



Monday 1 May 2023

Penguin deaths at Hellyer Beach consistent with dog attack.

Council has been notified by the Parks and Wildlife Service about the recent deaths of two little penguins at Hellyer Beach.

The Penguins were discovered by a resident of Hellyer on 13 April. The resident notified the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

Investigations by Parks and Wildlife Officers and necropsy results from the lab have come back showing findings consistent with a dog attack.

Little penguins are the smallest of all the penguin species, weighing an average of one kilogram. They have no means to defend themselves from introduced predators such as dogs.

Signage is in place at Hellyer Beach detailing the restrictions and rules pertaining to dogs in this area. Dogs are welcome at this beach but must be on a lead.

Circular Head Mayor Gerard Blizzard said *“This is another very disappointing incident affecting our unique wildlife and I must remind people that signage is there for a reason. I urge every dog owner to take responsibility for their dogs, always follow the directions on signage and please be aware and respectful of the local wildlife.”*

Council’s Compliance Officer will continue with regular patrols of this area and infringement notices will be issued to dog owners for incidents of non-compliance.

Authorised for general media distribution by Gerard Blizzard, Mayor, Circular Head Council

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