

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting
Thursday, 23 April 2026

commencing at 9:00am

Sunshine Coast City Hall Chamber, 54 First Avenue, Maroochydore

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ORDINARY MEETING

NOTICE

10 April 2026

Dear Councillors, Directors and relevant staff,

In accordance with Section 254C(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, I wish to advise that an Ordinary Meeting has been convened for

23 April 2026

commencing at 9.00am.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Baker".

John Baker | Chief Executive Officer

Sunshine Coast Regional Council
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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

On establishing there is a quorum, the Chair will declare the meeting open.

2 WELCOME AND OPENING**3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4 RECEIPT AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 March 2026 be received and confirmed.

5 MAYORAL MINUTE**6 INFORMING OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST****6.1 PRESCRIBED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to section 150EL of the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act), a Councillor who has a prescribed conflict of interest in an issue to be considered at a meeting of the local government must –

- (a) immediately inform the meeting of the prescribed conflict of interest including the particulars stated in section 150EL(4) of the Act and
- (b) pursuant to section 150EM(2) of the Act must leave the place at which the meeting is being held, including any area set aside for the public, and stay away from the place while the matter is being discussed and voted on.

6.2 DECLARABLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to section 150EQ of the *Local Government Act 2009*, a Councillor who has a declarable conflict of interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the local government, must stop participating in the meeting and immediately inform the meeting of the declarable conflict of interest including the particulars stated in section 150EQ(4) of the Act.

If the Councillor with a declarable conflict of interest does not voluntarily decide not to participate in the decision, pursuant to section 150ES(3)(a) of the Act the eligible Councillors must, by resolution, decide

- (a) whether the Councillor may participate in the decision despite the Councillors conflict of interest or
- (b) that the Councillor must not participate in the decision and must leave the place at which the meeting is being held, including any area set aside for the public and stay away while the eligible Councillors discuss and vote on the matter.

The Councillor with the declarable conflict of interest must comply with any conditions the eligible Councillors impose per section 150ES(4) and (5) of the Act.

7 PRESENTATIONS / COUNCILLOR REPORTS

8 REPORTS DIRECT TO COUNCIL**8.1 TO MAKE AMENDMENT SUBORDINATE LOCAL LAW NO. 1 (ANIMAL MANAGEMENT) 2026**

File No:	Council Meetings
Author:	Governance Policy Lead Office of the CEO
Appendices:	App A - Amendment Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Animal Management) 2026 17 ↓
Attachments:	Att 1 - Human Rights Assessment 89 ↓

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution to make *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026* (**Appendix A**).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council adopted the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025-2045 (the Plan) at its Ordinary Meeting on 11 December 2025. *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026* seeks to implement the following high priority components of the Plan:

- Changes to 12 off-leash and prohibited beach access areas
- Add two new off-leash dog access areas at Pelican Waters and Yandina
- Prohibit dogs and other animals from all active playing surfaces on Council owned sports fields, however, continue to allow on-leash access in common areas and provide a permit process to support organised events that include dogs on sports fields' active playing surfaces.
- Prohibit dogs and other animals from seventeen (17) Conservation Reserves, six (6) Nature Reserves and thirteen (13) Bushland Reserves of high conservation and environmental value.
- Prohibition of dog and other animal access from areas within six (6) Bushland Reserves.
- Prohibit dogs and other animals from five (5) Rocky Foreshores.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken in the development of the Dog Exercise Area Plan, including associated consultation on the proposed local law changes. Given its recency and direct relevance, this consultation is being utilised for the purposes of the Local Law Making Process. Conducting additional community consultation would be duplicative and unnecessary.

Subject to the outcome of Council's consideration of this report, the amending local law will take effect on Friday 3 July 2026, allowing sufficient time for the installation of appropriate signage and relevant communication.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- (a) receive and note the report titled *"To Make Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026"*
- (b) resolve to modify Council's Local Law Making Process in the case of *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026 (Appendix A)*, by foregoing the step where Council 'propose to make' an amendment local law and releases the draft local law for community consultation, for the following reasons:
 - (i) the proposed changes to the local laws were contained in the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025-2045, which was the subject of extensive community consultation between 4 February and 7 March 2025 and
 - (ii) all community feedback was considered and the final Dog Exercise Area Plan containing the agreed local law changes was adopted by Council on 11 December 2025, and
- (c) resolve to make *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026 (Appendix A)* to implement the local law changes endorsed in the Dog Exercise Area Plan
- (d) note the proposed amendments have been reviewed pursuant to section 38 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* and the amendments do not contain anti-competitive provisions, and
- (e) give notice in the Government Gazette of the making of *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Animal Management) 2026* with an effective date of Friday 3 July 2026.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

The Local Law Making Process has been undertaken utilising existing resources and has been funded through current operational budget allocations.

Implementation costs have been considered as part of the adoption of the Dog Exercise Area Plan.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: *Organisational excellence*

Strategic Pathway: We serve our community by providing this great service

Operational Activity: S30 - Corporate Governance - Provision of corporate governance, legal, audit and risk management services that builds adaptation, resilience and supports transparent, ethical and informed decision making.

CONSULTATION

Councillor Consultation

All Councillors were briefed throughout the development of the Dog Exercise Area Plan. Following adoption of the Plan by Council, all Councillors have been consulted individually regarding the proposed local law amendments resulting from implementation of the Plan, with specific focus on the resulting changes and additions to the local law animal management maps.

Internal Consultation

As part of the Local Law Making Process internal consultation and liaison was undertaken with those officers who were involved in the preparation of the Dog Exercise Area Plan. The consultation included verifying that the high priority (short term) Plan recommendations have been accurately captured in this proposed Local Law Amendment. The officers consulted include:

- Manager Parks & Gardens
- Coordinator Business & Technical, Parks & Gardens
- Manager Environmental Operations
- Manager Customer Response
- Co-ordinator Response Services
- Team Leader Geospatial and Mapping Services
- Executive Manager, CEO Office

External Consultation

The proposed local law amendments were incorporated in the draft Dog Exercise Area Plan which was released for formal community consultation from 4 February to 7 March 2025.

Community interest in the Dog Exercise Area Plan was strong, with a wide range of feedback recorded.

Community Engagement

Community feedback was considered in the final Dog Exercise Area Plan containing the agreed local law changes as adopted by Council on 11 December 2025.

PROPOSAL

At the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 December 2025, Council resolved to adopt the Dog Exercise Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025-2045 introducing several changes to dog off-leash areas and dog prohibition requirements across the region. Council noted that the Chief Executive Officer would progress to a Local Law Amendment Process where detailed changes were recommended in the Dog Exercise Area Plan.

Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026 seeks to implement and give effect to the below high priority (short term) recommendations of the adopted Dog Exercise Area Plan:

Changes to current dog off leash and dog prohibited areas

- Stumers Beach - Amendment to off-leash access to provide separation from car park to off-leash area.
- Moffat Beach - amend off-leash access area due to rocky foreshore prohibition.
- Currimundi/Ballinger Beach - 50m reduction to the southern off-leash boundary south of the beach access (261) ramp. Aligns with Dicky Beach Bathing Reserve boundary.
- Alex Beach - Prohibit dog and other animal access north of beach access 164.
- North Shore, Twin Waters - seasonal prohibition of dogs and other animals within high value migratory shorebird high tide roost area between October-April.
- Town of Seaside, Coolum Beach - extend beach access area from beach access 96-98.
- Mudjimba Beach - add off leash access from beach access 127-130 Mudjimba Beach South.
- Kings Beach/Happy Valley - extend animal prohibited area from beach access 291-293.
- Goat Island - prohibit dogs and other animals.
- Point Cartwright - update map to prohibit dogs from 'Carties' beach access 196-196T.
- Mooloolaba Beach - update map to show dogs prohibited to the Spit Rock Wall.
- Maroochydore Beach - include prohibition of animals to Patrolled Beach area.
- Add two new off-leash dog access areas at Pelican Waters and Yandina

New prohibition of dogs and other animals from playing surfaces of Council owned sports fields

Prohibit animals from the playable surface of any sports field, sports court, or sports facility in a park or reserve that is under Council's control, however, continue to allow on-leash in common areas and provide a permit process to support organised dog events on sports fields active playing surfaces.

New prohibition of dogs and other animals from 5 Rocky Foreshores

- Point Perry
- Point Arkwright
- Point Cartwright
- Moffat Headland
- Caloundra Headland

New prohibition of dogs and other animals from 17 Conservations Reserves

- Baxter Bluff Conservation Area
- Crohamhurst Ecological Reserve
- East Mount Mellum Nature Refuge
- Eudlo Creek Conservation Area

- Hussey Creek Esplanade
- Marist Brothers Ecological Reserve
- Mooloolah River Nature Refuge
- Patten's Ecological Reserve
- Policeman Spur Environment Reserve
- Pumicestone Esplanade
- Pumicestone Esplanade-Mekins Road
- Pumicestone Esplanade-Red Road
- Roys Road Esplanade
- South Eudlo Creek Bushland Conservation Reserve
- South Eudlo Creek Bushland Environment Reserve
- Triunia Environment Reserve
- Upper Mooloolah Nature Reserve

New prohibition of dogs and other animals from 6 Nature Reserves

- Annie Hehir Road Environment Reserve
- London Creek Environment Reserve
- Tall Gums Environment Reserve
- Tanawha Tall Gums Conservation Area
- Mons Station Nature Reserve
- Maroochy River Esplanade-Bli Bli

New prohibition of dogs and other animals from 13 Bushland Reserves

- Arcoona Road Bushland Conservation Reserve
- Baringa Environment Reserve
- Bobbie Sattler Nature Reserve
- Corbould Road Bushland Conservation Reserve
- Doonan Wetland Conservation Area
- Gull'bu rah Environment Reserve
- Kenilworth Bluff-Wilcox Family Park
- Kirbys Road Environment Reserve
- Lower Mooloolah River Environment Reserve
- Maroochy River Environment Reserve
- Ninox Environment Reserve
- Sunshine Coast Ecological Park
- Tuan Environment Reserve

New prohibition of dog access from areas within the following 6 Bushland Reserves

- Doonan Creek Environment Reserve - western area of reserve including western trail network
- Glasshouse Mountains Environment Reserve - all of reserve except trail connections from Allan Avenue to Fullertons Road
- Kawana Forest Environment Reserve - all of reserve except recreation trails
- Lake Weyba Bushland Reserve Network - lake trail, north-south connection trail section, and non-trail areas of reserve
- Maleny Community Precinct Riparian Reserve - all of reserve outside of defined trails
- Mountain Creek Conservation Area - southern section of reserve

Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026 also includes newly constructed dog off leash areas at Pelican Waters, Yandina Tea Tree Park and Banyan Ave Linear Park extensions to the dog off leash areas at both Grand Parade Parrearra and Ridgehaven Park Arona.

LOCAL LAW MAKING PROCESS

Section 29 of the *Local Government Act 2009* permits a local government to determine its own process for making a local law, provided it is not inconsistent with legislative requirements.

Table 1 below outlines the steps of Council’s adopted Local Law Making Process:

Steps	Action taken	Date	Status
Propose to make local law amendments	The proposed changes to current local laws for prohibited animal areas and dog off-leash areas were set out in the Dog Exercise Area Plan released for community consultation in February 2025	February 2025	Waived
Community Consultation	Undertaken following the release of the draft Dog Exercise Area Plan for community consultation	4 February to 7 March 2025	Complete
State Interest Check	Not required for a subordinate local law	N/A	N/A
Anti-Competitive Provisions - Public Interest Review	Nil	N/A	N/A

Steps	Action taken	Date	Status
Council consideration of consultation feedback and finalisation of proposed local law	Council considered consultation feedback on the draft Dog Exercise Area Plan and endorsed the final Dog Exercise Area Plan containing the proposed local law changes		
Report to Council to make the final amendment subordinate local law	Report presented to Council to recommend making the amendment to the Local Law	23 April 2026	Current
Council Website Updated	Update Council's website with the amendment Local Law.	To occur subject to Council adoption of amending Local Law	To be completed
Notify Minister	Notification to Minister	Required within 14 days of adoption	To be completed
Gazette Notice	Publication of Government Gazette notifying of any amendment made by Council to the Local Law.	To occur subject to outcome of Council's consideration of the above report. Should this report be adopted the amending local law will be published in the Government Gazette. NOTE: the amending local law will take effect on Friday 3 July 2026.	To be completed
Consolidation of Local Laws	Preparation and adoption of the consolidated local laws.	To occur following any decision by Council to amend the local law	To be completed

Extensive community consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the Dog Exercise Area Plan, including associated consultation on proposed changes to the local laws.

Conducting additional local law making consultation would be duplicative and unnecessary, and *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026* reflects the outcomes of the Dog Exercise Area Plan's development and adoption. Bypassing local law making consultation does not compromise transparency or fairness, as the proposed amendments were fully canvassed during the Dog Exercise Area Plan's development.

The proposed local law amendment being presented to Council for consideration implements and operationalises the first stage (high priority areas) of the Dog Exercise Area Plan adopted by Council on 11 December 2025.

Legal

The development of *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026* has occurred in line with consideration of the following legislation:

- sections 29-32 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) and section 15 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld)
- *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld), and
- Sunshine Coast Council's Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws.

Council has obligations under section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld). The proposed amendments align with the adopted Dog Exercise Area Plan, which underwent thorough human rights assessment (available at **attachment 1**) and confirmed that any limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate.

Policy

There are no new policy implications in the proposed local law amendments.

Risk

Council adopted the Dog Exercise Area Plan and therefore there are no risks associated with the inclusion of the high priority actions within *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*. If *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* is not updated, it risks inconsistency and therefore confusion for the community and would impact enforcement of the Dog Exercise Area Plan through the local laws.

Previous Council Resolution**Ordinary Meeting 11 December 2025 (OM25/110)**

That Council:

- receive and note the report titled "Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint"*
- endorse the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025-45 (Appendix A)*
- progress to a Local Law Amendment Process where detailed dog access provision changes are recommended in the Plan and*
- note the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025-45 will inform priorities for consideration in relevant future budgets.*

Ordinary Meeting 14 December 2023 (OM23/145)

That Council:

- receive and note the report titled "Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2023"*
- resolve to make Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2023 at Appendix A, which has been amended in the following manner following consideration of public submissions as detailed in this report:*

- (i) *in section 4(2), substitute a revised map SLL 2.5.19 (Point Cartwright, Buddina) for inclusion in schedule 5 (Exclusion of animals from specific places)*
 - (ii) *in section 5(2), insert a new row 11 to declare a new dog off-leash area (for Point Cartwright, Buddina, beach access 196 to 196T), which will operate only from 4.00pm to 8.00am, Monday to Friday*
 - (iii) *in section 5(3), substitute a revised map SLL 2.6.19 (Point Cartwright, Buddina, beach access 198 to 201) and insert a new map 2.6.20 (Point Cartwright, Buddina, beach access 196 to 196T) to delineate the new dog off-leash area*
 - (iv) *insert a new section 6 in the Amendment Subordinate Local Law to state that row 11 and map SLL 2.6.20 (relating to the new dog off-leash area at Point Cartwright) will expire on 30 June 2025*
- (c) *note it is considered there are no anti-competitive provisions in Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2023 and*
- (d) *note the Chief Executive Officer plans to undertake, complete and report back to Council before 30 June 2025 on a proposed region-wide dog exercise area plan and associated network blueprint.*

Related Documentation

- *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld) and Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*
- *Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws*
- *State Government Guidelines for Drafting Local Laws 2016*
- *Sunshine Coast Council Corporate Plan 2022-2026*
- *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*
- *Dog Exercise Area Plan and Blueprint 2024-2045.*

Critical Dates

Subject to the outcome of Council's consideration of this report, the amending local law will take effect on Friday 3 July 2026.

Implementation

Should the recommendation be accepted by Council, it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer will progress the statutory and other obligations for the Local Law Making Process as outlined in **Table 1** of this report.

Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026

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1 Short title

This subordinate local law may be cited as *Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Animal Management) 2026*.

2 Commencement

This subordinate local law commences on 3 July 2026.

3 Subordinate local law amended

This subordinate local law amends *Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011*.

4 Amendment of s 9 (Public places where animals are excluded— Authorising local law, s 11(1))

Section 9(2), after ‘prohibited’—

insert—

during the times specified in column 5 of schedule 5

5 Amendment of sch 4 (Exclusion of animals generally)

Schedule 4, after last row—

insert—

park/reserve	the playing surface of any sports facility (for example, a field or court) within a park or reserve under the local government’s control	all animals
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6 Amendment of sch 5 (Exclusion of animals from specific places)

(1) Schedule 5, table, insert new column 5 (Applicable times).

(2) Schedule 5, table, column 5, rows 1 to 19—

insert—

all times

(3) Schedule 5, table, row 5, column 2, ‘Currimundi Lake, Currimundi’—

omit, insert—

Currimundi Lake and beach access 253 to 255, Currimundi

(4) Schedule 5, table, row 9, column 2, from ‘Memorial Park’—

omit, insert—

, Kings Beach Pool and beach access 293 to 283, Kings Beach

- (5) Schedule 5, table, row 12, column 2, ‘195’—
omit, insert—
rockwall
- (6) Schedule 5, table, row 13, column 2, ‘Quota/’—
omit.
- (7) Schedule 5, table, after last row—
insert—

park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Alexandra Headland Beach (beach access 156 to 164)	all animals	SLL 2.5.20	all times
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	North Shore, Twin Waters (still water east area)	all animals	SLL 2.5.21	all times from October to April
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Goat Island, Maroochy River	all animals	SLL 2.5.22	all times
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Point Perry Rocky Foreshore	all animals	SLL 2.5.23	all times
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Point Arkwright Rocky Foreshore	all animals	SLL 2.5.24	all times
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Moffat Headland Rocky Foreshore	all animals	SLL 2.5.25	all times
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Caloundra Headland Rocky Foreshore	all animals	SLL 2.5.26	all times
nature reserve	Mooloolah River Nature Refuge	all animals	SLL 2.5.27	all times
conservation reserve	Baxter Bluff Conservation Area	all animals	SLL 2.5.28	all times
conservation reserve	Crohamhurst Ecological Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.29	all times
conservation	East Mount Mellum Nature	all	SLL 2.5.30	all times

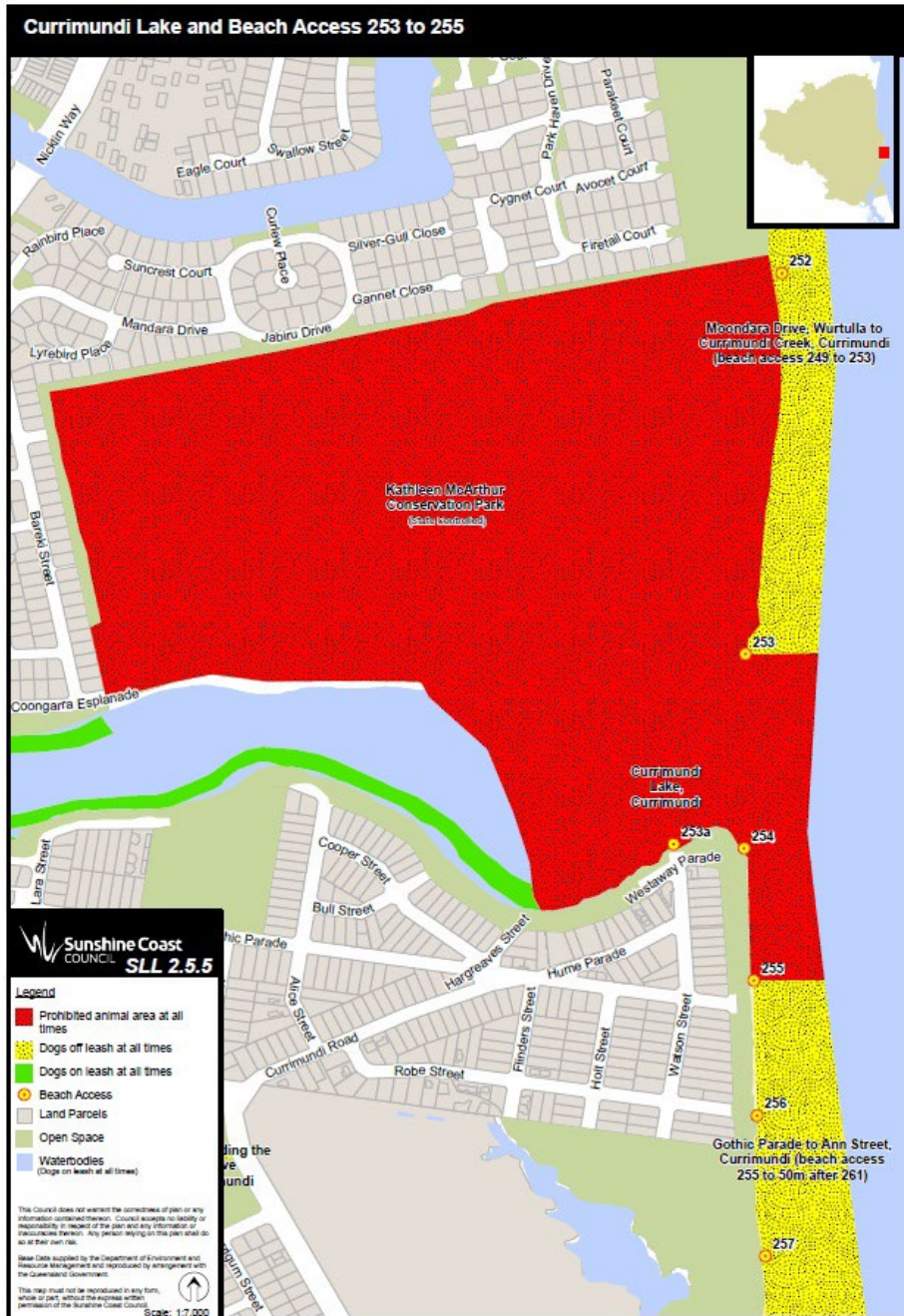
reserve	Reserve	animals		
conservation reserve	Eudlo Creek Conservation Area	all animals	SLL 2.5.31	all times
conservation reserve	Hussey Creek Esplanade	all animals	SLL 2.5.32	all times
conservation reserve	Marist Brothers Ecological Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.33	all times
conservation reserve	Patten’s Ecological Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.34	all times
conservation reserve	Policeman Spur Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.35	all times
conservation reserve	Pumicestone Esplanade	all animals	SLL 2.5.36	all times
conservation reserve	Pumicestone Esplanade - Mekins Road	all animals	SLL 2.5.37	all times
conservation reserve	Pumicestone Esplanade - Red Road	all animals	SLL 2.5.38	all times
conservation reserve	Roys Road Esplanade	all animals	SLL 2.5.39	all times
conservation reserve	South Eudlo Creek Bushland Conservation Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.40	all times
conservation reserve	South Eudlo Creek Bushland Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.41	all times
conservation reserve	Triunia Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.42	all times
conservation reserve	Upper Mooloolah Nature Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.43	all times
nature reserve	Annie Hehir Road Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.44	all times
nature reserve	London Creek Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.45	all times
nature reserve	Tall Gums Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.46	all times
nature	Tanawha Tall Gums	all	SLL 2.5.47	all times

reserve	Conservation Area	animals		
nature reserve	Mons Station Nature Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.48	all times
nature reserve	Maroochy River Esplanade - Bli Bli	all animals	SLL 2.5.49	all times
bushland reserve	Arcoona Road Bushland Conservation Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.50	all times
bushland reserve	Baringa Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.51	all times
bushland reserve	Bobbie Sattler Nature Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.52	all times
bushland reserve	Corbould Road Bushland Conservation Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.53	all times
bushland reserve	Doonan Wetland Conservation Area	all animals	SLL 2.5.54	all times
bushland reserve	Gull'bu rah Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.55	all times
bushland reserve	Kenilworth Bluff - Wilcox Family Park	all animals	SLL 2.5.56	all times
bushland reserve	Kirbys Road Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.57	all times
bushland reserve	Lower Mooloolah River Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.58	all times
bushland reserve	Maroochy River Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.59	all times
bushland reserve	Ninox Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.60	all times
bushland reserve	Sunshine Coast Ecological Park	all animals	SLL 2.5.61	all times
bushland reserve	Tuan Environment Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.62	all times
bushland reserve	Lake Weyba Bushland Reserve Network, excluding eastern on leash trails network	all animals	SLL 2.5.63	all times

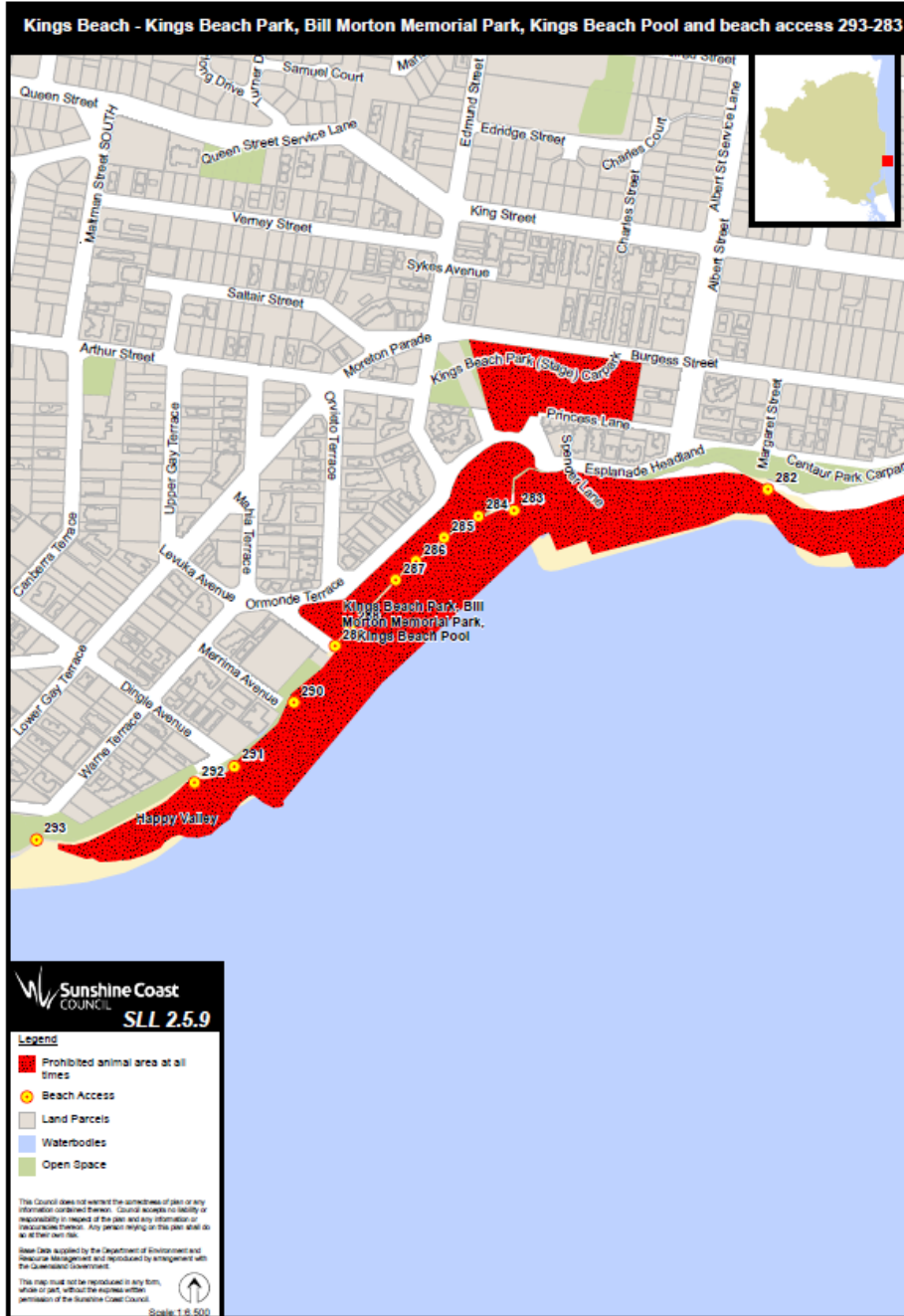
bushland reserve	Maleny Community Precinct Riparian Reserve	all animals	SLL 2.5.64	all times
park/reserve, beach and foreshore	Maroochydore Beach (Patrolled) beach access 145 to 147	all animals	SLL 2.5.65	all times
bushland reserve	Doonan Creek Environment Reserve (southern parcel)	all animals	SLL 2.5.66	all times
bushland reserve	Glasshouse Mountains Environment Reserve, excluding trail connections	all animals	SLL 2.5.67	all times
bushland reserve	Kawana Forest Environment Reserve, excluding recreation trails	all animals	SLL 2.5.68	all times
bushland reserve	Mountain Creek Conservation Area (south)	all animals	SLL 2.5.69	all times

DRAFT

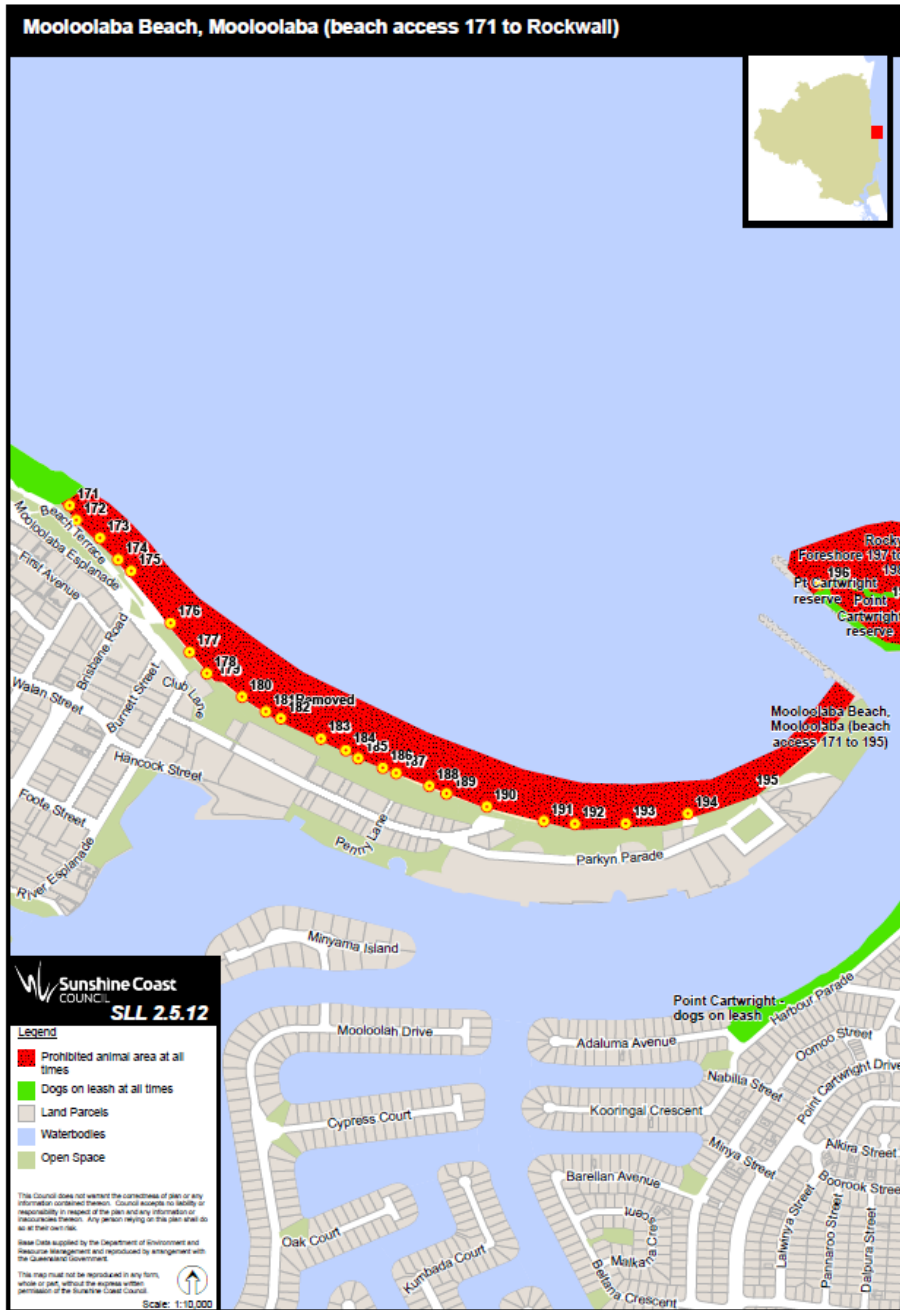
(8) Schedule 5, map SLL 2.5.5 (Currimundi Lake, Currimundi)—
omit, insert—



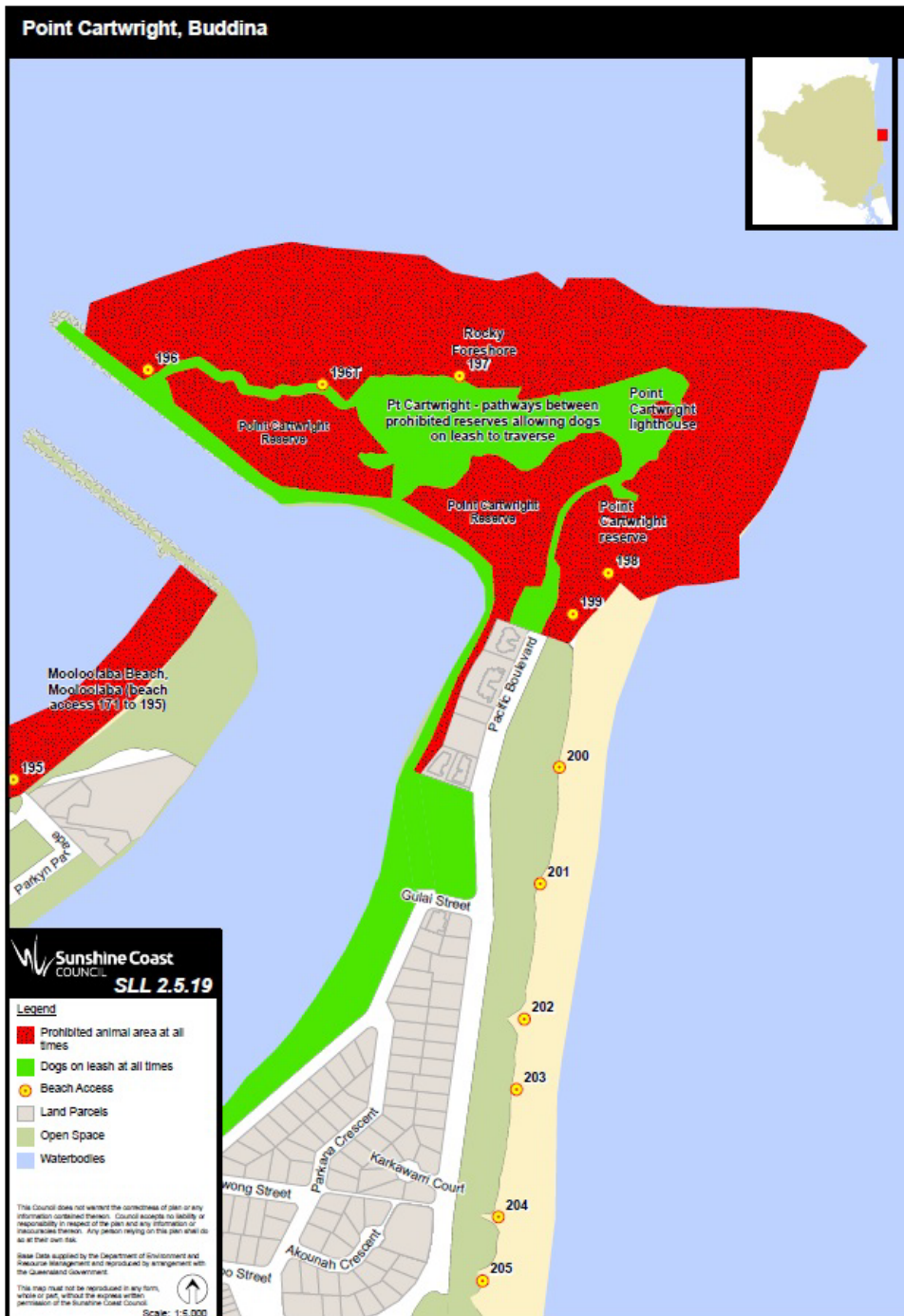
- (9) Schedule 5, map SLL 2.5.9 (Kings Beach)—
omit, insert—



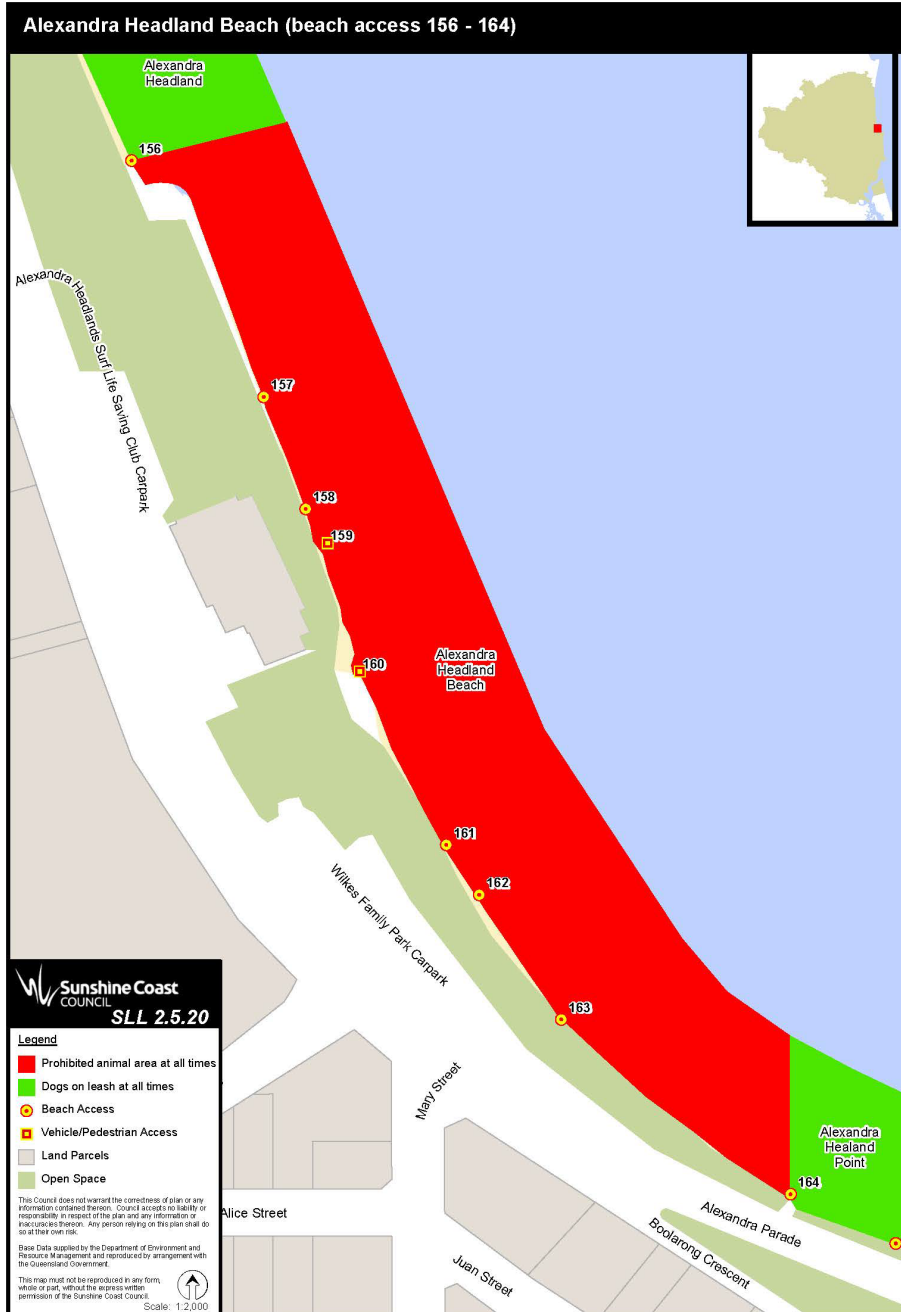
(10) Schedule 5, map SLL 2.5.12 (Mooloolaba Beach, Mooloolaba)—
omit, insert—

