

Immediate action taken to protect Rockingham's little penguins

- State Government takes action to protect vulnerable population of little penguins
- Penguin Island visitation to be restricted during high temperatures, with annual seasonal closure of the island to be extended by at least four weeks

The State Government will take immediate steps to protect vulnerable little penguins at Penguin Island, following a concerning decline in their population.

Starting this summer, **Penguin Island will be closed to the public on the hottest days of the year and during the extended breeding season to protect the population.**

Details of the changes include:

- when the forecast maximum temperature for Penguin Island is 35 degrees or higher, the island will be closed or only partially opened;
- hot weather management to keep penguins cooler, additional water sources, increased signage and restricted access zones;
- increased monitoring of eight knot speed limit zones around Penguin Island and Shoalwater Bay; and
- increased weed management and rehabilitation efforts to maximise the native vegetation habitat for penguins.

Comments attributed to Environment and Climate Action Minister Reece Whitby:

"The health and welfare of the little penguins is our number one priority when considering how best to plan for the future of Penguin Island.

"I understand the decision will disappoint some and reduce the number of days that people can visit the island, but I believe the community will support measures to protect this vulnerable population of penguins, which are being impacted by a changing climate.

"The McGowan Government is committed to continue working with the City of Rockingham, commercial tour operators, researchers and the community to help protect penguin colonies on Penguin and Garden Islands.

For any complaints, please contact

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