

GUIDELINES for EDUCATIONAL TOURIST VISITS to MACQUARIE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE and WORLD HERITAGE AREA

(Latitude 54°30' South, Longitude 158°57' East)

2024/2025

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Macquarie Island Nature Reserve and World Heritage Area

Macquarie Island ('the Island') is a sub-Antarctic island, that is part of the Australian State of Tasmania, located approximately 1 500km south of the State. The Island and surrounding waters are protected by several overlapping, but complementary, reserved area designations, which are:

- The Macquarie Island Nature Reserve ('the Reserve') which covers the Island, the adjacent islets of 'Bishop and Clerk' and 'Judge and Clerk', and the coastal waters within 3 nautical miles of the island and islets.
- The Island's listing on the Register of the National Estate.
- The Macquarie Island World Heritage Area (WHA) which encompasses the Reserve, as well as the surrounding waters to a distance of 12 nautical miles.
- The adjacent Macquarie Island Marine Park, a Commonwealth Marine Reserve, which has recently been extended significantly and now applies from the nature reserve boundary and across the entire Australian Exclusive Economic Zone (200-nautical-mile limit).

The Reserve is subject to both Tasmanian and Australian Government legislation aimed at protecting its unique conservation significant values.

The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), a division of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment Tasmania, is the managing authority for the nature reserve and World Heritage Area. Day-to-day management of the Reserve is the responsibility of PWS under the provisions of the *Macquarie Island Nature Reserve and World Heritage Area Management Plan 2006* ('the Management Plan'). Management of the scientific station at the northern end of the Isthmus and the scientific research program are the responsibility of the Australian Antarctic Division ('AAD'), in accordance with the Management Plan.

Additional information about the reserves can be found here:

- For the Nature Reserve visit <http://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/macquarie-island-world-heritage-area>; and
- For the Commonwealth Marine Reserve visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves/south-east/macquarie-island/index.html>.

Macquarie Island Environment and conditions

Sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island is roughly located halfway between Tasmania and Antarctica. It is subject to the full force of the Southern Ocean. It is an isolated location where weather and sea conditions can be hazardous. There are no harbours or landing facilities, and all anchorages are exposed to adverse weather. Although more sheltered than the west coast, the east coast is still subject to severe storms which bring strong winds and high seas. Swell and shore breaks often make landings difficult.

Visiting the Reserve

Macquarie Island Nature Reserve is a restricted area under Regulation 18 of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019* and all visitors must have an Access Authority, or be accompanied by an authorised person, to enter or remain in the Reserve. The Management Plan also prohibits unauthorised access to the reserve.

Educational Tourist Visits

The Management Plan considers that limited educational tourism can provide benefits to promoting support for conservation of the reserve and its values. The aim of educational tourism is to safely provide a significant educational experience with minimal impact on the reserve values and its wildlife and flora. Educational tourism supports broader goals to raise awareness and knowledge of

high conservation value reserves, and thus encourage public support for conservation. This also aligns with the Tasmanian Government's [2030 Visitor Economy Strategy](#).

Controlled commercial educational tourism is allowed, under the supervision of PWS authorised officers, to three sites in the reserve (see maps in attachments 1, 2, and 3) that promote the appreciation, understanding and awareness of the unique conservation values of the reserve, while minimising human impacts.

An educational tourist visits quota has been established to manage potential environmental impacts to the unique values of the reserve. The PWS conducts an annual Expression of Interest (EOI) process to allow interested commercial educational tourist operators to submit a request for quota to visit the Island.

PWS charges all commercial Educational Tourist Operators a Visitor Impact Management Fee for each visitor allocated within the quota. 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.

All commercial Educational Tourist Operators, in addition to having an Access Authority, must also obtain a Business Licence under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* from the Director of National Parks and Wildlife ('the Director') for educational tourist visits to the Island.

The business licence outlines specific conditions that apply, and must be adhered to, for educational tourist visits in order to protect the high conservation values of the island. The greatest risk to the reserve's values from educational tourism is risk of introduction of alien species and pathogens, thus strict biosecurity protocols apply to all educational tourist visits to the Island. These and other conditions (ie. minimal impact and safety requirements) for the protection of the reserve's values are outlined in this document.

Educational Tourist Visits Quota

Educational Tourists Visits quota

- Up to 12 Ships, with up to 2,000 Visitors in total, can enter the Reserve per financial year for the purpose of undertaking commercial Shore Visits;
- Up to three (3) Ships can enter the Reserve per financial year for the purpose of conducting Small Boat Cruising only Visits (no Shore Visits) to occur offshore at Lusitania Bay only; and
- Up to two (2) Yachts can enter the Reserve per financial year for the purpose of undertaking Shore Visits (including non-commercial trips).

