

Nillumbik Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029

DRAFT

Acknowledgement of Country

Nillumbik Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located.

We value the significance of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people's history as essential to the unique character of the Shire.

We pay tribute to all First Nations People living in Nillumbik and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future, and extend that respect to all First Nations People.

We respect the enduring strength of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people hold a deep and ongoing connection to this place.



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1. Introduction

Purpose of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

Under section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (the Act), all Victorian councils are required to prepare a plan every four years, and to adopt this within a specified timeframe. The Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-2029 (DAMP) reflects the expectations of the Nillumbik Community's vision for the next four years.

The format and content of a DAMP is set by the State Government in order to ensure consistency across the state of Victoria.

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 the plan and annual reporting.

Development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

The DAMP was developed in accordance with section 68A the Act and outlines the objectives that will guide Council in its animal management services over the next four years. Community engagement allowed an opportunity for the community to inform us of what is important to them. The feedback based on the following broader topics has been used in developing the DAMP 2025-2029:

- Animal management services
- Programs or strategies
- Review existing Orders and Council Policies that could be amended to address effective responsible pet ownership in the community.

Process applied in developing the plan

The DAMP has been developed in consultation with Nillumbik Shire Councillors and Council's Executive Leadership Team, Council's Community Safety Officers, relevant internal departments, external key stakeholders, and most importantly, the Community.

Pets play a vital role in our community, contributing positively to our health and wellbeing. In developing the DAMP, Council has actively engaged with the community to ensure the plan reflects the values and priorities that matter most to the community.

Key steps in the development included:

- **Consultation Process:** Various engagement methods were used to seek feedback from the community, including a comprehensive community survey promoted through Council’s website, social media, posters, newsletters, and pop-up information sessions.
- **Community Feedback:** The community emphasised the significance of pets, concerns about dog waste, cat curfews, and the protection of wildlife. The community also provided feedback on dog being under effective control, the need for improved signage, and more environmentally friendly initiatives. Key areas for improvement include animal management, cat curfew policies, and education programs for children.
- **Final development:** The Council determined what matters most to the community and has used the comprehensive insights gained through the community engagement process to develop the DAMP 2025-2029.

Key themes

The community feedback gathered through a comprehensive community consultation process has played a vital role in shaping the priorities outlined in the DAMP. The table below highlights the key themes and initiatives that will guide animal management activities within the Shire.

Key themes	Initiatives
Responsible ownership of dogs and cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an online responsible pet ownership prompt to coincide with new registrations • Provision of additional educational programs on responsible pet ownership to kindergartens and/or schools • Delivery of Pet Tales fortnightly posts on responsible pet ownership
Compliance of Acts Local laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Council’s legal obligations are met • Providing clarification on the meaning of ‘Effective Control’
Dog attacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation all dog attack incident reports • Prevention of dog attacks in community by encouraging reporting of nuisance dog behaviour, dogs wandering, rushing and off-lead • Investigate dog attack reports received from Animal Welfare Victoria
Over population of dogs and cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory desexing of cats prior to registration • Encourage and promote the benefits of desexing dogs • Exploring desexing programs available through grants • Investigate additional animals and breeding report
Registration and identification of dogs and cats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all dogs impounded at the Nillumbik Regional Pound Facility are microchipped and registered prior to release • Registration and microchip checks conducted on park patrols • Obtain new registrations as part of investigative case work • Dogs with current Council registration and wearing Council issued identification tags with no previous history are successfully reunited directly with owners where possible
Dogs creating nuisance	<p>Address issues of dogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excrement on ovals and in public areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-lead on trails and in on-leashed areas • Not under effective control in off-leash area • Nuisance level Barking • Not securely confined
Cats creating nuisance	<p>Address issues of cats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside of property during daytime and at night time, in breach of existing curfew • Preying on wildlife and native animals • Causing a nuisance to residents • Feral and stray cats • Protection of the Green Wedge • Educate cat owners on how to build cat enclosures and provide enrichment
Council's Orders and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing current Orders in accordance with the Act • Reunification of stray dogs and cats • Protect nature reserves and environmentally sensitive areas • Provide and maintain off-leash areas • Update maps of dog off-leash, on-leash and prohibited areas • Update signage in parks and reserves • Provide service for managing barking dogs
Training of Community Safety Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nillumbik internal training modules • RSPCA training • Animal Welfare Victoria training • Training provided by another private providers

Context and current situation

Nillumbik Shire Council delivers fundamental animal management services and innovative programs to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community in accordance with the requirements under *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Program/Service	Service Level
<p>Nillumbik Regional Pound Facility</p> <p>290 Yan Yean Road Plenty, Vic 3090</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational 7 days a week • Capacity to accommodate service delivery for other providers (by mutual agreement) • Capacity to house up to 36 animals in individual pens • Capacity to house small pocket pets (rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and birds) • Capacity to house small livestock • Emergency accommodation for domestic pets • Accommodation for pets impacted by family violence • Accommodation for special circumstances / welfare • Declared emergency event accommodation for domestic pets and livestock
<p>Cat Protection Society</p> <p>200 Elder Street, Greensborough Vic 3088</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Council's pound and shelter services for cats

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Cat trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement deposit fee associated with cat trapping hire • Hire period for two weeks
Pet registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal notices posted February / March • Reminder notices posted April / May • Notice to comply served to owners with unregistered animals • Door knock conducted by Community Safety Officers • Infringements served to owners with unregistered animals
New adoption sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive notifications from breeders and rescue groups of sales and adoptions • Information packs sent to new owners to register
Pet Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual event • Promote responsible pet ownership • Promote Rescue groups and support local businesses • Create a fun and interactive event for our community
After hours emergency service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provides for contained dogs only • Monday to Friday 5pm to 8pm • Saturday and Sunday 8am to 4pm • Dog attacks and aggressive dogs response is 24/7
Off-Leash and On-leash parks and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to maps in Appendix 1
Park Patrols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x park patrols per officer each week
Domestic Animal Businesses*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 current registered businesses in Nillumbik
DAB Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection audits are conducted annually
Declared Dogs Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection audits are conducted annually
Dogs registered*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9986
Cats registered*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2946
Declared dogs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 x Declared dangerous dogs • 3 x Declared menacing dogs
Animals reclaimed**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65.82%
Animals rehomed**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32.69%
Animal surrendered to Council (NSC only)**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Dogs • 22 Cats
Cat traps hired**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65

* as of January 2025

** July – December 2024

Demographic profile of Council

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








The Shire covers 432 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.

