Note - This document is a draft for the purposes of public consultation. The Dog Control Policy 2020 continues to apply.

DRAFT Dog Control Policy 2027

Te Kaupapahere Whakahaere Kurī 2027

Approved/Adopted by	
Effective date	
Next review	

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1 PURPOSE

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is responsible for dog control across the District. This Policy serves to meet Council's obligations under the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act). It provides the framework on which the Dog Control Bylaw 2027 (the Bylaw) and associated fees are based. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Bylaw and the Act. Some parts of the Act are reiterated in this Policy for clarity.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

How dogs are managed in the District is important to ensure that public spaces remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all. This Policy supports the outcomes of Vision 2050, particularly "Pride in Sharing Our Places", where quality of life is enhanced through thoughtful management of growth, and "Deafening Dawn Chorus", which seeks flourishing ecosystems under the community's guardianship.

The Policy also contributes to the outcomes of QLDC's Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2025-2028 commits to the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity throughout the District. QLDC also recognises the strategic direction provided by the Blue Green Network, Open Space Strategy, Destination Management Plan, and relevant Reserve Management Plans.

3 DEFINTIONS

Act means the Dog Control Act 1996.

Bylaw refers to the Queenstown Lakes District Council Dog Control Bylaw 2027, Te Ture ā-rohe Whakahaere Kurī 2027.

Cemetery means any land or premises for the burial and/or cremation of the dead and includes a closed cemetery and urupā.

Car park means an area of land, that is set aside, designed, marked for the parking of motor vehicles.

Council or QLDC means Queenstown Lakes District Council.

Council facility means any building or premises owned, occupied, managed, or operated by Council for the provision of council, recreational, administrative, or public service.

Dangerous dog has the same meaning given to it in by section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

District means the area administered by Council as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Disability assist dog has the same meaning given to it in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Dog control officer means a dog control officer appointed under section 11 of the Act and includes a warranted officer exercising powers under section 17 of the Act.

Neutered dog has the meaning given by section 2 of the Act.

Owner in has the same meaning given to it in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

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Park has the same meaning as given to it in section 138 of the Local Government Act 2002, including sports fields.

Pedestrian zones mean any area intended primarily for pedestrian use including, shared zone, plazas, pedestrian malls.

Playground means any children's playground equipment provided or maintained by the Council for public use.

Policy refers to the Queenstown Lakes District Council Dog Control Policy 2027, Te Kaupapahere Whakahaere Kurī 2027.

Premise means any land, dwelling, storehouse, warehouse, shop, cellar, yard, building, or part of the same, or enclosed space separately occupied. All lands, buildings and places adjoining each other and occupied together are deemed to be the same premises.

Protected wildlife has the same meaning given to it in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Public place has the same meaning given to it in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996.

Recreational track means any track or path (sealed or unsealed) managed by council and accessible for recreational use, such as walking, cycling, horse riding, or fitness.

Registration year has the same meaning as that given to the term ``financial year'' by section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Reserve means any land vested in or administered by Council under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.

Rural area means land identified as being part of the rural environment in Council's Operative District Plan or in Council's Proposed District Plan, or any equivalent environment in any successor planning instrument(s).

Sports field means any area administered by council and developed or marked out (marked by line-marking, cones, flags) and the associated side lines, for example those used for soccer, cricket or rugby.

Skateboarding facilities means a purpose-built recreational environment made for skateboarding, rollerblading, roller skating or scootering.

Urban area means land identified as being part of an urban environment in Council's Operative District Plan or Council's Proposed District Plan, or any equivalent environment set out in any successor planning instrument(s).

Working dog has the same meaning given to it in section 2 of the Dog Control Act 1996. It also includes

a. Any dog kept on land zoned Rural General and solely or principally for the purposes of rabbit destruction or for herding or driving stock; or
b. Any dog kept solely or principally for the purposes of destroying pests or pest agents under a contract for service; or
c. Any dog suitably trained and kept solely or principally for the purposes of performing the functions, powers and duties of search and rescue or avalanche rescue; or
d. Any dog that has had valid registration as a working dog, whether or not the dog is currently kept solely or principally for work.

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4 OBJECTIVES

QLDC's principal objectives are:

1. Promote responsible dog ownership;
2. Minimise the problems caused by dogs; and
3. Provide opportunities for owners to exercise their dogs.