It is likely that Shore Visits will not include a tour of the station area as has occurred in the past, despite it being part of the isthmus Tourism Management Area. This is an ongoing COVID-19 precaution for the expeditioners living and working on the island, as well as the likely Macquarie Island Station Modernisation construction works that may be underway during visits. It is likely that any interactions with island-based personnel will be subject to COVID-19 precautions that include masks and distancing.

Ships carrying more than two hundred (200) Visitors will not be allowed to enter the reserve.

It is preferred that all educational tourist visits occur between late November and the end of February.

The Educational Tourist Visits quota is subject to periodic review and may change for future seasons. Establishment of the quota takes into account: biosecurity precautions, the results of island environmental impacts monitoring; changes to visitor quotas for the New Zealand subantarctic islands; and impacts of Educational Tourist Visits on PWS and AAD operations and the AAD scientific station.

Multi-year quota

Of the above quota, up to six (6) Ships per financial year are eligible for multi-year business licences, up to a maximum of three (3) years. A single educational tourist operator is eligible for a maximum of three Ship visits per financial year for a multi-year license. The remaining quota is allocated annually (based on an Australian financial year).

Educational tourist operators may apply for both multi-year and annual quota. For instance, a single operator may apply for 3 Ships per year for a 3-year license and may apply for quota for an additional two Ships for the upcoming financial year. However, operators must demonstrate a history of visitation over multiple years.

Successful operators will be required to submit their final schedule and visitor numbers for the upcoming season prior to PWS conducting the annual EOI process (anticipated to be conducted during the first half of each calendar year).

Successful operators for multi-year licences will be required to review licence conditions each year and ensure conformance with these guidelines, which are updated annually to account for any additional management or mitigation issues that arise. A process will be established by PWS to facilitate discussions where there may be concerns about compliance, including with the licence conditions, the Authority conditions, the guidelines, and relevant operational expectations.

Small boat only cruising vs ship to shore cruising

Small Boat Cruising only quota is available to commercial Educational Tourist Operators seeking a more time-efficient visit with no Shore Visits. These are to be conducted offshore at Lusitania Bay only, in accordance with designated Tourism Management Areas (see attachment 3), directions from PWS rangers on island and the business license conditions. Shore Visits are not permitted with this type of quota allocation (i.e. this quota allocation cannot be used by Ships that have obtained Shore Visits quota).

For those Ships that have Shore Visits quota, small boat transfers between the ship and the shore (and return) can involve some very limited additional boat-based viewing in line with established practices, and as endorsed by the PWS ranger or authorised officer. Boat-based viewing will be considered where reasonable and not likely to be problematic for management of visits or cause disturbance to values. The small boat locations must be consistent with the onshore boundaries of the Tourism Management Areas. It is strongly preferred that boat-based viewing occurs between the ship and the shore (or return) for only one transfer per location that is visited at Macquarie Island.

Quota allocation

Interested parties, must submit a compliant Expression of Interest application, which includes a statement addressing the Selection Criteria, to be considered for quota allocation. Quota is allocated based on merit (assessed by response to selection criteria) and ability to provide a compliant application and meet the provisions of minimal impact requirements, biosecurity protocols and safety requirements.

Quota that has been allocated cannot be reallocated, sold or transferred. Commercial Educational Tourist Operators pay the Visitor Impact Management Fee for each visitor allocation, even if that allocation is not used.

Expression of Interest process

Interested commercial Educational Tourist Operators must supply a compliant EOI application and meet mandatory criteria in order to be considered for an allocation of quota for single or multi-year business licenses. PWS evaluates applications and allocates available quota based on compliance and merits of the application (including the statement addressing the selection criteria) and ability meet minimal impact, biosecurity and safety requirements.

Guides

Macquarie Island is a remote and rugged place with many safety hazards, particularly when managing groups of visitors. Educational Tourist Operators guiding staff provide a key role in educating tourists about the values of the reserve, safety requirements and minimising impacts. It is preferable that guides are skilled and experienced to provide a high-quality educational product, have relevant experience on Macquarie Island or other sub-Antarctic islands, and have suitable qualifications for operating small boats in the challenging Macquarie Island coastal environment.

