



# **CITY OF CHARLES STURT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2030**

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**Insert for DRAFT proposal only:**

Please note: This is the draft of the Animal Management Plan for 2026-2030. The content within has been developed to guide Council's priorities in animal management for the next 5 years and is subject to change relative to feedback received from the community and elected members. The format (and images within) are provided as examples only and are subject to change following community consultation.

# 1. Animal Management Plan Vision

To support pet owners and promote responsible pet ownership and safe, respectful use of shared public spaces.

## 2. Executive Summary

The Animal Management Plan (the Plan) is a legislative requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) and is renewed every 5 years. This Plan builds on the solid foundations established through the implementation of Council's previous animal management plans. These plans provide the framework which supports our community in being responsible pet owners and continuing to enable an environment where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously in our community. Council's Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 contains a wide range of actions and guides our priorities for the management of domestic companion animals, specifically dogs and cats, within our community.

The Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 is informed by Council's Community Vision and strategic themes relating to Education, Encouragement and Enforcement. Education is a key priority in changing attitudes and behaviours, and supporting our community in understanding and taking responsibility for their legislative obligations under the Act and Council's By-Laws. At the same time, Council must be proactive in investigating and implementing preventative measures where possible by empowering our community to make sustainable and positive choices on responsible pet ownership, and maximising compliance with relevant legislation.

The plan will be reviewed annually to ensure its ongoing alignment to Council's broad strategic directions, Community Vision and emerging trends in animal management.

## 3. Our Pets and their People

This Plan addresses existing and emerging trends relating to legislative compliance, responsible pet ownership and safe, respectful use of our shared spaces as encompassed by a diverse and dynamic population of pets and their people.

The City of Charles Sturt is a large metropolitan council in the Western suburbs of Adelaide, on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people. Our City is home to over 120,000 people from over 105 diverse cultures and backgrounds. We currently have over 59,000 properties across our City and expect continued population growth, and have over 119 playgrounds, 86 tennis, basketball and netball courts, 249 cafes and restaurants, and 74 public barbecues.

We welcome new arrivals (both local and from afar) establishing their homes and lives in our City. We are home to bustling precincts of connection and community, including Bowden, Henley Square and Hindmarsh, we have approximately 11km of coastline from West Beach to Semaphore Park, 19 hectares of wetlands, and maintain 457 parks and reserves, equating to over 498 hectares of open space. We recognise the way in which our people live and work in our City has changed over recent years, and actively encourage our community to spend time within their neighbourhoods in our shared public spaces.

Charles Sturt has over 16,000 dogs and over 5,500 cats registered, making our City one of the larger metropolitan councils when it comes to animal management. Of our 21,500 dogs and cats, approximately 82% are desexed (a proportion of which are entire are puppies and kittens under 6 months of age), and 99% are microchipped. Both desexing and microchipping are required under the Dog and Cat Management Act (1995).

We are home to 8 fenced off lead areas in our City, and a variety of veterinary clinics, pet stores, pet food places, grooming and dog training organisations. Charles Sturt has over 100 dispensers for dog waste bags throughout our City, provided as a courtesy service for emergencies only to assist those sharing our public spaces in picking up after their dog(s).

## 4. Our Vision and Strategic Themes

### 4.1. Community Vision

Council's Community Vision highlights our guiding principles in developing a City where our community has a place to call home and a place where we belong. Within this Vision (Figure 1), there are five core themes that provide the framework for these priorities, including:

- Vibrant Places
- Valuing Nature
- Local Neighbourhoods
- Connecting and Belonging
- Our Transforming City

The Community Vision also illustrates four sub-themes underpinning our focus as we develop and pursue these priorities, including: First Nations, responsible governance, excellence in customer experience and service provision, and story telling and connection.



Figure 1: The City of Charles Sturt Vision 2040.

The Community Vision can be explored further here: [Our Community Vision | City of Charles Sturt](#)

#### **4.1.1. Animal management within our Community Vision**

It is important our priorities within our Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 reflect feedback provided by the community relating to our Community Vision. A selection of these topics and actions as they relate to the relevant Community Vision core themes are summarised below.

- Vibrant Places
  - Innovative and engaging educational pieces (e.g. murals)
  - Support greater use of our shared public spaces through the promotion of various events and ideal walking trails or excursions.
  - Facilitate greater use of our shared public spaces through promoting force-free training classes (as recommended by the RSPCA SA).
- Valuing Nature
  - Increasing community awareness of the impacts on excess dog waste on the environment, and the inclusion of strategies to mitigate the impact
  - Increasing community awareness of the impacts of roaming cats on the environment, and the inclusion of strategies to mitigate the impact
  - Increasing community awareness of vulnerable beach nesting birds and other wildlife along our coastline
  - Increasing community awareness of protected sand dunes and conservation areas, and reducing impact of dogs and people in those areas
  - Increasing awareness of plants that are safe for dogs, and those that dogs enjoy interacting with
- Local Neighbourhoods
  - Promotion of fenced off lead areas
  - Safe, respectful use of shared open spaces
  - Promotion of places to exercise dogs on and off lead
  - Highlighting the importance of responsible pet ownership
- Connecting and Belonging
  - Highlighting opportunities to volunteer with Council, including Animal Management Community Champions
  - Creation and promotion of our free, community Doggy Days events
  - Inclusion of strategies to mitigate nuisance caused by dogs and cats

## **4.2. Strategic Themes**

This Plan is informed by three strategic themes: education, encouragement and enforcement. The actions within these themes are focussed on the responsibilities of the pet owner, the community and Council (respectively). That is, we each have a responsibility to promote, educate and encourage responsible and respectful pet ownership practices in our community.

