

POLICY NO EP05 DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY 2024

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 opportunity to enjoy what the Break O'Day Municipality has to offer them, whilst safety and amenity for the community are maintained and wildlife are protected from harm.
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> <p>Amended 15 July 2024 – Minute No 07/24.16.3.418.</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 the municipality and gives it certain powers in relation to the management of dogs, including declaring dog access areas.

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 are the habitat for many 'shorebirds' and most of these are in reserves such as National Park and Conservation Area, which are managed primarily for the conservation of natural values by Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

Shorebirds face enough natural challenges to their 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. Several species are threatened with extinction and are listed in state and national laws to protect them. Among other factors, disturbance and harm from dogs is a known factor of shorebird decline.

Council, with the community and Parks and Wildlife Service, can create guidelines and set boundaries to provide an equitable balance between people, dogs and wildlife. This policy provides 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 those who speak up for the native wildlife and natural values of the municipality.

This policy and its Declared areas do not represent all regulation of dogs or all dog access rules in Break O'Day municipality. Other conditions do apply elsewhere on Reserves, other authority land and also under the Dog Control Act. Dog owners must check for and be aware of other requirements and regulations.

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 in public areas in designated locations.
- f) their dog is always under effective control including when off lead.
- 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 zones to provide access to areas for the reasonable exercise 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 facilities for dogs.
- 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

This section sets out Council's policy in relation to Declared areas having considered community views and consulted the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) on a draft revised Policy and Declared areas for 2024. The current areas Council Declared on 14 January 2019 remain in force for six years.

The new Declared areas in this revised policy are subject to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service support to authorise the same dog access conditions under their Reserve management legislation. These new Declared areas are Council policy but will not come into force until Council publishes a public notice in accordance with Sec. 25 of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

3.1 Exercise Areas

Access for the exercise and general recreation of dogs while under effective control on sections of beaches and areas of parks and reserves with facilities. Providing for the welfare, good care and wellbeing of dogs and their owners. These are off lead areas.

3.1.1 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:

- 3.1.1.1 Ansons Bay (Boronia Street)
- 3.1.1.2 Steiglitz beach (two)
- 3.1.1.3 Maurouard Beach (middle, area designated for recreational vehicle use)
- 3.1.1.4 Ring Rock (Dianas Beach, opp. Paddys Island)
- 3.1.1.5 Beaumaris (south of Yarmouth Creek.)
- 3.1.1.6 Scamander (Byatt Court to Wrinklers Lagoon and section of Steeles Beach south of River mouth)
- 3.1.1.7 Mariposa Beach
- 3.1.1.8 Four Mile Creek Beach (middle)
- 3.1.1.9 Chain of Lagoons campground (section north of day use carpark)
- 3.1.1.10 Seymour (Long Point south beach)

Dog Off Lead exercise beaches and are shown on the attached maps.

3.1.2 St Helens Sports Recreation Grounds – 'Dog Yard'

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

3.1.3 Two Exercise areas at St Marys

Two dog park areas are proposed for St Marys for off lead dog exercise and are shown on the attached maps. One at the St Marys Sports Grounds and one near the old railway station open space land on Main St. These two Exercise areas would not be formally Declared by Council until after necessary infrastructure is installed.

Dog Off Lead exercise areas (dog parks) are shown separately on the attached maps.

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

Attached to the St Helens Sports Recreation Grounds 'Dog Yard', at corner of Eagle and Young Streets, access off Eagle Street. As shown on the attached map.

3.3 Restricted Areas

Areas where dog access is restricted: to certain hours, days or seasons when kept on a lead, or not allowed at any time.

Note: Section 4 of the Dog Control Act 2000 stipulates a dog lead must be no longer than 2 metres in length in these Declared 'Dog On Lead' areas and is also required for dogs in public places when "on a road or road-related area in a built-up area".

3.3.1 Dog On Lead areas

'Dog On Lead' access opportunities for dogs and their owners to various coastal, foreshore, township open space areas and streets are provided to also protect public health and safety and wildlife. Includes Mt Poimena day use area (and MTB trailhead) in Blue Tier Regional Reserve. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times in these areas.

These areas are shown as 'Dog On Lead' on the attached maps.

3.3.2 Beaches with seasonal and daily restrictions

3.3.2.1 Taylors Beach

Area: From Big Lagoon Creek to Sloop Lagoon

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

3.3.2.2 Binalong Bay Beach

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

3.3.2.3 Boat Harbour Point, Binalong Bay

Area: Two sheltered rockpools opposite Bay View Avenue and surrounds.

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

3.3.2.4 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.

3.3.2.5 Scamander River mouth

Area: The northern bank, sand spit and shoals area at the river mouth. Southern boundary is 50m from rock-wall lining the south bank and then a line due east.

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

On the eastern (seaward) edge of this area only, when a dog is On Lead and *on the wet sand* (below the last high tide mark), transit directly between the On Lead areas north and south is permitted from 1 October to 31 March.

3.3.2.6 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 with seasonal and daily restrictions are shown on the attached maps.

3.3.3 Other Restricted Areas where dogs are not allowed.

In certain places dogs are not allowed at all (prohibited at all times), to protect public amenity, health and safety and wildlife.

3.3.3.1 St Columba Falls

Area: Area at of St Columba Falls walking trail and carpark on St Columba Falls Road.

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

3.3.3.2 St Helens Aerodrome

Area: St Helens Aerodrome fenced airstrip and aerodrome facilities area, Aerodrome Road St Helens.

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

3.3.3.3 St Helens Mountain Bike Trails (MTB Trails)

Area: Flagstaff Stacked Loops and Town Link Trail (20m corridor) and trailheads. And Bay of Fires Trail and Blue Teir Decent (20m corridor), but not the Mt Poimena (Blue Tier Regional Res.) day use area (and MTB trailhead).

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

3.3.3.4 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.

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.

3.3.3.5 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 surfaces of 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.

