



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

**GUIDELINES for TOURIST VISITS to  
MACQUARIE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE  
and WORLD HERITAGE AREA**  
(Latitude 54°30' South, Longitude 158°57' East)  
**2016/2017**

Macquarie Island ('the Island') is part of the Australian State of Tasmania. The Island and surrounding waters are protected by several overlapping, but complimentary, reserved area designations. The Macquarie Island Nature Reserve ('the Reserve') covers the Island, the adjacent islets of 'Bishop and Clerk' and 'Judge and Clerk', and includes the ocean surrounding the Island and islets to a distance of three nautical miles. The Island is also listed on the Register of the National Estate. The Macquarie Island World Heritage Area (WHA) encompasses the Reserve, as well as the surrounding waters to a distance of 12 nautical miles. Information about the Reserve can be found at: <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=394>. A Commonwealth Marine Reserve covers most of the waters on the eastern side of the Reserve to the 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone limit (information about allowable activities in the Macquarie Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve can be obtained at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves/south-east/macquarie-island/index.html>). The Reserve is subject to both Tasmanian and Australian Government legislation aimed at protecting its special values. The Australian Antarctic Division ('AAD') on behalf of the Australian Government operates a scientific station on the Island.

Access to the Reserve requires the written authorisation of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife ('the Director'). Day-to-day management of the Reserve is the responsibility of the Parks and Wildlife Service ('PWS'), a division of the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment ('the Department'). Macquarie Island Nature Reserve is a restricted area under Regulation 17 of the *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2009* and all visitors must have an Access Authority, or must be accompanied by an authorised person, in order to enter or remain in the Reserve. All commercial Tourist Visits must also have approval under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. Prior approval must be obtained from the Director before any Tourist Visits are allowed.

## **Preamble**

These guidelines will form the basis for Tourist Visits to be authorised and the conditions of the licence agreement required to be concluded between the Visit Organisers and the Tasmanian Government prior to the visit. The guidelines are reviewed annually.

Under these guidelines:

- 'Crew' means all persons employed or engaged to work on the Ship in any capacity whatsoever;
- 'Ship' means the vessel approved to go the Reserve, whether commercial or non-commercial;
- 'Shore Visit' means any landing on the Island, whether commercial or non-commercial;

- 'Small Boats' means the type of ship-to-shore transport and offshore cruising operation vessels used during each Tourist Visit as specified in the application by the Visit Organisers
- 'Staff' means guiding and support staff employed or engaged by the Visit Organisers to conduct the Shore Visits and who not part of the Crew;
- 'Tourist Visit' means any non-AAD or PWS visit to the Reserve, whether any Shore Visit takes place or not, whether commercial or non-commercial;
- 'Visitor' means any person, not being Crew or Staff, entering or intending to enter the Reserve, whether making a payment or not;
- 'Visit Organisers' means the person/s that is organising the visit to the Reserve, whether commercial or non-commercial; and
- 'Yacht' means any vessel carrying 12 or fewer Visitors.

Enquiries about these guidelines should be forwarded to the Macquarie Island Executive Officer, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service ([noel.carmichael@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:noel.carmichael@parks.tas.gov.au), Ph: 61 3 6165 4051).

### **Selecting Commercial Operators**

In allocating rights for commercial Tourist Visits to the Reserve, the Director takes into account each company's capacity to deliver desirable outcomes against the following criteria:

- 1) Minimisation of environmental impacts both offshore and on land, based on the environmental impact statement submitted with the application;
- 2) Adherence to strict safety guidelines, including the degree of self-reliance in such matters;
- 3) Tangible benefits to the management and protection of Macquarie Island Nature Reserve (for instance, assistance with the transport of personnel and equipment, or with programs);
- 4) Benefits to the state of Tasmania (for instance employing Tasmanians or re-supplying in Tasmania);
- 5) Clear communication to the Visitors, Crew and Staff of appropriate messages about the natural and cultural values of the Reserve, including the role that Visitors play in protecting those values;
- 6) Tourist operator accreditation and relevant qualifications held by the company and its regular Staff members;
- 7) Flexibility of operating timetables (for instance if weather or AAD shipping changes causes delays); and
- 8) Past performance in this or related operations.

