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1. Statement

Council recognises the community health and social benefits of regularly exercising dogs within an off leash environment. This policy provides clear direction for Council to inform ongoing investment in the provision of Leash Free Dog Areas (LFDA) in public parks within Ipswich to meet current and future community needs.

2. Purpose and Principles

Ipswich City Council recognises that quality, functional and accessible open space is fundamental providing healthy, liveable and desirable communities. As such, Council is committed to providing an appropriate standard and quantum of open space land and infrastructure to satisfy the needs of the community and enhance the City's liveability and amenity without jeopardising the environmental integrity of the natural environment.

Through implementation of this policy, Council will act in partnership with the community and other key stakeholders, to ensure that LFDAs are provided in such a manner which appropriately balances the City's environmental, economic and social needs.

3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

- Vibrant and Growing
- Safe, Inclusive and Creative
- Natural and Sustainable

4. Regulatory Authority

The implementation, application and governance of this Policy will give consideration to the following regulatory and policy instruments

- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Disability and Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)*
- *Fisheries Act 1994*
- *The Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
- *Water Act 2000*

5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

6. Scope

To ensure that functional, fair and consistent standards of LFDAs is provided across the City, Council's LFDAs includes two levels of facilities:

- District level
- Local level

Attachment A to this policy specifies Council’s Desired Standard of Service (DSS) for the provision of Local and District level LFDAs within Ipswich.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

- Managers are responsible for ensuring that this policy is understood and adhered to.
- All Council workers are responsible for making certain the policy is implemented.

8. Key Stakeholders

The following internal and external stakeholders have been identified as being involved with implementation of this Policy:

INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and Environment Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Infrastructure Strategy Branch ○ Environment and Sustainability Branch • Planning and Regulatory Services Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development Planning Branch ○ Environmental Health and Engineering Branch • Community, Culture and Economic Development Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community and Cultural Services Branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A major delivery agent of LFDAs • Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Primary users of LFDAs

In accordance with Council’s Open Space Planning and Delivery Procedure, when required, stakeholder engagement will be conducted in accordance with Council’s relevant engagement Policies.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure that this policy is effectively applied and facilitates the appropriate execution of planning, design, delivery and management of LFDAs, monitoring and evaluation is required.

As part of Council’s ongoing commitment to monitoring and evaluating demand, usage and trends in the City’s recreational pursuits and services, the following monitoring and evaluation is necessary:

- Periodic usage and/or survey data of LFDA is to be undertaken to evaluate the ongoing performance and use of LFDAs
- Periodic review of the City’s dog registration is to be collected to evaluate the growth and demand of dog ownership and inform forward planning, provision and service levels of LFDAs.

10. Definitions

Public Parks: Council owned or controlled land which is accessible to the public

11. Related Documents

- Open Space and Recreation Strategy (OSRS)
- Ipswich Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS)
- Ipswich Waterway Health Strategy (WHS)
- Ipswich Planning Scheme (including Implementation Guideline 27: Guidance On Recreation Range And Opportunity Outcomes Arising From Embellishment Of Public Parks)
- Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) and supporting documents
- Ipswich City Council Standard Drawings

(<https://www.ipswichplanning.com.au/planning-documents/standard-drawings#parks>)

12. Policy Owner

The General Manager (Infrastructure and Environment) is the policy owner and the Manager, Infrastructure Strategy is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.

13. ATTACHMENT A: Desired Standards of Service for Leash Free Dog Areas (LFDA)

The following Leash Free Dog Area Desired Standards of Service are to be read in conjunction with the following:

- Local Government Infrastructure Plan and Supporting Documents
- Ipswich Planning Scheme
- Implementation Guideline 27: Guidance on Recreation Range and Opportunity Outcomes Arising from Embellishment of Public Parks
- Council’s Open Space and Recreation Strategy

LOCAL LEVEL LEASH FREE DOG AREAS	
Distribution & Access:	Planning & Design
<p>Appropriate distribution and access should be determined using the following assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to service communities within a 2km radius • Consideration to physical and natural barriers to local residential neighbourhoods • Population densities • Growth demand. 	<p>Ideally, local level LFDA’s should be located in parkland areas connected physically or via appropriate pathway connections to a broader linear open space network (not reducing or compromising the linear open space, waterway or environmental functions), and accessible via collector or trunk collector street.</p>
Area:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum area of 2000m² for entire facility. • Small / Large Dog separation to be incorporated in facilities where suitable size permits (ie. facilities greater than 2500m²). • Desired minimum area of 500m² for small dog area. 	<p>In existing urban areas, Council may consider a reduced land and will assess on a site by site basis.</p>
Site Planning:	
<p>Gradients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The desired maximum surface gradients for the dog area are to be 1:20. • Turf areas can have up to a maximum gradient of 1:6 however this is required to be no greater than 50% of the area. In exceptional circumstances, Council may consider surface gradients at 1:4. • The entrance to the facility is to be no greater than 1:20. <p>Setback distances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The desired minimum setback of 50m is required to the closest residential property boundaries. Suitably setback distances from other parkland facilities are to be considered and will be assessed on a site by site basis in response to functional, safety and performance requirements (ie. playgrounds and BBQ / picnic facilities). • A desired minimum setback of 25m is required from the top of bank of waterways recognised in Council’s stream order mapping. • Where waterways are considered to provide important wildlife corridors, additional setback distances and landscape treatments may also be required to prevent impact to wildlife or habitat. This shall be assessed on a site by site basis in response to site conditions. 	<p>In exceptional circumstances, Council may consider relaxations to setbacks subject to suitable mitigation measures and appropriate landscape treatment between LFDA’s and environmentally sensitive areas.</p>

