



Green Paper

Survey Results Summary

Completed August 2015

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Survey Demographic Summary

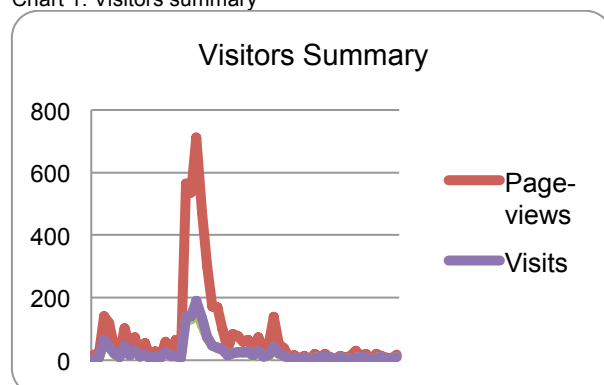
The Green Paper and associated survey was posted on Council's online community engagement tool "Your Voice Your Launceston". The survey period was from June 1 2015 to July 13, 2015. During that period 1,313 people visited at least one page on the site. Participation is separated into three categories: aware, informed and engaged and the break down of actions taken in each category is shown in Table 1. There were more female than male participants and the 56-65 and 46-55 age groups had the highest participation in the survey.

Table 1: Participation in community engagement

Engaged Participants		Gender (Participating in survey)	
Participated in Surveys	267	Male	Female
Informed Participants		47%	53%
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Age (Participating in survey)	
Viewed a photo	46	65+	17%
Downloaded a document	702	56-65	27%
Visited the Key Dates page	37	46-65	23%
Visited an FAQ list Page	0	36-45	15%
Visited Multiple Project Pages	568	26-35	15%
Aware Participants		16-25	5%
Visited at least one page	1313		

There was a spike in activity between the 19/6 and 23/6 with a peak of 711 page views on the 21/6/2015.

Chart 1: Visitors summary



The majority of responses came from the 7250-post code area followed by 7248 and 7249.

Table 2: Survey participants by postcode

Post code	No.	Area
7301	2	Longford Bishopsbourne area
7303	1	Westbury Whitemore area
7212	2	Evandale Blessington Nile
7291	1	Carrick
7290	2	Hadspen
7275	1	Exeter Frankford Glengarry area
7268	1	Lilydale Underwood
7267	1	Bangor Karoola Turners Marsh area
7262	2	Bridport Tomahawk Waterhouse

Post code	No.	Area
7260	1	Scottsdale area
7258	2	Breadalbane Relbia White Hills
7253	1	Bell Bay Georgetown Long Reach Low Head
7252	7	Dilston Hillwood Lefroy Lulworth Pipers River Swan Bay Weymouth Windermere area
7249	27	Glen Dhu Kings Meadows South Launceston Youngtown Punchbowl Sandhill
7248	32	Invermay Mowbray Newnham Rocherlea area
7250	187	Blackstone Heights East Launceston Launceston Norwood Prospect Ravenswood Riverside St Leonards Summerhill Travellers Rest Trevallyn Waverley
7277	6	Bridgenorth Grindelwald Legana Rosevears
4575	1	Qld
3127	1	Vic
3099	1	Vic

The Vision Statement

The vision statement from the Green Paper is a description of the area in the future and is written in the present tense as if it has been achieved.

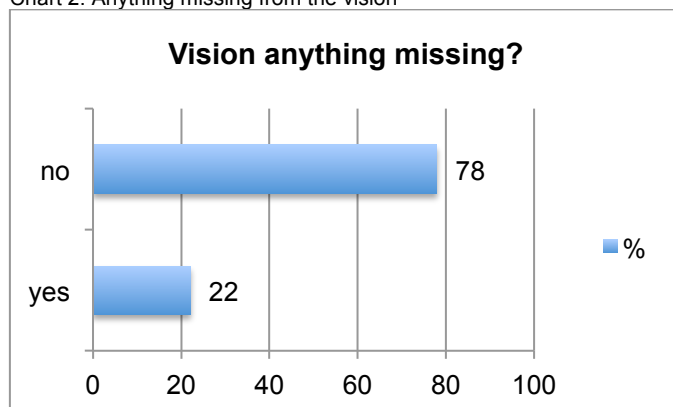
It reads:

The Greater Cataract Gorge: An Aboriginal Place
Illuminating our stories, both ancient and new
Connecting YOU to OUR backyard

Survey participants were asked if they thought anything was missing from the vision. 78% of survey participants said no and 22% said yes. This means that the majority of survey participants felt the vision needed no change.

