

DEH and community try to rescue rare Pygmy Killer Whale

Yesterday, a ranger from the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) helped local residents rescue a small whale, which was close to drowning on a beach near Ceduna.

The 2m-long Pygmy Killer Whale was found beached at Denial Bay early yesterday morning. Pygmy Killer Whales are rarely seen in South Australia.

Initially, the whale was unable to swim when it was returned to the water.

However, after considerable effort from the rescue team, led by DEH Ranger Robert Sleep, the whale was able to rise to the surface to breathe so it was released yesterday afternoon.

Boats were organised to herd the marine mammal out to sea in the hope that it would recover and survive in its natural environment.

Unfortunately, the whale died and its body was found washed up in Denial Bay about 3pm today.

During the operation, DEH collaborated with officers from the South Australian Museum and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries to determine the best way to manage the sickly whale.

The whale will be sent to Adelaide for an autopsy by staff at the South Australian Museum.

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