5 DOG CONTROL FRAMEWORK

5.1 DOG CONTROL ACT 1996

Section 4 of the Act states that the purpose is "to make better provision for the care and control of dogs: (i) by requiring the registration of dogs; and (ii) by making special provision in relation to dangerous dogs and menacing dogs; and (iii) by imposing on the owners of dogs, obligations designed to ensure that dogs do not cause a nuisance to any person and do not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any person; and (iv) by imposing on owners of dogs obligations designed to ensure that dogs do not injure, endanger, or cause distress to any stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife". It also makes provision in relation to damage caused by dogs.

Under the Act, Council is required to develop a Policy and may make a bylaw to implement the Policy.

5.2 DOG CONTROL POLICY

Section 10 of the Act requires that every territorial authority must adopt a policy on dogs. It must have regard to the following:

a) the need to minimise danger, distress, and nuisance to the community generally;
b) the need to avoid the inherent danger in allowing dogs to have uncontrolled access to public places that are frequented by children, whether or not the children are accompanied by adults;
c) the importance of enabling, to the extent that is practicable, the public (including families) to use streets and public amenities without fear of attack or intimidation by dogs; and
d) the exercise and recreational needs of dogs and their owners.

5.3 DOG CONTROL BYLAW

Section 10(6) of the Act states that any territorial authority must give effect to a dog control policy by making the necessary bylaws under section 20 of the Act. Any such bylaw is made, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. The QLDC Dog Control Bylaw 2027 includes provisions in relation to the following matters:

a) prohibiting dogs, from specified public places;
b) regulating and controlling dogs in any other public places;
c) limiting the number of dogs that may be kept on any land or premises;
d) requiring the owner of any dog that defecates in a public place or on land or premises other than that occupied by the owner to immediately remove the faeces; and
e) requiring any bitch to be confined but adequately exercised while in season.

6 RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

What QLDC expects of dog owners:

- Register and microchip your dog.
- Give your dog proper care and attention, including sufficient food, water, shelter and exercise.
- Consider neutering your dog.
- Obtain a licence to keep more than two dogs on an urban premise.
- Always keeping your dog under control.
- Ensure your dog cannot leave your property by itself.
- Know where you can take your dog off a leash, on a leash, or where you cannot take your dog.
- Always carrying a leash in public and picking up your dog's faeces.
- Ensure your dog does not cause harm to people or animals, nuisance to people, environment, property or protected wildlife.
- Consider attending dog obedience courses to assist in the training and socialising of dogs.
- Comply with all requirements of a menacing or dangerous dog classification (including the requirement to neuter menacing dogs), if applicable.
- Plan and prepare for the care and welfare of your dog(s) in anticipation of an emergency and ensure in state of emergency that your dog is under effective control at all times.

QLDC undertakes, promotes and encourages services and programmes that promote responsible dog ownership and the welfare of dogs. For more information on how to be a responsible dog owner and council services, check out the Council website https://www.qldc.govt.nz/services/animal-control.

Related information
Dog owners should also be aware that animal welfare matters are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 1999, and, in particular, by the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare, which sets out the minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of dogs. Animal welfare matters relating to companion animals are largely enforced by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

7 DOG ACCESS RULES

The dog access rules in this Policy are set out in three schedules. Schedule 1 contains dog access rules that apply everywhere in the District and always take precedence. Schedule 2 contains default dog access rules for rural and urban areas, including where dogs must be on leash and where dogs are permitted to be off leash while under effective control. Schedule 3 identifies locations where specific dog access rules apply.

Dog owners should be familiar with this Policy and relevant signage. Council provides an interactive online map where people can check the dog control status in any given area.

Related information
An online map has been provided for information only (link), to assist users to understand the dog-access rules. The applicable rules are set out in the Policy and its schedules. If there is any inconsistency between a map and the Policy, the Policy prevails. Static maps for the urban areas will be provided as related information in **Attachment 1** following the consultation period.

7.1 TEMPORARY CHANGES TO THESE RULES

From time to time, Council may make temporary changes to the dog access rules in the Schedules of this Policy to:

(a) facilitate a leisure or cultural event, including a dog-friendly event;
(b) facilitate organised dog training;

(c) protect wildlife vulnerable to dogs; or
(d) enable pest-control operations on land controlled or managed by the Council.

