

City of Cockburn **Animal Management and Exercise Plan 2020–2025**



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	3
Introduction.....	4
Aims and Objectives	4
Links to the Strategic Community Plan 2020 – 2030	4
Legislation and Animal Management.....	5
Context of Animal Owners Within the City of Cockburn.....	6
Community and Stakeholder Consultation.....	6
Key Strategic Objectives.....	8
Objective 1 - Encourage Responsible Dog Ownership	8
Objective 2 - Provide sufficient, safe spaces for dogs, people and wildlife	11
Objective 3 - Manage Feral and Domestic Cats	21
Objective 4 - Embrace Smart City initiatives in animal management.....	25
Performance Measures.....	33
Reporting and Revision.....	34

Executive Summary

The City understands that pets are an important part of people's lives and that they contribute to enhanced wellbeing. Australia has one of the highest rates of animal ownership in the world, with 67% of households owning a dog or cat. Without proper management, previously domesticated animals such as cats, can destroy the native environment, and without proper control, dogs can become a nuisance and dangerous to the public.

Effectively managing the threats posed by pet species requires commitment, a coordinated effort, and action from a range of key stakeholders.

Through increased development, population growth and animal-friendly facilities, the City of Cockburn is committed to educating the community and visitors about their obligations as responsible pet owners, so that animals and the community can coexist harmoniously.

Responsible pet ownership goes further than caring for the health, welfare and safety of our pets. Animal owners are socially and legally responsible for managing their pets in such a way that ensures their animals are compliant with all relevant laws and do not create a nuisance, whether in terms of impact to the community or the environment.

This Plan includes strategic objectives, guiding principles and priority outcomes to direct the coordination of animal management for the City of Cockburn.

Introduction

The purpose of the Animal Management and Exercise Plan 2020-2025 is to guide the City's approach to promoting responsible pet ownership and ensuring that facilities are appropriately accessible and equipped to manage the growing population of pets within the City.

Furthermore, the plan identifies opportunities to assist dog and cat owners to understand their responsibilities while also informing the general community about the City's role and future priorities. The plan also recommends key changes to simplify the dog on-leash versus off-leash areas within City Reserves, Parks and the Coastline.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this Plan is to support the City of Cockburn to achieve its vision for Cockburn to be the best place to be. Responsible pet ownership and thoughtful and sustainable animal management will help the City of Cockburn becomes the place to be for dogs and cats too.

The objectives of this plan are:

1. Encourage responsible dog ownership;
2. Provide sufficient, safe spaces for pets, people and wildlife;
3. Manage feral and domestic cats; and
4. Embrace smart city initiatives in animal management.

Links to the Strategic Community Plan 2020 – 2030

The Animal Management & Exercise Plan supports the following key objectives in the Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030:

Table 1 Links to the Strategic Community Plan 2020 – 2030

Community, Lifestyle and Security	3.2 Facilitate and advocate for increased community safety .
Environmental Responsibility	2.1 Sustainably manage our environment by protecting and enhancing our unique natural coastal, bushland, wetlands areas and native wildlife. 2.3 Provide accessible high-quality open spaces and parks for community benefit.

Legislation and Animal Management

Administration of animal management within Western Australia is set out in applicable legislation, predominantly the *Dog Act 1976*, the *Cat Act 2011*, and the City of Cockburn Consolidated Local Laws. This legislation authorises the City to enforce compliance, and respond to or act on animal complaints and incidents, in a manner that is consistent with its powers as granted in legislation. This legislation also directs Council to collect revenue through fee-based services such as animal registration and impounding.

Dog owners must meet the following legal requirements;

- 1) Abide by the *Dog Act 1976* and the City of Cockburn (Local Government Act) Local Laws 2000;
- 2) Ensure their dog has a microchip;
- 3) Current registration from three months of age and that it wears a collar with a registration tag at all times;
- 4) Keep their dog on-leash at all times in public places, unless posted signs indicate otherwise;
- 5) Do not allow their dog to enter areas signposted as 'dogs prohibited' and keep their dog under effective control in designated off-leash areas;
- 6) Pick up and correctly dispose of all animal waste;
- 7) Observe special conditions for owning a greyhound or declared dangerous and restricted breed dog;
- 8) Unless approved, do not keep more than two dogs on their property; and
- 9) Ensure their dog is securely confined within their property.

Cat owners must meet the following legal requirements;

- 1) Abide by the *Cat Act 2011* and the City of Cockburn (Local Government Act) Local Laws 2000;
- 2) Ensure their cat has a microchip, is sterilized (desexed), and has current registration from six months of age;
- 3) Ensure their cat wears a collar with its registration tag at all times in public places; and
- 4) Do not keep more than three cats on their property.

Animal welfare is also a key concern for the community. In WA, animal welfare is legislated by the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* and administered by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) through its Inspectors.

Context of Animal Owners Within the City of Cockburn

According to RSPCA data, 38% of households own a dog, and 29% of households own a cat in Australia. On average, dog owners will have 1.3 dogs, and cat owners will have 1.4 cats. It is estimated that there were 21,579 dogs and 17,735 cats within the City of Cockburn in 2019. By 2024, it is forecast that there will be 24,296 dogs and 19,968 cats in the local area.

Legislation requires that all dogs over three months and all cats over six months must be registered and microchipped and cats must also be sterilised. Analysing current registrations against RSPCA statistics shows that many dogs and cats are not registered, microchipped or sterilised. In 2019, it was estimated that 61% of dogs were registered and 17% of cats were registered in the City of Cockburn. While dog registrations have been increasing, cat registrations have been declining.

Table 2 Animal Registration (2017 – 19) Summary Within the City of Cockburn

City of Cockburn		2017	2018	2019	Trend
	Estimated number of dogs	20,575	21,087	21,579	↑
	Registered dogs	11,986	12,467	13,159	↑
	Estimated % of dogs registered	58%	59%	61%	↑
	Estimated number of cats	16,909	17,331	17,735	↑
	Registered cats	4310	3,905	3,088	↓
	Estimated % of cats registered	25%	23%	17%	↓

There is a need to reverse the downward trend in cat registrations and accelerate growth in dog registrations. In accordance with legislation, the City is aiming for all dogs and cats to be registered.

Community and Stakeholder Consultation

At the beginning of 2019, City Officers undertook extensive consultation with members of the community, which included animal owning and non-animal owning residents, key stakeholders groups, and local government authorities across Australia. The objective of the consultation was to seek an understanding of community needs for services and improve the accessibility and compliance of dog and cat owners within public open spaces.

Further complementing the series of community workshops, an external consultant was engaged to oversee an online survey and dedicated workshop to finalise the community's views on proposed recommendations within this Plan. Views of more than 600 residents and City of Cockburn employees were gathered. The engagement program included:

- A postal and online survey, and a community workshop with a representative sample of dog owners and non-dog owners from across the City;
- In-depth interviews with opinion leaders;
- Meetings and workshops with internal stakeholders in animal management, parks and reserves, safety and community engagement officers employed by the City of Cockburn; and
- Social media engagement via the City's Facebook page and online engagement portal.

A complete report of these findings is attached as Appendix one (1) to this Plan.

