

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT



Next Iconic Walk

Tyndall Regional Reserve

Lake Beatrice Conservation Area

RAA # 5442



September 2026

Environmental Assessment Report

Proponent	Parks and Wildlife Service
Proposal	NIW trailhead, 31 km walking track, two accommodation nodes, three day shelters and several lookouts, northern and southern service and construction depots, helipads/landing areas at the service depots and accommodation nodes.
Location	East of the Tyndall Range, between Lake Plimsoll and Lake Margaret
Reserve	Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area
RAA No.	5442
Document ID	Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service 2026, Environmental Assessment Report for Reserve Activity [RAA 5442], Next Iconic Walk, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, Hobart.
Assessment type	Reserve Activity Assessment - Level 3
Related initiatives	In 2018 the Tasmanian Government committed to the development of a new multi-day walking experience.
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Report Summary

The PWS uses a Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) process to systematically evaluate a proposal's environmental, cultural and social impacts to determine consistency with legislative requirements and relevant policies that apply to reserved land managed under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and, where appropriate, crown land managed under the *Crown Lands Act 1976*.

This EAR completes the Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) of the Next Iconic Walk (NIW), proposed by the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) (the proponent) within the Tyndall Regional Reserve, Lake Beatrice Conservation Area and Crown Land. The proposal was determined to require a Level 3 RAA due to a complex array of environmental risks and high community interest.

The EAR has been prepared based on information provided in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Submissions Report. Relevant agencies of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE), specialist branches of PWS and the public were consulted, and their submissions were considered as part of the assessment.

Section 1 of this EAR summarises the proposal and Section 2 evaluates proposal need and alternatives explored. The outcomes of public and agency consultation are discussed in Section 3. Section 4 evaluates statutory requirements and PWS policy requirements, whilst Section 5 evaluates the proposal against policy requirements. Section 6 provides an evaluation of key impacts of the proposal and summarises a list of recommended additional commitments. Section 7 considers the assessment criteria relevant to the proposal and how the criteria are considered by the delegate. Section 8 documents the decision made by the Deputy Secretary, Parks and Wildlife Service.

The assessment process and milestones are summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1 Assessment Process milestones

Date	Milestone
15 December 2023	Checklist signed.
9 May 2024	Terms of Reference for preparation of EIS sent to proponent (project team).
3 March 2025	Draft EIS and supporting appendices submitted to PWS by proponent
5 March 2025	Draft EIS referred to specialist staff within NRE for advice
20 May 2025	PWS collates advice and requests proponent to address additional information requirements.
2 September 2025	Updated draft EIS and supporting appendices submitted to PWS by proponent.
11 October 2025 to 21 November 2025	PWS "Have your say" public exhibition period
26 February 2026	PWS issue Directions Letter to proponent to prepare Final EIS and submissions report
21 May 2026	Final EIS, supporting appendices and submissions report submitted to PWS by proponent.
28 July	PWS requires amendments and clarifications in Final EIS and submissions report.

14 August 2026	Updated Final EIS, supporting appendices and submissions report submitted to PWS by proponent.
7 September 2026	Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) prepared by PWS, including statement of reasons, commitments list and decisions. EAR considered for endorsement
Planning Permit	The proposal requires assessment against the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – West Coast pursuant to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. PWS will submit a Development Application with the West Coast Council following finalisation of this EAR.

1. Proposal

1.1 Proponent

The proponent is the PWS, an agency of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE). ERA advisory were contracted by the PWS NIW project team to prepare the EIS for the RAA.

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$40 million to develop the NIW.

1.2 Proposal infrastructure

The proposal includes:

- The Lake Spicer Gateway (the trailhead) – which includes a drop-off zone for walkers and turnaround area for shuttle vehicles;
- Approximately 31 kilometres of walking track – commencing at the Lake Spicer Gateway in the north and concluding at the Lake Margaret Power Station in the south;
- Two accommodation nodes near Lake Huntley and Lake Mary for up to 44 visitors, each including;
 - One communal hut (max occupancy of 22 people)
 - Six standalone pods (max 12 people)
 - Camping platforms (max 10 people)
 - A ranger hut (max 3 people).
 - helipad
- Three day-shelters – at Glacier Valley, Farquhar Ridge and adjacent to the wood stave pipeline near Lake Margaret.
- Small-scale hybrid systems of solar photovoltaic (PV), micro hydroelectricity and battery to power the accommodation nodes.
- Northern and southern construction and service depots, located of Lake Spicer Track near Anthony Road, and Lake Margaret Road in the south. The north depot necessitates upgrading of the first 200m of the Lake Spicer Track to facilitate access.

1.3 Objective and outcome

A key objective of the proposal is to generate socio-economic benefits to the west coast region, and Tasmania more broadly, through increasing visitation and the length of time visitors spend in Tasmania.

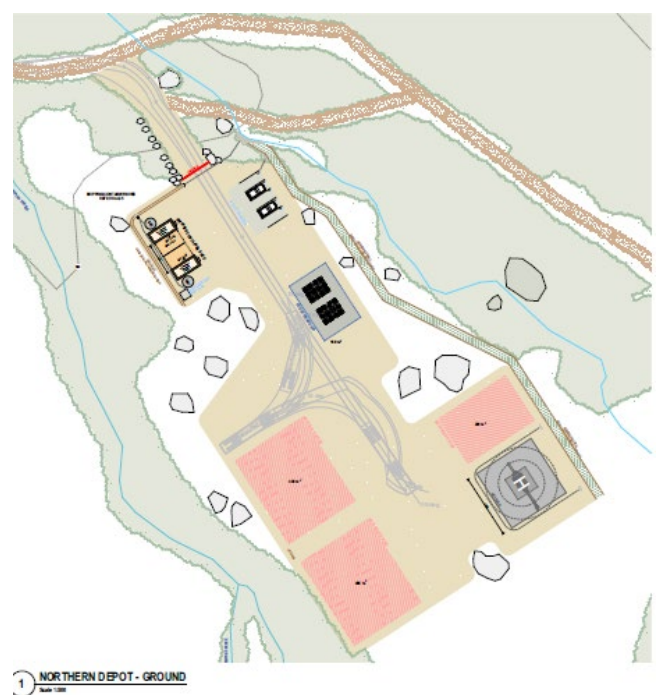
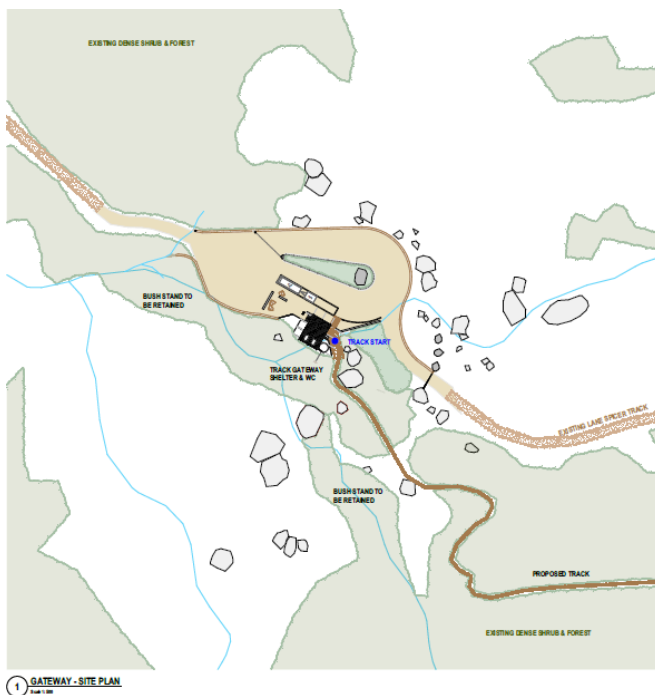
A further objective is for the Next Iconic Walk to complement and expand the existing offering of multi-day walking experiences in Tasmania, noting demand to walk Tasmania's Overland Track and Three Capes Track consistently exceeds supply during peak seasons. The proposal will allow Tasmania to better meet the market demand for serviced and supported walking experiences.

It is intended for the walk to be an intergenerational development with a positive economic legacy for the west coast and Tasmania as a whole.

1.4 Exhibited versus modified site design

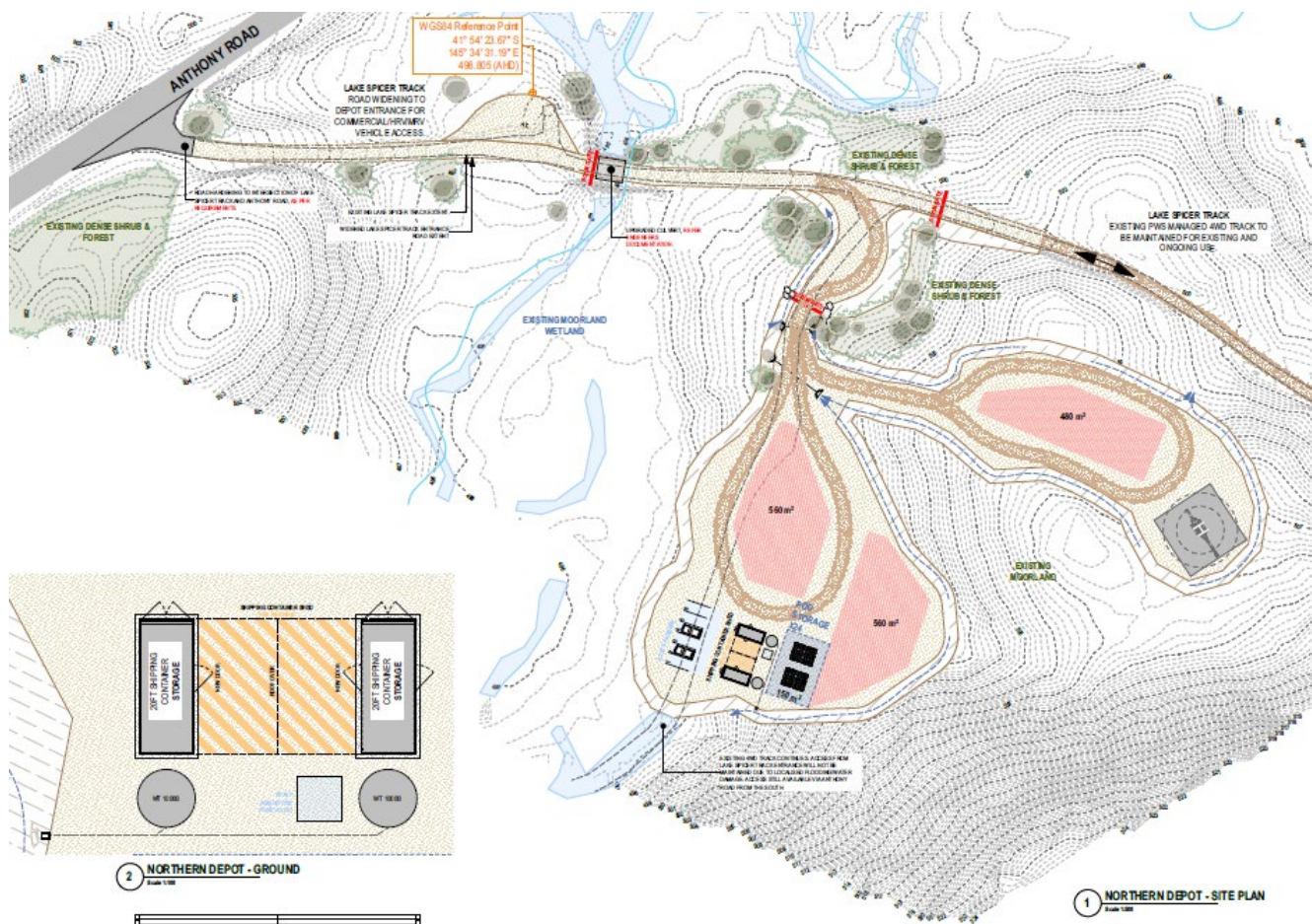
In the advertised draft EIS and appendices, the Lake Spicer Gateway (the NIW trailhead) comprised a bus drop-off and turnaround area, shelter and toilets, signage, seating and boot wash, with the Lake Spicer service and construction depot co-located near the gateway.