When deciding whether to make a temporary change, Council must have regard to the purposes of the Act, the objectives of the Dog Control Policy; and preservation of public safety.

The fee for temporary exemptions is set through the Annual Plan process, together with multiple dog licence applications and dog registration fees.

7.2 CONSERVATION LAND

The Act requires, under section 10(5), that a dog control policy identifies any areas in the District where there are dog restrictions on Department of Conservation (DOC) land, including any national parks. DOC has not listed controlled or open dog areas on public conservation land within the District, and as such, these areas are not identified in this Policy.

The Mount Aspiring National Park is within the District. Dogs are not permitted to enter the National Park.

Dog owners should check DOC's website before visiting conservation land and refer to any signage in place at the site. For further information about dog access on conservation land managed by DOC, please contact the DOC directly.

8 MULTIPLE DOG LICENCE

No person may keep more than two dogs over the age of 3 months on any premises unless a current multiple dog licence issued by the Council authorises those dogs to be kept at those premises. The purpose of this is to minimise the potential for issues or nuisance and to support objectives of the Policy. This requirement does not apply to any premise keeping more than two dogs (working dogs) within a rural area or veterinary practices (for animals receiving or recovering from medical support).

Applications for a licence to keep more than two dogs must be made on the prescribed form and shall provide such information in respect of the application as QLDC may reasonably require. Council will consider each Multiple Dog Licence Application based on the following criteria.

Dogs:

- The number of dogs requested;
- Type or breed of dogs;
- Whether any of the dogs applied for are classified as dangerous or menacing; and
- Registration status of the dogs.

Premises:

- Size of premises;
- Housing conditions;
- Location of the premises;
- Actual or potential effects on any other premises;
- Whether the adjoining neighbours have provided consent to the keeping of more than two dogs; and
- Fencing.

Other:

- If there is any increased risk to the safety of children or other vulnerable members of society;
- If the Owner of the premises is a member of a kennel club, and/or is a registered dog breeder;
- If the Owner has been infringed or warned for non-compliance with the Act within the 24 months prior to the application date of the licence;
- If the owner has been convicted or infringed for any animal welfare offences;

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- If keeping more than two dogs achieves the objectives of this policy; and
- Any other matter that in the opinion of a Dog Control Officer is relevant to the determination of the application.

No licence will be granted if an application demonstrates that keeping more than two dogs at the location will not achieve the objectives of Council's Policy or if the Owner(s) cannot demonstrate compliance with Council's Bylaw.

The fee for the licence is set through the Annual Plan process, together with dog registration fees.

Where a licence is issued, it takes effect on the date specified in the licence and continues until it expires, is surrendered or is revoked; applies only to the Owner(s), dogs and premises specified in the licence; and is not transferable. Owner(s) must ensure that their licence remains valid and that the licence is updated if there are any changes to the number or breeds of dogs kept on the premises; location where the dogs are kept.

Any licence issued may be revoked by QLDC for the reasons outlined in clause 8.8 of the Bylaw.

9 FEES AND ENFORCEMENT

Fees are set to cover costs of essential dog management services and support the objectives of this Policy. QLDC's Policy is to apply a graduated fee scale to facilitate and encourage compliance. For example, fees for repeat impounding of a dog increase for each subsequent impounding. The Act (section 9) requires that all money collected under the Act can only be spent on dog control matters. All fees are set through the Council's Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan process under the Local Government Act 2002.

Enforcement is prescribed in Council's Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy 2021. This adopts a graduated and proportionate approach, prioritising education, communication, and self-compliance wherever possible, while using enforcement and prosecution when necessary in a fair, consistent, and risk-based manner.

9.1 REGISTRATION FEES

All dogs are required to be registered in accordance with the Act. This means that all dogs must be registered by 1 July each year, and must be registered for the first time before they are three months old. There is a standard registration fee which is set set in the Council's Annual Plan each year.