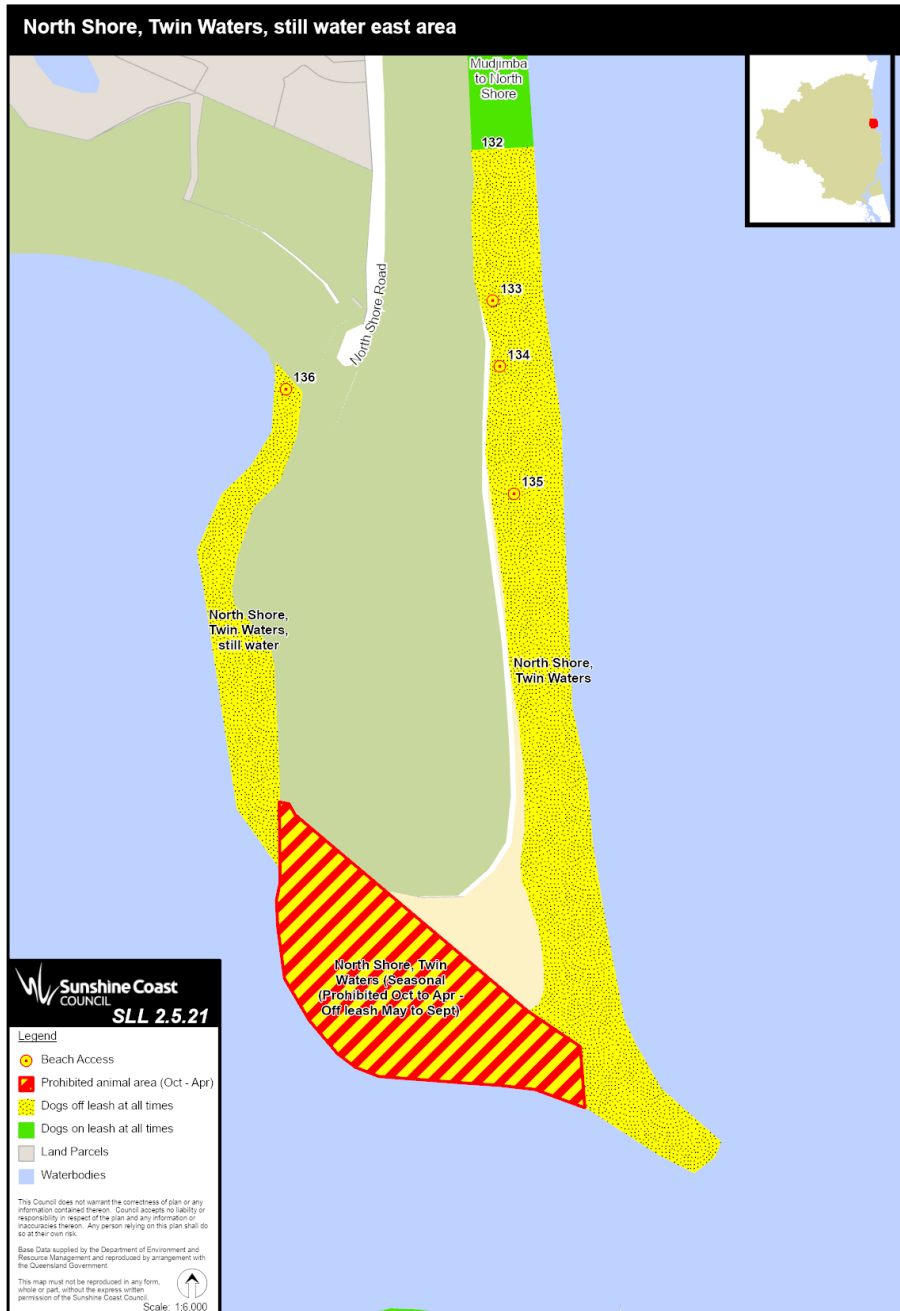


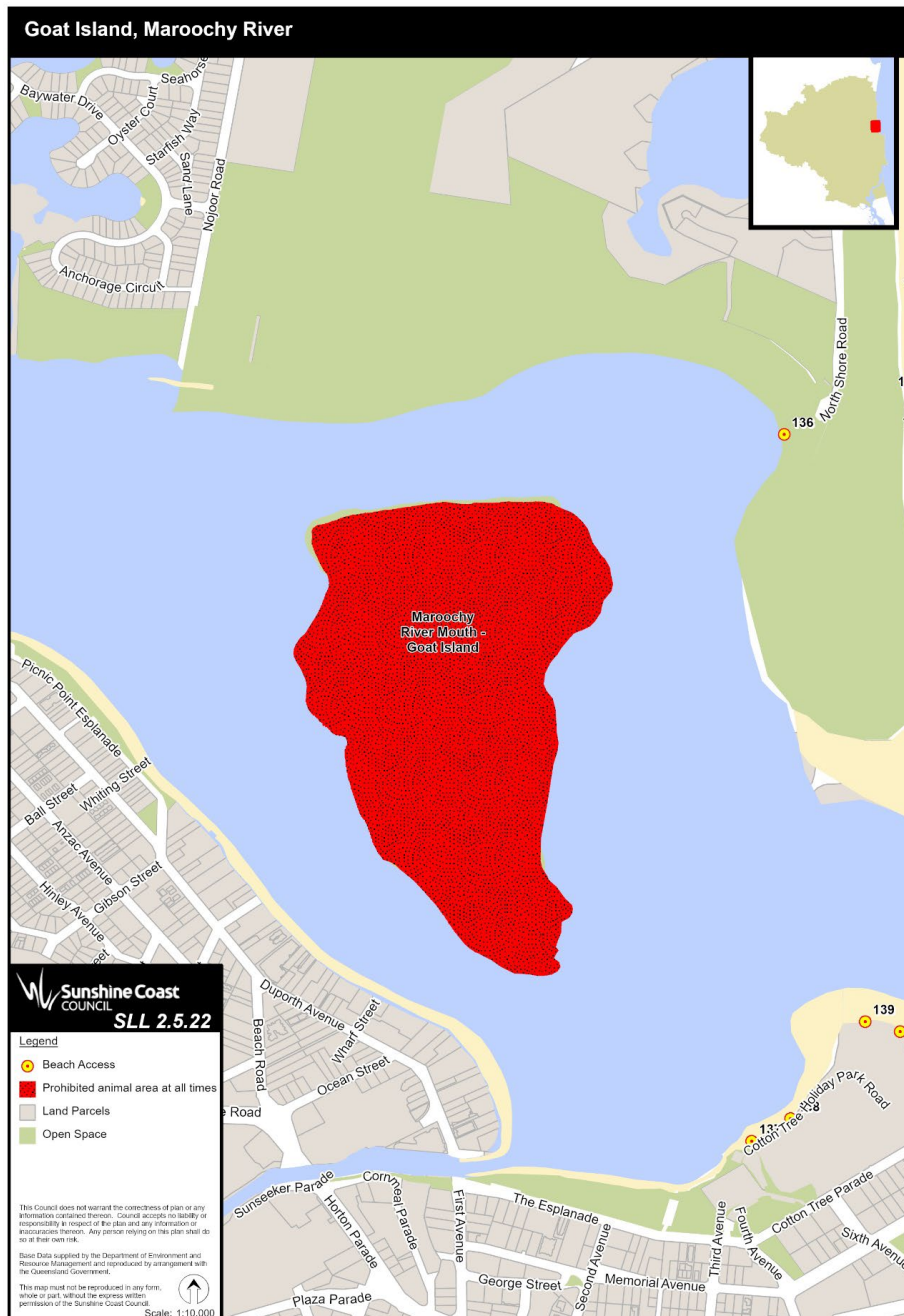
- (11) Schedule 5, map SLL 2.5.19 (Point Cartwright, Buddina)—
omit, insert—