Upgrades were proposed to approximately 2.5 km of the Lake Spicer track, involving widening in parts and construction of passing bays, resurfacing the track with suitable base material and a compacted gravel wearing surface and improved draining including culverts at various locations.



The final EIS details a modified Lake Spicer Gateway, without the shelter and toilets. Additionally, the northern service and construction depot has been relocated away from the Lake Spicer Gateway and closer to Anthony Road.

Track upgrades works are now focussed to the first 200 m from the Anthony Road intersection to facilitate access to the north service and construction depot. Maintenance is proposed for the remainder of the Lake Spicer Track to the trail head, to provide more sustainable access for 4WD vehicles during construction and operation.



1.5 Proposal Footprint

The proposed construction and operational (permanent) footprints of the proposal within the reserves are summarised in Table 2.

Proposed footprints on Crown Land and Hydro land are summarised in Table 3.

Table 2: Proposed footprint calculated areas – Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area

Component of Development	Proposed construction footprint (m ²)	Proposed operational footprint (m ²)
Lake Spicer Track (200 m upgrade area)	1,902 (includes existing 750 footprint)	1,118 (includes existing 750 footprint)
Lake Spicer Gateway	2,147 (inclusive of existing 700 footprint)	1,702 (includes existing 700 footprint)
Walking track (within reserved land)	23,000 ¹	17,250 ²
Lake Huntley accommodation node	2,785	1,343
Lake Huntley node Hazard Management Area		5,447
Lake Mary accommodation node	2,935	1,569

Lake Mary node Hazard Management Area		5,664
Glacier Valley Shelter	58	12
Farquhar Ridge Shelter	90	26
North Service and Construction depot	8,704	7,550
Total Footprint Area	41,621	41,681

1. Walking track footprint is based on an averaged construction width of 1,000 mm.
2. Walking Track footprint is based on an averaged operational width of 750 mm

Table 3: Proposed footprint calculated areas – Outside of reserved land

Component of Development	Proposed construction footprint (m ²)	Proposed operational footprint (m ²)
Pipeline Shelter (Hydro Land)	89	27
Lake Margaret Power Station Shelter (Hydro Land)	161	66
Walking track (outside reserved land – Hydro Land)	8,000	6,000
South service and construction depot (Crown Land)	8,991	8,238
Total Footprint Area	58,862	56,012

2. Need for the proposal and alternatives

2.1 Need for proposal

Section 3 of the EIS discusses the rationale for the proposal, which will fulfil an election commitment from the Tasmanian Government to respond to a clear need for another iconic, multi-day, hut-based walking experience to complement and diversify the existing multi-day walking experiences offered in Tasmania. Market research undertaken by Instinct and Reason in 2025 (Appendix BB) confirmed there is continued strong demand for the NIW.

The proposal is intended to generate socio-economic benefits to the west coast region and Tasmania more broadly, through increasing visitation and the length of time visitors spend in Tasmania.

2.2 Alternatives

Section 3.2 of the EIS provides an overview of the process undertaken to develop the proposal, which considered a range of alternative approaches to delivering Tasmania's Next Iconic multi-day bushwalk.

This included a public consultation process in 2018 inviting submissions of ideas for Tasmania's NIW. 35 options were considered in a Location Assessment Report (Appendix P), which recommended proceeding with market testing and feasibility for a walk in the Tyndall Range area.

A feasibility study (Appendix O) compared several development options for the NIW. Whilst other options considered in the feasibility study returned a strong benefit-cost ratio for the West Coast, Option 1 (this proposal) was the only option that returned a positive benefit-cost ratio for Tasmania, meaning the proposed NIW was the only option that would not result in an ongoing financial liability for the Tasmanian Government. This proposal was selected on the basis that the NIW operation needs to be fully funded using revenue generated by walker fees to ensure a sustainable, positive economic legacy for the west coast and Tasmania.

An overview of alternative routes considered is detailed in section 3.2.3 of the EIS and demonstrates appropriate consideration of potential impacts (avoiding sensitive alpine vegetation) and construction and operational requirements. Sections 3.2.4 and 3.2.5 detail aspects that have informed the siting and design of accommodation nodes and buildings to optimise visitor experience, minimise impacts and capitalise on natural site attributes that contribute to a functional and efficient operation.

The final EIS and submissions report has been amended to provide further context and justification for the proposal design in response to public submissions raising concerns regarding equity of access to the NIW and the scale of development proposed.

Section 3.2.2.1 recognises the need to provide a low-cost option, particularly for the Tasmanian bushwalking community and low-income groups, but cites background research finding that demand for a multi-day bushwalk with only basic facilities is considerably less than for hut-based walks with a higher level of facilities and services. The NIW proposal offers three accommodation options, with PWS aiming to reduce the tent-based fee as much as possible by using the fees for hut-based and standalone pod facilities to subsidise and maximise equity of access as far as practical.

Section 3.2.2.2 of the EIS notes there are many existing bushwalking options with limited infrastructure and services that provide self-reliant recreational experiences in Tasmania, whilst this proposal seeks to build on the growing popularity of hut-based walks with some comfort and convenience that appeals to a different market. PWS research and business planning determined that the accommodation types and facilities proposed are required to produce a viable walking product. Ongoing design refinements have encompassed a range of considerations, including the need to balance a quality experience without excessive design features or disturbance footprint.

It is acknowledged that market research has confirmed demand for the NIW and the EIS demonstrates a robust process of considering alternatives and balancing impacts to design a viable walking product that achieves the stated objectives – to generate socio-economic benefits through increased visitation and expand the existing offering of multi-day walking experiences in Tasmania.

3. Public and agency consultation

3.1 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken throughout the development of the proposal, including during location selection, the feasibility study, design and approvals. Section 4 of the EIS details a range of engagement activities conducted throughout the project planning phase, with a variety of identified stakeholders. A series of public information sessions were held in late 2024 in Queenstown, Ulverstone, Launceston and Hobart.

Targeted engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders was conducted by Jenname (Appendix CC).

The EIS demonstrates a substantial level of engagement with key stakeholders, communities and individuals; though submissions from the climbing community indicate a perception that engagement with that group was limited.

3.2 Department referrals

The following branches within Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania have been consulted and reviewed EIS documentation relevant to their specialties throughout all stages of the assessment process:

- Environment Strategic Business Unit, Environment, Heritage and Land Division
- Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
- PWS Tourism, Experience and Visitor Services
- PWS Landscape Programs
- PWS Major Projects and Infrastructure
- PWS Property Services
- PWS Northwest Region

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council (NPWAC), established under Division 2 of the NPRMA were also consulted throughout all stages of the assessment process.

3.3 EPBC Act Referral

The proposal was publicly advertised as part of the DCCEEW referral process under the EPBC Act (2026/10415) between 28 January and 11 February 2026. The DCCEEW determined the proposal was not a controlled action on 7 April 2026.

3.4 PWS public consultation of the EIS

Public submissions were invited on the draft EIS during a six-week period, from 11 October 2025 to 21 November 2025. The consultation involved a public notice in three regional newspapers (The Advocate, The Mercury and The Examiner), as well as a social media post on Facebook to alert the public that the draft EIS was available on the 'Have your say' page of the PWS website.

A total of 114 public submissions were received. The most frequently raised themes related to:

- impacts on wilderness character and naturalness;
- commercialisation of public land;
- equity of access and affordability;
- the scale, design and location of proposed infrastructure;
- project funding, economic justification and viability; and
- environmental and ecological impacts, including concerns regarding indirect or facilitated impacts on the Tyndall Plateau arising from increased visitation.

Concerns were also commonly raised regarding visitor safety and the suitability of the Tyndall Range as a location for a highly promoted multi-day walking product, impacts on existing recreational users, helicopter reliance and operations, and the adequacy of consultation, governance and assessment processes.

Several submissions expressed the view that the current reservation status does not adequately reflect the values of the area. Some submitters considered these values comparable to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the adjacent Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) and advocated for a higher level of statutory protection.

A small number of submissions raised concerns regarding Aboriginal heritage values, cultural interpretation and consultation processes.

Eight submissions expressed support for the proposal, generally citing opportunities to increase access to nature-based recreation, support regional tourism and economic activity, and encourage greater appreciation of Tasmania's natural environment. Some supportive submissions also advocated for affordable access arrangements and environmentally sensitive design outcomes.

The raw submissions were provided to the NIW project team for consideration and preparation of a submissions report to respond to issues raised.

