

2023 - 2028



Animal Management Plan



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	0 3
Introduction	0 4
The Law / Guidelines	0 5
Outline	0 6
Strategies	0 8
Dog On Leash Area	1 5
Dog Off Leash Area	1 6

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The District Council of Streaky Bay (Council) is located some 720 kilometres by road from Adelaide on the picturesque shores of Blancheport. It is situated on the West Coast of Eyre Peninsula in South Australia and is surrounded by some of the region's most spectacular and unique coastal attractions and experiences.

The Council shares its boundaries with the District Councils of Ceduna in the northwest, Ananga Pitjantjatjara Lands in the northeast, Wudinna in the east and Elliston in the south.

The Council area includes the townships of Streaky Bay (which is the main service and business centre), Wirrulla, Poochera, Haslam, Sceale Bay, Baird Bay, Eba Anchorage, and Perlubie Landing, covering an area of 6,232 km² with a population of approximately 2,100.

The main industries are agriculture (predominantly grain crops, sheep and cattle) aquaculture, tourism and fishing.

This Animal Management Plan (the Plan) has been developed after a review of the previous Plan and is required pursuant to section 26A of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. As of January 2023, Council within its area currently has 753 dogs and 121 cats registered through the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) registration system, the number of dogs and cats being registered has increased consistently over the previous five years.

The Plan identifies strategies and actions that will set the direction for dog and cat management within the Council District for the next five-years from 2022 to 2027, the document may be reviewed during this period subject to legislation or strategic direction change.

The Plan contains recommendations for a wide range of actions to be undertaken by the Council in a programmed approach. These actions will enable Council to maintain a balance between competing interests and to reposition dog and cat management to accommodate new requirements.

The plan:

- Recognises that pets are integral to many people's lives and provide a range of health and social benefits.
- Aims to educate the community about responsible pet ownership.
- Aims to create a safe and enjoyable environment for people and animals.
- Reflects broad community sentiment.



INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

In South Australia, the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the 'Act') provides for the management of dogs and cats in the community. The objectives of the Act are to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.
- Reduce public and environmental nuisances caused by dogs and cats.
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Section 26A of the Act creates a statutory obligation on councils to develop a plan relating to dog and cat management in their area. The plan must cover a five-year period and be presented to the Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board) for comment six months before taking effect. This updated plan takes into consideration local priorities and feedback from the community, elected members and staff. It also responds to changes to the Act which occurred after the last plan was endorsed, including:

- Microchipping – all cats and dogs over three months must be microchipped, and the details recorded in Dogs and Cats Online (DACO).
- Desexing – dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018 must be desexed by six months of age.
- Breeders – anyone who breeds dogs and cats for sale must register as a breeder.
- Sellers – anyone selling cats or dogs must provide specific information to buyers.
- Council powers – authorised officers have greater powers.
- Penalties – additional offences are expiable.
- Registration fee structure – discounts apply to standard dogs (dogs that are registered and microchipped).

DOG BY-LAW NUMBER 5

- Limits the number of dogs permitted in private premises unless Council has granted an exemption.
- Prescribes controls for dog exercise areas, dogs on-leash areas and dog prohibited areas.
- Requires anyone in control of a dog to carry a suitable receptacle to collect dog waste.

CAT BY-LAW NUMBER 6

- Limits the number of cats that can be kept on private premises unless Council has granted permission.
- Requires cats to be registered into DACO within 14 days of arrival.
- Makes owners responsible for any nuisance caused by their cat(s).

Animals
Registered
2021/2022

874

THE LAW / GUIDELINES

REQUIREMENT	LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT
Mandatory desexing of dogs and cats born after 1 July 2018	Dog and Cat Management Act
Mandatory microchipping of all cats and dogs	Dog and Cat Management Act
Registration of all dogs	Dog and Cat Management Act
Registration of all cats	Council's Cats By-law No.6 of 2018
New rules for breeders who sell cats and dogs	Dog and Cat Management Act
Introduction of state-wide registration system, Dogs & Cats Online (DACO)	Dog and Cat Management Act
Controls regarding wandering at large - Cats	Council's Cats By-law No.6 of 2018
Exercising dogs in public places including playgrounds & Council land	Council's Dog By-law No.5 of 2018 Dog and Cat Management Act
Limit of 2 dogs/cats per property without permission from Council	Council's By-laws



OUTLINE

The Council's management of animal issues impacts the local environment, the health and wellbeing of community members and the welfare of animals in the district. The Plan is designed to meet the needs of animal owners, non-pet owners and visitors to the Council area.

The Act requires Council to administer and enforce:

- Responsible dog and cat ownership.
- Public and environmental nuisances caused by dogs and cats.

