

City of Cockburn

# COASTAL ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Adopted 8 September 2016





## Coastal Activities Guide

### 1.0 Introduction

The City of Cockburn is responsible for the management of 15km of scenic coastline in the Perth Metropolitan area. This coastline stretches across a variety of land tenure and management controls, this includes a large amount of area which is zoned for commercial purposes and precludes public access.

The coastline is a significant feature of the City's natural assets and is considered a highly important component in the health and wellbeing of residents as well as being an attractive location for recreation activities on a regional basis.

In recent years, the City has experienced significant growth in population numbers and is one of the most rapidly developing cities in the Perth Metropolitan area. As the City's population has increased, the amount of usage of the beaches has also increased exponentially.

This increase in usage has led to the City receiving a number of varying requests for permission to undertake a number of differing recreation based activities along the coastline, of both community and commercial nature.

The City recognises and acknowledges the presence of activity conflicts along the coast, as users compete for access to coastal facilities and locations for the undertaking of a variety of recreation activities. In order to effectively manage this usage, the City has identified potential management arrangements to govern the way in which beach activities are undertaken.

In particular:

- Designated Activity zones and Exclusion zones for recreation and leisure activities
- Commercial application processes for both Non for Profit Groups and Businesses
- Events and Function Application Process

The Guide also takes into consideration the South Metro Aquatic Use Review which was gazetted in May 2016. The Review took into consideration the overall use of the coastline within the City of Cockburn and other areas Perth's metropolitan south coastline. The Review identified areas where speed limits apply, together with areas where high risk activities such as water skiing may occur



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Overall, the intent of this Guide is to outline the framework by which the City manages the activities which are permitted to occur along the coastline, through the development of a Coastal Activities Guide.

### 2.0 Recreation Activities

As a regional reserve, the City's coastline attracts many recreational user groups on both a casual and organised basis. Organised events and activities are currently managed through event application processes, commercial trading licences and local laws, whereas casual recreation activities are subject to management via signage and patrols that are supported through relevant local law provisions.

In managing the number of potential conflicts of the various beach activities, the activities have been defined into categories as follows:

**High Impact Activities** – Activities which are considered to cause a high degree of disruption to other beach users, are likely to involve high speeds and pose a risk to other beach users.

**Medium Impact Activities** – Activities that may pose a risk to others, are relatively predictable by nature or may temporarily disrupt other activities during certain phases of the activity i.e. launching of a kayak from the beach.

**Low Impact Activities** – Activities which are considered to be low risk and unlikely to cause any disruption to other beach users.

#### Water based Recreation Activities

<b>High Impact</b>	<b>Medium Impact</b>	<b>Low Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kite surfing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kayaking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jet skiing (PWC's)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sailing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snorkelling</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water skiing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surfing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diving</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor boating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windsurfing</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflatable Water Playgrounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand up paddle boarding</li> </ul>	



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### Beach/Land Based Recreation Activities

<b>High Impact</b>	<b>Medium Impact</b>	<b>Low Impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kite Surfing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse exercising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non powered boat launching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jogging</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent Beach Volleyball</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs on leads exercising areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnicking</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs off lead exercising areas</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birthday Parties, Wedding ceremonies and receptions</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Beach Volleyball</li> </ul>

### Permitted activity areas and exclusions zones

The City aims to support activity diversity in a manner that facilitates safe and enjoyable experiences for ocean users. As such, land and water based activities classified as low to medium impact are recommended to be permitted to occur along the City's coastline without restriction, except in areas of significant conflict i.e. boat launching areas. This approach is consistent with feedback which was provided by several key stakeholders as part of the Department of Transport's South Metropolitan Aquatic Use Review.

Land and Water based activities classified as high impact should be subject to restrictions in order to reduce the level of impact they pose to other ocean users. Designated areas and exclusion zones should therefore apply for these classified activities.

The Coastal Activities Guide map (*Appendix 1*) outlines the designated areas and exclusion zones for where high impact activities either permitted or not permitted to occur.

The Department of Transport recently undertook the South Metropolitan Aquatic Use Review which has been considered as part of determining the designated areas and exclusion areas.

Whilst high impact areas have been provided with designated areas of usage, this does not provide exclusive access to these areas. All beach users should still be able to access these areas should they wish, however the areas will be appropriately sign posted to ensure all users are aware of the associated risks. In addition to



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signage, opportunities exist to reinforce the message through other strategies such as stencilling of pavement.

Further detail on the designated areas and exclusion zones for high impact activities are outlined below:

### ***Kite surfing***

A number of kite surfing permitted locations have been identified and outlined on the Coastal Activities Guide Map. This includes a designated area where commercial operators may apply for an operating licence via an expression of interest process in accordance with the Recreation and Leisure Traders Licence – Foreshore and Reserves Policy.