The key themes which arose from the Community Engagement Process were:

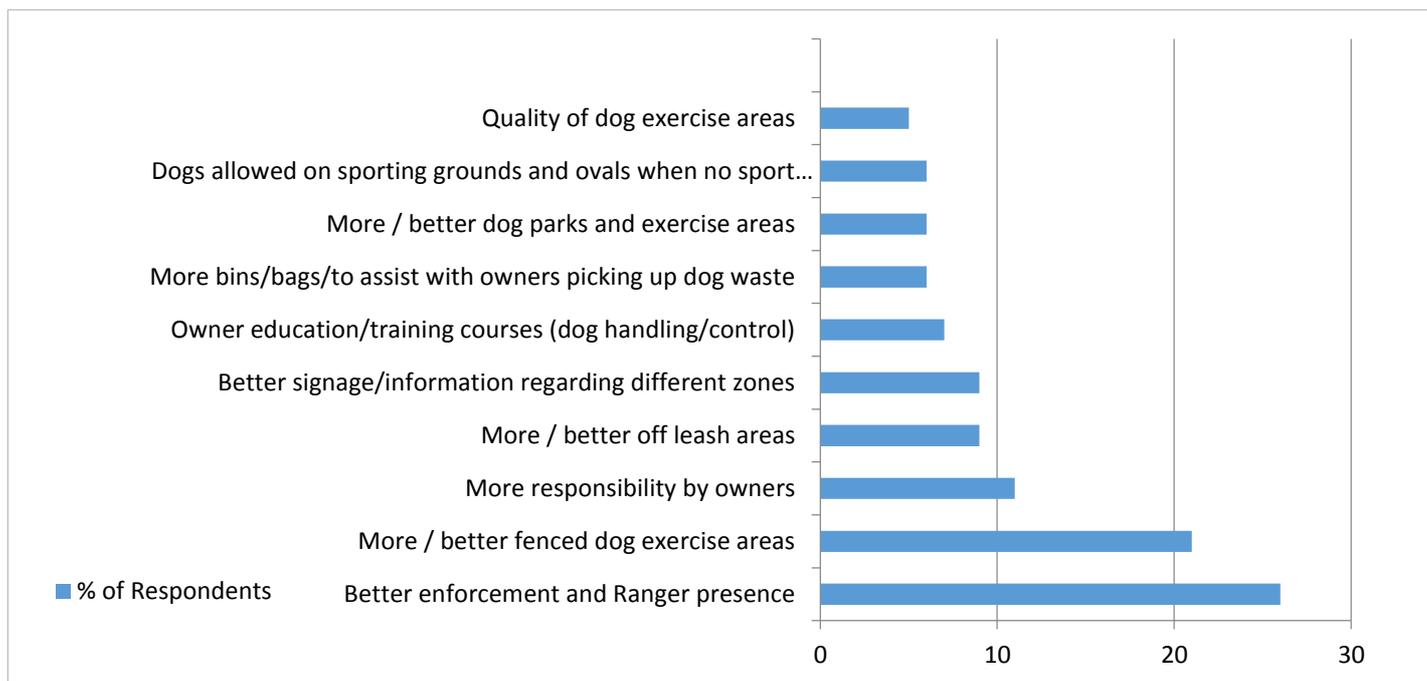


Chart 1 Community Priorities for Animal Management

Key Strategic Objectives

Objective 1 - Encourage Responsible Dog Ownership

Dog owners and non-dog owners have different needs, values and expectations. There are conflicting demands across the community between people who are comfortable with dogs versus those who are not. As the population grows, the potential for conflict is likely to rise, and this may include dogs versus children, dogs versus sport, dogs versus dogs, and dogs versus wildlife.

To enable people, pets and wildlife to coexist, there is a need for greater promotion of responsible pet ownership guidelines, participation in dog obedience training and stronger enforcement to encourage responsible behaviour.

The main community concerns are:

- **Keeping dogs out of 'Dogs Prohibited' areas** - a higher concern for non-dog owners (84 points) versus dog owners (50 points).
- **Owner supervision and control of dogs in off-lead areas** - a higher concern for non-dog owners (82 points) versus dog owners (66 points).
- **Dog behaviour** - dogs responding to their owners' commands, not jumping or running up to people or other dogs, etc. A higher concern for non-dog owners (82 points) versus dog owners (55 points).
- **Management of dog waste** – one of the top concerns (81 points within the online community survey) across the community with similar levels of concern among dog owners and non-dog owners. The City's effectiveness score in this area was only 45 out of 100.
- **Ensuring dogs are kept on-lead in on-lead areas** - a higher concern for non-dog owners (78 points) versus dog owners (45 points).

With the exception of managing dog waste, non-dog owners expressed greater concern than dog owners for responsible dog ownership indicators in all the main community concerns.

Community Sentiment - Enforcement

Community consultation identified a strong sentiment for an increase in enforcement by City Rangers, by both dog and non-dog owners.

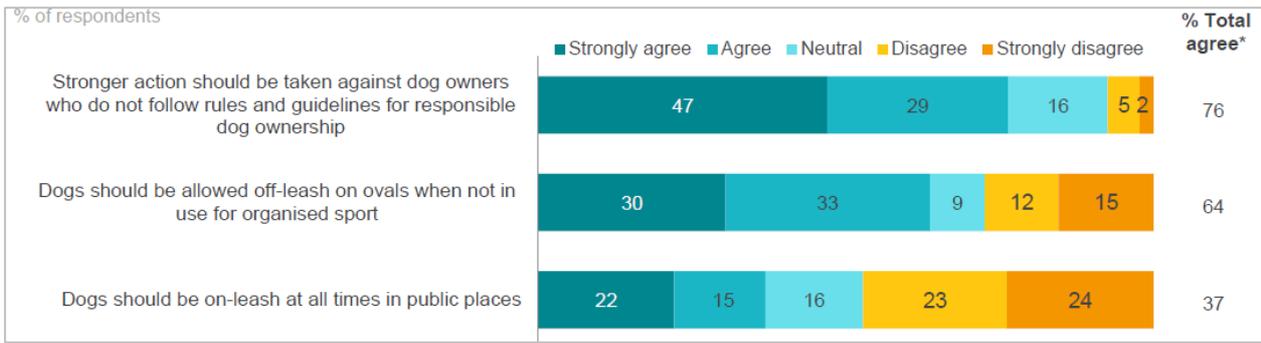


Chart 2 Community Sentiment for Animal Management

Respondents from the community consultation were asked to provide a suggested ‘Council Action Plan’. As seen within Chart three (3) below, stronger enforcement by City Rangers is seen as the most supportive action to be undertaken, closely followed by improved and additional dog parks.

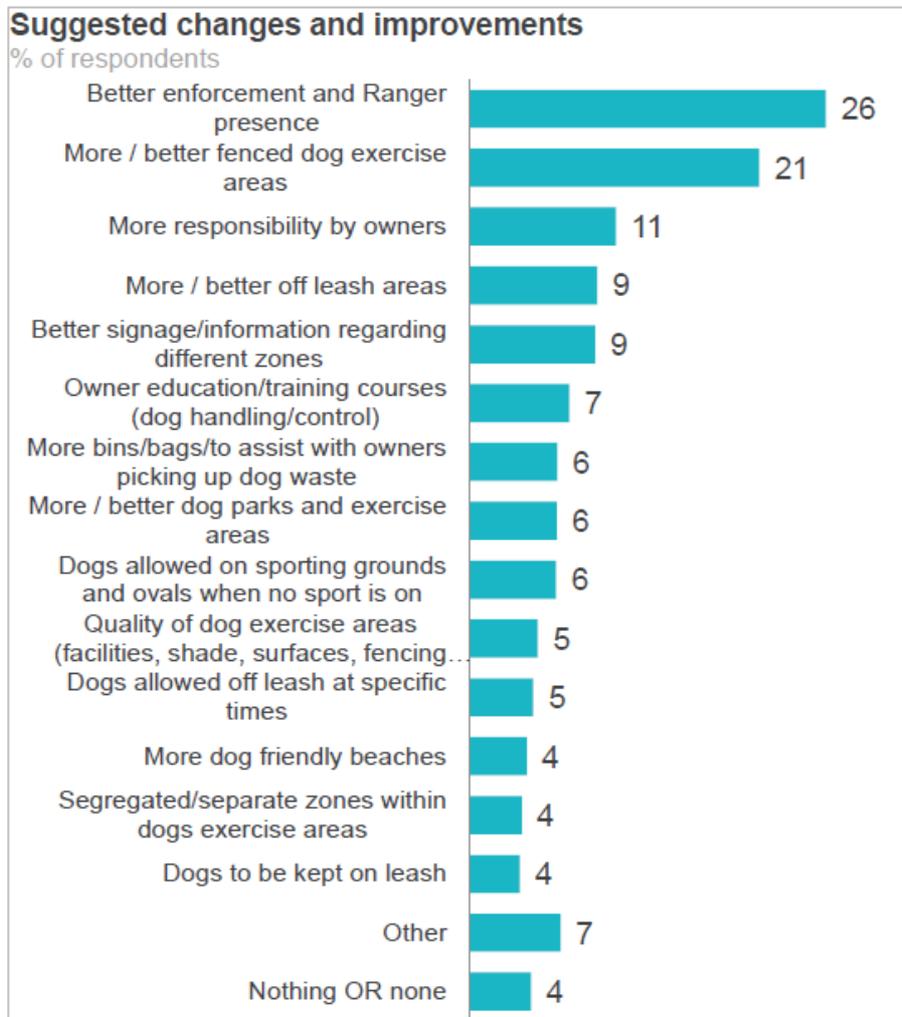


Chart 3 Community Created Council Action Plan

To encourage more responsible pet ownership, there is a requirement to:

- **Increase enforcement** – 93% of non-dog owners and 72% of dog owners would like stronger action taken against dog owners who do not follow responsible dog

ownership rules and regulations.

