



DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

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Responsibility:	DOPSE	Policy expires:	February 2030
Approved by:	Council	Approved on:	February 2025
Minute No.:	19/25	Review date:	August 2029

Document History/Version Control

Version No.	Date	Details	Comment
1	May 2002	Policy No. 35	Minute No. 148/02
2	June 2007	Policy No. 35	Minute No. 207/07
3	December 2018	Policy No. 35	Minute No. 208/18

Amendment/Administrative History

Date	Details	Comment	Authorised by
May 2024	Major Review	Significant review of all content including, map changes, natural values re-assessment, input from PWS and where necessary consultation with the Community.	To be authorised by the General Manager when endorsed.
NOTE:		Minor Amendments to this policy may occur out of cycle from time to time.	

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1. OBJECTIVE

The Dog Control Act 2000 (Tas) directly relates to the control and management of dogs in Tasmania.

Council has the responsibility of enforcing the Act within the municipal area which includes the development of a Policy for responsible dog ownership, including the provision for declared exercise areas, enforcement of dog control and the operation of a dog pound.

The underlying principle of this Policy is that Council is committed to the objective of promoting responsible dog ownership.

2. TYPE OF POLICY

As per Section 9 of Policy GTC-12, this policy GTC-O-10 is categorized as a Council Policy. This categorization is consistent with the definitions as stated in Policy GTC-12 which are as follows:

Council - Policies pertaining to the Governance of the Council and the activities of its elected members, including the establishment of Committees, and the government of the municipality including resident and ratepayer compliance policies and by-laws.

Operational - Policies pertaining to the operational, administrative, and internal matters of the Council, including internal governance, internal committees, and operational matters of service delivery

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all areas of George Town Local Government Area.

4. DEFINITIONS

In this policy –

animal means –

- (a) any animal or bird kept for farming, breeding or other commercial purposes; or
- (b) any domestic animal; or
- (c) any native bird or native animal;

appropriate fee means a fee determined by the Council;

approved greyhound suitability program means a program approved by the Director of Racing

at large means at large as referred to in Section 5 of the *ACT*;

attack includes bite, menace or harass;

authorised officer means –

- (a) a police officer, or
- (b) the General Manager; or
- (c) a person appointed by the General Manager to be an authorised officer; or

dangerous dog means a dog declared to be a dangerous dog under Section 29 or 30 of the *Act 2000*;

Act means the *Dog Control Act 2000*;

Declared area means a declared area under Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Act*;

Domestic animal means an animal or bird kept as a domestic pet;

Effective control means effective control as referred to in Section 4 of the *Act*;

Exercise area refers to an area declared under Section 20 of the *Act*;

General Manager means the General Manager of Council appointed under the *LGA*;

Infringement Notice means a notice referred to in Division 2 of Part 4 of the *Act*;

Lead means a lead, leash, cord or chain of sufficient strength to restrain a dog;

LGA means the *Local Government Act 1993*

licence means a licence to keep on premises –

- (a) more than two dogs over the age of 6 months; or
- (b) more than 4 working dogs over the age of 6 months;

Microchip means an approved microchip implanted in the dog

Microchip number in relation to a dog, means the unique identifying number

Owner of a dog means a person referred to in Section 6 of the *Act*;

Premises includes land or any part of any premises or land;

Prohibited area means an area declared under Section 22 of the *Act*;

Public notice means a notice published in a daily newspaper;

Public place means –

- (a) a public place as defined in the *Police Offences Act 1935*; and
- (b) a road; and
- (c) a road related area;

PWS means Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

Register means a register kept under Section 15 of the *Act*;

Road means –

(a) an area that is developed for, or has as one of its main uses, the driving or riding of motor vehicles and is open to, or used by, the public; and

(b) a part of the kerb; and

(c) an unsealed part of a sealed road;

Special dog means a dog specifically trained to assist a person with a disability and includes-

(a) a guide dog as defined by the *Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967*; or

(b) a hearing dog as defined by the *Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967*; or

(c) a dog trained to be a guide dog or hearing dog;

Training area means an area declared under Section 21 of the *Act*;

Working day means a day on which the public office of the Council is open for business;

Working dog means a dog used principally for –

(a) droving or tending stock; or

(b) detecting illegal substances; or

(c) searching, tracking or rescuing; or

(d) working with police officers.

5. LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This action relates to the following components of the Community Strategic Plan 2020-2030:

Future Direction One - Community Pride

1. Safe and secure Communities

i) Focusing on prevention

Future Direction Two - Prosperity for All in All Aspects of Life

12. Protected local natural landscapes and values

i) Caring for our environment.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION

This policy relates to Council's obligations under the:

- Dog Control Act 2000
- Dog Control Regulations 2010
- Police Offences Act 1935
- Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act 1967
- Local Government Act 1993

7. RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Council considers risks that have the potential to impact its financial sustainability, the community, and the environment throughout its day to day operations.

Having an effective policy in place that meets the requirements of the act and delivers practical dog management outcomes for our community is a key objective of this policy.

8. POLICY

POLICY ACTIVATION

8.1 Code of Responsible Dog Ownership

Dogs are an important part of our society and people value their companionship. Responsible dog ownership means accepting full responsibility for our dogs in terms of their needs and the standards for dog management that is expected by our community.

Council is committed to the objective of promoting responsible dog ownership and has adopted the following code which encourages dog owners to:

- Ensure that their dog is exercised in an appropriate manner;
- Ensure that their dog has adequate food, shelter and water;
- Ensure that their dog is on a lead when in a public place;
- Ensure that their dog is under effective control at all times when using off-lead areas;
- Ensure that their dog does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or the general public;
- Ensure that their dog is not a threat or menace to other members of the community;
- Remove and dispose of any faeces left by their dog or dogs in any public place or private land;
- Register all dogs over the age of six months on an annual basis;
- Ensure that the Council is notified on the death, loss or disposal of a dog or change of address; and
- Comply with all regulations under the Dog Control Act 2000.

