The only little penguin left may be stuffed and sitting in the Whale Museum

Whales still pass the Bluff. These birds will not, unless the centre is built.



46 ADULT BIRDS IS NOT A COLONY

About 46 adults on Granite Island (October 2026 census — juveniles are not counted). Wright Island is empty. West Island is a handful. The 1990s crash was a sardine virus. The fish have rebuilt. This remnant has not.

At 46 adults, a few seals at the screw-pile jetty, one bad chick year, or people turning rocks can finish it. Another census will not. Earlier research found a fledgling return rate of only about 2.3%.

THE ONLY WAY THE COLONY HOLDS

Create a little penguin centre on Granite Island by adapting the existing café building, with underwater viewing people actually stop for. Head-start chicks inside it from eggs. Release them to artificial burrows on the island when they are ready. Bring eggs or fledglings from Phillip Island if local birds cannot refill the colony. Burrows, a shut fox gate and rat control still matter. They will not save 46 adults on their own.

TWO WAYS IT CAN GO · BUILD IS A SUNK COST · IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE REPAID

Sunk cost	The $2.5–4.0 million adaptive-reuse build is a public investment, not a loan the centre has to pay back. The test is simpler: cover wages, feed and upkeep, then run at a profit. Sooner is better.
Quiet open	About 60,000 paid visits. Operating profit around year 5. About $4–8 million a year extra in the town. Roughly $20–30 million over the first five years, mostly from longer stays.
Word spreads	Once the underwater gallery is known, draw on more than the island walk-ons: 90,000–100,000 paid visits. Operating profit from about year 3. Extra local spending $8–14 million a year.
Five years	On that busier path the region is ahead by about $40–55 million over five years, and 25–40 jobs rather than 15–25, counting the café, tram and beds filled mid-week.
Already here	800,000 people walk onto the island now. Victor Harbor already turns over $163 million in visitor spend. The centre gives that crowd a reason to pay, stay and tell someone else.
Head-start	Eggs are incubated and chicks reared under cover until they can swim and feed. In the wild most die before that. It is a nursery, then the birds go back to the island.
Release	Fledged birds go into artificial burrows on the island, not a display cage. Phillip Island eggs or fledglings are added only if 46 adults cannot refill it.
Burrows	Dry, dark, fox-resistant nest boxes outside the building. More chicks hatch, and visitors stop turning rocks to find them.

Sign it. Then ask for the centre, not a label in a case.

https://www.change.org/p/revitalise-granite-island-penguin-centre-save-our-last-colony

Head-start from eggs. Release to the wild. Translocate from Phillip Island if required.

Scan the QR code to sign the petition.