

Proposal: The Lighthouse Project

Proponent / s

Mr Troy Grining and Mr Guy Grining
World Heritage Cruises

Location

Gordon River Recreational Zones 1, 2, 3 and 4

Description of proposal

World Heritage Cruises proposes to develop a pioneering Gordon River eco-tourism experience, where visitors have the option of accommodation and light adventure activities on the river and the opportunity to be “immersed” in an all-encompassing wilderness experience.

The aim is to develop a showcase wilderness product that pioneers new sights, destinations and adventures facilitated through world class design, cutting-edge technology and long term sustainability.

To achieve this, World Heritage Cruises proposes to design and construct “The Lighthouse”; a 45m, purpose built, ultra-low wake, electrically driven, self-contained, steel and glass vessel that operates in the lower Gordon River throughout ones 1,2,3 and 4. The vessel would have accommodation (40 beds), restaurant, interpretation facilities, outdoor areas and activity areas / facilities for guided kayaking, bird watching, photography, astrology etc. The vessel’s design and operational capabilities would be specifically engineered to allow for flexibility of operations across all four zones in the river to give the visitor access to a significant number of outstanding natural and cultural destinations previously not feasible for visitation due to potential impact.

“The Lighthouse” would be serviced daily from a second, newly designed and constructed, purpose built, “state of the art” cruise / transfer vessel; “The Harbour Master” that has the capacity to ferry up to 200 passengers per day from Strahan, whilst maintaining the current day trip destinations of Hells Gates, Liberty Point and Sarah Island (this vessel would not transit up the river). The two vessels would rendezvous at the western edge of Zone 1 near the mouth of the lower Gordon River where visitors and provisions would be transferred and all refuse / waste removed for disposal in Strahan.

Estimated jobs created

World Heritage Cruises currently employs 22 full-time local staff and has arrangements with a large number of Tasmanian goods and services providers to maintain existing cruise boat operations. The new proposal would employ an additional 20(+) full-time operational staff with significant economic advantages to multiple Tasmanian businesses once operational. In addition, a further 25 full time staff would be employed during the construction phase.

Social, cultural and environmental impact

The proposal offers a significant value added eco-tourism experience on the Gordon River, whilst at the same time maintaining and in many instances, reducing the current levels of environmental impact. It offers the visitor the opportunity to participate in light adventure activities and stay overnight in the wilderness in comfort whilst leaving no “footprint”.

The vessels would be pioneering in design, form and function, with an emphasis on cutting edge design, the maximization of renewable technologies, sustainable long term operations and ultra-low environmental impact.

It is the intent of World Heritage Cruises to design, build and commission the vessels in Tasmania and use the project as a global showcase of cutting-edge eco-tourism design, renewable technology integration and innovation in long term sustainability in sensitive environments.

The local population base of Strahan has had a long term association with the Grining family. The Grining’s pioneered tourism cruises into the Gordon River in 1896, beginning a family tradition, which to date, spans more than 100 years and five generations. A key aspect of this project is to build upon the trust and close association with the Strahan community and through the economic opportunities and the local pride it engenders, build a stronger and more resilient community.

Expressions of Interest Project Briefing