

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Changes to Hervey Bay dog beach rules.

1. What's changing with dog rules on Hervey Bay beaches?

Stage 1 introduces three new **24 hour off-leash beach areas**, replacing the previous timed dog zones. These changes are designed to make dog rules **simpler and clearer**, with better signage and maps.

2. When do the new rules start?

Stage 1 starts **Monday, 9 February**. Stage 2 will follow **later in 2026**, subject to local law amendments.

3. Where are the new 24 hour off-leash areas?

Dogs can now be off-leash **all day, every day** in these locations:

- **Scarness:** Tooan Tooan Creek to Scarness Jetty
- **Urangan:** Margaret Street groyne to Dayman Park (Reef World)
- **Urangan (south of the Marina):** Moolyyir Creek to Pulgul Creek (until Stage 2 begins)

4. What does "off-leash" actually mean?

Off-leash **does not mean out of control**. Dogs must remain under effective control at all times and respond reliably to recall. Owners are responsible for their dog's behaviour around other beach users. You can read more about responsible behaviour in off-leash areas at: **bit.ly/off-leash-areas** or scan QR code below.

5. Are on-leash beach areas still available?

Yes. **On-leash areas remain available** for people and dogs who prefer them. If a beach area is not signed as off-leash or dog-free, dogs must be on a leash.



6. How do I know which rules apply where I am?

Check the **updated interactive dog beach** map before you go, and look for new signs at beach entrances and key landmarks along the foreshore. www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/dog-map

7. Are there dog-free areas on the beach?

Yes. **Dog-free areas for beachgoers** remain an important part of the beach network, especially in busy swimming and family areas. These zones provide space for people who prefer beaches without dogs.

8. Why are the changes being rolled out in two stages?

Some changes, including **dog-free areas for beachgoers and a seasonal shorebird protection zone**, require amendments to local laws. Stage 1 delivers immediate improvements, while Stage 2 will finalise the remaining changes once that process is complete.

9. What is the “education-first” approach?

Community rangers will be **visible on beaches**, helping explain the new zones, answering questions and supporting compliance during the transition. This approach focuses on education first, with enforcement available if needed.

10. How were these changes decided?

The changes were shaped by **community feedback gathered in early 2025**, with input from dog owners, beachgoers, swimmers and residents. The outcome aims to balance different needs and make beach rules easier to understand for everyone.

11. What is the fine for breaching dog rules on the beach?

If a dog enters a prohibited area, or is off-leash in an on-leash area, the fine is **\$322.00**.

12. When will rangers be enforcing the new rules?

Community rangers will take an education-first approach from **February to April**, focusing on explaining the new rules and helping people understand the changes. Enforcement will apply after this education period.

13. When will the new signs be installed?

New signage is expected to be installed in early February, ahead of the Stage 1 changes. Signs will be placed at beach entrances and key landmarks along the foreshore to clearly show where dogs can be off-leash, on-leash or not allowed.