8.2 Microchipping

The owner of a dog that is over 6 months of age must ensure that the dog is microchipped in an approved manner.

This does not apply:

1. unless a dog in respect of which a veterinary surgeon has issued a certificate stating that to implant the dog with a microchip may adversely affect the health and welfare of the dog; or
2. to a type, class or breed of dog that the Minister, by order, declares is not required to be implanted with a microchip.

If a dog that is required to be microchipped is seized in accordance with the Act, the General Manager may require the dog to be microchipped. In these circumstances, the owner of the dog will be liable for the associated costs.

8.3 Dog Registration & Fees

Registration of a dog over 6 months of age is mandatory in Tasmania. Dog registration is an important investment in your pet, as it provides safety and security. In addition, it assists Council to contact you if your pet is lost, injured, or involved in an incident.

Registration not only allows Council to **keep** better control of the dog population but also allows Council to plan and provide improved facilities and conditions for responsible dog owners. When keeping more than two dogs on your premises, or four working dogs, you must apply to your local Council for a special licence.

Council Officers routinely conduct checks of residential and rural properties to ensure all dogs are registered. An application for registration is to be in an approved form and be accompanied by the appropriate registration fee and include the microchip number of the dog. Applications and the Fee Schedule can be found at www.georgetown.tas.gov.au by searching 'Dogs' then click on 'Dog Registration Fees'.

8.4 Keeping Several Dogs

Any person wanting to keep more than two dogs over the age of 6 months on a premises, or in the case of working dogs, more than four over the age of 6 months, must apply to the General Manager for a licence to do so.

The application is to be on the approved form and accompanied by the appropriate fee. The applicant must advertise by public notice their intent to apply for a licence and the address and the number and breed of dogs to which the application relates. The advertisement must also call for any objections to the granting of the licence.

8.5 Nuisance

A range of nuisances are defined under Division 6 of the Act. These can include but are not limited to:

- A dog behaving in a manner that is injurious or dangerous to the health of any person
- Creating a noise, by barking or otherwise, that persistently occurs or continues to such an extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any premises or public place
- Faeces left by the dog in a public place or in a place not owned, or leased, by the person in charge of the dog.

8.6 After Hours Service Provision

Council will provide an emergency after hour's animal management service for the following situations only:

- Dog attack – will be at the discretion of the officer on call.
- Livestock – which is straying and posing a traffic hazard or threatening a person's safety at the direction of Tasmania Police.

Members of the public who have secured a stray dog outside of Council's normal working hours are encouraged to secure the dog, if they are able to do so, until the next day and then contact Council.

For lost dogs, residents may call Council's after hour's number where they can leave a message with their details. If their dog has been found and secured, a Council officer will return their call on the next business day.

Council's After Hours contact number is 6382 8800.

8.7 Sick and Injured Dogs Domestic Animals and Wildlife

Enquiries regarding sick and injured animals should be directed to the RSPCA or the animal taken to a veterinarian practice. For injured wildlife, residents should direct their enquiries to a local wildlife rescue centre.

8.8 Dangerous Dogs

If a dog has caused a serious injury to a person or animal, the General Manager may declare the dog to be a dangerous dog.

The General Manager may also declare a dog to be dangerous if he or she believes that a dog is likely to cause serious injury to a person or another animal. The General Manager does not have to wait for an attack or serious injury to occur.

Division 3 of the Act deals in detail with the issue of Dangerous Dogs and Restricted Dog Breeds.

8.9 Effective Control

Typically, a dog is under effective control as outlined in Part 1 Section 4, subsection (1) (a) and (b) of the *Dog Control Act 2000* which states:

4. Dog under effective control

(1) A dog, other than a greyhound, a dangerous dog or a restricted breed dog, is under the effective control of a person in a public place if the dog is –

(a) on a road or road-related area in a built-up area, or any other public place declared under [Division 2](#) of [Part 3](#) to be an area where a dog must be on a lead, and the dog is secured and restrained by means of a lead not more than 2 metres long held by hand by a person able to control the dog; or

(b) tethered to a fixed object by a lead not more than 2 metres long for a period not more than 30 minutes.

Subsections 2 – 5 of the Act outline circumstances where dogs may be deemed to be under effective control in certain situations such as working, trialling and showing etc.

Owners should refer to these subsections to seek further clarification by visiting <https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-2000-102>

8.10 Dog Zones – George Town Council Controlled Land

Designated Dog Zones across Council Public Areas have developed over time and their establishment has been informed by considerations around public amenity and general public safety.

This policy continues to take these matters into consideration and additionally acknowledges the importance that dogs play in the lives of their owners. This consideration has led to dogs now being able enter George Town Council owned cemeteries on the condition that all dogs are on lead and under effective control.

Maps 1 – 5 highlight the Dog Zones across Council's larger populated areas. These do not include coastal areas controlled by the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS) as these are determined as outlined in 8.11.

8.11 Dog Zones – Parks & Wildlife Service Controlled Land

Designated Dog Zones are contained in this policy relating to Tasmanian Government owned and managed land have been determined by PWS. These are show in Maps 6 -12.

The determination has occurred over time in consultation with stakeholders and this has included Reserve Activity Assessment most recently in 2021 and again in mid-2024. Feedback to PWS was also provided by Council as a result of comment, discussion and feedback that occurred during Council Roadshows in George Town's coastal communities.

Typically, the Dog Zones determined by PWS are well known and understood by residents and visitors and any comment about minor amendments or proposed changes have been responded to by PWS in the consultation period.

