

*[This is the brief summary for inclusion in pilot guides – with a link to the additional information available on the PWS website]*

*Ensure wording is consistent with the next longer section.*

## **FN ## TASMAN NATIONAL PARK, TASMANIA**

### **Area affected by the Fly Neighbourly Advice (FNA)**

#### **1.1 Tasman National Park**

The aim of this FNA is to minimise aircraft disturbance in the Tasman National Park area. Aircraft operated in the Tasman National Park area has the potential to negatively impact on vulnerable natural values (e.g. eagles and seals), experiences of visitors, and nearby residents. The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) manages the Tasman National Park.

#### **1.2 FNA location**

The FNA covers part of the Tasman National Park in south-east Tasmania, as well as relevant nearby locations outside the Tasman National Park where aircraft activity is known to have caused disturbance.

#### **1.3 Preferred operations**

All pilots operating in the area are requested to adhere to the FNA.

a) Sensitive Environmental Areas (SEAs):

- avoid eagle nests by a 1,000 metre buffer;
- avoid important seal habitat by a 500 metre buffer; and
- only fly in the vicinity of important burrowing seabird habitat during daylight hours, and avoid the Hippolyte Rock area at all times of the day and night.

b) The preferred minimum overflight altitude for the Tasman National Park is 1,500FT (500 metres) above ground or water.

c) It is preferred that aircraft operate offshore as much as possible, at the highest possible altitude, and greatest lateral distance, from features of scenic interest.

d) Avoid hovering and repeat passes or orbits, especially near the Three Capes Track and offshore islands.

e) Maintain constant RPM/pitch (avoid sudden changes in engine management, which can startle or disturb wildlife).

#### **1.4 Landings**

Except in an emergency, aircraft are not permitted to land at any location within the Tasman National Park without written approval from the PWS.

## **I.5 Additional information**

Additional information is available from the PWS website ([www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications) under 'Other Publications').

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service

Tasman National Park

Telephone: (03) 6250 3980

Email: TasmanNP@parks.tas.gov.au

*[This is the more detailed information that will be available on the PWS website for pilots]*

## **Additional Information for Pilots relating to FLY NEIGHBOURLY ADVICE – Tasman National Park**

### **Approved xx**

#### **Abbreviations**

DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
FNA	Fly Neighbourly Advice
SEA	Sensitive Environmental Area
PWS	Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service

#### **Introduction**

##### **1.1 Intent of the Advice**

The aim of this FNA is to minimise aircraft disturbance in the Tasman National Park area. Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft activity in the area has increased in recent years.

Aircraft operated in the Tasman National Park area has the potential to negatively impact on:

- vulnerable natural values, including eagles and seals;
- experiences of visitors; and
- nearby residents.

This FNA provides recommendations for pilots operating aircraft (helicopters and fixed-wing) in this area so that they can avoid wildlife disturbance. Also, this FNA seeks to reduce disturbance to tourists on the Three Capes Track or in the Tasman National Park, and to the surrounding areas.

This FNA complements the mandatory aviation operating and safety regulations and air traffic management procedures applicable to the area.

This FNA does not apply to remotely piloted aircraft (drones). The operation and use of drones on reserved land is not permitted unless specific written authority has been provided by the PWS.

##### **1.2 Location**

This FNA covers part of the Tasman National Park in south-east Tasmania, as well as relevant nearby locations where aircraft activity is known to have caused disturbance.

The Tasman Peninsula area is typically accessed by air from airports near Hobart, or from a local helicopter base near the locality of “Oakwood” on the Tasman Peninsula.

##### **1.3 Values of the area**

The Tasman Peninsula area is one of the most popular tourism destination in south-east Tasmania. There are very popular tourism nodes within the area covered by this FNA, including the Port Arthur Historic Site (PAHS), and the Three Capes Track. The PAHS is listed on the World Heritage register. The Three Capes Track has also raised the profile of the Tasman Peninsula generally since it opened in late 2015.

The majority of the coastline covered by this FNA is part of the Tasman National Park. The coastline includes 300 metre high dolerite sea cliffs, beaches, and offshore rocks and islands. The historic lighthouse on Tasman Island is a prominent feature of the more remote part of the coastline. Shipstern Bluff is a globally-renowned big wave surfing location.

The Tasman National Park provides important wildlife habitat for significant species, including eagles, fur seals and seabird species. Whales are regularly sighted offshore. Many wildlife species are vulnerable to disturbance from aircraft.

Visitors to the Tasman National Park come for the scenery and recreational opportunities that include hiking and beach walking.

There are numerous small towns and rural properties on the Tasman Peninsula, including in rural or coastal settings.