### **4.2.1. Education**

The Education theme focuses on the development of innovative, proactive and educational approaches to animal management. It assists us in ensuring our pet owners have a greater understanding of what responsible and respectful pet ownership looks like, and involves actively promoting, engaging and advocating for responsible pet ownership within the community.



Actions within the plan with an Education focus, will incorporate:

- A variety of approaches to increase awareness of what responsible pet ownership means including providing support, guidance and resource materials to pet owners.
- An engaged community who connect with us via events, social media, our website or publications or direct contact with our team.
- The development of an empowered community who advocate for responsible and respectful use of shared public spaces.
- Happy and healthy pets
- A community informed on the legislative requirements surrounding pet ownership, and an increase in positive choices made surrounding companion animal concerns received by council: persistent dog barking, dog attack or harassment reports, dogs wandering at large, nuisance cat behaviour, and ensuring owners comply with the requirements set out in the Act.

We will facilitate Education by:

- Promoting of positive animal management strategies
- Engaging the community
- Continually seeking innovative and technological advancements that will assist in the achievement of our vision
- Working collaboratively with the community and other stakeholders in the animal management space
- Making relevant resources readily available to our community

#### **4.2.2. Encouragement**

The Encouragement theme focuses on the active engagement of pet owners and the broader community. It facilitates ongoing support and motivation for respectful and responsible animal management practices, and involves empathy for individual circumstances.



Encouragement involves:

- A confident community with a clear understanding of pet ownership expectations
- A mutual understanding of expectations and strong trusting relationship
- An empowered community that promotes respectful and responsible pet ownership practices outside of Council input

We will facilitate Encouragement by:

- Influencing and motivating our community to make respectful and responsible choices in animal management and ownership
- Working together and tailoring strategies to meet individual needs where possible
- Providing pet owners with clear directions and time frames so they can comply with the requirements of the Act
- Ensuring pet owners are aware of best practice in terms of animal management techniques and where they can source further advice from trained professionals.

#### **4.2.3. Enforcement**

The Enforcement theme focuses on the administration of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) and Council's By-Laws as they relate to pet ownership.



More information on each can be found below:

- The Act: [Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 | South Australian Legislation](#)
- Charles Sturt's By-Laws: [By-Laws Register](#)

Enforcement results in the professional enforcement of the requirements stipulated within the relevant legislation in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy and the Expiation of Offences Act 1996.

We will enforce the relevant legislation (generally) as a last resort in the overall shift to respectful and responsible pet ownership practices. Enforcement is achieved by the issuing of expiation notices, control orders and/or prosecution proceedings where behaviour remains non-compliant with legislation despite education and encouragement strategies, or where the seriousness of the offence warrants enforcement as an appropriate first approach.

### 4.3. Empowered Community

The implementation of the three themes collectively will result in a more empowered community (Figure 2). In particular, it is anticipated these strategies will facilitate a responsible, respectful and proactive community making informed choices relating to pet ownership and safe integration of pets and their people. In turn, this is anticipated to achieve the Plan's vision of supporting pet owners, and promoting responsible pet ownership safe, respectful use of our shared public spaces.

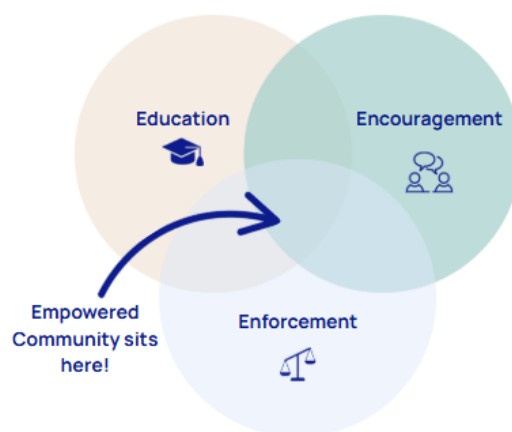


Figure 2: The intersection between Education, Encouragement and Enforcement themes informing the Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 to develop an empowered community.

## 5. Legislative context for the Animal Management Plan

Under Section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, all councils in South Australia are required to develop and implement a plan which covers a five year period for the management of dogs and cats in their local area.

A summary of Council's relevant responsibilities under the Act and Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017 are provided below:

- Section 26A: Each Council must, in accordance with this section, prepare a plan to cover a five year period relating to the management of dogs and cats in its area. This plan must include provisions for parks where dogs may be exercised off lead, and her dogs must be on lead. It may also include provisions for parks where dogs are prohibited. The plan must be approved by the Board before it takes effect.
- Part 4, section 33: Ensure all dogs are registered from 3 months of age

- Part 4A, section 42A: Ensure dogs and cats are microchipped in accordance with any requirements set out in Regulations (e.g. from 3 months of age unless exempt)
- Part 4B, Section 42E: Ensure dogs and cats are desexed in accordance with any requirements set out in Regulations (e.g. from 6 months of age unless exempt).
- S26 (1)(b): Appoint a suitable person to be Registrar; Make satisfactory arrangements for the detention of dogs seized under the Act, and; Make satisfactory arrangements for fulfilling other obligations under the Act.
- Section 43: Management and control of dogs found to be wandering at large; Issuing of expiations where a person responsible for a dog has failed in their responsibilities under the Act and/or Regulations, including: investigation and management of nuisance barking, and investigation of chase, harassment and attack complaints.
- Section 9 (Dog and Cat Management Regulations 2017): Ensure that all dogs are identified by an identification tag

## 6. The Animal Management Plan 2026-2030

The Animal Management Plan 2026-2030 encompasses a suite of priorities that fit within the Community Vision and strategic themes of Education, Encouragement and Enforcement. While the Plan includes a number of initiatives and actions that have been carried over from (or are similar to those in) the previous plan due to legislative obligation and/or to meet continued need. Actions also reflect emerging trends in the animal management context. These include an increasing concern from community regarding cat management, safe, respectful use of our shared public spaces, and enhancing community safety through the reduction of dog attacks and harassments.