3.4.1 Submissions report

The NIW Project Team prepared a Submissions Report (August 2026) summarising and responding to the issues raised through public consultation and documenting amendments made to the Final EIS. While no material amendments were made to the proposal as a result of submissions, the Final EIS includes additional mitigation and monitoring commitments, and further information, clarification and justification were provided in response to most issues raised. Some issues raised during consultation, including broader questions of government expenditure and public policy, fall outside the matters capable of being directly influenced through the Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) process.

Socio-economic benefits, project feasibility, equity of access, funding, commercialisation

Following public consultation, the EIS was updated to provide additional information supporting the project rationale, including further detail regarding project feasibility and viability, market demand, projected socio-economic benefits, and new market research findings (Appendix BB). Additional information and justification have also been provided regarding the proposed scale of development, target markets, operational model and pricing considerations in response to concerns regarding affordability and equity of access.

The submissions report clarifies that the proposal is intended to remain a publicly owned and operated walking product, primarily marketed at independent walkers. The submissions report and updated EIS provide substantially improved information relating to these topics, which better support the rationale for the proposed level of service and operating model.

Impacts to existing recreational setting

The revised EIS includes a new section addressing impacts to the existing recreational setting, together with updates to related sections concerning visual and noise impacts. Additional justification and clarification have also been provided regarding the Visual Impact Assessment, as well as a commitment to extending the Lake Huntley no-fly zone to the western side of the lake to further mitigate potential noise and safety impacts. The response also links these matters to the broader project rationale, including the need to balance impact avoidance and mitigation with the delivery of a viable walking product.

The response clarifies that access to existing recreation opportunities, including bushwalking, camping and climbing within the Tyndall Range area, will remain available and that restrictions will only apply to the proposed NIW track.

Visitor Risk

The submissions report provides a response to weather-related safety and operational concerns as well as helicopter operations in proximity to recreational users. Further mitigations have been proposed in the revised EIS, including enhanced weather communications and extension of no-fly zones around the cliffs of Lake Huntley along with updates to visitor risk management and emergency management procedures. The information provides a clearer understanding of how visitor risks would be managed and demonstrates how these matters have been considered in the design and operation of the proposal. Potential indirect safety implications associated with visitation changes upon the adjacent Tyndall plateau recreational setting will continue to be managed in accordance with relevant PWS policies (Walking Track Management Strategy, Reserve Standards Framework Policy and Procedures, Visitor Risk Management Policy) in line with available resources and capacity.

Environmental Impacts

The submissions report provides a significantly expanded assessment of many of the environmental matters raised in public submissions. Additional information has been provided regarding the operation and potential environmental effects of the proposed micro-hydro systems, while impacts to threatened species and vegetation communities are supported by further analysis of the proposed micro-siting approach, estimated disturbance footprint and likely significance of residual impacts. New mitigation and monitoring measures have also been incorporated into the revised EIS to minimise impacts to threatened vegetation communities associated with installation of micro-hydro infrastructure, and to monitor and manage potential off-track route development and associated biosecurity risks.

Indirect impacts to Tyndall Plateau

Many submissions raised the potential for the project to stimulate independent visitation growth to the Tyndall plateau and concern for long-term degradation of natural values and existing recreation experiences. While the submissions report acknowledges this as a management issue for PWS to prioritise according to available resources and risks, no specific mitigation measures have been presented to address these potential indirect impacts.

Wilderness character

Wilderness character was the most prominent issue raised in public submissions, with concern that the proposal would diminish the area's wild, remote and largely undeveloped character through the introduction of infrastructure and increased visitation. The submissions report acknowledges these concerns and references the addition of a Recreation Setting section within the revised EIS, which considers how visual, and noise impacts might affect the recreational experience for users of the existing Tyndall Range recreational setting. The revised EIS also notes that existing mining, road and other developments already influence perceptions of naturalness and remoteness within the broader landscape.

Many submissions raised broader concerns regarding the potential loss of wilderness character beyond quantifiable impacts, highlighting intrinsic intangible social existence value and experiential qualities such as solitude, remoteness, naturalness, self-reliance, challenge and opportunities for immersion in a largely undeveloped landscape. Some submissions explicitly suggested that wilderness impacts were inadequately assessed in the EIS, arguing insufficient consideration of wilderness quality and intrinsic wilderness character.

Concern was raised that the assessment did not explicitly assess potential impacts on modelled wilderness quality values in the project area. The PWS uses the Tasmanian Wilderness Index (modified National Wilderness Inventory model) to broadly quantify elements of naturalness and remoteness across the landscape for management purposes. PWS policy recognises significant wilderness recreation values in areas with a wilderness quality rating of 12 or greater and provides for use of the model in assessing potential impacts to wilderness recreation settings arising from use and development proposals.

The Submissions Report explains that the proposal is permissible within the existing reserve tenure, noting that the affected reserve classes are not managed to preserve wilderness character in the same manner as National Parks under the NPRMA.

Notwithstanding the statutory and policy context, and recognising that perceptions of wilderness are inherently subjective, public submissions demonstrated that the area is highly valued for its perceived wilderness and remote character.

Other issues

The Submissions Report provided responses to other issues raised, including the transparency and operation of the Reserve Activity Assessment process, Aboriginal community engagement and cultural interpretation, opportunities for heritage interpretation and telecommunications consideration.

4. Evaluation of statutory requirements and policies

4.1 Statutory Context

The key statutory framework for managing Tasmania's reserve estate is the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* (NPRMA). Section 30 of the NPRMA requires that the managing authority (PWS), for any reserved land for which there is not a management plan, is to manage that land:

- (i) in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the land was reserved listed in Schedule 1 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*; and
- (ii) having regard to the management objectives for the class of that reserved land listed in Schedule 1 of the NPRMA.

A large portion of the development and activity is proposed in the Tyndall Regional Reserve and the Lake Beatrice Conservation Area, reserves which do not have a statutory management plan. The compatibility of this proposal with the reserve purpose and objectives is evaluated in sections 4.2 and 4.3 below.

The southern service and construction depot and an approximately 250 m section of the walking track (south of Lake Margaret) is located on crown land which is managed under the *Crown Lands Act 1976* (CLA).

Approximately 8 km of the proposed walking track, along with the Pipeline Shelter and the Lake Margaret Power Station Shelter are located on Hydro Tasmania vested land. Whilst the assessment evaluates the entire proposal to consider off-reserve aspects that may impact reserve values, the decision in Section 8 of this EAR only applies to activities on reserved and crown land. Development and activities within Hydro land will be subject to permission by Hydro, and the EIS states that the Hydro Tasmania board approved the concept designs for infrastructure and proposed walk operations in June 2025. It is noted that PWS and Hydro Tasmania will need to enter a long-term licence/lease arrangement to enable PWS to develop and operate the NIW components on Hydro vested land.

4.2 Legislative Purpose of Reservation

The *Nature Conservation Act 2002* (NCA) is the regulatory mechanism in Tasmania through which land is proclaimed as reserved land. Schedule 1 of the NCA sets out the purpose of reservation for the various classes of reserved land. PWS is bound by the NPRMA to ensure that activities on reserved land are consistent with the purpose of reservation.

4.2.1 Tyndall Regional Reserve Purpose

For a Regional Reserve, the purpose of reservation is:

Mineral exploration and the development of mineral deposits in the area of land, and the controlled use of other natural resources of that area of land, including special species timber harvesting, while protecting and maintaining the natural and cultural values of that area of land.

The proposal will not inhibit the issuing of mineral exploration licences or mining leases under the *Mineral Resources Development Act 1995* (MRDA).

The proposal does not affect any existing mining leases. The proposal intersects with several Category 1 (Metallic Minerals) exploration licences that have been granted over reserved land:

EL28/2001 – expires 10/5/2027

EL16/2018 – expires 16/12/2026

EL11/2016 – expires 2/4/2027

EL 11/2025 – expires 1/12/2030

The proposal is located within the Mt Read Strategic Prospectivity Zone, established under the *Mining (Strategic Prospectivity Zones) Act 1993*, which ensures access for mining purposes to areas of the state having high potential for mineral exploration.

The EIS states that the proposal will not preclude exploration activities and the utilisation of mineral resources. However, the EIS has identified the potential for new exploration and mining operations which may pose a risk to the NIW proposal. The EIS states this risk is deemed as acceptable on the confidence that some form of compromise could be reached should mining or exploration be proposed in the direct vicinity of the proposal site, which would significantly impact the proposal and would need to be addressed at the higher governmental level should the scenario arise. However, it is noted that statutory rights under the MRDA can be exercised within Regional Reserves and there is currently no legal mechanism to prevent these activities from impacting on the NIW, though new statutory provisions could be explored to protect the NIW investment, such as a Statutory Management Plan.

The reserve is adjacent to and intersected by features managed by Hydro Tasmania in relation to the Lake Margaret power station. The NIW proposal will not preclude activities associated with hydro-electric power generation. It is noted that electricity entities have the ability exercise statutory rights in relation to s.52 of the *Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995* (ESI) within a regional reserve, which could theoretically impact on the NIW.

No other controlled use of natural resources currently occurs within the reserve and the proposal would not preclude this purpose.

Potential impacts to natural and cultural values of the reserve are identified and assessed in the EIS, with a detailed evaluation provided in Section 6 of this EAR. The outcomes of the evaluation demonstrate the proposal is likely to be consistent with the legislated purpose of reservation for the Tyndall Regional Reserve.

4.2.2 Lake Beatrice Conservation Area Purpose

For a Conservation Area, the purpose of reservation is:

The protection and maintenance of the natural and cultural values of the area of land and the sustainable use of the natural resources of that area of land including special species timber harvesting.

The purpose of reservation is similar to a Regional Reserve, without specific emphasis on mineral development, but is also subject to exploration licenses and the Mt Read Strategic Prospectivity Zone. The proposal will not preclude the sustainable use of natural resources within the Conservation Area, and statutory rights under the MRDA and ESI would prevail.

The outcomes of the evaluation in Section 6 of this EAR demonstrate the proposal is likely to be consistent with the legislated purpose of reservation for the Lake Beatrice Conservation Area.

4.3 Reserve Management Objectives

Section 30 of the NPRMA requires PWS to have regard to the reserve management objectives when considering an activity on reserved land.