This plan outlines a range of strategies and actions to achieve these requirements, including:

- Educating and promoting responsible pet ownership.
- Enforcing desexing and microchipping requirements.
- Reducing the number of dog attacks.
- Eliminating dog faeces in public places.
- Reducing the number of dogs wandering at large.
- Promoting dog socialisation and training.
- Reducing nuisance barking complaints.
- Upskilling staff.

Education, Encouragement and Enforcement

Our plan emphasises the combined use of education, encouragement and enforcement to achieve Council's objectives. Education and promotion play a key role in changing attitudes about responsible pet ownership. At the same time, Council must proactively investigate issues and implement preventative measures where possible.

Encouragement is a Graduated Response to Achieve Compliance

It is endeavoured that enforcement is needed in some situations, however this must be balanced with community expectations and commensurate with the severity of the offence. The long-term goal is to overall reduce animal management problems.

Mission Statement

To create an environment that encourages responsible pet ownership, where people and pets integrate safely and harmoniously. To recognise that companion animals are part of the community and contribute to people's quality of life. To ensure that the needs of animals and their owners are accommodated while recognising the wider community's needs, including non-pet owners and visitors.

Aims

- To provide effective management and a suitable environment for dogs and cats within the community.
- To encourage responsible dog and cat ownership.
- To ensure public safety and amenity through the reduction of public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats.
- To advocate and provide for the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.
- To acknowledge the importance of dogs and cats in society.
- To encourage the enjoyment of and benefits from dogs and cats by people.
- To ensure public safety and amenity in relation to dogs and cats.
- To protect native fauna and flora from the impact of dogs and cats.
- To ensure the expenditure from registration fees addresses the needs of pet owners as well as domestic animal management issues.

OUTLINE

CURRENT SERVICE

Council has the following staff members who are Authorised Persons to administer or assist in the administration of Animal Management as per the Act:-

GENERAL INSPECTOR

**1 TRAINED ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

Casual – if required

- General Manager of Prosperity
- General Manager of Business

Council's Authorised Officer(s) undertake a range of animal management* activities that help to protect the safety and welfare of animals and the community, including:

- Actively responding to complaints
- Education and enforcement
- Dog attack and harassment investigations
- Responding to barking dog complaints
- Retrieving wandering dogs and returning to their owners
- Providing advice about animal management
- Dealing with animal nuisance complaints
- Implementing a variety of proactive cat management strategies

Overall, compliance with state legislation and local by-laws is good, notwithstanding the challenges of animal management in a popular tourism destination.

**Animal management refers to dog and cats throughout the plan.*



STRATEGIES

LEGISLATION AND EDUCATION

The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and Council's dog and cat by-laws stipulate the rules and powers for Authorised Officers of Council. Council's Policies and Procedures provide clear direction to ensure matters are dealt with consistently and fairly.

To support compliance, residents and visitors need to be made aware of their legislative obligations. Council uses various channels to inform and educate people about their responsibilities, including multimedia platforms and direct discussions with officers.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
<p>A suitable level of staff resourcing who have adequate skills and knowledge to operate within the provisions of the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 and other relevant delegated authorisations.</p>	<p>Provision of an Authorised Officer(s) to be responsible for the administration relating to the Act.</p> <p>Provision of administration support provided to Authorised Officer(s).</p> <p>Relief Officer(s) to be trained and authorised to provide support during the absence of the full-time officer.</p>	<p>All dog and cat matters are attended to on a timely basis and in accordance with the Act.</p>
	<p>Ongoing review of staff training and development to ensure all appropriate staff have a clear understanding of the legislation.</p>	<p>Staff undertake duties in compliance with the Act.</p>
	<p>Update Procedural Guidelines for staff.</p>	<p>Procedures reviewed and updated annually.</p>
<p>Educate the community on statewide legislation, local by-laws and the requirements of responsible dog/ cat ownership.</p>	<p>Ensure adequate, relevant information about the legislation is displayed in public areas using signage, social media and Council's website.</p>	<p>Information current, and clearly communicated where displayed.</p>
	<p>Encourage Authorised Officer(s) to take every opportunity to educate the community.</p>	<p>Increased awareness in the community.</p>
	<p>Hold at least 1 annual event which promotes responsible pet ownership.</p>	<p>1 annual event hosted each year.</p>

DOG AND CAT REGISTRATIONS, MICROCHIPPING AND DE-SEXING

The Act requires all dogs over three (3) months of age to be microchipped and registered via Dogs and Cats Online (DACO). Cats over three months of age must also be microchipped, and their information entered in DACO.

Additionally, dogs and cats born after July 2018 must be desexed by the age of six months (subject to legislative exemptions).

