



WEST COAST WALKS STRATEGY

June 2022



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of the lands, waters and communities we work together with. We pay our respects to their cultures; and to their Elders – past, present and emerging.

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Executive Summary

The West Coast Walks Strategy is an initiative of the West Coast Council to guide the future development of walking trails that will draw visitors to the region and increase recreation in one of the world's iconic landscapes.

Tasmania's West Coast features a range of stunning natural environments that include a large part of the Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area, spectacular coastlines, pristine rainforests, monumental mountain peaks and forests divided by often-raging rivers. It is this breathtaking and unique scenery that draws over 142,000 visitors to the region each year, many participating in the bushwalking experience offered.

The West Coast Council (WCC), local communities and partners aspire to establish the West Coast as a world class outdoor recreation destination, with walking playing a lead role towards achieving this. The WCC acknowledges that some of the trails mentioned in this strategy are aspirational and will require ongoing discussion, planning, funding and advocacy. Funding and resourcing the long-term management and maintenance of the entire existing and proposed trail system is critical to the success of the strategy and must be a key proponent of any grant funding or capital investment bid.

WCC also acknowledges that the long term success of this strategy depends on all stakeholders being comfortable with the strategic directions contained within it. Every attempt has been made to ensure that is the case.

The trail recommendations are based on extensive community and stakeholder engagement and independent tourism expertise. Some recommendations do not align with current Parks and Wildlife Service trail management and capital investment policies due to resource constraints and other existing policies. The recommendations remain in the strategy, as they are deemed strategically important to achieve over time.

Walking experiences and re-connecting with nature are in high demand by visitors and loved by locals who stand to gain a wealth of benefits. The West Coast Walks Strategy has been built on:

1. Investigating strategic opportunities
2. Exploring the current experiences on offer
3. Interpreting current and future demand for West Coast walking experiences
4. Understanding the aspirations for walking on the West Coast, and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats from a local perspective, and
5. Auditing the walks and assessing against best-practice criteria.

VISION

Walking is part of the West Coast's story. Local people choose to live here because of the benefits our walks provide; visitors come to walk among the raw, wild and untamed that is our story.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles should be used to steer decision-making around walking trail planning, development and management in the West Coast



QUALITY

– infrastructure, trailheads and information systems meet minimum standards



DIVERSITY

– a range of abilities and capabilities are catered for



APPEAL

– both residents and visitors have walking trail opportunities provided throughout the West Coast which appeal to them



PARTNERSHIPS

– land managers in the West Coast work effectively together to progress and/or provide walking trail opportunities



BENEFITS

– walking trails in the West Coast provide social, economic, environmental or cultural benefits

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

①

Improved walking trail provision for West Coast residents and visitors

②

Improved connectivity to West Coast towns through trails

③

Consistent trail classification & signage

④

Consistent marketing & communication

⑤

Improved engagement and coordination between land managers & major stakeholders

⑥

Improved activation of and support for volunteers and walking interest groups

Our vision and guiding principles are based upon a foundation of sustainability – environmental, social and economic.

While not a guiding principle, the allocation of ongoing resources to trail maintenance and ongoing management is a critical component of any aspirational strategy that seeks to position a destination as a world class destination that attracts visitors to specifically enjoy the outdoor active and walking opportunities.

1 Strategic Context

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tasmania's West Coast Council is the largest local government area in the state. The region is home to spectacular coastlines to the west, ancient rainforests, snow-capped rugged mountain peaks, cascading waterfalls, at times raging rivers and rich cultural and settlement heritage, all within a wild and remote setting. The region is home to many Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the Toogee tribe lived in the region for tens of thousands of years.

The region includes a large part of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), a highly important natural, cultural and tourism asset for Tasmania and Australia.

The West Coast already hosts some of the state's best short walks and sections of the iconic Overland Track, however given the breadth and quality of landscapes and natural attractions, there is a significant opportunity to grow the formalised and promoted walks offering to better reflect the potential for visitor and local community engagement in outdoor recreation.

The West Coast Walks Strategy (WCWS) supports the West Coast Community Plan 2025, the West Coast Council Corporate Plan 2020-2030 and the West Coast Sport and Recreation Plan, all documents identifying the need to increase community participation in recreation and sport. Participation in trail activities offers many social, health-related and cultural benefits to residents and visitors alike. It could be expected that the recommendations of the strategy will help to mobilise the local community and provide optimism and energy across the local economy and communities, as well as contributing to wellbeing.

The WCWS acknowledges the future \$40 million investment in the Next Iconic Walk project in the Tyndall Range and completion of the Tasmanian State Government funded Horsetail Falls boardwalk in Queenstown.

1.2 ALIGNMENT

In addition to the West Coast's own planning documents, this strategy also aligns with and delivers on several of the broader regional and State Government commitments and priorities:

STRATEGY	RELEVANT PRIORITIES
T21 Action Plan 2020-2022 and Tourism 2030 consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Progress investments at Cradle Mountain National ParkInitiate priorities in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Tourism Master PlanPursue the realisation of Tasmania's next Iconic Walk on the West Coast. Tyndall Range planned investment of \$20MCreating new icons e.g., Ocean Beach is the new Wineglass BayLack of high end accommodation - West Coast needs a hero high end flagship hotel (like Saffire)Negative perceptions of Queenstown as a place people 'hide' and are unskilled. Unpeel layers of Queenstown to tell the true story of character, people and placeHydro dam experience – educational tourism for visitors to learn about sustainable hydro energyPromotion of the West Coast as more than just Cradle Mountain. Other great walks and experiences on offer.
Tourism Master Plan for the Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Strahan - enhance the function of Strahan as a gateway through additional day and overnight experiences on the edge of the TWWHA. Given its economic importance to the west coast of Tasmania, and the extent and reliance on tourism activity in the TWWHA via the Lower Gordon River, it is appropriate to prioritise infrastructure and visitor experience improvements in Strahan over other gateway towns in the locality.

STRATEGY	RELEVANT PRIORITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyell Highway experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Existing and new stopover points and potential improvements such as the Nelson Falls, the Franklin River and other pull-over picnic and photographic opportunities, including for longer vehicles ○ Improvements to short walk opportunities (both existing and new) ○ Aboriginal cultural values and natural values interpretation ○ improved camping and caravan / motorhome sites at Lake King William and Lake Burbury in partnership with the West Coast Council ○ European historic heritage. ○ Frenchman's Cap - PWS to implement the adaptive management actions identified in the Frenchman's Cap Recreation Zone Plan 2020. ○ Overland Track - Review the draft Overland Track Recreation Zone Plan, including year round promotion, maintaining the wilderness experience and visitor interpretation. ○ Improve wayfinding around the TWWHA through the development of a wayfinding strategy that ensures the consistent use of visual imagery, signage, social media, technology.

At the time of writing, a new Destination Management Plan was being prepared for West Coast Tasmania. Preliminary drafting shows that walking trails are a priority at destination level.

Any new walking trail development will need to be in accordance with the West Coast Council Land Use Planning Strategy 2017 and Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service management plans or policy statements for reserves within national park and World Heritage areas.

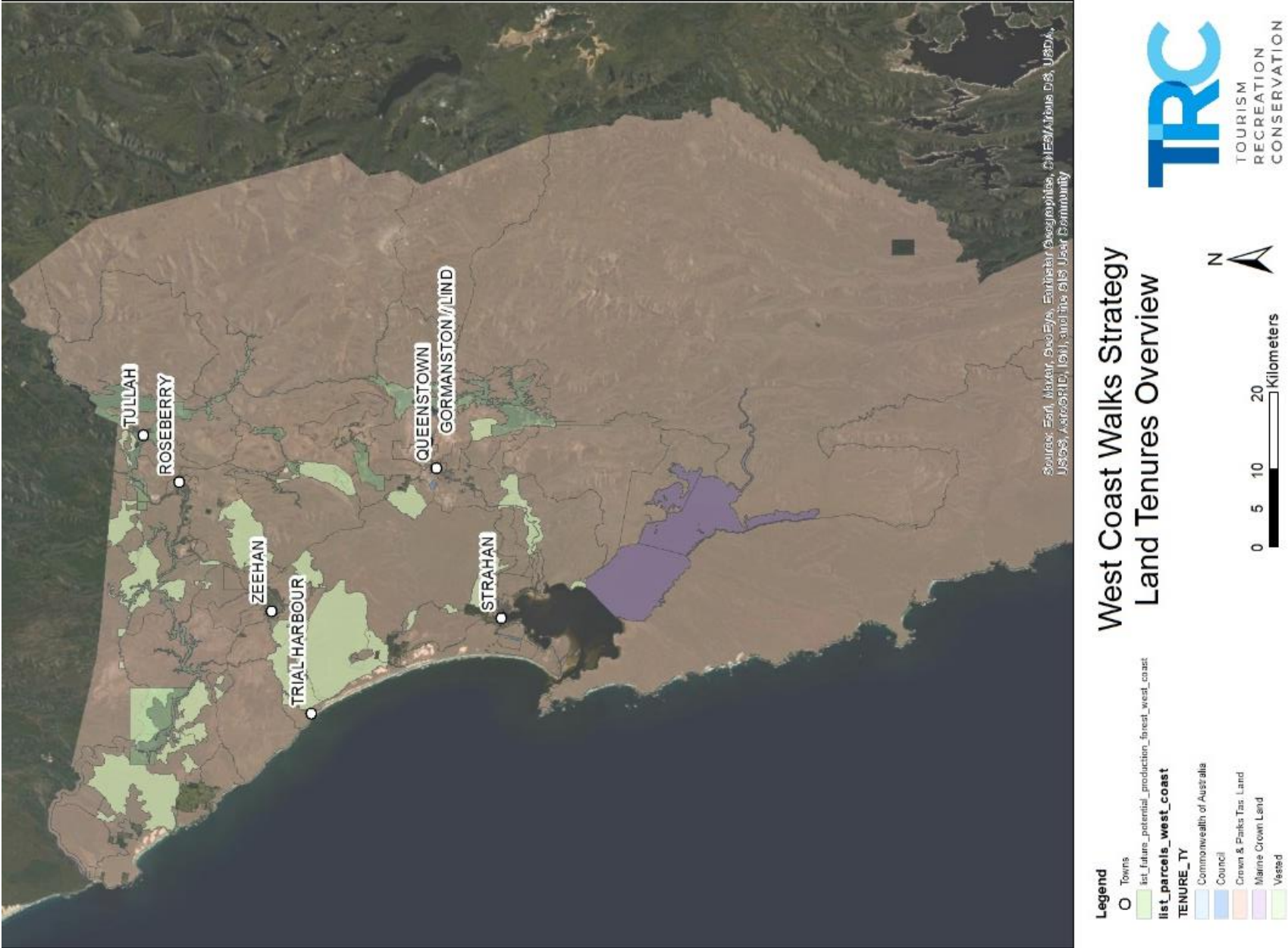
1.3 LAND MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS

Many of the existing and potential new walks in the West Coast are on land managed by others, either privately or publicly. The intent of this Strategy is for the West Coast Council to achieve an outcome for the whole of the region and deliver economic benefits to the West Coast broadly. To achieve this, several land access and management issues will need to be acknowledged and addressed to enable recommendations to be successful for all parties and visitors.

The Strategic Directions outlined in this Strategy are designed to unite the varying trail managers and stakeholders with a shared vision that delivers a consistent, high quality and sustainable walking experience across the West Coast.

A map-based overview of the different land managers is provided at Figure 1.

Figure 1. West Coast Walks Strategy – Land Tenures Overview



1.3.1 Mining

Much of the area is under active mining licence or lease and has been for over 150 years. There is a range of risks that mining presents (historic shafts, access) and ongoing leases and planned expansions that need to be considered. Strategic Productivity Zones protect mining for the future.

Advice from Minerals Resources suggests that access to mining leases and land is not a 'showstopper' and other trail development including the MTB networks have worked with mining to co-exist successfully. There is also a great opportunity to embrace mining history, past, present and future reality – WCC region will always have mining as the area is one of the most mineralised places in the world in terms of concentration of minerals.

1.3.2 Forest Holdings

Future Potential Productive Forest Land (FPPFL) designation appears to contribute to a lack of direction regarding the future recreational use of the land. FPPFL Land is a land class described in the Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014. The land was established to secure a 'wood-bank' to provide for future sustainable forestry production in Tasmania.

Forest management undertakes selective forest harvesting which would create difficulties for trail building and management. Any future trails would require Forestry to consider harvesting lead-in time. Forestry is concerned about unsanctioned access to forests, and trails will only be permitted with consent of the General Manager.

1.3.3 Hydro Electric Corporation (Hydro Tasmania)

Hydro Tasmania is Australia's largest water manager and renewable energy generator. Hydro Tasmania's asset base includes 30 power stations and 50 major dams across Tasmania, including key assets within the West Coast municipal area. In addition, Hydro Tasmania manages approximately 120,000 hectares, including about 13,000 hectares in Tasmania's iconic Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). Hydro Tasmania is a Government Business Enterprise owned by the Tasmanian Government on behalf of the people of Tasmania.

Hydro Tasmania hosts recreational activities on its managed land, including walking, boating, camping and fishing. In the WCC region, Hydro Tasmania has public access land and water-based assets inclusive of: Lake Burbury and environs, Lake Plimsol, Lake Rosebery, Lake Mackintosh, Lake Murchison (no public access), and Lake Pieman. There are informal, non-managed walks on Hydro Tasmania managed land and the business is open to collaborating with organisations interested in walking trails where suitable, agreed opportunities arise.

Opportunities to discuss with Hydro Tasmania include the carpark for the Confluence Walk and Harris Reward nearby, along with trails linked to these lakes, with an extension and upgrade of the Tullah Trail at Lake Roseberry Track. While not intending to develop trail experiences, Hydro Tasmania has indicated it welcomes proposals where there is demonstrable social and economic benefit.

1.3.4 Sustainable Timber Tasmania (Forestry Tasmania pre 2017)

Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) is a Tasmanian Government Business Enterprise responsible under State legislation for sustainably managing approximately 800,000 hectares of public production forest (Permanent Timber Production Zone land) and undertaking forest operations for the production and sale of forest products from these forests. It was called Forestry Tasmania until 2017. Mapping resources still indicate land management under 'Forestry Tasmania'.

STT is a significant land manager with many informal trails passing through its holdings (which are in non-production phases) and usually classified as Permanent Timber Production Zones (PTPZ).

Camping is generally allowed anywhere on PTPZ land except where signed 'no camping'. Campfires are allowed in most areas at most times. Bushwalkers in alpine areas or rainforest are required to use a fuel stove.

STT has some formal forest reserves (where recreation is common) still under its management, the majority of reserves previously managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania for recreational purposes have been transferred to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE).

STT offers information on permissive recreation on its land via its public website, including advice of road, track and land closures.

1.3.5 Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) Tasmania is the major land/trail manager and provider of walking track opportunities on the West Coast. The level of expectation from tourism and the community to manage the existing trail offering and develop more (and higher quality) trails is high. PWS note that the West Coast environment can be highly sensitive to over use and encouraging visitation to locations where infrastructure and resourcing is lacking can result in environmental degradation. Thus, the need for advocacy for funding and coordinated efforts becomes even more acute to allow a balance between use and environmental management.

PWS is under pressure from the community and tourism sector to invest more in walking trail experiences and improve some existing experiences. In addition to the suite of formal and planned trails to manage, there is a growing number of informal trails that evolve with no/limited planning or consideration for sustainability issues. There are also several longer Grade 4+ trails in Parks that appear to be overlooked from a promotional perspective. Resourcing and operational budget challenges have contributed to the decision to cease promotion of Grade 4+ trails that cannot be effectively or adequately managed for safety and sustainability. This approach of removing trail information from publications, websites and maps may no longer be effective in curtailing or managing trail use as trail information is now readily shared via social media and mobile phone trail apps such as AllTrails, Trailforks, GaiaGPS, Capra, Strava and others. As a result, safety and sustainability issues are rapidly arising on these previously lesser-known trails. WCC would like to work with PWS Tasmania to advocate for an increase in operational and capital funding to upgrade and maintain the existing suite of trails including the growing demand for selected Grade 4 trail access.

The trail industry and user expectations have evolved rapidly over the past ten years, and the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service's *Walking Track Management Strategy 2011 – 2020* is due for review. WCC supports the review due in 2022/23 and considers this is an important opportunity to incorporate community and industry findings from this strategy into the next iteration of the document.

There are a variety of track classification systems in use across Australia and New Zealand and they are generally designed for slightly different purposes. The PWS Track Classification Scheme and AS 2156 are both used to support track inspection and maintenance standards.

The Australian Walking Track Grading System is a guide to providing public information about tracks. It is important for public use of tracks that there is clear and consistent information and signage, and West Coast Council would support a process to renew and update track signage around the West Coast.

Equally it is important tracks are maintained to consistent and transparent standards based on current and expected use. West Coast Council supports a review of maintenance standards to ensure they are appropriate to the expected usage and properly funded.

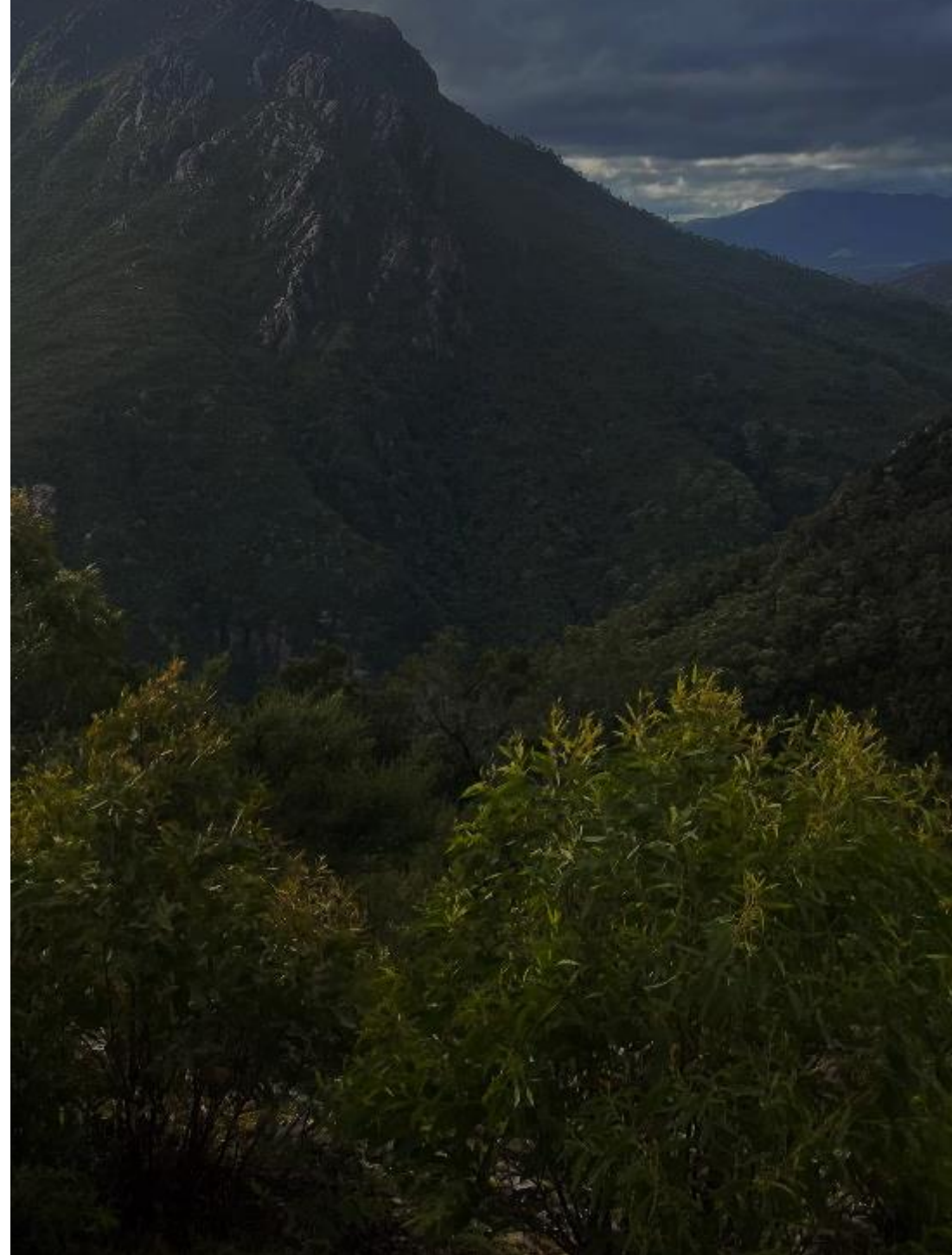
1.3.6 Minerals Resources Tasmania

Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) is a Division of the Department of State Growth. The purpose of MRT is to give effect to government policy in relation to minerals and petroleum resources, and the Division provides essential information for land management in Tasmania.

The focus of MRT is to produce and promote up-to-date geoscientific information on Tasmania as an aid to the mineral and petroleum exploration industries, other government agencies and the general public, in order to improve the State's economic position, and to promote sustainable land-use planning and environmental management.

While not a land manager per se, MRT is an important stakeholder and partner in terms of building cooperative relationships between recreational trail project teams and the mining and resources industry, which represents significant number of vested land manager/operators of parcels relevant to potential trail development(s).

MRT has indicated that good communication and negotiation in early phases of any trail development projects will be critical to ensuring trail alignments within resource development areas (if required) can be realised and/or alternative but agreeable solutions determined.





2 Tourism on the West Coast

“The West Coast of Tasmania is the part of Tasmania that is strongly associated with wilderness, mining and tourism, rough country and isolation. As well as that, it was an early convict settlement location in the early stages of Van Diemen’s Land.”¹

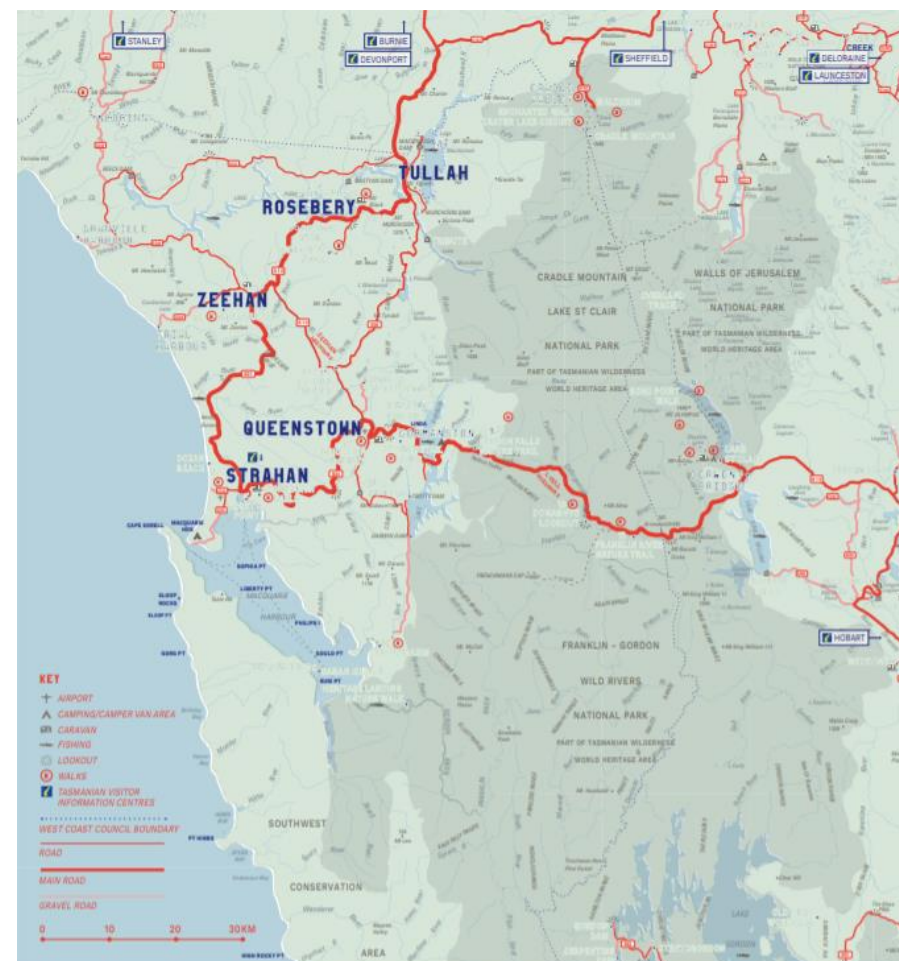
2.1 DESTINATION

The West Coast in Tasmania is the largest local Government area in the state, covering around 9,600 km² of land. Bordered by the Pieman River in the north, Kentish, Meander Valley and Central Highlands to the east, Port Davey and the Davey River to the south and the wild Southern Ocean to the west. The region is renowned for spectacular scenery from the ‘Roaring 40s’ on the west coast and pristine sandy coastlines to ancient rainforests, snow-capped rugged mountain peaks, cascading waterfalls and crystal-clear rivers. Queenstown is home to the region’s largest population and located 260 km (or approximately a 3.5 hour drive) from Hobart. Par Avion currently operate flights from Hobart to Strahan twice a week (approximately a 45 min flight one way).