Mandatory conditions

- Must be a current member of the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) for entire term of business license.
- Vessel must visit a recognised Australian or New Zealand port prior to entering the reserve.
- Must support a PWS authorised Government Observer onboard the vessel, at no cost to PWS, whilst in transit to and within the reserve.
- Ships must carry less than two hundred passengers.

Selection criteria and the associated weighting for evaluation

1. Clearly demonstrate an understanding of biosecurity risks and how the operator manages them before and during the visit to Macquarie Island. Include any relevant protocols, facilities, and gear on board to conduct inspections, and biosecurity measures for the ship and small boats (including in port prior to departure, during the voyage and at the reserve). (20%)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of Macquarie Island's unique environment and conservation values and what mitigations are in place to reduce the impact of the operator's visit and visitors to the environment and values, including when anchored, when using small boats, and when on shore. (20%)
3. Demonstrate adherence to strict safety guidelines and the degree of self-reliance in such matters, including regarding the use of small boats in the challenging Macquarie Island conditions. (15%)
4. Describe the operator's educational tourism ethos and program, including specialities of guides, information presented to visitors, seminars, and messaging and communications to educate the visitors. Demonstrate the skills and competencies that the company requires of the guiding staff to ensure that they help deliver a safe and educational experience for visitors. Provide a list of tourism qualifications and accreditations for the company and staff. (15%)
5. Demonstrate how the operation benefits the State of Tasmania and the management and conservation of the Macquarie Island Nature Reserve and World Heritage Area. (10%)
6. Demonstrate the ability of the operator to be flexible with operating timetables due to weather constraints or timing clashes with AAD shipping or other vessels. (10%)
7. Provide evidence of past performance in this or related operations. In this, PWS reserves the right to consider known past performance of the operator and previous interactions, including Macquarie Island Ranger in Charge ('the Ranger in Charge') or ship-based government representative observations and reports, as well as company history of submitting the required reports and documentation to PWS or providing notification on incidents to PWS. (10%)

Additional selection criteria to be addressed if applying for multi-year quota and business license.

1. Demonstrate proven capacity to deliver high quality and safe educational experiences to Macquarie Island, with a history of visitation over multiple years and a good reputation for

adhering to all standards, requirements, and license conditions for visits to the reserve, and working effectively with reserve management staff.

Ensure requests for anticipated visit dates and visitor numbers are clearly defined in the documentation submitted as part of the compliant application (see point 1 below).

Compliant application

Only compliant applications will be accepted and evaluated by PWS. A PWS evaluation panel will assess applications based on the weighted selection criteria. Prospective operators should be aware that they may not be allocated any or all visits applied for, and that they may have to change their proposed visit dates to avoid date clashes with other visits or for other operational reasons.

A compliant application must include the following documentation:

1. Preferred visit dates, number of Visitors per visit, and type of visit requested (ie Shore Visit or Small Boat Cruising Only). Please indicate if AAD Station visits would be requested.

Where requesting for annual quota and multi-year quota, clearly differentiate between the two and include the length of term requested for multi-year quota. Ensure adherence to the quota requirements above (i.e. multi-year is only for up to three Ships per annum for up to a three year term).

2. Vessel information, including small boats to be used in the reserve.
3. Originating port and proposed stops prior to entering the Reserve.
4. Statement demonstrating the mandatory criteria are met.
5. Statement addressing the Selection Criteria.
6. The following business information:
 - a. ASIC Registration (for international companies)
 - b. Business postal address and contact details.
 - c. Names and positions of company officers permitted to sign licences.
7. Any other required information and documentation listed in the Expression of Interest document.

The document [Request for Expression of Interest \(EOI\) for commercial educational tourism visits to Macquarie Island commencing the 2024-2025 season](#) for additional information on the process. The is the formal document outlining the process and is updated annually.

Conditions of entry to Macquarie Island Nature Reserve and World Heritage Area to conduct Educational Tourist Visits

All Educational Tourist Operators must have:

- An Educational Tourist Visit Access Authority to enter Macquarie Island Nature Reserve for themselves, their vessel and their passengers.
- A current allocation of Educational Tourists Visits quota from PWS.
- A current PWS Business License that enables them to conduct tours on land managed by PWS.

The conditions listed here inform the basic PWS business license conditions and Educational Tourist Visit Access Authority that apply to all visits for educational tourism operations within the Macquarie Island Nature Reserve and World Heritage Area.

These guidelines apply to all Ships (commercial and non-commercial) conducting Educational Tourist Visits irrespective of the number of Visitors they carry.

Enquiries about these guidelines should be forwarded to the Macquarie Island Executive Officer, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (Macquarie.Island@parks.tas.gov.au).

