



MEDIA RELEASE

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Huon Valley: Unsuccessful bid for the \$20 million iconic walk

The State Government has announced that the applications received for the \$20 million iconic walk located in the Huon Valley municipal area were unsuccessful.

There were five individual applications in total in the Huon Valley, offering the assessing body, the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, multiple options for a new iconic tourist attraction.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government funded the project because many of the existing Tasmanian walks were becoming so popular they are getting booked out and it was clear to them that there is a market for another iconic walk in Tasmania. The popularity of the Three Capes Track has been cited as a significant success story.

Mayor Enders said, "I have contacted the applicants and understandably this announcement is deeply disappointing for them. This is also disappointing for Council and those in our community who have been looking forward to a significant boost in tourism investment and jobs from the Tasmanian Government.

"Many of us were hoping that this long-term project would give our economy a big financial injection, boosting the economy, creating jobs and developing our region as an iconic destination. This level of investment would have set the Huon Valley on a strong and prolonged course to recovery after the bushfires and set a solid economic foundation for the long-term future.

"Like any application process, when you have been unsuccessful we need to take the lead and find out why we missed out and what we can do to advance our position the next time that opportunity comes up".

Cr Enders spoke with Minister Gutwein and requested a meeting in the next couple of weeks with the Director of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service to do a 'post-mortem'. This meeting will also be used to discuss the urgent need for upgrading the State Government-owned Hastings Thermal Pool site.

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“Once we have learned more about why the Huon Valley was not the preferred location selected for the next iconic walk, we will come back and inform our community,” Cr Enders said.

“Finally, on behalf of my fellow Councillors and Council staff, we would like to thank the applicants for their ideas, the significant amount of work they did to submit an application and for their passion for the place and people of the Huon Valley. We really value their ideas and extraordinary capabilities that they have invested into the Huon Valley. Let’s keep the plans on the drawing board and keep progressing those ideas.”

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