Throughout the region there is rich cultural, mining, logging, farming and convict heritage, with remnants of days past evidenced in the small towns and remembered through a range of tour products, attractions and experiences.

The current estimated tourism value for the West Coast is \$97.7 million (approximately 14.1% of total Tasmanian holiday expenditure by those who include a visit to the West Coast).²

Figure 2. Map of region



¹ West Coast Destination Action Plan 2019

² TVS Analyser, West Coast visitor expenditure year end March 2020

2.2 VISITOR OFFER

“Round here, things aren’t like they are on the mainland. They’re not even like they are in the rest of Tasmania. This is a different place. You’ll encounter the raw, the untouched, and the untamed. You’ll come face-to-face with the powerfully, eternally, undeniably wild. It’s waiting for you. As it always has been. All it takes is a short trip. Just outside your comfort zone.”

West Coast Brand Film (credit For the People/West Coast Council)

West Coast is promoted across five sub-regions

STRAHAN

People of the Sea

The iconic port on the banks of Macquarie Harbour, nestled between the Southern Ocean and Gateway to Tasmania’s World Heritage area.

QUEENSTOWN

People of the Valley

An historic mining town that lies in a valley between Mount Lyell and Mount Owen, featuring a distinct cratered ‘moonscape’.

ZEEHAN

People of the Plains

Once Tasmania’s third-largest town (and called “Silver City”), this previously bustling town is now better known for its heritage charm.

ROSEBERY

People of the Mist

Australia’s steepest golf course. The southern hemisphere’s highest tree-covered mountain. Rosebery is a case-study in West Coast extremities.

TULLAH

People of the Lakes

On the shores of the iconic Lake Rosebery, Tullah seems peaceful – but it’s the perfect access point for wild West Coast wilderness.

2.3 WEST COAST VISITOR EXPERIENCE THEMES

The following experience themes represent West Coast's strengths;



RIVER CRUISES & WATER BASED EXPERIENCES

- Gordon River World Heritage Wilderness Cruise
- King River Rafting
- Lake Rosebery Kayaking
- West Coast Yacht Charters Strahan



HISTORIC RAIL

- West Coast Wilderness Rail Journey
- Wee Georgie Wood Steam Railway



WORLD HERITAGE WILDERNESS

- Cradle Mountain / Lake St Clair National Park
- Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park
- South West National Park



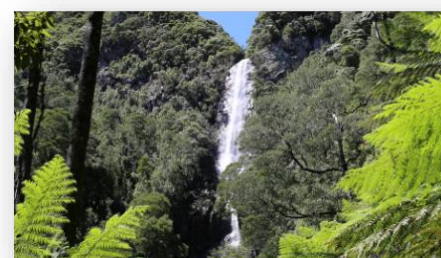
WALKING AND HIKING

- 35 walks (from the multi-day Overland Track to short river walks and lookouts)



ANCIENT FORESTS OF KING BILLY, HUON PINE

- Huon Pine Precinct Strahan
- Lost Mines, Ancient Pines Tour



WATERFALLS

- Hogarth Falls Strahan
- Horsetail Falls Queenstown
- Montezuma Falls Rosebery
- Stitt Falls Rosebery
- Nelson Falls



4WDing

- Climies Granville Harbour 4WD trail Zeehan
- Heemskirk Loop 4WD trail



FISHING & AQUACULTURE

- Trial Harbour
- Granville Harbour
- Lake Rosebery
- Lakes Burbury, Pieman, Plimsoll and Mackintosh



SETTLEMENT, CONVICT AND MINING HISTORY

- Sarah Island (Gordon River Cruise)
- Strahan Historic Foreshore
- West Coast Reflection Exhibition Strahan
- The Ship that Never Was performance Strahan
- Huon Pine Precinct Strahan
- Galley Museum Queenstown



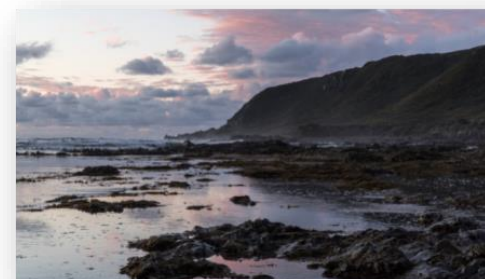
MOUNTAIN BIKING

- Ocean Beach Trail Strahan
- Spray Tunnel MTB Trail Zeehan
- Oonah Hill MTB Trail Zeehan
- Sterling Valley MTB Trail Rosebery



OLD MINE TOURS

- Lost Mine, Ancient Pines Tour
- Historic Power Station Queenstown
- The Paragon Theatre Queenstown
- Spion Kop Lookout Queenstown
- Iron Blow Lookout Queenstown
- West Coast Heritage Centre Zeehan



COAST AND HARBOURS

- Ocean Beach
- Henty Sand Dunes
- Trial Harbour
- Granville Harbour



HERITAGE SITES

- Spray Tunnel Zeehan
- Heritage Miner's Cottage Rosebery
- Rosebery Heritage Centre
- History Room Tullah Café
- Mackintosh and Reece Dam Tullah

2.4 VISITATION WEST COAST

WEST COAST TAS at a glance

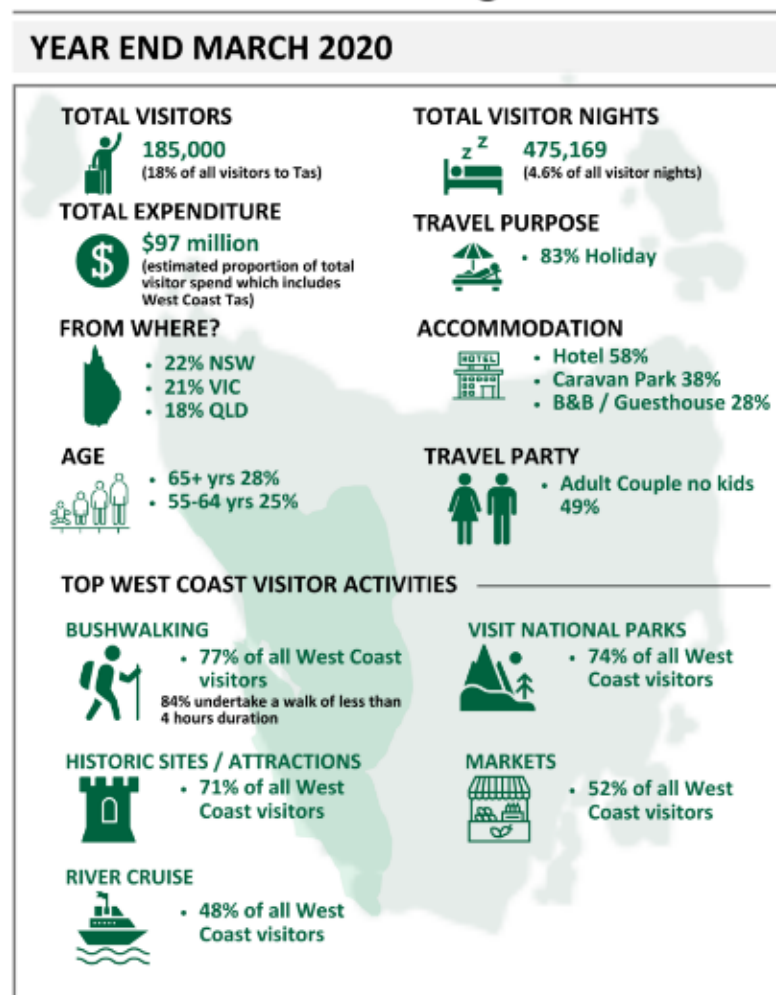
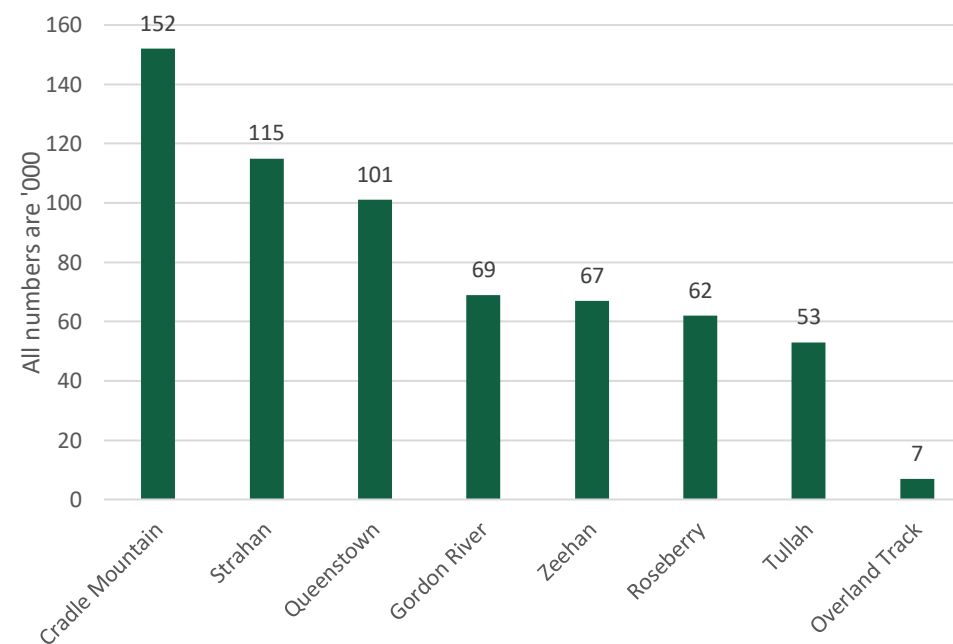


Figure 3. Places visited West Coast Tasmania³



³ Tasmanian Visitor Data, TVS Analyser March 2020

2.4.1 Visitation impacts from COVID-19

The Tasmanian border was closed to interstate travellers from 19 March 2020 and only opened again to interstate travellers from 'low risk' destinations on 26 October 2020. This had a significant impact on the State's core Victorian and New South Wales markets with extended travel restrictions occurring on an ongoing basis.

To present a story of visitation in Tasmania pre-COVID, a snapshot of past visitor statistics from year end March 2020 has been presented on the previous page. For comparison, we have also included a West Coast snapshot of year end June 2021 data to observe impacts to the tourism industry. Data has been collated and analysed from Tourism Tasmania, Tourism Research Australia's Satellite Account and the Tasmania Visitor Survey (TVS) Analyser.

March 2020 versus June 2021

- Visitation 185,000 q 95,000 (-51%)
- Expenditure \$97 m q \$25 m (-25%) estimated proportion of total visitor spend which includes a visit to West Coast Tasmania
- Total visitor nights 475,169 q 223,587 (-47%).

From a State-wide perspective:

June 2021

- Visitation 574,600 q -44%
- Expenditure \$1.46 b q -27% (estimated proportion of total visitor spend which includes a visit to West Coast Tasmania)
- Total visitor nights 5.83 m q -25%.



3 Walking on the West Coast

3.1 CURRENT TRAILS

A trail audit of over 60 trails found that the West Coast features a diverse variety of longer and shorter distance trails, including seven trails which feature in Parks & Wildlife's 60 Tasmanian Great Short Walks and are a major drawcard for the region. The condition of the trails range, with most requiring some level of maintenance and improvement to infrastructure and signage to meet Australian Standards requirements and enhance trail safety and sustainability.

LOCATION	FORMAL TRAILS	INFORMAL TRAILS	PROPOSED / CONCEPT
Queenstown	9	12	13
Strahan	4	2	1
Roseberry	3	1	2
Tullah	3	2	0
Zeehan	1	5	0
Trial Harbour	1	1	2

A walking trail audit for WCC area can be viewed in Appendix F and it includes the list of formal and informal walks collated from desk-based and on site surveys. The 'emerging' or potential walks may be a range of unmarked, unsanctioned or unmaintained walks used predominately by local users and revolve around mountain summits, old, abandoned mining towns and hydroelectric / dam experiences. They may include historic trails that are currently not maintained or that do not necessarily provide a strong visitor experience element.

Section 8.7 and Appendix A provide a detailed analysis of findings.

3.2 TRAIL USE

There is minimal specific trail use information available, with estimates taken from Tourism Tasmania visitor data, Parks and Wildlife Service statistics and Sports Australia.

3.2.1 Visitors

Across Tasmania, 585,000 visitors (45% of all visitors) participated in bushwalking during their stay by year end March 2020. Bushwalking is the second most popular activity for visitors to undertake in Tasmania, behind only 'outdoor activities'.⁴ Of all bushwalking visitors, 81% undertake bushwalking activities of less than 4 hours, with 19% partaking in walking activities extending over 4 hours.

For the West Coast, year end March 2020, 185,000 visitors had included the West Coast in their Tasmanian visit. Of these visitors, 77% participated in some form of bushwalking activity on the West Coast, the majority (84%) undertook walks of less than 4 hours duration.

⁴ TVS Analyser, March 2020

West Coast attractions by visitor numbers⁵

ATTRACTION / WALK	NUMBER OF VISITORS
Cradle Mountain	284,000
Gordon River	78,000
West Coast Wilderness Railway	40,970
Horsetail Falls / Ironstone Blow	27,387
Nelson Falls	26,278
Montezuma Falls	16,187
Overland Track	9,000

3.2.2 Tasmanians

- Tasmanians have the highest rate of participation in recreational walking nationally, with 49.6% or 214,586 adult participants annually⁶
- Tasmanians have the highest rate of participation in bushwalking nationally, with 10.9% or 47,372 adult participants annually⁷
- Top reasons to participate in bushwalking are to be outdoors and enjoy nature, for fun and enjoyment and for physical health and fitness.

⁵ TVS Analyser, March 2020

⁶ Ausplay National Sports and Physical Activity survey, Recreational Walking Participation December 2020



⁷ Ausplay National Sports and Physical Activity survey, Bushwalking Participation December 2020

4 Building the Strategy

4.1 WALKING THE TRAILS – TRAIL AUDIT

TRC looked at over sixty trails as part of the audit process. These included known formal / informal trails and a range of ideas and concepts gained from the various stakeholder and community engagement processes.

The following criteria was applied when selecting trails to include in the strategy:

- Capacity – the resources, personnel, funding and capability of West Coast Council to be able to deliver the recommendation
- Community – the potential social, recreation, health and wellbeing benefits of the recommendation to the West Coast community
- Tourism – the recommendation has the potential to contribute to strengthening the West Coast visitor economy and overall visitor experience throughout the region
- Support – initial support for the recommendation, or the broader theme it is aligned with, has been expressed by the local West Coast community
- Complexity – an overall assessment of accessibility of the location, potential costs involved, and land tenure challenges related to the recommendation
- Readiness – the recommendation is either shovel-ready or would have immediate impact if implemented.

TRC Consultants completed two high-level surveys of the region's trails and trailheads, inspecting sections of accessible formal and informal trails, trailheads, infrastructure, signage, wayfinding and interpretation examples. The full length of every trail was not possible to inspect due to project time restraints, length, difficulty, weather and in some cases, safety.

An overarching assessment of existing trail experiences against the criteria is available at Appendix A – West Coast Walks Assessment.

4.2 UNDERSTANDING ASPIRATIONS

The region's trails are currently managed by a range of stakeholders who understand the benefits of the existing trail network and the potential they bring the wider region. TRC Tourism hosted two rounds of consultative workshops seeking input from West Coast Council, community, government agencies, relevant stakeholders, businesses and user group representatives. Collectively the workshops, along with follow-up communication via email and telephone, highlighted opportunities and challenges across the West Coast for the development of walking trails, with critical information gathered that has helped form and guide priorities for this study.

As part of the workshops, a SWOT (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats) analysis was undertaken, with further input added from field visits and desktop research. Some significant themes that emerged during consultation include:

- Positive community sentiment for an increased focus on improving walking trail infrastructure in the towns and villages including Queenstown, Strahan and Tullah
- Positive community sentiment for improved walking trail accessibility for elderly residents, other residents with mobility issues, and young parents with prams
- Challenges associated with walking trails no longer being promoted by Parks and Wildlife Service, yet still receiving a high volume of walkers
- Significant lack of trailhead signage and wayfinding
- Overrepresentation of informal unmaintained trails vs. formal maintained trails
- A lack of walking trails to provide fitness and recreation challenge for residents which are 2-3 hours in duration (i.e., that are not too short and not too long)

- Support for utilising the extensive choice of existing trails (both informal and formal) over the construction of new trails
- Misconception by the community that some land managers are not interested in walking trail development
- Overall, there is a lack of connection between walking trails and West Coast history, heritage and culture – at least in interpreting the stories and history attached to them
- A desire to integrate walking trail development where possible to facilitate, benefit and link in with other outdoor active recreation including mountain biking, rock climbing and paddle sports, and
- Potential for the proposed creation of a 'Centre for Outdoor Excellence' in early-stage review by State Government and its relevancy to connected and quality trail infrastructure.

There is an agreed view amongst community, industry and trail managers that the trail network is and should continue to be, characterised by the unique West Coast natural environment, as well as the complementary offering and experiences in the region, include rafting, paddling, mountain biking, and genuine remote wilderness and mountain experiences. Identified significant opportunities include:

- capitalising on Tasmania's market position as known globally as a place of outstanding wilderness, walks and nature-based experiences
- building on the Tyndall Ranges proposed walk that will be a game changer for the West Coast
- linking of walks to the historical interpretation across the region's unique Indigenous, pioneering, mining and hydro management narratives.

The strategy recognises that there are several land access and management issues that need to be acknowledged and addressed to achieve the vision of a world class outdoor recreation destination. The West Coast Council has the opportunity to lead a renewed cooperative approach to achieve the strategy goals.

The complete SWOT Analysis can be viewed at Appendix B.



5 Developing a world class trail destination

A ‘world class’ trails destination generally includes a number of high standard trail experiences that meet the needs of the identified markets and that showcase the landscape and culture of the destination. It also has a range of trail related services to support the experience of the users. This applies to both community users and visitors.

By way of example, Three Capes Track in Southern Tasmania is not only a great trail through an outstanding landscape, it also offers trail users a complete experience. Not all trails need to offer the same experience, and this will in part depend on the intended users and level of service planned for the trail. This study provides a framework that helps delineate intended markets and the needs of the trails specifically for the West Coast of Tasmania.

The following elements influence the trail destination in the marketplace and combine to identify future needs of the region to help it develop the positioning in the trails market, and the services and products it offers its residents and communities for outdoor active recreation.

5.1 DIVERSITY OF TRAIL TYPES

Whether or not a destination offers a significant diversity of trails depends on its positioning and target markets.

A diversity of trails can be achieved in a number of ways. These may include offering trails to different and particular trail markets such as walking, hiking, multi-use, cycling and mountain biking. As well as different types of trails, they should also be offered to people with different fitness, skill levels and equipment. This may include degree of difficulty in use, length of trail, the number of points at which people can stop for refreshments or rests, or technical equipment requirements.

5.2 CONCENTRATION OF TRAIL TYPES

Transport between trails can be a barrier for visitors seeking to have a multi-day trail experience in a region. Ideally the trails will be close to a trail head or area that provides accommodation and a service hub.

In the absence of the trails being located in a close area, strong transport connections are important to enable visitors to enjoy the area without travelling large distances to begin their experiences. Trails will ideally lead from a well-designed trail head.

5.3 QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Trails will ideally be designed to be sustainable environmentally and fit into the landscape in which they sit. Modern trail construction methods and new trail building guidelines (such as the MTBA guidelines⁸) all promote good design with a strong emphasis on sustainability and user experience.

Importantly, trail design and infrastructure should be fit for purpose. Supporting infrastructure includes trail heads, toilets, information, car parks etc. For example, wilderness trails need significantly less infrastructure than high volume short walking tracks on the Lyell Highway between Lake St Clair and Queenstown.

Trails and infrastructure should be designed and managed to be safe for the proposed uses, including shared use trails. There should be clear, accessible information on orientation and wayfinding, trail standards, difficulty ratings, appropriate user behaviour and journey length. This should be available via signs and online sources.

5.4 LEADING AND SUPPORTING TRAILS EXPERIENCES

Great trails destinations are very likely to have drawcard trails that provide the 'hook' to bring people into the region to experience a trails-based holiday. While the icon trail is important, it is also important to have a variety of supporting trails in the area to keep people in the region (increased length of stay generally equates to increased yield), and to develop repeat visitation to the area.

The supporting trails will generally be aligned to the product strength of the region. For example, the Overland Track defines the Cradle Mountain area in the market place, but the region contains many other high quality walks.

Other types of trail may also be provided to deliver a comprehensive trail offering for other members in a travelling group.

5.5 ACCESSIBILITY

Trails need to be accessible to user markets. For example, there is little point constructing a high-quality day walk trail with no access to day user markets. Transport and access need to be aligned to the markets using the trail.

Considerations include:

- Is there suitable road access to the trail head?
- Can users access public transport to reach the trail or trail head?
- Is there the ability to have luggage transfers from the trail head to overnight destinations?
- Is the area all ability accessible to encourage community use across all user groups?

5.6 EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Good governance provides for well made decisions, based on evidence and determined collaboratively with alignment to a strong sense of vision and long-term planning. It is generally important that the governance model is fit for purpose for that area. Elements of a good governance model can include:

- The partners and operators have a clear sense of a vision for the destination
- The partners have a clear understanding of their roles and accountabilities and work together in that framework
- Having teams with the right skills and experience to drive outcomes
- Having access to the necessary financial, human and support resources they need to develop the destination.

Many trail destinations in Australia struggle to gain the necessary funding for ongoing maintenance. In the case of Tasmania, competing demands for investment into maintenance on Tasmanian Parks Service land are significant.

⁸ Mountain Bike Australia Trail – Australian Mountain Bike Trail Guidelines

CASE STUDY – Wellington Regional Trails⁹

The Wellington Regional Trails project is a collaboration between the region's nine district and city councils, the Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and WellingtonNZ, the region's economic development, events, and promotions agency. The Wellington region is becoming wildly famous for its spectacular recreational trails. They want to make sure everyone knows about these unique experiences and that residents in the Greater Wellington region get to enjoy them every day. Individual regional landowners have handpicked and approved 200 of the regions' best trail experiences to showcase to their residents and the world. That's close to 300 km of spectacular mountain biking, walking and horse riding tracks that weaves through some of Wellington's 40,000 hectares of publicly owned land. These awesome trails stretch from Wellington CBD all the way to the northern Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast. From scenic coastal walks with panoramic views, to rugged hilltop biking trails, leisurely rambles through native forests, and bumpy riverbank tracks, there's a pathway to suit everyone's next adventure.¹⁰

The project involved developing a Wellington Regional Trails Strategic Framework that would underpin the development and promotion of Wellington as a trails destination. The region wanted to achieve economic benefits from trail tourism and its associated revenue, employment and business opportunities, overall increasing the broader tourism offer.

Effective governance was one of many challenges that needed to be addressed, such as:

- multiple stakeholders across the various district and city councils, which had for the most part worked on their own priorities in the absence of a broader regional approach
- trails connecting through various jurisdictions beyond Wellington meant there were various authorities and groups managing the existing trail experiences, with minimal collaboration
- trails had been designed for local use (those in the know) with little formal infrastructure in place for visitors (i.e., way finding signage, toilets, water, parking)
- no marketing strategy for trails in the region
- no single point of information for visitors looking for trail experiences.

- The appointment of a Regional Trails Coordinator to deliver the strategic priority actions was a key recommendation in the Strategic Framework, which was implemented and realised immediately after delivery of the recommendations.

In addition, the Wellington Regional Trails Regional Coordinating Committee is made up of senior officials from the project's partner organisations who report directly to the region's councils and Department of Conservation's Chief Executives. The Committee works closely with the Community and Industry Engagement Forum who are made up of trail user representatives. Together these groups drive and collaborate ongoing support for the Wellington Regional Trails for the Future Strategic Framework and approve the key actions to be executed by the Regional Trails Framework Advisor.