- **Improve communication of responsible pet ownership guidelines** – only 45% of respondents feel there is sufficient information provided on the guidelines for responsible pet ownership.
- **Improve promotion of dog obedience training** – while 71% of dog owners say they have taken their dog to obedience training, only 23% of dog owners and 17% of non-dog owners feel there is sufficient promotion and provision of dog obedience training.
- **Improve signage** – 23% of respondents feel there is insufficient signage to indicate where dogs are permitted on and off leash.

A traffic light system of signage has been developed as a result of these findings. The roll-out of this system will be completed at all prominent reserves and dog-friendly locations. Within the table three (3) below is a proposed version of the traffic light style signage.

Table 3 Proposed Traffic Light Style System

		
<p>Dog off-leash area. Dogs may be off-leash within the area, but effective control by the owner is still required. Dogs must be held by a leash when;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designated sporting fields are in use; • designated school activity in progress • city officers are using power tools or mowing; or <p>At the direction of a City Officer.</p>	<p>Dog on-leash area. Dogs allowed within the area but must be on leash. Unless within an enclosed dog park.</p>	<p>Dog Prohibited area. Dogs are not allowed within the area either on or off-leash. Registered assistance dogs are exempted.</p>

Mobile signage will also be further investigated and implemented to highlight key patrol areas for City Rangers as part of their proactive enforcement patrols. Some community suggestions through consultation highlighted the need to install dog etiquette style signage in dog exercise areas, to educate dog owners, and promote interaction between owners their pets.

Objective 2 - Provide sufficient, safe spaces for dogs, people and wildlife

Within the City of Cockburn there is a myriad of areas where dogs can exercise, and owners can socialise. The needs of dogs, dog owners and non-dog owners vary greatly, and the City caters for different needs with a mix of dogs prohibited parks, reserves and beaches, dogs on leash parks, reserves and beaches, and dogs off-leash exercise areas, including five fenced dog exercise parks.

As part of the Plan's community consultation, there have been strong and varied views on the appropriateness of some of these areas, but also a 'cutting of red tape' approach to allowing responsible owners to walk and exercise their dogs.

The Plan has broken this objective into key areas:

- Dogs access along the coastline;
- Off-leash areas within reserves; and
- Enclosed dog parks.

Dogs Access Along the Coastline

Coastline Usage:

Community feedback has shown a strong desire to maintain dog access to the City's coastal areas and beaches. The community survey showed CY O'Connor Beach is the most popular beach to visit with a dog (56%), followed by Jervois Bay Dog Beach (40%) and Woodman Point (20%). Although dogs are prohibited on Coogee Beach, 15% of dog owners surveyed have visited this beach with their dog in the past 12 months.

When surveyed, 42% of non-dog owners are unhappy with designated dog access zones along the coast. They would like dog owners to be more responsible for their pets and for greater enforcement of on-leash requirements. The practicality of constant enforcement within this area is difficult, and will likely require a significant increase in Ranger resources to maintain a strong enforcement capability along the coast, especially during the summer months.

Environmental Impacts:

Research has shown that dogs on a leash often have the same environmental impact on sea nesting birds, as those not on a leash. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and members of the community are concerned about the impact of dogs on Fairy Terns. Fairy Terns are known to nest at Woodman Point and are listed as vulnerable under both state and federal legislation and thus are a protected species. In

Western Australia, predation from domestic and feral animals such as dogs, cats and foxes has reduced population numbers and breeding success.

Further concern has been raised by BirdLife Australia, a prominent bird protection organisation in Australia. Recent research into the Woodman Point area has shown the beach is an ideal habitat for a wide range of migratory and resident shorebirds, including species like migratory Ruddy Turnstone, Grey Plovers, and the Grey-Tailed Tattler. Up to 26 species of shorebird have been recorded at the site. The area also could potentially provide breeding habitat for resident beach-nesting birds, including Red-Capped Plovers and Oystercatchers, though the amount of human activity and the frequent presence of dogs has likely impacted birds selecting the area to breed in recent years. Making the area dog free, as well as measures taken to facilitate Fairy Tern breeding will also benefit other beach-nesting species.

Research has shown dog walking (both leashed and unleashed) is a major disturbance to shorebirds, due to their need to spend large amounts of time feeding in the shallows and exposed sand flats. They do this to build body condition in preparation for their long migration to the northern arctic to breed, and to recover when they return to Australia.

Council at its July 2020 meeting requested Woodman Point be changed from an on-leash area to off-leash area. The change was due to long-standing history of dogs being allowed at Woodman Point, and current usage suggests there a few dogs that use this stretch of beach.

Humans and dogs compete with shorebirds for the use of these spaces to walk, run and fish. There is a growing body of research indicating that frequent disturbance can significantly impact shorebird feeding behaviour, causing birds to waste energy in repeated flight to get out of the path of dogs and their owners. In some cases, this can cause birds to stop using a site altogether.

The general community is highly concerned about keeping dogs away from wildlife and nesting birds. The level of concern is 85 points among non-dog owners and 75 points among dog owners.

Community Awareness:

There is relatively low community awareness of designated dog exercise zones along Cockburn's coast. Only 59% of dog owners and 68% of non-dog owners were aware of the zones when shown image 1 widely used by the City on its website and billboards.