The 22% who responded yes provided a number of comments that are listed below. Spelling and grammatical errors in the comments have largely been corrected but the content of the comments is unedited.

Chart 2: Anything missing from the vision



Issues from comments on the Vision Statement

- Concern about the words “An Aboriginal Place”. The sentiment being that the place belongs to the whole community not just one part.
- Include everyone’s stories – Aboriginal and European.
- Concern about the word “backyard” being unsophisticated and pedestrian.
- The need to include a statement about the natural values being in healthy and robust condition.
- A range of positive and negative statements about the proposed JMC Sky Lift proposal that were not directly related to the wording of the vision statement.

Comments on the Vision Statement

The Greater Cataract Gorge: An Aboriginal Place

*“In thinking of what should be included in any future vision for the Greater Gorge area, no longer can the Aboriginal community be exiled from this cultural landscape. I believe that to achieve the project goal of **“strengthening the connection of today’s community to this place”** the aspirations of the Aboriginal community must be included. It’s been 167 years since Aboriginal people have been a part of this country and we need to ensure it’s not another 167 years till we achieve this outcome. To provide a worthwhile outcome, we must ensure the final vision allows the Aboriginal community to participate as equals. We must be regarded as owners of this landscape.*

To achieve this, the group must consider ownership and management outside any provision previously attempted. To become leaders, leaders of change or game-changers is by a partnership of the level never before considered in Tasmania. One that is both conciliatory and practical for the Aboriginal community. This may include the return of land and its subsequent lease back arrangement of the broader 632 hectares. All options may be placed on the table for discussion. I likened the possibility of achieving a similar outcome to what has been achieved at Uluru (Ayer’s Rock). But to achieve an outcome of this nature will require us to be creative and far-sighted; we need to consider what it takes for us to gain meaningful benefits from this opportunity. I believe such discussion will be educative and an acknowledgement of the history of the Cataract Gorge.” - Clyde Mansell

- The Greater Cataract Gorge always a place to nurture, an Aboriginal place of significance, sacred sites across time enriching to our original people and now us.
- Imperative that the Aboriginal Community is represented and consulted with integrity and transparency.
- It is important to recognise the First Peoples; include their stories and heritage; and involve the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. It is a place shaped by history, and is loved and shared by all.
- It is extremely important to the Aboriginal People, to have such a special place in Launceston for everyone to share. It will help to heal and bring us together. School groups would benefit immensely. West Launceston Primary School had an Elder take the children very rewarding.
- Should the wording be "Aboriginal people" rather than "Aboriginals"?
- Include something about a place for reflection and recreation. The Vision makes it sound like it’s ONLY an Aboriginal Place, while it might have been and could still be, it’s much more than that.
- Keep it natural and not an Aboriginal theme or unpronounceable names

- It's a place for everyone now, including the Aboriginal community, but not exclusively for the Aboriginal community. It's meaningful for lots of people now. It's a WHOLE OF COMMUNITY place.
- Takes out 'An Aboriginal Place'. When are we ever going to be just Australians!
- What is the Aboriginal name?
- A place of recreation for Launceston. I am not aware of any Aboriginal interest in the Cataract Gorge in my lifetime.
- It is not just an Aboriginal place. Using that as an opening statement is too restrictive. The vision must be more pluralistic; it is a place for all to share the incredible natural beauty and calm, so close to the city.
- Aboriginal name only.
- It is a predominantly a community space and Aboriginal history is a small part only.
- There is no apparent motivation or reason to force the Gorge to be an Aboriginal place. Drop the idea. Move on.
- While Aboriginal heritage is clearly a huge factor, and I'm not negating it, I would hate to see it take precedence over the connections of other Launcestonians - some of which have still been established over 4-5 generations or more.
- Delete reference to Aboriginal place, this is concocted and divisive in the community.
- Not well resolved. Over emphasis on the Aboriginal component.
- That Michael Mansell's Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre does not represent all Tasmanian's of Aboriginal descent only ask people descended from the local tribe. The TAC has invented new place names & writes them with no capitals, which is not correct English.

Illuminating our stories both ancient and new

- European history and a focus on natural values including animals and geology; this is not just an Aboriginal place.
- Indigenous history featured / explained.
- I applaud the reference to Indigenous history.
- Illuminating? Would need further information on what you're trying to achieve.
- A brief history of Launceston after European settlement? Old pastures of the Gorge, Royal Park etc. are very interesting.
- Be careful not to exclude people - this is not solely an Aboriginal place. There are other stories here.
- It is a place of conservation - natural and social. This includes the vegetation, both ingenious and introduced species and the man-made gardens and infrastructures. Stories spring from the past and people make them for themselves.
- Its an irreplaceable geomorphic site, promotes present day physical, mental and social health. It's more than a park. A natural wonder to be treasured and kept for present and future visitors.