Where operators hold a multi-year license, the license conditions will be reviewed each year to ensure continued adherence with these guidelines, which are reviewed annually and capture new or emerging environmental, operational or management issues identified by PWS or AAD for Macquarie Island. Alterations may be captured in a licence variation or other method.

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.

Definitions

Under these guidelines:

- 'Crew' means all persons employed or engaged to work on the Ship in any capacity whatsoever;
- 'Government Observer' means a government representative who is on every Educational Tourist Visit voyage, at no cost to the Tasmanian Government. PWS and the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC) run a joint government observer program to monitor tourism and compliance with approvals and permits for the sub-Antarctic Islands of both countries.
- 'Ship' means the vessel approved to go to 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 are 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 passengers.

Conditions

1. General

- 1.1. As a condition of the Educational Tourist Visits approval, the Director will require that a Government Observer (authorised by PWS) travels onboard (at no cost to the Director) the Ship for guiding, biosecurity training and/or audit purposes.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. All Australian Government customs and immigration (<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>) requirements are to be met.

- 1.4. Foreign companies wishing to conduct tours to Macquarie Island must provide a Certificate of Registration of a Foreign Company as per the *Corporations Act 2001* (Commonwealth) before a Business Licence for visits can be issued under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. Under Part 5B.2 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), a foreign company may only carry on a business in Australia if it is registered or has an application pending. Failure to obtain and provide to the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service all the necessary business registration certificates by 1st September 2024 may result in forfeiture of visitor quota.
- 1.5. The Director reserves the right to limit the number of Educational Tourist Visits, number of Visitors and duration of each Educational Tourist Visit to the Island each season and/or Shore Visits in any one day. Visit conditions may be modified and visits may be restricted or cancelled at any time as part of the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic or any other infectious disease management response.
- 1.6. Any requests for variations to the conditions of Tourist Visit authorities must be referred, in writing, to the Macquarie Island Executive Officer. Records of any variation must be included in the company's end of season report.

2. Fees and insurance requirements

- 2.1. A Visitor Impact Management Fee will be levied for each Visitor allocation (even if that allocation is not used) aboard any Ship, whether commercial or non-commercial. The 2023-2024 season Visitor Impact Management Fee was AUD \$448.42 per person (inclusive of GST). Note that the Visitor Impact Management Fee is indexed annually in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index for Hobart for June. The Director may require that Visitor Impact Management Fees are paid prior to any visits taking place.
- 2.2. 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 Educational Tourist Visits irrespective of the number of Visitors they carry.

3. Conducting educational tours

- 3.1. Only one Educational Tourist Visit will be permitted to visit the Island at a time. If proposals for two or more Educational 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 provide direction as to cancellation or re-scheduling of visits.
- 3.2. Contact must be made with the Ranger in Charge at Macquarie Island at least 48 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the Island to discuss visit intentions based on weather considerations, receive updates from the island, and other relevant visit parameters. Contact details will be provided in the Access Authority.
- 3.3. In order to minimise Educational Tourist Visit impacts on island personnel:
 - 3.3.1. each Educational Tourist Visit will be allocated a period of up to two days during which Shore Visits may take place.
 - 3.3.2. each Educational Tourist Visit to the Reserve will be separated, where possible, by a period of at least one day from the next visit;
 - 3.3.3. Shore Visits proposed for Sundays may be refused or rescheduled.
- 3.4. 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 (attachments 1 and 2). Shore Visits may only occur at one site at

a time and are not allowed unless PWS staff (or PWS approved representatives) are present on-site.

- 3.5. When ashore, Visitor groups are to be organised into groups of no more than 15 people, each of which must include one designated 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 (or delegate)).
- 3.6. 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. The number of Crew and non-guiding Staff to be brought ashore during any landing must first be approved by the Ranger in Charge. When ashore, Staff and Crew will be subject to the same conditions as apply to Visitors (including limits to the total number of Visitors on shore – see 4.8) and are to be organised into the same groups of no more than 15 people, each of which must include one designated Staff guide.
- 3.7. No diving activities will be conducted within the Reserve during Educational Tourist Visits except in emergencies. All proposals for snorkelling activities require the prior approval of the Director.
- 3.8. No kayaking or drone activities will be conducted within the Reserve during Educational Tourist Visits. All proposals for these activities require the prior approval of the Director.
- 3.9. The Ranger in Charge or the Station Leader may cancel Shore Visits at any time.
- 3.10. At least two operable Small Boats of the type agreed to in 3.11 must be in the water while Ship/shore and/or small boat only 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 only offshore cruising operations will be permitted during the period between sunset and sunrise.
- 3.11. The type of Small Boats used during each Educational Tourist Visit may only be varied with the prior written authority of the Macquarie Island Executive Officer.
- 3.12. All Visitors, Crew and Staff taking part in Ship-to-shore or Small Boat only offshore cruising operations must be wearing at a minimum a Personal Flotation Device that meets Australian Standard AS4758 or the International Standard Organisation equivalent.
- 3.13. 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 Australian Antarctic Program (AAP) Expeditioners.