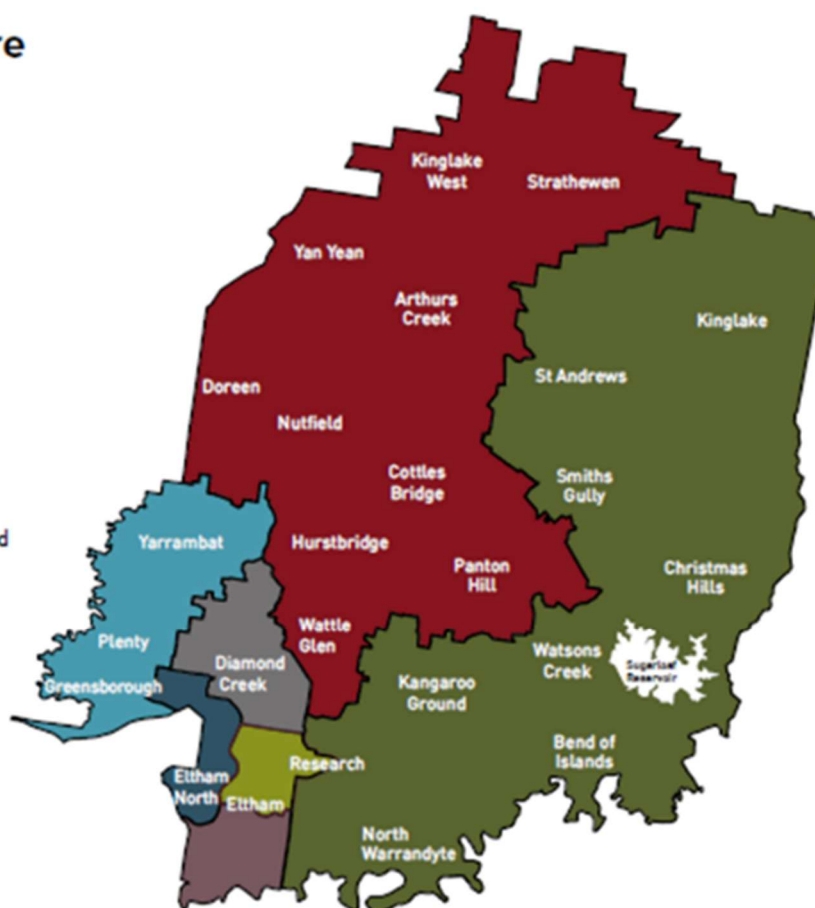
Nillumbik Shire services an estimated 63,264 residents in approximately 22,389 properties throughout the suburbs and townships of Eltham, Eltham North, Greensborough, Kangaroo Ground, Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Doreen, North Warrandyte, Plenty, Research, Wattle Glen, Yarrambat, Arthurs Creek, Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Nutfield, Panton Hill, Smith Gully, St Andrews, Strathewen, Yan Yean and Watsons Creek.

(Note: There is new information being recorded for 2025 and maybe ready before we finalise this document)

Ward Structure

KEY

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



2. Training of authorised officers

Council is committed to enhancing skillsets by continuously identifying training opportunities and encouraging attendance at relevant forums, workshops, and seminars. These initiatives aim to equip officers with the necessary skills and qualifications to perform their duties as animal management officers with confidence and professionalism.

A detailed training program ensures that technical skills and knowledge are maintained in accordance with current industry standards. All training will be delivered with a strong customer service focus to assist with building and maintaining positive relationships with members of the community and visitors to Nillumbik Shire Council.

Animal Management 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.

Our Community Safety Officers hold relevant industry certifications. Additional scheduled training is also provided – refer to the table below.

Industry Related Training

Training	Timing
Safe Animal Handling	Annual
Animal Assessment	Years 1 & 3
Canine Anatomy & Identification	Year 4
Barking dog management	Year 3
Dog bite prevention	Years 2 & 4
Dog attack response	Years 1 & 3

Good Governance Training

Training	Timing
Customer Service	Annual
Freedom of Information	Annual
Privacy & Data Protection Act	Annual
Family Violence Awareness	Annual
LGBTIQA+ Inclusion	Annual

Occupation Health & Safety related training

Training	Timing
Working in remote area	Annual
Situation awareness	Annual
Conflict management	Annual
Dealing with aggressive/difficult persons	Annual
Manual handling	Annual
First Aid	As required

Technical Skills

Training	Timing
Legislation awareness up-dates	Monthly
Statement & Interview Techniques	Year 1
System Training	Ongoing

3. Programs to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership and compliance with legislation

In Victoria, animal registration fees support a variety of services that enhance the welfare and management of pets and animals in the community. Beyond facilitating lost and found services, these fees help maintain and operate the Council's pound facility, fund animal control programs, and enable regular park patrols to maintain public safety. The fees also enable the delivery of educational programs on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, helping to promote a well-informed and conscientious community. The fees include a State Government Levy that councils must pay for each dog and cat registration. These levies are primarily used to fund responsible pet ownership educational programs.

The key initiatives of the DAMP focus on promoting responsible pet ownership and engaging with the community through various educational programs. These include creating an online prompt addressing responsible pet ownership with all new registrations, offering additional programs to schools, and sharing fortnightly Pet Tales posts.

The aim of Council's annual Pet Expo is to promote responsible pet ownership and services and activities available for pets within the Shire and beyond. Residents have the opportunity to engage directly with Community Safety Officers, Shelters, Veterinary specialists and local businesses to promote, advocate and encourage with responsible pet ownership.

Information packs will also be provided to new pet owners upon registration. These information packs provide owners with valuable information about responsible pet ownership.

A barking dog kit will be introduced, and staff will continue to attend community events and organise interactive pop-ups. The website will also be updated with relevant information to support these initiatives.