## **FNA**

### **2.1 Administration of the areas covered by this FNA**

The Tasman Peninsula is located in south-east Tasmania, within the Tasman Municipality.

The PWS manages the Tasman National Park, which is the largest reserve on the Tasman Peninsula. The Tasman National Park consists of multiple sections along the coast, incorporating prominent features such as Cape Hauy, Cape Pillar, Cape Raoul, the Hippolyte Rocks and Tasman Island.

The PWS manages other smaller reserves on the Tasman Peninsula.

The PAHS Management Authority manages the PAHS.

Other substantial areas are managed for forestry (as Permanent Timber Production Zone Land), or are private freehold.

### **2.2 Areas covered by this FNA**

This FNA applies to **specific sections** of the Tasman Peninsula that encompass areas where the most aircraft activity occurs.

The specific areas that this FNA applies to are defined as:

- southern sections of the Tasman National Park south of a line that extends west from the Hippolyte Rocks to Bivouac Bay to the locality of Oakwood/Andersons Road, and to the northern end of White Beach and Wedge Island;
- includes Osborne Aviation helicopter base (near the locality of Oakwood, to the north of Port Arthur) and the nearby vicinity to allow for flight paths;
- includes the PAHS; and
- includes the Three Capes Track.

This FNA **does not** apply to these areas:

- sections of the Tasman National Park which extend north of a line that extends west from the Hippolyte Rocks to Bivouac Bay to the locality of Oakwood/Andersons Road, and to the northern end of White Beach and Wedge Island.

### **2.3 Transit to and from Tasman National Park**

When transiting to or from the above primary helipads, pilots are requested to avoid larger town centres by one kilometre at a minimum, including Eaglehawk Neck, Taranna, Port Arthur, Nubeena and White Beach.

Due to the proximity of properties to the Osborne Aviation helicopter base, it is also requested that pilots avoid flying over properties and Long Bay-Andersons Road near the locality of Oakwood.

