



1st February 2018

Hon Will Hodgman, Premier and Leader of the Tasmanian Liberal Party

Hon Elise Archer, Minister for Environment and Parks, Tasmanian Liberal Party

Hon Rebecca White, Leader of the Tasmanian Labor Party

Ms Cassy O'Connor, MP, Leader of the Tasmanian Greens Party

SUBJECT: Recent unexpected changes to the Cradle Valley Master Plan (CVMP)

Background:

Friends of Cradle Valley (FoCV) has existed for many years as an organisation whose main objective is advocacy for a balanced approach to developments in the Cradle Mountain area; in essence, an approach that preserves the wilderness values that have made the area so special and so loved by people from Tasmania and beyond while it responds to increased interest and visitor numbers.

Over the past five to ten years the Parks and Wildlife Service has been developing plans for a high-class Visitor Centre to replace the inadequate temporary facilities. It is widely acknowledged that the current entry point has long since passed its use by date. PWS have consulted widely during this process with Kentish Council, Cradle Coast Authority, FoCV and the public. A great deal of thought has been given to achieving the balance between the logistics of providing for greatly increased numbers of visitors with very varied expectations, and ensuring that the natural wilderness values are not lost.

Consultation between the developers of the Cradle Valley Master Plan (CVMP) and FoCV has been ongoing over the last 2-3 years. FoCV were briefed by PWS officers on the so-called final proposals incorporated in the CVMP at its AGM on 11th November 2017, and in principle supported the directions proposed for the Gateway Precinct architectural design and particularly the concept of the new Visitor Centre which would provide a world class entry to the National Park and World Heritage Area.

It has subsequently become apparent that during November 2017 there has been a commitment by the Liberal Government to a dramatic change of direction with respect to the CVMP. **Friends of Cradle Valley wish to express the following concerns regarding the Cradle Valley Master Plan in the strongest possible terms:**

1. Since November 2017 the Liberal Government has committed to a dramatic and sudden change of plans for the development of the Cradle Gateway Precinct without consultation with all stakeholders.

Which stakeholders were consulted on their views between 8th November and 4th December about the change in direction?

Why was FoCV excluded from consultation at the last but most important stage?

2. The long-promised new Visitor Centre is now to be located some 60m away from the newly constructed loop for the shuttle buses. It will have no view and be very little bigger than the current cramped and inadequate space that visitors and PWS staff have been using for years now. The prime position, with the superb view of Cradle, has been allocated to an unspecified private development which will be decided by a tender process.

What assurances will be provided that this as yet unspecified proposal will be compatible with the wilderness values of this iconic attraction?

3. The Liberal Government has recently made a commitment to a cable car transport mode from the Gateway Precinct to Dove Lake.

This commitment has been announced prior to the completion of the Federally funded (\$1m) investigation of all possible transport options. Is that study (currently being undertaken through the Office of the Coordinator-General) now redundant?

It is difficult for our members, as key stakeholders, not to feel great disappointment and cynicism. This recent unheralded and hurried change of direction demonstrates a lack of respect by the Liberal Government for the good working relationships that have been developed around this issue through genuine consultation during the process of negotiating the Cradle Valley Master Plan.

Responses to the questions posed above would be appreciated. We also respectfully request that before any further implementation of the CVMP is undertaken, further consultation with stakeholders be held at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Jim Spinks

Secretary, FoCV