

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Mr Keith Ryan  
Project Director – Next Iconic Walk  
Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service  
171 Westbury Road  
PROSPECT TAS 7250

Dear Keith

**Re – Tasmania’s Next Iconic Walk – Letter of Support**

I am writing to provide a letter of support to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) for the Next Iconic Walk (NIW) project. As Mayor of the West Coast Council (WCC), I am deeply passionate about the West Coast and my community and believe this is one of the most exciting projects I have seen. I believe the NIW will celebrate the things that make the west coast unique and a great place to live and visit.

I fully support the project because it will attract new visitors to the region, diversify the economy, and provide new and different jobs for our local residents. I have no doubt that when complete it will be a source of pride in our community and will continue to be for years to come.

I recently wrote an opinion piece for the Mercury in response to criticisms from green groups opposing the project. Below is an extract from that piece which I believe accurately captures some of my thoughts on the NIW and the reasons why I support the project so strongly:

*.... Tasmania’s wilderness, particularly on the West Coast, is a spectacular and precious asset, something we should all treasure and be proud of.*

*..... I want to show off our natural wilderness to as many people as possible, and even (gasp) use it to try and generate some visitors and revenue for our local community.*

*... This fantastic 31km walk will generate real economic returns, with a forecast 139 construction jobs and 40 jobs ongoing. It will be an important “anchor point” for tourists to the West Coast, bring around 7000 walkers per year to our region.*

*As I noted, the walk passes through neither World Heritage area nor even National Park, instead going through a variety of classes public land including Hydro land, land tenures which currently already allows for activities such as mining, hunting, fishing, even four-wheel driving.*

**ENQUIRES TO –**

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*That's not to say that the land or the experience will be somehow second-rate. Far from it; the walk will pass through some of the most spectacular landscape in our state, including magnificent glacial lakes, and will allow walkers to get up close and personal with iconic fauna, like our fabled Fagus (deciduous beech).*

*Since being first announced, the project has gone through multiple rounds of consultation and stakeholder engagement, including Australia-wide research conducted in October last year which found a massive 21 per cent of respondents would undertake the walk in the next 12 months (if it was completed).*

*Having had the privilege of visiting some of the route, in my view when completed, hopefully in Summer 2029, the Next Iconic Walk really will be one of the most spectacular walks in Tasmania, if not Australia.*

*I've no doubt, it'll be mentioned in the same breath as the Overland Track, which will be a great thing for all those people locals and tourists alike who don't have the fitness or walking skills that iconic but challenging track requires.*

I commend the work the PWS has done to get the project to this stage.

Over a number of years, the PWS project team has regularly travelled to the West Coast to consult on the evolving plans and concepts with the WCC staff and councillors, local businesses, tourism operators, recreation groups and industry associations.

The WCC will continue to work with the PWS to ensure this project can be realised and I am happy to provide this letter of support to accompany the PWS submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

Yours faithfully,



Shane Pitt  
**Mayor**  
**West Coast Council**

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