<p>Flood immunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, Council require LFDA's to be located above Q20 flood line and located outside of any land area required for overland flow paths, stormwater management and drainage infrastructure. 	
<p>Embellishment:</p>	
<p>Outlined below is the desired minimum embellishment requirements for Local level LFDA's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1x shaded picnic facility (incorporating 1 table and 2 bench seats) • Additional parkland seating (with backs) • Chain mesh fencing with mowing strip. Air lock dual gate to enclosures as per standard detail. (including pedestrian and vehicular access) • Drinking fountain (incorporating dog drinking bowl) • Minor number of dog agility play equipment • Regulatory / Community Notice Board • Dog waste bins • Dog waste bags dispenser • Signage (inclusive of educational, usage and regulatory) • Car parking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The desired minimum number of formalised off street parking areas for Local level LFDA's is 6 car parking spaces. <p>Note: In exceptional circumstances, Council may deem it acceptable for parking to be solely provided for on street, if located in existing developed urban areas.</p>	<p>Within Public Parks, LFDA infrastructure and embellishment may be considered. However, provision of LFDA's cannot be provided in lieu of, or at the expense of, trunk infrastructure land and embellishment requirements as detailed in Council's Local Government Infrastructure Plan and supporting documentation.</p> <p>For further trunk infrastructure provision requirements, the Local Government Infrastructure Plan and supporting documentation is to be consulted.</p>
<p>Planting:</p>	
<p>Suitable tree species are to provide sufficient shade for patrons. Note: Planting of groundcover species within the LFDA internally is not supported.</p>	
<p>DISTRICT LEVEL LEASH FREE DOG AREAS</p>	
<p>Distribution & Access:</p>	
<p>One (1) District level LFDA per planning district (East, Central and West and Ripley). In exceptional circumstances, Council will may consider the provision of additional facilities based on the growth and demand requirements of the city.</p>	<p>Ideally, local level LFDA's should be located in parkland areas connected physically or via appropriate pathway connections to a broader linear open space network (not reducing or compromising the linear open space, waterway or environmental functions), and accessible via collector or trunk collector street.</p>
<p>Area:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desired minimum area of 5000m² for entire facility. • Small / Large Dog separation to be incorporated in facilities. • Desired minimum area of 1000m² for small dog area. 	<p>In existing developed urban area, Council may consider a reduced land and will assess on a site by site basis.</p>

<p>Site Planning:</p> <p>Gradients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The desired maximum surface gradients for the dog area are to be 1:20. • Turf areas can have up to a maximum gradient of 1:6 however this is required to be no greater than 50% of the area. In exceptional circumstances, Council may consider surface gradients at 1:4. • The entrance to the facility is to be no greater than 1:20. <p>Setback distances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The desired minimum setback of 50m is required to the closest residential property boundaries. Suitably setback distances from other parkland facilities are to be considered and will be assessed on a site by site basis in response to functional, safety and performance requirements (ie. playgrounds and BBQ / picnic facilities). • A desired minimum setback of 25m is required from the top of bank of waterways recognised in Council’s stream order mapping. • Where waterways are considered to provide important wildlife corridors, additional setback distances and landscape treatments may also be required to prevent impact to wildlife or habitat. This shall be assessed on a site by site basis in response to site conditions. <p>Flood immunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, Council require LFDA’s to be located above Q20 flood line and located outside of any land area required for overland flow paths, stormwater management and drainage infrastructure. 	<p>In exceptional circumstances, Council may consider relaxations to setbacks subject to suitable mitigation measures and appropriate landscape treatment between LFDA’s and environmentally sensitive areas.</p>
<p>Embellishment:</p> <p>Outlined below is the desired minimum level of embellishment for Local District level LFDA’s;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x shaded picnic facilities consisting of 1 table and 2 bench seats (1 located in both small and large dog enclosures) • Additional parkland seating (with backs) in both enclosures • Chain mesh fencing with mowing strip. Air lock dual gate to enclosures as per standard detail. (including pedestrian and vehicular access) • Drinking fountain (incorporating dog drinking bowl) in both small and large dog enclosures • Dog agility and play equipment in both small and large dog enclosures • Regulatory / Community Notice Board • Dog waste bins • Dog waste bags dispenser 	<p>Within Public Parks, LFDA infrastructure and embellishment may be considered. However, provision of LFDA’s cannot be provided in lieu of, or at the expense of, trunk infrastructure land and embellishment requirements as detail in Council’s Local Government Infrastructure Plan and supporting documentation.</p> <p>For further trunk infrastructure provision requirements, the Local Government Infrastructure Plan and supporting documentation is to be consulted.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage (inclusive of educational, usage and regulatory) • Car parking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The desired minimum number of formalised off street parking areas for District level LFDA's is 12 car parking spaces. 	
Planting:	
<p>Suitable tree species to provide sufficient shade for patrons. Note: Planting of groundcover species internally is not supported.</p>	