

# Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025



COMMUNITY  
SAFETY



**Nillumbik**  
The Green Wedge Shire



### **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which Nillumbik is located, and we value the significance of the Wurundjeri people's history as essential to the unique character of the shire. We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik, give respect to Elders past and present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We recognise that Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place. We value the distinctive place of our First Nations People in both Nillumbik's and Australia's identity; from their cultural heritage and care of the land, to their ongoing contributions in many fields including academia, agriculture, art, economics, law, sport and politics.

We recognise and value the distinctive and special spiritual and material relationship that First Nations People have with the land and the water, including trees, rocks, hills and valleys, creeks, rivers and flood plains in our Shire.

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## Acronyms

Term	Definition
<b>AMO</b>	Animal Management Officer
<b>AVA</b>	Australian Veterinary Association
<b>BCC</b>	Banyule City Council
<b>CSO</b>	Community Safety Officer
<b>DAA</b>	<i>Domestic Animal Act 1994</i>
<b>DAB</b>	Domestic Animal Business
<b>DAMP</b>	Domestic Animal Management Plan
<b>DINs</b>	Domestic Animal Infringement Notices
<b>LLs</b>	Local Laws
<b>NSC</b>	Nillumbik Shire Council
<b>RSPCA</b>	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<b>WAL</b>	Wandering at Large
<b>VDDR</b>	Victorian Dangerous Dog Register

# 1. Introduction



Under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animal Act 1994*, (the Act) each Council must, in consultation with the Secretary, prepare a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) on 4 December 2021 and renew the plan every four years thereafter.

The format and content of a DAMP is set by the State Government in order to ensure consistency across the state of Victoria. As set by the State Government, a DAMP must respond to the following key areas:

- Training of authorised officers
- Programs to promote and encourage responsible ownership
- Programs to address over-population rates and high euthanasia rates
- Registration and identification
- Nuisance
- Dog attack
- Dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs
- Domestic animal business
- Other matters
- Annual review of plan and annual reporting.

Specifically, the following provisions apply to the development of a DAMP:

#### S68A

*(2) A domestic animal management plan prepared by a Council must—*

- (a) set out a method for evaluating whether the animal control services provided by the Council in its municipal district are adequate to give effect to the requirements of this Act and the regulations; and*
- (b) outline programs for the training of authorised officers to ensure that they can properly administer and enforce the requirements of this Act in the Council's municipal district; and*

*(c) outline programs, services and strategies which the Council intends to pursue in its municipal district*

- (i) to promote and encourage the responsible ownership of dogs and cats; and*
- (ii) to ensure that people comply with this Act, the regulations and any related legislation; and*
- (iii) to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals; and*
- (iv) to address any over population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats; and*
- (v) to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats; and*
- (vi) to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance; and*
- (vii) to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs in that district and to ensure that those dogs are kept in compliance with this Act and the regulations; and*

*(d) provide for the review of existing orders made under the Act and local laws that relate to Council's municipal district with a view to determining whether further orders or Local Law dealings with the management of dogs and cats in the municipal district are desirable; and*

*(e) provide for the review of any other matters related to the management of dogs and cats in the Council's municipal district that it thinks necessary; and*

*(f) provide for the periodic evaluation of any program, service, strategy or review outlined under the plan,*





## 1.1 Statutory Compliance

Council is required to provide an animal management service with the aim of ensuring community amenity and safety is not compromised by domestic animals; that customer requests and complaints are responded to, and that all relevant Acts, Regulations and Local Laws are enforced.

The relevant Acts and Regulations include:

- Domestic Animals Act and Regulations 1994;
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994;
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986;
- Infringements Act 2005;
- Magistrates Court Act 1980;
- Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998;
- Local Government Act 1989;
- and Local Government Act 2020

Council must also have regard for applicable guidelines and standards including:

- Code of Practice for the Management of Animals in Shelters and Pounds;
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops;
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Establishments;
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Dog Training Establishments; and
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Greyhound Establishments.

## 1.2 Council Orders, Local Laws, and planning scheme requirements

Council can, from time to time, make orders in respect to the management of domestic animals within the Shire under the following circumstances:

### **Domestic Animals Act 1994 – Sect 10a**

A Council may resolve that it will not register dogs and cats unless desexed.

*(1) A Council may resolve that it will not, after a specified future date, register or renew the registration of a dog or cat unless the dog or cat—*

*(a) is desexed; or*

*(b) is exempted under this Act from any requirement to be desexed.*

Council currently has an order made under Section 10A of the Act which requires the mandatory desexing of cats. This order requires cats to be desexed before they can be registered.

## **Domestic Animals Act 1994 – Sect 26**

A Council may resolve that it will prohibit the presence of cats or dogs in certain public places; set conditions regarding the restraint of dogs or cats; set conditions on the times that cats or dogs are not permitted in public places; or any other matter the Council wishes to set conditions on the management of cats or dogs within the municipality.

- (1) *If a dog or cat is found in a place in respect of which an order under this section has been made in contravention of that order or any terms and conditions of that order, the owner is guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty of not more than 2 penalty units for a first offence and 4 penalty units for a second or subsequent offence.*
- (2) *A Council may by resolution make an order under this section which may do all or any of the following:*
  - (a) *prohibit the presence of dogs and cats in any public place of the municipal district of the Council;*
  - (b) *impose all or any of the following conditions on the presence of dogs or cats in any public place of the municipal district of the Council-*
    - (iii) *conditions as to the means of restraint of dogs or cats*
    - (iv) *conditions as to the times at which the presence of dogs or cats is not permitted;*
    - (v) *any other conditions that are specified in the order.*

Council currently has an order made under Section 26 of the Act which requires the following animal management practices:

- 'Cat confinement'. This order requires cats to be confined to their property between 7.30pm and 6am.
- 'Dogs in public places'. This order requires dogs to be on-leash in all public places, other than in designated areas where dogs are allowed off leash. It also requires owners and carers to ensure they have their dogs:
  - Under effective control at all times.
  - On-leash within five metres of playgrounds in pre-schools and childcare centres.
- 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge'. This order disallows dogs being on any sports field in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.

## **Amenity Local Law 2013**

The Nillumbik Shire Amenity Local Law was adopted in October 2013, and includes the following provisions that relate to domestic animals:

**Clause 23. Collection and disposal of dog excrement** requires people walking their dogs in public places to:

- carry a receptacle to remove excrement.
- collect and dispose appropriately of the excrement.
- produce receptacles on request by a Community Safety Officer.

**Clause 24. Keeping of animals – secure confinement** requires property owners or occupiers to:

- Ensure all livestock and dogs are adequately contained, and ensure the site is maintained to prevent nuisances such as odour or attracting vermin.
- Obtain a permit for more than:
  - two dogs or cats
  - five reptiles or rodents
  - 10 large birds or 25 small birds
  - a rooster or 24 poultry
- Obtain a permit for livestock kept on a property less than 4,000 square metres.

**Clause 26. Dogs prohibited in markets.**

*A person must not cause or permit any dog in their possession to be present in any land determined by Council by resolution, or by a delegate if this matter is the subject of a delegation, from time to time to be a market for the purpose of this Local Laws, except in accordance with the Guidelines.*

## **Nillumbik Planning Scheme**

The Nillumbik Planning Scheme Schedule contains two Special Use Zones. One relates to the Heritage Golf and Country Club and the other to the Bend of Islands. The objective of these zones includes the protection of wildlife and aims to achieve this through restrictions on the keeping of pets.

- Special Use Zone Schedule 1 – Heritage Golf and Country Club – it is prohibited to keep cats or dogs or to horse ride
- Special Use Zone Schedule 2 – Bend of Islands – it is prohibited to keep domestic pets or livestock



## 1.3 Purpose of Domestic Animal Management Plan

Nillumbik Shire Council has developed this Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) in accordance with the requirements established under Section 68A of the *Domestic Animal Act* (The Act) 1994.

The plan builds on Council's 2017-2021 Domestic Animal Plan which was adopted in October 2017. Council was successful in completing the outlined actions of the 2017-2021 plan as follows:

- A steady increase in pet registrations
- Officer training provided throughout the four years to maintain industry standard skills and knowledge
- Pet Expos were held in 2017 to 2019. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Pet Expo was cancelled in 2020 and 2021
- Implementation of a Lost and Found webpage
- Legislative agreements (84Y DAA 1994), have been put in place with Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital, Save-A-Dog-Scheme and Cat Protection Society
- In conjunction with Animal Welfare Victoria, Responsible Pet Ownership material has been provided to owners registering their pets for the first time
- Established a new three-year contract with Banyule City Council to provide a pound service
- Transport of un-microchipped pets to Yarrambat Veterinary Hospital for microchipping to enable registration before release as legislatively required
- An increase of patrols of reserves and parks have been well received by the community
- Expected completion by the end of 2021 of a new dog park located at Eltham North.

The 2021-2025 DAMP objectives will guide Council in its service to the community by implementing a number of strategies in response to issues raised by the community:

- Encourage statutory compliance and promote responsible pet ownership
- Reduce nuisance caused by cats and dogs
- Minimise dog attacks
- Enhance community safety by reducing the number of dogs not under effective control in Council's off-leash parks and reserves
- Review Council's animal management service which include Local Laws provisions and existing Orders made under the Act
- Increase registration of cats and dogs
- Ensure authorised officers are appropriately trained to conduct their animal management duties
- Promote the benefits of desexing cats and dogs
- Continue to reunite lost and found cats and dogs with their owners when possible
- Continue to provide assistance to vulnerable community members by caring for their animals free of charge
- To have a plan in place in case of an emergency
- Address the overpopulation of unwanted cats and dogs while minimising euthanasia rates.

