

**Management report to Council**

**Agenda item 6.6**

**Municipal Order for dog control in Return to Royal Park area**

**Council**

**Presenter:** Ian Shears, Manager Urban Sustainability

**30 August 2016**

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to make a Municipal Order for dog controls in the new area of parkland returned to Royal Park.
2. The site of the former Royal Children's Hospital was returned to parkland in Royal Park in 2015. The project involved extensive community engagement to inform its design. The parkland returned is an area over three hectares in size and includes open grassy lawns, natural vegetation, a regional play space, and amenities to support the park visitor.
3. During the planning for the parkland, detailed attention was given to how the area would be used. This included analysis for appropriate levels of dog control. Visitors to this new section of parkland include children, hospital patients, visitors and staff, families from a regional catchment and local residents. With this spectrum of visitors and high levels of use of the area, it was determined that the most appropriate designation was dog prohibited. A large dog off leash area is available in the adjacent section of parkland (see Attachment 2). Dogs will be allowed on leash on designated paths through this section of park.

**Key issues**

4. Royal Park is recognised as a State level open space in the Open Space Strategy 2012 as this park is visited by people from both regional and local areas across Victoria. The new area of parkland is receiving high visitation, with a user survey counting over 400 people on a weekend day in June 2015.
5. In 2008 following an extensive review of dog off leash provision in Royal Park, over 14 hectares of parkland was designated for off leash activity. The review also established a buffer area where dogs would be prohibited around the (then) proposed Royal Children's hospital, recognising that visitors to the hospital would be unfamiliar with the area and unprepared to encounter off leash dogs. The current proposal is consistent with this earlier recommendation.
6. The Municipal Order is in addition to existing Orders already in place within Royal Park.
7. The direct financial implications arising from this report are the advertising costs to publish the Order.

**Recommendation from management**

8. That Council:
  - 8.1. Make an order (Order) pursuant to section 26(2) of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Act) prohibiting dogs in the new section of Royal Park as identified in Attachment 2.
  - 8.2. Publish the Order in The Age and the Victorian Government Gazette in accordance with section 26(3) of the Act.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (page 2 of 3)
2. Dog control map Royal Park (page 3 of 3)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Legal

1. The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* (Act) provides for the management of dogs in public places. Council can resolve under section 26(2) of the Act to prohibit dogs or place conditions on dogs in any public place within its municipal district and must advertise the order once made.

### Finance

2. The direct financial implications arising from this report are the advertising costs to publish the Order.

### Conflict of interest

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.



### Stakeholder consultation

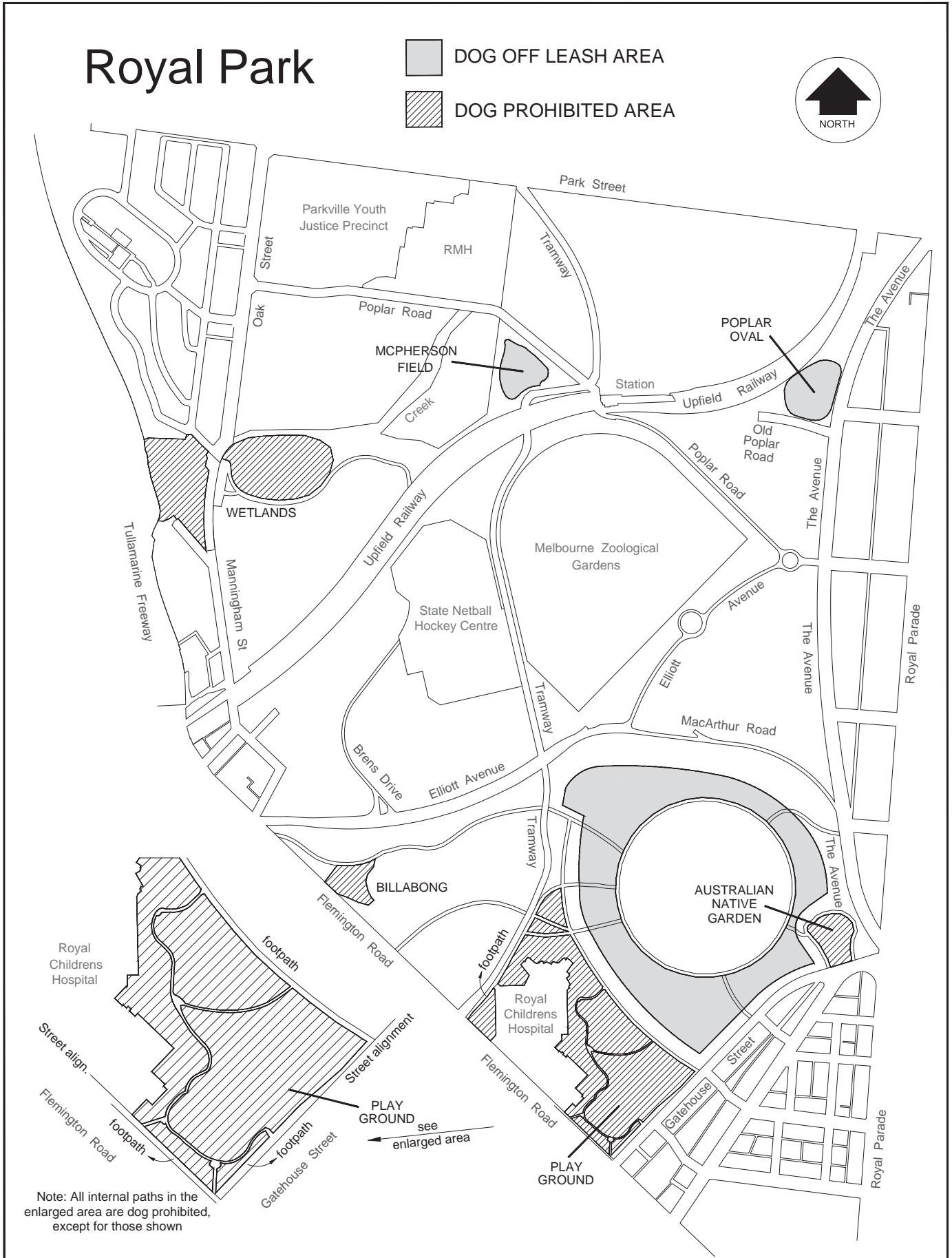
4. Extensive community engagement was undertaken over 2012 and 2013 for the Return to Royal Park project. No additional engagement has been undertaken specifically on dog controls, as the controls have been determined based on the visitors and use of this area, and the proximity of expansive off leash areas in Royal Park.

### Environmental sustainability

5. There are no environmental sustainability issues associated with this report.

# Royal Park

-  DOG OFF LEASH AREA
-  DOG PROHIBITED AREA



Note: All internal paths in the enlarged area are dog prohibited, except for those shown