

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016

- RAA ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
- KEY DESIRED OUTCOMES

Section 3.3.1: RAA Assessment Criteria

For activities and proposals in the TWWHA that require assessment through the RAA process, the following additional criteria are to be satisfied:

- 1. The assessment process must identify the World Heritage values likely to be affected by the proposal;*
- 2. The assessment process must identify how those values might be affected;*
- 3. The assessment process must consider direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on World Heritage values;*
- 4. The assessment process must identify how any impacts on World Heritage values will be managed or mitigated;*
- 5. The assessment process must consider the social and environmental benefits and impacts of the proposal;*
- 6. The assessment process must consider appropriate monitoring and compliance measures; and*
- 7. The assessment process must consider provision of public consultation based on the scale and nature of the proposal.*

(1) World Heritage values likely to be affected by the proposal	(2/3) How might these values be affected; direct, indirect and cumulative impacts	(4) How will impacts on this World Heritage value be managed or mitigated	(6) Applicable monitoring and compliance measures
<p><i>Outstanding example representing major stages of the earth's evolutionary history</i></p>	<p>TWWHA contains many examples of the earth's evolutionary history including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - geological features, - biota which show links to ancient Gondwanan biota, and - primitive taxa showing links to fauna more ancient than Gondwana. <p>The proposal will not impact the evolutionary history of the TWWHA.</p> <p>The scale and location of the proposal is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not within a geo-conservation site, - the NVS did not identify threatened species or their critical habitats, - a threatened vegetation community will be avoided by the proposal, and - the scale of the works will not change the local or broader ecological systems. 	<p>Visitor facilities are sustainable management tools in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TWWHAMP 2016, and - OLT Use Guidelines. 	<p>Standard operating procedures (SOPS) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OLT booking system, - biannual track condition monitoring, - Annual asset inspections and reporting on Asset Management System (AMS), and - annual OLT works program implementing the rolling OLT 10 year works program.
<p><i>Outstanding examples representing significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment</i></p>	<p>The size of TWWHA provides for natural processes to operate unhindered, some of which are evident at Kia Ora overnight node including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ecosystems which are relatively free of introduced plant and animal species, - undisturbed catchments, tarns and streams; - alpine ecosystems with high levels of endemism, and - examples of evolution in mainland mammals. <p>The proposal poses a risk of introducing weeds or pathogens from poor hygiene controls.</p> <p>The proposal aims to improve waste management and reduce potential impacts to natural systems such as nutrient levels in soils and catchments.</p> <p>The proposal will not change the current recreational use levels. The number of registered walkers on the OLT will not change.</p>	<p>Standard weed management planning will be applied to imported materials and hygiene guidelines applied during construction.</p> <p>These standards will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specified in the procurement documents, - the successful contractor will apply the standards in their Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and - implemented during works. <p>The PWS Project Officer supervising the works will ensure hygiene procedures are implemented.</p> <p>Bare-ground and exposed soils will be rehabilitated at the completion of works</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Plan prepared with advice from an ecologist .</p> <p>OLT Rangers tasked with maintaining rehabilitation sites in annual works program. General tasks to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintain fencing, - monitor regenerating species and report potential weeds, - remove or treat weeds or exotic species if observed <p>OLT Rangers will also maintain the greywater and toilet systems in accordance with SOPs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regularly empty solid traps and report any potential

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		<p>to promote regeneration of native species, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - retaining all native vegetation removed during works, - spreading it over bare-ground, and - fencing the areas until suitable ground cover is re-established. <p>OLT Rangers will oversee the rehabilitation. Rangers will continue to monitor the OLT for weeds and exotic species and remove or treat plants as per usual track maintenance practices.</p>	<p>clogging or blockages in greywater system, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regularly clean toilets and monitor pods, when full - cap and rotate pods. <p>Annual asset inspections will be conducted by PWS engineer to ensure proper functioning of waste management systems.</p>
<p><i>Contains superlative natural phenomena, formations or features, for instance outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems, areas of exceptional natural beauty or exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements</i></p>	<p>The TWWHA has exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.</p> <p>Kia Ora is part of undisturbed landscape that is surrounded by dolerite capped mountains, glacial lakes and sweeping button grass plains.</p> <p>The proposal maintains this aesthetic, mainly due to the small-scale of the proposed development in an expansive wilderness landscape. The natural features of the area will remain visually dominate over the built structures.</p>	<p>The proposed new hut is small compact design with all components located under one roof.</p> <p>The roof will slope away from surrounding summits to limit its appearance as well as painted black to shadow in the distance.</p> <p>The hut and toilet are located on the edge of button grass area that well screened by surrounding woodlands.</p> <p>The toilet building will also be constructed in dark building materials as used on the hut. The toilet is located on small depression will visually decrease the apparent size of the building. The front façade of the toilet building will in turn screen the utilities at the rear.</p>	<p>Retaining screening vegetation during construction that helps to screen the building in the landscape.</p> <p>The proposed building site layout will be strictly controlled to minimise impacts to surrounding vegetation.</p>