The care and welfare of pets (dogs and cats) is an important priority and Council works to ensure that no dog or cat is destroyed or harmed and whenever possible all unwanted animals are rehomed.

The plan relates only to the keeping of dogs and cats, as the Act does not address other animals such as livestock or wildlife.



## 1.4 Process Applied in Developing the Plan

The DAMP has been developed in consultation with Nillumbik Shire Councillors and Council's Executive Management Team; Council's Community Safety Officers; relevant internal departments; members of the community and key stakeholders, including local veterinary practices, the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), Cat Protection Society (CPS), Save a Dog Scheme (SADS), RSPCA and Animal Welfare Victoria.

Community consultation in the development of this DAMP was conducted in May and June 2021 and focused on broad issues associated with animal management. This was carried out via Council's website, signage placed at key locations and pop-ups displayed at prominent locations.

The 10 most common community issues identified through the survey were:



These issues along with other related matters will form part of the action plan in the 2021-2025 DAMP.

## 1.5 Demographic and Profile of Council

Nillumbik Shire is located in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, about 25 kilometres from the Melbourne CBD.

The Shire covers 431.94 square kilometres or 43,194 hectares and features both urban and rural areas. Located less than 25 kilometres from the centre of Melbourne, the Shire of Nillumbik has the Yarra River as its southern boundary and extends 29 kilometres to Kinglake National Park in the north. The Shire stretches approximately 20 kilometres from the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west, to Christmas Hills and the Yarra escarpment in the east.

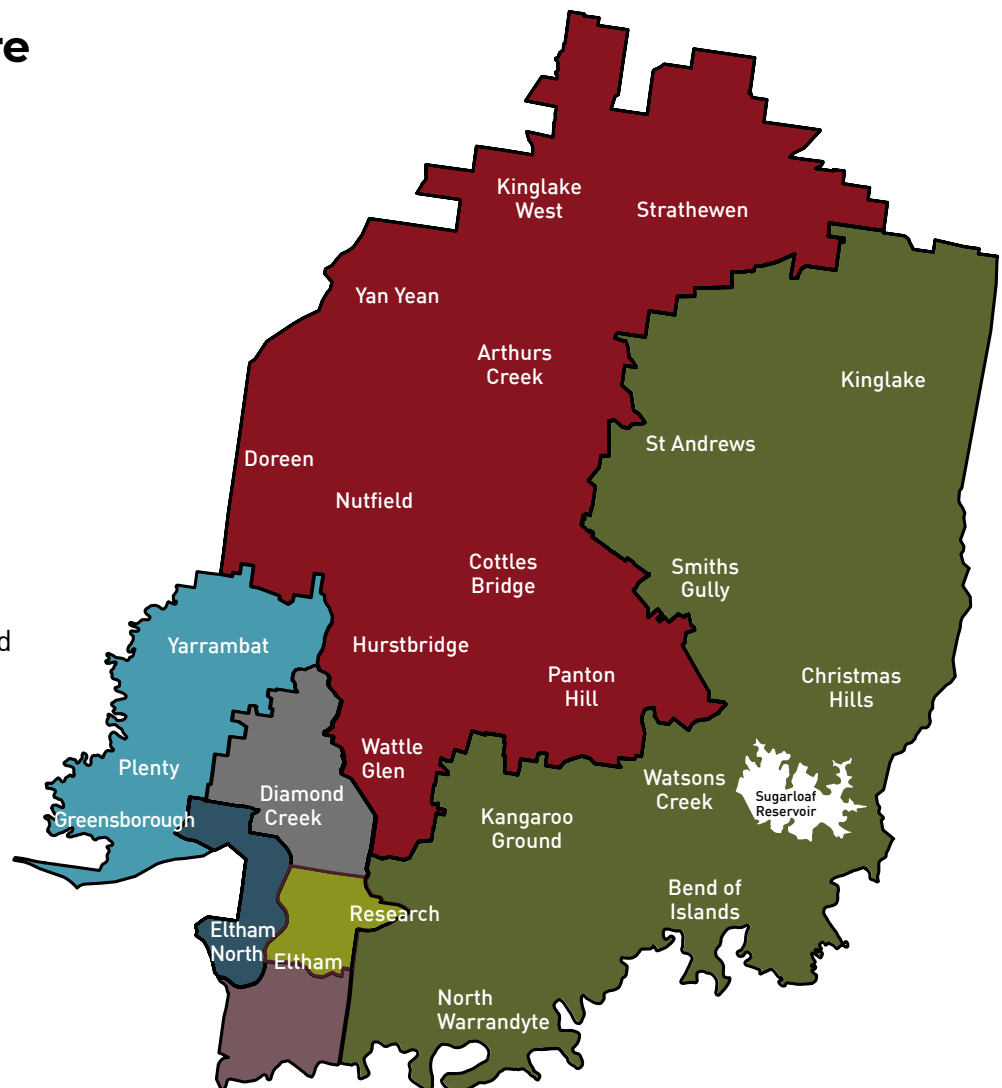
Nillumbik Shire services an estimated 65,219 residents in approximately 22,400 properties throughout the suburbs and townships of Eltham, Eltham North, Greensborough, Kangaroo Ground, Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Doreen, North Warrandyte, Plenty, Research, Wattle Glen, Yarrambat, Arthurs Creek, Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Nutfield, Panton Hill, Smiths Gully, St Andrews, Strathewen, Yan Yean and Watsons Creek.

The median age in Nillumbik is 41 years. Children aged 0-14 make up 19.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over make up 13.1% of the population.

### Ward Structure

#### KEY

-  Blue Lake Ward
-  Bunjil Ward
-  Edendale Ward
-  Ellis Ward
-  Sugarloaf Ward
-  Swipers Gully Ward
-  Wingrove Ward



## 1.6 Context and Current Situation

Current services and programs provided by Nillumbik Shire Council align with the *Domestic Animal Act 1994* and Council takes an educative approach over enforcement where possible.

Nillumbik Shire Council animal management programs and services currently in place include:

Program/Service	Service Level
NSC Regional Pound (services NSC and BCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs found wandering at large are displayed on Council's website.</li> <li>• Veterinary care is available for any injured/sick dog seven days a week including public holidays.</li> <li>• Welfare care for residents dealing with family violence or other hardship.</li> <li>• Online payment facility for registration, housing and other associated costs.</li> <li>• Dogs taken to owner's residence during business hours when dog owner is unable to collect.</li> <li>• Mandatory registration of animals prior to release from pound.</li> <li>• Other animals cared for at pound (rabbits, birds, guinea pigs.)</li> <li>• Facility for livestock.</li> </ul>
Cat Protection Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cat collection seven days a week from CPS.</li> <li>• Photos of cats available on CPS website.</li> <li>• Mandatory microchipping and registration of cats prior to release from pound.</li> </ul>
Cat trapping service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cat trapping service available business days.</li> <li>• A cat trap deposit is required.</li> </ul>
Annual pet registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pet registration reminders distributed in January.</li> <li>• Pet renewals distributed in March.</li> <li>• Various payment options including online payment, B-Pay, post office, Council office.</li> </ul>
Promotion of Responsible Pet Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular follow up with shelters and breeders to obtain information of cats and dogs sold.</li> <li>• Welcome packs provided to new pet owners including Responsible Pet Ownership information.</li> </ul>
Pet Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual event promoting animal management. (Cancelled due to COVID 2020/2021).</li> </ul>
After hours emergency service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After hours collection service for dogs found and contained by community members. Hours of collection: Business days 5pm-10pm. Weekends and public holidays 7am-10pm</li> <li>• Found dogs reunited with their owners when applicable or taken to Council's regional pound.</li> <li>• Pound available to house lost pets seven days a week, including public holidays.</li> <li>• Officers can attend dog attacks within 45 minutes of call.</li> </ul>
Off-leash parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two fenced off-leash dog parks.</li> <li>• 11 off-leash parks/reserves.</li> </ul>
Park patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officer attend to park patrols during business hours and after hours, weekends and public holidays.</li> </ul>
DAB inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual inspections.</li> </ul>
Declared Dogs inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual inspections.</li> </ul>

## 1.7 Domestic Animal Statistics

The figures provided in the tables below are comparative to the commencement of the 2017-2021 DAMP.

### Animal management statistics 2017-2021

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
Registered Cats	2098	2328	2661	2959	3133
Registered Dogs	7369	7859	8960	10041	10659
Registered DAB	12	15	14	16	13
Dangerous Dog	2	5	5	5	7
Menacing Dog	0	0	0	2	1
Restricted Dog	0	0	0	0	0
Impounded Dog	248	194	208	115	62
Reclaimed Dog	218	171	176	100	51
Rehoused Dog	18	12	20	10	9
Seized Dog	15	6	12	5	1
Surrendered Dog	8	9	14	6	8
Euthanised Dog	7	8	9	4	2
Welfare Dog	7	8	9	4	0
Impounded Cat	190	154	203	214	110
Reclaimed Cat	23	34	32	30	24
Rehoused Cat	127	85	150	143	63
Seized Cat	0	0	0	0	0
Surrendered Cat	64	31	63	34	25
Euthanised Cat	38	34	19	41	23
Welfare Cat	0	0	0	1	0

Key takeaways from the data above include:

- Council has had an increase of 49.33% of cat registrations and a 44.65% increase of dog registrations in the four years of the current DAMP.
- Nillumbik has consistently maintained a zero rate of registered restricted breed dogs.
- Prior to the COVID Pandemic, impoundments of dogs were consistent at about 200 per annum.
- There is an upward trend in cat impoundments.
- Council has consistently achieved an average rate of 95% returned or rehomed dogs.

