

Proposal: Heli-Canyoning at Cradle Mountain

Proponent / s

Mr Anthony O'Hern
Cradle Mountain Canyons Pty Ltd

Location

A tributary from the south of the Hartnett River, Cradle Mountain Lake St Clair National Park.

Description of proposal

Cradle Mountain Canyons propose a new iconic heli-canyoning tour in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Visitors would fly by helicopter from the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre to the top of a river in the vicinity of Cradle Mountain. They would then spend the day negotiating the canyon, by means of walking, swimming, jumping and abseiling, with two experienced and qualified guides. At the end of the trip, groups would helicopter back to the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre. The tour is an advanced option aimed at people wanting to challenge themselves in a remote area seen previously by very few people. It would be a high end option and stamp Tasmania on the world map as a destination for adventure connoisseurs.

This is true adventure at its best in one of the world's great wilderness areas. It will enable people to experience an awe inspiring aspect of the World Heritage Area that can be seen by no means other than heli-canyoning. Best of all, it can be done in a way that has minimal impact on the values of the World Heritage Area.

Estimated jobs created

Employment opportunities will be available for administrative staff, experienced guides and transport providers.

Social, cultural and environmental impact

The proponents are aware that the Cradle Mountain area is an important place for many other people and in finalising the take off and landing locations and flight path, the proponents will engage appropriately with environmental groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The proposed location is underneath the current flight path used by Cradle Mountain Helicopters. This tour would only run at times of the year with stable weather. Additionally, the tour would be a high end option with very limited departures (it is unlikely there would be more than 20 of these tours run in a year). The proponents intend to develop a plan to ensure take off and landing could be achieved without additional disturbance to other users of the area.

An expert inspection of the site will be required to determine what, if any, infrastructure is required to land a helicopter. It is possible that a suitable landing site can be found and no infrastructure needs to be built. If infrastructure is necessary, it would be designed in such a way that it could be easily removed in the future, leaving virtually no trace of the operation.

