



Statement of Proposal

Amendments to Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 – Howick Local Board

May 2016

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Introduction

1. The Howick Local Board is proposing some changes to where dog owners can walk their dog.
2. To find out more about the proposed changes, or to make a submission, read this document or visit shapeauckland.co.nz. Submissions close on Sunday 17 July 2016.

Reasons for proposal

3. The Howick Local Board is reviewing its local dog access rules. The proposed changes to the dog access rules are to:
 - better provide for public safety and comfort
 - better protect wildlife
 - better provide for the needs of dogs and their owners
 - make the rules easier to understand.

Background

4. In 2012, Auckland Council adopted a new policy and bylaw on dogs. The new policy aims to keep dogs a positive part of the life of Aucklanders. Region-wide dog access rules were adopted for particular types of areas, such as playgrounds, sports surfaces and roads, and dog access rules on regional parks were reviewed.
5. Local boards were delegated responsibility to review dog access rules for local parks, beaches and foreshore areas as part of a four year review programme between 2013 and 2017.
6. The process to change dog access rules requires the local board to comply with a range of statutory, policy and delegated authority requirements, including the adoption of this Statement of Proposal for the purposes of public consultation.

Consultation

7. To assist with developing this proposal, the Howick Local Board obtained views from:
 - council staff involved in parks, animal management, biodiversity and biosecurity
 - key Māori stakeholders through a hui held in March 2015
 - residents and visitors through an on-line survey in March 2016.
8. There were 386 respondents to this online survey. About 98 per cent of the respondents are local residents; 36 per cent dog owners and 64 per cent non-dog owners.
9. A summary of the results of the online survey is contained in Attachment 4. The summary covers matters related to dog owner and non-dog owner preferences for dog access, people's comfort around dogs, and the use of local beach and foreshore areas.

Consideration of changes

10. The relevant statutory and policy considerations are set out in Attachment 2. The key considerations for local dog access rules are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Considerations for dog access rules

Considerations	
Public safety and comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community• the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children (regardless if children are accompanied by an adult)• the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public places without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs
Protection of wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to ensure that dogs are controlled near protected wildlife• to reduce dog owners' risk of incurring penalty under the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Wildlife Act 1953
Recreational needs of dogs and their owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• access to dog walking areas are important for exercise for both the dog and the owner• consider places that are easily accessible and desirable for both the dog and the owner
Ensure that dog access rules are easy to understand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider rules that are practical, enforceable and clear• where appropriate, consider consistency across Auckland

Dogs in local board area

11. Dog access rules enable positive interactions between dogs and people in public places and provide for the protection of wildlife (Attachment 2).
12. Within the Howick Local Board area approximately 17 per cent of households that have one or more dogs on their properties¹.

Types of areas

13. To enable dog access rules to be easier to understand within the local board area and across Auckland, the following categories are used:
 - highly sensitive area
 - high use area
 - dog friendly area
 - standard area.
14. The following sections describe the categories in more detail, and a dog access rule for each category is proposed. The dog access rules considered include under control off a leash, under control on a leash, prohibited, and time and season (meaning different rules may apply at different times of the day and in different seasons). A general analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of these dog access rules is provided in Attachment 3.

Highly sensitive areas

15. A highly sensitive area is a place where the mere presence of a dog can have a negative effect. Examples of this include ecologically sensitive habitats where vulnerable species of birds roost, breed and feed.
16. It is proposed that dogs be prohibited at all times from highly sensitive areas to protect wildlife.

¹ Figures based on 2013 population and household data and 2016 dog register data.

17. There can be areas which may be sensitive to the presence of dogs, but do not require dogs to be prohibited. It is proposed that these areas are included in the 'standard area' category. Examples include mangrove areas for bird feeding and popular bush walks.
18. In addition, if an area is categorised as a highly sensitive area, temporary controls on dog access can be implemented while the local board considered the merits of any substantive change.

High use areas

19. A high use area is a place that attracts a lot of people at certain times of the day or year.
20. At those times when there are a lot of people without dogs, the presence of dogs can affect public safety and comfort and it is appropriate that dogs be prohibited or under control on a leash. At low use times, it may be appropriate that dogs be allowed under control on or off a leash access to meet the recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
21. The time and season access rules proposed under this category typically applies to beaches and associated parks. Beaches and associated parks have different volumes and variation of uses, depending on the season and time of day.
22. The proposed time and season rule is discussed in the section titled 'Time and Season'.

Dog friendly areas

23. A dog friendly area is a place that is suitable for dogs to run and play off a leash. These places may have lower levels of public use by non-dog owners, or be of a size that allows for shared use without significant impact on other users of the place.
24. It is proposed that dogs be allowed under control off a leash at any time in dog friendly areas. Reasons include to provide for the needs of dog owners given that dogs are restricted in highly sensitive, high use and standard areas.

Standard area

25. A standard area is a place that does not fall into any of the other three categories. These places may include:
 - moderate or low use places that are not suitable for dogs to run and play off a leash
 - high use areas where the proposed time and season rule would be less appropriate in terms of balancing the need to ensure public safety and comfort and the needs of dogs and their owners
 - areas that allow for dogs to be included within family activities without interfering with other users.
26. The local board proposes that dogs be allowed under control on a leash at any time in standard areas. Under control on a leash balances public safety and comfort and the needs of dogs and their owners. The needs of dogs and their owners are also met through adequate under control off a leash areas provided elsewhere.
27. It is noted that the region-wide dog access rules classify all council controlled outdoor public places as standard areas unless otherwise specified.

Time and Season

28. A time and season rule is proposed to be used in high use areas to better manage the safe interaction between people and dogs.
29. Consistency in time and season rules across Auckland is an issue. In 2010, Auckland Council inherited seven different time and season rules from legacy councils in the Auckland Region.
30. The Howick Local Board inherited its time and season rules from the legacy Manukau City Council. Table 2 outlines the current time and season rule for Howick.

Table 2 Current time and season for Howick Local Board

Summer (Daylight saving)		
Before 9am	9am to 7pm	After 7pm
Under control off a leash	Prohibited	Under control off a leash
Winter (outside of daylight savings)		
Under control off a leash at all times		

31. In March 2016, an online survey regarding dog access in Howick Local Board revealed specific differences between the preferences of dog owners and non-dog owners. These are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Dog owner and non-dog owner time and season preferences

Dog owners			Non-dog owners		
Summer (1 December until 1 March)			Summer Daylight savings		
Before 10am	10am to 6pm	After 6pm	Before 10am	10am to 5pm	After 5pm
Under control off a leash	Under control on a leash	Under control off a leash	Under control on a leash	Prohibited	Under control on a leash
Winter			Winter		
Under control off a leash at all times			Under control on a leash at all times		

32. The time and season preferences between dog and non-dog owners differ in that:
- non-dog owners generally want more restrictive dog access compared to dog owners
 - non-dog owners want the season rules to align to daylight savings (approximately four months) while dog owners want the summer access rules to apply for three months in the year (first December to first March).
33. A possible reason for these differences in the preferences of dog owners and non-dog owners is that of the attitude towards unknown dogs approaching them. The online survey revealed that:
- non-dog owners are generally more hesitant with unknown dogs approaching them with approximately 46 per cent of non-dog owners do not want to be approached by dogs; 24 per cent are nervous around dogs and a further 14 per cent avoid visiting areas if there are dogs there
 - dog owners are more relaxed, as 71 per cent stated they do not mind dogs approaching them (compared with 41 per cent of non-dog owners) and 33 per cent like it when unknown dogs approach them (compared to nine per cent of non-dog owners)
34. In 2012, Auckland Council sought to make time and season rules more consistent by adopting a region-wide time and season standard. All local boards (except Great Barrier and Waiheke local boards) are required to review all beach and foreshore areas to determine where to apply the new standard.
35. A region-wide time and season standard recognises the need to balance regional consistency and local variation. The region-wide standard only set summer times (10am and 5pm) and the season (Labour Weekend to 1 March). The local board determines the type of access and the winter rule.
36. To date ten local boards have undertaken a review of time and season rules. So far:
- one local board applied the region-wide time and season standard (summer 10am to 5pm rule)

- one local board did not consider a time and season rule necessary for its local board area
- one local board implemented a time and season rule for the protection of wildlife
- seven² local boards varied the region-wide standard around the summer end time (6.30 or 7pm) and summer season end date. The main reason for the variation was because those local boards considered that its high use areas were still busy after 5pm and/or after the 1 March to the extent that allowing dogs under control off a leash would not adequately provide for public safety and comfort.

37. Table 4 outlines the region-wide standard as applied to the Howick Local Board area. It considers the region-wide standard and local preferences through the online survey.

Table 4 Time and season based on the regional standard

Summer Labour Weekend until 1 March		
Before 10am	10am to 5pm	After 5pm
Under control off a leash	Prohibited	Under control on a leash
Winter 2 March until Friday before Labour Weekend		
Before 10am	10am to 4pm	After 4pm
Under control off a leash	Under control on a leash	Under control off a leash

38. Overall, the regional standard, as applied to the Howick Local Board area provides more restrictive summer dog access, after 5pm. Through the online survey, non-dog owners expressed a preference for under control on a leash access from 5pm to 7pm as the beaches are still busy. On the other hand, dog owners wanted more under control off a leash access after 7pm. The region-wide standard does not provide for this.
39. The recommended time and season rule for the Howick Local Board is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5 Recommended time and season rule

Summer Labour Weekend until 31 March		
Before 10am	10am to 7pm	After 7pm
Under control off a leash	Prohibited	Under control off a leash
Winter 1 April until Friday before Labour Weekend		
Before 10am	10am to 4pm	After 4pm
Under control off a leash	Under control on a leash	Under control off a leash

40. Table 5 adequately considers public safety and comfort and the needs of dog owners as it:
- provides dog owners an additional hour of off a leash access on summer mornings as compared to the status quo (Table 2)
 - considers public safety and comfort as dogs are prohibited from busy summer beaches from 10am to 7pm in summer, but also considers the needs of dog owners with off a leash access after 7 pm in summer
 - provides for public safety and comfort in during winter periods with on a leash access from 10am to 4pm.

² Waiheke Local Board is excluded because it is exempt from the requirement to consider the region-wide time and season standard.

41. In addition, the recommended time and season is in line with decisions made by other local boards regarding time and season rules. The recommended option promotes region-wide consistency as:
- seven out of ten local boards end summer season access rules at 6.30/7pm
 - seven out of the ten local boards' summer access rules applies from Labour weekend to 31 March.
 - seven out of the ten local boards' winter access rules have off a leash access from 4pm

Options considered

42. This section compares the three time and season options outlined above. The options include:
- Option 1 – Retain the current rule (status quo) (Table 2)
 - Option 2 – Time and season rules based on the regional standard (Table 4)
 - Option 3 – Recommended option (Table 5)

Analysis of options

43. The following table provide an analysis of the different options against the relevant statutory and policy considerations.