Taking into account the protection of the wildlife and environment, and the quality of experience expected by Visitors:

- Ships carrying more than two hundred (200) Visitors will not be allowed to enter the Reserve;
- The following quotas apply to Tourist Visits to the Reserve as from the 2013-2014 season:
  - Up to 12 Ships, with up to 1,000 Visitors in total, can enter the Reserve per financial year for the purpose of undertaking commercial Shore Visits;

- Up to two Ships can enter the Reserve per financial year for the purpose of conducting small boat cruising only visits (no Shore Visits); and
- Up to two Yachts can enter the Reserve per financial year for the purpose of undertaking Shore Visits.

The Visitor and Tourist Visits quota is subject to a review every three years by the Director, which will take into account: the results of: environmental impacts monitoring on the Island; proposed Visitor quotas for the New Zealand subantarctic islands; and feedback from the AAD as to the impacts of Tourist Visits on their operations and the scientific station.

Notwithstanding the following, all Visitors, Staff and Crew entering the Reserve are bound by the Tasmanian *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2009* and the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010*. Visitors, Staff and Crew shall comply with any direction given by the PWS Ranger-in-Charge (the Ranger-in-Charge), the AAD Station Leader (the Station Leader) and/or an authorised person, under the above regulations.

Where possible, the Director will aim to approve Tourist Visit applications at least 18 months in advance through an Expression of Interest process. Tourist Visits may still be allocated after this process providing the Visitor and Tourist Visits quota per season is not exceeded and there is no clash with known ship-visit timetables.

The following applies to all approved Tourist Visits to the Island, whether commercial or non-commercial:

## **1. Protection of the Environment**

- 1.1. Visit Organisers must ensure that Visitors, Staff and Crew are briefed on the reserve status of the Island and surrounding waters and any requirements, set by the Director, to protect the environment and wildlife as a condition of authorising the Tourist Visit.
- 1.2. No collecting or disturbance of flora, fauna, historical sites, artefacts, geological specimens or objects is permitted.
- 1.3. No fishing is permitted within the Reserve.
- 1.4. Except during an emergency, helicopters may not be used from a Ship within three (3) nautical miles of the Island without written permission of the Director. Any emergency operations must be reported to the Director as soon as possible.
- 1.5. Any requests for variations to the conditions of Tourist Visit authorities must be referred, in writing, to the Macquarie Island Executive Officer.

## **2. Biosecurity**

- 2.1. Visit Organisers must ensure that Visitors, Staff and Crew are aware of and observe all of the following quarantine procedures designed to prevent exotic species being taken ashore in landing transport, equipment or clothing.
- 2.2. No soil, plants, animals, animal products or other organic material may be brought onto the Island.
- 2.3. No food (other than the required emergency food as per 6.1) is to be brought ashore.
- 2.4. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that any clothing or equipment brought into the Reserve is free of soil or flora propagules (seeds etc).
- 2.5. Suitable footwear and equipment washdown (using a broad-spectrum disinfectant such as: 'Virkon'<sup>TM</sup>; or 'F10SC'<sup>TM</sup>; or 'Trigene'<sup>TM</sup>) and clothing cleaning and vacuuming



facilities must be provided on the ship and all Visitors, Staff and Crew going ashore will be required to use these facilities immediately prior to, and after, each landing. Special attention must be given to ensuring that no seeds or soil are lodged in Velcro fixtures or in clothes pockets or cuffs prior to shore visits.

- 2.6. No food items are to be given to wildlife.
- 2.7. All rubbish is to be returned to the Ship. No ship-borne rubbish, including food items, is to be disposed of in the Reserve, and no ballast water may be exchanged or disposed of within the Reserve.
- 2.8. All Commonwealth legislation in regard to the prevention of pollution from Ships within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone must be complied with.
- 2.9. All Ships intending to visit the Reserve must provide the Director prior to departing for the Reserve with a copy of a current 'Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate' and with evidence acceptable to the Department of ship hull cleanliness demonstrating that the Ship is free of marine invasive species.
- 2.10. Mooring lines or any other lines may not be run to the shore at any time and Ships should anchor at least 500m offshore whenever possible, and must be anchored so as to prevent any approach closer than two hundred (200) metres to the shore at any point of the Ship's swing.
- 2.11. Small Boats must be free of any soil, plants, animals or animal products and must be checked for the presence of any soil, plants, animals or animal products prior to the commencement of any ship-to-shore operations.

