



MEDIA RELEASE

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EOIs called for Jefferys Track Feasibility Study

The Huon Valley Council is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from qualified consultative groups to carry out a feasibility study on Jefferys Track as a potential future tourism and transport link between the Huon Valley and Derwent Valley.

The 14km track runs across the Wellington Range between Lachlan in the Derwent Valley and Crabtree in the Huon Valley. It is used as an important fire trail for planned fire-fighting and land management access, and also attracts rural recreational activity such as responsible 4WD off-road driving, horse riding, cycling and bush walking. However, anti-social behaviour by some 4WD drivers has also made the northern section near impassable for most vehicles and badly impacted its ability to act as a fire trail.

We thank the Tasmanian Government for funding a Feasibility Study for Jefferys Track to investigate the future of the track and complete a cost-benefit analysis of upgrading to a road standard. The project will be managed jointly by the Huon Valley and Derwent Valley Councils in consultation with other land owners.

Huon Valley Council Mayor Bec Enders said that the study will need to look at all the benefits and opportunities that could be provided to local communities and industries as a result of the development, while also highlighting areas of concern and potential challenges that may arise.

“The study will look at the current state of the track and what upgrades would be required to provide suitable and faster access between the Valleys for local commuters, employees, tourists, and producers,” said Cr Enders. “Another consideration will be the track’s importance in future disaster and emergency management and how it might offer improved fire hazard access and response times.”

The study will involve consultations with a number of stakeholders, including:

- Huon Valley Council and Derwent Valley Council
- Local residents (including the opportunity to give feedback)
- Land owners and managers Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, the Wellington Park Management Trust and Norske Skog
- Tasmanian Fire Service
- The Tasmanian Government

Communications & Media Officer

Huon Valley Council

communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au



- Relevant tourism associations (e.g. Destination Southern Tasmania, Derwent Valley Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania)
- Industry leaders in aquaculture, agriculture, forestry, viticulture, manufacturing and tourism
- Recreational users including the bushwalking, horse riding and legitimate 4WD community

Cr Enders said the community engagement process will be important to find out the level of support for the project among residents.

“We have long been seeking ways to strengthen the link between the two Valleys, and this study will help inform our discussions around the whether Jefferys Track can provide this, and how upgrades would need to be carried out to achieve a good outcome,” Cr Enders said.

Derwent Valley Mayor Ben Shaw said that while the Council is supportive of the idea and welcome the study, they are extremely conscious to consider wider impacts to the communities of Lachlan and Crabtree.

“It would be fantastic to have improved access for emergency services and access to fire trails, but if the road is to be utilised as a tourist route, a broader view needs to be taken,” said Cr Shaw. “Strong consultation will need to be done with the communities in both Valleys, along with having a detailed look at the broader impacts to Council infrastructure including the arterial roads on both sides.

“We are looking forward to seeing the outcome of the feasibility study and what our two municipalities may be able to achieve together.”

For project information and to make a submission please go to Huon Valley Council’s Tenderlink website at tenderlink.com/huonvalley.

Submissions close 5pm on 29 October 2019 and can be made via Tenderlink (ref HUON-887213).

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300