3.3.3.6 St Helens Wharf

Area The loading area designated by Marine and Safety Tasmania.

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

These other Restricted areas (except for 3.3.3.5) are shown on the attached maps. Note that while they are Declared as 'Restricted' under the Dog Control Act (Sec. 23), those that prohibit dogs at all times are shaded on the maps the same as 'Prohibited' areas (3.4 below).

3.4 Prohibited Areas

3.4.1 Wildlife habitat areas

Areas containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife.

Area Various sections of coastline and beaches, islands and islets and other inland native habitat areas, including parts of reserves where dogs are not permitted. These are shown on the attached maps.

Prohibited: Dogs are prohibited at all times to protect shorebirds, migratory birds and other wildlife from disturbance from disturbance and harm.

3.4.2 Temporary wildlife habitat protection

Localised areas containing sensitive habitat for native wildlife from time to time, such as seasonal bird nesting areas.

Area An area identified at the General Manager's discretion and following a request of the Parks and Wildlife Service, that is marked by fencing on the ground, signs and public communications indicating the temporary exclusion area. These are not shown on the attached maps.

Prohibited: Dogs are prohibited from these areas marked by temporary fencing and signage, to protect significant shorebirds, migratory birds or other wildlife from disturbance and harm. The need for such protection can occur at short notice.

Note: Under Section 28 of the Dog Control Act 2000 the following areas are prohibited public 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.

In National Park and several other classes of Reserve the *Tasmanian National Parks and Reserves Management Act* and its Regulations will not permit dogs.

4 FEE STRUCTURE

Council utilises its 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

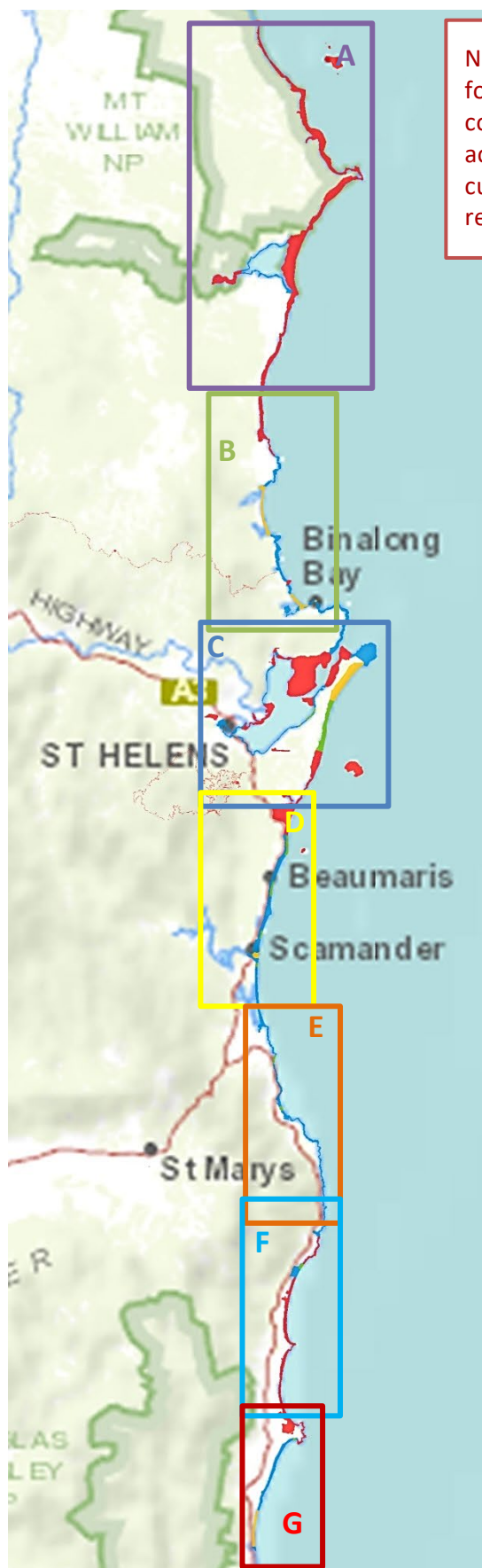
This policy applies to the Break O'Day municipal area in its entirety. However as noted in the Preamble, the Declared areas included do not represent all dog access, regulation and control of dogs in the municipality.

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.

Maps of Proposed New Declared areas

Revised Dog Management Policy July 2024



NOTE: While included as policy, these Declared areas are not in force until Council publishes a public notice. And that is subject to confirmation by the Parks and Wildlife Service of the same dog access being Authorised on Reserves they manage. Until then current Declared areas that Council Declared on 14 January 2019 remain in force. a

Index Map and Legend

	Dog Off Lead Exercise Beach
	Dog On Lead
	Exercise area (dog park)
	Restricted (seasonal conditions)
	Training area
	Prohibited

To view an online map of dog zones (2019 Declared areas) currently applying see Council's website:

www.bodc.tas.gov.au/property/dogs/

See our website for updates on these new dog zones coming into force, a copy of this revised Policy, or contact Council on (03) 6376 7900 / admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

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

These mapped dog zones and this Policy do not represent all dog access rules or all regulation of dogs in Break O'Day municipality. Dog owners must check for and be aware of other requirements and regulations. Further legislated conditions and controls apply elsewhere on PWS managed Reserves and other public land.



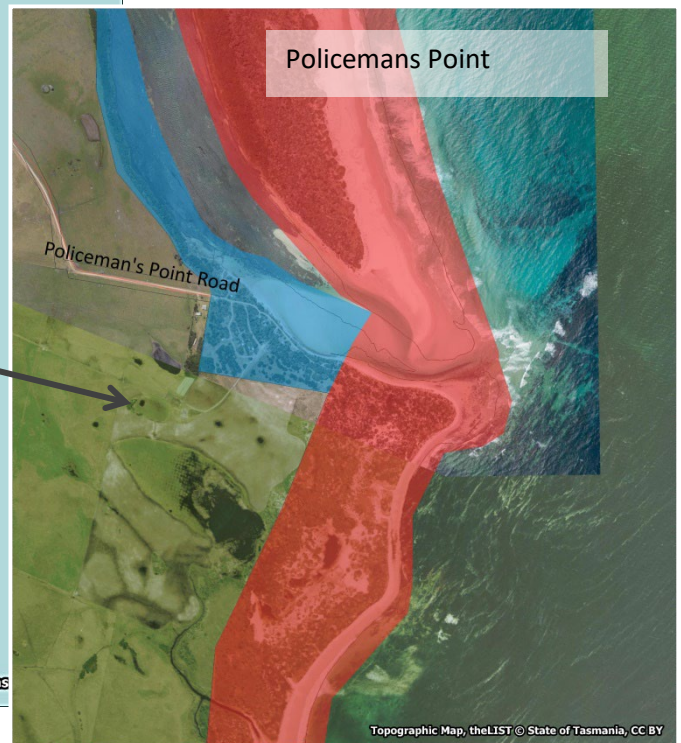
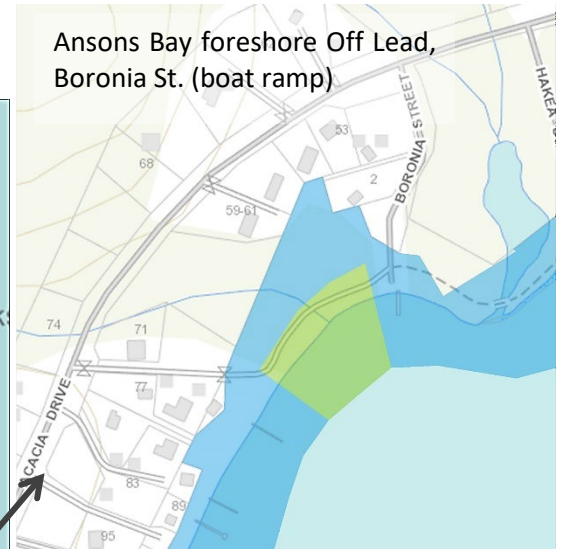
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Base image by TASMAP (www.tasmap.tas.gov.au)

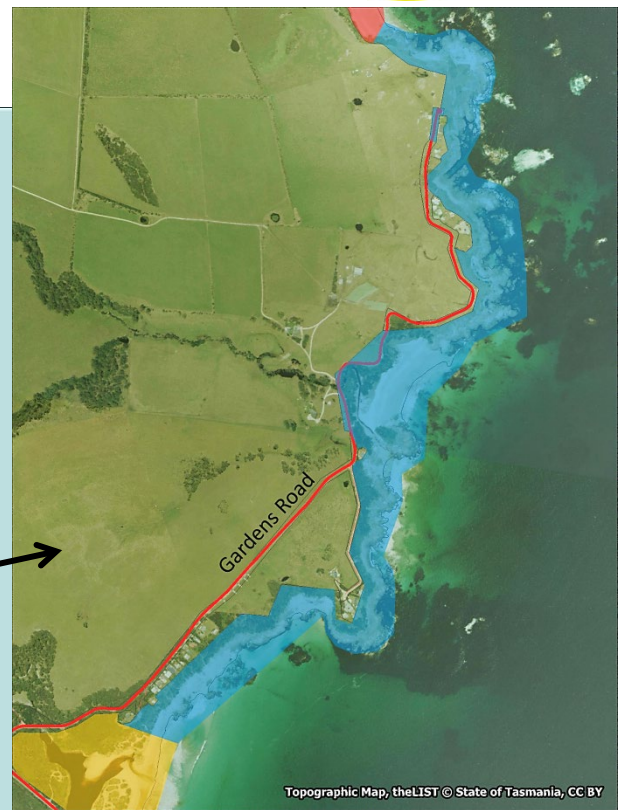
Base data from theLIST (www.thelist.tas.gov.au),

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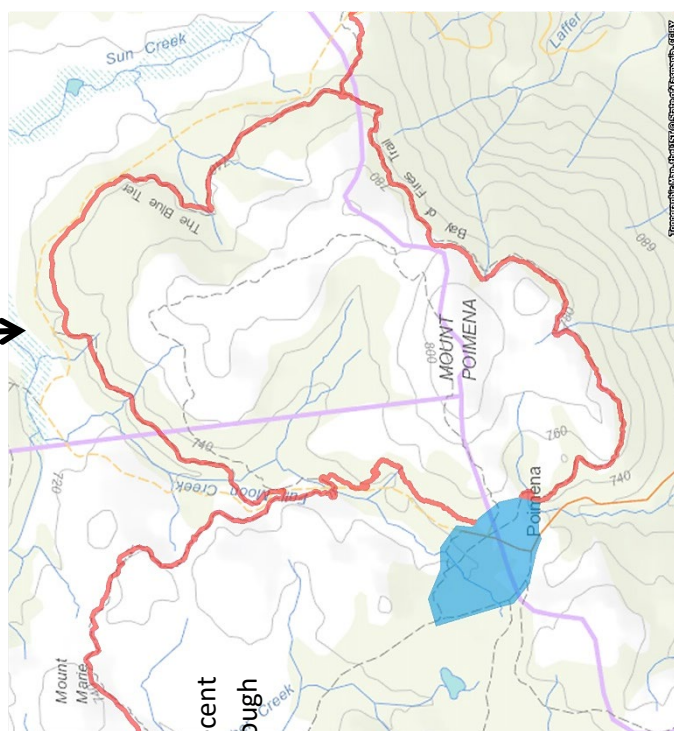
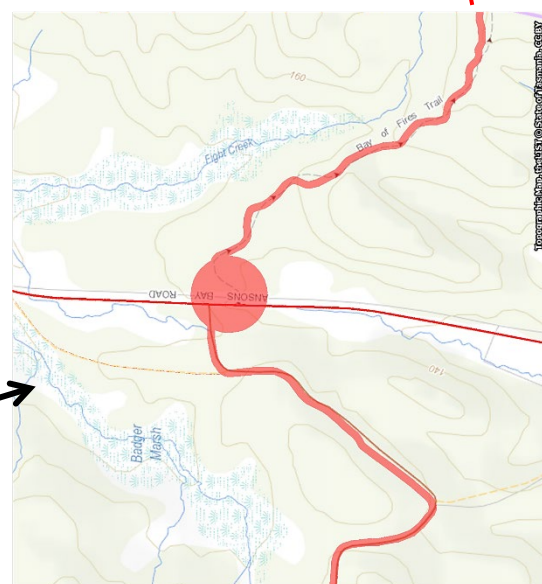
A wukalina/Mt William - Iarapuna/Bay of Fires And St Columba Falls, Pyengana



