Coastal safety

Nearly every year a visitor falls or is washed off rocks along this coastline—mostly drowned in the bitterly cold water.

The Southern Ocean is very unpredictable.

- Huge waves and extreme swells can suddenly occur even on calm days.
- Waves can sweep over rocky headlands.
- Rocks are extremely slippery when wet.
- Cliff edges can collapse without warning.
- Powerful rips and undertows can occur.
- Weather conditions can change quickly.
- Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous.

Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.
- Keep aware of constant changes in the ocean.
- Be alert for sudden powerful gusts of wind.
- Stand back from rocky headlands and cliff edges.
- Be prepared for changes in weather.
- Stay well clear of sea level.
- Enter the water at your own risk.

Please heed the warning signs that display this symbol.

FIGHTING DIEBACK

Phytophthora dieback is a major problem in the South Coast Region. More than 2,200 plant species in south-western Australia are susceptible to dieback. Caused by a water-borne pathogen that dwells in the soil, Phytophthora kills plants by rotting their roots. Machinery, humans and animals spread the pathogen by moving infested soil to healthy areas. Once present in the landscape, dieback can move in soil and water or by root-to-root contact between plants.

Dieback threatens biodiversity by not only killing plants but also by destroying wildlife habitat, placing the health and survival of whole ecosystems at risk.

You can help to prevent the further spread of dieback.

- Stay on designated tracks and trails.
- Avoid walking in wet soil conditions.
- Do not enter restricted areas.
- Clean soil from footwear at the start and finish of any bushwalk.
- A small spray bottle of 100 per cent methylated spirits is ideal for cleaning footwear.
- Clean vehicle tyres before entering national parks.

For more information

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

Torrndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks

Frenchman Bay Road
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9844 4090

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

Torrndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks

Frenchman Bay Road
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9844 4090

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

Torrndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks

Frenchman Bay Road
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9844 4090

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

Torrndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks

Frenchman Bay Road
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9844 4090

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

Torrndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks

Frenchman Bay Road
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9844 4090

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.

Torrndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks

Frenchman Bay Road
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9844 4090

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333

DEC officers are always willing to help. Don’t hesitate to contact them.
For more information

- Keep water away from your feet.
- Stay well clear of sea level.
- Be prepared for changes in weather.
- Stand back from rocky headlands and cliff edges.

Please heed the warning signs that display this symbol.

The Southern Ocean is very unpredictable.

Coastal safety

- Waves can sweep over rocky headlands.
- Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous.
- Rocks are extremely slippery when wet.
- Powerful tides and undertows can occur.
- Cliff edges can collapse without warning.

In Torndirrup National Park, the seawater that is expelled the underlying granite. The Natural Bridge remains in place despite the loss of lower granite blocks to the pounding ocean waves. The Gap exists where a vertical stack of blocks was removed. The coastal rocks will continue to fracture. Eventually, the Natural Bridge will fail. More granite blocks will be swept away, creating and destroying features like The Gap, constantly reshaping an ever-changing coastline.
VENTURE DOWN SLOPE FROM THE BLOWHOLES.

THE PENINSULA’S SOUTHERNMOST PEAK CAN BE REACHED VIA A RUGGED PATH THAT IS STEEP IN SECTIONS. SOME ROCK SCRAMBLING IS REQUIRED TO REACH THE SUMMIT. BE AWARE THAT ROCK CLIMBERS MAY BE ON THE CLIFFS BELOW.

IT IS EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS TO TRAVEL TO THE BLOWHOLES. BLOWHOLES MAY OR MAY NOT BE BLOWING. THIS LOCATION OFFERS VIEWS OF PEAK HEAD AND ECLIPSE ISLAND.

AN IMPRESSIVE SIGHT WHEN THERE IS A HIGH OCEAN SWELL, THE SLOPES ARE SURPRISINGLY SLIPPERY WHEN SCATTERED WITH SAND. THE RUBBER MATTING USED TO PREVENT ERODING OF SOME TRACKS IS NOT REQUIRED TO REACH THE SUMMIT. BE AWARE THAT ROCK CLIMBERS MAY BE ON THE CLIFFS BELOW.

