

POLICY NO EP05 DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY 2018

DEPARTMENT:	Development Services
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Manager Infrastructure & Development Services
LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	To balance our use of the natural environment to ensure that it is available for future generations to enjoy as we do.
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	Dog Control Act 2000
OBJECTIVE:	Council aims to achieve a balance between the reasonable expectations of dog owners and the community. Dogs and their owners shall have the freedom to enjoy all that the Break O'Day Municipality has to offer them, whilst the public amenity of community, parks, gardens and beaches is maintained and wildlife are not harmed.
POLICY INFORMATION:	<p>Adopted 8 November 2010 – Minute No 11/10.14.3.284</p> <p>Amended 9 November 2011 – Minute No 8/11.14.3.302</p> <p>Amended 17 September 2012 – Minute No 09/12.14.8.250</p> <p>Amended 17 June 2013 – Minute No 06/13.11.14.160</p> <p>Amended 15 December 2014 – Minute No 12/14.14.5.370</p> <p>Amended 17 December 2018 – Minute No 12/18.15.5.315</p> <p>Corrected (map) 9 January 2019 - Minute No 12/18.15.5.315</p>

POLICY

1 PREAMBLE

In the Break O'Day Municipality, the *Dog Control Act 2000* regulates the control and management of dogs. It requires Break O'Day Council develop and implement a policy on dog management in its municipal area and gives it certain powers in relation to the management of dogs.

Dogs are the valued companions of many residents and visitors, young and old and some keep one or more working dogs. All have legal and ethical responsibilities to their dogs and the community. However not everyone in Break O'Day values dogs the same. Community health, safety and enjoyment of urban life and the outdoors can be detrimentally affected by poor care and control of dogs.

Break O'Day is also home to a diverse range of native animals. Some of our wildlife can be harmed by dogs; unwittingly or carelessly, in play or through natural behaviours and hunter instincts. Our coasts in particular are the habitat for many native 'shorebirds'. Most of these coastal habitats are in reserves such as National Park and Conservation Area, which are managed primarily for the conservation of natural values by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

All of them face enough natural challenges to survival as it is; some migrate thousands of kilometres to feed and breed here. Because our beaches are so popular with people, many shorebirds face additional pressures which have reduced their numbers and pushed some species to the brink. Among other factors, disturbance and harm from dogs is a known factor of shorebird decline.

Dog management is an essential function of local government. The community's desire to maintain the amenity, sense of place and freedom of choice within the Municipality must be respected.

Through policy, Council can create guidelines and set boundaries to provide an equitable balance between people, dogs and wildlife. It is envisaged that this policy will provide for those who do not own dogs or may be adversely impacted by them, those who own a dog and need places for the enjoyment and exercise of their dog and for the native wildlife and natural values of the Municipality.

2 CODE RELATING TO RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP OF DOGS

2.1 Entitlements

- Individuals are entitled to own one or more dogs.
- The community is entitled to expect that dog owners will be responsible and not create a nuisance and responsible dog owners are entitled to the community's respect as a dog carer.
- Individuals and the community are entitled to be consulted on plans that are likely to affect enjoyment of their local area in relation to the management of animals.
- Council is entitled to expect that dog owners will be responsible and register their dogs.

2.2 Responsibilities

Individuals are responsible for ensuring:

- a) their dog is well fed and cared for;
- b) their dog is provided with adequate shelter from the elements;
- c) their dog is fully vaccinated;
- d) their dog is exercised in an appropriate manner;
- e) their dog is exercised, and in public areas in the designated locations;
- f) their dog is under effective control at all times, including when using off lead areas;
- g) their dog does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or the community;
- h) their dog is not a threat or menace to members of the community or other animals;
- i) they collect the faeces their dog drops promptly and dispose of them properly;
- j) they are aware of the rights and responsibilities for the care and exercise of dogs;
- k) compliance with all regulations under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, including this policy.

Council is responsible for:

- a) Ensuring that sufficient public consultation is carried out regarding any changes that may affect the community or dog owners;
- b) Fulfilling its obligations under the *Dog Control Act 2000*.
- c) Dealing with nuisances, complaints and non-compliance in a timely, fair and effective manner;
- d) Establishing dog access zones to provide accessible exercise areas for the reasonable needs of dogs and their owners and to protect public health and safety, natural values and amenity;
- e) Encouraging responsible dog ownership through education, awareness and enforcement and public bag dispensers for dog faeces.
- f) Supporting pensioners, guide dogs and early payment of registration with discounted fees.
- g) Undertaking regular reviews of this policy.

3 DOG MANAGEMENT ZONES – DECLARED AREAS

3.1 Exercise Areas

Areas on provided on Council parks and reserves with access and facilities for the exercise and general recreation of dogs. Provide for the welfare and good care of dogs and their owners. These are off lead areas.

3.1.1 St Helens Sports Recreation Grounds

At the corner of Eagle and Young Streets, access off Eagle Street.

Note: Fenced Exercise area facilities for Binalong Bay, St Marys, Scamander and other locations are being considered by Council according to need, suitable sites and budget provisions. They may be Declared by Council after necessary infrastructure is installed.

3.2 Training Areas

Areas of Council parks and reserves where dogs may be trained subject to any specified conditions.

3.2.1 St Helens Sports Recreation Grounds

Within the Exercise Area at corner of Eagle and Young Streets, access off Eagle Street.

3.3 Restricted Areas

3.3.1 Dog Off Lead (exercise) beaches

Areas where dogs are allowed off lead under escort by their owner or competent person and must remain under effective control. Dog controllers are to remain mindful of other people and wildlife in the area.

Beaches with sections available for dog off lead exercise are at:

- 3.3.1.1 Ansons Bay (Boronia Street)
- 3.3.1.2 Steiglitz (two)
- 3.3.1.3 Maurouard Beach
- 3.3.1.4 Ring Rock (Dianas Beach)
- 3.3.1.5 Beaumaris (south of Yarmouth Creek.)
- 3.3.1.6 Scamander (Byatt Court – Wrinklers and beach section south of river mouth)
- 3.3.1.7 Mariposa Beach
- 3.3.1.8 Four Mile Creek
- 3.3.1.9 Seymour

Dog 'Off Lead' beach zones are shown on the attached maps.