Council will maintain and implement proactive programs to increase the responsible pet ownership message to the community and create additional spaces for dog owners to socialise their pets. This includes;

- Pet Tales fortnightly posts on responsible pet ownership
- Attending community events and promoting responsible pet ownership
- Providing educational programs on responsible pet ownership to kindergartens and/or schools
- Creating an online prompt addressing responsible pet ownership with all new registrations
- Undertaking regular park patrols to monitor, educate and, where necessary, enforce signage controls with our parks and other public spaces
- Ensuring dog owners understand their responsibilities, including what it means to have their dogs under effective control.

Our orders, Local Laws, council policies and procedures

The *Domestic Animals Act* 1994 serves as a framework for controlling domestic animals across Victoria, and aims to ensure the welfare of animals, community safety, and the protection of the environment. The Act includes provisions that enable local councils to issue specific orders relating to the management of cats and dogs in the municipality. In addition, the Act also provides other provisions that regulate the dog and cat ownership.

Nillumbik Shire Council has current orders in place that require cats to be confined to the owner's property under a 24 hour cat curfew. In addition, the orders specify where dog and cats are not permitted, regulate on and off-leash areas and require dogs to be kept under effective control in all public spaces.

Specified under the order, a dog is deemed to be under effective control of its owner if:

- a) It will return to its owner upon command
- b) The owner retains a clear and unobstructed view of the dog
- c) It does not bother or worry other people or animals
- d) It stays within 50 metres of its owner.

The Act also allows the Council to implement specific requirements for the registration of cats and dogs. Under Section 10A of the Act, the Council has made desexing a mandatory condition for the registration of cats.

In addition to the Act, Council also regulates the management of animals under the Nillumbik General Local Law 1.

The principal objectives of the Nillumbik General Local Law 1 are to ensure peace, order, and good governance of the Nillumbik Shire Council while promoting a healthy physical and social environment. These objectives include preventing nuisances that could negatively impact the community's health, safety, and quality of life, and regulating activities that may be dangerous or detrimental to the environment.

Part 6 of the Nillumbik General Local Law 1 relates to the management and control of animals on private land and in public spaces. The Nillumbik General Local Law 1 Procedure and Protocol Manual explains how Council and staff will administer the various controls and how decisions are made.

- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
 - Section 10A (Mandatory desexing of cats)
 - Section 26 (Cat confinement)
- Nillumbik General Local Law 1
- Nillumbik Procedure and Protocol Manual

Action Plan

Action	Timing	Evaluation
Regular park patrols are to be maintained at current minimum service level agreement	Weekly	Monitor park patrols and report quarterly through business plan
Create social media posts on a fortnightly basis to promote responsible pet ownership and any animal related issues affecting the community	Fortnightly	Report quarterly through business plan

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Attend community event and promotes responsible pet ownership	6 monthly	Report through business plan
Deliver Council's Pet Expo which promotes responsible pet ownership and showcases services available	Annual	Successful delivery of Pet Expo
Deliver educational programs promoting responsible pet ownership to local schools and/or kindergartens	Annual	Assessment undertaken annually
Create an online prompt addressing responsible pet ownership with all new registrations	Implement Year 1 and ongoing	Online prompt implemented

Off and on-leash areas and signage

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Audit, and if required, replace signage at all off-leash dog parks	Year 1 & 3	Review audits completed at end of Year 1 & 3
Audit, and if required, replace signage at other parks and reserves	Year 2 & 4	Signage updated and replaced if required
Mapping of dog parks, leash free areas and prohibited areas	Year 2	Updated mapping and published on Council's website
Assess the feasibility of installing additional signage at designated dog parks and other strategic locations outlining what is effective control	Year 1	Assessment completed

4. Programs to address over population rates and any high euthanasia rates

Section 68A of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires the Council to address issues related to over-population and high euthanasia rates of dogs and cats. Nillumbik Shire Council's programs, services, and strategies aim to mitigate these issues through proactive measures.

The number of dogs and cats euthanised within Nillumbik Shire is relatively low compared to other councils. Euthanasia is often due to difficulties in rehoming animals and is mainly restricted to dogs and cats with temperament issues that pose a risk to public safety or animal welfare and may not be suitable for rehoming within the community.

For cats, the challenge lies in identifying and managing colonies of stray or abandoned animals. Many of these cats are trapped but cannot be rehomed due to conditions such as infections, untreatable diseases, or deformities, in addition to temperament issues. To address over population, Council works in partnership with the Cat Protection Society to promote desexing programs which aim to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the community and prevent further over-population. These initiatives are crucial in reducing the number of stray animals and ensuring better outcomes for pet welfare in the Shire.

To address the overpopulation of cats and promote responsible pet ownership, the Council has implemented mandatory desexing of cats prior to registration. Council is committed to identify any opportunities to explore grant funding made available to promote responsible pet ownership. In addition, investigations and inspections are carried out to ensure dog and cat breeders are operating in accordance with legislative requirements.

The Cat Protection Society's reduced-cost desexing programs will be further promoted to residents as an affordable option, and cat traps will be provided to help reduce the number of stray and feral cats in the community. These initiatives aim to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and cats within the municipality and improve the overall welfare of animals.

Our orders, Local Laws, council policies and procedures

- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
 - Section 10A (Mandatory desexing of cats)
 - Section 26 (Cat confinement)
- Nillumbik General Local Law 1 - Part 6
 - Clause 30 Keeping of animals
- Standard operating procedure for trapping of cats

Action Plan

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Mandatory desexing of cats prior to registration	Ongoing	N/A
Promote the benefits of desexing dogs through case investigations, pop-ups and Pet Expo	Annual	Review annually
Explore grant funding made available to promote responsible pet ownership	Dependant on eligibility	Review annually
Monitor compliance with the keeping of additional animals	Ongoing	Review annually
Monitor and investigate to ensure dog and cat breeders are operating in accordance with legislative requirements	Ongoing	Review annually
Promotion of Cat Protection Society reduced cost desexing programs	Ongoing	Review annually
Provide residents and businesses with the use of cat traps to reduce stray and feral cat populations	Ongoing	Review annually

5. Registration and identification

Registration and microchipping are legislative requirements under the Act which enables councils to better understand the extent of pet ownership in their communities. In Victoria, local councils manage pet registrations on behalf of the State Government, which includes setting and collecting annual registration fees.