### **3. Shore Visits**

- 3.1. All Tourist Visits will be ship-based with no overnight stay on the Island except in an emergency. Shore Visits will only be authorised between the times of 0700 hrs and 1900 hrs local station time. Each Tourist Visit will be allocated a period of up to two days during which shore visits may take place.
- 3.2. The landing and pick-up of Visitors, Staff and Crew will only be authorised at Sandy Bay and the Isthmus. The shore areas where access is authorised are shown on the attached maps of those locations. Shore Visits may only occur at one site at a time, and are not allowed unless PWS staff are present on-site.
- 3.3. Shore parties are to be organised into groups of no more than 15 people, each of which must include one Staff guide. Not more than 100 people may be ashore at any one time at the Isthmus, and not more than 60 people may be ashore at any one time at Sandy Bay (at the discretion of the Ranger-in-Charge, shore parties at Sandy Bay may be ungrouped provided that the ratio of one Staff guide for every 14 Visitors, and overall limit of 60 people, is not exceeded). These numbers do not include Visitors, Staff or Crew involved in landing/departure operations in the immediate vicinity of the landing point.
- 3.4. Shore Visits by Crew or Staff not directly involved in guiding or Small Boat handling are entirely at the discretion of the Ranger-in-Charge and the Station Leader. The number of Crew and non-guiding Staff to be brought ashore during any landing must first be approved by the Ranger-in-Charge and the Station Leader. When ashore, Staff and Crew will be subject to the same conditions as apply to Visitors, and are to be organised into groups of no more than 15 people, each of which must include one designated Staff guide.
- 3.5. The Ranger-in-Charge or the Station Leader may cancel Shore Visits at any time.

### **4. Australian Antarctic Division Liaison**

- 4.1. Only with the written permission of the Director of the AAD may a Tourist Visit take place within five days of an AAD ship visiting the Reserve for management purposes. Tourist Visits shall not coincide with an Australian public holiday (such as Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day or Australia Day), except with approval in writing by the Director and the AAD. Visit Organisers should make themselves aware of changes to the AAD's shipping schedule by accessing the AAD website <http://www.aad.gov.au> or the AAD shipping information number (61 3 6232 3269).
- 4.2. Contact must be made with the Station Leader and the Ranger-in-Charge ([macca.ric@aad.gov.au](mailto:macca.ric@aad.gov.au)) at Macquarie Island at least 48 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the Island. The Macquarie Island Communications Centre can be contacted on 0011 672 13 9909 or [macca.comms@aad.gov.au](mailto:macca.comms@aad.gov.au). The Macquarie Island Communications Centre will advise which radio frequencies to use during the visit. The Station Leader must also be advised at least one hour prior to the commencement of landing operations and within one hour of all Visitors, Staff and Crew returning to the Ship.
- 4.3. In the case of any accident and/or incident to any person, animal or the environment the Station Leader and the Ranger-in-Charge must be advised at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.4. Shore Visits to the scientific station may be subject to a quota set for each season, and in any event remain entirely at the discretion of the Station Leader. All Shore Visits to the Station will be limited to the exterior of buildings unless entry is permitted at the absolute discretion of the Station Leader.
- 4.5. The telephone and radio services of the Macquarie Island Communication Centre will not be made available to Visitors, Crew or Staff and only limited postal services will be available, by prior arrangement with the Station Leader. Philatelic services may be restricted at the discretion of the Station's Postal Agent.
- 4.6. Visitors, Crew or Staff shall not enter field huts, nor use supplies from field huts except in an emergency. Any supplies used shall be reported promptly to the Station Leader.
- 4.7. No cargo, mail or any other goods may be taken to the Island without the prior written approval of the AAD.

## **5. Small Boat Operations**

The following have been developed in order to ensure safe Small Boat operations and to minimise disturbance to wildlife.

### **Boating Safety**

- 5.1. The type of Small Boats used during each Tourist Visit may only be varied with the prior written authority of the Macquarie Island Executive Officer.
- 5.2. At least two operable Small Boats of the type agreed to in 5.1 must be in the water while ship/shore and/or offshore cruising operations of any sort are under way. Visit Organisers must comply with all statutory requirements of Marine and Safety Tasmania whilst conducting operations in Tasmanian waters. No ship/shore or Small Boat offshore cruising operations will be permitted during the period between sunset and sunrise.
- 5.3. All Visitors, Crew and Staff taking part in ship-to-shore or off-shore cruising operations are wearing at a minimum a Personal Flotation Device Australian Standards AS4758 Level 100 or Level 150 or the International Standard Organisation equivalent.
- 5.4. All refilling of fuel tanks for Small Boats must take place onboard the parent Ship.
- 5.5. Small Boats shall not exceed a speed of 5 knots when within 60 metres of the shoreline or another Small Boat or Ship.

- 5.6. While beach landing/loading operations are underway, Visit Organisers must provide sufficient experienced Staff or Crew at the site to ensure the safety of the operation and must not rely upon assistance by PWS or AAp Expeditioners.

### **Wildlife Disturbance**

- 5.7. Small Boats must at all times regulate their course and speed so as to minimise disturbance to wildlife and to avoid any collisions with wildlife. Small Boats should avoid travelling through groups of rafting or porpoising seals or seabirds where possible and may only do so at speeds below five knots, except when necessary for safe navigation or in an emergency.
- 5.8. The Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2005 will apply.
- 5.9. At Lusitania Bay: Small Boats are not to approach closer than 50 metres to any part of the shore; Small Boats must endeavour to stay clear (preferably 20m either side) of the main penguin access channel, and if crossing it, should do so at right angles to the main movement of the birds.

### **Transport of Australian Antarctic program Expeditioners**

- 5.10. The following maximum allowable parameters for Small Boat operations will apply when Australian Antarctic program (AAp) Expeditioners (including PWS Staff) are being transported:

<b>PARAMETER</b>	<b>Inflatable Rubber Boat / Rigid Inflatable Boat</b>
<sup>1</sup> Average wind speed	Macquarie Island - not exceeding 25kts (in IRB/RIBs 19' or greater) - not exceeding 20kts (in IRB/RIBs 19' or less)
Maximum Wave face height at beach	Not exceeding 2m - (in IRB/RIBs 19' or greater) Not exceeding 1.5m - (in IRB/RIBs 19' or less)
Rise and fall of swell at ship	Not exceeding 3m - (in IRB/RIBs 19' or greater) Not exceeding 2.5m - (in IRB/RIBs 19' or less)
Single IRB/RIB operations	Only when ship is stationary and directly off the operational area and only with a standby vessel available to assist within 5 minutes

<sup>1</sup> Average wind speed is deemed to have been exceeded when the average on the bridge of the ship exceeds the above maximums in two consecutive 10 minute periods. If the anemometer is not present or not working on the ship the reading should be taken from the station.

Note that non-AAp IRB/RIB Skippers that skipper AAp expeditioners in their vessels at Macquarie Island should have extensive and recent experience with transfer of passengers in surf on subantarctic islands or similar.

Operations can be conducted outside these conditions at the discretion of the Macquarie Island Station Leader. The Station Leader will only authorise such operations after conducting an assessment of relevant risks.

## **6. Safety of Visitors and Australian Antarctic Program Personnel**

- 6.1. Emergency equipment (tents, emergency clothing, first aid supplies, sleeping gear, cooking equipment and pre-packaged processed food), sufficient to cater for up to 15 people for up to 24 hours, must be put ashore at Sandy Bay prior to any Visitors or crew landing there. This equipment must be kept ashore for the duration of each Shore Visit.
- 6.2. At least one Staff member from each shore party must be qualified in remote or wilderness first aid and hypothermia management techniques.