3.3.2 Dog On Lead beaches

Coastline areas accessible to dogs provided they are on a lead at all times. These are shown as 'Dog on Lead' on the attached maps; to protect public health and safety and wildlife.

3.3.3 Beaches with seasonal and daily restrictions

3.3.3.1 Taylors Beach

Area: Full length of beach area

Restriction: Dogs prohibited from 1 October to 31 March, to protect wildlife. On lead at all other times.

3.3.3.2 Binalong Bay Beach

Area: Length of the beach and including Gants Lagoon mouth and spit, as far as the northern beach access at Lyall Road.

Restriction: Dogs prohibited from 1 October to 31 March for public health and safety and the protection of wildlife. On lead at all other times.

3.3.3.3 Maurouard Beach

Area: Northern section outside area designated for recreational vehicle use.

Restriction: Dogs prohibited from 1 October to 31 March to protect wildlife. On lead at all other times.

3.3.3.4 Scamander River mouth

Area: The northern bank, sand spit and shoals of the river mouth. Southern boundary is 50m from south bank as far as Dune Street stormwater drain and then a line due east.

Restriction: Dogs prohibited from 1 October to 31 March for public health and safety and the protection of wildlife (high significance, breeding area). On lead at all other times.

3.3.3.5 Denison Beach

Area: From Porch Rocks to Denison Rivulet.

Restriction: Dogs prohibited from 1 October to 31 March to protect wildlife. On lead at all other times.

Beaches Declared as 'Dog on Lead' and with seasonal and daily restrictions are shown on the attached maps.

3.3.4 Other Restricted Areas

Where dogs are restricted from entering

- During specified hours, days or seasons or at all; or
- During specified hours, days or seasons unless they are on a lead; and
- A person must not take a dog that is not a guide dog or hearing dog, into a restricted area other than in accordance with the declaration of restricted access zones.

Restricted areas in Break O'Day Municipality protect public amenity, health and safety, shorebirds and other wildlife and include:

3.3.4.1 St Helens Recreation Grounds

Area: All of the sports complex regardless of whether sport is being played, except for the Declared Dog Exercise and Training Areas on the corner of Eagle and Young Streets. (as shown on the attached maps.)

Restriction: Dogs are prohibited at all times, to protect public health and safety. At Council's discretion organised events involving dogs may be individually and conditionally allowed.

3.3.4.2 On sports grounds and golf courses other than St Helens Recreation Ground

Area The playing fields and playing areas (regardless of whether sport is being played).

Restriction: Dogs are prohibited at all times (from playing fields and playing areas) to protect public health and safety, but may be taken elsewhere if on a lead at all times. At Council's discretion organised events involving dogs may be individually and conditionally allowed.

3.3.4.3 St Helens Wharf

Area The loading area designated by Marine and Safety Tasmania. (as shown on the attached maps.)

Restriction: Dogs are prohibited at all times, to protect public health and safety and marine produce.

Note regarding 3.3.4.2: While dogs are restricted from being on playing fields and playing areas of these sports grounds and golf courses, they can access other parts of these parks, reserves and sports grounds, when kept on a lead.

3.4 Prohibited Areas

3.4.1 Under the Dog Control Act 2000 Section 28 the following areas are prohibited areas.

- a) any grounds of a school, preschool, kindergarten, crèche or other place for the reception of children without the permission of a person in charge of the place; or
- b) any shopping centre or any shop; or
- c) the grounds of a public swimming pool; or
- d) any playing area of a sportsground on which sport is being played; or
- e) any area within 10 metres of a children's playground; or
- f) any area declared by a Council to be a prohibited area due the sensitive habitat of native wildlife.

3.4.2 Declared Prohibited Areas

- a) Any National Park; or
- b) A coastal area with high wildlife values, such as shore and migratory bird values, shown on the attached maps; or
- c) An area defined from time to time by fencing and signs prohibiting dogs for temporary protection of birds and other wildlife.

4 FEE STRUCTURE

Council utilises the current Schedule of Fees and Charges as an additional method of promoting responsible dog ownership. Discounts are provided to those who make early payment.

5 APPLICATION

This policy applies to the Break O'Day local government area in its entirety.

6 REVIEW


This Policy will be reviewed every five (5) years in line with Council's Policy Framework or earlier in the event of major changes to legislation or related policies, procedures or if deemed necessary by the General Manager.

INDEX MAP

Dog Management Zones

Break O'Day Dog Management Policy Dec. 2018

-  Dog Off Lead Area
-  Dog on Lead
-  Prohibited
-  Restricted

-  Restricted
-  Exercise Area
-  Training Area
-  Future exercise area

Refer to the Policy text for detail on conditions and terms applying to Restricted and other Declared dog management zones.

Coastline zones apply to shorelines and adjacent areas of public land.

To view dog management zones in detail see an online map using the link provided on Council's website: www.bodc.tas.gov.au or contact Council on (03) 6376 7900.

In addition:

Where unzoned, the Dog Control Act 2000 requires dogs are kept under 'effective control'.

