

**DRAFT
RESERVE ACTIVITY
ASSESSMENT #3456**



Freycinet National Park

**Wineglass Bay Second Lookout
and Track-work Project**

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Executive Summary

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), a division of the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), proposes to implement the actions associated with this project as outlined in the Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (Altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000). The project is also one of a number of key initiatives identified in the Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019.

The Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (Altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000) was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 3 of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

The objectives for the project at this iconic destination are to reduce crowding, provide a more tranquil experience, reduce visitor risk and minimise impacts on the environment.

A \$700,000 investment has been approved, of which, \$450,000 is allocated through the Federal Government Freycinet Tourism Icons Funding and \$250,000 is allocated from the State Government's Improving State-wide Visitor Infrastructure Program as part of the Government's commitment for "taking our National Parks to the next level". Tasmanian suppliers and contractors will be used where possible. Construction will take place over the current and next financial years.

The proposal features a new one-way loop track, elevated walkways with viewing platforms, seating areas and a new elevated second lookout connecting to the existing lookout and track via a new rock path and steps. Appropriate signage alerting visitors to the 'one-way' configuration of the new track will also be included.

An ecological survey, visual assessment and engineering designs have been completed for the proposal. An Emergency Response Plan along with a Construction Environmental Management Plan will be developed prior to construction. An annual post-construction weed and disease monitoring plan will be implemented.

Construction has the potential to impact on one plant species listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) and the Tasmanian *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA) within the proposed project area. The infrastructure design has been modified to avoid the endangered flora recorded and marked onsite. The infrastructure will be sited to avoid these species. A permit under the TSPA will be required prior to construction if avoidance is not possible.

There is no evidence of fauna listed under either the EPBC or TSPA within the footprint of the proposal. Standard protocols for the management of raptor nests will apply to helicopter operations required during the construction phase.

The RAA concludes that the proposal will not have a significant adverse impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance listed under the EPBC therefore PWS will not refer the proposal to the Commonwealth for assessment under this Act.

The proposal has been assessed for visual impact with the over-all potential visual impact deemed as low and the magnitude of change deemed as minor for the closer view-points and low and negligible for viewpoints further away. Components are coloured to blend into the local environment. Visitors will be expecting this level of infrastructure at an iconic site such as this. The proposal will not significantly alter the current recreational opportunities, or numbers, within the Freycinet National Park.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is proposing to construct a second viewing platform to overlook Wineglass Bay. This 'Lookout and Track' project is one of a number of key initiatives identified in the Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan 2019 (which can be viewed via the following [link](https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Freycinet%20Master%20Plan%202019%20July%202022%20electronic%20version.pdf) <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Freycinet%20Master%20Plan%202019%20July%202022%20electronic%20version.pdf>) and has been identified as a key component to achieve the vision of the master plan, addressing particularly “the need to reduce crowding and provide a more tranquil experience”. Wineglass Bay lookout and track is the most popular walk in Freycinet NP with approx. 200,000 walkers annually (65% of visitation to NP). The master plan recommends a second lookout located southeast of the existing lookout and requires track and elevated boardwalk extension of approximately 117m.

This project will also implement recommendations of the Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (Altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 which can be found here <https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/freycinet04pdf.pdf>) regarding the second lookout and track-work. Funding is now allocated through the Tourism Infrastructure Improvement Program and other sources with planning taking place this financial year and construction to follow over this and next financial years.

The jewel in the crown of Tasmania's East Coast, the Freycinet Peninsula is a unique and special place. It is a rich and complex environment formed by significant natural values, spectacular and grand landscapes and a long history of human habitation extending over 35,000 years. The Freycinet Peninsula is both an important place for Tasmanians and one of the major destinations for visitors to the State.

Over 300,000 people visit the Freycinet National Park per year, hoping to experience what makes the place so special. The Wineglass Bay lookout and track in the Freycinet National Park is the major attraction, giving visitors an opportunity to experience what Tasmania does best: its natural environment. Visitors ascend through the Hazards on a journey to glimpse the wildness of Tasmania.

Tasmania as a visitor destination has emerged on a global scale and the past few years have seen unprecedented growth in tourism. No other place in Tasmania demonstrates this more than the Freycinet Peninsula, which has seen an increase in visitor numbers exceeding 9 per cent per year for the last five years. Long-term expectations for growth in visitor numbers to the Freycinet Peninsula is around 3.5 per cent per year.

There are challenges that this growth brings, particularly managing the peninsula's complex range of environmental, cultural and social values, local community and industry concerns along with visitor experience expectations.

1.1.1 Freycinet National Park – second lookout and track-work

It is proposed to construct a new elevated viewing platform and a one-way elevated walkway below and adjoining the site of the existing Wineglass Bay Lookout. The infrastructure materials and design are described in section 2.2.

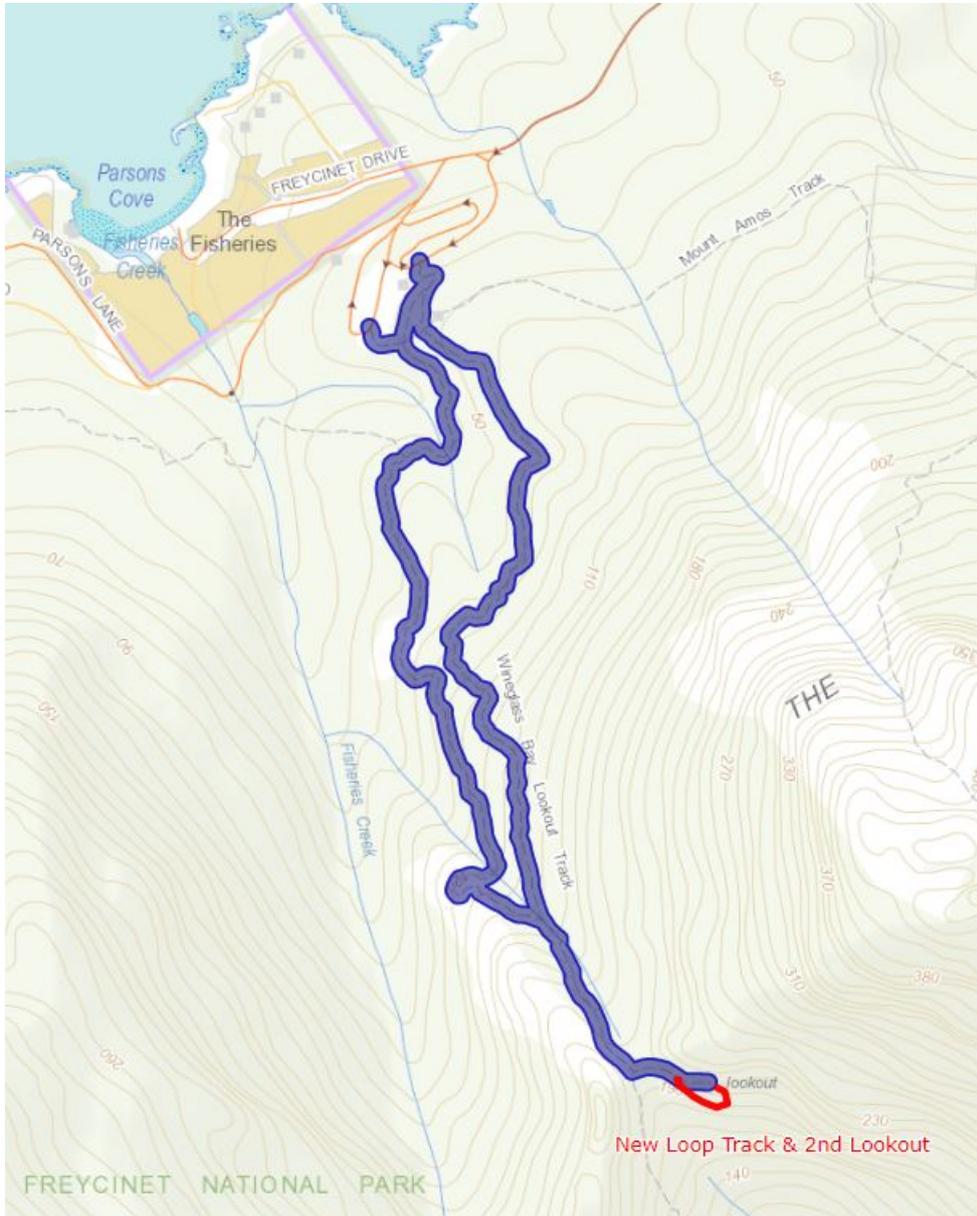


Figure 1.1: Freycinet National Park – Second Lookout and track-work location

The walkway will connect with the existing two-way path, descending below the existing lookout toward a new viewing platform. From the new viewing platform the walkway will curve back up the hill to connect via a set of stairs with the existing lookout. The proposed design takes advantage of the line of exposed granite bedrock and boulders at the site, with the new walkway designed to follow the rock-face and thereby minimise vegetation loss. A small platform, with timber bench seats, will also be constructed between the existing two-way path and the new second lookout platform.