Table 6 Assessment of Options 1-3

Option	Advantages and Disadvantages
<p>Option 1 Retain current rule</p>	<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides off a leash dog access from 7pm in summer, when beaches are typically less busy • provides off a leash dog access throughout winter, which is unrestrictive to dog owners • aligns with daylight savings, which is easy to communicate <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online survey suggests community preferences for some restricted dog access during winter (Table 2). This option does not provide for this preference • dog access is restricted from 9am on summer mornings. Morning access is important to meet the recreational needs of dog owners. Also beaches are busier from 10am on summer mornings. Therefore, to restrict access from 9am in summer, impacts on the needs of dogs and owners • this option will require approval from the Governing Body of Auckland Council, as it is inconsistent with the region-wide standard (option 2)
<p>Option 2 Time and season rule based on the regional standard</p>	<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent with the region-wide time and season standard • provides an extra hour of off leash access during summer mornings (9am to 10am). This meets the recreational needs of dog owners and dogs • provides a winter time and season rule in line with community preferences from the online survey <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this option is unduly restrictive. It offers on a leash access from 5pm on

Option	Advantages and Disadvantages
	<p>summer evenings, which negatively impacts on recreational needs of dogs and their owners. Particularly as beaches tend to be emptier after 7pm and can be made accessible off a leash to dogs without impacting on public safety and comfort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not reflect community preferences in summer, as there is a preference from a 7pm shift in access rules as opposed to a 5pm shift • restricted access (on a leash access) for dog owners from 10am to 4pm in winter
<p>Option 3 Recommended option</p>	<p>Advantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an extra hour of off leash access during summer mornings (9am to 10am). This meets the recreational needs of dog owners and dogs • maintains the under control off a leash access at 7pm on summer evenings which is in line with current rules (Table 2) and community preferences (Table 4) • appropriately balances community preferences of dog owners and non-dog owners (Table 5) • provides a winter time and season rule in line with community preferences from the online survey • seven out of ten local boards have similar time and season rules, which aids in visitors from other local board areas, understanding the time and season rules for Howick <p>Disadvantages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restricted access (on a leash access) for dog owners from 10am to 4pm in winter • this option will require approval from the Governing Body of Auckland Council, as it is inconsistent with the region-wide standard (option 2)

Preferred option

44. The local board propose to adopt Option 3 as it:

- updates the time and season rules to provide an appropriate balance between public safety and comfort, and the needs of dogs and their owners, based on community preferences from the online survey
- adequately provides for public safety and comfort from Labour Day to 31 March, which are busy times on Howick beaches

Identification of locations by category

45. The local board proposes the following categories (highly sensitive, high use, dog friendly or standard area) for locations under review.

46. The locations under review are not an exhaustive list of all public places with dog access. Instead, the review focused on:

- beach and foreshore areas and adjacent parks
- high use park areas (specifically park areas with dog access concerns)
- wildlife areas

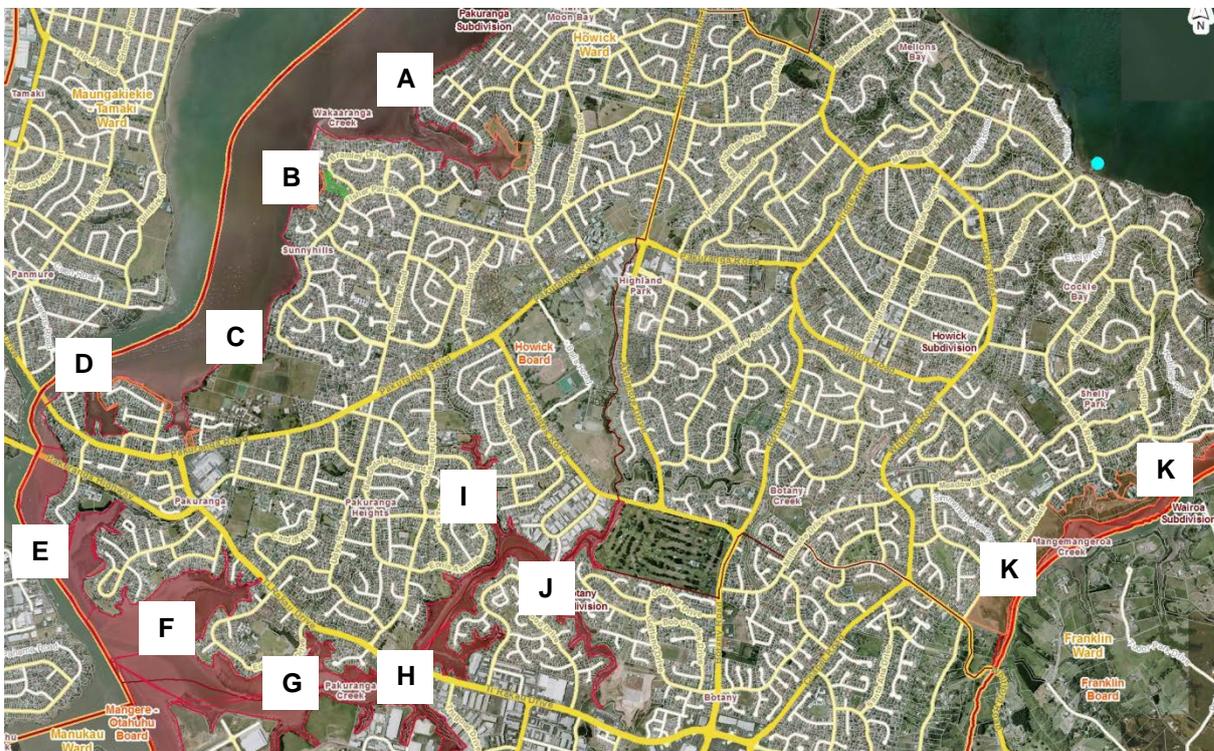
47. In deciding the proposed category the local board has considered the relevant statutory and policy requirements, as outlined in Table 1.

48. Different categories can apply to a singular location. For instance, where there is a highly sensitive area within a park/ beach and other parts of that area can still be safely accessed by dogs, the site can span across two categories. This is a better and more practicable option than applying a single access rule to a site.

Highly sensitive areas (Prohibited)

49. The primary wildlife concerns for the Howick Local Board area, are shore birds, wetland and saltmarsh bird habitats. Wetland and salt marsh birds such as the Grey duck (critically threatened); Australasian bittern (nationally endangered) and Banded rail (at risk, naturally uncommon) are found in the salt marsh and mangrove swamps in the local board area.
50. Vulnerable shorebirds such as the Pied shag (nationally vulnerable); Black shag (at risk); Little black shag (at risk) and Royal spoonbill (at risk) feed, roost and nest along the coastline of the local board area.
51. The south western coastlines of the local board area (from Curacao Place Esplanade Reserve to the Highbrook Creek) are active feeding, roosting and nesting habitats for salt marsh, wetland and shore birds. Dogs can easily locate and eat eggs nesting in well camouflaged nests in sand or shell. Also, dogs can harass birds feeding in intertidal areas, which compromise the health of the species.
52. It is recommended that dogs are prohibited from the foreshore and intertidal areas along the Rotary walkway to the Highbrook creek, including Pakuranga Creek (areas marked A-J in Map 1)
53. On the eastern side of the local board coastline, the Mangemangeroa reserve and the Chisbury Terrace Reserve foreshore are significant mangrove and saltmarsh areas. There are vulnerable saltmarsh and mangrove bird species that feed and nest in these areas. It is recommended that dogs are prohibited from these reserve areas (area marked K in Map 1)

Map 1 Highly sensitive areas in Howick Local Board



54. Table 7 below identifies the highly sensitive areas that should be prohibited for dog access.

Table 7 Highly sensitive areas

Highly sensitive areas - Prohibited			
Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule	
A	Foreshore of Wakaaranga Creek , Tamaki River	Saltmarsh and mangrove swamp along coastline of this area. Wetland saltmarsh birds such as grey duck, black pied, black shag, white faced heron, bittern, spoonbill and banded rail reside in these areas.	Prohibited
A	Foreshore of Curacao Place Esplanade Reserve	Department of Conservation prohibited area as well	Prohibited
A	Foreshore of Bramley Drive Reserve		Prohibited
B	Foreshore of Fisher Parade Esplanade Reserve		Saltmarsh and mangrove swamp along coastline of this area. Wetland saltmarsh birds, such as grey duck, black pied, black shag, white faced heron, bittern, spoonbill and banded rail, reside in these areas.
C	Bus Stop Reserve (intertidal area)	Furthermore, the some parts of the foreshore are not accessible, therefore prohibition does not affect dog access in some areas	Under control off a leash
C	Tamaki Bay Drive Reserve (foreshore)		Under control off a leash
D	Williams Avenue Esplanade Reserve (foreshore and intertidal area)		Under control off a leash
D	Dayspring Way Esplanade Reserve (foreshore)		Under control off a leash
E	Millen Avenue Esplanade Reserve (foreshore area)		Under control off a leash
E	Pandora Place Esplanade Reserve (foreshore)	Under control off a leash	
E	Tiraumea Park (foreshore area)	Area for wading bird extends across the intertidal zone of Tamaki Estuary. Shorebirds feed in inter-tidal areas and roost in adjacent park areas	Under control off a leash

Highly sensitive areas - Prohibited

Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
F Mattson Road Esplanade Reserve (foreshore area)	Saltmarsh and mangrove swamp along coastline of this area. Wetland saltmarsh birds, such as grey duck, black pied, black shag, white faced heron, bittern, spoonbill and banded rail, reside in these areas. Furthermore, the some parts of the foreshore are not accessible, therefore prohibition does not affect dog access in some areas	Under control off a leash
F Edgewater Drive Esplanade Reserve (foreshore and intertidal area)		Under control off a leash
F Riverina Place Esplanade Reserve (foreshore areas)	Area for wading bird extends across the intertidal zone of Tamaki Estuary. Shorebirds roost and feed in this area	Under control off a leash
G Raewyn Place Esplanade Reserve (foreshore and intertidal)	Saltmarsh and mangrove swamp along coastline of this area. Wetland saltmarsh birds, such as grey duck, black pied, black shag, white faced heron, bittern, spoonbill and banded rail, reside in these areas. Furthermore, the some parts of the foreshore are not accessible, therefore prohibition does not affect dog access in some areas	Under control off a leash
G Freemantle Place Esplanade Reserve (foreshore areas)		Under control off a leash
G Stonedon Esplanade Reserve (foreshore area)		Under control off a leash
H Riverhills Park (foreshore areas)		Under control off a leash
H Trugood Esplanade Reserve (foreshore and intertidal areas)		Under control off a leash
H Ennis Avenue Reserve (bush and foreshore areas)		Under control off a leash
H Burswood Esplanade Reserve (bush and intertidal)		Under control off a leash
I Hope Farm Avenue		Under control off a leash