Connecting you to our backyard

- It is rare for any community to have within its boundaries such remarkable natural spaces. Putting it simply this area only exists as we are allowed still to regard it as something 'of nature'. Therefore I firmly believe that anything we wish to do to

it retains, if not increases, the natural elements it contains. This is clearly referred to in objectives points 2 and 3 in your "Vision" statement.

- Nature, leisure, mystery, magic, connection (without reference to a backyard).
- Maintaining natural beauty and not overdeveloping.
- Something about its natural beauty and how fortunate we are to have this spot so accessible to locals.
- That it is worth maintaining the natural environment in a healthy and natural state.
- Maintaining and enhancing the recreational opportunities - its more than just access and linkages.
- Widen the vision to protect the native flora and fauna.
- 'Our unique, natural' backyard.
- Your natural beauty maintained/sustained.
- The sentence 'connecting you to our backyard' might be better as 'connecting us to 'the' or 'our' backyard.
- Should be rewritten orotit (?) last 5 words; The City has a fine and unique asset that should be a valued and respected by all.
- You need to specifically include the natural values (flora, fauna, etc.) being in natural and healthy condition. At the moment, this is, at best, assumed in the wording of some of the vision but not specifically outlined. It's a big one, and the key one!
- 'Backyard' term is unsophisticated.
- Nothing missing but I don't like 'backyard'; to me it suggests something to do with personal space and not always highly valued, whereas the Gorge to me suggests connection to more universal spiritual ancient values. Backyard is almost pedestrian.
- You need to specifically envision the natural values being in healthy conditions. e.g. "there is a vibrant and healthy diverse natural environment with robust populations of local native flora and fauna and intact ecosystem processes"

General comments

- Don't bother with it.
- A general comment from Hydro Tasmania relates to the need to clearly balance financial, environmental and social aspects within the vision and general decision-making framework. Articulating and applying such a sustainability approach can clarify the financial implications of some goals may exceed the social and environmental benefits.
- Detail - the vision lacks the kind of detail that lets someone actually visualise what the 'vision' is talking about. A lot of consultant jargon in there, but in general the vision is poorly communicated (and presented). This is just a report.
- Did not consult Federation of Tasmanian Walking Clubs or the Orienteering groups.
- The Green Paper appears to be low on detail.
- Clarity of description: what the Gorge and Trevallyn Reserve will look like in 2030 is hard to guess from this section.
- Your vision has merit but sensitive development for access for locals and tourists should be included.
- Better Wording – Succinct.
- Vision should include protection of natural and cultural values to maintain integrity and character for future generations.

- The vision should be regularly reviewed with input from all residents. It is important that the community is kept informed of all decisions made.
- The 'vision' needs to be centred on the second and third dot points. The first and last points will then follow.

Sky lift and other comments not directly relevant to the Vision Statement

- We need the sky lift in the Gorge what a great concept.
- The Gorge Sky lift is a mission critical step for the Gorge. By itself it will be an excellent value add to the tourism experience to Launceston. But crucially it will build momentum for further investment in the Gorge and Launceston tourism infrastructure.
- A plan to build a Sky Lift hidden in a tree corridor has my support.
- Would like to see the GORGE SKYLIFT included in the Greater Cataract Gorge
- I think that the Gorge Sky Lift is an awesome idea that should go ahead to add another visitor experience to the area.
- I support the Gorge Sky Lift Gondola to increase tourism and employment.
- Chromy Gondola, walking tracks, etc.
- No Gondola!
- The gondola project be rejected in its entirety NO GONDOLA IN OR NEAR OUR GORGE!
- The Gondola project be rejected in its entirety. No Gondola in or near our Gorge!
- How private enterprise is encroaching on natural, public spaces.
- Tourist attractions.
- Visitors come because of its natural beauty. Leave that alone!
- It should be a place for all citizens and visitors to be able to enjoy, relax and enjoy the surroundings. This should include new man made attractions to make the visits exciting and memorable for infrequent visitors and tourists.
- 1) Dogs on lead on paths to Duck Reach. 2) Speed humps on Sinclair Street and road to Duck Reach to reduce MV speed and reduce road kill.
- Please keep the Gorge with as little infrastructure as possible, it's beautiful as it is.
- A lack of already designated geology and geological trails that have been formulated in the past. Completely forgotten. These were public and educational tours I set up and submitted to the Mayor and tourism manager in 2013.
- Visitors don't need accommodating with developments. They come because it is (mainly) natural and quiet.
- I was led to believe that all submissions would be attached. My multi-page proposal has been omitted.
- It looks good but putting the name (even if its Latin) of what the trees are would be great. And some storyboards (how the Aboriginal people used the place)
- The Gorge area is treated with the utmost respect in regard to the vegetation and wildlife (bike trails only allowed in the Trevallyn Reserve). No dogs! No gondolas! No zip lines! Allow the Gorge to remain pristine. That's what people love about it.
- Natural environment conservation/significance