Animal registrations allow officers to quickly and efficiently reunite lost and found pets to their owners. Registration also allows Council to invest in promoting safe and responsible pet ownership including undertaking educational programs, conducting regular park patrols and delivering Council's annual Pet Expo. Compulsory microchipping and Council issued identification tags enable officers to safely and efficiently return lost pets to their owners.

A range of promotional, educational and regulatory actions are applied to achieve compliance with legislative requirement. A strong focus will be placed on social media campaigns to promote the benefits of pet registration.

Council continually aims to increase and promote the registration of dogs and cats within the municipality. Officers proactively check registrations through regular park patrols and through case investigations.

Animal registrations

Animals	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dog and Cats		10,608	10,549	10,329
Cats		3,104	3,071	2,999
Total Registrations	13,832*	13,712	13,620	13,328

*Individual dog/cat data unavailable

Our Orders, Local Laws, Policies and Procedures

- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
 - Section 10 (Requirement to apply for registration)
 - Section 10A (Council may refuse to register dogs and cats unless desexed)
 - Section 26 (Dogs and cats found in places specified by the Council)
- Nillumbik General Local Law 1 - Part 6
 - Clause 30 - Keeping of animals

Action Plan

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
All dogs impounded must be microchipped and registered prior to release	Ongoing	All dogs microchipped and registered prior to release - Review annually
Registration checks conducted during regular park patrols	Weekly	Report quarterly through business plan
Identify new registrations as part of investigative case work	Ongoing	Monitor and review as required

6. Nuisance

Nuisance animals can have an adverse effect on amenity. Noise issues, in particular, can cause sleep deprivation, stress, and disputes between neighbours.

The most common nuisance caused by dogs include wandering at large, not being under effective control in public places, uncollected excrement, and excessive barking.

Key issues relating to cats in the community include cats roaming outside properties. Roaming cats pose a threat to wildlife and native animals through hunting, and can also create nuisances for residents. Stray and feral cats contribute to these problems and further impact native wildlife in the Green Wedge.

Nuisances such as animals wandering at large and uncollected excrement, hinder the community and visitors from fully enjoying Nillumbik's parks, reserves, and scenic streets. To address these concerns, officers will continue to undertake regular patrols in suburban streets, parks and reserves. Educational programs that promote responsible pet ownership will also be a key focus for the duration of the DAMP. Officers will actively monitor, educate, and where appropriate, enforce breaches of our orders and Local Laws.

Nuisance complaints 2021-2024

Nuisance complaints	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number of complaints	290	359	354	462

Our orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
 - Section 32

Section 32 defines a nuisance in relation to the behaviour of cats and dogs.

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.

- Council's standard operating procedures for barking dogs.

Action Plan - Dogs

Minimise the number of barking dog complaints.

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Introduce a new barking dog process aimed at assisting both impacted residents and providing dog owners with the tools to resolve issues	Year 1 and then ongoing	Effective delivery of new barking dog process in Year 1 of the DAMP and reviewed annually
Provide appropriate training to Community Safety Officers to ensure they have the tools to assist owners of barking dogs and manage barking dog complaints	Year 3	Reviewed at end of Year 3

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

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Attend to wandering at large reports within service level agreements	Ongoing	Review annually
Return registered dogs to the owner when at large (for first offence only)	Ongoing	Review annually
Dogs found wandering at large with history to be issued with an infringement notice	Ongoing	Review annually

Minimise the excrement left on roads, footpaths and reserves

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Investigate and evaluate the feasibility of installing additional dog poo bags dispensers at various locations	Year 3	Complete investigation and evaluation by end of Year 3
Increased patrols at known hotspots where dog excrement is commonly an issue	Ongoing	Review annually
Infringement notices issued when offences identified for failing to pick up after their dog	Ongoing	Review annually

Action Plan - Cats

Wandering at large

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Promote Council's 24 cat curfew via social media platforms and provide extensive communication around the introduction	Year 1	Review success of communication campaign at end of Year 1
Provide education material relating to cat enclosures allowing owners time to adjust and meet the new 24 hour cat curfew as per Council resolution	Year 1	Review at end of Year 1

Reduce stray / feral cat population

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Deliver cat trapping programs focusing on clusters of stray / feral cats	Yearly	Review annually
Provide residents and businesses with the use of cat traps to reduce stray and feral cats	Ongoing	Review annually

7. Dog attacks

Nillumbik Shire Council has 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 their property. Reducing risk and responding to attacks and rushes is one of the core responsibilities of Community Safety Officers.

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Dog attack reported	70	62	57	35	34*

* as of January 2025



Our orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- **Domestic Animals Act 1994**
 - Section 29 (Offences and liability relating to dog attacks)

Action Plan

Actions	Timing	Evaluation
Investigate dog attacks as a priority after receiving incident reports in-line with service level agreements	Ongoing	Review annually
Prevent dog attacks in community by encouraging reporting of nuisance dog behaviour, including dogs wandering, rushing and off-lead	Ongoing	Review annually
Prioritise and respond to reports of wandering dogs displaying nuisance behaviour as a priority after receiving incident reports	Ongoing	Review annually
Maintain officer presence in the community by undertaking proactive patrols of parks and other public places throughout the year.	Weekly	Monitor park patrols and report quarterly through business plan
Provide education and promote responsible pet ownership at Council's annual Pet Expo	Annual	Review annually
Conduct educational programs at local schools to promote responsible pet ownership	Annual	Report through business plan

8. Dangerous, Menacing and Restricted breed dogs

Council aims to ensure that declared and restricted breed dogs are identified and managed to minimise the risk to safety of residents and the broader community. Fortunately Nillumbik has a relatively low number of declared dangerous, menacing or restricted breed dogs registered within the municipality.

