Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025

FACT SHEET

Changes to beaches

December 2025

What is the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint

The Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint is a 20 year strategy developed by Council to guide the location, management and improvement of dog exercise areas across the region over the next 20 years.

It aims to balance the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners with community safety, environmental protection and cultural values while responding to the region's growing dog population.

The plan is based on extensive community consultation and uses evidence-based research to determine where dogs can be off-leash, on-leash or prohibited across the region's beaches, foreshores, parks and reserves.

Key changes include updated boundaries for dog access on specific beaches, clearer signage, and new or adjusted off-leash areas. The Blueprint ensures fair access, supports responsible dog ownership, and aligns with council's broader management goals for public spaces.

What changes are being made to beaches?

Council is introducing a range of new measures to improve the safety and environmental management of beaches and foreshores for both people and dogs.

The changes include adjusting off-leash boundaries to better balance recreational use with the protection of sensitive wildlife habitats. Some areas will see enhanced restrictions, such as seasonal closures and additional exclusions, to safeguard migratory birds and vulnerable environments.

At the same time, alternative off-leash spaces will be provided to ensure ongoing access for dog owners. These updates aim to create a safer, more enjoyable experience for everyone while preserving the natural values of our coastal areas.

Beach changes include:

- **Stumers Beach:** Visitors arriving by car or walking their pets past the carpark at beach access 69, must keep dogs on-leash until they are at least 10 metres beachside of the carpark. This measure improves safety for pedestrians and vehicles. Additional signage, maps and education will be provided to ensure dog access provisions are clearly marked and understood.

- **North Shore, Twin Waters:** a seasonal closure of 500m of beach on the southern spit area will be implemented from October to April, to safeguard threatened migratory shorebird high-value roosting areas. A new off-leash beach area of 670m will be create at

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Mudjimba South from beach access 127 – 130 to offset any impacts of the seasonal closure.

- **Town of Seaside, Mt Coolum**: 100m extension of timed off-leash area from beach access 96-97 and off-leash timing adjusted to 4pm to 8am to be consistent with other timed beach locations and avoid conflict with the surf lifesaving patrol times.

- **Goat Island, Maroochydore:** inclusion of 400m of additional dog exclusion zone outside of the existing Conservation Park dog prohibited area.

- **Alex Beach, Alexandra Headland:** inclusion of dog exclusion zone of 100m at beach access 163 to 164.
- Currimundi Beach: dogs will no longer be permitted to cross the mouth of Currimundi Lake between Beach Access 253 and 254.

- **Ballinger Beach:** Minor adjustment to southern off-leash boundary to increase off-leash provision for an additional 50m south of the beach access (261) ramp. Aligns with Dicky Beach Bathing Reserve boundary.

- **Happy Valley, Caloundra:** Extend the on-leash beach area to the National Park boundary, across the old Caloundra bar and restrict dogs from the rocky foreshore section from Beach Access 291 to 293.

Why are these changes being made to beaches?

These changes are being made to create a safer and more enjoyable environment for everyone using the beaches, while also protecting the natural values of our coastal areas.

The updates are based on community values, research, safety considerations and data to ensure that the needs of both people and the environment are balanced.

Where can I walk my dog? How can I see the changes?

Our region has 34 km of dog-friendly coastline, including 16km of off-leash and 17km of on-leash access – which is the largest in South East Queensland

To view the changes, visit Council's details maps.

When do these changes come into effect?

Council will begin delivering the action plan in stages, subject to funding and annual budget processes.

Before any changes to dog access can go ahead, the subordinate local laws needs to be updated. This will happen in 2026 and the community will be kept updated throughout the process.

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