

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

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13 November 2024

Ms Rebecca Pentland
Independent Member for Bass
Via Clerk of the House

Dear Ms Pentland

I write on behalf of the Tasmanian Government in response to your question regarding access to Pioneer Lake.

Importantly, the area remains open for recreational use, noting the site has always been a day use area. Any historical camping at the site would be considered an unauthorised use of public land.

I recognise that there may be many members of the public who would seek to use the area peacefully and with respect of the local environment, however, this is not the case for all.

The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, Dorset Council and Tasmania Police have managed a range of complaints over unauthorised and anti-social behaviours that include illegal quad bike use, the dumping of burnt-out cars and litter, chopping down trees and inappropriate toileting behaviours that impact the waterway. In addition, Tasmania Police have also managed complaints, specifically in relation to noise and illegal trail bike use. PWS have previously installed signage to educate and encourage people to do the right thing however, these signs continue to be vandalised, or removed all together. As a result, while the area managed by PWS can still be accessed by foot (or bicycle), rock barriers have been put in place to stop vehicles entering the area and causing environmental damage.

Dorset Council manage day use facilities on the other side of the lake, including barbecues, toilets and rubbish collection facilities. The access to the lake at this site, remains open to vehicles, including the boat ramp and can be accessed from the corner of Racecourse Road and Main Road, Pioneer.

PWS manages over 800 reserves across Tasmania and not all areas are suitable to be managed as formal campgrounds, for more information on formal campgrounds, please visit: <https://parks.tas.gov.au/where-to-stay>

Thank you for your question and your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks and Environment