

Proposal: Cradle Base Camp Experience

Proponent / s

Mr Heath Garratt
Tasmanian Walking Company

Location

Cradle Mountain, Lake St Clair National Park

Description of proposal

Tasmanian Walking Company proposes a new overnight guided lodge-based bushwalk within the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park – the Cradle Base Camp Experience. Situated in the northern end of the Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park, the CBCE will operate a 21km walking itinerary effectively circumnavigating the Cradle Mountain massif on lesser used existing walking tracks.

Estimated jobs created

Projected direct operational employment is for a total of 34 casual and three full-time employees (20 FTE).

Social, cultural and environmental impact

Cradle Base Camp Experience will provide a unique way to experience the wild beauty of the lesser explored areas of the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park. This unique area, rarely visited by day-walkers and overlooked by Overland Track bushwalkers, is home to some of the most splendid alpine vegetation and spectacular views at the very foot of Cradle Mountain. Highlights include views of the imposing form of Cradle Mountain towering overhead, with the quiet, reflective waters of locations such as the Artist's Pool, Flynn's Tarn and Lake Rodway tucked away beneath. Guests will have the opportunity to walk at their own pace; with the more adventurous encouraged to take the exhilarating climb up Cradle Mountain. With comfortable lodge style accommodation to relax in at night, the Cradle Base Camp Experience is an unforgettable short stay experience, leaving the visitor satisfied, yet bringing confidence to participate in wilderness experiences without excessive time commitment. This product will appeal to an entirely new market of experience seekers who are time poor, lacking in wilderness experience and keen to take a more accessible option while still immersing themselves in this unique wilderness, thus creating new advocates for these special areas.

The proposed design will utilise prefabricated components to minimise site disturbance and feature external finishes chosen to minimise visibility from surrounding peaks and the access track from Lake Rodway direction. Components will be packed for road and helicopter transport to the building site for careful assembly by a minimal number of workers.

All building services and systems (ie. greywater, sewer, rubbish and recycling) will be treated and/or removed from the site so as to minimise impact on the sensitive ecology of the area. Solar power and rainwater will be collected on site, with gas providing clean and efficient heating and hot water.

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. 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.

The company currently works closely with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and proposes that a communication protocol be established between both parties to ensure no stone is left unturned in the initial development and subsequent operation of the commercial lodge and walk. It would be expected that this would extend to this proposal.

The company is also keen to work with local councils and Parks and Wildlife to ensure the broader community have full and frank understanding of 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.

Expressions of Interest Project Briefing