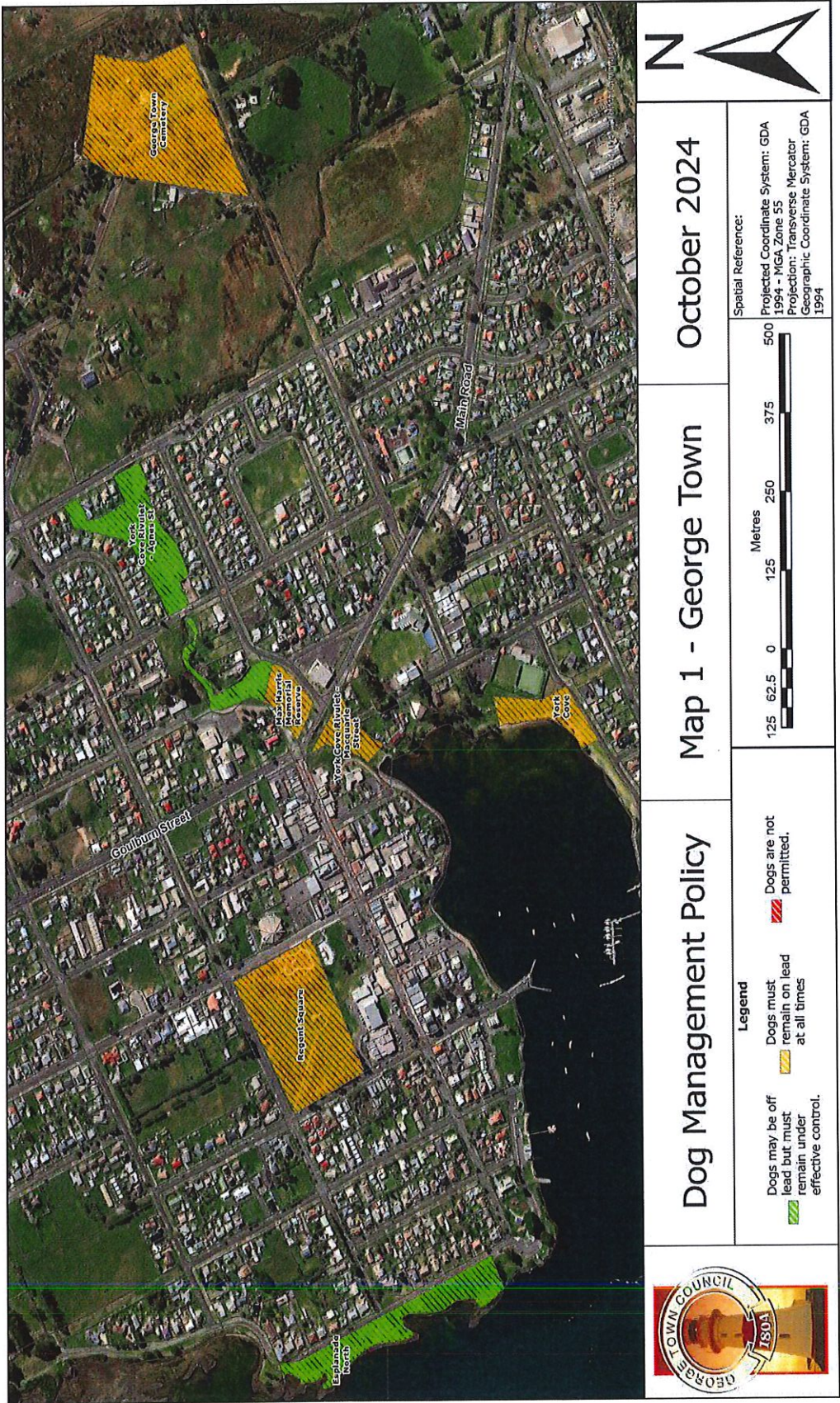
9. Dog Management Zone Maps

Appendix 1. Dog Zone Maps

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| Map 1. | George Town (Council Owned Land) |
| Map 2. | George Town Sports Complex (Council Owned Land) |
| Map 3. | Beechford (Council Owned Land) |
| Map 4. | Bellingham (Council Owned Land) |
| Map 5. | Hillwood (Council Owned Land) |
| Map 6. | Low Head & Surrounds (PWS Managed Land) |
| Map 7. | Bell Buoy Beach (PWS Managed Land) |
| Map 8. | Beechford (PWS Managed Land) |
| Map 9. | Lulworth & Tam O' Shanter Bay (PWS Managed Land) |
| Map 10. | Weymouth (PWS Managed Land) |
| Map 11. | Bellingham (PWS Managed Land) |
| Map 12. | All PWS Coastal Dog Management Zones |

