

Proposal: Frenchman's Cap Walk

Proponent / s

Mr Neil Lynch
Tasmanian Walking Company

Location

Frenchman's Cap, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park

Description of proposal

Four-day guided permanent camp-based bushwalk within the Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers National Park – the Frenchman's Cap Walk.

Estimated jobs created

In terms of direct operational employment, there will be a need for a total of 12 casual and 3 full-time employees (9 FTE). Overall, TWC's additional presence in the West Coast Municipality will be a significant bonus for the Region as will direct purchasing of food supplies and other products locally and the indirect spending our walkers will contribute if we can encourage them to stay extra nights locally before or after the walk.

Social, cultural and environmental impact

The structures will be fully self-contained, prefabricated and with closed-loop building services and systems (ie. greywater, sewer, rubbish and recycling), reducing environmental impact both during and after construction. As with the proponent's past constructions it is proposed to truck materials and pre-fabricated components to a secure site near the Park, from where helicopter lift will move them to their respective sites.

The Tasmanian Walking Company firmly believes that engagement with local community and fostering regional relationships are crucial components to the success of regionally located business ventures such as the Frenchman's Cap Walk. The Company has had discussions with potential sponsors and other advocates, for the establishment of an indigenous persons guiding cadetship. Including a member of the local indigenous community on staff to guide and interpret such locations will become an asset for the visitor and the Company.

Likewise the company is keen to work with the West Coast Council and Parks and Wildlife to ensure the broader community have full and frank understanding on what might be developed as a consequence of this EOI submission and to gain awareness of what benefits that can bring to the local community through new business activity and jobs.

The design of this proposal will minimise site disturbance whilst maximising foreground connectedness. Duck-boarding, decks and elevated building platforms will minimise site impact and allow natural drainage patterns to continue unimpeded. Most of the construction will be prefabricated in a factory and reassembled on site. The buildings will be designed to be easily assembled and disassembled with minimal site disturbance and solar power will be used for lighting and power with gas hot water and heating. Rainwater will be captured and stored for use on site.

A large amount of water storage will be located on each site with reserves for fire-fighting if required. This proposal intends to engage the services of a fire engineer to design ecologically-sensitive yet comprehensive fire safety and evacuation management plans.