



Dove Lake Shelter Construction

FAQ

20 March 2020

Q1. What is happening at Dove Lake?

The construction of the Dove Lake viewing platform is part of a \$160 million plan to enhance the Cradle Mountain visitor experience with new infrastructure and amenities. This is the second stage of the overall Cradle Mountain Master Plan redevelopment.

The viewing platform has been designed to blend into the Cradle Mountain landscape and features earthy colours, seating and wall-to-ceiling glass panels, with its design to fit within the existing car park footprint to minimise the impact on the natural environment, and will be setback from the edge of Dove Lake.

The structure will be joined by a new bus shelter and amenities building, outdoor viewing area, parking, turning circle and connections to the Dove Lake walking tracks and Glacier Rock viewing platform. Construction is due to commence in April 2020.

Q2. Is vehicle access to Dove Lake about to change?

Yes. Private vehicle access beyond Ronny Creek will not be available from April 2020. From this date, all vehicle access to Dove Lake will be restricted during the construction of the Dove Lake Viewing Shelter, within the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park and Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Visitors wanting to access Dove Lake for short day walks will not be inconvenienced as the shuttle bus service will continue to operate to a very frequent timetable during the peak periods. During construction, temporary infrastructure (bus turning area, toilets and temporary walking tracks) will be in place at Dove Lake from early 2020. Space for site offices and construction vehicles will result in no parking being available.

Upon completion of the new visitor shelter, limited parking spaces north of the site will be available for general parking (public and tour operators). The PWS will actively monitor parking and will implement administrative measures which may include an out of hours (bookable) bus run to service the needs of very early or late walkers, or a booking system for parking spaces, if required.

Q3. I am a Commercial Tour Operator – what does this mean for me?

Commercial tour vehicles may drop clients at Dove Lake, however will be unable to park and must immediately return to the Ronny Creek car park. If the guide is also the driver, they will then need to catch a shuttle bus back to their group. Alternatively, small commercial tours are welcome to park at the Cradle Gateway and use the shuttle service to access Dove Lake.

From April 2020, the Parks and Wildlife Service will actively monitor visitor access to Dove Lake (including parking), and additional measures may be implemented to ensure the safe access for visitors and construction activities.

Commercial operators are required to comply strictly with the Cradle Mountain Road Traffic Policy, which requires use of a UHF radio to navigate the road; or use the shuttle bus service (handheld radios do not function effectively).

Q4. Can I still drive my private vehicle into the park?

Private vehicles will not have access beyond the Ronny Creek car park at any time of day during the construction period from April 2020 to July 2021.

Since 22 October 2018, private vehicles have been able to enter the park beyond the main boom gate outside of shuttle bus operating hours. It is strongly recommended that guests wishing to access Waldheim Cabins, Blandfordia and Baden Powell Lodge access the park outside of shuttle bus operating hours. If it is necessary for these guests to access the park during shuttle operating hours, they will be issued with a swipe card to gain access and will be required to enter and exit with a shuttle bus escort (see Q5).

Shuttle bus hours change according to seasonal demand. Generally, this is 8:00am to 6:00pm over summer (1 October to 31 March), and 8:30am to 4:30pm over winter (1 April to 30 September). Shuttle hours do extend to 7:00pm in the peak season, from 24 December to 31 January, to meet visitor demand. This approach will preserve private vehicle access for those walkers wishing to make an early start, or those wishing to take photos at dawn or dusk in their private vehicles.

Q5. So if I take my car in before the shuttle service starts, will I be able to drive out at any time?

Yes. The boom gate will prevent access after the shuttle service starts, but cars already in the park will be able to leave at any time during the day on the proviso that they exit with shuttle bus escort if departing before the end of the daily service.

This is to ensure that they do not meet a shuttle bus unexpectedly, and/or where passing is not possible. The shuttle buses are in constant radio communication to ensure they safely pass each other at designated passing bays.

Q6. So, the number of vehicles allowed into the park will be reduced because parking spaces are being reduced?

The number of vehicles allowed into the park is based on maintaining a safe, smooth, traffic flow, not the number of parking spaces available inside the park. There will not be an option for car parking at Dove Lake during construction of the shelter; however, Ronny Creek will accommodate those vehicles wishing to access the park after shuttle hours.

Traffic flow and parking will be closely managed in collaboration with the shuttle service and to ensure safety associated with construction of the new shelter at Dove Lake.

Q7. Will I still be able to park at Ronny Creek or Waldheim?

Yes. The existing car parks are to be retained at both these sites.

Q8. What if I have booked to stay at Waldheim, Blandfordia or Baden Powell Memorial Lodge?

If entering during operating hours, guests must only enter and exit the park with shuttle bus escort. Access to the Waldheim Cabins, Blandfordia and the Baden Powell Memorial Lodge outside of shuttle bus operating hours will be permitted via authorised “swipe cards” to operate the boom gate. The Visitor Centre can be contacted to arrange for provision and return of “swipe cards” if necessary.

Q9. What about walker safety? If I take the shuttle bus in to do a long day walk and find I don't get back in time to catch the last bus, I could be stranded at Dove Lake.

The shuttle service system has been developed over time, and strategies are in place to ensure no visitors are left stranded in the park at the end of the day. The system in place to manage this aspect has proven to be successful.

Q10. Will shuttle hours be extended to better meet the needs of all visitors?

If demand increases for services later in the evening or after dark, then consideration will be given to providing this service.

Q11. Will I still be able to get my kayak to Dove Lake?

Access will not be provided to enable paddlers to get their craft to Dove Lake during the construction period of April 2020 to July 2021.

Q12. How do school and community groups access Dove Lake for educational activities?

School and community groups will use the shuttle service.

Q13. If I wish to have a wedding ceremony in the park, how do I arrange access?

The same restrictions apply as for the general public.