

## 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.*

<b>(1) World Heritage values likely to be affected by the proposal</b>	<b>(2/3) How might these values be affected; direct, indirect and cumulative impacts</b>	<b>(4) How will impacts on this World Heritage value be managed or mitigated</b>	<b>(6) Applicable monitoring and compliance measures</b>
<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"> <li>- geological features,</li> <li>- biota which show links to ancient Gondwanan biota, and</li> <li>- primitive taxa showing links to fauna more ancient than Gondwana.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- not within a geo-conservation site,</li> <li>- the NVS did not identify threatened species, critical habitats or communities, and</li> <li>- the scale of the works will not change the local or broader ecological systems.</li> </ul>	<p>The OLT and associated facilities will continue to be sustainably managed in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TWWHAMP 2016, and</li> <li>- OLT Use Guidelines.</li> </ul>	<p>Standard operating procedures (SOPS) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OLT booking system,</li> <li>- biannual track condition monitoring,</li> <li>- Annual asset inspections and reporting on Asset Management System (AMS), and</li> <li>- annual OLT works program implementing the rolling OLT 10 year works program.</li> </ul>
<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 Windermere overnight node including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ecosystems which are relatively free of introduced plant and animal species,</li> <li>- undisturbed catchments, lakes and streams;</li> <li>- alpine ecosystems with high levels of endemism, and</li> <li>- examples of evolution in mainland mammals.</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>- specified in the procurement documents,</li> <li>- the successful contractor will apply the standards in their Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), and</li> <li>- implemented during works.</li> </ul> <p>The PWS Project Officer supervising the works will ensure hygiene procedures are implemented.</p>	<p>OLT Rangers tasked with maintaining rehabilitation sites in annual works program. General tasks to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maintain fencing,</li> <li>- monitor regenerating species and report potential weeds,</li> <li>- remove or treat weeds or exotic species if observed</li> </ul> <p>OLT Rangers will also maintain the greywater and toilet systems in accordance with SOPs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regularly empty solid traps and report any potential clogging or blockages in greywater system, and</li> </ul>

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	<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>Bare-ground and exposed soils will be rehabilitated at the completion of works to promote regeneration of native species, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- retaining all native vegetation removed during works,</li> <li>- mulching the slash and spreading it over bare-ground, and</li> <li>- fencing the areas until suitable ground cover is re-established.</li> </ul> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regularly clean toilets and monitor pods, when full - cap and rotate pods.</li> </ul> <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>Windermere is part of undisturbed landscape that is surrounded by dolerite capped mountains, glacial lakes and sweeping button grass plain.</p> <p>The proposal maintains this aesthetic, mainly due to 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 it is designed to be of least visual impact on the site as viewed from the first approach, with the tapering form of the pavilions, dark stained timber cladding and black roofing. The hut is also screened by existing eucalyptus trees.</p> <p>The toilet building will also be constructed in dark building materials as used on the hut. The toilet is screen by tall tree tea shrubs. The front façade of the toilet building in turn screens 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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<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>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 60 visitors per day in ways that prevent habitat loss, pollution and weed introduction.</p>	<p>No change to standard operations.</p>
<i>Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilisation which has disappeared</i>	<p>The TWWHA contains evidence of human occupation in the last ice age.</p> <p>The proposal will not directly impact this universal value.</p>	<p>No sites identified.</p>	<p>No sites identified</p>
<i>An outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a culture which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change</i>	<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>The proposal is unlikely to disturb aboriginal heritage as the AHAR did not identify any aboriginal heritage at the site. AHT has given consent for the works to proceed.</p> <p>In the event aboriginal heritage is identified during works then the</p>	<p>Follow the UDP, if aboriginal heritage is identified during works.</p>	<p>No change to standard operations.</p>

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	Unexpected Discovery Plan (UDP) will be followed.		
<i>Directly or tangibly associated with events or with ideas or beliefs of outstanding universal significance</i>	TWWHA is directly associated with the adaptation and survival of Tasmania aboriginals to glacial climatic cycles.  As discussed in the previous two sections, this proposal will not negatively impact evidence of Tasmanian aboriginal culture or heritage.		

<b>(5) Social and environmental benefits and impacts of the proposal</b>	<p>The proposal will not negatively impact the universal values of the TWWHA, as described above and summarised here. The development site does not contain 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 buildings maybe visible from 2 km of the site when descending to Lake Windemere and then at an axis for 1km on the arrival to the site. 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>
<b>(7) Provision of public consultation based on the scale and nature of the proposal</b>	Please refer to EIS Section 4. Engagement for a full description of public engagement in this proposal, which has included engagement in the Windemere Site Concept Plan 2019, comment on the concept hut designs and public comment period for the draft EIS. 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.

<b><i>KDO</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b><i>Compliance</i></b>
<b>KDO 5.8:</b>	<b>The aesthetic qualities of the TWWHA are maintained or improved</b>	
Action	Design new facilities to blend into their locations	The design intension of the proposed hut is described in Table 1 Alternatives citing the preferred location with vegetation to help screen the buildings and lover elevation. The proposed building form follows the lay of the land, tappers at the ends to limit visual appearance and is separated into two pavilions to limit bulk of the building façade. The materials proposed for external cladding will be dark stained timber, black roofing, and dark painted cement sheet. The dark materials create a shadowing effect in the landscape.
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 moderate to low visual impact and suitable at the site.
<b>KDO 6.3:</b>	<b>A diverse and accessible range of quality visitor experiences that are consistent with the protection of values is provided in the TWWHA.</b>	
Action	Tourism Master Plan	Tourism Master plan is under development.
Evaluation	Review implementation of Tourism Master Plan	NA
<b>KDO 6.4</b>	<b>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.</b>	
Actions	Works compliant with Walking track classification, RFS and Walking Track Management Strategy 2011-2020	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. Windermere is zoned as Bushcamping Backcountry (complex) by Reserve Standard Framework (RSF). The proposal is consistent with the usual developments in this zone. 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.

		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.
Evaluation	Monitor results against standards.	Compliant with relevant standards and operational procedures.
<b>KDO 6.8</b>	<b>There is sustainable management of walking tracks and recreational walking throughout the TWWHA.</b>	
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"> <li>- walker booking system and commercial licences</li> <li>- annual engineering assessment and infrastructure maintenance program (elevated structures, buildings, waste management systems etc.)</li> <li>- biannual walking track and campsite sustainability assessment,</li> <li>- three yearly OLT walker exit survey,</li> <li>- OLT 10 year works program, and</li> <li>- regular shift reports by OLT Rangers.</li> </ul> <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.
<b>KDO 8.2:</b>	<b>Risk of bushfire ignition from visitors is reduced and illegal campfire occurrence is reduced or eliminated.</b>	
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
<b>KDO 8.3:</b>	<b>The risk of bushfires to visitor safety is actively managed according to visitor management strategy.</b>	
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.
<b>KDO 8.5:</b>	<b>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.</b>	
Actions	Enforce zoning prescriptions and ensure wilderness is considered in any assessment of activities in the reserve.	Windemere 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.