BUSHWALKING

VISITORS OF ALL FITNESS LEVELS CAN ENJOY TORNDIRRUP NATIONAL PARK’S DRAMATIC COASTAL SCENERY. FEATURES INCLUDING THE GAP, NATURAL BRIDGE, SALMON HOLES, JIMMY NEWELL’S HARBOUR AND SHARP POINT CAN BE SEEN FROM VIEWING PLATFORMS LOCATED SHORT DISTANCES FROM CAR PARKING AREAS.

WEST CAPE HOWE NATIONAL PARK

FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLE TRACKS — BUSHWALKERS ARE WELCOME TO USE FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE TRACKS. BE CAUTIOUS OF FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLES USING TRACKS. TRACKS ARE VERY SANDY AND MAY CROSS HILLS. THE RUBBER MATTING USED TO PREVENT ERODING OF SOME TRACKS IS SURPRISINGLY SLIPPERY WHEN SCATTERED WITH SAND.

DUNSKY BEACH, AT WEST CAPE HOWE NATIONAL PARK, IS A POPULAR SITE FOR SCUBA DIVING AND SNORKELLING. STRONG RIP TIDES SOMETIMES OCCUR IN THIS AREA. SPEAR GUNS AND GIDGEES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

FISHING

FISHING IS POPULAR AT BOTH TORNDIRRUP AND WEST CAPE HOWE NATIONAL PARKS. NORMAL FISHING REGULATIONS APPLY. SPECIES INCLUDE AUSTRALIAN SALMON, SHARK, GROPER, MULLOWAY, WHITING AND HERRING.

KEEP SAFETY IN MIND WHEN CHOOSING A FISHING SITE. FISHING FROM ROCKS IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. SAFETY VESTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE OR LOAN FROM LOCAL SPORTING GOODS SUPPLIERS.

ROCK-CLIMBING

SITES FOR PROPERLY EQUIPPED, EXPERIENCED CLIMBERS ARE LOCATED IN BOTH PARKS.

HANG-GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING

A POPULAR LAUNCH SITE IS LOCATED AT SHELLY BEACH IN WEST CAPE HOWE NATIONAL PARK.

TOURISM VISITOR CENTRE OR WWW.BIBBULMUNTRACK.ORG.AU

Things to do

Visitors of all fitness levels can enjoy Torndirrup National Park’s dramatic coastal scenery. Features including The Gap, Natural Bridge, Salmon Holes, Jimmy Newells Harbour and Sharp Point can be seen from viewing platforms located short distances from car parking areas.

In contrast, much of the rugged terrain of West Cape Howe National Park can be accessed only by bushwalking or four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Bushwalking

If you intend to walk in remote areas, please inform a responsible person of your route and expected time of return. Take adequate water as no drinking water is available in the parks. Wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Be prepared for prickly vegetation and sudden changes in weather.

Sloping and uneven surfaces exist throughout the parks. Granite surfaces can be rough and slippery. Take extra care near rock edges as they can crumble without warning.

Footwear cleaning stations are located in areas where there is a high risk of spreading the plant pathogen dieback. Please thoroughly clean your footwear at each of these stations.

Symbol signs denote the difficulty of bushwalks.

BIBBULMUN TRACK

The southern terminus of this 965-kilometre world-class walking track is located in Albany. The track traverses sections of Torndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks, offering scenic vistas of the southern coastline. For more information, visit a Department of Environment and Conservation office, a local tourism visitor centre or www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

CAMPING

Camping is not permitted at Torndirrup National Park. Limited camping sites are located at Shelley Beach in West Cape Howe National Park. Campfires and cooking fires are not allowed.