There are many trail user groups including: trampers, walkers, runners, cyclists and mountain bikers, horses and environmentalists. The Wellington Regional Trails website includes information to support those region-wide user groups. These include:

- Location, routes, interactive maps and trail descriptions (distance, elevations, standards, facilities and difficulty grading)
- Promotion and links to events and trails related operators such as hospitality, accommodation, products, tour and skills courses.

A dedicated website for Wellington Regional Trails has also since been developed and launched, providing a single point of contact for visitors and residents. The website features: interactive maps; search filters for areas, type of use, difficulty level, route type and dog accessibility; upcoming walking, trail running, mountain biking and multisport events; useful resources and guidance for travelling to the region; and trail businesses such as bike and equipment hire, accommodation, tours and courses, and food and beverage venues.

Importantly, all partners from local, regional, and national government are contributing to the governance arrangements, framework implementation and assisting with funding further implementation actions.

⁹ TRC Tourism Research

¹⁰ <https://www.wellingtonregionaltrails.com/>

5.7 EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

A strong events calendar can help bring a trail destination to life, particularly in shoulder seasons. It also assists in providing trail related businesses in the area to have an income source and provide some business certainty. Events do not need to be competitive, for example they could be based on photography, community celebrations etc.

CASE STUDY – Warburton Trail Fest¹¹

The Salomon Warburton Trail Fest debuted in 2018 in the small rural township of Warburton (pop. 2012), located in the Upper Yarra Valley approximately one hour's drive (70km) from Melbourne, Victoria.

The 2.5 day 'festival' event was designed to "celebrate the trail and mountain lifestyle" with a focus on celebrating the role trails play in facilitating access to and appreciation for places of natural beauty for both community and visitors. It is currently marketed and produced predominantly as a trail running event with other programmed activities including bushwalking, a river lilo derby, seminars and films that focus on the mountain and adventure lifestyle. The location was chosen for the natural beauty featured throughout the region, for the network of trails available that allowed for a variety of distances for the runs (5km, 9km, 14km, 22km, 27km, 50km) and for the location of the trailhead / trail access from the centre of town with capacity for event hub and car parking.

The event was initially supported by a seed establishment grant from Yarra Ranges Tourism in the order of \$5,000 / year for three years to assist with a journey toward feasibility. As an indicator of the growth in trail running as a recreational pursuit – where the majority of trail runners participate in between 3-10 organised events annually¹² – the event has recorded continual and significant growth, despite operating under COVID-affected conditions for two years and bushfire events in another.¹³

In its four years of operation 2018-2021 the event has more than doubled in patronage from 530 registrations to 1100 registrations. The most recent event (2021) survey outlined the positive visitation and economic impacts a recreational and competitive trail running event can deliver:

- The event recorded 1100 registrations
- For every participant, there is an average of 1.2 additional visitors accompanying (friend, family, or other non-participant supporter)
- The majority of visitor participants stayed one or more nights in region (56%)
- The majority of those staying in region booked for 3 nights (52.5%)
- Event participants accounted for 1484 bed nights
- Average nightly accommodation spend was \$127 / night
- Average local spend on items other than accommodation \$167 / person
- Direct local expenditure incl event management spend: \$384,168 (this does not include induced spend nor spend by additional associated visitors)
- Average overall spend per participant in local region: \$349
- Other direct community benefit included \$3000 raised for local primary school and \$1700 for the local CFA brigade.¹⁴

¹¹ Tour de Trails event management company

¹² Adventure Types Survey 2013: 46.6% attending 3-5 events annually, 22.1% 6-10 events and 21.2% 1-2 events. Only 4.1% said that they do not enter events.

¹³ Event Reports, Tour de Trails, 2018-21: participant surveys.

¹⁴ www.warburtontrailsfest.com / Insights from Warburton Trails Fest Event Manager.

The event itself delivers direct economic benefit, broad benefit to the community (in this instance via fundraising support of local organisations and schools), and offers community connection via volunteer involvement, all of which is predicated on the existence of formalised, connected and maintained trails.

Further insights show a clear visibility, visitation and ongoing economic benefit beyond the timespan of the event proper:

- 27% of participants had not been to the host township prior to the event
- 43% of participants did not know of / consider the township as a trail running destination prior to attending the event
- 93% of participants state they 'definitely will' or are 'highly likely' to return to the region specifically for active recreation (running, walking, cycling, paddling etc).

The data reveals that the trail running event specifically broadens general awareness of the destination, positions the locality as a desirable destination for trail-based activity and facilitates return and repeat visitation beyond the event period.

THE FUTURE

There are plans to expand the activity to include some off-road cycling activity, in line with its core focus of any activity that takes place on trails and conducive to the region's planned development in the mountain biking space.

INSIGHTS FROM A TRAIL EVENTS MANAGER

Priority considerations for event managers selecting locations and sites for event staging:

- Quality and POI (points of interest) features of landscape and environment being of attraction to trail runners
- Quality, extent (distances) and connectivity of trails
- Majority singletrack trails
- Network able to host various distances (events usually offer a range of distance options for participants) with common start/finish location
- Trails maintained, especially after weather events
- Appropriate node (aid station) distances
- Ability to create loop route (although point to point trail races common for extended – ultra – distances)
- Existing waymarking of trails
- Connectivity to townships, locality approximate to population centres (although remoteness can also be a key attraction / benefit)
- Immersive experience, limited (if any) interaction with roads, crossings etc
- No need for traffic management
- Staging area – space for event expo, start, finish
- Car parking at event HQ
- Facilities available at staging area i.e., toilets, drinking water availability
- Emergency access for management / aid vehicles
- Support (financial and otherwise) from local council
- Community support for hosting event
- Straightforward permit process, preferably requiring single permit for all event (rather than multiple permits required where trail crosses multiple land manager areas)
- Positive relations with and support from land manager.

5.8 COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

Strong community engagement with local communities about plans, issues and opportunities helps ensure that the destination's experiences are delivered by land managers, businesses and community alike. It also helps ensure that local needs are considered in the trail management and development.

Strong engagement can occur in a variety of ways. Most local government areas (LGAs) have strong channels for engagement including the 'Your Say' page and through connections into communities by informal means.

CASE STUDY – Bibbulmun Foundation¹⁵

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation (the Foundation) is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation established to provide support for the management, maintenance and marketing of the Bibbulmun Track. They are responsible for community involvement coordination, volunteer management, track promotion, advocacy and fund raising. Whilst the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction's Parks and Wildlife Service, acts as Manager of the Track, the Foundation is recognised as the primary focal point for community-based support and involvement, and has primary responsibility for promoting the Track to potential walkers and maintaining the Track through the Newmont Boddington Gold Eyes on the Ground volunteer maintenance program.¹⁶

The Foundation has also harnessed and further developed a supportive track community (covering user groups, the public and the government and private sectors) with a strong sense of stewardship for the track and a willingness to make voluntary contributions (in kind or money) to track management or to enter partnerships to assist maintenance or deliver visitor experiences.

The success of the Foundation has been assisted by a Board of high profile people with the skills and commitment to drive the vision for the Track on a voluntary basis.

Numerous opportunities for independent walking, ranging from short strolls to multi-day walks and wilderness camping, are assisted by the comprehensive information provided by the Foundation. The Foundation has developed specific products which are bookable online including:

- Bibbulmun Walking Breaks (all-inclusive packaged short breaks with day walking on the track and accommodation in a nearby rural town developed in partnership with local operators)
- guided tours of 8 or 9 days with day walking on a variety of track sections
- guided walks of different lengths and for different ages and abilities offered at a moderate price
- a range of group walk, activity and team building products
- expedition planning assistance for school and youth groups
- courses, seminars, workshops to groups, schools and the community on topics such as first aid, walking food, gear and long walk planning.

¹⁵ As per TRC Tourism Research

¹⁶ <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au>

The Foundation is managed by a ten-member Board of Management. Current board members represent: natural resources management sector (Chair); the Peregrine Travel Centre; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; the Great Southern Development Commission (a statutory authority); Low Carbon Australia; and the “community” (businesspeople, educators and retired professionals). It has a full-time paid Executive Director and many volunteer staff.

The Foundation has many corporate partnerships which play a vital role in supporting their work in providing services to walkers and maintaining the Track in world-class condition. These corporate partnerships range from Premier (1), Gold (2), Silver (1), and Bronze (3). There are also other strategic and funding partners, such as Lotterywest. Importantly, the Foundation has developed several paying events on the Track to support its ongoing work.

The Bibbulmun Track has seen a high level of community involvement in planning, management and use from its inception, when private bushwalkers were involved in the proposals for the original track development and the concept for its upgrading. Involvement and commitment from the community, land management agencies, local businesses and industry has been sustained throughout the development and operation of the Track.

The Foundation is the focus for community and stakeholder engagement and involvement in Track management and track user experiences. It both operates volunteer programs and sponsorship partnerships and provides training, services, events and information.

- Around 450 volunteers participate in the Eyes on the Ground Maintenance Program where teams of volunteers adopt a section of track, carry out a maintenance and reporting schedule and attend annual Maintenance Field Days. An incentives program offers rewards (such as gift vouchers, national park passes) linked to the number of hours volunteered in a year
- Partnerships with local businesses are used to sponsor specific programs, activities and track work (for which each sponsor is acknowledged) – such as the volunteer maintenance program, first aid training, incentive prizes for volunteers. Major sponsors have included several mining companies in the area of the Track, outdoor equipment companies and adventure travel operators. Sponsorship levels are set in increments between \$2,500 and \$50,000
- The Walker Friendly Business Program connects walkers with accommodation, cafes and restaurants, equipment suppliers and tour and transport operators along the track. For a fee of \$150 a year participating business receive marketing benefits, information, priority use in Foundation tour products and packages, and links on the track website
- Fundraising facilities are provided for individuals and groups to hold events (such as walkathons, parties) to raise funds for the Bibbulmun Track
- A comprehensive range of services, events, activities and information assist people to appreciate walking the track and gain a sense of participating in the track community.

5.9 STRONG DESTINATION POSITIONING AND MARKETING

Strong marketing is required to ensure a trails destination cuts through in what is becoming a more and more crowded marketplace. Each destination must ensure it positions itself well and aligns its core strengths and experiences to the market and promotes it accordingly.

Consistent application of a brand across the destination and the partners involved is also critical to avoid mixed signals and inconsistent messaging.

Strong planning and collaboration between partners, land managers, businesses and the tourism industry is essential to getting the marketing and positioning delivered well.

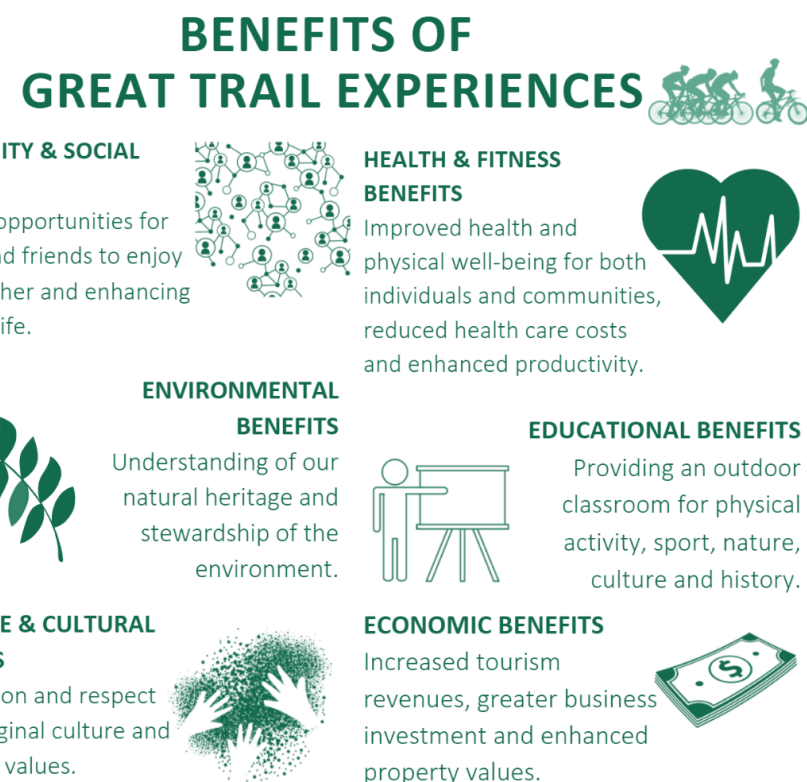
5.10 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The setting in which the trail is located is vitally important to attracting visitors. Trail destinations use hero marketing shots of trails that showcase the area. This includes 'blue bird' days in alpine areas, coastal environments on still sunny days, and forests and waterfalls.

Trails developed to showcase and align with cultural elements including Aboriginal culture are also important.

Sustainable environmental management of trails is also important not only to the ongoing success of the destination to offer world class experiences, but also to the community who value their region. The Tasmanian West Coast receives high rainfall and one area that needs continued attention is trail drainage to avoid erosion.

Figure 4. Benefits of great trail experiences



6 Target markets, needs and demand

Target markets that will seek and participate in walking experiences in the West Coast:

MARKET	DESCRIPTION
Local West Coast residents	<p>The West Coast Council's Sport and Recreation Plan 2018 is committed to supporting and encouraging happy and active lifestyles of local residents through provision of best fit recreational facilities.</p> <p>Ensuring that local people have ease of access to community walking trails and facilities for their own physical and social wellbeing will support delivery of this vision.</p> <p>Several recommendations within the Plan have included the need to develop a regional and town specific Walk Strategies and recreational Master Plans.</p>
Tasmanians – intrastate	<p>National data has already evidenced the strong participation by Tasmanians in bushwalking and recreational walking experiences, currently ranked as number one in Australia.</p> <p>The preliminary public survey on West Coast walks has also shown comprehensive knowledge by Tasmanians on walking experiences in the region, several that are not publicly promoted.</p> <p>Intrastate visitors may either be travelling for a weekend getaway or a day trip and seeking to undertake a favourite walk, a walk they have never done before, or an opportunity for a break and 'leg stretch' on a drive journey.</p> <p>The Tasmanian trail running community has grown exponentially during the past 5-8 years, with the Tasmanian Trail Running Association incorporated in late 2020.</p> <p>Tasmania hosts a high number of trail running events, with 2021 recording the highest ever number of events, with participation rates by Tasmanians increasing.</p>
Tasmanian bushwalking and trail running groups / clubs	<p>Bushwalking Tasmania represents nine clubs located around the State - Blandfordia Alpine, Circular Head Walking Club Inc., Deloraine Walking Club, Easter Shore Ramblers, Hobart Walking Club, Launceston Ramblers Club, Launceston Walking Club, North-West Walking Club and the Pandani Bushwalking Club. Club members will undertake both short and multi-day walking experiences within their own region and also travel to undertake walks in other regions. This can include walks along iconic trails and seldom used tracks such as mountain summit walks.</p> <p>Tasmanian social trail running and training groups are all experiencing increased patronage and connection. These include the Hobart Trail Runners (2.5k members), Ultrain (1.4k), Tasmanian Trail Runners (1.3k), and Wilder Trails (852).</p>

MARKET	DESCRIPTION
Overnight independent bushwalkers and trail runners	Well prepared adventure walkers will come both from intrastate and interstate to participate in iconic walking experiences such as the Overland Track and Frenchman's Cap. The Overland Track is a key example of this demand, with Tasmanian Parks recording 7,000 walkers on the Overland Track alone for year end March 2020.
Overnight guided walking and trail running experiences	<p>Guided and self-guided accommodated walks are one of the fastest growing tourism products in Australia and other international destinations.</p> <p>Pre-COVID it was estimated that around 200,000 Australians participate in annual high end extended or multi-night walks overseas, only 40,000 of them do these walks within Australia. There will be greater demand by Australians to participate in these experiences within their own countries without the ability to do so overseas.</p> <p>The 'Great Walks' signature brand will also continue to grow on this opportunity, with the Overland Track already represented within this suite of walking experiences. Pre-COVID demand showed that many of the Great Walks products operated at or near 100% capacity, especially during peak periods.¹⁷</p>
Tour operators	<p>Within the West Coast, there are tour operators who are already including short, guided walking experiences in day tour itineraries.</p> <p>In addition, there are several multi-day tour operators, who in addition to visiting iconic attractions will also undertake short day walk experiences within their itineraries. Many of these will be within national parks, with operators required to have Commercial Tour Operator permits to conduct activities such as walking within park reserves.</p> <p>Tour operators operate across bushwalking and trail running.</p> <p>Find Your Feet (Hobart based) operation operates trail running tours across Tasmania. Other small operators (i.e., Tour de Trails) variably target Tasmania as a trail running tour destination bringing in interstate and (post COVID) international visitors.</p>

¹⁷ Commercially confidential discussions with industry specialists

6.1 DIFFERENT NEEDS

As with any recreational activity, there are different characteristics, needs and wants that drive demand preferences across the scope of walking trail user groups. The level of confidence and/or experience in the outdoors is a baseline measure for what a user expects in a trail walking experience. When considering what typical user needs may be – and therefore what characteristics and standard of trails are required to engage them – it is helpful to categorise users into three broad groupings: Outdoor Aware, Outdoor Active and Outdoor Adventure.

Trail user type and needs:

USER TYPE	NEEDS PROFILE
Outdoor Aware	Interested but not necessarily experienced in the outdoor environment; low-moderate levels of fitness; seeks a higher level of facilitation; seeks a higher level of infrastructure including consistent and regular signage and waymarking; prefers short to medium length trails (1-10km) connected to, within or close proximity to townships; prefers a high quality nature-based experience that is non-technical and not overly physically challenging; seeks a low risk environment; expects quality features / points of interest; appreciates interpretation; seeks a high level of pre-trip information (online and in situ i.e. at trailhead).
Outdoor Active	Experienced in the outdoors to some degree; moderate and above fitness levels; seeks more immersive experiences with high degree of feature (Point of Interest) attraction; requires a moderate level of facilitation including trailhead information, adequate signage and wayfinding; good quality pre-trip information; tolerates and indeed seeks some level of 'rawness' in trail experience; willing to engage in longer distances and overnight experiences (10-40km); prefers moderate challenge ratings but with lower levels of environmental or weather risk; engages in both supported (guided) or unsupported (non-guided) experiences.

Outdoor Adventure	Advanced levels of competency and self-sufficiency; seeks challenging walking experiences where increased risk and physical endurance requirement is an attraction; prefers remote locations; seeks transformative experiences in nature; longer distances multiday and/or highly technical terrain; does not necessarily require wayfinding (although appreciates supply); advanced navigation skills; well equipped; enjoys the logistics of planning for safety and sufficiency.
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The West Coast of Tasmania occupies a unique position in that it offers terrain, trails and townships that appeal to all three types of users in various measure.

Short, town-based and trails of a higher standard and better maintained trails that explore historical attractions (such as Spray Tunnel or Spion Kop) or accessible features of interest such as waterfalls (i.e., Hogarth Falls, Nelson Falls) service the needs of the Outdoor Aware users along with offering 'filler' trails for the Outdoor Active user. Most of the open, maintained and promoted walks currently fall into this category, servicing day and road trippers and visitors who are not in the region specifically for the purposes of walking, but may undertake a trail experience as part of a broader visitor itinerary (i.e., museums, railway).

Trails that explore more immersive geographies or are longer in distance but do not venture too remotely, such as the Confluence Trail (Queenstown) or Montezuma Falls, appeal to the Outdoor Active market, in that they require more confidence and some outdoor experience on similar style trail. Whilst there are many trail opportunities in the region that match this user group, very few of them are currently promoted, adequately maintained or waymarked, which in turn increases the challenge and risk of undertaking them, potentially limiting many to the following Outdoor Adventure user group category.

The West Coast is particularly appealing to the Outdoor Adventure cohort because it hosts rugged, remote and challenging terrain that requires high levels of self-sufficiency and physical and technical capabilities. There are many informal and formal trails on the West Coast – in addition to overgrown, neglected but

historical routes (such as Finchams Track) that hold specific appeal to the Outdoor Adventure user group, along with shorter but no less technical routes (i.e., Mount Farrell & Lake Herbert Trail, Mount Murchison & Lake Sandra Traverse) along exposed ridgelines and difficult to access wilderness areas.

6.2 SHORT OR MULTI DAY WALKS

Any region seeking to position itself as a 'Trail Hub' for a broad inbound visitor market requires not simply a high number of trails but also a diversity of trail distances to meet user needs. Visitor profiles will encompass dedicated bushwalkers seeking long distance trails for multiday experiences, keen walkers who plan to incorporate day walks into a travel itinerary, and ad hoc engagement users who enjoy short walks as part of a broader travel itinerary where walking is not necessarily the primary driver.

Short walks (500m-5km) tend to require high quality environments and infrastructure to service the broadest possible user market, inclusive of visitors and local community. While loop trails are always a preference across user groups, short walks that exist as out-and-back experiences are accepted, especially where there is a 'drawcard feature' at the trail turn-around, such as a waterfall. Short walks are generally incidental experiences as part of a wider range of recreation or tourism activities, unless there are a significant number of day walks located in proximity to one another that can be collectively regarded as a walking attraction. Popular short walks tend to be located within easy access of townships, either directly linked or within a short drive attached to good trailhead infrastructure.

Middle distance or day walks (5km – 15km) service a more dedicated walker market and provide stand-alone attractions that can attract visitors for the specific purpose of 'journeys through nature'. These are best delivered as loop experiences, although point-to-point or out-and-back trails while not preferable can be acceptable if featuring a high degree of environmental and topographical interest and a good level of facilitation and infrastructure.

Long distance walks are becoming more popular as people are remaining more active and physically able later in life with more general awareness around health, wellbeing and a return to outdoor activity being a major identifiable trend. Long distance trails are most often end to end and require more significant planning and logistics by users in order to experience them safely. Recent movements in this market have been to the establishment of higher levels of servicing and investment for such trails, which traditionally have been lightly facilitated. Examples include the Three Capes and Overland Tracks (Tasmania), Larapinta (NT), Great Ocean Walk (Vic) and Bibbulmun (WA), along with the Tyndall Range Iconic Walk under development in the West Coast. While increasingly serviced and facilitated walks such as these are becoming more popular with a growing middle market, there remains a significant market that still seeks more remote, wild, rugged and raw experiences in terms of encompassing lesser to no infrastructure.

6.3 WALKS FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS

Whilst both locals and visitors benefit from walking trails and the experiences they can bring, their expectations and needs will differ.

Locals in the West Coast are looking for walks that are easily accessible (preferably from a town and without having to use a car to get there), offer some challenge in terms of their duration or difficulty level for those wishing to exercise, or are flat and easily accessible for seniors, those with prams or community members that require accessible recreation opportunities. Their engagement profile will display a higher rate of use undertaken for health and wellbeing rather than tourism attraction purposes (i.e., a daily walk, often social). They seek shorter distances preferably with loop profiles for a better continuous experience and while feature nodes are desirable, there is a lesser focus on specific on-trail attractions and a higher focus on the profile of the trail in terms of useability, surfacing, difficulty profile, amenity (car parks, toilets) and facilitation (signage and wayfinding).

Visitors to the West Coast are looking for walks which will encapsulate the raw, untouched and untamed nature of the region. They also want to learn about the stories, heritage, and lived experiences of the local people. Visitors want to access the same areas and scenery that they have seen in advertising, promotions and social media. They are looking for reasons to extend their stay in the region and supporting services which will enable their walking experiences to be as enjoyable as possible such as pre-walk information, wayfinding signage, accommodation and transport links. Visitors are also looking for a variety of walking distances, durations and difficulty levels to choose from.

6.4 WALKING DEMAND

6.4.1 Bushwalking

- Bushwalking is currently rated in sixth position of the top 20 sports and physical activities undertaken by Australians
- 1.3 million Australian adults (6.4% of the population) and 21,000 children participate in bushwalking activities annually, with 18% of participants undertaking bushwalking activities at least once per week
- Peak participation age for men is 55-64 years and for women is 25-34 years
- 50% of Australian bushwalking participants walk for 3 hours or more on average¹⁸
- From an international perspective, international visitors engaging in bushwalking and rainforest walks increased by 7% to 1.9 million per annum (2018).¹⁹

¹⁸ Ausplay National Sports and Physical Activity survey, Bushwalking Participation December 2020

¹⁹ TRA International Visitors in Australia – Year ending September 2018.

