allocated to the Queens Park Master Plan in erecting new lights at Stinton Oval Queens Park, Highton.

The lights are to replace old lights on existing light towers that no longer meet the regulations regarding suitable lighting for Council sports ovals. This allocation of funding will be repaid to the Kardinia Ward community priority funding allocation in the 13/14 budget.

The original intent of the capital funding to the Belmont Lions remains in co-funding with the Federal Government (\$130,000) and the Geelong & District Football League (\$40,000) of the building of netball courts at Winter Reserve, Belmont. This project is still in the design phase and will be completed in the 13/14 financial year.

This funding represents an opportunity to assist in an important part of the Queens Park Master Plan.

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Nelson seconded -

That Council support the following Ward reallocation as follows:

Ward name	Project	Allocation
Kardinia C13844	Belmont Lions Sports Club Netball Courts	-\$15,000
Deakin	Queens Park Master Plan	\$15,000

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr Eddy Kontelj

REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS – COWIE WARD

As part of the 2012/13 budget, Council allocated \$151,000 for construction of Vines Road Public Amenities (C13208).

Due to market pressure Council received extremely competitive prices at quotation, the project has been awarded and construction has commenced.

It is therefore appropriate that Council consider reallocating excess project funds to other projects.

It is proposed that the excess funds are re-allocated to the following two projects:

- **C13835 – Pettit Park Reserve Improvements – Stage #1**
Reallocation of \$10,000 will enable the installation of a public BBQ this financial year, currently unscheduled due to budget shortfall.
- **C12831 – Alex Rizun Pavilion Change Room Renovation**
Reallocation of \$50,000 will enable the successful completion of the project, following the discovery of localised poor soil conditions, additional asbestos and extensive termite damage.

Reallocation of \$60,000 from project C13208 to the above mentioned projects will enable improved outcomes for the community.

Cr E Kontelj moved, Cr Richards seconded -

That Council support the following reallocations:

WARD	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	BUDGET ID
Cowie	Vines Road Public Amenities	-\$60,000	C13208
Cowie	Pettit Park Improvements	\$10,000	C13835
Cowie	Alex Rizun Pavilion Change Room Renovation	\$50,000	C12831

Carried.

COMMON SEAL REGISTER

Cr Macdonald moved, Cr Ansett seconded -

That the following documents be signed and sealed by Council.

Carried.

1. SECTION 173 AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL AND BRIGIDINE ASSOCIATION FOR 225-241 CHURCH STREET, HERNE HILL

Portfolio:	Planning – Cr Macdonald
Source:	Economic Development, Planning & Tourism
General Manager:	Peter Bettess
Property:	225-241 Church Street, Herne Hill
Application No:	789/2012

Officers' Comments

This Agreement pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 was required by Condition 2 of Planning Permit No. 789/2012 issued on 31 August 2013 which allowed buildings and works associated with the secondary school (Year 12 Centre) with existing car parking to be removed and provided on another site (31-51 Minerva Road, Herne Hill).

The purpose of the Agreement is to ensure the fourteen (14) car parking spaces removed are provided permanently on the land known as 31-51 Minerva Road Herne Hill for the exclusive use of 225-441 Church Street Herne Hill.

This Agreement has been prepared by one of Council's panel solicitors.

Owner's Obligations

The Owners obligation is to ensure that prior to the commencement of the development, 14 car parking spaces must be provided and maintained on the Minerva land for the exclusive use by the occupiers of the Church Street land.

Council Obligations

Nil.

2. TRANSFER OF LAND: GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL TO ROSS AND ROBYN LINDEMANN – SALE OF PART OF DISUSED DRAINAGE RESERVE FOR CREATION OF REAR ACCESS TO 9 LACELLES AVENUE, MANIFOLD HEIGHTS

Portfolio:	Finance – Cr S Kontelj
Source:	Corporate Services – Corporate Strategy and Property Management
General Manager:	Jeff Wall
Property:	Part of a drainage reserve in Phillip Street, Manifold Heights

Officers' Comments

The owner of 9 Lascelles Avenue, Manifold Heights (**Land**) has applied to obtain legal access from Phillip Street at the rear of the Land to support the future development and subdivision of the Land.

The Land is separated from Phillip Street by a drainage reserve (**Reserve**). A road will be constructed over part of the Reserve to allow legal access from Phillip Street to the rear of the Land.