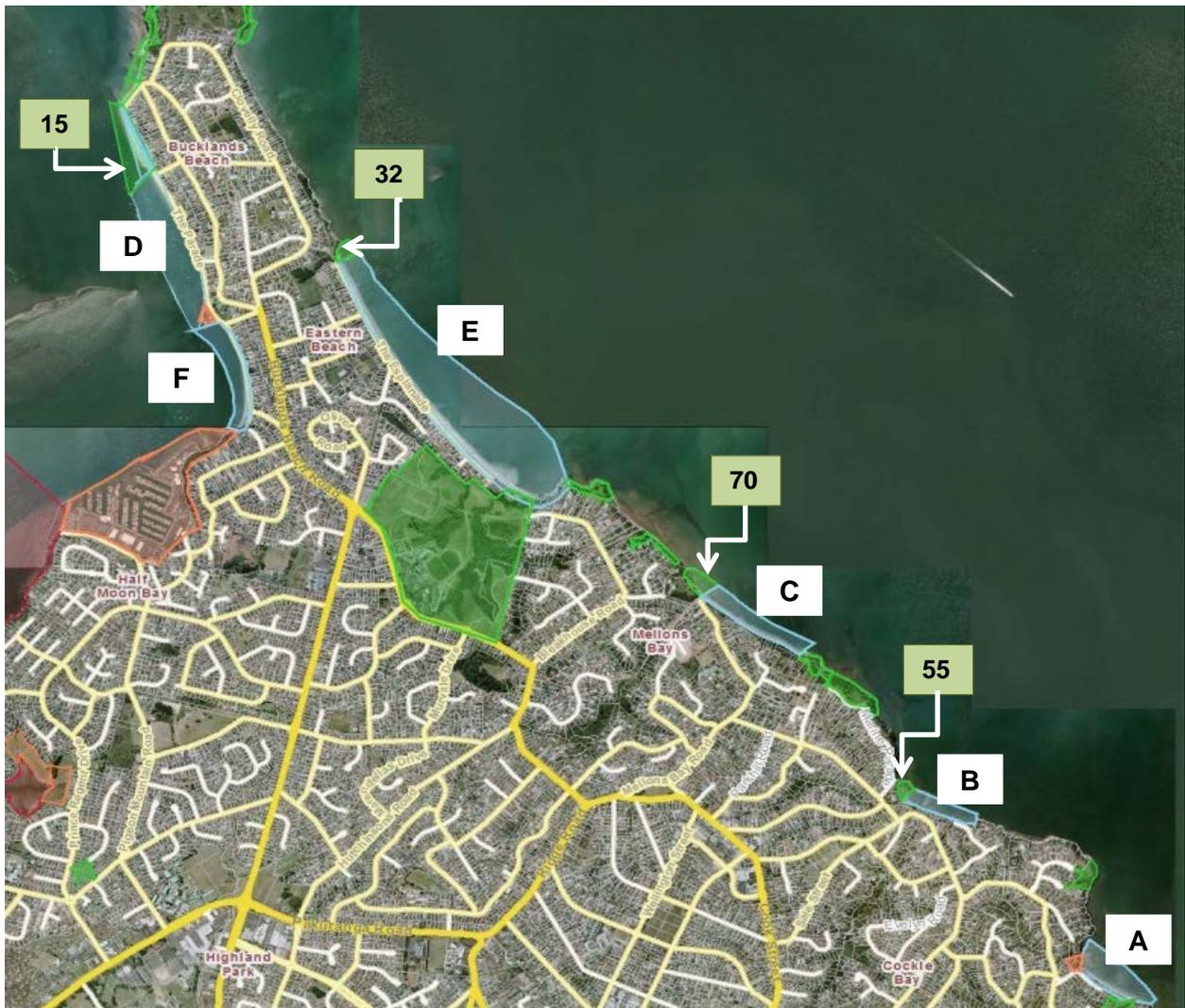
Highly sensitive areas - Prohibited			
	Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
	Esplanade reserve (bush areas)		
J	Frank Nobilo Esplanade Reserve (bush and intertidal)		Under control off a leash
J	Pakuranga Country Club Esplanade Reserve (bush and intertidal area)		Under control off a leash
K	Mangemangeroa Reserve and Chisbury Terrace Reserve	<p>Shorebirds, saltmarsh and wetland birds roost and feed in the Mangemangeroa reserve foreshore and is currently a Department of Conservation prohibited area</p> <p>The Mangemangeroa Reserve and Chisbury Terrace Reserve areas are significant ecological areas. The bush walks in these reserves lead directly to the prohibited foreshore areas. Prohibiting dogs from Mangemangeroa reserve areas reduces the risk of dogs accessing the foreshore and protects the dog owners from risk of incurring penalty under the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Wildlife Act 1953</p>	<p>Mangemangeroa reserve foreshore- Prohibited</p> <p>Mangemangeroa Reserve- Under control on a leash</p> <p>Chisbury Terrace reserve- under control off a leash</p>

High use areas

55. High use areas are typically beaches and associated parks where it attracts a lot of people at certain times of the day or year. When there are lot of users, the presence of dogs can affect public safety and comfort and it is appropriate that dogs are under control on a leash or prohibited. However at other times where there are fewer users, it may be appropriate for dogs to be allowed under control off a leash to meet the recreational needs of dogs and their owners.
56. For the Howick Local Board, the high use areas that meet this definition include:
- a) Cockle Bay Beach
 - b) Howick Beach (from westernmost boat ramp to Rangitoto View Road)
 - c) Mellons Bay Beach (southeast of water pipe)
 - d) Bucklands Beach (south of boat ramp opposite Devon Road)
 - e) Eastern Beach (south of northern most water pipe, including adjoining picnic area)
 - f) Little Bucklands Beach

57. The most appropriate dog access rule for these types of areas is the 'time and season rule' as outlined in aforementioned section. Table 8 below outlines reasons these above areas are in the 'high use' category.
58. It is recommended that the associated parks to these above beaches are not subject to time and season rules, as usage in the associated parks better suit the 'standard area' or 'dog friendly' area categories.

Map 2 High use areas in Howick Local Board



Legend	
X	High use areas (Table 8)
#	Dog friendly areas (Table 9)

Table 8 High use areas in Howick Local Board

High use areas (Time and Season)			
	Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
A	Cockle Bay	<p>Cockle Bay is a busy beach in Howick used by both dog owners (55%) and non-dog owners (50%).</p> <p>As with the other beaches in Howick, beach use at Cockle Bay does vary by times of day and season and therefore appropriate for a time and season rule.</p> <p>The time and season rule matches these variations in use and helps meet the needs of dog owners and protect public safety and comfort.</p> <p>The adjacent park to Cockle Bay, the Tainui Reserve, is most appropriate for an under control on a leash dog access rule. This is covered in Table 10.</p>	Current time and season
B	Howick Beach	<p>Howick beach is well frequented by both local dog owners and non-dog owners (58% and 55%).</p> <p>Beach use at Howick Beach does vary by times of day and season and therefore appropriate for a time and season rule.</p> <p>The time and season rule matches these variations in use and helps meet the needs of dog owners and protect public safety and comfort.</p>	Current time and season
C	Mellons Bay	<p>According to the online survey, about 30% of non-dog owners and 50% of dog owners visit Mellons Bay. There is some upgrading work taking place in this area which will see numbers of visitors to this beach increase when the works end.</p> <p>The time and season rule will balance the different uses of this beach.</p> <p>The quieter part of the beach, to the left of Mellons Bay is identified as a dog friendly area in low tides, which provides for dog owners.</p>	Current time and season
D/ F	Buckland's Beach (including Little Bucklands)	<p>The online survey ranked Bucklands Beach as the third most popular beach in the Howick Local Board area (23%).</p> <p>A time and season rule is appropriate for this beach as it is popular during summer time and daylight while fairly low use in winters and in the evenings.</p> <p>The time and season rule matches these variations in use and helps meet the needs</p>	Current time and season

High use areas (Time and Season)			
	Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
		<p>of dog owners and protect public safety and comfort.</p> <p>A small bay north of Bucklands Beach (from Devon Road to Musick Point) is identified as a dog friendly area to meet the recreational needs of dog owners in summer.</p>	
E	Eastern beach	<p>The online survey found Eastern Beach to be the busiest beach in Howick. About 47% of respondents ranked this beach as a '<i>top beach to visit</i>' and 37% of dog owners regularly walk their dogs at this beach.</p> <p>As the beach use at Eastern Beach is variable according to times of day and seasons, it is appropriate for the time and season rule.</p> <p>The time and season rule matches these variations in use and helps meet the needs of dog owners and protect public safety and comfort.</p>	Current time and season

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)

59. Dog friendly areas are places that are suitable for dogs to run and play off a leash. These areas typically have low levels of use by the non-dog owners or the public; or it can be an area that is sufficiently large that enables it to be shared by dog and non-dog uses. This helps provide for the needs of dog owners, given that dogs are restricted in the other areas.
60. The Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 ('the Policy') notes that a responsible dog owner will 'know the best locations where you are allowed to take your dog'. In a move towards dog access rules that are simpler to understand, it is recommended that a list of dog friendly areas be provided in Schedule 2. For the Howick Local Board area, these 103 locations are identified as dog friendly areas.