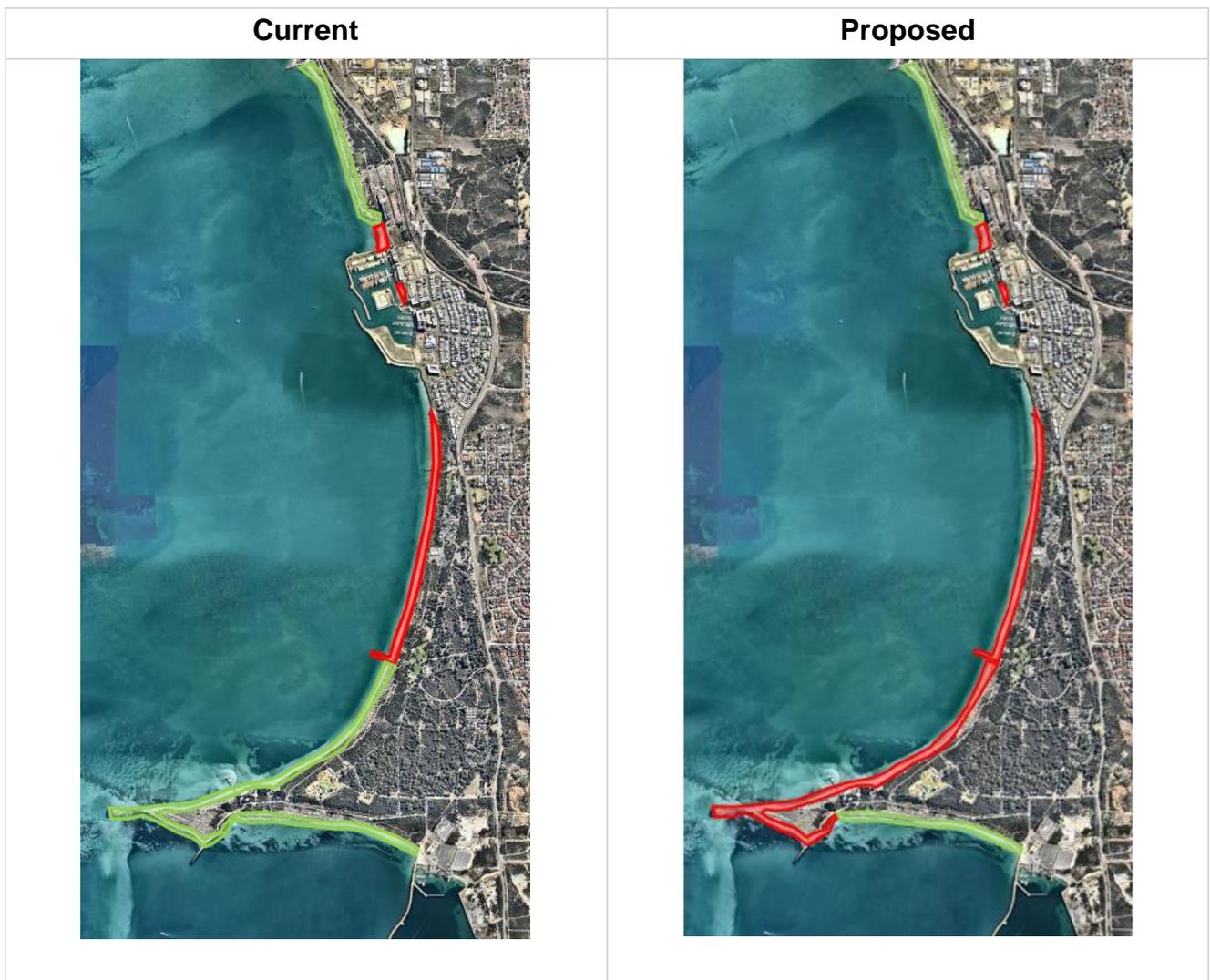
Based on feedback from the community and considering the Council decision, the Plan recommends changes to the coastal areas. The proposed changes are highlighted in table four (4) below.

Image 1 Public Promotion Image



Table 4 Current and Proposed Coastal Changes

Legend	
	Dogs prohibited
	Dog off-leash
	Dogs on-leash



Port Coogee and CY O'Conner (No change)

Current



Proposed



Coogee Beach (No change)

Current



Proposed



Woodman Point

Current



Proposed



Off-Leash Areas within Reserves

Only 39% of respondents were happy with the availability and mix of on-leash and off-leash, fenced, and dogs prohibited areas. 68% of non-dog owners think dogs should be on a leash at all times in public places, while only 29% of dog owners feel the same way.

Residents are fortunate to have a number of large and well-maintained reserves throughout the City, which for the most part require owners to have their dogs on a leash. Community feedback shows this seems to be over-restrictive, especially considering most reserves are not heavily utilised at times when most dogs are walked.

Of those surveyed, 73% of dog owners think dogs should be allowed off-leash when ovals are not in use for organised sport, versus only 25% of non-dog owners. The main concern amongst dog and non-dog owners alike was the removal of dog waste. Upon review of current complaints relating to off-leash reserves, there does not appear to be an increasing trend of more dog waste left by owners.

To meet the growing community's need to change regulations relating to where and when dogs can be off-leash, this Plan proposes expanding the use of the traffic light style of signage recommended within this Plan, and expand the City's designated dog areas into three categories:

- Red – Dog prohibited area. Dogs are not allowed in this area either on or off-leash. Registered assistance dogs are exempted.
- Yellow - Dogs are allowed in this area; however, they must be leashed, unless within an enclosed dog park.
- Green - Dogs may be off-leash in this area, but effective control by the owner is still required. Dogs must be held by a leash;
 - When designated sporting fields are in use;
 - When designated school activity in progress;
 - When City Officers are using power tools or mowing; or
 - At the direction of a City Officer.

As part of a change management process, this Plan recommends an initial trial of this system as outlined in image two (2) below.

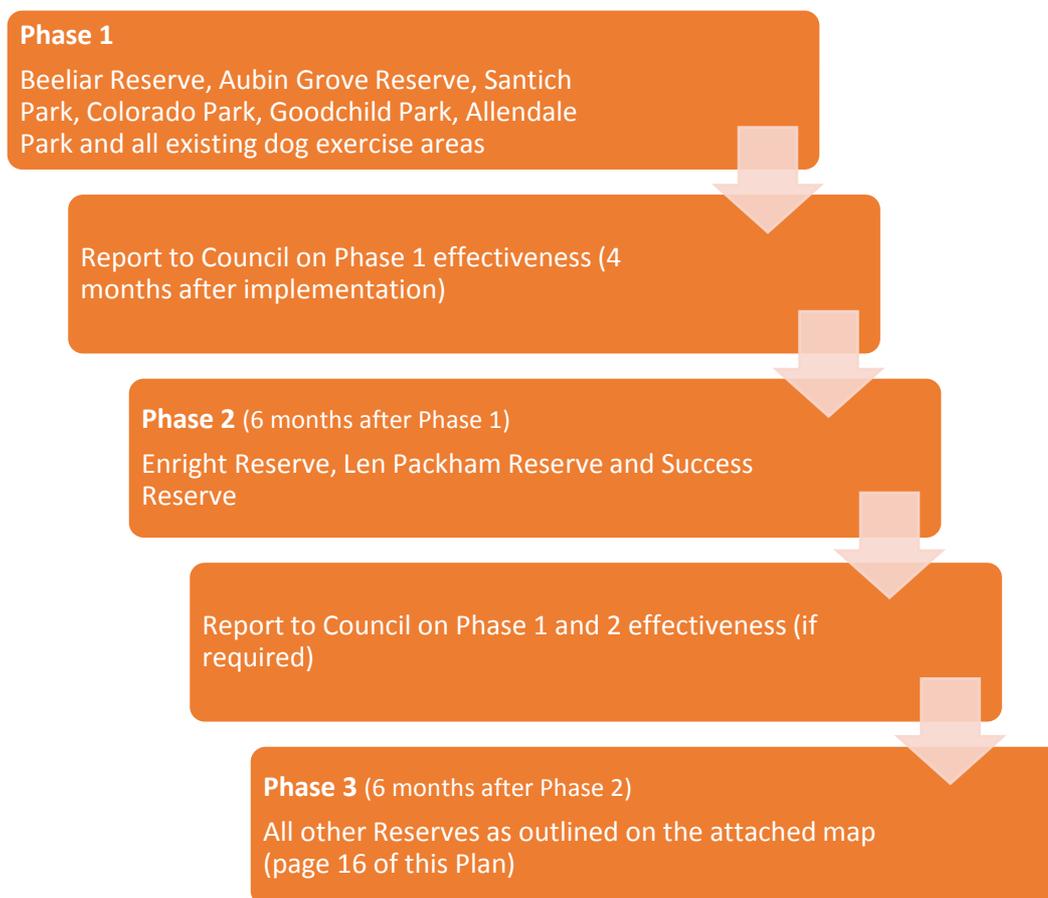


Image 2 Active Reserve Phased Approach

Enclosed Dog Parks

Enclosed dog parks are on-trend, and an increasing number of Local Governments are opening new parks. In addition to parks with separate areas for small and large dogs, most enclosures also include agility equipment and water fountains.

Although dog exercise parks are growing in popularity, there are recognised challenges with enclosed dog parks, mainly the cost of maintenance (requiring approximately \$50,000 replacement turf every 18 months), and a lack of supervision by owners. In the South Australia Dog and Cat Management Board's *Unleashed: A Guide to Successful Dog Parks*, long, linear enclosed dog exercise areas are recommended to encourage owners to walk or run alongside their dog to maintain supervision. Other concerns with enclosed dog parks areas include:

- dog owners treating the enclosures as a ‘set and forget’ environment where owners are distracted by socializing or being on their phone, without maintaining appropriate supervision of their dogs,
- ease of access to facilities - walking distance from home,
- poorly designed areas, lack of shade, inappropriate to contain smaller dogs,
- a view that fenced areas give dog owners a false sense of security and cause some to pay less attention to the whereabouts of their dog,
- need for better equipment, more stimulating plants at parks,
- lack of maintenance - grass, gates and replacement dog waste bag dispensers.