²⁰ Ausplay Participation Trends since 2001

²¹ <https://theconversation.com/the-trail-running-community-faces-its-biggest-challenges-yet-156260>

6.4.2 Recreational walking

- Recreational walking is currently rated in first place of the top 20 sports and physical activities undertaken by Australians
- 8.9 million Australian adults (44.4% of the population) and 18,900 children participate in recreational walking activities annually, with 91% of participants undertaking recreational walking activities at least once per week
- Peak participation is by women 65+ years (closed followed by women 55-64 years) and men over 65 years of age
- On average, majority of walkers spend 62 minutes on each walking occasion
- Since 2001, the participation in recreational walking by Australians has increased by 14.4%²⁰

6.5 TRAIL RUNNING DEMAND

- Estimated at 20 million participants since 2010, trail running is one of the world's fastest growing sports, according to the [International Track and Field Federation](#)²¹. Since the mid-1990s, popularity of trail running has grown at a rate of 15% each year²²
- Indicative measures record the growth of trail running events as increasing 1000% in the last decade²³
- More than US\$8.5 million was generated from the 2017 Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc (UTMB)²⁴, considered the global pinnacle of ultra-trail running events. Chamonix Tourist Office reports that UTMB it is now one of the busiest two weeks of the year
- In Australia, Ultra Trail Australia now hosts a sell-out (capacity) 6,000 across five distances (started with 177 participants in 2008). The Blue Mountains City Council's Event Strategic Plan identified the Ultra Trail event as a high

²² <https://www.worldathletics.org/disciplines/trail-running/trail-running>

²³ <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/apr/02/ultrarunner-ultramathon-racing-100-miles>

²⁴ <https://www.lyoncapitale.fr/actualite/coronavirus-et-trail-quel-impact-sur-l-utmb/>

yield event contributing an estimated \$12.5M in 2018 to the local economy and supporting local employment and associated businesses²⁵

- As an indicative measure, the largest trail running event in Australia (Ultra Trail Australia, 7,000 participants) is seven times as big as the largest mountain biking event (Otway Odyssey, 1000 participants); there are four times as many trail running events (450-500) as mountain biking events in Australia and the average trail running event attracts 2-4 times participation (600-800) as the average sized mountain biking event (200-300)
- A report into trail running in NSW in 2013 showed a 521% increase in event-based participation over three years 2010-2013.²⁶ It is broadly recognised and reported by the trail running sector that growth has further increased significantly since that time
- A report in 2021 showed that entry fees into trail running events alone generated approx. \$13 million in direct entry fee revenue across 331 trail running events accounting for 154,113 registrations.
- Tasmania hosts several marquee trail running events, including Gone Nuts 101, Kunanyi Mountain Run, Cradle Mountain Ultra, Run Narawntapu, Tassie Trail Fest and the Triple Top Mountain Run.

6.6 DEMAND – WEST COAST OF TASMANIA

- In 2021, the Tasmanian Government released the feasibility study for the Tyndall Ranges – Tasmanian’s next iconic walk²⁷.
- Undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic, the report provides strong evidence on the demand for overnight walking on the West Coast. Importantly a number of the findings can be extrapolated to walking and trails more generally in the region.
- The following represents the important highlights for this strategy:
- Between 2 and 3 times the number of people were interested in staying in roofed accommodation over camping or tents for the Tyndall Ranges. This could be extended to show the demand by walkers across the board including

shorter walks is to stay in towns and areas where good accommodation is offered. Accordingly, the towns of Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan and Roseberry all have potential as hubs for walking and trail use

- The benefit cost ratio of the Tyndall Ranges 3 day/2-night walk for the West Coast alone is 12.71 – substantial for a project of this nature and shows the value of committing to this project and other walking projects given the natural and cultural showpieces of the West Coast, and the market demand
- Tasmania has developed a solid brand for walking (particularly multi-day walk experiences), which the West Coast has not yet capitalised on
- Most visitors to Tasmania (690,936 or 52% in 2018/19) walk while in Tasmania. Of all visitors – 44% bushwalk, 25% prefer short walks (less than 2 hours), 25% prefer walks of 4 hours or longer (but not overnight) and only 3-4% prefer to bushwalk overnight or longer highlighting the large demand for short (2 hours through to full day walks) walks in Tasmania
- BDA found that 9% of those surveyed would travel from interstate for 2 new day walks on the West Coast of Tasmania. 30% said they would walk the tracks if they were in Tasmania and 33% if they were on the West Coast of Tasmania. This provides a total market of over 1.3 million visits for 4-hour plus day walks. Of these – 2,400 would travel specifically for the walks
- The full report provides a level of detail on the proposed new Tyndall Ranges iconic walk, while providing evidence in a broader sense that the demand for walking on the West Coast is considerable and the region would benefit significantly from upgraded walking opportunities to compliment the proposed icon walk. Specifically, the shorter walks will both attract new visitors and also provide reasons for improved length of stay for current visitors.

²⁵ https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/docs/LPP_Report_2_Violet_Street_KATOOMBA_NSW_2780_X_687_2020.pdf

²⁶ ‘Trail Running Market Snapshot’, Adventure Types, 2013

²⁷ Tasmania’s Next Iconic Walk Feasibility Study. Final Report. July 2021.

6.7 FUTURE TRAVEL RELATED TRENDS

- Ticking off the backyard bucket list – There is a tendency among young Australians (Millennials) to travel overseas in their younger years and wait until they have a family or even until retirement before taking the time to really explore Australia. The pandemic will force this trend to be reversed. Destinations and operators should think of creative ways to get onto the bucket list for customer segments they may not have invested in prior to the pandemic, making now the time to explore those undiscovered destinations.
- Romancing with the great Aussie road trip – The number of recreational vehicles (campers, caravans and motorhomes) registered rose by 16.5 per cent in the June quarter of 2020. Families and grey nomads have traditionally been the most passionate road-trippers, however, the profile of the road tripper has changed in 2021, including more young professionals, older families, cruise enthusiasts and backpackers who would otherwise be overseas. It will be important to have services and activities suitable to these broader customer groups and to tailor and funnel marketing spend to speak to their needs and interests.
- Regenerative travel - Following the turbulence of 2020, the desire to use travel as a moment to reconnect and regenerate will dominate in 2021. Soft adventure experiences like multi-day walks and wellness travel (i.e., spa holidays, yoga retreats) have been growing in popularity over the past few years, and the pandemic has only amplified the desire for this style of holiday. Destinations and experiences that leave travellers feeling calm and rejuvenated—whether it's an all-inclusive multi-day hike or an off-grid eco-cabin stay—are expected to be popular with travellers.²⁸
- Nature - With people craving wide-open spaces, fresh air and nature more than ever, Australia's nature will be more desirable. Tourism Australia's most recent consumer research, called the Consumer Demand Project, demonstrates that destinations with wide-open spaces feel safer for

travellers—and, after spending more time at home last year, people are developing a new appreciation for being out in nature.

- Adventure and nature-based tourism - Forecast to become a \$1.3T global tourism segment by 2023, according to the US based Adventure Travel Trade Association. Nature based tourism sectors gathering traction with audiences include:
 - Glamping and luxury tented accommodation in unique and spectacular locations
 - Repurposing of heritage, industrial and buildings and farm sheds
 - Short walks and interpretive experiences, cycling, mountain biking in nature, and wellness experiences that speak to the improvement of mind, body and spirit.²⁹

These trends – among many others that are increasingly becoming evident in the visitor economy show the potential for the West Coast to embark on the journey to become a trails destination.

The Great Aussie Road Trip

Tasmania has recently launched five Tasmanian Drive Journeys to encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more in regional communities. 'The Western Wilds' has been incorporated as one of the road trip options. This presents an opportunity for West Coast walking experiences to be incorporated into future Western Wilds drive journey itineraries, with some walks such as Nelson Falls, Horsetail Falls and the Strahan Esplanade already included.

²⁸ <https://www.luxurytraveladvisor.com/australia-new-zealand/tourism-australia-predicts-top-global-travel-trends-for-2021>

²⁹ <https://gettherewolf.com/adventure-tourism-predictions-for-2021/>

7 The Plan

VISION

Walking is part of the West Coast's story. Local people choose to live here because of the benefits our walks provide; visitors come to walk among the raw, wild and untamed that is our story.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles should be used to steer decision-making around walking trail planning, development and management in the West Coast



QUALITY

– infrastructure, trailheads and information systems meet minimum standards



DIVERSITY

– a range of abilities and capabilities are catered for



APPEAL

– both residents and visitors have walking trail opportunities provided throughout the West Coast which appeal to them



PARTNERSHIPS

– land managers in the West Coast work effectively together to progress and/or provide walking trail opportunities



BENEFITS

– walking trails in the West Coast provide social, economic, environmental or cultural benefits

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

①

Improved walking trail provision for West Coast residents and visitors

②

Improved connectivity to West Coast towns through trails

③

Consistent trail classification & signage

④

Consistent marketing & communication

⑤

Improved engagement and coordination between land managers & major stakeholders

⑥

Improved activation of and support for volunteers and walking interest groups

7.1 OBJECTIVES

- Encourage regional participation in sport and recreation opportunities through the provision of quality walking trails and related infrastructure
- Contribute to the appeal of the West Coast as an outdoor active destination
- Encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more by providing more appealing trail experiences and infrastructure and an increased number of trail experience options
- Broaden the variety of trail experiences on offer to increase the appeal as an extended stay walking destination
- Provide benefit for all West Coast residents, distributed across the entire region through economic stimulus delivered by increased visitor spend
- Leverage direct and associated business development, training and employment opportunities for community benefit
- Recognise and appropriately interpret the region's various historical narratives including First Nation traditional custodianship, European settlement, industrial mining, and hydro-development
- Appropriately interpret in an active setting the region's biodiversity, topography, geography, hydrology with community and visitor education outcomes
- Provide sustainable and safe access to wilderness, natural landscape areas and features of interest via well maintained and waymarked trails appropriate for target user groups
- Provide suitable opportunities for local tourism businesses to integrate West Coast trail experiences into their overall product offering
- Create a coordinated approach to trail development, management and maintenance involving all land manager stakeholders.

A range of trails or trail concepts have been prioritised based on the objectives of the strategy. This does not mean that other concepts or trails should not be invested in, but rather it provides council with a prioritised starting point of trails to consider when seeking funding to invest in future trail projects. See Section 8 Actions for the prioritised list.

7.2 IMPORTANCE OF APPROPRIATE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This strategy makes a series of recommendations that will enable the vision to come to life and position the West Coast of Tasmania as a world class trails destination.

Information sharing and a mutual understanding of the priorities and outcomes desired by this strategy are important between trail managers and will deliver stronger results. In addition, tourism organisations such as W x NW will promote the opportunities that emerge from strategy.

Potential trail managers and organisations with an interest in this strategy include:

- Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service
- West Coast District Council
- Hydro Tasmania
- Sustainable Timbers Tasmania
- Minerals and Resources Tasmania
- West x North West Regional Tourism Board
- Tourism Tasmania
- Tasmanian Tourism Industry Council.

As a general rule - effective coordination can be achieved through three models:

Model 1. Co-operation

Model 2. Formal Coordination

Model 3. Direct Control.

These are considered below as they relate to this strategy and the outcomes sought.

Model 1. Co-operation

In this model the ‘owner’ of this report will work to co-operate with other land managers in seeking to gain consensus around the actions and directions contained within.

This model precludes direct governance entities (model 2) and relies on relationships that already exist and information sharing.

Given the detailed consultation that has gone into this West Coast Walk strategy – this model can work – particularly in a small destination such as the West Coast.

Model 2. Formal Coordination

Under this model a steering committee or some other form of governance would need to be established to oversee the implementation and coordination of the strategy.

This model has an advantage of bringing the respective partners and stakeholders (suggested) together more formally and can have the advantage of keeping the strategy live through continual discussion and evolution of ideas and directions / actions as time progresses and trails get upgraded.

A downside is that it is more resource intensive than model 1.

Model 3. Direct Control

Under this model one entity assumes direct management over the trails and progresses the implementation of the strategy resource dependant.

In the case of most trails destinations in Australia, including the West Coast, trails generally fall under multiple land managers, which precludes this model from being implemented.

7.3 RECOMMENDATION

To progress the recommendations made in this strategy, it is recommended that an information sharing meeting of the trail partners and tourism organisations on the West Coast be held once the strategy is finalised and confirmed. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Ensure mutual understanding of the strategy and its purpose
- To help each partner understand the role they can play in bringing the strategy to life
- Seek to understand each other’s trail based priorities
- Seeking to share resources among trail managers where it furthers the delivery of the actions in this plan, and to
- Determine how each partner will implement their relevant components of this strategy, and
- Agree on priorities for grant funding and accountability for delivering those funds.

Following the meeting – and subject to any agreed outcomes, it is proposed to fall back on the cooperation model. Each land manager and trail manager on the West Coast knows and understands their accountabilities within this strategy and actively cooperates to achieve them.

8 Actions & Recommendations

8.1 PRIORITISED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Twenty-five trails have been selected out of the sixty audited for comment or further consideration based on the objectives of the strategy. This does not mean that other concepts or trails should not be invested in, but rather it provides council with a prioritised starting point of trails to deliberate when seeking funding to invest in future trail projects.

The trail recommendations are based on extensive community and stakeholder engagement and independent tourism expertise. Some recommendations do not align with current Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service trail management and capital investment policies due to resource constraints and other existing policies. The recommendations remain in the strategy, as they are deemed strategically important to achieve over time.

As with any early strategic planning exercise there is a range of actions that could be applied to improve a trail. TRC has applied a considered approach when making recommendations and these can range from basic compliant sign system upgrades to meet Australian Standard requirements through to quality products provided elsewhere in Tasmania and beyond. It is these parameters that form the range in cost estimates.

TRC considered the following criteria when selecting and prioritising trails to include in the plan:

- Capacity – the resources, personnel, funding and capability of West Coast Council to be able to deliver the recommendation
- Community – the potential social, recreation, health and wellbeing benefits of the recommendation to the West Coast community
- Tourism – the recommendation has the potential to contribute to strengthening the West Coast visitor economy and overall visitor experience throughout the region

- Support – initial support for the recommendation, or the broader theme it is aligned with, has been expressed by the local West Coast community
- Complexity – an overall assessment of accessibility of the location, potential costs involved, and land tenure challenges related to the recommendation

Readiness – the recommendation is either shovel-ready or and would have immediate impact if implemented.

Priority rankings are based on TRCs analysis of how each of the trails and recommendations apply to the aforementioned criteria. It is a subjective ranking applied by TRC based on the information available and provided at the time of the trail audit process. These rankings are a starting point that can be considered when planning future trail related investments in the Region. There may be additional political, procedural or unforeseen circumstances that will also need to be considered when selecting projects for investment.

- Low Priority – Trail upgrade will make some contribution to community or visitor benefits.
- Moderate Priority – Trail upgrade will deliver a considerable benefit to either community or visitor based outcomes.
- High Priority – Trail upgrade will provide both community and tourism benefits.
- ‘Routine’ priorities are works that should be carried out by the land manager as part of their routine safety, sustainability and asset management practices. The purpose of highlighting these in the implementation plan, rather than a general cover-all statement, is that the selected trails often have other potential upgrades that could contribute to community and tourism benefits or that they are a high profile trail in the region and the absence of certain routine actions is exposing visitors to unnecessary risks and potentially the land manager to public liability risks.

In the proceeding tables, a trail with both a routine and moderate ranking for example would mean that the general safety and sustainability work is routine and other recommendations (e.g., Lookouts or DDA upgrades) have the potential to provide additional tourism or community benefits.

- Key Trail Projects - The trails highlighted in green have additional information and analyses provided in the Appendix C – Key Trail Projects.
- TRC utilises the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) methods for assessing the condition of trails. IPWEA is the peak association for professionals who deliver public works and engineering services to communities in Australia and New Zealand. Specific management advice and guidance is provided for trails, tracks and paths which addresses all aspects of trail management from planning through to development, asset management, operations and maintenance. Parks practitioners and contractors with experience in trails planning and management represent current best-practice from across the industry through a reference group.

The Condition Assessment Tool can be viewed at Appendix D and further conceptual trail maps in Appendix E.



8.2 QUEENSTOWN

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Confluence Trail Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalise trail and investigate extension along King River. Requires WCC-led and funded feasibility study to determine alignment, permissibility, cost and planning to ensure natural and cultural values are maintained. Requires funding streams be identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail planning. Formal carparking and trailhead infrastructure. Sign system. Safety and access infrastructure. Interpretation. Future Potential Production Forest (FPPF) has the same management objectives as Conservation Areas. Planning for trail infrastructure will need to demonstrate it is compatible with natural and cultural values. WCC will need a lease agreement to develop and manage the trail. 	Moderate - High	Some potential to increase community use of trail if formalised and extended beyond existing footprint. Popular with local trail advocates.	Opportunity for tourists to share the unique experience and story of the meeting of the Queen and King River at a location relatively close to QTN in comparison to other tourism focused trails.	\$800 - \$1.3 million. Dependant on extent of upgrade.	DPIWE Future Potential Production Forest
Donaghys Hill Walk Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and trail head facilities. Overall safety and sustainability improvements and upgrade of sign system. Limiting factor for visitation is size of carpark. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve consistency of trail surface with compacted rubble and/or raised FRP deck. Traffic Management Report required by engineer for highway access and design civil works. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. 	High	Upgrades to meet community expectations.	Upgrades to provide for improved experience and amenity including car park.	\$50k - \$300k + \$80 - \$100k	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania
Franklin Nature Trail Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and trail head facilities. Overall safety and sustainability improvements and upgrade of sign system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider upgrade to Australian DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance. Provide nodes and/or sitting areas to enjoy natural environment. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. 	Routine Low – Moderate + High	DDA upgrades would enable more access for people with limited mobility.	DDA upgrades would enable more access for people with limited mobility.	\$50k - \$1million + \$150 - \$200k	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New toilet facility required as current system has failed. 						
Nelson Falls Walk Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and trail head facilities. Explore contemporary design and all access improvements. Limiting factor for visitation is size of carpark. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider upgrade to Australian DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance. Nodes and/or sitting areas to enjoy natural environment. Traffic Management Report required by Engineer for highway access and design civil works. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. 	Routine Low - Moderate	DDA upgrades would enable more access for people with limited mobility.	DDA upgrades would enable more access for people with limited mobility.	\$50k - \$1million	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania
Frenchmans Cap Track Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider new information signage at the trail head. NOTE: Frenchmans Cap is self-reliant and a hazardous multi-day walk. Ensure all signs comply with existing PWS signage standards and that they adequately explain the risk to walkers, as well as the experience on offer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk and compliance signage may require upgrading to meet PWS and risk guidelines. Consider toilet installation at carpark/ trailhead. Change to signage or facilities is not supported by PWS as existing is consistent with current PWS State-wide approach to multi-days walks (as advised by PWS). West Coast Council endorses the signs meeting the required PWS standards or the AS2156.1 requirements. 	Moderate to High	Enhanced visitor information with the potential to include updated hazard warnings.	Improved toilet facilities and signs should be considered as part of any site upgrade that may be considered by PWS.	\$25k - \$300k + Estimated \$1000 cost for works to install additional visitor information signs. Significant investment to upgrade the car park including toilets.	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania
Kelly Basin Walk Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrades to trail infrastructure and signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail structures and facilities including timber boardwalks, low level timber bridges and toilet are approaching end of life and will be a significant investment to replace. Alternative pedestrian bridge has been completed and track reopened. Suggested upgrade of existing track and trail head facilities. 	High	Local community that use the trail would benefit from trail improvements.	Ensure that a World Heritage Area experience is appropriate and open for visitors	\$1.5 - \$2 million	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for capital works. 					
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Clover CONCEPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a dedicated walking trail hub at Headley Falls Park. Create a series of walking trails around and linking into town. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail planning. 	High	A variety of easily accessible trails for community linked to town.	A variety of easily accessible trails for visitors linked to town.	\$500k - \$1million	West Coast Council, DPIPWE Crown Land Services
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Spion Kop Lookout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve parking, wayfinding, interpretation, and quality of infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate creating a trail from base of hill to summit. 	Moderate - High	More challenging fitness opportunity.	Enhanced visitor experience and sense of arrival in Queenstown.	\$300 - \$500k+	West Coast Council and local Lions Club
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Old Reservoir Falls Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalise trail and provide improved information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation management and basic signage. 	Moderate	A short walk linked to town for locals.	A short walk linked to town for visitors.	\$150k	DPIPWE Crown Land
Mount Lyell Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalise trail and provide improved information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail and sign planning. Investigate loop opportunity. Not supported by PWS. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. Potential for WCC to create and publish a suite of appropriately worded trail notes for trails unsupported by PWS but showing significant existing and likely ongoing use and demand. Trail notes available digitally would allow trail to be identified, walkers furnished with information but caveated with warnings regarding informal nature of walk, lack of infrastructure or maintenance, requirement for level of skill and experience to undertake, suggested safety provisions etc. 	Moderate	Additional formal Grade 4 type trail for community.	Additional formal Grade 4 type trail for visitors. Connections to Town and MTB facilities.	\$35k - \$500k+	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Query re whether 'quiet promotion' of informal walks would be deemed inappropriate and disallowed by PWS. Alternatively, informal but popular walks can be listed digitally by name and region only (without extended information), with funnel links directing walkers to other selected non-WCC sources of walk information. 					
Fincham Track & Raglan Range Track Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalise trails and provide improved information. Connections to Frenchmans Cap Trail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail and sign planning. Explore opportunity to use huts as overnight stops. Not supported by PWS. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. "Suitably prepared, experienced and independent walkers can currently undertake a loop, if willing to accept the hazards on their own terms." Potential for WCC to create and publish a suite of appropriately worded trail notes for trails unsupported by PWS but showing significant existing and likely ongoing use and demand. Trail notes available digitally would allow trail to be identified, walkers furnished with information but caveated with warnings regarding informal nature of walk, lack of infrastructure or maintenance, requirement for level of skill and experience to undertake, suggested safety provisions etc. Query re whether 'quiet promotion' of informal walks would be deemed inappropriate and disallowed by PWS. Alternatively, informal but popular walks can be listed digitally by name and region only (without extended information), with funnel links directing walkers to other selected non-WCC sources of walk information. 	Moderate	Additional formal Grade 4 longer distance trail for community.	Additional formal Grade 4 longer distance trail for visitors.	\$35k - \$500k+	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

8.3 ROSEBERY

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Montezuma Falls Walk Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and trail head facilities. Repair Swingbridge and general trailhead facility improvements. Boards walks and platform at end of life. Toilet needs replacing. Limit to visitation is unsealed road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and engineering. PWS has an agreement with STT to manage this trail. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. See note re: Zeehan to Melba Flats Rail Trail Extension 	High	Will enable longer distance walks/rides to meet community expectations	Will enable longer distance walks/rides to meet visitor expectations.	\$200k - \$500k+ \$200k - \$250k+ \$300k - \$500k+	DPIPWE Future Potential Production Forest, Forestry Tasmania
Mount Murchison Track Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and trail head facilities. Safety and sustainability improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road signage and parking. Risk and compliance signage required at trailhead. Consider new trailhead location with improved parking and access. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. NOTE: strong community support calling for major upgrades. Considered by some as "one of best day walks in Tasmania". Trail notes available digitally would allow trail to be identified, walkers furnished with information but caveated with warnings regarding informal nature of walk, lack of infrastructure or maintenance, requirement for level of skill and experience to undertake, suggested safety provisions etc. Alternatively, informal but popular walks can be listed digitally by name and region only (without extended information), with 	High	Some minor benefits to community through better quality information.	Considerable benefits from a major upgrade – while better quality information would add some benefit.	\$500K plus	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
		funnel links directing walkers to other selected non-WCC sources of walk information.					
Mount Murchison to Lake Sandra Loop CONCEPT Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concept requires additional trail at base to return to trailhead. Can't walk on Anthony Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail planning to investigate feasibility. Not supported by PWS. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. "Suitably prepared, experienced and independent walkers can currently undertake a loop, if willing to accept the hazards on their own terms." Potential for WCC to create and publish a suite of appropriately worded trail notes for trails unsupported by PWS but showing significant existing and likely ongoing use and demand. Trail notes available digitally would allow trail to be identified, walkers furnished with information but caveated with warnings regarding informal nature of walk, lack of infrastructure or maintenance, requirement for level of skill and experience to undertake, suggested safety provisions etc. 	Moderate	Potential benefit to community seeking remote Grade 4 loop walking opportunities.	Potential benefit to visitors seeking remote Grade 4 loop walking opportunities.	\$500k+	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania
MMG Hercules Mine Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for site based on community engagement process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail planning and facility development planning. 	High	New community recreation space with tourism potential.	New community recreation space with tourism potential.	Co-funded by MMG.	MMG