- 6.3. Visit Organisers must ensure that Visitors, Crew and Staff are suitably briefed on safety requirements and are appropriately clothed and shod.
- 6.4. All shore parties are to be in two-way radio communication with the Ship.
- 6.5. Visit Organisers must at all times be capable of returning the number of Visitors, Crew and/or Staff they put ashore at any one time to their Ship within one hour.
- 6.6. No diving activities will be conducted within the Reserve during Tourist Visits except in emergencies. All proposals for snorkelling activities require the prior approval of the Director.
- 6.7. All Ships which land any people on the Island must at all times retain onboard sufficient competent personnel to work the Ship if it has to leave the Island hurriedly with people still ashore.

## **7. General**

- 7.1. The Director reserves the right to limit the number of Tourist Visits, number of Visitors and duration of each Tourist Visit to the Island each season and/or Shore Visits in any one day.
- 7.2. Only one Tourist Visit will be permitted to visit the Island at a time. If proposals for two or more Tourist Visits on the same day are received, Visit Organisers will be asked to re-arrange their schedules to avoid such clashes. If this cannot be achieved, then the Director will determine which Tourist Visit/s must be re-scheduled.
- 7.3. A Visitor Impact Management Fee of AUD \$354.79 per person (inclusive of GST) will be levied for each Visitor allocation (even if that allocation is not used) aboard any Ship, whether commercial or non-commercial. Note that the Visitor Impact Management Fee will be indexed annually in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index for Hobart for June and the fee confirmed by 1 August.
- 7.4. The Visitor Impact Management Fee revenue is used for the management and promotion of the Reserve. This may include the provision of additional staff, facilities to protect the environment, visitor impact monitoring programs, interpretation materials and facilities, management orientated research and the application of that research, administration costs, or other management and promotional programs related to the Reserve as necessary.
- 7.5. As a condition of the Tourist Visits approval, the Director reserves the right to require that a PWS staff member may travel onboard (at no cost to the Director) the Ship for biosecurity training and/or audit purposes.
- 7.6. Tasmania's State Tourism Strategy emphasises the need for Visitors to the State to have the best possible quality holiday experience. Consistent with that strategy, commercial Visit Organisers must demonstrate that the Staff guide accompanying each party is competent in the areas of: customer contact and interpretation skills; and with scientific expertise relating to the Reserve/region in at least one of the following areas: fauna, flora, geology or cultural heritage.
- 7.7. Visit Organisers will be required to expressly accept responsibility for any costs incurred by the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Government relating to provision of search and rescue or emergency assistance for Visitors, Crew or Staff to the Reserve. Visit Organisers are required to take out insurance cover, as specified by the Director, indemnifying the State and the Australian Government from any liability. A public liability insurance cover of a minimum AUD \$20,000,000 will apply to all Ships (commercial and non-commercial) conducting Tourist Visits irrespective of the number of Visitors they carry.



- 7.8. All Australian Government biosecurity (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity>), customs and immigration (<http://www.border.gov.au/>) requirements are to be met.
- 7.9. Visit Organisers must supply a copy of the Visitor, Staff and Crew list for each voyage to the Macquarie Island Executive Officer prior to the departure of that voyage for the Reserve.
- 7.10. The Director will require a written report on the Tourist Visits from the Visit Organisers within two months of the Tourist Visits taking place (or final Tourist Visits if multiple Tourist Visits are undertaken in a season).
- 7.11. These guidelines apply to all Ships (commercial and non-commercial) conducting Tourist Visits irrespective of the number of Visitors they carry.

