

2 more whales die in Australia as stranding deaths reach 200

September 23 2022



Whales are stranded on Ocean Beach at Macquarie Harbour on the west coast of Tasmania of Australia, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022. Two more whales died Friday, Sept. 23, 2022, in Australia after a handful that had been refloated a day earlier stranded themselves again. About 200 pilot whales have now died from a group of about 230 that stranded themselves this week on the wild and remote west coast of Tasmania. Credit: Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania via AP

Two more whales died Friday in Australia after a handful that had been refloated a day earlier stranded themselves again.

About 200 [pilot whales](#) have now died from a group of about 230 that stranded themselves this week on the wild and remote west coast of Tasmania.

The [whales](#) were discovered Wednesday in Macquarie Harbour. About half were initially still alive, but [pounding surf killed many more](#). Wildlife experts on Thursday managed to refloat 32 of the 35 that had survived.

Some of those whales ended up on the beach again Friday, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania Incident Controller Brendon Clark said. He couldn't confirm an exact number but said it was less than 10.

He said one of the whales died and another needed to be euthanized.

"That's unfortunate but that's also one of the consequences of these types of events," Clark told reporters.

He said the priority was to try and refloat the three surviving whales that had remained stuck throughout the incident on a remote part of the beach as well as any of the whales that stranded themselves again.

After that would come the process of removing and disposing of the carcasses, he said. That would involve bringing them together at a central point on the [beach](#).



This image made from a video, shows the stranded whales on Ocean Beach, near Strahan, Australia Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022. More than 200 whales have been stranded on Tasmania's west coast, just days after 14 sperm whales were found beached on an island off the southeastern coast. Credit: Australian Broadcasting Corporation via AP

"That way they can be basically longlined or tied together, ready for disposal at sea," Clark said.

The whales will likely be towed into [deep waters](#) far from the coast so they don't wash up on the shore.

Rescuers were hopeful they could reach the three remote stranded whales late Friday but faced difficulties due to the location and tidal

conditions, Clark said. More than 50 government staff and volunteers have been involved in the rescue efforts.

The [creatures](#) were found two years after the largest whale mass-stranding in Australia's history was discovered in the same harbor.

About 470 long-finned pilot whales were found in 2020 stuck on sandbars. After a weeklong effort, 111 of those whales were rescued but the rest died.

The entrance to the harbor is a notoriously shallow and dangerous channel known as Hell's Gate.

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