The following table summarises the key outcomes of the assessment presented in the EIS and evaluated in this EAR in relation to the reserve management objectives.

Table 4: Summary of compatibility of proposal with reserve management objectives

Objective	Proposal Compatibility
to conserve natural biological diversity;	The reserves contain a high degree of important natural biological diversity including threatened flora, threatened vegetation communities and sensitive, paleoendemic alpine and sub-alpine flora. The mitigation, management and monitoring measures proposed in the EIS, together with the additional commitments recommended in Section 6 of this EAR are expected to conserve natural biological diversity within the reserves.
to conserve geological diversity;	The proposal is not expected to result in significant impacts on the Tyndall Range Glacial Features or Western Tasmania Blanket Bogs geoconservation sites within the project area. The mitigation, management and monitoring measures proposed in the EIS, together with the additional commitments recommended in Section 6 of this EAR are expected to conserve the geoheritage values within the reserves.
to preserve the quality of water and protect catchments;	The proposal incorporates design measures aimed at protecting water quality and minimising potential impacts to aquatic ecosystem values. The mitigation measures presented in the EIS, together with additional commitments recommended in Section 6 of this EAR are expected to protect water catchments within the reserves.
to conserve sites or areas of cultural significance;	The proposal has been located and designed to avoid two Occupied Aboriginal rock shelters that were recorded in the area. The mitigation, management and monitoring measures proposed in the EIS are expected to conserve areas of cultural significance.
to provide for the controlled use of natural resources including special species timber harvesting; (and including as an adjunct to utilisation of marine resources) (<i>conservation area only</i>);	The proposal does not preclude the controlled use of natural resources (see section 4.2.1 of this EAR).
to provide for (mineral) exploration activities and utilisation of mineral resources;	Mineral exploration licences extend over the project area and reserves. The proposal does not preclude mineral exploration or utilisation activities (see section 4.2.1).
to provide for the taking, on an ecologically sustainable basis (and where appropriate), of designated game species for commercial or private purposes, or both;	The proposal does not preclude this use, noting that the proposal site is not suitable for the taking of game and is not currently used for this purpose.
to provide for commercial or industrial uses of coastal areas (<i>conservation area only</i>);	The proposal is not within a coastal area.
to encourage education based on the purposes of reservation and the natural or cultural values of the (reserves), or both	The proposal will include the provision of interpretation tools to encourage self-directed education about reserve values including Aboriginal culture, settler and industrial heritage, geological heritage and local flora and fauna.
to encourage research, particularly that which furthers the purposes of reservation;	The proposal has directly encouraged research via a range of studies commissioned to inform the EIS (see appendices). Information garnered by studies will aid in the ongoing protection and maintenance of natural and cultural values within the reserves.

Objective	Proposal Compatibility
to protect the (reserves) against, and rehabilitate the (reserves) following, adverse impacts such as those of fire, introduced species, diseases and soil erosion on the (reserves) natural and cultural values and on assets within and adjacent to the (reserves);	The proposal design, together with the mitigation, management and monitoring measures outlined in the EIS and the additional commitments recommended in Section 6 of this EAR, are expected to protect the reserve's natural and cultural values from significant adverse impacts. Proposed monitoring and adaptive management measures will facilitate the identification and remediation of any unforeseen impacts and support rehabilitation where required.
to encourage appropriate tourism, recreational use and enjoyment (including private uses) consistent with the conservation of the (reserves) natural and cultural values;	The key objective of the project is to encourage tourism, recreational use and enjoyment of the reserve. Evaluations in Section 6 of this EAR demonstrate that the proposed NIW is expected to be consistent with the conservation of natural and cultural (including existing recreation) values.
to encourage cooperative management programs with Aboriginal people in areas of significance to them in a manner consistent with the purposes of reservation and the other management objectives;	Ongoing engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people regarding the NIW has revealed the need for ongoing consultation, recognition of Aboriginal cultural values, and the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Interpretation Plan for the NIW. Further engagement will occur to determine how a cooperative management program can be best prepared to meet this objective.

In summary, the proposal is not inconsistent with the legislated management objectives for the Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area.

4.4 PWS Recreational Standards Framework

The PWS aims to provide a range of different recreational settings consistent with maintaining other reserve values. The Recreational Standards Framework (RSF) is a PWS policy and procedures for applying a systematic approach to assessing and balancing the provision of a range of recreational opportunities with the conservation of other reserve values, including natural, cultural, and existing and potential recreation opportunities of significance.

The RSF is a spatial representation of the intended conservation policy outcomes, visitor experience, appropriate level of service standards (and management interventions) and associated level of acceptable risk within a reserve setting and describes a range of recreational settings, ranging from highly modified visitor services zones through to dedicated wilderness management zones.

Under the policy, the introduction of a new recreational opportunity within the reserve estate must be evaluated to ensure that biophysical, social and managerial impacts are understood and appropriately balanced. This evaluation is used to characterise the opportunity into a recreational setting (RSF zone).

4.4.1 Current Recreation Setting

The location of the NIW development corridor is currently not managed as a recreation zone under the RSF policy and is within a natural, undeveloped setting, though bushwalking in the area is known to occur, particularly on route to Mt Sedgewick via the Tyndall plateau.

The PWS currently manages the following adjacent recreational settings:

Lake Spicer Track is a Four-wheel driving track that is rated Difficult (PWS website) – for experienced and licenced users with registered high clearance 4WD vehicles and motorbikes only. The track is advertised on the PWS website as a 27 km return track that is accessed via key from the West Coast PWS office.

The designated RSF zone is **Day Use Getaway – Basic**. The Acceptable Risk Level (ARL) is Substantial. The desired outcome for this recreation setting is:

Prepared visitors find moderately challenging experiences in largely natural settings.

Tyndall Range Plateau provides self-reliant bushwalking and camping opportunities with a low level of management intervention. Walking tracks are generally maintained to T3, T4 and Route Standard where resourcing permits (PWS Walking Track Classification System 2021). There are no toilets, hardened campsites or visitor facilities provided and the area is also utilised for rock-climbing and other self-reliant pursuits. While recreational opportunities associated with the Tyndall Plateau are not actively promoted by PWS, pedestrian counter data indicates visitation has increased since 2020. This is likely attributable to a combination of factors, including increased awareness of the area associated with the NIW proposal, publication of the *Abels* walking guides, inclusion of Lake Huntley in the 2021 Tasmanian climbing guidebook, and increasing accessibility of information through social media and online platforms.

The Tyndall Range area is recognised as a high conservation value area due to its paleoendemic flora, evolutionary significance and glacial landforms, which contribute to scenic and scientific values.

While the Tyndall Plateau is valued by many users for its perceived wilderness qualities, the Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area are not managed under statutory wilderness management objectives. Under the PWS Recreational Standards Framework (RSF), wilderness recreation settings are generally associated with areas possessing a Wilderness Quality rating of 12 or greater, characterised by a high degree of naturalness and remoteness, very low levels of use, and minimal management intervention. The Tyndall Plateau is not identified as a wilderness recreation setting under the RSF and is instead managed as a **Bushcamping Getaway – Remote** recreation setting.

The designated RSF zone for tracks on the Tyndall Range Plateau is Bushcamping Getaway – Remote. The Acceptable Risk Level (ARL) is Severe. The desired outcomes for this setting are:

- Self-reliant recreational experiences possible in natural areas where some modifications are evident.*
- Self-reliant visitors can find challenging experiences in natural settings.*

4.4.2 Proposed Recreation Setting

The proposed recreational opportunity (see Sections 1 and 2) is consistent with RSF zone Bushcamping Getaway – mid. The desired outcome of this RSF zone is:

- Prepared visitors find moderately challenging experiences in largely natural settings.*

Detailed evaluation of biophysical, social and managerial characteristics and impacts associated with the NIW and adjacent Tyndall plateau recreational setting have been undertaken in section 5 of this EAR. The evaluations outline potential impacts and associated mitigations that must be implemented to ensure the NIW is compatible with maintaining the existing recreational setting and experience associated with the Tyndall plateau.

The evaluation identified the following additional mitigations that are recommended commitments of approval:

- PWS will develop and implement a management strategy to support monitoring and adaptive management of unanticipated and cumulative impacts across the broader Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area. The strategy will include a framework of consultation with relevant recreational user groups and stakeholders.
- Expansion of the no-flight zone over Lake Huntley to include the entire lake boundary to minimise noise amplification within the Cirque as far as practicable.

4.5 PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy and Procedures 2023

The PWS Visitor Risk Management (VRM) policy recognises the conflict that can arise in conserving reserve values whilst providing a range of recreational opportunities that may present inherent risks to visitors, and the need to manage those risks to ensure safe and rewarding experiences, commensurate with the recreational setting.

PWS utilises the VRM Policy in conjunction with the RSF policy to guide management decisions on the type of visitor experience, level of infrastructure and management intervention and the level of risk that is acceptable in different recreational settings. Through this specialised approach, PWS aims to offer a wide range of recreational opportunities ranging from highly managed experiences in highly modified settings with very little risk to visitors, through to experiences in largely unmodified, remote or wilderness settings with limited management intervention where a higher level of risk tolerance is inherently appropriate.

Under the VRM and RSF policies, RSF zones are assigned an Acceptable Risk Level (ARL), which specifies the highest level of risk that is consistent with the recreational opportunity provided. Control measures must be implemented to address hazards at a risk level above the ARL. There are four acceptable risk levels (neutral, moderate, substantial and severe) that are applied to each RSF zone.

The proposed NIW hut nodes and walking track corridor RSF zones will correspond with a 'Moderate' Acceptable Risk Level. This is consistent with the ARL assigned to the Overland Track walk.

Visitor Risk has been addressed in Section 6.6 of the EIS and an indicative Visitor Hazard Register and Risk Control Plan for the proposal has been prepared (Appendix Q). The Visitor Hazard Register and Risk Control Plan outline anticipated risks with indicative mitigations that have been assessed by PWS officers as likely to achieve the designated ARL. It is acknowledged that the Visitor Risk and Control Plan will be a dynamic, live document as the project moves through tendering, construction and operation stages.

The project team will need to apply appropriate risk mitigation controls to ensure the ARL is achieved and comply with the VRM policy.

Visitor Risk is evaluated in Section 5.5 of this EAR.

