



# Three Capes Track Proposal

The Three Capes Track is a proposed new iconic overnight walk for Tasmania. It will follow the southern coast of the Tasman Peninsula for a total of 68 kilometres. This document provides a summary of the project, incorporating changes and refinements to the proposal since it was presented in the 2007 Feasibility Study.

## Background

In September 2006 the State Government provided \$100,000 for a feasibility study into a new overnight bushwalk on the Tasman Peninsula.

The idea was strongly aligned with the *Tasman Tourism Development Strategy 2005* that identified 'the region must impress on the market place that the Tasman Peninsula is worth visiting for more than one day and that it is strong in its natural as well as its cultural experiences.'

The feasibility study assessed the viability of such a walk in detail and explored how it might look on the ground. The study, which strongly endorsed the project, was released by the then Premier Paul Lennon and Minister Paula Vriedit in May 2007. In February 2008 a draft management plan was released for public comment. This was to amend the *Tasman National Park and Reserves Management Plan 2001* to facilitate the development of the Three Capes Track.

In the 2008/09 budget the Tasmanian Government allocated \$200,000 to further develop the project through additional planning and commencement of an expression of interest process for potential commercial partners to conduct and support aspects of the experience.

## The Proposal

The concept developed in the feasibility study was for a 5 night/6 day, hut-based, one way bushwalk encompassing three capes in the Tasman National Park: Cape Hauy, Cape Pillar and Cape Raoul.

Since the feasibility study, the walk route has been refined. The proposal is now that the walk will begin at White Beach and finish at Fortescue Bay, with a boat trip to Pirates Bay. Detailed ecological

and geomorphological studies and track surveys have provided information about route alignments, track construction methods, values such as flora and fauna, threatened species, erosion, weed management and phytosphthora management. (See the map for the latest preferred alignment.) Work will continue to further refine the route.

## Facilities

Based on the Master Concept Plan developed as part of the feasibility study, new infrastructure would likely be required to cater for 60 walkers departing each day.

### Walking track

- Construction of about 30 km of new walking track, major upgrading of about 25 km of existing track and minor upgrading of about 13 km of existing track
- New viewing/resting areas, interpretation, entry/exit signs and track signs.