The following assessment criteria is recommended to evaluate the proposed locations of future dog exercise areas.

Dog Exercise Areas Assessment Criteria	
Dog Owner Ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dog park should be considered where there is approximately 3,000 dogs within 5km of a park.
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population size, profile, housing density. • Number of dog registrations, dog profile (age, type, etc.).
Current situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current access to off-leash areas, walking / driving distance • Current usage, satisfaction.
Community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level of demand, user profile, expected frequency of use. • Fencing only installed to assist with dog, bicyclist and pedestrian safety .
Appropriateness of location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size of area - min 1.5 ha. • Land ownership - owned or vested to the City of Cockburn. • Site features – drainage, some natural vegetation and topography, shade, natural barriers / fencing, waste disposal options and access to a water source for fountains. • Environmental / biodiversity impacts. • Accessibility – within walking distance of residential areas, accessible by road, footpaths or trails, and adequate parking provisions. • Safety - not isolated, able to be monitored, and good lighting. • Proximity to complimentary activities – for casual surveillance and shared infrastructure and shared costs (parking, lighting, toilets, general waste bins, water, etc).
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of establishment and maintenance.

18% of dog owners feel there are sufficient fenced dog exercise areas in the City of Cockburn; lower among owners of large dogs (15%) versus small dogs (23%). Most would prefer separate exercise areas for big and small or timid dogs. Based on these findings, the Plan recommends using the above guidelines, in a multi-pronged approach;

1. Construct two new enclosed dog parks within the City;
2. Investigate removing unnecessary fencing at existing and proposed parks to promote better dog and non-dog owner interaction; and
3. Improve sensory and education material within existing parks.

Macfaull and Radonich Park were selected due to the distance away from existing enclosed dog parks in the Central and Eastern Wards of the City boundaries. The City officers highlight the need that further specific community consultation with neighbouring residents should be undertaken prior to any construction of these proposed parks.

With the construction of two dog parks at Macfaull and Radonich Park, most of the City's residents would live within a 3km catchment of a dog park, as shown within image three (3) below.

Establishment of a Memorial For Pets That Had Past

In 2019, Council sought further exploration of the creation of a pet memorial within the City for owners of deceased pets to pay their respects. Research by the City's Officers has shown a number of pet cremation services are provided within the Perth metropolitan area. Post cremation, many dog owners elect to either store or dispose of ashes at various locations or in private ceremonies.

Within the Perth metropolitan area, the Shenton Park Dogs Refuge has options of burial and spreading of ashes within their Memorial Garden. The use of the refuge incurs fees of between \$90-\$690, depending on the type of burial or spreading of ashes.

Although initial research would suggest there are no other formal memorials within the metropolitan area, the spreading of ashes is considered common and due to the small quantity and the inert nature of ash, does not pose any environmental health impacts

As part of the Plan, it is recommended that further investigation is done in consultation with Landgate about renaming the City's enclosed dog parks after fallen pets from the Australian Defence Force and other public services.

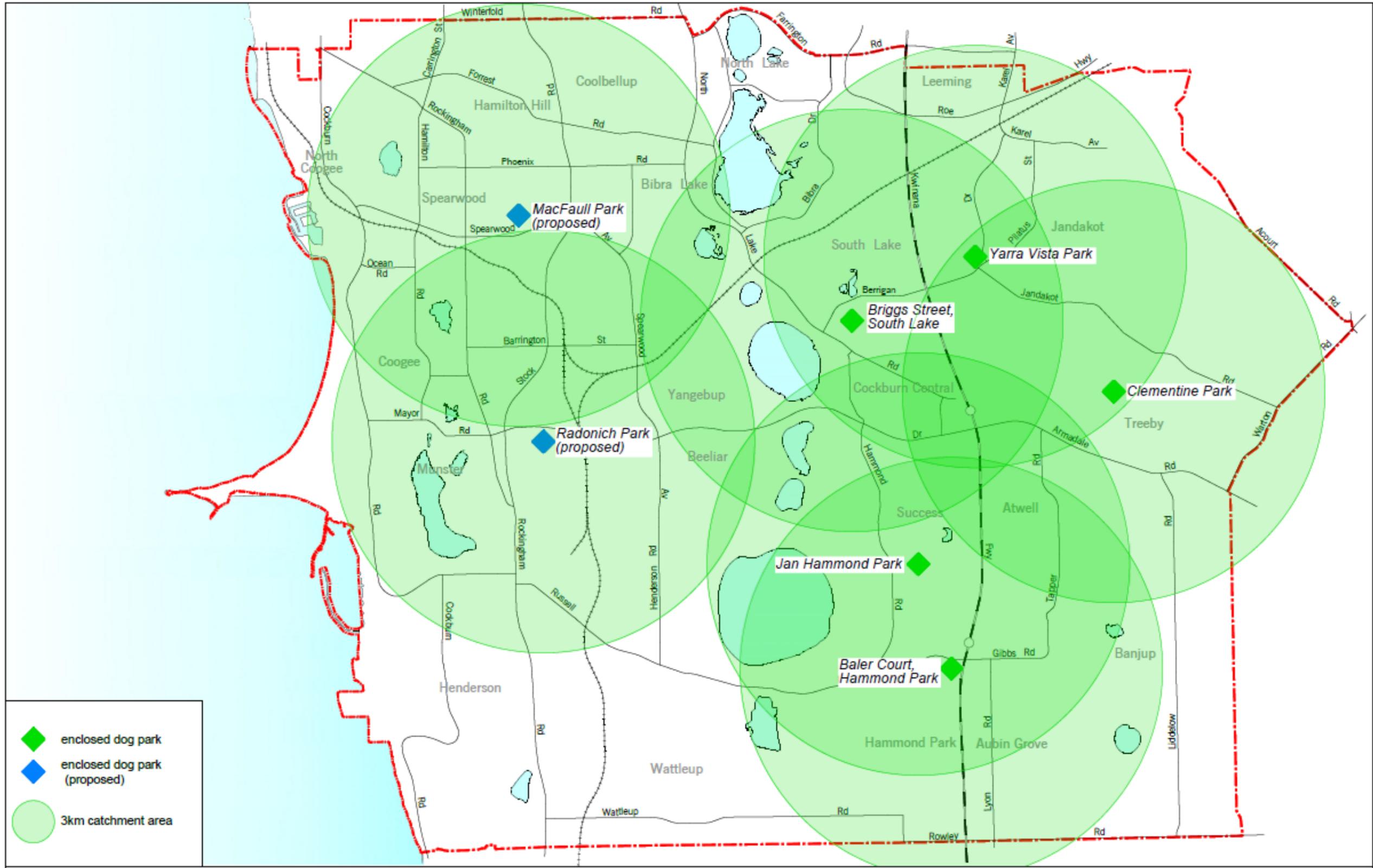


Image 3 Existing and Proposed Dog Parks

Objective 3 - Manage Feral and Domestic Cats

Feral and domestic cats are the same species, however, feral cats live and reproduce in the wild with minimal or no reliance on humans. Feral cats are predominantly solitary and nocturnal, spending most of the day in the safety of a shelter such as a rabbit burrow, log or rock pile. They are carnivores, surviving by scavenging or hunting for small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and insects. They can carry infectious diseases which can be transmitted to native animals, domestic pets and humans.

Feral cats threaten the survival of over 100 native species in Australia. They have caused the extinction of some ground-dwelling birds and small to medium-sized mammals. They are a major cause of decline for many land-based endangered animals such as the Bilby, Bandicoot, Bettong and Numbat.

The impact of feral cats is exacerbated by free-roaming domesticated cats, many of which frequent conservation areas. Many native animal species are struggling to survive and so reducing the number killed by feral and free-roaming domesticated cats will assist their populations to grow.