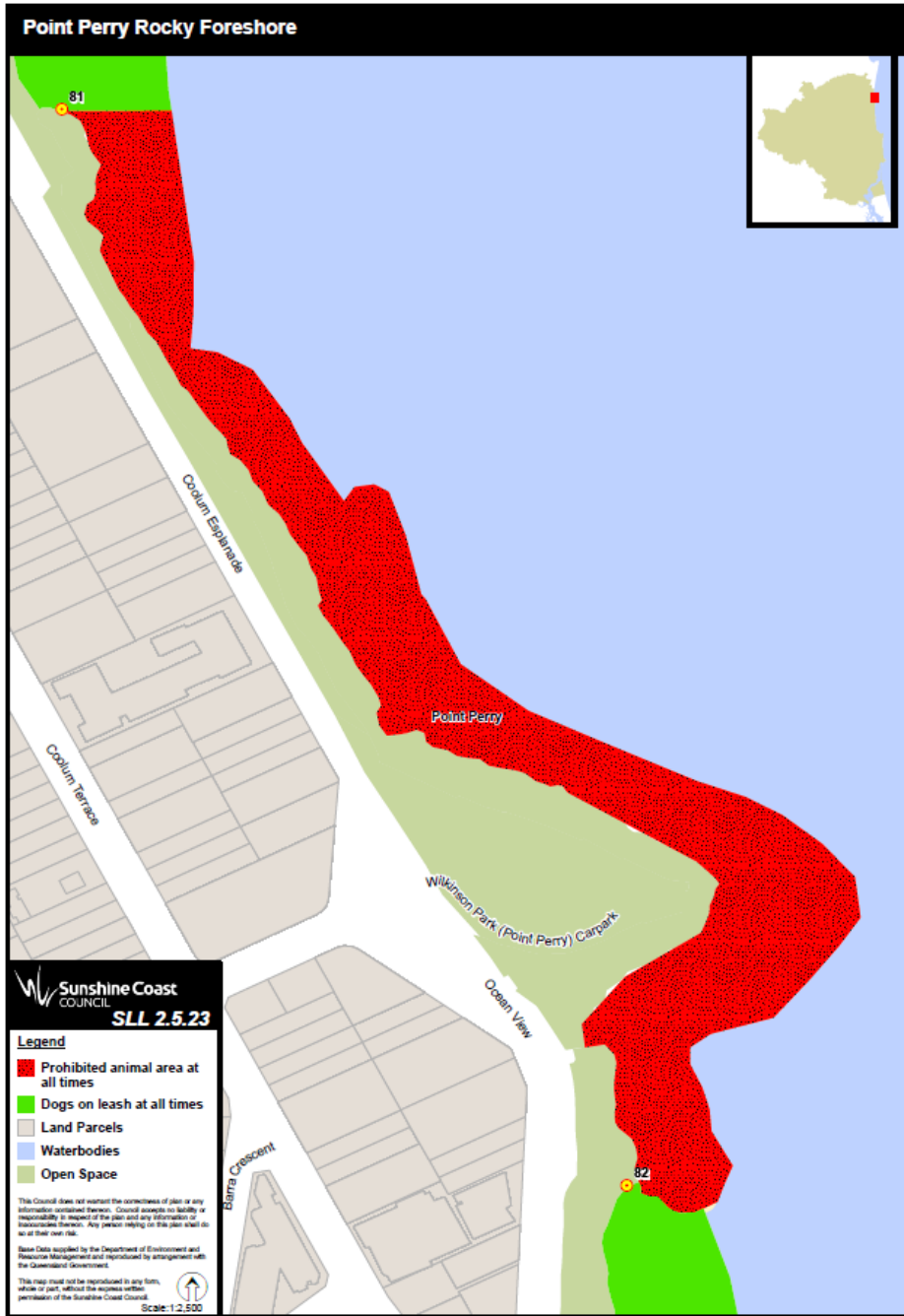


(12) Schedule 5, after map SLL 2.5.19—
insert—

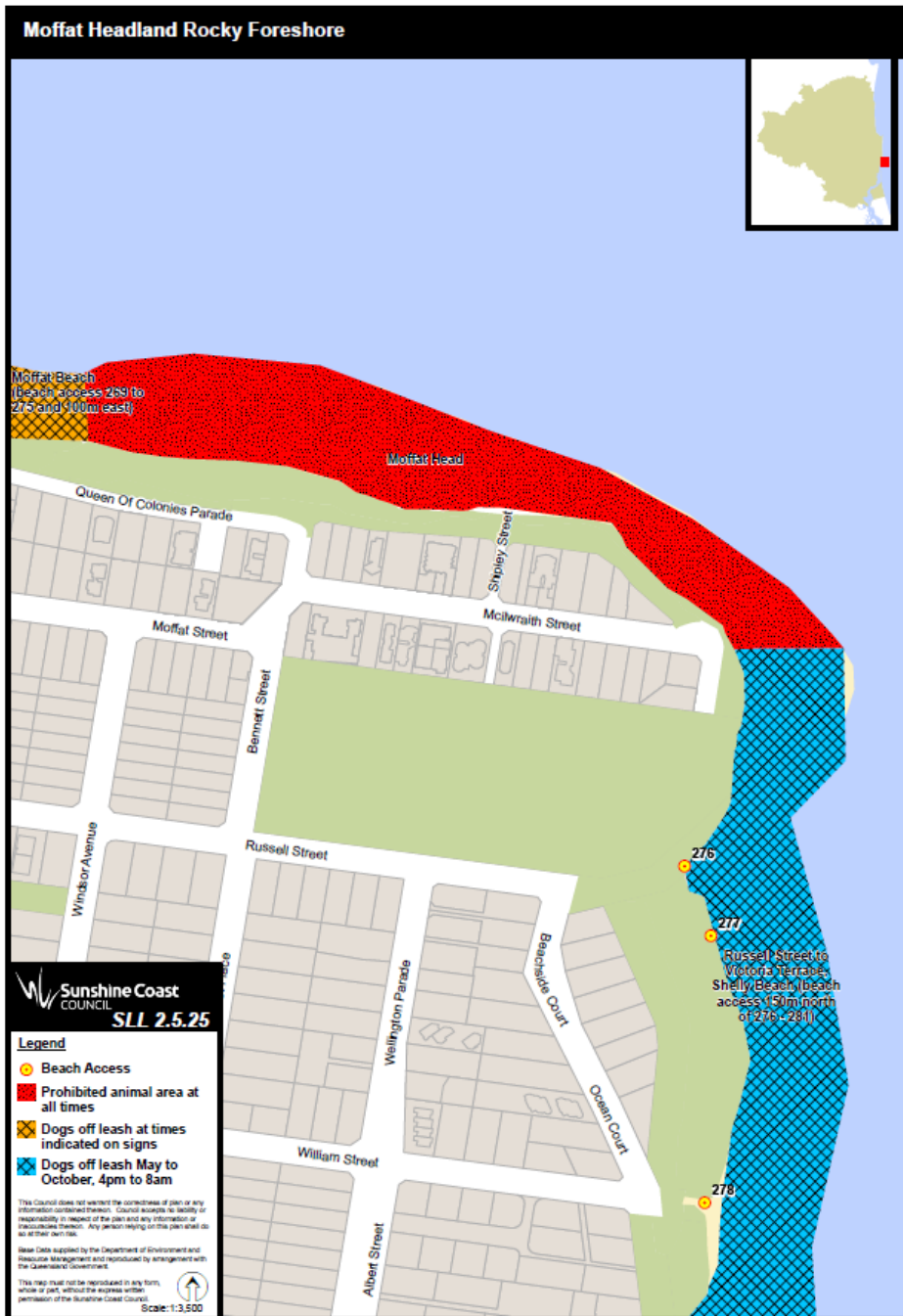




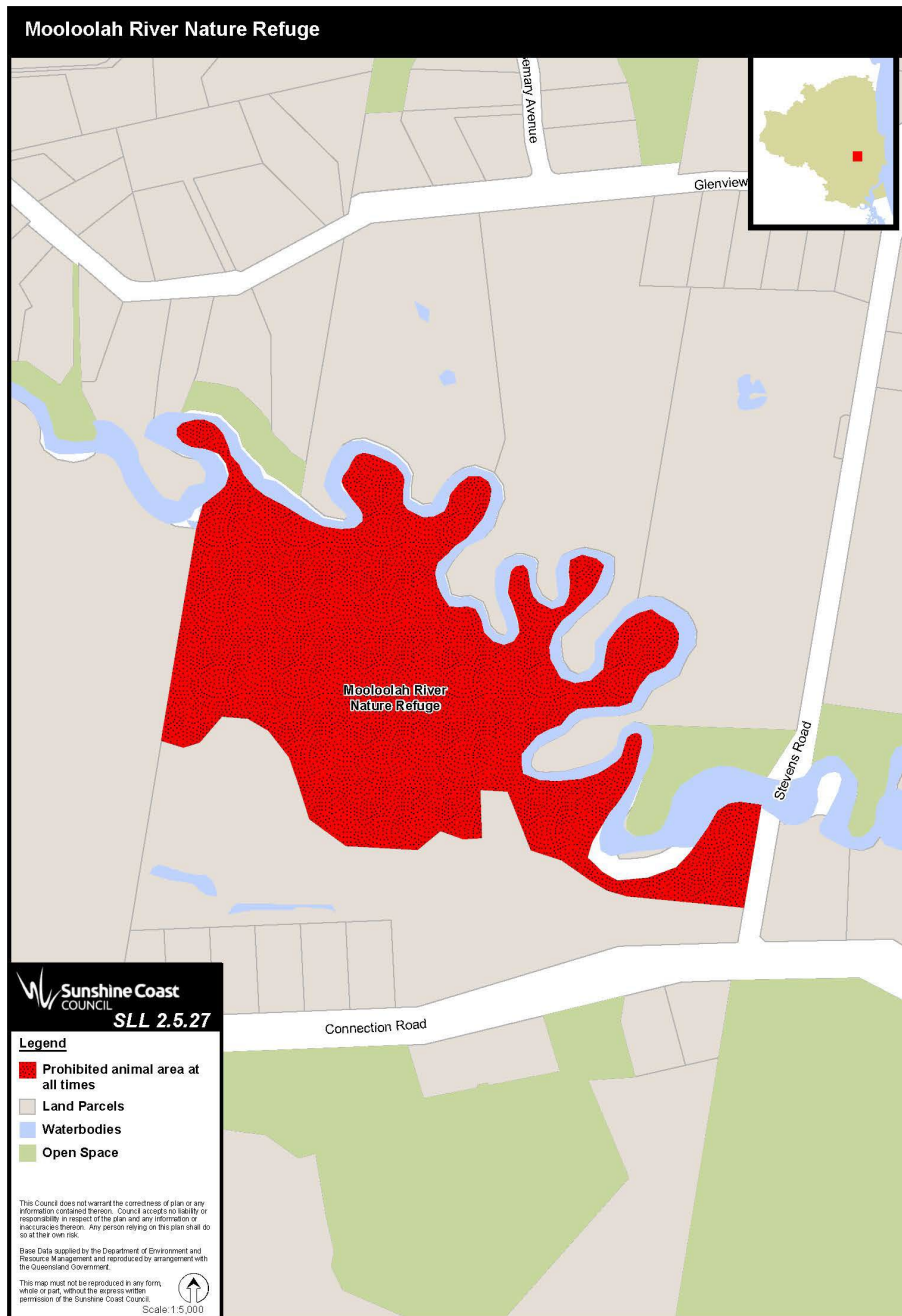


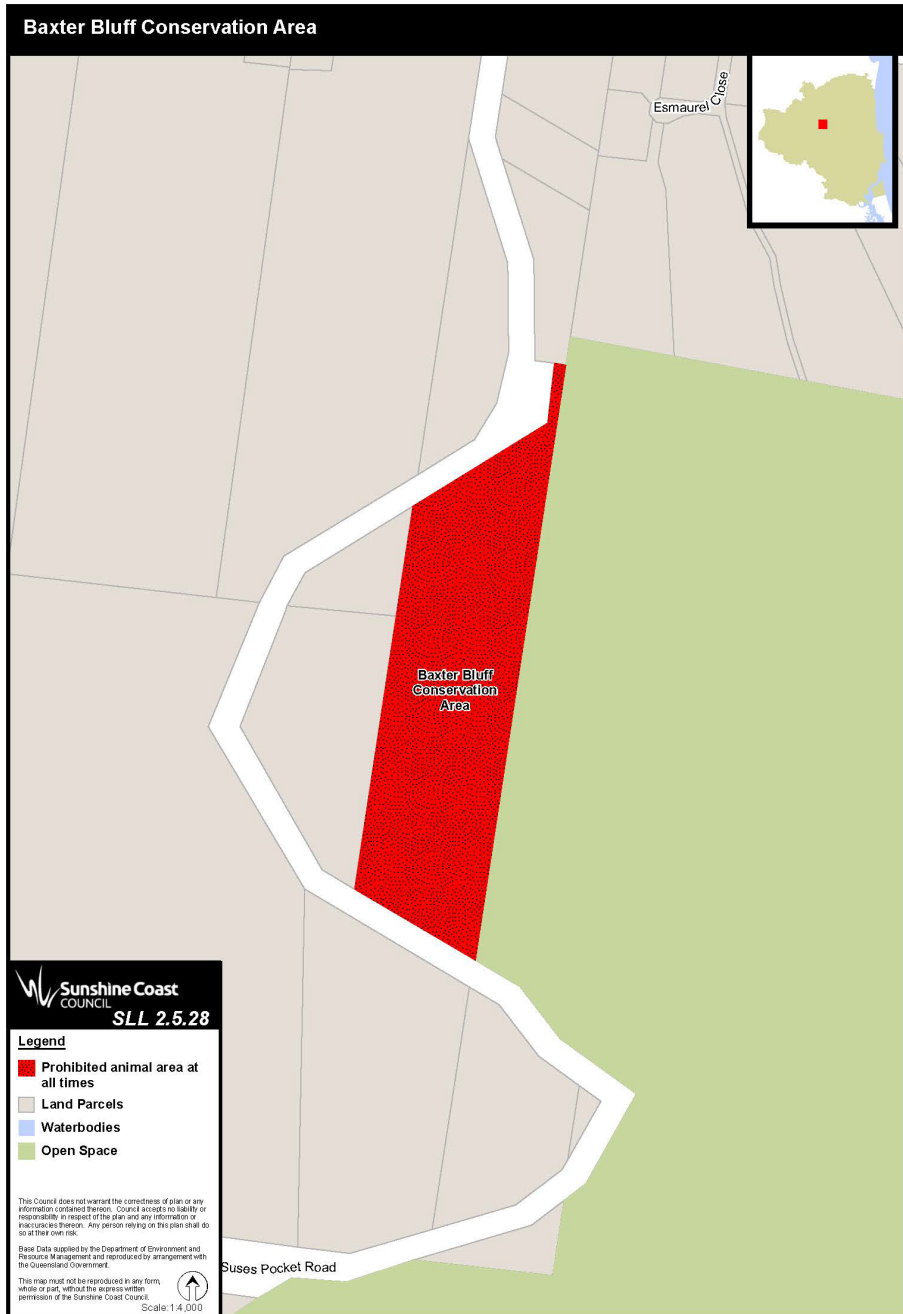


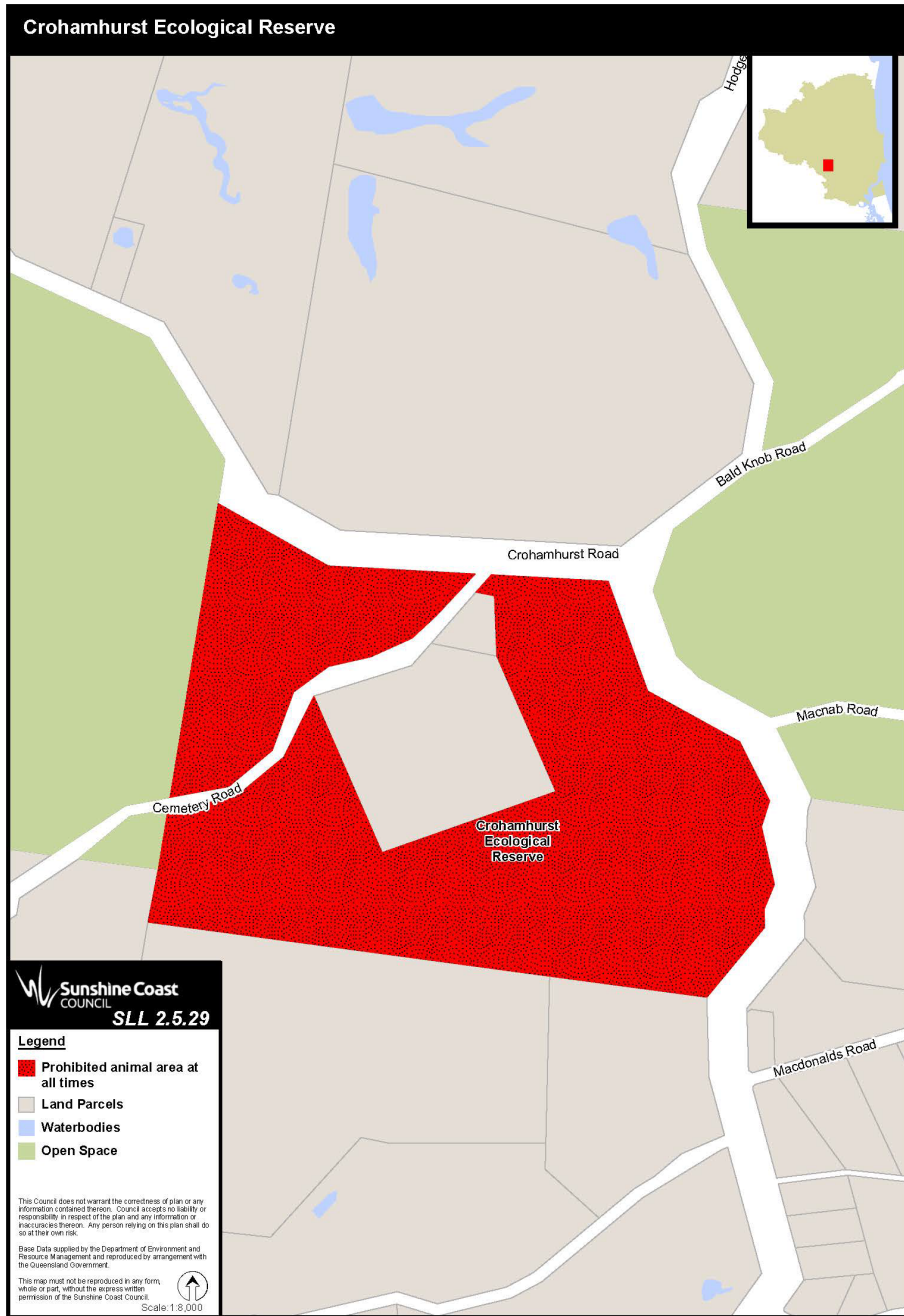


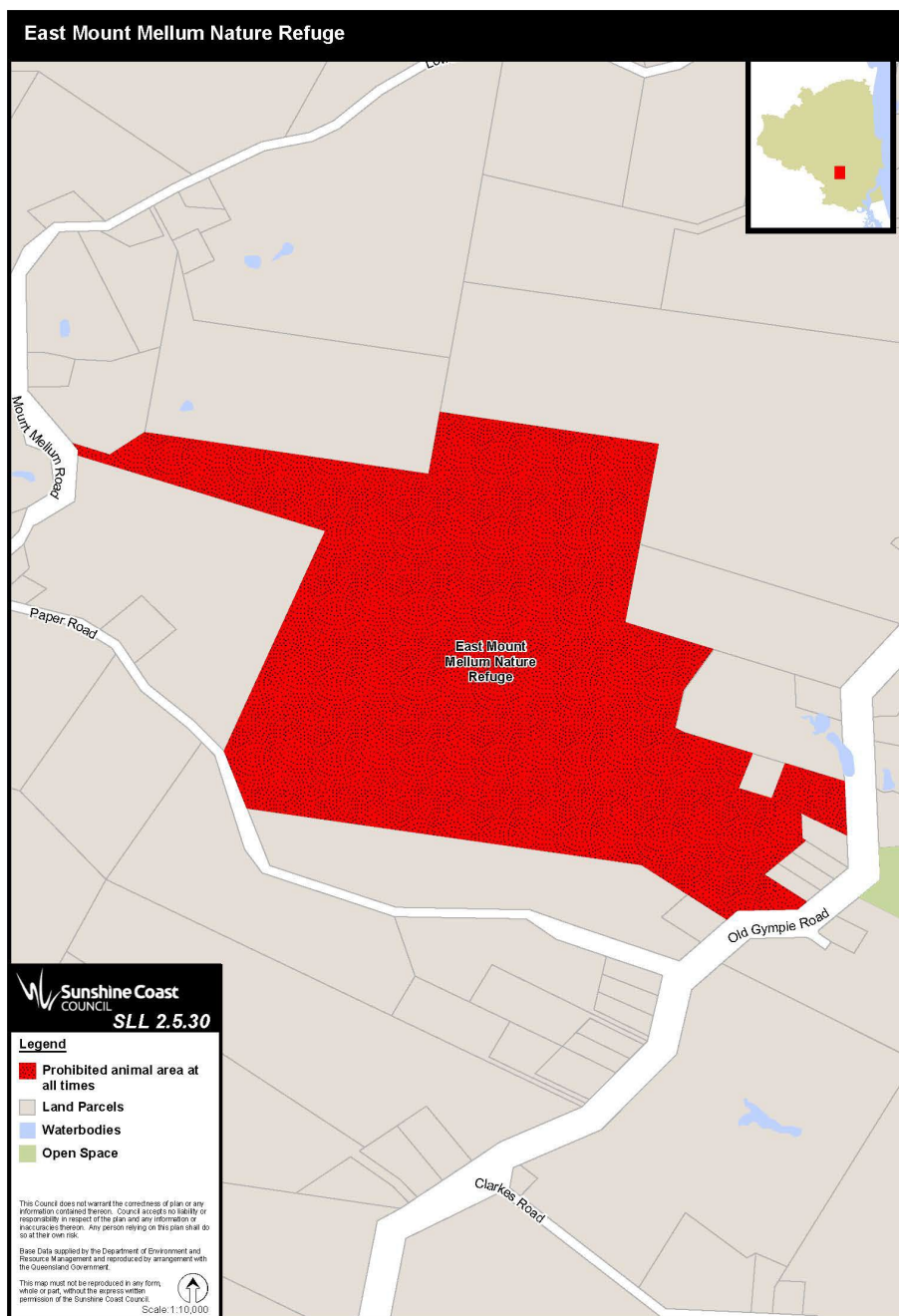


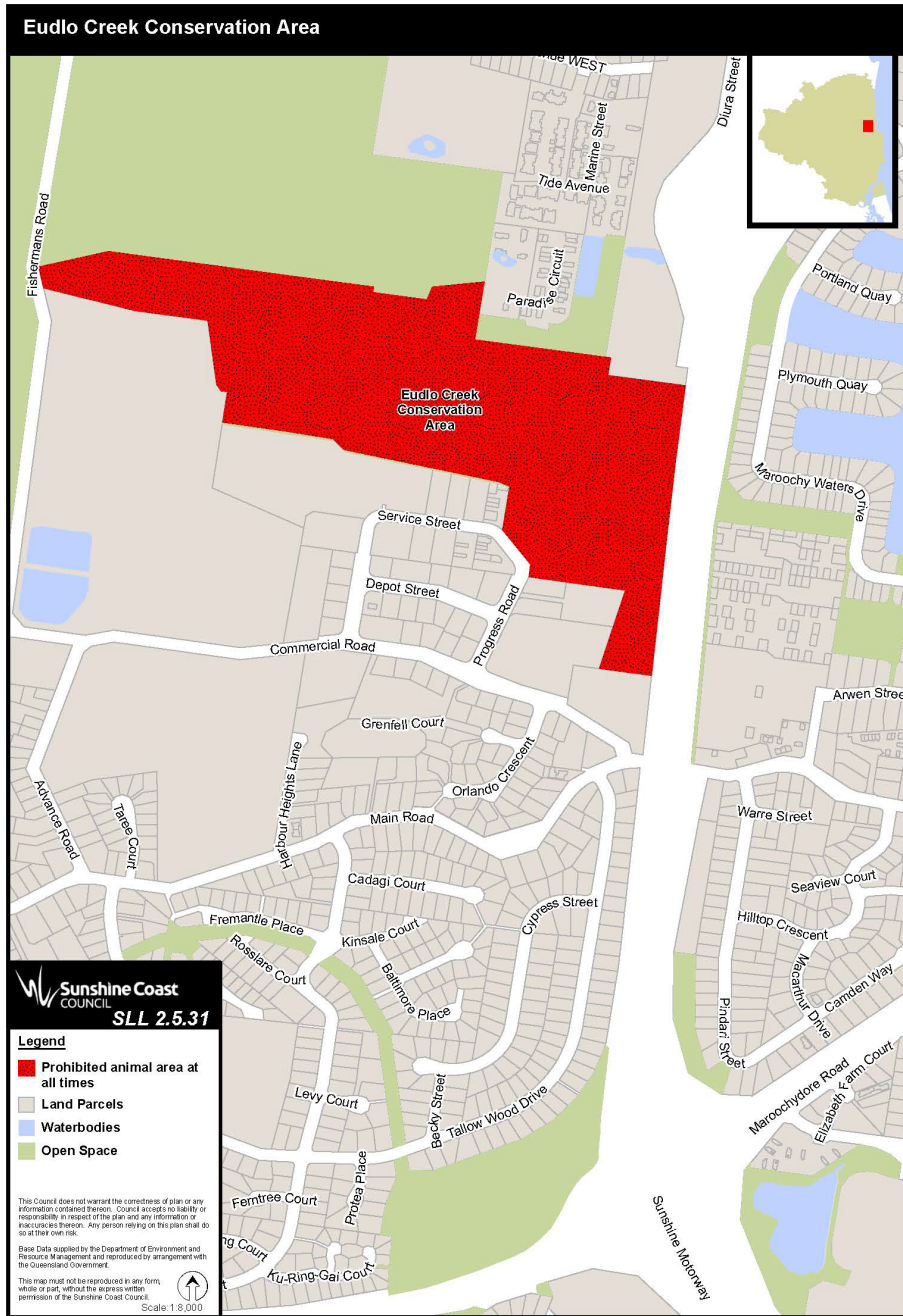


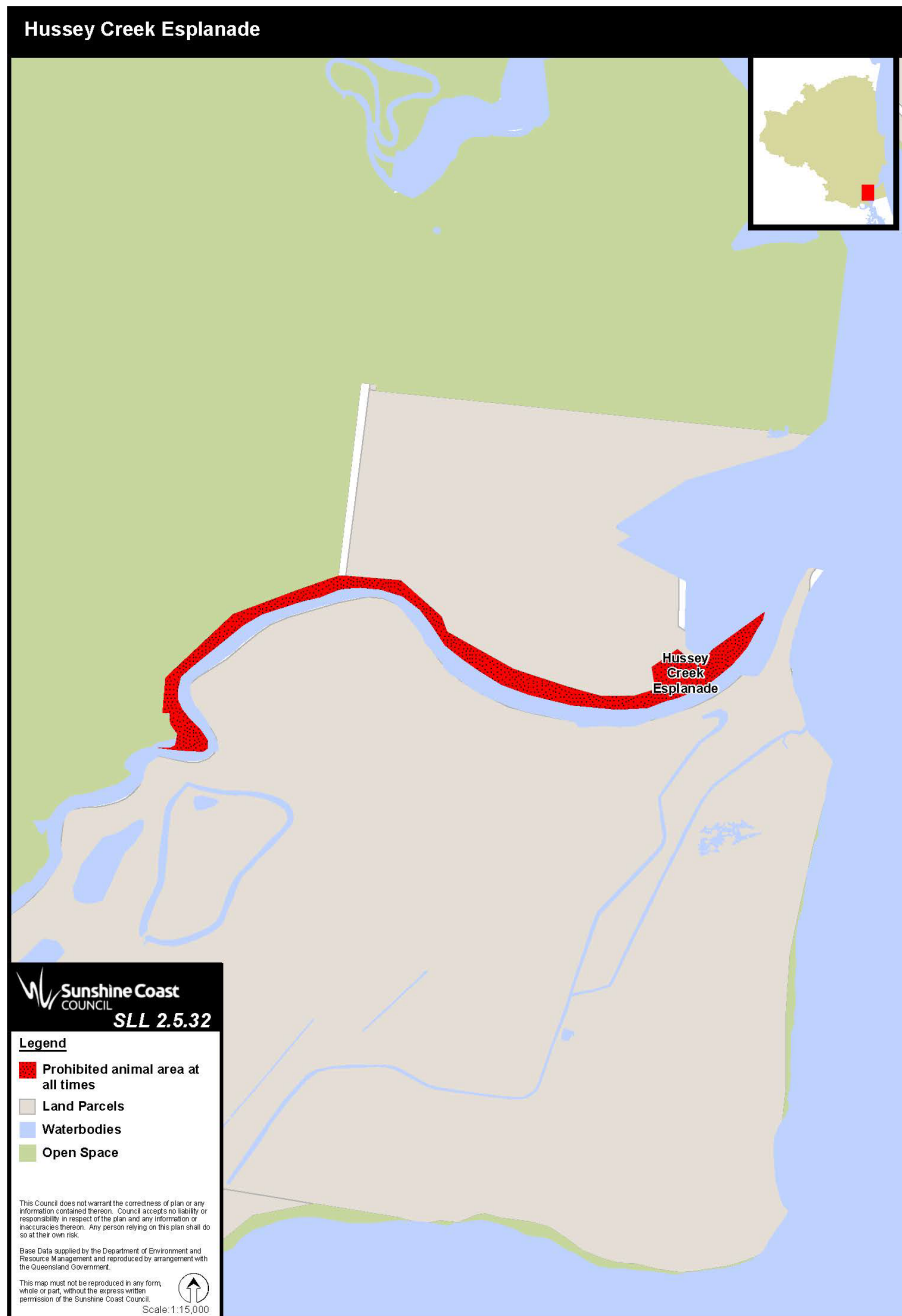


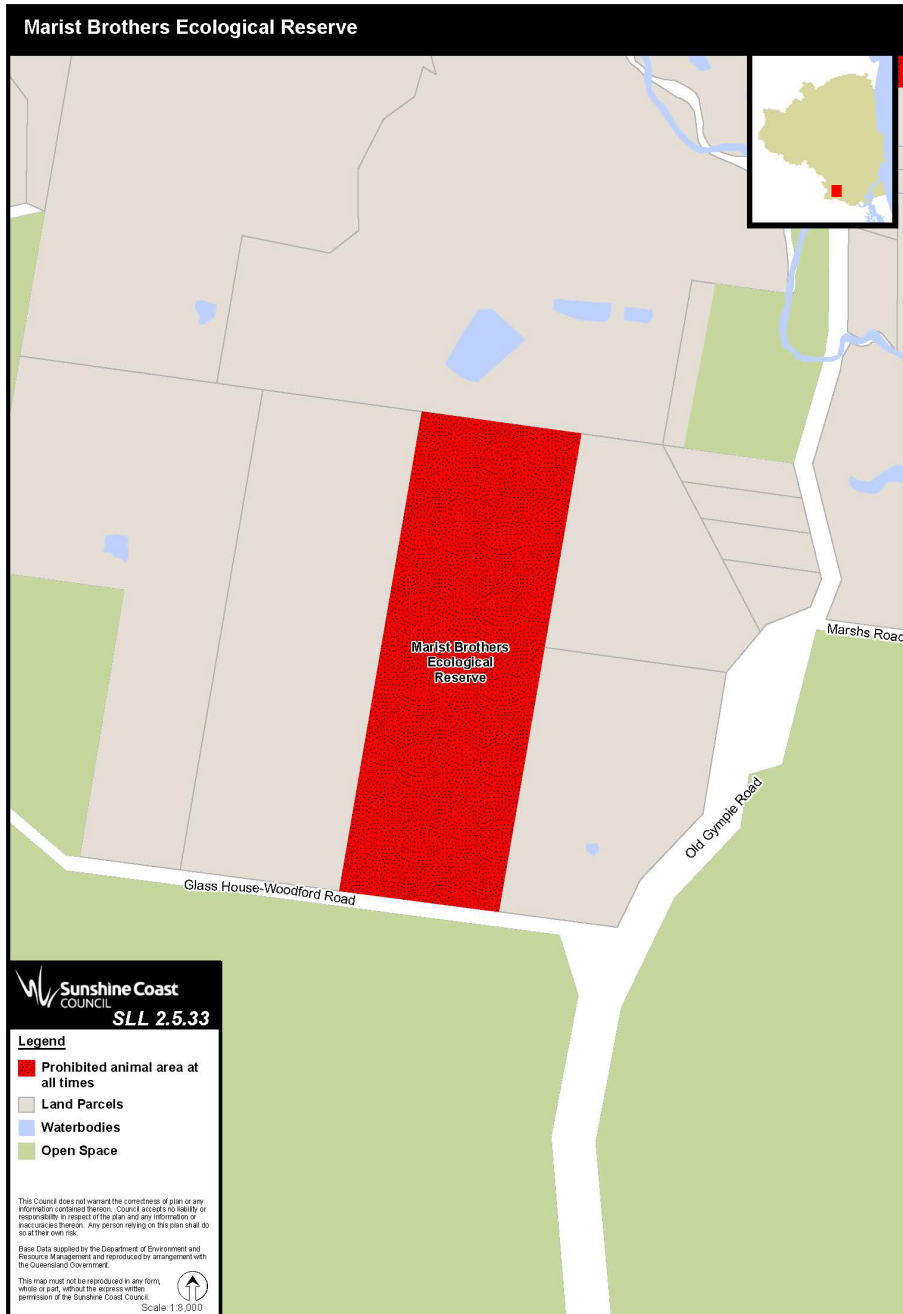


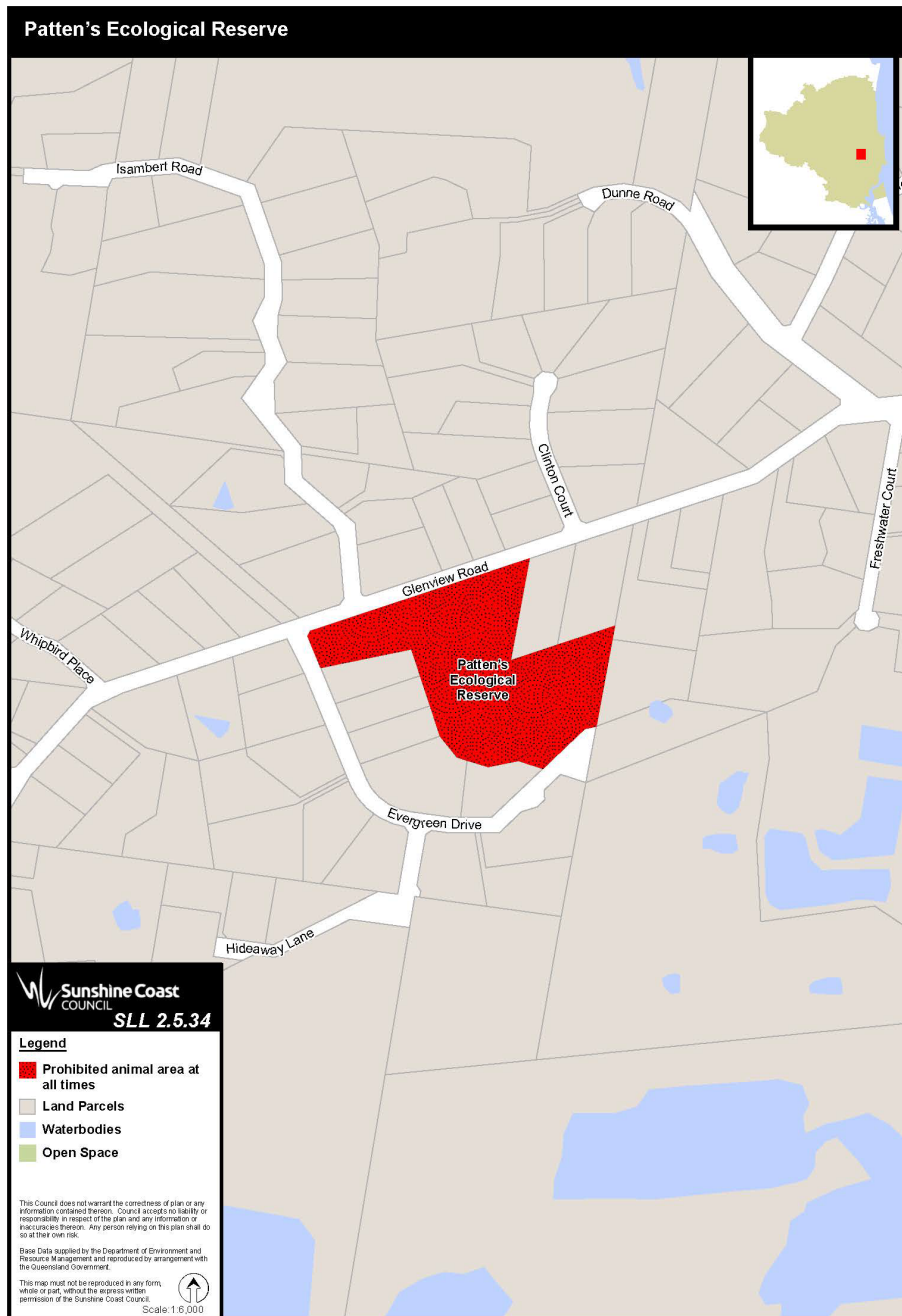


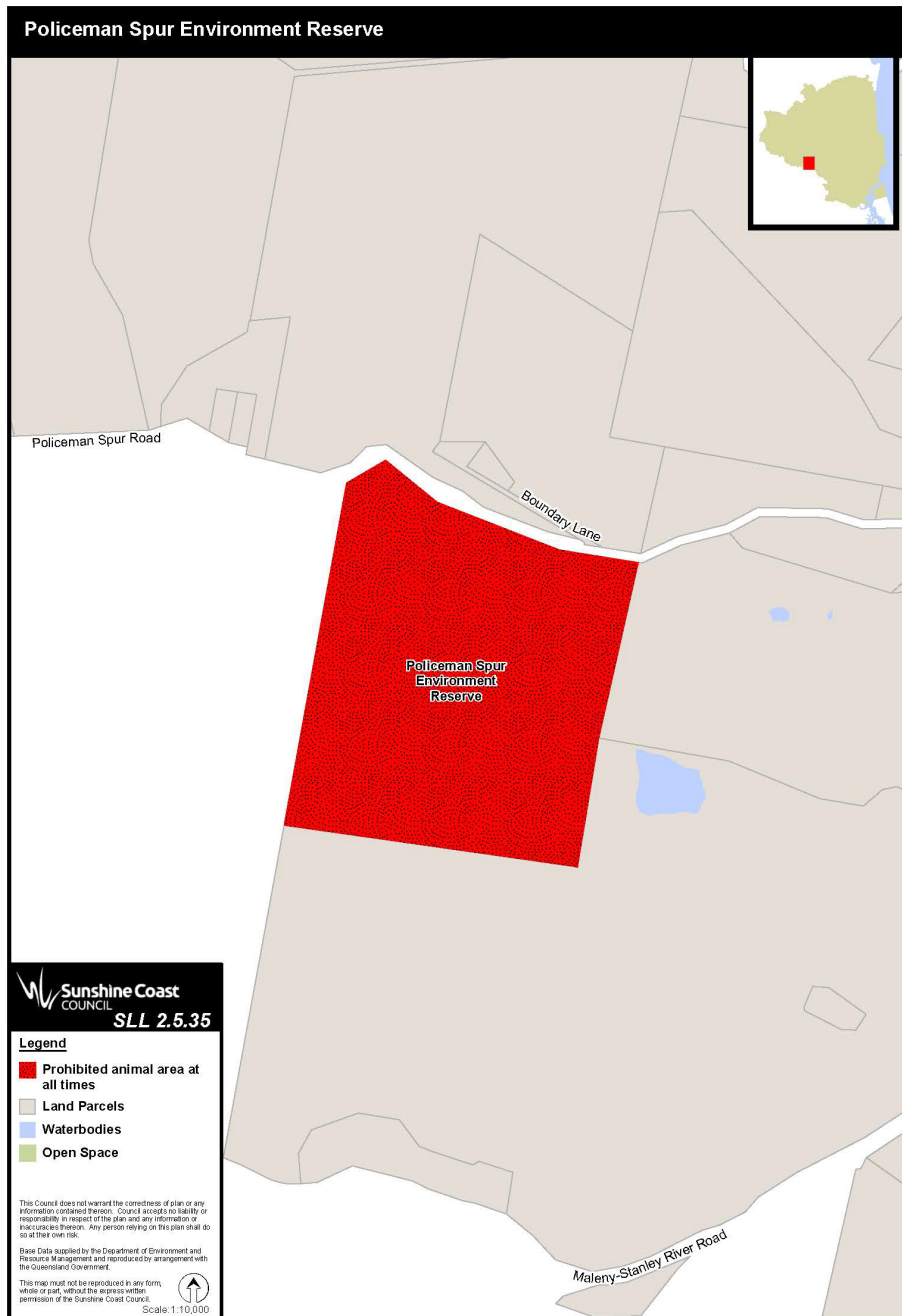










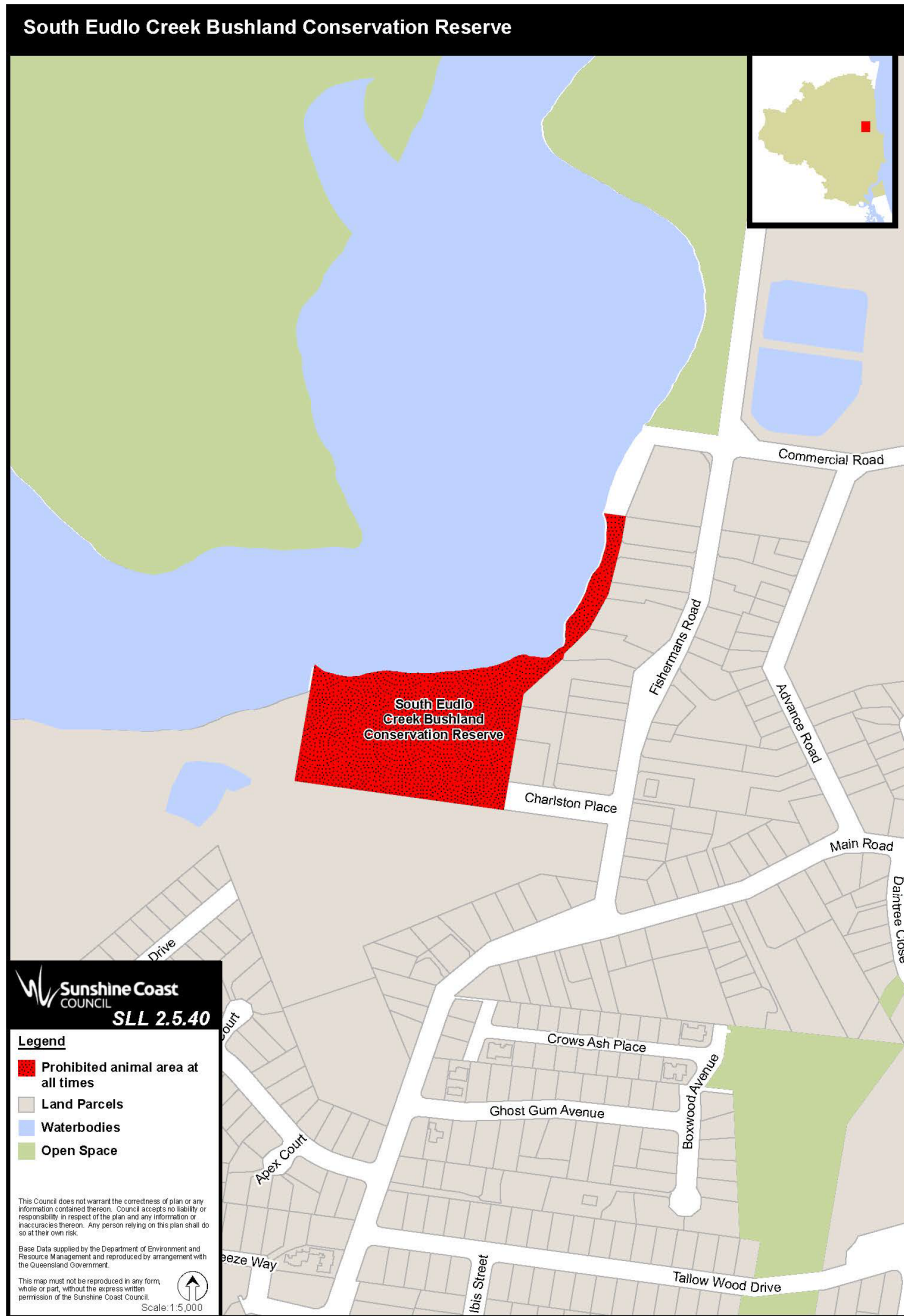


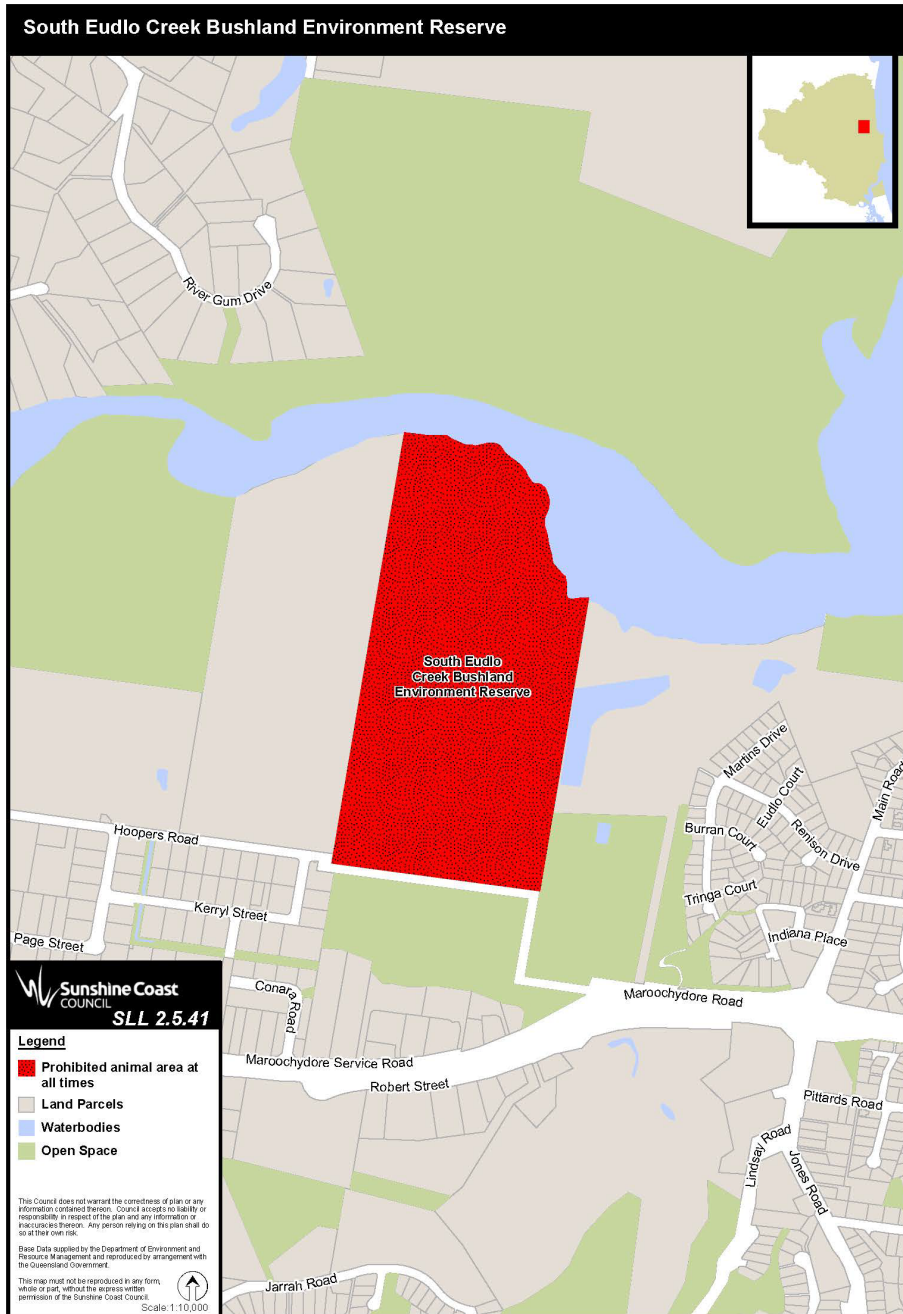


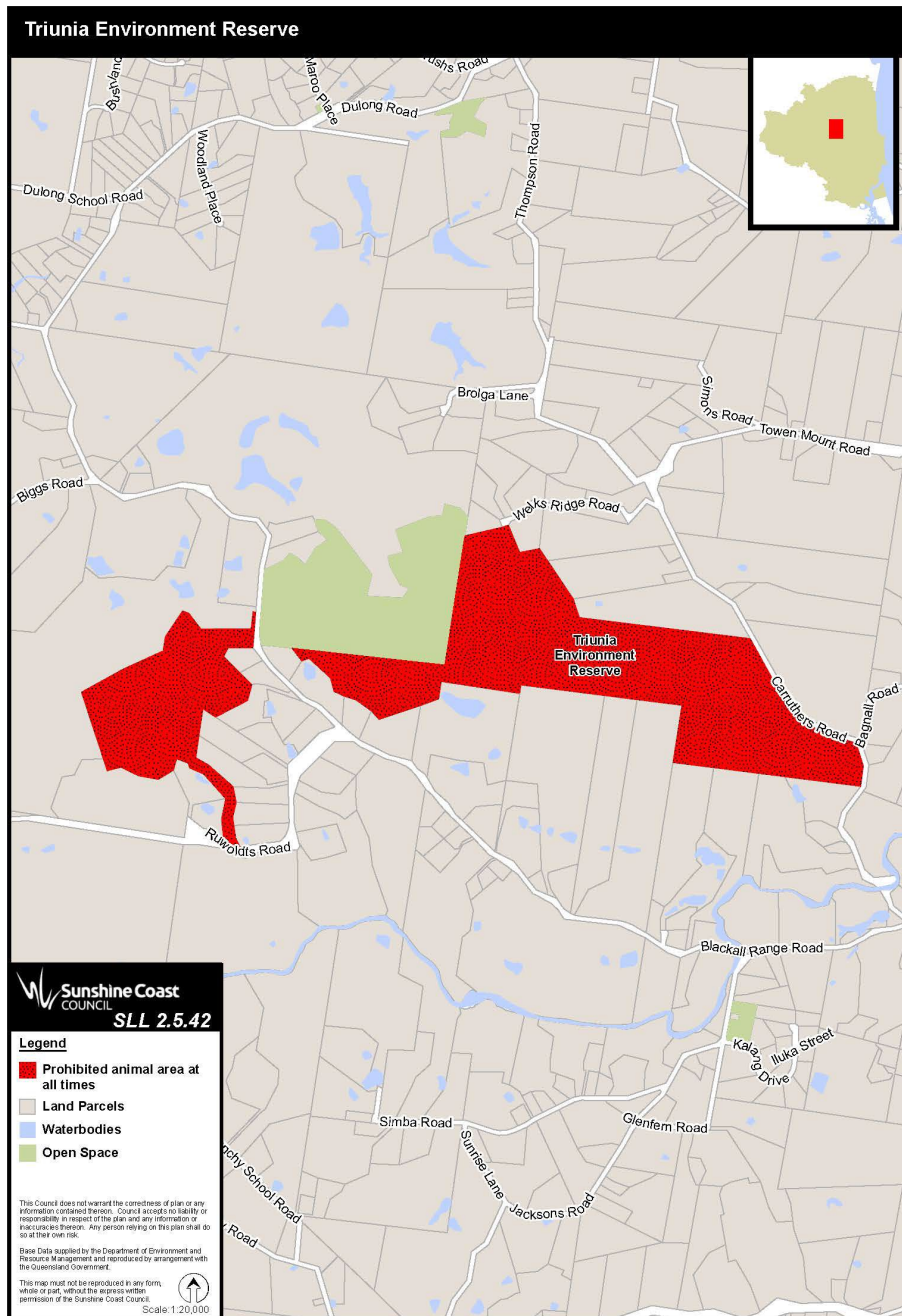


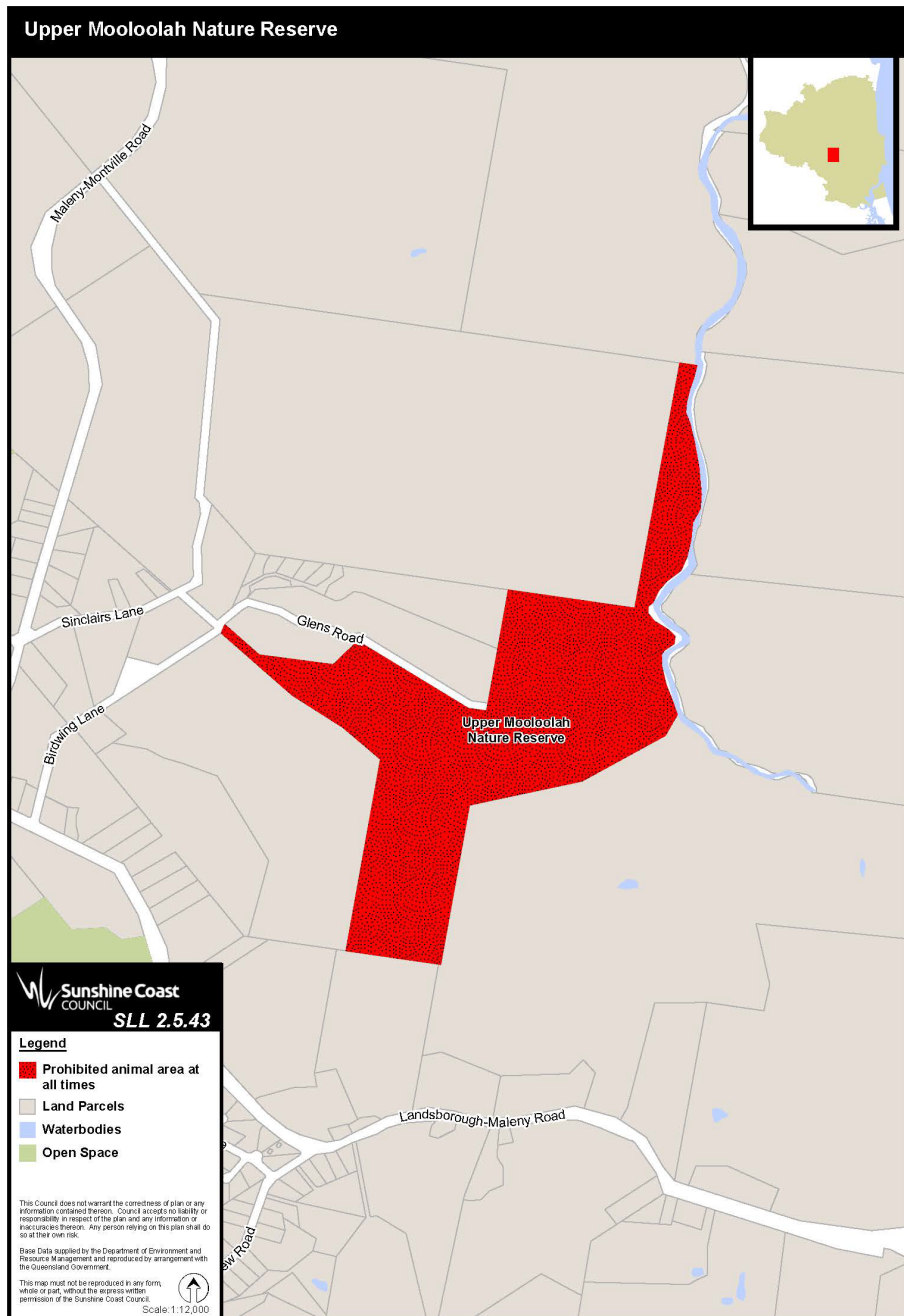


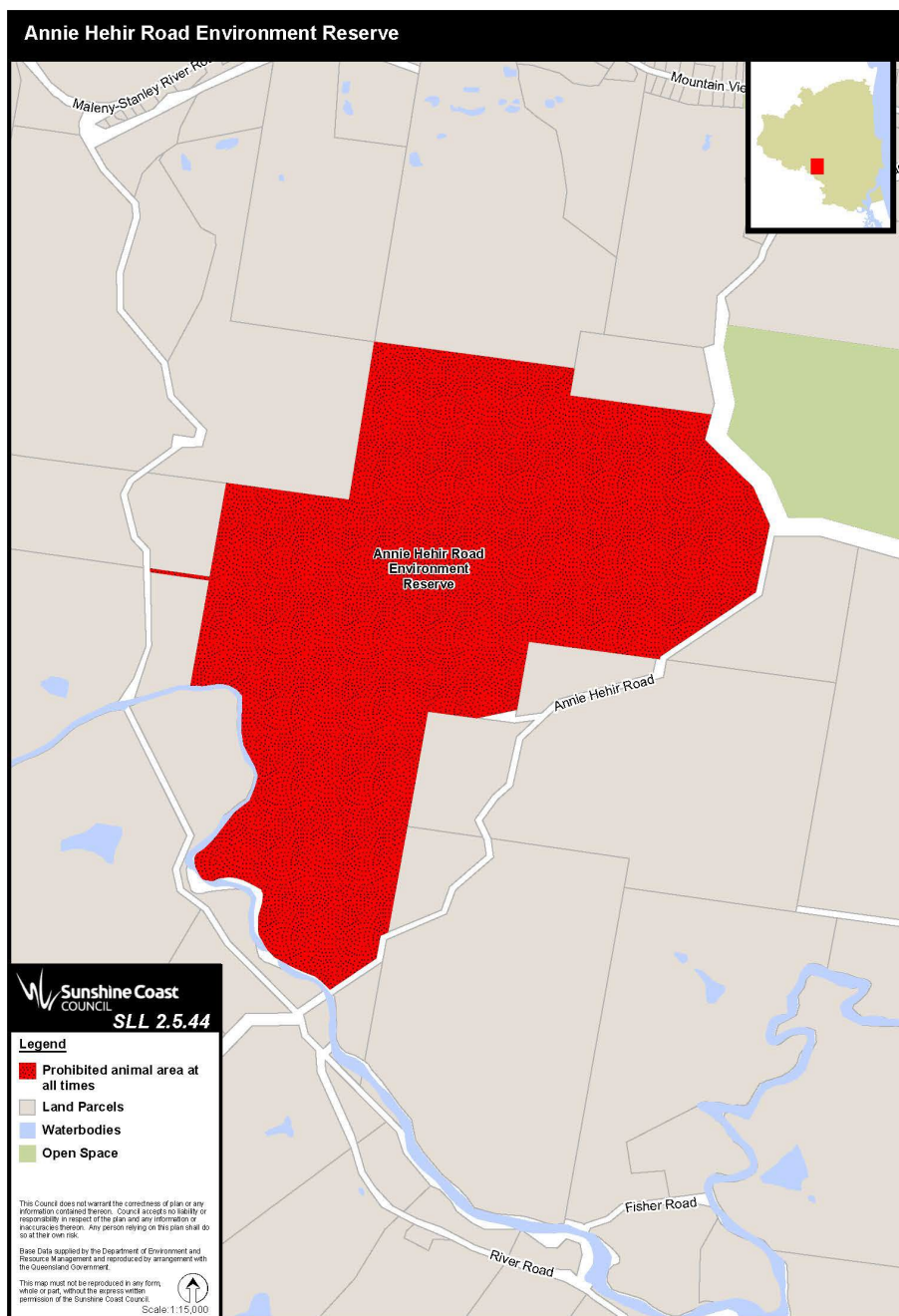


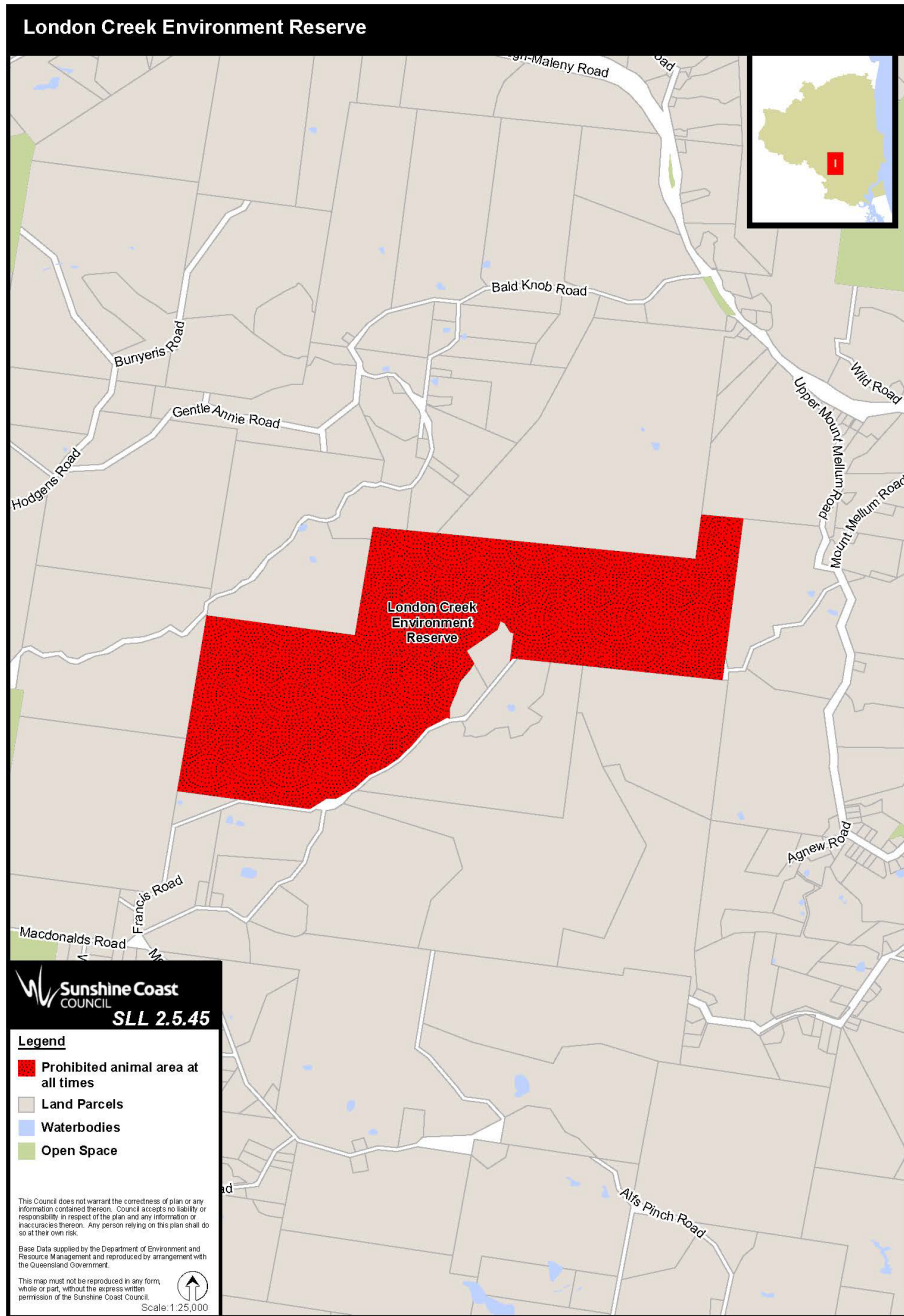


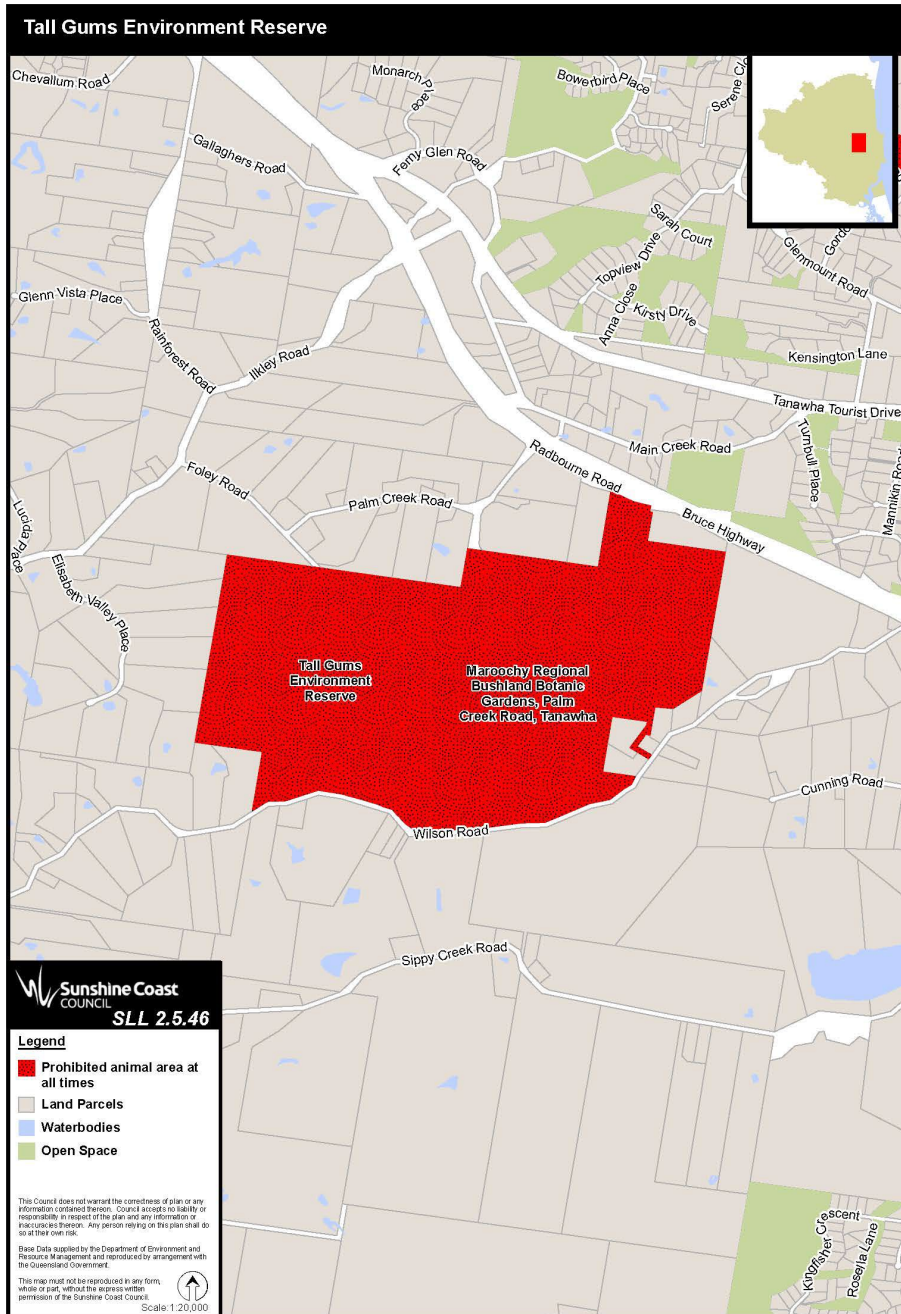


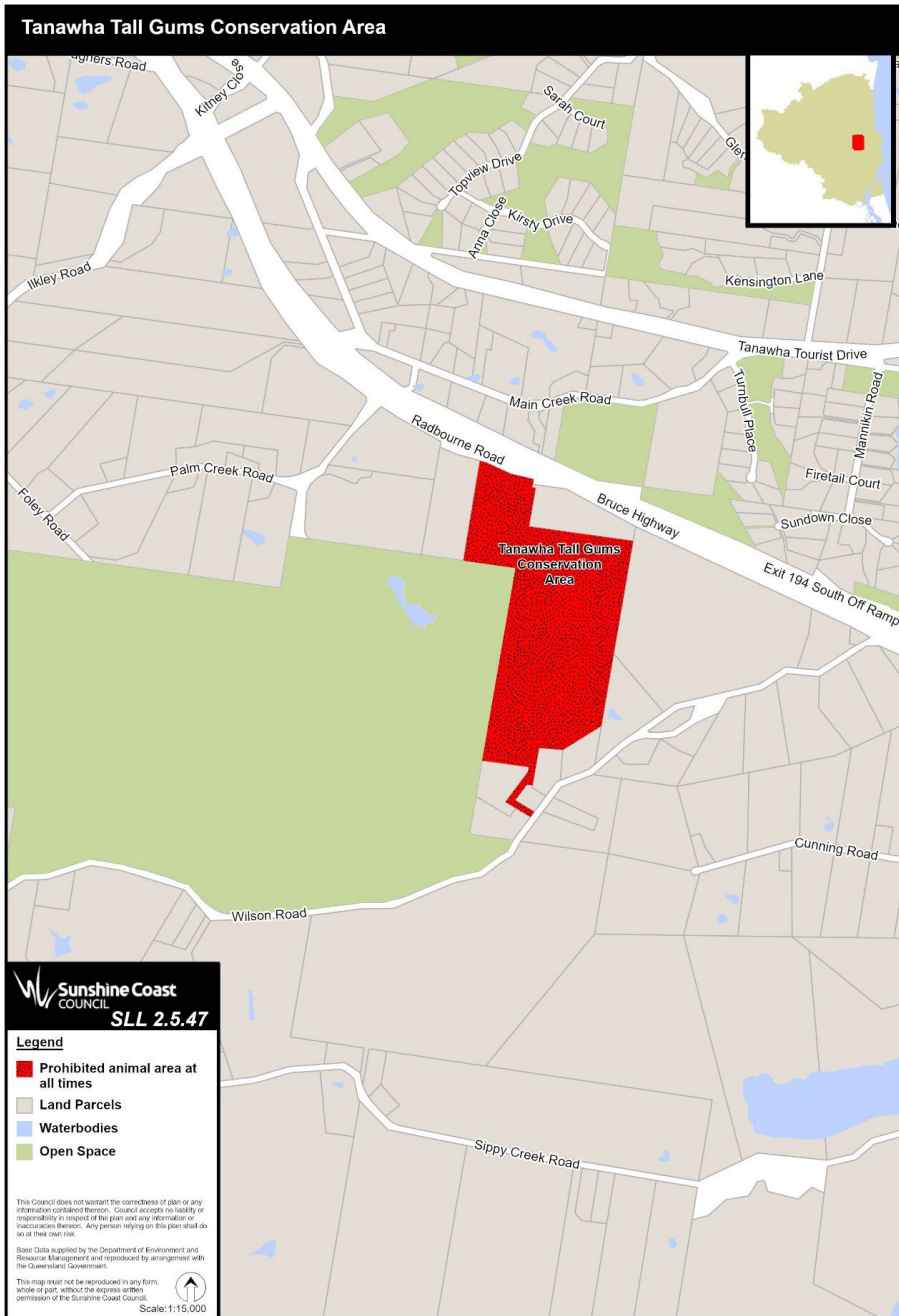


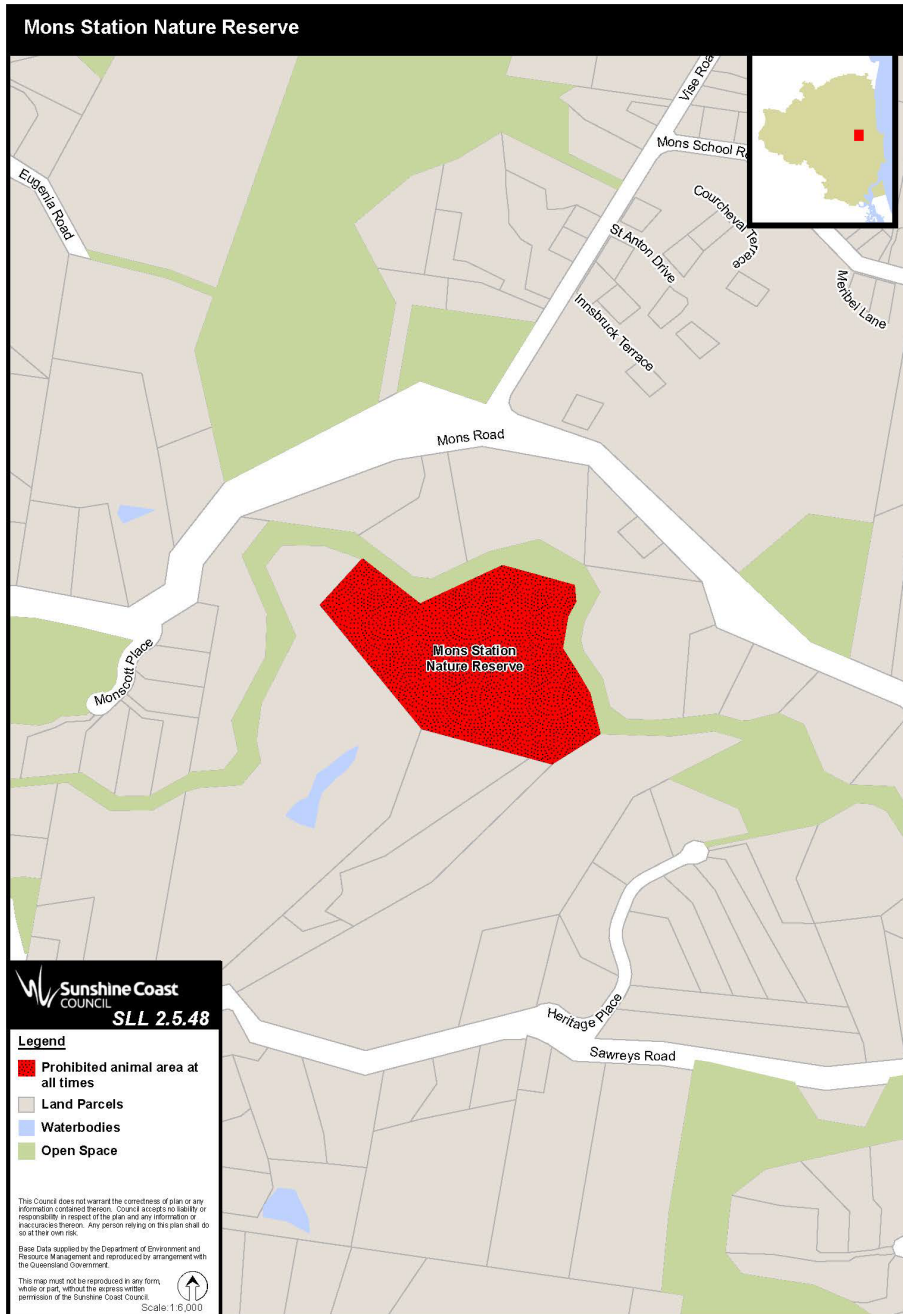


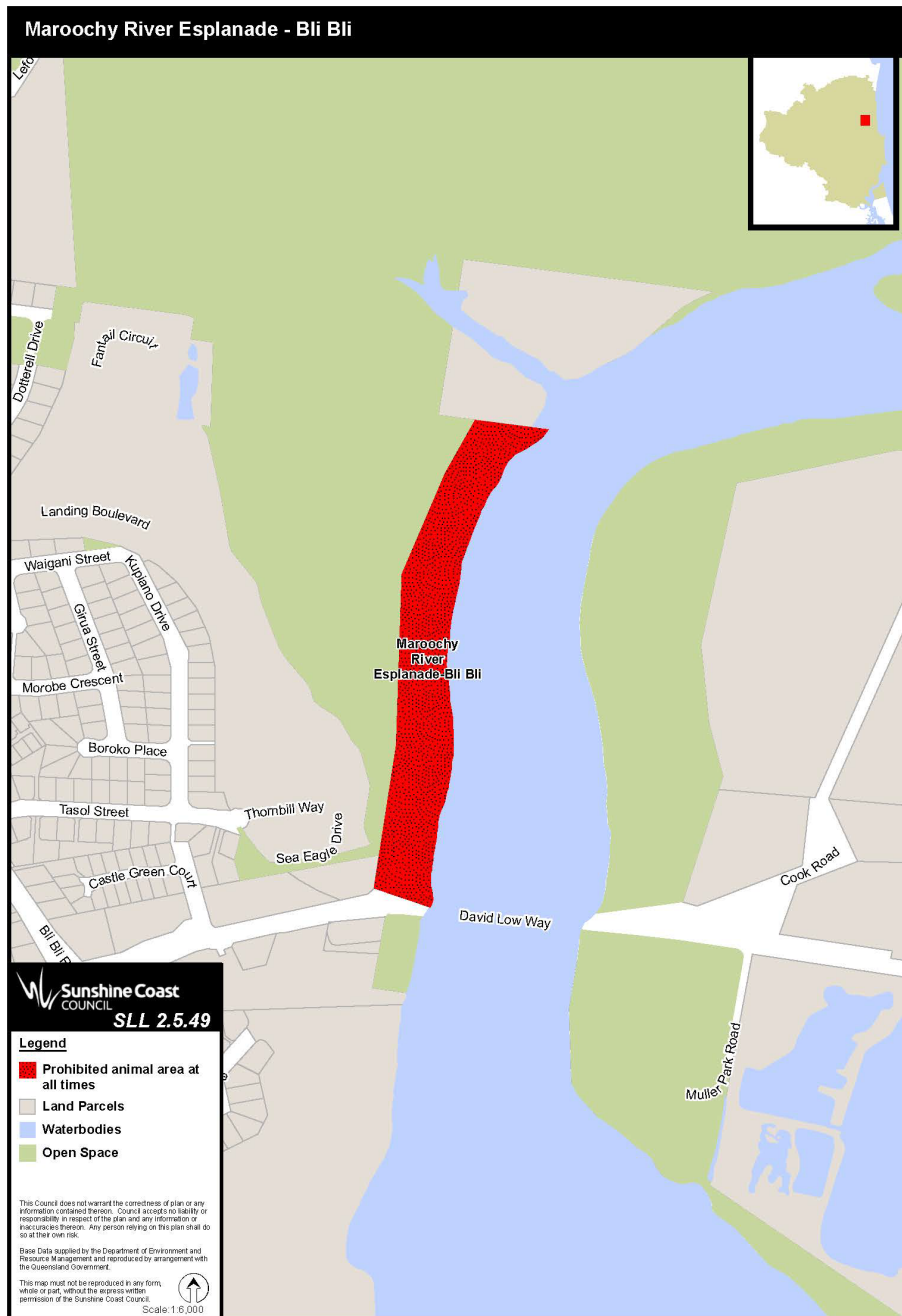


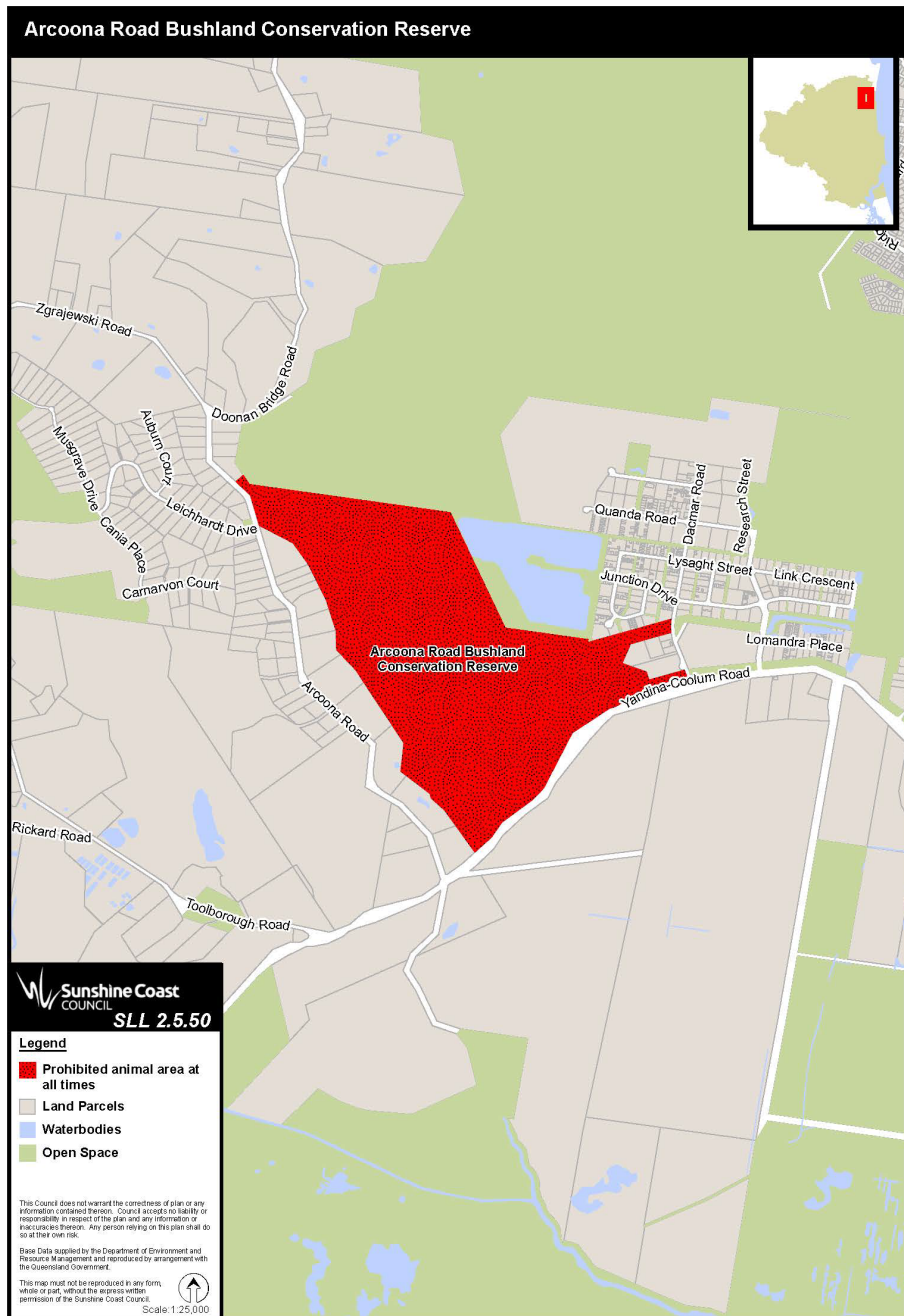


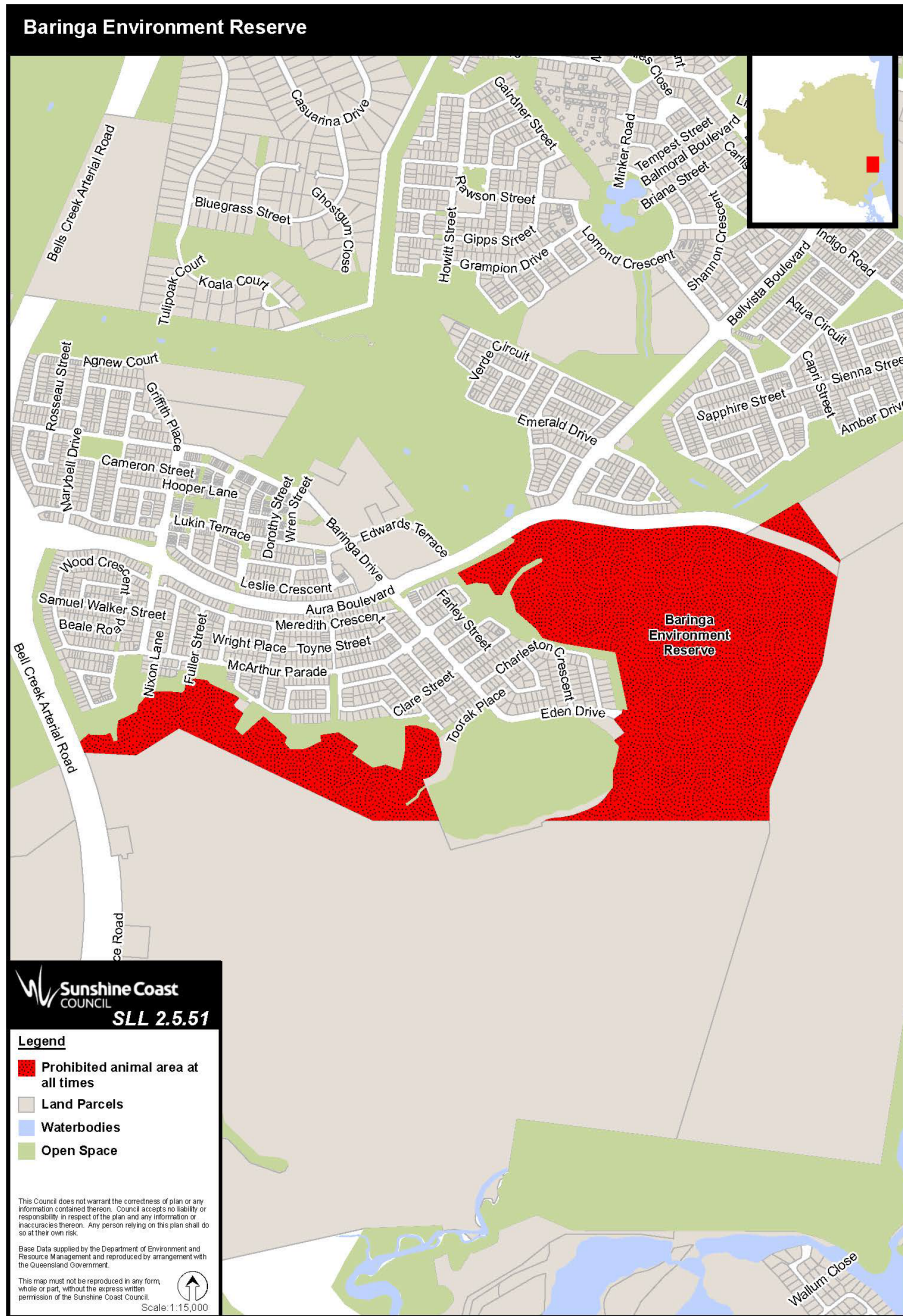


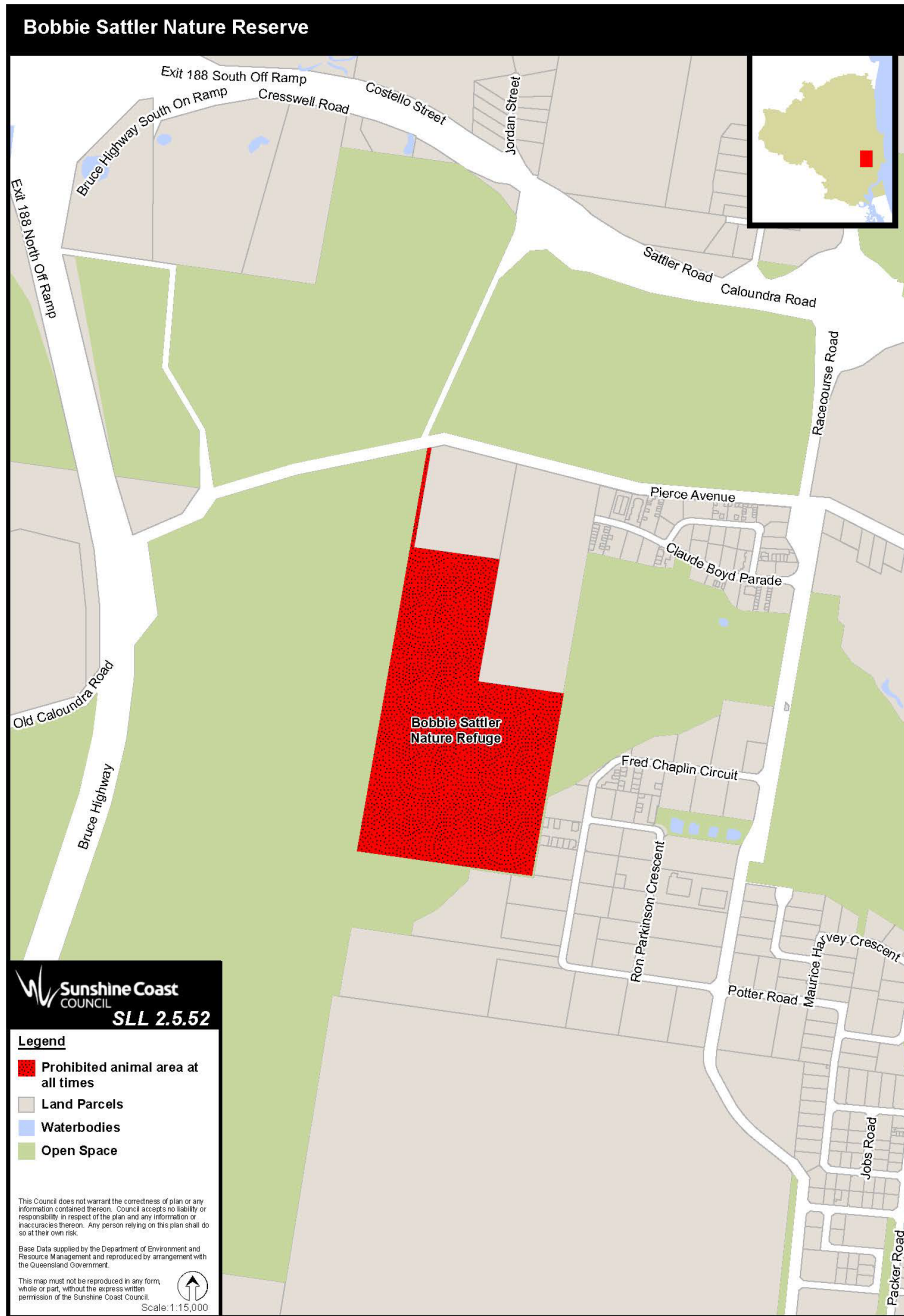


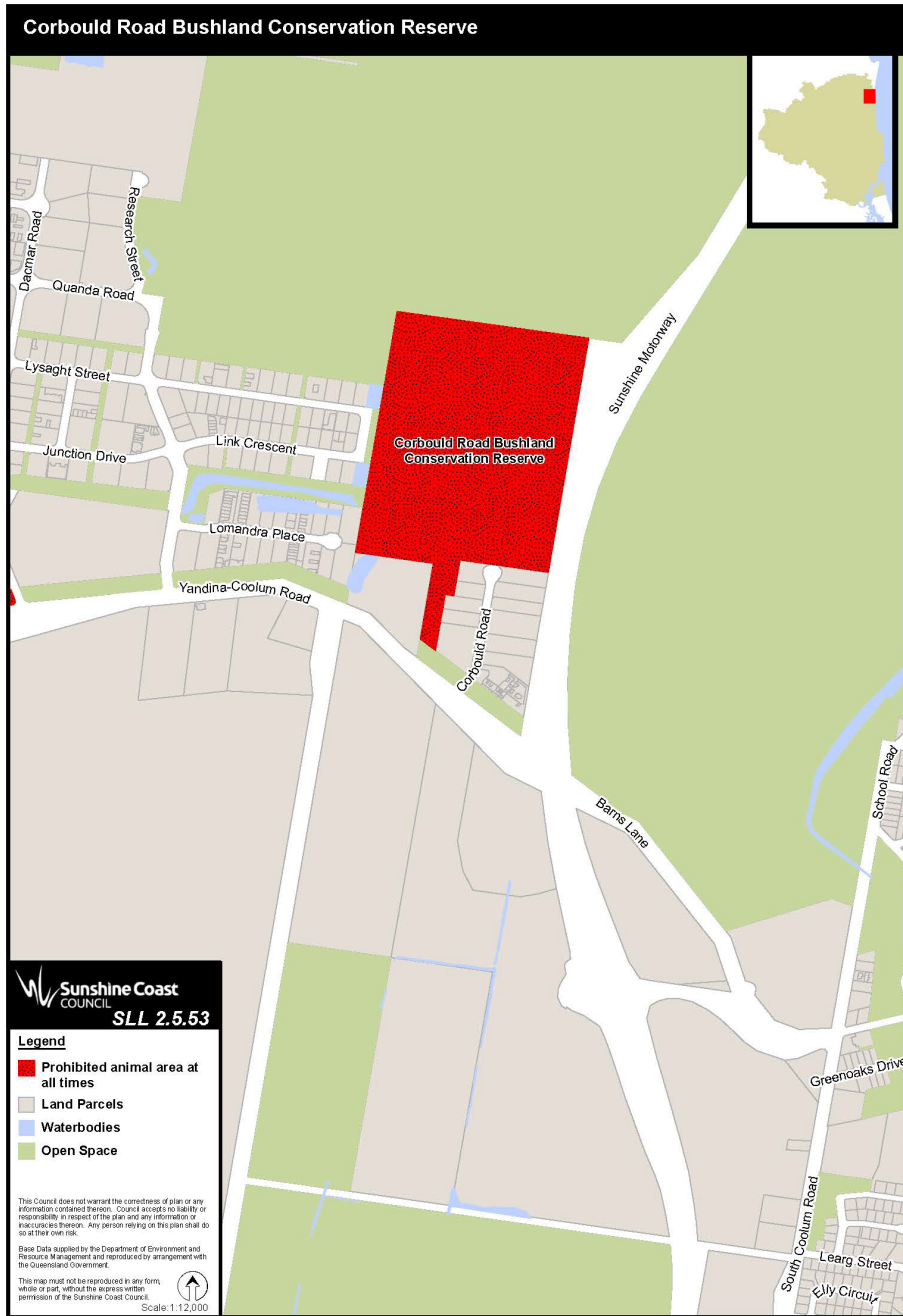


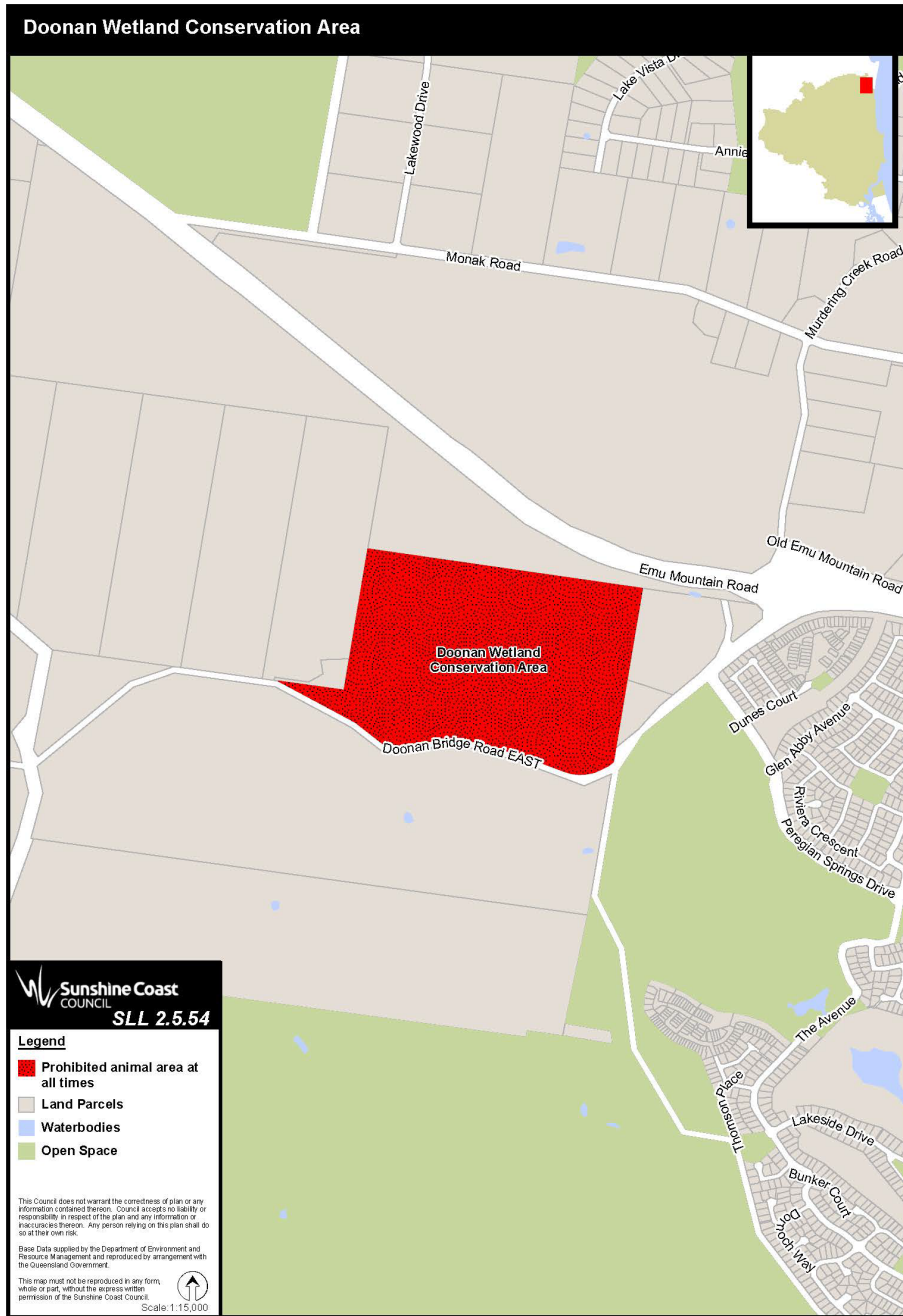


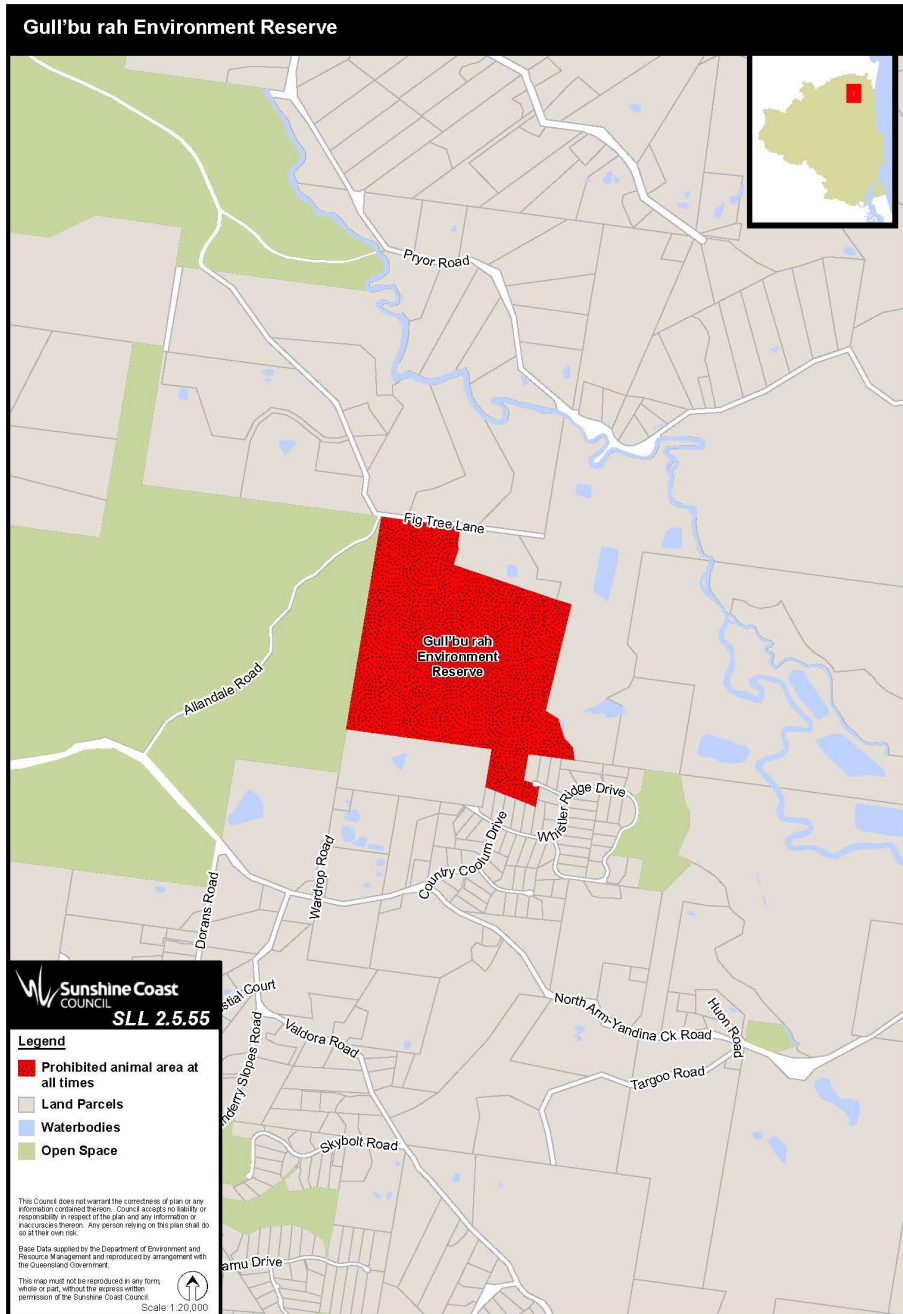


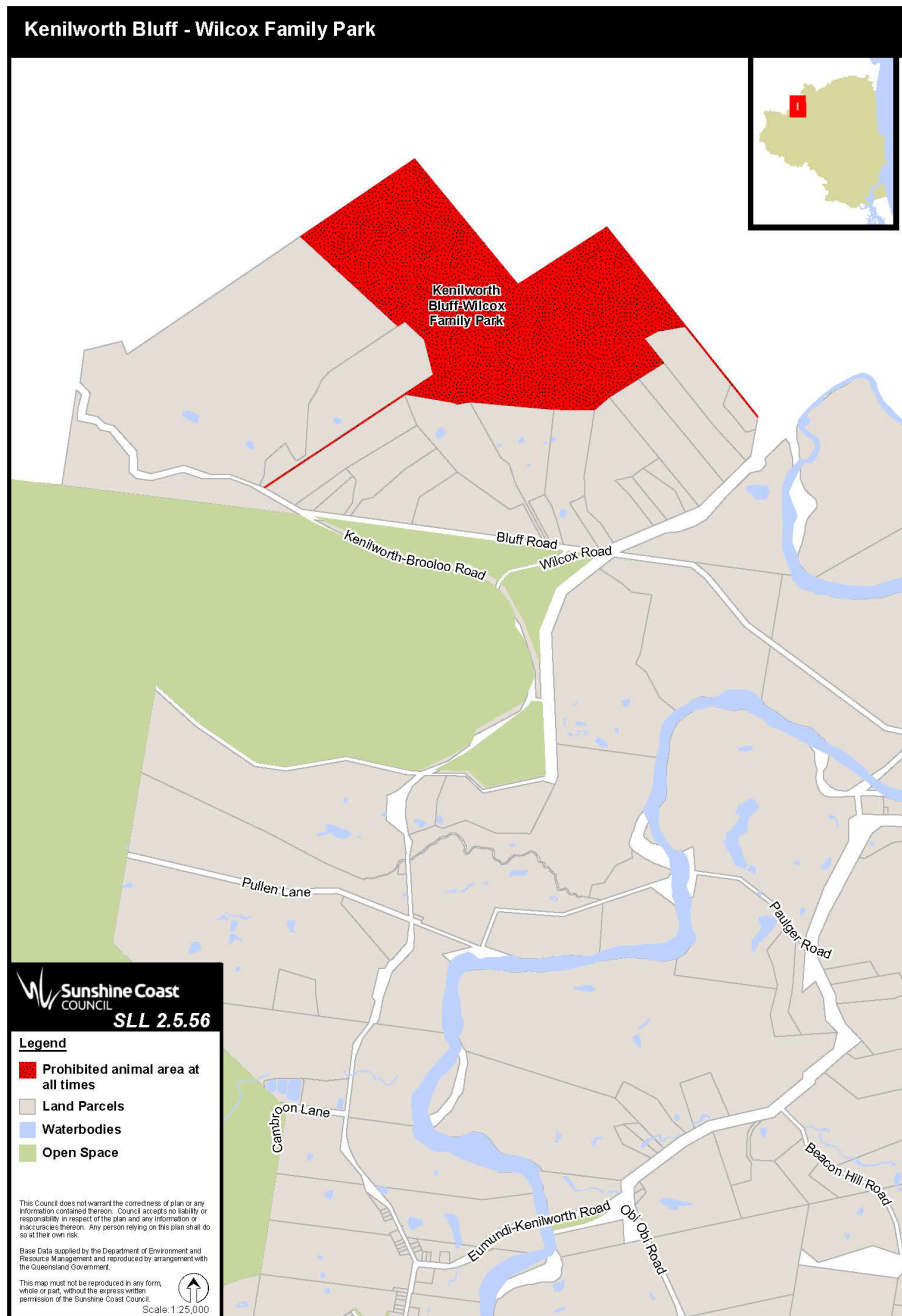


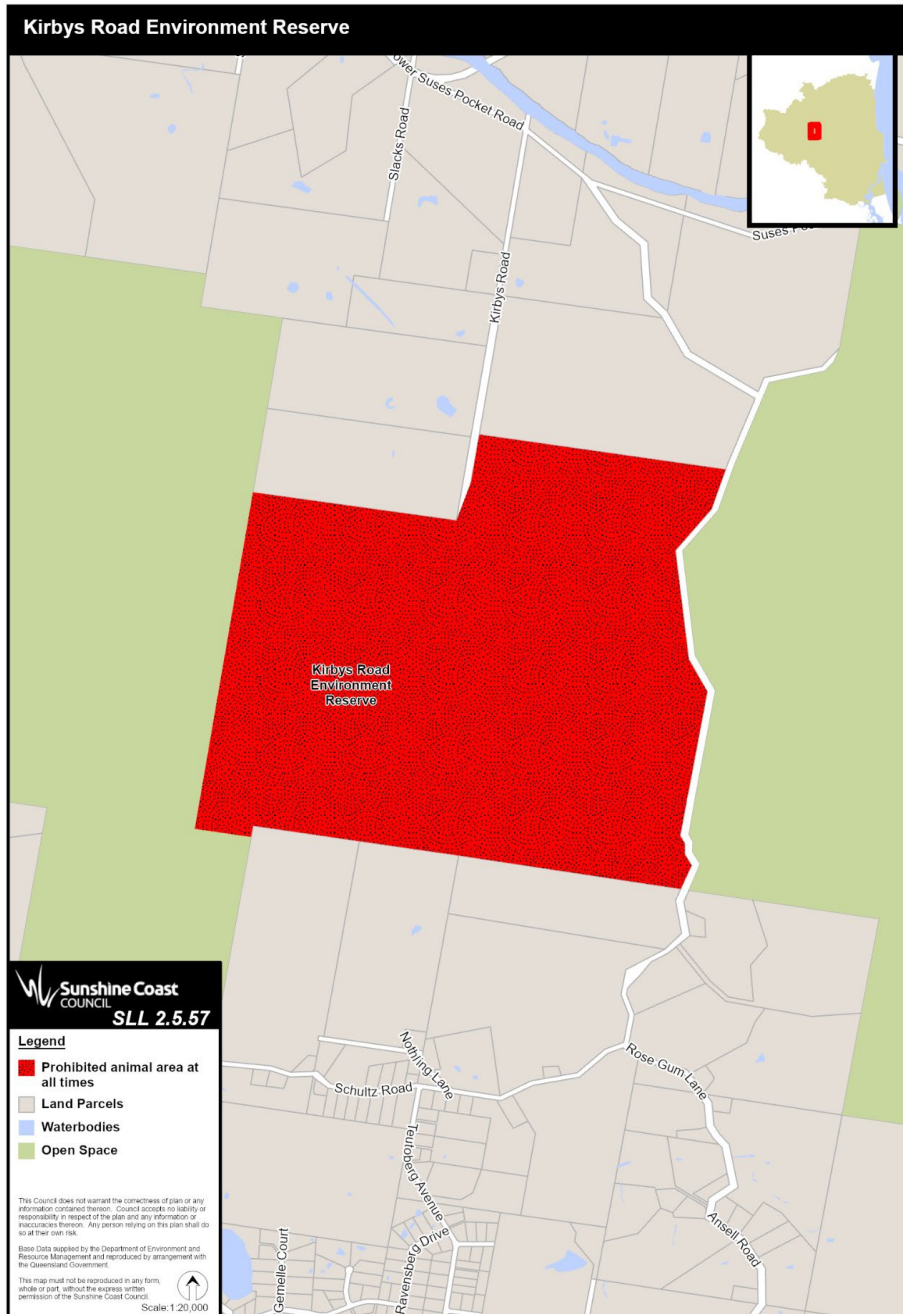


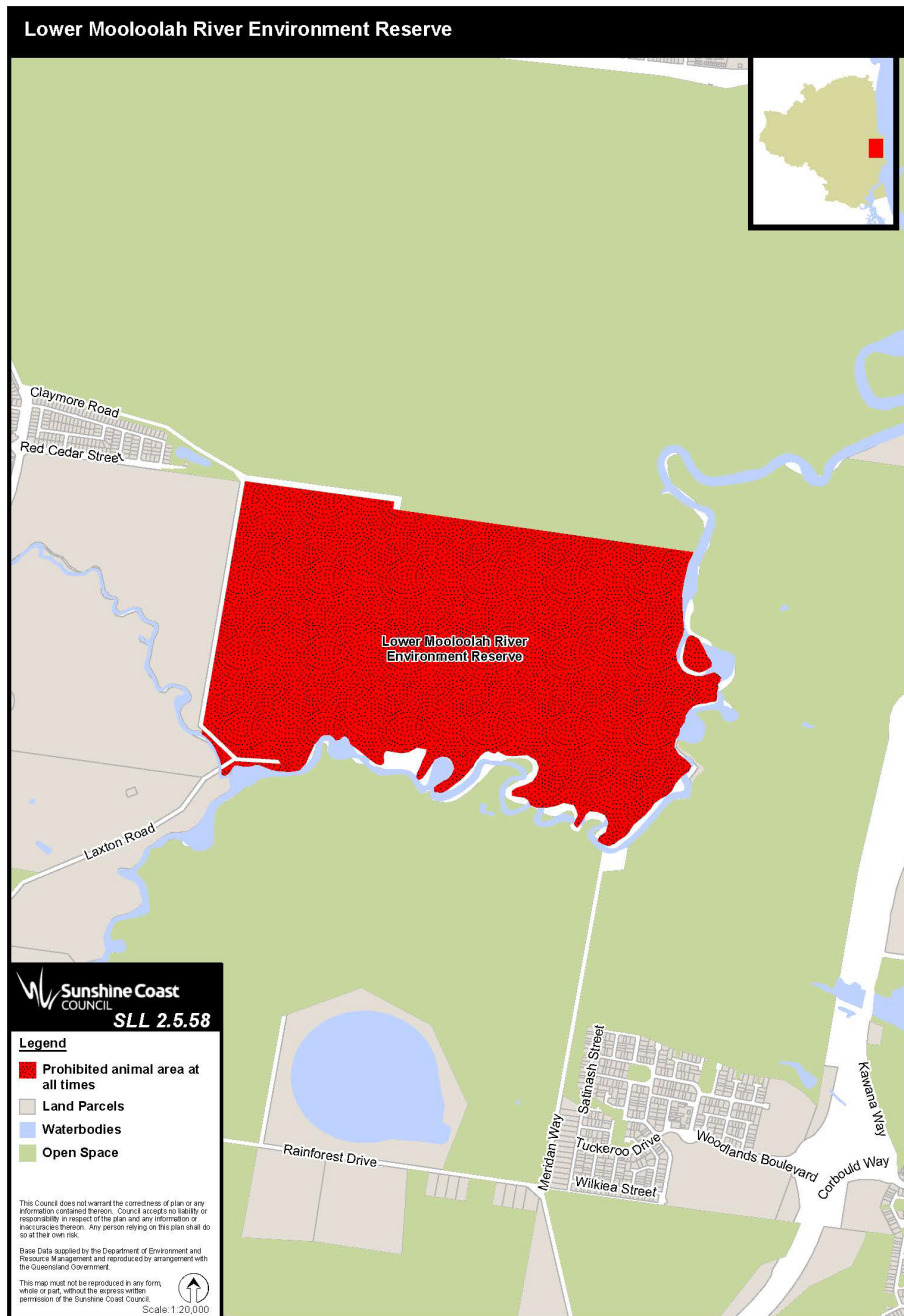


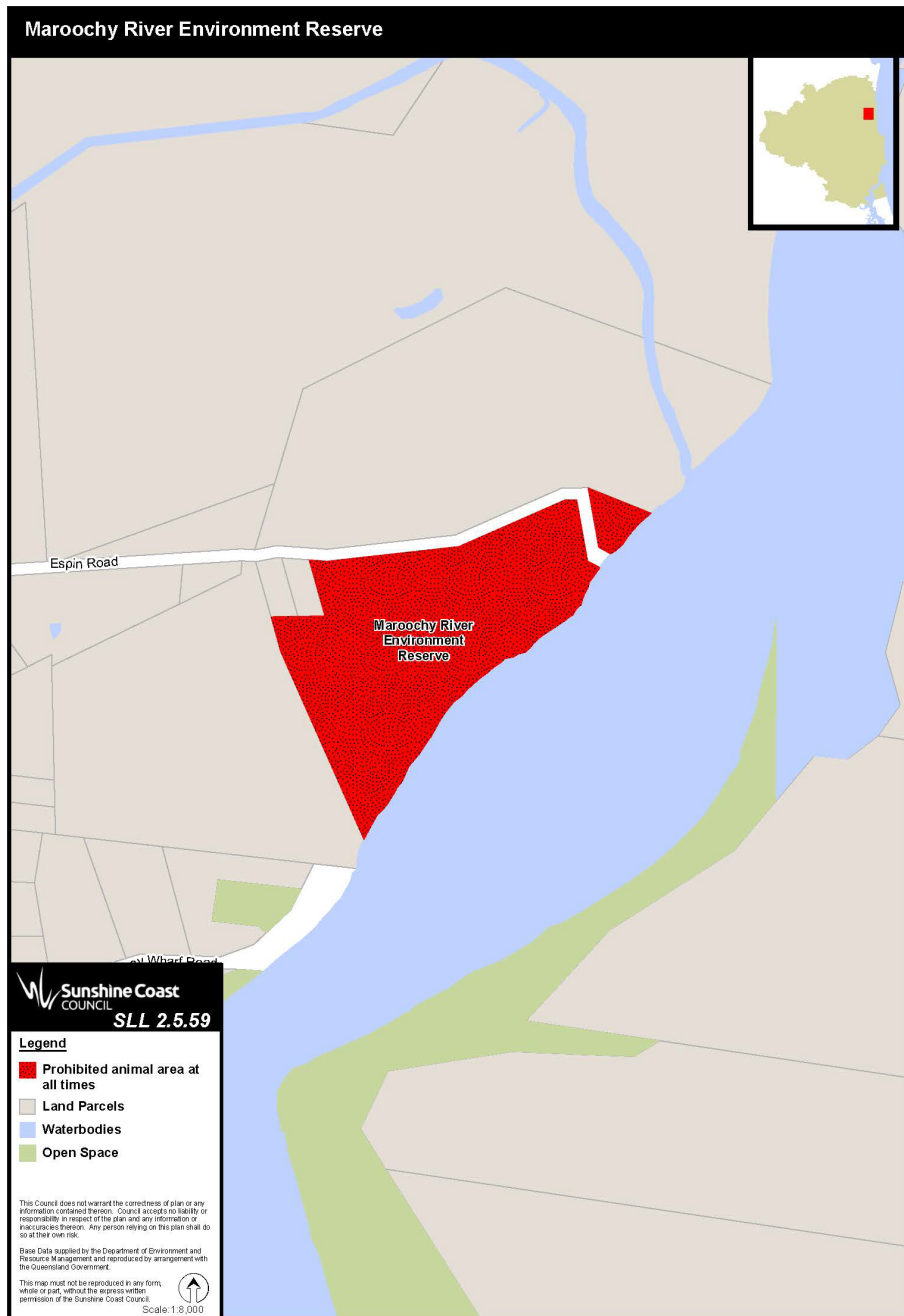


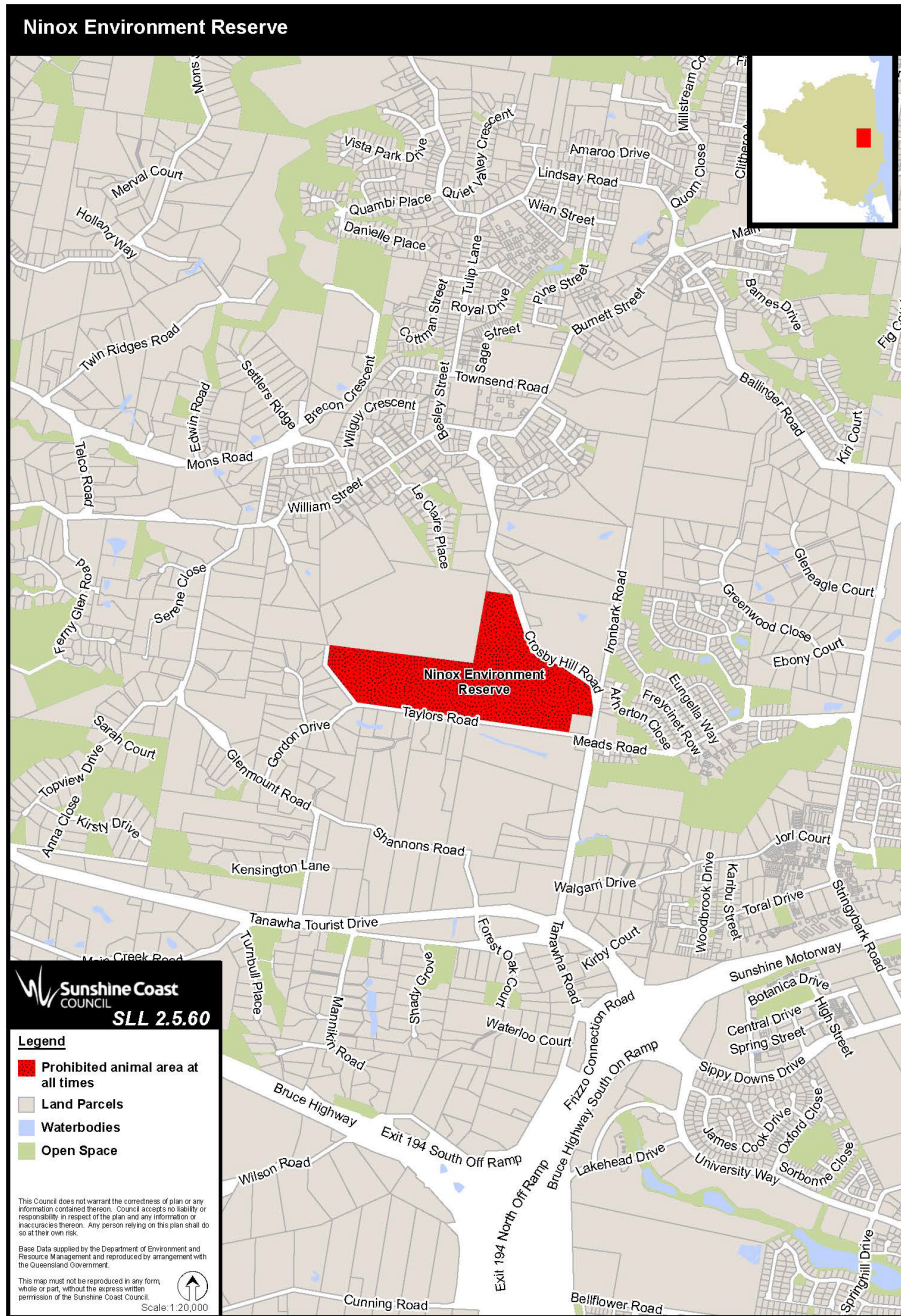


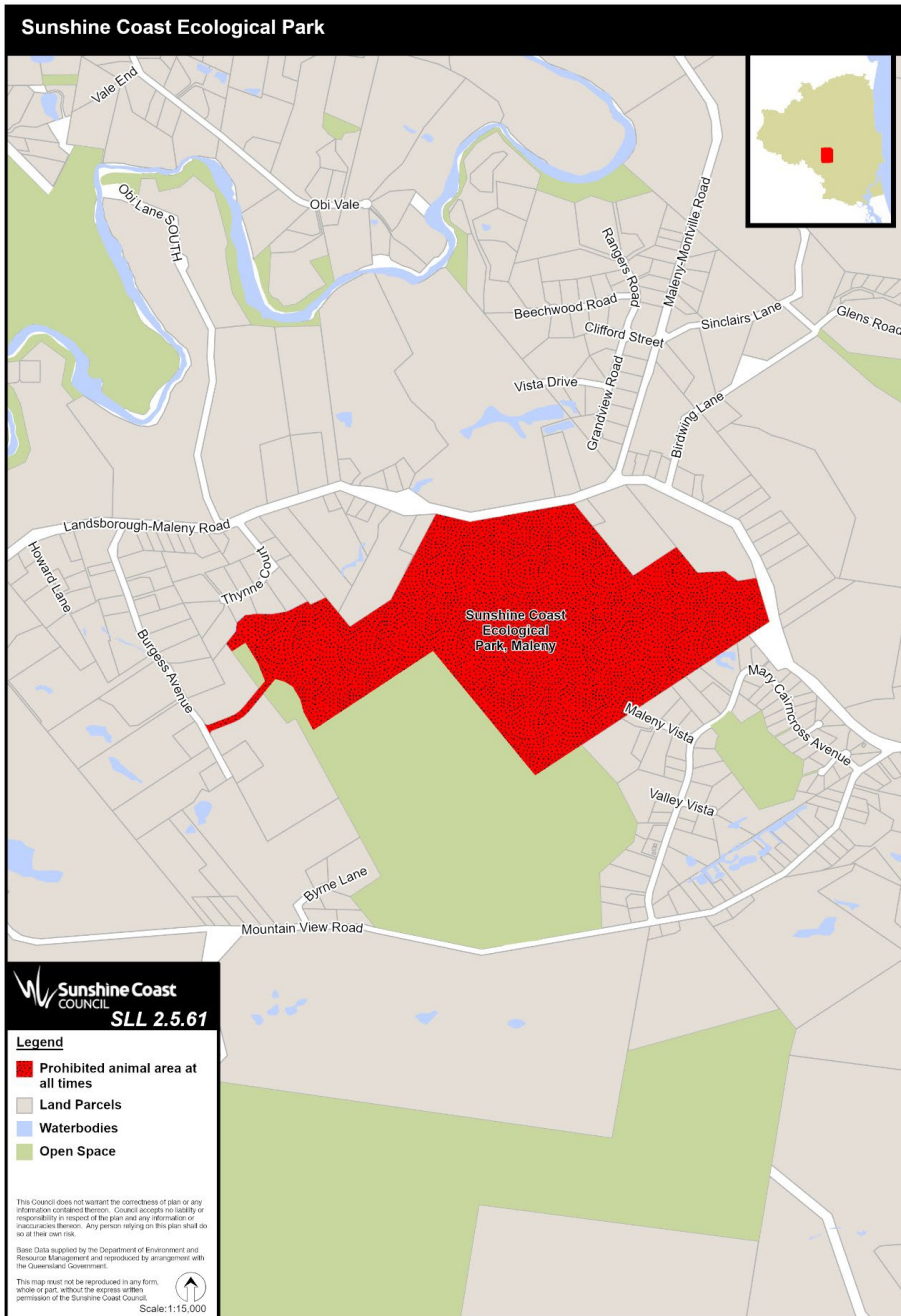