5. Evaluation of key values and impacts

The assessment of key environmental, cultural and recreational issues relevant to the proposal have been evaluated in this report, namely:

- Flora
- Aquatic Ecosystems
- Recreation Setting
- Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Visitor Risk
- Fauna, Geoconservation and Bushfire

These issues are evaluated in the following subsections.

5.1 Flora

Values and Potential Impacts

The proposal area supports 16 native vegetation communities in generally very good condition, including the threatened *Athrotaxis selaginoides* rainforest (RKP) and *Athrotaxis selaginoides*–*Nothofagus gunnii* short rainforest (RKF) communities listed under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. The area contains a high proportion of endemic flora species, including several paleoendemic species of recognised conservation significance. The Tyndall Range has been identified as one of Tasmania's most important areas for paleoendemic alpine flora and may function as an important refugia under future climate change scenarios.

The proposal will result in direct disturbance to native vegetation through construction of the walking track, accommodation nodes, associated infrastructure and Bushfire Hazard Management Areas. Key impact pathways include trampling and vegetation loss associated with construction and visitation, spread of weeds and pathogens, altered fire regimes, and indirect impacts associated with increased recreational activity in the broader Tyndall Range area. The proposal also has the potential to facilitate increased visitation to the Tyndall Plateau, which supports highly sensitive alpine vegetation communities and rare paleoendemic flora species. Construction and operation of the walk also present an elevated bushfire ignition risk, which has potential to impact conservation significant, fire intolerant ecological values in the wider landscape.

Two threatened flora species listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*, *Orites milliganii* and *Planocarpa sulcata*, occur within the proposal area. While direct impacts are intended to be avoided through micro-siting, some residual impacts may occur where complete avoidance is not practicable.

Management measures and commitments proposed

The EIS incorporates a range of measures intended to avoid, minimise and monitor impacts to vegetation communities and threatened flora. Key measures include:

- micro-siting of infrastructure and tracks to avoid threatened flora where possible;
- establishment of exclusion zones around sensitive values;
- rehabilitation of temporary disturbance areas;
- avoidance of overstorey clearing associated with micro-hydro infrastructure;
- visitor education and ranger briefings to discourage off-track walking;
- post-construction monitoring of disturbed areas and rehabilitation success;
- implementation of a Biosecurity Plan to minimise the spread of weeds and pathogens; and
- preparation of a Bushfire Protection Plan to address bushfire risk associated with the development.

Submissions

Submissions raised concerns regarding:

- the scale of vegetation disturbance within a sensitive and largely intact landscape;
- impacts to threatened flora species and threatened vegetation communities;
- the conservation significance of palaeoendemic flora in the area;
- spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and other weeds and pathogens;
- increased visitation pressure and associated trampling of sensitive alpine vegetation;
- indirect impacts to the Tyndall Plateau arising from promotion of the NIW; and
- potential impacts of asset protection and bushfire management activities on conservation-significant vegetation communities.

Evaluation

The EIS and Natural Values Assessment (NVA) (Appendix G) provide a detailed assessment of potential impacts to vegetation communities and threatened flora and incorporate appropriate mitigation and monitoring commitments to minimise impacts. The commitment to micro-site infrastructure to avoid threatened flora wherever practicable is supported and is likely to minimise direct impacts. Additional information provided in the Submissions Report improves understanding of the likely extent of residual impacts to *Orites milliganii* and *Planocarpa sulcata*. The estimated level of impact is expected to be low and unlikely to materially affect the conservation status of either species, subject to implementation of the proposed micro-siting commitments and any permits required under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*.

Direct impacts to the threatened rainforest communities are expected to be minor and restricted to temporary trampling disturbance associated with installation and maintenance of micro-hydro infrastructure. A commitment to avoid clearing trees with a trunk diameter >5 cm, or impacts to the overstorey has been formalised in the Final EIS.

An additional commitment is recommended (Appendix 1), in line with recommendations in the NVA, to avoid or minimise impacts to distinctive paleoendemic flora species, including *Athrotaxis selaginoides*, *Diselma archeri*, *Nothofagus gunnii* and *Agastachys odorata*, to maximise conservation outcomes.

The effectiveness of many of the proposed mitigation and monitoring measures will depend on their successful incorporation into, and implementation through, the final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP). Clear translation of the EIS mitigation, monitoring and management measures, along with the additional commitments, into these management plans will be important to ensure avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management measures are effectively implemented throughout construction and operation.

A principal residual risk relates to indirect impacts on sensitive alpine vegetation and paleoendemic flora associated with increased visitation to the broader Tyndall Range environment. The EIS includes commitments relating to visitor education, ranger briefings and monitoring of informal route development; however, these measures are primarily directed toward NIW visitors and do not specifically address the potential for increased independent visitation to the Tyndall Plateau.

The Submissions Report acknowledges that increased visitation to the Tyndall Plateau is a management issue that PWS may need to address through prioritisation of available resources. While the magnitude of any visitation increase is uncertain, the potential for associated impacts to sensitive plateau values remains. Accordingly, an additional commitment is recommended requiring preparation and implementation of a Tyndall Range management strategy incorporating monitoring, reporting and adaptive management of cumulative impacts to natural and recreational values across the broader landscape (Appendix 1).

Biosecurity remains a key residual risk. The proposed Biosecurity Plan is comprehensive and is expected to substantially reduce the likelihood of weed and disease spread. However, given the widespread occurrence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* within the project area, the susceptibility of surrounding vegetation communities, and the uncertainty regarding threatened species susceptibility, additional pathogen-specific management, monitoring and response measures are considered appropriate. An additional commitment to refine the Biosecurity Plan, including specific management of *Phytophthora* risks and monitoring of threatened flora populations, is recommended (Appendix 1).

Bushfire management also represents a residual risk because the long-term ecological consequences of fuel management activities on conservation-significant vegetation communities and paleoendemic flora remain uncertain. While the proposal includes preparation of a Bushfire Protection Plan, PWS should, in addition, consider protection of reserve values, interactions between bushfire and *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, and maintenance of appropriate fire regimes as part of the broader PWS approach to fire management. Additional restrictions on hot works are proposed in the commitments, in line with standard PWS bushfire prevention procedures (Appendix 1).

Conclusion

The EIS identifies and assesses the principal risks to vegetation communities and threatened flora and proposes a comprehensive suite of mitigation, management and monitoring measures. Implementation of these measures, together with the additional commitments identified in Appendix 1, is expected to substantially reduce potential impacts. Successful implementation of these measures through the final CEMP, OEMP and associated management frameworks will be critical to achieving the outcomes relied upon by this assessment.

Key ongoing management considerations relate to biosecurity, bushfire management, and indirect impacts to sensitive alpine vegetation communities and paleoendemic flora on the Tyndall Plateau associated with increased visitation. The additional commitments recommended in Appendix 1 provide a framework for managing these matters through monitoring, reporting and adaptive management throughout the life of the proposal.

5.2 Aquatic Ecosystems

Values and Potential Impacts

The proposal area contains high-quality aquatic ecosystems. Potential impact pathways include erosion and sedimentation associated with construction activities, stormwater and greywater discharge associated with operation of the accommodation nodes, and changes to natural flow regimes arising from operation of the proposed micro-hydro systems at Lake Huntley and Lake Mary.

These changes have the potential to affect aquatic habitat availability, ecological connectivity and downstream aquatic values.

Management measures and commitments proposed

Key design and management measures outlined in the EIS include implementation of a Soil and Water Management Plan (Appendix S) throughout construction alongside specific erosion and control measures, incorporation of full-capture toilet systems and appropriately designed greywater treatment (Appendix M) and stormwater management systems (Appendix N) that will be subject to regular inspection and maintenance.

Baseline and ongoing water quality monitoring is proposed to identify potential water quality impacts.

The proposal also incorporates a combined solar and micro-hydro system intended to minimise reliance on water extraction, particularly during periods of naturally lower flows.

Submissions

Submissions raised concerns regarding:

- impacts of the proposed micro-hydro systems on aquatic ecosystems and natural flow regimes;
- potential impacts to water quality associated with accommodation nodes and wastewater disposal;
- sedimentation and erosion impacts during construction;
- the proximity of infrastructure to Lake Huntley and associated catchment values; and
- the adequacy of hydrological assessment and modelling.

Evaluation

The EIS provides a comprehensive assessment of aquatic ecosystem values (Appendix V) and incorporates detailed hydrological modelling (Appendix W), wastewater and stormwater investigations. The proposed management framework appropriately addresses construction-related hazards associated with erosion and sedimentation and operational wastewater management risks. Commitments relating to baseline and operational water quality monitoring are supported and provide an appropriate mechanism for identifying and responding to unforeseen impacts.

While the EIS commits to stabilisation of disturbed areas through measures such as mulching and thatching, the long-term effectiveness of these measures will depend on ongoing monitoring and maintenance. Given the high rainfall environment and potential for long term erosion and sedimentation effects, an additional commitment for monitoring, maintenance and remediation of disturbed and exposed soils until long-term stabilisation is achieved is warranted, including where such management extends into the operational phase of the proposal. The effectiveness of many of the proposed mitigation measures will depend on their successful translation into, and implementation through, the final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP).

The hydrological assessment indicates that operation of the micro-hydro systems will result in minor changes to lake levels and stream flows, with no significant ecological impacts predicted. While submissions questioned the acceptability of any alteration to natural flow regimes, the modelling suggests impacts are likely to be localised and limited in magnitude. The Submissions Report states that the actual influence of the solar operation is likely to reduce reliance on micro-hydro generation more than was demonstrated in the energy modelling due to the conservative approach adopted in the energy supply analysis (Appendix X). Peak solar inputs (and reduced micro-hydro utilisation) are expected to coincide with naturally drier, lower flow periods, further minimising the risk of adverse impacts.

The micro-hydro systems will be subject to a separate water licensing process under the *Water Management Act 1999*, which regulates water extraction, hydrological monitoring, environmental flow requirements and prevention of harm.

Conclusion

The proposed mitigation, monitoring and management framework provides a reasonable basis for minimising risks to aquatic ecosystem values and water quality. Predicted impacts associated with operation of the micro-hydro systems are expected to be localised and limited in magnitude, with no significant impacts to aquatic ecosystem function predicted. Additional commitments relating to long-term soil stabilisation are warranted (Appendix 1).

The effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures will depend on their successful incorporation into, and implementation through, the final Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan, together with compliance with any requirements imposed through the water licencing process under the *Water Management Act 1999*.

5.3 Recreation Setting

Values and Potential Impacts

The Tyndall Range area supports a variety of established recreation activities, including bushwalking, camping, climbing, abseiling, slacklining, fishing and four-wheel driving. Existing users value the area for its relatively undeveloped character, opportunities for self-reliant recreation, sense of remoteness, scenic amenity and generally low levels of visitor use, notwithstanding increasing visitor trends in recent years.

These characteristics align with the desired outcomes of the existing designated RSF setting. Existing access includes the Lake Spicer Track, the Tyndall Plateau walking routes and climbing areas associated with the Lake Huntley Cirque.

The proposal has the potential to affect the existing recreational setting through changes to access during construction, noise associated with helicopter operations, introduction of visible infrastructure into currently undeveloped parts of the landscape, light pollution, and changes to visitation patterns within the wider Tyndall Range area. Increased awareness and promotion of the area may also indirectly contribute to future increases in visitation to the Tyndall Plateau and surrounding recreation areas.

Management measures and commitments proposed

The EIS includes a range of measures intended to minimise impacts to the recreational setting, including:

- retention of existing access arrangements to the Tyndall Plateau, Mt Sedgewick and Lake Spicer Track;
- communication of temporary construction-related closures;
- helicopter flight paths and no-fly zones designed to minimise impacts on recreational users;
- visitor education and ranger briefings;
- infrastructure siting and design measures intended to minimise visual impacts; and,
- lighting design measures intended to maintain dark sky values.

Submissions

Submissions raised concerns regarding:

- potential future restrictions on existing recreational activities;
- compatibility of the proposal with climbing, camping, slacklining and four-wheel driving;
- visual impacts on the undeveloped character of the area, including concerns that impacts are understated in the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA);
- helicopter noise and aviation-related impacts;
- light pollution;
- impacts on climbing amenity at Lake Huntley;
- stimulation of increased visitation to the Tyndall Plateau and concerns regarding the cumulative effect on recreational setting and experiential impacts;
- potential future reactive management responses, including restrictions on existing recreational uses resulting from increased visitation pressures; and,
- the need for formal consultation with local user groups.

Access and Visitation

The proposal does not remove public access to existing recreational opportunities within the Tyndall Range area. Existing access to the Tyndall Plateau, climbing areas and Lake Spicer Track will remain available, with only temporary construction-related restrictions anticipated. This adequately addresses concerns regarding the loss of formal access to existing recreation opportunities.

A recurring concern raised in submissions was the potential for the proposal to indirectly increase visitation to the wider Tyndall Range area. The submissions report acknowledges this as a management issue for PWS and notes that increasing visitation trends may require future intervention and resource allocation. The extent to which the proposal may influence future visitation patterns remains uncertain and represents a residual risk to the existing recreational setting. An additional commitment is recommended to develop and implement a management strategy to support adaptive management of unanticipated and cumulative impacts across the broader Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area. The framework will include consultation with relevant recreational user groups to inform monitoring priorities, emerging issues and assist in the development of appropriate management responses.

Noise

Public submissions raised concerns regarding helicopter noise during both construction and operation, particularly in relation to the Lake Huntley Cirque and Tyndall Plateau. In response, the revised EIS includes an expanded no-fly zone and revised flight paths intended to minimise interaction with recreational users. An additional commitment to expand the no-fly zone to the full extent of Lake Huntley to minimise noise amplification within the Cirque is recommended to improve management of recreational noise impacts.

Construction-related helicopter activity is nevertheless likely to result in temporary noise impacts for some users, particularly during favourable weather conditions when recreational use is highest. Operational helicopter use is expected to be infrequent and short in duration. Subject to compliance with the proposed flight paths and no-fly zones, residual noise impacts are expected to be localised and temporary.

Visual

The proposal will introduce visible infrastructure into a landscape currently valued by many users for its largely undeveloped character. The Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) concludes that the proposal will result in a low magnitude of visual change and that the development is visually compatible with the surrounding landscape. Additional mitigation measures relating to infrastructure design, siting and lighting have been incorporated into the revised EIS.

Several submissions disputed this conclusion, arguing that the VIA underestimated the scale of visual change and did not adequately account for the perspectives of existing recreational users, particularly climbers and bushwalkers. These concerns were addressed in the submissions report through further explanation of the assessment methodology and rationale for the conclusions reached.

While the Visual Impact Assessment applies a structured and repeatable assessment methodology, submissions demonstrated differing opinions regarding the perception of the proposed visual change, particularly in relation to the Lake Huntley accommodation node and associated climbing experiences. Submissions demonstrated that visual impacts were often linked to broader concerns regarding wilderness character and the qualities that contribute to the existing remote recreational setting. These differing views are not unexpected given the inherently subjective nature of landscape perception. On balance, the information presented indicates that the proposal is unlikely to substantially alter the broader recreational character of the Tyndall Plateau and surrounding recreation areas, although some loss of visual amenity for particular users is likely.

Conclusion

Public submissions identified future visitation pressures, helicopter operations, visual change and protection of existing recreation experiences as the principal issues that could impact the recreational setting of the Tyndall Range area. Many submissions also expressed concern that impacts to the recreational setting may diminish the wilderness qualities that contribute to the area's appeal for existing users. While concerns regarding impacts on wilderness-associated recreation values are acknowledged, the assessment has focused on recreation settings and reserve values consistent with the applicable statutory and policy framework.

Access to existing recreational opportunities will remain unchanged; however, construction-related helicopter activity and the introduction of visible infrastructure will result in some change to the character and amenity of the existing recreational setting. The proposed mitigation and management measures together with the recommended commitment to expand the no-fly zone over Lake Huntley (Appendix 1) are expected to reduce these impacts.

A key residual risk relates to potential for increased visitation to the broader Tyndall Range environment and associated impacts on the recreational setting and natural values of the Tyndall Plateau. Implementation of a management strategy to support monitoring and adaptive management of unanticipated and cumulative impacts across the broader Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area is recommended.

5.4 Aboriginal Heritage

Values and Potential Impacts

An Aboriginal Heritage Assessment identified two Aboriginal rock shelters outside the proposal footprint and assessed the proposal area as having a low to very low likelihood of containing previously unidentified Aboriginal heritage. However, dense vegetation limited survey coverage in some areas and additional surveys are proposed following initial vegetation clearance.

Potential impacts relate primarily to inadvertent disturbance of previously unrecorded Aboriginal heritage during construction and the broader interpretation and presentation of Aboriginal cultural values associated with the area.

Management measures and commitments proposed

The EIS includes commitments to implement the Unanticipated Discovery Plan, undertake Cultural Heritage Awareness training for contractors, complete additional heritage surveys in areas that could not be adequately surveyed, monitor cultural values during operation, and develop an Aboriginal Cultural Interpretation Plan in consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania also recommended minimisation of disturbance footprints and involvement of appropriately qualified heritage personnel during works.

Submissions

Aboriginal community consultation emphasised the importance of continued involvement of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in project development, incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, opportunities for Aboriginal employment and enterprise, avoidance of Aboriginal heritage, and Aboriginal-led development of cultural interpretation.

Public submissions also raised concerns regarding the adequacy of consultation and the incomplete survey coverage of parts of the proposal area.

Evaluation

No Aboriginal heritage sites have been recorded within the proposal footprint and the risk of direct impacts to known Aboriginal heritage is considered low. However, the assessment recognises that some areas remain unsurveyed and additional investigations are therefore important to confirm the absence of heritage and enable avoidance measures to be incorporated into detailed design where necessary.

The proposed commitments relating to ongoing consultation, heritage awareness training, implementation of the Unanticipated Discovery Plan and development of an Aboriginal Cultural Interpretation Plan are supported. Meaningful involvement of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in future heritage management and interpretation activities will remain important throughout the life of the proposal.

Conclusion

Subject to completion of the additional heritage investigations and implementation of the proposed heritage management commitments, potential for impacts to Aboriginal heritage values is expected to be low.

Ongoing engagement with Tasmanian Aboriginal people during detailed design, construction and operation will be important to ensure Aboriginal cultural values are appropriately recognised, protected and interpreted.

5.5 Visitor Risk

Values and Potential Impacts

The proposal is located within a remote alpine and climatically challenging environment characterised by rapidly changing weather, steep terrain, cliffs, water bodies and limited vehicle access.

Potential visitor hazards include falls, slips and trips, exposure to extreme weather, geohazards, drowning, helicopter operations, infrastructure failure, medical emergencies and delays in emergency response.

Management measures and commitments proposed

The EIS includes a Visitor Risk Control Plan (Appendix Q), together with a range of design, operational and management measures intended to maintain visitor risk at acceptable levels. These include track construction and maintenance to T2 standard, visitor briefings, weather information and forecasting, emergency shelters, first aid resources, no-fly zones, ranger training, ongoing asset inspections and preparation of an Emergency Management Plan.

Submissions

Submissions raised concerns regarding visitor safety, the suitability of the Tyndall Range as a location for a highly promoted multi-day walking experience, potential target capability mismatch, exposure to extreme weather, emergency response capability, helicopter operations in proximity to recreational users, and potential indirect safety implications associated with increased visitation to the broader Tyndall Plateau area.

Evaluation

The EIS identifies the principal visitor hazards associated with the proposal and proposes controls consistent with the PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy and Recreational Standards Framework.

Additional information provided in the Submissions Report improves understanding of weather-related risks, emergency management procedures and helicopter operations, including expansion of no-fly zones to minimise interactions with recreational users.

The proposed combination of infrastructure design, visitor information, ranger support, emergency shelters, maintenance programs and incident reporting provides a comprehensive framework for managing visitor risk. Assessment of natural hazards concluded that risks associated with landslip and geohazards can be reduced to acceptable levels through detailed design, geotechnical assessment and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures.

The effectiveness of the proposed controls will depend on their incorporation into, and implementation through, the final Visitor Risk Control Plan, Emergency Management Plan and associated operational procedures.

Several submissions questioned whether the proposed level of service and support may attract visitors whose experience, skills and preparedness are not well matched to the environmental conditions likely to be encountered. The proposed visitor briefings, gear checks, ranger support, emergency shelters and weather communication measures are intended to reduce this risk. Nevertheless, visitor preparedness will remain an important factor influencing overall risk outcomes and highlights the importance of ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of the visitor risk management framework.

