

Proposal: Trees Adventure Mount Field National Park

Proponent / s

Mr Nicolas Dansin
Trees Adventure Pty Ltd

Location

Lake Dobson Road, Mount Field National Park

Description of proposal

Trees Adventure proposes to design, build, maintain and operate an adventure tourism facility featuring up to eight individually designed adventure challenge courses over five different levels of difficulty in the Mount Field National Park.

The design of the facility would take advantage of the magnificent trees in the Swamp Gum Forest and provide the opportunity to promote the values associated with the national park environment. It would be similar in concept to the three other facilities created, constructed and operated by Trees Adventure – at Glen Harrow (Belgrave, Victoria), Nowra Park (Nowra, New South Wales) and Grose River Park (Yarramundi, New South Wales).

Estimated jobs created

In the initial stages, staffing of Trees Adventure: Mount Field National Park would be expected to be:

- two full-time staff,
- eight casual staff (10-16 hours per week),
- two junior casual staff (10 hours per week), and
- one part-time gardener/maintenance person.

Visitors would be met and supervised by a small team of well-trained locally based Trees Adventure staff. On-site staff would be supported by Trees Adventure head-office management, administration, marketing and IT support personnel. Trees Adventure has an excellent record for staff retention, and focuses upon recruiting environmentally sensitive, passionate people from the local area.

Social, cultural and environmental impact

The Trees Adventure activity area would complement the existing offerings within the park and provide visitors attracted to the new facility with the opportunity to come into contact with the existing interpretative displays highlighting the history, geology, plants,

Construction would use recycled timber as far as technically feasible, with timber being the preferred material, as it is more suitable than steel in providing a sensitive environmental experience. For this reason, Trees Adventure predominantly uses rope products rather than steel cable to secure the challenges.

The process of construction requires very little on-ground disturbance, with mulching and/or decking around the base of major trees to avoid root compaction. The course is based from a 'Home Tree' or starting point. This involves the construction of an elevated platform of approximately five metres by 10 metres, which becomes the starting point for all courses. The concept of the Home Tree allows for good access control, and enables more effective monitoring of the time being taken by participants as they progress their way through the different courses.

Trees Adventure has a philosophy to buy local. The purchase of supplies and the employment of people will provide a stimulus to the local economy, as will the influx of additional visitors to the region attracted by the offer of the Trees Adventure facility. With visitor projections starting at 15,000 per annum, a significant proportion of whom may be international, interstate, or come from areas within Tasmania outside of the local region, this will bring its own economic stimulation to existing and local tourism providers.

Engagement with local and Aboriginal communities Trees Adventure is committed to designing, building, and operating facilities that are sensitive to the needs of Traditional Owners and local communities.

Expressions of Interest Project Briefing

Trees Adventure prides itself on being a valuable member of the communities in which it operates. Trees Adventure commits to engaging with the local community, when designing and developing the Mount Field facility. Trees Adventure would commit to continuing with any local engagement that has already been undertaken by authorities in connection with the park. Trees Adventure parks are planned and operated with the environment and local communities in mind, with a commitment to designs that minimise noise and other disturbances. The experience would be designed for visitors to appreciate the natural aspects of the surrounds, with the anticipation that the treetops course would add to the enjoyment of the park's scenic features and wildlife.

Trees Adventure proposes that it would hold an open session and facility familiarisation opportunity for local residents prior to the opening of the park. This would allow local residents to meet the Trees Adventure directors and staff, ask any questions, voice concerns and take the opportunity to experience the park first hand. The directors believe that this concept has been fundamental to building strong and enduring strategic relationships with neighbours at existing parks, and feedback obtained at these sessions has been incorporated into ongoing park improvements and upgrades, for the benefit of both the operators and visitors. Trees Adventures reiterates that it is likely that the majority of employees would be sourced from the local communities.

Trees Adventure facilities are renowned for blending into and complementing the environment in which they are situated, rather than detracting from the sites. The directors of Trees Adventure are excited by the prospect of locating one of its facilities in the swamp gum forest of Mount Field. The fit of the facility into the forest would be amazing.

The Trees Adventure facility would have negligible impact upon the site footprint, during both the construction and operational phases. The construction of the facility uses very little machinery, and the construction process would be guided by a construction phase environmental management plan to ensure that any impact is minimised.

Once established, the impact of visitors upon the site is also minimised.