## 2.4 Tasman FNA Map

DRAFT - Tasman National Park - Fly Neighbourly Advice

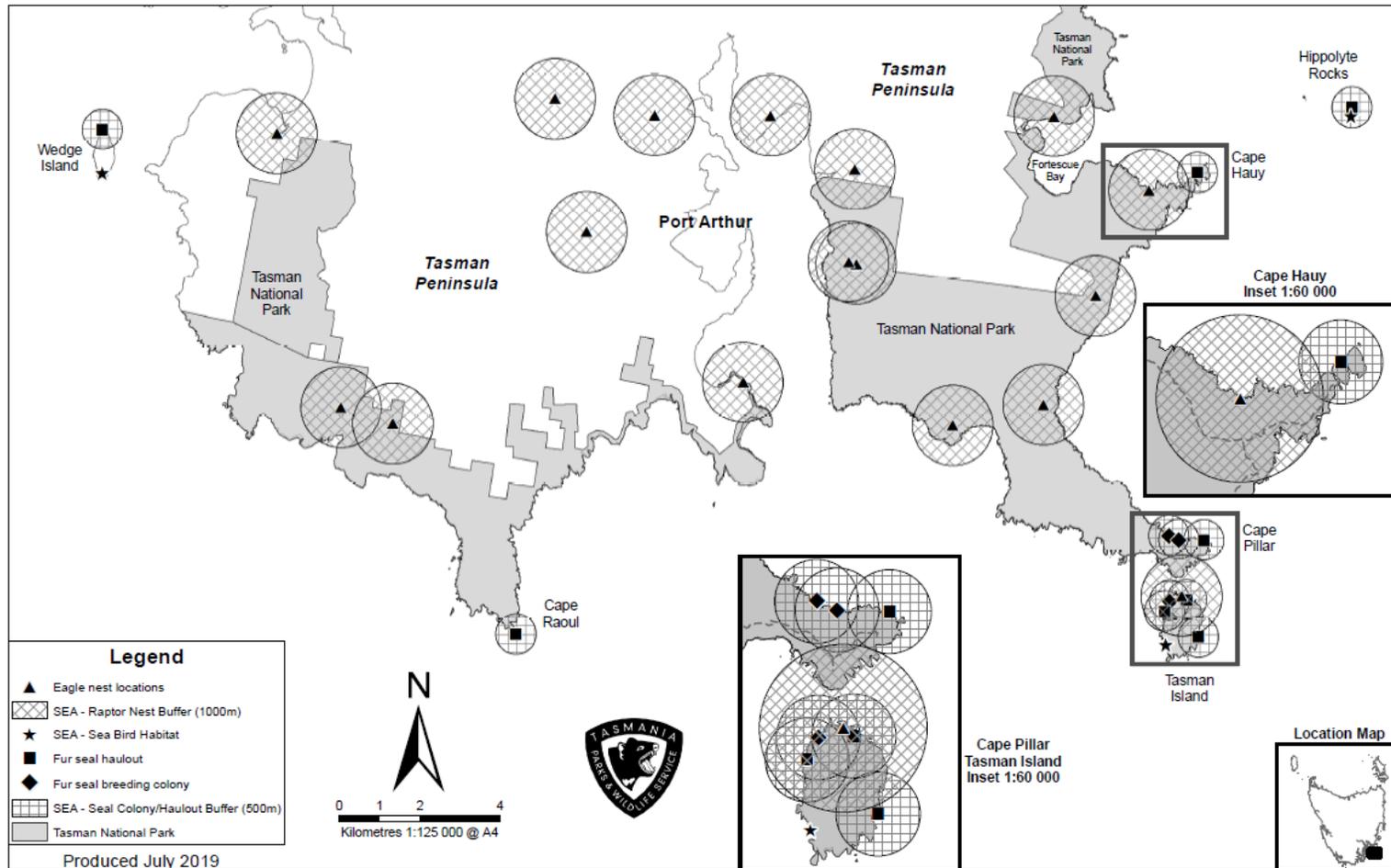


Figure 1 Map of area covered by this FNA

## 2.5 Preferred minimum altitude for aircraft operation

The preferred minimum overfly altitude (terrain and weather permitting) for the Tasman National Park is not below **1,500FT** (500 metres) above ground or water. Exceptions apply to aircraft activities authorised by the PWS to conduct operations within the Tasman National Park.

In order to minimise noise and visual impact on wildlife and visitors to the Tasman National Park, pilots are requested to operate offshore as much as possible, not circle coastal features or wildlife, and avoid overflying buildings or visitor facilities. It is preferred that aircraft operate at the highest possible altitude, and greatest lateral distance, from the scenic feature of interest that will allow satisfactory observation from the air.

When undertaking scenic flights along the coast (over water), the preferred minimum altitude:

- For helicopter, is not below **1,500FT** (500 metres) above water. Where autorotation distance to ground requires pilots to transit a SEA, it is recommended that the flight altitude be increased in accordance with Figures 2 and 3 (safety considerations, terrain and weather permitting).
- For fixed-wing, is not below **1,500FT** (500 metres) above water, and the preferred general minimum lateral distance from the coast is **500 metres**.

Avoid hovering and repeat passes or orbits, especially near the Three Capes Track and offshore islands.

## 2.6 Cumulative impact and frequency of flights

The number and frequency of aircraft operations in the Tasman Peninsula have been historically lower than current levels. Because some residents seek a quiet lifestyle on the Tasman Peninsula, and some tourists and visitors seek out quiet bushwalks in the area, even small increases in the number of flights can create disturbance and noise-related complaints.

## 2.7 Hours of operation

Pilots and commercial aviation businesses should restrict flying hours in the area to the following times, wherever possible:

- Passenger, tourist or scenic flights:
  - Monday to Sunday -
    - Summer (1 November to 30 April) 0800 to 1900 hours.
    - Winter (1 May to 30 October) 0800 to 1700 hours.
- Sling loads for ongoing supply and maintenance for the Three Capes Track, or other work carried out in the Tasman National Park or other reserves:
  - Monday to Sunday -
    - Summer (1 November to 30 April) 0800 to 1900 hours.
    - Winter (1 May to 30 October) 0800 to 1700 hours.

## 2.8 SEA

A SEA is designated where the presence of low-flying aircraft is likely to cause disturbance to a natural value, such as wildlife. SEAs on the Tasman Peninsula include eagle nest sites and seal haul-outs. There are also flight restrictions that relate to whale watching.