DOG MANAGEMENT ZONE MAPS

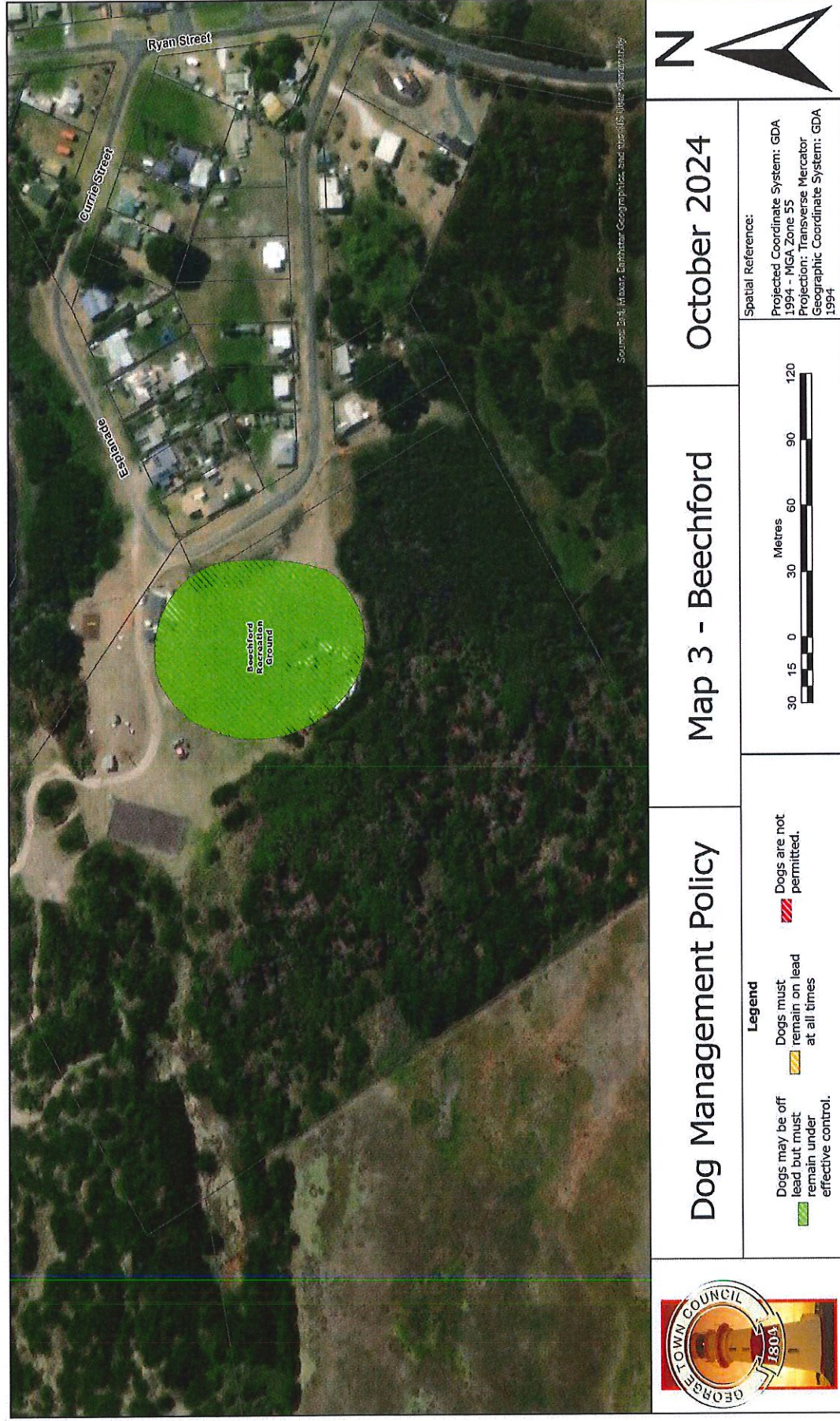
Map 1. George Town (Council Owned Land)



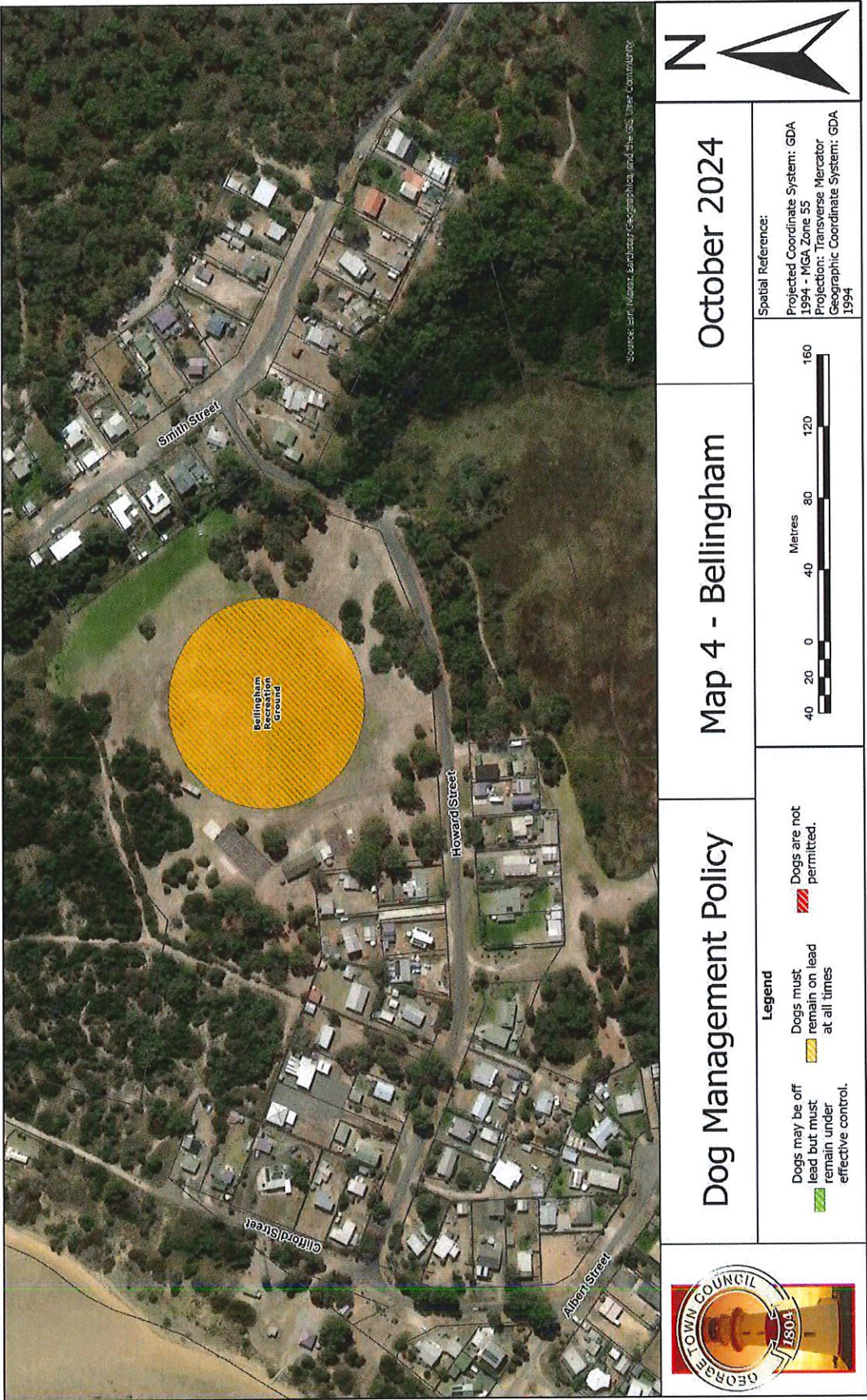
Map 2. George Town Sports Complex (Council Owned Land)