Registration fee reductions are prescribed to recognise compliance with the Act and the Bylaw. Owners that meet one or more of the following criteria are eligible for graduated reduction in their annual dog registration fee:

- property at which the dog resides that is suitably fenced and gated to contain the dog;
- the dog has been neutered or spayed dogs (written proof of de-sexing must be provided); and
- the dog has a positive record for the two years leading up to the current registration period (meaning it has not been impounded nor issued any infringement notice for any dog related offence during this time).

No dog or Owner with a negative history will qualify for a reduction in registration fees.

There is a separate registration fees for other classification of dog:

- Fees for working dogs (excluding disability assist dogs) will be set at a lower rate than the standard registration fee. Retired working dogs are not required to be registered at a higher fee category simply due to their retirement from active work.
- Fees for disability assist dogs as defined in Schedule 5 of the Act will not be charged.
- Fees for dangerous dogs will be 150% higher, in accordance with the Act.

QLDC will refund registration fees where a registered dog dies in the period of registration, as per Section 39 of the Act.

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Registration fees paid after 31 July will have a late payment penalty applied. The penalty is an additional 50% of the registration fee. Infringements for not registering a dog may also be issued in accordance with the Queenstown Lakes District Enforcement Strategy.

9.2 OTHER FEES

There are a range of other fees which are applied for the administration of dog control associated with responding to non-compliance incidents within the Queenstown Lakes District. These fees are set by Council resolution and include:

Section 68 of the Act:

- Impounding.
- Feeding (during period of impoundment).
- Microchipping (if microchipped prior to release from pound).

Section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002

- Multiple dog licence (application and inspection).
- Temporary exemption applications from the Bylaw.

9.3 MENACING AND DANGEROUS DOGS

Dogs can be classified as menacing (in accordance with sections 33A and 33C of the Act), or dangerous (in accordance with section 31 of the Act). QLDC will prescribe classifications in accordance with the Act.

Council requires (in accordance with section 33A or 33C of the Act), that any dog classified by QLDC or any other Council as menacing or dangerous must be neutered. The Owner of a dog classified must, produce a veterinary certificate showing the dog has been neutered or that the dog is unfit to be neutered before a certain date. Owners must comply with this Policy on neutering within one month of the classification.

QLDC may require owners to attend specified courses where a dog is classified as menacing or dangerous.

9.4 PROBATIONARY AND DISQUALIFIED OWNERS

Owners can be classified as a Probationary or Disqualified Owner in accordance with sections 21 and 25 of the Act. QLDC will prescribe classifications in accordance with the Act. The maximum period of probation or disqualification will apply, unless the owner can demonstrate that the maximum period is unnecessary for the purpose of achieving the objectives of this Policy.

9.5 INFRINGEMENTS

Infringement notices will be issued for infringement offences issued in accordance with Council's Enforcement Strategy and Prosecution Policy 2021. Infringement offences are set in Schedule 1 of the Dog Control Act 1996. QLDC has no discretion to alter these fees.

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SCHEDULES TO THE POLICY: DOG ACCESS RULES

Dog owners should be familiar with this Policy. Council provides an interactive online map where people can check the dog access rules for any given area.

SCHEDULE 1 - GENERAL DOG ACCESS RULES

The general dog access rules listed in **Schedule 1** always apply, regardless of any rule stated in **Schedule 2 or 3**.
For example, if a reserve has a playground, dogs must still be controlled on a leash, even though the reserve has an overall off-leash rule or for any playground within rural areas, dogs must still be controlled on a leash.

1. Dogs must controlled on a leash, at all times, anywhere in the District, in the following locations:
   a. all cemeteries;
   b. all playgrounds, skateboarding facilities, pump tracks and Council-managed tennis courts; and,
   c. all sports fields during organised games and practice sessions.

2. Dogs are prohibited on all school grounds in the District, unless part of education programs or organised events managed by the school.

SCHEDULE 2 - DEFAULT DOG ACCESS RULES

1. Unless otherwise stated in **Schedule 1** or **3** or **in clause 2 below,** in **urban areas** in the District dogs must be controlled on a leash, including in the following public places:
   a. roads;
   b. private ways;
   c. car parks;
   d. Council facilities; and,
   e. pedestrian zones.

2. Unless otherwise stated in **Schedule 1** or **3,** in **urban** areas in the District dogs are allowed off a leash, while under effective control in all parks, reserves, lakes, rivers, foreshore areas and on all recreational tracks.

