



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 February 2019

Point Impossible Shorebird Protection Zone to continue

Following a successful one-year trial of a dog on lead zone at Point Impossible, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) have decided to make the zone permanent.

The protection zone was introduced following a community petition in 2017 calling for the protection of the critical shorebird site at Point Impossible. The site is important to migratory shorebirds from around the world as well as to our own threatened hooded plovers.

Dogs are one of the biggest threats to hooded plover chick survival and with only four known breeding sites along GORCC managed land, hooded plovers require human assistance for survival.

Other known species of bird that use the beach as a feeding and resting area are red capped plovers, double banded plovers, cormorants, terns and red necked stints.

GORCC's Coastal Reserves Manager Caleb Hurrell said the shorebird protection zone was established to reduce the impact of dogs, horses and humans on shorebird habitat while educating the community on shorebird conservation and dune ecosystems.

"We are asking all dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead between Thompsons Creek at Point Impossible and the southwest extent of the nudist beach. We are also asking horse-riders, who are allowed to ride in this area with a permit, to stay well below the high tide mark."

The off lead dog area between Deep Creek and the southwest edge of the nudist beach will remain an off lead area throughout the year.

All access points to the area have been signposted to reflect the change in regulation.

Fines for disobeying dog regulations apply.

For further information about the protection zone, visit www.gorcc.com.au. For more information on the hooded plover and other shorebirds or to become a volunteer email hoodedplover@birdlife.org.au or visit www.birdlife.org.au/beach.

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