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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

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Guy Barnett, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing

EOI process gets the balance right

Tourism remains one of our biggest industries and remains critical to our economy and jobs.

The Tasmanian Government is focused on strengthening the State's future and takes its responsibilities for managing Tasmania's extensive reserve estate seriously. We remain committed to delivering the Tourism Expression of Interest (Tourism EOI) process and the important role it plays in delivering job-creating tourism projects in regional areas of the State, while upholding natural and cultural values.

While commercial developments have been undertaken in Tasmania's world-class Parks and Reserves for many years, the Tourism Expression of Interest (EOI) process was implemented in 2014 to assess proposals, in order to enable the development of sensitive and appropriate visitor infrastructure within Tasmania's National Parks, Reserves and Crown Lands.

The EOI process proactively encourages tourism opportunities in our natural areas by inviting creative and innovative proposals that will provide best practice environmental tourism and deliver social, environmental and economic benefits, and visitor experiences that are the envy of the world.

Commercial developments have been undertaken in Tasmania's Parks and Reserves for many years and, until the EOI process, saw unsolicited proposals being sent directly to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS). The EOI process, provides a rigorous additional first line of filter for every submission by an independent panel. This ensures the merits of every proposal are carefully considered before any recommendation is made.

Since we began our Tourism EOI process in 2014, it has made a valuable contribution to delivering the Tasmanian Government's vision to grow the tourism industry, so it continues to deliver jobs and economic benefits across the State. From the Maydena Bike Park in the Derwent Valley, to Blue Derby

Pods Ride in the North East, we have seen great projects become great successes with the help of the Tourism EOI process.

As we announced in June, the Tasmanian Government is enhancing the Tourism EOI process.

Our government is addressing concerns about land-banking and has set milestones for projects to achieve key outcomes. Existing proponents have received correspondence from the Tourism EOI Assessment Panel setting timeframes on progressing their projects. New proposals will also be subject to the timeframes. We have updated the Tourism EOI Guidelines and other documentation to reflect the enhanced process. We have also increased the amount of information made publicly available on existing proposals.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to the Tourism EOI process, and the enhancement will be completed in the coming weeks.

We continue to welcome proposals for private operators to develop sustainable, sensitive and appropriate tourism experiences within Tasmania's Parks, Reserves and Crown Lands.