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<p><i>Contain the most important and significant habitats where threatened species of plants and animals of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science and conservation still survive</i></p>	<p>Tasmania, and in particular TWWHA, is the last refuge for many threatened animal and plant species. It also contains habitats which are relatively undisturbed and of sufficient size to enable survival of these species.</p> <p>The proposal is highly unlikely to negatively impact threatened species or their habitat.</p> <p>The NVS identified no threatened species, critical habitats, or communities in the development site.</p>	<p>The proposal is designed to manage up to 50 visitors per day in a sustainable manner that prevents habitat loss, pollution and weed introduction.</p>	<p>No change to standard operations.</p>
<p><i>Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilisation which has disappeared</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal Heritage Register listed 10 isolated artefacts, 4 artefact scatters and 4 occupied rock shelters within 6km radius of Kia Ora hut node. Only 1 isolated quartzite primary flake is located within immediate vicinity. Field survey confirmed the isolated artifact not to be impacted by this development.</p> <p>Archaeological survey found no caves or outcrops suitable for human occupation within Kia Ora study area, including the margins of Kia Ora Creek.</p> <p>Stone procurement/quarry sites are known from the broader region, but field survey confirmed there was no stone resources present suitable for stone manufacturing.</p> <p>There is a northern travelling route of the Big River nation along their western boundary. This appears to be in close proximity to the Kia Ora overnight node, but exact alignment through this area is unknown. Due to low number of Aboriginal sites found around Kia Ora overnight node, suggests that it is not located near the ancient pathway alignment.</p> <p>Potential for heritage to be identified during works and ground disturbance. Direct impacts from damaging and/or disturbing heritage during excavation works for footings. Indirect impacts may include heritage being impact from erosion of exposed soils during works. No change is proposed to walker numbers or level of use of the OLT, as cumulative or ongoing impacts to heritage are considered low.</p>	<p>AHAR identified know heritage site to be located outside the works area.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely for the proposed works to be an area of significant heritage as described in the AHAR.</p> <p>All construction and development works to remain within the proposed site plan and limit disturbance to areas outside of this footprint.</p> <p>Implement UDP during works is recommended in the AHAR.</p> <p>Erosion controls during works to minimise sediment loss and potential for exposing heritage recommended in EIS.</p> <p>Rehabilitation Plan stabilise soils and generate a native grass and herb field recommended in EIS.</p>	<p>Follow Unanticipated Discovery Plan if suspected Aboriginal heritage is found.</p> <p>Rehabilitation Plan to be implemented through OLT works program.</p> <p>OLT Rangers regularly monitor rehabilitation areas.</p> <p>OLT Ranger regularly report on rehab progress.</p> <p>Review of Rehabilitation Plan if native grasses and herbfield fails to establish and stabilise soils.</p>

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<p><i>Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history</i></p>	<p>The TWWHA is Aboriginal cultural landscape in its entirety and contains evidence of occupation, different lifestyles and how these changed with climate and colonisation.</p> <p>Kia Ora is located in glacial moraine deposits that extend for several kilometres as described in the Natural Values Survey (Appendix 8 to final EIA). Buttongrass has accumulated in the swale areas between the moraine ridges. The site is classed as wetland under the Conservation of Freshwater Environment Value (CFEV).</p> <p>The buttongrass does not appear to be formed from the result of Aboriginal land management practices at this location. There was no evidence found during field survey that identified landscape changes from use of fire, regional adaptations of cultural practices or intensive hunting or use in the area.</p> <p>Cultural landscapes may also include other elements such as tracks, view fields, prominent natural features, songlines and storylines. It is acknowledged that Kia Ora could be part of these landscape values, although there is limited information available at this time, and more research is needed in the future. Again, the Big River Nation traveling route is believed to be near Kia Ora, although the limited on-ground evidence of occupation at the site suggests the travel route is located away from the proposed development area.</p> <p>Potential for heritage to be identified during works and ground disturbance. Direct impacts from damaging and/or disturbing heritage during excavation works for footings. Indirect impacts may include heritage being impact from erosion of exposed soils during works. No change is proposed to walker numbers or level of use of the OLT, as cumulative or ongoing impacts to heritage are considered low.</p> <p>.</p>	<p>As stated above – relevant to potential damage or disturbance to unknown heritage during works.</p>	<p>Follow Unanticipated Discovery Plan if suspected Aboriginal heritage is found.</p>

