

West by North West
29a Wilson St
Burnie TAS 7320

Attention: Keith Ryan
Project Director, Next Iconic Walk
Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service

8 January 2026

Dear Keith,

On behalf of the West by North West Regional Tourism Organisation, we're writing to share our strong support for the proposed Next Iconic Walk in the Tyndall Range.

This project has prompted healthy debate, which is exactly what should happen with initiatives of this scale. When you step back from the detail, what becomes clear is that this walk is not just about track kilometres or huts. It is about people, communities and the long-term future of Tasmania's West and Far North West.

For many years, our region has watched visitors travel through or around us to reach better-known destinations. While recent winter initiatives have begun to shift visitation, we still lack a true hero experience, the kind that motivates people to travel further, stay longer and engage more deeply with place. Tasmania's existing iconic walks have shown what is possible, and the Tyndall Range is a natural next chapter in that story.

The feasibility work shows a compelling opportunity. A three-day, two-night walk attracting around 5,400 walkers a year, creating up to 40 ongoing jobs, more than 130 construction roles, and delivering meaningful flow-on benefits to local businesses across transport, accommodation, hospitality, guiding and services. Importantly, visitor spending and user fees will also help support ongoing land management and conservation outcomes.

Local operators are already seeing the potential. As Joy Chappell from Mt Lyell Anchorage, RoamWild and The Paragon Theatre puts it, *"With such a short tourist season, it's clear how important it is to develop new attractions that bring visitors here all year round."*

There is also strong confidence that this project will help unlock new investment and stronger collaboration across the region. Ian Robertson, General Manager of the West Coast Wilderness Railway, notes that *"By establishing a world-class hiking experience, it will draw new visitors and reinforce confidence in our region's capacity to deliver premium nature-based tourism."*

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We also support the project's thoughtful approach to access, safety and environmental protection. The inclusion of both camping and roofed options ensures the walk is not positioned as exclusive. Higher-standard huts in this alpine environment are about safety, accessibility and protecting fragile ecosystems, not indulgence. Well-designed infrastructure plays an important role in managing impact and preserving these landscapes for future generations.

While enhancing existing tracks has value, it will not deliver the same region-wide impact. The Next Iconic Walk offers a chance to create a world-class experience that complements Tasmania's existing walking portfolio and gives the West Coast its rightful place among the state's great wilderness destinations.

We commend Parks and Wildlife for the leadership shown to date and for the careful, considered approach being taken. This project represents a genuine opportunity to build confidence, pride and economic strength in our region, while protecting the landscapes that make it special.

We are proud to offer our support and look forward to continuing to work with you as the project progresses.

Warm regards,



Sam Denmead
Acting CEO
West by North West Regional Tourism Organisation
(on behalf of the Board and Chair, Cyndia Hilliger)