B The Gardens – Binalong Bay



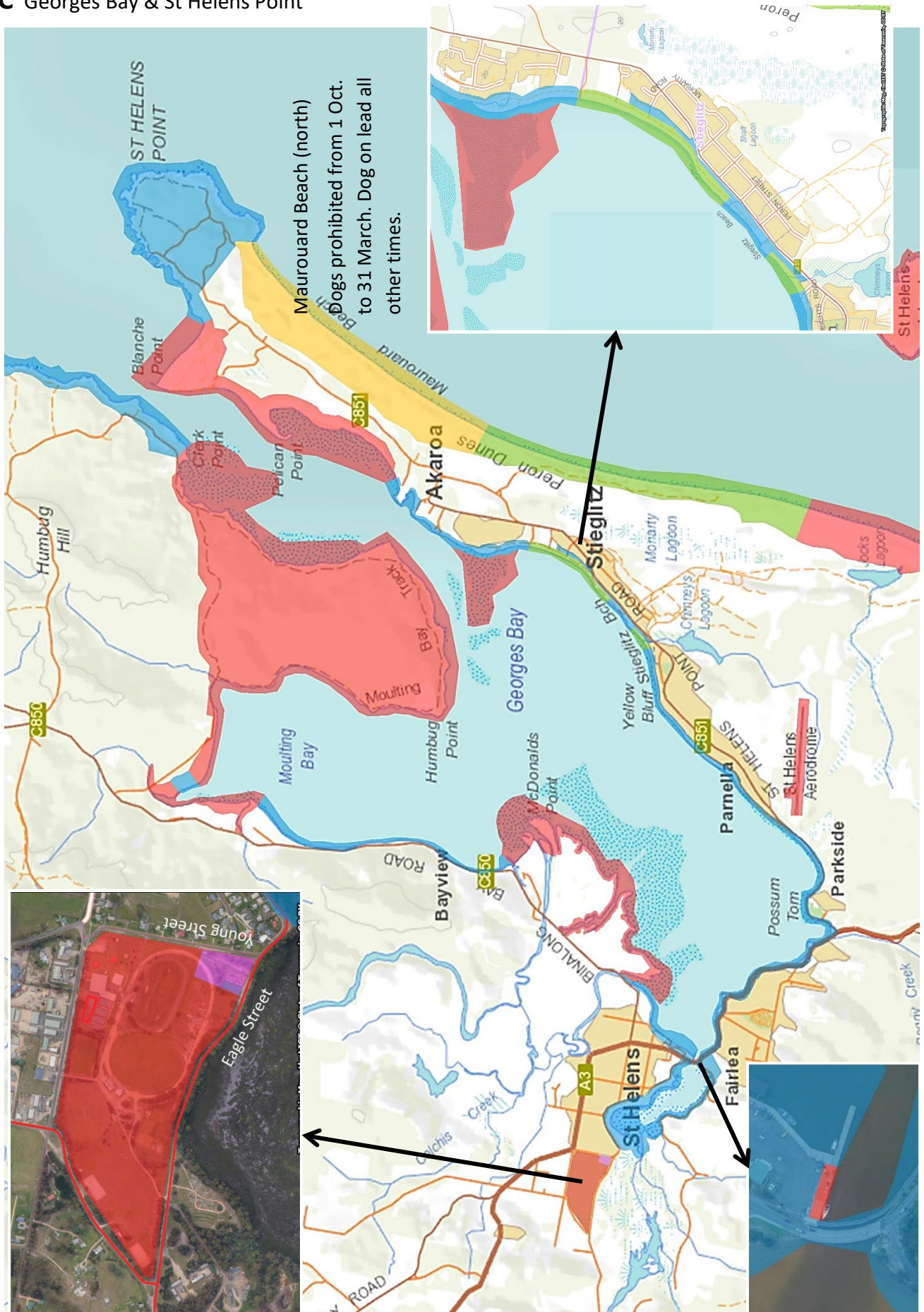
B Blue Tier/Piomena Mountain Bike Trails