4. Protection of the environment and reserve values

- 4.1. All Visitors, Staff and Crew entering the Reserve are bound by the *Tasmanian National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019* and the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021*. Visitors, Staff and Crew shall comply with any direction given by the PWS Ranger in Charge and/or an authorised person (including any ship-based PWS authorised Government Observer), under the above regulations.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. All Educational 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.

- 4.4. Ship lighting must be minimised at night in order to reduce the possibility of bird strikes. Records of bird strikes must be maintained and included in the company's end of season report.
- 4.5. No collection or disturbance of flora, fauna, historical sites, artefacts, geological specimens or objects is permitted.
- 4.6. No fishing is permitted within the Reserve.
- 4.7. Except during an emergency, helicopters may not be used from a Ship within three nautical miles of the Island without written permission of the Director. Any emergency operations must be reported to the Director as soon as possible and included in the company's end of season report.
- 4.8. 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 (or delegate), 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.
- 4.9. Small Boats shall not exceed a speed of five knots when within 60 metres of the shoreline or another Small Boat or Ship.
- 4.10. 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. Small Boats must not be used in the vicinity of the main access channels at penguin colonies (within 20m either side), including the loading, disembarking or transport of Visitors or personnel.
- 4.11. All refilling of fuel tanks for Small Boats must take place on-board the parent Ship.
- 4.12. The *Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2017* will apply.
- 4.13. 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 20 metres 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.

5. Biosecurity

- 5.1. All Australian Government biosecurity (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity>), requirements are to be met.
- 5.2. Visit Organisers must ensure that Visitors, Staff and Crew are aware of, and observe all of the following biosecurity procedures designed to prevent exotic species being taken ashore in landing transport, equipment, materials or clothing:
 - 5.2.1. No animals, live plants or soil may be brought into the Reserve, and all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that any clothing or equipment or materials brought onto the Island are free of rodents, soil, seeds, plant material, invertebrates or pathogens.
 - 5.2.2. No food (other than the required emergency food as per 7.2) is to be brought ashore or consumed in Small Boats.
 - 5.2.3. No food items are to be given to wildlife.
 - 5.2.4. Any biosecurity issues must be included in the company's end of season report.
- 5.3. Visit Organisers should ensure that Staff are given training and practice in clothing, footwear and equipment biosecurity screening procedures prior to any Staff, Visitor and

Crew biosecurity screening taking place. Discussion with the on-board PWS authorised Government Observer about the screening protocols and procedures are to be held prior to conducting the screening.

- 5.4. Prior to arriving at the Reserve, all Visitors, Staff and Crew intending to go ashore must have all of their Shore Visit clothing, footwear and equipment (daypacks, camera bags, tripods, walking poles, etc) undergo biosecurity screening (and cleaning if required) to ensure that it is free of rodents, soil, seeds, plant material, invertebrates or pathogens. Special attention must be given to ensuring that no soil, seeds or invertebrates are lodged in velcro fixtures or in pockets, cuffs or crevices.
- 5.5. Visit Organisers must record attendance at all Visitors, Staff and Crew biosecurity screening sessions and provide such records to PWS upon request.
- 5.6. A fit-for-purpose biosecurity screening area is to be provided on the Ship. This area should: have good lighting; not be carpeted (so that any potentially contaminated materials such as seeds or insect frass/eggs can be identified and retrieved); not be used for other purposes during biosecurity screening sessions.
- 5.7. The following biosecurity inspection equipment must be provided for all screening sessions: tweezers (for picking seeds from fabrics and mesh), fine-toothed metal combs (for removing seeds and dirt from Velcro fixtures), plastic zip-lock bags (for specimen collection), and vacuum cleaners (for sucking dirt and other material from pockets and cuffs).
- 5.8. Footwear and equipment washdown stations (equipped with scrubbing brushes to remove all dirt and a disinfectant bath using a broad-spectrum disinfectant such as: 'F10SC'™; 'Virkon'™; or 'Trigene'™ to kill soil pathogens) must be provided and be used by all Visitors, Staff and Crew going ashore prior to, and after, each Shore Visit. The disinfectant bath must be refreshed daily.