Ensuring maximum levels of microchipping and registration enables officers to identify owners and take appropriate action to educate, encourage and enforce animal management issues.

Council encourages dog and cat owners to participate with self-registration of their pets into the DACO system. Council Customer Service staff will assist with this process, if required.

Microchipping services are provided by trained personnel in the district and or the visiting vets. The visiting vets can provide desexing services as well.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
<p>Maximise dog and cat registrations, microchipping and desexing.</p>	<p>Use a variety of media sources to educate the public about dog registrations requirements.</p> <p>Use DACO to identify owners that have not entered their microchip details and/or re-registered their animal(s) and apply Council's enforcement policy.</p>	<p>At a minimum;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Full Page article in the Criterion prior to registration period • 1 advert on social media platforms <p>Increased registrations and microchip numbers from the previous year.</p> <p>All owners identified that are non-compliant have received appropriate enforcement notices.</p>
	<p>Enforce the mandatory microchipping of cats and dogs.</p>	<p>All owners identified that are non-compliant have received appropriate enforcement notices.</p>

WANDERING ANIMALS

Wandering dogs and cats can be a threat to members of the public, native wildlife and themselves. The Act and Council's dog and cat by-laws do not allow dogs or cats to wander except where off-leash provisions allow.

Council uses education, encouragement and enforcement to prevent wandering. When a pet dog wanders, the priority is to return it home as safely and quickly as possible – provided it can be safely contained without risking its welfare. The introduction of DACO and mandatory microchipping has significantly improved this process, which has resulted in less dogs being impounded, as the animal is returned direct to the owner.

A warning is issued to first offenders; however, penalties will be enforced as per the Act to re-offenders.

If an animal cannot be identified, it shall be taken to a suitable animal holding facility where it is kept while an attempt is made to find its owner.

The management of wandering cats is more challenging. A much lower proportion of cats are microchipped, making it difficult for officers to notify owners. More education is required to ensure cat owners comply with microchipping requirements and enter their cat's details in DACO.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Reduce the number of dogs and cats wandering.	<p>Make owners aware of their responsibility to microchip their pets and enter this information on DACO by the development of an appropriate communication / education strategy.</p> <p>Educate dog owners on adequate fencing for their property to control their dog.</p> <p>Encourage cat owners to not allow their cat to travel onto neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Encourage dog owners to train their dog to not to leave their premises.</p> <p>Encourage dog owners to undertake appropriate training in keeping their dog under effective control in a public place.</p>	<p>Educational campaign implemented.</p> <p>Increased compliance with dog owners controlling their dogs in Public Places.</p> <p>A decrease in non-compliance and/or infringement notices for wandering cats or dogs.</p>
	<p>Authorised Officers to monitor public areas for wandering animals.</p> <p>Ensure animals are returned to their owners as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Increased proportion of animals successfully returned to their owners.</p> <p>Officers follow scheduled patrols.</p>
	Respond to enquiries from the General Public.	Enquiries are responded to in accordance with Policy and Procedures.
	Actively, respond to calls and complaints.	Service remains effective.

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP – RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Successful pet ownership involves both financial and time commitments. It is crucial that people who are contemplating pet ownership endeavour to match their choice of pet to their home or family circumstances. This responsibility starts with training and effective animal management strategies and extends beyond the home, where pets must behave appropriately in public areas.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Work with the community and individual dog and cat owners on responsible ownership.	Promote the benefits of responsible pet ownership. Develop and implement an education plan on responsible ownership and management. Enforce animal management.	Education plan implemented. Warning notices and/or expiation notices issued.
Encourage dog owners to socialise and train their dogs.	Appropriate information is provided through the communication strategy where Dog Owners can access training and educational information.	Information and links available through Council website page and other promotional activities.

NUISANCE BARKING

Barking dog noise complaints is one of the most time-consuming and challenging animal management issues that councils deal with. The level of nuisance is subjective, depending on an individual's tolerance for dog noise. Dogs are allowed to bark for various reasons – the difficulty lies in defining what is reasonable and legal. In some situations, what is legal may still cause a nuisance to neighbours.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Investigate and attempt to reduce the impact of barking dogs.	Refine procedures for barking noise complaints.	Procedures developed, implemented with staff and monitored for effectiveness annually.
Dog owners to understand dog ownership and ensure appropriate strategies and support is available that minimizes the likelihood of dogs barking.	Educate dog owners and those affected by a barking dog on strategies to reduce the barking. Information links available on Council's website – www.streakybay.sa.gov.au .	Reduce the number of barking dog complaints (from the previous year).
	Promote force-free alternatives to help reduce excessive barking.	Education plan implemented.
	Work with dog owners and those affected by the barking to help reduce excessive barking.	Complaints received are resolved or strategies implemented to reduce the barking nuisance within shorter time frames.