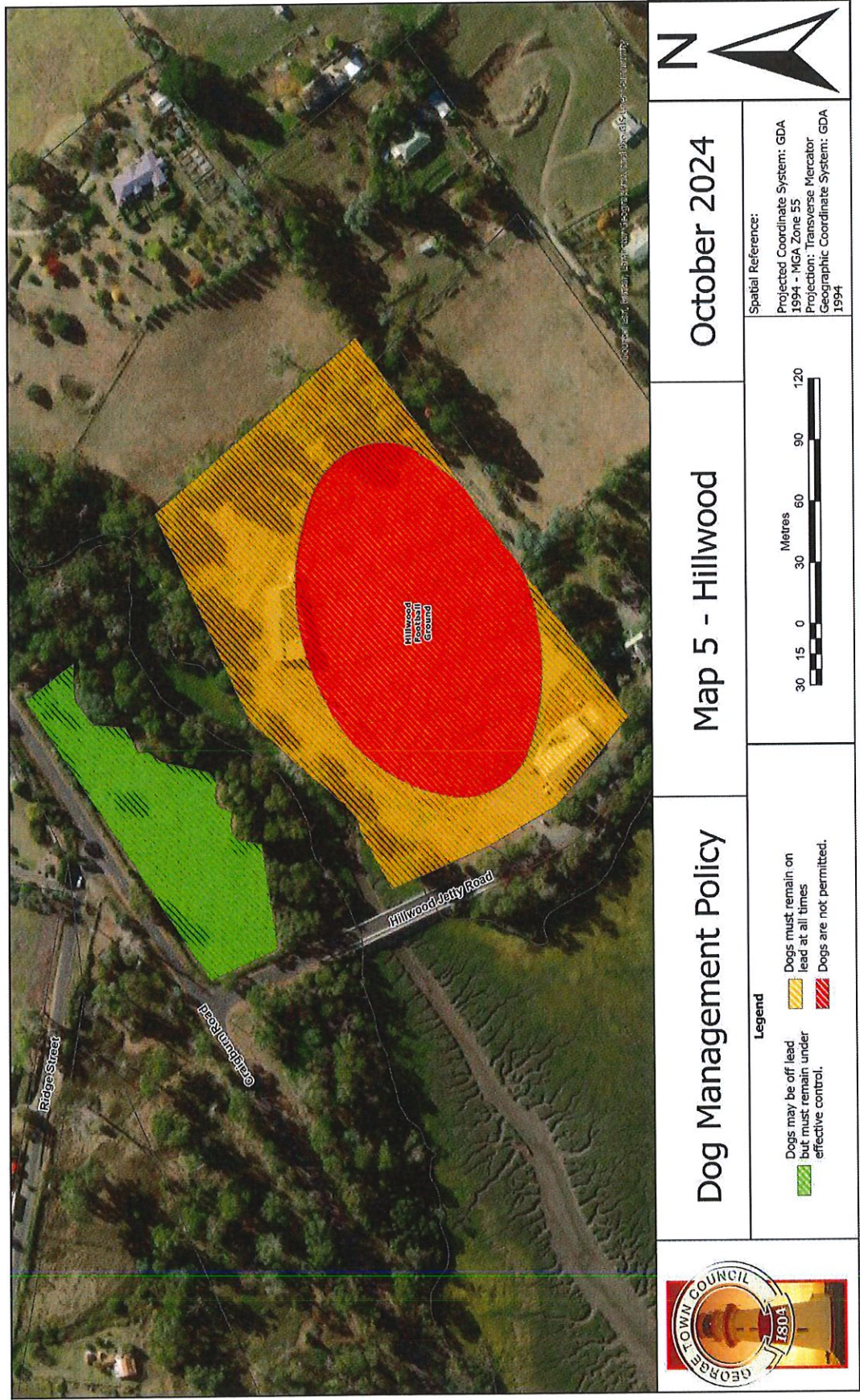
Map 3.



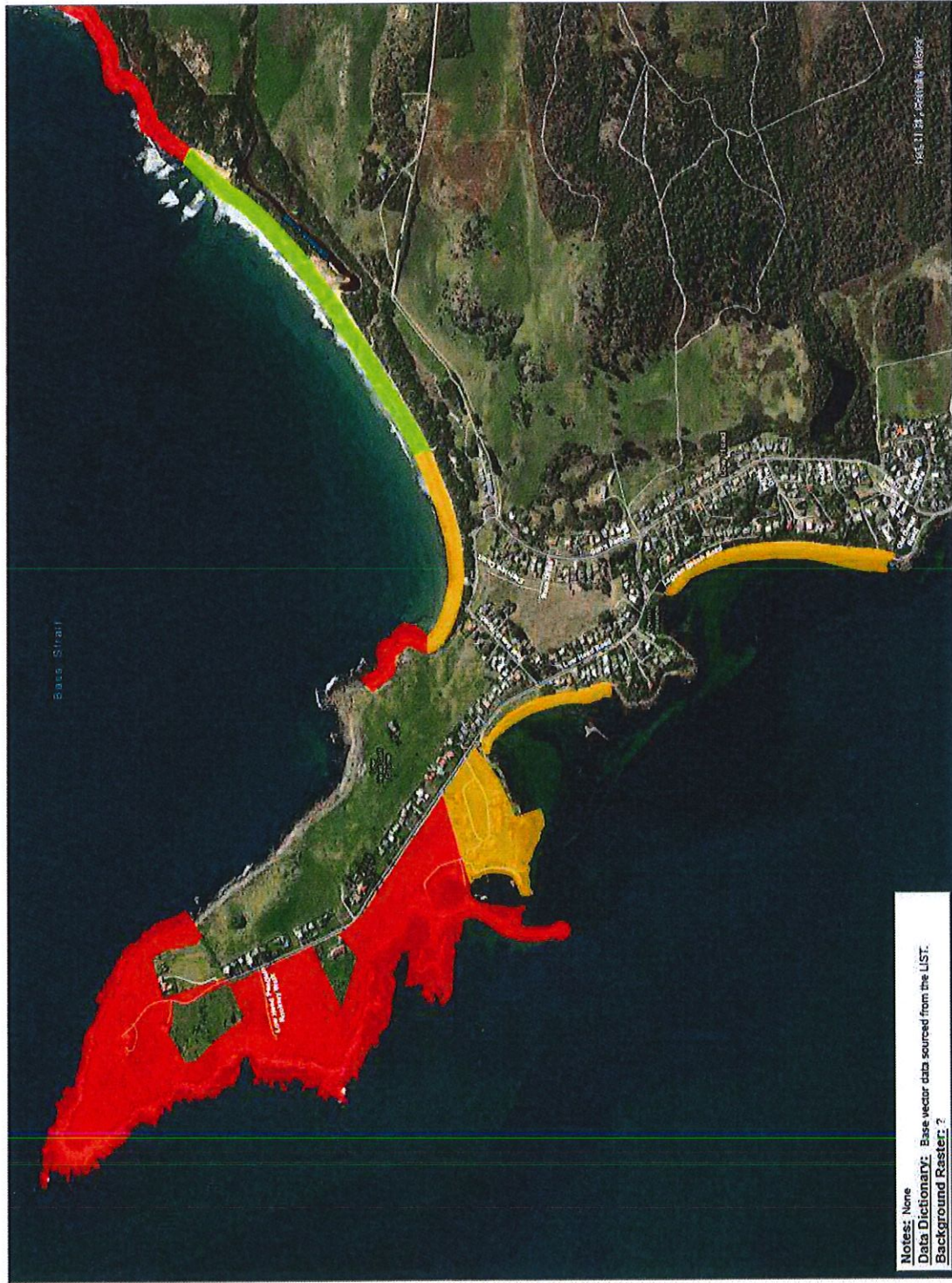
Map 4. Bellingham (Council Owned Land)