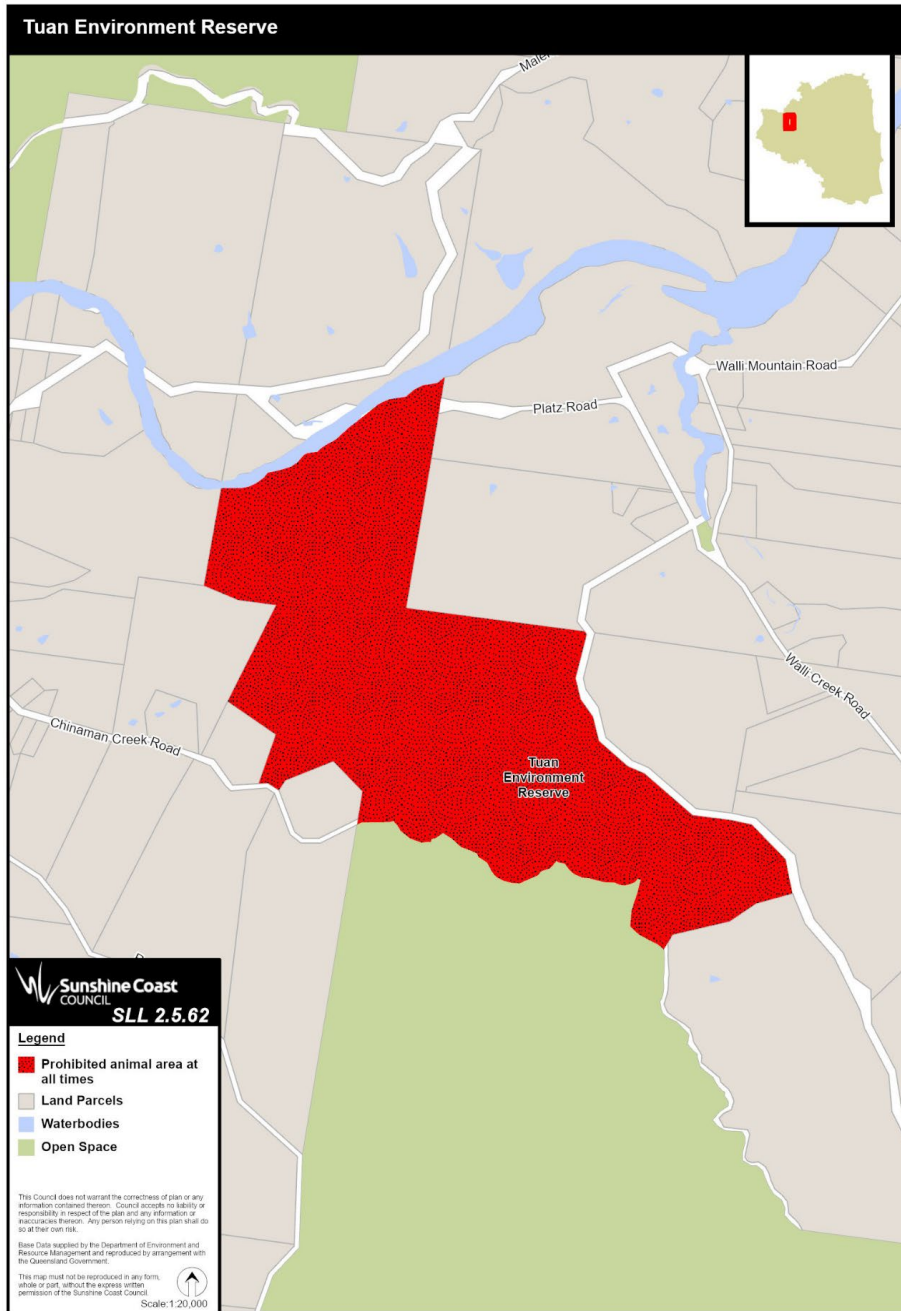


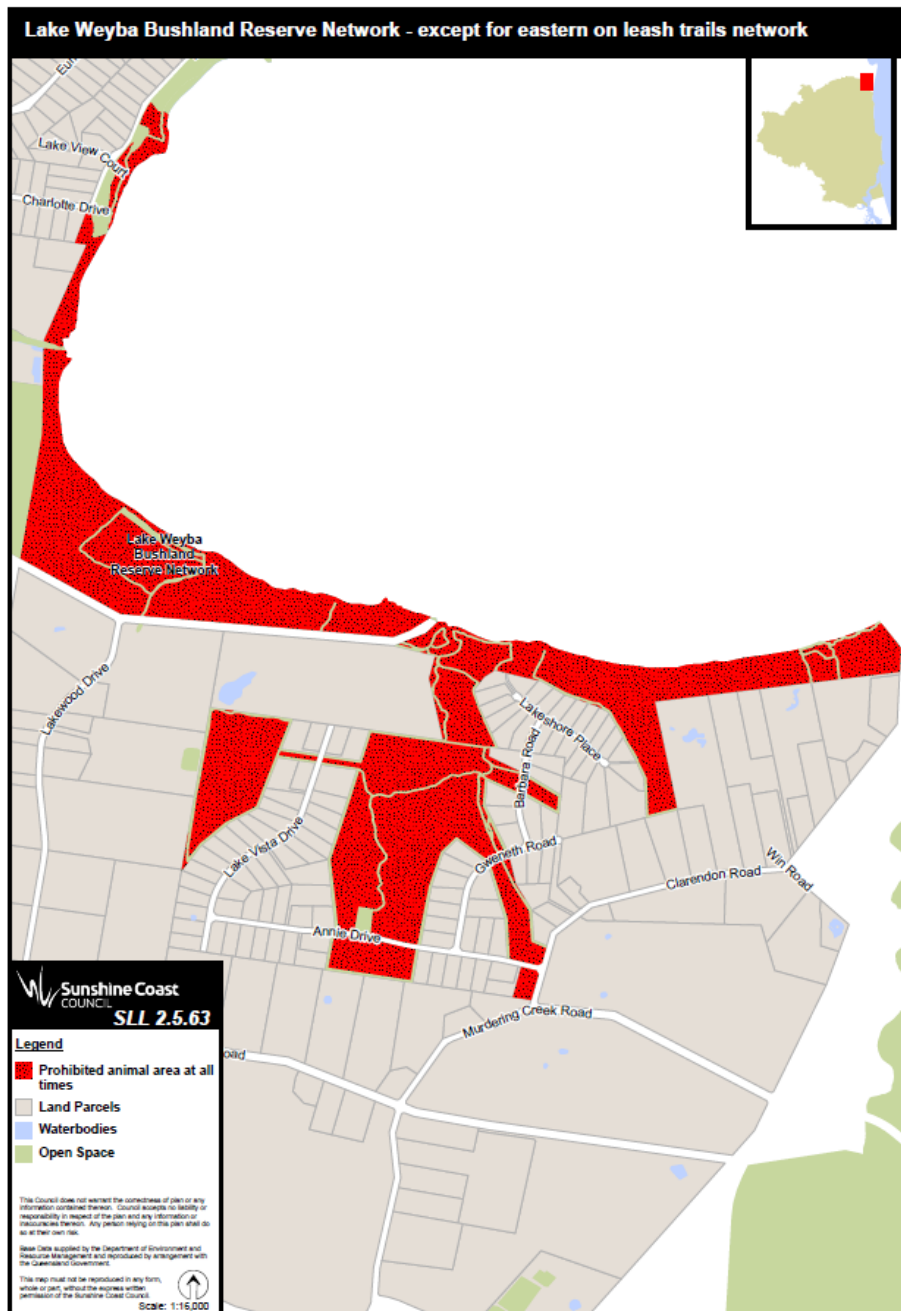


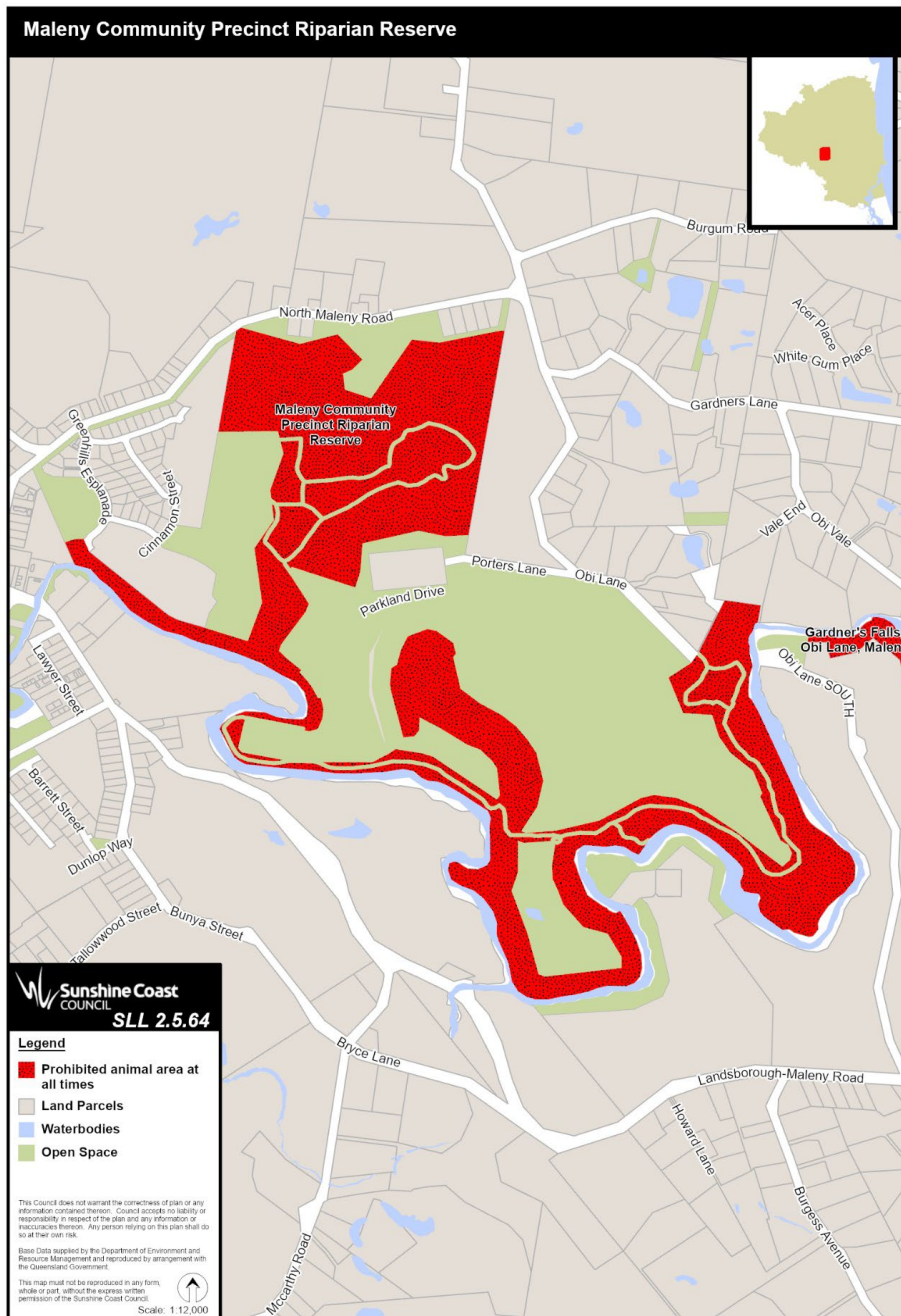




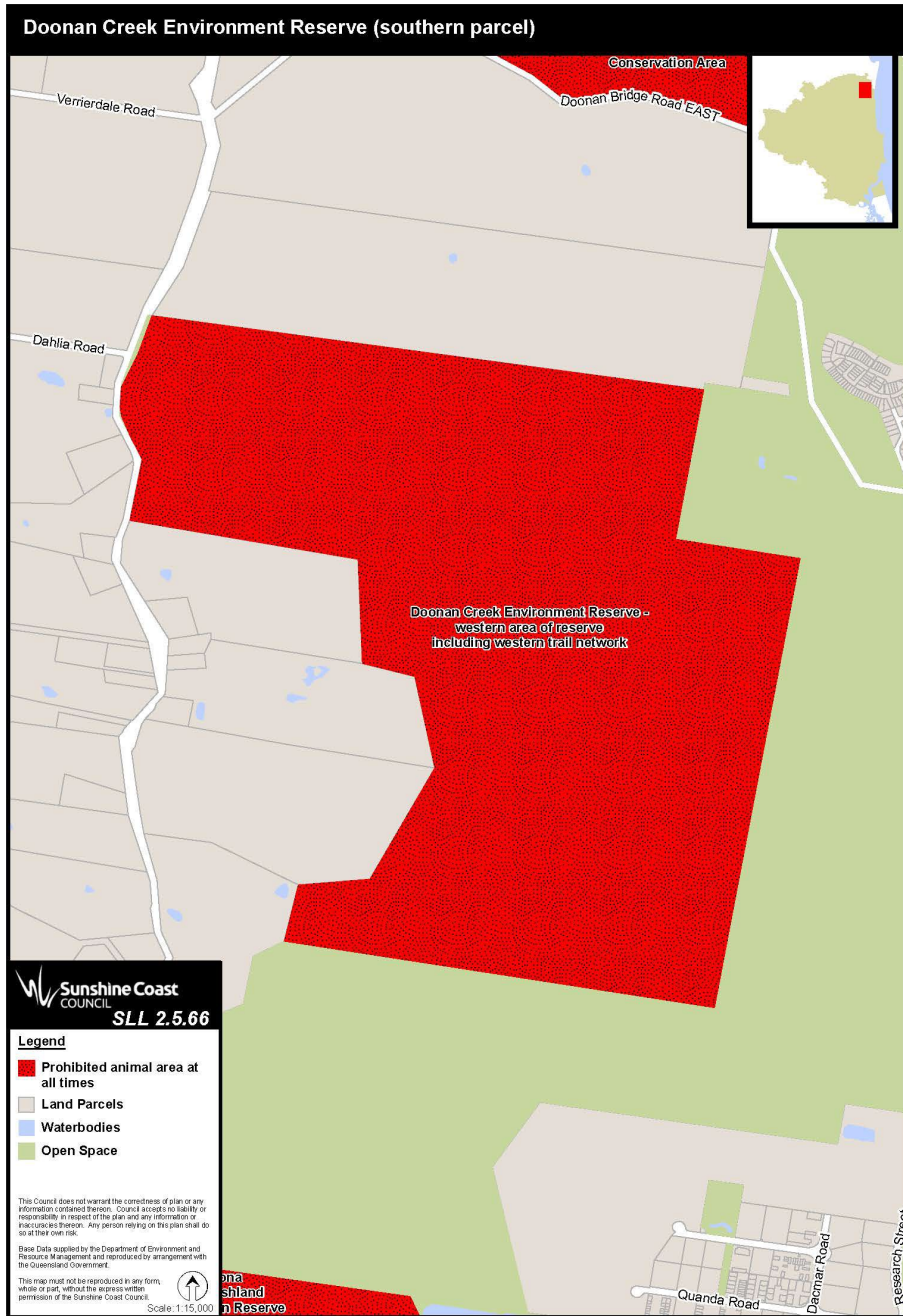


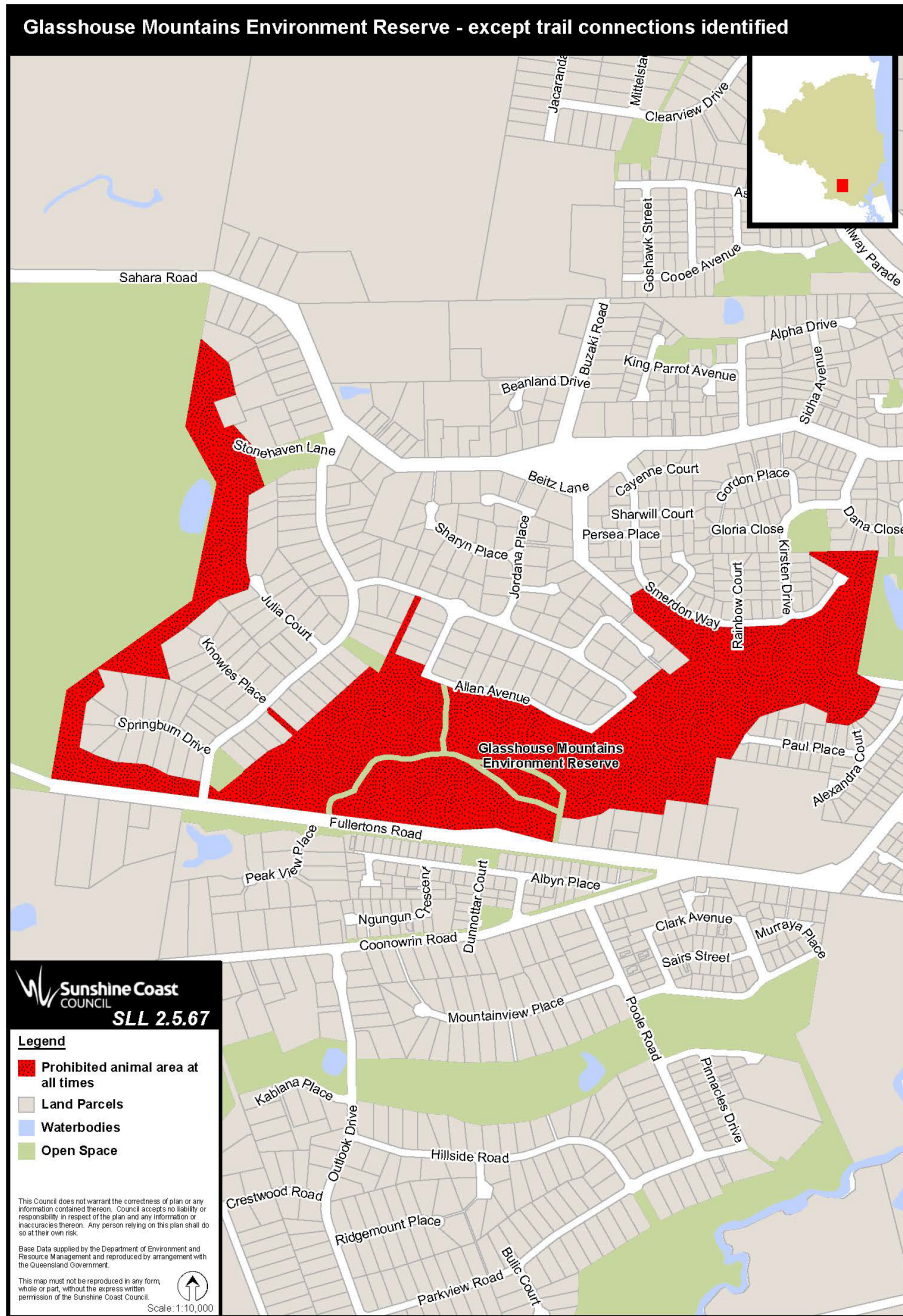


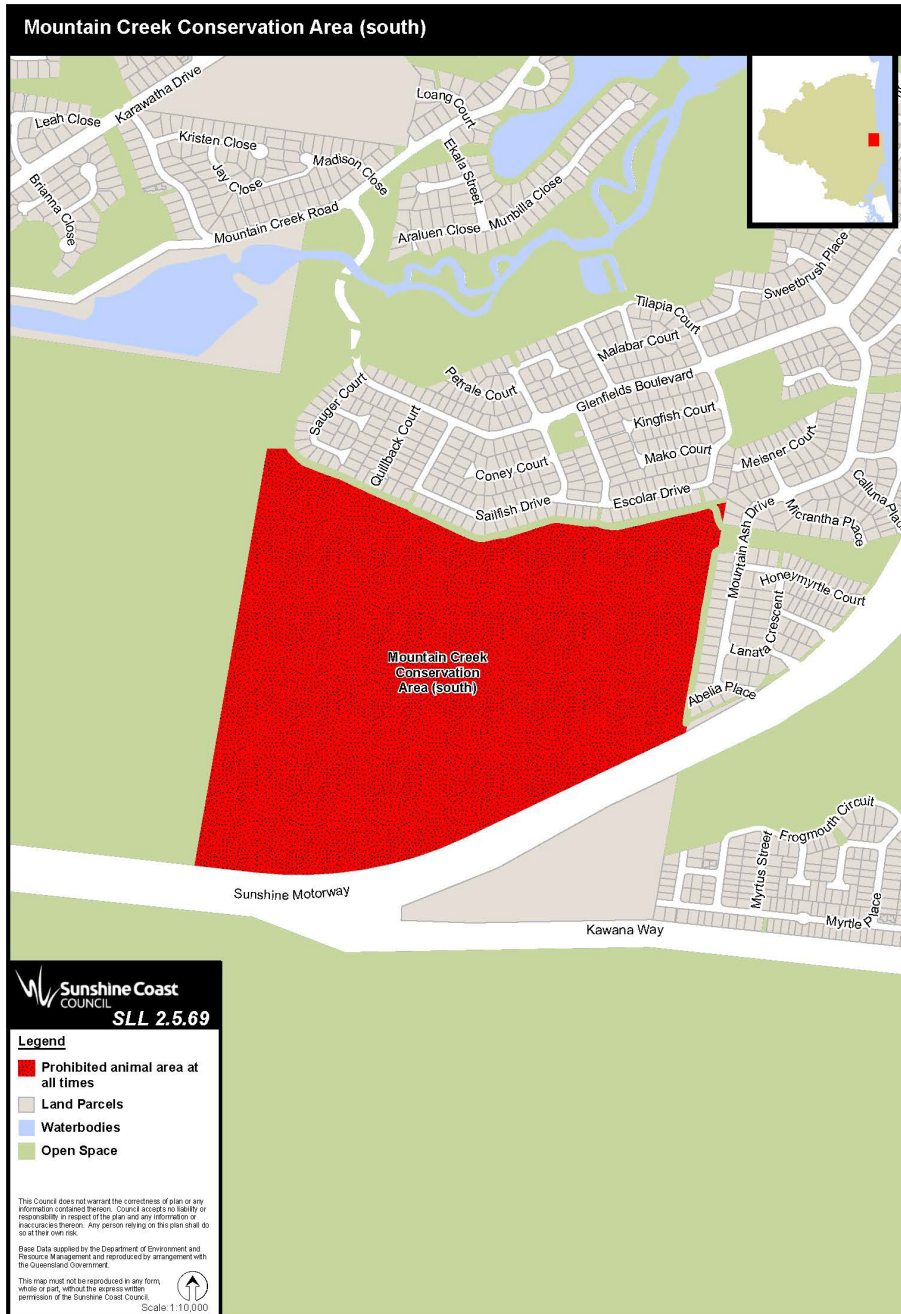












7 Amendment of sch 6 (Dog off-leash areas)

- (1) Schedule 6, table, row 3, column 2, ‘97’—
omit, insert—
96
- (2) Schedule 6, table, row 3, column 4, ‘5am to 9am and 4pm to 8pm’
omit, insert—
4pm to 8am, except in a part of the area that has been temporarily marked out as a bathing area, during the time that it has been marked out as a bathing area²
- (3) Schedule 6, table, row 7, column 4, ‘all times’—
omit, insert—
1 in the seasonal prohibited animal area declared by schedule 5, table, row 21—all times from May to September
2 in the remainder of the area—all times
- (4) Schedule 6, table, row 20, column 2, ‘262’—
omit, insert—
halfway between 261 and 262
- (5) Schedule 6, table, row 28, column 2, ‘Lower Neil Street, Dicky Beach to Russell Street, Shelly Beach (beach access 269 to 276)’—
omit, insert—
Moffat Beach (beach access 269 to 100m east of beach access 275)
- (6) Schedule 6, table, row 28, column 4, ‘at times indicated on signs’—
omit, insert—
4pm to 8am
- (7) Schedule 6, table, row 29, column 2, ‘beach access 276 to 281’—
omit, insert—
150m north of beach access 276 to beach access 281
- (8) Schedule 6, table, after last row—
insert—