The Values

Values guide future choices and behaviour.
They are:

Be respectful

Collaborate and work together

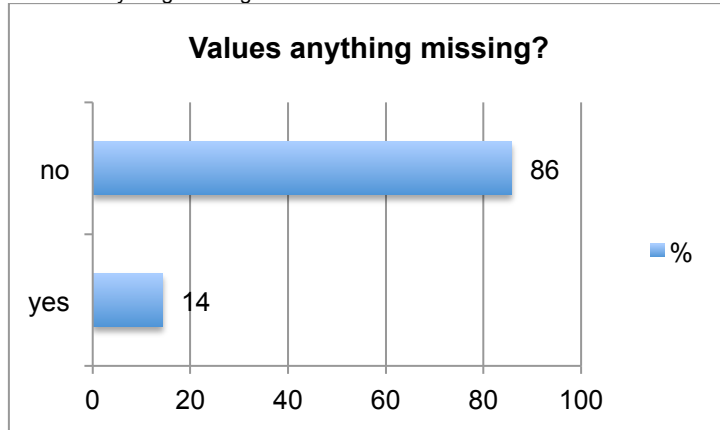
Be open, have confidence and back ourselves

Survey participants were asked if anything was missing from the statement of values. 86% said no and 14% said yes.

The 14% who said yes provided a number of comments that are listed below.

Spelling and grammatical errors in the comments have largely been corrected but the content of the comments is unedited.

Chart 3: Anything missing from the values



Issues coming from comments on the values

- Need to include a value about preserving the natural integrity of the place for generations to come
- Concern and confusion about the meaning of the words “back ourselves”

Comments about the values

Values statement

- Be more aware of how much time is wasted by stating the obvious.
- I need to reference the Green Paper but it's not so easy in this electronic world so I can't do this justice.
- There has been a lack of consultation - the Council has not been honest or open and it is hard to have any confidence in their ability to fulfill this area of the process after their appalling start.
- Should incorporate the value of 'catering for the environment'.
- A key value is "The Gorge is best left natural and simple". Management of the area should let nature speak for herself.
- We must also recognise that the Gorge and the Trevallyn Reserve are habitat for our wildlife and we must ensure their protection as well as biodiversity. Therefore, include the values of Wildlife, Habitat and Biodiversity in this plan.
- Lip service basically.
- These are attitudes, not values. Values include scenery, biodiversity so close to a city, a natural area for recreation or passive enjoyment.

- Good work.
- These are too generic and simplistic. I don't believe they represent the values of the community overly effectively.
- You need another key principal to reflect the attitude of the majority of respondents "natural and simple is best".
- To ensure that the Gorge is maintained in its pristine condition as a gift for generations to come, by not allowing theme park development to occur. It is a special untouched place that needs to be preserved into the future.
- How scientists value this area as a unique scientific place.

Be respectful

- Very inward talking - what about visitors? Respectful works.
- No development except toilets.
- Respect for the Environment and Aboriginal history, hold Community Space,
- Value the history/heritage
- Valuing (that is, giving due weight to) scientific advice when making decisions on planning and ecological matters. There are others area of expertise, of course, and I imagine LCC will respect professional advice in all its deliberations.

Collaborate and work together

- Above all listen to the regular users of these areas.
- For everyone.
- We will be honest and transparent with each other in our deciding and our decisions. We're all stakeholders within Council and Government bodies. Note: Not a single authority!

Be open have confidence and back ourselves

- Hasten slowly.
- The second part doesn't make sense - what does 'have confidence and back ourselves' mean? Need to add something about sustainability, protection and enjoyment.
- I like this - but I think the values selected represent an ideal that was predetermined and not one that is reflective of the consultation process. For example, what does 'back ourselves' mean if it is not about development? What does 'be open' mean?
- Better writing in this survey - have confidence? Back ourselves? Repetitive nebulous nonsense.
- I would like to see: - be PROGRESSIVE thinking to the future and not sitting back on ones laurels.
- Back ourselves is at odds with the other themes and seems a poor choice of words for a Value. Enjoy is suggested as an alternative as it can be interpreted in a number of ways to reflect the way it is used including future development enabling enjoyment.
- I'm not sold on the "back ourselves" bit of the values.
- What is the bottom line? Back yourselves doing what? How has this site been valued?
- We need to be progressive whilst respecting the place. For instance - people are saying not to develop the Gorge in actual fact I read their comments as protective to the Basin and Gorge after it 'development' can happen prior to the Basin.

