

Media release

13 January 2021

New toolkit to help protect Little Penguins.

A new citizen science-based toolkit was launched today by Minister for Primary Industries and Water the Hon. Guy Barnett and Cradle Coast Authority CEO, Daryl Connelly.

Funded by the Tasmanian Government and developed by CCA's Natural Resource Management (NRM) team, the toolkit will help land managers and community groups monitor Tasmania's Little Penguin populations and manage threats to their colonies.

Developed by Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), the toolkit provides guidance on survey methods that community groups can use to monitor changes to penguin populations in their local area. It also provides methods to assess the Little Penguin habitat potential of an area, as well as ways to effectively assess current and future threats to colonies. Data collected using these methods can be provided to the Tasmanian Government through a dedicated email address to improve knowledge of Little Penguin populations and distribution around the state.

CCA CEO, Daryl Connelly said that Cradle Coast Authority and its Member Councils are committed to improving the environment.

"Like many of our NRM projects, this project is all about taking care of our region's unique wildlife. Not only is it the right thing to do, but healthy Little Penguin populations also contribute to our region's tourism appeal and our 'clean, green' image." said Mr Connelly.

Mr Connelly said that everybody can do their bit.

"Slow down at night, keep your dog on a leash where necessary, keep your cat inside and stay off those parts of the beach where penguins may be nesting," he said.

CCA would like to thank the many community groups, other organisations and volunteers who made this project a success, as well as the Tasmanian Government for their financial and other support.

The toolkit, which is endorsed by the Tasmanian Penguin Advisory Group and has been reviewed by DPIPWE wildlife experts, is available at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/toolkit and will soon be available on the CCA website.



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Image: From left to right: Daryl Connelly (CCA), Dr Perviz Marker (CCA 's Regional NRM Committee), Felix Ellis MP, Anna Wind (CCA), Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh, and Minister Barnett.

CCA is jointly owned by the nine Councils of western and north-western Tasmania, to help them achieve regional outcomes and maintain strong local government, by working together.