## **8. Commercial Filming**

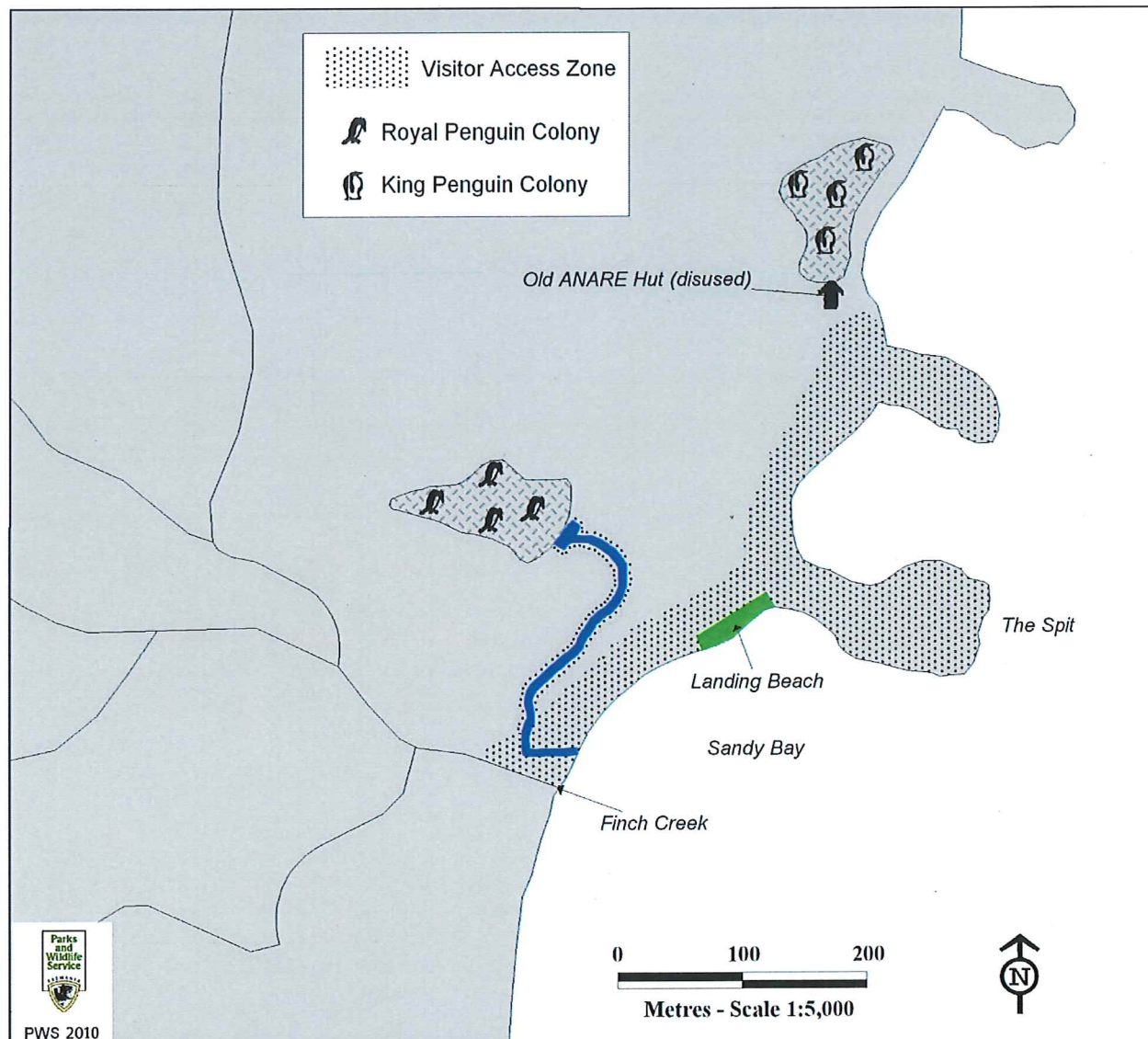
The Director on a case-by-case basis will consider any applications for filming or media-related activities. Commercial filming is not allowed without prior approval under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. All enquiries about commercial filming must be addressed to the Macquarie Island Executive Officer.

## **9. Tourism Management Areas (TMAs)**

There are three TMAs in the Reserve, located at the Isthmus, at Sandy Bay, and offshore at Lusitania Bay. These TMAs provide Visitors, Staff and Crew with the opportunity to view wildlife, vegetation, geological formations, natural landscapes and historic sites.