8.4 STRAHAN

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Henty River CONCEPT (Henty River Boat Ramp) Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a riverine trail network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail planning design process needed, including consideration of carparking, sign system, safety infrastructure, and interpretation. Not supported by PWS. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. Potential for WCC to create and publish a suite of appropriately worded trail notes for trails unsupported by PWS but showing significant existing and likely ongoing use and demand. Trail notes available digitally would allow trail to be identified, walkers furnished with information but caveated with warnings regarding informal nature of walk, lack of infrastructure or maintenance, requirement for level of skill and experience to undertake, suggested safety provisions etc. Query re whether 'quiet promotion' of informal walks would be deemed inappropriate and disallowed by PWS. Alternatively, informal but popular walks can be listed digitally by name and region only (without extended information), with funnel links directing walkers to other selected non-WCC sources of walk information 	Moderate - High	Formalisation of trails which will make them more appealing to locals.	Close to Strahan and offers a nature-based experience in dense forest and by the riverside	\$400k - \$800k	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
Hogarth Falls Walk Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to river and views of falls. Improve interpretation signs. Consider replacing timber deck with non-slip FRP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate planning for better viewing of the falls (i.e., cantilevered viewing deck) and other sites along river. Replacement of timber deck sections with FRP deck for safety. 	Moderate	Improve accessibility to make the trail more inclusive.	Improvement of overall visitor experience.	\$400k - \$800k	West Coast Council
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Ocean Beach Trail Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the Ocean Beach Trail to Strahan. Investigate potential for alignments that are on WCC-managed land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review detailed design of Ocean Beach Trail. Not supported by PWS if on PWS managed land. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks 	High	Provides longer trail that caters for community walking, running and cycling demand.	Provides longer trail that caters for walking, running and cycling visitor demand.	\$400k - \$650k	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Strahan Historic Foreshore Walk Grade 1 - 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade some general infrastructure. Develop nodes for walkers to get closer to the water. Extend trail Strahan Harbor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage landscape architect and engineer to conduct feasibility and cost estimate study. 	Moderate	Improved experience for residents.	Visitors can experience points of interest at Strahan Harbour and Risby Cove.	\$400k +	West Coast Council

8.5 TULLAH

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Tullah Trail Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension and upgrade of trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate extension of track to increase length/duration. Improve consistency of trail surface. Installation of seating infrastructure. 	High	Improved surface and trail length for community enjoyment.	Opportunity for visitors to experience spectacular lakeside scenery and stay longer.	\$500k	Hydro Tasmania
Mount Farrell and Lake Herbert Trail Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and track head facilities. Risk and compliance signage required at trailhead. Refresh interpretation (currently mix of old and new signs). Improve trail markers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign planning. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. 	Routine	Upgrades to meet safety requirements and community expectations.	Upgrades to meet safety requirements and visitor expectations.	\$15k+	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania

8.6 ZEEHAN

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
KEY TRAIL PROJECT: Spray Tunnel Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and track head facilities. Explore expanding the trail network by formalising existing trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail planning for entire site. Conditional support from PWS: planning will need demonstrate compatibility with existing mountain bike use as well as natural, historic, and cultural values, plus mineral interests in the area. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. 	High	More trail opportunities to meet community expectations and outcomes.	More trail opportunities to meet tourism expectations and outcomes.	\$250k - \$750k	DPIPWE Future Potential Production Forest
Trial Harbour Trails Grade 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve walking trail information at Trial Harbour. Investigate potential for alignments that are on WCC-managed land. WCC-managed land - site identification for trail information (in township) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign planning. Signage, distances, duration, maps, routes at carpark alongside other geo and information signs. NOTE: There are no PWS managed walking tracks in Trial Harbour and PWS does not support new development. PWS only supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing trails rather than construction of new trails. Strong community and local business support for development and/or upgrade of trails, noting increased organic use / walking visitation. 	Routine Low	Upgrades to meet safety requirements and community expectations.	Upgrades to meet safety requirements and visitor expectations.	\$35k+	Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania
Zeehan to Melba Flats Rail Trail. Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires upgrades for experience and potentially safety (trail audit required). Revisit land management status. Plan upgrade. Trailhead signage at each end. Formal carparking area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependant on Montezuma swing bridge being opened Links to Montezuma Falls, extending the visitor experience in this area. Creates a potentially important link from Zeehan township to near beginning of popular Montezuma Falls Rail Trail, which increases attraction value and useability of both trails. 	Moderate - High	Community and tourism walk and ride benefit. Historical preservation and interpretation.	Community and tourism walk and ride benefit. Historical preservation and interpretation.	\$250k+	State Rail Network

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Query maintenance responsibility/liability - WCC or PWS? Strong community support, especially given status as being partially established and historical value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail is currently used and listed publicly: https://www.railtrails.org.au/trails/melba-flats-to-zeehan-rail-trail/ https://www.alltrails.com/trail/australia/tasmania/zeehan-to-melba-flats-rail-trail https://www.trailhiking.com.au/hikes/melba-flats-to-zeehan-rail-trail/ NOTE: PWS only supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. *Given this is an existing track that potentially links a township to another 'supported' trail, this may be a High-Priority inclusion. PWS notes from Montezuma Falls Rail Trail (Rosebery section): PWS has an agreement with STT to manage this trail. Maintenance and upgrading of existing track and trail head facilities. PWS to work with WCC to source alternative funding for operational and capital works. 					
Lake Cumberland & Ernies Hill Trail Loop to Mt Agnew CONCEPT Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer term consideration if demand increases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to manage 4WD use, unsustainable erosion impacts and poor alignment issues. Not supported by PWS. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. Revisitation of inclusion status required given PWS position. 	Low	Potential benefit to community seeking remote walking opportunities.	Potential benefit to visitors seeking remote walking opportunities.	Unknown	Parks & Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania , DPIWE Future Potential Production Forest.

TRAIL	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS	PRIORITY (HIGH, MODERATE, LOW, ROUTINE)	COMMUNITY BENEFIT	TOURISM BENEFIT	COST ESTIMATE	AGENCY
Mt Zeehan – Mt Dundas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community suggested inclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zeehan to Melba Flats Rail Trail would be a great opportunity and expand upon an already established partially usable trail whilst building upon West Coast history of being one of the longest-lasting and most successful private railway companies in Australia. NOTE: Not supported by PWS. PWS supports the maintenance and upgrading of existing tracks rather than construction of new tracks. Potential for WCC to create and publish a suite of appropriately worded trail notes for trails unsupported by PWS but showing significant existing and likely ongoing use and demand. Trail notes available digitally would allow trail to be identified, walkers furnished with information but caveated with warnings regarding informal nature of walk, lack of infrastructure or maintenance, requirement for level of skill and experience to undertake, suggested safety provisions etc. Query re whether ‘quiet promotion’ of informal walks would be deemed inappropriate and disallowed by PWS. Alternatively, informal but popular walks can be listed digitally by name and region only (without extended information), with funnel links directing walkers to other selected non-WCC sources of walk information 	Low	Potential benefit to community seeking remote walking opportunities	Potential benefit to community seeking remote walking opportunities	Unknown	Parks & Wildlife Service

8.7 KEY TRAIL OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Much of the known and formal trail network requires a more active approach to trail management to address visitor safety and sustainability issues. There are many grade 4 or 5 type trails across the West Coast Council area that do not meet the minimum sign system requirements as stated in the Australian Standards for Walking Trails (AS2156.1). The history and use of these trails is varied and includes trails that:

- Follow historical access or infrastructure routes e.g., mining, logging, land management
- Were developed by community groups with or without consent/knowledge of the land manager
- Have been downgraded to unmanageable or 'not to be promoted' due to resourcing and funding constraints
- Routes that have been developed by hiking enthusiasts and shared with others creating new trails.

By not actively managing these trails and providing compliant infrastructure and/or signage, or by officially closing these trails, the visitor experience could be compromised, visitors may not adequately be informed of risks, and land managers may be exposed to public liability risks. Furthermore, the impacts on the landscape by soil erosion, unmanaged access and vegetation degradation is not sustainable.

All land managers with publicly accessible trails in their jurisdiction have some responsibility to proactively manage access to these trails appropriately.

It is recommended that the West Coast Council actively advocate for additional resourcing for PWS to consistently manage, and plan for future maintenance and development of tracks in the West Coast and surrounding regions.

8.7.1 Trail classifications and sign systems

Trail classifications and trail difficulty rating systems are used as a means of evaluating, planning for and defining the trail experience. We use trail grades as a tool to manage visitor safety risks and visitor expectations. The establishment of an accurate trail difficulty rating or classification system can:

- Help trail users make informed decisions
- Encourage visitors to use trails that match their skill level
- Manage risk and minimise injuries
- Improve the outdoor experience for a wide variety of visitors
- Aid in the planning of trails and trail systems.

Trailhead signs should be located at trail network entry points. They are designed to communicate key trail information to visitors including trail grades/classifications, enabling informed selection of a trail best suited to the user's ability and interests and may provide important information and interpretation.

The minimum amount of trail information on a trail head should include:

- Trail names
- Trail descriptions
- Trail Grade/Classifications and generic description
- Symbol/s displaying trail grade
- Distance in meters/kilometres
- Quality of trail
- Relevant preparedness and safety information
- Fire danger specific rules and expectations for walkers
- Trail users code of conduct.

An overview of the varying trail classification and difficulty rating systems is provided in Appendix H.

8.7.2 General Recommendations

- Conduct a sign planning and renewal process to ensure the consistent application and provision of trail related information across the West Coast Council trail network that meets minimum Australian Standard requirements.
- Trail inspections are a requirement under Australian Walking Track Standards 2156.1. They are a requirement for any publicly accessible asset including trails under a land managers asset management strategy/program.
 - Public safety, the enjoyment of users and asset protection are key features of successful, safe and sustainable trail networks. The most important element of providing and managing publicly accessible trails is conducting programmed inspections by qualified staff or accredited providers.
 - Inspections will assess the trail against the promoted classification and identify any present or emerging risks and sustainability issues.
 - Add dedicated page onto West Coast Council website ‘Facilities’ tab labelled “West Coast Walking Trails”
 - Have the West Coast Walks Strategy linked and available to view
 - Link to West Coast Tas website “Walks” landing page
 - Link to Parks & Wildlife Service Tasmania “60 Great Short Walks” landing page
 - Develop base comprehensive trail listing and information inclusive facilitation tools per trail, covering distances, difficulty ratings, highline descriptor, attractions, risk management warnings and mapping including GPX download and visual routing using third party free public access embeddable digital mapping (i.e., AllTrails, Gaia, MapBox).
 - Consider inclusion of available and/or newly-curated information pertaining to unofficial but well-used / known walking trails and/or use funnel links to connect users to freely available (existing) online information, with adequate disclaimers and warnings.
- Actively advocate for Parks & Wildlife Tasmania to fill the vacant full-time State-wide Trails Manager position
- Advocate and support a review of the current Parks & Wildlife Tasmania trail grading system and encourage an adoption of Australian Walking Track Grading System to be implemented across the estate
- Advocate for land managers to install temporary (core flute) signs on known trails to provide visitors with critical safety and trail condition information
- Review the MTB Trail network sign system and adopt the Mountain Bike Australia (MTBA) revised trail difficulty rating system across the offering in-line with the new Queenstown trails.



APPENDIX A. WEST COAST WALKS ASSESSMENT

Assessment of trails and trails related experiences

CRITERION ABILITY TO PROVIDE	CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS	ANALYSIS OF THE TRAIL NETWORKS	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
Trail user types and classification types sought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good range of short walking trails within WCC and in adjacent areas. Many trails are informal and there is limited promotion of formal Grade 4 trails. Short and day walkers seeking from- and near-town trails. Day and multiday walkers seeking longer trails, loop trails and town to town trails. Trail runners are an important emerging market seeking longer and more technical trails, inclusive mountainous (high ascent profile) terrain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails and trail networks are spread across the WCC region. Lack of and inconsistency of classifications more broadly across walking opportunities (formal and informal) hinders user engagement (and creates higher risk profile with underequipped / inexperienced walkers using inappropriate trails chosen via informal means without adequate formal pre-trip information). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a broader range of walking trail opportunities. Investigate prioritised formalisation with intent to develop a good balance of trails according to characteristics of distance, challenge, accessibility, and connection. Recognise inbound users will usually seek more challenging styles of trails based on wilderness experience motivation (reason for West Coast visit). Grade4+ trails considered positive, low maintenance formalised additions suited to WC topography and better promoted.
Concentration of trail opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears to be a reasonably geographically even spread of walking trails across the accessible WCC Region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of trailheads connecting into township/s, especially Queenstown as a central visitor hub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for trails where they are required rather than where they easily fit.
Quality and sustainability of trail infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the formalised and promoted trails are sustainable and good quality with adequate trailhead facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of trail stock is informal, unmaintained, without adequate waymarking or trailheads. Infrastructure on informal trails is poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve quality of signage. Develop and implement a consistent sign system. Consider development pathway to formalising and upgrading priority trails of community and visitor value.
Leading and supporting walking experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most formalised lead walk experiences in region are relatively short in distance and majority end-to-end / point to point / return format. Many are based on rail trail / shared use format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of 'hero' walking experiences across multiday and day walk distances. Lack of loop trails and stacked loop networks for variable challenge engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise development of loop walks. Where out-and-back (i.e., summit), develop trailhead facilities and link to nearby other walk opportunities. Seek to develop clusters summit walks.
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal trails are easily accessed by vehicle. Trails linking into towns and easily accessible by foot are limited in number and appeal. Rail trails can provide good DDA compliant opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General geography determines that West Coast trails will in the main be more challenging / technical. Accessibility hindered by lack of pre-trip information, car parking, trailhead identification and waymarking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to upgrade some trails as DDA compliant to cater for disabled users. Pre-trip information should highlight accessibility and gradings for better facilitation. Investigate opportunity and trail suitable for a 'Trailrider' experience allowing more immersive / challenging but achievable journeys for disabled users.

CRITERION ABILITY TO PROVIDE	CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS	ANALYSIS OF THE TRAIL NETWORKS	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
Effectiveness of governance and sustainable management of trail networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails hosted across numerous land management agencies: Parks and Wildlife Tasmania (main), Forestry (main) and Hydro (secondary) operations, with resource access overlays (forestry, mining) common. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited trail management resources across the board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen focus on trails recreation as an integral component of land management. Broaden/re-align perspectives on perceived risk exposure and realities of hosting high-challenge trail stock (i.e., Grade 4+). Ensure land minerals and forestry resource overlays are consulted and relevant government agencies engaged in any trail development plans.
Opportunity for events to drive visitation and market position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The promoted trail network are mostly shorter trails currently with limited appeal for event opportunities. Trail running events would require longer, Grade 4-type trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Coast trails and mountain terrain strong appeals to the trail running community and events. 'Challenge-based' walk events could also be held. Host trails and networks need to be longer (20-100km), preferably looped for logistical ease, preferably centred in or near township/s or linking towns, and with amenable facilities (car parking, toilets etc). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify target event/s and event operators with view to establishing new events targeted at both state-based, interstate and potentially international visitation (post COVID). Suggest realistic event roster in space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x challenge walk event (50+km) 1 x competitive mid-distance trail run/s (min half marathon with shorter distance options, potential vertical K format/s) 1 x competitive ultra-wilderness run (min 50-100km with shorter distance options) May assist in prioritising trail development. Partner with main operators / events in Hobart or identify local operators. Council event grants to attract and foster viability for operator/s. Potential to develop 'self-paced' virtual events drawing visitation in the form of community-led 'peak bagging' challenges.
Local community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are small core groups of volunteers and bushwalking enthusiasts that maintain and promote the informal trails. The general community does not have easy access to or knowledge of most of the walking trails and as such do not rank high on community priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail locations are often difficult to reach and exposed requiring degrees of confidence in wild places. Trail volunteers are not necessarily empowered, equipped or qualified to carry out trail works. Culture of walking for recreation / health and fitness not always strongly ingrained as lifestyle habit for some sectors of community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the community is involved in trail development. Empower formation of community-led trail groups (user and volunteer maintenance). Create opportunities for local community to get involved in walking (social groups or as individuals) via partnerships with community groups and council programs that facilitate and promote involvement.

CRITERION ABILITY TO PROVIDE	CHARACTERISTICS ANALYSIS	ANALYSIS OF THE TRAIL NETWORKS	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
Strong trail destination positioning and marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good short walks guide available at https://westcoasttas.com.au/field-guide/walks Only targets easier / shorter grade walks. Grading doesn't match Parks or AWTGS. Some (6) contained in 60 Great Short Walks guide from Parks and Wildlife Tasmania. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of promotion or facilitation for longer, more challenging walks. Overall weak proactive positioning of West Coast as a dedicated walks destination/brand, however strong organic appeal to walkers based on topography and potential nature based experiences. Strong links to heritage and mining culture on promoted walks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better leverage 'West Coast Tasmania' organic brand (known for being the wildest region in Australia). Collectivise all walks information into central user resource including mapping and navigational facilitation (downloadable GPX files, Avenza directions, other App-based technology). Link central walking resource to all external stakeholder hubs (Councils, Tourism Promotion Agencies etc. Engage and empower 'walker-friendly' tourism businesses; work to weave walks into promotions and packages. Strengthen pre-trip and on ground interpretation linked to heritage (mining, pioneers). Investigate First Nations interpretation and storytelling (?). Partner with complimentary outdoor active industries to promote West Coast i.e., climbing, paddling and mountain biking communities, outdoor education. Better inform local communities about local opportunities for walking (short walks).
Environment and sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountainous terrain with deep valleys and riverways, often pristine and environmentally sensitive. Wild and often remote, there are significant areas impacted by historical and in-process mining, resource exploration and forestry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most formal trails are well positioned and sustainable. Some informal trails exhibit some sustainability issues in terms of maintenance clearing and infrastructure durability with likelihood of some environmentally sensitive areas being impacted and unmanaged. Ridgeline and summit walks often suffer from offtrack walkers creating multiple route footpads unnecessarily impacting vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any future formalisation process should include actions to address any environmental sustainability issues. Formalisation can be used as a trail management tool to positively protect and enhance environment (i.e., waymarking ensuring walkers stay on single route rather than trample off track).

APPENDIX B. SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven WCC region trails feature in the 60 Tasmanian Great Short Walks • Beautiful landscape, rainforest and coasts, bays and waterfalls, serenity, friendly communities and genuine people • Genuine remote wilderness and mountain experiences that remain close to or accessible from townships and (some) services • Proximity of experiences to one another (one-stop adventure destination ‘shop’ enabling longer visitation and increased expenditure) • Availability and quality of complimentary outdoor active experiences – rafting, paddling, mountain biking – and experienced tour operators • Close to exceptional nature based and cultural destinations (Cradle Mountain, Strahan etc.) • Fishing, marine wildlife viewing and diving providing alternate activities and seasonal produce (seafood, wine etc) • Active creative arts (Unconformity Festival) and music community and emerging hospitality • Strong pioneering and mining heritage points of interest (POI) located along trail routes and in wilderness settings (combination of nature-based and heritage attractions set in pristine environments being a unique selling point) • Emergence of other, complimentary trail and nature-based recreation in region (mountain biking, climbing, paddling, fishing, prospecting) • Specific attraction for emerging and numerous trail running user group (mountain setting, technical trails a prime motivator for travel to location) • Strong organic brand (state, national and international) of ‘west coast Tasmania’ region as a high value and exotic destination for nature-based tourism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate is perceived to be challenging and harsh in winter months and can rain throughout the year due to the prevailing winds • Access – 3-hour drive from airports. No regular direct air access to the West Coast • Social issues resulting from casual and seasonal workforce leading to sustainability issues linked to affordable housing and childcare challenges • Council capacity to deliver services including trail experiences and infrastructure • Limited trail connectivity to towns • Limited digital infrastructure and connectivity • Quality of pre-visit online and brochure-based trail information is poor in comparison to competitors and general visitor expectations (mapping, GPX/KML files, Avenza etc.) • Lack of in-town information board / promotion / map boards to facilitate exploration • Lack of trailhead signage and formal parking • Lack of consistent wayfinding • Only limited number of short and easy trails currently managed and promoted (lack of general formally recognised trail stock) • Severely limited number of loop trails (preferred format) and/or longer distance Grade 4-5 type trails • Inconsistent maintenance of trails especially informal but well-used examples • Degradation and/or closure of historically popular trails • Not full community support/social licence for tourism/trails • Multiple types of trail grading/classification are inconsistent and confusing to users • Parks and forestry resources are limited and do not readily allow for any new experiences, attractions or infrastructure and struggles to manage existing expectations of visitors • No land agreements for informal trails • Challenges regarding land access agreement and infrastructure

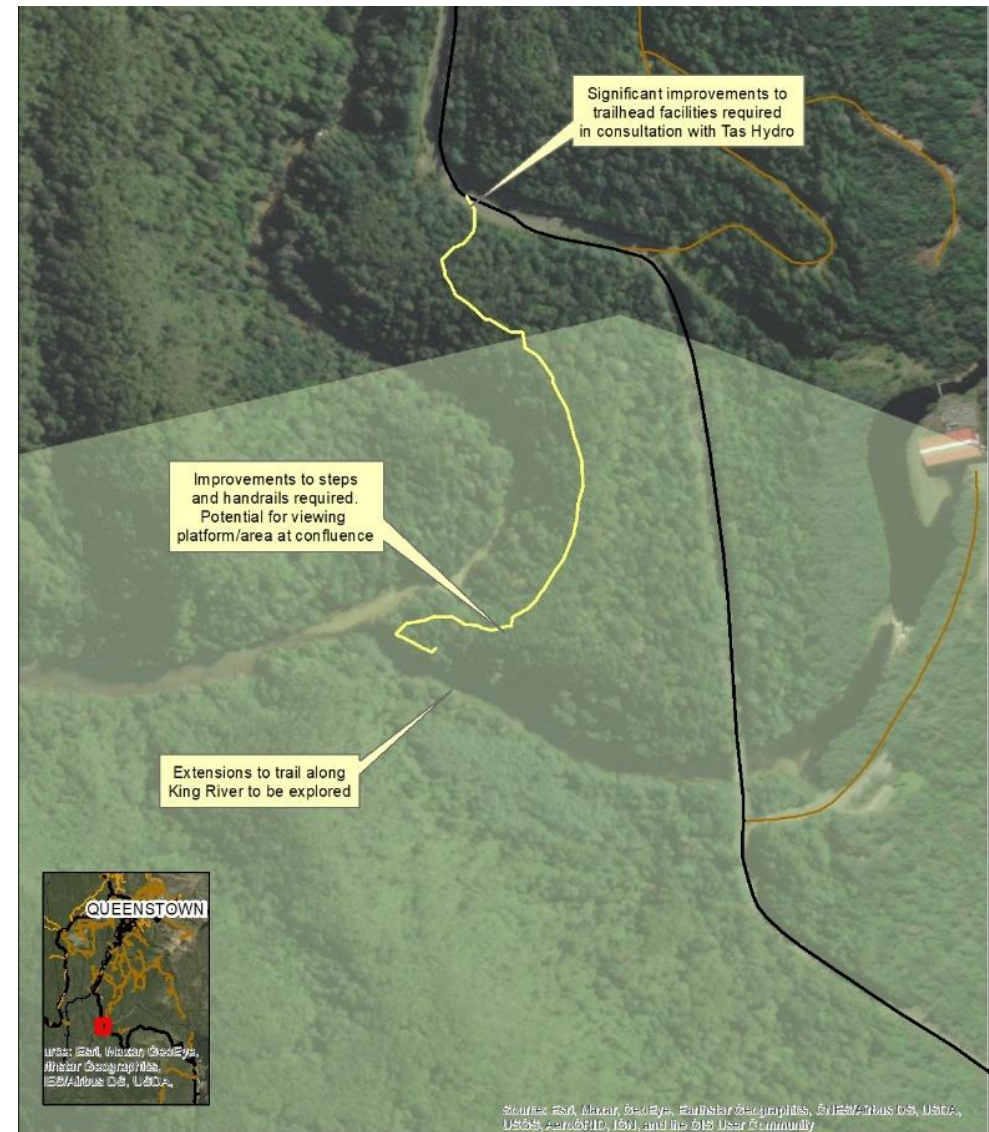
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to waterfalls, rainforest, mining heritage • Access to quality nature experiences close to townships • True mountain experience offering that also plugs into popularity of ‘peak-bagging’ (popular in UK and Europe) • Upskilled and well-equipped walking market (including more senior demographic) tackling more challenging terrain than in the past • Technology facilitating better and safer access including GPS navigation, personal safety (PLBs), online and offline digital navigation tools assisting planning and in situ location ability • Online organic knowledge sharing – bushwalking and trail running online guide and forum portals and communities including social media (i.e., FB groups) • Genuine authentic guided trail experiences (and increased need/demand for guided services and support given remote terrain and lack of loop trails requiring semi-serviced walks even when unguided) • Growing day and overnight visits from the cities and advancing a broader wilderness adventure image • Abundant and interesting mining heritage interpretation opportunities • Abandoned / disused hydro/mining infrastructure and villages as eco-accommodation linked to walks • Indigenous Cultural heritage interpretation and possible outdoor business ventures • West Coast Wilderness Railway linkages • Tyndall Iconic multi-day walk • Completion of trails with clear benefits to tourism and communities, e.g., Strahan Ocean Beach Trail Stage 2 • Investment in existing informal trails with benefits to tourism and community • Leveraging of knowledgeable and well-resourced local adventure tourism operators • Creation of multi-activity journey-based curated experiences (i.e., walk-paddle-train) • Local knowledge and passion of active walkers in community • Leverage volunteer growth and maintenance manpower and access to grants for trail work (i.e., COVID, regional development or corporation such as Hydro Tas community grants). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues associated with tourism confidence, travel and associated investment linked to unclear future with Covid 19 • Competition from other destinations close to source markets or with better outdoor active support packages • Community concerns due to perceptions of social and economic change, structure, rate base funding and environmental issues resulting from trail investment • Need for improved collaboration, leadership and investment with land managers • Increasing amount of unmanaged access to informal trails contributing to safety risks and environmental sustainability concerns • Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania general management plan being developed which will provide recreation and conservation zoning and may limit access • Expiry of PWS Walking Track Management Strategy (exp. 2020) • Promotion of competition for visitor facilities across regions would be better with collaborative marketing and investment • Limited maintenance and management resources • Limited active volunteer resources resident and available in region • Perceptions of and resistance to development in National Parks • Costs of trail development in challenging environments (i.e., river crossings etc) / general lack of agency budget and/or focus on upgrading and appetite for creating new trails • Perceived risk/s in taking on management for and liability of technical Grade 4-5 walking trails.