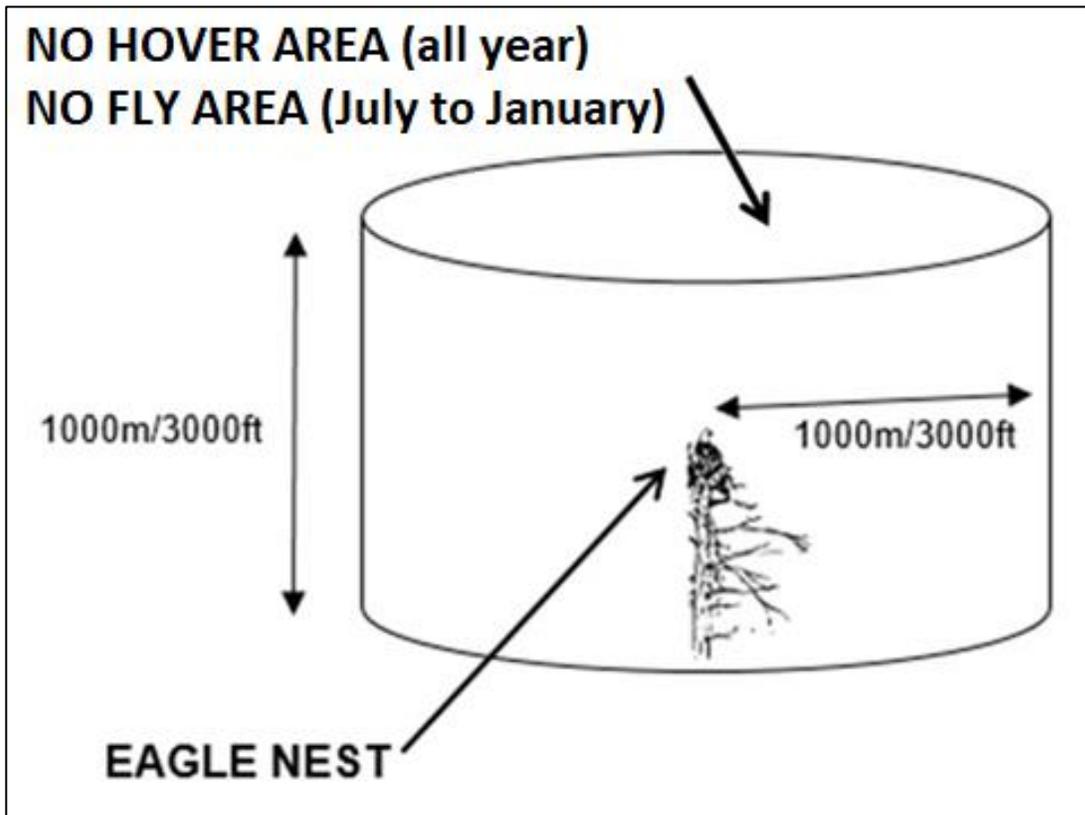
In summary, Tasman National Park SEAs that pilots should avoid are:

- flying within eagle nest SEAs, particularly between 1 July to 28 February (inclusive);
- flying within seal SEAs (all year);
- repeated passes or circuits above all SEAs (all year); and
- hovering above all SEAs (all year).

### 2.8.1 Eagles

To prevent disturbance to breeding eagles:

- all aircraft must not enter eagle nest SEAs during the eagle breeding season. Around the Tasman Peninsula, the eagle breeding season is considered to be 1 July to 31 January, inclusive;
- pilots must plan their flight paths to avoid eagle nests by at least **1KM** during the breeding season;
- do not hover over the area at any time of the year, because eagles are sensitive to disturbance and may abandon an area. Eagles, especially, can become aggressive during the breeding season, and this has resulted in mid-air collisions when helicopters are hovering near to a nest site. If flying over a nesting area during the breeding season is unavoidable – fly as high, swiftly and directly over the area as possible; and
- eagle nest SEAs can be conceptualised as a cylinder centred over the nest with a radius of **1KM** (or 3,000FT) and a height of **1KM** (or 3,000FT) above the ground – see Figure 2.



*Figure 2 Eagle nest SEA for all aircraft (buffer 1,000m/3,000ft)*

Please note:

- New nests might be recorded at any time. A list of known eagle nests is provided in an attachment to this FNA. Raptor nests are also mapped on the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas (NVA) (<https://www.naturalvaluesatlas.tas.gov.au/>). These raptor nests include eagles, but also other raptors (falcons etc). For the purpose of this FNA, the attached list of eagle nest sites is considered to be more current than the information on the NVA. As at July 2019, and until otherwise specified in this FNA, pilots should refer to the attached list of eagle nest sites (Attachment I).

### 2.8.2 Seals

To prevent disturbance to breeding or resting seals, all aircraft must not enter seal SEAs at all times. The following locations are important seal habitat for breeding and/or haul-outs:

- Wedge Island;
- Cape Raoul;
- Tasman Island;
- Cape Pillar;
- Cape Hauy; and
- Hippolyte Rocks.

Seals are present at these breeding and/or haul-outs throughout the year. A haul-out is an area where seals come out of the water to spend time on land. The seal breeding season is from 1 November to 28 February (inclusive) each year.