PUBLIC AND ANIMAL SAFETY

All dogs have the potential to bite regardless of size, age, breed or temperament, particularly in situations where they are frightened, dominant, protective or possessive. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their dog behaves and can handle various conditions so that it does not harass or bite another animal or person. They must also have effective physical and voice command control over their dog to prevent incidents from occurring.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Increase public and animal safety by maintaining current initiatives to reduce risks of dog attacks.	Collate statistics related to dog attacks and intervene where possible.	Information collected.
	Promote dog training through inclusion in communication strategy and available training links on Council's website.	Communication Strategy implemented and Council website kept up to date.
	Provide education and information on how to manage dogs effectively.	Communication Strategy implemented and Council website kept up to date
	Investigate attacks/harassments and take appropriate enforcement action.	All attacks investigated, and enforcement action and education undertaken as required.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The management of dog faeces is a significant environmental and health issue. It affects the ambience of our beaches, foreshore, parks and reserves, and has the potential to pollute our waterways. It is an issue that the community has strong sentiment towards, animal faeces littering our public places has a detrimental impact on our reputation and local economy.

To address this, Council has established a by-law requiring dog owners to carry a suitable receptacle for picking up dog faeces, in addition to state legislation requiring owners to pick up after their dog.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Maintain a clean environment for residents and visitors.	Continue to provide dispensers and dog tidy bags in various locations. Additional dog bag dispensers are provided where deemed appropriate.	A register of dog bag dispenser locations is maintained. Dog dispensers kept stocked. Presence and/or complaints regarding faeces is minimal.

ANIMAL SAFETY

Staff also advocate for change where any risk to the safety of animals is identified.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Advocate and support measures that protect the welfare and safety of dogs and cats.	Advocate to relevant stakeholders on behalf of Council to ensure animal safety and prevent cruelty to animals.	Welfare concerns actioned or reported to RSPCA. District Council of Streaky Staff have this qualification.
	Educate residents about breeder registration requirements and enforce compliance.	Education plan implemented.

FEE STRUCTURE

Under provisions of the Act, Council must use income generated from dog registrations for the purpose of animal management.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Allocate monies from dog registration for animal management.	Ensure monies raised from registrations are used for animal management.	Annual Budget allocation.

CAT MANAGEMENT

The management of cats is problematic when no individual owner can be identified. It is common for a wandering cat to be fed by one or more households that do not claim ownership of the animal and therefore cannot be held accountable for any nuisance it causes.

Unidentified cats are similarly troublesome, and management of the issue is undertaken, if required.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Encourage responsible cat ownership. Educate the community on cat management strategies to minimise nuisance complaints.	Ensure cats have one responsible owner that can take full responsibility for the welfare of the cat.	Education plan implemented.
	Promote and enforce the Council's cat by-law.	Enforcement action taken.
Unidentified Cat Program	Cat Traps available for hire to the resident. Cat Trapping programs to be implemented in large problem areas, when required.	Reduced number of unidentified cats.
	Investigate options of seized and detained cats.	Budget allocation.

MONITOR AND REVIEW

This plan requires a mechanism to be implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated where appropriate.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
Ensure the plan is implemented, monitored, reviewed and updated.	Council and Board endorsement of the plan. Appropriate budget allocation to ensure plan can be implemented.	Plan implemented. Annual Reporting of Plan implementation to Council.
	Plan to be reviewed annually	To be undertaken as part of Annual Reporting to Council.

DOGS ON LEASH AREAS

DOGS ON LEASH AREAS IN THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREAKY BAY

All parks and reserves (except the beach and foreshore areas as per below restrictions) are off leash areas*, this includes but is not limited to the below list:

ON LEASH AREAS – AT ALL TIMES

LOCATION
Doctors Beach – from Eyre Avenue Reserve to Caravan Park end
Back Beach - carpark, walkway and 50m each side of the beach entrance
Hallys Beach - carpark, walkway and 50m each side of the beach entrance
Streaky Bay Foreshore (including the beach) – Phillip Street to End of Alfred Terrace lawn area
Eyre Avenue – from Linklater Street to Wells Street, foreshore lawns and road reserve
Bay Road – Montgomerie Terrace to Alfred Terrace
Wells Street – entire length of the street
Slidy's Beach – carpark, boat ramp and reserve
Moore's Bicycle Track – entire length of the track
Lions Park Reserve – entire reserve area
Streaky Bay Youth Precinct (Cnr Montgomerie Tce/Bay Road) – entire reserve area
Whistling Rocks and Blow Holes - boardwalk and carpark
Little Islands Beach- carpark, walkway and 50m either side of beach entrance
Sceale Bay Foreshore – carpark, boat ramp and foreshore shelter (including reserve)
Perlubie Beach - carpark, beach entrance from carpark, beach area from entrance to 50m on from the last shelter
Haslam – campground, foreshore carpark, recreation area, and beach (50m each side of Jetty)
Tractor Beach Campground – entire campground area
Baird Bay Campground – entire campground area
Speeds Point - campground, carpark and day use area
Yanerbie Township – beach area in front of Yanerbie township
Surfers Beach - carpark, walkway and 50m each side of the beach entrance
Moore's Boat Ramp – carpark, break water and boat ramps
Granites – carpark, boardwalk and beach
Streaky Bay Cutting – jetty, platform and carpark
Smooth Pool – carpark and beach

