



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Leader of the House

Reference: 00873-2011

Senator Bob Brown
Senator for Tasmania
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

24 MAR 2011

Dear Senator Brown

I refer to your letter dated 11 February 2011 about the Three Capes Track project in the Tasman National Park and thank you for forwarding me a copy of a letter sent on 18 November 2010 from concerned residents of the Tasman Peninsula community.

The Three Capes Track will provide an iconic overnight walk for Tasmania. It will encourage a broad range of visitors, both from the local community and abroad. The Tasmanian Government's Economic Impact Analysis predicts that the development of the Three Capes Track will create 125 jobs and annually generate \$19.7 million for the Tasmanian economy, and \$3.1 million for the local economy, through tourism and related industries. This is a worthwhile project and a strong investment in the future of the region and has bipartisan support within the Tasmanian Parliament.

In your letter, you specifically support the proposal of locating the accommodation huts outside the Tasman National Park. I am advised that the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service (TPWS) is considering all available options for the overnight accommodation, including locating infrastructure outside the national park boundaries. It is pleasing that the planning phase for the project is seeking to take into account the community's concerns.

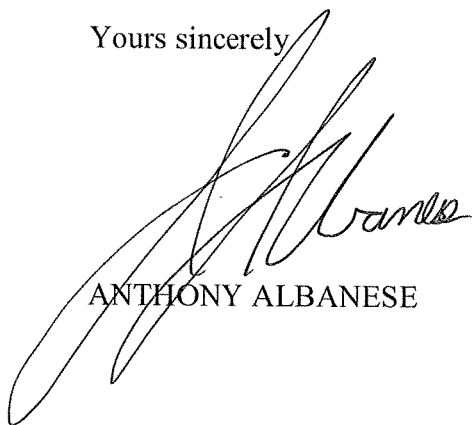
Community consultation has played an important role in the development of the project and will continue to be essential to the success of the project. The TPWS has regularly consulted with the Tasman Peninsula community including conducting several information sessions and well attended community hall meetings. Further, the TPWS has consulted all formalised bushwalking clubs within Tasmania.

Extensive environmental studies have concluded that the environmental risks around the project can be managed. Environmental issues have been considered by the TPWS through ecological and geomorphological studies and the Tasman National Park and Reserves Management Plan. Full funding for the project is subject to it meeting all environmental approvals, including approvals under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

I am advised that the Tasmanian Government has responded directly to the residents addressing their concerns. I appreciate the project is generating community discussion and am grateful to the authors of the letter for providing alternatives for consideration. I note that no return address was provided, and I ask that you please pass on my appreciation for their efforts.

I trust this information will be of assistance. Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

ANTHONY ALBANESE