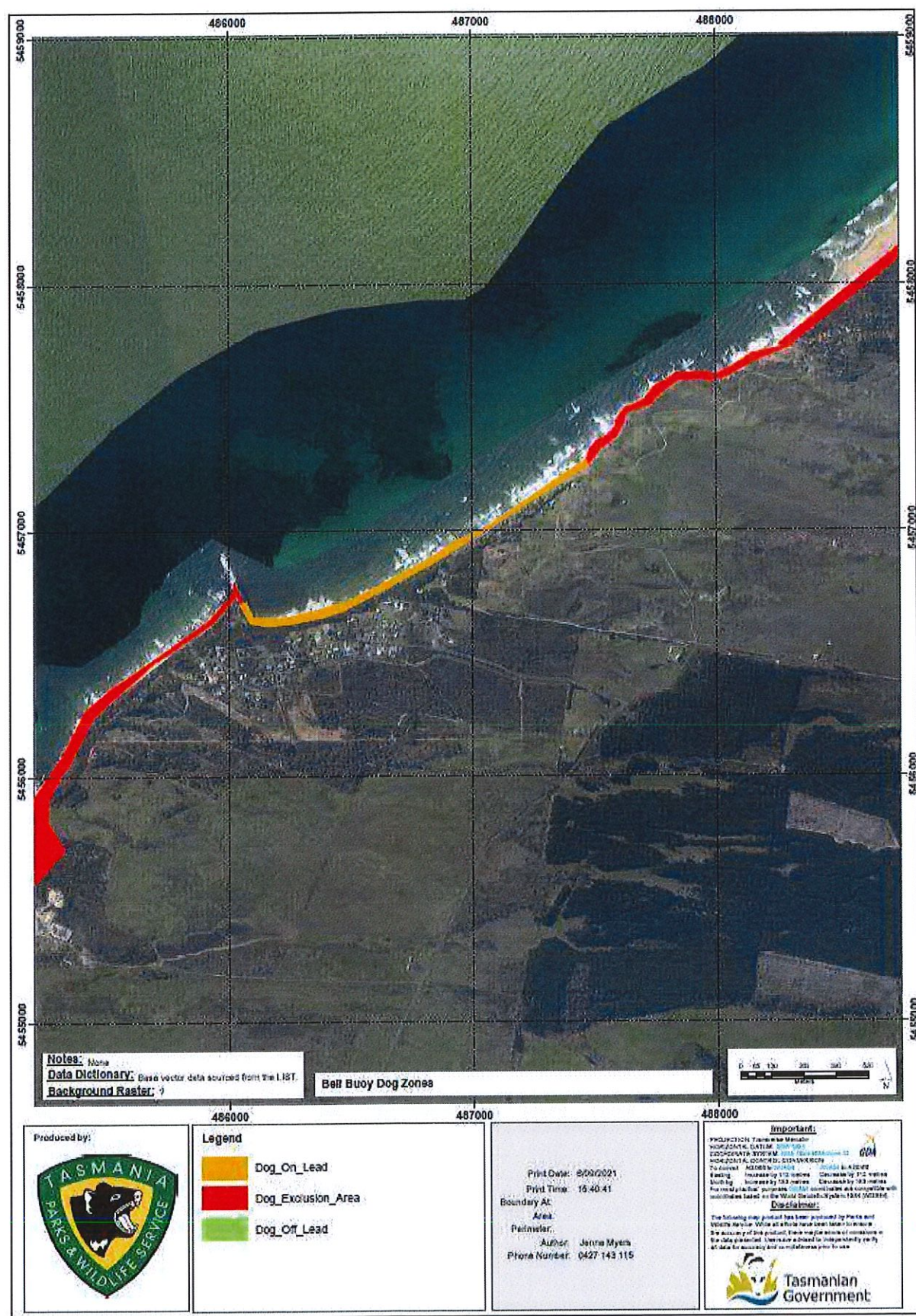
Map 5. Hillwood (Council Owned Land)