B Binalong Bay

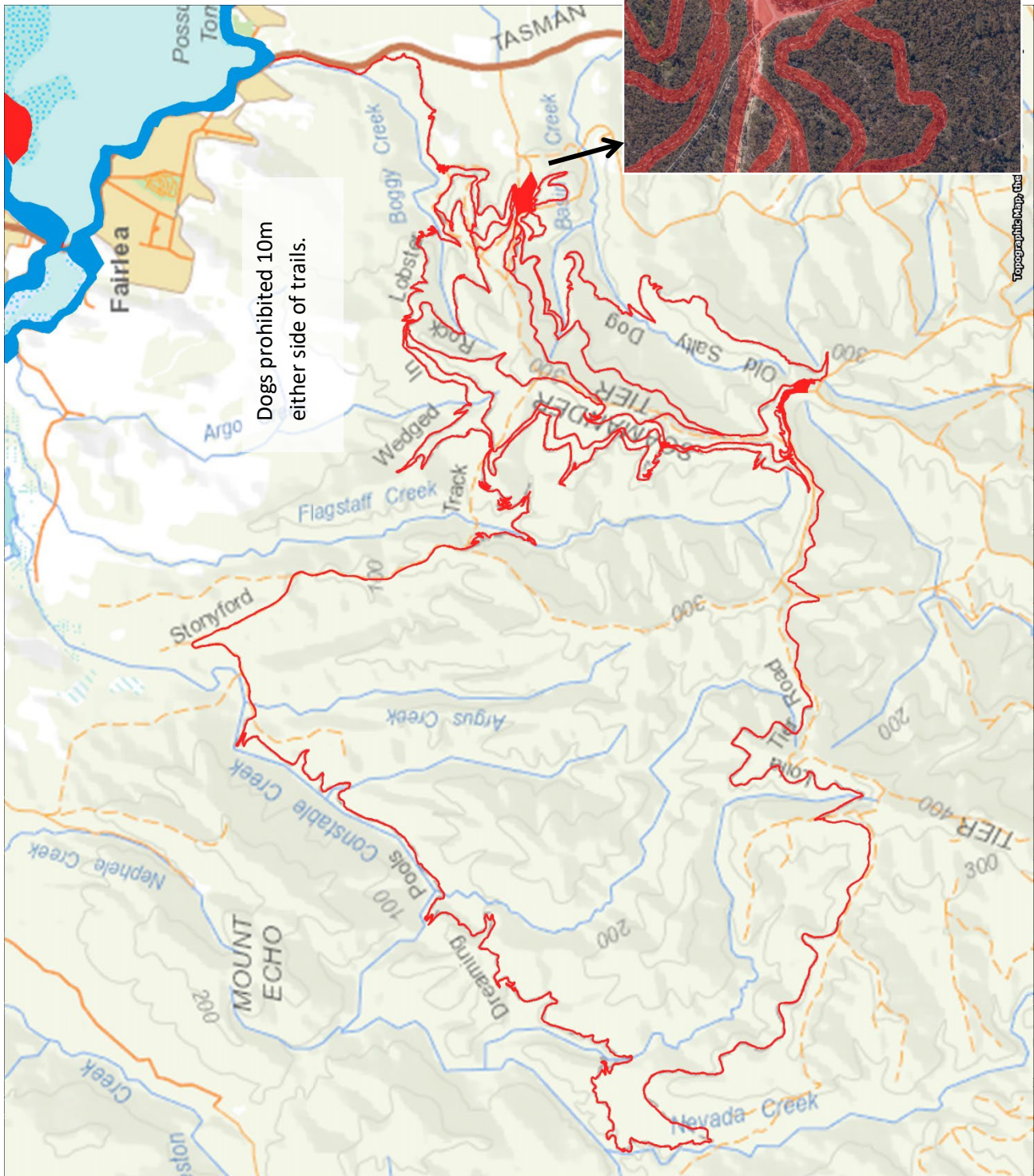


C Georges Bay & St Helens Point

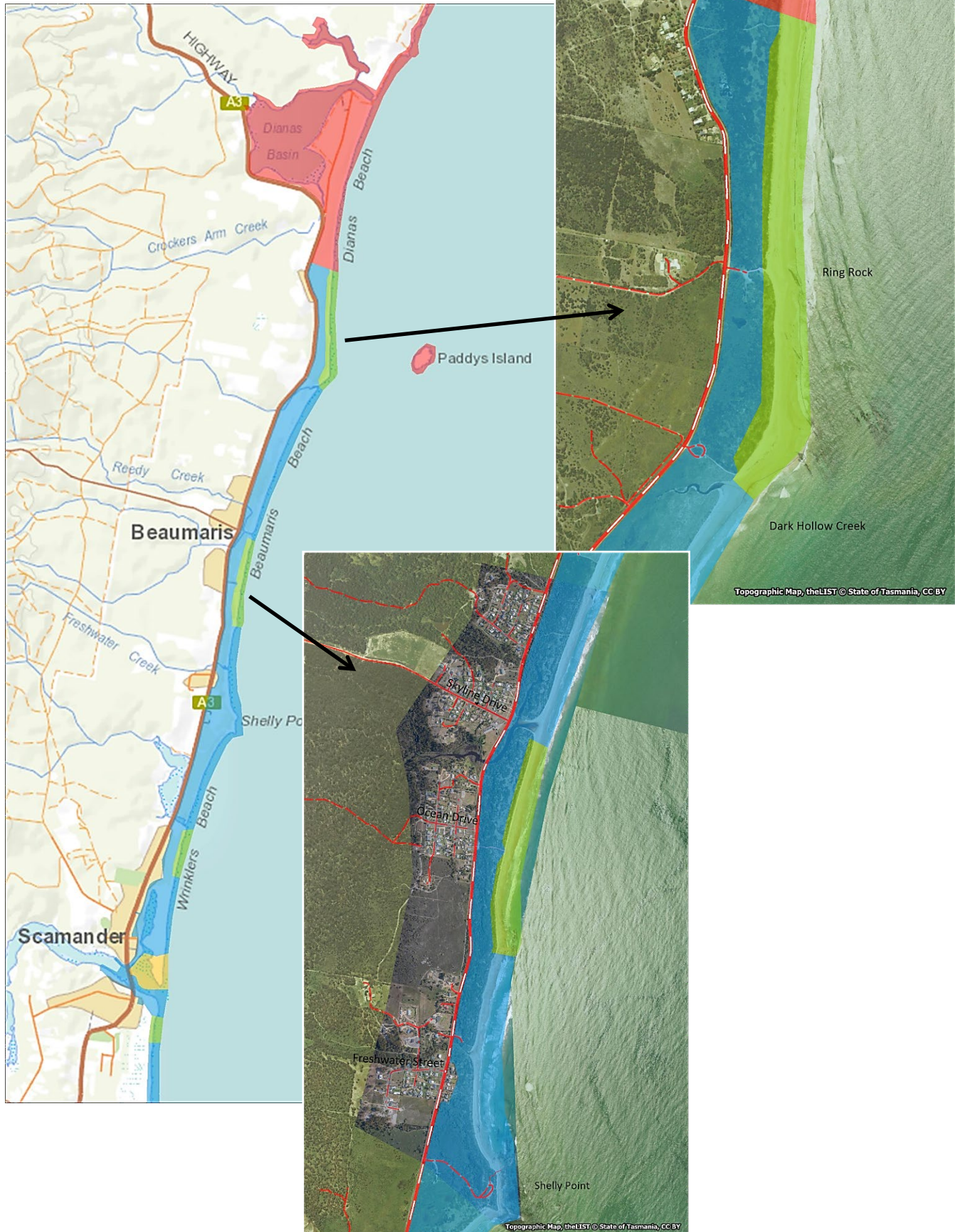


C Flagstaff Stacked loops Mountain Bike Trails

