

Hydro Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to provide this statement of support for Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk. The project represents a significant step forward for tourism on the West Coast, highlighting the region's natural beauty, remarkable industrial heritage, and strong sense of identity.

The proposed track will traverse land managed by Hydro Tasmania, and we appreciate the early and ongoing engagement from the Parks and Wildlife Service. An operational review highlighted the conditions we require in a long-term land use arrangement, and we are presently working through the draft documents to achieve an outcome that supports and safeguards the interests of both organisations.

From Hydro Tasmania's perspective, the walk will offer both Tasmanians and visitors a rare chance to experience the heritage listed Lake Margaret Power Scheme firsthand. Lake Margaret tells a uniquely Tasmanian story: one shaped by necessity, ingenuity and resilience. The scheme powered the growth of West Coast industry and demonstrated the transformative role of hydroelectricity in building opportunities for communities across the state. That legacy continues today: a dedicated local workforce keeps Lake Margaret operating, and as Australia moves toward greater reliance on renewable generation, the site remains a powerful symbol of innovation and determination.

By opening this area to walkers, the project would shine a light on Tasmania's unique hydro heritage and deepen appreciation for the state's long-standing contribution to renewable energy. It would be an opportunity to showcase a story that is as relevant to our future as it is to our past.

Hydro Tasmania is committed to playing a constructive role in the West Coast's long-term prosperity. Communities such as Queenstown, Strahan, Rosebery, Tullah and Zeehan are closely connected to the Lake Margaret village and power scheme. The proposed walk would likely encouraged visitation, support longer stays and generate flow on benefits for local businesses across hospitality, retail, tourism services and the creative sector.

By drawing new audiences to the region and celebrating what makes it unique, the project may contribute to renewed confidence and provide momentum for future investment in the area. It offers a platform for shared stories, local enterprise and regional pride, elements that help communities thrive.

Hydro Tasmania is pleased to support Tasmania's Next Iconic Walk and looks forward to continuing to work with Parks and Wildlife and other stakeholders to help realise this opportunity.