In accordance with legislative requirements, a dog may be declared either menacing or dangerous placing specific legal obligations for the owner to keep the dog in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The Community Safety Officers may make a recommendation to Council for a dog to be declared either menacing or dangerous. Once declared, significant penalties apply to dog owners failing to adhere to the provision of the Act.

Declared dog type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dangerous Dog	4	4	3	3	5
Menacing Dog	4	4	4	3	3

Our orders, Local Laws, Council policies and procedures

- *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
 - Division 3 - Particular provisions for the control of dangerous dogs
 - Division 3A - Particular provisions for the control of menacing dogs
 - Division 3B - Particular provisions for the control of restricted breed dogs

Action Plan

Declared dog Initiatives	Timing	Evaluation
Undertake annual audits on declared dogs	Annual	Report annually through business plan
Create new declarations created as required	As required	Review annually
Reporting on Victorian Dangerous Dog Register	Maintained and reviewed annually	Review annually
Investigate complaints of keeping a declared or restricted breed dog	Ongoing	Review annually

9. Domestic animal businesses

All domestic animal businesses must register with their local council. Existing registrations must be renewed by 10 April each year.

Under current legislation, local council has the authority to:

- refuse registration of a business if they fail to comply with the legislation and relevant code of practice
- set special conditions on the registration of any domestic animal business.

Council undertake unannounced annual audits of all registered domestic animal businesses to ensure compliance the relevant code of practise.

Our orders, Local Laws, Council Policies and Procedures

- Code of Practice for the Operation of Boarding Establishments
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Dog Training Establishments
- Code of Practice for the Operation of Pet Shops
- Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

Action Plan

Registered Domestic Animal Businesses	Timing	Evaluation
Audit 2 x Pet Shops	Annual	Report through business plan
Audit 8 x Boarding Establishments	Annual	Report through business plan
Audit 1 x Dog Training Establishment	Annual	Report through business plan
Audit 1 x Shelter	Annual	Report through business plan
Audit 1 x Nillumbik Regional Pound Facility	Annual	Report through business plan
Investigate complaints received	Ongoing	Review annually
Report audit and update information to Animal Welfare Vic	Annual	Review annually

* as of January 2025

10. Nillumbik Regional Pound Facility

Nillumbik Regional Pound is a Council owned and managed facility providing shelter for lost and found animals, surrendered dogs, seized dogs, livestock, various pocket pets and animals requiring immediate care due to family violence, illness and other emergency situations.

Council's pound is compliant with the Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds. The pound is staffed 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. Animal owners are required to make arrangements with Council Authorised Officers for the collection of their animal/s by appointment only.

Council has established agreements under section 84Y the Act with a number of animal rescue organisations that assist Council with rehoming any uncollected animals after they have met the minimum statutory period that Council is required to keep the animals.

The Cat Protection Society provides pound services for cats on behalf of Nillumbik Shire Council.

The pound also offers free care for up to ten days, or longer in certain situations, for dogs belonging to community members experiencing family violence or other hardships.

Impoundments	2021	2022	2023	2024
Impounded Dog	117	113	97	105
Reclaimed Dog	94	90	81	68
Rehoused Dog	19	20	12	32
Seized Dog	1	4	2	0
Surrender Dog	15	16	6	12
Welfare Dog	0	6	1	1

Our Policies and procedures

- Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

11. 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.

An annual report will be presented to Council and the community at the end of each financial year at an Ordinary Council Meeting.

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Appendix 1: Maps of off-leash areas in Nillumbik

- Fergusons Paddock - Hurstbridge
- Nillumbik Park - Diamond Creek
- Diamond Creek Reserve - Diamond Creek
- Eltham East Linear Reserve - Eltham East
- Woodridge Linear Reserve - Eltham
- Susan Street Reserve - Eltham
- Falkiner Street Park - Eltham (Barak Bushland)
- Plenty River Drive Reserve - Greensborough
- Griffith Park - Eltham
- Eltham Lower Park - Eltham
- Gumtree Reserve – Research
- Wattle Glen War Memorial Park (Wilson Reserve) – Wattle Glen

*Updated maps of off-leash areas and designated dog parks currently in design and will be included in final DAMP 2025-2029.

Fergusons Paddock – Hurstbridge



Looking after your best friend

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Nillumbik Park - Diamond Creek



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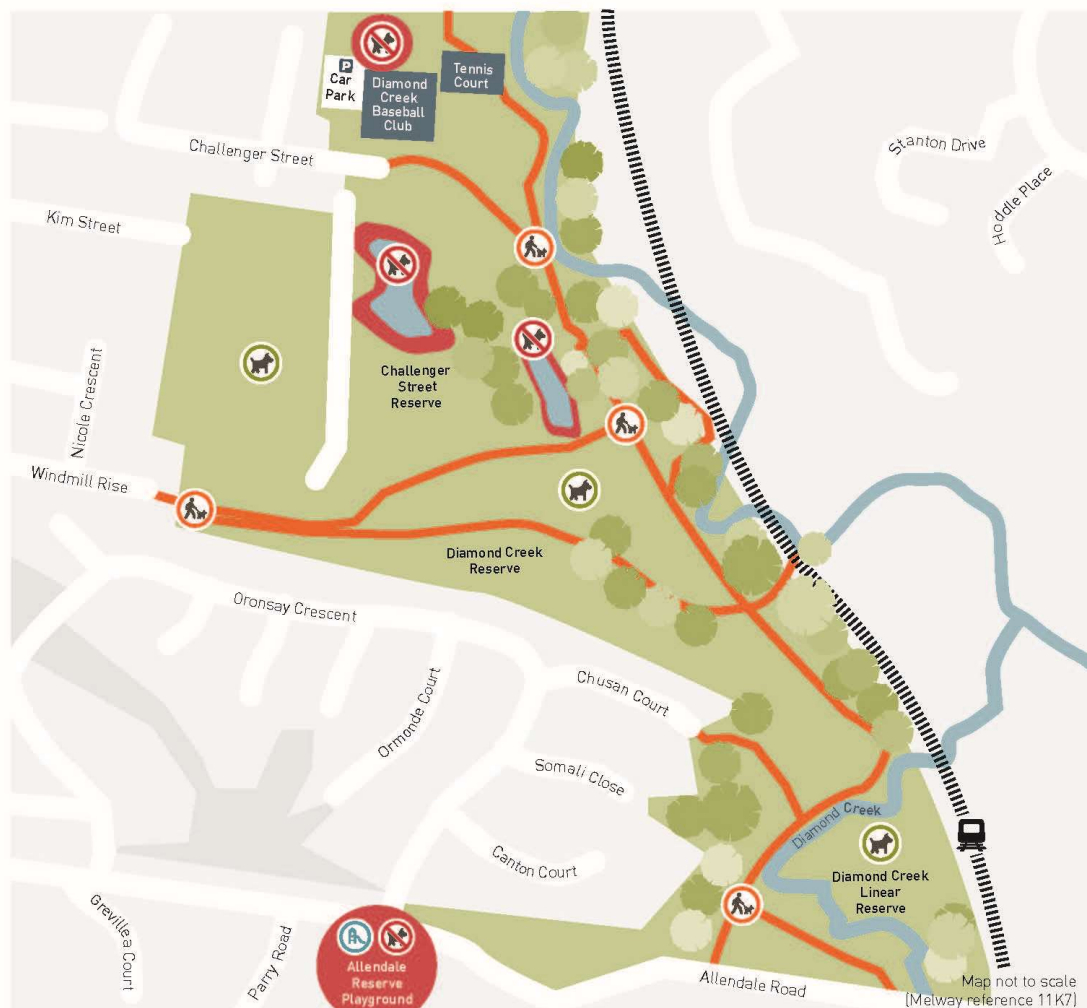
Nillumbik Park, Diamond Creek