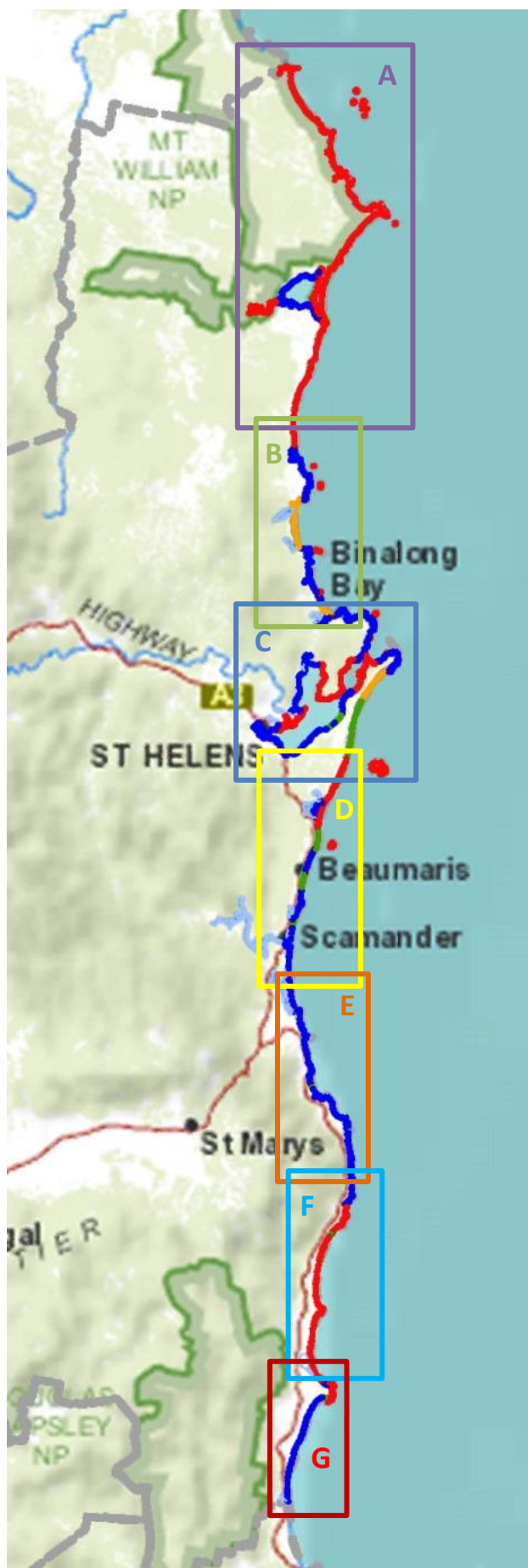
In National Parks and other Reserves further legislated conditions and controls apply.



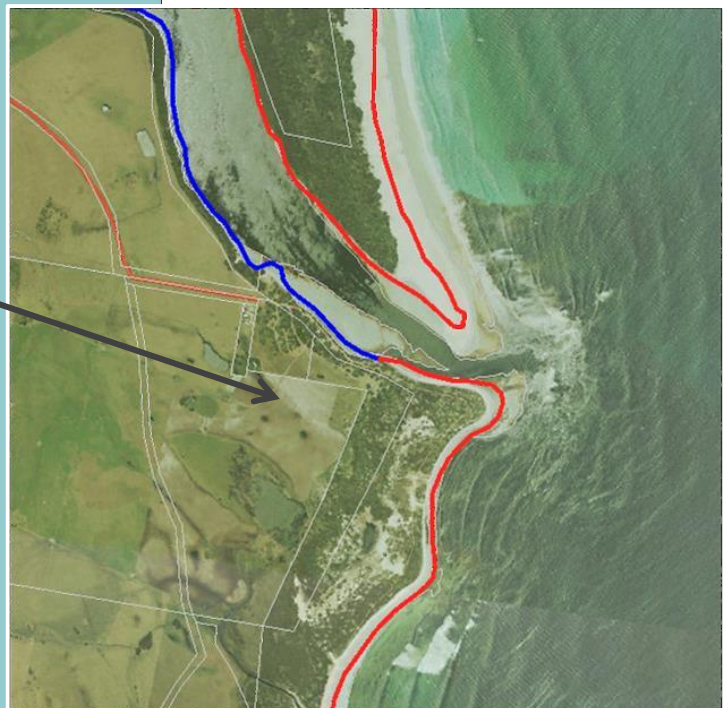
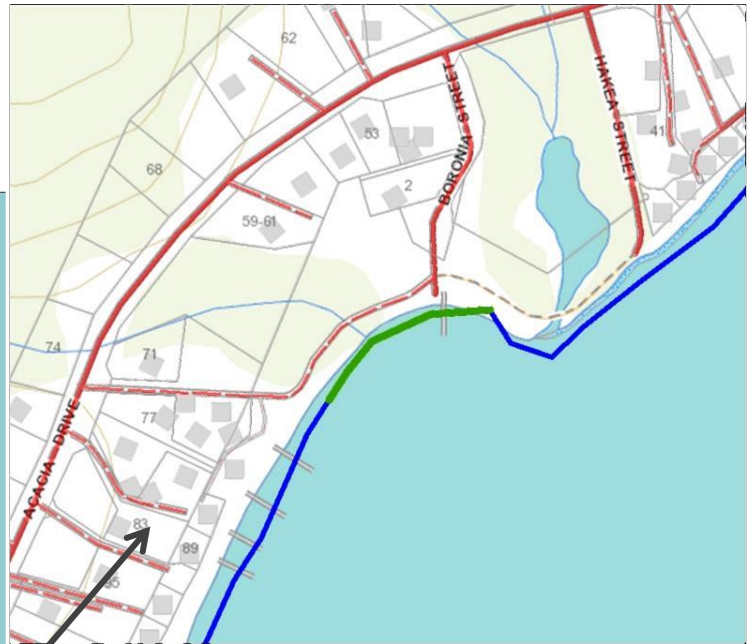