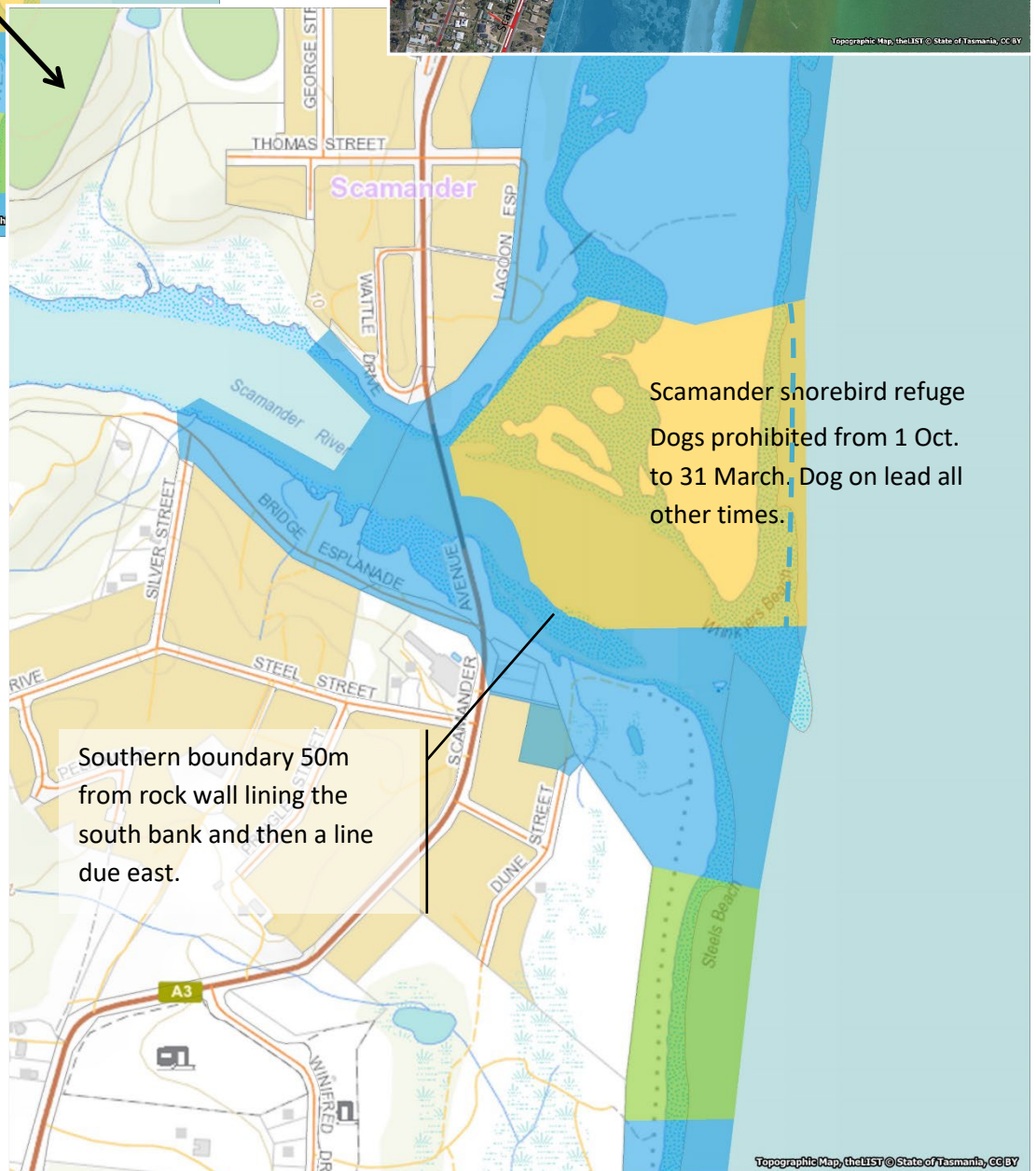
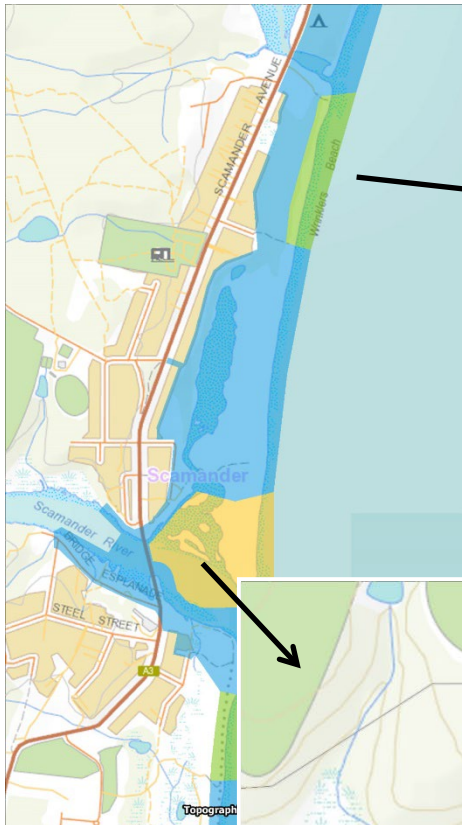
Dogs prohibited at
Trailhead and 10m
either side of trails.