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<p><i>Directly or tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance</i></p>	<p>TWWHA is directly associated with the adaptation and survival of Tasmania Aboriginals to glacial climatic cycles. The OLT has been evolving as a bushwalk for over 100 years and its origins are linked to Tasmanian Aboriginal travel routes, as described in AHAR. The OLT could be associated with Tasmanian Aboriginal community's heritage due to its route origins.</p> <p>OLT provides access to areas of would heritage vales including vegetation patterns that are highly likely to have been the result of long-term Aboriginal management through the use of fire (i.e. buttongrass plains), plus access to heritage sites showing occupation during Pleistocene and Holocene eras.</p> <p>The OLT is the only access track through the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park. The OLT can provide access to country and TWWHA Management Plan 2016 provides for Tasmanian Aboriginal community to work on country. The proposal will not change OLT access.</p> <p>The proposal will result in additional infrastructure within Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural landscape of the TWWHA.</p>	<p>As stated above – relevant to potential damage or disturbance to unknown heritage during works.</p> <p>No change to OLT access.</p> <p>The proposal will not change the intact nature of the TWWHA as the proposal is part of the existing recreation area with designated nodes for overnight stays.</p>	<p>Follow Unanticipated Discovery Plan if suspected Aboriginal heritage is found.</p>

<p>(5) Social and environmental benefits and impacts of the proposal</p>	<p>The proposal is to replace infrastructure for public use by independent walkers on the OLT. The proposal is not a commercial development. The proposal is a capital renewal project for public assets.</p> <p>The proposal will not negatively impact the outstanding universal values of the TWWHA, as described above and summarised here. The proposed developments will not disturb any threatened species, critical habitat or communities, or aboriginal heritage. The scale of the works will not disturb natural processes or systems.</p> <p>The scale and nature of the buildings will meet walker's expectations of developments on the OLT, and the expansive natural features of the area will remain visually dominate due to the small scale of the buildings. The proposal will cause negligible change to the wilderness quality of the area as assessed by the WQA tool.</p> <p>The OLT is Australia's premiere alpine walk and the proposal is a capital renewal project to improve environmental management and standards, which in turn will also improve walker experiences. This proposal is considered an acceptable balance for the need to protect natural and cultural values while proving for wilderness recreation.</p>
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(7) Provision of public consultation based on the scale and nature of the proposal

Please refer to EIS Section 4. Engagement for a full description of public engagement in this proposal, which has included engagement in the Kia Ora Site Concept Plan 2021, public comment period for the draft EIS and planning application. The final EIS and assessment reports will also be made available to the public on the PWS webpage.

Sections 4 - 9: Key Desired Outcomes (KDO)

KDOs are listed in Sections 4-9 of the Plan with assigned management actions and some evaluation measures. Activities and proposals must be consistent with relevant KDOs, to be compliant with the intent of the Management Plan.

- KDO 5.8: The aesthetic qualities of the TWWHA are maintained or improved.
- KDO 6.3: A diverse and accessible range of quality visitor experiences that are consistent with the protection of values is provided in the TWWHA.
- KDO 6.4: A range of recreational walking experiences is provided and maintained in the TWWHA through the provision of appropriate levels of corresponding track infrastructure and management.
- KDO 6.8: There is sustainable management of walking tracks and recreational walking throughout the TWWHA.
- KDO 8.2: Risk of bushfire ignition from visitors is reduced and illegal campfire occurrence is reduced or eliminated.
- KDO 8.3: The risk of bushfires to visitor safety is actively managed according to visitor management strategy.
- KDO 8.5: Wilderness is managed for the protection of the integrity and the natural and cultural values of the TWWHA and the quality of the recreational experience it provides.