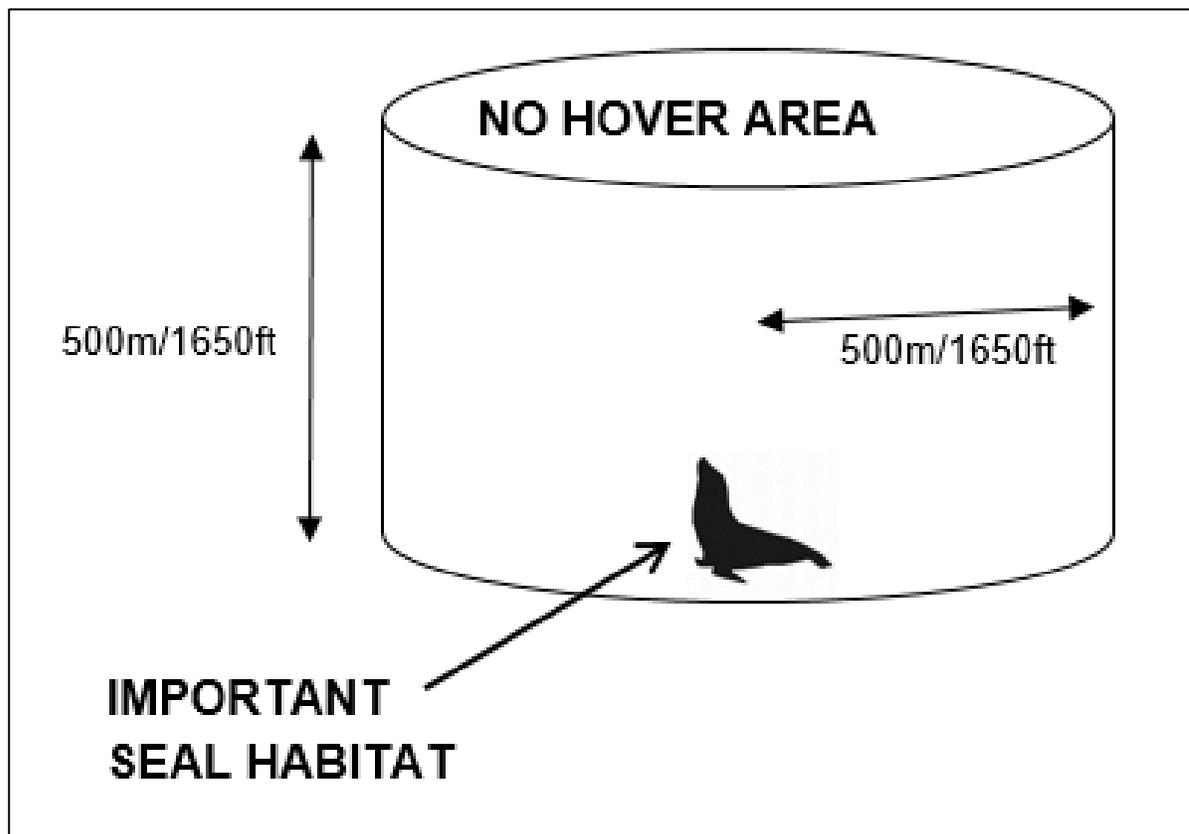
The greatest aircraft risk to seals is if aircraft suddenly disturb seals, which can trigger a stampede and cause pups to be injured or killed.

To prevent disturbance to seals:

- flight paths must be planned to avoid seal haul-outs by at least **1,650FT** (500 metres);
- the seal haul-out SEA can be conceptualised as a cylinder centred over the haul-out with a radius of **1,650FT** (500 metres) and a height of **1,650FT** (500 metres) above the ground – see Figure 3; and
- aircraft approaching known important seal habitat should plan their approach so that seals are aware of the aircraft presence during their approach. This means approaching from the seaward side and avoiding approaching important seal habitat from behind precipitous cliffs where the abrupt detection of aircraft noise has a higher potential to disturb seals.

For flights associated with managing the Tasman National Park, and/or applications to fly within the SEA:

- aircraft that are required to fly within the SEA (i.e. for approved park management purposes) must contact the Marine Conservation Program – Natural and Cultural Heritage Division, DPIPW, to discuss the flight plan (contact details at end of this FNA);
- must avoid the breeding and pupping season (from 1 November to 28 February, inclusive) for Australian and long-nosed fur seals, during which time seals are particularly susceptible to disturbance; and
- must fly with a monitoring observer on-board, and that observer will assess seal behavior during flight approach.



*Figure 3 Seal SEA for all aircraft (buffer 500m/1,650ft)*

## 2.9 Additional wildlife considerations

All wildlife in the Tasman National Park are protected from disturbance under Tasmanian legislation.