### Animal management service requests 2017-2021

Additional Data	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
Cat Cage Request	59	68	73	95	58
Cats at Large	15	14	156	13	9
Dog Attacks	46	63	72	69	34
Dog Rush	26	27	29	24	5
Dog Wandering	12	6	7	16	3
Dog Pick up	287	252	314	288	158
Multiple Permit Cat	24	24	17	12	9
Multiple Permit Dog	119	105	98	75	56
Park Patrols	N/A	N/A	N/A	349	283
Prosecutions	0	0	4	5	1

The Community Safety team has implemented several proactive programs over the life of the 2017-2021 DAMP. These have included:

- cat trapping program year on year
- improved reporting on park patrols
- increased frequency of patrols across all of Council's parks and reserves.

## 2. Strategic Aims



## Key strategic aims addressed within the DAMP include:

1

To enhance the skills and knowledge of officers and provide the tools Community Safety Officers require to deliver best practice programs and services

5

To encourage responsible pet ownership in order to protect the health and welfare of other animals and wildlife and to minimise the potential of nuisance or harm to others

2

Promote responsible pet ownership

6

To minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community

3

To gain a better understanding of dog and cat populations within Nillumbik Shire and redress circumstances of preventable euthanasia

7

To ensure that declared dogs are identified and managed to minimise the risk to safety of residents and the broader community

4

To increase animal registration and compliance

8

To ensure compliance with the Act and the Code of Practice are met.

### 3. Training of Authorised Officers





Section 68(A) (2) (b) of the Act outlines training programs for authorised officers, ensuring proper administration and enforcement of the Act within the municipal district.

*Aim: To enhance the knowledge and provide the required tools for all Community Safety Officers to deliver best practice programs and services.*

### 3.1 Context and Current Situation

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to ensuring all Community Safety Officers and Administration Support are trained and competent in their duties and provide an effective and professional service to the community.

Officers are required to hold Certificate IV Animal control and Regulation, Certificate IV in Local Government (Regulatory Services) or similar and to be competent in the use of Council systems.

### 3.2 Our Planned Training for Authorised Officers

A detailed training program ensures officers maintain skills at an industry-leading level.

*Industry Related Training.*

Training	Frequency	Evaluation
Animal Handling.	Annually	
Animal Assessment.	Year 1 & 3	
Canine Anatomy and Identification.	Year 2 & 4	
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources-training and information days.	Annually	

*Good Governance Training.*

Training	Frequency	Evaluation
Customer Service.	Annually	
Freedom of Information.	Annually	
Privacy & Data Protection Act.	Annually	
Mental health, drugs and alcohol awareness.	Annually	
Family Violence and Gender Equity.	Annually	

*Occupational Health & Safety related training.*

Training	Frequency	Evaluation
Working in a remote area.	Annually	
Situation awareness.	Annually	
Managing difficult situations.	Annually	
Dealing with aggressive/difficult persons.	Annually	
Manual handling.	Annually	
First Aid.	As required	

*Technical Skills.*

Training	Frequency	Evaluation
Legislation awareness updates.	Monthly	
Statement and interview techniques.	Annually	
Microchipping of cats and dogs.	Initial one of training	
System training.	Ongoing	

### 3.3 Our Plan

Council is committed to developing officer skills by identifying training opportunities and enabling attendance to relevant forums, workshops and seminars that provide the necessary skills and qualifications to undertake the duties of animal management officers with confidence and professionalism.

The training will provide well-developed technical skills and knowledge required for animal investigations, prosecution and animal handling and behavior. All training will include a strong customer service focus to assist with building and maintaining positive relationships with members of the community and visitors to Nillumbik Shire.

# 4. Promotion of Responsible Pet Ownership



## 4.1 Context and Current Situation

Promoting responsible pet ownership (RPO) has always been paramount in the administrative and on-field work by Community Safety officers (CSOs). Council's Community Safety and Amenity Support team receives daily updates of the sales and adoptions from breeders and shelters including owner details and microchip numbers. Information on RPO and registration is sent to residents to encourage education and compliance with legislation.

Council has conducted an annual Pet Expo, with the exception of 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the Pet Expo is to promote RPO and services and activities available for pets within the Shire and beyond. Residents have the opportunity to engage directly with CSOs, shelters, veterinary specialists and breeders to promote, advocate and assist with RPO.

## 4.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Currently Nillumbik Shire Council does not have Orders or Local Laws specific to communicating or enforcing the responsible pet ownership message.

However Council does have policies and procedures in place, aimed at improving community understanding of RPO, including:

- Registration forms and Welcome Packs to be posted to new pet owners.
- Text message alerts to pet owners advising of upcoming events, registration and Pet Expo.
- Hosting an annual Pet Expo.
- Officers attending to weekly park patrols to provide education to pet owners by scanning dogs for microchip details, checking registration, and providing poo bags and dog leashes.

## 4.3 Our Plan

Implementation of proactive programs to increase the responsible pet ownership message to the community, including;

- Implement an educational program in local schools
- Regular review of Council's website content, to ensure it is up to date and easy to use
- Development of short promotional videos distributed on social media and Council's website promoting RPO
- Develop information tools focusing on pet anxieties (i.e as a result of COVID-19 ) informed by an animal behaviourist
- Develop further information resources through brochures and fact sheets relating to animal nuisance. (see appendix for maps of off-leash areas throughout the Shire).

Action	Frequency	Evaluation
Educational programs for responsible pet ownership run by CSOs at parks and reserves within the municipality during business hours and after hours, including weekdays and weekends.	Every 6 months	
Provide information sessions at local community centres, retirement villages, schools, sporting grounds and other relevant groups on aspects of RPO.	Every 6 months	
Engage with an animal behaviourist to create posts and videos relating to RPO and caring for your pet during the transition of family members returning to school/work during COVID-19 pandemic.	Year 1	
Create social media posts advertising educational programs run by CSOs.	Ongoing	
Dedicated webpage on RPO.	Year 1	
Develop a brochure and fact sheets for the community in responding to pets causing a nuisance.	Year 2	
Develop a brochure and fact sheets to educate the community on compliance with legislation.	Year 2	

# 5. Programs to Address Over-population Rates and High Euthanasia Rates



Section 68A (2) (c) (iv) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to address over-population and high euthanasia rates for dogs and cats.

*Aim: To gain better understanding of dog and cat populations within Nillumbik Shire and address circumstances of preventable euthanasia.*

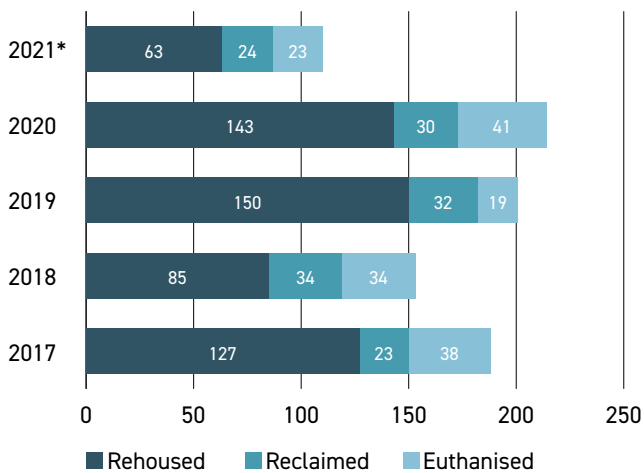
## 5.1 Context and Current Situation

Council provides a cat and dog impoundment service in conjunction with the Cat Protection Society (CPS) and Save a Dog Scheme (SADS). Council's pound service is also provided on behalf of Banyule City Council. Data in relation to the impoundment of cats and dogs for the period 2017-2021 is contained below:

Cats	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
*Impounded	190	154	203	214	110
Reclaimed	23	34	32	30	24
Rehoused	127	85	150	143	63
Euthanised	38	34	19	41	23

*\*Impounded refers to the total number of animals brought in by Council, public (stray animals) and those surrendered by the public.*

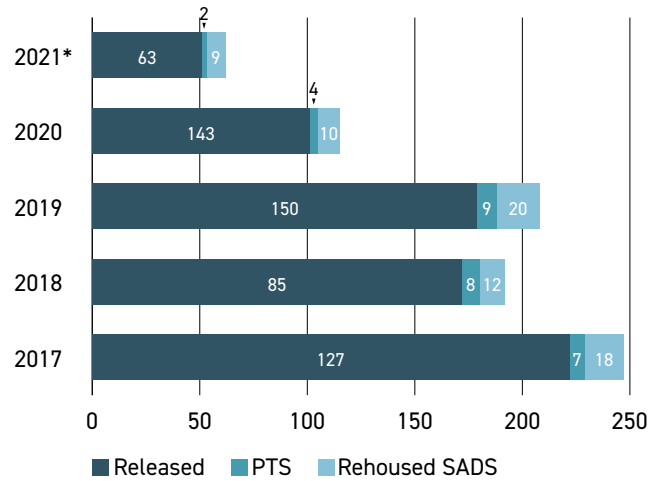
### Cat Impoundments



Dogs	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
*Impounded	248	194	208	115	62
Reclaimed	218	171	176	100	51
Rehoused	18	12	20	10	9
Euthanised	7	8	9	4	2

*\*Impounded refers to the total number of animals brought in by Council, public (stray animals) and those surrendered by the public.*

### Dog Impoundment Releases



While the number of dogs that are euthanised within Nillumbik Shire is low, there has been an increase in the number of cats euthanised.