park	Scribbly Gum Park, Pelican Waters	SLL 2.6.53	all times
park	Tea Tree Park, Yandina	SLL 2.6.54	all times
foreshore	Mudjimba Beach South (beach access	SLL 2.6.55	all times

² Local Law No. 6 (Bathing Reserves) 2011, section 6, provides for an authorised person to mark out an area as a bathing area by placing 2 patrol flags at different points on or adjacent to the foreshore. The bathing area consists of the area defined by—

- (a) an imaginary line between the 2 patrol flags; and
- (b) lateral boundaries extending seaward from each patrol flag at right angles from the imaginary line; and
- (c) an outer boundary parallel to, and 400 metres to the seaward side of, the imaginary line.

	127 to 130)		
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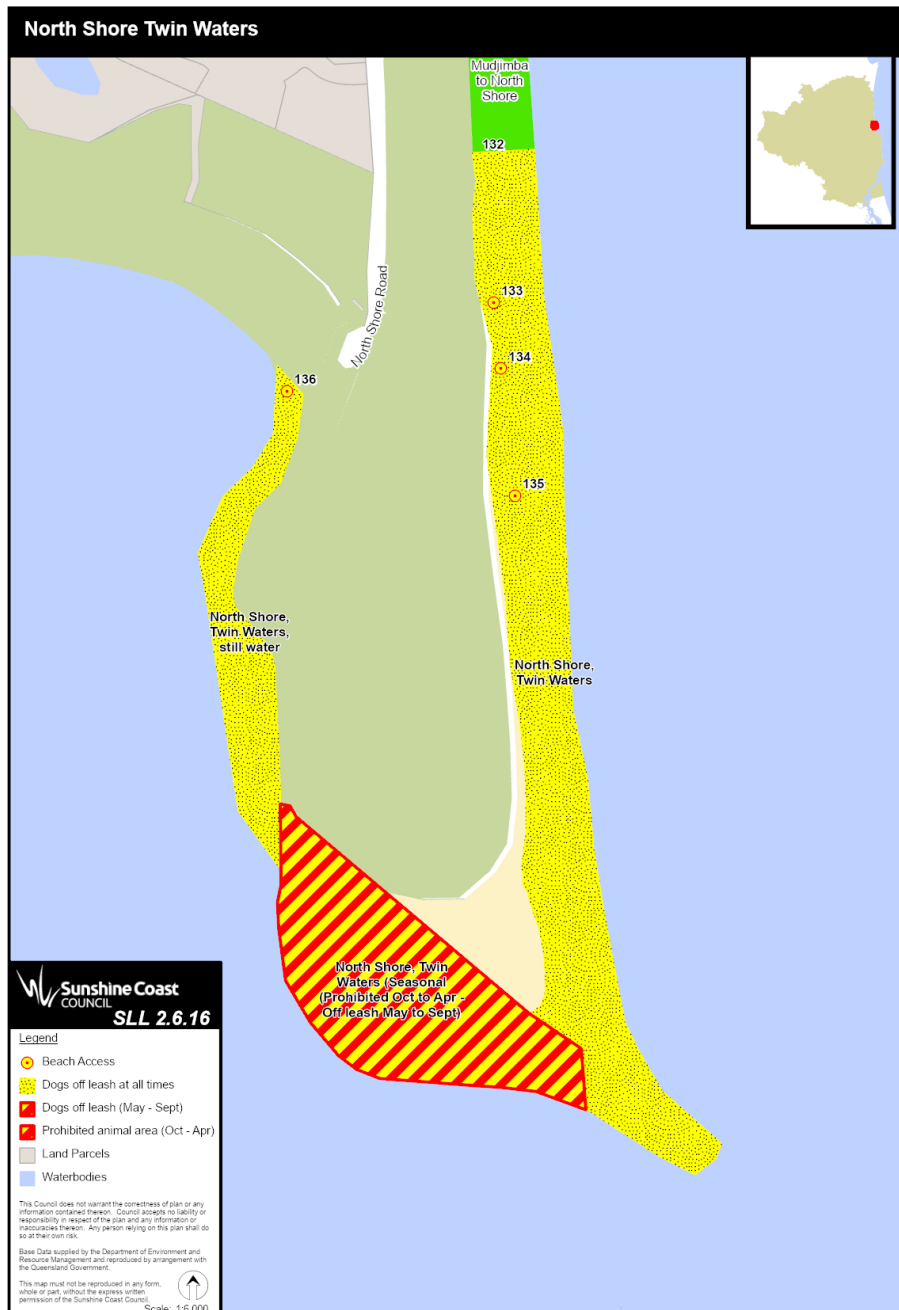
- (9) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.10 (Stumers Creek, Coolum)—
omit, insert—



- (10) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.12 (Town of Seaside)—
omit, insert—



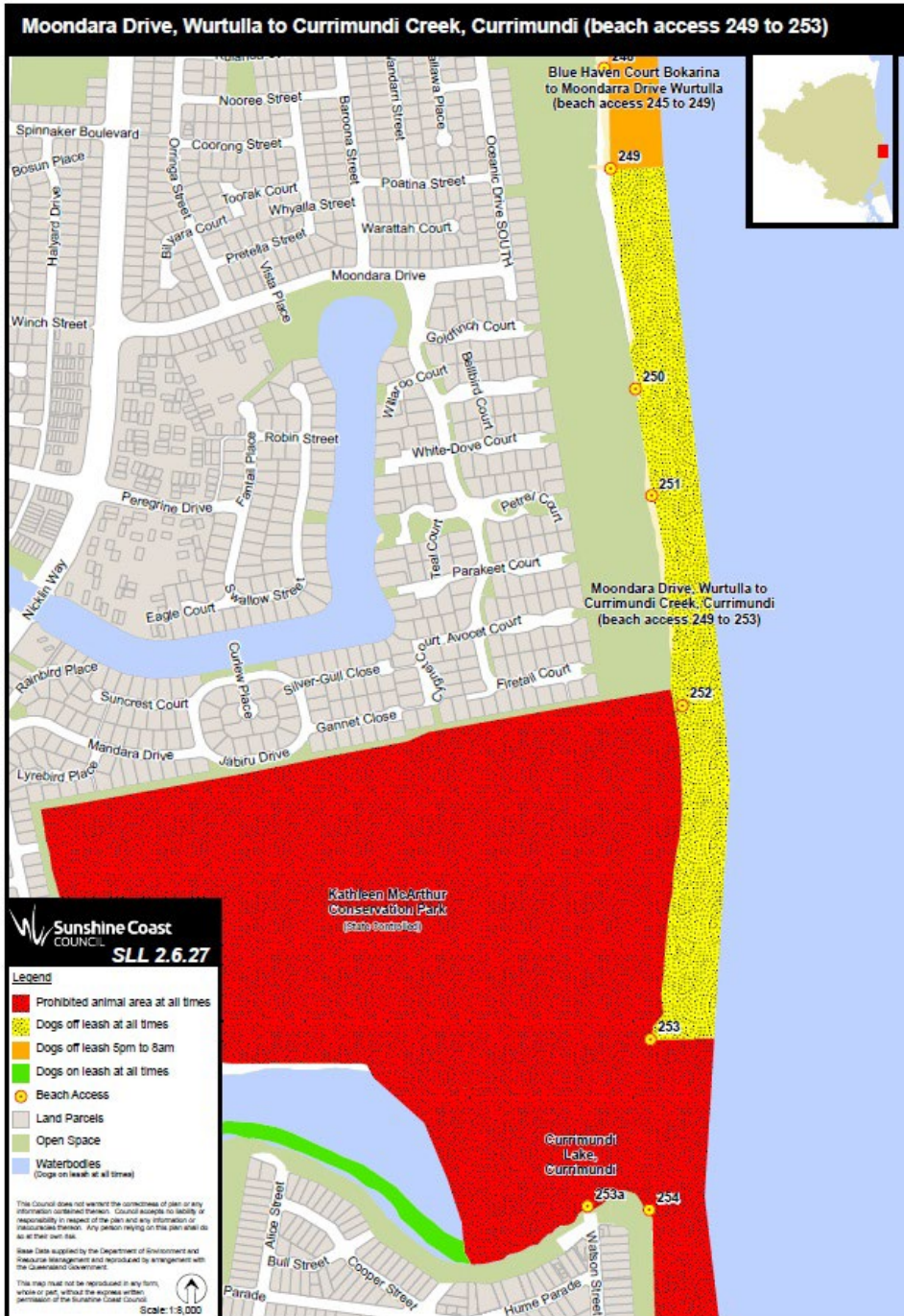
- (11) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.16 (North Shore, Twin Waters)—
omit, insert—



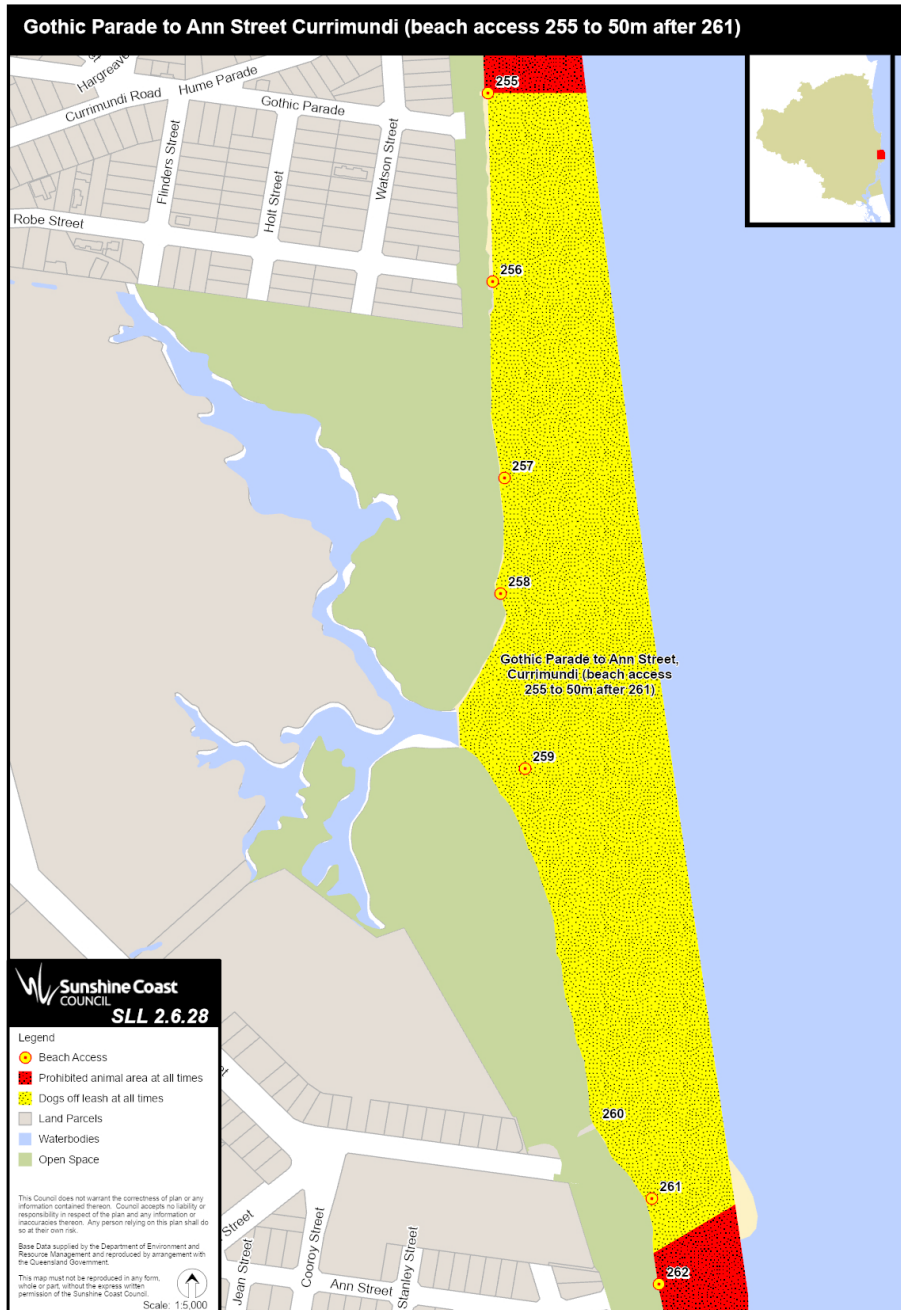
- (12) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.19 (Point Cartwright, Buddina)—
omit, insert—



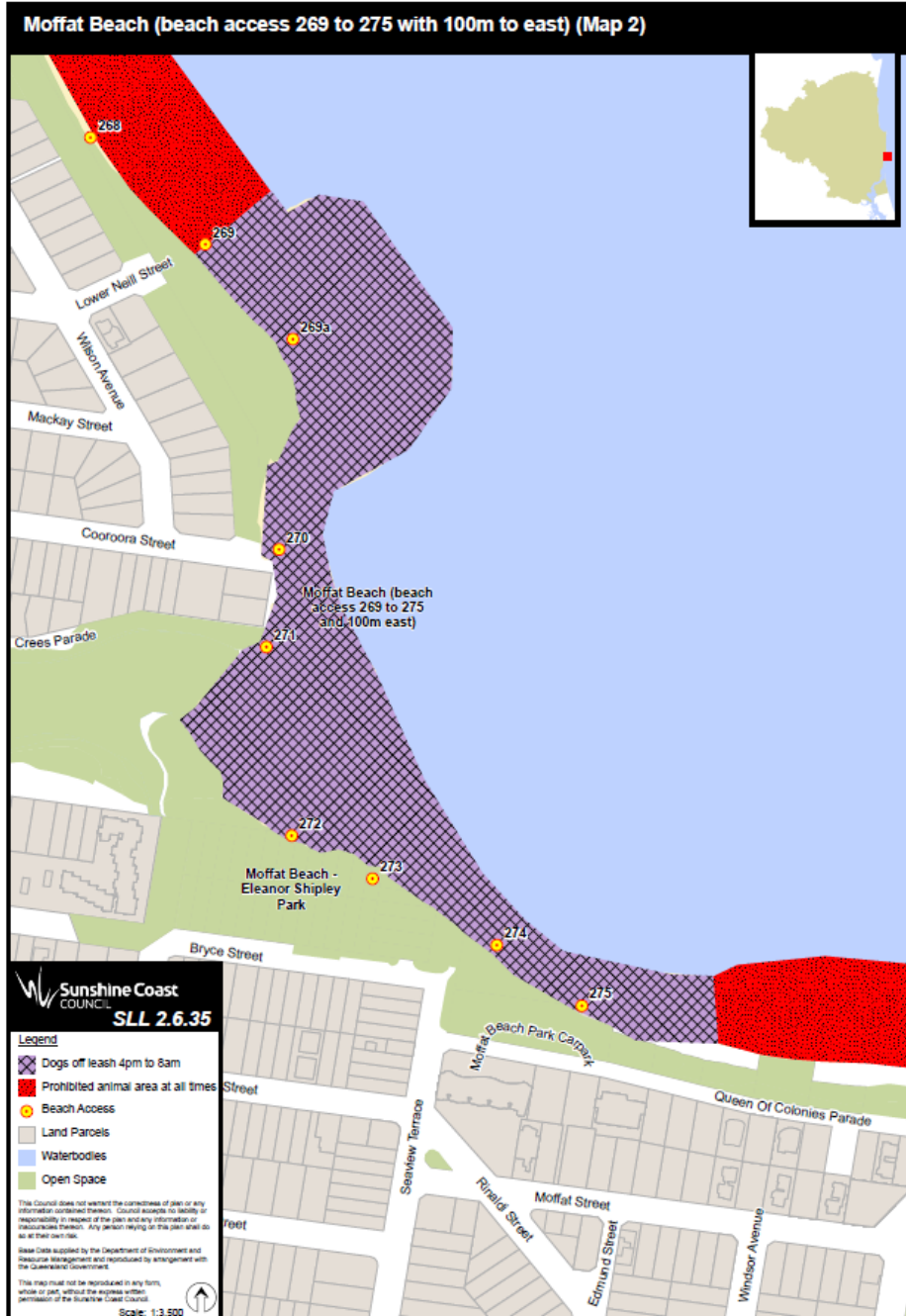
- (13) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.27 (Moondara Drive, Wurtulla to Currimundi Creek, Currimundi)—
omit, insert—