### ***Jet skiing***

Jet skiing is not permitted along the City's coastline within 200m of the low water mark or the area, designated by the Department of Transport as a permitted water ski area, however may launch from designated boat launching facilities at Port Coogee and the Cockburn Sound.

### ***Water skiing***

As part of the 2016 South Metropolitan Aquatic Use Review, the Department of Transport identified an area to permit water skiing to occur along the Cockburn coastline. This area includes a designated landing area. The City does not intend to permit vehicular access along the coastline, including the designated landing area.

Jet skis involved in water-skiing activities, may utilise the permitted water-ski area, however freestyle jet skiing is not permitted in this area.

### ***Motor boating***

Motor boating is permitted along the City's coastline in accordance with the boating restrictions outlined on the Coastal Activities Guide i.e. 5 knots, 8 knots and closed waters.

### ***Inflatable water playgrounds***

Consideration to allow an inflatable water playground will be given within the shark net area on Coogee Beach. The process for selecting the preferred operator will be subject to an Expression of



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Interest process in accordance with Recreation and Leisure Traders Licence – Foreshore and Reserves Policy.

### ***Horse exercising area***

The designated horse area provides access to the beach for horses between the hours of 4am till 8am. The designated area begins at the City's northern boundary and ends at the edge of CY O'Connor Reserve.

### ***Permanent beach volleyball***

At this stage, a suitable location for a permanent beach volleyball court to be developed has not been identified. The identification of a suitable area will be the subject of a further detailed investigation into the various impacts, community need, potential locations and approvals required.

### ***Dog exercising areas***

The dog on and off lead areas are currently being reviewed, once the review is finalised and designated areas endorsed by Council, these areas will be included in the Coastal Activities Guide Map.

## 3.0 Commercial Activities

As the popularity of the City's coastline has increased, the City has begun to receive a number of requests from commercial providers to operate along the coast.

Whilst these providers potentially enhance the experience for beach goers, there is also a need to put in place controls to ensure that the provision of the trader's goods/services is managed effectively.

Casual traders seeking to or already operating on the coast include:

- Kitesurfing coaches
- Diving Schools
- Inflatable playground providers
- Boot camp and Personal Trainers
- Coffee and food vans
- Recreation and Leisure Equipment Hirers



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Casual commercial traders are subject to the conditions under the City's Trading in Public Places Local Law 2000.

In terms of selling food and drink items, the Coastal Activities Guide Map outlines the food and drink traders zones whereby approval may be sought to operate along the coastline via an expression of interest process. Furthermore, the City's Health Local Law also prescribes other additional operating restrictions which apply.

### Recreation and Traders Licence

In an effort to effectively manage sport and recreation business operators along the City's coastline, Council adopted the Recreation and Leisure Traders Licence – Foreshore and Reserves Policy (*Appendix 2.*) in June 2013. The Policy aims to establish a standard set of guidelines and conditions for commercial operators to run activities on Council managed foreshore reserves.

Some of the key requirements and considerations included in the Licences are:

- Provision of Site Plan
- Other State Government or relevant statutory authority approvals
- Provision of a risk management plan
- Proximity of the proposed operation to similar type businesses must be at least 500m
- Availability of parking and supporting infrastructure
- 12 month licence period

It is proposed that each application for a Recreation and Leisure Traders Licence be assessed on its merits, except for applications from businesses which are supporting activities considered to be "high impact". These businesses will be subject to further restrictions in terms of areas permitted to operate and the number of licences for anyone one type of activity which is permitted (as per the Coastal Activities Guide Map).

Given the continual change and increase in usage along the coastline, it is recommended that the Recreation and Leisure Traders Licence – Foreshore and Reserves Policy be reviewed on a biennial basis to ensure it remains up to date with usage trends and the community's needs.



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### 4.0 Events and Functions

The City's coastline provides an attractive location for the holding of a variety of events and functions within popular activity nodes and community facilities. The size, nature and organisers of an event or function may vary greatly which will pose different levels of impact on other coastal visitors and residents.

The City receives a number of varying applications for events and functions along its coastline, for example;

- Birthday Parties
- Concerts
- Triathlons
- Swimming events
- Weddings
- Surf Lifesaving events

To manage these events and functions the City administers two assessment processes, in particular:

- **Reserve Booking** – Applicable to function requests such as birthday parties, wedding ceremonies. These activities are not provided with guaranteed exclusivity.
- **Special Events Approval Process** – This process considers issues such as parking management, waste management, event layout and public liability insurance.

