

Council Agenda - 19 March 2020 - Agenda Item 16.1
Attachment 2 - Dog Management Policy - Submissions

From: Diane [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2020 1:28 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Dog Policy

I had a quick look at the changes under dog policy. I note there is a blanket ban at RiverBend park. Walking is the best exercise for physical and mental health and social connectedness. Walking with a dog is even better. Rather than ban dogs why not specify must be on a leash and in control at all times, and not within x metres of playground equipment. I also think walking a dog on leash should be okay at the Gorge. Increase the fines for anyone who lets dog off the leash rather than ban them all together. In Melbourne the pubs, parks, cafes, beaches are all full when they promote being dog friendly. Good for business and health Regards Dianne [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Catarina Santos [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 2 March 2020 2:19 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Attention: Team Leader Regulations
Attachments: Dog Control Act 2000 comment.docx

Dear Team Leader of Regulations, I send attached comments on the new policies under the dog Management Policy.

Best regards,
Catarina dos Santos

Catarina do Carmo Norte dos Santos

Launceston, 2nd March of 2020

Attention: Team Leader Regulations

Title: Comment to the restricted areas under the Dog Control Act 2000

Dear Team leader of regulations,

I am writing to provide comments about the new dog policy: restricted areas under the Dog Control Act 2000.

I am a regular user of several dog exercising areas around Launceston, and I firstly think that you do a great job providing and maintaining these areas. This is highly beneficial for dogs, but also owners, as it creates groups and friendships.

As a reply to your new policy, I do agree with the Riverbend area, I thought that this was a no dog zone anyway.

In regards to the Heritage forest park, I agree with dividing the park. This is the park that in my experience has more problems (mainly dog attacks). I think that having an area for vulnerable dogs is a very good idea, also because quite often the owners of these dogs are older people that they are also in risk to be hit by a running dog and fall (this has happened before, once we were almost not able to lift the elderly lady). But I think that the definition of vulnerable dogs should be very explicit on site. My opinion is that some people will have a different view of what a vulnerable dog is. May be elderly, a puppy, a shy dog or a reactive dog, and of course this will cause many problems. So having a clear definition on site will be of high value (i.e. elderly dogs, injured dogs, no reactive dogs, no puppies, etc.). Also maybe increase surveillance, because that area is quite problematic with people failing to obey rules. I am not sure if camera surveillance would be feasible, but at least some physical surveillance would be of value.

With the greyhounds, I am not sure if this division is because they should be able to exercise without other dogs, or it is to possibly prevent prey-driven chase. I know a few greyhounds that attend my regular dog park (Hobblers bridge), and they do well with other dogs, we never had problems. I still think that having a division for them is good if the owners are trying to figure out their behaviour with other dogs, and also to be able to catch them in a smaller area if they don't have developed a good recalling behaviour.

My only comment in the divisions is that maybe the area for greyhounds and vulnerable dogs should switch (please see Figure 1): for the vulnerable dogs they will have one area with more trees, which often gives them more sense of protection (they are a bit more hidden from other dogs); for the Greyhounds which like to do their speedy running, may be dangerous if there are too many trees around, and also they prefer to run more in a circle than straight, so if you had the vulnerable dog area and just extend a little bit up (to the next line of trees) It will give them trees, but also a bit more clear area for they to run. And I hope that they will still be allowed in other areas/dog parks if needed, as they are nice dogs, and usually good with other dogs.

It would be very beneficial to get more lightning in the dog parks, because during winter usually many people are unable to use them because it is too dark.

Thank you,

Best regards,

Catarina

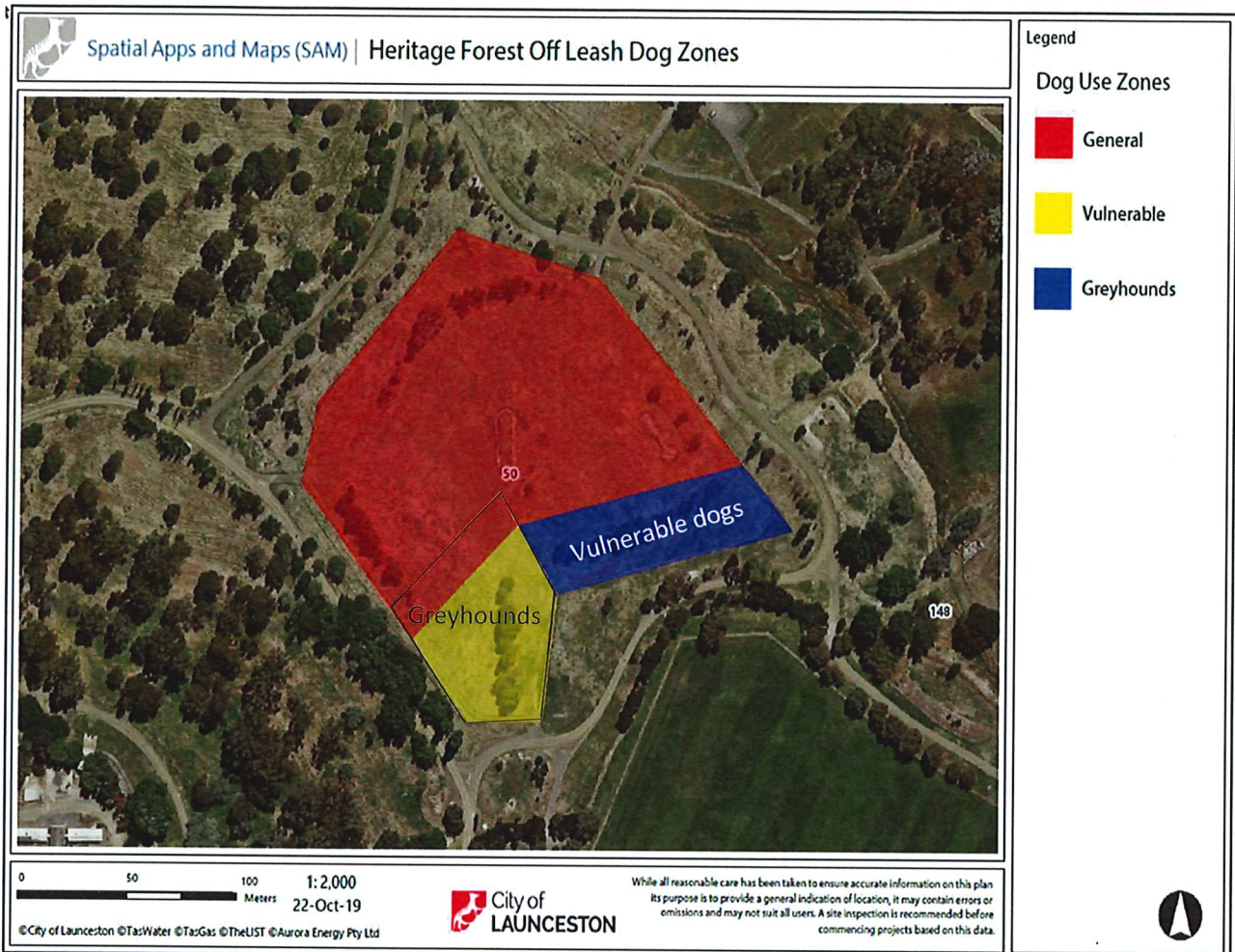


Figure 1- Suggestion of division of Heritage Park dog exercise area. The greyhound area has a clear area where they can run with a lower risk of hitting a tree; the vulnerable dog's area has trees, which offer some protection.