

MEDIA RELEASE

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Council votes to stop public camping at Boat Harbour

Boat Harbour Beach is now a day-use only area after Waratah-Wynyard Council voted at the August meeting to ban overnight parking and camping on public reserves.

Extensive community consultation and recommendations from several key strategic reports led to Council's decision to prioritise local safety and amenity and maximise opportunities for day-use of the popular holiday spot.

Council also voted in favour of the Boat Harbour Beach Masterplan, which will provide a blueprint for the management of public spaces around the beach area and the provision of supporting infrastructure and development.

"Boat Harbour is one of the most magnificent, pristine parts of Tasmania," Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said.

"It is an important residential and visitor hub for the North-West Coast but there have been challenges arising from seasonal fluctuations in visitation and usage and the limited land available to cater for the increase in demand from visitors," Mayor Walsh said.

Coordinator of the North-West Tasmanian branch of the Campervan & Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) Garry Love, supports the decision by Council to ban public camping at Boat Harbour Beach.

"Public camping at Boat Harbour was becoming unmanageable and I understand why this decision has been made. CMCA and Waratah-Wynyard Council have a tremendous relationship and I've been working closely with the Mayor looking at alternative sites. CMCA members love visiting Wynyard and surrounds – especially around Tulip Festival time."

Mayor Walsh also acknowledged the contribution caravaners and campers make to the local economy.

"Caravans, motorhomes and campers are a big part of our bread and butter in this municipality – and we appreciate that – but we have a closely populated residential area at Boat Harbour Beach and the safety and amenity of the local community and the increasing numbers of day visitors wanting to enjoy the space also had to be considered.

"With the new Masterplan we believe the vision for the area will still cater for tourism but in a sustainable way."

New signage has been erected this week at the top of Port Rd and Boat Harbour Beach advising visitors of the changes.

Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Waratah Wynyard Council

21 Saunders Street (PO Box 168) Wynyard Tasmania 7325

P: (03) 6443 8333 | F: (03) 6443 8383 | E: council@warwyn.tas.gov.au