3. Unless otherwise stated in **Schedule 1** or **3,** in **rural areas** in the District, dogs are allowed off leash in all public places provided they are under effective control.

Related information
Off-leash areas in Schedule 2, clauses 2 and 3 are shared spaces with other users, where dogs may be off leash but must still be under effective control at all times, as defined in clause 5.1 of the Bylaw.

Some recreational tracks cross privately owned land or public conservation land, or are subject to easements, leases, licences or other access arrangements. Dog control rules on those parts of a recreational track may be subject to agreements between Council and the landowner, or DOC rules.

The dog access classifications in this Policy establish the rules applying under the Policy and Bylaw. They do not confer a right to enter or remain on land and do not prevent a landowner, lawful occupier or other person with authority over the land from imposing a more stringent access restriction or condition. Any such restriction or condition operates independently of this Policy.

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SCHEDULE 3: LOCATION SPECIFIC DOG ACCESS RULES

1. SPECIFIC LOCATIONS WHERE DOGS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE DISTRICT

Dogs are prohibited in the specific locations identified in the maps below. This includes any recreational tracks within the park or reserve as well as the park or reserve itself.

Queenstown Hill Reserve and Walkway



Pig and Pigeon Island



Lake Hayes Northern Wetland



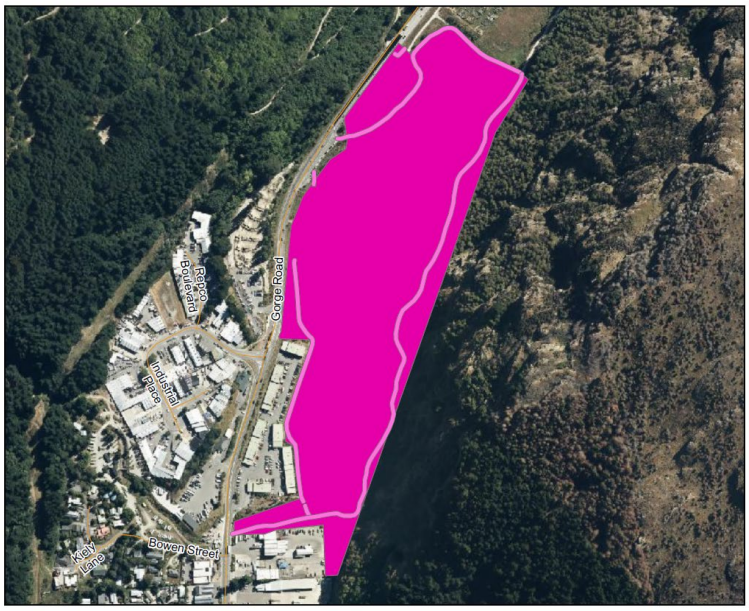
2. SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT WHERE DOGS MUST BE CONTROLLED ON A LEASH

Dogs must be on a leash in the specific locations identified in the maps below. This includes any recreational tracks within the park or reserve as well as the park or reserve itself.