In many cases, euthanasia of both dogs and cats is a result of not being able to rehome the animal within the community due to temperament problems that pose a risk to the community. In the case of the impoundment of cats the difficulty for Council is the identification of colonies of wild cats which results in cats being trapped and not able to be rehomed due to infections, untreatable disease or deformities. Most of these cats are deemed wild.



## 5.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

- Orders in place, relevant to over-population and euthanasia are; Section 10A Order in Council – 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'.
- Section 26 Order in Council 15 – 'Cat Confinement'.

Provision Part 5, Clause 24(c) of the Amenity Local Law 2013 addresses multiple animal ownership:

Policies and procedures in place, relevant to over-population and euthanasia are:

- Documented process for seizure and impounding of dogs after a dog attack
- Documented process for issuing of notice to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecutions
- Standard operating procedure for cat trapping
- Statutory process for managing a Notice of Objection.

## 5.3 Our Plan

A strong focus for Council is the collaboration with the Cat Protection Society and Save a Dog Scheme to assist in the rehoming of unwanted domestic animals. The focus actions within the Plan are a) reduce euthanasia rates and b) promote rehousing of unwanted domestic animals.

*Reduce the number of impounds animals that are euthanised.*

Action	Frequency	Evaluation
Regularly update Council Lost and Found webpage and social media with photographs of found cats and dogs.	Ongoing	
Raise awareness of the benefits of microchipping and desexing pets to reduce the number of stray animals and increase reunification rate.	Ongoing	
Promote dog and cat owners keeping microchip details up to date to ensure animals are reunited if lost.	Yearly	
System training.	Ongoing	

*Promote rehousing and adoption of unwanted domestic pets.*

Action	Frequency	Evaluation
Reducing the number of dumped and unwanted dogs and cats by encouraging the surrendering of domestic pets and arranging for adoption through SADS and CPS.	Ongoing	
Establish a service agreement with SADS	Year 1	

## 6. Registrations and Identification



Section 68A (2) (c) (v) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to encourage the registration and identification of dogs and cats.

In accordance with section 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (c) (ii), (d), (f) - All dogs and cats are required to be registered annually. Registered pets are also required to wear an identification marker outside their premises. All dogs and cats being registered in Victoria for the first time must be microchipped before they can be registered.

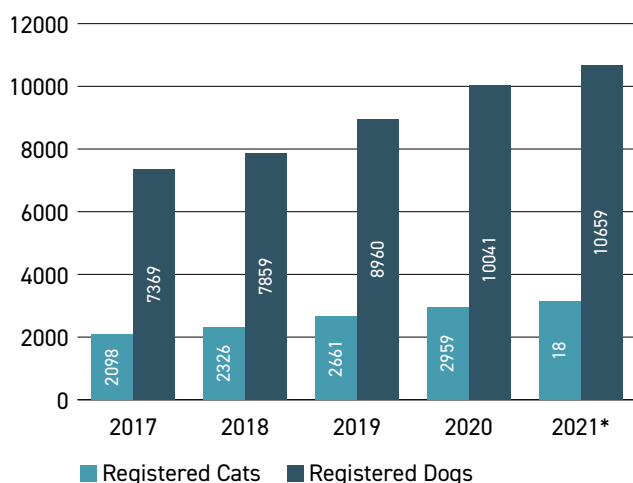
*Aim: To increase animal registration and compliance.*

## 6.1 Context and Current Situation

Nillumbik Shire Council has recorded a continued trend toward improved rates of animal registration and increased levels of pet ownership within the Shire during the term of the current DAMP 2017-2021.

Annual Registrations	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
Registered Cats	2098	2328	2661	2959	3133
Registered Dogs	7369	7859	8960	10041	10659
Total	9467	10187	11621	13000	13792

Animal Registrations



Specifically, we have seen the following key trends:

- Cat registrations have increased by 49.33%
- Dog registration have increased by 44.65%
- Overall domestic animal registrations have increased by 45.69%

The registration and identification of dogs and cats remains an ongoing priority issue for Council. Animal registration enables officers to reunite lost and found animals with their owners in a short period of time. It also assists in the provision of education programs, the Pet Expo, regular patrols of parks and reserves, and to attend local schools, sporting clubs and other groups to provide education on animal safety and RPO.

## 6.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

Orders relevant to registration and identification include:

- Section 10A Order in Council - 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'.
- Section 26 Order in Council 15 - 'Cat Confinement'
- Part 5 clause 24(c) of the Amenity Local Law 2013 addresses the number of animals a person may keep in their premises.

Policies and procedures in place

- Annual review of registration renewal information
- Animal registration fees are prepared and adopted as per Council's annual budget process
- Text message reminders to pet owners listed on Council's database sent in January and again a week before registration are due on 10 April each year
- Registration renewals issued each February
- Registration reminders issued each May
- Registration renewal payment options include online payment, Post BillPay, BPay, mail or in-person
- Follow up of unregistered dogs and cats
- Enforcement via notices to comply, infringement notices and filing charges for prosecution where dogs/ cats have not been registered or renewed.



## 6.3 Our Plan

Ensuring all cats and dogs within the municipality are registered is an ongoing challenge. It has been identified that a range of promotional, educational and regulatory actions are needed to achieve and maintain high registration rates.

A strong emphasis will be placed on social media campaigns to increase pet registrations. Community Safety Officers will be actively engaged in promoting registrations of cats and dogs by maintaining a visible presence in parks and reserves, providing education and enforcement to encourage registration and renewals of pets.

*Improve registrations for renewals.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Registration reminder text sent out.	Bi-annually January and April	
Mail out registrations, due April 10.	Annually – March	
Send out registration reminders to owners who have failed to apply for registration two months after final due date.	Annually – June	
Investigate registration cost for juvenile (under 12 months), not desexed dogs and cats	Year 1	

*Improve responsible pet ownership and education in relation to registration requirements.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Implement two free microchipping days including free first-time registration.	Bi-annually – January and July	
Increase patrols in parks and reserves.	Weekly over four years	
Support local veterinary practices to promote registration by referring clients to Council's website, as well as providing hard copies.	Ongoing	
Attend education days at schools, sporting clubs and other community organisations.	Yearly	
Develop a communication plan incorporating social strategies to engage with hard to reach community members to promote registration requirements.	Year 1 and 3	

*Follow up enforcement actions.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Ensure all seized, impounded animals are registered before leaving the pound.	Ongoing	
Infringement notices to be issued within seven days of a dog/cat found not to be registered.	Ongoing	



# 7. Nuisance



Section 68A (2) (c) (IV) and 68A (2) (a), (c) (i), (d), (f) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance.

Section 32 of the Act outlines what is regarded as a nuisance in relation to the behavior of cats and dogs.

(2) A dog or cat is to be regarded as a nuisance for the purposes of this section—

- (a) if it injures or endangers the health of any person; or
- (b) if it creates a noise, by barking or otherwise, which persistently occurs or continues to such a degree or extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises.

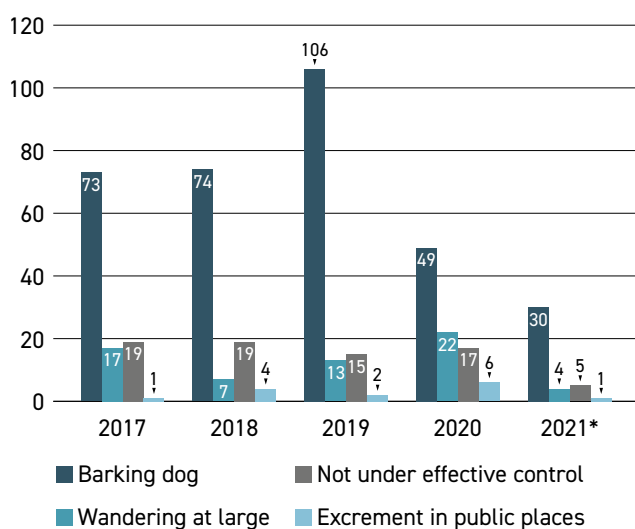
*Aim: To encourage Responsible Pet Ownership in order to protect the health and welfare of other animals and wildlife and to minimise the potential of nuisance or harm to others.*

## 7.1 Context and Current Situation

In Nillumbik Shire it is noted that the most common nuisances caused by dogs vary from wandering at large, not under effective control in public, excrement not collected by their owners and barking dogs.

Complaint received	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
Barking dog	73	74	106	49	30
Wandering at Large	17	7	13	22	4
Not under effective control	19	19	15	17	5
Excrement in public places	1	4	2	6	1

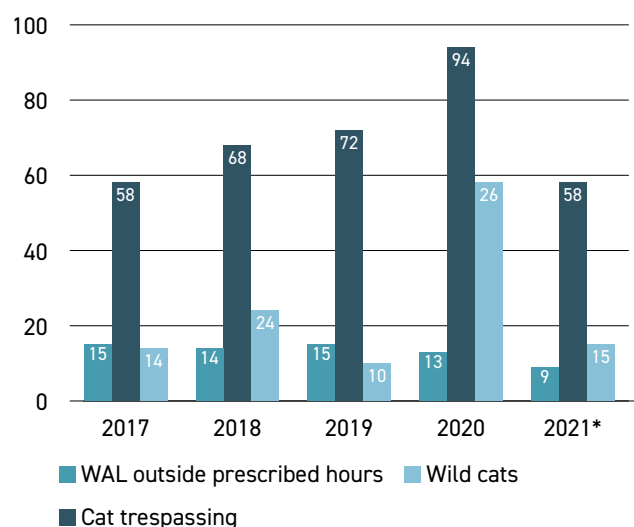
**Dog Related Complaints**



In Nillumbik Shire it is noted the most common nuisances related to cats include wandering at large outside prescribed hours, cat trespassing and wild cats.