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Diamond Creek Reserve - Diamond Creek



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- failing to pick up after your dog, and/or
- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

Diamond Creek Reserve, Diamond Creek

- Off-leash area
- Dogs prohibited
- Playground
Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of play rounds
- Waterway
- On-leash path
- Train line

Enjoy walking your dog



Eltham East Linear Reserve - Eltham East



Looking after your best friend

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- allowing your dog to wander at large
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- failing to pick up after your dog, and/or
- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

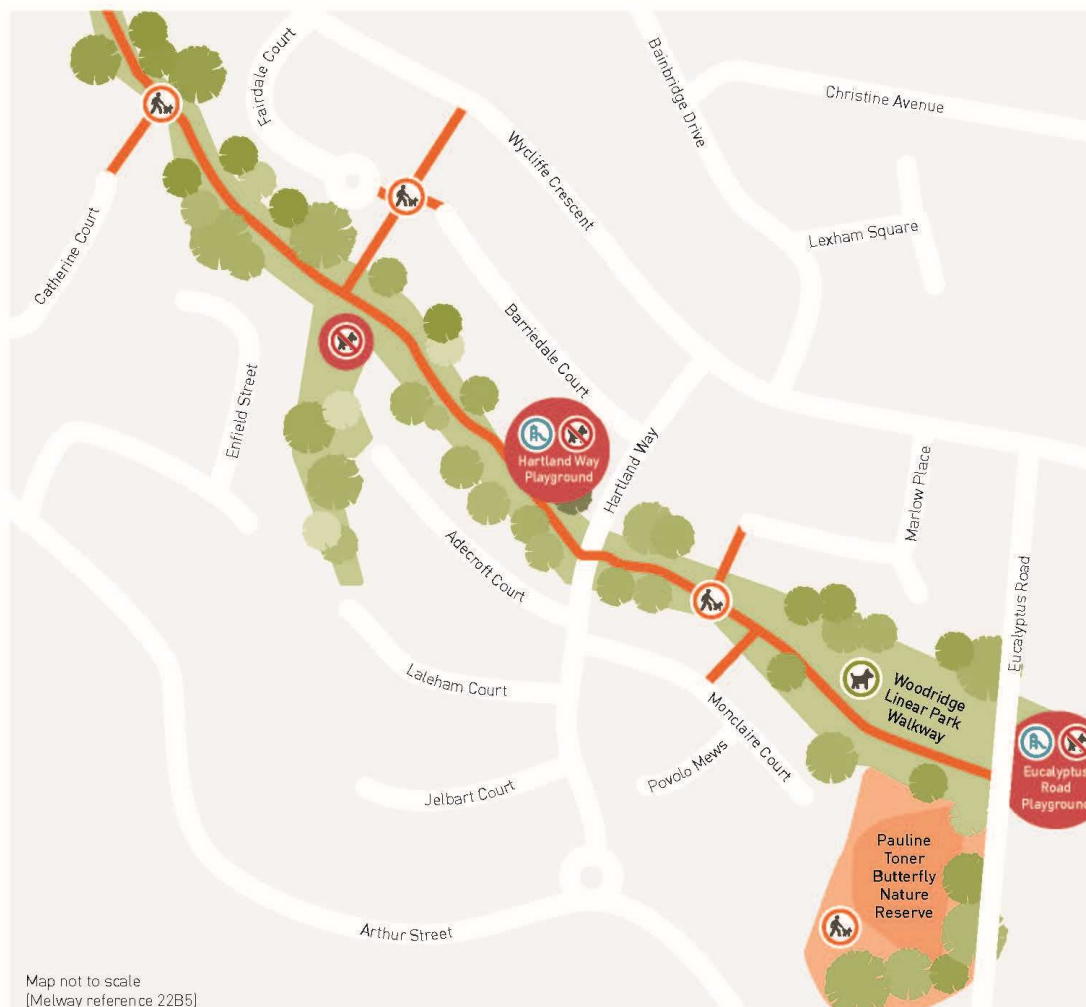
Eltham East Linear Reserve north of Diosma Road, Eltham

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Woodridge Linear Reserve - Eltham



Looking after your best friend

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- 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.

