



Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water and Environment

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Mr Harry Galea
Acting General Manager
George Town Council
PO Box 161
George Town TAS 7253

Dear Mr Galea

Further to our meeting onsite at Low Head on 29 November 2018, the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) wishes to express its appreciation of Council to assist in the protection of Little Penguins located at the Low Head rookeries.

As discussed, investigations by the PWS Compliance Unit (PWSCU) were carried out as to the cause of approx. 75 Little Penguins deaths discovered on the 16 October 2018.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) pathologists confirmed the cause of death to be consistent with a dog/s attack. Post mortem examinations were unable to determine the type of breed that carried out the attacks and there has been no evidence to date that identifies any particular dog/s responsible for the attack, or any dog owner.

As you are aware the rookeries are located on a combination of private freehold and land managed by the PWS. As requested, please find some of the local recommendations suggested by the PWSCU for consideration by council.

- *In periods of high visitation e.g. summer, or where information of roaming dogs has been received, PWS authorised officers and council dog control officers to undertake irregular patrols of the area, targeting the time penguins tend to leave in morning for food (at dawn or returning at dusk).*
- *Education of community by way of distributed information material e.g. letterbox flyer, community newsletter notice educating local residents on their responsibilities regarding pet ownership and dog access restrictions in PWS reserves.*
- *Continued support between PWS and local council in the implementation of their Dog Management Policy, as per PWS letter of support to the council dated 23 August 2018.*
- *A supported line of communication between PWS and local council of information received in relation to any offences concerning wildlife and interactions with other animals (dogs, cats) or persons. This would require a memorandum of understanding (MoU) as sharing of sensitive information may be required including personal details of suspects/offenders.*

- *A joint approach in any investigations that are required in the future for similar events (also be included as part of the above mentioned MoU).*
- *Investigate and replace poor and non-existence fencing on the Eastern side of Low Head between freehold land owned by the Low Head Company and the Low Head Historic Site.*
- *Establishment of a local 'Friends of Low Head Penguins' group consisting of local community and PWS.*
- *Funding of permanent cameras, positioned at various areas of the Low Head Historic Site and Conservation areas. Camera's would need to be hard wired into a remotely accessed system and able to be used at night (this will not stop further dog attacks but may assist in identifying any offending animal, it also comes with ongoing costs and maintenance issues that would also need to be funded.)*

The PWS look forward to council's response to the above suggestions and welcome any additional suggestions that council may have for PWS to consider also

Please don't hesitate to contact me via jayne.cooper@parks.tas.gov.au or 6777 2212 if you have any further questions in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely



Jayne Cooper
**Parks and Reserve Manager – Central North
Parks and Wildlife Service**

20 December 2018