Creating Cat Control Areas

To mitigate the threat to native wildlife, the City has explored the creation of cat prohibited areas. Other local governments have successfully initiated such areas within the Perth metropolitan area.

Currently in the City, pet cats trapped in public areas, including conservation areas, are impounded, and if microchipped, their owners are notified. When collected, the owners pay a small impoundment fee. Where owners cannot be contacted, the impounded cats are sent to the Cat Haven for rehoming where possible. Cats that are not microchipped and deemed to be feral are humanely euthanized.

For the past 12 months, staff from Environmental and Ranger Services, have been investigating a number of options to strengthen the current City of Cockburn Local Laws 2000 that relate to cat management.

A Murdoch University student was engaged, via the City's intern program, to research the approach other Councils have taken to control cats and protect wildlife. The aim was to identify cat laws that would be suitable for the City to adopt. The scope of the research included discussions with other internal staff, including Rangers, to assess the ramifications of implementing specific laws in terms of staffing and financial impacts.

Based on the investigation to date and report produced by the intern, it is recommended that the City adopt a similar approach to other local governments, by enacting laws that prohibit cats in conservation reserves. This would mean that under the proposed Local Law if any registered cat is caught in one of the City's conservation areas, the owner would be committing an offence and be subject to a fine.

It is recommended that the City take a staged approach (Image 4 below) over a period of time to enact amended Cat Management Laws over and above those required by the WA *Cat Act 2011*. The proposed implementation is scheduled for over five years to ensure a smooth transition throughout the community and provide adequate time for laws to pass through relevant agencies.



Image 4 Staged Cat Control Areas

Stage 1: Enact Laws to Prohibit Cats from Selected Areas (Regional Parks)

The City has more than 80 conservation areas that it manages. There are also numerous conservation areas throughout the City that are managed by the Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions (DBCA). Logically any cat control laws must apply to conservation areas managed by both the City, DBCA and other land identified that is known for habiting vulnerable fauna. It is suggested that Stage 1 is the implementation of cat management laws that prohibit cats from being anywhere within all City managed Conservation Reserves, Regional Parks and any identified additional bushland areas within the City. The areas are shown in Image 5 (below) and highlight the cat prohibited areas proposed by phase 1.

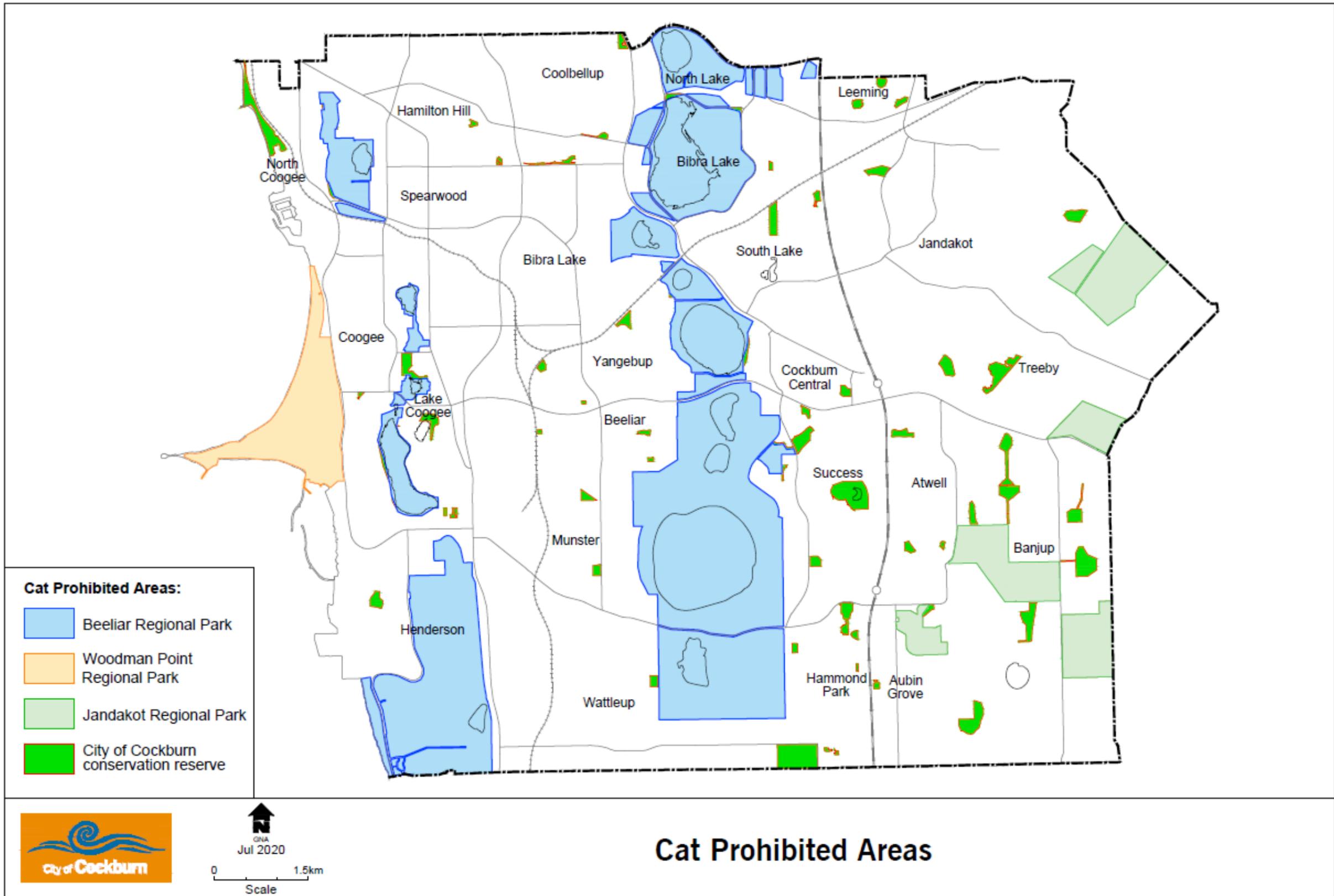


Image 5 Stage 1 - Cat Control Areas

The establishment of the regional parks as prohibited areas for cats is consistent with, and supported by, each of the Regional Park Management Plans (Beeliar RPMP- Pages32, Jandakot RPMP – Page 33, Woodman Point RPMP – Page 25, 26).

Stage 2: Enact Cat Management Laws similar to those that apply to dogs.

Stage 2 would see the City enact Local Laws for cat control based on similar requirements for dogs. The ability to lake such a law will be within the confines of the existing *Cat Act 2011*. The proposed Local Law would require cats to be retained within the owners property at all times.

On implementation of the Local Laws, the City will investigate options for cat owners, including workshops for educating cat owners and subsidies for cat confinement enclosures.

The City will lobby the State government, with the assistance of WALGA, to have the current *Cat Act 2011* amended to allow Councils to implement Cat Management Laws similar those that apply to dogs, ensuring cat management laws would be consistent across the State.

Community Based Trapping

Community based trapping is an effective tool to trap and re-home stray cats and reduce their impact in conversation reserves. Trapping has been trialed and adopted by leading Local Governments in Australia and in the City of Cockburn since 2017.

Further promotion of cat trapping could be used in conjunction with changes to the City's Local Law. A renewed public promotional campaign will assist in increasing community awareness of this service.

Conservation Reserve Trapping

The need for a comprehensive cat trapping program for City reserves is increasing. The population of feral cats is increasing, to the detriment of the native fauna and ecological function. To effectively control the unprecedented growth in the cat population, the City will need to engage additional contractors or appoint a trainee Ranger to undertake cat control in conservation areas. Identifying trapping locations is fluid and requires ongoing changes to address the growing cat population.

Conservation based trapping would align with the proposed cat control areas outlined in this plan.

Objective 4 - Embrace Smart City initiatives in animal management

Currently, City Rangers are leading the way in the use of digital technology with the application of mobile body cameras and other new technology. Future potential applications of digital innovations include:

- Improved data collection and database management of dog and cat owners;
- Digital registrations and automatic renewals;
- Targeted communication with pet owners;
- Reuniting or rehoming lost and unwanted animals;
- Dealing with barking dog issues via digital sound monitors;
- Accessing pet registration data in a mobile environment; and
- Remotely monitoring dog bag dispensers.