As such, this Animal Management Plan encompasses priorities that meet legislative obligation under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, and aim to address these emerging trends. These priorities are categorised by a commitment to investigating, improving and promoting:

- Responsible pet ownership (increasing awareness and understanding of legislative requirements)
- Dog management and safety
- Cat management and safety
- Health and community
- Priorities for environment
- Animal management policy and process (to enhance service provision and delivery)

The Plan highlights how these priorities align to our Community Vision and strategic themes via the legend below, and also indicates how success in achieving these goals will be measured.

## Legend

### Community Vision

Local Neighbourhoods



Valuing Nature



Vibrant Places



Connecting and Belonging



Our Transforming City



### Strategic Theme

Education



Encouragement









Enforcement







## 6.1. Priorities for improving responsible pet ownership by increasing awareness and understanding of legislative requirements

Action	Measures of Success	Relevant themes
6.1.1. Investigate innovative avenues for community engagement and education	Creation of new educational resources	
6.1.2. Investigate opportunities to improve proactive animal management processes to facilitate a culture of responsible pet ownership	Review of relevant standard processes that prioritise proactive animal management practice	
6.1.3. Increase awareness of the requirements for keeping excess cats and dogs	Promotion of the requirement of excess dog and cat permits	
6.1.4. Research best practice approaches to animal management and trial new initiatives for community education and engagement with animal management	Implementation of new initiatives	
6.1.5. Continue to promote the requirements of leash laws on the foreshore through the Beach Education program.	Continuation of the Beach Education Program	
6.1.6. Promote and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders relating to animal management strategies and community events	Promotion of stakeholders (where relevant) and animal management strategies Collaboration with stakeholders for community events	
6.1.7. Increase awareness of responsibilities of pet ownership, including registration, microchipping, desexing, and effective control requirements	Promotion of pet owner responsibilities	
6.1.8. Investigate opportunities to improve dog attack reporting	Review existing process and information available to public	
6.1.9. Continue to promote and facilitate desexing and microchipping for pet owners through an educate, encourage and enforce approach,	Promotion of pet desexing and microchipping programs Continuation of the Dog Registration Survey Program	








including prioritising opportunities for low cost service provision		
6.1.10. Continue to optimise pet registration and microchipping numbers to maximise ability to return to owner, and optimise accurate reporting of pet numbers within Charles Sturt to better inform future decisions	Promotion of microchipping days and registration renewal period Continuation of Dog Registration Survey Program	
6.1.11. Continue Dog Registration Survey Program	Continuation of Dog Registration Survey Program	
6.1.12. Continue to provide the pensioner assistance program to improve registration, desexing and microchipping compliance	Continuation of Financial Hardship Assistance Fund	
6.1.13. Investigate and implement strategies to increase people picking up after their dogs	Implementation of new strategy/strategies	
6.1.14. Review opportunities to incentivise the timely renewal of pet registrations each year	Report on opportunities to improve accessibility for registration payments	
6.1.15. Investigate and implement strategies to improve dog owner understanding of 'effective control' in shared on and off lead spaces	Implementation of new strategy/strategies to facilitate understanding of 'effective control'	

## 6.2. Priorities for dog management and safety



















































Action	Measures of Success	Relevant themes
6.2.1. Investigate innovative opportunities to develop, design or promote dog friendly spaces within the community beyond traditional (fenced off lead) dog parks and in line with Community Vision and Organisational Plan	Implementation of new strategy/ strategies	
6.2.2. Identify and implement strategies to aid in the reduction of dog attack, harassment and wandering concerns raised by community	Implementation of new strategy/ strategies	
6.2.3. Identify innovative opportunities to improve safe interactions between children and dogs	Implementation of new strategy/ strategies	
6.2.4. Provide free dog registration for the first year for all dogs obtained from authorised charity organisations	Continue to provide free registration for the first year for all dogs obtained from authorised charity organisations	
6.2.5. Promote 'Force Free' training methods as recommended by the RSPCA SA, and identify opportunities to support professionals using 'Force Free' training methods	Promotion of 'Force Free' training methods as recommended by RSPCA SA	
6.2.6. Promote responsible, safe, respectful use of shared public spaces to ensure everyone (whether	Promotion of respectful use of shared public spaces	




they own a dog or not) can enjoy the space and feel safe		
6.2.7. Review existing dog-related signage in community spaces and fenced off leash areas to encourage reporting of dog attack and harassment concerns that occur, to improve evidence-based decision making and ensure Council receives an accurate indication of how these spaces are being used	Increase in dog attack reporting	
6.2.8. Investigate opportunities to increase awareness for the impact of climate change on dog management and safety	Promotion of dog management and safety relating to impacts of climate change	
6.2.9. Identify opportunities to improve education and engagement relating to pet ownership practices in various housing (e.g. apartments, rentals) to better address animal needs, and reduce/ prevent instances of possible nuisance	Education and engagement initiatives relating to meeting animal needs to reduce nuisance	