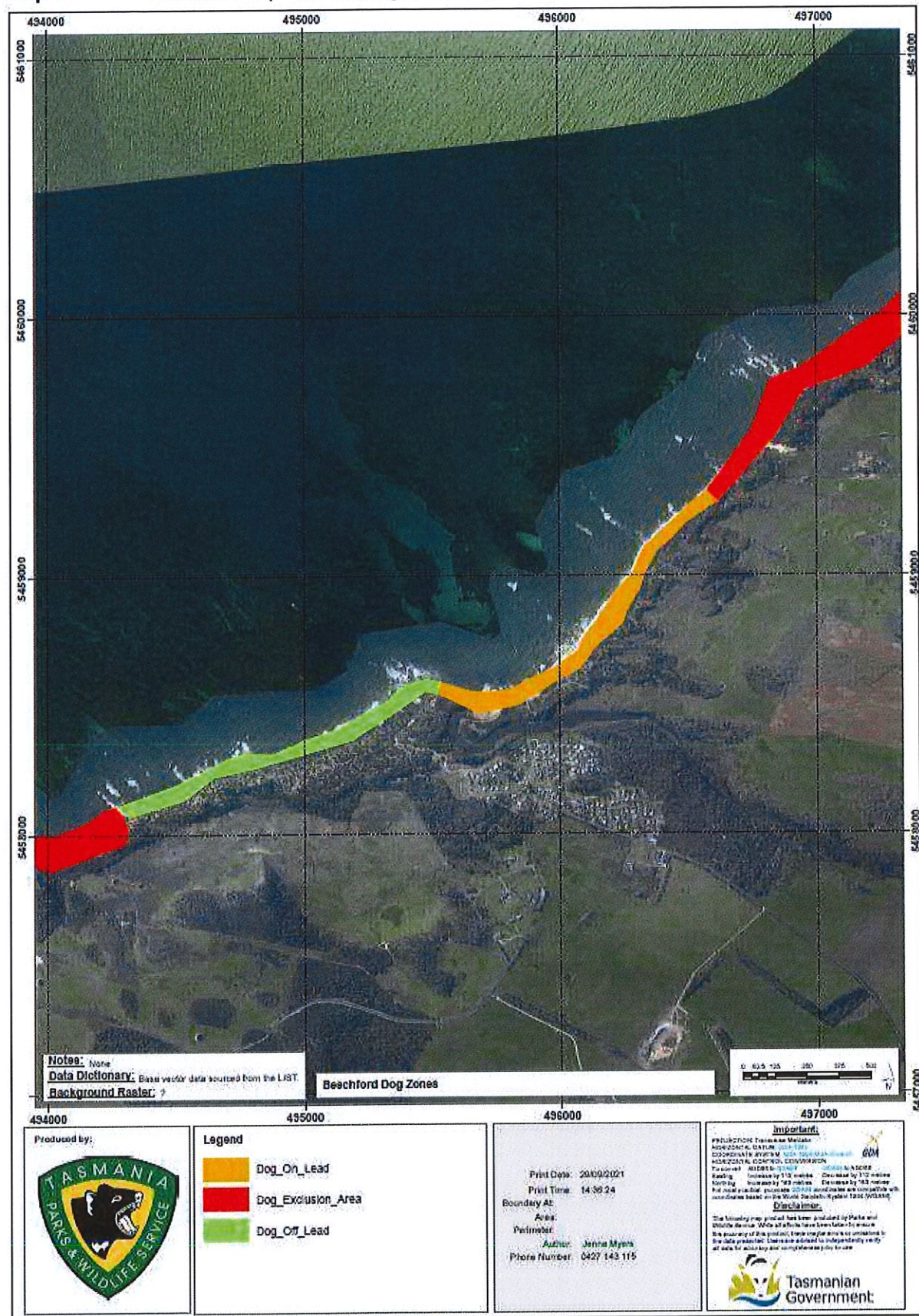
Map 6.



Map 7. Bell Buoy Beach (PWS Managed Land)



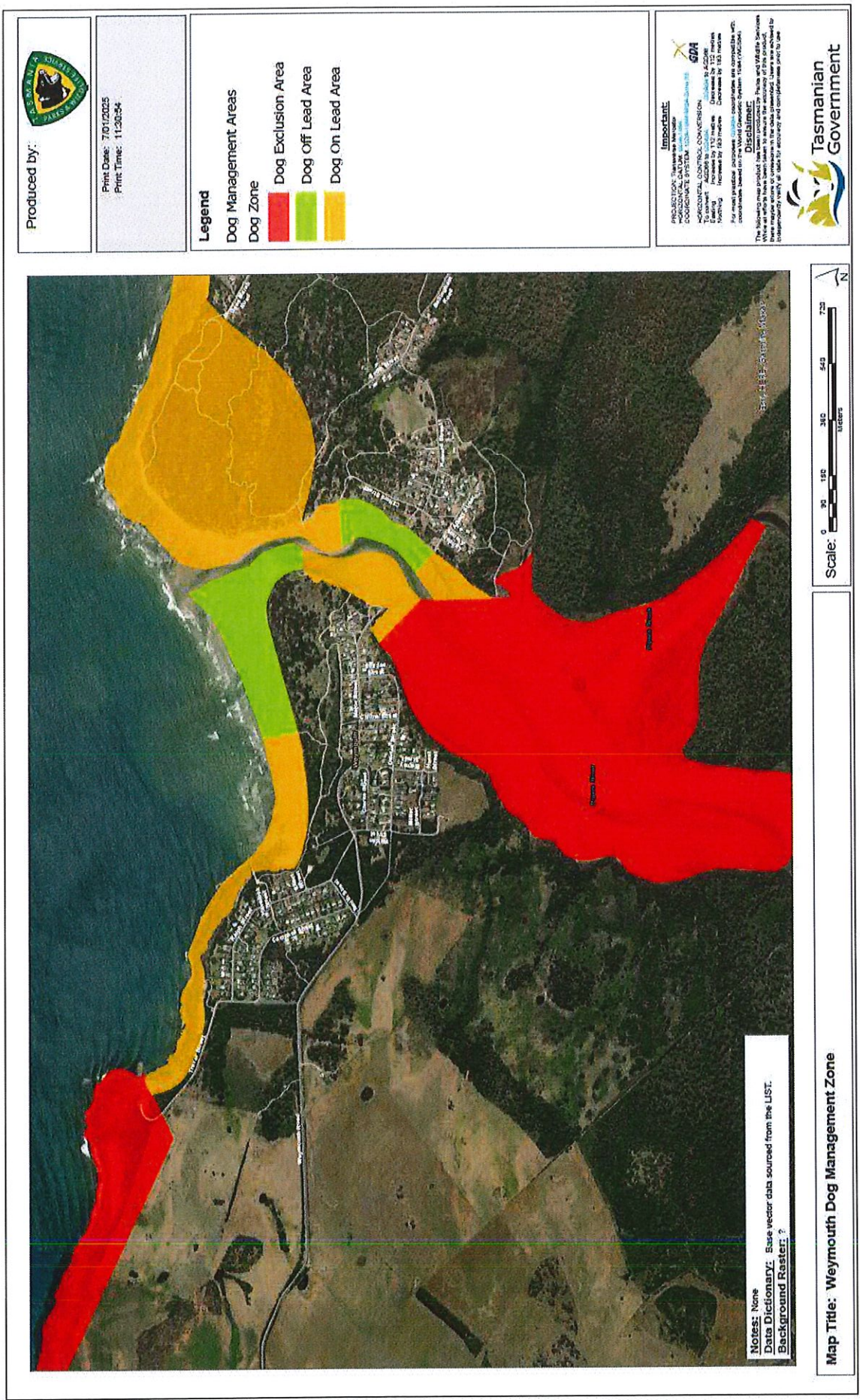
Map 8. Beechford (PWS Managed Land)