Table 9 Dog friendly areas in Howick Local Board

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
	Location		Current Rule
1	Aberfeldy Park	Parks of a size that is large enough for dog owners to use without significantly affecting other users. These areas are easily accessible. Currently under control off a leash parks, these identified dog friendly areas help dog owners know where they can take their dogs.	Under control off a leash
2	Annalong Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
3	Armoy Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
4	Aspatria Place	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
Location		Current Rule	
	Reserve		
5	Aviemore Drive Drainage Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
6	Baverstock Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
7	Bell Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
8	Blanche Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
9	Bleakhouse Road Promontory Reserve	Located next to Eastern Beach, this area is large enough and low use for an appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
10	Bob Charles Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
11	Booralee Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
12	Bradbury Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
13	Browns Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
14	Bucklands Beach Domain	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
15	Bucklands Beach (from Devon Road to Musick Point)	This area is north of Bucklands Beach (Map 2) that has low levels of public use and is an appropriate dog friendly area. This area is currently under control off a leash at all times to enable dog access on summer afternoons. The rest of Buckland's Beach (south of Devon Road to end of Little Bucklands Beach) is subject to the time and season rule	Under control off a leash
16	Burswood Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
17	Cairngorm Place Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
18	Caithness Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
19	Cascades walkways	Currently an under control off a leash area, it provides a bush walk area for dogs and their owners with no wildlife concerns. The area is large enough for non-dog owners to enjoy, despite the presence of dogs. Also, it does not feature as a place most frequently visited by non-dog owners.	Under control off a leash
20	Charles Dickens Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
Location		Current Rule	
21	Clavoy Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
22	Clydesdale Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
23	Coachman Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
24	Cockle Bay Domain	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
25	Cockle Bay Reserve	A quiet reserve behind Cockle Bay beach that is appropriate as a dog friendly area	Time and season rule
26	Cornelian Park (Sunderlands Rd)	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
27	Crawford Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
28	Dairyland Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
29	Dalwhinnie Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
30	Darren Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
31	Earnslaw Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
32	Eastern Beach (North of water pipe toward Cloverley walkway)	Areas south of the northernmost water pipe at Eastern Beach (by Esplanade road), is subject to time and season rule (Map 2). Currently, the area north of the water pipe, toward the Cloverley walkway reserve, is an under control off a leash area, to provide dog access when dogs are prohibited under time and season rules. This area has low levels of public use and appropriate as a dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
33	Edendale Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
34	Fortunes Park (Raddock Place Reserve)	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
35	Fortyfoot Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
36	Frank Nobilo (Pebble Beach PI Reserve)	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
37	Fratley Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
38	Galloway Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
39	Geranium Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
Location		Current Rule	
40	Gillard Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
41	Glen House Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
42	Glenlea Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
43	Glennandrew Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
44	Golfland Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
45	Gossamer Park (Heights Shops Reserve)	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
46	Grace Campbell Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
47	Gracechurch Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
48	Guys Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
49	Hawthornden Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
50	Haven Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
51	Hayes Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
52	Highland Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
53	Hilltop Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
54	Himalaya Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
55	Howick Beach (north of boat ramp)	The Howick Beach area south of the boat ramp along Beach Rd, is proposed to be subject to the time and season rule (Map 2). However, the area north of the boat ramp is a quiet, beach area that can be used at low tide. It is an appropriate dog friendly area, particularly for summer afternoons, when dogs are prohibited from time and season beaches.	Under control off a leash
56	Huntington Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
57	Jerpoint Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
58	John Gill Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
59	Kaniere Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
Location		Current Rule	
60	Kellaway Drive Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
61	Kilimanjaro Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
62	Kilkenny Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
63	Lexington Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
64	Lloyd Elsmore Park	Sports fields are prohibited to dogs. However areas adjacent to sports fields are under control off a leash	Under control off a leash
65	Logan Carr Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
66	McLeans Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area. Well used as present for dog off a leash access.	Under control off a leash
67	Marrendallas Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
68	McLeay Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
69	Medvale Park (Richmond Reserve)	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
70	Mellons Bay (northwest of water pipe)	The area south of the water pipe is a well-used beach area that is subject to the time and season rule (Map 2). North of the water pipe is a quiet beach area, appropriate for a dog friendly area. This area is currently an under control off a leash area at all times, to enable dog access for summer afternoons, when dogs are prohibited from time and season beaches	Under control off a leash
71	Mission Heights Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
72	Musick Point Esplanade Reserve	An intertidal esplanade reserve well used by dog owners to walk their dogs. The esplanade reserve is adjacent to a golf course on private land. However, the morphology of the area suggests that dogs cannot easily access private land.	Under control on a leash
73	Whitford Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
74	Mulroy Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
75	Murvale Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
76	Neil Morrison Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
77	Nimrod Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
Location			Current Rule
78	Orangewood Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
79	Paul Place Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
80	Redcastle Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
81	Reelick Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
82	Reeves Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
83	Rialto Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
84	Richard Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
85	Salford Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
86	Sheffield Place Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
87	Sommerville Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
88	Spalding Rise Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
89	Spencer Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
90	Springs Road Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
91	Stevenson Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
92	Tarnica Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
93	The Boulevard Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
94	Ti Rakau Corner Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
95	Ti Rakau Park	Areas adjacent to sports fields	Under control off a leash
96	Tiaka Place Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
97	Tiger Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
98	Tuscany Heights	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
99	Waikitiroa Reserve	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
100	Wayne Francis Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Dog friendly areas (under control off a leash)			
Location			Current Rule
101	West Fairway Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
102	Whaka Maumahara	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash
103	Whiteacres Park	Appropriate dog friendly area	Under control off a leash

Standard areas (under control on a leash)

61. As outlined in Map 1, the locations adjacent to prohibited foreshore areas are recommended to be under control on a leash (i.e. standard areas). This is to manage the potential of off leash dogs attacking shorebirds or running into the prohibited foreshore areas.
62. However, the locations numbered one to five are recommended for under control on a leash for other reasons.

Table 10 Standard areas in the Howick Local Board area

Standard areas (under control on a leash)			
	Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
1	Rotary walkway	<p>The Rotary walkway starts near the Wakaaranga Creek reserve (Galloway Crescent) and currently ends at Dayspring Way Esplanade reserve</p> <p>The Rotary walkway is well used, with approximately 67% of dog owners and 57% of non-dog owners, that use the area</p> <p>It is possible to increase dog access at some points along this walkway, particularly where the saltmarsh and foreshore areas cannot be accessed; and there are areas of open space that flank the walkway.</p> <p>However, it can be costly to signpost this, and can potentially lead to some confusion of the dog access rules.</p> <p>It is recommended that the under control on a leash access rule is retained for this area because it is a popular walkway and there are wildlife concerns.</p>	Under control on a leash
2	Murphy's Bush	<p>Murphy's Bush is a significant ecological area under the Proposed Unitary Plan and is currently an under control on a leash.</p> <p>It is recommended that the under control on a leash rule is retained for this area.</p>	Under control on a leash
3	Point View Reserve	<p>Point View Reserve is a significant ecological area under the Proposed Unitary Plan and is currently under control on a leash. It also flanks the ecological area</p>	Under control on a leash

Standard areas (under control on a leash)

Standard areas (under control on a leash)			
Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule	
	around Mangemangeroa reserve. It is recommended that the under control on a leash rule is retained for this area.		
4	Tainui Reserve (next to Cockle Bay)	This areas is a busy playground in summer and winter hours. It enables dogs to access this area under control on a leash at all times, while protecting public safety and comfort during summer seasons	Current time and season
A	Curacao Place Esplanade reserve	This reserve is adjacent to an ecologically sensitive saltmarsh area. There is not much access to the saltmarsh area, but for completeness, it is recommended this become an on leash area	Under control off a leash
A	Wakaaranga Reserve	This reserve is currently under control off a leash. it is adjacent to an ecologically sensitive saltmarsh and mangrove area and birds roost along the reserve. The proposed on a leash rule would reduce the risk of dogs attacking roosting birds.	Under control off a leash
A	Bramley Drive Reserve	Shorebirds roost in this area. To better protect these birds, the under control on leash rule can be retained in this area The Bramley Drive reserve forms part of the Rotary walkway and therefore is under control on a leash at present.	Under control on a leash (Rotary Walkway)
B	Fisher Parade Esplanade Reserve	These reserves are adjacent to saltmarsh, mangrove swamp areas and intertidal areas that are important to vulnerable bird species. It is recommended that these adjacent reserves are under control on a leash in order to better protect wildlife. There are risks from wandering off leash dogs accessing the intertidal area. Furthermore, these particular reserves form the Rotary walkway which is a popular walking route with local residents. Retaining the on a leash rule better manages public safety and comfort here.	Under control on a leash (Rotary Walkway)
C	Bus Stop Reserve		Under control on a leash (Rotary Walkway)
C	Tamaki Bay Drive Reserve		Under control on a leash (Rotary Walkway)
D	Williams Avenue Esplanade Reserve		Under control on a leash (Rotary Walkway)
D	Dayspring Way Esplanade Reserve		Under control on a leash (Rotary Walkway)
E	Millen Avenue Esplanade Reserve	These reserves are adjacent to saltmarsh, marsh swamp and intertidal areas that are important nesting, roosting and feeding areas to shorebirds and marsh birds.	Under control off a leash
E	Pandora Place Esplanade	It is recommended that the esplanade	Under control off a leash

Standard areas (under control on a leash)

Location		Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
	Reserve	reserve and reserve areas that flank these ecologically sensitive locations are under control on a leash to manage the potential of off a leash dog access into these areas. These areas are also significant ecological areas under the Proposed Unitary Plan	
E	Tiraumea Park and esplanade reserve		Under control off a leash
F	Mattson Road Esplanade Reserve		Under control off a leash
F	Edgewater Drive Esplanade Reserve		Under control off a leash
F	Riverina Place Esplanade reserve		Under control off a leash
G	Raewyn Place Esplanade Reserve		Under control off a leash
G	Freemantle Place Esplanade reserve		Under control off a leash
G	Stonedon Esplanade reserve	These reserves flank the inner coastline areas, which are important saltmarsh and marsh swamp areas. Birds in saltmarsh and swamp areas are most vulnerable when nesting, to any predator stepping and seeking out the nest. These areas are also significant ecological areas under the Proposed Unitary Plan. To manage the risk of off a leash dogs accessing the marsh areas, it is recommended that these reserves and esplanade reserves be under control on a leash	Under control off a leash
H	Riverhills Park		Under control off a leash
H	Trugood Esplanade Reserve		Under control off a leash
H	Ennis Avenue Reserve		Under control off a leash
H	Burswood Esplanade Reserve		Under control off a leash
I	Hope Farm Avenue Esplanade reserve		Under control off a leash
J	Frank Nobilo Esplanade Reserve		Under control off a leash
J	Pakuranga Country Club		Under control off a leash

Standard areas (under control on a leash)		
Location	Reasons specific to location	Current Rule
Esplanade Reserve		

Effect of proposal

63. The proposal's effect on current rules across the local board is summarised below. These proposals have regard to the relevant statutory and policy requirements (Attachment 2) and feedback from preliminary consultation (Attachment 4). Overall, the proposed dog access rules:

- maintain a high level of dog access across the Howick Local Board area
- identify 103 dog friendly areas that will allow dog owners to exercise their dogs
- change the default dog access rule from under control off a leash to under control on a leash
- change the time and season rules to better balance public safety and comfort and dog owners' recreational needs
- maintain dog access to beach areas, particularly during the middle of the day in summer, through the identification of under control off a leash (at all times) areas adjacent to Bucklands Beach, Eastern Beach, Mellons Bay Beach and Howick Beach
- introduce prohibited and under control on a leash access in ecologically sensitive areas to protect vulnerable saltmarsh birds and shorebird species
- maintain under control on a leash access in busy areas to balance dog owners' recreational needs with public safety and comfort.

Ambiguous dog access rules

64. The following sections address current dog access rules are difficult to communicate or enforce. These were rules made prior to the creation of Auckland Council and delegated to the local board to review at its discretion.

Farm paddocks occupied by stock

65. Currently, the Howick Local Board has a rule that stipulates dogs must be under control on a leash on farm paddocks occupied by stock. This rule applies to public parks only. This rule was made prior to the creation of Auckland Council and delegated to the local board to review at its discretion.
66. Staff recommend that this rule is removed and replaced with the appropriate dog access rule for the area; for instance, under control on a leash, off a leash or prohibited. This aids in signage implementation and clarity of dog access rules for users.
67. For the Howick Local Board, Mangemangeroa Reserve is the only area which has an operational farm paddock. The draft statement of proposal is to prohibit dogs from Mangemangeroa Reserve. Therefore, staff recommend the removal of this rule, as it is in conflict with another proposed rule.
68. The local board can consider two options with regard to this rule:
- Option 1: retain the 'farm paddocks' rule
 - Option 2: remove the 'farm paddocks rule'

69. The following table outlines the advantages and disadvantages of these options:

Table 11 Analysis of ‘under control on a leash control for farm paddocks occupied by stock

	Option 1: Retain farm paddocks rule	Option 2: remove farm paddocks rule
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintains under control on a leash access to public parks with farm paddocks • promotes safety of dogs and stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more appropriate dog access rules can be in place for the park in question (e.g. Mangemangeroa reserve) • simplifies and clarifies dog access rules for the area • easier to communicate with signage and easier to enforce
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confusing for users as some park access rules will need to be more prohibitive than under control on a leash (e.g. Mangemangeroa Reserve) • access rules for areas that are no longer farm paddocks will not be updated as its use changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will need to specifically identify public parks with farm paddocks and apply the appropriate dog access rule

70. Staff recommend Option 2, removing ambiguous dog access rules as it removes the potential for confusion and will apply the more appropriate dog access rule for the area.