### 6.3. Priorities for cat management and safety

Action	Measures of Success	Relevant themes
6.3.1. Investigate opportunities to work with community and external stakeholders (e.g. RSPCA SA and AWL SA) to facilitate improved cat management strategies and practices	Evidence of collaboration with stakeholders	
6.3.2. Increase awareness of what to do when a roaming cat is causing a nuisance	Promotion of steps to follow in the event of roaming cats	
6.3.3. Encourage keeping cats inside (especially at night), including education on meeting cats' needs through appropriate indoor exercise and enrichment	Promotion of strategies to optimise life for indoor cats	
6.3.4. Encourage responsible cat ownership practices through innovative engagement and education opportunities	Implementation of strategy/strategies focused on responsible cat ownership	
6.3.5. Continue to encourage and promote cat runs as an effective means for containing cats within private property	Promotion of the use of cat runs for cat containment	
6.3.6. Continue to advocate for a consistent statewide approach to cat containment through lobbying the Dog and Cat Management Board	Evidence of continued advocacy toward consistent cat containment laws	
6.3.7. Continue to contribute to the development of a statewide cat management strategy as facilitated by the Dog and Cat Management Board	Continued participation in development of statewide cat management strategy	








## 6.4. Priorities for health and community

Action	Measures of Success	Relevant themes
6.4.1. Continue responsible pet owner information sessions and events, including a focus on factors parallel to responsible pet ownership including health, welfare and behaviour	Delivery of responsible pet owner information sessions	    
6.4.2. Investigate opportunities to welcome new pet owning residents to the Charles Sturt community	Review of process for new residents and pet owners in CCS	   
6.4.3. Investigate opportunities to improve safety for workers when accessing the front door of properties	Review of existing SOPs for entering properties Promotion of the importance of safety for workers entering properties	   
6.4.4. Continue to promote and collaborate with local businesses as part of events	Continued promotion and collaboration with local businesses	  
6.4.5. Continue to foster an environment whereby pet owners are comfortable in approaching Community Safety Officer's for education and general advice	Promotion of CSO role and inclusion of CSOs in relevant community events	  
6.4.6. Actively promote the benefits and necessity of addressing the 5 Domains of Animal Welfare* for pet owners	Promotion of pet needs	   
6.4.7. Continue to increase awareness of fireworks and thunderstorm events to pet owners and encourage pets to be confined inside during these events	Promotion of fireworks and thunderstorm events	  
6.4.8. Continue to deliver the City of Charles Sturt's annual Doggy Day events to further promote responsible and ethical dog ownership, including the provision of free dog training and behaviour advice and workshops	Continued delivery of Doggy Day events	     
6.4.9. Continue to collaborate with Community Connections to facilitate the Companion Animal Project which provides senior members of our community the option of volunteer assistance with their pets.	Continued collaboration with Community Connection for the Companion Animal Project	  
6.4.10. Continue to recognise and promote the large proportion of responsible pet owners in our community	Continued promotion and recognition of responsible pet owners through various initiatives	    
6.4.11. Continue to aid and support Animal Management Volunteers with refilling dog waste dispensers, and promote their role in community	Continued collaboration with Animal management volunteers	    
6.4.12. Investigate innovative strategies to increase awareness of the impact of roaming cats on the community	Promotion of the benefits of containing cats, and impacts of roaming cats	    












6.4.13. Investigate innovative strategies to increase awareness of respectful and responsible dog walking etiquette	Promotion of respectful and responsible dog walking etiquette	
6.4.15. Identify opportunities to promote the benefits of pet ownership	Promotion of benefits of pet ownership	
6.4.15. Identify opportunities to promote important welfare-centric, responsible pet ownership practices for other pets including rabbits, rats, mice, birds and fish	Promotion of responsible, welfare-centric ownership practices for other common pets	






\* [What are the Five Domains of Animal Welfare? – RSPCA Knowledgebase](#)

## 6.5. Priorities for environment

Action	Measures of Success	Relevant themes
6.5.1. Investigate opportunities to promote compostable dog waste bags and use of green bins	Promotion of compostable dog waste bags and appropriate waste disposal	
6.5.2. Continue to increase awareness of beach nesting birds in line with legislative responsibilities and available council resources	Promotion of vulnerable beach nesting birds	
6.5.3. Continue to increase awareness of the impact of off lead dogs on plovers and other wildlife in sensitive coastal and wetland environments and other biodiversity corridors	Promotion of impact of off lead dogs on local wildlife Targeted patrols at beach nesting bird breeding sites	
6.5.4. Continue to educate dog owners on the impact of dog waste on the environment	Implementation of educational strategy relating to dog waste	
6.5.5. Investigate innovative ways to increase awareness of the impact of roaming cats on the environment	Promotion of the impact of roaming cats on environment	
6.5.6. Investigate opportunities to promote the impact of off lead dogs in protected vegetation areas	Promotion of the impact of off lead dogs in protected vegetation	
6.5.7. Where possible, review dog friendly spaces with a view to enhance green infrastructure in a way that promotes community wellbeing and biodiversity	Consideration of green infrastructure and biodiversity through internal stakeholder collaboration	

## 6.6. Priorities for continuous improvement in animal management policy and process

Action	Measures of Success	Relevant themes
6.6.1. Develop guidelines and policy position for dog park requests and design in line with the Organisational Plan, collaborate with internal stakeholders regarding appropriate dog friendly community spaces to promote safe interactions and responsible, respectful shared use	Development of decision-making guidelines for fenced off lead areas	
6.6.2. Review dog friendly spaces and services across all socio-economic areas to identify opportunities for evidence based development, education and engagement relating to animal management	Review of dog friendly locations and services in line with Community Vision and Organisational Plan	
6.6.3. Review barking dog procedures & investigate relevant tech and educational opportunities	Review of barking procedures	
6.6.4. Develop regular internal reports for community concerns/ requests to contribute to evidence-based decision making and identify emerging themes in animal management	Development of consistent internal report process	
6.6.5. Community Safety staff to take ownership of an education, encouragement and enforcement approach in their daily interactions with community, and actively participate in the actions within this plan	CSOs to promote a 3Es approach and actively participation in resolving actions within this plan	
6.6.6. Prioritise professional development and professional networks for Community Safety staff where possible for improved efficiencies and engagement with contemporary and innovative strategies in animal management	CSOs to attend relevant professional development opportunities	
6.6.7. Review skills analyses for Community Safety Officers and identify training needs through individual staff training plans	Review of skills analyses and training needs for CSOs	
6.6.8. Continue to facilitate training for internal stakeholders (e.g. Customer Contact and Libraries) on procedures, standard responses and educational and support opportunities	Review existing training available for internal stakeholders relating to animal management processes	
6.6.9. Continue to develop an Emergency Management Protocol for animal management cases	Development of an Emergency Management Protocol	
6.6.10. Investigate process for residents in need of emergency, short term animal management solutions and collaborate with external stakeholders to connect residents with appropriate service providers (e.g. Safe Pets Safe Families)	Development of guidelines for CSO and Council response in these situations	
6.6.11. Continuously review Council policies and procedures concerning domestic and companion animals in community, ensuring they	Review Council relevant policies and procedures as required	

