

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

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Mr Simon Behrakis
Member for Clark
Via Clerk of the House

Dear Simon

I write in response to your question on behalf of your constituent in relation to mobility access at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

The Tasmanian Government has provided funding of \$7.6 million to improve the visitor experience and amenities at the Gardens, including accessibility improvements.

The developments include extensive refurbishments of the Gardens' Visitor Centre, Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant access and pedestrian safety improvements as well as the construction of a new welcome point near the main entrance.

The refurbishment work on the Visitor Centre and associated landscaping improvements commenced in July 2024, and is planned to be completed in November 2024.

Access improvements to the Gardens' main entrance will include repairs to the surfacing, improvements to the DDA compliant parking area, the construction of a new dedicated accessible elevated pedestrian path and crosswalk, lighting improvements and new signage.

The construction of new amenities near the main entrance is being planned to include a new gift shop building, that also includes a DDA-accessible washroom. Pending all permits, the construction work is planned to begin in early 2025 with a tentative completion date of November 2025.

I am confident that these improvements, will ensure greater accessibility for all patrons and will also enhance the visitor experience.

Thank you for your question and your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks and Environment