

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF MACQUARIE ISLAND TOURIST VESSELS

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service is calling for expressions of interest from tourist operators seeking permits to visit Macquarie Island for the summer of 2009-2010. As part of the selection process we are seeking a written response from operators (by email, fax, or letter) in relation to the following criteria **by 29 May 2009**.

In your response you should **demonstrate your capacity** to deliver desirable outcomes against each of the following criteria:

- 1) Minimisation of environmental impacts both offshore and on land. (An independent environmental impact statement would be desirable here);
- 2) Adherence to strict safety guidelines, including the degree of self-reliance in such matters;
- 3) Tangible Benefits to the management and protection of Macquarie Island Nature Reserve (for instance assistance with transport of personnel and equipment, or with programs);
- 4) Benefits to the state of Tasmania (for instance employing Tasmanians or resupplying in Tasmania);
- 5) Clear communication to the company's clients, crew and staff of appropriate messages about the natural and cultural values of the Island, including the role that visitors play in protecting those values;
- 6) Forms of tourist operator accreditation and relevant qualifications held by your company and your regular staff members;
- 7) Flexibility of operating timetables (for instance if weather or Australian Antarctic Program shipping changes causes delays); and
- 8) Past performance in this or related operations.

All applicants should note the provisions of the current *Guidelines for Tourist Operations and Visits to Macquarie Island Nature Reserve and World Heritage Area* (available from <http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=2999>) before submitting their response. Previously approved operators need only provide requested visit dates and do not need to submit a detailed environmental impact statement at this time.

Please note: As the State Government agency charged with the care and management of Macquarie Island as a World Heritage Area and Nature Reserve, the Parks and Wildlife Service works at minimising further human impacts on the Island, while facilitating appropriate educational tourism opportunities.

Noel Carmichael
Macquarie Island Executive Officer
Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania
Fax: +61 3 62337876; E-mail: noel.carmichael@parks.tas.gov.au
Post: Parks & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 126, Moonah, Tasmania, Australia 7009