

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS



Big Possum Beach rehabilitation project Beach Parking and Boat Launching

Dear Resident,

The Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (PAHSMA) is responsible for managing a large area of land between the historic site and Point Puer, and this includes the foreshore at Carnarvon Bay. This responsibility acknowledges the link between the main settlement, Brick Point (where all the bricks for the site were made) and Point Puer (the boys' prison).

Faced with the increasing impacts of erosion, we are writing to you to advise of some changes to management of the foreshore that will assist with protection of the beach for the whole community. Please be reassured that we are not closing the beach.

Following discussion with our Community Advisory Committee, we are introducing two measures that will change use of the beach by people launching a boat and/or parking on the beach. We understand this will affect a small group of users.

1. 'No Parking' restrictions will apply on all beaches along Carnarvon Bay, and this includes both Big and Little Possum Beaches.
2. Boat launching directly from the beach will be restricted to two access points at the western end of Big Possum Beach (see below). The two points will be retained to allow a trailer and car onto and off the beach. All other informal launch spots will be revegetated.

Parking and boat access restrictions will take effect from

Saturday 1 December 2018.

Contact us

We have provided some more information below, but if you have any queries please contact Jane Harrington, PAHSMA's Director, Conservation & Infrastructure, on 6251 2330 or jane.harrington@portarthur.org.au



More information

As part of PAHSMA's responsibility to be a best practice land manager, we commissioned a coastal geomorphology report in 2016 to assess the condition of the coastlines under our custodianship. That report identified a number of coastlines that are actively eroding. One of these is Big Possum Beach (commonly referred to as Carnarvon Bay Beach) which was classified as a 'high priority shore where erosion is starting to put nearby road infrastructure at risk'. While there have always been weather events that cause flooding of the road, these events are more frequent than they were 20 years ago and will continue to be so in coming years. This means that the shoreline today is more sensitive to damage and without vegetation to hold the sand in place, will erode more rapidly with every large sea. Unfortunately, if the current situation continues without some change it is likely that future storm events will cause greater damage to the beach without possibility of recovery. The loss of the beach would be a serious outcome for all current and future residents in Carnarvon Bay, and for others in the community.

As well as our Statutory Management Plan, PAHSMA has obligations under the *Nature Conservation Act, 2002*; the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act, 2002*; the *Tasmanian State Coastal Policy, 1996*, and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act, 1993*. These require us to provide for the protection, conservation and management of areas with significant ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic value, or with a significant likelihood of risk from a natural hazard.

While it is clear that most people are launching their boats from the two spots that will remain open, there are other areas that are starting to experience more frequent use and the number of access points has increased in recent years. Also, the presence of cars on the beach can be an obstacle and risk for beach users, many of whom are families with small children.

We hope that you will be able to help us in reaching our ultimate aim: a healthy shoreline that can continue to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike, while providing a reasonable safeguard against future erosion events.