

Friends of



Cradle Valley

PO Box 178

Sheffield, Tas 7306

25th September 2018

Director of National Parks and Wildlife

GPO Box 1751

Hobart, Tasmania, 7001

Submission re: Draft Dove Lake Shelter Development Proposal

The Draft Development Proposal has been carefully considered by the Friends of Cradle Valley (FoCV) and the following comments are provided in response. It should be noted that FoCV support in principle the development of a viewing shelter at Dove Lake.

1. Inclusion of Kiosk

The mid-winter meeting of FoCV was briefed on the possible developments at Dove Lake based on an earlier proposal prepared by Inspiring Places. FoCV noted that no Kiosk was included at this stage and applauded this position. Therefore, FoCV members were shocked and alarmed at the inclusion of this aspect in the current proposal. In this respect, the following points are emphasised:

- Dove Lake is within the World Heritage Wilderness Area and the associated natural values need to be respected and preserved. To date, accommodation, services, food outlets and the like have been confined to the Gateway Precinct outside the WHA. This excellent policy should be continued.
- A kiosk at Dove Lake would provide unacceptable problems with litter management and despoil the pristine wilderness which is the very attraction visitors come to observe and enjoy.
- Food and beverages are readily available to visitors at the Gateway Precinct. There is no need for replication of this amenity at Dove Lake given that visitor focus is contemplation and reflection on wilderness.
- Litter management at the Dove Lake site is already an issue. It is an expectation that visitors will take out anything that they bring in. Unfortunately, different cultures have different expectations in this respect. Provision of a kiosk at Dove Lake would significantly exacerbate the litter problem.

2. Establishment of Capacity

FoCV is supportive of the Government's policy to pursue tourism as an economic imperative. Tasmania does have the capacity and potential to increase numbers. However, care must be exercised to ensure that visitor numbers at individual locations do not exceed capacity in relation to protecting the very nature of why visitors are attracted to the location.

An excess of visitors at specific locations is already a problem at specific locations across the world. Tasmania has already exhibited strategic leadership in the management of this issue with capacity limitations being placed on the Overland Track during peak periods.

The Draft Dove Lake Shelter Development Proposal needs to address the issue of capacity at Dove Lake. Crowds of visitors jostling for the most advantageous photographic position should not be the future. There is a need to develop alternative iconic locations rather than a dependence on Cradle Mountain as viewed from Dove Lake.

3. Potential Crush Point in Viewing Shelter

Corridor 01 leads to viewing chambers 01 and then to 02 and 03 via corridor 02. The largest viewing chamber, 02, is only accessed through 03 and then becomes a dead end. The only exit for all appears to be the western end of corridor 02 particularly if corridor 01 is blocked by entering visitors. In the event of a panic/the need for emergency evacuation, the western end exit of corridor 02 could become a crush point.

It is recognised that exits have been limited to deter visitors damaging the external environment. However, from the plans it is uncertain whether there is sufficient capacity for visitors to exit the building in an emergency particularly when the building is crowded.

The above issue may well have been covered within the plan, but this concern is expressed from the limited information available.

4. Ease of Access to Bus Departure Shelter/Area

Visitor access to the Viewing Shelter at the shuttle bus arrival point appears to be very good. However, visitor access to the shuttle bus departure point does seem to present issues. Access to toilets could also be problematic.

Both the departure bus shelter and the toilet area are separate from the viewing shelter building. During inclement weather access could be an issue. The bus shelter is also too small. At 30 m² it could possibly accommodate 30 visitors (?) but

depending on weather direction some would not be sheltered. As well, the new buses have a capacity of up to 50 people (including standing capacity).

A pathway issue is also problematic for visitors returning from the lake to the toilet area and the bus departure point. The pathway planned requires visitors to go up and around while exhibited practice would indicate the likelihood of people cutting across the rehabilitated area.

Redesign should be considered to weather proof and increase the capacity of the bus departure shelter, to give immediate access between the viewing building and the toilets and departure point, and to eliminate the development of shortcuts across rehabilitated areas.

5. Bicycle Parking

It is noted that the plan contains parking provision for 20 bicycles. This provision is supported. However, the location on the footprint of the existing temporary bus shelter is not considered appropriate. This area could well be included in the area to be rehabilitated. An alternative would be the space currently allocated for the kiosk. This position would be very suited to bicycle parking as it would be highly visible and ensure greater security for the bicycles.

FoCV would appreciate every consideration of the above responses to the Draft Dove Lake Shelter Development Proposal. Further information can be gained by email (jspinks@southcom.com.au) or by telephone (Helen Thyne, President – 0400 645671 or Jim Spinks, Secretary – 0428 131943)

Jim Spinks

Secretary, Friends of Cradle Valley

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