



17 June 2022

WEST COAST CLIMBING CATALYST PROJECT



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This report was drafted for West Coast Council with the aim to promote the sport of rock climbing. It has the potential to be an important part of the West Coast's growth, will draw visitors to the region and increase participation in sport and recreation in one of the world's most iconic landscapes.

Following the release of the report, an opportunity for the community to provide feedback was provided and is presented below in a summarized form.

The proposal was released for public comment for a period of 3 weeks, from 22 May to 17 June 2022. The comment period was advertised via social media, Council website, local radio and LinkedIn. Feedback was received via email and post to Council office.

There was one feedback submission received in relation to the proposal.

Name: Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this strategy. Overall it seems reasonable. The key concern is with the suggestion of the development of a via ferrata route on Mt Murchison. This is not something we will support given the nature of such developments and the ability to maintain them to a safe standard. We would be happier if this was removed. Apart from that, a few things for your consideration:

The word 'development' can mean different things to different people. When Parks people talk about development we're usually talking about built infrastructure at a site which has been 'developed'. On the other side, 'developed' is a word commonly used by climbers when talking about new climbing routes on new cliffs. I don't have a problem with the use of this word in the context in which it is intended. What may be useful though is a definition up front that make it clear this refers to development of new climbs rather than physical built infrastructure.

Bolts or anchors. While we don't support the use of bolts for climbing anywhere in the TWWHA, this is not the case elsewhere. There are already bolts on the cliffs above Lake Huntley. PWS has worked actively with the climbing community over the years in the development of the Climbers Club of Tasmania guide on anchors which describes the standards for bolt installations. Note that any bolts installed are the responsibility of climbers, not PWS. If we, as in PWS, became the developers and promoters of climbing venues this would change. The authors of the report are well aware of the standards and requirements as per the CCT guide. I have attached the code for your info.

Naming of boulders and routes: Climbers who do a first ascent will name a climb so that it can be identified in guidebooks etc. We ask that any names be respectful, relate to the place, and not be offensive in any way. This has been a topic raised in recent years. Again, I expect the climbing community is well aware of this.

Consultation with the Aboriginal community: The Climbers Club of Tasmania has been active in the last couple of years building a working relationship with the aboriginal community with the president of the CCT, Hamish Jackson, leading this. Asking the aboriginal community for their input at this point would be very worthwhile and is recommended.

The image depicted on p6 for the Mt Lyell Development, shows a parking area and dotted mainline access track. It should be made clear that this is proposed for development as per Action 6.1, not something currently existing.

Incentive payments I think would be hard to manage and fraught with risk, noting this is qualified on P.12, saying that the grant model for larger development (as per recent project) is preferable, and that does seem to have had reasonable outcomes.