

	Council Policy Dogs in Public Open Space	
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Policy

1 Objectives

Provide dog owners with access to public open space to exercise their dogs off leash.

Provide a framework to determine the suitability and provision of open space for dog exercise areas, both fenced and unfenced.

Acknowledge the importance of dogs as companion animals and the social and physical benefits for both dog and dog owners in providing dog exercise areas.

Ensure the safety of the public and dogs in open space.

Ensure public recreation and environmental values of open space are retained.

2 Policy Statement

- For the purpose of this policy 'open space' refers to community land owned, or Crown land managed, by Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC).
- For the purpose of this policy 'dog exercise area' refers to a designated open space area that permits dogs to be exercised off leash. These can be fenced or unfenced.
- This policy has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation, most notably the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998.
- Dogs are permitted to be exercised on leash in all open space with the exception of:
 - Open space areas signposted by LMCC as dog exclusion/prohibited areas;
 - On a sportsground during use for games or training;
 - Within 10m of children's playgrounds;
 - Within 10m of food preparation and eating areas.
- Dogs must be under effective control at all times.
- Fenced dog exercise areas provide an exclusive area for dogs to exercise and socialise. They are not provided to contain dogs that are not under effective control, as required by the Companion Animals Act.
- Provision of new dog exercise areas are not to be located on sportsgrounds that are used for training or competition.
- Existing dog exercise areas located on sportsgrounds, where possible, are to be relocated to an alternate site within 1000m of the current location.
- Changes to locations of dog exercise areas is to include public consultation and Council Resolution.
- Council will provide signage clearly identifying dog exercise areas and dog prohibited/exclusion areas in open space.
- Dog prohibited/exclusion open space areas can be declared for reasons including, but not limited to, environmental protection of flora and fauna, safety of other users, and repeated complaints of dog nuisance.

- Council will promote responsible dog ownership and Council Rangers will enforce this through the provisions in the Companion Animals Act and this policy.
- Council will publish a list of dog exercise areas and maps on its website.
- The internal procedure '*Dog Exercise Area Standards*' will provide provision rates and standards to guide the quantity, location and embellishment of fenced and unfenced dog exercise areas. This procedure can be amended as required by the relevant Council Director.

Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

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Department:	Community Planning		
Officer:	Strategic Recreation Planner - Donna Mitchell		
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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	(Legislation Name) The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998	(Relationship/Context)
Related Policies (Council & Internal):	(Policy Name)	(Relationship/Context)
Related Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements:	(Document Name) Council Dog Exercise Area Brochure	(Relationship/Context)
Standards COP's & Other References	(Standard, COP or Other References)	(Relationship/Context)

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition

Consultation (update for each version created)

Key Departments, Teams, Positions, Meetings:	Council Rangers, Stakeholders, Companion Animals Advisory Committee
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Version History

Version No	Date Changed	Modified By	Details and Comments
1	23/11/2004	L Linstead-Brown	Remove superfluous information and duplication
2	30/11/2015	J Salmon	Updated into new template – no changes
3	18/12/2017	D Mitchell	Change name of policy, update policy statements and remove maps

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