

# Proposal: Dirt Taxi

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## Proponent / s

Mr Simon French

Dirt Art Pty Ltd

## Location

Meehan Range Nature Recreation Area (Morningson/Cambridge)

## Description of proposal

The Dirt Taxi proposal is for a total mountain bike experience with uplift service, new trails, tours, retail, food and beverage, and bike hire at one of southern Tasmania's busiest bike trail destinations, the Meehan Range.

The proposal includes plans to upgrade the existing fire road, develop new gravity trails and provision of way-finding information signage. It also proposes to operate check in/guest services, small retail, cafe, guiding, coaching, and bike hire which will operate from a fitted-out shipping container that would be located at the base of the ranges. The Dirt Taxi offering will uplift bike riders to the start of the new gravity trails. These trails would also be available to those who do not wish to pay for the uplift service.

This project introduces the first uplift service available in the Greater Hobart area, allowing riders to have a new mountain bike riding experience which is proving extremely popular at other locations such as Blue Derby and Maydena Bike Park. The proponents expect that the new trails and services will play a significant role in transforming the Meehan Range from a local-level facility into a nationally-significant mountain bike destination.

## Estimated jobs created

The proponent has advised that the value of the investment is \$1.5 million and will create 10 FTE jobs during construction and 15+ full time equivalent jobs once operational.

## Social, cultural and environmental impact

It is proposed that the new trails would remain open year-round for public use, at no cost to the user should the riders not wish to use the uplift service. These trails would introduce new high-quality formal trails in the area, and remove some of the existing maintenance demand on land managers. The proposed access road utilises an existing fire trail, with minor realignment and major surface and drainage upgrades.

The fitted-out shipping container would use 'off-grid' generated power and imported water to be stored in a water tank adjacent to the container.

Due to the strong local mountain biking community, comprehensive community consultation will be undertaken by the proponent.

Proposals are required to obtain all other necessary statutory approvals through the Australian Government and State planning approval processes, with any associated costs to be borne by the developer.