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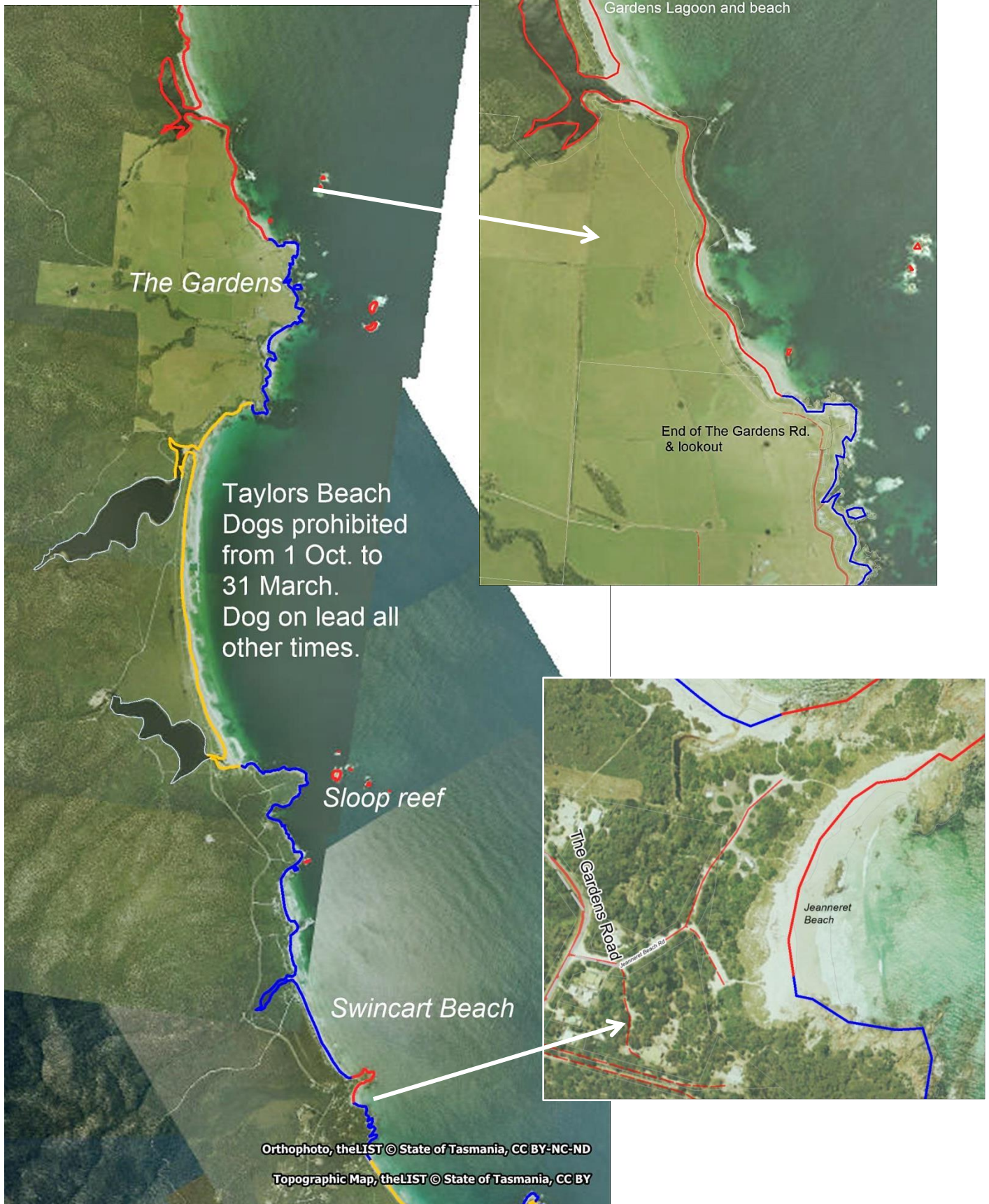
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A wukalina/Mt William
Ansons Bay/Iarapuna
Bay of Fires