DOGS OFF LEASH AREAS

DOGS OFF-LEASH AREAS IN THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF STREAKY BAY

OFF LEASH AREAS - AT ALL TIMES

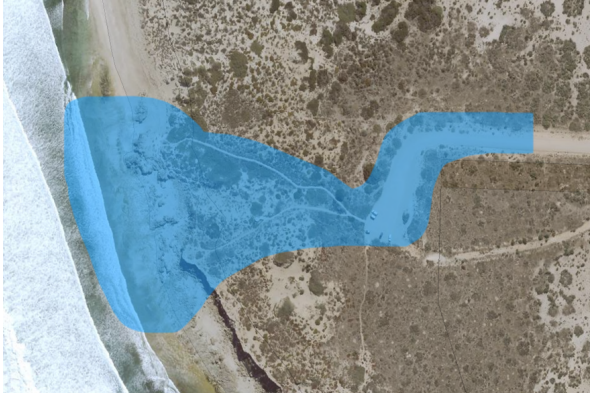
LOCATION
Streaky Bay Golf Course
Sheoak's Beach Reserve
Little Islands Coastal Trail

PROHIBITED AREAS *(unless it is an accredited assistance dog)*

LOCATION
School Grounds
Kindergartens
Child Care Centre
Pre School Centres



Back Beach - carpark, walkway and 50m each side of the beach entrance



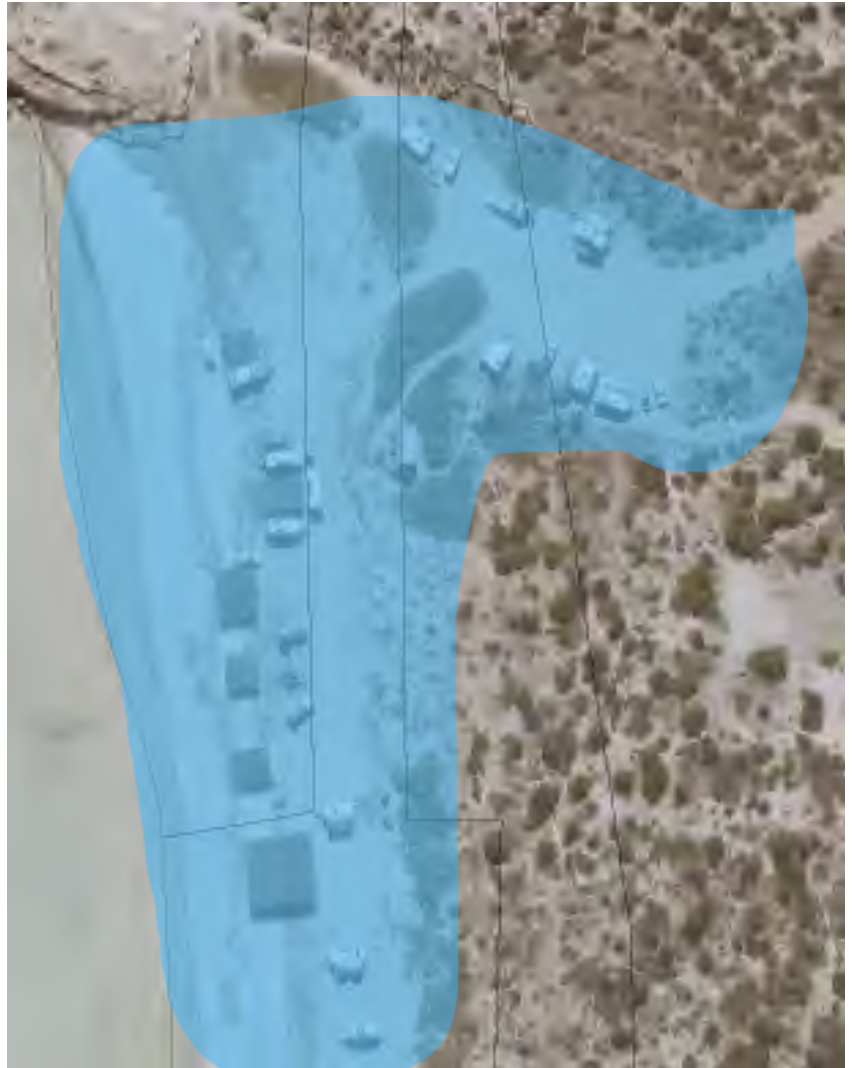
Doctors Beach - from Eyre Avenue Reserve to Caravan Park end