are accurate and remain current given emerging trends		
6.6.12. Continue to review and improve educational resources for responsible pet ownership	Review existing educational resources for responsible pet ownership	
6.6.13. Identify opportunities to integrate animal management messages into Council's broader sustainability and climate education efforts	Evidence of collaboration with relevant internal stakeholders	
6.6.14. Review internal process relating to the approval of fireworks at Council run and permitted events with view to reduce instances of fireworks within the City	Review internal process for approving fireworks	
6.6.15. Review opportunities for integration with AI tools to better highlight animal management related items for residents and visitors to access	Review opportunities for integration with AI	
6.6.16. Investigate opportunities to monitor dog management and responsible pet owner practices in shared public spaces to better aid in policy and decision making	Review opportunities for monitoring shared public spaces	

## 6.7. Other urban animals – roosters, chickens, parrots and other companion birds, bees, rabbits, guinea pigs and other animals

While Council predominantly manages dog and cat matters within the community, and has legislative obligation and delegation to administer these aspects of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, from time to time, it also receives requests or enquiries relating to other animals. All animal owners are required to keep animals in such a way as to not cause nuisance or hazard. The Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 identifies an offence for causing a local nuisance, with a nuisance (amongst other things) being defined as having an adverse effect on an amenity value of an area that is caused by animals (whether dead or alive) that does, or is likely to unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of the area. Some examples of circumstances that could meet these conditions as set out by the Act include:

- Keeping an excessive number of insects, birds or other animals
- Keeping bees in close proximity to another property
- Keeping animals so as to generate excessive noise, dust or odours, or that attract pests or vermin
- Failing to deal with a European wasp nest

Owners who keep animals also have responsibilities under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 to ensure property is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and not causing risk to human health. Council's Environmental Health officers can issue Notices where the keeping of animals is causing risk to public health.

### Council By-Law No 6 – Domestic Livestock Management

This By-Law outlines the management, limits and prescribed standards for the keeping of livestock (if approved by Development), poultry and pigeons.

Under Schedule 3 of the Development Regulation 1993, the keeping of domestic animals is not considered development. However, the keeping of domestic animals for commercial purposes and the keeping of non-domestic animals (e.g. horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, goats or other livestock) requires development approval. Public consultation may be sought, taking into consideration any impacts which the proposed development may have beyond the boundaries of a private property. Consideration is given to representations received under the public consultation process in determining the appropriateness of the application by Council prior to making a decision. Approval of the application may as a result be subject to conditions determined by Council, under the development process.

Where an application is not approved by Council, the applicant has the right of appeal to the Environment, Resources and Development Court. It should be noted that Council is generally reluctant to grant approval for the keeping of non-domestic animals and commercial breeders within metropolitan residential areas.

Horse stables within the City of Charles Sturt maintain their existing use rights, however consideration to their movement on Council land is governed via Council's By-Laws.

### **Vermin**

The City of Charles Sturt provides a number of services to reduce the prevalence of vermin on private and public land. Council maintains a pest control contract to manage vermin and other pests on Council land. Council's Environmental Health Officers may also assist by performing site inspections and sending general educational material in response to complaints of rats and unsanitary conditions.

### **European Wasps**

Council provides a free service to residents where they identify a European wasp nest on their property. The resident simply contacts Council, and once staff confirm the presence of European wasp, Council's contractor will eradicate the nest generally within 2-3 business days.

## **6.8. Risk Management**

Risk management is an intrinsic factor in Council operations and has also been identified by the Dog and Cat Management Board as an important issue. The following commitment is given over the life of this plan:

- To undertake risk management analysis where appropriate and address highest risks
- The continual development and training of Officers to ensure appropriate investigation and action is facilitated.

## **6.9. Service Levels**

Council's Animal Management function is part of the Community Safety department of the Community Health and Safety Portfolio within the Engaged Communities division of the City of Charles Sturt. The Council's Customer Contact team handles general enquiries during office hours, and our After Hours service contractor manages all other out of office enquiries. The current staffing levels include:



**On road after hours coverage is as follows:**

Monday to Friday \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm to 9:30pm  
 Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ 9am to 9:30pm  
 Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ 9am to 8pm

## 7. Animal Management Plan implementation and process

### 7.1. Community Consultation

The general content and direction of this Animal Management Plan has not altered significantly from 2021-2025, maintaining a mix of education, encouragement and enforcement activities to improve responsible pet ownership practices and legislative compliance. During its development, a draft of the Plan was provided to Elected Members, key stakeholders and the broad community to provide feedback via community consultation strategies. This feedback was then considered and incorporated where appropriate into the finalised Animal Management Plan 2026-2030.

### 7.2. Policy Content and Strategic Drivers

This Strategic Animal Management Plan is in line with Council's Strategic Drivers and Community Vision and contributes to a community which is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable in the long term by focusing on responsible animal ownership. The Plan clearly outlines the direction to be pursued by Council as well as more specific goals and key actions regarding animal management.