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



Susan Street Reserve - Eltham



Looking after your best friend

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Susan Street, Eltham

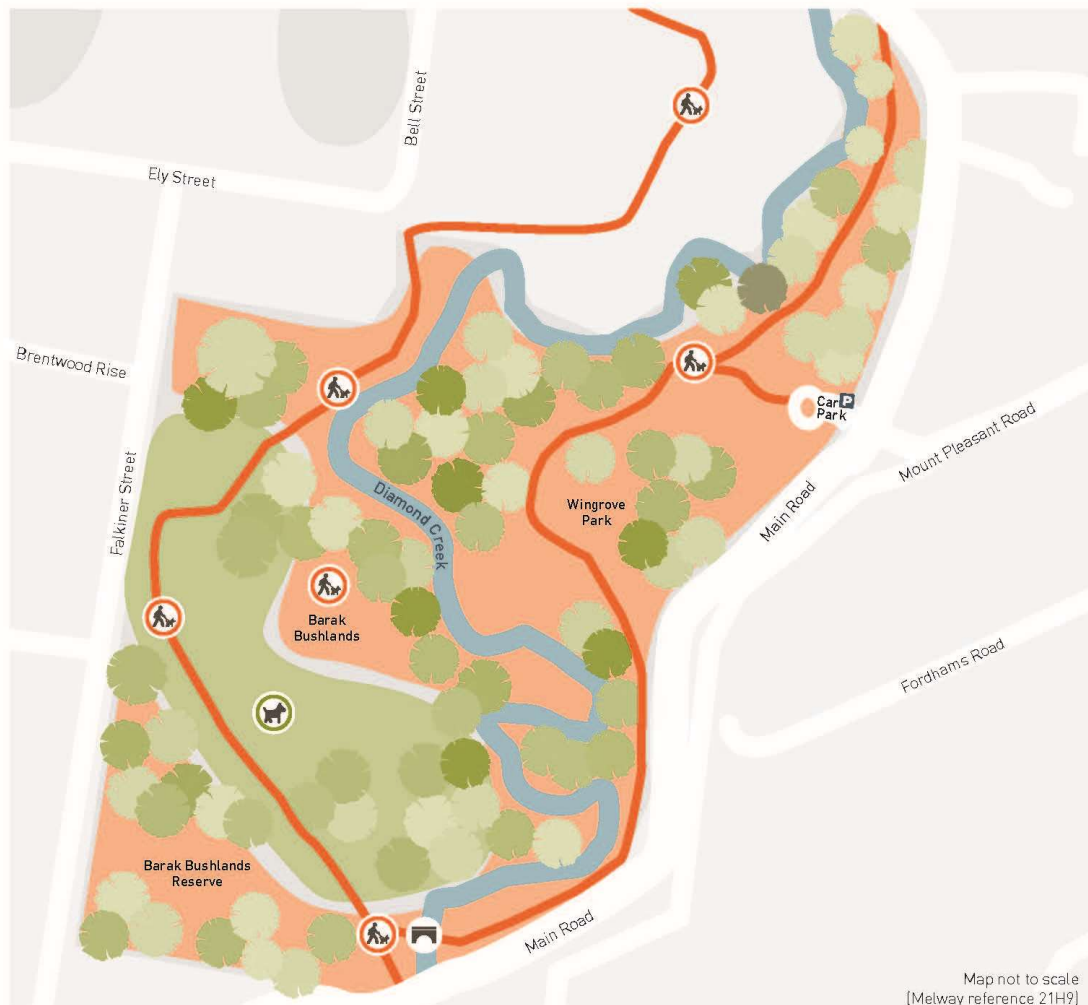
- | | | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| | Off-leash area | | Waterway |
| | On-leash area | | Toilets |
| | On-leash path | | BMX track |
| | Dogs prohibited | | Bridge/footbridge |
| | Playground
<small>Dogs are not allowed within 5 metres of playgrounds</small> | | Train line |

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



Falkiner Street Park - Eltham (Barak Bushland)



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- failing to pick up after your dog, and/or
- not carrying a doggy-do bag or container and leash.

Falkiner Street Park, Eltham (Barrack Bushland)

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Plenty River Drive Reserve – Greensborough



Looking after your best friend

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Plenty River Drive Reserve, Greensborough

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

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Griffith Park - Eltham



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Griffith Park, Eltham

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Eltham Lower Park – Eltham



Map not to scale
[Melway reference 21H10]

Looking after your best friend

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Eltham Lower Park, Eltham

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

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Enjoy walking your dog



Gumtree Reserve – Research



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Gumtree Reserve, Research

  Off-leash area

Enjoy walking your dog



Wattle Glen Memorial Park (Wilson Reserve) – Wattle Glen



Looking after your best friend

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Wattle Glen War Memorial Park, Wattle Glen (Wilson Reserve)