With the emergence of technology and strong community support for the City to continue to use technology to innovate, the following concepts have been developed;

Objective 1 - Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership

- Provide subsidized dog and cat microchipping;
- Install geo-fenced areas with RFID readers to tag dogs entering into dog prohibited areas;
- Improve the Ranger's ability to integrate internal data relating to previous dog offence history; and
- Provide dog registration kiosks at dog-friendly community events and dog exercise areas.

Objective 2 - Provide sufficient, safe spaces for pets, people and wildlife

- Install CCTV cameras and analytics programs to monitor the usage of fenced dog parks,
- Provide solar-powered sensor lights for dog owners using fenced dog parks after hours,
- Install outdoor dog wash stations at dog parks and CY- O'Connor Beach,
- Explore the use of waste collection remote vehicles

Objective 3 - Manage feral and domestic cats

- Install smart trapping and GPS tagging of traps within conservation reserves.
- Provide subsidized cat microchipping

Action Plan

Upon review of the myriad of initiatives proposed by the City, a multi-year action plan has been developed to implement the proposed changes within the Plan.

Objective 1 - Encourage Responsible Dog Ownership					
Action No.	Actions	Leader	Timing	Cost	Measure of Success
<i>Keeping dogs out of 'dogs prohibited' areas</i>					
1.1	Increasing the City's casual pool of Rangers to patrol dog prohibited areas proactively.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Seasonal – November – March of each year	\$40,000 annually	An overall reduction in dogs sighted in dog prohibited areas.
<i>Owner supervision and control of dogs in off-lead areas</i>					
1.2	Create public education program 'No it's not okay' focusing on singling out the common catch phrase and reinforce control of dogs is the owner's responsibility, not another dog owner.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q1 - 2021	\$20,000	Increased public awareness.
1.3	Increase dog and cat registration checks in parks, reserves and beaches and home audits, targeting suburbs with low registration levels. Undertaken by existing Ranger team until 2023 financial year, and subsequent expansion as part of the Workforce Plan deliberation process.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Ongoing	Existing Municipal budget	Increased registration compliance through follow-up action undertaken.
1.4	Develop Council Policy – for standardising the issuing of animal control infringements.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 - 2021	Nil	Consistency of infringements issued, highlighting the need for community compliance.
<i>Dog behaviour - (dogs responding to their owners' commands, not jumping or running up to people or other dogs)</i>					
1.5	Partner with animal behavioural specialists to develop and administer an educational campaign.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 – 2022	\$15,000	Number of participants engage with the program.
1.6	Explore expanding animal subsidies for dog desexing.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q2 – 2021	Existing Municipal budget	Expanding the current subsidies to meet expanding community needs.
<i>Management of dog waste</i>					
1.7	Review and improve access to dog waste stations (bags and bins).	Waste Services	Q3 2022	\$30,000	Reduction in reported waste.
<i>Ensuring dogs are kept on-lead in on-lead areas</i>					
Action item listed in 1.1 above.					

Objective 2 - Provide Sufficient, Safe Spaces for Dogs, People and Wildlife					
Action No.	Actions	Leader	Timing	Cost	Measure of Success
<i>Coastline Usage</i>					
2.1	Change the usage of Woodman Point from 'on-leash' to 'dogs prohibited'	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 - 2020	Nil	Successful change of the area.
2.2	Provide clearer delineation markers between the areas zoned along the coastline areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 - 2020	\$10,000	Increased awareness of beach goes about where a dog can and cannot walk.
<i>Environmental Impacts</i>					
Action item listed within 2.1 (a) above.					
2.3	Assess possible restrictions of dogs in City managed conservation reserves.	Environmental Services	Q2 – 2024	Nil	Review undertaken to understand the effectiveness of possible restrictions.
<i>Community Awareness</i>					
2.4	Implement a traffic light style dog designated areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Commencing in Q3 – 2020 (aligned to action item 2.5 of this Action Plan)	\$45,000	Increased community awareness of dog areas, resulting in improved compliance by dog owners.
<i>Off-leash areas within Reserves</i>					
2.5	Commence Phase 1 of the new dog areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 – 2020	Nil	Improved utilisation of reserves by dog owners, with minimal disturbance to the community and sporting clubs.
2.6	Provide Council a report into the effectiveness of Phase 1 dog areas, and make a recommendation if Phase 2 and 3 should go ahead.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q4 – 2020	Nil	Provide adequate report to Council to make an informed decision.
2.7	Commence Phase 2 of the new dog areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q2 – 2021	Nil	Improved utilisation of reserves by dog owners, with minimal disturbance to the community and sporting clubs.
Action No.	Actions	Leader	Timing	Cost	Measure of Success
2.8	Commence Phase 3 of the new dog areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q4 - 2021	Nil	Improved utilisation of reserves by dog owners, with minimal disturbance to the community and sporting clubs.

<i>Enclosed Dog Parks</i>					
2.9	Review existing enclosed dog exercise areas, and improve fencing, shade, provision of sensory plants, agility equipment, waste disposal, drinking water stations.	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Parks Services	Q4 – 2020	\$20,000	Improved overall use of the current enclosed dog parks.
2.10	Explore the renaming of enclosed dog parks after fallen service and other notable dogs	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Planning	Q1 – 2021	Nil	The implementation and naming of parks after community consultation.
2.11	Conduct targeted community engagement on the proposed construction of two new enclosed dog parks within MacFaul Park and Radonich Park with consideration to being partially unfenced.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q2 – 2021	\$3,000	Quality analysis to provide Council ability to provide an informed decision on if the projects should go ahead.
2.12	Construction of Radonich Park.	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Parks Services	Q4 – 2021	\$40,000	Dog Park constructed to the meet the desires and needs of the community. Providing a safe place for owners to interact with their pets in a safe and well-planned area.
2.13	Construction of MacFaul Park.	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Parks Services	Q3 – 2022	\$40,000	

Objective 3 - Manage Feral and Domestic Cats					
Action No.	Actions	Leader	Timing	Cost	Measure of Success
<i>Creating Cat Control Areas</i>					
3.1	Review the City's Consolidated Local Laws 2000 and report to Council on possible amendments to include cat control areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Environment Services	December 2020	Nil	Provide Council options to introduce new provisions within a Local Law to enact cat control areas.
3.2	Implement Stage 1 of the proposed Cat Control Areas	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Environment Services	Q3 - 2021	Nil	Implementation and promotion of stage 1 of the Cat Control Local Law
3.3	Public promotion and education of phase 2 implementation	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Environment Services	Q3 (2022) – Q1 (2023)	\$10,000	Public education of impending changes to cat restrictions and cat owners comply with the new restrictions.
3.4	Implement Stage 2 of the proposed Cat Control Areas	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 - 2023	Nil	Implementation and promotion of stage 2 of the Cat Control Local Laws.
<i>Community Based Trapping</i>					
3.8	Purchase of additional cat traps to loan to residents wanting to assist in the residential trapping of feral cats.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q1 -2022	\$5,000	Take up on the hire of cat traps by the community.
<i>Conservation Reserve Trapping</i>					
3.6	Forms part of the duties of a proposed Aboriginal Ranger traineeship program.	Rangers and Community Safety Services/ Environment Services	December – 2020	Funded outside of this plan	Increase in proactive patrolling by Rangers and the setting of traps within conservation reserves