Haslam - campground, foreshore carpark, recreation area, and beach (50m each side of Jetty)



Perlubie Beach - carpark, beach entrance from carpark, beach area from entrance to 50m on from the last shelter



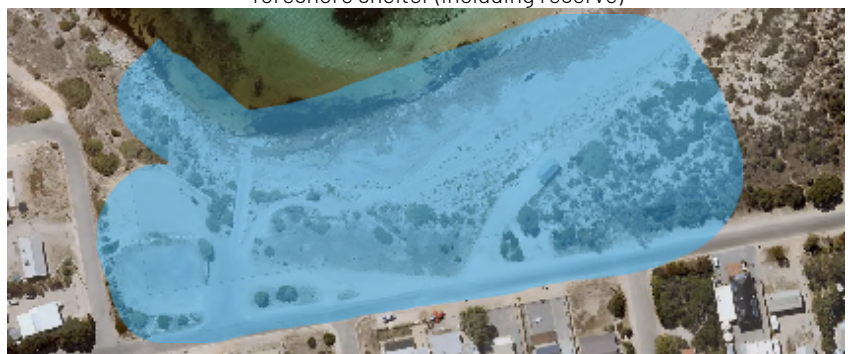
Little Islands Beach - carpark, walkway and 50m either side of beach entrance



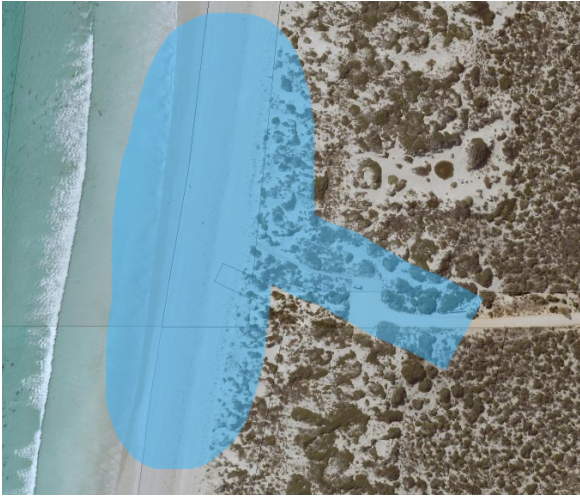
Slidy's Beach - carpark, boat ramp and reserve



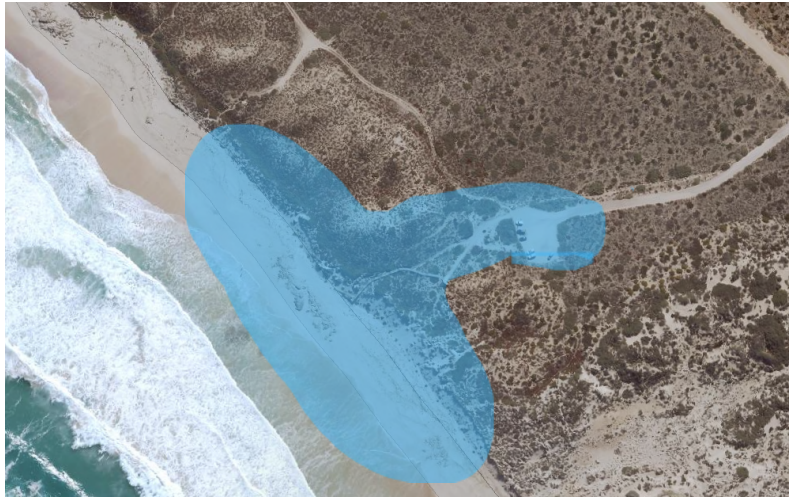
Sceale Bay Foreshore - carpark, boat ramp and foreshore shelter (including reserve)