The development and implementation of the Animal Management Plan is an integral part of the Community Safety Team's Business Plan, which identifies the broader responsibilities and strategies of the entire department and the organisation. This Plan highlights the team's key role to ensure statutory adherence with the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and to encourage and educate pet owners on responsible ownership practices. It sets a new direction for the management of pets in our community with increased emphasis on responsible pet ownership and safe, respectful use of our shared public spaces.

Other Council Policies and local laws which impact on the area of animal management are:

- Dog and Cat management Policy
- Council's By-Laws Register
- Council's Enforcement Policy
- Council's Expiation Notice Review Policy

The relevant legislation that influences Council's obligations and delegations of authority include:

- Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
- Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016
- Expiation of Offences Act 1996

### **7.3. Reporting Structure**

Performance on achievement of the strategies and key performance indicators set in this Plan will be reported quarterly to Council via End of Quarter Reports and a summary report will be developed at the completion of the life of this Plan.

### **7.4. Action Plan**

An annual action plan will be developed and incorporated with the broader Community Safety Business Plan. Actions from within the Animal Management Plan will be selected based on corporate strategies, community requirements, and emerging trends, however a commitment is provided that each action will be assessed and implemented where applicable throughout the Plan's 5 year life.

### **7.5. Resources**

The funding to implement the actions identified within this Plan, identifying again the Plan is a statutory requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995, will be sourced via Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget Process.

Section 26(3) of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 requires that '*money received by a Council under the Act must be expended in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act relating to dogs and cats*'. That is, income received for dog registrations must be utilised in the administration or enforcement of the requirements of dog and cat management for our community.

Council's funding sources to effectively administer the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 is derived from four principal sources. Namely new and renewed dog registration income, expiation fees, court-imposed fines for breaches of the Act, and general rate revenue. Dog registration fees and expiation fees are applied by Regulations under the Act, whilst fines are applied as a result of prosecution outcomes.

## 7.6. Partnerships

To achieve optimum outcomes, partnerships with existing stakeholders within the community are valued and will be maintained and new partnerships developed where possible.

Stakeholder groups can make a significant contribution to the success of Council's aims and objectives within this Plan, and we will continue to work with, and assist them to grow and develop.

## 8. Dog leash requirements in Charles Sturt

The location of dog on lead and fenced off lead areas within our City is included in the Council Ward maps below, as well as locations for dog waste bag dispensers. Figure 3 indicates how the City is differentiated into different Council wards.

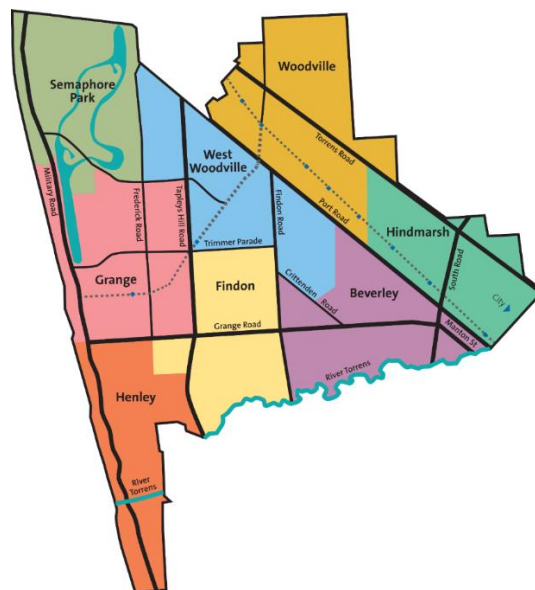


Figure 3: Map of Charles Sturt Council differentiated by wards

Dogs must be on lead:

- On any public footpath
- On the foreshore between 10am and 8pm during daylight savings time
- On any reserve where organised sport is being played
- Within 5m of a children's playground
- Within 100m of a Hooded or Red Capped Plover nesting site (usually on the foreshore)