Attachment 1 - Schedule of Proposed Changes to Auckland Council Policy on Dogs

The proposed changes to the dog access rules are shown in the right hand column, additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~.

Submissions will only be accepted in relation to proposed changes.

To understand what the proposed change means, refer to the 'Effect of change' in the tables for the relevant options.

Region-wide rules are listed after the table below. Region-wide rules also apply within the Howick Local Board area but are not within the scope of this review. Region-wide rules prevail over any local board rule.

Howick Local Board Area Dog Access Rules

Current local dog access rule	Proposed local dog access rule																																						
<p>(1) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash on all parks, beaches or foreshores not specifically identified as a prohibited or under control on a leash area.</p>	<p>(1) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash on all parks, beaches or foreshores not specifically identified as a prohibited or under control on a leash area.</p> <p><u>Dogs are allowed under control off a leash in the following areas:</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>(a) Aberfeldy Park</td> <td>(av) Hawthornden Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Annalong Park</td> <td>(aw) Haven Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Armoy Park</td> <td>(ax) Hayes Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(d) Aspatria Place reserve</td> <td>(ay) Highland Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(e) Aviemore Drive drainage reserve</td> <td>(az) Hiltop Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(f) Baverstock Park</td> <td>(ba) Himalaya Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(g) Bell Reserve</td> <td>(bb) Howick Beach (north of boat ramp)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(h) Blanche Park</td> <td>(bc) Huntington Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(i) Bleakhouse Road Promontory Reserve</td> <td>(bd) Jerpoint Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(j) Bob Charles Park</td> <td>(be) John Gill Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(k) Booralee Park</td> <td>(bf) Kaniere Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(l) Bradbury Park</td> <td>(bg) Kellaway Drive Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(m) Browns Park</td> <td>(bh) Kilimanjaro Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(n) Bucklands Beach Domain</td> <td>(bi) Kilkeny Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(o) Bucklands Beach (from Devon Road to Musick Point Esplanade Reserve)</td> <td>(bj) Lexington Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(p) Burswood Park</td> <td>(bk) Lloyd Elsmore Park (not sports fields)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(q) Cairngorm Park</td> <td>(bl) Logan Carr Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(bm) McLeans Reserve</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(bn) Marrendallas Park</td> </tr> </table>	(a) Aberfeldy Park	(av) Hawthornden Park	(b) Annalong Park	(aw) Haven Park	(c) Armoy Park	(ax) Hayes Park	(d) Aspatria Place reserve	(ay) Highland Park	(e) Aviemore Drive drainage reserve	(az) Hiltop Park	(f) Baverstock Park	(ba) Himalaya Park	(g) Bell Reserve	(bb) Howick Beach (north of boat ramp)	(h) Blanche Park	(bc) Huntington Park	(i) Bleakhouse Road Promontory Reserve	(bd) Jerpoint Park	(j) Bob Charles Park	(be) John Gill Park	(k) Booralee Park	(bf) Kaniere Park	(l) Bradbury Park	(bg) Kellaway Drive Reserve	(m) Browns Park	(bh) Kilimanjaro Park	(n) Bucklands Beach Domain	(bi) Kilkeny Park	(o) Bucklands Beach (from Devon Road to Musick Point Esplanade Reserve)	(bj) Lexington Park	(p) Burswood Park	(bk) Lloyd Elsmore Park (not sports fields)	(q) Cairngorm Park	(bl) Logan Carr Reserve		(bm) McLeans Reserve		(bn) Marrendallas Park
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Current local dog access rule	Proposed local dog access rule
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (r) Caithness Park (s) Cascades walkways (including De Quincey; Macbeth; Gosford) (t) Charles Dickens Park (u) Clavoy Park (v) Clydesdale Park (w) Coachman Park (x) Cockle Bay Domain (y) Cockle Bay Reserve (z) Cornelian Park (Sunderlands Rd) (aa) Crawford Reserve (ab) Dairyland Park (ac) Dalwhinnie Park (ad) Darren Park (ae) Earnslaw Park (af) Eastern Beach (north of northernmost water pipe, near Cloverley walkway) (ag) Edendale Park (ah) Fortunes Park (Raddock Place Reserve) (ai) Fortyfoot Park (aj) Fratley Park (ak) Galloway Park (al) Geranium Park (am) Gillard Reserve (an) Glenhouse Reserve (ao) Glenlea Park (ap) Glennandrew Park (aq) Goffland Park (ar) Gossamer Park (as) Grace Campbell Reserve (at) Gracechurch Reserve (au) Guys Reserve (bo) Mc Leay Reserve (bp) Medvale Park (Richmond Reserve) (bq) Mellons Bay (northwest of water pipe) (br) Mission Heights Reserve (bs) Musick Point Esplanade Reserve (bt) Mulroy Park (bu) Murvale Reserve (bv) Neil Morrison Park (bw) Nimrod Park (bx) Orangewood Park (by) Paul Place Reserve (bz) Redcastle Park (ca) Tuscany Heights Reserve (cb) Reelick Park (cc) Reeves Park (cd) Rialto Park (ce) Richard Park (cf) Salford Park (cg) Sheffield Place Reserve (ch) Sommerville Park (ci) Spalding Rise Reserve (cj) Stevenson Reserve (ck) Tarnica Park (cl) The Boulevard Park (cm) Ti Rakau Park (not sports fields) (cn) Ti Rakau Corner Reserve (co) Tiaka Place Reserve (cp) Tiger Park (cq) Waikitiroa Reserve (cr) Wayne Francis Park (cs) West Fairway Park (ct) Whaka Maumahara Park (cu) Whiteacres Park (cv) Whitford Park
<p>(2) Dogs are allowed under control off a leash on the following beaches and adjoining parks before 9.00am and after</p>	<p>2) Dogs are allowed as follows on the following beach and foreshore areas: and adjoining parks before 9.00am and after 7.00pm during daylight saving,</p>

Current local dog access rule	Proposed local dog access rule																		
<p>7.00pm during daylight saving, and are allowed under control off a leash at all times outside of daylight saving. Dogs are prohibited from 9.00am to 7.00pm during daylight saving</p> <p>(a) Cockle Bay Beach. (b) Howick Beach from westernmost boat ramp to Rangitoto View Road (c) Mellons Bay Beach southeast of water pipe. (d) Bucklands Beach south of boat ramp opposite Devon Road. (e) Eastern Beach south of northernmost water pipe including picnic area adjoining McLeans Reserve. (f) Little Bucklands Beach.</p>	<p>and are allowed under control off a leash at all times outside of daylight saving. Dogs are prohibited from 9.00am to 7.00pm during daylight saving</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Summer (Saturday of Labour weekend to 31 March)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Before 10am</th> <th>10am to 7pm</th> <th>After 7pm</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under control off a leash</td> <td>Prohibited</td> <td>Under control off a leash</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="3">Winter season (1 April to Friday before Labour weekend)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Before 10am</th> <th>10am to 4pm</th> <th>After 4pm</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Under control off a leash</td> <td>Under control on a leash</td> <td>Under control off a leash</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(a) Cockle Bay Beach. (b) Howick Beach from westernmost boat ramp to Rangitoto View Road (c) Mellons Bay Beach southeast of water pipe. (d) Bucklands Beach south of boat ramp opposite Devon Road. (e) Eastern Beach south of northernmost water pipe including picnic area adjoining McLeans Reserve. (f) Little Bucklands Beach.</p>	Summer (Saturday of Labour weekend to 31 March)			Before 10am	10am to 7pm	After 7pm	Under control off a leash	Prohibited	Under control off a leash	Winter season (1 April to Friday before Labour weekend)			Before 10am	10am to 4pm	After 4pm	Under control off a leash	Under control on a leash	Under control off a leash
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<p>(3) Dogs are allowed under control on a leash in the following areas-</p> <p>(a) Any farm paddocks in a park occupied by stock. (b) Musick Point Esplanade Reserve (c) Rotary walkway to Galloway Crescent accessway (d) All bush walks in Mangemangeroa Reserve, Murphy's Bush and Point View Reserve</p>	<p>(3) Dogs are allowed under control on a leash on all park, beach and foreshore areas unless specifically identified as prohibited, under control off a leash or designated dog exercise areas. This includes the following areas-</p> <p>(a) Any farm paddocks in a park occupied by stock. (b) Musick Point Esplanade Reserve</p> <p>(a) Tainui Reserve (adjacent to Cockle Bay Beach) (b) Rotary walkway to Galloway Crescent access way (including Wakaaranga Creek Reserve) (d) all reserve and walkway areas along Waakaranga Creek to Highbrook Creek, including Pakuranga Creek. These include, but not limited to,</p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>(i) <u>Curacao Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> <td>(xi) <u>Mattson Road Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(ii) <u>Bramley Drive Reserve;</u></td> <td>(xii) <u>Edgewater Drive Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(iii) <u>Fisher Parade Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> <td>(xiii) <u>Riverina Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(iv) <u>Bus Stop Reserve;</u></td> <td>(xiv) <u>Raewyn Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(v) <u>Tamaki Bay Drive Reserve;</u></td> <td>(xv) <u>Freemantle Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(vi) <u>Williams Avenue Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> <td>(xvi) <u>Stonedon Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(vii) <u>Dayspring Way Esplanade Reserve;</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	(i) <u>Curacao Place Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(xi) <u>Mattson Road Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(ii) <u>Bramley Drive Reserve;</u>	(xii) <u>Edgewater Drive Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(iii) <u>Fisher Parade Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(xiii) <u>Riverina Place Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(iv) <u>Bus Stop Reserve;</u>	(xiv) <u>Raewyn Place Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(v) <u>Tamaki Bay Drive Reserve;</u>	(xv) <u>Freemantle Place Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(vi) <u>Williams Avenue Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(xvi) <u>Stonedon Esplanade Reserve;</u>	(vii) <u>Dayspring Way Esplanade Reserve;</u>					
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Current local dog access rule	Proposed local dog access rule
	<p>(viii) <u>Millen Avenue Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(ix) <u>Pandora Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(x) <u>Tiraumea Park and Tiraumea Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xvii) <u>Riverhills Park;</u></p> <p>(xviii) <u>Trugood Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xix) <u>Ennis Avenue Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xx) <u>Burswood Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xxi) <u>Hope Farm Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xxii) <u>Frank Nobilo Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xxiii) <u>Pakuranga Country Club Esplanade Reserve</u></p> <p>(d) All bush walks in Mangemangeroa Reserve, Murphy's Bush and Point View Reserve</p>
<p>4) Dogs are prohibited on Mangemangeroa Reserve foreshore and Crown foreshore of Wakaaranga Creek Tamaki River (DOC Map 6.65).</p>	<p>(4) Dogs are prohibited from the following areas-</p> <p>(a) <u>Mangemangeroa Reserve and Chisbury Terrace Reserve</u></p> <p>(b) <u>Crown foreshore of Wakaaranga Creek Tamaki River (DOC Map 6.65)</u></p> <p>(c) <u>Foreshore areas from Wakaaranga Creek to Highbrook Creek, including Pakuranga Creek. This includes, but not limited to, the foreshore areas of:</u></p> <p>(i) <u>Curacao Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>Bramley Drive Reserve;</u></p> <p>(iii) <u>Fisher Parade Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(iv) <u>Bus Stop Reserve;</u></p> <p>(v) <u>Tamaki Bay Drive Reserve;</u></p> <p>(vi) <u>Williams Avenue Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(vii) <u>Dayspring Way Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(viii) <u>Millen Avenue Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(ix) <u>Pandora Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(x) <u>Tiraumea Park and Tiraumea Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xi) <u>Mattson Road Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xii) <u>Edgewater Drive Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xiii) <u>Riverina Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xiv) <u>Raewyn Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xv) <u>Freemantle Place Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xvi) <u>Stonedon Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xvii) <u>Riverhills Park;</u></p> <p>(xviii) <u>Trugood Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xix) <u>Ennis Avenue Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xx) <u>Burswood Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xxi) <u>Hope Farm Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xxii) <u>Frank Nobilo Esplanade Reserve;</u></p> <p>(xxiii) <u>Pakuranga Country Club Esplanade Reserve</u></p>