- Do your research or be resourceful.
- *Be open, have confidence etc.- not at the expense of the theme parked developments. In 100 years the city will value a natural area CGR & TNRA so close to the city.

Other comments

- Cable car access from Penny Royal to Cataract Bridge area.
- Please see my submission.
- The Gorge Sky Lift.
- Sky Lift.
- Sky Lift.
- Increased access for young families, the elderly and less mobile including disabled to see the best views of the Gorge.
- Speed humps in place at the end of Denison Rd to prevent "hoon" behaviour in cars.
- Areas joining Cataract Gorge and TNRA for dog walks and mountain bikers.
- More of the history can be placed along the route. The pay station, the art-house the cottage etc.
- A very confusing paper to read!

The Themes

To achieve the vision there are eight Themes to follow.

Participants were asked to rank the 8 themes in order of their importance to the future of the study area using a rating scale of 1 to 8 where 1 is most important.

The following table shows the weighted scores for each theme. Environmental Management, Maintenance & Amenities and Access & Linkages were the top three respectively.

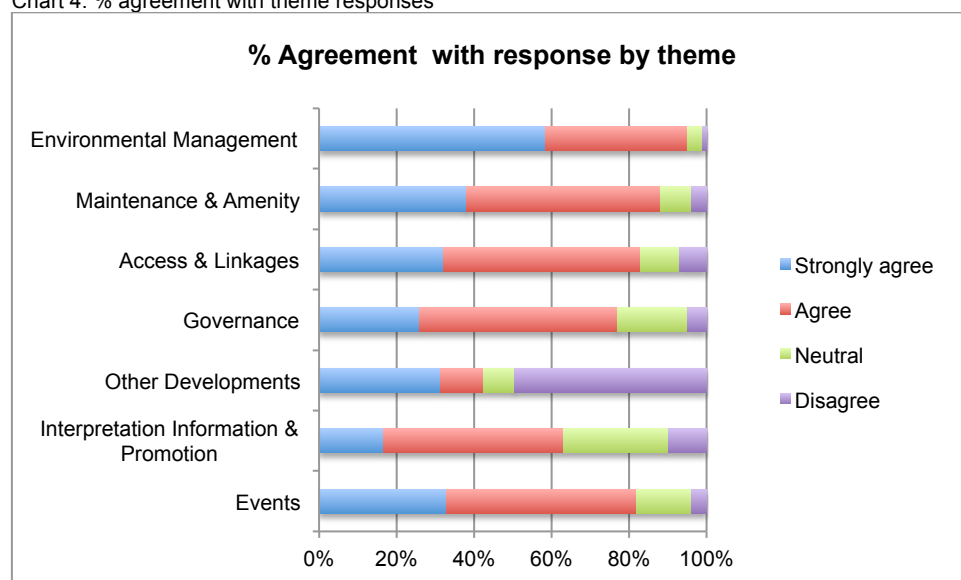
Table 3: Ranking of themes

Theme	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Rank
Governance	232	189	204	155	112	48	32	21	993	4
Environmental management	448	532	192	100	32	18	6	1	1329	1
Access and linkages	128	266	198	245	144	36	26	5	1048	3
Maintenance and amenities	112	217	336	220	120	36	20	5	1066	2
Interpretation, information and promotion	40	63	150	125	232	138	46	10	804	6
Events	40	70	72	110	112	216	70	17	707	7
Accommodation	32	14	24	30	20	84	156	74	434	8
Other developments	584	63	36	20	28	33	48	68	880	5

The most popular responses from the Green Paper were summarised within each theme. Participants were asked to consider each theme and indicate agreement with the importance of the key responses. Those that did not agree were asked to note anything important that was missing.