Complaint received	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
WAL outside prescribed hours	15	14	15	13	9
Cat trespassing	58	68	72	94	58
Wild cats	14	24	10	26	15

**Cat Related Complaints**



The statistics show that cat owners need further education and encouragement to contain their cats to their properties.

Roaming cats can attack and kill native wildlife, wander onto a neighbour's property, cause damage to garden beds by defecating, create health concerns in children's sandpits, cause undue noise due to fighting with owned or stray cats, call and cry when seeking a mate, and spray on front doors, mats and other areas.

It is an offence under the DAA for a cat to remain on private property without permission.

To assist with addressing this need, Nillumbik Shire has a cat curfew established under s26 of the Act. The curfew requires cats to be confined to their owner's premises between 7:30pm and 6am, however cats found roaming the streets during the day (non-curfew hours) can still be trapped if a resident objects to the cat being on their property.

The majority of survey and quick poll participants were supportive of the proposal for a 24-hour cat curfew in Nillumbik, although mixed views were evident: just over half of participants indicated strong support (260 or 50.8%) and a further 80 (or 15.6%) indicated somewhat support (but they had some concerns). 60.0% of quick poll participants indicated support for the proposal.

**The level of support for the proposal for a 24-hour cat curfew varied across areas (suburb, township and village):** stronger levels of support were evident for: Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Cottles Bridge, Hurstbridge, North Warrandyte, Research, Smiths Gully and St Andrews. These insights are based on low response levels for many areas and should be regarded as indicative and not conclusive.

## 7.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures.

Orders relevant to nuisance animals include:

- Section 10A Order in Council - 'Mandatory Desexing of Cats'.
- Section 26 Order in Council 15 - 'Cat Confinement'.
- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Dogs in public places.'
- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.'
- Relevant provisions of the Amenity Local Law 2013 are:
- Section 23. (a), (b) and(c) - Collection and disposal of dog excrement.
- Section 24. (a), (c) and (d) – Keeping of animals secured confinement.
- Section 26. Dogs prohibited in markets.

Policies and procedures relevant to nuisance animals include:

- Animal management processes and procedures are in place to ensure a consistent approach to animal management issues
- Review of barking dog procedures to further enhance and provide officers the tools to provide a timely investigation
- The availability of cat trapping cages to residents on a weekly basis to trap cats trespassing during the current curfew.

## 7.3 Our Plan

Nuisance animals can have a serious negative effect on the amenity and peaceful enjoyment of property and enjoyment to residents. Noise issues in particular can cause sleep deprivation, stress, domestic issues and disputes between neighbours.

Other nuisances, such as animals wandering at large and excrement not being collected, prevent members of the community and visitors to Nillumbik from enjoying our parks, reserves and leafy streets. A visible presence of officers conducting mobile patrols within suburban streets and foot patrols throughout Council's reserves and parks will be a key focus in the next four years, with officers enforcing breaches of Council's current Orders and Local Laws. Key actions will include a review of controls currently in place relating to animals in public spaces.

### Actions in relation to the management of dogs.

*Minimise the number of barking dogs complaints.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Regularly review Council process and update accordingly.	Half yearly	
Review all Sec. 26 Order in Council in relation to off-leash areas and exclusion of dogs on ovals.	Year 1-2	
Review Council Local Laws to implement new provision relating to barking dogs.	Year 1	
Engage with animal behaviourist to create posts/ videos relating to barking dogs, and provide the tools a dog owner can utilise to stop the dog from barking.	Year 1, 2, 3 and 4	
Implement industry approved device to provide a more effective/partial investigation of barking dogs.	Ongoing	
Provide ongoing training for authorised officers in management of barking dog complaints.	Ongoing	
Engage with Dispute Settlement Centre.	Ongoing	

*Minimise the number of complaints received in relation to dogs wandering at large.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Continue to identify and patrol known hotspots.	Ongoing	
Attend to WAL reports within 40 minutes during business hours.	Ongoing	
Return dogs to owner if first offence with written warning notice.	Ongoing	
Dogs found WAL with history to be impounded and an infringement notice issued.	Ongoing	

*Minimise the number of complaints of dogs not under effective control in public places.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Continue to patrol parks and reserves during business hours, after hours, weekends and public holidays.	Ongoing	
Review signage at parks and reserves.	Year 2	
Utilise Council social media with reminders of responsible pet ownership.	Ongoing	
Dogs found WAL with history to be impounded and an infringement notice issued.	Ongoing	

*Minimise the excrement left on roads, footpaths and reserves.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Investigate the installation of poo bags and devices.	Year 1	
Collaborate with neighbouring Councils on alternative options (other than Council-provided poo bags).	Year 1 and 3	
Increased frequency of monitoring and patrol of known hotspots where dog excrement is commonly found.	Ongoing	
Warning or infringement notices to be issued to dog owners found to be in breach.	Ongoing	

**Actions in relation to the management of cats.**

*Wandering at large outside prescribed hours to minimise cat trespassing.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Provide educational material relating to cat enclosures and nuisance issues to cat owners.	Year 2	
Undertake an extensive marketing and media campaign based on responsible pet ownership and importance of securing cats within their yards or registered property.	Year 1, 2 and 4	

*Minimise Wild Cat population.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Provide cat trapping programs focusing on clusters of wild cats.	Yearly	
Educate members of the community about the harms of feeding random cats.	Ongoing	

# 8. Dog Attack

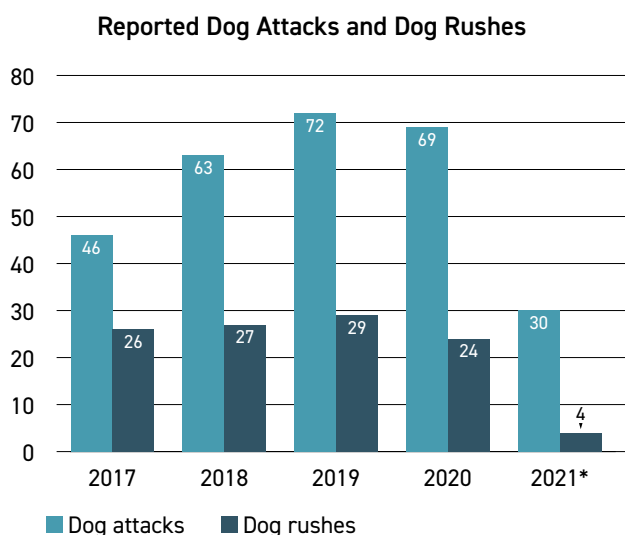


Section 68A (2) (c) (iii) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on animals and people.

*Aim: To minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community.*

## 8.1 Context and Current Situation

Council receives a relatively low rate of reported dog attacks and dog rushes within the Shire.



The majority of dog attacks occur when the attacking dog is wandering at large or not securely confined to its property. Reducing risk and responding to attacks and rushes is one of the core roles of a Community Safety officer.

## 8.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Orders relevant to dog attacks and rushes include:

- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Dogs in public places.'
- Section 26 Order in Council - 'Exclusion of dogs on sporting ovals in Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge.'

Provisions of the Amenity Local Law 2013 relevant to dog attacks and rushes include:

- Section 24. (a), (c) and (d) – Keeping of animals secured confinement.
- Section 26. Dogs prohibited in markets.

Policies and procedures in place relevant to dog attacks and rushes include:

- Investigation of serious and non-serious dog attacks
- Investigation of dog rushes
- Prosecution of serious dog attacks
- Capture of wandering dogs
- Collection of abandoned or injured animals
- Animal handling
- Regular patrols of parks, reserves and streets
- Recording all declared dogs on the Victorian Dog Registry
- Process relating to seizure documents (s.75 DAA)
- Serving notices of seizure (s.84H DAA)
- Process for owners when recovering a dog that has been seized ( s.84M DAA)
- Process with the seizure of a dog and impounding after a dog attack
- Warning and infringement notices
- Declaration of dogs – menacing or dangerous
- Seeking an order for destruction of dog/s.

## 8.3 Our Plan

A key tool to reducing the frequency of dog attacks and dog rushes within the Shire, is increasing awareness within the community, including Council's role in managing events of this nature; making it easier for community members to report events to Council, and increasing the presence of Community Safety Officers within Council's parks and reserves while also educating pet owners of the importance of keeping their dog under effective control.

*Increase the reporting of dog attacks in the community.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Improve public awareness of what a dog attack is and how to report it.	Yearly and ongoing	
Quarterly reporting made available on Council's website of reported dog rushes and dog attacks.	Year 1 and ongoing	

*Improved community awareness of dog attacks and dog rushes.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Set park patrol targets.	Ongoing	
Publicise key dog attack prevention messages through media articles, mail outs, website information and social media.	Year 1 and 3	

# 9. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted Breed Dogs



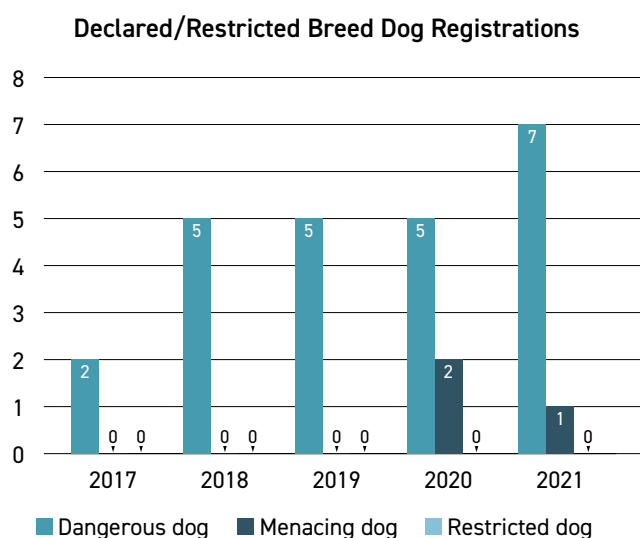


Section 68A(2)(c)(vii) of the Act outlines programs, services and strategies to effectively identify all dangerous dogs, menacing dogs and restricted breed dogs.