- (14) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.28 (Gothic Street to Ann Street, Currimundi)—
omit, insert—



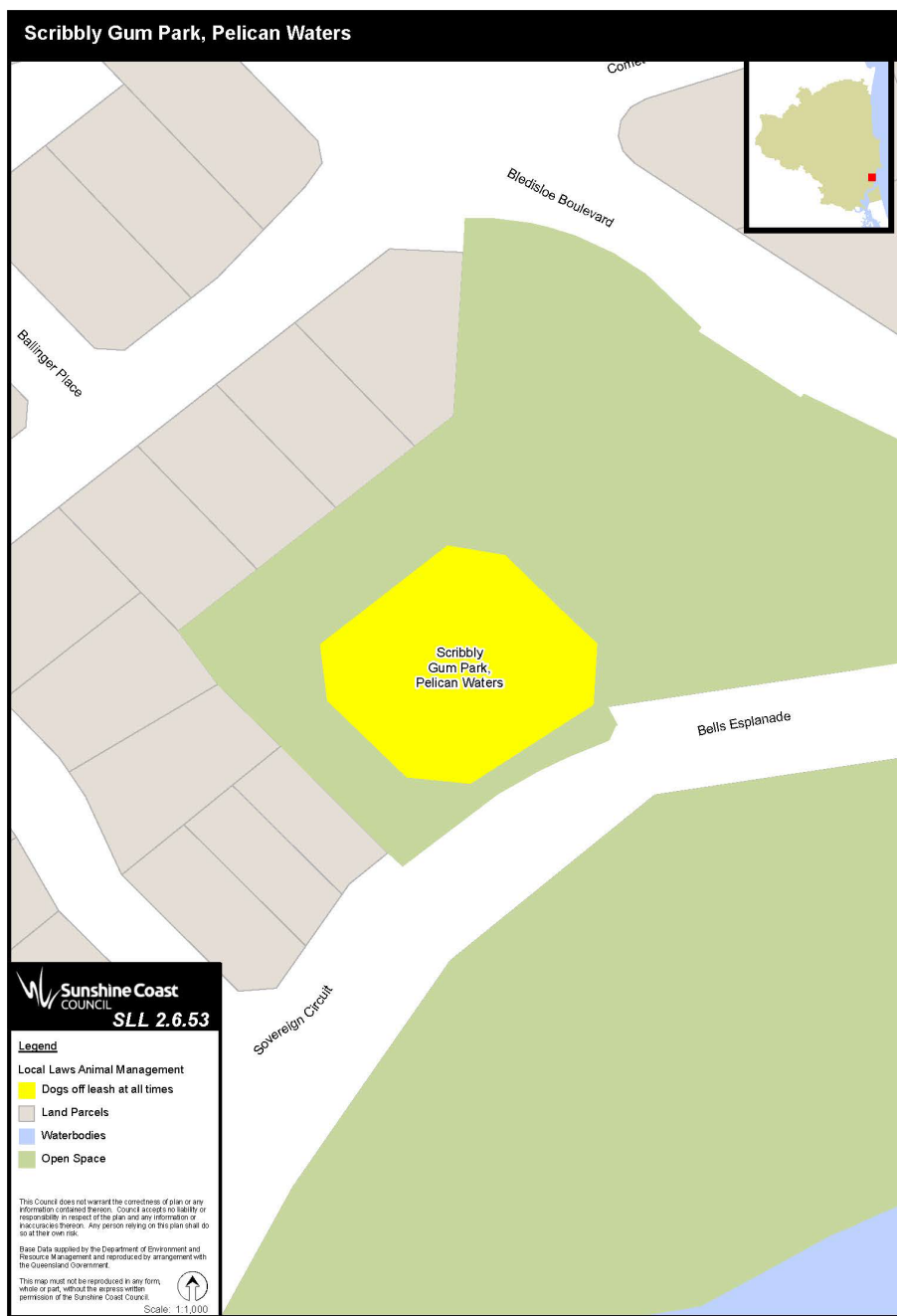
- (15) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.35 (Moffat Beach)—
omit, insert—



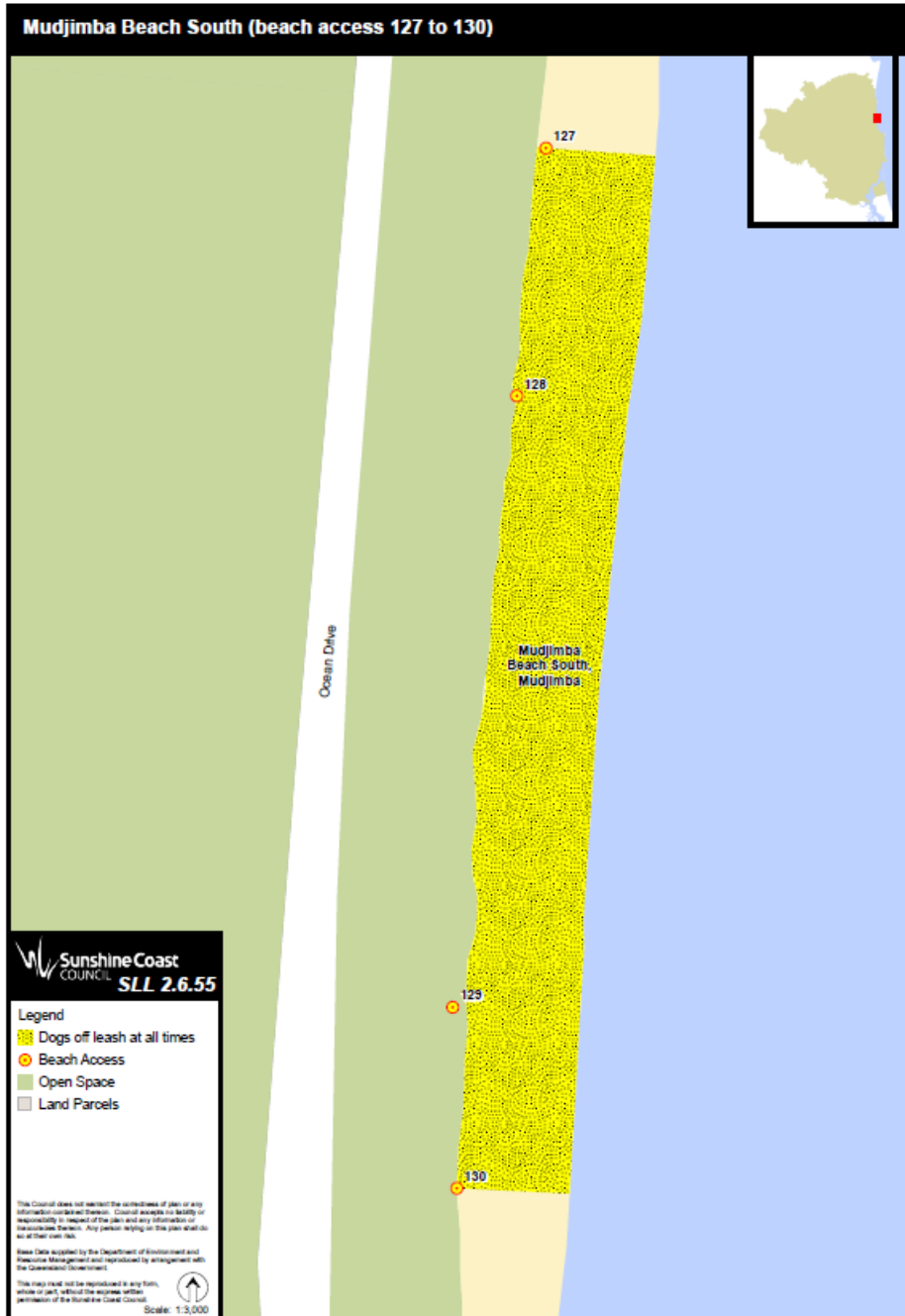
- (16) Schedule 6, map SLL 2.6.36 (Russell Street to Victoria Terrace, Shelly Beach)—
omit, insert—



- (17) Schedule 6, after map SLL 2.6.52—
insert—









Section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act) requires local governments to give ‘proper consideration’ to human rights in actions and when making decisions, and to act and make decisions that are compatible with human rights. An action or decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain ‘compatible with human rights’ when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom (see section 13 of the Act).

In accordance with this legislative obligation, Council has applied a human rights lens to its actions and decisions concerning Dog Exercise Areas (DEAs), specifically in the context of developing a DEA Regional Plan. This document outlines the Human Rights Assessment undertaken to inform consideration, and any approval or endorsement of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint. Human rights assessments will also be completed for any proposed decisions or actions contained within the DEA Regional Plan which are identified as engaging human rights.

The lead Project Team collaborated with the Governance Process and Policy Team to ensure a thorough and compliant assessment process. To support this process, the Queensland Human Rights Commission’s ‘Assessing for compatibility with human rights’ flowchart was employed.

Human Rights engaged

The assessment considered the following human rights:

- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)
- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

What is the objective of the DEA Regional Plan and Network Blueprint?

A network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

Will the proposed plan limit any of the rights in the Act? - Yes.

As the DEA Regional Plan includes content regarding the prohibition or conditional access to certain places based on being in possession of property (dogs), the DEA Regional Plan may be seen to have a limiting impact on freedom of movement and property rights, in particular. Protection of families and children, cultural rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander people, liberty and security of persons, and recognition and equality before the law are all engaged by the Plan’s content. In some instances, this engagement may be a positive contribution to the realisation of these rights. In some instances, individuals may perceive a limitation to these rights, based on the contents within the Plan.

Is it Lawful? - Yes.

The making of a Regional Plan in relation to DEAs is within a local government's powers to do. Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) states a local government has the power to do anything that is necessary or convenient for the good rule and local government of its local government area. To ensure the system of local government is accountable, effective, efficient and sustainable, Council has an obligation under the *Local Government Act* to act in accordance with the local government principles, which are:

- (a) transparent and effective processes, and decision-making in the public interest; and
- (b) sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure, and delivery of effective services; and
- (c) democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement; and
- (d) good governance of, and by, local government; and
- (e) ethical and legal behaviour of councillors, local government employees and councillor advisors.

The key State legislation relevant to the management of domestic dogs in open space is the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld). This Act provides for the identification, registration, effective management and responsible ownership and breeding of dogs in Queensland.

Council's local laws work together with the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld) to regulate and address the management of domestic animals within the region. The purpose of Council's *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* is to assist the local government in the management of animals (including domestic dogs) by:

- minimising the risk to community health, safety and amenity
- reducing environmental harm or environmental nuisance
- supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community.

The *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011* outlines additional requirements for the management of animals (including domestic dogs) within the region. This includes identifying public places where animals are excluded, and designation of places as Dog Off Leash Areas (DOLAs).

Is there a Purpose? - Yes.

The Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint 2025 is an inclusive framework that supports the planning and delivery of DEAs. Delivery of a regional plan of this kind seeks to ensure equitable and well considered service provision of DEAs across the region.

These areas service users' needs and align with our region's environmental and community values as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019 - 2041.

The Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS) provides strategic pathways to guide growth and shape the Sunshine Coast for future generations to 2041. The development and implementation of this Plan is identified as task 11.6, and is required to deliver the 'expanding our greenspace' transformational action to:

“Develop and implement a dog exercise area plan and associated network blueprint”.

Part C: Network Plan of the ELS contains the Desired Standards of Service (DSS) and Network Blueprints for Council owned and managed environment reserves and open space assets and infrastructure within the region. This includes requirements for DOLAs, and the identification of dogs prohibited areas.

Is it Rational? - Yes.

The development of the DEA Regional Plan and Network Blueprint aligns with the Sunshine Coast Community Strategy 2019 - 2041 and the Environment and Liveability Strategy and was developed in line with a robust governance framework. The Plan’s focus is planning for anticipated growth in dog registration numbers throughout the Sunshine Coast over the next 20 years to determine appropriate provision of DEAs.

The vision and objectives of the Plan have been developed in consultation with the community including engagement with focus groups consisting of Sunshine Coast wide representative groups. The following five targeted groups were invited to assist in determining the values and principles used to guide future DEA planning.

- Natural Environment Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on ecological values
- Access and Inclusion Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback regarding social and accessibility values
- Dog related Business and Community Organisation Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on animal welfare values
- First Nations Kabi Kabi Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on cultural heritage and values
- First Nations Jinibara Focus Group
 - To provide specific feedback on cultural heritage and values

The Focus Groups determined the vision for the DEA network as:

A network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

The Project Team also worked with relevant internal branches to utilise existing networks to identify subject matter experts to participate in development of the draft Plan through these focus groups.

The Plan’s development process sought to ensure that the actions recommended in the plan seek to effectively achieve the purpose of the Plan.

Is it Necessary? - Yes.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide long-term strategic direction to accommodate the projected growth in registered dogs. The Plan seeks to support the health, wellbeing and vitality of dogs, dog owners, the environment and our wider community while enhancing the liveability of the region.

Development of the Plan has been based on analysis of current data and dog ownership trends, industry research, and consultation on community and Council values. The Plan

provides a coordinated approach that identifies:

- the types of DEAs Council will provide in the future and DSS, including levels of embellishment
- facilities requiring upgrades to meet the proposed DSS
- the estimated number and size of future DEAs across the region required to address identified deficiencies (with consideration of needs of the wider open space network)
- actions that Council needs to take now to support the delivery of the Plan.

There is a need to provide adequate provision for current and future growth of DEAs which guides recreational use for all users, including dogs and dog owners. The Plan's focus is planning for anticipated growth in dog registration numbers throughout the Sunshine Coast over the next 20 years to determine logical and appropriate provision of DEAs.

Development of a regional plan to guide service provision of DEAs into the future is not an excessively restrictive action, as it is not the instrument which will be relied upon to affect a prohibition or restriction on movement with property. Such requirements would be required to be made through a local law amendment process, which is a highly restrictive action. Nevertheless, in the interests of practicality, consideration of the least restrictive ways to achieve the outcome sought has been a requirement of this project, and will be required should a local law amendment process progress.

In assessing suitability for proposed amendments to current dog off-leash arrangements a Multi Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) which includes a Pairwise assessment has been carried out. A Pairwise assessment is a nationally recognised assessment method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation.

A panel has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the MCRA and Pairwise assessment.

Is it Fair and Balanced? - Yes.

The Plan seeks to balance the needs of dogs and their owners with other community values, in particular through the following five objectives:

1. **To provide sufficient access to DEAs close to where dog owners live:** the Plan seeks to ensure that all dog owners have adequate access to the DEA network, including a DOLA within a reasonable travel distance from their home.
2. **To promote fair access to recreation opportunities across the region:** to provide an appropriate balance between the needs of dog owners and increasing community demand for other outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor open space, including informal greenspace.
3. **To protect environmental values:** to protect significant environmental values, including our region's cultural values, landscapes, habitats and wildlife.
4. **To maintain the safety and comfort of the community:** to ensure DEAs are safe for dogs and their owners and by ensuring access to dog-free areas, recognising that not

all users of the open space network own or appreciate the presence of dogs in public spaces.

5. **To enable appropriate budgeting and prioritisation:** to enable the efficient and fair allocation of Council's capital works and maintenance budgets.

The Plan identifies key typologies for DEAs being Council Wide, District and Local and has identified DSS for considering where DEAs are placed in accordance with spatial dog registration numbers and accessibility catchments.

Council commenced community consultation on the draft Plan in early 2025. The consultation aimed to assess community values and proposed changes to dog exercise provision. This was to gather insights and feedback to inform future planning and decision-making within the Sunshine Coast Council region.

Consultation on the draft Plan was conducted from 4 February to 7 March 2025. A broad engagement strategy was employed, including online surveys, website content, social media campaigns, targeted emails, face to face pop-up sessions and focus group sessions. The approach aimed to achieve diverse community representation and encourage meaningful participation.

Assessment Outcome -

A comprehensive assessment of the DEA Plan has concluded that it is compatible with the Human Rights Act 2019 (QLD).

Although the Plan involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The Plan is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.



In applying section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act), this statement of compatibility is provided with respect to the proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces under strategic action 3.1 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The **proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces** is considered to be compatible with the human rights protected by the Act.

Date of assessment: 12 September 2025
 Completed by: Manager Parks and Gardens, in consultation with Manager Sport & Community Venues
 Reviewed by: Governance Policy & Project Officer (17 October 2025)

Review based solely on the information provided. The reviewer has not independently verified the data and cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

Human rights assessment – the process:

The Act requires local governments to give ‘proper consideration’ to human rights when making decisions. The Act also requires local governments to make decisions which are ‘compatible with human rights’. A decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain ‘compatible with human rights’ when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Section 58 of the Act requires Council to act and make decisions in a way compatible with human rights. The process undertaken to assess human rights compatibility is guided by the Act and includes:

- Identifying which human rights may be affected by the decision;
- Considering the impact of the decision on those rights;
- Identifying countervailing interests or obligations; and
- Balancing the competing interests.

Section 58 of the Act provides:

- (1) *It is unlawful for a public entity—*
- (a) *to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights; or*
- (b) *in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.*
- ...
- (5) *For subsection (1)(b), giving proper consideration to a human right in making a decision includes, but is not limited to—*
- (a) *identifying the human rights that may be affected by the decision; and*
- (b) *considering whether the decision would be compatible with human rights.*

Section 13 of the Act includes (at subsection (1)) the basic test for determining if a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable (and therefore still compatible with the Act). Section 13 provides:

- (1) *A human right may be subject under law only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.*
- (2) *In deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable as mentioned in subsection (1), the following factors may be relevant—*
- (a) *the nature of the human right;*

(b) the nature of the purpose of the limitation, including whether it is consistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;

(c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose, including whether the limitation helps to achieve the purpose;

(d) whether there are any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose;

(e) the importance of the purpose of the limitation;

(f) the importance of preserving the human right, taking into account the nature and extent of the limitation on the human right;

(g) the balance between the matters mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f).

Taking a wide interpretation when identifying relevant human rights and defining any impact on those rights, is supported by *Waratah Coal Pty Ltd v Youth Verdict Ltd & Ors (No 6)* [2022] QLC 21, where the Land Court commented that "Human rights should be construed in the broadest possible way before consideration is given to whether they should be limited".

All human rights perceivably relevant are properly considered, and that consideration is documented below. As the nature and importance of both the human right, and the purpose of the limitation are considered and balanced, there is no significant risk that taking a wide perspective of relevant human rights will result in a distorted consideration or decision.

Where relevant information or context has not been available, this assessment may not reflect the full scope of human rights impacts. Conclusions drawn are limited by the available material.

The decision or action:

Proposal to prohibit dogs from Council owned or controlled active sports field playing surfaces under strategic action 3.1 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The purpose:

To:

- address the challenges presented by dogs on active sports field playing surfaces
- achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose
- enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and
- support public health, safety and wellbeing.

Context:

The proposed prohibition of dogs from sports field active playing surfaces arises from the need to manage competing uses of public space in a manner that is safe, equitable, and environmentally responsible. Sports fields are purpose-built and maintained for organised sporting activities, where close human interaction with the active playing surface is frequent and essential. Exercising dogs (on or off leash) introduces variables that are incompatible with the intended function of these grounds, including risks of contamination, surface degradation, and physical injury.

In considering this proposal, public authorities must balance their dual obligations: to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, and to take reasonable and justifiable actions in pursuit of legitimate objectives such as public safety, environmental protection, and good governance. The application of the Human Rights Act requires a careful assessment of the rights potentially impacted, alongside the rationale for any limitations imposed.

Current settings are that dogs are prohibited off-leash but allowed on-leash on active playing surfaces at the more than 64 sports field sites throughout the region. The prohibition is recommended as a proportionate response to recurring issues including hygiene concerns, injury risks, and conflict between user groups. It aims to provide clarity in the management of shared spaces, reducing ambiguity for both dog owners and sporting organisations, and fostering harmonious coexistence.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders, including community focus groups and technical experts, has informed the scope of the proposal and the identification of alternative dog exercise areas. By adopting a regional, plan-led approach, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, which seeks to provide a network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

In assessing suitability for proposed amendments to current dog off-leash arrangements, a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) which includes a Pairwise assessment has been carried out. A Pairwise assessment is a nationally recognised assessment method whereby items are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually against a set of criteria. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation.

A panel has been established to support current and future dog exercise area location opportunities. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the MCRA and Pairwise assessment.

The panel assembled to undertake a MCRA on the proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces. The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using Pairwise and MCRA methodologies, the evaluation of Sport and Recreation Values, Public Safety, and Access and Inclusion all returned results above moderate risk thresholds for dog access both on and off-leash. This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing

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dogs on and off-leash on sports field active playing surfaces. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs on sports fields is supported by this risk profile.

The proposal forms part of a broader regional plan framework and is designed to ensure that any restriction is both necessary and proportionate. It reflects statutory obligations and principles of sound governance, while recognising the availability of more appropriate alternatives for dog exercise. Controls on incompatible activities are essential to maintain sports field surfaces in optimal condition and to support their continued use for their primary sporting activity purpose.

Findings of this human rights assessment:

Assessment

The assessment identifies that the following rights are relevant:

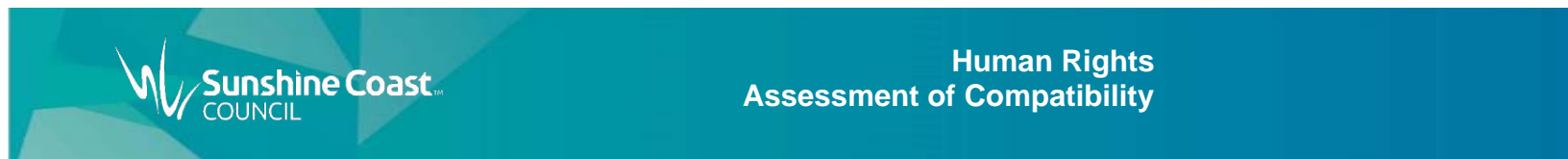
- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)
- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

The assessment identifies that the proposal seeks to contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of some of these rights and results in the limitation of some of these human rights, particularly in relation to freedom of movement and property rights. All perceivable limitations are considered to be reasonable and demonstrably justified. Therefore, the proposal to prohibit dogs from Council owned or controlled sports field playing surfaces is considered to be compatible with the rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).

Document use

This document is intended to be read in whole. Readers should not seek to interpret parts of this document outside of the document's broader context.

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>1</p> <p>Freedom of movement</p> <p><i>Section 19 of the Act states:</i> <i>Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it and has the freedom to choose where to live.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission notes that this right is engaged in policy that limits the ability to move through, remain in, enter or leave areas of public space, including that which restricts access to areas of environmental or cultural significance.</p> <p>The United Nations Human Rights Committee states that laws authoring limits to movement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use precise criteria - not give unfettered discretion - be necessary to protect the purpose - be least intrusive option - be proportionate to the interest protected. 	<p>The proposal seeks to prohibit people moving through public space (Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces) when in possession of property (dogs). Council does not have meaningful data on the current usage of sports field playing surfaces for the purpose of dog exercise and therefore cannot quantify the extent of the application of the limitation.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The effectiveness of dog prohibition to the purposes sought is key to whether this represents a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable limitation. The limitation's effectiveness will be reliant on enforcement to establish community behaviour change ahead of delivery of suitable alternative facilities.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. The proposed limitation on the freedom of movement to prohibit dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>The limitation by prohibiting movement when in possession of a dog will have a direct impact on the challenges caused by dog presence on a sports field active playing surface and will reasonably result in improved hygiene and achievement of the purpose of the limitation.</p> <p>The panel assembled to undertake a MCRA on the proposal to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces. The risk assessment identified that scores below zero indicate unacceptable risk levels. Using</p>	<p>Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability.</p>	<p>The importance of the purpose is compelling as it aims to ensure sport fields can be used for their intended primary purpose of sporting activity (and associated maintenance requirements) with reduced risk of hygiene and safety concerns.</p> <p>Although the Plan including the proposed amendment to sports field access for dogs involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic action 3.1 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from sports field active playing surfaces is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>

What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
		<p>Pairwise and MCRA methodologies, the evaluation of Sport and Recreation Values, Public Safety, and Access and Inclusion all returned results above moderate risk thresholds for dog access both on and off-leash. This collectively indicates an unacceptable risk associated with allowing dogs on and off-leash on sports field active playing surfaces. Consequently, the recommendation to prohibit dogs on sports fields is supported by this risk profile.</p>		
<p>2</p> <p>Property rights</p> <p><i>Section 24 of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>(1) All persons have the right to own property alone or in association with others.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property.</i></p> <p>Under the common law, a domesticated animal is the property of its owners and legally classified as property. This is also reflected in various pieces of federal and state legislation.</p> <p>The term 'deprived' is not defined in the Act but is considered by Queensland Human Rights Commission resources to include the substantial restriction on a person's use or enjoyment of their property.</p> <p>Deprivation of property must not be arbitrary, which means limitations on property rights must be proportionate to the aim sought, and not unpredictable or unreasonable.</p>	<p>Prohibiting dogs from public space has the effect of restricting a person's use or enjoyment of their property (a dog).</p> <p>Where the regulation was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the broader circumstances, it is unlikely this impact would be considered arbitrary.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. The proposed limitation on the freedom of movement to prohibit dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
	<p>The concept of human dignity may raise an expectation that if given the provision of the resources (such as dog hygiene bags) and public education, responsible pet ownership standards can be met without the need to employ the</p>	<p>The limitation by prohibiting movement when in possession of a dog will have a direct impact on the challenges caused by dog presence on sports field active playing surfaces and will reasonably result in improved hygiene and</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
	<p>more restrictive dog (property) regulation. However, given the primary purpose of a sports field active playing surface necessitates frequent and sometimes intensive human interaction with the playing surface, prohibition is reasonable and necessary to improve hygiene, reduce risk and address maintenance and management concerns.</p>	<p>achievement of the purpose of the limitation.</p>		
<p>3</p> <p>Protection of families and children</p> <p><i>Section 26 (1) and (2) of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State.</i></p> <p><i>Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.</i></p> <p>This means, inter alia, all decisions affecting a child, and the best interests of the child, shall be a primary consideration.</p> <p>Past Community consultation confirms that many would consider their dog to be an integral part of their family unit. The purpose of Local Law No. 2 includes "supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community". Past Community consultation feedback indicates support for the expectation that pets are a part of the family unit.</p>	<p>This right provides a lens to consider animal management regulation from the perspective of its impact on families with dogs, and the experience of children, both who are currently utilising sport field active playing surfaces with dogs, and those using these facilities without dogs, particularly when using these facilities for their primary intended purpose of sporting activity.</p> <p>Regulation which seeks to minimise interactions between children and dogs may be seen to enhance a child's right to security of person.</p> <p>Conversely, prohibiting dogs limits a family unit's ability to use a public space for leisure and exercise activities intact, which may otherwise contribute to their family unit's wellbeing and connectedness.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. The proposed limitation on the freedom of movement to prohibit dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose. The purpose is consistent with the enhancement of the protection of families and children to participate safely in sporting activities occurring on sports field active playing surfaces.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
	<p>The limitation to protection of families and children is proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with</p>	<p>Impacting the protection of families and children using these facilities to exercise dogs is required to facilitate achievement of the decision's purpose. The recommended prohibition is</p>		

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	What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
		<p>advancing of protection of family and children who are utilising the sporting facilities for their primary intended purpose.</p>	<p>scoped to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to the relevant playing surfaces.</p>		
4	<p>Liberty and security of person</p> <p><i>Section 29 – (1) of the Act states: Every person has the right to liberty and security.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission states the right of security applies independently of the right to liberty and applies whether or not a person is detained. This means, the right of security of a person could be interpreted to imply an obligation that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the physical safety of those who are in danger of physical harm. This includes freedom from injury to the body and mind.</p>	<p>One purpose of animal management regulation is to reduce the fear and risk of animal attacks on people. Prohibiting dogs in public areas may contribute to an enhancement of the right to security of person. Improved hygiene and reduced sports field ground disturbance may also contribute towards the realisation of security of person in that it can contribute to reduced illness and injury risks.</p> <p>Freedom of movement and property rights may be considered limited for those with dogs, in the protection of the right to security of person.</p> <p>The right to liberty and security of person is not considered limited by the proposed decision. While it could be perceived that removal of an opportunity to exercise a dog in a public space may be seen to reduce access to a wellbeing improving activity, the proposed decision is within the context of a broader regional plan which includes other appropriate offerings for dog exercise areas.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
		<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
		<p>It is difficult to quantify any perceivable limit to security of persons by the proposed decision.</p>	<p>Any perceivable limit to the right of liberty and security of persons is balanced by the enhancement of this right delivered through removing barriers to sports field active playing</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
		surfaces being used for their primary purpose.		
<p>5 Recognition and equality before the law</p> <p><i>Section 15 (2) and (3) of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>(2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.</i></p> <p>This means the human rights protected by the Act cannot be limited in a discriminatory way. People with disability, including people with impairments to mobility, have the right to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.</p> <p>These rights impose a correlative duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a negative obligation not to discriminate, and b) a positive obligation to protect against discrimination. <p>The term 'discrimination' includes direct and indirect discrimination as defined in the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)</i>, which includes the protected attributes of age and impairment.</p>	<p>Sports fields may in some instances be considered to be an easy-to-access place to undertake dog exercise activity for those with limited mobility.</p> <p>As a consistent prohibition setting is being recommended for all sports field active playing surfaces any impact in terms of removal of accessible dog exercise areas is unable to be assessed. However, there are currently 49 alternative dog exercise areas throughout the region for the community to exercise their dogs and the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint has recognised opportunities to provide an additional 22 sites over the next 20 years. Accessibility for people with a disability has been at the forefront of consideration when developing the Plan.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>In the absence of this issue being quantified, it is difficult to assess the reasonableness of the limitation through this lens. However, it is noted that section of the Act seeks to achieve equal protection of the law and the proposal seeks to improve consistency between all like sports fields in the region.</p>	<p>To address the challenges presented by dogs on sports field active playing surfaces, achieve a consistent approach towards protection of public health and safety, achieve a consistent approach to those facilities achieving their intended purpose, enable efficient maintenance and management of these facilities, and support public health, safety and wellbeing. Any possible proposed limitation on recognition and equality before the law through the prohibition of all dogs from all Council owned or controlled sports field active playing surfaces seeks to achieve improved hygiene, reduce injury risk, and reduce conflict between user groups, by providing clarity in the management of these spaces. The proposed limitation removes barriers to these grounds being used for their intended primary purpose.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>There is no relationship between removing easy to access facilities for dog exercise and the limitation's purpose.</p> <p>The recommended prohibition is however scoped to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to the relevant playing surfaces.</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

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In applying section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act), this statement of compatibility is provided with respect to the proposal to prohibit dogs from sections of beach and foreshore under the management control of Sunshine Coast Council, under strategic action 4 of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint (the Plan).

The proposal to prohibit dogs from areas of beaches and foreshores is considered to be compatible with the human rights protected by the Act.

Date of assessment: 22 October 2025
 Completed by: Manager Environmental Operations
 Reviewed by: Governance Policy & Project Officer (31 October 2025)

Human rights assessment – the process:

The Act requires local governments to give ‘proper consideration’ to human rights when making decisions. The Act also requires local governments to make decisions which are ‘compatible with human rights’. A decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain ‘compatible with human rights’ when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Section 58 of the Act requires Council to act and make decisions in a way compatible with human rights. The process undertaken to assess human rights compatibility is guided by the Act and includes:

- Identifying which human rights may be affected by the decision;
- Considering the impact of the decision on those rights;
- Identifying countervailing interests or obligations; and
- Balancing the competing interests.

Section 58 of the Act provides:

- (1) *It is unlawful for a public entity—*
- (a) *to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights; or*
 - (b) *in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.*
- ...
- (5) *For subsection (1)(b), giving proper consideration to a human right in making a decision includes, but is not limited to—*
- (a) *identifying the human rights that may be affected by the decision; and*
 - (b) *considering whether the decision would be compatible with human rights.*

Section 13 of the Act includes (at subsection (1)) the basic test for determining if a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable (and therefore still compatible with the Act). Section 13 provides:

- (1) *A human right may be subject under law only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.*
- (2) *In deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable as mentioned in subsection (1), the following factors may be relevant—*
- (a) *the nature of the human right;*
 - (b) *the nature of the purpose of the limitation, including whether it is consistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;*

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(c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose, including whether the limitation helps to achieve the purpose;

(d) whether there are any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose;

(e) the importance of the purpose of the limitation;

(f) the importance of preserving the human right, taking into account the nature and extent of the limitation on the human right;

(g) the balance between the matters mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f).

Taking a wide interpretation when identifying relevant human rights and defining any impact on those rights, is supported by *Waratah Coal Pty Ltd v Youth Verdict Ltd & Ors (No 6)* [2022] QLC 21, where the Land Court commented that "Human rights should be construed in the broadest possible way before consideration is given to whether they should be limited".

All human rights perceivably relevant are properly considered, and that consideration is documented below. As the nature and importance of both the human right, and the purpose of the limitation are considered and balanced, there is no significant risk that taking a wide perspective of relevant human rights will result in a distorted consideration or decision.

The decision or action:

Proposal to prohibit dogs from areas of beaches and foreshores under strategic action 4 of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The purpose:

To ensure dog exercise areas are suitably located and:

- improve the compatibility of the DEA network with the needs of other recreational users
- enhance the compatibility of the DEA network with the environmental and social values of our beaches and foreshores (including implementation of the Shorebird Plan), and
- ensure that the DEA network is compatible with the cultural values of our landscape.

Context:

The proposed prohibition of dogs from certain beach and foreshore locations arises from the need to manage competing uses of public space in a manner that effectively manages the risk of dog access to the community values identified through the development of the Plan. Beaches and foreshores are managed by Council for a range of values, and in compliance with a various legislation (outlined in the Plan). Managing risk of dog access to environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, public safety and workplace health and safety values is considered through the Plan using a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Analysis, to support a consistent and values-based assessment process, specific to the values identified for beaches and foreshores, and with consideration for compliance with relevant legislation. Exercising dogs (on or off leash) introduces variables that may be incompatible with the values (and risks to those values) for beach and foreshore locations.

In considering this proposal, public authorities must balance their dual obligations: to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, and to take reasonable and justifiable actions in pursuit of legitimate objectives such as public safety, environmental and cultural heritage protection, social, recreational and accessibility outcomes, and good governance. The

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application of the Human Rights Act requires a careful assessment of the rights potentially impacted, alongside the rationale for any limitations imposed.

In some locations, dog prohibition is recommended as a proportionate response to recurring issues, including impacts to sensitive environments, cultural heritage, other recreational uses and users, accessibility, public safety and workplace health and safety (for council staff, contractors and volunteers). It aims to provide clarity in the management of beaches and foreshores, reducing ambiguity for users of these spaces.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders has occurred through the development of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, including through stakeholder input into the design of the plan via Community Focus Groups, engagement with Traditional Custodians, and broad community consultation on the draft Plan. This has informed the scope of the proposal to prohibit dogs from identified areas of beaches and foreshores, and the identification of alternative dog exercise areas across the Sunshine Coast Council region. By adopting a regional, plan-led approach, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, which seeks to provide a network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment, culturally sensitive landscapes and fair and equitable recreational access for all of the community.

The proposal forms part of a broader regional plan framework and is designed to ensure that any restriction to dog access is both necessary and proportionate. It reflects statutory obligations and principles of sound governance, while recognising the availability of more appropriate alternatives for dog exercise. Controls on incompatible activities are essential to enable balanced management of Council managed open space.

Current state and strategic alignment:

Under Local Law 2, Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011, Schedule 4, dogs (all animals) are currently prohibited (unless a sign permits the animal) at:

- beach and foreshore - any part of the foreshore or seashore that is under the local government's control, including bathing reserves
- park/reserve - any park or reserve that adjoins a part of the foreshore or seashore that is under the local government's control

Currently Council allocates 16.9km of off-leash and 22km of on-leash beach and foreshore provision for dogs on Council managed coastline. 9km of beach and foreshore prohibits dog access. The Plan proposed to amend this provision to improve management of risk to environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, public safety and workplace health and safety values and improve compliance with relevant legislation.

As outlined in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy, Part C, Council has a role in the management of Coastal areas. Coastal Desired Standards of Service (DSS) outline requirements for the integration of coastal management principles with planning, management and servicing of all public lands within the Queensland Coastal Zone, with particular focus on coastal foreshores and the adjacent dunes. The Coastal DSS provide guidance on coastal management services necessary to:

- protect, improve and maintain the natural functions and values of the coast and uses that these support
- maintain and/or enhance coastal processes, particularly the stability of the foreshore system, and
- manage our built assets.

ELS Guidelines (Coastal) – planning and management

The following guidelines inform the broad fundamental requirements for coastal management on the Sunshine Coast and should be applied holistically in the planning, management and servicing of all public lands within the Queensland Coastal Zone, with a focus on the Queensland State Government 2100 Coastal Hazard Area.

Coastal water quality, landforms and physical coastal processes

- Water quality, and the long-term stability of dunes and other coastal landforms are preserved and physical coastal processes including erosion, accretion and the movement of sediment are able to occur without interruption.

Nature conservation

- Matters of environmental significance are conserved by avoiding impacts or where impacts cannot be avoided, residual impacts are mitigated through rehabilitation measures

Indigenous cultural heritage

- Aboriginal People and Torres Strait Islanders are the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of their cultural heritage; their connection to coastal and marine resources should be maintained and enhanced.

Public access and enjoyment of the coast

- Public access and use of the coast is maintained or enhanced for current and future generations.

Management planning

- Managing and using coastal land is planned, monitored, reported on and reviewed to achieve continuous improvement in management outcomes.

Knowledge sharing and community engagement

- Knowledge of coastal resources and their management is shared with the community and the community is engaged in decision making processes and activities that affect them.

Planning

- Council's Strategic and Operational Planning:
 - incorporates the Coastal Management Principles
 - is consistent with National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (NRMCC 20061)
- Disaster management planning considers a range of coastal hazard scenarios.

Infrastructure

- Council assets support a coast dependent use and are subject to long-term coastal hazard adaptation planning.
- Council assets and activities are sufficiently resilient to the associated hazard/s.
- Council assets are designed and maintained to support the integrity of coastal values and sustainable uses.
- Council assets within the current climate Erosion Prone Area are subject to Shoreline Erosion Management Planning.

Land and infrastructure management and maintenance

- Maintenance and land management activities are carried out in a manner that does not impact on natural coastal processes or water quality.

Management of beaches and foreshores is also guided by Council's Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP), which provides an integrated, overarching strategic management framework to realise Sunshine Coast Council's vision for a healthy Coast, as outlined in our Environment and Liveability Strategy Part A: Strategic Directions (2023 edition).

Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy outlines a future state for the Coast where 'our coastal areas are healthy, resilient to climate change impacts and support sustainable use'. The HCMP furthers this vision, and seeks to ensure the Coast is:

a healthy, functional, and an adaptive coastal environment that contributes to the liveability of the Sunshine Coast and is enjoyed, cared for, and protected by all who live on or visit the Coast.

Healthy Coast Management Plan (HCMP)

The HCMP objectives state that:

Implementation of the HCMP will achieve the vision for a healthy Coast by ensuring:

- natural coastal processes, landforms, habitats, vegetation, fauna and water quality of the Coast are respected and protected
- the Coast is a valued, healthy and sustainably managed asset that is adaptive to the increasing and changing pressures from climate change and a growing population
- the Coast is a shared asset that provides diverse and sustainable recreation experiences and supports equitable, safe and connected access for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- positive partnerships are built and maintained through ongoing engagement with residents, industry, government and the broader community
- the Coast supports opportunities for all people to connect with each other, their communities, their cultural heritage and the environment
- First Nations’ values, connections, rights, aspirations and knowledge are recognised, respected and supported through their role as traditional custodians of the Coast
- coastal management and planning is based on the best available evidence.

Additional regulatory and policy context that informed the decision making for dog provision on beach and foreshores in the Plan can be found in Section 3 - *Regulatory context* and Section 4 - *Council’s strategic framework*.