The following chart shows levels of agreement by theme. Environment, Maintenance & Amenity, Access & Linkages, Governance and Events had high levels of agreement. Lower levels were in Interpretation, Information and Promotion, Accommodation. The result for Other Developments was caused by high levels of disagreement with the statement that *Transformational projects in the Gorge or TNRA were not strongly supported as a priority*

Chart 4: % agreement with theme responses

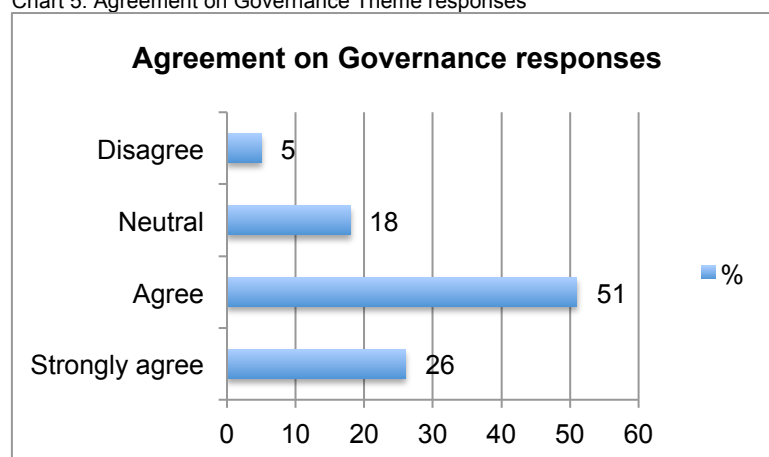


Even though there are high levels of agreement in most themes quite a few

comments were made. The question that needs consideration is: Given the high levels of agreement how much attention should be given to the comments of those who disagree? In this summary the comments have been used to identify common issues or new thoughts to consider. There has been no ranking of comments or issues. The ranking of responses identified in the Green Paper will be used in the development of the White Paper.

Theme 1: Governance

Chart 5: Agreement on Governance Theme responses



76% of survey participants agreed and strongly agreed with the importance of the responses in the theme and 5% disagreed. A number of comments were made about the Governance Theme. Spelling and grammatical errors in the comments have largely been corrected but the content is unedited.

Issues from Governance comments

- Mixed views about the involvement of the Aboriginal Community in the management of the study area.
- An annual meeting of a reference group seen as insufficient.
- Combine the management of the two parts of the study area. No clear message about the form of structure but a single authority is favoured by the CGAC.
- Transparency and community engagement needed.

Governance comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (1) Governance			
The importance of key stakeholders continuing to work together on projects, the Reference Group meeting annually to build a better understanding of issues and needs, volunteers continuing to work across the entire area and involving the Aboriginal Community in the management of both sites were key Governance priorities (issues 1.7, 1.6, 1.5, 1.1).			
Do you agree that these are the most important Governance issues?			
1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.3, 1.5 Strongly Agree	1.7 Agree	1.6 Neutral	Disagree
Is there anything that you would like to see included as a higher Governance priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CGAC question what is meant by Aboriginal 'ownership'? The committee 			

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response

- believes the principle of Aboriginal custodianship be preferred for the GCG.
- The CGAC strongly agree to the creation of a single authority as stated in the Green Paper.
- That the CGAC believe it's appropriate that regional Aboriginal communities are represented in the governance of the GCG.
- The feeling of the CGAC is that more clarity is required in defining the structure/relationship between governance and management of the GCG.
- (1.6) The CGAC would want to see the recommended structure of governance and management before further comment could be made. Please clarify if the original reference group as detailed in page 3 of the Green Paper is envisaged to meet annually, or a reference group is formed for this purpose.
- Consideration be given to a combined advisory group for the TNRA and CG.

Aboriginal involvement in the management of the Gorge and the TNRA

- Do not involve Michael Mansell's Tas. Aboriginal Centre, as they are not representative of many Tasmanians of Aboriginal descent. Only involve people who have descended from the tribe/s that actually used the Gorge area before colonisation.
- As long as you involve the Aboriginal Community in your reference group.
- Reference group and Aboriginal groups are important but it is quite clear that the most important, and indeed informative, group to consult with is the wider-community. The Green Paper makes this very clear; the most passionate users are the community.
- I believe there is a too greater importance on the Aboriginal Community and also that of the Green Movement. This is creating roadblocks to new ways of using this area.
- Aboriginal Community is important but no more important than other communities
- Local aborigines yes. Keep the Aboriginal Land Council and political self-interest groups out of it.
- I don't understand the need for highlighting involvement of Aboriginal Community in this Gorge thing.
- There is very little recorded Aboriginal history in this area so you'd be making stories up which lack authenticity.
- Involvement of Aboriginal Community.
- Joint Aboriginal and English names would be an important symbolic step.
- I would like to see joint Aboriginal and English names for the area.
- It may well be that the Aboriginal artefact sites will need to be kept secret as a mark of respect to the Aboriginal Community and of the safety of the sites and artefacts. This may be the only solution to protect them from being vandalised.
- Disagree.
- The Gorge will always be referred to as "the Gorge" - don't think introducing an Aboriginal name will be received well.
- Disagree with the concept of Aboriginal "ownership". Aboriginal input - yes; Aboriginal management – no.
- Again Aboriginal Community has lost any direct connection and does not offer any more valid input than the rest of the community.