APPENDIX C. KEY TRAIL PROJECTS

QUEENSTOWN – CONFLUENCE TRAIL

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	CONFLUENCE TRAIL
Trail Distance	600m one way with extensions beyond.
Assessed Classification	Grade 3
Sign System	No sign system
Trail Type	Informal
Manager and Current Use	DPIPWE Future Potential Production Forest - moderate use
Promoted Classification	Not classified
IPWEA Score	4
Existing infrastructure	Informal pull over on road verge. No approved assets



West Coast Walks Strategy Confluence Trail



0 0.05 0.1 0.2
Kilometers



The Confluence trail is an informal trail located off Mt Jukes Road, 10km south of Queenstown. The Confluence is the junction where the Queen River and King River meets creating an interesting mix of tannin-stained water from the King River and tailings sediment rich water from the Queens River. The trail was built and is maintained by local trail enthusiasts and promoted informally via a range of platforms.

The physical trail is mostly natural surface and contains homemade steps and handrails to help navigate the steep slopes into the confluence area. A bench seat and visitor book is located at the main confluence viewing area.

There are no formal trailhead facilities and users are required to pull over on the road verge to access the trail start.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

In its current format there are limited benefits for the local community due to the requirement to drive to the trail and being a short walk with relatively minor recreational or health benefits. If the trail was extended further up or down the King River, there would be more potential to contribute to physical fitness and other community benefits.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail has potential to add to the existing suite of trails accessed by vehicle from Queenstown. The location is closer to town (relative to other tourism focused trails) which makes this more appealing to travellers with limited time. The Confluence is an interesting point of difference from the competing waterfall focused trails (Horsetail Falls Trail, Nelson Falls Trail, Hogarth Falls Trail).

Development requirements or potential

The Confluence Trail requires a detailed planning exercise to adequately assess and develop the trails requirements and true potential. Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Trailhead infrastructure requirements
 - Formal carparking area
 - Amenities
 - Sign system
- Trail infrastructure developments
 - Improved steps and handrail system
 - Improved Confluence viewing area/platform
- Interpretation of site significance
- Trail extension along King River for added community benefits and tourism value add
- Potential to link with other trails.

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process. The total costs to produce a quality product could be in the range of \$800k - \$1.3 million. Much of this cost would be attributed to trailhead facility development.

Recommendation

Initiate concept planning to include a range of costed options and key requirements.

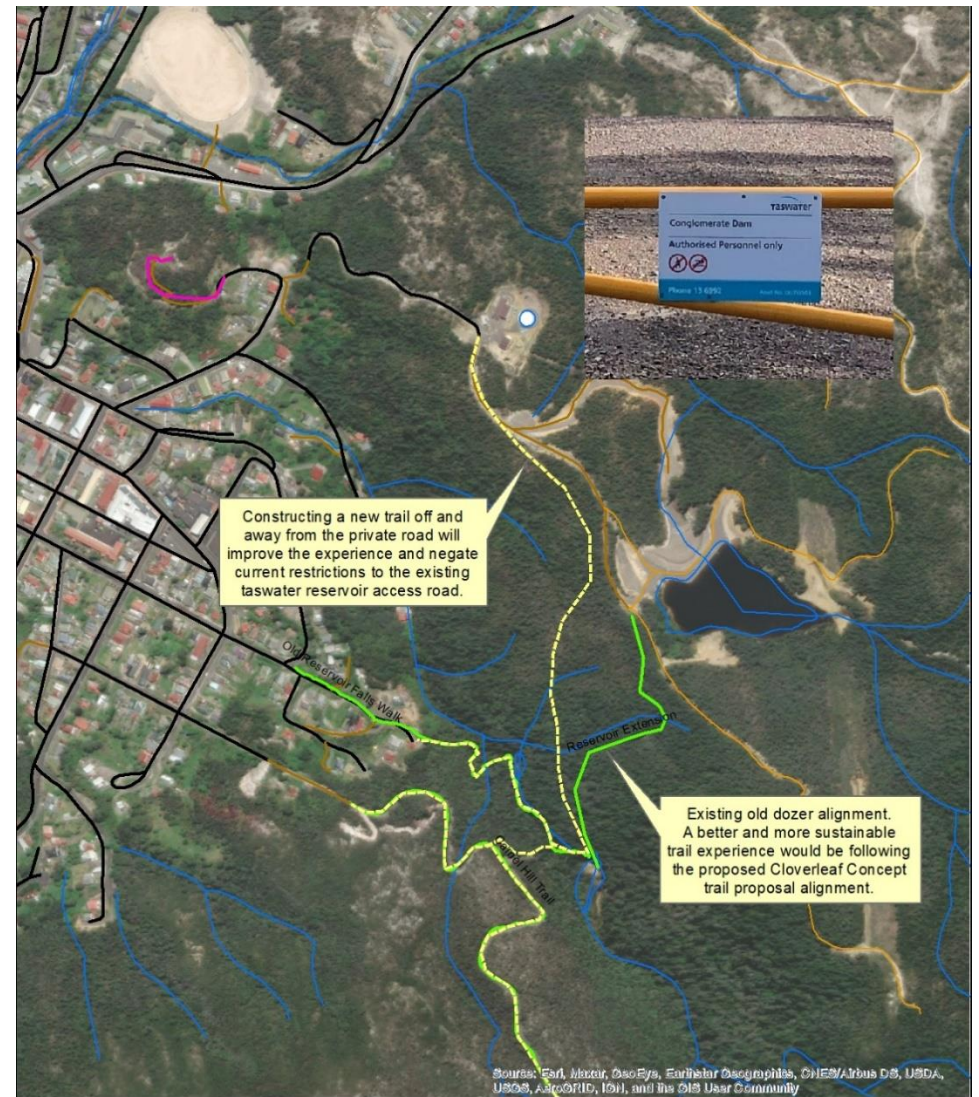
Priority

- Moderate - High

QUEENSTOWN – OLD RESERVOIR FALLS WALKS OR ROARING MEG TRAIL

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	OLD RESERVOIR FALLS WALK OR ROARING MEG TRAIL
Trail Distance	600m one way
Assessed Classification	Grade 3
Sign System	nil
Trail Type	Single Trail / Natural surface
Manager and Current Use	DPIPWE Crown Land - Minimal Use
Promoted Classification	N/A
IPWEA Score	3+
Existing infrastructure	No existing trail related infrastructure.



West Coast Walks Strategy Queenstown Old Reservoir Falls

Legend

- Cloverleaf_Concept
- Existing_Formal
- Existing_Informal_or_Unknown

list_transport_segments_west_coast

- SURFACE_TYPE
- Sealed
- Unsealed
- 4WD required
- Rail

0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Kilometers



The Old Reservoir Falls Walk (also known as Roaring Meg) is an informal trail located at the east end of Cutton Road in Queenstown. The trail follows the remains of an old access track and passes old town water supply infrastructure. One of the original reservoirs remains whilst the main reservoir at the current trail end point has been demolished.

The physical trail is mostly natural surface and contains remnants of old water supply infrastructure. The vegetation regrowth is not maintained and has almost covered the trail. This forces users to the very edge of a hidden wider bench and exposes them to steep edges and fall hazards. Some more adventurous users follow the bulldozer line north to Reservoir Road. The bulldozer line was created during the demolition of the old main reservoir. It is a poor alignment from a trail experience and sustainable trail principles perspective.

There are no formal trailhead facilities and users are required to pass no access and private property signs to locate the start of the trail.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

In its current format there are limited benefits for the local community due to the short and unmanaged nature of the trail. If the trail was formally extended both north to intersect with Reservoir Road and south to join with the Camel Hill Trail, it creates linking and looping trail opportunities for the community with more physical fitness and other community benefit potential.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail has some potential to contribute to trail-based tourism activities as one of only two trails that connects directly with the township (Spion Kop Lookout being the other). Tourists staying in Queenstown will have access to a trail in a more natural setting with interesting views and historical heritage stories without the need to drive. These can be popular for morning walks/runs, daytime activities and pre dinner walks.

Development requirements or potential

The trail should be investigated as part of a broader township-trail connectivity project. A detailed planning exercise will assess and develop the trails requirements and true potential. Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Sign system and interpretation of site significance
- Old infrastructure safety assessments
- Trail connectivity to the north and south and beyond (The Queenstown Clover concept).

This short trail could be easily formalised and improved in the short term while the broader and medium term, Queenstown Clover concept, is planned and developed.

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process. The total cost to make the existing short walk a safe and sustainable trail would be approximately \$150k.

Recommendation

Incorporate this into the Queenstown Clover concept but can be acted on immediately as a short term and low-cost addition to the trail network.

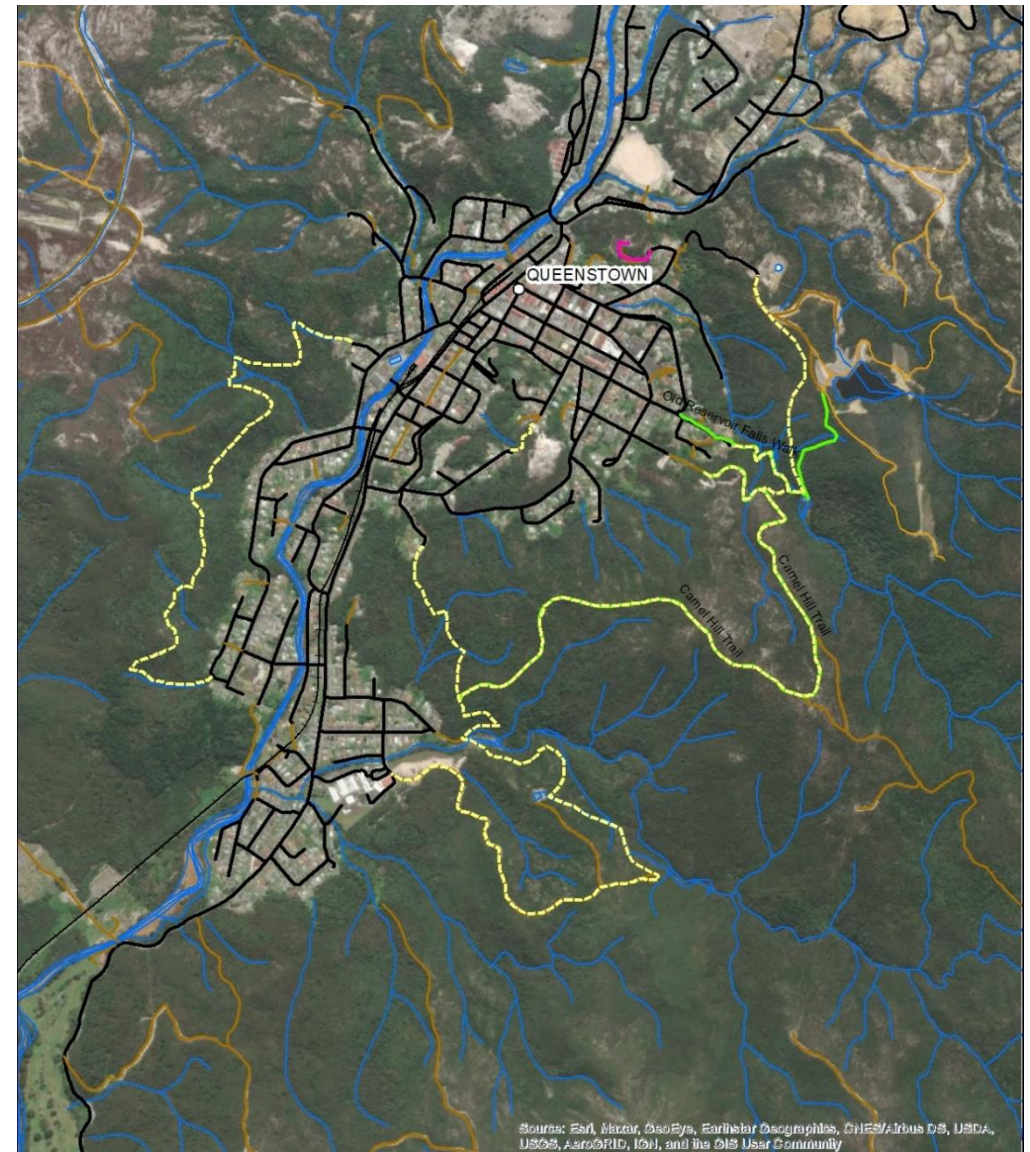
Priority

- Moderate

QUEENSTOWN – QUEENSTOWN CLOVER CONCEPT

New Proposal

TRAIL NAME	QUEENSTOWN CLOVER CONCEPT
Trail Distance	Up to 10km +
Assessed Classification	Grade 3 - 4
Trail Type	Mix of existing tracks and new single trail
Land Manager	DPIPWE Crown Land
Existing infrastructure	<p>The suggested entry/exit points are serviced by publicly accessible roads and corridors.</p> <p>The intention is that the town acts as the supporting infrastructure for the trail.</p>



West Coast Walks Strategy Queenstown Cloverleaf Concept

Legend

- Cloverleaf_Concept
- Existing_Formal
- Existing_Informal_or_Unknown

list_transport_segments_west_coast

- SURFACE_TYPE
- Sealed
- Unsealed
- 4WD required
- Rail

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers



The Queenstown Clover Concept seeks to provide both the community and visitors with a range of trail options and opportunities by connecting a variety of trails to the Queenstown township. The concept involves utilising existing sections of track and trail as well as creating new trail. The cloverleaf style of trail network is designed to enable users to step on and off the trail at several locations around the edge of town.

There would be a central walking trailhead point in town (potentially in the same park as the MTB trailhead) where the main information and trail suggestions would be available. Each entry/exit point to the trail would have minor trailhead signs providing information about those particular sections of trail.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

This trail concept responds to the gap in local community trails linked to town. It utilises existing tracks and trails where possible and provides the community with trail options to suit their needs (time, elevation, distance, natural setting, variety).

Potential contribution to Tourism

Tourists visiting and staying in Queenstown will have access to a trail network that can be used to suit their needs. It provides trail experiences in a more natural setting with interesting views and historical heritage stories without the need to drive. This trail will be popular for morning walks/runs, daytime activities and pre/post dinner walks.

Development requirements or potential

A detailed planning exercise will assess and develop the trail alignments, connection points in more detail. Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Infrastructure requirements (bridges, boardwalks)
- Sign system and interpretation potential
- Connectivity points with town
- Central trailhead (Headley Falls Park) and starting points.

This trail would include designated and signposted routes through town to link to trail entry/exit points on the edge of town. Potential to extend further north of town.

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process and total meterage of trail installed. The total cost including trailhead development, infrastructure, and sign systems, would be within the \$500k to \$1million range.

Recommendation

The Queenstown Clover concept responds to and meets several of the key strategic priorities. Initiate a formal feasibility and planning exercise.

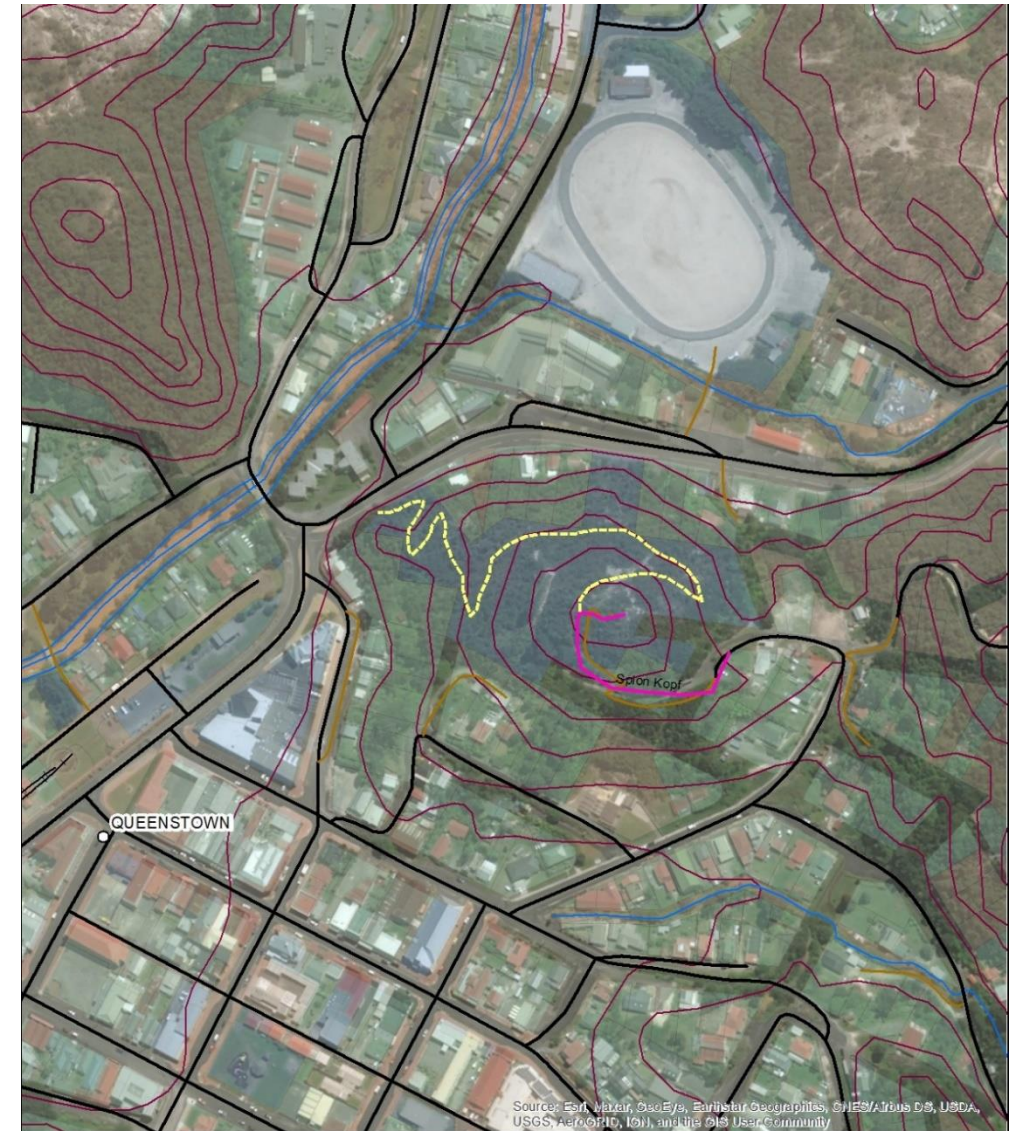
Priority

- High

QUEENSTOWN - SPIN KOP LOOKOUT TRAIL

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	SPIN KOP LOOKOUT TRAIL
Trail Distance	300m return from carpark
Assessed Classification	Grade 3 due to gradient
Sign System	No sign system
Trail Type	Local
Manager and Current Use	Queenstown Lions Club – Moderate use
Promoted Classification	Grade 2
IPWEA Score	3
Existing infrastructure	Small carpark with no formal delineation or markings. Lookout structure at top with some handrails along trail.



West Coast Walks Strategy Queenstown Spin Kop Trail

Legend

- Spin_Kop_Extension
- Existing_Formal
- Existing_Informal_or_Unknown

list_transport_segments_west_coast

SURFACE_TYPE

- Sealed
- Unsealed
- 4WD required
- Rail

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Kilometers



The Spion Kop Lookout trail is a short and steep concrete path to a lookout. The lookout has great 360-degree views of the Queenstown township and surrounds. It is managed by Queenstown Lions Club but has not been adequately maintained for several years. There is no trail information or waymarking signage and the small carpark is suitable for two vehicles at best. There is old mining equipment in cages at the base of the trail with some legible interpretive information but is well overdue for refurbishment. There have been recent works on the surrounding vegetation to fell trees and trim bushes, presumably to retain views however this has been done poorly and left a mess that further detracts from the visitor experience.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

In its current format there are limited benefits for the local community due to the short nature of the trail and limited appeal to a local. If the recommended trail extension was implemented the appeal and benefits to the local community would be increased.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail is listed as a must do for visitors and tourists and the view is worthy of promotion. The trail is close to the centre of town which adds to the appeal for visitors. The lack of signage and the aged infrastructure does detract from the visitor experience.

Development requirements or potential

The area would benefit from some landscape architecture design work to explore its layout and real potential as the number 1 visitor site in Queenstown. There is an opportunity to continue the mining story through contemporary displays and interpretation of the site and machinery. A reconfiguration of the carpark and upgrade of the lookout and trail infrastructure would be beneficial.

There is real potential to connect the lookout to the town with a trail close to the Lyell Hwy and Driffield Street intersection and Museum Building. This additional 500m of trail would enhance the appeal of the lookout by making it more

accessible by foot alone without driving through the narrow backstreets to the existing carpark area. This also creates the opportunity for a loop type experience rather than a straight up and back.

Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Trailhead infrastructure requirements
 - Formal carparking area
 - Sign system
- Trail infrastructure developments
 - Improved steps and handrail system
 - Improved viewing area/platform
- Interpretation of site significance
- Enhanced displays of machinery
- Trail extension to the Lyell Hwy and Driffield Street intersection and Museum Building area.

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process. The total costs to produce a quality product could be in the range of \$300k - \$500k+.

Recommendation

Initiate concept planning to include a range of costed options and key requirements.

Priority

- Moderate – High

STRAHAN - OCEAN BEACH TRAIL

Current status

TRAIL NAME	OCEAN BEACH TRAIL
Trail Distance	1800m one way
Assessed Classification	Grade 2 / Easy
Sign System	Basic
Trail Type	Shared Use / Compacted rubble surface
Manager and Current Use	Parks Tasmania/Counter installed
Promoted Classification	NIL
IPWEA Score	1
Existing infrastructure	Small carpark with no formal delineation or markings. Some signage and basic trail information provided.



Legend

— Ocean_Beach_Trail_Link

— Existing_Formal

list_transport_segments_west_coast

SURFACE_TYPE

— Sealed

— Unsealed

— 4WD required

— Rail

West Coast Walks Strategy Strahan Ocean Beach Trail

0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers



The existing Ocean Beach Trail connects Ocean Beach Road with Ocean Beach. It is designed as a shared use trail, is well designed and built to manage water and the coastal environment.