The proposed changes in the Plan to prohibit dogs from additional beach and foreshore locations are listed below:

Location	Description	Length of beach/foreshore	Key contributing risks (MCRA)
Point Perry rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited Beach access 81 - 82 Rocky foreshore	725m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Point Arkwright rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited Southern end of Third Bay to beach access 85 Rocky foreshore	750m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
North Shore, Twin Waters	Seasonal closure (dogs prohibited) within high-value migratory shorebird high tide roost area between October - April (as mapped) Sandy beach/river mouth	475m	Environmental, Cultural See MCRA for details
Goat Island	Dogs prohibited Sandbank and beach area on eastern side (outside of Conservation Park area) Sandy beach/island	400m	Environmental, Cultural See MCRA for details
Alexandra Corner	Dogs prohibited Beach access 163 - 164 Sandy beach	100m	Social, Safety, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Point Cartwright (Carties beach)	Dogs prohibited Beach access 196 - 196T (as per sunset clause from 1 July 2026 - Pt Cartwright Master	200m	Environmental, Cultural, Social, Safety, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details

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	Plan) Sandy beach and rocky foreshore		
Currimundi Beach - lake mouth	Dogs prohibited Beach access 253 - 253a/254 Sandy beach/creek mouth	300m	Social, Safety, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Ballinger Beach	Dogs prohibited 50m south of beach access 261 to 262 Sandy beach	50m	Social, Safety, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Moffat Headland rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited 100m east of beach access 275 to 150m north of beach access 276 Rocky foreshore	500m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Caloundra Headland rocky foreshore	Dogs Prohibited Beach access 281 - 283 Rocky foreshore	1175m	Environmental, Cultural, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details
Happy Valley	Dogs Prohibited Beach access 291 - 293 Rocky foreshore	250m	Social, Safety, WHS, Compliance management See MCRA for details

Summary of changes - Beaches and Foreshores

The below table summarises the changes to the lengths of beach and foreshore for off-leash and on-leash dog access, and dogs prohibited for the 47.1km of Council controlled beaches and foreshores. For some locations where off-leash access is provisioned, this includes timed and/or seasonal access, with on-leash provision outside of these times. The seasonal prohibition at North Shore has been calculated as dogs prohibited in the below table.

	Off-leash	On-leash	Prohibited
Current provision	16.9 km	21.8 km	8.4 km
Proposed provision	16.4 km	17.9 km	12.8 km
Change	-0.5 km	-3.9 km	+4.4km
% of beach and foreshore provision - Current	36%	46%	18%
% of beach and foreshore provision - Proposed	35%	38%	27%

Findings of this human rights assessment:

Assessment

The assessment identifies that the following rights are relevant:

- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)

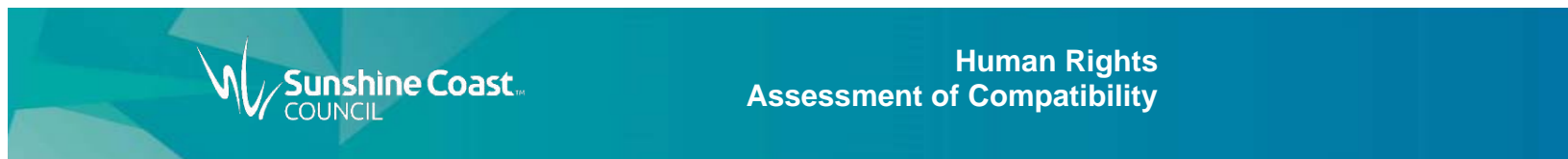
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- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

The assessment identifies that the proposal seeks to contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of some of these rights and results in the limitation of some of these human rights, particularly in relation to freedom of movement and property rights. All perceivable limitations are considered to be reasonable and demonstrably justified. Therefore, the proposal to prohibit dogs from identified Council managed beach and foreshore locations is considered to be compatible with the rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).

Document use

This document is intended to be read in whole. Readers should not seek to interpret parts of this document outside of the document's broader context.



What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>1</p> <p>Freedom of movement</p> <p><i>Section 19 of the Act states:</i> <i>Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it and has the freedom to choose where to live.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission notes that this right is engaged in policy that limits the ability to move through, remain in, enter or leave areas of public space, including that which restricts access to areas of environmental or cultural significance.</p> <p>The United Nations Human Rights Committee states that laws authoring limits to movement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use precise criteria - not give unfettered discretion - be necessary to protect the purpose - be least intrusive option - be proportionate to the interest protected. 	<p>Dog access to beach and foreshore areas on the Sunshine Coast is already subject to restrictions under the Subordinate Local Law 2, which states that dogs are prohibited unless a sign indicates otherwise.</p> <p>The recommendation to prohibit movement when in possession of property (dogs) for identified beach and foreshore locations is a limitation to freedom of movement.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to the values associated with beach and foreshore locations and ensure a balanced, consistent and well planned approach to managing dog access in these locations.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to prohibit dogs from beach and foreshore locations where the risk has been deemed unacceptable through the Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Analysis process for beaches and foreshores.</p> <p>This assessment considers relevant legislation, Council policy and community values (environment, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety, ability to manage compliance) in assessing risk of dog access to beach and foreshore locations. Prohibition is only recommended where the MCRA identifies the risk is unacceptable. The MCRA considers existing and alternate risk management controls that could be feasibly implemented to reduce the risk before recommending prohibition of dogs from an areas of beach or foreshore.</p>	<p>Increased education and compliance efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education and compliance alone are not reasonably available options to achieve the purpose with reliability.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to prohibit dogs from beach and foreshore locations where the risk has been deemed unacceptable through the Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment and Pairwise Analysis process for beaches and foreshores.</p> <p>This assessment considers relevant legislation, Council policy and community values (environment, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety, ability to manage compliance) in assessing risk of dog access to beach and foreshore locations. Prohibition is only recommended where the</p>	<p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendment to implement additional prohibition of dogs from some areas of beach and foreshore, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic action 4 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The Plan focuses on protection of environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values for beach and foreshore locations, recognising that a balance is required to ensure compliance with other legislation and support safe, fair and equitable access for all community members. The Plan recognises that dog access to open spaces is an important social and recreational activity, and that where the balance of values can be effectively managed dog access can be retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their freedom of movement was impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs. For these members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved freedom of movement.</p> <p>The effectiveness of dog prohibition to the purposes sought is key to whether this represents a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable limitation. The limitation's effectiveness will be reliant on enforcement to establish community behaviour change ahead of delivery of suitable alternative facilities. In implementing the proposed changes, Council intends to undertake community education through communications, media, signage, online mapping, local educational pop-ups, and annual training programs for dog owners.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>Prohibition of domestic dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations has a direct relationship with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving the compatibility of the DEA network with the needs of other recreational users - enhancing the compatibility of the DEA network with the environmental and social values of our beaches and foreshores (including implementation of the Shorebird Plan), and - ensuring that the DEA network is compatible with the cultural values of our landscape. <p>Proposed changes to dog access at each identified location were developed through the MCRA and Pairwise Analysis process.</p>	<p>MCRA identifies the risk is unacceptable, with off-leash and on-leash access continuing to be provided in locations where risk is deemed acceptable.</p> <p>The MCRA considers existing and alternate risk management controls that could be feasibly implemented to reduce the risk before recommending prohibition of dogs from an areas of beach or foreshore.</p>	

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>2 Property rights</p> <p><i>Section 24 of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>(1) All persons have the right to own property alone or in association with others.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property.</i></p> <p>Under the common law, a domesticated animal is the property of its owners and legally classified as property. This is also reflected in various pieces of federal and state legislation.</p> <p>The term 'deprived' is not defined in the Act but is considered by Queensland Human Rights Commission resources to include the substantial restriction on a person's use or enjoyment of their property.</p> <p>Deprivation of property must not be arbitrary, which means limitations on property rights must be proportionate to the aim sought, and not unpredictable or unreasonable.</p>	<p>Prohibiting dogs from public space has the effect of restricting a person's use or enjoyment of their property (a dog).</p> <p>Where the regulation was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the broader circumstances, it is unlikely this impact would be considered arbitrary.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The Plan focuses on protection of environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values for beach and foreshore locations, recognising that a balance is required to ensure compliance with other legislation and support safe, fair and equitable access for all community members. The Plan recognises that dog access to open spaces is an important social and recreational activity, and that where the balance of values can be effectively managed dog access can be retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs (property) from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, safety, accessibility, management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair and equitable provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed.</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
	As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.			
<p>3 Protection of families and children</p> <p><i>Section 26 (1) and (2) of the Act states:</i> <i>Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State.</i> <i>Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.</i></p> <p>This means, inter alia, all decisions affecting a child, and the best interests of the child, shall be a primary consideration.</p> <p>Past Community consultation confirms that many would consider their dog to be an integral part of their family unit. The purpose of Local Law No. 2 includes "supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community". Past Community consultation feedback indicates support for the expectation that pets are a part of the family unit.</p>	<p>This right provides a lens to consider animal management regulation from the perspective of its impact on families with dogs, and the experience of children, both who are currently utilising beach and foreshore locations with dogs, and those frequenting these locations without dogs.</p> <p>Regulation which seeks to minimise interactions between children and dogs may be seen to enhance a child's right to security of person.</p> <p>Conversely, prohibiting dogs limits a family unit's ability to use a public space for leisure and exercise activities intact, which may otherwise contribute to their family unit's wellbeing and connectedness.</p> <p>The Plan identifies the importance of public safety when provisioning dog exercise areas and aims to achieve a balanced provision for both dog owners and non-dog owners over the next 20 years through the action plan and network blueprint, including consideration for balancing human rights in the making of the plan.</p>	As above	As above	As above
	Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?	What is the relationship between the limitation and its		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.	
		<p>purpose?</p> <p>The Plan focuses on protection of environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values for beach and foreshore locations, recognising that a balance is required to ensure compliance with other legislation and support safe, fair and equitable access for all community members, including families and children. The Plan recognises that dog access to open spaces is an important social and recreational activity, and that where the balance of values can be effectively managed dog access can be retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their freedom of movement was impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs, including for families and children. For these members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved freedom of movement.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety (including families and children), management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair and equitable provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are</p>	<p>purpose?</p> <p>Impacting the protection of families and children frequenting these places to exercise dogs is required to facilitate achievement of the decision's purpose. The recommended prohibition of dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations is considered to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to those assessed as unacceptable risk through the MCRA and Pairwise Analysis process.</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
	reasonable and justifiable.			
<p>4 Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples</p> <p>Section 28 states:</p> <p><i>(1) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinct cultural rights.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not be denied the right, with other members of their community –</i></p> <p><i>(a) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their identity and cultural heritage, including their traditional knowledge, distinctive spiritual practices, observances, beliefs and teachings; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect, develop and use their language, including traditional cultural expressions; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their kinship ties; and</i></p> <p><i>(d) to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which they have a connection under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of their land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.</i></p>	<p>One purpose of animal management regulation is to reduce the impact of domestic animals on cultural heritage and environmental values.</p> <p>Prohibiting dogs in beach and foreshore locations where high environmental and/or cultural heritage values (tangible or intangible) are known to be present may contribute to an enhancement of the right of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to conserve and protect the environment. Feedback was sought from Traditional Owners on their values, and impacts to those values of dog access across Council open spaces, and this has been considered in the assessment process and Plan recommendations.</p>	<p>The proposed prohibition of dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations seeks to achieve improved environmental and cultural heritage protection in locations where these values are present.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p> <p>The proposed amendment does not appear incompatible with cultural rights. Continued engagement with the Traditional Custodians, to ensure all recommendations appropriately respect and protect relevant cultural rights is recommended.</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>		

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5	<p>Liberty and security of person</p> <p>Section 29 – (1) of the Act states: <i>Every person has the right to liberty and security.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission states the right of security applies independently of the right to liberty, and applies whether or not a person is detained. This means, the right of security of a person could be interpreted to imply an obligation that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the physical safety of those who are in danger of physical harm. This includes freedom from injury to the body and mind.</p>	<p>An argument could be raised that some users of beach and foreshore areas may only feel safe using these places for exercise when accompanied by their dog, and could perceive the prohibition of dogs as an action decreasing their feeling of security of person, for example, a woman running on an isolated beach or foreshore at dawn or dusk with a dog. Conversely there may be some users of beaches and foreshores who may feel safer to enjoy a beach or foreshore should dogs be prohibited, if for example, they have a fear of dogs. In that scenario a person may feel an increased sense of security of person from the proposed restriction.</p>	As above	As above	As above.
		<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>In the context of a regional plan where other facilities exist to meet various community member needs, the limitation to security of person is likely to be considered proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with effectively managing the environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values of the community.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their liberty and security of person was negatively impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs, including for families and children. For these members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved freedom of movement.</p> <p>Conversely, some members of the community indicated that exercising with their dog provided a sense of security. For these members, prohibition of dogs from identified areas of beach and foreshore may be considered to negatively</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>In relation to security of person, the relationship between the recommendation's purpose and the perceivable limit to security of person is not a strong nexus.</p> <p>Noting that for some people the limitation may be perceived to have a positive impact on security of person and for others it may be perceived as negative.</p> <p>The Plan aims to provide a balance for all community members, including provision of dog access for beaches and foreshores that supports opportunities for security of person in accessing beach and foreshore locations for all community members.</p>		

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	<p>impact their liberty and security of person.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety (including families and children), management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair and equitable provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.</p>			
<p>6</p> <p>Recognition and equality before the law</p> <p><i>Section 15 (2) and (3) of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>(2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.</i></p> <p>This means the human rights protected by the Act cannot be limited in a discriminatory way. People with disability, including people with impairments to mobility, have the right to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.</p> <p>These rights impose a correlative duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a negative obligation not to discriminate, and b) a positive obligation to protect 	<p>In relation to access to beach and foreshore locations where dog prohibitions are proposed, in a small number of locations persons with mobility impairment may reasonably consider their human rights have been limited in a discriminatory way, as the proposed prohibitions will have an impact on their inclusive participation in dog off-leash exercise activity.</p> <p>However, for the majority of beach and foreshore locations identified for dog prohibition the majority of these locations have limited or challenging access (rocky foreshores) and the provision of DDA compliant access infrastructure is highly restricted and generally not reasonably practicable to provide, thus limiting the impact of the restriction.</p> <p>Given the dynamic nature of our coastline, coastal hazards and coastal erosion risk, it is not feasible to provide an accessible beach location for off-leash dog activity.</p> <p>To deliver the infrastructure to support this, it would be in contravention to Council's Coastal Hazards Adaptation Strategy, planning policy and State</p>	<p>The proposed amendments to local laws seek to achieve improved environmental and cultural heritage protection, community safety, accessibility, and balanced social and recreational outcomes.</p> <p>These objectives are not inconsistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.</p> <p>The Plan aims to provide a balanced provision for dog access to public space, with opportunities for inclusion of all persons in common lifestyle activities which enhance wellbeing. This contributes to enhanced human dignity and equality.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Preservation of the right to recognition and equality before the law (without discrimination) is particularly important where there is a lack of dog exercise opportunities within a reasonable distance of a person's place of residence, where dog restrictions are proposed. The Plan provides provision for 12 dog off-leash beach and foreshore locations as well as off-leash areas located in parks areas, with a network blueprint that aims to provide fair and equitable access from a spatial and infrastructure perspective. Council also provisions dog on-leash access in all recreation parks and footpath areas across the region unless otherwise signed, providing significant</p>

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<p>against discrimination.</p> <p>The term 'discrimination' includes direct and indirect discrimination as defined in the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i> (Qld), which includes the protected attributes of age and impairment.</p>	<p>planning codes.</p> <p>The only accessible beach facilities currently on the coast are provided under the accessible beach program, and are supported by surf lifesaving clubs at Coolool, Mooloolaba, Dicky Beach and Kings Beach to allow them to function effectively. These facilities require bookings to be made and the beach matting to be rolled out as needed by lifeguards to support access.</p> <p>As such, accessible dog off-leash areas should be provided through provision in parks and gardens areas, where the required infrastructure can be provided. This is identified in the draft DEA Regional Plan.</p>			<p>on-leash access opportunities across the region in areas more suitable for allowing dog access, with consideration for the community values assessed in the MCRA and Pairwise Analysis.</p> <p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendments to prohibit dogs from the identified beach and foreshore locations, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the Plan and assessment process confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic Action 4 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from identified beach and foreshore locations is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
	<p>In the context of a regional plan where other facilities exist to meet various community member needs, the limitation to recognition and equality toward the law is likely to be considered proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with effectively managing the environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility and safety values of the community.</p> <p>Some community members that provided feedback on the Plan through the community consultation indicated they felt their accessibility was negatively impacted by the presence of dogs at beach and foreshore locations due to fear of attack or negative interactions with dogs, including for families and children. This is an important driver for existing dog prohibitions on beach and foreshore locations, which focus on restrictions in patrolled beach and high visitation areas, to support public safety outcomes and reduce risk of negative interactions with dogs. For these community members, improved planning and a consistent assessment process for</p>	<p>In relation to recognition and equality before the law, the relationship between the recommendation's purpose and the perceivable limit to recognition and equality before the law is not a strong nexus.</p> <p>Noting that for some people the limitation may be perceived to have a positive impact on accessibility to open space areas and for others it may be perceived as negative.</p> <p>The Plan aims to provide a balance for all community members, including provision of dog access for beaches and foreshores that supports balanced and appropriate access provisions for beach and foreshore locations for all</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.	
		<p>provision of dog access to beach and foreshore locations may be considered to provide improved accessibility.</p> <p>Conversely, some members of the community indicated that exercising their dog at certain beach and foreshore locations was valued due to the perceived accessibility of that location, and that restrictions to that activity would have a negative impact. For these members, prohibition of dogs from identified areas of beach and foreshore may be considered to negatively impact accessibility.</p> <p>The proposal to prohibit dogs from certain beach locations is assessed through a consistent process (MCRA and Pairwise) and prohibition is only applied where the risk to the values assessed (environmental, cultural, social, recreational, accessibility, safety (including families and children), management/compliance) is deemed unacceptable, with consideration for other reasonably practicable measures and controls that could be applied to effectively manage the risk.</p> <p>The Plan also outlines how fair, equitable and disability compliant access provision of dog access is to be achieved for the region, with additional provision identified in more suitable locations, where the identified risks can be effectively managed and DDA compliant infrastructure can be reasonably practicably delivered.</p> <p>As such, the limitations in the Plan are reasonable and justifiable.</p>	community members.		

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In applying section 58 of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act), this statement of compatibility is provided with respect to the proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves under strategic action 5 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The **proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves** is considered to be compatible with the human rights protected by the Act.

Date of assessment: 26 September 2025
 Completed by: Manager Environmental Operations
 Reviewed by: Governance Policy & Project Officer (17 October 2025)

Review based solely on the information provided. The reviewer has not independently verified the data and cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

Human rights assessment – the process:

The Act requires local governments to give ‘proper consideration’ to human rights when making decisions. The Act also requires local governments to make decisions which are ‘compatible with human rights’. A decision which reasonably limits human rights will remain ‘compatible with human rights’ when the decision can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Section 58 of the Act requires Council to act and make decisions in a way compatible with human rights. The process undertaken to assess human rights compatibility is guided by the Act and includes:

- Identifying which human rights may be affected by the decision;
- Considering the impact of the decision on those rights;
- Identifying countervailing interests or obligations; and
- Balancing the competing interests.

Section 58 of the Act provides:

- (1) *It is unlawful for a public entity—*
- (a) *to act or make a decision in a way that is not compatible with human rights; or*
 - (b) *in making a decision, to fail to give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision.*

...

(5) *For subsection (1)(b), giving proper consideration to a human right in making a decision includes, but is not limited to—*

- (a) *identifying the human rights that may be affected by the decision; and*
- (b) *considering whether the decision would be compatible with human rights.*

Section 13 of the Act includes (at subsection (1)) the basic test for determining if a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable (and therefore still compatible with the Act). Section 13 provides:

(1) *A human right may be subject under law only to reasonable limits that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.*

(2) *In deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable and justifiable as mentioned in subsection (1), the following factors may be relevant—*

- (a) *the nature of the human right;*

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(b) the nature of the purpose of the limitation, including whether it is consistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom;

(c) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose, including whether the limitation helps to achieve the purpose;

(d) whether there are any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose;

(e) the importance of the purpose of the limitation;

(f) the importance of preserving the human right, taking into account the nature and extent of the limitation on the human right;

(g) the balance between the matters mentioned in paragraphs (e) and (f).

Taking a wide interpretation when identifying relevant human rights and defining any impact on those rights, is supported by *Waratah Coal Pty Ltd v Youth Verdict Ltd & Ors (No 6)* [2022] QLC 21, where the Land Court commented that "Human rights should be construed in the broadest possible way before consideration is given to whether they should be limited".

All human rights perceivably relevant are properly considered, and that consideration is documented below. As the nature and importance of both the human right, and the purpose of the limitation are considered and balanced, there is no significant risk that taking a wide perspective of relevant human rights will result in a distorted consideration or decision.

Where relevant information or context has not been available, this assessment may not reflect the full scope of human rights impacts. Conclusions drawn are limited by the available material.

The decision or action:

Proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves under strategic action 5 of the draft Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint.

The purpose:

To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.

Context:

The proposed prohibition of dogs from certain high conservation value environment reserves for conservation purposes arises from the need to manage competing uses of public space in a manner that is environmentally responsible. Environment reserves are areas designated for the primary purpose of conservation. Exercising dogs (on or off leash) introduces variables that may be incompatible with the intended function of these reserves, including risks of contamination to the environment and risk to wildlife integrity.

In considering this proposal, public authorities must balance their dual obligations: to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, and to take reasonable and justifiable actions in pursuit of legitimate objectives such as public safety, environmental and cultural heritage protection, and good governance. The application of the Human Rights Act requires a careful assessment of the rights potentially impacted, alongside the rationale for any limitations imposed.

The prohibition is recommended as a proportionate response to recurring issues including impact to sensitive environments, flora and fauna. It aims to provide clarity in the management of reserves, reducing ambiguity for users of these spaces.

Extensive consultation with stakeholders has occurred through the development of the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, including through stakeholder input into the design of the plan via Community Focus Groups,

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engagement with Traditional Custodians, and broad community consultation on the draft Plan. This has informed the scope of the proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves, and the identification of alternative dog exercise areas across the Sunshine Coast Council region. By adopting a regional, plan-led approach, the proposal aligns with the objectives of the proposed Dog Exercise Area (DEA) Regional Plan and Network Blueprint, which seeks to provide a network of safe and suitable Dog Exercise Areas that meets the current and future needs of our growing Sunshine Coast communities, while protecting the natural environment and culturally sensitive landscapes.

The proposal forms part of a broader regional plan framework and is designed to ensure that any restriction to dog access is both necessary and proportionate. It reflects statutory obligations and principles of sound governance, while recognising the availability of more appropriate alternatives for dog exercise. Controls on incompatible activities are essential to enable optimal condition for environmental conservation and to support these places being available for continued use for their primary purpose.

Current state and strategic alignment:

Dogs are currently allowed on-leash in all Council managed Environment Reserves, unless a local law is in place to prohibit dogs. Currently only eight environment reserves across the region (746 reserves in total) prohibit dogs under the local law.

As outlined in Council's Environment and Liveability Strategy (ELS), Council has a role in the management of Environment Reserves to both protect and enhance the ecological values and provide opportunities in keeping with the natural setting for public access and enjoyment.

The ELS states that the primary purpose of environment reserves is to:

- protect biodiversity and enhance the site's environmental values and ecological functionality
- contribute to landscape connectivity and assist to consolidate habitat areas
- contribute to the landscape and character values of the Sunshine Coast
- **where appropriate**, provide suitable and safe public access.

Environment reserves can also provide a valuable secondary function as open space/recreation areas. Suitable functions should be determined by the capacity of the land to support suitable and safe public access without impacting on the environmental values of the site.

There are five categories of Environment Reserves outlined in the Environment and Liveability Strategy:

- Conservation Reserves
- Nature Reserves
- Bushland Reserves
- Natural Amenity Reserves
- Coastal Reserves

Under the Environment and Liveability Strategy - Desired Standards of Service; Conservation and Nature Reserves generally have the highest level of biodiversity, are ecologically sensitive environments and public access is generally limited by Council and managed through a permit process or formal arrangements, to conserve their significant ecological values.

As such, a recommendation of the Plan is that all Conservation and Nature Reserves prohibit dogs (and all domestic animals) to align with the purpose and function of the reserves and ensure the environmental values are effectively protected and maintained.

Bushland Reserves are generally greater than 20 hectares in size and are intended to protect and enhance the site's terrestrial, riparian and aquatic habitats, including various native plant and animal communities that contribute to functionality and habitat connectivity. Bushland reserves may have areas of degraded habitat that require rehabilitation/restoration to consolidate the reserve and build landscape connectivity. Bushland reserves are resilient to external impacts and may support public access and various sustainable nature-based activities.

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Council's Environmental Operations Branch undertake detailed assessments of each reserve's ecological values to inform its management. This assessment process provides a biodiversity score for each reserve, categorised as B1, B2 or B3, with B1 reserves having the highest ecological values.

It is recommended through the Dog Exercise Area Regional Plan that Bushland Reserves with a B1 biodiversity rating are also recommended for prohibition of dogs. However, it is recognised that some existing Bushland Reserves also provide nature based recreational opportunities, which currently include on-leash dog access, and that prohibition of this activity may impact some users.

As such, further assessment was undertaken by the Project Team to inform recommendations for the Plan. This included the use of a Pairwise values weighting process and Multi Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) for relevant environment reserves, to evaluate whether the risk of dog on-leash access on environmental, cultural, social and management values was acceptable to allow dog access to continue. Where relevant this was considered across the entire environment reserve, and also assess for on-leash access to the defined recreational trails only, to try to limit access prohibitions where able.

The assessment identified 41 environment reserves where prohibition of dogs (and domestic animals) is recommended as a high priority, to be implemented in the first stage of local law changes associated with the Plan implementation (17 Conservation Reserves, 6 Nature Reserves and 18 Bushland Reserves (5 of these are only partial reserve prohibitions – continued access will be provided on connecting recreation trails)).

28 environment reserves were identified as medium priority (recommended for consideration for dog prohibition in 1-5 years), and 27 as low priority (consider for prohibition/re-evaluation at a future date (5+ years or where changes to values/risks are identified)).

The detailed recommendations are documented within the Plan and have been developed in consultation with community Focus Groups and technical experts.

Development of the recommendation for strategic action 5 in the Plan:

For Nature and Conservation Reserves, prohibition of dogs is recommended, without further assessment, due to the significant environmental values, legislative obligations, land tenure types and threats to the environmental values within these reserves. Limited recreational infrastructure is provided in these reserves, given the policy position of Council under the Environment and Liveability Strategy to limit public access to these reserves due to their significant ecological values and to minimise threats.

In assessing suitability for proposed amendments to current dog on-leash arrangements within high conservation value B1 Bushland environment reserves, a Multi-Criteria Risk Assessment (MCRA) which includes a Pairwise assessment has been carried out for relevant reserves. A Pairwise assessment is a nationally recognised assessment method whereby values are evaluated by comparing them against each other in pairs, rather than individually, against a set of criteria to provide relative weightings of those values. The approach is utilised in various fields for ranking preferences, making decisions, or assessing performance. In essence it focuses on relative judgement rather than absolute evaluation.

A technical panel has been established to support current and future dog exercise access assessments based on open space type and site-specific locations. Panel membership includes officers from relevant teams to ensure technical information is considered as part of the MCRA and Pairwise assessment.

The panel assembled to undertake a MCRA on the proposal to prohibit dogs from high conservation value B1 Bushland environment reserves, where formal recreational trail access is known to be present and used by the community for on-leash dog walking. The risk assessment identified that a Total Moderated Score (which considers the scores for all values with weightings applied) of below zero (negative score) indicate unacceptable risk levels and the prohibition of dogs would be recommended for the location assessed. Twelve Bushland Reserves were assessed with one recommending a full prohibition

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of dogs, seven recommending partial prohibition of dogs with some trail access retained for on-leash access, and five recommended to retain existing on-leash access to the reserve.

Findings of this human rights assessment:

Assessment

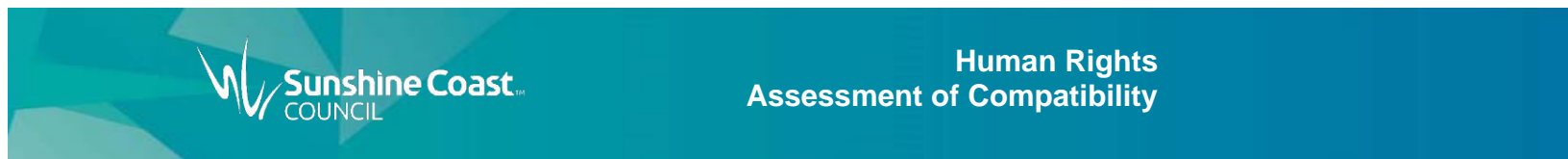
The assessment identifies that the following rights are relevant:

- Freedom of movement (section 19 of the Act)
- Property rights (section 24 of the Act)
- Protection of families and children (section 26 of the Act)
- Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples (section 28 of the Act)
- Liberty and security of person (section 29 of the Act)
- Recognition and equality before the law (section 15 of the Act)

The assessment identifies that the proposal seeks to contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of some of these rights and results in the limitation of some of these human rights, particularly in relation to freedom of movement and property rights. All perceivable limitations are considered to be reasonable and demonstrably justified. Therefore, the proposal to prohibit dogs from identified Council owned or controlled high conservation value Environment Reserves is considered to be compatible with the rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld).

Document use

This document is intended to be read in whole. Readers should not seek to interpret parts of this document outside of the document's broader context.



What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>1</p> <p>Freedom of movement</p> <p><i>Section 19 of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it and has the freedom to choose where to live.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission notes that this right is engaged in policy that limits the ability to move through, remain in, enter or leave areas of public space, including that which restricts access to areas of environmental or cultural significance.</p> <p>The United Nations Human Rights Committee states that laws authoring limits to movement should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use precise criteria - not give unfettered discretion - be necessary to protect the purpose - be least intrusive option - be proportionate to the interest protected. 	<p>Movement in environmental reserves is already subject to restrictions to ensure these areas can be managed and maintained for their primary purpose of environmental conservation. As such, there is often minimal public trail infrastructure present.</p> <p>The recommendation to prohibit movement when in possession of property (dogs) through high conservation value environment reserves is a limitation to freedom of movement.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The Plan focuses on protection of high value conservation environment reserves, recognising their significant ecological values and the sensitivity of the species and habitats they support. The Plan also recognises for the majority of the Council managed environment reserve network, where most of the recreational infrastructure is situated, that on-leash dog access is an important social and recreational activity, and that the balance of values within these reserves can be effectively managed and retained with considered management controls.</p> <p>The effectiveness of dog prohibition to the purposes sought is key to whether this represents a reasonable and demonstrably justifiable limitation. The limitation's effectiveness will be reliant on enforcement to establish community</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>Prohibition of domestic dogs from high conservation value environment reserves has a direct relationship with reserves being maintained and managed in a manner consistent with their designated purpose.</p>	<p>The status quo includes the offering of on-leash activity in the environment reserves identified for dog prohibition.</p> <p>Increased enforcement of the reserves is another way to achieve the purpose, noting that efforts have been made of this kind previously, with limited success due to the extensive environment reserve network and limited compliance resourcing available.</p> <p>Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability.</p>	<p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendment to high conservation value environment reserves for dog access, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic action 5 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
	behaviour change ahead of delivery of suitable alternative facilities. In implementing the proposed changes, Council intends to undertake community education through communications, media, signage, online mapping, local educational pop-ups, and annual training programs for dog owners.			
<p>2</p> <p>Property rights</p> <p><i>Section 24 of the Act states:</i></p> <p><i>(1) All persons have the right to own property alone or in association with others.</i></p> <p><i>(2) A person must not be arbitrarily deprived of the person's property.</i></p> <p>Under the common law, a domesticated animal is the property of its owners and legally classified as property. This is also reflected in various pieces of federal and state legislation.</p> <p>The term 'deprived' is not defined in the Act but is considered by Queensland Human Rights Commission resources to include the substantial restriction on a person's use or enjoyment of their property.</p> <p>Deprivation of property must not be arbitrary, which means limitations on property rights must be proportionate to the aim sought, and not unpredictable or unreasonable.</p>	<p>Prohibiting dogs from public space has the effect of restricting a person's use or enjoyment of their property (a dog).</p> <p>Where the regulation was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable in the broader circumstances, it is unlikely this impact would be considered arbitrary.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The concept of human dignity may raise an expectation that if given the provision of the resources (such as dog hygiene bags) and public education, responsible pet ownership standards can be met without the need to employ the more restrictive dog (property) regulation. However, given the primary purpose of highly sensitive environment reserves, this necessitates a high degree of care for the environment. As such, prohibition is considered reasonable and necessary to improve (/ remove barriers to) conservation efforts.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>The limitation by prohibiting movement when in possession of a dog through a high conservation value environment reserve will have a direct impact on the challenges caused by dog presence in highly sensitive environmental reserves, and will reasonably result in improved conservation outcomes, and/or effective protection of the existing values.</p>	As above	As above

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>3 Protection of families and children</p> <p>Section 26 (1) and (2) of the Act states: <i>Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State.</i></p> <p><i>Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.</i></p> <p>This means, inter alia, all decisions affecting a child, and the best interests of the child, shall be a primary consideration.</p> <p>Past Community consultation confirms that many would consider their dog to be an integral part of their family unit. The purpose of Local Law No. 2 includes "supporting animal owners to keep their animals in a manner that is consistent with the expectations of the community". Past Community consultation feedback indicates support for the expectation that pets are a part of the family unit.</p>	<p>This right provides a lens to consider animal management regulation from the perspective of its impact on families with dogs, and the experience of children, both who are currently utilising environmental reserves with dogs, and those frequenting these locations without dogs.</p> <p>Regulation which seeks to minimise interactions between children and dogs may be seen to enhance a child's right to security of person.</p> <p>Conversely, prohibiting dogs limits a family unit's ability to use a public space for leisure and exercise activities intact, which may otherwise contribute to their family unit's wellbeing and connectedness.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>
	<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
	<p>The limitation to protection of families and children is proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with advancing protection of the environment for the longer term and is consistent with the land's primary intended purpose.</p>	<p>Impacting the protection of families and children frequenting these places to exercise dogs is required to facilitate achievement of the decision's purpose. The recommended prohibition is scoped to be proportionate to the risk, i.e. the proposed areas of prohibition are restricted to the highly sensitive environments.</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>4</p> <p>Cultural rights – Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples</p> <p>Section 28 states:</p> <p><i>(1) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinct cultural rights.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not be denied the right, with other members of their community –</i></p> <p><i>(a) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their identity and cultural heritage, including their traditional knowledge, distinctive spiritual practices, observances, beliefs and teachings; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect, develop and use their language, including traditional cultural expressions; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their kinship ties; and</i></p> <p><i>(d) to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which they have a connection under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom; and</i></p> <p><i>(e) to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of their land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.</i></p>	<p>One purpose of animal management regulation is to reduce the impact of domestic animals on the environment.</p> <p>Prohibiting dogs in high conservation value environment reserves may contribute to an enhancement of the right of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to conserve and protect the environment.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p> <p>The recommendation is also intended to contribute to protection of cultural heritage values, which are know to be present within reserves where dog access prohibitions are recommended.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p>	<p>Based on advice from Traditional Custodians consulted through the Plan development, no limitation to cultural rights is indicated.</p> <p>The proposed amendment does not appear incompatible with cultural rights. Continued engagement with the Traditional Custodians, to ensure all recommendations appropriately respect and protect relevant cultural rights is recommended.</p>

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What human rights are relevant?		Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
5	<p>Liberty and security of person</p> <p>Section 29 – (1) of the Act states: <i>Every person has the right to liberty and security.</i></p> <p>The Queensland Human Rights Commission states the right of security applies independently of the right to liberty, and applies whether or not a person is detained. This means, the right of security of a person could be interpreted to imply an obligation that all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the physical safety of those who are in danger of physical harm. This includes freedom from injury to the body and mind.</p>	<p>An argument could be raised that some users of trails in environment reserves may only feel safe using these places for exercise when accompanied by their dog, and could perceive prohibition of dogs as an action decreasing their feeling of security of person, for example, a woman running isolated trails at dawn or dusk with a dog. Conversely there may be some users of reserves who may feel safer to enjoy a reserve should dogs be prohibited, if for example, they have a fear of dogs. In that scenario a person may feel an increased sense of security of person from the proposed restriction.</p>	<p>To address the impacts and threats of dogs to native fauna and flora through direct contact, disturbance, threat-based responses, scent marking, fouling and introduction of zoonotic diseases in native habitat areas.</p> <p>The recommendation seeks to take a staged prohibition of dogs from high conservation value environment reserves to ensure protection of the significant environmental values within these reserves.</p>	As above	As above.
		<p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p>	<p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p>		
		<p>In the context of a regional plan where other facilities exist to meet various community member needs, the limitation to security of person is likely to be considered proportionate, reasonable and justifiable as the purpose of the limitation is consistent with advancing of protection of the environment for the longer term and is consistent with the land's primary intended purpose. The assessment process aims to minimise the extent of the restriction as much as possible, by focussing only on high conservation value environment reserves and where possible, retaining on-leash access to recreational trails, where the risks can be effectively managed.</p>	<p>In relation to security of person, the relationship between the recommendation's purpose (which primarily relates to environmental protection) and the perceivable limit to security of person is not a strong nexus. Noting that the primary purpose of these places is environmental conservation, with recreational purposes being a secondary use.</p>		

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What human rights are relevant?	Has a human right been limited and how?	What is the purpose of the limitation?	Are there any less restrictive and reasonably available ways to achieve the purpose?	BALANCE: the importance of the purpose of the limitation and importance of preserving the human rights.
<p>6</p> <p>Recognition and equality before the law</p> <p>Section 15 (2) and (3) of the Act states:</p> <p><i>(2) Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.</i></p> <p>This means the human rights protected by the Act cannot be limited in a discriminatory way. People with disability, including people with impairments to mobility, have the right to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.</p> <p>These rights impose a correlative duty:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a negative obligation not to discriminate, and a positive obligation to protect against discrimination. <p>The term 'discrimination' includes direct and indirect discrimination as defined in the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i> (Qld), which includes the protected attributes of age and impairment.</p>	<p>In relation to access to recreational trails in environment reserves where dog access restrictions are proposed, most trails are categorised as Class 3 and 4 trails, with one DDA compliant trail at Doonan Creek Environment Reserve. This reserve has a landscape plan and activation of nature-based experiences and ecological restoration activities that are not compatible with provision of access for dogs, as they would present significant risk to the values and purpose of the reserve.</p> <p>A number of trails that were assessed provide relatively accessible, flat trail connections between residential areas and are highly utilised as connecting trails, including for on-leash dog walking activities. Risk assessment identified that for key connecting trails, on-leash dog access could still be provided. Persons with mobility impairment may reasonably consider their human rights (particularly property rights, freedom of movement, and protection of families and children) have been limited in a discriminatory way, as the regulatory efforts will have a disproportionate impact on their inclusive participation in dog off-leash exercise activity.</p> <p>Is the limit reasonable and justifiable?</p> <p>The Plan focuses on protection of high value conservation environment reserves, recognising their significant ecological values and the sensitivity of the species and habitats they support. The Plan also recognises for the majority of the Council managed environment reserve network, where most of the recreational infrastructure is situated, that on-leash dog access is an important social and recreational activity, and that the balance of values within these reserves can be effectively managed and retained with considered management controls, while still providing public access to the recreation access infrastructure.</p>	<p>The proposed amendments to local laws seek to achieve improved environmental protection, community safety, amenity and cultural heritage protection.</p> <p>These objectives are not inconsistent with a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.</p> <p>However, provision of public space with opportunities for seamless inclusion of all persons in common lifestyle activities which enhance wellbeing would contribute to enhanced human dignity and equality.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the limitation and its purpose?</p> <p>Prohibition of domestic dogs from high conservation value environment reserves has a direct relationship with reserves being maintained and managed in a manner consistent with their designated purpose.</p>	<p>The status quo includes the offering of on-leash activity in the environment reserves identified for dog prohibition.</p> <p>Increased enforcement of the reserves is another way to achieve the purpose, noting that efforts have been made of this kind previously, with limited success due to the extensive environment reserve network and limited compliance resourcing available.</p> <p>Increased education efforts may be a way to achieve the purpose in a less restrictive manner, noting that prohibition is the most restrictive manner as a local law amendment will facilitate enforcement through the issuing of fines. To achieve consistency however, education alone is not a reasonably available way to achieve the purpose with reliability and advice of officers that increased enforcement and increased responsible pet ownership education has been unsuccessful in effecting behavioural change.</p>	<p>Preservation of the right to recognition and equality before the law (without discrimination) is particularly important where there is a lack of dog on-leash opportunities within a reasonable distance of the reserves where dog restrictions are proposed. Council allows dog on-leash access in all recreation parks and footpath areas across the region unless otherwise signed, providing significant on-leash access opportunities across the region in areas more suitable for allowing dog access, with consideration for protection of environmental and cultural values.</p> <p>Although the Plan, including the proposed amendment to high conservation value environment reserves for dog access, involves considerations that intersect with rights protected under the Act, the assessment confirms that any potential limitations are lawful, serve a legitimate purpose, and are rational, necessary, and proportionate. The proposal under Strategic Action 5 of the Plan to prohibit dogs from high conservation value environment reserves is therefore considered fair and appropriately balanced in its approach to human rights.</p>

Proposal to prohibit dogs from environmental reserves
 Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) - Assessment of Compatibility – as at 17 October 2025
 This document is intended to be read in the context of its whole. Page 11 of 11

8.2 MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**File No:** Council Meetings**Author:** Coordinator Financial Services
Finance and Commercial Partnerships**Attachments:** Att 1 - March 2026 Financial Performance Report..... 137 [↓](#)
Att 2 - March 2026 Capital Grant Funded Project Report 155 [↓](#)**PURPOSE**

To meet Council's legislative obligations, a monthly report must be presented to Council on its financial performance and investments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This monthly financial performance report provides Council with a summary of performance against budget as at 31 March 2026, in terms of the operating result and delivery of the capital program.

Operating Performance**Table 1: Operating Budget as at 31 March 2026**

	Original Budget \$'000	Current Budget \$'000	Year to Date Budget \$'000	Year to Date Actuals \$'000	Year to Date Variance \$'000
Total Operating Revenue	711,026	697,517	632,808	634,689	1,881
Total Operating Expenses	710,315	710,846	518,607	513,871	(4,736)
Operating Result	711	(13,329)	114,201	120,817	6,616
Capital Revenue	163,689	170,233	60,152	74,677	14,525
Non-Recurrent Expenses	3,056	39,222	16,477	25,858	9,381
Net Result	161,345	117,681	157,877	169,637	11,760
Capital Expenditure	262,388	267,311	142,200	140,971	(1,229)
Total Cash Balance (including Trust)	271,422	272,374	263,600	349,880	86,280

Details of the monthly financial report are contained in **Attachment 1**.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report titled “March 2026 Financial Performance Report”.