Reasons for Department of Conservation dog access rule –		
¹ High population of protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs	2	Inter-tidal areas with various species vulnerable to dogs
³ Potential conflict with other users (members of the public)	4	Vulnerable wildlife present
Department of Conservation conditions of entry –		
⁵ Faeces to be removed	6	Leash rule does not apply to hunting dogs.

****** *Explanatory Note: The region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on any sports surface (unless exceptions are stated) and that requires dogs to be kept under control on a leash in the vicinity of any sports surface when in use as stated in Schedule 1, Rule 1(2) continues to apply. This note is specified in relation to particular parks where a sportsfield is known to exist to assist readers.*

******* *Explanatory Note: The region-wide rule that prohibits dogs on any playgrounds and that requires dogs to be kept under control on a leash in the vicinity of any playground when in use as stated in Schedule 1, Rule 1(1) continues to apply. This note is specified in relation to particular parks where a playground is known to exist to assist readers.*

Region-wide rules

The following region-wide dog access rules also apply within the Howick Local Board area but are not within the scope of this review.

Region-wide rules prevail over any local board rule.

(1) **Playgrounds under the control of the council**

Dogs are prohibited on any playground at all times and must be under control on a leash in the vicinity of any playground when in use.

(2) **Sports surfaces under the control of the council**

Dogs are prohibited on any sports surface at all times and must be kept under control on a leash in the vicinity of any sports surface when in use.

For the avoidance of doubt, dogs must still be kept under control on a leash in the vicinity of the sports surface when in use.

(3) **Roads, private ways, and council-controlled car parks and boating areas**

Dogs must be under control and on a leash on all –

(a) formed public roads (including any street, highway, access way, service lane, and any footpath, cycle track, bus stop and berm within the boundaries of the road);

(b) private ways;

(c) council-controlled car parks; and

(d) council-controlled boating areas (including any wharf, jetty, boat ramp, boat marshalling area).

For the avoidance of doubt, this rule does not apply to any unformed road, or any walkway, track or road within or surrounded by a park.

(4) **Council cemeteries, council camping grounds and council holiday parks**

Council cemeteries

Dogs are allowed under control and on a leash in the following council-controlled cemeteries:

(a) North Shore Memorial Park

(b) Waikumete Cemetery

Dogs are prohibited from all other council-controlled cemeteries unless permission is obtained from the council (e.g. a park manager with the appropriate delegated authority), or signage indicates dogs are allowed and provided the person whom the dog is accompanying complies with any reasonable conditions imposed by the council in relation to the entry or presence of the dog.

Camping grounds and holiday parks under the control of the council

Dogs are prohibited from all council-controlled camping grounds and holiday parks unless permission is obtained from Council (e.g. park manager with delegated authority), or signage indicates dogs are allowed, and provided the person whom the dog is accompanying complies with any reasonable conditions imposed by the Council in relation to the entry or presence of the dog.

(5) **Default dog access rules**

Unless otherwise stated in the local board dog access rules:

(a) dogs must be under control and on a leash in all council-controlled public places with unrestricted access; and

(b) dogs are prohibited in all other public places (e.g. fenced sports stadiums, libraries, cafes, shopping malls, school grounds, non-council cemeteries and urupa) unless permission is obtained or signage indicates dogs are allowed from –

(i) council, in relation to places under control of the council; or

(ii) the person in charge of the place, in relation to places not under control of the council; and

- (iii) *provided the person whom the dog is accompanying complies with any reasonable conditions imposed in relation to the entry or presence of the dog.*

Explanatory Notes:

Dog Faeces

The owner of any dog that defecates in any public place or private way must immediately remove and dispose of the faeces in a way that does not cause a nuisance.

Dogs confined in a vehicle or cage

Dogs confined in a vehicle or cage are not exempt from prohibited dog access rules. They are exempt from under control on-leash dog access rules.

Working dogs (includes disability assist and police dogs)

Dog access rules in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 do not apply to any working dog accompanying and assisting a person with work, or accompanying a person genuinely engaged in the dog's training.

Female dog in season

The owner of any female dog in season must ensure that dog does not enter or remain in any public place or private way unless that dog is completely confined in a vehicle or cage for the purposes of transportation, or the owner of that dog has the permission of the occupier or person controlling the public place (such as a veterinary clinic) in relation to the entry or presence of the dog, and complies with any reasonable conditions imposed.

Temporary Changes to Dog Access Rules

The council may make temporary changes to dog access rules in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 in relation to leisure and cultural events (including dog friendly events), dog training, threatened or 'at risk' protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs, pest control in any park and/or beach, and events of a comparative nature.

Attachment 2 Decision-making framework (Dog Access)

Local board delegations

Local boards are responsible for:

1. *Amendments (including preparation, approval and review) to the Policy on Dogs in relation to any dog access rules in local park, local beach or local foreshore areas in their local board area subject to these being:*
 - (a) *consistent with the Policy on Dogs policy, principles and criteria for making dog access rules; and*
 - (b) *not inconsistent with any decision in relation to region-wide dog access rules.*
 - (c) *in accordance with relevant legislative requirements in particular the Local Government Act 2002 and Dog Control Act 1996.*

2. *A review in accordance with section 10(8) of the Dog Control Act 1996 of all dog access rules on any beach and foreshore area for which the Local Board has delegated authority.*
 - (a) *The review must have regard to the provision of under control off-leash at all times dog access areas;*
 - (b) *The review must be consistent with objective, policy 4 and associated principles, and criteria 3 to 3E inclusive of the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs.*
 - (c) *The review must not propose or result in dog access rules that are contrary to any region-wide dog access rule.*
 - (d) *For the avoidance of doubt the requirement to review beach and foreshore dog access rules does not preclude the inclusion of a review of any dog access rule on a park for which the local board has delegated authority.*
 - (e) *The review must comply with relevant statutory requirements, including section 10 and 20 of the Dog Control Act 1996 and sections 77, 78, 80, 81, 82 and 83 of Local Government Act 2002.*
 - (f) *Subject to resource and funding –*
 - (i) *A report on the review must be considered; and*
 - (ii) *If any changes to dog access rules are proposed, a statement of proposal for the purposes of public notification must be adopted, by the local board no later than 12 months following the commencement of the Auckland Council Policy on Dogs.*
 - (g) *A recommendation by the local board on submissions to the statement of proposal (if any) must be adopted no later than 8 months after the close of submissions.*

Requirements to advise and consult

When making or amending dog access rules, local boards:

- Must use the special consultative procedure in the Local Government Act 2002 (Dog Control Act 1996, S10)
- Must give notice of the proposal to register dog owners (Dog Control Act 1996, S10)

Requirements to have regard to

Local Government Act 2002

When making decisions in general, local boards must have regard to the decision-making and consultation requirements of Part 6 Sections 76 to 87 of the Act. This includes:

- defining the problem and outcome sought and considering reasonably practicable options to achieve the outcome
- inviting community views (including Maori), having regard to the significance of the matter
- explain any inconsistency with existing policies or plans
- prepare and invite people to have their say on a statement of proposal
- hear and consider submissions to the statement of proposal before making a final decision
- receive views with an open mind and giving them due consideration.

Dog Control Act 1996

When making or amending dog access rules, local boards must have regard to (S10(4)):

- the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally
- the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults
- the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs
- the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

These matters together with the consideration of wildlife protection are discussed under the Additional Background Information section of this document.

Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012

Policy Statement 4 - Dog safe access

Provide dog owners with reasonable access to public places and private ways in a way that is safe for everyone in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) recognise dog owners as legitimate users of public places
- (b) integrate (not separate) dog owners and their dogs with other users of public places
- (c) provide opportunities for dog owners to take their dog to public places that are accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience (sights, sounds, smells, textures, other dogs and humans) for both the dog and owner
- (d) consider access on a comprehensive region-wide basis rather than a place-by-place basis
- (e) manage the safe interaction between dogs and people using public places and private ways, in particular with children and vulnerable adults
- (f) manage the conflict between dogs and protected wildlife, stock, poultry, domestic animals, property and natural habitat.

Types of dog access rules:

- (a) prohibited area – a place where dogs are prohibited. Other users have absolute priority over dogs

- (b) on-leash area – a place where dogs must be on a leash and under control. A place shared with other users
- (c) off-leash area – a place where dogs may be off a leash but must still be under control. A place shared with other users
- (d) designated dog exercise area – a place identified as for dog owners to take their dogs off a leash (including a known dangerous dog) but must still be under control. Dog owners are a priority user.

Policy Methods

- there should be at all times a default access rule
- the following summer time and season standard should be considered wherever a time and season rule is deemed appropriate to manage the safe interaction between dogs with their owners and people without dogs:

Summer season period - Labour Weekend to 1 March	
10am to 5pm	Before 10am and after 5pm
<i>Local board to decide appropriate level of access (off-leash, on-leash or prohibited)</i>	<i>Local board to decide appropriate level of access (off-leash, on-leash or prohibited)</i>
Other seasons (e.g. winter)	
<i>Local board to decide times</i>	<i>Local board to decide times</i>
<i>Local board to decide appropriate level of access (off-leash, on-leash or prohibited)</i>	<i>Local board to decide appropriate level of access (off-leash, on-leash or prohibited)</i>

The local board must decide whether or not using the standard times and season would contravene the local board’s statutory obligation to provide for public safety and comfort. For instance, if there are continued high levels of use of beaches beyond the times and dates specified in the standard, local boards must decide on an alternative that extends the summer times and dates to reflect this. Where an alternative time and season is adopted, approval is required from the Auckland Council Governing Body.