Many wildlife species found in the Tasman Peninsula area (outside the Tasman National Park) are protected as listed threatened species under Tasmanian and Commonwealth legislation.

### 2.9.1 Whales and dolphins (cetaceans)

Aircraft, including drones (unmanned aerial vehicles or remotely piloted aircraft), may disturb whales and dolphins due to their speed, noise, shadow, or downdraft in the case of helicopters.

While dolphin watching tends to occur all year round, the highest intensity whale watching activities are focussed on Humpback whales and Southern right whales that migrate through Tasmania's coastal waters from May until November.

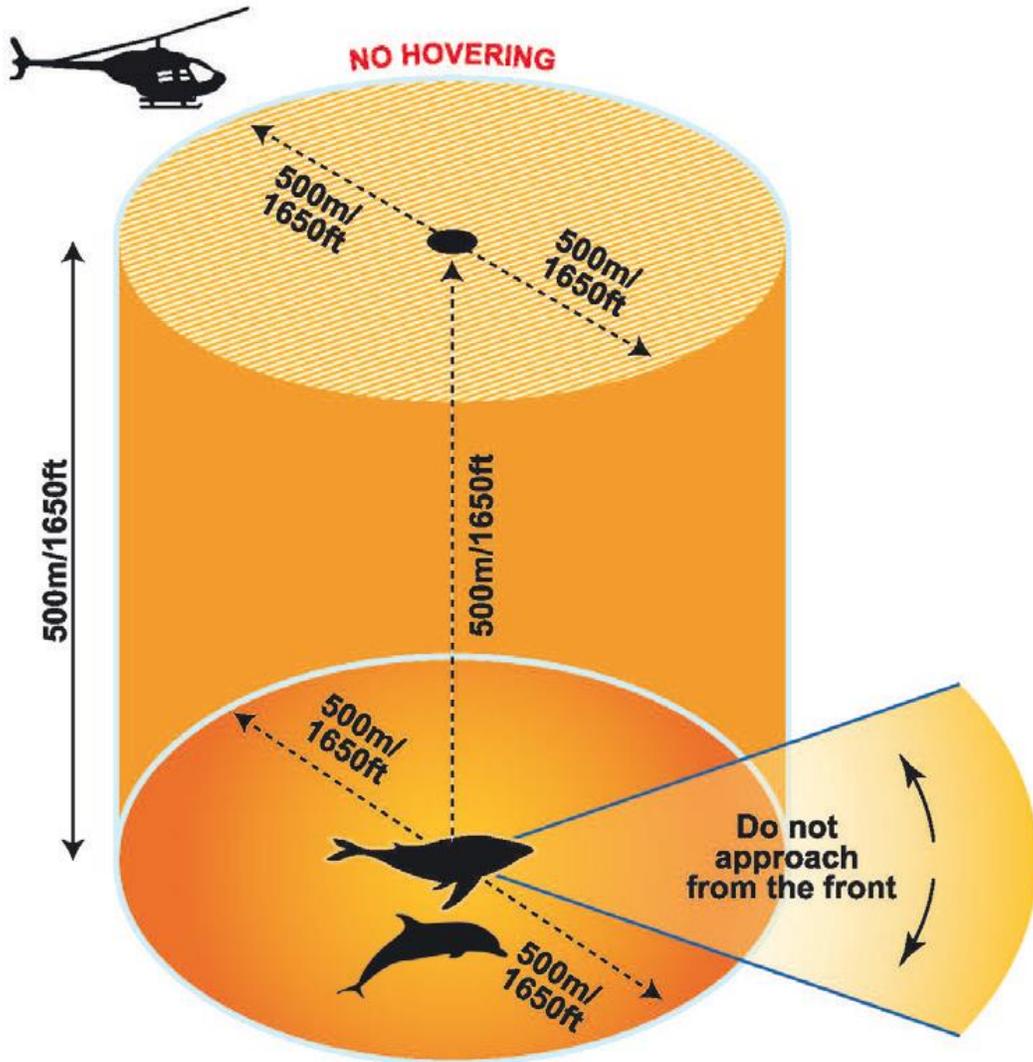
Pilots are reminded that whale and dolphin watching from aircraft is subject to national standards (*Australian National Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching 2017*, Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy

<http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/publications/australian-national-guidelines-whale-and-dolphin-watching-2017>). The relevant sections from the 2017 Guidelines are shown below.