Conclusion

The EIS provides a comprehensive assessment of visitor risk and incorporates a range of measures intended to maintain risks within the acceptable levels prescribed by the PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy and Recreational Standards Framework.

Subject to implementation of the proposed controls and ongoing review through the Visitor Risk Control Plan, Emergency Management Plan and operational monitoring programs, visitor risks are considered capable of being appropriately managed throughout the life of the proposal. Visitor preparedness will remain an important factor influencing risk outcomes.

5.6 Other Issues

Fauna

The proposal area supports habitat for a range of native fauna, including threatened species such as the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*), spotted-tail quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) and wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*). Potential impacts are primarily limited to disturbance associated with construction activities, helicopter operations and increased visitor presence.

Submissions raised concerns regarding wildlife disturbance, roadkill, bird strike and behavioural changes resulting from increased visitation. The EIS identifies limited suitable denning habitat within the proposal area and no evidence of active den sites and proposes mitigation measures including pre-construction eagle nest surveys and management of any identified den sites.

Construction traffic is anticipated to be limited and largely restricted to daylight hours, reducing the likelihood of significant roadkill impacts. Subject to implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and the recommended commitment relating to eagle nest surveys, residual impacts to fauna values are expected to be low and primarily disturbance related.

Geoconservation

The proposal area lies within the Tyndall Range Glacial Features geoconservation site and contains nationally significant glacial landforms, geomorphic features and Western Tasmania Blanket Bogs. Potential impacts are primarily limited to localised disturbance associated with construction activities, use of local rock materials, erosion and vegetation management.

Submissions raised concerns regarding impacts to the area's geomorphic, scenic and geoconservation values. The EIS includes a dedicated Glacial Features Assessment (Appendix F), which concludes that impacts can largely be avoided or minimised through micro-siting and appropriate construction methods.

While the EIS commits to further assessment to inform detailed design and avoids the use of large glacial erratics, a residual risk remains that other geomorphically significant materials could be impacted through sourcing of local rock for track construction.

An additional commitment requiring assessment of local rock sources and avoidance of geomorphically significant materials is therefore recommended. Subject to implementation of the proposed mitigation measures and commitments, residual impacts to geoconservation values are expected to be minor.

Bushfire

Bushfire management also represents a residual risk because the long-term ecological consequences of fuel management activities on conservation-significant vegetation communities and paleoendemic flora remain uncertain. While the proposal includes preparation of a Bushfire Protection Plan, the current scope of the plan is primarily directed toward protection of visitors and infrastructure.

PWS must also consider protection of reserve values through landscape-scale bushfire risk reduction, including protection of threatened flora, appropriate fire regimes, and interactions between bushfire and *Phytophthora cinnamomi*.

5.7 Key Ongoing Management Considerations

The assessment concludes that the proposal can be managed in a manner consistent with the purpose of reservation, reserve management objectives and relevant PWS policy frameworks. Notwithstanding the mitigation, management and monitoring measures proposed in the EIS, several matters warrant ongoing monitoring, management and adaptive response throughout the life of the proposal. Ongoing attention to these matters will assist PWS in meeting its statutory responsibilities for the conservation and management of reserve values and maintaining consistency with PWS policy over time.

Key Ongoing Management Consideration	Management Focus
Increased visitation to the broader Tyndall Range environment	Promotion and operation of the NIW may increase awareness and visitation to adjacent self-reliant recreation areas, particularly the Tyndall Plateau. While the magnitude of this effect is uncertain, it has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts on natural values and the recreational setting, including vegetation trampling, informal track formation, biosecurity risks, increased camping pressure and changes to visitor experiences. Ongoing monitoring and, where necessary, management responses will assist in maintaining the values and characteristics of these areas.
<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>	Ongoing management is required to minimise the spread and impact of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> within sensitive alpine and subalpine environments. Continued improvement of biosecurity risk assessments, monitoring programs and mitigation measures will be important to ensuring management responses remain proportionate to risk and effective in protecting vulnerable reserve values.
Bushfire and reserve values	Bushfire management should address the protection of reserve values, including threatened flora, significant vegetation communities, appropriate fire regimes and interactions between bushfire and <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>, in addition to asset protection objectives.
Implementation of management commitments	The assessment assumes the effective implementation of the mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management measures identified in the EIS and recommended through this assessment. Incorporation of these measures into the final CEMP, OEMP, Visitor Risk Control Plan and associated management frameworks will be important to achieving the environmental, cultural and recreational outcomes anticipated by the assessment.

6. Statement of Reasons

This Environmental Assessment Report has been prepared on the basis of information provided in the final EIS and submissions report. It incorporates advice provided by NRE and PWS specialists and addresses issues raised in public submissions.

This statement of reasons is a summary of assessment criteria relevant to the proposal and how the criteria were considered by the delegate.

6.1 Assessment Criteria

Nature Conservation Act 2002

The proposal is not inconsistent with the purpose of reservation for a Regional Reserve of Conservation Area, as described in Schedule 1 of the NCA.

National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002

The proposal is not inconsistent with the management objectives for a Regional Reserve or Conservation Area, as described in Schedule 1 of the NPRMA. The proposal furthers objectives to encourage tourism, recreational use and enjoyment consistent with conservation of the reserves natural and cultural values. With implementation of mitigations and conditions, the proposal is not inconsistent with other management objectives.

Crown Lands Act 1976

Where the proposal impacts Crown Land (South Construction Depot and small section of walking track south of Lake Margaret), it is not inconsistent with the CLA or its subordinate legislation.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

PWS referred the proposal to DCCEEW to determine if the proposal is a controlled action. In April 2026, DCCEEW completed its assessment and determined the proposal is not a controlled action.

PWS Recreational Standards Framework Policy (2025)

The RSF policy was considered in determining the appropriateness of this proposal, in particular the potential impact to the existing managed recreational setting on the Tyndall range.

PWS Visitor Risk Management Policy (2023)

The Visitor Risk Management Policy was considered in determining the appropriateness of this proposal.

6.2 Limitations of Assessment

The contents of this Environmental Assessment Report, and the subsequent decision on the proposal have been informed by the final EIS, Submissions Report, and consideration of public and agency representations received during the assessment process. The assessment has been guided by the statutory framework established by the *Nature Conservation Act 2002* and the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, with a primary focus on potential impacts to reserved land values and the management objectives of the affected reserve classes. While broader matters raised in submissions have informed the understanding of community perspectives, some issues extend beyond the scope of the Reserve Activity Assessment process and are not determinative under the applicable legislative framework.

Further approvals are likely to be required under the following legislative instruments:

- *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – West Coast Local Provisions Schedule.
- *Building Act 2016*
- *Urban Drainage Act 2013*
- *Fire Services Act 1979*

- *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*
- *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- *Water Management Act 1999*

A lease/licence agreement with Hydro Tasmania will be required to enable construction and operation of the proposal on Hydro- Tasmania managed land. In the event of a significant change to the proposal, a new RAA will be required and a separate assessment decision sought from PWS.

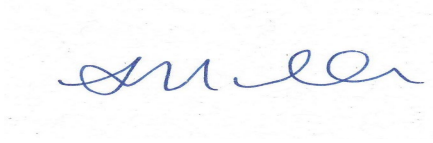
7. Decision

The proposal is acceptable because:

- The proposal aligns with the Purposes for Reservation under the NCA and the Reserve Management Objectives for a Regional Reserve and as stated in Schedule 1 of the NPRMA.
- The proposal is an appropriate use of unallocated crown land.
- The Environmental Impact Statement under the identified assessment criteria demonstrates that the proposal would not cause significant environmental impacts if appropriately managed.
- Matters raised in public and agency submissions have been considered throughout the assessment process and have informed refinements to the EIS, additional mitigation commitments and the assessment outcomes documented in this EAR, acknowledging that some subjects raised in public submissions are beyond the remit of the pertinent legislative framework.
- The proposal would deliver a high-quality walking experience, which would complement, expand and diversify the existing multi-day walking experiences on offer in Tasmania.
- The proposal has demonstrated market demand and is likely to generate socio-economic benefits to the west coast region, and Tasmania more broadly, through increasing visitation to Tasmania and the west coast.
- The proposal has been designed to operate on a financially sustainable basis. Operating surplus will be directed to asset renewal and replacement.
- The proposal can be safely implemented with acceptable environmental commitments captured in the EIS and appendices as summarised in Appendix 1 of this report and PWS recommended conditions in Appendix 2.

I make the decision in accordance with section 30 of *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002* and the *Crown Lands Act 1976*.

I am **satisfied** that the development and operation of the Next Iconic Walk within the Tyndall Regional Reserve, Lake Beatrice Conservation Area and unallocated Crown Land is appropriate. The proposal can be implemented, subject to environmental mitigation, management and monitoring measures stated in the EIS and additional commitments in Appendix 1 of this report.



Sophie Muller
DEPUTY SECRETARY
PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Date: 18 September 2026

The RAA process is completed when the Deputy Secretary signs this environmental assessment report.

Appendix 1: Additional Commitments

The following table details additional commitments to be implemented in the development of the proposal. The additional commitments are based on the outcomes of the assessment, recommendations made within technical supporting information that accompanied the EIS and internal agency specialist advice.