Aim: To ensure that declared dogs are identified and managed to minimise the risk to safety of residents and the broader community.

## 9.1 Context and Current Situations

There has been consistently low numbers of declared dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs registered within Nillumbik.



## 9.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council has made no Orders or Local Laws specific to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs.

Policies and procedures relevant to dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs include:

- Statutory procedure for the declaration of dogs (statutory requirement to declare dogs)
- Statutory requirement to provide details of declared dogs to the VDDR (Section 44AE DAA 1994)
- Statutory requirement to provide details to VDDR of dogs destroyed in relation to DAA 1994
- Procedure associated with the seizure and impounding of declared dogs.

## 9.3 Our Plan

There are currently a low number of declared dogs within Nillumbik Shire. Council will continue to focus on maintaining communication with declared dog owners, undertaking unscheduled inspections of properties, and keeping abreast of legislation changes relating to restricted breeds, declared dangerous and menacing dogs.

*Ensure all dogs are kept in accordance with the Act and Regulations.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Maintain regular contact with owners of declared dogs ensuring owners are aware of their responsibilities and penalties for non-compliance.	Every 6 months.	
All dogs that remain unregistered after 10 April each year are to be investigated for possible breaches of legislation.	Yearly – June	
Undertake property inspections of all properties housing declared dogs to ensure compliance.	Yearly – February	

*Accurate identification of restricted breed dogs.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Officers to ensure appropriate standards are applied in accordance with the DDA 1994.	Ongoing	
Victorian Declared Dog Registry to be updated by Senior Officer.	Bi-annually – July and February	

# 10. Domestic Animal Businesses



Section 68A (2)(c) (ii) of the Act outlines the programs, services and strategies that Council intends to pursue to ensure the Domestic Animal Business (DAB) complies with the Act, regulations and relevant Codes of Practice.

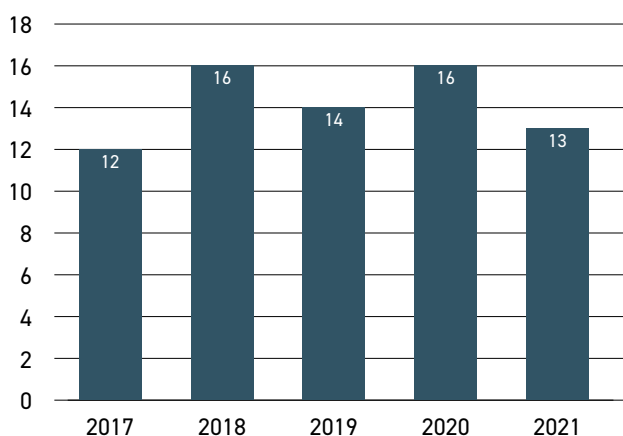
*Aim: To ensure compliance with the Act and the Code of Practice is met.*

## 10.1 Context and Current Situation

There are currently 13 Domestic Animal Businesses (DABs) consisting of:

- 8 boarding establishments
- 1 training establishment
- 2 pet shops
- 2 shelter and pounds.

Registered DAB



Over the last four years Council has undertaken unannounced annual audits of all registered Domestic Animal Businesses to ensure compliance with legislation and relevant Code of Practice. During this time the audits have highlighted some minor noncompliance issues which have been quickly rectified.

## 10.2 Our Orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

Council has made no Orders or Local Laws specific to Domestic Animal Business.

Policies and procedures relevant to Domestic Animal Businesses include:

- Registration of Domestic Animal Businesses
- Periodical auditing of all Domestic Animal Businesses
- Retention of standard sheets are to be maintained in Council's record management system
- All new businesses are subject to planning approval and inspection before registration
- Noncompliance and reports of cruelty are investigated accordingly.

## 10.3 Our Plan

Council officers will continue to conduct audits and identify noncompliant or new DABs within the Shire while also engaging with business proprietors to provide education, relevant updates and changes to legislation.

*Identify and register all DABs within the Shire.*

Activity	Frequency	Evaluation
Officers to regularly check social media sites for unregistered DABs.	Bi-annually January/ February and June/ July.	
Officers to conduct mobile patrols of known areas where DABs set up.	Throughout the year.	
Senior CSO to arrange annual inspections of DABs.	Annually – to be completed before registration is due 10 April.	

# 11. Council Regional Pound



**Nillumbik Shire Council Regional Pound is a Council-owned and operated facility caring for lost, stray and unowned domestic animals found within Nillumbik or Banyule. The pound provides caring for dogs free of charge for up to 10 days or longer if required by community members facing family violence, or other hardship.**

Historically Council has seen a relatively consistent level of impoundments, however 2020 and 2021 have seen decreased impoundments, generally as a reflection of reduced dogs at large during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impoundments	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021-June
Impounded Dog	248	194	208	115	62
Reclaimed Dog	218	171	176	100	51
Rehoused Dog	18	12	20	10	9
Seized Dog	15	6	12	5	2
Surrendered Dog	8	9	14	6	8
Euthanised Dog	7	8	9	4	2
Welfare Dog	7	8	9	4	2

The pound is attended by staff seven days a week including weekends and public holidays, however, in order to maintain a safe and secure facility for impounded animals and staff, the pound is not open to the public.

Registration and other associated payments can be paid online. Officers will then meet with dog owners at Council's Civic Centre office or, if required, take the dog home at an agreed time.

After eight days unclaimed dogs are assessed and rehomed by SADS. Council provides a monetary donation for every dog that is rehomed with SADS.

## 11.1 Our Policies and Procedures

Council ensures it complies with all requirements of the Code of Practice for the management of dogs and cats in shelters and pounds.

## 11.2 Our Plan

Nillumbik Shire Council Regional Pound will continue to provide a shelter for lost and found dogs, surrendered animals, seized dogs and dogs requiring immediate care due to family violence, illness and other emergency situations.

Community Safety Officers and Pound staff will:

- Promote responsible pet ownership and maintain a continuous campaign to educate the general public.
- Staff will continue to be trained in matters relating to animal health and welfare.


Council's pound is compliant with the Code of Practice, however the building structure is old and security is a major concern for both staff and animals. As such a current review is underway to ensure the infrastructure can continue to protect the physical and emotional needs of animals and staff.

Items under review include:

- Ventilation and outdoor space
- Outdoor exercise area
- Medical treatment rooms
- Isolation space for sick animals
- Pen upgrade
- Safe vehicle entrance
- Secure reception area for the collection of animals.

Upgrades to the pound will ensure that both the facility and the operations meet community expectations in terms of animal management and welfare.





## 12. Annual Review of Plan and Annual Reporting

Council is required to review this plan pursuant to Section 68A of the Act. The intent behind the review process is to ensure that the plan responds to current issues and opportunities over the four-year period.

The annual review process evaluates whether the services provided are suitable.







# Appendix: Maps of Off-leash Areas in Nillumbik

Fergusons Paddock, Hurstbridge	40
Nillumbik Park, Diamond Creek	41-42
Diamond Creek Reserve, Diamond Creek	43
Plenty River Drive Reserve, Greensborough	44
Susan Street, Eltham	45
Falkiner Street Park, Eltham (Barrack Bushland)	46
Eltham Lower Park, Eltham	47
Griffith Park, Eltham	48
Woodridge Linear Park, Eltham	49
Eltham East Linear Reserve north of Diosma Road, Eltham	50
Gumtree Reserve, Research	51
Former Eltham Tip, Kangaroo Ground	52



## Looking after your best friend

To ensure your dog can be easily identified and returned if it strays:


















1. Register it with Council, and
2. Get your vet to microchip it.

Under Victorian law, all dogs (and cats) registered for the first time must be microchipped. This entails implanting a tiny, grain-sized computer chip, containing a unique ID number, under the skin. The chip is inert, has no battery and uses no energy but can be scanned to identify your dog. It lasts the dog's lifetime. It is also advisable to have your dog sterilised (unless intended for breeding).