#### Helicopters

A person operating a helicopter or gyrocopter in the vicinity of whales and dolphins must:

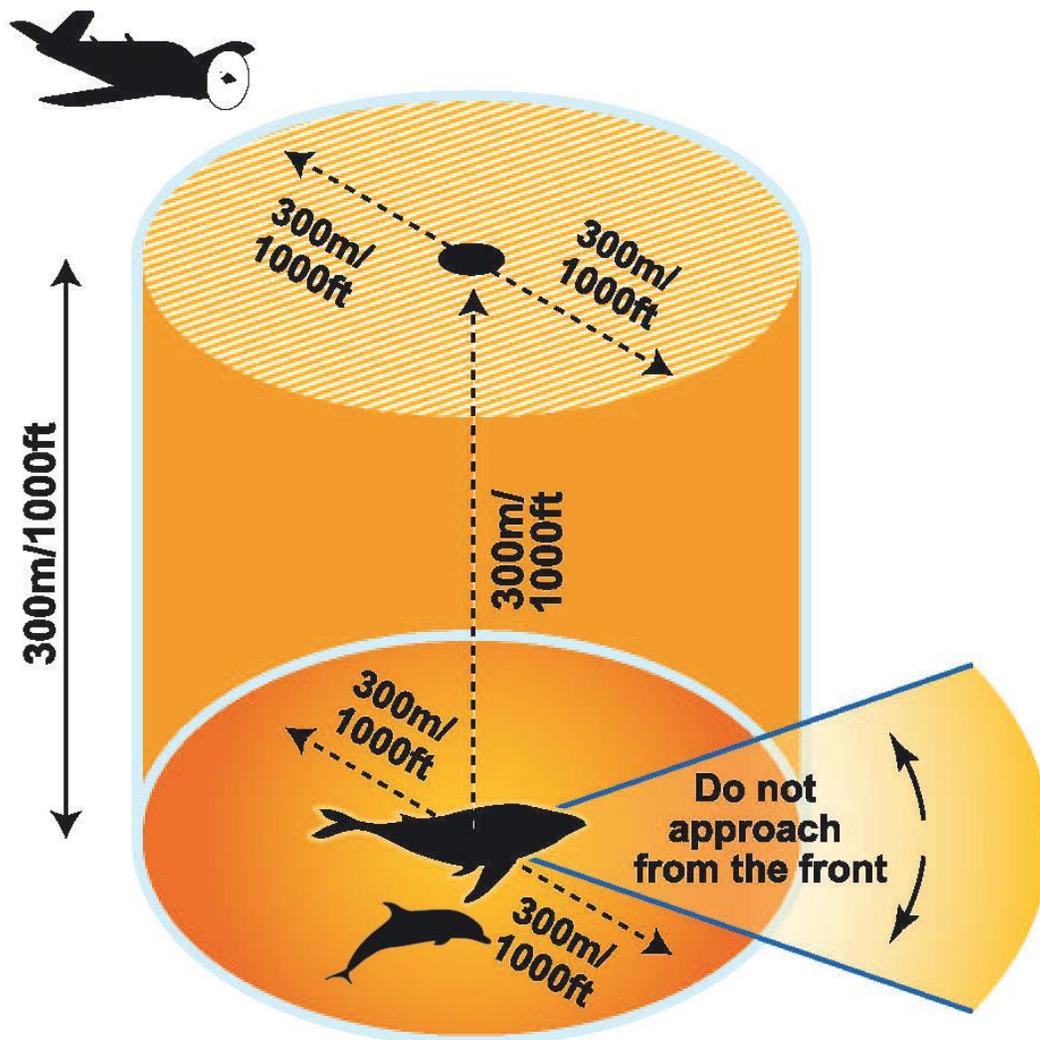
- not fly lower than **1,650FT** (500 metres) within a **1,650FT** (500 metres) radius of a whale or dolphin;
- not hover over the no-fly zone;
- avoid approaching a whale or dolphin from head-on;
- avoid flying directly over, or passing the shadow of the helicopter directly over, a whale or dolphin; and
- cease the activity if the whale or dolphin shows signs of disturbance.



## Other aircraft

As illustrated in the figure below, a person operating any other airborne craft, including fixed-wing, gliders, hang-gliders, hot air balloons and airships, in the vicinity of whales and dolphins, must:

- not fly lower than **1,000FT** (300 metres) within a **1,000FT** (300 metres) radius of a whale or dolphin;
- not approach a whale or dolphin from head-on;
- not land on the water to observe whales or dolphins;
- avoid flying directly over, or passing the shadow of the aircraft directly over, a whale or dolphin; and
- cease the activity if the whale or dolphin shows signs of disturbance.



## **2.9.2 Seabirds**

The Tasman National Park provides important breeding habitat for seabirds (locations are shown on Figure 1).

