



GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6 January 2020

Exclusion zones introduced to protect plover chicks

Temporary dog exclusion zones will be introduced at Fairhaven and Whites Beach after two hooded plover chicks hatched over the weekend.

The temporary exclusion zones will be introduced by the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) and be supported with voluntary compliance patrols and additional resources to educate the public at the affected areas.

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 1999*. Dogs are one of the biggest threats to hooded plover chick survival.

With only five known breeding sites along the GORCC managed land, hooded plovers require human assistance for survival. Breeding zones are an extremely important habitat for the hoodies and we ask that all beach-users observe the exclusion zones to give chicks the best chance of 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.

Regular hooded plover breeding sites along the Surf Coast include Point Roadknight, Whites Beach, Point Impossible, Painkalac Estuary and Moggs Creek.

Additional zones will be declared at areas where and when other hooded plover chicks hatch.

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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