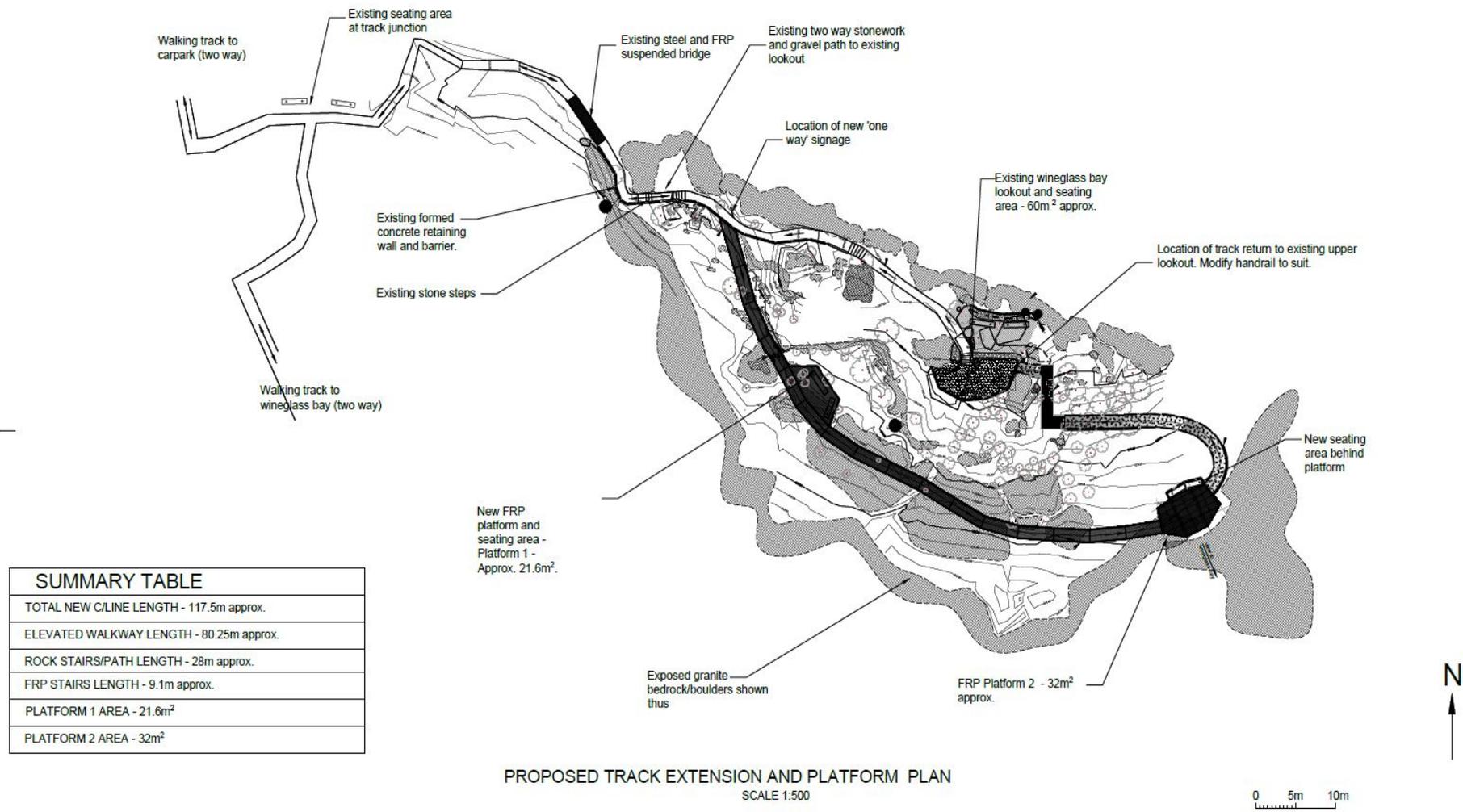


Figure 1.2 Proposed track extension and platform plan (indicative route only)

The new elevated walkway and viewing platform will ease crowding at the existing lookout by distributing visitors across multiple viewing platforms.

The elevated walkway will form a one-way loop (anti-clockwise) beginning at the walking track just before the existing lookout, before curving around the rock-face and then back up to connect with the existing lookout. The one-way nature of the final viewing system means that visitors will use the new (lower) deck first, before returning via the existing lookout.



Plate 1.1 Concept drawing of proposed new second lookout viewing platform

1.2 Project Objectives and Outcomes

The Project has a number of objectives including:

1. The construction of an additional lookout and loop track to relieve crowding and spread visitors across multiple viewing points.
2. Provide a more tranquil visitor experience.
3. The protection and maintenance of the natural and cultural values of the area while providing for ecologically sustainable recreation consistent with conserving those values.

The outcomes targeted by the Project are:

1. Sustainable management of visitor impacts in the Freycinet National Park recreation zone.
2. Improved visitor experience including a new viewing aspect of Wineglass Bay.
3. Improved infrastructure consistent with relevant track class prescriptions and current building standards.

1.3 Current Status of the Proposal & Approvals

To implement the project PWS has identified controls to avoid or ameliorate impacts on special values on site. PWS engaged several specialised consultants to conduct extensive surveys of the proposed site to identify any potential impacts on reserve values.

Table 1.1 Current Status of the project and relevant approvals

| Approval or Permit | Agency or Authority | Documentation and process | Status |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Aboriginal Heritage | AHT | AHT Desktop Review completed (Appendix C). AHT has no objection to activities subject to management recommendations listed in this RAA document. | Complete |
| Natural Values Survey | NCH | Consultants were engaged to undertake a Natural Values survey and report for the project activities (Appendix B). Survey identified potential impacts and threats to the natural values within the activity areas and the report recommends mitigation measures that are included in this RAA. | Complete |
| Visual Analysis | PWS | Consultants were engaged to undertake Visual Analysis for the project activities (Appendix A). Report concludes the new lookout platform and track will blend in with the environment as seen from the main viewpoints and impacts will be minimal due to sensitive design and placement. | Complete |
| Track Alignment | PWS | Survey and design undertaken of suitable track route alignment and placement of lookout platform to complement existing infrastructure. Report identifies suitable options. PWS refined options based on feasibility and potential impacts on natural and cultural values of the site. | Complete |
| Concept layout designs | PWS | Concept layouts were initially prepared by landscape architects and subsequent designs have been refined by PWS engineers. | Complete |
| Impact Assessment | PWS | Surveys, reports and plans obtained to: - describe the proposed development, - address relevant legislation, and - assess potential impacts and proposed management. | Complete |
| Advice on RAA | PWS | Seek internal / specialist advice and public comment regarding proposal and impact assessment. | Current |
| External Approvals Permission | PWS | Development proposal and management controls are refined in RAA. Permission granted to seek external approvals. | Not Commenced |
| Planning Permit | Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council | Development Application may be required. Referral to Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council to assess the proposal for compliance with <i>Glamorgan – Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme 2015</i> . | Not commenced |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Bushfire Risk | PWS | <p>Operations on this project are a HIGH RISK HAZARD ACTIVITY for wildfire ignitions. Contractors are to ensure operations are SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY once the Forest Fire Danger Index is calculated as equal to/or greater than HIGH 20, or the relative humidity is equal to or less than 30%. Contractors should not undertake hot works* in reserves until the Forest Fire Danger Index has dropped below High 20 or the relative humidity risen above 30%. Hourly weather observations should be taken at the site of the works as directed by the supervisor.</p> <p>Adequate and operational firefighting equipment will be maintained onsite and any wildfire ignitions extinguished immediately.</p> <p>* Hot works includes the use of grinders, welders, brush cutters, chainsaws, earth moving equipment and other tools and equipment likely to create sparks.</p> | During Construction |
| Certificate of Likely Compliance | Building Surveyor | <p>Building Surveyors are the delegates under the <i>Tasmanian Building Act 2016</i> for assessing building designs to ensure compliance with National Construction Code (NCC), Australian Standards (AS) and the Act.</p> <p>The Building Surveyor will assess the detailed engineering designs to ensure compliance with NCC, the Act and relevant AS before issuing the Certificate of likely Compliance.</p> | Preliminary advice and ongoing analysis of alternatives |
| Building Permit | Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council | Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council are the permit authority under the Building Act 2016 and will issue a Building Permit, on receipt of the Certificate of Likely Compliance from the Building Surveyor. | Not commenced |
| RAA Final Recommendations | PWS | <p>Following the receipt of external permits and approvals, RAA is finalised with any additional conditions / commitments.</p> <p>Final conditions developed. Proposal accepted or not accepted by delegated officer. If accepted, proposal progresses.</p> | Not commenced |

