



21 September 2022

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

## Wildlife experts responding to mass whale stranding

Marine conservation experts are heading to Tasmania's West Coast, where a pod of approximately 230 whales has stranded near Macquarie Harbour.

The animals, which appear to be pilot whales, are stranded on Ocean Beach. A number of animals are stranded on a sand flat inside Macquarie Harbour.

It appears about half of the animals are alive.

A team from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania Marine Conservation Program (MCP) is assembling whale rescue gear and heading to the area.

They will work alongside staff from the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and Tasmanian Police at Strahan.

The department has a comprehensive Cetacean Incident Manual which has undergone extensive review since the 2020 mass stranding and which guides a stranding response.

Marine wildlife experts will assess the scene and the situation to plan an appropriate response. Stranding response in this area is complex. If it is determined there is a need for help from the general public, a request will be made through various avenues.

Whales are a protected species, even once deceased, and it is an offence to interfere with a carcass.

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