- the policy on dogs also provides criteria¹ for consideration before making the following possible changes to dog access rules that would:
 - provide more dog access and associated risk considerations
 - provide less dog access and associated alternative dog access solutions
 - identify a park or beach as a designated dog exercise area.

3B Before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches³

- (a) Identify and assess current and future uses of the place and any conflict that may exist or arise⁴;
- (b) Identify dog access rules in the vicinity.

3C Before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches³ that would provide more dog access (e.g. on-leash to off-leash), ensure the change would not result in any significant risk⁵ –

- (a) To any person (in particular children or the elderly);
- (b) To any protected wildlife vulnerable to dogs (in particular ground nesting birds)
- (c) To any stock, poultry, or domestic animal;
- (d) To property (e.g. natural habitat and public amenities);

¹ See Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 Kaupapa mo nga Kuri 2012 - As at 04 November 2014

- (e) This may include implementing design and/or management solutions.
- 3D Before making any change to a dog access rule on parks and beaches³ that would provide less dog access (e.g. off-leash to on-leash or prohibited) –**
- (a) Ensure that alternative design and/or management solutions are not practicable to address the conflict between uses of the place⁶; and
 - (b) Ensure, to the extent that is practicable, that displaced dog owners and their dogs have access to other places or that such access is provided as part of the same decision.
- 3E Before making any change that identifies a park or beach⁴ as a designated dog exercise area, ensure the –**
- (a) Matters contained in 3C are satisfied;
 - (b) Area is well-located with vehicular and pedestrian access;
 - (c) Area has clearly visible boundaries on the ground to dog owners and people without dogs. This may be achieved through transition zones, vegetation, topography and fencing. This criterion is not intended to require fully fenced areas to contain all types of dog. Boundary treatment will vary depending on the risks identified;
 - (d) Area is of sufficient size to provide dog owners with a satisfactory experience. Size is relative to the type (size) of dogs. This criterion is not intended to require the area to provide for the needs of all types (sizes) of dog;
 - (e) Area has sufficient sight lines that enable dog owners to be aware of the presence of other dogs and their owners. This requires a balance to provide access to areas that are desirable and provide an experience;
 - (f) Area has adequate signage; and
 - (g) Provision of dog owner and dog amenities has been considered (e.g. seats, bins and bag dispensers for dog faeces, water stations).
 - (h) These criteria (3E) do not apply to existing designated dog exercise areas identified before 01 July 2013.

Additional background information

The matters that the local board is required to consider under the Dog Control Act 1996 and Auckland Council Policy on Dogs 2012 can be summarised as the need to consider public safety and comfort, the needs of dog owners and the protection of wildlife.

Safety and comfort of the general public

Dog access rules can assist in contributing to the safety and comfort of people in public places.

When considering public safety and comfort the issues of 'safety' and 'comfort' need to be considered as two separate aspects. Research indicates that the main issue with dogs (specifically off-leash dogs) is a comfort issue and that the risk of dog attacks in public places is low. Notwithstanding this, any dog attack in a public place can have a serious and lasting impact and the potential for this has to be taken into consideration.

Safety is primarily about the risk of dog attacks in a public place.

Primary research undertaken for the Auckland Council Dog Management Bylaw 2012 identified that in 2010 the top three dog related complaints² were roaming, barking and dog attacks or aggression.

Key points from this research include:

- dogs that roam unaccompanied by their owners account for just over half of all dog related problems
- dogs that persistently bark or howl account for one third of all dog related problems
- dogs that attack, rush or are aggressive to people or animals account for just over a tenth of all dog related problems.
- Dog attacks on people account for less than three per cent of complaints.

The research identified that the most common location of reported dog attacks on people was outside the owner's property (36 per cent). However, it should be noted that based on ACC injury statistics, the reported incidents are estimated to only account for less than a third of actual dog attacks³. A possible reason for lack of reporting, particularly in public places, may be an inability to identify the details of a dog or their owner in order to make a complaint. As such it is difficult to provide factual evidence regarding the risk of dog attacks at local beaches and parks.

Comfort is more generally about the public's level of concern about dogs; any perceived risk of intimidation or attack, as well as the nuisance factor of dogs in public places.

This aspect is more problematic to assess and quantify. While it is noted that most dog owners consider their pet to be friendly and would not wilfully harm anyone, to another member of the public, the presence of an unknown unleashed dog may engender fear or intimidation. This is particularly within a confined area such as a boardwalk or narrow bush walk.

As part of public surveys conducted for the dog access reviews in 2014 and 2015, approximately 60 per cent of urban non-dog owner respondents did not want an unknown dog approaching.

These results indicate that for the comfort of people to be maintained, dogs need to be effectively controlled in the proximity of non-dog owners, particularly around vulnerable people, so that any interactions are positive for the owners, their dogs and non-dog owners.

Dog access rules can help in managing these interactions.

Recreational and exercise needs of owners and their dogs

Dog access rules help provide for the health and well-being of dogs and their owners.

Walking a dog is an important form of regular exercise for many dog owners. A study in Manukau shows that 50 per cent of dog owners say it was their main form

² A 'dog related complaint' is a dog related service request that relates to a dog incident (e.g. dog attack). In addition to dog related complaints, dog related service requests include such things as requests for property inspections and lost dog notifications.

³ Auckland Council (2011)– Dog Control - Issues and options discussion paper.

of exercise⁴. Supervised interaction for dogs with other dogs and people is also important for the socialisation of a dog.

It is generally accepted that areas to walk a dog (either on a leash or off a leash) that are easily accessible, desirable, and provide diversity of experience for both the dog and owner, is important.

Wildlife considerations

Under the Dog Control Act 1996, it is an offence to allow dogs to roam or attack protected wildlife. Penalties include seizure and destruction of the dog; owner imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or a fine not exceeding \$20,000, or both. Under section 63 of the Wildlife Act 1953 it is an offence to kill or disturb wildlife. Penalties for individuals include imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or a fine not exceeding \$100,000, or both.

A number of wetland and shorebirds are vulnerable to dogs as they nest, roost, breed or feed in wetland or inter-tidal areas. For some species, including the New Zealand Dotterel, the presence of dogs can cause ground-nesting birds to leave the nest resulting in loss of clutches and broods and disrupted feeding which is particularly important for migratory birds.

A review of dog access rules should therefore also take wildlife concerns into account, particularly in relation to vulnerable species, in order to support the following goals:

- protection of wildlife, in particular vulnerable species
- the reduction of the risk to dog owners of incurring penalties under both the Dog Control Act 1996 and the Wildlife Act 1953.

Practical requirements

The most important practical requirement is to make dog access rules easy to understand 'on the ground' and by the general public. The review programme aims to provide more certainty for dog owners and non-dog owners by clearly providing information where dogs are able to be taken either off a leash or on a leash to support compliance issues.

⁴ Manukau City Council (2007) Understanding Dog and Dog Owner Physical Exercise Habits

Attachment 3 Analysis of types of types of dog access

Under control off-leash at all times

Under this form of access dogs are allowed off a leash provided that a dog is 'under control'. 'Under control' is defined within the bylaw as "that the owner is able to obtain an immediate and desired response from the dog by use of a leash, voice commands, hand signals, whistles or other effective means".

The benefits of this option are that:

- provides for the needs of dog owners on beaches and parks by providing an outlet for dogs when there are restrictions on dogs on other higher use areas
- are best suited to beaches that predominantly have linear (walking or running) activities rather than sand based activities, or have a low intensity of use.

The disadvantages of this option are that:

- does not generally provide for the comfort of non-dog owners on beaches and parks to the levels identified within the online.

Under control on-leash at all times

Under this form of access dogs are allowed under control on a leash at all times.

The benefits of this option are that:

- allows for the integration of dogs and their owners in spaces while maintaining public safety and comfort for the general public
- provides for the needs of dog owners by providing an opportunity to walk or run their dog but has limited use for fetch activities (ie. throwing balls or sticks)
- assists in the protection of public comfort of non-dog owners as the majority do not want to be approached by unknown dogs
- can help protect wildlife.

The disadvantages of this option are that:

- does not provide for the needs of dog owners for fetch activities.

Prohibited at all times

Under this form of access dogs are prohibited at all times from an area.

The benefits of this option are that:

- provides for public safety and comfort on high use beaches and parks
- provides an alternative when other beaches or park areas may have off-leash access rules, particularly for members of the general public who are nervous about dogs or avoid visiting a beach or park because of the presence of dogs
- can help protect wildlife.

The disadvantages of this option are that:

- does not provide for the needs of dog owners
- prohibiting dogs on a particular area can restrict the through fare of dogs which can restrict the uses of or effectiveness of other adjoining on-leash or off-leash areas for walking or running access and the needs of dog owners.

Time and season

A time and season access rule is a method of sharing a space between dog owners and non-dog owners based on time slots rather than defined areas.

The benefits of this option are that:

- provides a balance between public safety and comfort and the needs of dogs and their owners when a beach or park is busy while providing for the needs of dog owners at less busy times
- extending a time and season rule from a beach to an adjacent park allows for an integrated approach to a defined public area, particularly for small slips of land or parks adjacent to beaches.

The disadvantages of this option are that:

- when applied to adjacent parks, when the access rule on the beach is prohibited, prohibiting dogs on a particular park can restrict the through fare of dogs which can restrict the uses of or effectiveness of other adjoining on-leash areas for walking or running access and the needs of dog owners.

Attachment 4 Results from online survey

Summary of results

Total responses	386	Dog owners	36%
% of locals	98%	Non-Dog owners	64%

Preferences relating to beach and foreshore:

- 34% of local dog owners stated that summer activities begin in December. In contrast non-dog owners slowly started summer activities from November and December. About 17% of dog owners and 20% of non-dog owners stated that “(they) never stop (summer) activities at all”
- the majority of dog owners (32%) stated that they ceased summer activities in March, while non-dog owners ceased summer activities in March (26%) and April (26%)
- local non-dog owners preferred the summer time and season rules to be aligned with daylight savings (48%) and local dog owners preferred the summer access rules to apply from 1 December to 1 March (36%)
- the following table outlines the time and season preferences by dog and non-dog owners.