Surfers Beach - carpark, walkway and 50m each side of the beach entrance



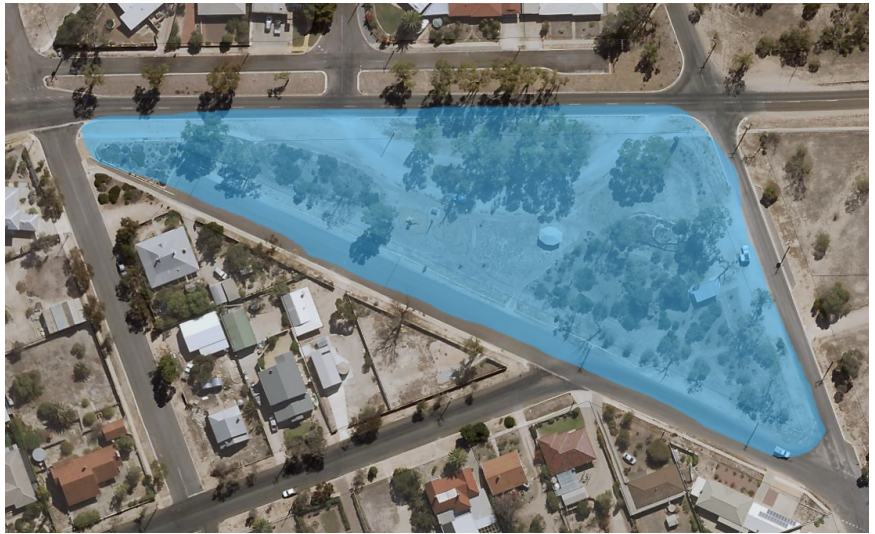
Hally's Beach - carpark & 50 metres each side of beach entrance



Yanerbe Township - beach area in front of Yanerbe township



Lions Park Reserve - entire reserve area



Eyre Avenue - from Linklater Street to Wells Street, foreshore lawns and road reserve



Smooth Pool - carpark and beach



Streaky Bay Foreshore (including the beach) - Phillip Street to End of Alfred Terrace lawn area



Wells Street – entire length of the street



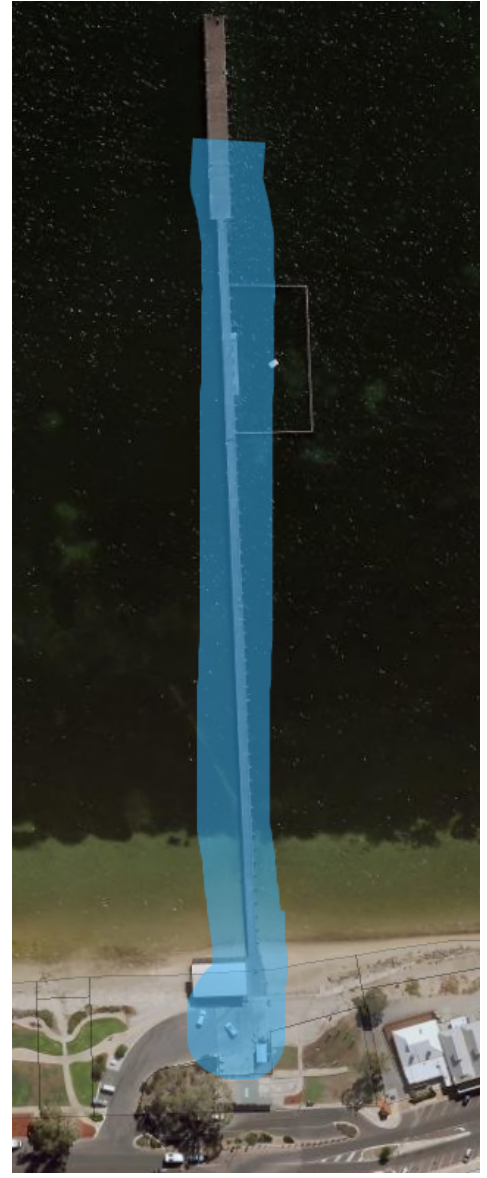
Moore's Bicycle Track – entire length of the track



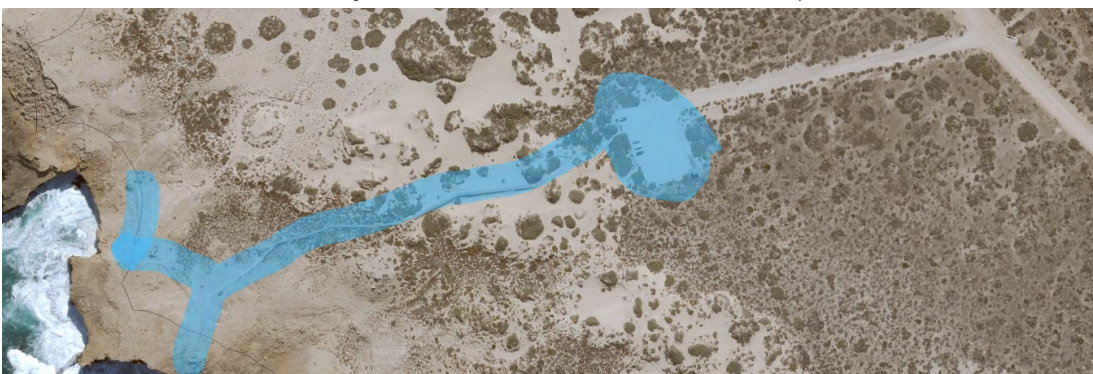
Bay Road – Montgerie Terrace to Alfred Terrace