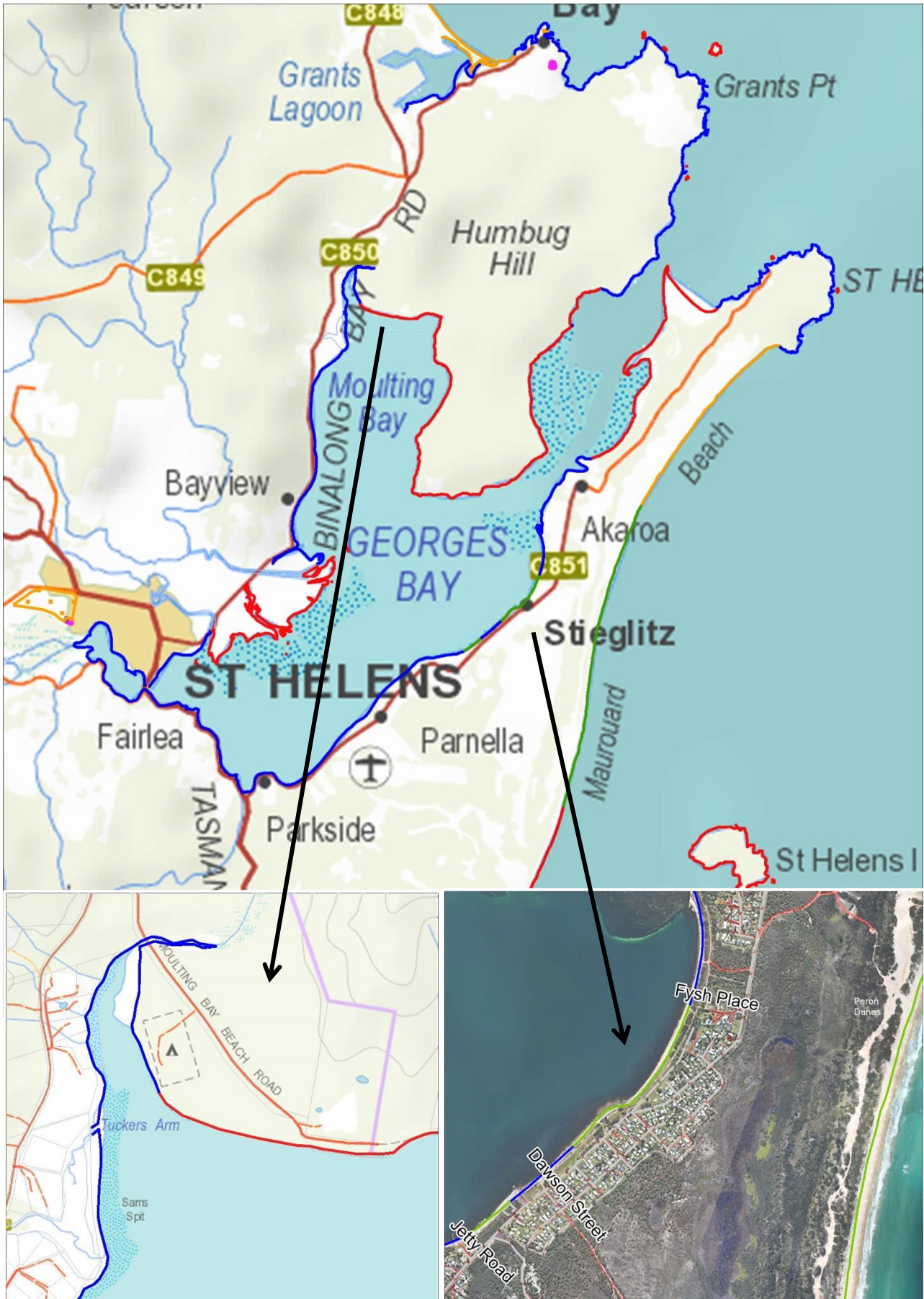
B The Gardens – Binalong Bay



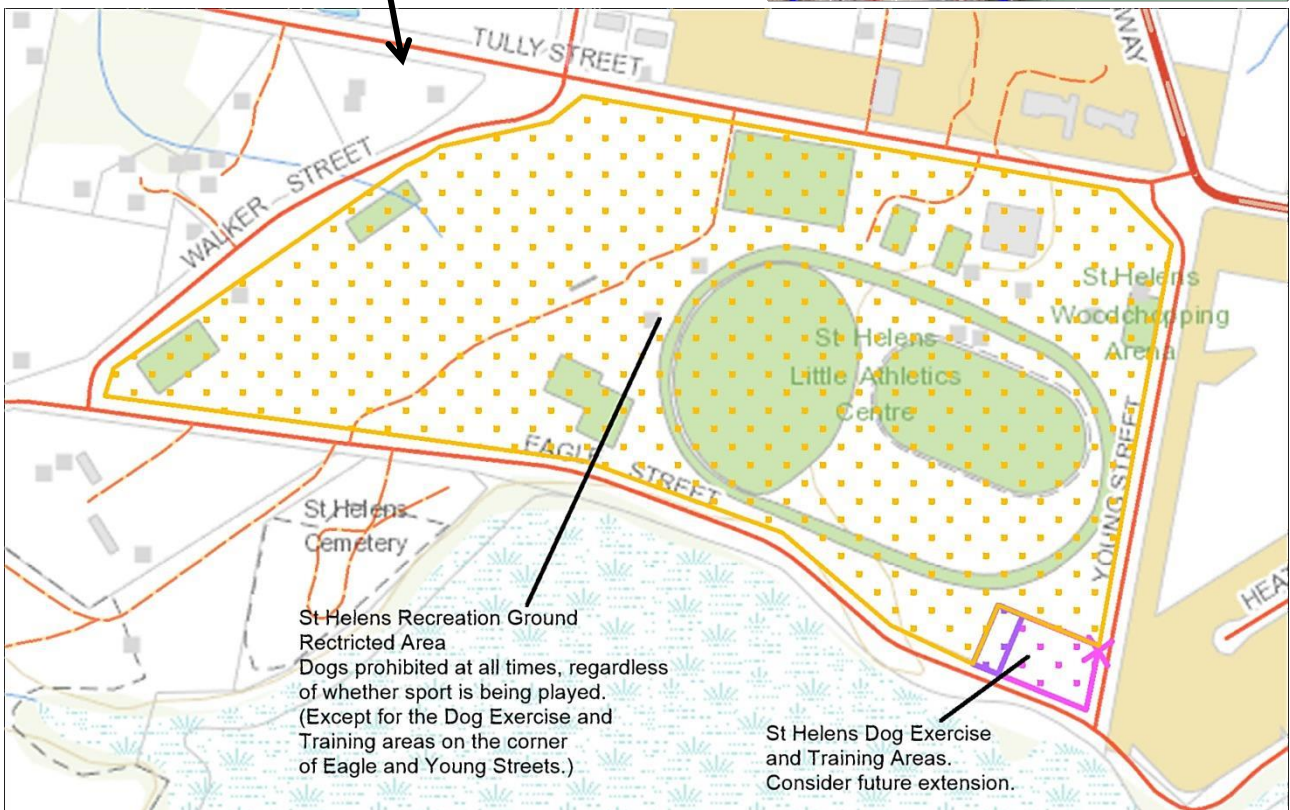
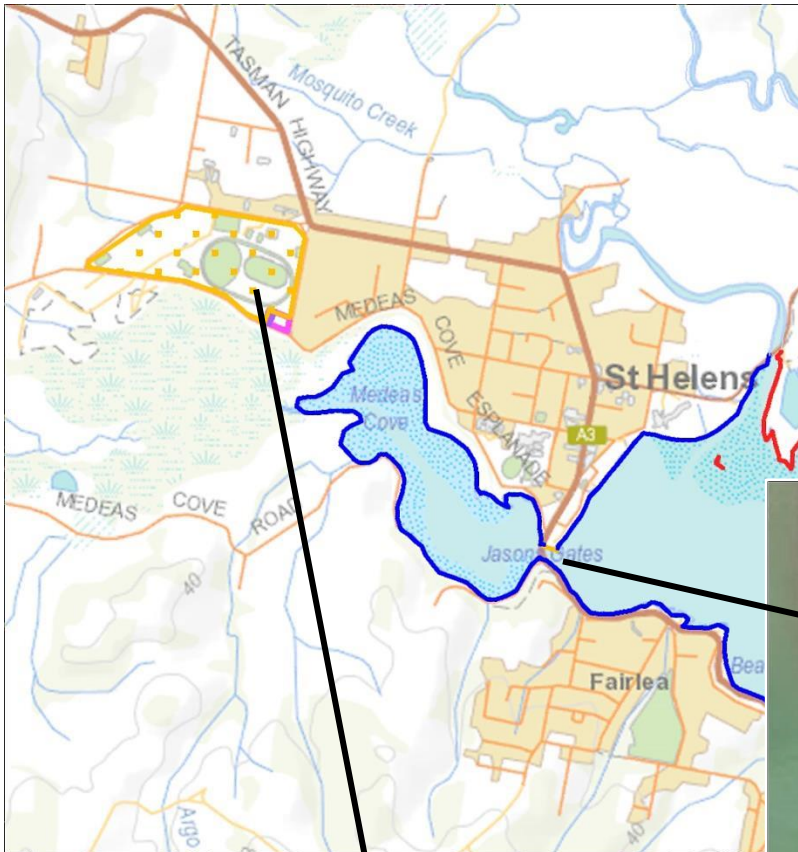
B Binalong Bay