Due to the presence of important burrowing seabird habitat (Fairy prions and Short-tailed shearwaters), aircraft activity in the vicinity of the following locations should be limited to daylight hours (between one hour after sunrise, and one hour before sunset):

- Tasman Island;
- Wedge Island;
- Slopen Island; and
- Fulham Island.

Aircraft should avoid the Hippolyte Rocks at all times of the day and night, due to the presence of significant colonial seabird populations which are active during the day as well as at night (Australasian gannets and Black-faced cormorants). A seal SEA also applies to the Hippolyte Rocks.

## **2.10 Overriding provisions**

All of the above provisions or advice should be disregarded if, for any reason, their observance would jeopardise the safety of a flight or put a pilot in conflict with any provision of the Civil Aviation Regulations.

### **2.10.1 Authority to land or airdrop**

Under the provisions of the *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2009*, an Authority is required to land an aircraft on, and take-off from, any reserved land (except in an emergency), or to drop an article from an aircraft onto reserved land. On the Tasman Peninsula, this includes the Tasman National Park and other smaller reserves.

Initial enquiries for landings or airdrops should be made to the PWS (see contact details below).

### **2.10.2 Aerial work activities**

Parties who may require access to low-level airspace to conduct aerial work activities should contact the PWS for advice (see contact details below). A permit may be required from the PWS. These parties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- transmission line inspectors;
- natural value assessors;
- government agencies; and
- film and television crews.

### **2.10.3 Special terrain/weather conditions**

Recommended operating altitudes over the area subject to this FNA do not apply if these altitudes jeopardise the safe conduct of the flight.

## **2.11 Adhering to the FNA**

Where aviation activities are observed that are inconsistent with this advice, details of activities, along with aircraft registration number, description and accurate time and date should be directed to the PWS (see contact details below).

## **2.12 Further information and contact details**

Copies of this FNA document can be downloaded from the PWS website ([www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/publications) under 'Other Publications').

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service  
Tasman National Park  
Telephone: (03) 6250 3980  
Email: [TasmanNP@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:TasmanNP@parks.tas.gov.au)

Threatened Species Section, DPIPWE  
Telephone: (03) 6165 4390 / 1300 368 550  
Email: [ThreatenedSpecies.Enquiries@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:ThreatenedSpecies.Enquiries@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au)

Marine Conservation Program  
Natural and Cultural Heritage Division, DPIPWE  
Telephone: 0427 942 537  
Email: [whales@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:whales@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au)

## Attachment I – Eagle Nest locations in proximity to the Three Capes Track

Nest No.	Locality	Easting <sup>a)</sup>	Longitude	Long – D,M,S <sup>b)</sup>	Northing	Latitude	Lat – D,M,S
1588	White Beach	558967	-43.1305	147,43,30	5224442	147.725	-43,7,50
1652	Tunnel Bay SE	560560	-43.1916	147,44,42	5217642	147.745	-43,11,30
1612	Tunnel Bay SW	561852	-43.1951	147,45,40	5217237	147.761	-43,11,42
1912	East of Mt Raoul	565400	-43.2073	147,48,18	5215850	147.805	-43,12,26
1513	Crescent Bay	570682	-43.1875	147,52,12	5217993	147.87	-43,11,15
1317	Dog Bark Point	570551	-43.1851	147,52,5	5218268	147.868	-43,11,6
1231	Mt Arthur	566665	-43.1518	147,49,12	5222001	147.82	-43,9,6
747	Stinking Bay	571333	-43.1245	147,52,37	5224984	147.877	-43,7,28
1289	Denmans Cove	573329	-43.1373	147,54,7	5223548	147.902	-43,8,14
1656	Surveyors Cove	573362	-43.1584	147,54,7	5221200	147.902	-43,9,30
2512	Surveyors Cove	573171	-43.1579		5221255	147.900	-
1655	Haines Bight	575761	-43.1942	147,55,55	5217192	147.932	-43,11,39
1502	Tasman Island	581540	-43.2326	148,0,14	5212860	148.004	-43,13,57
1654	Bare Knoll	578013	-43.1894	147,57,36	5217704	147.96	-43,11,22
1653	Red Dirt Bluff (Mt Fortescue)	579306	-43.1649	147,58,34	5220407	147.976	-43,9,54
790	Canoe Bay	578275	-43.125	147,57,43	5224860	147.962	-43,7,30
2177	Cape Hauy	580561		147,59,26	5223044		-43,8,27
2546	Mt Tonga	568321			5224861		
795	Mt Koonya	566258			5225257		

**Note:**

- a) The coordinates provided in easting and northing notation are in GDA94 format. The coordinates provided in decimal degree and degree minutes seconds notation in Lat/Long WGS84 format.