



tasmanian conservation trust inc

The Editor
The Mercury

28 December 2011

Arthur-Pieman four-wheel driving: Minister Wightman breaks promise and fails to close tracks

The Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage Brian Wightman has failed to deliver on a promise made to the TCT at a meeting on 24 November 2011 to close some of the off-road vehicle tracks in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area before Christmas 2011.

Most people visiting the Arthur-Pieman during Christmas and New Year have obtained their permits and no additional restrictions have been put in place compared with last year – not a single track has been closed.

The Parks and Wildlife Service recommend closing 38 tracks in its April 2010 report and the off-road vehicle groups agreed with closing most of these. So we are at a loss to understand why the Minister cannot at least close tracks where everyone is in agreement.

The Minister's inaction will mean that hundreds of vehicles, with permits from the Parks and Wildlife Service, will continue to drive through middens and other Aboriginal sites as they head to Sandy Cape or to access Arthur's Beach and other areas. This is government licenced destruction of Aboriginal heritage.

Permitted vehicles will also continue to disturb threatened species such as the little and fairy tern as these birds attempt to nest on beaches of the Arthur-Pieman.

The assessment of recreational driving in the Arthur-Pieman has been under investigation for three years and in this time not a single track has been closed. It is time for unsustainable tracks to be closed Minister.

Peter McGlone
Director
0406 380 545

