



Welcome to *The Philosophers' Tale*, Tasmania's next Iconic Walk.

The concept of *The Philosophers' Tale* is driven by a powerful narrative exploring the way that man has shaped this environment and vice versa over the past two hundred years. In 1859 Charles Gould passed through the area and named the peaks of the West Coast Range after the prominent minds of his day, hence the name, *The Philosophers' Tale*.

The experience comprises a series of linked, two- and three-day walks, totalling 96 kilometres, and is broken up into 4 'Chapters'.

This submission outlines the detail for *Chapter One: Owen* – a 28km moderate to easy difficulty, three-day, return journey beginning with a shuttle from Queenstown to Karlson's Gap where the walk begins to Horsetail Falls, traversing Mt Owen and Mt Huxley before dropping into the King River Gorge and concluding at Dubbil Barril. From here, walkers can choose from a variety of options for a memorable journey back to Queenstown or Strahan via the

This submission has been prepared by Destination West Coast, a body representing West Coast Tourism and other businesses. There has been wide consultation and the submission has broad community support.

120 year old steam train, rail car, hi-rail, raft, kayak or helicopter. Features of *Chapter One* include dramatic geology, mountain and gorge landscapes, huge waterfalls, cantilever platforms, suspension bridges, alpine and rainforest vegetation along with Huon Pine forests and serene river bends.

The overall concept lends itself to repeat visitation with walkers returning in order to complete the experience of all four Chapters.

The Philosophers' Tale seeks to link in with existing infrastructure and businesses in order to build on what already exists rather than to start afresh. We are exploiting a dramatic landscape that has been fashioned by nature and man into something powerful and unique. The walk will open opportunities for new and existing businesses. Being situated close to Queenstown, it can easily utilise the existing town infrastructure. Potential benefits can be expected to flow into the wider community rather than just a few large tourist operators.

Initially, accommodation is planned to be quality huts with adjacent tent platforms. A private equity opportunity is available in the provision of luxury lodge accommodation. Private investment will be sought for the provision of accommodation at Dubbil Barril. Other proposed infrastructure is the completion of the Horsetail Falls short walk, a cantilever lookout in the King Gorge and two suspension bridges over the King River.

Tasmania is blessed with an abundance of wild, dramatic and beautiful natural areas, many of which are already on offer to the travelling walker. The West Coast Range and *The Philosophers' Tale* is a dramatic departure from that ideal by taking the traveller just outside their comfort zone and challenging their imagination, whilst lifting the bar for any future enterprise to a new level.

I commend *The Philosophers' Tale* to you and am sure it will capture your imagination as surely as it has ours.

Regards,

Anthony Brown

President, Destination West Coast
PO Box 125 Queenstown TAS 7467
info@destinationwestcoast.com.au
0417 058 551