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

Enjoy walking your dog



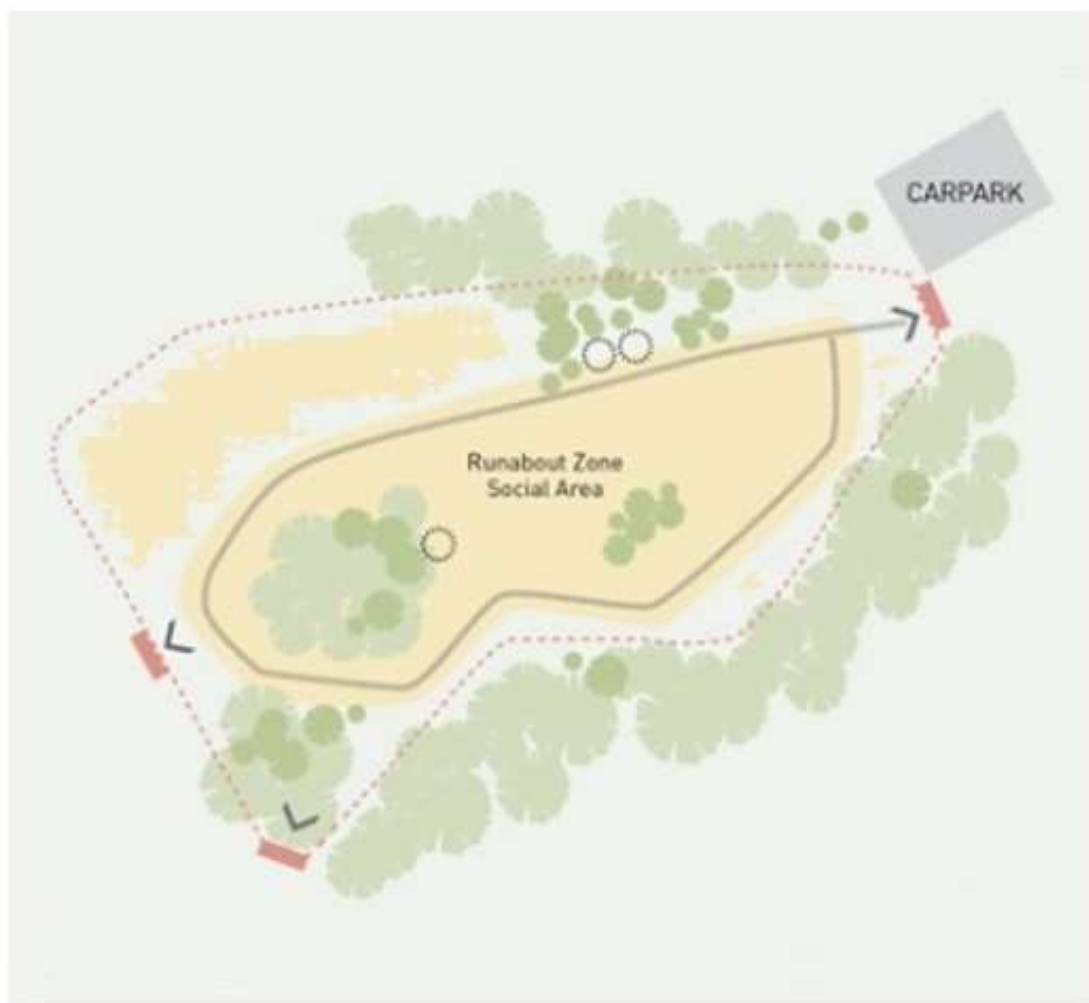
Appendix 2: Maps of designated dog parks in Nillumbik

- Hurstbridge Dog Park - Hurstbridge
- Diamond Creek Dog Park - Diamond Creek
- Eltham North Dog Park - Eltham North

*Updated maps of off-leash areas and designated dog parks currently in design and will be included in final DAMP 2025-2029.

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Hurstbridge Dog Park – Hurstbridge



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Hurstbridge Dog Park, Hurstbridge

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Diamond Creek Dog Park - Diamond Creek



Looking after your best friend

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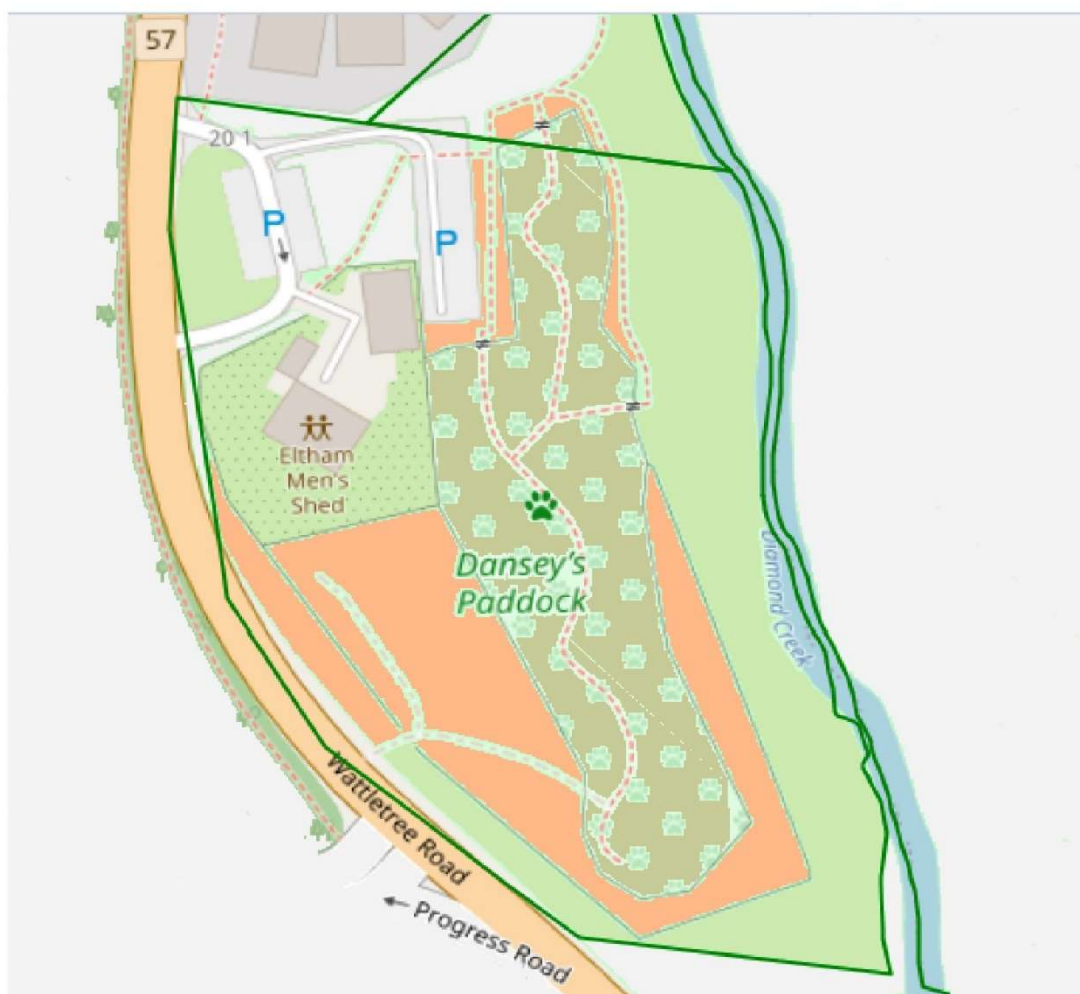
Diamond Creek Dog Park, Diamond Creek

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

Enjoy walking your dog



Eltham North Dog Park - Eltham North



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Eltham North Dog Park, Eltham North

- | | |
|---|---|
|  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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nillumbik.vic.gov.au