



Be considerate

Be mindful of dog behaviour around others.

- Children and others may be frightened by, or not understand dogs. Dogs might not like or understand children.
- Some dogs can become stressed if an uncontrolled dog approaches them.
- Dog owners or handlers must prevent their dog from jumping up, running up to, or barking at people.

It is always the dog owner or handler's responsibility to take utmost care around other people, especially children and older people.

Dog owners should move to avoid any potential for conflict.

Rules and fines

The following fines apply under the Companion Animals Act 1998.

Dog not registered

Minimum fine **\$275**

Dog not permanently identified

Minimum fine **\$165**

Dog without collar or name tag

Minimum fine **\$165**

Dog not under effective control

Minimum fine **\$220**

Failure to remove dog faeces

Minimum fine **\$275**



www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au

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Out and about with your dog in Lake Macquarie



Responsibilities for dog owners and handlers

You are responsible for your dog's actions and must keep your dog under effective control at all times.

In public places, dogs must be secured on a leash, and you must be capable of restraining the dog.

Prohibited areas

Dogs are prohibited in the following places, even on a leash.

- **School grounds**
- **Shopping centres**
Except premises whose owners allow dogs.
- **Childcare centres**
- **Public swimming areas**
- **Patrolled beaches, year round**
Dogs are prohibited from patrolled beach areas, at all times, including the non-patrolled period of the year.
- **Dining areas**
Except premises whose owners allow dogs.
- **Playgrounds**
Dogs must be kept at least 10m from children's play equipment.
- **Some nature reserves and other parks**
Check the requirements for individual recreation areas, state conservation areas and nature reserves before taking your dog.

Leash-free areas

There are 29 leash-free areas across Lake Macquarie.

Visit www.lakemac.com.au for the complete list of locations.

Dog friendly beaches

There are a number of designated beach areas where dogs are allowed off-leash.

- **Nine Mile Beach, Redhead**
Area extending from 2nd Creek, southerly for 700m. Access via Cain Street, Redhead.
- **Nine Mile Beach, Blacksmiths**
Area extending from the beach carpark off Awabakal Avenue, northerly to the Belmont Golf Club boundary.
- **Hams Beach, Caves Beach**
Area extending between the Hams Beach carpark and the ocean. Access via Mawson Close, Caves Beach.

Dogs must remain on a leash in all other areas, including dunes, car parks, and access paths to the leash-free areas.

What to bring

- Lead and collar with name tag
- Poo bags, ideally compostable
- Water bowl

Respecting the environment

- Always dispose of bagged dog poo in public bins, or take the bags home with you.
- Be mindful of native flora and fauna. It is illegal for a dog to chase or attack native animals, birds or any other animal.
- Dogs must be under control and kept on established tracks. Do not make your own track in bushland or on sand dunes.