1.3.1 Legislation

Table 1.2 Relevant legislation for the project

| List Acts and Regulations | Permit/ Approval required | Permit/ Appr may be required | No permit required | Details |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002 | | | ✘ | This proposal is consistent with the Freycinet National Park / Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000, Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (Altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000), Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019 and the Statutory management objectives listed in Schedule 1 of the Act . See 3.1.3 PWS is the managing authority under the Act. |
| National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019 | ✘ | | | Authority required to disturb natural conditions within the Freycinet National Park as described in the regulations. Subject to approval the PWS is acting on behalf of the managing authority inherent in the Act. |
| Nature Conservation Act 2002 | | | ✘ | The proposal is consistent with the Purposes for reservation for reserved land classed as National Park listed under Schedule 1 of the Act . See 3.1.2 There are no threatened native vegetation communities onsite listed under Schedule 3A - Threatened native vegetation communities . |
| Crown Lands Act 1976 | | | | Not Crown Land managed under this act. |
| Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 | | ✘ | | A permit to 'take' threatened species under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i> will be required prior to construction if known individuals close to the alignment (flagged to be avoided) will be impacted. |
| Water Management Act 1999 / State Policy on Water Quality Management 1997 | | | ✘ | Applies to surface, coastal and ground waters within the State. The proposal will comply with the purpose and objectives of the Policy. |
| Fire Service Act 1979 | | | ✘ | The Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible under the <i>Fire Service Act 1979</i> and the <i>Fire Service (Miscellaneous) Regulations 1996</i> for all aspects of fire management within the reserve system, including prevention and suppression, subject to the Inter-Agency Protocol 2007. |
| Aboriginal Relics Act 1975 | | ✘ | | Under the Act, Aboriginal relics must be declared if found and provision for protection made. A permit will be required if the relics are to be disturbed. Should any such site be discovered during construction the guidelines detailed in AHT Unanticipated Discovery Plan will be implemented. Contractors will ensure a copy of the UDP is kept on site. |

| List Acts and Regulations | Permit/ Approval required | Permit/ Appr may be required | No permit required | Details |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> | | | ✘ | Project design has included re-alignments to avoid listed species. See section 4.1.1. |
| <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> | | ✘ | | A planning permit from the Glamorgan – Spring Bay Council may be required for the project. |
| <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012</i> | | ✘ | | Risk Assessments, Job Safety Analysis, policies and guidelines will be conducted / referred to and a WHS Plan developed and approved prior to operations commencing. Approved WHS Plan to be followed during the project. |
| <i>Weed Management Act 1999</i> | | | ✘ | The Act provides management measures in relation to Declared Weeds and places obligations on landowners for the control of those weed species. |
| <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i> | | | ✘ | Ongoing requirement under s23A of the Act to take practical and reasonable steps to prevent harm caused by the activity. |
| <i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i> | | | ✘ | Obligations under this Act have been met based on assessment reports undertaken. |
| <i>Building Act 2016 and Regulations</i> | ✘ | | | Regulates the construction and management of buildings. Building permits will be required for elevated viewing platforms. |

1.3.2 Policies and Plans

In formulating the RAA the following policies and plans have been considered. A summary of the application of each in relation to the Second Lookout and loop track is provided in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3 Policies and plans relevant to the project

| Policy or Plan | Application to the Project |
|--|--|
| Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (altering the Freycinet National Park , Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000) | The Management Plan is a statutory plan. The activities proposed in this project must comply with the plan. MP contains provision for the construction and operation of the activities outlined in this RAA following project planning, and assessment, to ensure that all identified negative impacts can be adequately avoided or mitigated prior to approval and implementation. |
| Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan 2019 | A strategic planning document to guide the future direction for the Peninsula which is supported by detailed design processes for each of the key and supporting initiatives. The master plan recognises that the Wineglass Bay track, and in particular the lookout, will continue to be the pinnacle of a visitor journey into the Freycinet Peninsula. This project is a priority initiative of the Master Plan. |
| PWS Strategic Plan 2018-2021 | The project aims to meet a strategic plans goal to inspire visitor enjoyment of PWS reserve land by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Plan strategically for sustainable recreation and visitor experiences.</i> 2. <i>Manage assets for quality and safe visitor experience.</i> 3. <i>Provide services that enhance visitor experiences.</i> |
| Walking Track Management Strategy for TNPR 2011-2020 | The vision of this Strategy is to ensure the continued availability of world-class recreational walking opportunities across Tasmania's reserve system, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural and wilderness values of these areas. The Strategy also identifies for appropriate long-term management of the track and infrastructure between Carpark to Wineglass Bay Lookout and that infrastructure to be upgraded as a high priority. |
| Reserves Standards Framework | The RSF integrates risk management, visitor management and finance management and will provide a reference for the ongoing planning and management of this project. Existing RSF classifications and proposed changes are outlined in s3.1.7. |
| Freycinet Fly Neighbourly Advice | Controls aimed at reducing noise impacts on neighbours, visitors and businesses within the Park and surrounds during aerial operations. (https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Fly%20Neighbourly%2018.pdf) |

1.4 Public Consultation

This project will implement the relevant recommendations from the Freycinet National Park / Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000, Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (Altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000) and the Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019. An extensive public consultation process was undertaken during the development of these plans. Major stakeholders, general public and relevant agencies provided feedback influencing the desired outcomes for which this project is delivering.

To ensure current project awareness, PWS has developed a Communications Plan to inform all major stakeholders of project status and ongoing updates.

Formal public representation will be sought as part of the approvals process. The level 3 RAA process requires a period of public review and any representations received will be considered in the final RAA documentation.

Consultation with Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) has determined there is no requirement for an aboriginal heritage assessment and AHT have no objection to the project proceeding, provided all works are strictly guided by the AHT Unanticipated Discovery Plan (refer s3.2.6.1)

2 Proposal Description

2.1 Proposal Outline

The Wineglass Bay Second Lookout and Trackwork project will create a second lookout platform for the viewing of Wineglass Bay and a one-way loop walking track to link the existing track to the two lookout platforms. These works will minimise impacts on sensitive natural values whilst reducing crowding and provide a more tranquil visitor experience at this major attraction.

2.1.1 Wineglass Bay Second Lookout and Trackwork

It is proposed to construct a new elevated viewing platform and a one-way elevated walkway below and adjoining the site of the existing Wineglass Bay Lookout.

The walkway will connect with the existing two-way path, descending below the existing lookout toward a new viewing platform. From the new viewing platform the walkway will curve back up the hill to connect via a set of stairs with the existing lookout. The proposed design takes advantage of the line of exposed granite bedrock and boulders at the site, with the new walkway designed to follow the rock-face and thereby minimise vegetation loss. A small platform, with timber bench seats, will also be constructed between the existing two-way path and the new second lookout platform. The new infrastructure will ease crowding at the existing lookout by distributing visitors across multiple viewing platforms.

The elevated walkway will form a one-way loop (anti-clockwise) beginning at the walking track just before the existing lookout, before curving around the rock-face and then back up to connect with the existing lookout. The one-way nature of the final viewing system means that visitors will use the new (lower) deck first, before returning via the existing lookout. Appropriate “one-way” signage will be placed at the start of the new loop track.