The trail requires both cyclists and walkers to drive to the trailhead to then walk/ride the 1800m to the beach, while some may do this, the proximity of the trailhead to the vehicle-based beach access further down the road makes the trail almost superfluous from a general visitor perspective. People do use the trail for walking and cycling however joining the trail to town, as per the original design intention, would significantly enhance its appeal and practicality as genuine trail product.

The proposed 3000m+ extension, when combined with the 1800m existing trail, creates an almost 10km return trail. This makes for a more worthy ride and appeals to fitter people looking for a longer run/walk. People with less time or fitness can still drive to the Ocean Beach Road connection for a reduced walk or continue all the way through to the vehicle-based lookout.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

In its current format there are limited benefits for the local community due to the location and need to drive to the trailhead. If the recommended trail link to the Strahan township was implemented the appeal and benefits to the local community would be increased. The longer trail would offer more fitness benefits for both walkers and cyclists and the connection to town would improve its appeal by removing the 'access by vehicle' barrier.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail is actively promoted as a popular shared use trail on the west coast. In its current format it does not rate highly as a tourism highlight. For similar reasons listed in the contribution to the community section, the linking of the trail to town would improve its appeal and functionality as a tourism asset and activity.

Development requirements or potential

The proposed 3000m extension will require some consideration at the Strahan end to seamlessly link it to the town footpath/road network. Much of the work has been previously completed and will require a general review and re-costing.

Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Trailhead infrastructure requirements
- Improving the existing carparking area
- Sign system.

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process. The total costs to produce a quality product could be in the range of \$400k - \$650k.

Recommendation

Initiate planning review to include a range of costed options and key requirements.

Priority

- High

STRAHAN - STRAHAN HISTORIC FORESHORE WALK

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	STRAHAN FORESHORE WALK
Trail Distance	5500m
Assessed Classification	Grade 2
Sign System	Active Strahan / Heritage
Trail Type	Concrete Path
Manager and Current Use	WCC - well used
Promoted Classification	Grade 2
IPWEA Score	2
Existing infrastructure	<p>Some signage and basic trail information provided.</p> <p>The trail passes the Anzac Memorial Park and Hogarth Falls Trailhead where toilets, carparking and shelters are available.</p>



Legend

- Ocean_Beach_Trail_Link
- Existing_Formal
- list_transport_segments_west_coast
- SURFACE_TYPE
- Sealed
- Unsealed
- 4WD required
- Rail

West Coast Walks Strategy Strahan Foreshore Walk

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers



The Strahan Foreshore Walk is a dual direction shared-use concrete path type trail that follows the Strahan foreshore. Its promoted section links the Visitor Centre with the Historic Strahan Railway Station.

There is some confusion as the trails identity as it is promoted as a fitness trail, historic trail and inspiration walk. The Active Strahan signage is rusted and very difficult to read. There are short timber bridges located at the southern end that are slippery with signs and matting installed to tell users that they are slippery. While the trail follows the foreshore, much of the water views are impeded by vegetation.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

The trail is popular and well used by the community for morning and evening walks/runs. The more fitness focused users run the trail multiple times to achieve a longer distance.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail is actively promoted and well used by visitors to Strahan. The Railway area, lobster boat jetty and cruise terminal are all points of interest. The trail does approach the western end of town but stops at a small public Jetty. TRC believes there is merit in investigating a continuation of the trail further west to the boat harbor area and potentially linking into the Ocean Beach Trail extension. Both features would have strong appeal to tourists.

Development requirements or potential

Investigating the extension to the west will require engaging a landscape architect and some engineering advice. A Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) type boardwalk over the water could facilitate movement of pedestrians past the private jetties and protect the marine vegetation.

Other general upgrades should be applied such as:

- replacing timber decks with FRP and removing slip hazard signage
- selecting areas along the trail to clear vegetation and provide viewing nodes over or on the edge of the water
- working on a coherent theme for the trail and consolidating signs.

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process.

Recommendation

Engage a landscape architect to prepare feasibility and concept planning reports with cost estimates.

Priority

- Moderate

STRAHAN – HENTY RIVER TRAIL CONCEPT

New Proposal

TRAIL NAME	HENTY RIVER TRAIL CONCEPT
Trail Distance	5km +
Target Classification	Grade 3 - 4
Trail Type	Mix of existing tracks and new single trail
Land Manager	Parks Tasmania
Existing infrastructure	<p>There is an existing entry/exit off Henty Road into a small carpark and basic boat ramp area.</p> <p>The Henty Dunes area is located a five km south with a large carpark, picnic tables and 4WD access to the beach.</p>



Legend

- Ocean_Beach_Trail_Link
- Existing_Formal
- list_transport_segments_west_coast
- SURFACE_TYPE
- Sealed
- Unsealed
- 4WD required
- Rail

West Coast Walks Strategy Strahan Henty River Concept

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers



The Henty River flows under Henty Road approximately 18km north of Strahan. The river is popular with locals and adventure tourists for kayaking and fishing. A basic carpark and boat ramps services the area. There is a network of informal tracks and trails through fern lined bushland along the Henty River which is used by a small number of locals seeking a more natural type of experience away from the busier formalised trails/walks in Strahan.

There is evidence of quad bike use on some of the trails which has created erosion issues and contributed to carpark and vegetation damage. Henty Dunes is located 5km south of the site and appears to be set up for 4WD enthusiasts to access the beach. There is limited appeal to any other activity at the Henty Dunes site.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

This trail concept provides the community a more natural and secluded trail option not far from town and links to boating and kayaking activities. A formalised and sign posted trail network that interacts with the surrounds, river and outlet is a different trail experience to most other trails in town. Although it is accessed by vehicle (a 10 minute drive from Strahan), TRC believes the unique nature and length of the trails would make them popular with locals and visitors alike.

Potential contribution to Tourism

Tourists visiting and staying in Strahan will have access to a trail network that explores a special riverine environment. The variety in vegetation riverine experiences makes this area unique on the west coast. Tour operators could tailor fishing, walking or kayaking packages where visitors are dropped off at the Henty Road Carpark and picked up from the beach (using the Henty Dunes 4WD access) where the river meets the ocean. Alternatively, visitors could use the trail network to suit their own interests.

Development requirements or potential

A detailed planning exercise will assess and develop the trail alignments and connection points to the Henty River in more detail. Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Infrastructure requirements (Kayak launch, bridges, boardwalks, carpark expansion)
- Sign system and interpretation potential
- Managing illegal Quad Bike use
- Central trailhead and starting points
- Investigate trail opportunities east of Henty Road along the river

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process. The total cost including trailhead development, infrastructure and sign systems, would be within the \$400k to \$800k.

Recommendation

The Henty Dunes Concept responds to and meets several of the key strategic priorities. Initiate a formal feasibility and planning exercise.

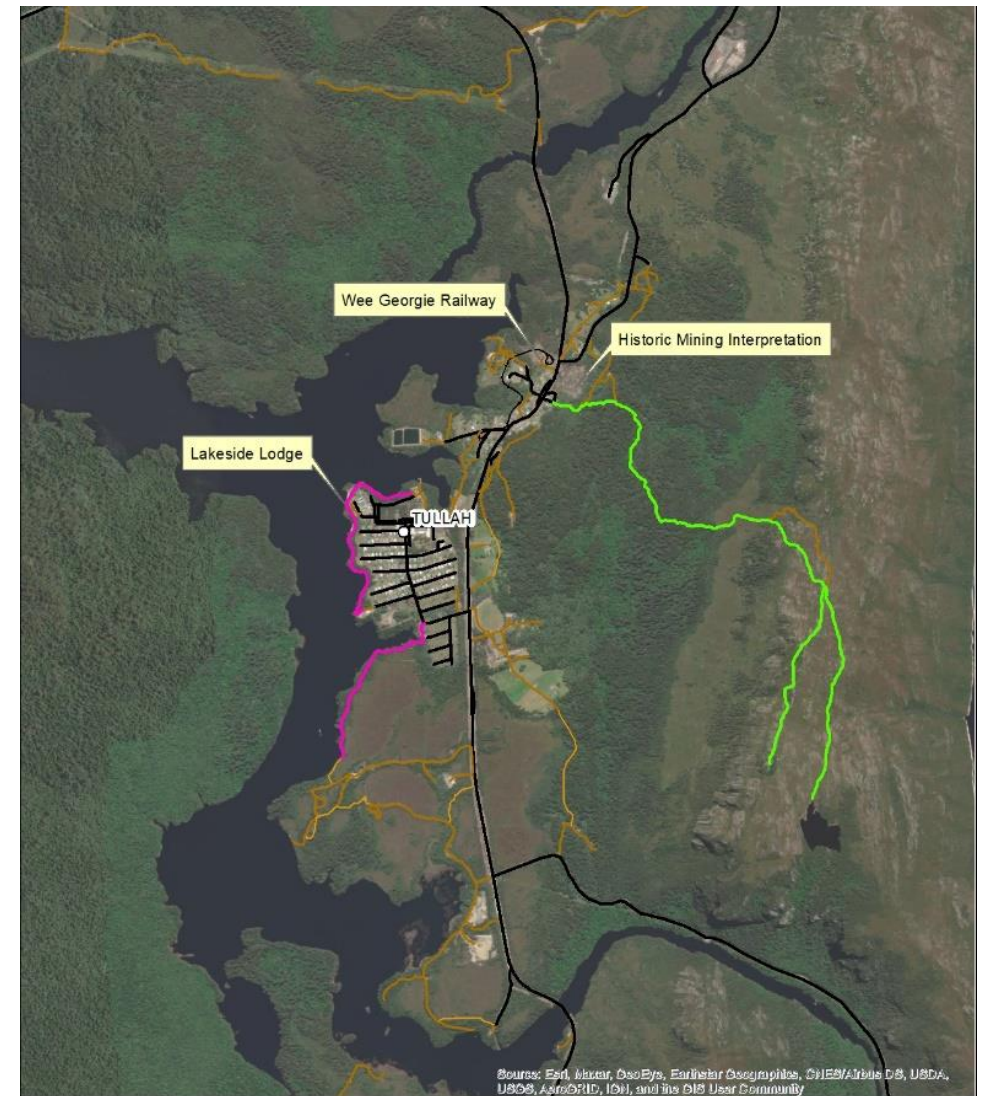
Priority

- Moderate – High

TULLAH TRAIL

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	TULLAH TRAIL
Trail Distance	7km one way (to near to Murchison Bridge)
Assessed Classification	Grade 2*
Sign System	NIL
Trail Type	Compacted, Rubble Surface, 1.5m wide
Manager and Current Use	Tas Hydro - Locals / Some Visitors to Lodge
Promoted Classification	No grade promoted
IPWEA Score	2
Existing infrastructure	<p>Connected to town and the Lakeside Lodge with all the general facilities provided.</p> <p>Kayaking and boating facilities connected to trail.</p> <p>No trail signage or information provided.</p>



Legend

- Tullah_Trail
- Mt_Fairrell_Lake_Herbert_Trail
- list_transport_segments_west_coast
- SURFACE_TYPE
- Sealed
- Unsealed
- 4WD required
- Rail

West Coast Walks Strategy Tullah Trail

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Kilometers



Information on the Rosebery Lake Trail is challenging to find. The Lakeside Lodge offers maps to customers, but no online information or onsite signage was available. Access to the trail is through trial and error, but once found makes for a good but brief walk along the lake edge.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

At only 2km in length and in its current format there are limited benefits for the local community due to the short distance and accessibility issues. Some community members stated it was too rough for prams in places and hard to get to. If the trail was extended further around the lake and/or connected with the northern end of town, locals would be more inclined to use the trail and get the associated health and wellbeing benefits.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail is not promoted to tourists. Only those that happen to visit the Lakeside Lodge would be introduced to the trail. Nearby points of interest (Wee Georgie Wood Steam Railway, Mining Interpretation) and other local business would benefit from the trail extending north and linking the two areas. Visitors would also benefit from the trail extending further south around the lake to take in more of the scenery away from the township streetscape etc.

Development requirements or potential

Both potential proposals will require detailed trail planning. There are some existing tracks that could be adapted for use however new trail designed specifically for user experience often produces the best outcomes for the community and tourism.

Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Trailhead infrastructure requirements
 - Improving access points to the trail
 - Sign system
 - Interpretation

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of development recommended from the planning process. The total costs to produce a quality product could be in the range of \$200k - \$450k+.

Recommendation

Initiate planning review to include a range of costed options and key requirements.

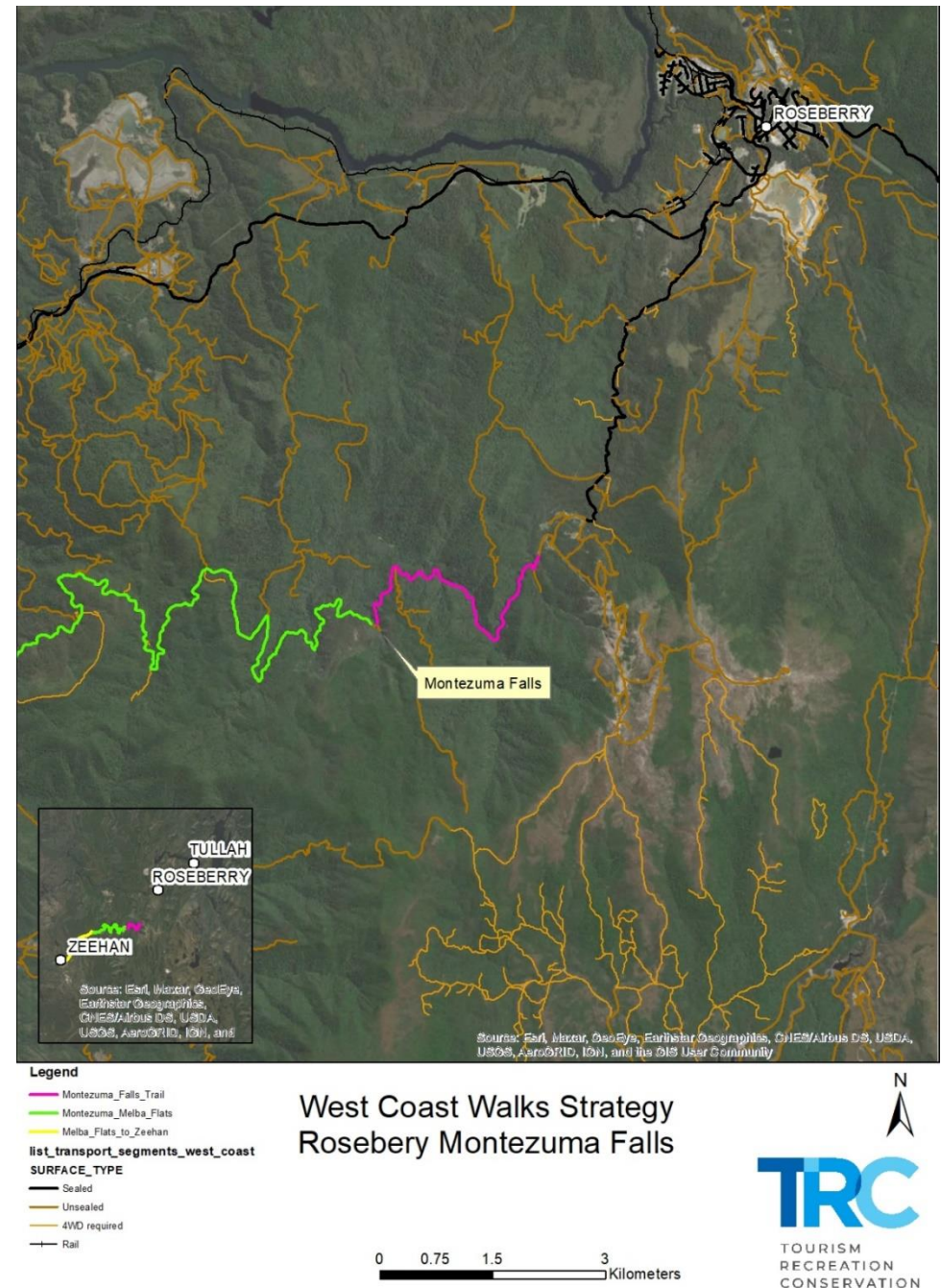
Priority

- High

ROSEBERY – MONTEZUMA FALLS

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	MONTEZUMA FALLS
Trail Distance	4km One Way
Assessed Classification	Grade 2*
Sign System	Basic, Compliant
Trail Type	Shared Use
Manager and Current Use	DPIPWE Future Potential Production Forest, Forestry Tasmania – Well used
Promoted Classification	Grade 2
IPWEA Score	2-3
Existing infrastructure	Carpark with basic signage. Toilet located a short distance up the trail.



The Montezuma Falls Trailhead is located a short drive 8km south of Rosebery. The falls are a popular destination and one of the must do walks on west coast. The rail trail type walk is popular as an easier walk where people have room to walk side by side. In recent years the swing bridge has been used by MTB riders to extend the ride through to Melba Flats on the NE Dundas Tramway alignment and even further through to Zeehan via an old dirt vehicle track.

The trailhead area is tired and could benefit from a sign consolidation and minor picnic facility upgrade. The suspension bridge that enables travel to Melba Flats is closed and requires repair. The extension from Melba Flats to Zeehan appears to exist as an informal vehicle track but is not signposted for use.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

At 4km in length one way, the trail is reasonably popular with locals and has enough distance to cater for recreational walking and running. If the suspension bridge and tracks to Melba Flats and Zeehan were repaired and improved there is opportunity for locals to extend runs and rides.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail to Montezuma Falls is well known and popular with tourists. The current closure of the swing bridge is hampering access through to Melba Flats.

Development requirements or potential

The general facilities for walking to the Falls are ok but would benefit from some basic improvements. The closed swing bridge beyond the falls is an issue for people seeking longer walks/runs and cycling. This is a critical piece of infrastructure that should be prioritised to enable the trail to function as intended.

Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Trailhead infrastructure requirements
 - Improving access points to the trail
 - Sign system
 - Interpretation
- Swing Bridge repair and opening
- Improvement of trail from Melba Flats through to Zeehan

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of improvements recommended from the planning exercise (\$200k - \$500k). The costs of the swing bridge repair is unknown.

Recommendation

Initiate planning review to include a range of costed options and key requirements.

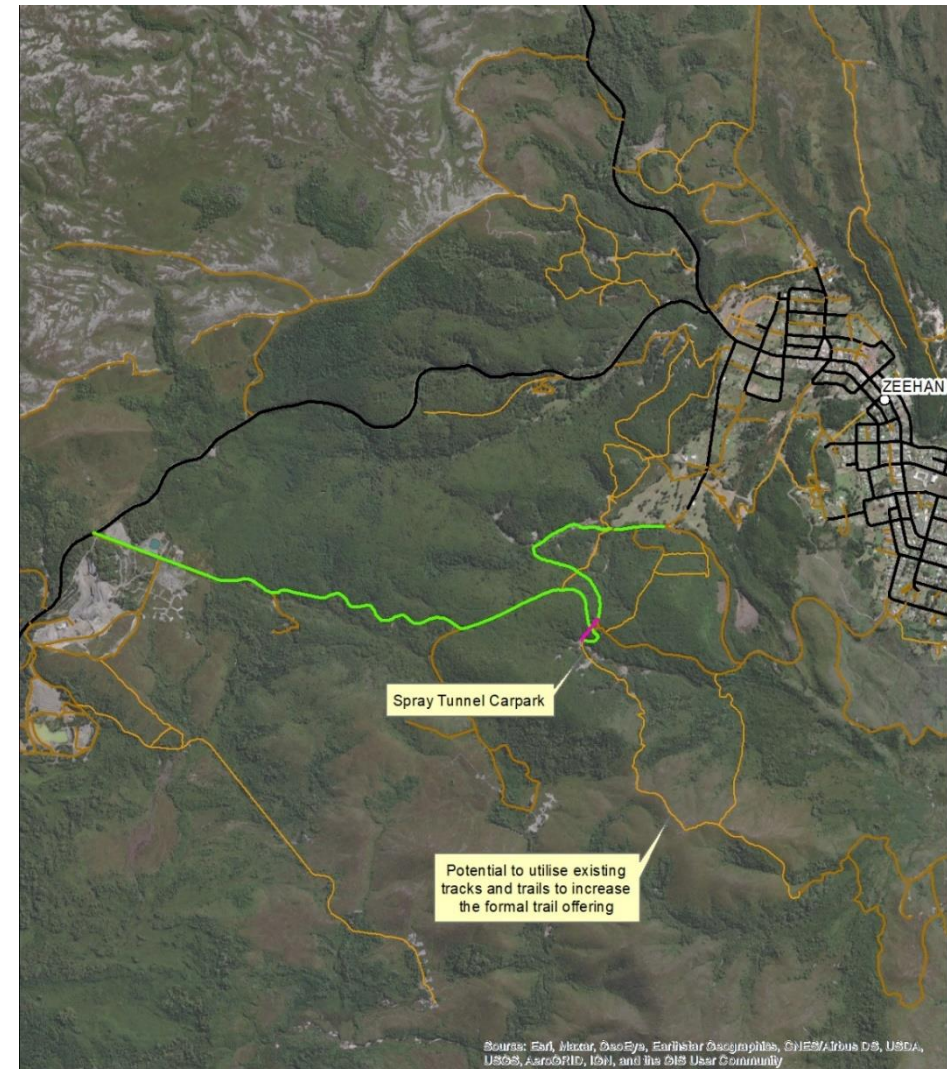
Priority

- High

ZEEHAN - SPRAY TUNNEL

Current Status

TRAIL NAME	SPRAY TUNNEL
Trail Distance	100m
Assessed Classification	Grade 2
Sign System	Interpretation Only, Limited Safety Information
Trail Type	Boardwalk with chicken wire
Manager and Current Use	DPIPWE Future Potential Production Forest – Moderate use
Promoted Classification	No site Information
IPWEA Score	2
Existing infrastructure	Carpark with some interpretive signage.



Legend

SprayTunnel
Comstock_Tramway_Trail

list_transport_segments_west_coast

SURFACE_TYPE

Sealed
Unsealed
4WD required
Rail

West Coast Walks Strategy Zeehan Spray Tunnel

0 0.3 0.6 1.2
Kilometers



The Spray Tunnel is listed as a must do on the west coast walks trail information. It is an interesting site only 3km from the centre of Zeehan. It is promoted as and forms part of the Zeehan MTB trail network.

The access road is a single lane and people are directed to drive all the way into the main precinct rather than be given the opportunity to walk from The MTB trail head area. There are no toilets at the site.

The trails appear to be incomplete. The main trail through the tunnel just stops in the middle of an open area with no direction on how or if to proceed from there. Another apparently formal trail departs the carpark and follows an old track until large puddles and vegetation encroachment prevent further access. There is no sign system for the walking trail and the MTB signage is not compliant with standard Australian MTB guidelines.

Potential contribution to Community outcomes

The standalone tunnel experience does not offer the community any realistic benefits. Locals do use the longer MTB trail and nearby vehicle tracks for walking and running. If the MTB trailhead was signposted to include and promote walking it may introduce a longer more beneficial walking experience that is not currently well known or promoted.

Potential contribution to Tourism

The trail through the Spray Tunnel is interesting and the interpretation at the site explains how it was used etc. There is no trail specific information at the site and a trail planning process would investigate utilising the existing track and trail corridors more effectively and offer both tourists and locals more walking opportunities that connects to the site. A toilet would be expected at an area that is heavily promoted with picnic facilities such as this.

Development requirements or potential

A trail planning exercise will identify and expand the usable trail network and linkages to town.

Key elements to include in the planning exercise will include:

- Land ownership and trail management
- Trailhead infrastructure requirements
 - Improving access points to the trail
 - Sign system
 - Interpretation
- Expanding and formalising the broader trail network
- Defined carparking
- Lighting in tunnel
- Connections to town
- Toilet facilities

Cost estimates

The cost estimate is dependent on the level of improvements recommended from the planning exercise (\$250k - \$750k).

Recommendation

Initiate trail planning process to include a range of costed options and key requirements.

Priority

- High

APPENDIX D. CONSULTATION

TRC Tourism hosted two rounds of consultative workshops seeking input from West Coast Council, community, government agencies, relevant stakeholders, businesses and user group representatives.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the first round of four workshops was held online via Zoom in July 2021. A total of 18 participated representing Bushwalking Tasmania and other state walking clubs, trail running communities, regional tourism businesses, other user group representatives (i.e., climbers, paddlers), State Government Departments (Minerals Resources), and relevant tourism and heritage organisations.

A second round of in situ workshops was held in October 2021, taking place in Queenstown, Strahan and Tullah with attendees sharing local knowledge and insights that proved significant input into informing the strategy outcomes.