6. Ship and Small Boat Biosecurity:

- 6.1. 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 Director of Ship hull cleanliness demonstrating that the Ship is free of marine invasive species.
- 6.2. Effective rat guards must be fitted to mooring lines when alongside at any port prior to entering the Reserve.
- 6.3. Mooring lines or any other lines cannot be run to the shore at any time and Ships should anchor at least 1,000m 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.
- 6.4. A network of rodent (either poison bait and/or break-back trap) stations must be installed in high-risk areas of the Ship (in close proximity to ambient food storage areas, food preparation, serving and dining areas, and passenger cabins). Records of station inspection and servicing should be kept and made available to PWS on request. Inspection of this network by the on-board PWS authorised Government Observer may be required prior to a landing at the island being approved.
- 6.5. The interior and exterior areas of the Ship must be checked for the presence of any exotic species (such as rodents, invertebrates, or birds) or organic material (such as dirt or leaves) prior to entering the Reserve.
- 6.6. Visit Organisers must ensure that invertebrate trapping and response materials are installed and maintained on board the Ship as follows:
 - 6.6.1. insect traps and/or stations (sticky traps, fly traps, bug zappers) targeting flying (such as blowflies) insects and crawling insects must be installed and maintained in

close proximity to food preparation and dining areas for at least 48 hours prior to entering the Reserve and then be checked just before entry to the Reserve;

- 6.6.2. there must be at least two cans of aerosol insect spray and two cans of surface insect spray available on-board Ship to dispatch any invertebrates observed on-board before entering the Reserve;
- 6.6.3. on-board environmental briefings for passengers should include information about invertebrate risks, detection and reporting;
- 6.7. Small Boats used for ship-to-shore operations must be checked for the presence of rodents, soil, seeds, plant material, invertebrates, or organic material prior to the commencement of any Ship-to-shore operations.
- 6.8. If any exotic species or organic materials posing a biosecurity risk are detected, an elimination or containment response must be initiated, and the Ranger in Charge and the Macquarie Island Executive Officer must be advised as soon as possible. This information must be included in the end of season report to the PWS.
- 6.9. 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.
- 6.10. All Commonwealth legislation in regard to the prevention of pollution from Ships within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone must be complied with.

7. Safety

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. At least one Staff member from each shore party must be qualified in remote or wilderness first aid and hypothermia management techniques.
- 7.4. Visit Organisers must ensure that Visitors, Crew and Staff are suitably briefed on safety requirements and are appropriately clothed and shod.
- 7.5. All shore parties are to be in two-way radio communication with the Ship and to the PWS Ranger in Charge (or delegate).
- 7.6. 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.
- 7.7. 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.
- 7.8. The following maximum allowable parameters for Small Boat operations will apply when AAP Expeditioners (including PWS Staff) are being transported:

PARAMETER	Inflatable Rubber Boat / Rigid Inflatable Boat
¹ 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

¹ 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 sub-Antarctic 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.

8. AAD and Station visits

- 8.1. Only with the written permission from the AAD (Operations Manager), via the Macquarie Island Executive Officer, may an Educational Tourist Visit take place within five days of a ship visiting the Reserve for AAD resupply purposes. Educational Tourist Visits shall not coincide with an Australian public holiday (such as Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day or Australia Day), except with approval in writing by the Macquarie Island Executive Officer. Visit Organisers should make themselves aware of changes to the AAD's shipping schedule by accessing the AAD website (<http://www.antarctica.gov.au/>).
- 8.2. It is likely that Shore Visits will not include a tour of the station area (i.e. exterior of the buildings area to the north of Tip Road), despite it being part of the Isthmus Tourism Management Area. This is an ongoing COVID-19 precaution for the expeditioners living and working on the island, as well as due to the likely Macquarie Island Station Modernisation Project construction works that may be underway during visits. Station visits or tours for a small number of visitors are sometimes requested – these are generally discouraged by PWS due to the potential disruption to the visit and imposition on the visit operations. Any variation to standard Educational Tourist Visit to the Isthmus Tourism Management Area requires written permission from the AAD (Operations Manager), via the Macquarie Island Executive Officer. It is likely that any interactions with island-based personnel will be subject to ongoing COVID-19 precautions that include masks and distancing.
- 8.3. AAD communication (internet access, telephone, etc) is not available for use by Visitors, Crew or Staff. No postal services are available due to the station restrictions outlined above (8.2).
- 8.4. 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 Ranger in Charge and details included in the end of season report to the PWS.
- 8.5. No cargo, mail or any other goods (except for the accompanied personal effects of approved Australian Antarctic Program expeditioners) may be taken to the Island without the prior written approval of the AAD.