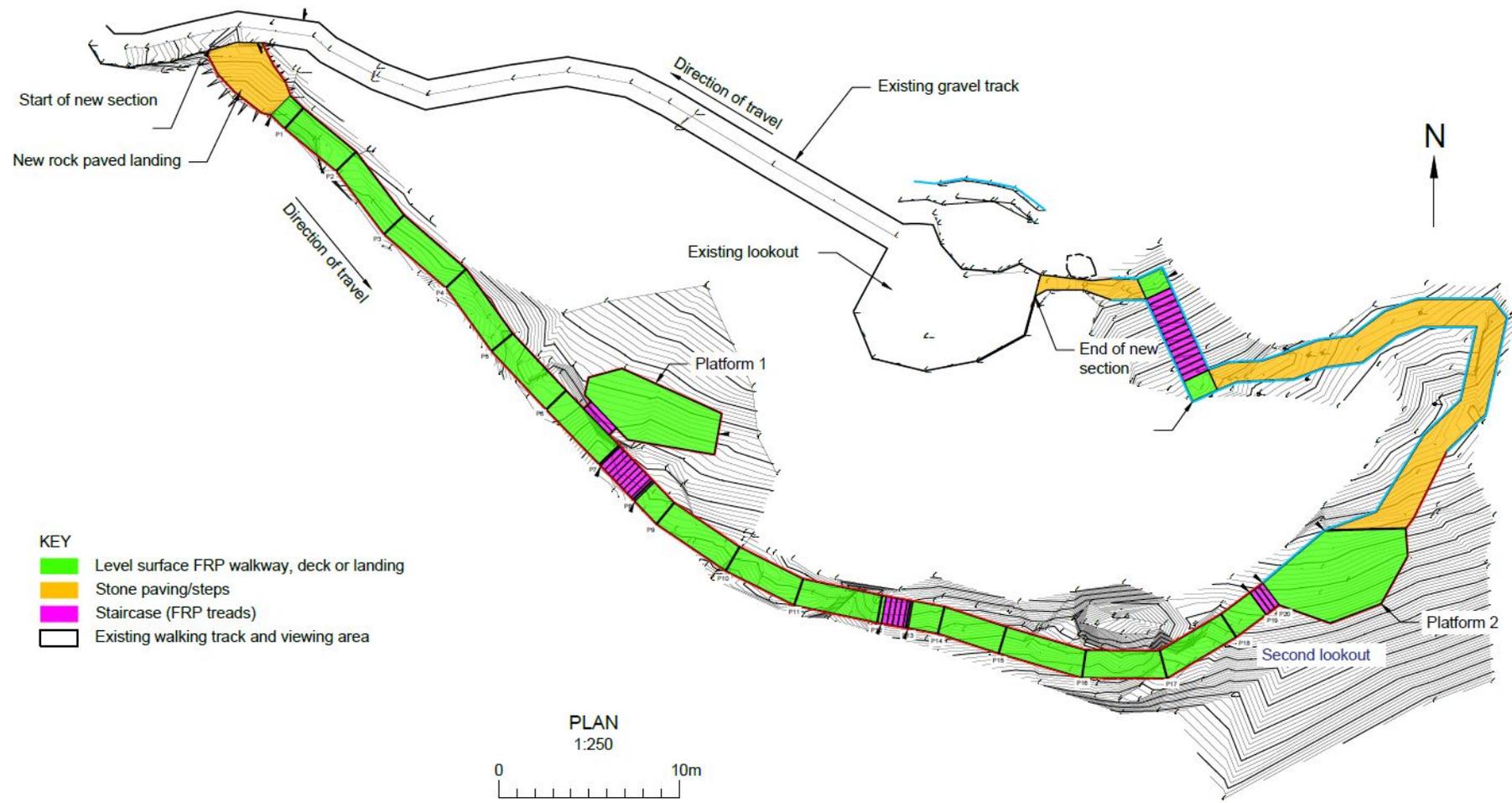


Figure 2.1 Preliminary design of track extension and platform plan (indicative route only)

2.2 Infrastructure Materials and Design

2.2.1 Overview

This project aims to build infrastructure that minimises its visual and environmental impacts on the surrounds while increasing the asset life and reducing maintenance costs. PWS has chosen designs, products and construction techniques that will ensure the infrastructure has a long lifespan, minimises impacts on the natural values at the site and on visual amenity from and to the site.

2.2.2 Viewing platforms

2.2.2.1 Seating node off new elevated walkway

The viewing/seating platform is to be constructed from Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) 38mm thick mini mesh decking on steel framing anchored into sheet rock. A physical barrier will be erected behind the seating area to prevent vegetation damage. The FRP is coated in ultraviolet (UV) stabilised polyester resin which is finished in a dark grey colour to blend in to surrounding environment. The foundations will utilise a bolted footing system that is largely excavation free. This platform will cover an area of approximately 21.6m². For longevity, all posts, joists and bearers will be steel. This will eliminate rot issues and reduce maintenance services over the life of the asset. Steel will be coated in a similar dark grey to the FRP to blend in with the surrounding environment. Handrails will be designed to match the style of those on the existing lookout and track. Timber slab bench seats to match existing saddle seating area will be installed.



Plate 2.1 Proposed seating node and loop track

2.2.2.2 Second Lookout platform at eastern end of elevated walkway.

The viewing platform is to be constructed using the same FRP and building techniques as the seating node above. A safety barrier will be constructed on the front and sides of the viewing platform then connected with the barrier on the newly constructed elevated walkway and rock path.

Safety barriers to be constructed from uncoated steel plate and rod to match other installations on the existing track thereby minimising visual impacts.

Timber slab bench seats and rock paving from the FRP platform to the seats will be installed at the rear of the platform. A barrier will be erected at the rear of platform, behind seating area, to prevent vegetation damage. This platform will cover an area of approximately 32m².



Plate 2.2 Mini mesh FRP – Sample picture

2.2.3 Loop Track

2.2.3.1 Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) elevated walkway

The elevated walkway will be 1500mm wide with safety barrier to both sides constructed using 38mm thick Mini Mesh ultraviolet (UV) stabilised FRP decking which is finished in a dark grey colour to blend in to surrounding environment.

The walkway is on steel framing anchored into sheet rock.

2.2.3.2 Rock Path

A new 1500mm wide rock path with safety barrier to both sides will be constructed to connect the new second lookout platform to the existing lookout via new FRP steps and landing. Locally sourced *phytophthora* and weed free rock will be used where possible to blend in with the surrounds.

2.2.3.3 FRP steps and landing

The new FRP steps and landing will be 1500mm wide with safety barrier to both sides constructed using 38mm thick Mini Mesh ultraviolet (UV) stabilised FRP decking which is finished in a dark grey colour to blend in to surrounding environment. The steps and landing are on steel framing anchored into footings or sheet rock.

2.3 Alternatives

Table 2.1 Alternatives considered for the project

| Alternative | Description and comments |
|--|---|
| Do nothing | Existing facilities provide insufficient capacity for current visitor numbers. Congested lookout will remain with no improvement to visitor experience and the objectives of the Freycinet Master Plan will not be met. |
| Two way track | The provision of two way traffic on the new track was considered however this would not meet one of the primary objectives of reducing crowding or providing a more tranquil experience for visitors. Safety concerns also arise as visitors climb over railings and off pathways. |
| Restrict visitor numbers | Redirecting visitors to other sites when overcrowding occurs would create issues at other sites not designed or resourced for increased visitation. Limiting visitor numbers on existing track and lookout at any one time would prove difficult on the most popular walk in Freycinet National Park. |
| Loop track – alternative route | The proposed location of the loop track was finalised after consideration of two options. The non-preferred option created a loop track from the existing track junction (with the walking track to Wineglass Bay) to the new second lookout platform. The option involved greater clearing of native vegetation, additional impacts on threatened flora species and involved more extensive aerial walkway engineering with associated costs of construction and maintenance requirements. |
| 2nd lookout – alternative site | Several locations were considered for the location of the 2 nd Lookout platform. Several criteria were taken in to consideration for the location of the platform including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental – location of threatened flora species was considered along with geological elevations (which significantly informed the potential route of the walkway and platform). • Visual – placement of structure so that is not visually prominent from other areas of the Park, especially Wineglass Bay. • Experience – 2nd lookout provides a slightly different aspect from the current lookout. |
| Infrastructure Materials | Consideration of use of FRP/ steel posts/ timber for construction of walking track and look out platforms. Benefits of FRP in marine environment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength-to-weight ratio is high, lighter than timber and 75% less weight than structural steel. • Dimensionally stable meaning it will not change shape as timber does. • Distribute impact load to prevent surface damage and will not permanently deform. • Low life cycle costs. • UV resistant. • Low water absorption FRP is light which has benefits for construction manual handling and reduces helicopter lifting costs. Steel will be utilised for all structural components due to its longevity, reducing maintenance costs. |

3 The Existing Environment

3.1 Planning

3.1.1 Location and Regional Context

Freycinet National Park is located on the east coast of Tasmania, stretching from Bicheno in the north to Schouten Island in the south. The Park includes impressive granite peaks, forested hills, spectacular cliffs and long sandy beaches.

The Park combines a coastal location with significant environmental values, scenic beauty, accessibility, pleasant weather and a wide range of recreational opportunities. Consequently, Freycinet National Park is a key element of the tourism industry in the east coast region.

3.1.2 Freycinet National Park / Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000

The management plan provides for conservation of the values of the Park and the Reserve. The plan also provides for visitor access and facilities. The intent of the Management Plan is to:

- Zone the Park and Reserve to take account of different features and values and direct and manage visitor activities and impacts;
- Focus on conservation of threatened and priority flora and fauna species and communities;
- Protect Aboriginal and historic heritage features and values;
- Give priority to improving visitor facilities and services; and
- Promote the Park as an important visitor destination on Tasmania's East Coast.

The Management Plan identifies three zones:

- Visitor Services Zone
- Recreation Zone
- Conservation Zone

The existing Wineglass Bay Walking track is within the original Recreation Zone and is identified as a corridor for recreational travel and access to beaches. The priority for the Zone is to conserve its natural and cultural values while allowing low key, low impact recreation (p.16 FNP/WRSR MP 2000)

3.1.3 Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2004 (Altering the Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000)

The 2004 alteration to the original MP provides for the construction of a one way loop track to the Wineglass Bay Lookout (including a second lookout) to prevent the deterioration of natural values and provide improved quality of visitor experience by reducing crowding and safety hazards.

