Freycinet National Park
Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2016

The Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2016 (management plan) alters the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000. This management plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 3 of the National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002.

Unless otherwise specified, this plan adopts the interpretation of terms given in the National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002. The term ‘Minister’ when used in this management plan means the Minister administering this Act. The term ‘national park’ refers to the Freycinet National Park.

In accordance with Section 30(1) of the National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002, the managing authority for the national park, in this case the Director of National Parks and Wildlife, shall carry out his or her duties in relation to the national park for the purpose of giving effect to, and in accordance with, the provisions of the management plan. The position of Director is held by the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

The draft management plan was released for public comment from 19 December 2015 to 1 February 2016. The Tasmanian Planning Commission reviewed comments from 459 respondents on the management plan and the Report of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife regarding the proposed responses to those comments, and provided a report to the Minister in November 2016.

Many people provided comment on the draft management plan. Their time and effort is gratefully acknowledged.

Approval

This management plan was approved by Her Excellency the Governor-in-Council on 29 November 2016 and took effect on 21 December 2016, being seven days after publication of that approval in the Government Gazette.


Cover image: The Hazards (PWS and Joe Shemesh)

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Section 1  Introduction

Freylinet National Park is currently managed in accordance with the statutory management plans, Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 and the subsequent plan alteration, Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 which provided for an extended potable water storage capacity and also for the redevelopment of the Wineglass Bay lookout track.

The Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 is being altered to achieve the Tasmanian Government’s policy of realising the potential of Tasmania’s natural areas by broadening the range of exciting and unique tourism experiences on offer in our national parks and reserves.

This management plan has the effect of altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 by removing the provision that restricts an increase in accommodation beyond the existing capacity on the Freycinet Lodge lease.

Section 2 of this management plan sets out the background with respect to providing for an increase in accommodation capacity within the leased area.

Section 3 sets out the actual changes to the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000.


Section 2  Background to the management plan alteration

Freycinet Lodge lease history

The area leased for the Freycinet Lodge is located at the southern end of Richardsons Beach mostly on the western side of the main access road to the Wineglass Bay lookout carpark.

This parcel of land was originally part of a scenic reserve which later became national park. In 1934, several holiday shacks were built on the site under licence and subsequently were used as an army bivouac during World War II. From 1954 until 1990, ‘The Chateau’ was operated under lease as a family holiday resort on the site. In 1990, The Chateau’s buildings were sold and the lease transferred to new owners for re-development as the Freycinet Lodge.

Why the 2000 plan requires alteration

Currently, the tourism industry in Tasmania is undergoing a period of growth with Freycinet Peninsula and Wineglass Bay must-see destinations for many tourists to Tasmania. To support growth in the tourism industry, in 2014 the Tasmanian Government called for ideas for new tourism experiences that are complemented by sensitive and appropriate tourism infrastructure.

Whilst the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 provides for the Freycinet Lodge lease to continue, it restricts future expansion in what is now a climate of tourism growth, thereby limiting the options that may be considered at the site.

Through the Tasmanian Government’s expression of interest process, a proposal was received from RACT Destinations Pty. Ltd. the current operators of Freycinet Lodge, for a 5.6 hectare extension to the north-east of the current leased area for 12 serviced sites for motor homes and 12 cabins to be developed. The draft plan change released in 2015 provided for this proposal. Subsequently, RACT Destinations Pty Ltd altered the proposal to an increase in accommodation within the existing lease area.
The project assessment and approvals pathway

The alteration of the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 to remove the restriction on increasing the accommodation capacity of Freycinet Lodge is the first step in the process of approving any new development in the national park.

Section 4.5 of the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 provides protocols for assessing development within the national park including the preparation of a development specific site plan which must be made available for public comment for a period of 30 days minimum.

The Parks and Wildlife Service’ Environmental Management Policy and Reserve Activity Assessment process for the assessment of activities on reserved land accord with the 2000 management plan’s protocols and is used to guide the assessment of development proposals. This assessment process tests consistency with other statutory responsibilities and determines the level of assessment required including that for identifying and ameliorating potential impacts in relation to natural, cultural and social values.

The approval process is also subject to the Glamorgan-Spring Bay (Interim) Planning Scheme 2015 under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. An additional public comment period applies to this process.

Section 3 Alteration to the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000


Text changes

Page 58, column 1

The following sentence under Section 7.2 Leases, Licences and Authorities (Policies) is altered from:

- There will be no extension to the area of land leased by Freycinet Lodge, and no further cabin development beyond the existing capacity.

to:

- There will be no extension to the area of land leased by Freycinet Lodge, however the existing capacity of accommodation may be increased.
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