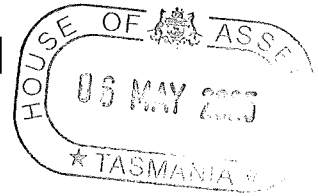


RESPONSE TO PETITION HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



TITLE OF PETITION: Swanwick to Coles Bay Bike and Walking Track

The petition of the undersigned Citizens of Tasmania draw to the attention of the House:

We, the undersigned Residents of Tasmania, draw to the attention of the House the need for a safe bike and walking track to connect Swanwick and Coles Bay.

This track will connect the communities of Swanwick to Coles Bay, whilst providing a safe cycle and walking corridor, opening usage up to people of a wide range of ages and abilities.

The sole road between Swanwick and Coles Bay is narrow and lacks spaces where vehicles can safely overtake cyclists. It sees a huge influx of traffic during summer and key holiday periods. A dedicated cycle and walking track would significantly improve safety for all users.

Health and environmental benefits of cycling and walking are well documented and a perfect fit for the nature-based tourism destination of Freycinet and Coles Bay.

This initiative was proposed as part of the Freycinet Master Plan. Not action has been taken.

Your petitioners request the House call on the Government to:

- Develop a plan for the design and construction of a trail between Swanwick and Coles Bay from Hazards View Drive to the entrance of Coles Bay.
- Identify potential funding sources for the trail.
- Assess the environmental impact of the trail, including any mitigation steps that could be taken for protection or accessibility, such as bridges.
- Undertake community consultation on the trail to ensure the design meets the needs of the local community and users of a wide range of ages and abilities.

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

The Freycinet Master Plan, June 2019 (the Plan) identifies a number of initiatives and priorities that aim to protect and manage what makes the Freycinet Peninsula unique and special for Aboriginal Tasmanians, locals and visitors, while ensuring it can continue to play an important part in the tourism industry by providing a world-class visitor experience. It is a 20-year plan with priority initiatives completed within the first five to ten years.

The Plan identifies improvements to the walking and cycling connection between Coles Bay and Swanwick, noting that these improvements are sequenced for investigation following the development of the visitor gateway.

Table 6 of the Plan, pages 125 – 128, identifies the Master Plan priorities, initiatives and business owners across a one-to-ten-year timeframe. The Coles Bay to Swanwick cycle and walk track is not included within these priorities, due to the infrastructure being proposed post completion of the visitor gateway.

The Plan states on page 112

"The existing informal walking track from Coles Bay to Swanwick will be retained and formalised with connections into the visitor gateway through the coastal reserve area. This track begins at the southern end of Muirs Beach in Coles Bay, and follows the beach for most part, moving inland to a formed track at its northern end as it enters Swanwick."

Further, on page 112

"Once the visitor gateway is established, an additional walking/cycle connection directly from Swanwick to the gateway (and then through to Coles Bay) may also be investigated."

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$14 million towards the Freycinet Gateway project with the Australian Government committing a further \$7.2 million.

The project planning is progressing and will see initial community and public consultation commencing next month (May 2025). The Coles Bay and Swanwick communities are key stakeholders and have received email communications in July and August 2024 directly from

the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) regarding the Gateway Project and other prioritised initiatives from the Plan.

Additional communication in December 2024 and March 2025 has been provided to the project's Reference Group members, which includes representation from the local Coles Bay and Swanwick communities.

From 2019 to date, PWS has delivered directly, and/or in collaboration with the community, the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Marine and Safety Tasmania the following initiatives:

- Pedestrian connections at the foreshore walkway between Muirs Beach and Garnet Avenue, shared use track between Garnet Avenue into Freycinet National Park and through to the Wineglass Bay carpark track head.
- Extension to the floating pontoon at the public boat ramp to allow for additional boat standing during trailer parking.
- The Wineglass Bay Lookout extension and loop track at the 'saddle'.
- New toilet facilities at north and south Wineglass Bay Beach.

Consideration of further projects, such as the Coles Bay to Swanwick bike and cycle track, will occur upon completion of the Freycinet Gateway project.

Should the community and those supporting this petition wish to discuss the priorities in the Master Plan, they are encouraged to make contact directly with PWS's Regional Manager North, Donna Stanley on email Donna.Stanley@parks.tas.gov.au or mobile 0428 151 918.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nick Duigan MLC
MINISTER FOR PARKS

Date: 5th May 2025