This project, which would be partially within the original MP Conservation Zone, is permitted by the alteration. The new infrastructure within the conservation zone is to be included in the recreation zone at the next management plan review.

3.1.4 Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019

The Master Plan identifies and supports a network of experience nodes. These experience nodes are primarily at existing nodes at which infrastructure and service improvements are proposed, including upgrades to facilities and new interpretation. The Wineglass Bay lookout node implementation includes the construction of an additional lookout and loop track at the Wineglass Bay lookout to relieve the current crowding and unsafe practices of visitors climbing over the rails to find a free space for a photo.

The Master Plan identifies the Wineglass Bay Lookout and Track as one of the key 'Experience Nodes' on the peninsula:

"A priority initiative is the construction of a second lookout platform on the Wineglass Bay trail, to reduce crowding and spread visitors across the viewing points. Over time this development should be supported by the completion of the one-way track loop to and from the saddle, with additional interpretation at the trailhead and lookout" (page 94 Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan)

The Freycinet National Park, Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 takes precedence over the Master Plan. The vision and directions proposed by the Master Plan are consistent with the Management Plan.

3.1.5 PWS Walking Track Classification System & Reserve Standards Framework

All walking tracks are classified and managed according to a PWS Walking Track Classification System. The system is set out in the Walking Track Classification Policy (https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Walking_Track_Classification_Policy_.pdf). The system assigns physical characteristics and infrastructure standards to each track type. The Walking Track Management Strategy for Tasmania's National Parks and Reserves (2011-2020) is a comprehensive state-wide track strategy for reserved land and provides guidance for the management of walking tracks in the TWWHA.

The Reserve Standards Framework (RSF) integrates risk management, visitor management and finance management. The RSF categories provide for appropriate standards of risk management and level-of-service delivery. Existing RSF classifications and proposed changes are outlined in the table below.

Table 3.1 Existing and proposed changes to RSF classifications

| |
|--|
| RSF Category: Day Use Getaway (Mid) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing lookout, track from carpark to existing lookout and parts of the new loop track. |
| RSF Category: Not Managed for Visitor Services (NMVS) to Day Use Getaway (Mid) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">New 2nd lookout structure and viewing nodeParts of the new loop track (not currently in Day Use Getaway) |

3.1.6 Glamorgan - Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme 2015

This planning scheme sets out the requirements for use or development of land in accordance with the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (the Act). For land in the Freycinet National Park this in addition to the requirements of the Management Plan.

This project falls within Zone 29.0 Environmental Management. The associated project infrastructure is permitted within this zone only if a reserve management plan applies.

The Glamorgan - Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme states the Environmental Management Zone purpose is:

- To provide for the protection, conservation and management of areas with significant ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic value, or with a significant likelihood of risk from a natural hazard.
- To only allow for complementary use or development where consistent with any strategies for protection and management.
- To facilitate passive recreational opportunities which are consistent with the protection of natural values in bushland and foreshore areas.
- To recognise and protect highly significant natural values on private land.
- To protect natural values in un-developed areas of the coast.
- To recognise and protect reserved natural areas as great natural assets.

Use and Development Standards within this zone have Acceptable Solutions to achieving the objectives and Performance Criteria to measure compliance.

3.2 The Environment

3.2.1 Climate

Freycinet National Park lies in the State's rain shadow and is correspondingly mild and dry most of the year.

The annual average rainfall recorded in the Park at the ranger station since 1985 is 730 mm, though very high rainfall in 1985 and 1986 may have inflated this figure.

The prevailing winds are generally from the north-west from October to March, and from the north-east from April to September.

Bureau of Meteorology records from Swansea show the temperature in January, the warmest month, ranges from a mean daily maximum of 22.2°C to a mean daily minimum of 11.3°C. In July, the coldest month, temperatures range from a mean daily maximum of 13.0°C to a mean daily minimum of 3.4°C.

3.2.2 Flora

3.2.2.1 General

Freycinet National Park is important for the conservation of Tasmania's dry sclerophyll plant communities on granite and dolerite, and the conservation of a range of rare and endemic plant species.

Over 500 native higher plant species have been recorded within the Park, nearly one-third of the Tasmanian higher plant flora.

Several communities and species are of high conservation value, including many endemic species of restricted distribution and conservation status. At least 83 species of Tasmanian

native orchids are recorded within Freycinet National Park which is considered a valuable refuge for orchids.

The flora of the Park includes species listed in the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* (TSPA) and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC).

3.2.2.2 Vegetation Communities

The project area supports the following TASVEG mapping units (TASVEG is a Tasmania-wide vegetation map available on the LIST: <https://www.thelist.tas.gov.au/app/content/home>) recently surveyed:

- Eucalyptus tenuiramis forest and woodland on granite (DTG);
- Leptospermum glaucescens heathland and scrub (SLG); and
- lichen lithosere (ORO).

None of these vegetation communities is a threatened ecological communities listed on schedules of the Commonwealth EPBC or listed as threatened on Schedule 3A of the TSPA.

3.2.2.3 Threatened Flora

Several populations of plant species listed under the TSPA and the Commonwealth EPBCA occur within the vicinity of the activity areas.

The PWS engaged a consultant to undertake an assessment of the ecological values associated with this project to ensure that identified ecological values were taken into account during project planning and managed appropriately (Appendix C).

The following species were recorded within the vicinity of the activity areas:

- ***Epacris barbata* (bearded heath) (TSPA Endangered and EPBC Endangered)**

Bearded heath is a woody shrub with small hard leaves and small white flowers that occur in clusters at the ends of branches. It is endemic to Tasmania, occurring on the Freycinet Peninsula and Schouten Island. The linear range of the species is approximately 30 km. The soil borne pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (root-rot fungus) is considered to be a threat to this species.

Epacris barbata (Plates 3.1 and 3.2) is restricted to the granite-based hills of the Freycinet Peninsula, generally on the higher slopes but also occasionally on the lower near-coastal slopes. This species was previously reported from across The Hazards but no formal records are reported from between the saddle and the existing lookout (the species is reported from the informal original western lookout granite exposures).

Several individuals were recently recorded from within and adjacent to the anticipated construction footprint. Note that the hand-held GPS waypoints provide an indicative position only - all relevant (i.e. those that may be impacted) individuals were blue-flagged.



Plates 3.1 & 3.2. *Epacris barbata* showing budding flowers (from project site) and open flowers (from a different site on The Hazards)

- ***Pterostylis grandiflora* (superb greenhood) (TSPA Rare)**

The superb greenhood is an orchid (growing up to 40 cm tall). In Tasmania, the superb orchid is restricted to the north-east of the state between the Freycinet and Narawntapu National Parks. It occurs mostly in heathy and shrubby open eucalypt forests and in grassy coastal she-oak woodland on moderately to well drained sandy and loamy soils.

Pterostylis grandiflora (Plates 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5) is widespread in eastern and northern Tasmania, from about Swansea through to Narawntapu, mainly in near-coastal sites at lower elevations. Freycinet National park, especially The Hazards, has long been known as supporting several long-persistent but highly localised colonies of the species.

Prior to the recent survey, a small population of *Pterostylis grandiflora* was reported from the existing Wineglass Bay Lookout where it was growing under elevated walkway, c. 60 m west of main lookout.

This site was confirmed by the recent survey, with four sterile basal rosette leaves observed in the bare ground immediately below the western end of the start of the elevated walkway. This site will remain undisturbed by the proposed additional works.

As part of the recent survey, the opportunity was taken to conduct an extension survey for *Pterostylis grandiflora* to determine the extent and abundance of the local population. The area of low *Eucalyptus tenuiramis* woodland below the elevated walkway and west of a massive granite outcrop below the walkway was searched. This site supports a locally abundant population of the species.



Plates 3.3, 3.4 & 3.5 *Pterostylis grandiflora* – flower from front, flower from side and sterile basal rosette.

3.2.3 Weeds and Plant Disease

3.2.3.1 Weeds

No species classified as “declared weeds” within the meaning of the Tasmanian *Weed Management Act 1999* or “environmental weeds” were detected in the project area.

3.2.3.2 Plant disease

The proposal is located within a *Phytophthora* Management Zone which raises the level of importance for controls to keep the zone *phytophthora* free.

No evidence of plant disease *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (PC) root-rot fungus was detected from the project area, which appears to be PC-free.

3.2.4 Threatened Fauna

3.2.4.1 Potential Habitat

There is potential habitat present for several State and Commonwealth-listed fauna species but no known sites or specific habitat features (e.g. den, nest) requiring special management.