FINANCE AND RESOURCING

This report sets out the details of Council’s financial performance and investments for the month ending 31 March 2026, and meets Council’s legislative reporting requirements.

CORPORATE PLAN

Corporate Plan Goal: *Organisational excellence*

Strategic Pathway: We serve our community by providing this great service

Operational Activity: S31 - Financial Management - Strategic management of Council's finances, assets, procurement and contracts that support effective supplier relationship, resource allocation and financial sustainability.

CONSULTATION**Councillor Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Organisational Excellence Portfolio Councillors, E Hungerford and J Broderick.

Internal Consultation

This report has been written in conjunction with advice from:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Executive Leadership Team

External Consultation

No external consultation is required for this report.

Community Engagement

No community engagement is required for this report.

Legal

This report ensures that Council complies with its legislative obligations with respect to financial reporting in accordance with Section 204 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

Investment of funds is in accordance with the provisions of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982* and the associated Regulations and the *Local Government Act 2009*.

Policy

Sunshine Coast Council’s 2025-26 Investment Policy, and

Sunshine Coast Council’s 2025-26 Debt Policy.

Risk

The 2025-26 budget has been adopted with an operating deficit position, however this outcome is acknowledged and Management has established a clear pathway to improve operating performance over the medium term, with a strong focus on long term financial sustainability for the Sunshine Coast region. The achievement of the targeted operating result is a key element of Council's long term financial sustainability strategy.

The 2025-26 budget is based on management estimates and assumptions including:

- Rates and charges revenue incorporating population and property growth forecasts
- Interest revenue and finance costs based on forecast interest rates
- Depreciation informed by asset valuation, useful life and asset condition estimates
- Recurrent capital expenditure reflecting capitalisation estimates

Management has used its best endeavours and judgment to determine these estimates and assumptions based on the available data, with reference to independent sources and relevant historic information where possible. There is a risk that the actual results may vary from the estimates. Any material variances will be monitored and reported to Council through the Monthly Financial Performance Report.

Previous Council Resolution**Ordinary Meeting 26 February 2026 (OM26/10)**

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Budget Review 2 2025-26"*
- (b) *adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's amended budget for 2025-26 financial year incorporating:*
 - (i) *the statement of income and expenditure*
 - (ii) *the statement of financial position*
 - (iii) *the statements of changes in equity*
 - (iv) *the statement of cash flow*
 - (v) *the relevant measures of financial sustainability*
 - (vi) *the long-term financial forecast*
 - (vii) *Council's 2025-26 Capital Works Program, endorse the indicative four-year program for the period 2027 to 2030, and note the five-year program for the period 2031 to 2035*
- (c) *note the following documentation applies as adopted 7 July 2025*
 - (i) *the Debt Policy*
 - (ii) *the Revenue Policy*
 - (iii) *the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget, and*
 - (iv) *the Revenue Statement*

- (v) *the rates and charges to be levied for the 2025-26 financial year and other matters as adopted 7 July 2025*
- (vi) *the Strategic Environment Levy Policy*
- (vii) *the Strategic Arts and Heritage Levy Policy*
- (viii) *the Strategic Transport Levy Policy*
- (ix) *Prescribed Services Charge Plan (No. 2) 2025-26 Financial Year and*
- (d) *endorse the 2025-26 Minor Capital Works Program (Appendix B).*

Ordinary Meeting 18 September 2025 (OM25/82)

That Council:

- (a) *receive and note the report titled "Budget Review 1" and*
- (b) *adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council's amended budget for 2025-26 financial year incorporating:*
 - (i) *the statement of income and expense*
 - (ii) *the statement of financial position*
 - (iii) *the statement of changes in equity*
 - (iv) *the statement of cash flow*
 - (v) *the relevant measurers of financial sustainability*
 - (vi) *the long term financial forecast*
 - (vii) *Council's 2025-26 Capital Works Program, endorse the indicative four-year program for the period 2027 to 2030, and note the five-year program for the period 2031 to 2035.*
 - (viii) *Debt Policy*
- (c) *note the following documentation applies as adopted 7 July 2025*
 - (i) *Revenue Policy*
 - (ii) *the total value of change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget*
 - (iii) *the Revenue Statement*
 - (iv) *the rates and charges to be levied for the 2025-26 financial year and other matters as adopted 7 July 2025*
 - (v) *the Strategic Environment Levy Policy*
 - (vi) *the Strategic Arts and Heritage Levy Policy*
 - (vii) *the Strategic Transport Levy Policy*
 - (viii) *Prescribed Services Charge Plan (No. 2) 2025-26 Financial Year and*
- (d) *endorse the Minor Capital Works Program (Appendix B).*

Special Meeting 7 July 2025 (SM25/4) in part**1. STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION**

That Council receive and note the statement of estimated financial operations and financial position of the Council in respect to the 2024-25 financial year as set out in Attachment 1 pursuant to section 205 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

10. ADOPTION OF BUDGET

That Council adopt Appendix A as tabled, pursuant to sections 169 and 170 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, as Council's budget for 2025-26 financial year incorporating:

- i. the statement of income and expenditure
- ii. the statement of financial position
- iii. the statement of changes in equity
- iv. the statement of cash flow
- v. the relevant measures of financial sustainability
- vi. the significant business activity statement
- vii. the long-term financial forecast, as detailed in items 10(i) to 10(iv) above
- viii. the Revenue Policy (adopted by Council resolution on 21 May 2025)
- ix. the total value of the change, expressed as a percentage, in the rates and utility charges levied for the financial year compared with the rates and utility charges levied in the previous budget
- x. the Revenue Statement for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
- xi. Council's 2025-26 Capital Works Program, endorsing the indicative four-year program for the period 2027 to 2030, and noting the five-year program for the period 2031 to 2035
- xii. the rates and charges to be levied for the 2025-26 financial year and other matters as detailed above in clauses 2 to 9; and
- xiii. the 2025-26 Minor Capital Works Program.

Related Documentation

2025-26 Adopted Budget

Critical Dates

There are no critical dates for this report.

Implementation

There are no implementation details to include in this report.

2025-26 BUDGET

Financial Performance Report

March 2026



Statement of Income and Expenses Summary

Statement of Income & Expenses							March 2026	
	Annual		YTD				Annual	
	Original Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Actuals \$000s	Variance \$000s	Variance %	Year End Forecast \$'000	
Operating Revenue	711,026	697,517	632,808	634,689	1,881	0.3%	697,517	
Operating Expenses	705,315	705,846	514,918	509,010	(5,907)	(1.1%)	705,846	
Recurrent Capital Expenses	5,000	5,000	3,689	4,861	1,172	31.8%	5,000	
Operating Result	711	(13,329)	114,201	120,817	6,616	5.8%	(13,329)	
Capital Revenue	163,689	170,233	60,152	74,677	14,525	24.1%	170,233	
Non-recurrent Expenses	3,056	39,222	16,477	25,858	9,381	56.9%	48,603	
Net Result	161,344	117,681	157,877	169,637	11,760	7.4%	108,301	

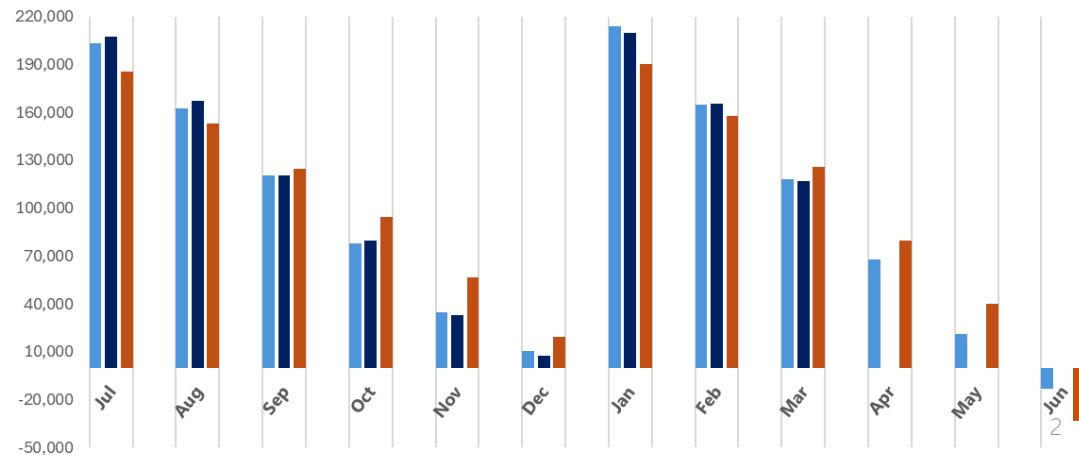
As at 31 March

Operating result \$120.8 million

▲ \$6.6 million (5.8%) above year to date budget.

Operating Result

■ 2025-26 Budget ■ 2025-26 Actuals ■ 2024-25 Actuals



% range	Risk Level
● ±0-5%	Low - no action required
● ±5-10%	Medium - monitor
● ±>10%	High - immediate action required

Operating Result – Revenue Year to Date

Operating revenue \$634.7 million

▲ \$1.9 million (0.3%) above year to date budget

Operating Revenue							March 2026
	Annual		YTD				Annual
	Original Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Actuals \$000	Variance \$000	Variance %	Year End Forecast \$000
Operating Revenue							
General Rates	348,378	345,088	344,858	344,820	(38)	(0.0%) ●	345,088
Cleansing Charges	121,541	117,041	116,727	116,602	(125)	(0.1%) ●	117,041
Levies	23,634	23,634	23,550	23,671	120	0.5% ●	23,634
Fees and Charges	90,134	93,559	70,394	71,186	792	1.1% ●	93,559
Interest Received from Investments	11,500	9,800	7,960	8,004	44	0.6% ●	9,800
Operating Grants and Subsidies	23,230	20,165	8,527	8,731	204	2.4% ●	20,165
Operating Contributions	327	327	306	281	(26)	(8.4%) ●	327
Unitywater Participation	52,500	52,500	36,893	36,893	0	0.0% ●	52,500
Other Revenue	32,904	31,811	21,287	22,916	1,629	7.7% ●	31,811
Internal Sales/Recoveries	6,879	3,593	2,305	1,584	(721)	(31.3%) ●	3,593
Total Operating Revenue	711,026	697,517	632,808	634,689	1,881	0.3% ●	697,517

% range	Risk Level
±0-5%	Low - no action required
± 5-10%	Medium - monitor
± >10%	High - immediate action required

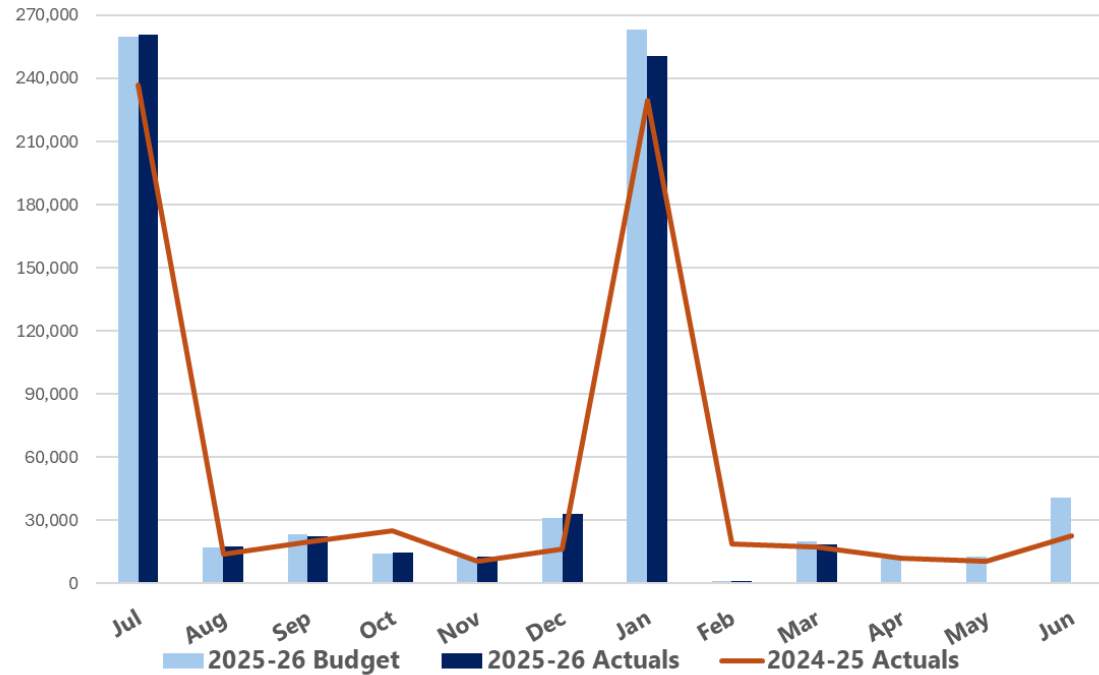
Operating Result – Revenue – Significant Variances

Other Revenue ▲ \$1.6 million

- *Reveg Offsets* ▲ \$1 million
- *Lease Revenue* ▲ \$305,000
- *Sports Venues* ▲ \$281,000

Fees and Charges ▲ \$792,000

- *Holiday Parks* ▲ \$221,000
- *Sports Venues* ▲ \$378,000
- *Venue 114* ▲ \$222,000



Operating Result – Expenses Year to Date

\$513.9 million operating expenses

▼ \$4.7 million (0.9%) below year to date budget

Operating Expenses							March 2026
	Annual		YTD				Annual
	Original Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Actuals \$000	Variance \$000	Variance %	Year End Forecast \$000
Operating Expenses							
Employee Costs	203,701	201,782	148,253	148,349	96	0.1%	201,782
Materials and Services	282,480	280,980	199,637	193,392	(6,246)	(3.1%)	280,980
Finance Costs	12,766	11,946	9,156	9,381	225	2.5%	11,946
Company Contributions	4,190	4,190	4,190	4,190	0	0.0%	4,190
Depreciation Expense	170,053	174,234	129,923	130,032	109	0.1%	174,234
Other Expenses	32,125	32,713	23,759	23,667	(92)	(0.4%)	32,713
Recurrent Capital Expenses	5,000	5,000	3,689	4,861	1,172	31.8%	5,000
Total Operating Expenses	710,315	710,846	518,606	513,871	(4,735)	(0.9%)	710,846

% range	Risk Level
● ±0-5%	Low - no action required
● ±5-10%	Medium - monitor
● ±>10%	High - immediate action required

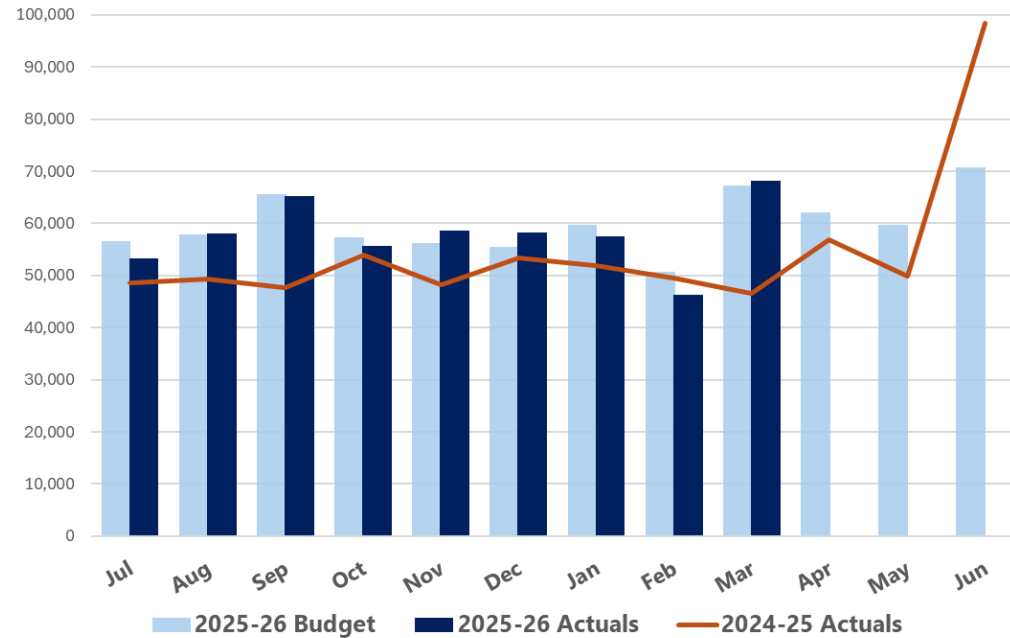
Operating Result – Expenses – Significant Variances

▼ Core Materials and Services \$4.9 million below budget

- Transport Assets & Operations Maintenance ▼ \$1.4 million
- Digital Information Services ▼ \$672,000
- Electricity ▼ \$644,000
- Holiday Parks ▼ \$307,000
- Balance ▼ \$1.9 million minor underspends across multiple business areas

Levy Programs ▼ \$1.8 million

- Transport Levy ▼ \$708,000
- Environment Levy ▼ \$637,000
- Heritage Levy ▼ \$307,000



Operating Result – Non-recurrent Expenses

Loss on Disposal \$18.5 million - land parcels reclassified as road reserve and written off as assets

Operating Expenses							March 2026	
	Annual		YTD				Annual	
	Original Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Current Budget \$000	Actuals \$000	Variance \$000	Variance %	Year End Forecast \$000	
Non-recurrent Expenses								
Profit/Loss on disposal, revaluation & impairment	-	9,166	9,166	18,547	9,381	102.3%	●	18,547
Movements in landfill and quarry provisions	3,056	3,056	2,292	2,292	-	-	●	3,056
Recurrent Capital Expenses - Prior Year	-	27,000	5,019	5,019	-	-	●	27,000
Assets Transferred to Third Parties	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	-
Total Non-recurrent Expenses	3,056	39,222	16,477	25,858	9,381	56.9%	●	48,603

Capital Expenditure Year to Date

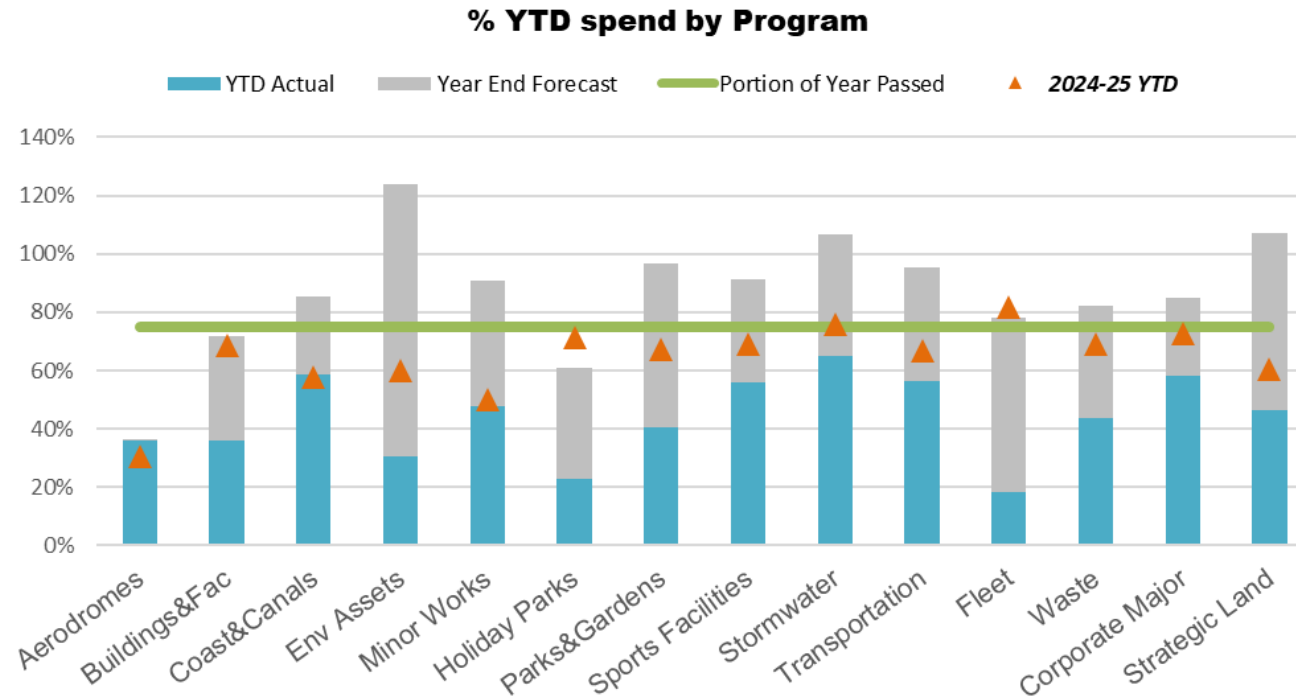
**Program to date
52.7% complete**

\$141 million spent
 ▼ \$1.2 million (0.9%) below
 year to date budget.

Core Program
 \$100.9 million spent
 ▲ \$435,000 (0.4%) above
 year to date budget.

Capital Expenditure						March 2026		
	Annual		YTD			Annual		
	Original Budget \$000s	Current Budget \$000s	Budget \$000s	Actuals \$000s	Variance %	% spend Annual Budget	Forecast Year End Actual	Forecast Year End Variance to Budget
Core Capital Works Program								
Aerodromes	2,274	1,401	428	504	117.9%	36.0%	507	(894)
Buildings and Facilities	21,164	15,266	4,382	5,516	125.9%	36.1%	10,954	(4,312)
Coast and Canals	9,899	8,647	5,818	5,074	87.2%	58.7%	7,369	(1,278)
Environmental Assets	6,574	2,087	781	634	81.2%	30.4%	2,585	498
Minor Works	5,375	6,252	2,618	2,980	113.8%	47.7%	5,682	(570)
Holiday Parks	4,126	2,826	697	647	92.9%	22.9%	1,720	(1,106)
Parks and Gardens	11,248	13,778	6,046	5,571	92.1%	40.4%	13,331	(447)
Sports Facilities	20,731	25,572	14,044	14,282	101.7%	55.8%	23,289	(2,282)
Quarries	-	-	-	0	-	-	0	0
Stormwater	17,352	8,276	5,614	5,384	95.9%	65.1%	8,842	566
Transportation	117,756	106,998	60,051	60,322	100.5%	56.4%	101,827	(5,172)
Total SCC Core Capital Program	216,498	191,102	100,479	100,914	100.4%	52.8%	176,105	(14,997)
Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements	3,888	14,949	14,455	13,459	93.1%	90.0%	14,134	(815)
Fleet	3,000	6,000	1,500	1,109	73.9%	18.5%	4,694	(1,306)
Waste	25,841	30,525	16,049	13,270	82.7%	43.5%	25,103	(5,422)
Corporate Major Projects	9,085	6,341	3,708	3,696	99.7%	58.3%	5,378	(963)
Strategic Land and Commercial Properties	3,417	18,395	6,009	8,523	141.8%	46.3%	19,714	1,320
Total Other Capital Program	45,231	76,209	41,722	40,057	96.0%	52.6%	69,024	(7,186)
TOTAL PROGRAM	261,729	267,311	142,200	140,971	99.1%	52.7%	245,129	(22,183)
<i>The above program of works includes recurrent and non-recurrent expenditure, as reporting in the operating statement</i>								
Recurrent Expenses	5,000	5,000	3,689	4,861	131.8%			

Capital Expenditure – Year to Date spend

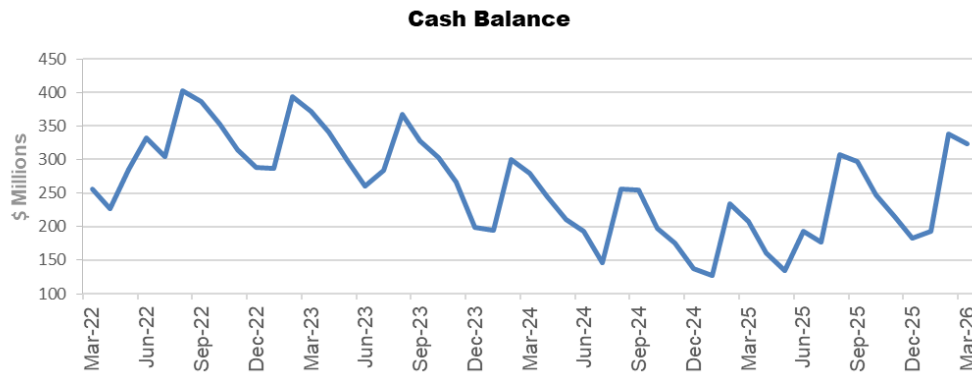


Cash Flows

Cash balance **excluding** Trust at 31 March

\$325 million

Cashflow		March 2026			
		Current Budget \$000s	YTD Budget \$000s	YTD Actuals \$000s	YTD Variance \$000s
CASH FLOWS					
Opening Cash including TRUST		216,764	307,264	365,900	58,636
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflows) from:					
Operating Activities		127,805	25,706	32,611	6,906
Investing Activities		(90,793)	(41,162)	(20,424)	20,739
Financing Activities		38,598	(28,207)	(28,207)	0
Net Increase/(decrease) in Cash Held		75,610	(43,664)	(16,019)	27,644
Closing Cash including TRUST		292,374	263,600	349,880	86,280

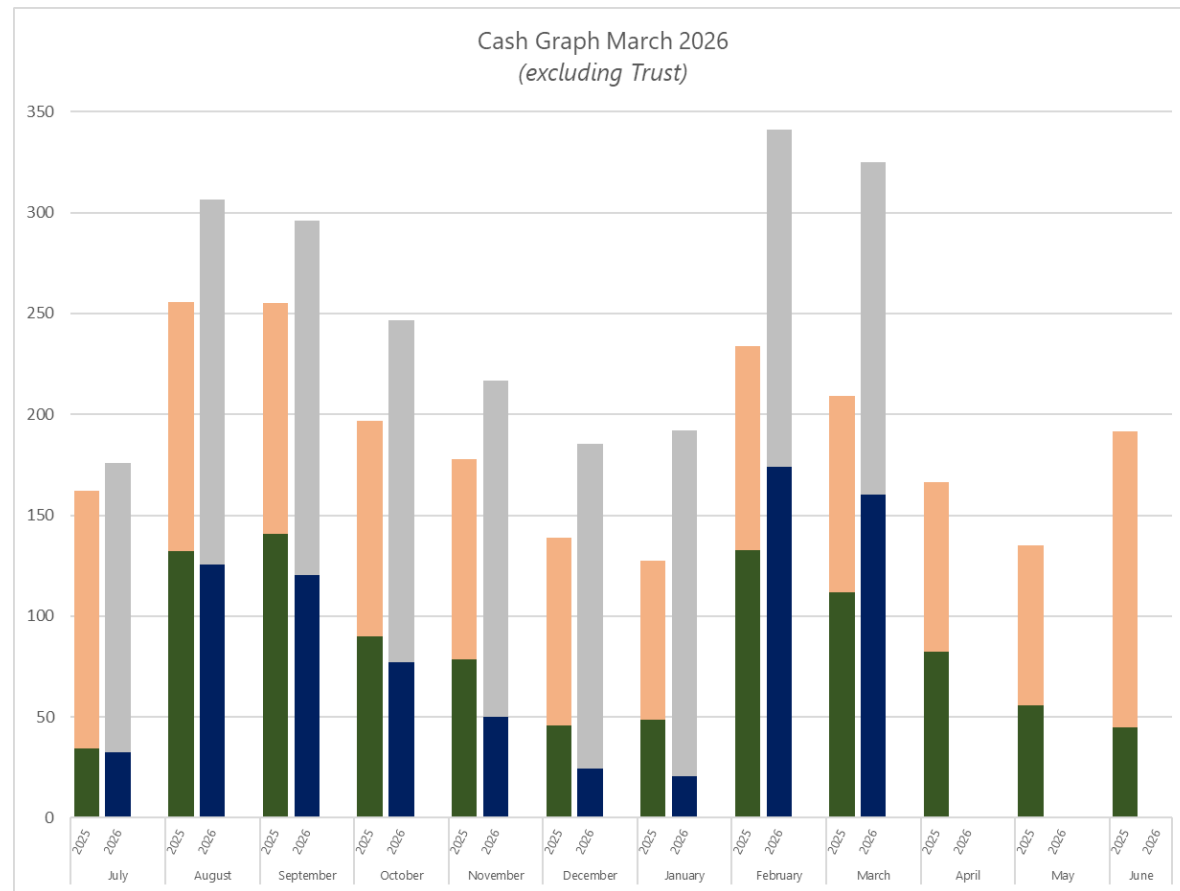


Cash Flows

Council Cash

Council's cash at 31 March
\$325 million (excluding Trust)

- *Unrestricted cash \$160.1 million*
- *Restricted cash \$164.9 million*



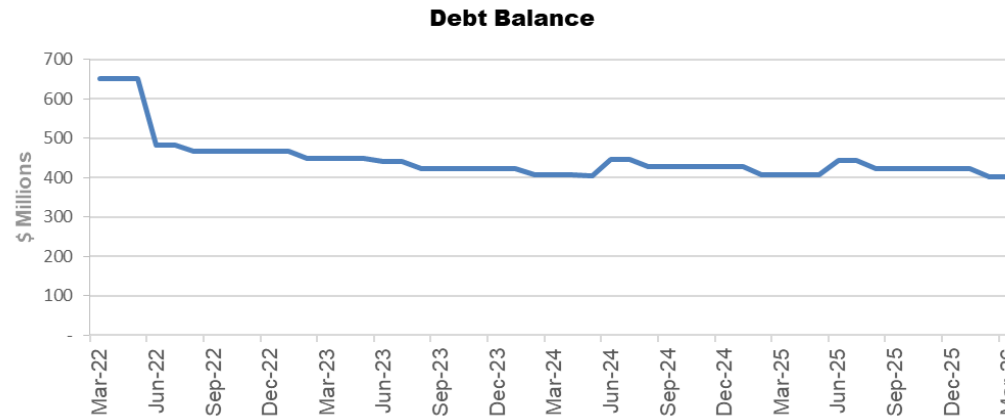
2025 Unrestricted Cash 2026 Unrestricted Cash
 2025 Restricted Cash 2026 Restricted Cash

Debt

Council’s current debt balance is \$413 million with a weighted average interest rate of 2.90% with terms of maturity between 5 and 16 years.

- 2025-26 new borrowings \$66.8 million

Debt - 2025-26				
	Opening Balance	Debt Redemption	Planned New Borrowings	Forecast Closing Balance
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Sunshine Coast Council Core	346,649	22,330	66,805	391,124
Maroochydore City Centre	95,504	5,877	-	89,627
Total	442,153	28,207	66,805	480,751



Investment Performance

Cash (excluding Trust) **\$325 million**

Weighted average interest rate 4.69%

▲ 0.35% above BAUBIL index

In line with the 2025-26 Investment Policy

This is compared to the same period last year \$208.9 million cash (excluding Trust funds)

Weighted average interest rate of 4.87%

▲ 0.21% above BAUBIL index

Investment Performance				March 2026			
Liquidity as at:	31/03/2026			Term deposits maturing:		Count	Average Interest Rate %
	\$'000's	% of Total Cash	Interest Rate	\$'000's			
At-call accounts				within 30 days	-	-	
QTC + CBA (excl. trust)	214,969	61.44%	4.14%	30-59 days	-	-	
				60-89 days	50,000	2	4.87%
Maturities within 7 days	-	0.00%		90-179 days	30,000	4	4.62%
Total at-call	214,969	61.44%		180-364 days	30,000	3	4.62%
				1 year - 3 years	-	-	
				Total	110,000	9	

	INVESTMENT SUMMARY (including Trust) as at:				Investment Policy Maximum % of Investment	
	31/03/2026		31/03/2025		Individual Limit	Group Limits
A1+ (QTC)	191,089	55%	141,113	60.4%	100%	100%
A1+ (Other)	108,791	31%	92,620	39.6%	100%	100%
A1	-	0%	-	0.0%	60%	100%
A2	50,000	14%	-	0.0%	60%	90%
A3	-	0%	-	0.0%	10%	30%
Total Funds	349,880		233,734			
FUND SUMMARY						
General Funds	324,968		208,889			
Trust Funds	24,912		24,845			
Total Funds	349,880		233,734			

Savings Initiatives

The 2025-26 Savings Initiatives have been achieved, with the Executive continuing to identify further savings opportunities.

The targeted vacancy rate remains on track to be achieved by 30 June 2026.

	Full Year Budget \$'000	YTD Budget \$'000	Achieved YTD \$'000	On Target
Vacancy Rate	7,536	5,632	5,536	✓
Employee Costs Savings Initiative	1,100	1,100	1,636	✓
Materials and Services Savings Initiative	4,400	4,400	4,544	✓
<i>TOTAL Savings Initiative</i>	<i>13,036</i>	<i>11,132</i>	<i>11,716</i>	

Risks

The following key elements of the 2025-26 budget are based on management estimates and assumptions:

- Rates and charges revenue includes population and property growth forecasts
- Interest revenue and Finance costs includes interest rate forecasts
- Depreciation includes asset valuation, useful life and asset condition estimates and,
- Recurrent capital expenditure includes capitalisation estimates.

Financial Performance Report

Officer Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report titled “March 2026 Financial Performance Report”

Thanks for your time



sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

							2025-26 Financial Year Grant Funding	
	Description	Division	Suburb	Estimated Construction Start Month	Construction Completed Month	TOTAL Grant Revenue \$'000	Project Expenditure to date \$'000	
Federal Government							(\$19,165)	\$11,730
1	Roads to Recovery Program					(\$5,846)		
	Urban Rivers and Catchments Program					(\$920)	\$1,086	
2	K6643 - Quota Park Fishway Construction	Division 10	Nambour	October 2024	January 2026	(\$920)	\$1,086	
	Growing Regions Fund					(\$7,000)	\$2,096	
3	H1670 - Growing Regions Round 2 - First Avenue Streetscape	Division 04	Maroochydore	June 2025	August 2026	(\$3,000)	\$1,881	
4	K1280 - Honey Farm Rd Clubhouse Construction	Division 03	Meridan Plains	May 2026	March 2027	(\$4,000)	\$215	
	Disaster Ready Fund - Round 1					(\$5,000)	\$8,549	
5	K7936 - Mooloolaba Foreshore Stage 2 - Seawall	Division 04	Mooloolaba	July 2025	March 2027	(\$5,000)	\$8,549	
	Play Our Way					(\$399)	\$83	
6	K8846 - Reserve 1000 Outdoor Amenities Facility	Division 02	Golden Beach	April 2026	October 2026	(\$399)	\$83	
State Government							(\$37,527)	\$27,063
7	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements					(\$14,560)	\$13,048	
	Blackspot Funding					(\$3,368)	\$3,175	
8	K4894 - Blackspot - Beerburum Street and Cooroy Street Intersection	Division 02	Dicky Beach	February 2026	June 2026	(\$525)	\$901	
9	K4895 - Blackspot - Old Gympie Road Beerburum	Division 01	Beerburum	April 2025	September 2025	(\$500)	\$952	
10	K6054 - Blackspot Sixth Ave Maroochydore - side street Zebra Crossing x 8	Division 04	Maroochydore	November 2025	June 2026	(\$886)	\$610	
11	K6056 - Blackspot - Mons Road Forest Glen	Division 07	Forest Glen	March 2026	April 2026	(\$134)	\$45	
12	K8652 - Blackspot - Dulong Road Dulong	Division 10	Dulong	May 2026	June 2026	(\$695)	\$1	
13	K8653 - Blackspot - Vise Road Buderim	Division 07	Forest Glen	April 2026	May 2026	(\$170)	\$5	
14	H4105 - Blackspot - Bellvista Boulevard - Raised Zebra Crossing on Southern Leg of Roundabout	Division 01	Caloundra West	December 2025	January 2026	(\$558)	\$661	
	Minor Infrastructure and Inclusive Facilities Fund					(\$518)	\$1,162	
15	K7887 - MSSWP3 - Meta Street and Douglas Street - Raised Crossing	Division 04	Mooloolaba			(\$18)	\$235	
16	K7596 - Maleny State Park Upgrade Phase 2	Division 05	Maleny	July 2025	December 2025	(\$150)	\$520	
17	H9184 - Caloundra South Sports Clubhouse DS1	Division 01	Baringa			(\$350)	\$407	
	Queensland Transport Cycle Network Program					(\$2,873)	\$198	
18	H8416 - Emu Mountain Road Pathway Construction	Division 09	Coolool Beach			(\$899)	\$80	
19	H4585 - LGIP Mooloolaba Esplanade Active Transport Link	Division 04	Mooloolaba			(\$100)	\$10	
20	H5950 - LGIP Burke Street Pathway	Division 02	Golden Beach			(\$75)	\$7	
21	H5955 - LGIP Karawatha Dr Cycle Lanes	Division 06	Mountain Creek	January 2027	June 2027	(\$1,500)	\$49	
22	H8800 - LGIP River Esplanade Active Transport Link	Division 04	Mooloolaba			(\$100)	\$0	
23	H5972 - LGIP Caloundra to Currimundi Stage 2 - Bowman Road Active Transport Link	Division 02	Caloundra			(\$75)	\$2	
24	K3826 - Jensen Park Golden Beach Coastal Pathway	Division 02	Golden Beach	March 2026	April 2026	(\$124)	\$52	
	Walking Network Plans					(\$518)	\$41	
25	K3037 - Walking Network Plans	Whole of Council				(\$18)	\$0	
26	K8298 - WNP - Buddina - Illuka Avenue Lowana Dr	Division 04	Buddina			(\$500)	\$41	
	South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program					(\$4,136)	\$3,972	
27	K2914 - SEQCSP Beerwah Cemetery entrance feature and carparking	Division 01	Beerwah	April 2026	June 2026	(\$310)	\$123	
28	K6414 - SEQCSP Khancoban Drive Park - District Park Development	Division 06	Buderim			(\$238)	\$18	
29	K7394 - SEQCSP Albany Lakes Park - Public Amenity	Division 06	Sippy Downs	November 2025	January 2026	(\$350)	\$300	
30	H5133 - SEQCSP South Coolool Road Coolool New Pathway	Division 08	Coolool Beach	July 2025	January 2026	(\$480)	\$1,214	
31	K7568 - SEQCSP Sundew Street MUDJIMBA - East Section kerb and channel	Division 08	Mudjimba	September 2025		(\$320)	\$731	
32	K1771 - SEQCSP Petrie Creek Road Shoulder Widening from Paynters Creek Road to Celestine Place	Division 07	Rosemount	September 2025	October 2025	(\$1,718)	\$1,478	
33	H4904 - SEQCSP Nambour Namba Place Revitalisation Project	Division 10	Nambour	March 2026	November 2026	(\$120)	\$81	
34	K7207 - SEQCSP Coolool beach DDA compliant beach access ramp	Division 09	Coolool Beach	June 2026	September 2026	(\$300)	\$28	
35	K8605 - SEQCSP Namba Ped Crossing	Division 10	Nambour			(\$300)	\$0	
	Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme					(\$1,581)	\$1,057	
36	B0792 - WOR School Precinct Improvement Planning	Whole of Council				(\$200)	\$0	
37	K8425 - TIDS Roys Road BEERWAH - widening and overlay	Division 01	Beerwah	December 2025	March 2026	(\$1,381)	\$1,057	
	SEQ Liveability Fund					(\$4,333)	\$4,410	
38	H7509 - Alex Bluff Foreshore Coastal Pathway Imp	Division 04	Alexandra Headlands	January 2026	September 2026	(\$2,000)	\$854	
39	K2838 - Mooloolaba Foreshore Stage 2 - Central Meeting Place	Division 04	Mooloolaba	July 2025	March 2027	(\$2,333)	\$3,556	
	School Transport Infrastructure Program					(\$2,290)	\$783	
40	K8474 - STIP - Montville State School Pathway Upgrade	Division 05	Montville	January 2026	February 2026	(\$105)	\$44	
41	K8475 - STIP - Palmview State School Raised Pedestrian Crossings	Division 06	Palmview	June 2026	July 2026	(\$224)	\$29	
42	K8476 - STIP - Golden Beach State School Pathway Upgrade	Division 02	Golden Beach	September 2025	January 2026	(\$208)	\$378	
43	K8480 - STIP - Peregrin Springs State School Raised Pedestrian Crossing	Division 09	Peregrin Springs			(\$108)	\$115	
44	K8481 - STIP - Yandina State School Stop Drop and Go	Division 10	Yandina	January 2026	January 2026	(\$30)	\$86	
45	K8832 - STIP - Kuluin State School Raised Pedestrian Crossing	Division 07	Kuluin			(\$281)	\$30	
46	K8833 - STIP - Chancellor State College Primary Stop Drop and Go Zone	Division 06	Sippy Downs	January 2026	January 2026	(\$34)	\$31	
47	K9089 - STIP - Maroochydore State High School - Bus Zone Upgrade	Division 08	Maroochydore			(\$1,200)	\$54	
48	H7363 - North Arm School Parking Improvements	Division 10	North Arm			(\$100)	\$16	
	Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund (QRRRF)					(\$600)	\$344	
49	K6749 - Golden beach south seawall and stormwater improvements	Division 02	Golden Beach	June 2026	February 2027	(\$600)	\$344	
	Election Promises					(\$2,000)	\$611	
50	H8775 - Caloundra Centre Activation - Precinct	Division 02	Caloundra			(\$2,000)	\$611	
	Housing Investment Fund					(\$750)	\$569	
51	K7620 - Marcoola Affordable Housing Prefabricate	Division 08	Marcoola	September 2024	August 2025	(\$750)	\$569	
	Project Complete							

9 NOTIFIED MOTIONS

10 TABLING OF PETITIONS

Petitions only eligible for submission if:

- * Legible
- * Have purpose of the petition on top of each page
- * Contain at least 10 signatures
- * Motion limited to:
 - Petition received and referred to a future meeting
 - Petition received and referred to the Chief Executive Officer for report and consideration of recommendation
 - Petition not be received

11 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

12 NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 21 May 2026.

13 MEETING CLOSURE