Queenstown CBD



Matakauri Park



Shotover Wetland



Buckingham Green



Wānaka Town Centre



Bremner Bay



Arthurs Point Track



Frankton Track



Dog Control Trail
On-leash

Lake Hayes Walkway



Dog Control Trail
On-leash
DOC

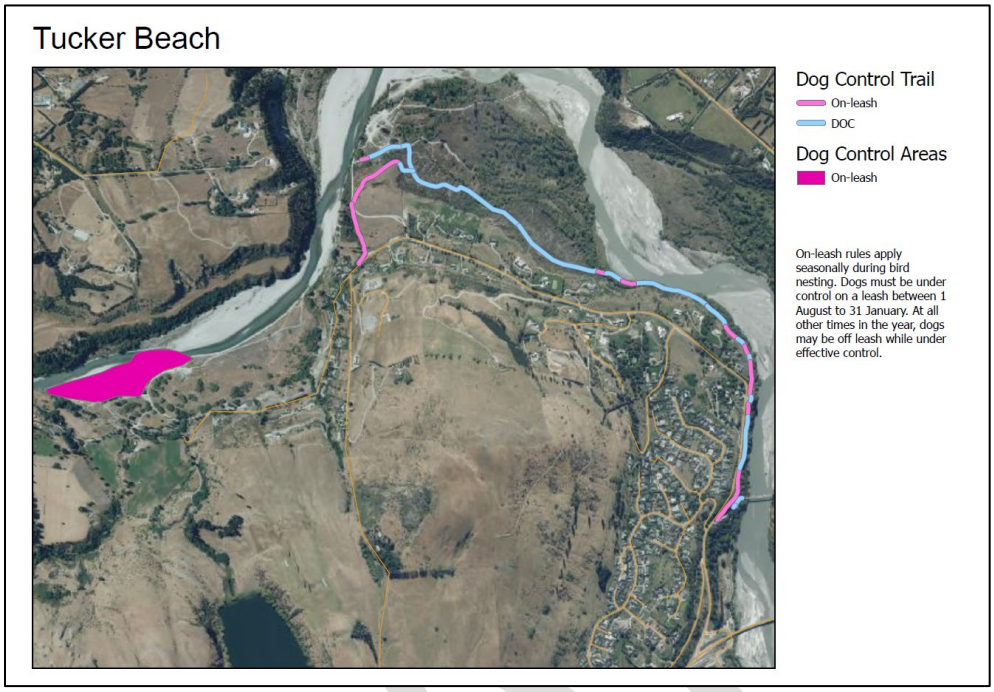
Shotover Gorge Trail



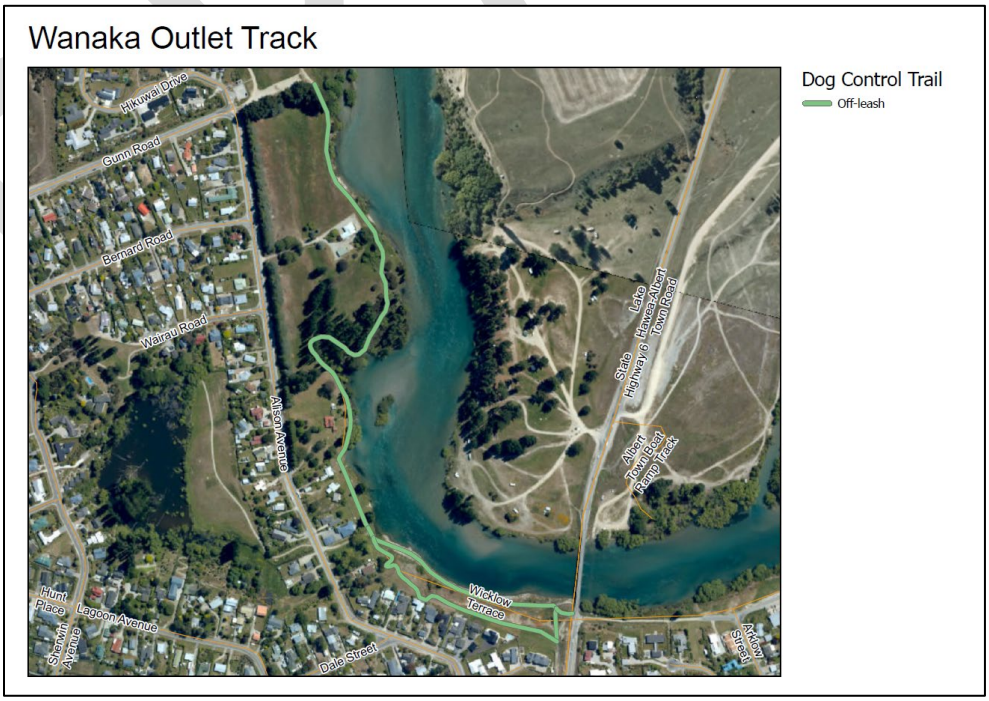
Ivan Young Zoological Reserve



3. SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT WHERE DOGS MUST BE CONTROLLED ON A LEASH DURING SPECIFIC TIMES



4. SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT WHERE DOGS CAN BE OFF LEASH UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL



Kelvin Peninsula Track



Beacon Point Track



10 RELATED INFORMATION – URBAN AREAS DOG ACCESS RULES

For the purpose of consultation, Council has provided an interactive online map showing dog access rules, including urban areas (link). Static maps will be incorporated into this schedule before the Policy is adopted.