3.2.4.2 Animal disease

- *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Chytrid fungus) causes infection affecting Tasmania’s native amphibians. The fungus infects the skin of frogs destroying its structure and function leading to possible death.

The project area does not support habitats conducive to the frog chytrid pathogen.

3.2.5 Geology and Topography

The landscape of the southern area of Freycinet National Park is dominated by two groups of spectacular red granite peaks separated by a low marshy isthmus on Freycinet Peninsula. North of the isthmus are The Hazards, comprising Mt Parsons (331 metres), Mt Dove (485 metres), Mt Amos (445 metres) and Mt Mayson (420 metres). Characterised by sparse vegetation and exfoliating granite slabs, the Hazards form a dominant landmark of the East Coast.

The Hazards are the most outstanding example in Tasmania of large-scale granite weathering and landform development due to joint control and exfoliation.

This project is located on the granite slabs of the saddle between Mt Amos and Mt Mayson.

The proposed development is situated on two geoconservation sites; The Hazards Landforms and Freycinet Peninsula Soils, listed in the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database.

3.2.6 Cultural Heritage

3.2.6.1 Aboriginal Heritage

The Freycinet Peninsula and surrounding areas have been used by Tasmanian aboriginal people for over 35 000 years. The region is in the territory of the Oyster Bay nation which consisted of 10 clans with an estimated 600 - 700 people, and whose territory extended from the Derwent estuary up the east coast to the Fingal Valley and westward towards the Midlands. The Freycinet Peninsula and Schouten Island area supported the *Toorernomairremener* clan.

The aboriginal heritage of the Park has a strong and continuing significance to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Significant Aboriginal sites are found along the coastlines, dunes and estuaries. This heritage includes shell middens, rock quarries, rock shelters, stone artefacts and other significant sites.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) has completed a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Register (AHR) regarding the proposed Wineglass Bay 2nd lookout project and advised that there are no aboriginal heritage sites recorded within the proposed project area. Due to the nature of the landscape, it is believed that the project area has a low potential for aboriginal heritage to be present.

3.2.6.2 Historic Heritage

Since the early years of European settlement, whaling parties, tin and coal miners, and pastoralists are among those that have lived and worked on the Freycinet Peninsula. Old mine shafts, abandoned farmers' huts and the remains of whalers' camps form part of the cultural heritage of the Park. By the 1900s the Peninsula was a popular holiday destination. The area was reserved as a national park in 1916, making it the oldest national park in Tasmania, alongside Mount Field National Park.

There are currently no historic heritage sites listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register recorded near the project site.

3.2.7 Natural Hazards

3.2.7.1 Fire

The Freycinet National Park is a Fuel Stove Only Area (with the exception of the powered campsites at Richardsons Beach, where campfires are permitted in designated areas) and it

is historically very dry and vulnerable to fire. No fires are allowed in the National Park. Bushfire ignition due to use of tools / machinery on exposed granite or within vegetation during high fire danger days would have significant impacts on the natural values, infrastructure and visitor safety at this iconic destination.

3.3 Socio-Economic

3.3.1 Recreational values and established uses

The walk to the Wineglass Bay Lookout is the most popular walk in Freycinet National Park for visitors and is valued alike by locals. Visitors come to Freycinet as individuals, couples or small groups, while others come in large tour groups or as outdoor education groups with schools or other organisations.

The proposal will result in an improvement that will help reduce crowding and provide a more tranquil experience for visitors to this area of the Park.

The quality of the visitor experience will be greatly improved if a one-way loop track is developed. Visitors moving around a one-way loop track will have a much lower incidence of encounters with other visitors, greatly reducing the apparent level of crowding.

3.3.2 Economic benefits

Tasmanian suppliers and contractors will be used where possible. Analysis by the ABS indicates that approximately \$500,000 in construction investment directly supports one full-time equivalent construction job for a year.

A high-level cost –benefit analysis of the Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019 initiatives indicate that for every dollar spent in implementing the master plan there will be a return of between \$3.05 and \$4.10. It also indicates that an increase of visitor spending of \$10.7 million per year (modelled to be realised in ten years) would support approximately 53.5 FTE jobs in the services sector if the proposed Freycinet Gateway experience initiatives can be delivered.

This project along with other key initiatives identified in the Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019 will provide a base for sustainable increased visitation and spend.

4 Potential Impacts and their Management

4.1 Biodiversity

4.1.1 Performance Requirements

Key performance criteria when considering effective mitigation and avoidance of potential impacts of the proposal on biodiversity will be drawn from the applicable legislation and management plans.

The legislated management objectives aligned with biodiversity (Schedule 1 of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*) are:

- to conserve natural biological diversity (1a);
- to preserve the quality of water and protect catchments (1c); and
- to protect the national park against, and rehabilitate the national park following, adverse impacts such as those of fire, introduced species, diseases and soil erosion

on the national park's natural and cultural values and on assets within and adjacent to the national park (1g).

The Commonwealth EPBC provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places - defined in the EPBC as *Matters of National Environmental Significance*. Approval is required for activities with significant impact on listed species, communities or places.

This project will not have significant impact on listed values and as such will not require referral to the Federal government.

Sections 3 and 4 of the Freycinet National Park / Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 also support the objectives listed above.

4.1.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

4.1.2.1 Flora

Works will result in minimal impact on native vegetation.

Epacris barbata (bearded heath)

Given the high conservation status of *Epacris barbata* and the localised novel population not previously reported from the eastern side of the saddle between Mt Amos and Mt Mayson, it was decided that further site planning be undertaken with the objective of avoiding the need to "take" any individuals of the species.

If all individuals cannot be avoided, the legislative implications under both the TSPA and the EPBCA will need to be further considered. A permit will be required under Section 51 of the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 to take individuals of *Epacris barbata* if the individuals cannot be avoided during construction.

PWS is committed to finding a solution that will avoid the need to "take" individuals of *Epacris barbata*. The proposed infrastructure has been redesigned to avoid the individuals of *Epacris barbata*. Individuals of *Epacris barbata* have been marked with blue tape and their co-ordinates recorded.

Epacris barbata is susceptible to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (PC) however, no evidence of PC was observed in several highly susceptible species (including individuals of *Epacris barbata*) and it appears that the project area is currently disease-free. To avoid potential impacts strict hygiene protocols will be applied to all relevant stages of the project, especially construction (refer s4.1.2.3)

Pterostylis grandiflora (superb greenhood) [TSPA: rare; EPBCA: not listed].

No direct disturbance to individuals of *Pterostylis grandiflora* likely from this project.

While this project will not impact on the existing and now expanded population of *Pterostylis grandiflora*, the extension survey did reveal a potential threat to the population. Visitors are leaving the track to the lookout to use bush toilet facilities, following an instinctive route down the side of the massive granite outcrop along a now quite well-worn trail through the leaf litter. *Pterostylis grandiflora* is growing in this trail and on its immediate verges, as well as on small leaf litter-covered rocks that people are scrambling over and around.

To minimise access and impacts to the area down-slope of the existing elevated walkway which supports individuals of *Pterostylis grandiflora* PWS proposes to infill the existing elevated walkway's rails by extending the existing rail a few metres further back to block

egress. Vegetation debris from the project area will also be placed in the existing “trail” to prevent visitors accessing areas down-slope to prevent trampling and littering (refer Appendix C).

Management controls:

- Individuals of *Epacris barbata* have been identified and will be avoided.
- Wherever practical, individual trees (i.e. Eucalyptus species) will be protected from disturbance.
- Extend existing walkway rail to prevent visitors departing from walkway.

4.1.2.2 Fauna

Potential habitat is present for *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian devil), *Dasyurus maculatus* subsp. *maculatus* (spotted-tailed quoll), *Dasyurus viverrinus* (eastern quoll), and *Antipodia chaostola* tax. *leucophaea* (chaostola skipper).

The scale of works is such that no significant impact on potential habitat is likely.

The construction sites are greater than 1km from known raptor nests. PWS will consider helicopter flight paths for material and equipment transfer and comply with raptor nest management guidelines if flights are within the breeding season (June to February inclusive).

Management controls:

- Pilots will be briefed regarding eagle nest locations and set flight paths will be selected to ensure adequate (minimum 1 km) exclusion areas around known nest sites will be maintained.

4.1.2.3 Weeds, Pathogens and Diseases

The project sites are free from weeds and diseases so keeping these out will be a high priority.

The vegetation in Freycinet National Park is susceptible to PC with sections of the park already impacted by the disease. The ecological assessment (Appendix C) found no signs of PC in the area where the proposed works will be conducted, however as there is already PC present within the park there is a significant risk that PC could be introduced to the Wineglass Bay track through infected shoes, clothing, vehicles and machinery.