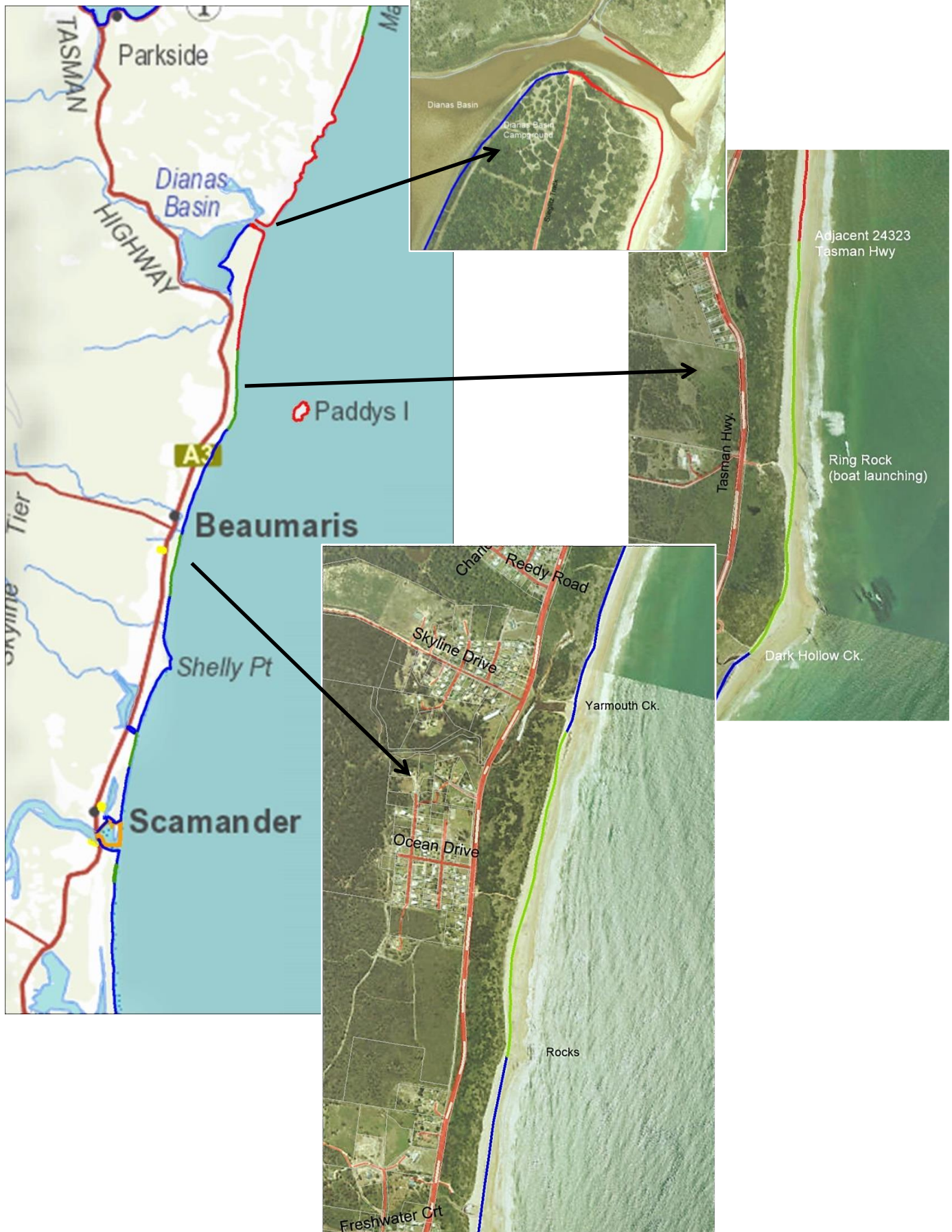
C Georges Bay & St Helens Point



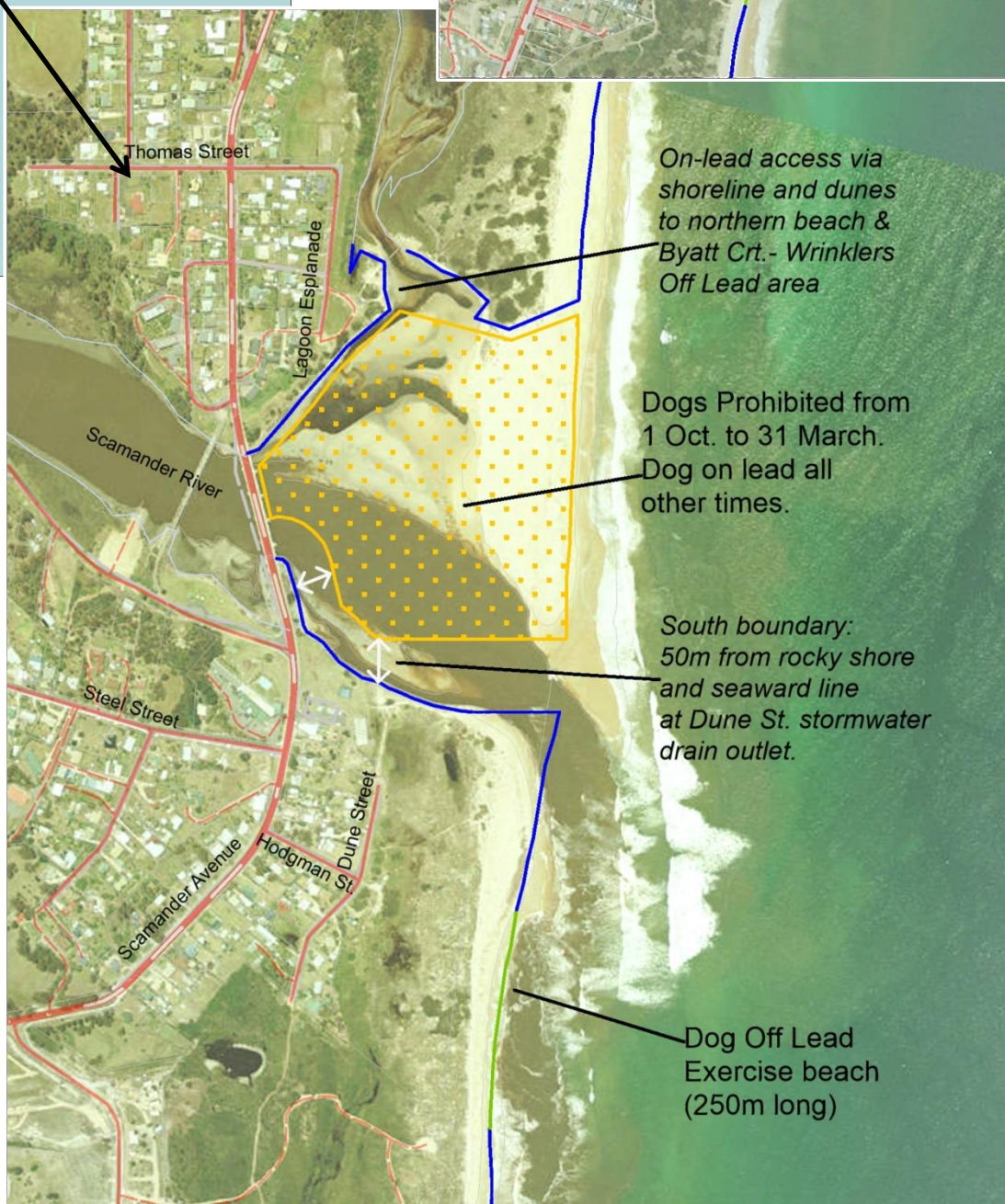
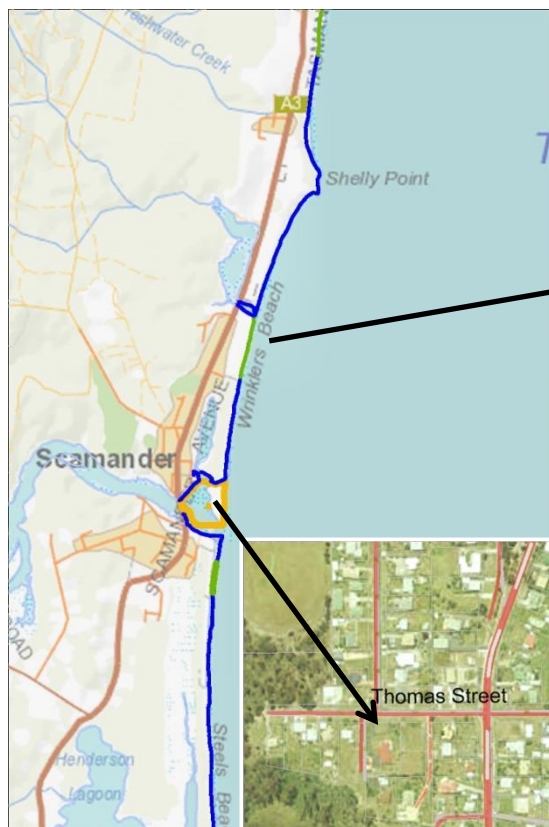