Time and season preferences for dog and non-dog owners:

Dog owners			Non-dog owners		
Summer (1 December to 1 March)			Summer (daylight savings)		
Before 10am	10am to 6pm	After 6pm	Before 10am	10am to 5pm	After 5pm
Under control off a leash	Under control On a leash	Under control off a leash	Under control on a leash	Prohibited	Under control on a leash
Winter			Winter		
Under control off a leash at all times			Under control on a leash at all times		

Preferences relating to other matters:

- local non-dog owners preferred dogs to be under control on a leash (74%) on bushwalks and foreshore walkways (e.g. Rotary walkway). Reasons for this preference include non-dg owners “do not like it when dogs approach them when I am on a bush or foreshore walkway” (54%); “too many dog owners are unable or do not try to control their dog” (55%) and “dogs have chased wildlife or caused damage within the bush and foreshore walks” (55%).
- local dog owners were split between types of dog access on bush and foreshore walks. About 47% stated that dogs should be on a leash and 42% thought dogs should be off a leash. Reasons for under control on a leash access include that “too many (dog) owners are unable or do not try to control their dog (23%) and “dogs have chased wildlife or caused damage within the bush and foreshore walks” (24%). On the other hand dog owners thought that dogs should be off a leash because “owners generally kept their dog/s under control” (65%); “(they) like it when dogs come up to them when on a bush or foreshore walk” (31%) and “it can be dangerous for owners to have dogs on a leash when walking on muddy or steep sections of the walk” (24%).

The tables below provide an analysis of responses to the preferences for dog access rules. The overall preference for each time slot are shown a **Green for under control off a leash**, **Orange for under control on a leash** and **Red for prohibited**.

Where is not a majority view for any one preferred access rule an under control off a leash access rule is applied as it assumes that a respondent seeking under control off a leash access would prefer under control on a leash access rather and a prohibited access control. Similarly it assumes that someone with a preference for a prohibited access control would prefer under control on a leash to allowing under control off a leash dog access.

Preferred dog access rules – Summer

	First thing: Before 9am			Early morning: 9am - 10am			Middle of the day: 10am - 5pm			Late afternoon: 5pm - 6pm			Early evening: 6pm - 7pm			Evening: After 7pm		
	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash
Dogs Owners	1%	18%	81%	6%	37%	57%	25%	62%	12%	11%	55%	33%	4%	34%	61%	2%	16%	83%
Non-Dog Owners	17%	46%	36%	28%	61%	9%	51%	44%	4%	43%	53%	3%	32%	55%	12%	17%	49%	33%
Total for survey	11%	36%	52%	20%	53%	26%	42%	50%	7%	32%	53%	14%	22%	48%	30%	11%	37%	51%
Evenly weighted	9%	32%	59%	17%	49%	33%	38%	53%	8%	27%	54%	18%	18%	45%	36%	9%	32%	58%
Weighted Total (% of dog households)	14%	41%	44%	24%	57%	17%	47%	47%	5%	38%	53%	8%	27%	52%	20%	14%	43%	41%

Preferred dog access rules – Winter

	First thing: Before 9am			Early morning: 9am - 10am			Middle of the day: 10am - 5pm			Late afternoon: 5pm - 6pm			Early evening: 6pm - 7pm			Evening: After 7pm		
	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash	Dogs prohibited	Dogs on a leash	Dogs off a leash
Dogs Owners	1%	16%	83%	0%	28%	72%	3%	39%	57%	1%	35%	64%	2%	22%	76%	2%	17%	80%
Non-Dog Owners	11%	46%	41%	15%	63%	20%	22%	67%	9%	20%	64%	13%	16%	57%	26%	10%	46%	41%
Total for survey	7%	35%	56%	9%	51%	38%	15%	57%	26%	13%	54%	32%	11%	44%	44%	7%	36%	55%
Evenly weighted	6%	31%	62%	7%	46%	46%	13%	53%	33%	10%	50%	39%	9%	39%	51%	6%	32%	60%
Weighted Total (% of dog households)	9%	41%	48%	12%	57%	29%	19%	62%	17%	17%	59%	22%	13%	51%	34%	9%	41%	48%

Attachment 5 Memo from Biodiversity

Memo

4 February 2016

To: Howick Local Board
cc: Rachel Kelleher, Biodiversity Manager
 Justin Walters, Policy Analyst – Social Policy & Bylaws
From: Ben Paris, Senior Biodiversity Advisor,
 Tim Lovegrove, Senior Regional Advisor (Fauna)

Subject: Dog Access Rules Review for the Howick Local Board

The purpose of this memo is to identify biodiversity issues / wildlife concerns associated with dog access on particular areas of local park land within the Howick Local Board area and to provide recommendations on how these could be managed through dog access rules.

Background

Within the local board area the wildlife concerns relating to dog access are primarily around shorebirds, wetland and saltmarsh birds.

Vulnerable species

The primary wildlife concerns for the Howick Local Board include the following bird groups:

- Shorebirds
- wetland and saltmarsh birds

The species and wildlife issues are summarised below.

Shorebirds

The most common shorebirds that could be affected by dogs on Auckland shores are:

- Little shag (Conservation status: Not Threatened)
- Pied shag (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable)
- Black shag (Conservation status: At Risk - Naturally uncommon)
- Little black shag (Conservation status: At Risk - Naturally uncommon)
- White-faced heron (Conservation status: Not threatened)
- Reef heron (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally endangered)
- Royal spoonbill (Conservation status: At Risk - Naturally uncommon)
- NZ dotterel (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable)
- Banded dotterel (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable)
- Wrybill (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable)
- Variable oystercatcher (Conservation status: At Risk – Recovering)
- Pied oystercatcher (Conservation status: At Risk – Declining)
- Bar-tailed godwit (Conservation status: Migrant)
- Lesser knot (Conservation status: Migrant)
- Pied stilt (Conservation status: At Risk – Declining)
- Black-backed gull (Conservation status: Not Threatened)

- Red-billed gull (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable)
- White-fronted tern (Conservation status: At Risk – Declining)
- Caspian tern (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally vulnerable)

Shorebirds are vulnerable to dogs at nests, high-tide roosts and intertidal feeding areas.

Nests: Shorebirds build well-camouflaged nests in scrapes in the sand or shell or in some open grassy areas. Nests, eggs and young are very easily crushed by beachgoers and their dogs, and dogs can quickly locate and eat the flightless young even though they are very well camouflaged. When disturbed, by people or dogs, adult birds leave their camouflaged eggs or young, which can expose eggs to overheating in the sun or excessive cooling, and the young to predation by gulls.

High-tide roosts: Shorebirds roost at high tide on secluded beaches, shell banks and some open grassy areas near the coast. Roosting shorebirds are very easily disturbed by people and their dogs. Since roosts are usually localised and scarce the birds may have few other places to go following disturbance.

Intertidal feeding areas: Shorebirds can be harassed by off-leash dogs at their intertidal feeding areas. For some species such as the migratory bar-tailed godwit and lesser knot, harassment at feeding and roosting sites compromises body condition as the birds prepare for their long migration flight to their Alaskan and Siberian breeding grounds.

Wetland and saltmarsh birds

Wetland and saltmarsh birds are most vulnerable to dogs at their nests. These are built on the ground in dense vegetation. Although nests are secluded and well camouflaged, they can easily be located by predators hunting by scent.

- Grey duck – Feeds in wetland areas and nests are built on the ground where they are hidden in dense vegetation on wetland margins
- Australasian bittern - nests are usually well hidden in dense reeds and raupo. The young spend nearly two months in the nest, and are vulnerable to predation during that time
- Banded rail - nests are often located in sedges and rushes growing on the margins of wetlands and saltmarshes where dogs can easily find them

Conservation status of wetland and saltmarsh birds

- Grey duck (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally critical)
- Australasian bittern (Conservation status: Threatened – Nationally endangered)
- Banded rail (Conservation status: At Risk - Naturally uncommon)

Table of biodiversity issues per location

Specific locations that have biodiversity / wildlife concerns are listed in the following table along with the reasons for that concern and the recommended action(s) regarding dog access.

This table of information is provided in support of the Dog Access Rules Review undertaken by the Social Policy & Bylaws team.

Biodiversity Issues for the Dog Access Review for the Howick Local Board Area

Name of park, beach, foreshore or biodiversity area of concern	Brief description of what is included in this area / park (please note SEA area where relevant)	Category and brief explanation of the issue with having a dog in this area (shorebirds, wetlands/ saltmarsh birds, penguins, kauri)	Recommendations in regards to dog access in this area (off-leash or on-leash, banned)	Extra explanatory notes
Mangemangeroa Reserve, Chisbury Terrace Reserve, and reserves bordering significant mangrove and saltmarsh areas in the Tamaki Estuary: i.e. Curacao Place Esplanade Reserve, Waka Aranga Creek Reserve, Williams Avenue Esplanade Reserve, Pandora Place Esplanade Reserve, Fremantle Place Esplanade Reserve, Riverhills Park, Ennis Avenue Reserve, Burswood Esplanade Reserve, Trugood Esplanade Reserve, Stonedon Drive Esplanade Reserve , Highbrook Drive Reserve		Salt marshes and mangrove swamps along the coastline adjacent to many of these reserves have wetland and saltmarsh birds e.g. grey duck, black, pied, little and little black shags, white-faced heron, visiting bittern and spoonbill and resident banded rail	On-leash, dogs prohibited from saltmarsh and intertidal areas	
Bramley Drive Reserve, Tiraumea Drive Reserve, Riverina Place Esplanade Reserve		Significant areas for wading birds extend across the intertidal zone of the Tamaki Estuary north and south of Lagoon Drive and the Pakuranga Highway. NZ dotterels occur on Highbrook Drive Reserve	On-leash, dogs prohibited from intertidal areas	

Attachment 6 Kauri Dieback memo

The kauri dieback disease is spread by soil movement and therefore walkers and dogs can be vectors of the disease. Research has shown that kauri around tracks have a higher incidence of kauri dieback. Therefore, key messages being provided to the public are that people should wash their footwear before and after entering areas of kauri and should stay on tracks in order to minimise the spread of the disease.

Specific locations that have biosecurity concerns as they relate to the potential spread of kauri dieback are identified in the table below.

Biodiversity Issues for the Dog Access Review for the [Howick] Local Board Area				
Name of park, beach, foreshore or biodiversity area of concern	Brief description of what is included in this area / park (please note SEA area where relevant)	Category and brief explanation of the issue with having a dog in this area (shorebirds, wetlands/ saltmarsh birds, penguins, kauri)	Recommendations in regards to dog access in this area (off-leash or on-leash, banned)	Extra explanatory notes
Boyd Reserve	Kauri – 1 surveyed, healthy	Small grassed reserve opposite William Green Domain with some specimen trees and no tracks. Current dog rule is off-leash		
Gillard Reserve, Botany Downs	Kauri – 1 surveyed, healthy	Trees adjacent to Botany Town Centre at edge of reserve, possibly in road reserve and adjacent to path along carpark edge Current dog rule is off-leash		
Point View Reserve, Flatbush	Kauri – 27 surveyed, healthy Treed area of reserve mostly SEA Picnic tables Carpark	Most surveyed trees at edge of bush area where it meets open grass and formal tracks Current dog rule is on-leash		