

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON. MATTHEW GROOM MP

Cable Car (kunanyi/Mount Wellington) Facilitation Bill 2017

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Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

Tasmania's visitor economy is an important and growing contributor to the state. The Government is working to facilitate further investment into our tourism industry to support its growth, which supports local businesses and creates jobs.

We are committed to protecting our pristine natural assets and at the same time, recognise the value of unlocking sustainable and sensible tourism opportunities in our natural areas.

A cable car on *kunanyi*/Mount Wellington has the potential to bring significant investment to our state, create new jobs and contribute to Tasmania's tourism offering, while protecting Tasmania's natural environment, heritage and Aboriginal cultural values.

A cable car on *kunanyi*/Mount Wellington would:

- showcase one of our most stunning natural landmarks;
- make *kunanyi*/Mount Wellington and its surrounds more accessible to locals and visitors alike;
- provide alternative access to the summit of *kunanyi*/Mount Wellington, helping to ease increasing pressure on the road;
- improve seasonal access, particularly in winter;
- improve the facilities and quality of the experience for visitors to the summit;
- support business opportunities for experiences such as mountain biking and guided walks;
- create jobs – the current proposal indicates the potential for an estimated 200 jobs to be created during a cable car project's construction phase and 50 jobs once operational;
- support private sector investment in infrastructure, with the current proposal estimated to represent an investment of \$54 million; and
- provide a key destination and experience, helping to attract visitors to the region.

The idea of a cable car in Wellington Park has been around for over 100 years. It's time for such a proposal to be assessed on its merits through the planning system.

This Bill has been prepared to do just that.

Land owner consent

Madam Speaker, where public land is included in a proposed development, under the current arrangements a proponent cannot submit a development application until it receives public landowner consent.

This is not the case for privately-owned land, where a proponent is only required to give notification of the making of an application, not seek consent.

To enable a cable car proposal to operate in Wellington Park to be tested on its merits, this legislation seeks to remove that unnecessary red tape.

By providing this procedural clarity, a prospective proponent will be able to undertake the appropriate pre-lodgement assessments, investigations and investments with the certainty that a planning application can be lodged.

The Bill will not change the requirement for a cable car proposal to be tested through the planning system. It will, however, enable an application to be lodged so it can be assessed on its merits.

By enabling a cable car proposal to be assessed through the planning system, the public will have an opportunity to see a proposal in detail and to make submissions to inform the relevant planning authority's assessment of such a project.

Acquisition of land

Madam Speaker, as I have previously announced, if required the Government will acquire the necessary public land to facilitate a cable car project on *kunanyī*/Mount Wellington.

However, before the Government acquires any public land, a proponent would need to have obtained the necessary planning and other statutory approvals.

If the acquisition of public land is deemed appropriate, this Bill seeks to provide a transparent and open acquisition pathway that requires the approval of both Houses of Parliament.

The legislation also clarifies that acquired land:

- cannot be sold to a private land holder; and
- will remain part of Wellington Park.

Access to the site

Madam Speaker, to prepare a planning application, a proponent will require access to the proposed site to undertake necessary testing and investigations.

Detailed site analysis will be required for a fully informed and comprehensive proposal to be prepared. The Bill provides a mechanism to grant access to a proponent to undertake that work, while providing appropriate provision for compensation and consultation.

Conclusion

Madam Speaker, this Bill will not change the requirement for a cable car proponent to secure planning and other approvals, including those designed to protect Tasmania's natural environment, heritage and Aboriginal cultural values.

This Bill does not consider matters such as access to private land, as these are for a project proponent to consider, manage and resolve.

Nor is this Bill specific to a particular cable car pathway, project or proponent.

What this Bill does, is provide certainty and clarity to a cable car proponent by:

- allowing a planning application involving public land to be lodged and assessed without seeking landowner consent;
- enabling a cable car proponent to access areas of the park for necessary assessment and preliminary investigations needed to prepare a planning application; and
- providing a mechanism for the Government to acquire public land, if required, to facilitate a project in an open and transparent way.

Madam Speaker, this Bill provides a clear pathway forward for the assessment of a cable car project on *kunanyi*/Mount Wellington through the planning system.

In doing so, it represents the most significant step forward in allowing the public to have their say on such a project in more than 100 years.

I commend this Bill to the House.