Body for future management and stakeholder collaboration / reference group / single authority

- No need for the reference group to continue to meet as there are existing governance and management systems in operation.
- Government model is weak - e.g. an annual meeting is not sufficient. The lack of representation of direct neighbours (property owners who live on the boundary) is a major oversight!
- Who is on the reference group? I can't agree to a process that is not clear. There have been too many instances of private interest groups supposedly representing community stakeholders.
- Don't need government plebs justifying their existence when they have shown previously in former roles they are weak and are just puppets on a string causing disunity in the community who are the real stakeholders.
- Recognition of current advisory body.
- Honesty. A completely new group providing a completely new framework, and terms of reference.
- Reference group should meet more frequently.
- Is an annual meeting sufficient?
- Agree that a reference group should meet annually.
- Transparency and community involvement.
- Governance led by a single government authority, perhaps local government. Volunteers and Aboriginal Community will not deliver on the desired outcomes without significant management by government.
- Single authority to manage both Gorge and TRNA area.
- Combine all the different areas into one, to be managed by the Launceston City Council. It's mad to have all these different bodies with a finger in the pie.
- Governance is important as long as it is truly represented by Launceston residents and not by vocal small interest groups. We need to ensure that Launceston residents are the sole people on the governance group and not representatives from other councils.
- LCC must be in control of the Gorge site and have a major say in the TNRA. Who funds the areas? Launceston ratepayers.
- Include tourist representatives.
- Does 'on projects' need to be there? Key stakeholders should continue (or begin) to work together on anything and everything.
- Agree key stakeholders should work together.
- Commercial involvement.
- I think business in the areas around the Gorge need to be included in the consultation process.
- I do not understand a single authority, as there is not enough information.
- Greater community consultation.
- Who are the key stakeholders?

Volunteers

- Volunteer groups are key stakeholders and need to play a significant role in governance.
- Neutral about volunteers working across both areas.

Other governance issues

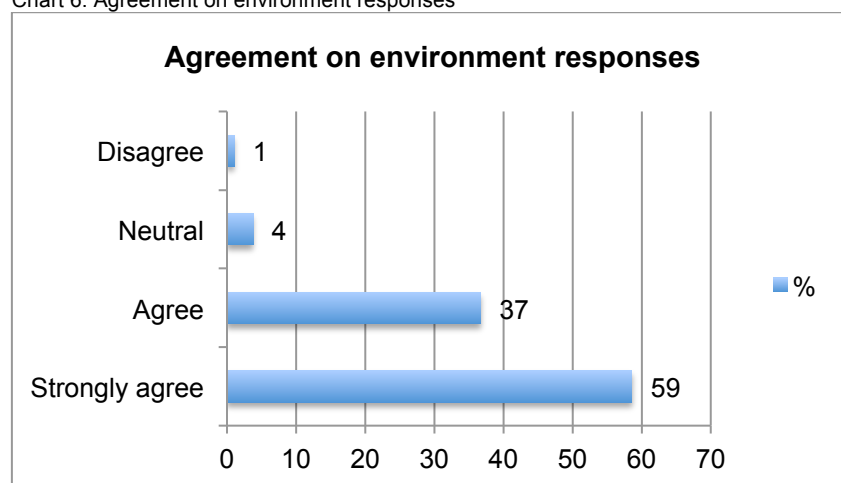
- Governance should consider the economics of this area. Too often residents propose ideas without consideration of who / how it will be funded. If the Council

intends to fund the new assets then be transparent in what increase in rates is required.

- No favouritism, no favouring one group over another, leave access for all as it is, but don't increase things like mountain biking and dog walking that negatively affect other users and detract from the quiet enjoyment of the place.
- There is a threat to the Trevallyn Nature Reserve Area. The integrity of the park is being eroded by development, which is clearly visible from the Trevallyn Dam and also Dead Mans Hollow. There needs to be stronger protection afforded these areas.
- Protection of natural values, maintenance and enhancement of recreational opportunities. Governance is important but the area isn't maintained for 'governance' so why have that as the lead? Governance isn't an outcome, its just a supporting function.
- The Gorge is a key driver for tourism in Launceston and its physical beauty needs to be promoted so I see a need for a strong general economy to create the wealth to afford to manage the natural and man-made attributes of the Gorge.
- I think vegetation management should be considered. This would encompass weed management. The Gorge is not solely native plants and I believe more introduced deciduous species would greatly improve the Basin area and provide much needed shade.
- The environmental health of the Gorge, and the Tamar, should be paramount. As such, it should be built into governance guidelines.
- Maintenance of the history.
- Not to reduce the size of the Gorge area and surrounds for any reason.
- Not 'higher' but given similar importance: ecological expertise and values.
- Modern toilets.
- I'd like to see questions in the survey that can be understood by the average ratepayer.
- More water.