Reporting

The Director will require a written report on the Educational Tourist Visits from the Visit Organisers each season. The report is required within two months of the Educational Tourist Visits taking place (or final Educational Tourist Visits if multiple Educational Tourist Visits are undertaken in a season). The report must include:

- 1.1. Summary of visitors, guides and crew landed on each voyage;
- 1.2. Any biosecurity issues identified through the season;

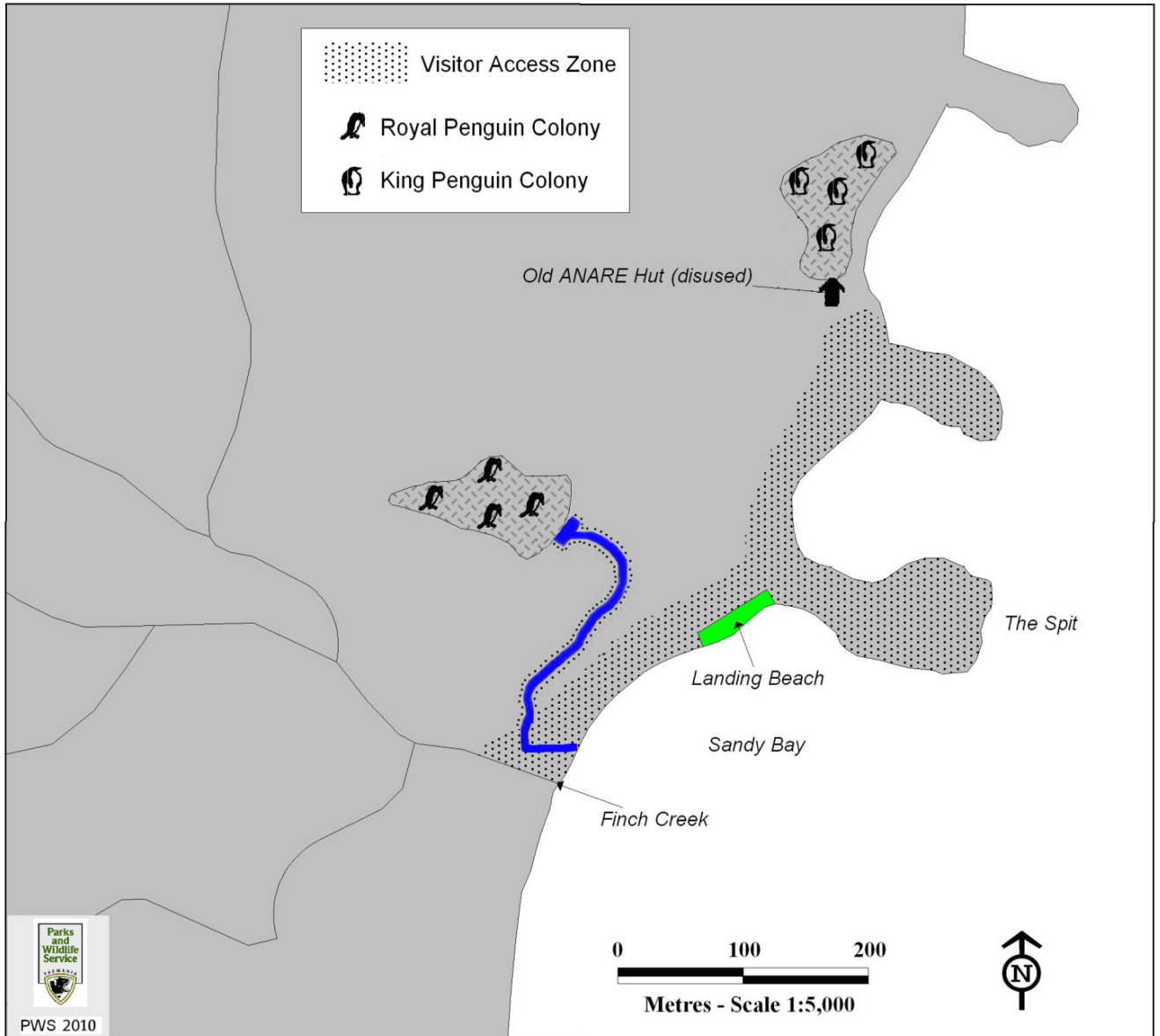
- 1.3. Any safety incidents or emergency operations relating to Macquarie Island;
- 1.4. Any environmental issues identified during the season (including any bird strikes);
- 1.5. Any requests for variations to the conditions of Tourist Visit authorities; and
- 1.6. Any other reporting requirements mentioned in these guidelines.

