

Dog control

Somers to Shoreham Foreshore Reserves

Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve

December 2017

Why do we have local and State government dog control regulations?

The purpose of the regulations is to protect the health and safety of all beach goers and local wildlife. They are tailored to reflect the social and environmental needs of each area at various times of the year.

I am a dog owner, what do I need to do to comply with the regulations?

- ✓ Keep my dog under control at all times, and on a leash except in designated leash-free areas (see map).
- ✓ Leave my dog at home between 9am and 7pm during Daylight Savings Time – as dogs are prohibited from being on the beach then.
- ✓ Pick up any excrement left by my dog and take it with me.

What should I do if I am affected by non-compliance with the regulations?

To improve compliance, our local rangers patrol the beaches, particularly during periods of high usage or in areas of high environmental sensitivity.

The rangers are authorised to do this at Merricks Beach by the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management, which is appointed by the State Government to manage the Merricks Beach Foreshore Reserve.

- ✓ Please treat rangers courteously and follow their directions at all times.
- ✓ If you are concerned by the behaviour of a dog or its owner, please contact the closest ranger.
- ✓ For your personal safety, we advise you not to confront the dog or the owner yourself.

At Merricks Beach, dog patrols are generally conducted by the Balnarring Rangers. Point Leo rangers will also respond to emergencies (such as dog attacks) if the Balnarring Rangers are not available. Call one of these numbers for help: Balnarring 5983 5582, Point Leo 5989 8333.

Leash-free Areas

There are currently three leash-free beach areas provided in this area of Western Port Bay

Flinders – Cove Lane to Manton Creek – unlimited times

Somers – South Sea Road to Miramar Road – dogs prohibited from 9am to 5pm Daylight Savings Time but allowed leash-free at all other times

Somers- East of Miramar Road to HMAS Cerberus Border (approx. 1.5km) – unlimited times



LEASH FREE BEACHES