Residual Risk	Rationale	Additional PWS Commitments	Project phase
Impacts to paleoendemic flora	A recommendation made in the Natural Values Assessment was not explicitly adopted as a mitigation measure in the EIS.	Detailed design, micro-siting and construction activities will avoid or minimise impacts to distinctive palaeoendemic flora species, including <i>Athrotaxis selaginoides</i> , <i>Diselma archeri</i> , <i>Nothofagus gunnii</i> and <i>Agastachys odorata</i> , wherever practicable.	Pre-construction and construction
Indirect impacts to Tyndall Plateau	Increased visitation to the broader Tyndall Range may result in cumulative impacts to natural and recreational values, including vegetation trampling, informal track development, biosecurity risks and changes to the existing recreational setting. While the extent of future visitation and impacts are uncertain, it represents one of the principal residual risks of the proposal.	PWS will develop and implement a Tyndall Range management strategy to support monitoring and adaptive management of unanticipated and cumulative impacts across the broader Tyndall Regional Reserve and Lake Beatrice Conservation Area. The framework will include consultation with relevant recreational user groups and stakeholders and establish monitoring, reporting and adaptive management responses for emerging impacts to natural values, recreational settings and visitor use patterns.	Life of project
Weed Management	A recommendation made in the Biosecurity Plan was not explicitly adopted as a mitigation measure in the EIS.	The Biosecurity Plan will be strictly implemented. PWS will work with Hydro Tasmania to delineate a weed management zone at the Lake Margaret Power Station for targeted treatment and monitoring of grey cotoneaster, blackberry, tutsan and foxglove to minimise the risk of weed incursion onto reserved land.	Life of Project
Visitor risk management	Visitor risks are expected to be manageable through implementation of controls proposed in the EIS; however, ongoing implementation and review of risk controls will be necessary as visitation patterns evolve.	All mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management measures identified through the assessment process will be incorporated into the final Visitor Risk Control Plan, Emergency Management Plan, CEMP and OEMP, as relevant.	Life of proposal

Residual Risk	Rationale	Additional PWS Commitments	Project phase
<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>	The proposal area contains known infestations of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> . While the Biosecurity Plan substantially reduces risk, uncertainty remains regarding potential for pathogen spread and impacts to sensitive vegetation communities and threatened flora.	The Biosecurity Plan will be expanded to assess and minimise the likelihood of the proposal increasing the spread or impact of Pc and implementation of measures to reduce risk, including specific monitoring and management measures to minimise potential impacts on <i>Orites milliganii</i> and <i>Planocarpa sulcata</i>. A construction plan should explicitly consider methods that reduce pathogen spread, including: • raised helipads and associated work platforms and access walkways at the service depots (timber or FRP), with Pc boot wash stations at walkway entrances (as used at Scotts Peak helibase during works to rebuild tracks in the Mt Anne area following the 2019 bushfires). • Micro-siting of tracks to avoid susceptible vegetation as far as practical, particularly <i>Orites milliganii</i> and <i>Planocarpa sulcata</i>, specifically avoiding siting of the track upslope of these species as far as practical to minimise downslope impacts. • Adjustments to natural drainage must be minimised as far as possible. Where this is unavoidable, diversions must discharge to non-susceptible vegetation areas.	Pre-construction
Bushfire and reserve values	The proposal introduces additional ignition sources into a landscape supporting fire-sensitive vegetation communities and paleoendemic flora. While the proposed Bushfire Protection Plan is expected to reduce bushfire risk to visitors and infrastructure, its current scope is primarily focused on asset protection and does not explicitly address protection of surrounding ecological values. Uncertainty remains regarding the long-term ecological consequences of fuel management activities, including potential impacts to threatened flora, conservation-significant vegetation communities, and interactions between bushfire and <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>.	In addition to the Bushfire Protection Plan (Bushfire – MM6), PWS will consider more broadly landscape-scale bushfire risk reduction measures that support both asset protection and conservation of reserve values. This should involve explicit consideration of conservation-significant vegetation communities, threatened flora, appropriate fire regimes and frequencies, interactions between bushfire and <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>, and adaptive management measures where ecological impacts are identified.	Life of project

Residual Risk	Rationale	Additional PWS Commitments	Project phase
Bushfire ignition risk	The EIS proposes that hot works cease on Total Fire Ban days only. Additional controls consistent with standard PWS fire prevention practices are warranted.	When the Australian Fire Danger Rating (AFDR) is Moderate or above, weather observations will be taken every two hours from 11 am until the end of the day. Hot works will be suspended immediately if the Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) is calculated as HIGH 20 or greater, or the relative humidity equal to 30% or less. If conditions improve and hot works recommence, hourly weather observations will be monitored for the remainder of the day.	Construction
Wedge-tailed Eagle Nests	The EIS proposes an eagle nest search as close as possible to the commencement of construction. General nest location surveys have the potential to disrupt breeding activities and should be conducted outside of the breeding season (July to January inclusive) to minimise potential impacts.	Eagle Nest surveys will be undertaken to identify nests within 500 m of project disturbance areas, or 1 km where there is a line of sight to works. Nest searches will be undertaken outside of the eagle breeding season (July to January inclusive) unless otherwise agreed by the Conservation Assessments Section of NRE.	Pre-construction
Geoconservation values	The EIS proposes to avoid large glacial erratic rocks during trail construction, but all local rock sources within the landscape have potential to be of geoconservation significance.	All local rock materials proposed for use in construction will be assessed to avoid geomorphically significant materials, including but not limited to glacial erratics.	Pre-construction
Water quality	Construction-related erosion and sedimentation risks are expected to be manageable; however, long-term stabilisation of disturbed areas is important to minimise ongoing impacts to aquatic values.	Disturbed and exposed soils associated with construction activities will be monitored, maintained and remediated as required until stable groundcover has been established and erosion risk has been reduced to an acceptable level. Monitoring and remediation requirements may extend into the operational phase where necessary to achieve long-term stabilisation.	Construction and Operation
Recreation Setting	Some visual and noise impacts to the existing recreational setting are unavoidable despite proposed mitigation.	The Lake Huntley no-fly zone will be extended eastward to cover the entirety of the water body surface (as operationally practical) and minimise the potential for noise amplification and disturbance to adjacent recreational users.	Construction and Operation.

Appendix 2: Project Implementation Requirements

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

Prior to commencement of works, a final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be prepared to the satisfaction of the assessment delegate.

The CEMP must:

- incorporate all management, mitigation, monitoring and contingency measures identified in the Final EIS and supporting technical appendices;
- incorporate all additional commitments relevant to construction activities;
- identify clear responsibilities for implementation, monitoring, corrective action and reporting requirements;
- identify performance indicators and corrective action triggers;
- include a system for recording and reporting helicopter utilisation rates;
- include monitoring and auditing processes sufficient to verify effectiveness of mitigation measures and identify unforeseen impacts;
- include trigger values and escalation pathways where monitoring indicates that environmental performance objectives are not being achieved;
- include communication, induction and training procedures to ensure all controls are understood and implemented; and
- be reviewed and updated throughout construction as required.

The proponent must implement the approved CEMP for the duration of construction.

Project Phase: Pre-construction and Construction

Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)

Prior to commencement of operations, a final Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) will be prepared to the satisfaction of the assessment delegate.

The OEMP must include:

- biosecurity monitoring and response procedures for *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and weed incursions;
- ongoing implementation of the Tyndall Range management strategy, including monitoring and adaptive management of indirect visitation impacts.
- water quality and hydrological monitoring associated with operation of the micro-hydro systems;
- procedures for monitoring and maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures until disturbed areas are stabilised; and
- implementation of the Reserve Values Bushfire Protection Plan and associated monitoring requirements.

The proponent must implement the approved OEMP for the duration of operation.

Project Phase: Operation and Life of Project.

Post-implementation Review

The assessment concludes that the proposal can be managed in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of reservation, reserve management objectives and relevant PWS policy frameworks.

Given the scale of investment, a formal post-construction review is recommended to be undertaken 5 years after the commencement of operation of the NIW to evaluate if the project is delivering its socio-economic benefits whilst continuing to meet the conservation and recreation objectives of the reserves.

Glossary

Term	Meaning
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania. AHT conduct the Aboriginal Heritage Property Search and set the requirements for surveys for Aboriginal artefacts or areas of cultural significance. For further information visit: https://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/about-us
Authority	An authority, lease, licence or business licence granted under the NPRMA or CLA.
Building	Means anything built or constructed – NPRMA s.3
CEMP	Construction and Environmental Management Plan describes how activities undertaken during the construction phase of development will be managed to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts on site and how those environmental management requirements will be implemented.
CLA	<i>Crown Lands Act (1976).</i>
Commitment	An identified outcome in the form of a report, assessment, approval, permit, authority, or the like, to be obtained and conveyed to the PWS prior to the commencement of development works.
Controls	Actions taken, or to be taken, to avoid or minimise adverse impacts and maximise beneficial outcomes.
Development	Has the same meaning as that in the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act (1993)</i> : Development includes: (a) the construction, exterior alteration or exterior decoration of a building; (b) the demolition or removal of a building or works; and (c) the construction or carrying out of works; and (d) the subdivision or consolidation of land, including buildings or airspace; and (e) the placing or relocation of a building or works on land; and (f) the construction or putting up for display of signs or hoardings.
DNPW	Director National Parks and Wildlife
EAR	Environmental Assessment Report (PWS)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (Proponent)
EISR	The Environmental Impact Statement Requirements (PWS) is an explanatory document that identifies the necessary matters to be addressed and supporting documents required in the draft EIS.
Environment(al)	Has the same meaning as described in ISO 14050 <i>Environmental management – Vocabulary</i> . Environment includes air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, human-made or modified structures or areas. Social, political, and recreational environments are included. Hence the term “environment” or “environmental” encompasses the natural, cultural, social and economic environments.

EMP	Environmental Management Plan – Used by proponents to outline the life of proposal/project timing of management activities, risks and potential impacts and the preventative or mitigative measures (as commitments) to be implemented to achieve a stated outcome/objective. May include the Construction EMP (CEMP).
EPBCA	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)</i>
LUPAA	<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act (1993).</i>
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance. MNES are listed under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> administered by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
NCA	<i>Nature Conservation Act (2002)</i> . Schedule 1 states the classes of reserves and the values of land and purposes of reservation.
NPRMA	<i>National Parks and Reserves Management Act (2002)</i> . Schedule 1 states the management objectives for each class of reserved land.
Planning Permit	Means any permit, approval or consent required by a planning scheme to be issued or given by a municipality in respect of the use or development of any land; LUPAA s.3 .
Proposal	The description of the potential development or use for which assessment is required.
Public reserve	Crown land reserved as a public reserve under the <i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i> .
PWS	The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, a division of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.
RAA	Reserve Activity Assessment
Regulations	<i>National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations (2019)</i> . Regulations which prohibit types of activities on reserved land.
Reserved land	Land, including land covered by water, and the water is reserved under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2002</i> .
RSF	PWS Recreational Standards Framework
TPS	<i>Tasmania Planning Scheme (2017)</i>
TWWHA	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
UDP	Unanticipated Discovery Plan. A UDP is required by AHT when a proposal will cause ground disturbance.
Use	Has the same meaning as that in the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> : In relation to land, includes the manner of utilising land but does not include the undertaking of development.

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