DIVING

Dunsky beach, at West Cape Howe National Park, is a popular site for scuba diving and snorkelling. Strong rip tides sometimes occur in this area. Spear guns and gidgees are not permitted.

FISHING

Fishing is popular at both Torndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks. Normal fishing regulations apply. Species include Australian salmon, shark, groper, mulloway, whiting and herring.

Keep safety in mind when choosing a fishing site. Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous. Safety vests are available for hire or loan from local sporting goods suppliers.

ROCK-CLIMBING

Sites for properly equipped, experienced climbers are located in both parks.

HANG-GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING

A popular launch site is located at Shelley Beach in West Cape Howe National Park.

TWO-WHEEL-DRIVE AND FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVE VEHICLES

All vehicles driven in national parks must be licensed for the road. All roads in Torndirrup National Park are suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

In West Cape Howe National Park, only Shelley Beach Road is suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. All other roads and tracks require high-clearance four-wheel drive.

Shepherds Lagoon Road has very rough conditions that require expert driving skills and high-clearance vehicles. Access to Bornholm Beach is extremely difficult. Towing of bogged vehicles is not easily organised and is very expensive.

Follow four-wheel drive vehicle guidelines and drive to suit conditions. Watch for bushwalkers using four-wheel-drive tracks.

WEST CAPE HOWE NATIONAL PARK

Four-wheel-drive vehicle tracks — Bushwalkers are welcome to use four-wheel-drive tracks. Be cautious of four-wheel-drive vehicles using tracks. Tracks are very sandy and may cross hills. The rubber matting used to prevent eroding of some tracks is surprisingly slippery when scattered with sand.

Tarbotton Track 30 minutes

600 metres return — part boardwalk, part sandy path

The boardwalk section of this easy walk begins at the car park for Shelley Beach Lookout. Where the boardwalk ends, a sandy path continues along a limestone ridge, where it meets the Bibbulmun Track and offers views down a rocky valley to Shelley Beach and the ocean.

Tarbotton Track leading to Shelley Beach.

PROTECTING HABITAT AND WILDLIFE

NO PETS ARE PERMITTED IN NATIONAL PARKS, INCLUDING WITHIN CAMPS, PARKING AREAS AND ON BEACHES. POISON TAULES, USED IN THE PARKS TO KILL FOXES, WILL KILL DOGS.

LEAVE ROCKS AND PLANTS UNDISTURBED. PLEASE TAKE YOUR RUBBISH OUT WITH YOU. BINS ARE NOT PROVIDED.

Bibbulmun Track

The southern terminus of this 965-kilometre world-class walking track is located in Albany. The track traverses sections of Torndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks, offering scenic vistas of the southern coastline. For more information, visit a Department of Environment and Conservation office, a local tourism visitor centre or www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Camping

Camping is not permitted at Torndirrup National Park. Limited camping sites are located at Shelley Beach in West Cape Howe National Park. Campfires and cooking fires are not allowed.

Fishing

Fishing is popular at both Torndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks. Normal fishing regulations apply. Species include Australian salmon, shark, groper, mulloway, whiting and herring.

Keep safety in mind when choosing a fishing site. Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous. Safety vests are available for hire or loan from local sporting goods suppliers.

Rock-climbing

Sites for properly equipped, experienced climbers are located in both parks.

Hang-gliding and paragliding

A popular launch site is located at Shelley Beach in West Cape Howe National Park.

Two-wheel-drive and four-wheel-drive vehicles

All vehicles driven in national parks must be licensed for the road. All roads in Torndirrup National Park are suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

In West Cape Howe National Park, only Shelley Beach Road is suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. All other roads and tracks require high-clearance four-wheel drive.

Shepherds Lagoon Road has very rough conditions that require expert driving skills and high-clearance vehicles. Access to Bornholm Beach is extremely difficult. Towing of bogged vehicles is not easily organised and is very expensive.

Follow four-wheel drive vehicle guidelines and drive to suit conditions. Watch for bushwalkers using four-wheel-drive tracks.