

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc PO Box 24, New Lambton, NSW 2305 www.hboc.org.au ABN 62 415 889 446

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As advised in January this year, Woodlands Close is no longer the access point to Hexham Swamp. If people try to enter via Woodlands Close they may strike locked gates and/or 'no access' signs. Instead, visitors to Hexham Swamp should enter the Tarro Interchange from which the access is now gained.

If travelling westbound from Newcastle or the Pacific Highway (Hexham Bridge), travel towards Maitland on the New England Highway (Maitland Road); take the Anderson Drive, Tarro/Beresfield exit and turn right onto the sealed road running south off the clover leaf (do not cross the highway on the overpass). If you are travelling eastbound in the direction of Newcastle, take the Anderson Drive exit and turn left at the T-intersection into Tarro (you cannot legally turn right, which is where you want to go). Do a U-turn where safe and travel back onto the highway overpass, turning left onto the access road described above.

Follow the access road to a junction where a sign says "Aurizon NSW LTTSF" (marked as "Construction Gate Access" on the attached map). At this junction continue straight ahead for 1.1 km. Just before the LTTSF gate, turn right over a cattle grid (at the first 90-degree turn marked in green on the attached map). Continue on this unsealed road for about 350m to cattle yards where you turn right (west, which is the second 90-degree turn marked in green on the attached map). If you do not turn right you will come across a small wastewater treatment plant. If you reach this, you have gone too far so turn back and find the turn (left) at the cattle yards. Continue along this track for about 300m to a crossroads. At the crossroads, turn left (south) onto Pipeline Track which runs north/south (there should be a house on your right). From here it is 3 to 4 kilometres of straight track which terminates at Fishery Creek. As you move south, and after about 1.5km, wetlands appear to the east and to the west.

To exit, retrace the route back to the Tarro Interchange. Here however, it is only possible to make a left-hand turn. For people who want to be heading east, towards Newcastle etc, the nearest U-turn bay is just on the other side of the John Renshaw Drive overpass when driving towards Maitland.

A map showing the access route is overleaf. The Tarro Interchange is clearly marked and the road to take is marked green. However, do not drive as far as the wastewater treatment plant and do not carry on straight ahead at the crossroads to the house (as is shown on the map), instead turning left as described above.

Mick Roderick President, Hunter Bird Observers Club

