



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New temporary dog exclusion zone introduced to protect plover chicks

A temporary dog exclusion zone will be introduced at Moggs Creek following several incidents involving dogs disturbing hooded plover nest sites.

Based on current nesting activity, the temporary dog exclusion zone will be introduced by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) as soon as the current hooded plover eggs at Moggs Creek hatch. Additional zones will be declared at areas where and when other hooded plover chicks hatch, with Whites Beach in Torquay likely to be next.

Hooded plover chicks have one of the lowest survival rates of any species in the world at just 2.5% and are listed as threatened under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

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.

Friends of the Hooded Plover Surf Coast (FoHPSC) volunteers have been working tirelessly to monitor nest sites and guard the chicks every day during the nesting season, alongside regular patrols by GORCC's conservation team.

FoHPSC Regional Coordinator Sue Guinness is asking the community for their cooperation during the breeding season. "Breeding zones are an extremely important habitat for the hoodies. We ask that all beach-users observe the exclusion zones to give chicks the best chance of survival".

GORCC will support the introduction of the exclusion zone with voluntary compliance patrols and additional resources to educate the public at the affected area.

For more information on the Hooded Plover or to become a volunteer email hoodedplover@birdlife.org.au or visit www.birdlife.org.au/beach.

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