Collectively the workshops, along with follow-up communication via email and telephone, highlighted opportunities and challenges across the West Coast for the development of walking trails, with critical information gathered that has helped form and guide priorities for this study.

TRC Tourism Consultants completed two high-level surveys of the region's trails and trailheads, inspecting sections of accessible formal and informal trails, trailheads, infrastructure, signage, wayfinding and interpretation examples.

Some significant themes that emerged during consultation include:

- Community sentiment for an increased focus on improving walking trail infrastructure in the towns and villages including Queenstown, Strahan and Tullah
- Community sentiment for improved walking trail accessibility for elderly residents, other residents with mobility issues, and young parents with prams
- Challenges associated with walking trails no longer being promoted by Parks and Wildlife Service, still receiving a high volume of walkers
- Significant lack of trailhead signage and wayfinding
- Overrepresentation of informal unmaintained trails vs. formal maintained trails
- A lack of walking trails to provide fitness and recreation challenge for residents which are 2-3 hours in duration (i.e., that are not too short and not too long)
- Support for utilising the extensive choice of existing trails (both informal and formal) over the construction of new trails
- Misconception by the community that some land managers are not interested in walking trail development
- Overall, there is a lack of connection between walking trails and West Coast history, heritage and culture – at least in interpreting the stories and history attached to them
- A desire to integrate walking trail development where possible to facilitate, benefit and link in with other outdoor active recreation including mountain biking, rock climbing and paddle sports
- Potential for the proposed creation of a 'Centre for Outdoor Excellence' in early stage review by State Government and its relevancy to connected and quality trail infrastructure.

APPENDIX E. IPWEA CONDITION ASSESSMENT

TRC uses The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) 'Simple Approach' model for assessing the condition of the listed trail assets as outlined below.

RANK	DESCRIPTION OF CONDITION
1	Very Good Condition Only normal maintenance required
2	Minor Defects Only Minor maintenance required (5%)
3	Maintenance Required to Return to Accepted Level of Service Significant maintenance required (10-20%)
4	Requires Renewal Significant renewal/upgrade required (20-40%)
5	Asset Unserviceable Over 50% of asset requires replacement

TRC applies a consistent approach to applying the condition ranking of trails. Some examples of how these are applied:

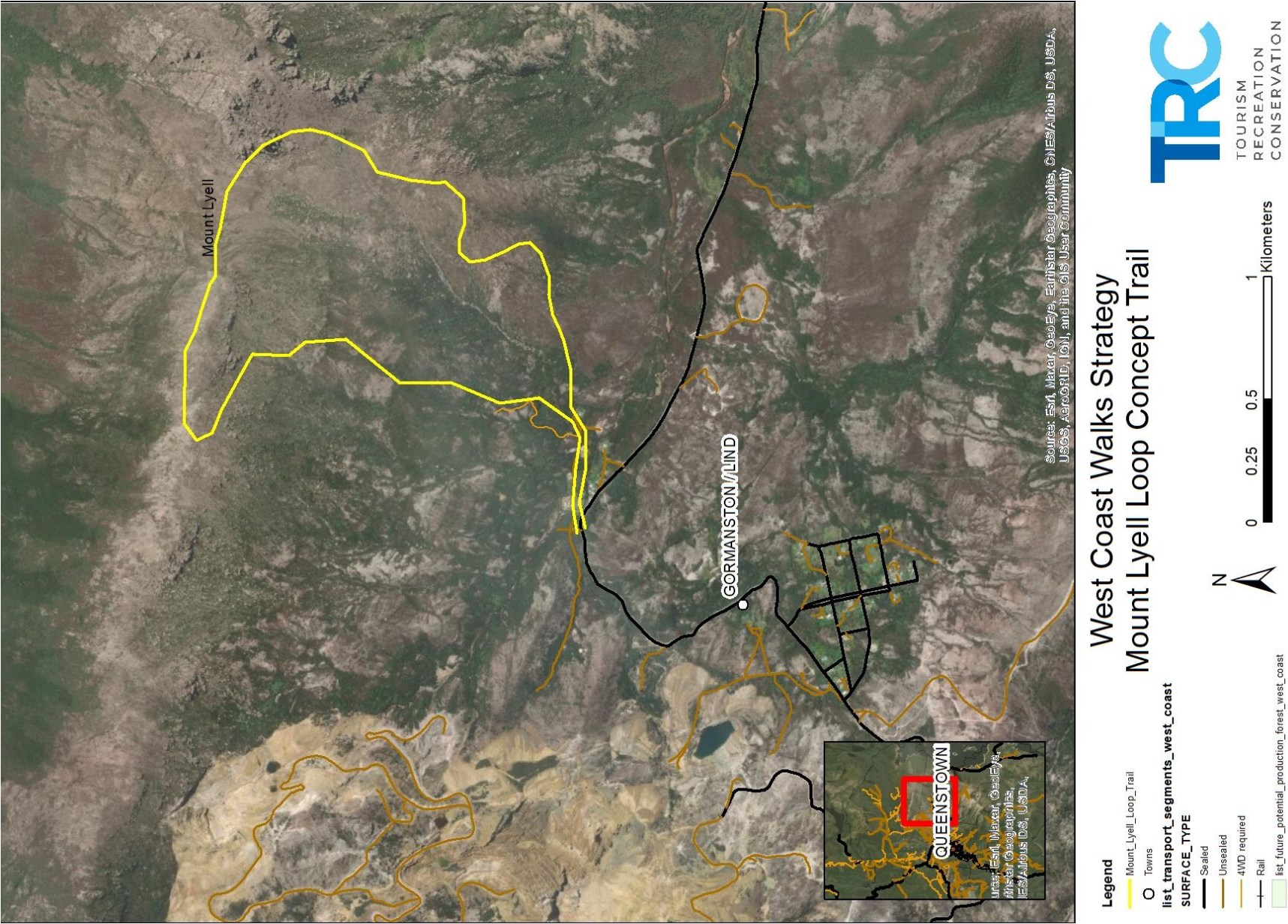
- A trail that has some minor vegetation encroachment or sedimented drains would be ranked 1 as these issues should be addressed as part of a standard programmed maintenance schedule.
- A trail with minor erosion would be ranked 2 as some additional work may be required to reinforce existing water bars or water management features.
- A trail with more significant erosion would be ranked 3 as new water management devices are required or hardened surfaces are breaking up that would require resurfacing of sections.
- A trail that had unmanageable or unsustainable sections that required re-routes or additional built structures may be ranked as 4.

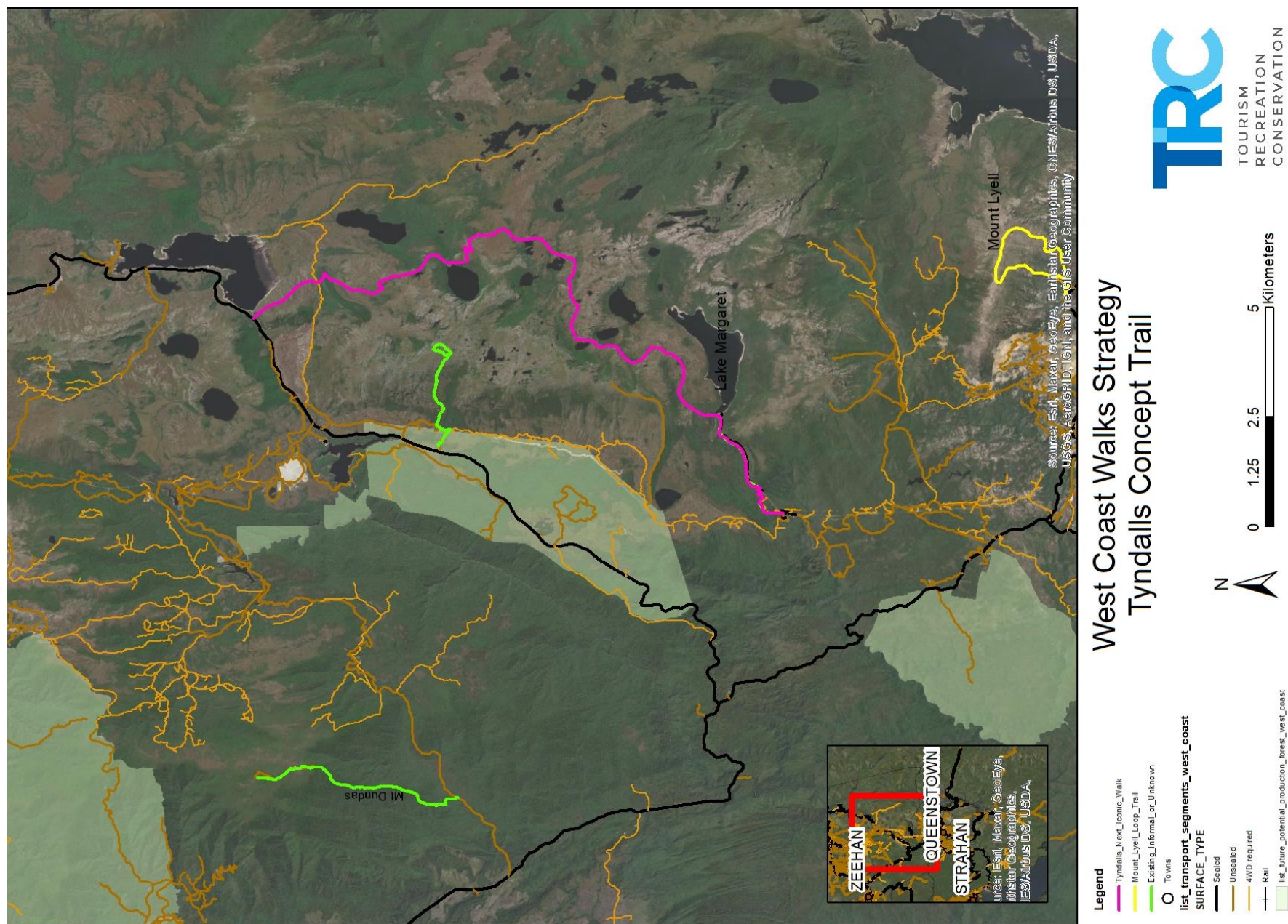
Trails that were unmanageable on their current alignment or had completely overgrown due to undefined corridors and lack of use would be ranked 5.

The condition assessment tool is an efficient method to rapidly assess and rank the condition of a trail or trail section to help inform the level of maintenance required and/or record the rate of trail degradation in response to other circumstances or pressures.

Trail condition scores are included on the individual trail audit tables.

APPENDIX F. OTHER MAPS





APPENDIX G. TRAILS AUDITED

ZONE	TRAIL NAME	TYPE	STATUS	DISTANCE	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTARY
Queenstown	Mt Owen summit	Walk, P2P, summit return	Informal	8km return	MTB trails now in-situ, most non compatible with shared use. Potential lack of singletrack options to summit in amongst MTB trails? Low grade experience if on 4WD access tracks?
Queenstown	Mt Lyell summit	Walk, P2P, summit loop or return	Informal	6km return	Would benefit climbing access (bouldering area being developed). Disused rail line loops around Lyell – has potential as a multi-use trail with easy gradient. Start finish from existing services / café. Good potential trailhead. Nearby other trail recreation (MTB trailheads)
Queenstown	Mt Tyndall Summit	Walk, P2P, summit return	Informal	6.8km return	Would benefit climbing access. Suffering from significant walking driven environmental impacts already (already in use)
Queenstown	Mt Jukes summit	Walk, P2P, summit or loop	Informal	6km return	Would benefit climbing access (Jukes Spur Bouldering). Needs better track and signage infrastructure.
Queenstown	Lake Jukes	Walk, P2P or loop	Informal	8km return	Climbing access potential? 3-hour one-way walk. Mostly follows old well-graded and drained 1900s pack track to the Lake Jukes. Upper Lake Jukes dwarfed by majestic cliffs of Mt Jukes. Best bushwalkers day walk south of Queenstown (contributed opinion). Needs some maintenance & signage
Queenstown	Jukes Lake Cirque / Mt Darwin	Walk, Loop (potential, open jaw)	Informal	12km to Fish Creek. 16km to Township Creek	Would benefit climbing (Jukes Spur Bouldering). Old trail up to Jukes Lakes Cirque > Upper Lake Jukes > off trail to West Jukes Peak > pick up track to Pyramid Peak > South Jukes Peak > out to old Darwin Town and Kelly Basin Road. Alternate > turn north at Upper Lake Jukes > Mt Jukes > Proprietary Peak > Mt Jukes Rd
Queenstown	East Jukes Peak	Walk, proposed	Informal	NA	Potential for more agile tourists seeking ‘soft adventure’. Offers outstanding views & a summit experience. Limited if any current use and low level of pre-existing trail.
Queenstown	Fincham Track (> Raglan Range) (> Frenchmans Cap)	Walk, proposed	Informal	30-50km	1910 PWD Government-funded track to Frenchman’s Cap via Franklin River flying fox crossing. 4-5 hours to Franklin River & Hydro’s Fincham Hut. Open and waymarked until early 2000s. Great potential to become a classic overnight bushwalk with upgraded hut at Franklin. With a flying fox across the river, it would become a world class 5-day ‘through hikers’ walk to Lyell Highway via The Frenchman. Also, potential to walk back to Lyell Highway-Nelson Falls via Raglan Range 4WD hydro road - condition unknown.

ZONE	TRAIL NAME	TYPE	STATUS	DISTANCE	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTARY
Queenstown	Confluence Track	Walk, P2P, return	Informal	1.6km	Existing, informal, well used. Potential to make into loop with parking / trailhead relocated near Hydro Station / Mt Jukes Rd and double as trailhead for Harris Reward Trail
Queenstown	Harris Reward + Flanagans Flats Track ALT name: Garfields Track.	Walk, P2P return	Informal	Harris Reward 800m /1.6km return. 12km return	As above - could act as trailhead for Confluence Track if that trail looped, giving options to do both Confluence and Harris Reward. Is there opportunity to loop Harris Reward also (and Confluence Loop proposal) to make figure of 8 track?
Queenstown	Mt Huxley	Walk, Proposed, 4WD to nearby summit	Proposed	Proposed	Vague concept based on current 4WD trails. Quality of experience likely low until summit?
Queenstown	Lake Margaret (to Cradle Mountain?)	Walk, Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Vague concept only at present
Queenstown	Queenstown to Lake Margaret back via Loftus Hills	Walk, Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Empty houses may be repurposed (village out at Lake Margaret?). Old Tramway runs up river.
Queenstown	Abandoned Railway runs into Comstock Valley Mines – circumnavigation of Lyall Range	Walk, Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Historical, uses old routes, Connect to Lake Margaret and round corner to Mt Segwick.
Queenstown	Donaghys Hill Lookout	Walk, P2P	Formal	2.2km return	Requires tread upgrades or re-classification.
Queenstown	Horsetail Falls	Walk, P2P	Formal	1km return	Excessive boardwalk. Not a priority to extend.
Queenstown	Iron Blow Lookout	Lookout	Formal	N/A	Entrance across the road from Horsetail Falls Trail. Currently promoted as access by vehicle.
Queenstown	Spion Kop Lookout	Walk, P2P	Formal	300 metres (return)	Potential to extend trail to from summit to Lyell Hwy. Should be a must do for visitors to Qtown. Requires investment.

ZONE	TRAIL NAME	TYPE	STATUS	DISTANCE	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTARY
Queenstown	Old Reservoir Falls Walk	Walk	Informal	1.2km	Could extend as longer loop walk, trailhead from centre of town. Quality experience. Trail exists.
Queenstown	Roaring Meg Creek	Walk	Proposed	NA	Tracks that lead along Roaring Meg creek & link with old pack track or road to Huxley. Could link across to old reservoir walk?
Queenstown	Howards Plains – Ragedy Creek	Walk	Proposed	NA	for local ‘recreational’ walkers/runners
Queenstown	Tyndalls Iconic Walk	Walk, Proposed	Proposed	28km	Some environmental contention / social equity concerns. Full feasibility study in play. Lots of publicity surrounding at moment.
Queenstown	Mt Sorrell	Walk, P2P, summit return	Informal	25km+	Remote, difficult. 4WD road walk offers little of interest & poor water sources.
Queenstown	Penghana House to Aerodrome	Walk, Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Destination is questionable.
Queenstown	Frenchmans cap	Walk, P2P	Formal	54km return	High quality (in terms of landscape not trail), international wilderness experience
Queenstown	Silica Quarry lookout	Walk	Proposed	NA	Good lookout & fitness walk for locals. Several variant tracks, including ‘gazebo lookout’ near old Chairlift station & ‘knife edge track’ above Silica Quarry. Would make an excellent tourist lookout.
Queenstown	Lake Margaret Tramway Trail	Shared Use	Formal / permissive access	3.5km P2P	Trail only accessible when the power station is staffed. Usually Mondays to Thursdays (approx. 9am to 4pm). Visitors should report to the power station before starting the walk.
Queenstown	Kelly Basin Track / North Mount Lyell Rail Trail. (Bird River Track – from Bird River Bridge)	Shared Use, part walk only	Formal	12km – 16km return	Needs better signage and parking / is signposted. Benefit Climbing. Offers rainforest, river gorge & history. Needs directional signage, local promotion & further track interpretation. Best tourist walk south of Queenstown. Prospect of improving track a further 2km to Reindeer Lodge may draw ire of some locals. However, this would create an excellent overnight walk. – Mark Metrikas 2016. Currently Closed
Queenstown	Franklin River Nature Trail	Walk, P2P	Formal	1km return	Not a Grade 1 but could be with some investment and then potential to be marketed as genuine DDA compliant.

ZONE	TRAIL NAME	TYPE	STATUS	DISTANCE	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTARY
Queenstown	Yolande River	P2P	Proposed	unknown	Canyons, potential for raft exit trail
Queenstown	Clover Concept	Loops	Proposed	10km+	The Queenstown Clover Concept seeks to provide both the community and visitors with a range of trail options and opportunities by connecting a variety of trails to the Queenstown township.
Queenstown	Nelson Falls	Walk, P2P	Formal	1.4km return	With some investment there is potential to be marketed as genuine DDA compliant.
Queenstown / Strahan	The Macquarie Harbour Trail	Proposed	Proposed	35 km one way	Remote area and sandy environment.
Queenstown / Strahan	Queenstown to Strahan	Walk, Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Dirt Art proposal for Epic MTB proposal. Multi use potential?
Strahan	Hogarth Falls	Walk, P2P	Formal	2.4km return	With some investment there is potential to be marketed as genuine DDA compliant.
Strahan	Strahan Historic Foreshore Walk	Shared Use, P2P	Formal	3km P2P / 6km return	Potential to extend to other points of interest
Strahan (by boat)	Eagle Creek Track	Walk, P2P	Formal	8km o/w	
Strahan	Ocean Beach Trail	Shared use, P2P	Formal	2km (4km return)	Plan and construct Stage 2
Strahan	Henty Dunes Picnic Area	Walk?	Informal	n/a	Access road issues (sand / potholes). Difficult to walk up the large dune Promoted as a picnic area, has new tables, but otherwise not very appealing for visitors. Picnic area and carpark very exposed.
Strahan	Henty River (Boat Ramp)	Walk?	informal	n/a	Informal trailhead being used by community. Trails are not signposted, and some are used by small ATV vehicles.
Rosebery	Mt Black summit	Walk, P2P	informal	7km return	No start signage, not marked, regularly used tracks.
Rosebery	Stitt Falls	Walk, P2P	Formal	30 metres	Average experience. Not a great view of falls
Rosebery	Montezuma Falls	Shared Use, P2P	Formal	10km return	Tasmania's highest waterfall
Rosebery	Mt Murchison summit	Walk, P2P, summit return	Formal	5.1km return	Already in use . Can form part of loop (and still operate as out and back)
Rosebery	Mt Murchison Traverse (Mt	Walk, P2P loop	Proposed	15km	Opportunity for loop trail, half to full day walk distance. Excellent POI / quality of landscape. Existing (informal) trailhead/s. Query on how to close loop (so only one trailhead required).

ZONE	TRAIL NAME	TYPE	STATUS	DISTANCE	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTARY
	Murchison Track + Lake Sandra Track)				
Rosebery	MMG Hercules Mine Site	Concept	Proposed	N/A	New community recreation space with tourism potential.
Tullah	Lake Sandra Track	Walk, P2P, return	Formal	4.5km return	No compliant signage. Can form part of loop (and still operate as out and back)
Tullah	Mt Farrell summit / Lake Herbert	Walk, P2P summit	Formal	8.7km return	No compliant signage. Is there an option to create loop?
Tullah	Tullah Trail	Walk, P2P	Formal	7km	Good paddle / walk options. A route along the lake has been proposed with HT input
Tullah	Lake Macintosh	Walk, no info	No info	No info	Limited info / no sign of current use
Zeehan	Mt Dundas summit	Walk, P2P, summit	Informal	10.8km, return, 893 ascent	No start signage, not marked, regularly used tracks.
Zeehan	Spray Tunnel	Shared use, P2P	Formal	6km?	Not currently promoted as a walk. Room for improvement
Zeehan	Melba Flats to Zeehan Rail Trail	Shared use	Informal	9km P2P	Needs formal development
Zeehan	Mt Zeehan summit	Walk, P2P, summit return	Informal	4km return. (ALT info: 9km return)	No start signage not marked. Potential to link to town from Zeehan through Parks Tasmania land.
Zeehan	Mt Agnew summit	Walk, P2P, summit	Informal	6km return (600m ascent)	No start signage, not marked, overgrown trail
Trial Harbour	Lake Cumberland & Ernies Hill Walk	Walk, P2P	Proposed	6.1km return	Near Mt Agnew. Heavy erosion from 4WD use.
Zeehan	Granville Tramway (Piney Creek)	Walk	Informal	unknown	Local trail enthusiast clearing old tramway to create accessible walking routes
(Trial and Granville Harbour) Zeehan	Coastal Walks Macquarie and Pieman Heads link	P2P	Proposed	approx. 21km	Informal walks exist. Rock-climbing (Velvet Underground / Thesarvo)

APPENDIX H. HIKING TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Trail grading or classification allows land managers to develop, design, build, promote and maintain trails appropriate for the anticipated trail users.

Australian Standard 2156.1 Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage identifies six classes of walking tracks, describing each in terms of the elements used for classification and the resulting management considerations.

AS 2156.1-2001 Walking Tracks - Classification and Signage

The Australian Walking Track Grading System benchmarks to AS 2156.1-2001.

Public land management agencies across Australia have adopted the Australian Walking Track Grading System as a plain English language description to describe walks to the public. Under the system, walking trails are graded on a difficulty scale from grades on to five.



A Grade 1 walk corresponds to AS 2165.1 Class 1 track

- Suitable for the disabled with assistance
- Total distance does not exceed 5 km
- Well signed, marked and maintained
- Well-formed track of at least 1.2 m width, surface suitable for wheelchairs
- No walking experience required
- No steps, or where steps exist a ramp is also provided.



A Grade 2 walk corresponds to AS 2165.1 Class 2 track

- Suitable for families with young children
- Total distance does not exceed 10 km
- Generally hardened surface, width of 900 mm or more, well maintained
- Trail head signs and route markers at intersections
- Minimal use of steps



A Grade 3 walk corresponds to AS 2165.1 Class 3 track

- Recommended for people with some bushwalking experience
- Total distance does not exceed 20 km
- Formed earthen track with a few obstacles (natural hazards), width less than 1.2 m
- Track head signage and markers where track may be indistinct
- Steps may be common.



A Grade 4 walk corresponds to AS 2165.1 Class 4 track

- Recommended for experienced bushwalkers
- Distance may be more than 20 km and require multiple days
- Rough track, includes arduous climbs and trail obstacles
- Trail head and some markers as required
- Hikers may need to independently navigate.



A Grade 5 walk corresponds to AS 2165.1 Class 5 and 6 track.

- Recommended for very experienced bushwalker
- Distance may be more than 20 km and require multiple days
- Rough track with arduous climbs and trail obstacles
- No signage or markers
- Hikers will need to independently navigate and be self-sufficient.³⁰
- Grade 6 or Class 6 is recommended for very experienced bushwalkers and consists of hiking where no trail exists – the right to roam experience.

³⁰ <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recreational-activities/walking-and-camping/australian-walking-track-grading-system>

A person wearing a green baseball cap and a large olive-green backpack is seen from the back, looking out over a landscape with a rocky hill and trees under a clear blue sky. A blue and grey CamelBak water bottle is attached to the side of the backpack.

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