



Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

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www.parks.tas.gov.au



Dear Sir/Madam,

COVID-19: Closure of Parks and Wildlife Service national parks and reserves

Following further directives from the Tasmanian Government for the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has taken the difficult decision to close all of Tasmania's national parks and reserves dedicated under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* to the public. Wellington Park is also included in the closures.

Hunting, fishing, skiing, camping and all other recreational activities, as well as tourism related commercial activities (huts, hotels, tours, guiding, transport services) are now closed on Reserved land and Future Potential Production Forest land (FPPFL).

The health and well-being of visitors and staff is Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service's (PWS) highest priority in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The closures will contribute to the Government's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 through our community. It is consistent with the advice that we should all limit non-essential travel.

The closure took effect just before midnight Thursday 26 March. Implementation of the closures will commence as soon as practicable thereafter. PWS staff will be erecting closure signs and providing visitors with key information from Friday 27 March.

The closure is not intended to close access or operations of primary producers, and we understand that food and honey production, agricultural, and aquacultural commerce are important activities.

If an organisation, business or operator has a valid authority (e.g. holds a current licence issued by the PWS to have bee hives on PWS managed land or undertake collection of natural materials for food production (e.g. pepper berry harvesting) or for aquaculture purposes), then they may continue to operate in accordance with such authority for primary production purposes, provided that any other applicable COVID-19 requirements such as social distancing and hygiene measures, are complied with.

I fully appreciate the significance of these measures and the impact that it may have on your organisation, club, business or industry. These are extraordinary measures that have been taken in unprecedented times.

It would be of great assistance for our PWS staff and law enforcement agencies if the primary producer could, if requested, produce a copy of their authority while in the field (e.g. the lease, licence or letter of authority), so that if required they can easily gain access to their operations area. If the primary producer doesn't have a copy of their authority they may contact PropertyServices@parks.tas.gov.au to request an electronic version.

The PWS web page at www.parks.tas.gov.au contains more detailed information around the closures and I would encourage you to continue checking the website for alerts and updates.

Please be aware that if your business or a member of your associations business has been impacted by this decision resulting from COVID-19 directives, you/they are encouraged to contact Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 to discuss your/their situation and register your/their impact.

Yours sincerely

Jason Jacobi
GENERAL MANAGER
PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

27 March 2020