



**tasmanian conservation trust inc**

## **Media Release**

9 February 2012

### **Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area four-wheel driving: Minister Wightman fails to protect most significant sites**

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust today expressed its disappointment that the state government has cherry-picked a small number of off-road vehicle tracks to close in the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area - most of which the off-road vehicle users agree with closing - and has left most natural and heritage sites open to continued damage.

"The Minister has made a contradictory decision by closing a small number of tracks while keeping open many other tracks which have the same or greater values" said TCT Director Peter McGlone.

"The Minister's compromised and contradictory decision 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 many other areas".

"This is government licenced destruction of Aboriginal heritage."

"The state government has wrongly and arrogantly decided, without the approval of the Aboriginal community, that many of their heritage sites can continue to be destroyed by off-road vehicles."

"Permitted vehicles will also continue to disturb birds such as the hooded plover and the threatened little and fairy terns as they attempt to nest on Arthurs Beach, Kenneth Bay and south of Sandy Cape", Mr McGlone concluded.

The TCT calls on the Minister Brian Wightman to put in place a moratorium to prevent all vehicle use of disputed tracks - those tracks which cross Aboriginal sites or utilise beaches which have important bird habitat - until a decision can be made which is to the satisfaction of both the conservation groups and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

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