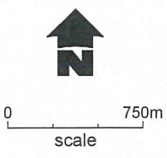
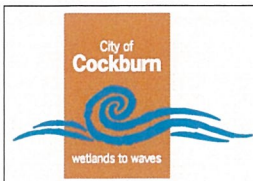
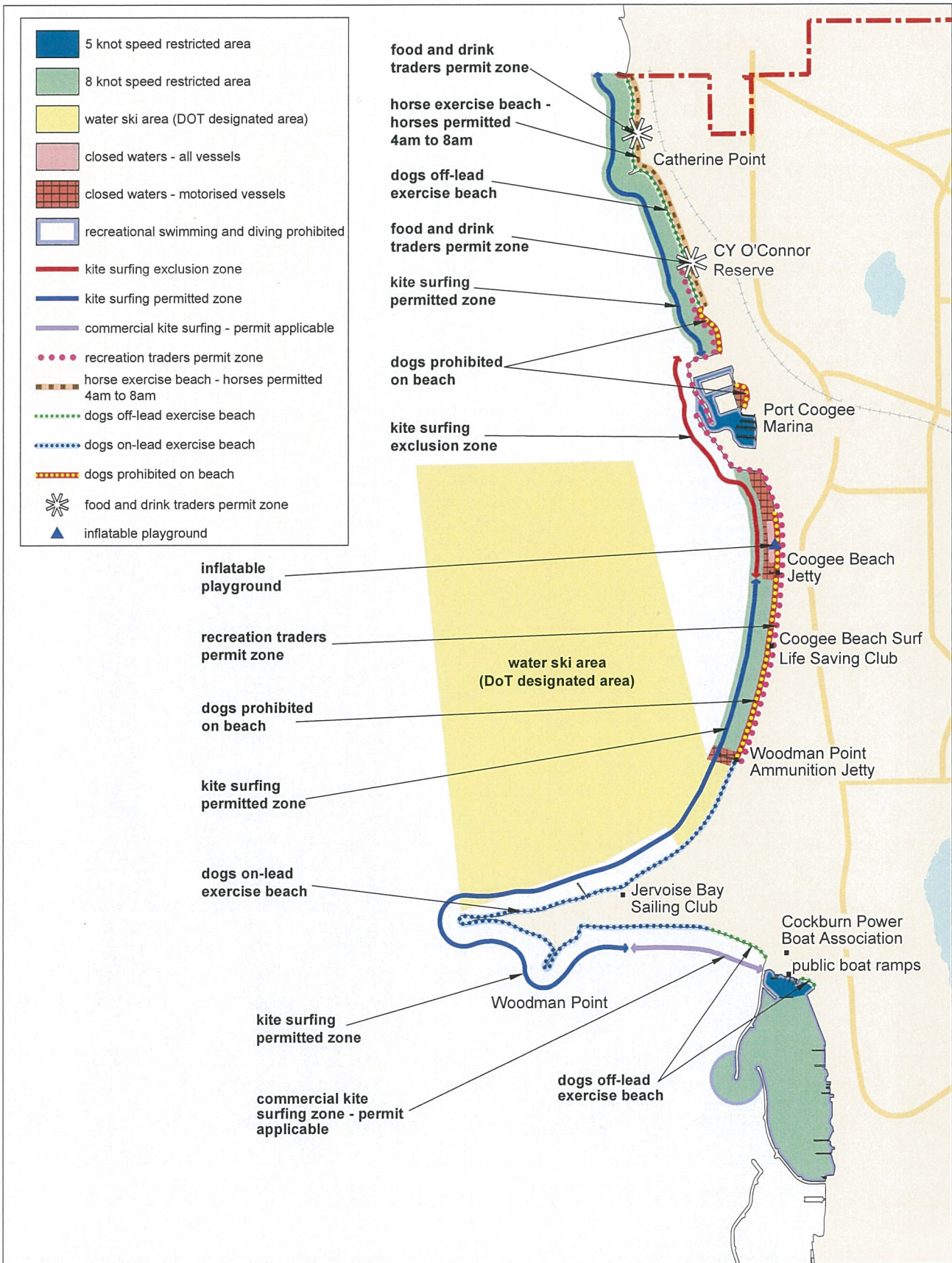


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### Recommendations

1. Develop an information brochure to inform the community of activities which are permitted, the areas which they are permitted and any exclusion zones;
2. Develop a signage strategy for the placement of signage relating to exclusion zones and permitted activities along the coastline;
3. Review the Recreation and Leisure Traders Licence – Foreshore and Reserves Policy on a biennial basis;
4. Update the Coastal Activities Guide Map upon Council endorsing the new dog on and off lead exercising areas; and
5. Consider the future development of a beach volleyball court through undertaking a detailed assessment of potential locations and associated implications.





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For further information: [www.cockburn.wa.gov.au](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au)

Version 10  
January 2017