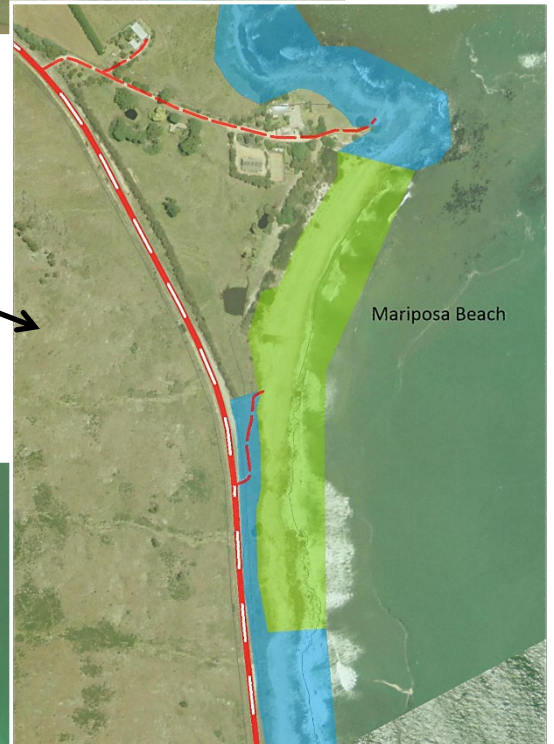
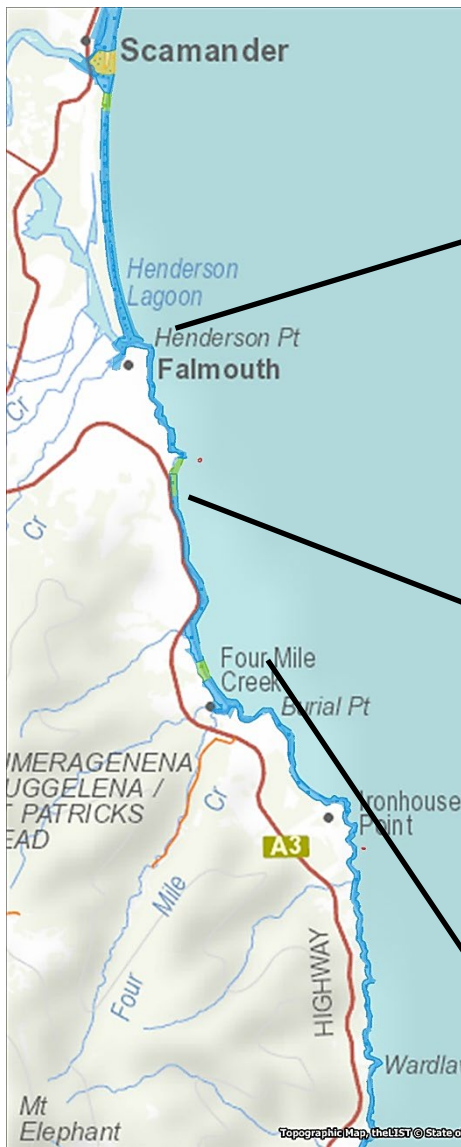
D Dianas Basin - Scamander