Remember, as a dog owner, you can be fined for:

- not registering your dog
- walking your dog in a prohibited area
- allowing your dog to wander at large
- not having your dog on a leash when it should be
- failing to pick up after your dog, and/or
- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

## Fergusons Paddock, Hurstbridge

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  Off-leash area                      |  | Playground<br>Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds |
|  |  Off-leash dog park (fully enclosed) |  | Waterway  |
|  |  On-leash area                       |  | Toilets   |
|  |  On-leash path                       |  | Bridge/footbridge   |
|  |  Dogs prohibited                     |  | Train line  |
|  |  Skate park                          |   |   |

Enjoy walking your dog





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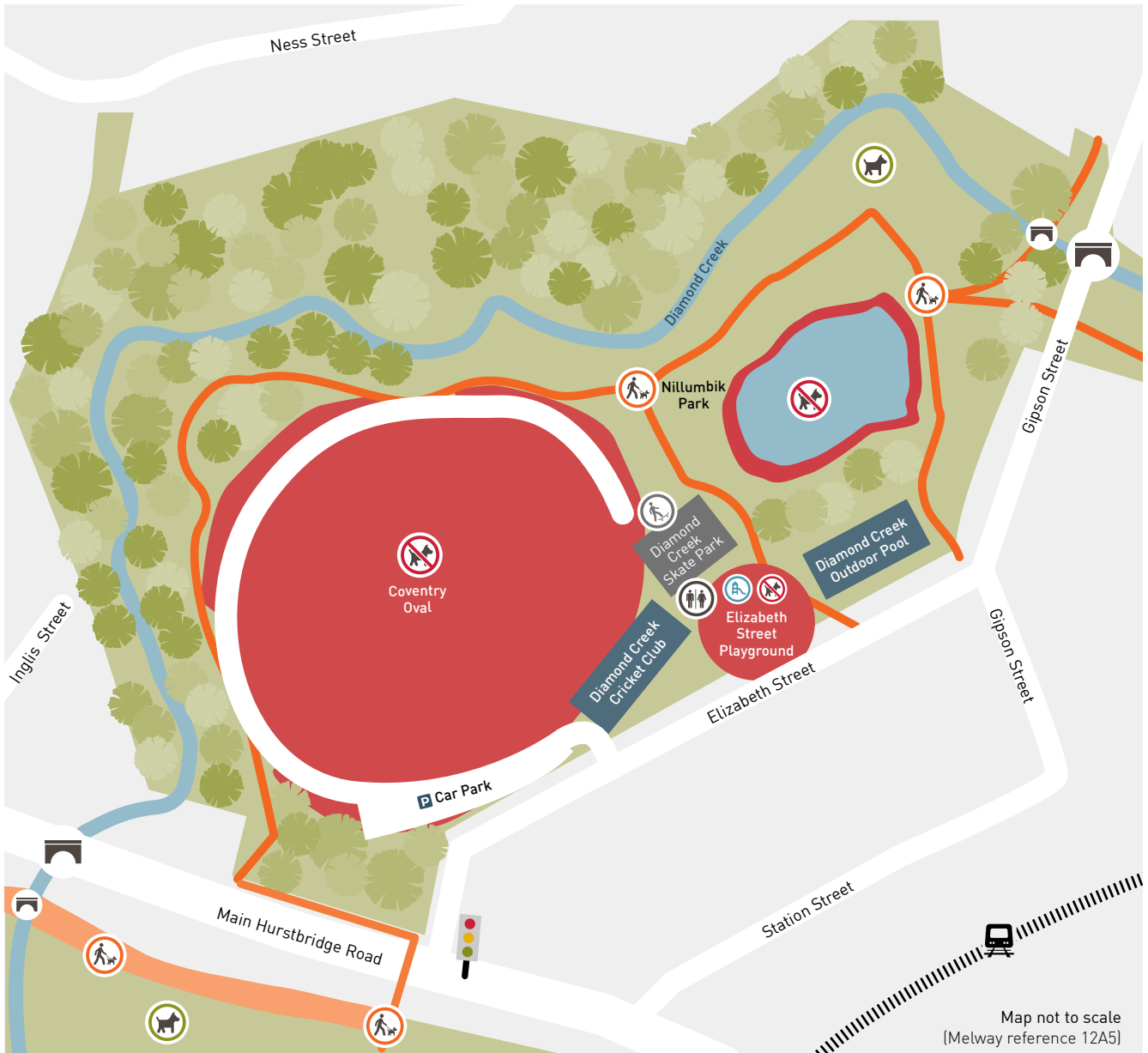
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## Nillumbik Park, Diamond Creek



Enjoy walking your dog





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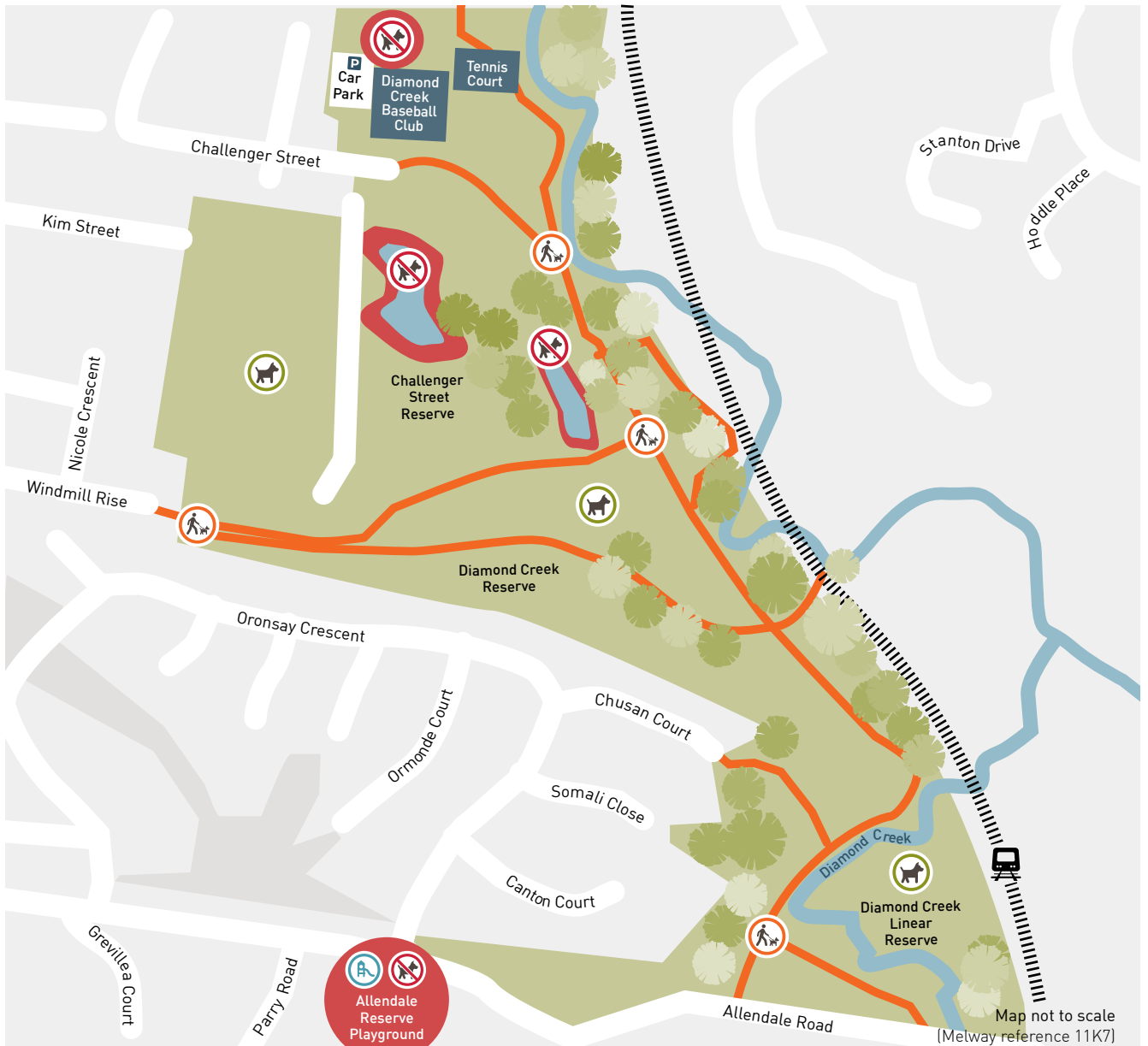
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## Nillumbik Park, Diamond Creek

- |  |                 |  |   |
|--|-----------------|--|---|
|  | Off-leash area  |  | Playground<br>Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds |
|  | On-leash area   |  | Waterway  |
|  | On-leash path   |  | Toilets   |
|  | Dogs prohibited |  | Bridge/footbridge   |
|  | Skate park      |  | Train line  |

*Enjoy walking your dog*





## Looking after your best friend

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- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

## Diamond Creek Reserve, Diamond Creek

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  |  Off-leash area |  | Playground<br>Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds |
|  | On-leash path  |  | Waterway  |
|  | Dogs prohibited  |  | Train line  |

*Enjoy walking your dog*





Map not to scale  
(Melway reference 11B9)

## Looking after your best friend

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- walking your dog in a prohibited area
- allowing your dog to wander at large
- not having your dog on a leash when it should be
- failing to pick up after your dog, and/or
- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

## Plenty River Drive Reserve, Greensborough

-  Off-leash area
-  On-leash path
-  Dogs prohibited
-  Playground  
Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds
-  Toilets

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to providing shared-use ovals for the whole community. At times these ovals are exclusively allocated for local schools and sporting clubs. No dogs permitted on the ovals when in use by these authorised user groups.