There were no weeds classified under the *Weed Management Act 1999* identified from within the Wineglass Bay track and lookout areas. PWS proposes to develop and implement a strict weed and disease hygiene management plan to minimise the likelihood of PC and weeds being introduced into the Wineglass Bay track and lookout.

Management controls:

- DPIPWE Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines will be followed during all works (a copy of which can be found here: <https://intranet.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Weed%20%20Management%20and%20Hygiene%20Guidelines.pdf>)
- All construction personnel will be inducted around the management concerns with respect to PC (and weeds), especially with respect to risks to threatened flora (*Epacris barbata*) and native vegetation, including information on field symptoms and hygiene protocols;

- Application of strict machinery, helicopter, slinging gear, vehicle and personnel hygiene protocols for all construction and helipad activities, which includes spraying work boots with Phytoclean™ prior to leaving the walkers' car park;
- Gravel and rock will be sourced from a quarry recently certified as PC and weed free;
- Form compacted track surfaces such that pooling of water on the track surface and adjacent to the track is minimised (such pooling should be the subject of regular inspections and fixed if observed) and soil will not shift from one section of track to another;
- Water will be directed across granite exposures (if practical) rather than into adjacent vegetation downslope of the track;
- Audit for compliance with biosecurity controls during works; and
- Undertake post-installation monitoring by suitably qualified personnel in the spring months following installation.

4.2 Geo-heritage

4.2.1 Geo-conservation sites

The proposed development is situated on two geoconservation sites; The Hazards Landforms and Freycinet Peninsula Soils, listed in the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database.

As the proposed lookout installation and track works have been designed as a low impact development, it is unlikely that there will be significant impacts to these sites from the proposed construction works. The scale and siting of the project is small and mostly on hard surface / sheet rock - no significant impact is expected.

4.3 Visual Impact

4.3.1 Overview

An evaluation of the potential visual impacts of the proposed development was undertaken by a consultant (Appendix A).

It was concluded that the new lookout and loop track structures will add to the current lookout impact by resulting in another 'layer' of people but is likely to be perceived as a part of the existing lookout system. As seen from other viewpoints looking into the site the nature of the impacts are assessed as being the same but the magnitude will increase marginally.

Over-all potential visual impact is low and the magnitude of change is minor for the closer view-points and low and negligible for viewpoints further away. Visitors will be expecting this level of infrastructure at an iconic site such as this.

Most visitors pass through the lookout on their way to the beach and see it as a part of the visitor experience, it is likely that this view would be seen within that context and be considered a part of the visitor experience rather than a separate visual intrusion in the landscape.

From the northern end of Wineglass Bay beach users and walkers have a clear view of the lookout setting. People standing on the platform edge are likely to be discernible if they are wearing contrast colours, but not visually dominant. The deck structure will not be visible.

Under existing conditions, it is likely that most visitors on the beach are not aware of the infrastructure because it is largely lost within the complex shapes, colours and shadowing that is characteristic of the landscape in that location.

Management controls:

- No significant vegetation removal around the infrastructure (to minimise visual intrusion of the project).
- Steel surfaces or balustrade fences will be non-reflective and with matt finish, low colour contrast material.
- Use of materials and paint colour codes that blend with the environment. Platform and walking track made of charcoal grey FRP.
- Screen planting using locally indigenous plants will be undertaken to screen the supporting structure and at existing track viewpoints.

4.4 Natural Areas

4.4.1 Overview

Freycinet National Park contains large relatively undisturbed areas with topographic and catchment integrity where natural processes continue largely unmodified by human intervention. A large portion of the Freycinet Peninsula and all of Schouten Island has been assessed as an indicative area of National Estate value as a wilderness area (Tasmanian Public Land Use Commission, 1997). Virtually all of the Park has National Estate values as a natural landscape and, for most of the peninsula, as an undisturbed catchment

The proposed works are a method used for protecting sites from increasing visitor impacts. Walkers can be concentrated on clearly identified tracks.

The proposal will have a minimal impact on current natural quality whilst also having clear environmental gains through the amelioration of existing visitor impacts.

4.5 Historical and Cultural Heritage

4.5.1 Performance Requirements

In Tasmania, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (the Act) is the primary Act for the treatment of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Act is administered by the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage through Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT) in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE).

Under the EPBC Act, actions that have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance require approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment (the Minister).

The Freycinet National Park and Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000 provides for conservation of the values of the Park and the Reserve. To this end, one of the Management Plans aims is to protect Aboriginal and historic heritage features and values.

The Management Plan objectives are to, in cooperation with the Aboriginal community:

- Identify and record Aboriginal heritage;
- Protect and conserve Aboriginal heritage; and
- Interpret Aboriginal heritage.

4.5.2 Potential impacts and mitigation measures

There are no known aboriginal sites within the footprint of the Wineglass Bay Second Lookout and Track-work project (refer Appendix B).

There is one known site to the south-west of the proposed works that will not be impacted on.

General management controls:

- In the unlikely event that previously undetected archaeological sites or objects are located during the construction phase the processes outlined in the Unanticipated Discovery Plan will be followed.
- A copy of the Unanticipated Discovery Plan should be kept on site during all ground disturbance and construction work.
- All construction personnel will be made aware of the Unanticipated Discovery Plan and their obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

4.6 Waste and Hazardous Materials

4.6.1 Fuels and Dangerous Substances

The construction component of the project will require the storage of small amount of fuels and oils for the operation of generators and equipment. These substances pose a risk of environmental harm in addition to a risk of explosion and/or fire if stored and handled incorrectly.

Management controls:

- All fuel storage areas will be approved by PWS with enough overflow containment for stored fuel quantities.
- The handling and storage of all fuels and any other dangerous substances will be required to be in accordance with the Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act 2005 and the relevant Australian Standards.
- All contractors will be required to submit to PWS for approval a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) that will detail fuel and dangerous substances requirements and storage and handling measures.

4.6.2 Waste

The construction component of the project is expected to produce waste material. Waste material has the potential to contaminate soils, can have a visual impact and spread wider into the National Park. All waste will be contained on site in storage bins and removed to a waste disposal centre during or on completion of works. A high percentage of waste is likely to be FRP products and small metal produced during construction of the project components. Waste will be minimised by design and use of pre-cut lengths and pre-fabricated materials where possible.

Management controls:

- The handling of waste will be required to be detailed in a CEMP and performance requirements will require a final site clean up to the satisfaction of PWS.

4.7 Health and Safety

4.7.1 Fire Management

The primary aim of fire management for the Freycinet National Park and the Recreation Zone, in particular, is to exclude fire due to concerns about both environmental values and visitor risk.

The Bushfire Risk Assessment Model indicates a high to extreme risk for the area.

Operations on this project are deemed HIGH RISK HAZARD ACTIVITY for wildfire ignitions if conducted during the summer period.

Management controls:

- Contractors are to ensure operations are suspended immediately once the Forest Fire Danger Index is calculated as equal to or greater than HIGH 20, or the relative humidity is equal to or less than 30%. Contractors should not undertake hot works* in reserves until the Forest Fire Danger Index has dropped below High 20 or the relative humidity risen above 30%. Hourly weather observations should be taken at the site of the works as directed by the supervisor.
* Hot works includes the use of grinders, welders, brush cutters, chainsaws, earth moving equipment and other tools and equipment likely to create sparks.
- Adequate and operational firefighting equipment will be maintained onsite during construction and any wildfire ignitions extinguished immediately.
- Schedule construction work during winter season to minimise potential for hot works issues.

4.7.2 Emergency Response

Emergency response procedures will be developed for staff and contractor safety in the event of a high risk incident occurring within the project site or surrounding areas. The document will outline procedures that responsible staff and contractors can follow to ensure persons working on the project will be responded to in the event of an emergency.

Management controls:

- An Emergency Response Plan will be developed including:
 - Evacuation from a remote area in the event of injury, death or threatening circumstances.
 - Early warning systems for unstable weather, wildfires etc.
 - Emergency contact details.
 - Emergency Meeting Points
 - Setup communication systems and process between remote parties and field centre.

4.7.3 Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment

PWS will work with project contractors to identify all risks related to the project activities. Risk assessments will be completed on all project tasks and mitigating processes and procedures will be adopted to remove or reduce the risk to personal.

Management controls:

- Project inductions for contractors will be delivered by PWS staff to ensure awareness of all safety risks and actions required to reduce risk.
- Job Risk Analysis (JRA) will be completed and signed by all project persons for compliance undertaking risk based tasks.

- Visitor safety will be addressed around the construction sites across the reserve with advance warnings, signage and closed off construction areas.
- Contractors will be asked to provide an approved Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to address hygiene risks and handling of dangerous chemicals on site.
- PWS will monitor fire weather days and enforce bans on the use of hot work equipment (eg. motor based devices) during days over the PWS fire danger rating level.
- Communication plans will be developed to address remote area works and ensure the use of satellite devices for internal contacts.