<i>KDO</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Compliance</i>
KDO 5.8:	The aesthetic qualities of the TWWHA are maintained or improved	
Action	Design new facilities to blend into their locations	<p>The proposed new hut is small compact design with all components located under one roof.</p> <p>The roof will slope away from surrounding summits to limit its appearance as well as painted black to shadow in the distance. The hut and toilet are located on the edge of button grass area that well screened by surrounding woodlands.</p> <p>The toilet building will also be constructed in dark building materials as used on the hut. The toilet is located on small depression will visually reduce the apparent size of the building. The front façade of the toilet building will also screen the utilities at the rear.</p>
Evaluation	Impact of new facilities on aesthetics in minimised	The VIA support all these proposed design measures to minimise the visual appearance of buildings and help blend into their location. The report concludes the developments are a low visual impact and suitable at the site.
KDO 6.3:	A diverse and accessible range of quality visitor experiences that are consistent with the protection of values is provided in the TWWHA.	
Action	Tourism Master Plan	<p>Tourism Master Plan released May 2021 is a non-statutory subsidiary document to the statutory Management Plan. The Tourism Master Plan offers greater insight into visitor experiences in the TWWHA as well as another list of future planning projects, policy and assessment guidelines to be developed by PWS.</p> <p>The proposal is consistent with the visitor experience statement for the Recreation Zone (4.3.3). The proposal is also consistent with approach to assessment as the use is deem appropriate under the TWWHA Management Plan, applicable policy guidelines and statutory planning approvals.</p>
Evaluation	Review implementation of Tourism Master Plan	NA
KDO 6.4	A range of recreational walking experiences is provided and maintained in the TWWHA through the provision of appropriate levels of corresponding track infrastructure and management.	

Actions	Works compliant with Walking track classification, RFS and Walking Track Management Strategy 2011-2020	<p>OLT is classified as a T1 walking track. The proposed facilities are consistent with this classification, except for huts that are not a listed element in the classification system.</p> <p>Kia Ora is zoned as Bushcamping Backcountry (complex) by Reserve Standard Framework (RSF). The proposal is consistent with the usual developments in this zone.</p> <p>Walking Track Management Strategy priorities tracks works and these are reported on the Asset Management System (AMS). No track works are proposed, except for minor link tracks to new facilities.</p> <p>Facilities such as huts and toilets are assessed by PWS engineers and works are also listed on AMS. Replacing the buildings is in accordance with recent engineering recommendations.</p>
Evaluation	Monitor results against standards.	Compliant with relevant standards and operational procedures.
KDO 6.8	There is sustainable management of walking tracks and recreational walking throughout the TWWHA.	
Action	Continue to implement and develop a program to monitor walking tracks, campsites and their use.	<p>Several monitoring systems are in place for the OLT including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - walker booking system and commercial licences - annual engineering assessment and infrastructure maintenance program (elevated structures, buildings, waste management systems etc.) - biannual walking track and campsite sustainability assessment, - three yearly OLT walker exit survey, - OLT 10 year works program, and - regular shift reports by OLT Rangers. <p>The proposed developments and rehabilitation works will be integrated into these existing systems.</p>
Evaluation	Monitoring effort across priority areas.	OLT is priority area and monitoring are considered appropriate to its level of use.
KDO 8.2:	Risk of bushfire ignition from visitors is reduced and illegal campfire occurrence is reduced or eliminated.	

Action	Designated fireplaces and improved information about campfires.	OLT is a fuel stove only area and campfires are not permitted. This is well documented online and in printed information about the OLT. It is also signposted throughout the walk.
Evaluation	Number of ignitions	NA
KDO 8.3:	The risk of bushfires to visitor safety is actively managed according to visitor management strategy.	
Action	Develop a visitor management strategy.	OLT Emergency Response Plan outlines the action to take according to different levels of threat from bushfire. The BHMP prepared for the Windemere hut also outlines visitor responses in the event a bushfire directly threatens the hut. This plan and recommended actions will be displayed in the hut.
Evaluation	Visitor awareness.	Yet to be assessed.
KDO 8.5:	Wilderness is managed for the protection of the integrity and the natural and cultural values of the TWWHA and the quality of the recreational experience it provides.	
Actions	Enforce zoning prescriptions and ensure wilderness is considered in any assessment of activities in the reserve.	Kia Ora Overnight node is within the Recreation Zone. The proposed developments are permitted in this zone. Wilderness is described in EIS section 3.3.1 and impacts discussed in 5.1.6. The proposal will not change the wilderness quality rating of the site as the works will replace existing facilities.
Evaluation	Compliance with zoning	Proposal is compliant with the zone.