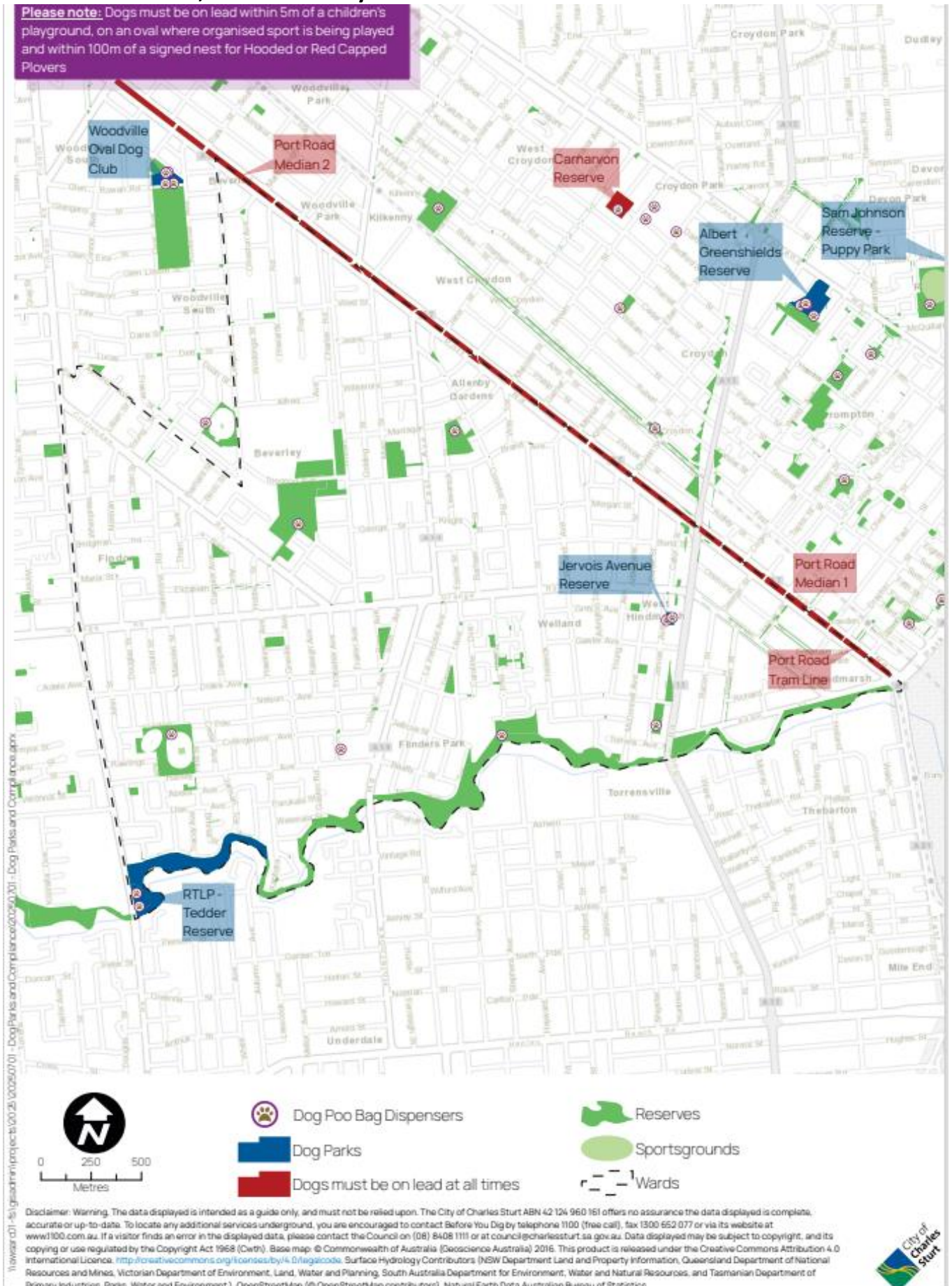
Dogs must also be on lead in our on lead reserves, highlighted in red in the Ward maps and via the link below.

Otherwise, dogs can be off lead in our reserves *if* they are under effective control (within sight, in close proximity and able to be called away from other people and dogs). It's important that everyone in our community can visit our public spaces feeling safe. Dog owners need to keep their dog(s) away from others (unless expressly invited), and on lead if they do not have effective control.

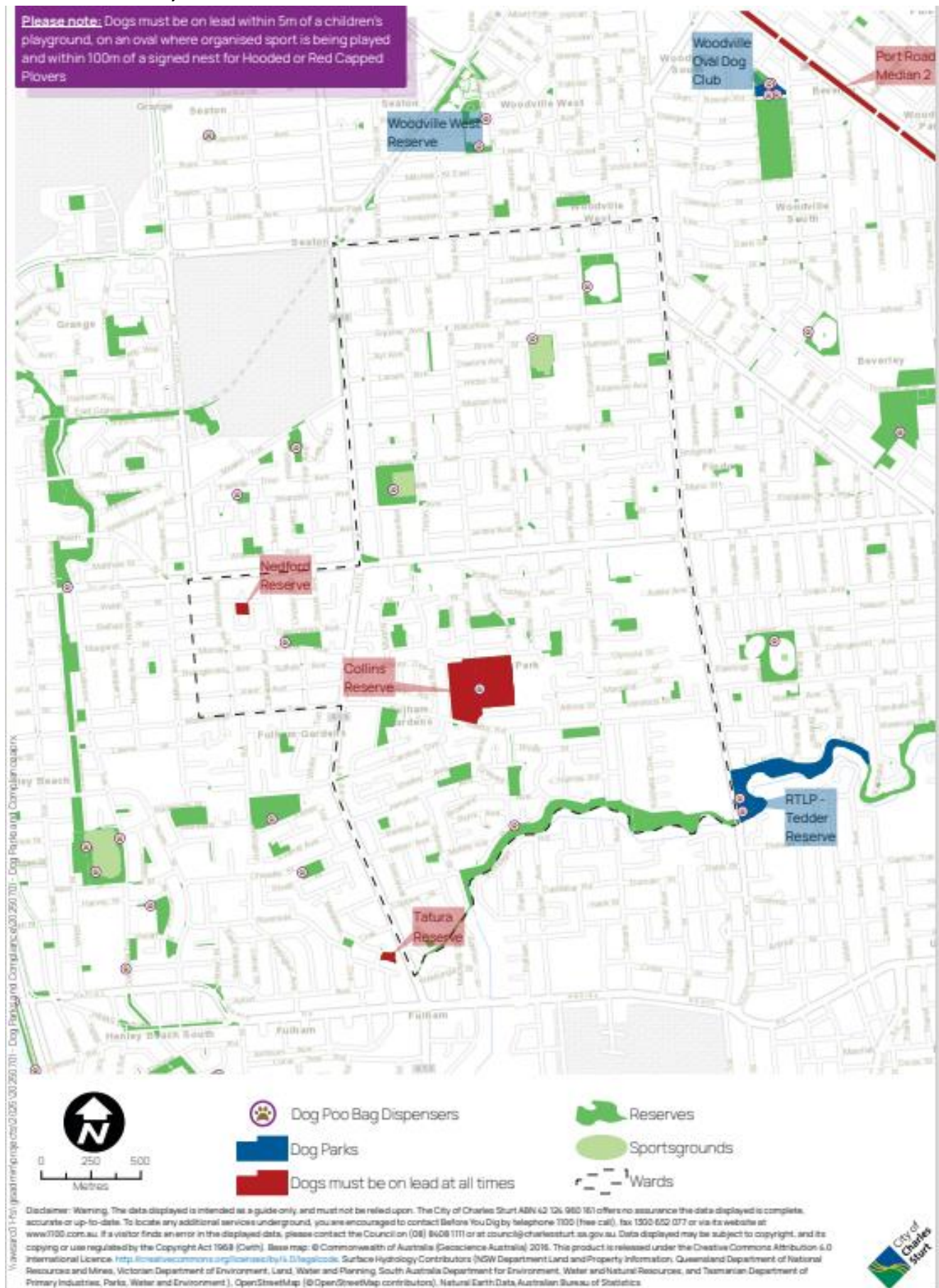
A list of on lead, and fenced off lead, reserves in Charles Sturt can be found here (or QR Code): [Dog Parks and On/Off Lead Areas | City of Charles Sturt](#).