Objective 4 - Embrace Smart City initiatives in Animal Management					
Action No.	Actions	Leader	Timing	Cost	Measure of Success
<i>Objective 1 - Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership</i>					
4.1	Install geo-fenced areas with RFID readers to tag dogs entering into dog prohibited areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q1 -2024	\$30,000	Effective monitoring of dog prohibited areas, while reducing human resource commitment.
4.2	Provide dog registration kiosks at dog friendly community events and dog exercise areas.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q4 - 2023	\$10,000	Number of on-site registrations completed at City managed events.
4.3	Install CCTV cameras and analytics programmes to monitor the usage of dog parks.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 – 2023	\$30,000	Increased dog usage intelligence created and used to change and amend dog park designs.
<i>Objective 2 - Provide sufficient, safe spaces for pets, people and wildlife</i>					
4.4	Provide solar powered sensor lights for dog owners wishing to use dog parks after hours.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q2 – 2025	\$60,000	Increase use of dog parks at dusk.
4.5	Install outdoor dog wash stations at CY-O'Connor Beach.	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 -2021	\$15,000	Usage of the facility by dog owners.
<i>Objective 3 – Manage Feral and Domestic Cats</i>					
4.6	Install smart trapping and GPS tagging of traps within conservation reserves	Rangers and Community Safety Services	Q3 - 2022	Included within existing budgets	Improved management controls within conservation reserves

Financial

Action Items	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total Project cost
Objective 1 - Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership						
Increasing the City's casual pool of Rangers to proactively patrol dog prohibited areas.	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$200,000.00
'No it's not okay' program	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00
Increase dog and cat registration checks in parks, reserves and beaches and home audits, targeting suburbs with low registration levels. Undertaken by existing Ranger team until 2023 financial year.	Funded outside of this plan					
Partner with Animal Behavioural Specialists to develop and administer an educational campaign.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Review and improve access to dog waste stations (bags and bins).	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Objective 2 - Provide sufficient, safe spaces for pets, people and wildlife						
Provide clearer delineation markers between the areas zoned along the coastline areas.	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Implement a traffic light style dog designated areas.	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00
Review existing enclosed dog exercise areas, and improve fencing, shade, provision of sensory plants, agility equipment, waste disposal, drinking water stations.	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Conduct targeted community engagement on the proposed construction of two new unfenced dog parks within MacFaull Park and Radonich Park.	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Construction of Radonich Park.	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Construction of MacFaull Park.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Objective 3 - Manage Feral and Comestic Cats						
Public promotion and education of phase 2 implementation .	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Promote ethical based community cat trapping.	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Purchase of additional cat traps to loan to residents wanting to assist in the residential trapping of feral cats.	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Forms part of the duties of a proposed Aboriginal Ranger traineeship program.	Funded outside of this plan					
Objective 4 - Embrace Smart City initiatives in animal management						
Install geo-fenced areas with RFID readers to tag dogs entering into dog prohibited areas.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Provide dog registration kiosk's at dog friendly community events and dog exercise areas.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Install CCTV cameras and analytics programmes to monitor the usage of dog parks.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Provide solar powered sensor lights for dog owners wishing to use dog parks after hours.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Install outdoor dog wash stations within dog parks and CY- O' Connor Beach.	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
SUB TOTALS:	\$135,000.00	\$151,000.00	\$95,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$100,000.00	
					TOTAL:	\$591,000.00

Animal Management and Exercise Plan Gantt Chart

TASK NAME	START DATE	END DATE	2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																					
Objective 1 - Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership																											
Increasing the City's casual pool of Rangers to proactively patrol dog prohibited areas.	Q3	Q4																									
'No it's not okay' program	Q1	Q1																									
Increase dog and cat registration checks	Q1	Q4																									
Partner with Animal Behavioural Specialists to develop and administer an educational campaign.	Q3	Q3																									
Review and improve access to dog waste stations (bags and bins).	Q3	Q3																									
Objective 2 - Provide sufficient, safe spaces for pets, people and wildlife																											
Change the usage of a. the portion of the beach south of the Ammo Jetty (Woodman Point) from dogs on lead to dogs prohibited, and b. the portion of beach near Chelydra point North Coogee from dogs prohibited to dogs on leash.	Q3	Q3																									
Provide clearer delineation markers between the areas zoned along the coastline areas.	Q3	Q3																									
Assess possible restrictions of dogs in City managed Conservation Reserves.	Q2	Q2																									
Implement a traffic light style dog designated areas.	Q3	Q3																									
Commence Phase 1 of the new dog areas.	Q3	Q3																									
Provide Council a report into the effectiveness of Phase 1 dog areas, and make recommendation if Phase 2 and 3 should go ahead.	Q4	Q4																									
Explore the renaming of enclosed dog parks	Q1	Q1																									
Commence Phase 2 of the new dog areas.	Q2	Q2																									
Commence Phase 3 of the new dog areas.	Q4	Q4																									
Review existing enclosed dog exercise areas, and improve fencing, shade, provision of sensory plants, agility equipment, waste disposal, drinking water stations.	Q4	Q4																									
Conduct targeted community engagement on the proposed construction of two new unfenced dog parks within MacFaull Park and Radonich Park.	Q2	Q2																									
Construction of Radonich Park.	Q4	Q4																									
Construction of MacFaull Park.	Q3	Q3																									
Objective 3 - Manage feral cats																											
Review the City's Consolidated Local Laws 2000 and report to Council on possible amendments to include cat control areas.	Q1	Q1																									
Undertake community consultation on the community's desire for cat control areas.	Q1	Q2																									
Council be presented an amended Consolidated Local Law with the inclusion of cat control areas.	Q3	Q3																									
Promote ethical based community cat trapping.	Q1	Q1																									
Purchase of additional cat traps to loan to residents wanting to assist in the residential trapping of feral cats.	Q1	Q1																									
Forms part of the duties of a proposed Aboriginal Ranger traineeship program.	Q4	Q4																									
Objective 4 - Embrace Smart City initiatives in animal management																											
Install geo-fenced areas with RFID readers to tag dogs entering into dog prohibited areas.	Q1	Q1																									
Provide dog registration kiosk's at dog friendly community events and dog exercise areas.	Q4	Q4																									
Install CCTV cameras and analytics programmes to monitor the usage of dog parks.	Q3	Q3																									
Provide solar powered sensor lights for dog owners wishing to use dog parks after hours.	Q2	Q2																									
Install outdoor dog wash stations within dog parks and CY- O'Connor Beach.	Q3	Q3																									
Install smart trapping and GPS tagging of traps within conservation reserves																											

Performance Measures

The City will determine the success of the Animal Management and Exercise Plan 2020-2025 through the following measures and targets. These will be assessed at the end of the life of the plan via community survey.

Performance Outcomes	2019 Current		2025 Target	
Overall Performance				
Domestic animal control (dogs and cats)	64		70	
Feral animal control (feral cats, foxes and rabbits)	65		70	
Responsible pet ownership				
% of dogs registered and microchipped	61%		70%	
% of cats registered, microchipped and sterilized	17%		30%	
% of dog owners who have attended dog obedience training (source: CATALYSE® Community Perceptions Survey)	71%		80%	
Key Performance Measures				
	Dog owner	Non-dog owner	Dog owner	Non-dog owner
Happy with the availability and mix of on-leash, off-leash, fenced and dogs prohibited areas	38%	39%	50%	50%
Sufficient information about responsible dog management rules and guidelines	46%	38%	60%	40%
Sufficient promotion and provision of dog obedience training	23%	17%	40%	30%
Sufficient signage indicating where dogs are permitted on and off-leash	59%	50%	80%	80%
Perceived effectiveness (score out of 100)				
	Dog owner	Non-dog owner	Dog owner	Non-dog owner
Management of dog waste	48	33	60	60
Ensuring dogs are kept on-leash in on-leash areas	44	20	60	60
Owner supervision and control of dogs in off-leash areas	38	18	50	50
Keeping dogs out of 'dogs prohibited' areas	47	24	60	60
Keeping dogs away from wildlife and nesting birds	50	25	60	60
Dog behaviour (dogs responding to their owners' commands)	36	19	50	50

Reporting and Revision

The Animal Managements Plan will be reviewed in 5 years (2025) to ascertain the action plan objectives that have been completed and the inclusion of any new objectives which have arisen since commencement.

9 Coleville Crescent, Spearwood WA 6163
PO Box 1215, Bibra Lake DC WA 6965
T 08 9411 3444 F 08 9411 3333



This information is available in
alternative formats upon request



Printed on recycled stock