Streaky Bay Cutting – jetty, platform and carpark



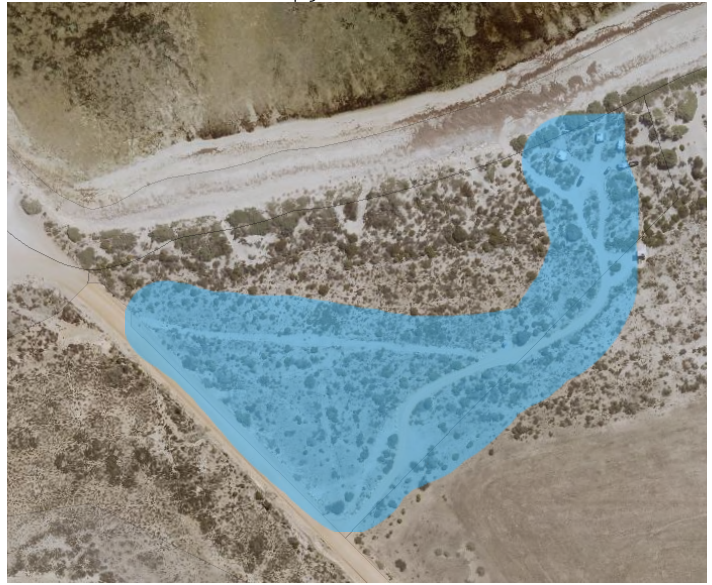
Whistling Rocks and Blow Holes – boardwalk and carpark



Streaky Bay Youth Precinct (Cnr Montgomerie Tce/Bay Road) – entire reserve area



Tractor Beach Campground – entire campground area



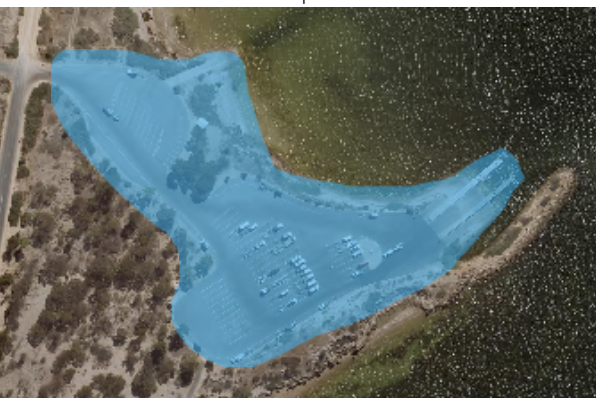
Baird Bay Campground – entire campground area



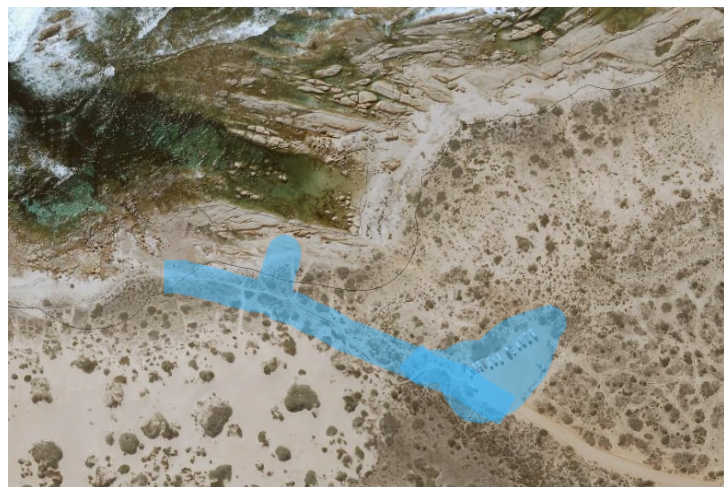
Speeds Point - campground, carpark and day use area



Moores Boat Ramp – carpark, break water and boat ramps



Granites – carpark, boardwalk and beach





District Council of Streaky Bay

29 Alfred Tce, Streaky Bay SA 5680

8626 1001

dcstreaky@streakybay.sa.gov.au

www.streakybay.sa.gov.au