C St Helens



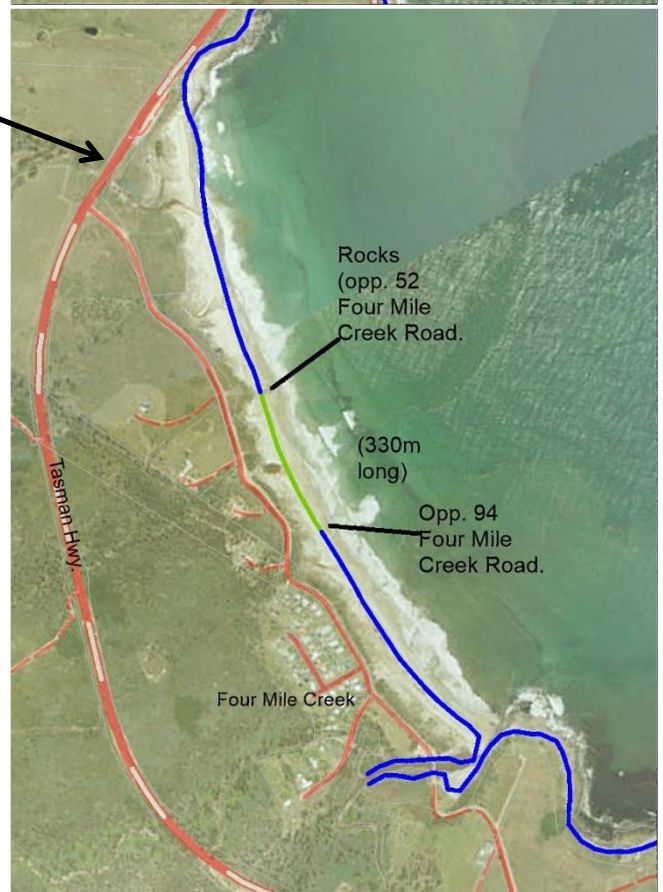
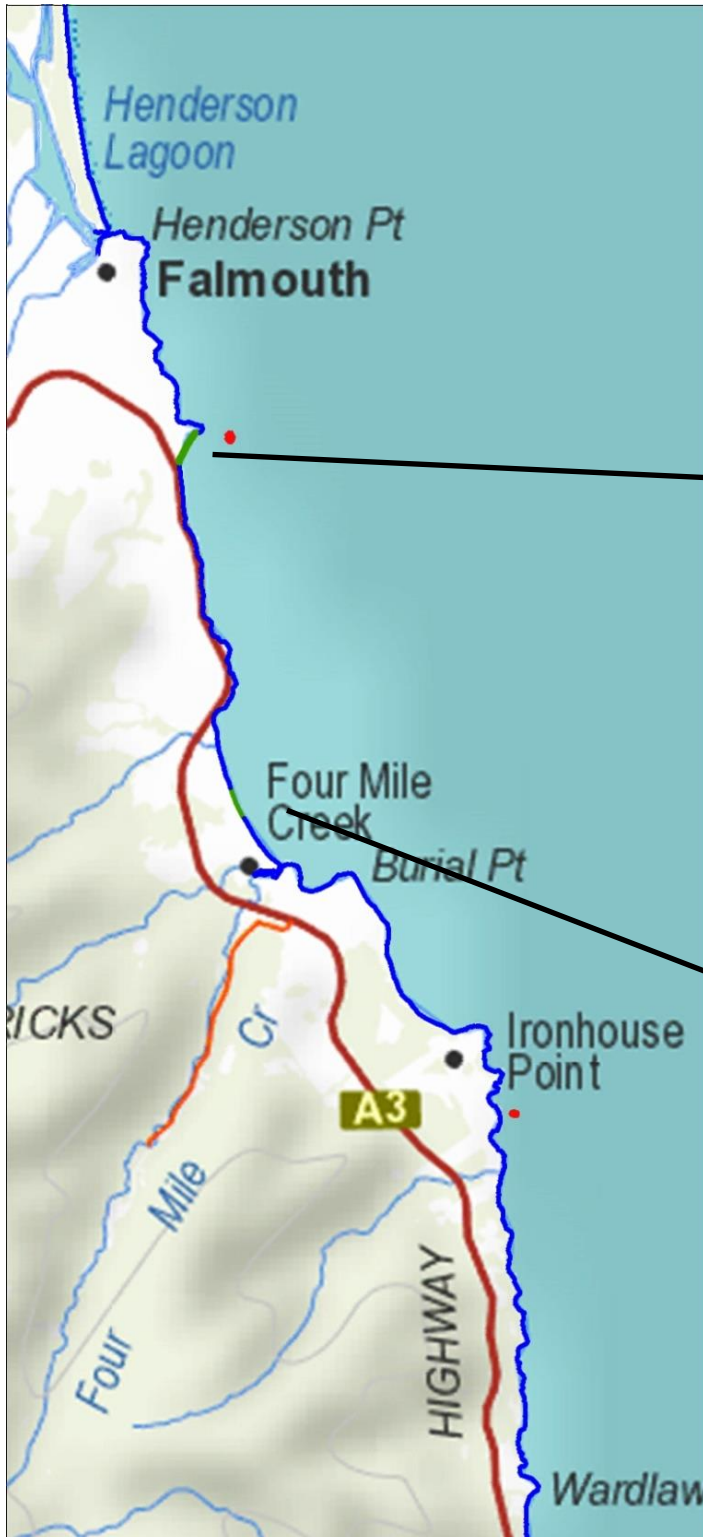
D Dianas Basin - Scamander