A Contract of Sale, signed by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority, has been entered into for the sale of part of the Reserve which is required for the creation of the road. The sale price is \$4,200.00 inclusive of GST and is supported by an independent market valuation

The reserve status of the Reserve has now been removed and a separate Certificate of Title has been created by the Land Titles Office.

To facilitate the sale of the required part of the Reserve to the owners of the Land, Council must sign and seal the Transfer of Land instrument so that settlement can be effected.

Council Obligations

As part of the conveyancing process, Council must sign and seal a Transfer of Land instrument to convey the Land to the Purchaser once the Purchaser has effected settlement of the purchase transaction.

3. SECTION 173 AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL AND NEDELJKO VLAHOVIC AND ANKICA VLAHOVIC FOR 12 WASHINGTON STREET, CORIO

Portfolio:	Planning – Cr Macdonald
Source:	Economic Development, Planning & Tourism
General Manager:	Peter Bettess
Property:	12 Washington Street, Corio
Application No:	591/2012

Officers' Comments

This Agreement pursuant to Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 was required by Condition 12 of Planning Permit No. 591/2012 issued on 9 July 2012 which allowed construction of a second dwelling and a two (2) lot subdivision.

The purpose of the Agreement is to link the subdivision with the approved development.

This Agreement has been prepared by one of Council's panel solicitors.

Owner's Obligations

The Owners obligation is to ensure that all development on the land is in accordance with the endorsed plans forming part of Planning Permit 591/2012 (or any amendment to that permit) or any subsequent Planning Permit.

Council Obligations

Nil.

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS RECORD

Portfolio: Governance – Cr Fagg (Mayor)
Source: Corporate Services
General Manager: Jeff Wall

Summary

- Section 80A (2) of the Local Government Act 1989 requires the record of an Assembly of Councillors be reported to the next practicable Ordinary Meeting of Council.
- A record of Assembly of Councillors meeting(s) is attached as an Appendix to this report.

Cr Ellis moved, Cr E Kontelj seconded -

That the information be received.

Carried.

RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS
(Council Meeting 23 April 2013)

Assembly Details	Councillor Attendees	Officer Attendees	Matters Discussed	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Graffiti Reference Group 9 April 2013	Cr Farrell	H Manzl (CO ORD) L Armstrong Rowe (OFF) M McKenzie (GRAFFITI AUDITOR) Z Smith (OFF)	• Audit Update • Budget • Police and Court Report • Graffiti Team Leader Report	Nil.
Councillor Briefing 16 April 2013	Crs Ansett, Ellis, Farrell, Fisher, Harwood, Heagney, Irvine, E Kontelj, S Kontelj, Macdonald, Nelson	S Griffin (CEO) J Wall (GM) D Frost (GM) J McMahon (GM) P Bettess (GM) G Van Driel (GM) T Demeo (MGR) N Lucas (OFF) L Quinn (MGR) S Sodomaco (MGR) K Pritchard (MGR) R Bourke (CO ORD)	• National Broadband Network (Presentation) • 2013-2017 Geelong Health and Wellbeing Development Plan • 2009-2013 Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan Status Report • 2013-2017 City Plan Draft – Update • Council Funding Priorities • Domestic Animal Management Plan • Animal Pound Operations and Revised Fees and Charges • Implications of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Services • One Fire Presentation to Council – Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution • Submission to Metropolitan Strategy • Central Geelong Taskforce • Barwon Regional Waste Management Group – Appointment of Skills Based Directors • 2012-2013 Borrowing Provisions (Confidential) • Municipal Association State Council Motions • Road Renaming – Northern Sections Charlemont Road, Charlemont and Armstrong Creek • Council Elections 2012 – Victorian Electoral Commission • Beacon Point Reserve Master Plan • State Government Port and Environs Advisory Committee and Port of Geelong Structure Plan	Nil.

Cr S Kontelj moved, Cr Richards seconded –

That the meeting be closed to the public.

Carried.

The Meeting was closed to the public at 8.48pm

A record of the proceedings of this section of the meeting is contained in a Confidential Minute Book.

The Meeting was opened to the public at 8.50pm

CLOSE OF MEETING

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm. Tuesday, 23 April 2013.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date of Confirmation: _____