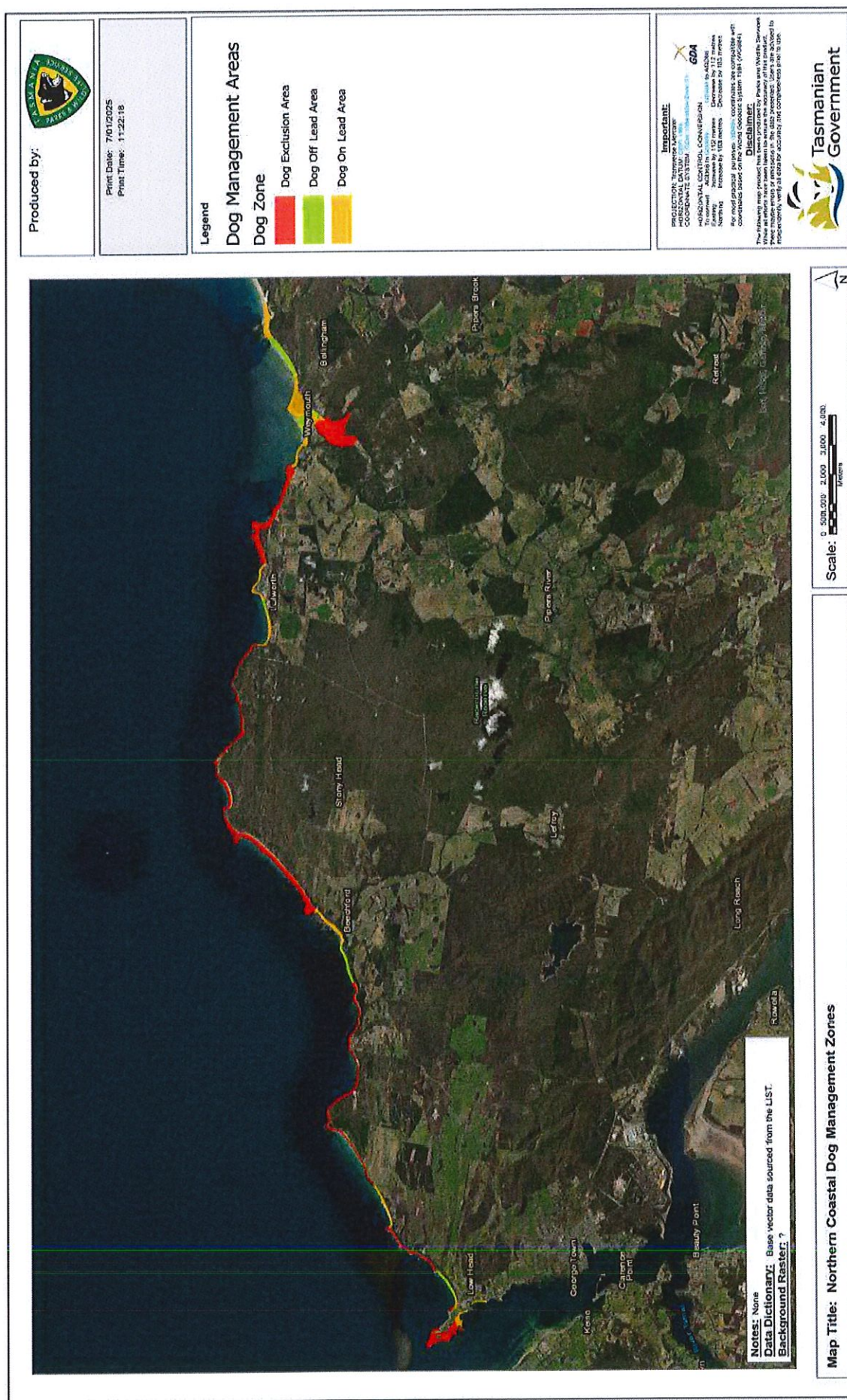
Map 9. Lulworth & Tam O' Shanter Bay (PWS Managed Land)



Map 10. Weymouth (PWS Managed Land)



Map 12. All PWS Coastal Dog Management Zones



10. IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW OF POLICY

Implementation of this Policy rests with the General Manager. This Policy will be reviewed in 2029 or in accordance with legislative requirements.



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Shane Power
GENERAL MANAGER