### Hut sites

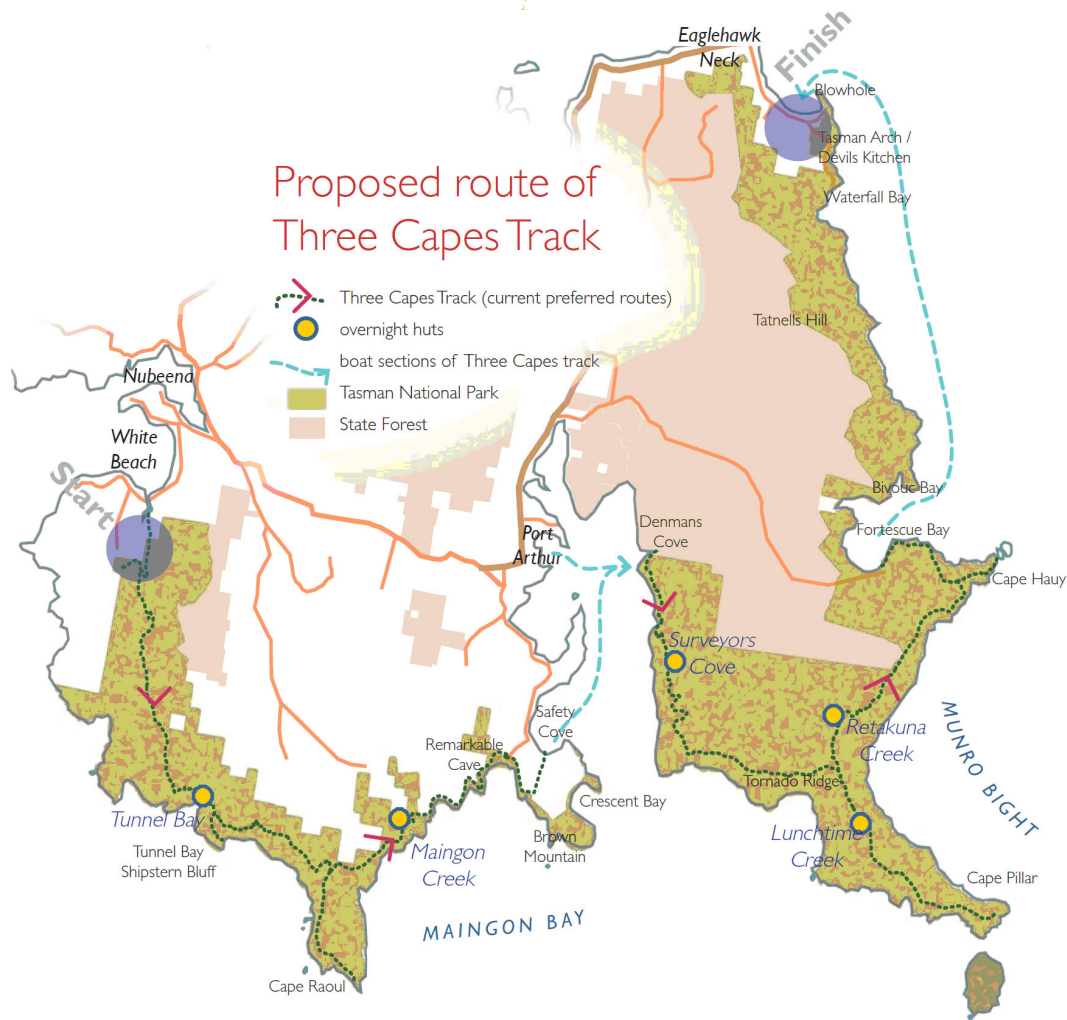
- Overnight accommodation and services (eg water, toilet) at each of the five sites in the recreation zones of the national park.
- The hut sites would incorporate both a public hut with basic facilities, a commercial hut for guided trips with higher level facilities, and track ranger accommodation.

### Access and boat landing

- Gateway facilities including walker registration, signage, shelter and other services are likely to be located at White Beach and Pirates Bay.

### Access and existing uses of area

- Walkers undertaking the Three Capes Track will pay a fee for use of the huts that will be in addition to park entry fees. The feasibility study proposed a fee of \$200 (\$40 per night).
- Considerable feedback was received on the feasibility study from users who currently undertake tent-based overnight walking to Cape Pillar and Mount Fortescue. Based on this feedback, a clear undertaking was given that overnight tent-based camping would continue to



be catered for in this area. The intention is to recognise and not take away this existing use, although it will be formalised as necessary to address environmental degradation.

- The development of the Three Capes Track will not restrict access for day walkers. The Three Capes Track is intended to increase the opportunities for day walks in the park; both by improvement to existing day walk tracks and by providing additional day walk opportunities.

There is no intention to charge any fees (additional to the park entry fee) for walkers undertaking day walks on any section of the Three Capes Track or elsewhere in the Tasman National Park.

## Next Steps

### Director's Report to the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC)

Further to the release of the draft Tasman National Park Management Plan, PWS has prepared a Director's Report, which summarises each of the public submissions and the PWS response to issues raised. It is currently

being reviewed by the RPDC. This is part of a standard statutory management planning process. The report is available on the RPDC website at [www.rpdc.tas.gov.au](http://www.rpdc.tas.gov.au).

### Identification of Commercial Interest

PWS was allocated \$200,000 in the 2008/09 budget to run a tender process for the Three Capes Track. Given that the project has yet to receive formal planning approval and is not fully funded, the tender has been split into two parts. PWS are seeking interest in the delivery of the following services; land-based transport, water-based transport and a commercially guided experience.

The first step is an 'Identification of Commercial Interest' process to gauge the level of commercial interest in the project and make further refinements.

When the project is funded and has planning approval the second step of the tender will be conducted. Step two will be a standard Tasmanian Government Expression of Interest process for the delivery of guiding services and land and water transport. An independent probity auditor will oversee the entire tender process.