D Scamander



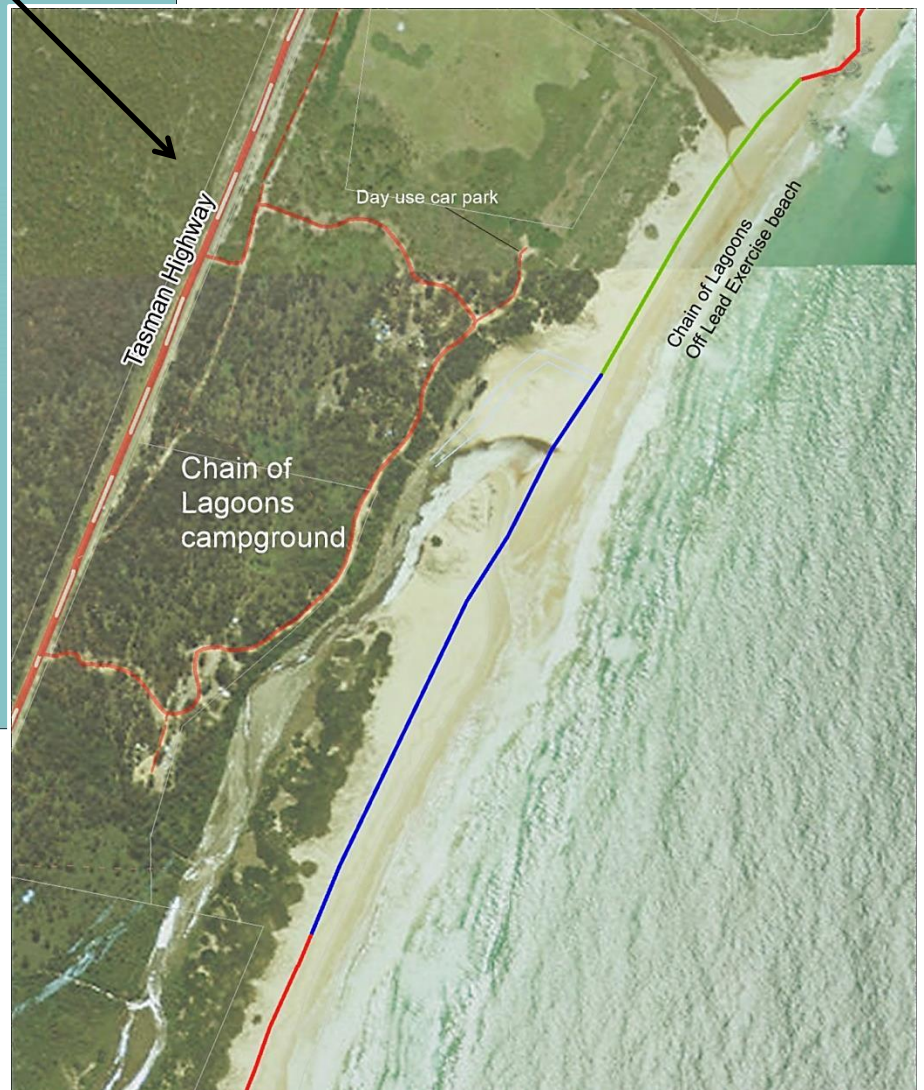
E Scamander/Falmouth/Wardlaws Point



F Chain of Lagoons to Templestowe Beach - and St Marys



St Marys - proposed exercise area facility



G Seymour - Denison Rivulet