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.

Attachment 1

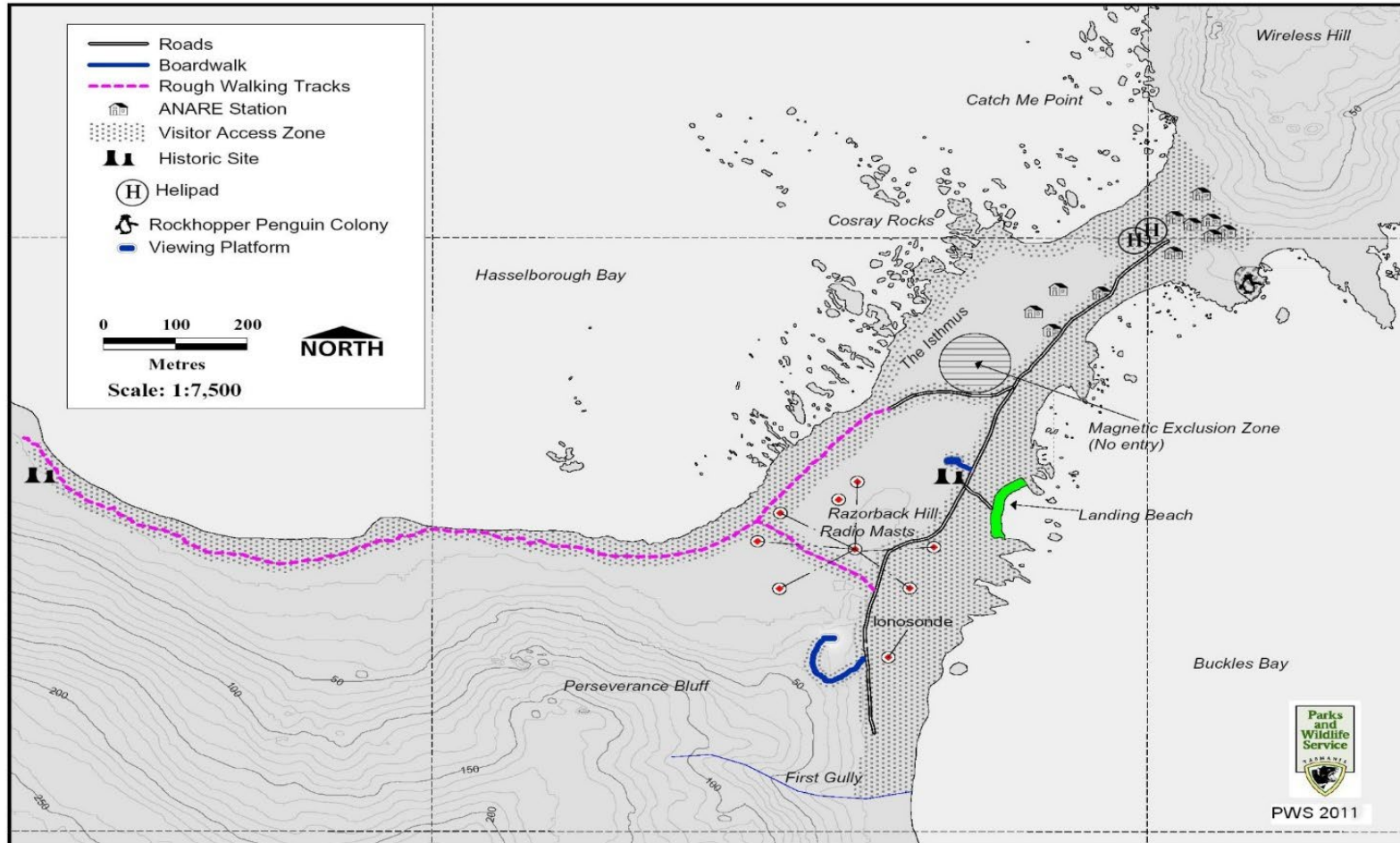
Sandy Bay Tourism Management Area



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

Attachment 2

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.

Attachment 3

Lusitania Bay Tourism Management Area