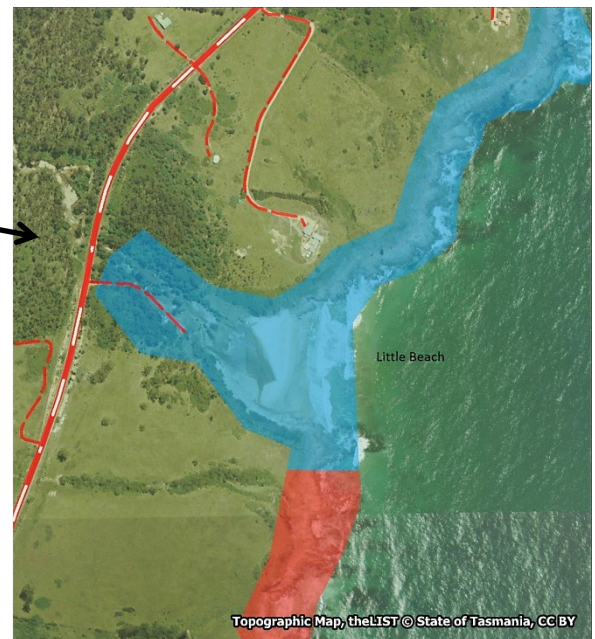
D Scamander



E Falmouth - Wardlaw's Point

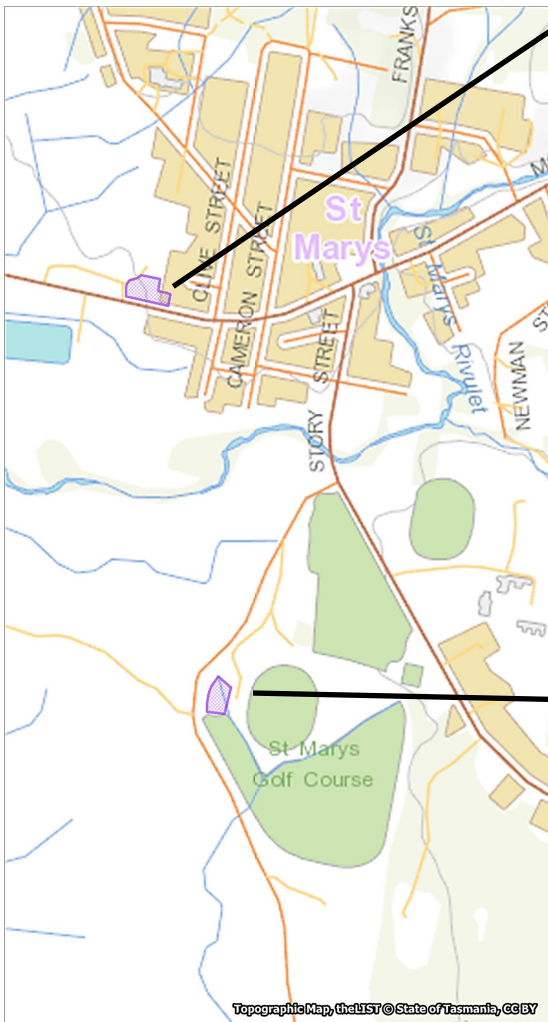


F Chain of Lagoons to Templestowe Beach

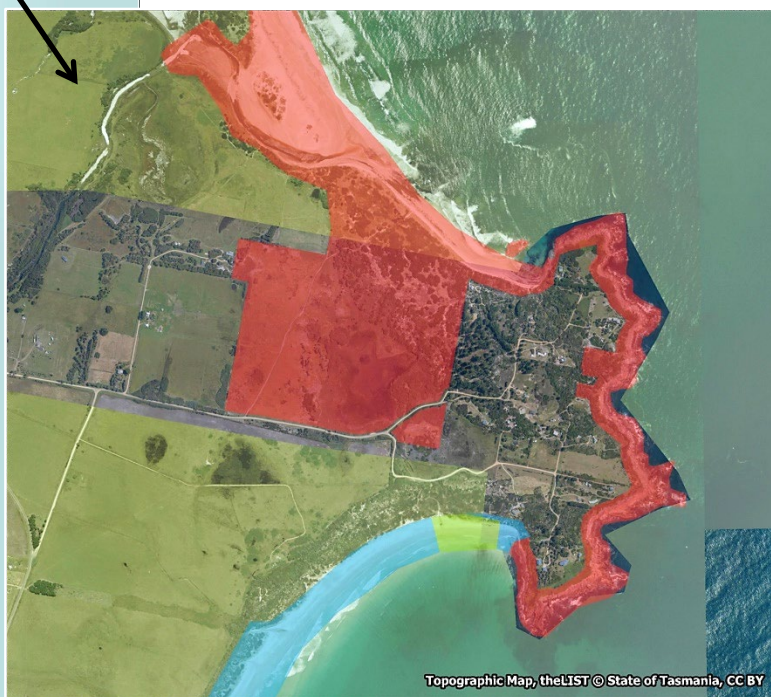
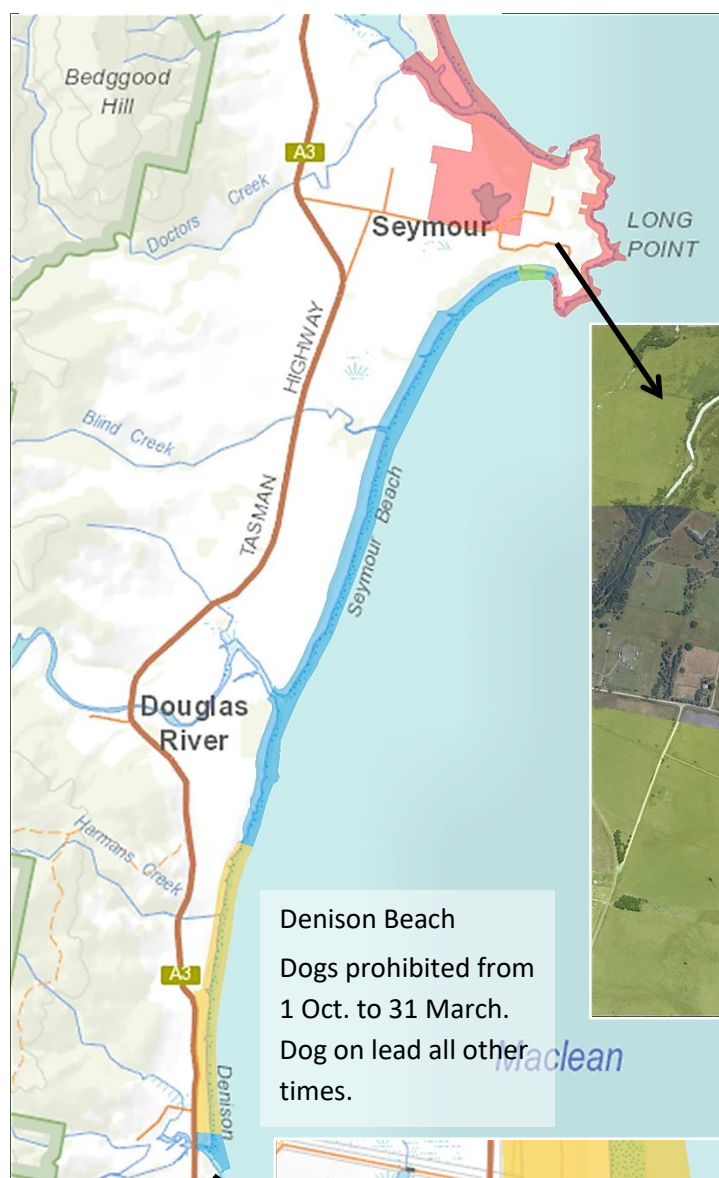


F St Marys – Future dog parks for
Off Lead exercise

These two Exercise areas would not be formally Declared by Council and available for use until after necessary infrastructure is installed.



G Seymour - Denison Rivulet



On Lead access to Off Lead
exercise beach south of
here. (Subject to the
Glamorgan Spring Bay
Council Dog Management
Policy.)