4.8 Road and Air Traffic

4.8.1 Road Traffic

This project requires materials to be transported from manufacturers via the most direct route to the lay down / heli-lift area which will be located in a cordoned off area of the lower Wineglass Bay trailhead carpark. Suitable vehicles will be used to transport materials and equipment to the lay down area prior to lifting. Roads into the Park are very busy and lay down sites will be chosen to minimise impacts of transport.

4.8.2 Air Traffic

Due to the remoteness of the work site delivery of construction materials and equipment will require the use of helicopters with potential to produce noise impacts to residences and visitors to the park. Potential impacts from helicopters will be concentrated in the construction period.

Walking track locations will be considered when determining flight paths to minimise impacts where possible.

Management controls:

- Fly-neighbourly protocols will be followed by helicopter and identified flight paths will avoid known raptor nesting sites and walking track locations (a copy can be found here: <https://parks.tas.gov.au/Documents/Fly%20Neighbourly%2018.pdf>).
- All heli-slinging operations will be carried out in accordance with DPIPWE Safe Working Procedure – External slinging of loads from Helicopters PR-054 Policy.
- A Communications Plan, including visitor safety during construction, will be approved prior to commencement of works. To include actions such as the erection of signs near the drop sites during helicopter operations to warn visitors of overhead helicopter use.

5 Monitoring and Review

To monitor the compliance of the project during the construction and operational phase the following key monitoring and review measures are proposed.

5.1 Social, Recreational and Economic Monitoring

The master plan review scheduled in 5 years will assess which elements of the plan, including this project, have achieved their stated objective. In addition, PWS will monitor visitor and stakeholder feedback following completion of the project.

5.2 Environmental and Cultural Monitoring

An annual post-construction weed and rehabilitation monitoring program will be implemented for a minimum of 5 years post construction. At the completion of the five-year period results will be reviewed and if rehabilitation or weed control are not considered adequate then ongoing works will be programmed into the Field Centres Weed Strategy.

The management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics will be undertaken in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* and the Unanticipated Discovery Plan as prescribed by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania.

5.3 Construction Phase Monitoring

The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will incorporate all measures designed to mitigate impact of construction including:

- On-site construction waste management.
- Fuel and dangerous substances requirements and storage and handling measures including bunding, signage, staff training and provision of spill kits.
- Strict machinery and personnel hygiene protocols established
- Weed management and hygiene plan
- Erosion and sediment control plan including daily monitoring of controls.
- Public access management for walkers during works including construction fences and signage.

6 Commitments

The key commitments of the project are outlined below.

Table 4.1 Commitments summary

| No. | Commitment | Project Phase |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|
| | <i>Pre-Construction Commitments</i> | |
| 1 | A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared prior to works by successful contractor and submitted to PWS for approval. | Pre-Construction |
| 2 | A Communications Plan, including visitor safety during construction, will be approved prior to commencement of works. | Planning & Pre-Construction |
| 3 | Contractors will be briefed about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The location of threatened plants to be avoided during all works and use of laydown areas; - Management concerns with respect to PC (and weeds), including information on field symptoms and hygiene protocols; - Content of Unanticipated Discovery Plan and their obligations under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975</i>; and - Awareness of all safety risks and actions required to reduce risk. | Pre-Construction |
| 4 | A permit will be required under Section 51 of the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 to take individuals of <i>Epacris barbata</i> if for any reason the individuals cannot be avoided during construction. | Pre-Construction |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 5 | An Emergency Response Plan will be developed including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evacuation from a remote area in the event of injury, death or threatening circumstances; - Early warning systems for unstable weather, wildfires etc.; - Emergency contact details; and - Setup communication systems and process between remote parties and field centre. | Pre-Construction & Construction |
| 6 | Job Risk Analysis (JRA) will be completed and signed by all project persons for compliance undertaking risk based tasks. | Pre-Construction & Construction |
| Construction Commitments | | |
| 7 | All vegetation clearance will be limited to the identified development footprint; construction equipment, laydown area and storage will be contained within the footprint. | Construction |
| 8 | All heli-slinging operations will be carried out in accordance with DPIPWE <i>Safe Working Procedure – External slinging of loads from Helicopters</i> PR-054 Policy. Pilots will be briefed regarding eagle nest locations and set flight paths will be selected to ensure adequate (minimum 1 km) exclusion areas around known nest sites will be maintained. Fly-neighbourly protocols will be followed by helicopter pilots. | Pre-construction & Construction |
| 9 | Contractors are to ensure operations are suspended immediately once the Forest Fire Danger Index is calculated as equal to or greater than HIGH 20, or the relative humidity is equal to or less than 30%. Contractors will not undertake hot works in reserves until the Forest Fire Danger Index has dropped below High 20 or the relative humidity risen above 30%. Hourly weather observations will be taken at the site of the works as directed by the supervisor. Adequate and operational firefighting equipment will be maintained onsite during construction. Schedule construction work during winter season to minimise potential for hot works issues. | Construction |
| 10 | Management of unanticipated discoveries of Aboriginal relics undertaken in accordance with the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975</i> and the Unanticipated Discovery Plan as prescribed by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. | Construction |
| 11 | Steel surfaces or balustrade fences will be non-reflective and with matt finish, low colour contrast material. Platform and walking track made of charcoal grey FRP. | Construction |
| 12 | Local rock plus gravel from recently certified PC / weed free quarries will be utilised to construct new tracks. | Construction |
| 13 | Extend existing walkway rail to prevent visitors departing from walkway. | Construction |
| 14 | Application of strict machinery, helicopter, slinging gear, vehicle and personnel hygiene protocols for all construction and helipad activities, which includes spraying work boots with Phytoclean™ prior to leaving the walkers' car park. | Construction |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 15 | PWS Audit for compliance with biosecurity controls during works will be carried out. | Construction |
| 16 | Visitor safety will be addressed around the construction sites across the reserve with advance warnings, signage and closed off construction areas. | Pre-Construction & Construction |
| <i>Post Construction Commitments</i> | | |
| 15 | Final site clean up to the satisfaction of PWS. | Post-construction |
| 16 | Indigenous native plants used for any screening required. | Post-construction |
| 17 | New interpretive signage will be placed at key locations to advise one-way walking direction and improve education around weed and disease hygiene when walking in remote areas. | Operation |
| 18 | An annual post-construction weed and rehabilitation monitoring program will be implemented for a minimum of 5 years post construction. At the completion of the five-year period results will be reviewed and if rehabilitation or weed control are not considered adequate then monitoring and control program will be extended. | Operation |

7 Conclusion

The proposal is located within the Recreation Zone and Conservation Zone of the Freycinet National Park and Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000. The facilities and track work have been designed to manage the growth in visitor numbers to the Freycinet National Park while minimising the impacts.

The proposal has been assessed against the provisions of the Management Plan and subsequent alterations thereto and has been found to be acceptable subject to the mitigating measures outlined in Section 7.

The proposed works are in accordance with the relevant provisions of legislation, plans and policies including:

- *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*
- Freycinet National Park Management Plan 2000 and subsequent alterations thereto
- Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan 2019

The proposed facilities will achieve the objectives and desired outcomes of the project including:

- Sustainable management of visitor impacts in the Freycinet National Park recreation zone.
- Improved infrastructure consistent with relevant track class prescriptions and current building standards.
- An improved experience for all visitors when they visit Wineglass Bay Lookout area of the Freycinet National Park.

The majority of the management controls are related to managing construction methods and minimising the impacts of the works footprint. These will be integrated into a CEMP and works will be supervised by the PWS Project Officer.

8 Glossary and abbreviations

AHT – Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania

CEMP – Construction Environmental Management Plan

DPIPWE – Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

EPBC – Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

FRP – Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic

JRA – Job Risk Analysis

NCA – Nature Conservation Act

PWS – Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service

TSPA – Threatened Species Protection Act

UDP – Unanticipated Discovery Plan

RAA – Reserve Activity Assessment

9 References

Freycinet National Park / Wye River State Reserve Management Plan 2000

Freycinet National Park Management Plan Alterations 2004

Freycinet Peninsula Master Plan June 2019

Tasmanian Reserve Management – Code of Practice 2003

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service – The Reserves Standards Framework (RSF) Policy

Glamorgan – Spring Bay Interim Planning Scheme 2015

DPIPWE Weed and Disease Planning and Hygiene Guidelines

10 Appendices

This RAA relies upon the following Appendices provided as separate documents.

Appendix A – Wineglass Bay Lookout Visual Impact Assessment

Appendix B – Wineglass Bay Lookout Aboriginal Heritage Desktop Review

Appendix C – Wineglass Bay Lookout Ecological Assessment

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