

Improvements Await Freycinet Visitors

Freycinet National Park, the State's oldest and first coastal national park, is set for the annual influx of summer visitors with recent infrastructure improvements totalling \$1 million.

Labor Member for Lyons, Heather Butler, said a major upgrade of the car park at the start of the Wineglass Bay track would provide a greatly enhanced visitor experience.

"During the peak summer period, traffic management at this site has been a real challenge," she said.

"The fully sealed car park has been increased to about 180 spaces with designated disabled, bus and campervan spaces.

"There's a new drop-off and pick-up area and the entrance to the walking tracks will be improved.

"Pedestrian safety has also been improved by these changes."

Mrs Butler said work would start in the next two weeks to upgrade the Wineglass Bay lookout track, the single most important attraction in Freycinet National Park.

"Freycinet is one of Tasmania's icon parks with the highest number of visits each year, about 206,000," she said.

"Nearly 70 per cent of visitors to the park, approximately 140,000 people per year, use this track and in peak times this can total as many as 1700 people a day.

"The upgrade involves re-surfacing part of the track and building new sections for one-way traffic."

The track redevelopment will address issues of over-

crowding, the steep gradient and slippery track surface.

Another recent improvement is a new composting toilet at the Hazards Beach.

The modern facility replaces the last of the 'long-drops' on the Freycinet peninsula.

"There are now composting toilets at Cooks Beach, Wineglass Bay and the Hazards – a win for the environment and the comfort of walkers," Mrs Butler said.

Funding for the car park and walking track upgrade has been provided by the State Government's Economic and Social Infrastructure Fund.

This initiative is part of the State Government's commitment to progressing Tasmania Together Goal 21 – Value, protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage.