



KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Scientists are concerned the population has further declined since 2019 when there was estimated only 300 birds remaining on Penguin Island. Whilst the most recent data is not yet available, anecdotally we know that this year's breeding season has been concerningly low, with estimates between 150 - 200 penguins remaining.
2. The population has declined significantly since 2011, and if we're not careful, we'll lose it completely. What would Penguin Island be without its penguins?
3. The population collapse is well known by the state government's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCAs), which supposedly manages the island. But they have no plan to help recovery and only patch up jobs in terms of protections. Where is their vision? Where is their care?
4. The state government's own management plan for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is seven years out of date; the management plan for Penguin Island is worse and is 22 years out of date! It does not enforce its own rules around jet skis and kite surfers speeding through the Special Purpose Zone near the island; they have engaged in almost constant construction projects across the last five years; and we have heard little from them on plans for a mainland Discovery Centre. They are mismanaging Penguin Island and the wider Shoalwater Marine Park.
5. We need less complacency and more care. It's time our elected officials came up with a robust, long-term plan for Penguin Island and its wildlife which is informed by science and community consultation that delivers genuine sanctuary and conservation.
6. It's not too late for our penguins, but it soon could be. We need action now!
7. Scientists are saying that the population has declined so much that we're now at that point where serious interventions are necessary. We can't leave the penguins to their own devices and hope they'll recover. We need to step in to help them or we're looking at the extinction of this dwindling group.
8. How is this acceptable? The people of Rockingham love these penguins and so we don't accept it, which is why we are pleading with the politicians to sort out this mess of mismanagement.
9. In the last 14 years, there has been pressure after pressure piled on the little penguins – some of which has been environmental, but some which has come because of mismanagement.



KEY TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED)

- ✓ 10. They've contended with marine heatwaves, a rat infestation, a rapid increase in island visitors and disturbance, boat strikes, lots of habitat-destroying building works and these impacts have been too much for the population and it has rapidly declined.
- ✓ 11. The status quo isn't working. The few interventions that have been slowly introduced - such as the hot day closures and the sprinklers for moulting birds - have been too little, too late. Visitors are not receiving sufficient information about the island before they step off the ferry. There has been little movement on plans for a mainland discovery centre. What are they doing?
- ✓ 12. Every single positive move for penguins that we've seen in the last few years has been made following lengthy campaigning both in and out of the public eye. We are fed up with firefighting.
- ✓ 13. We call on our elected representatives and island managers to come up with a long-term plan for penguin recovery and protection and help for the other wildlife using Penguin Island.
- ✓ 14. Penguin Island is a Class A Reserve, so it's supposed to be managed to support conservation.
- ✓ 15. What's the state governments vision for the island? Currently, it's destined to become Pelican Island.
- ✓ 16. Unfortunately, we are demonstrating to the rest of the world how not to manage and conserve little penguins. It's embarrassing.
- ✓ 17. Voters have said repeatedly that they want to see this island made a safer sanctuary for our precious little penguins. When will the government emerge from its state of paralysis and start taking this issue seriously?



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