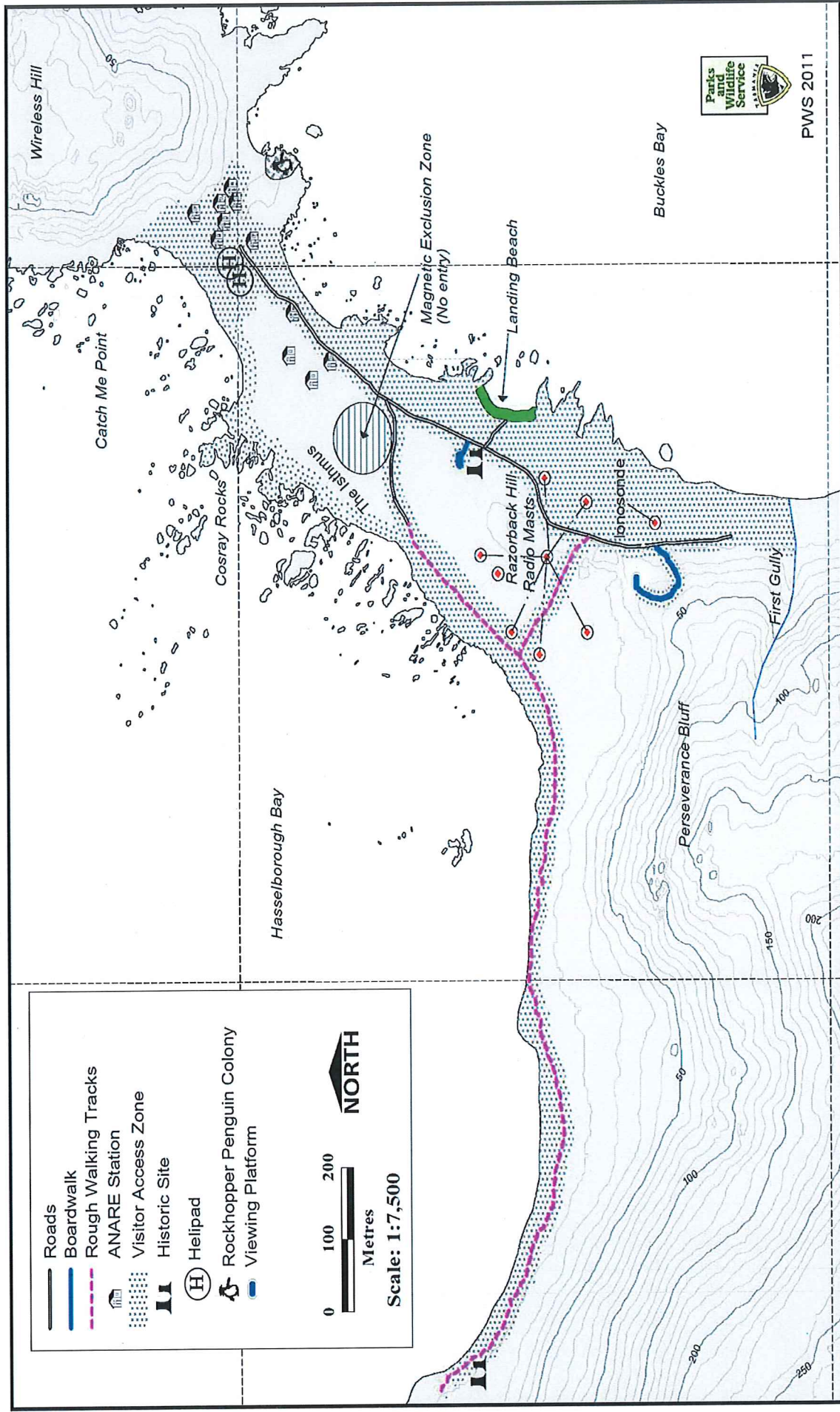


Sandy Bay Tourism Management Area



*Note that, subject to seasonal wildlife constraints, the Ranger-in-Charge may authorise access to some of the beach area south of Finch Creek*

## The Isthmus Tourism Management Area



*Note that, in the event of conditions precluding landings at the landing beach or Hasselborough Bay, the Ranger-in-Charge may authorise landings in either Garden Cove or the beach area south of First Gully*



## Lusitania Bay Tourism Management Area

