

Hastings Point Dog prohibited area



Council regulatory officers will be enforcing this prohibited area and fines will apply for failing to comply with notices.



Council has designated a dog prohibited area encompassing land east of Tweed Coast Road from Yugari Drive north to Peninsula Street, including all foreshore areas of the Cudgera Creek estuary and the beach north of Cudgera Creek mouth to the shoreline adjacent to the Peninsula Street beach access walkway.

For more information go to www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/WalkMyDog or phone (02) 6670 2400.

Why exclude dogs from this area?

Cudgera Creek is the most important habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds of the Tweed Coast estuaries. Over 250,000 birds use the estuary over the summer months. All of these birds are protected under state and federal legislation and international agreements.

The dog prohibited area was a recommendation in the *Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Tweed Coast Estuaries* (2013) to address community concerns that dogs are negatively impacting on shorebirds in the foreshore areas of lower Cudgera Creek.

Cudgera Creek estuary is home to a pair of Beach Stone-curlews, listed as critically endangered in NSW. Dogs can directly prey on birds whilst repeated disturbance can lead to nest or roost sites being abandoned.

Migratory shorebirds need stress free feeding and roosting sites in order for them to return to optimal condition for migration to northern hemisphere breeding grounds. The sandy spit on the northern side of Cudgera Creek is an important roosting site for migrating birds.



Beach Stone-curlew (photo by Reid Waters)

Where can I walk my dog?

On leash areas are located south of Hastings Point to Pottsville Beach and north of Peninsula Street, Hastings Point towards Cabarita.

Off leash areas include an area one kilometre north of Cudgera Creek to a point 200m south of Norries Headland (Cabarita) and 200m south of the main bathing area at South Pottsville Beach to 200m north of Black Rocks.



Beach-nesting birds

All five species of beach-nesting birds on the Tweed Coast are declining in number.



Australia Pied Oystercatcher

Only one or two chicks survive each year on the Tweed Coast.



Little Tern

Chicks are successfully raised on the Tweed Coast very rarely.



Sooty Oystercatcher

Tweed Coast populations are declining and chick survivorship is very low.



Red Capped Plover

No longer attempts to nest on the Tweed Coast.



Beach Stone-curlew

A pair is often sighted in Cudgera Creek estuary. Vulnerable to disturbance.

Beach-nesting birds view people and pets as a threat to their nests and young, and will react defensively when you get too close. Nests are a simple scrape in the sand. When adult birds are defending their nests, eggs and chicks are unprotected from the hot sun or predators. Embryos in eggs die after 30 minutes of being unattended. For more information visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/beachnestingbirds

Walking your dog

All dogs in New South Wales must be on a lead that is being held by (or secured to) a person at all times when in a public place unless in a designated off leash area.

Dogs are also prohibited from within 10 metres of a children's playground and areas that are sign posted stating dogs are prohibited.

All dog owners are responsible for their dogs and should ensure they comply with the requirements of the location they are in.

- Read the signage as you enter the beach.
- Respect the boundaries in off leash areas, dog prohibited areas and dog exclusion areas.
- Do not let your dog chase birds in off leash areas.

Pick it up

It is an offence not to remove your dog's faeces from a public place and ensure it is disposed of in an appropriate manner.



Pied oystercatcher with chick (photo by Bob Moffatt)

Shorebird conservation

Shorebirds are an important component of coastal ecosystems adding to natural amenity and recreational enjoyment of estuarine foreshores.

Many species of shorebirds are of high conservation value due to their migratory habits, small population sizes, susceptibility to threatening processes and/or declining population sizes.

Shorebirds have three basic habitat requirements:

- **Feeding areas** – where they can forage without disturbance to satisfy their daily energy needs
- **Roost areas** – where they can rest at high water when foraging areas are unavailable
- **Nesting areas** – where they can nest and raise chicks.

Habitats relied upon by shorebirds are also often used intensively for recreation. Shorebirds are therefore vulnerable to many threats as a result of competing uses in vicinity of their habitat.