*Enjoy walking your dog*





## Looking after your best friend

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- walking your dog in a prohibited area
- allowing your dog to wander at large
- not having your dog on a leash when it should be
- failing to pick up after your dog, and/or
- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

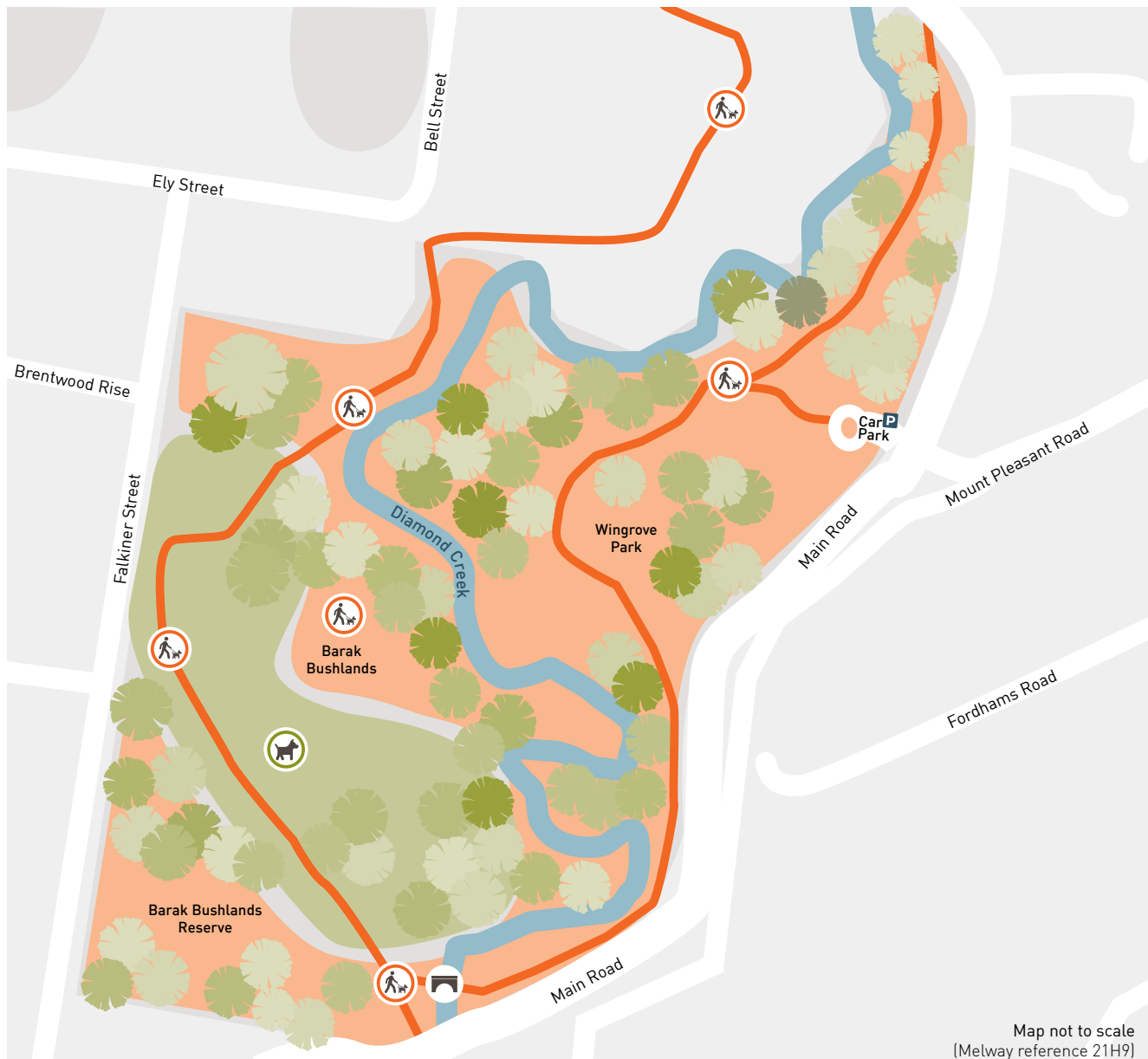
## Susan Street, Eltham

	Off-leash area		Waterway
	On-leash area		Toilets
	On-leash path		BMX track
	Dogs prohibited		Bridge/footbridge
	Playground <small>Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds</small>		Train line

Nillumbik Shire Council is committed to providing shared-use ovals for the whole community. At times these ovals are exclusively allocated for local schools and sporting clubs. No dogs permitted on the ovals when in use by these authorised user groups.

*Enjoy walking your dog*





Map not to scale  
[Melway reference 21H9]

## Looking after your best friend

To ensure your dog can be easily identified and returned if it strays:









1. Register it with Council, and
2. Get your vet to microchip it.

Under Victorian law, all dogs (and cats) registered for the first time must be microchipped. This entails implanting a tiny, grain-sized computer chip, containing a unique ID number, under the skin. The chip is inert, has no battery and uses no energy but can be scanned to identify your dog. It lasts the dog's lifetime. It is also advisable to have your dog sterilised (unless intended for breeding).

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## Falkiner Street Park, Eltham (Barrack Bushland)

- |   |   |                |   |                   |
|---|---|----------------|---|-------------------|
|  |  | Off-leash area |  | Waterway          |
|  |  | On-leash area  |  | Footbridge/bridge |
|  |  | On-leash path  |   |                   |

*Enjoy walking your dog*







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## Eltham Lower Park, Eltham

		Off-leash area		Playground Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds
		On-leash area		Waterway
		On-leash path		Toilets
		Dogs prohibited		Bridge/footbridge

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Map not to scale  
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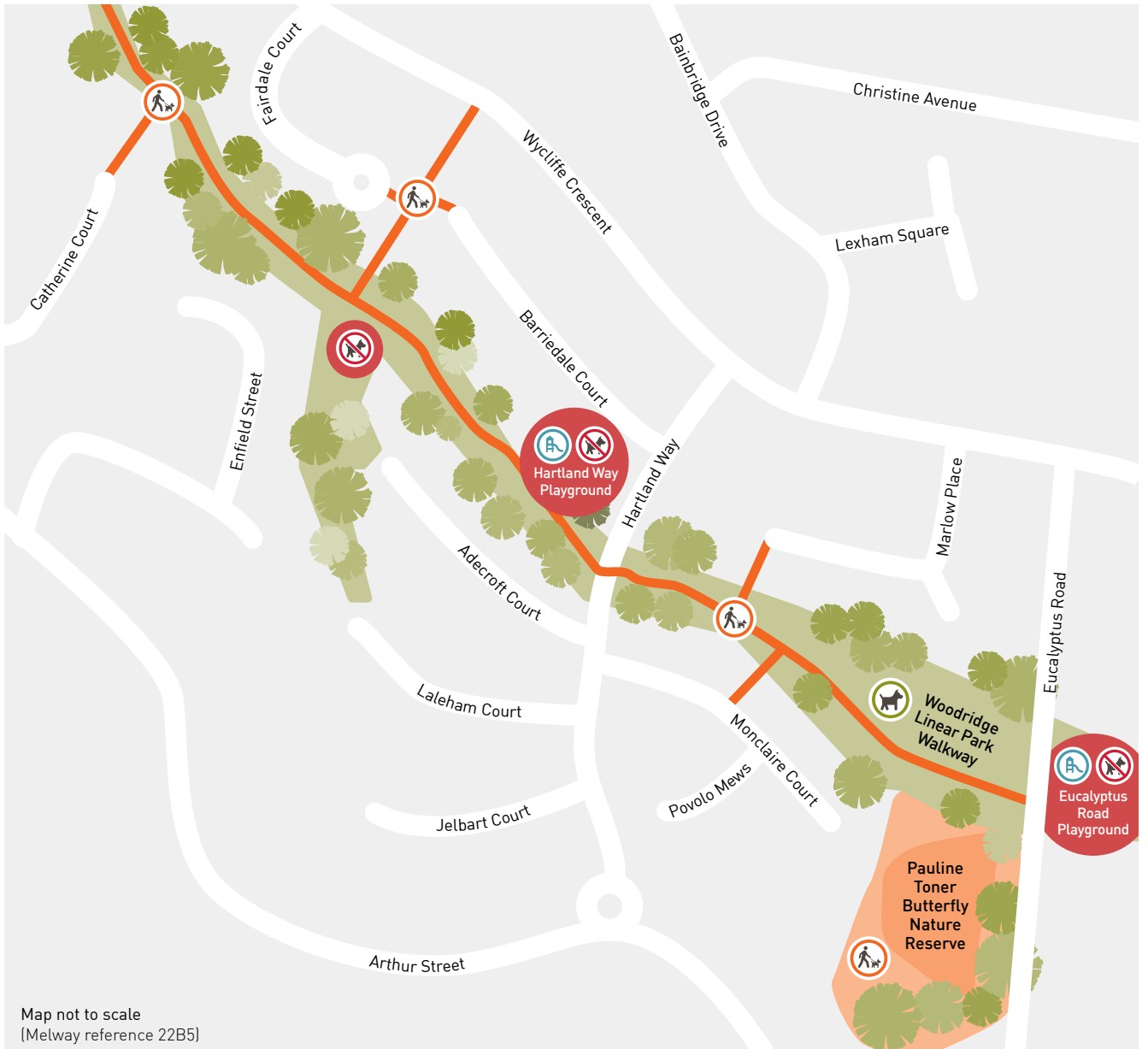
- not registering your dog
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## Griffith Park, Eltham

-  Off-leash area
-  On-leash area
-  On-leash path
-  Waterway

*Enjoy walking your dog*





Map not to scale  
(Melway reference 22B5)

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## Woodridge Linear Park, Eltham

- Off-leash area
- On-leash area
- On-leash path
- Dogs prohibited
- Playground  
Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds

Enjoy walking your dog





Map not to scale  
(Melway reference 22E4)

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## Eltham East Linear Reserve north of Diosma Road, Eltham

-  Off-leash area
-  On-leash path
-  Dogs prohibited

*Enjoy walking your dog*





## Looking after your best friend

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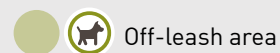
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## Gumtree Reserve, Research



*Enjoy walking your dog*





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## Former Eltham Tip, Kangaroo Ground

- |  |                 |  |                                     |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Off-leash area  |  | No public vehicle access dirt roads |
|  | On-leash area   |  | Waterway                            |
|  | On-leash path   |  |                                     |
|  | Dogs prohibited |  |                                     |

*Enjoy walking your dog*





## **Nillumbik Shire Council**

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