

1. Name

Pioneer Lake Advocacy Group

2. Purpose

The Pioneer Lake Advocacy Group has been established to:

- An advisory group that cannot allocate funds to any Government Authority, Department or Council.
- Represent the interests of the Pioneer community and users of Pioneer Lake regarding access and use of the area;
- Advocate for the safe reopening of Pioneer Lake area for recreational purposes;
- Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to provide ongoing updates and information on, and where possible seek guidance, on evolving management issues for the Pioneer Lake area;
- Develop and recommend practical solutions for future use and access to the Pioneer Lake area once the Pioneer Dam is de-watered and the dam wall decommissioned.

3. Background

The Pioneer Lake and Dam area is situated on Tasmanian Crown Land and is managed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS).



Prior to the temporary closure, the site was used informally for recreational activities such as camping, fishing, walking, water sports and general recreation. It must be noted that the area is not officially designated as a camping area.

The area also has an active sand mine near Pioneer Lake.

In 2023/24, structural integrity issues were identified in the Pioneer Dam wall by PWS, prompting access restrictions to ensure public safety. This has disrupted long-standing recreational use of the area by the local community and visitors.

At the Dorset Council Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2024, the following motion was passed:

“Can Dorset Council advocate to set up a group of interested parties regarding Pioneer Lake that would provide advice on management of the area to Council, relevant businesses and government agencies that would include as a minimum: Pioneer residents, Council, Parks, Lake users, Police, Sanbar Pty Ltd and Scottsdale High School? One of the groups aims will be to work through the camping issue with a view to re-permit camping at the Lake as has been the case for over 20 years.”

In response to this motion, the following decision was carried at the 14 December 2024 Council Meeting:

DECISION

MOVED / SECONDED: Commissioner Wardlaw

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the motion received from the Annual General Meeting;**
- 2. support the establishment of a Working Group, comprised of representatives from key stakeholders of the Pioneer Lake user groups, and facilitate meetings of the Working Group; and**
- 3. support the Working Group to clearly identify and define the purpose and deliverables of the Working Group.**

4. Objectives

The group will:

- Receive updates and progress reports from PWS on Pioneer Dam de-watering and dam wall decommissioning;
- Investigate options for reopening the area to public use, including infrastructure, safety, and regulatory requirements;
- Engage with stakeholders and user groups to identify shared priorities and access needs;
- Consider formal recognition of recreational activities such as camping, fishing, walking and waterskiing in partnership with PWS and Council;
- Provide a unified community voice and advocate for a balanced, safe, and inclusive future for the Pioneer Lake area.

5. Scope

The Group will focus on:

- Access to the Pioneer Lake area;
- Short and long-term recreation planning;
- Community consultation and stakeholder representation;
- Engagement with relevant authorities on risk mitigation, emergency planning, and land management policies and practices.

Out of scope:

- Engineering decisions or technical processes for Pioneer Dam de-watering and dam wall decommissioning;
- Emergency response planning, which remains under the jurisdiction of PWS, Council and emergency services.
- Use of the area for industrial and commercial uses i.e. mining, quarrying, irrigation rights etc.

6. Membership

Membership of the Pioneer Lake Advocacy Group includes representatives from:

- Dorset Council
- Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS)
- Inland Fisheries
- Scottsdale High School
- Mt Cameron Field Study Centre Advisory Committee
- Tasmania Police
- Sanbar
- Pioneer Recreational Users Representative
- Pioneer Residents' Representatives
- Pioneer Progress Committee
- Anglers Alliance Tasmania
- Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST)

7. Governance and Meeting Frequency

- The Group will meet 1 – 2 times per year, or more frequently if needed;
- Dorset Council will Chair meetings and provide secretariat support;
- Notes and action items will be recorded and circulated to all members;
- Decision-making is by consensus wherever possible, or majority agreement;
- Submissions and recommendations from the Group may be provided to Council or PWS as needed.

8. Deliverables

- A community-endorsed access plan or position paper for the Pioneer Lake area following Pioneer Dam de-watering and dam wall decommissioning;
- Recommendations for infrastructure, signage, or formalisation of recreational activities;
- Ongoing liaison with PWS regarding the Pioneer Dam de-watering and dam wall decommissioning;
- Updates to the community on progress, timelines, and expected outcomes.

9. Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually or as required to reflect changes in the situation or group membership.