

21 whales die, 11 saved in Australian beaching

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The [whales](#) became stranded on Thursday and were spotted by a passing

yacht, which alerted authorities who rushed to Butlers Beach and frantically doused them with water hoping to keep them alive.

Overnight, using mats and boats, rescuers managed to move 11 of them back into the water.

"Eleven survived, 21 died. Most of them were dead when they were discovered', said Department of Primary Industries spokeswoman Rosemary Gales.

She added that because there was no road access to the secluded beach, the corpses would be left to decompose.

Whale strandings happen periodically in [Tasmania](#), but scientists do not why, although Gales has her own explanation.

"[Pilot whales](#) are really social animals so if one makes a mistake and gets into shallow water, the others will come," she said.

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