## 8.1. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Beverley Ward



## 8.2. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Findon Ward



### 8.3. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Grange Ward

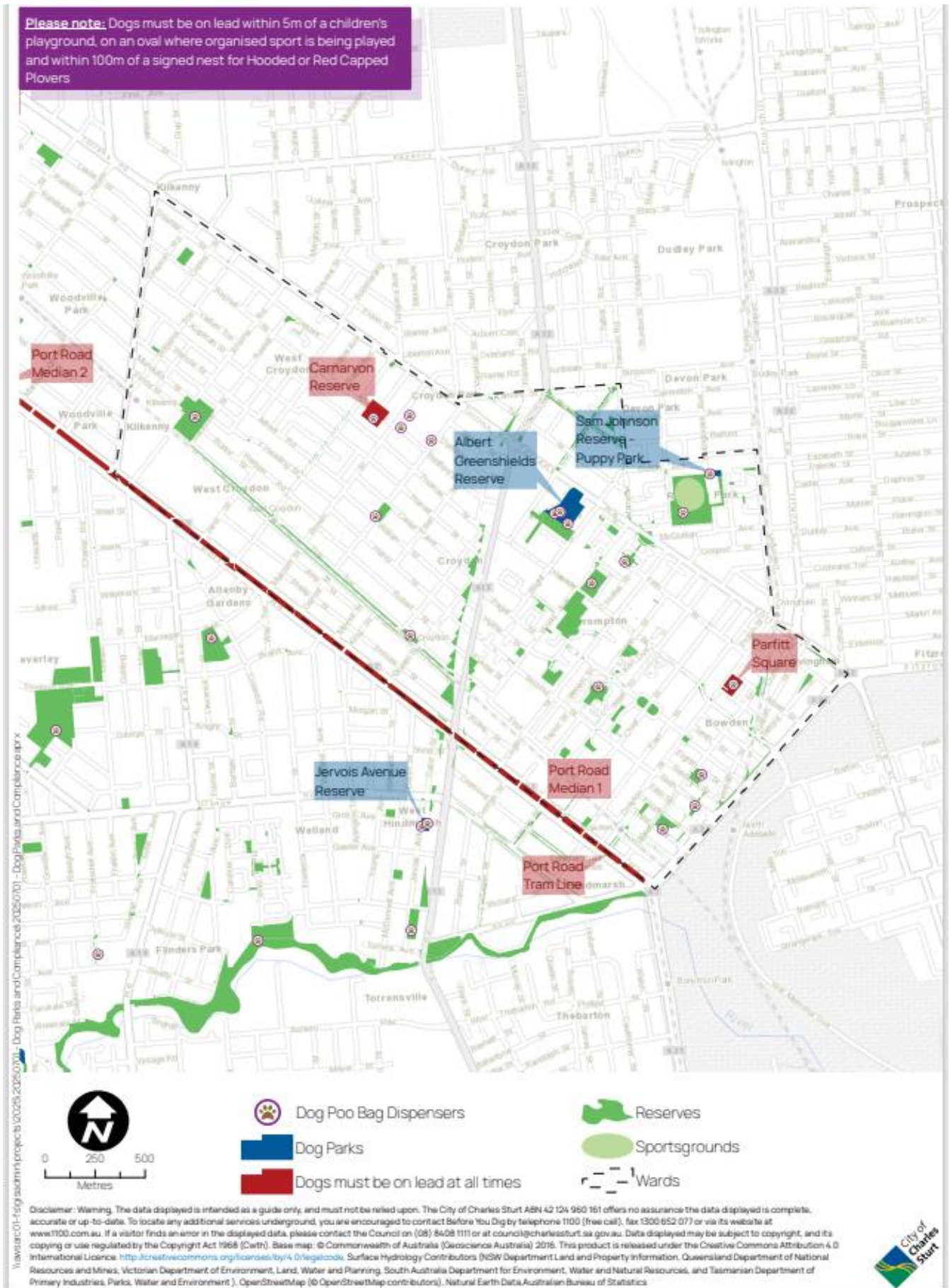
**Please note:** Dogs must be on lead within 5m of a children's playground, on an oval where organised sport is being played and within 100m of a signed nest for Hooded or Red Capped Plovers



## 8.4. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Henley Ward



### 8.5. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Hindmarsh Ward



## 8.6. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Semaphore Park Ward

**Please note:** Dogs must be on lead within 5m of a children's playground, on an oval where organised sport is being played and within 100m of a signed nest for Hooded or Red Capped Plovers



## 8.7. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within West Woodville Ward



### 8.8. Dog on lead and fenced off lead areas, and dog waste bag dispenser locations, within Woodville Ward

**Please note:** Dogs must be on lead within 5m of a children's playground, on an oval where organised sport is being played and within 100m of a signed nest for Hooded or Red Capped Plovers