Theme 2: Environmental Management

Chart 6: Agreement on environment responses



96% of survey participants agreed with the responses in the environmental management theme. Despite this strong level of agreement a number of comments were also made and they are detailed below.

Issues from environmental management comments

- Fire management needs to be given higher priority.
- Give more prominence to wildlife habitat and conservation.
- Weed eradication and the involvement of volunteers in this work.
- The geological significance of the area should not be overlooked.
- Support more than one volunteer group.
- Concern about development in and adjacent to the area affecting the environment.
- Water flow for the South Esk River (*pleepertoomeler*) from the dam to the Tamar (*kunermelukeker*)

Environmental Management comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (2) Environmental Management			
Stopping people dumping rubbish in the area, improving water quality, controlling feral animals, eradication of weeds and increased water flow through the Gorge were the key Environmental Management priorities (Responses 2.6,2.1,2.5,2.2)			
Do you agree that these are the most important Environmental Management issues?			
2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Is there anything that you would like to see included as a higher Environmental Management priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water flow for the South Esk River (<i>pleepertoomeler</i>) from the dam to the Tamar (<i>kunermelukeker</i>) 			

Water flow and quality

- The following specific points are put forward by Hydro Tasmania; The financial implications associated with increased water flows through the Gorge to the state of Tasmania need to be considered. It is noted that TasWater and NRM North are developing plans to address point sources pollution impacting on water quality in the Gorge. The impacts on water quality in the Gorge of activities upstream of Lake Trevallyn also need to be considered.
- More water flow through First Basin.
- Improving quality and quantity of water flow from Trevallyn Dam down to Tamar via South Esk River.
- Increased water flow in the gorge is a priority.
- Less sewerage.
- Reinstate Duck Reach Power Station to allow increase water flow in First Basin, which will also aerate the water thus decreasing the bacteria level.
- Increasing water flow is simplistic and not a sensible strategy as it will diminish sustainable energy outcomes.
- Sewerage and EPA regs.
- I believe there should be a concerted effort to increase water flow.

- I don't want to see 'increased water flow' as it would be preferable for it to be wild water, without the dam, and thus sometimes less water through the Gorge.

Rubbish

- More bins along the walkways would be useful.
- Need more bins; Need regular patrols.
- More rubbish bins.

Fire management

- One key aspect overlooked is the fire management, which is non-existent.
- A fire management plan is vital due to the difficult access for fighters.
- Remove fallen trees from below zigzag track to lessen fire risk.
- Fire management important.
- Missed from responses list important; Fire management.

Flora & fauna

- Maintain the existing non-native old trees, which are special to the place.
- Replanting more native plants in degraded areas.
- Support and monitor endemic fauna and flora and retain this isolated 'ark' of natural Tasmania in an urban/rural landscape.
- Wildlife habitat is not given any prominence in these key issues. It is the only land where they can live in most cases. Biodiversity must be strengthened, along with the protection of the native species.
- Flora and fauna survey before any major work to establish a base line.
- Protection and development of scenic and skyline reserves. The tree-lined skylines of Launceston and the Gorge provide a very unique feel and environment.
- Maintenance of existing flora and fauna towards sustainability.
- Conservation of native flora and fauna; protection.
- The key priority should be maintaining indigenous plant and animal populations, thriving and healthy, with natural landscape processes.
- Replace many of the exotic trees, which have died to bring back original design in the Basin and bandstand areas.
- Yes the overarching priority should be maintaining the natural flora and fauna and their habitats, sustaining natural landscape functions.
- Good to see some native plants going in.

Weeds & pests

- Weed management now non-existent also.
- Weed management needs to be addressed and support the volunteer groups doing this work.
- The weeds that are present throughout the Gorge area are very concerning.
- The banks of the Gorge, especially between Kings Bridge and First Basin need regular maintenance especially removal of fallen trees, control of creepers and weeds.
- Eradication of weeds as it is not listed here!
- Why are they not spraying the bloody ivy? No one on the wants list and they are just trimming it!

- Eradication or better control of the European Wasps that are plague-like during breeding season.

Volunteers

- Honour and promote volunteers, Green Army and others for commitment and efforts.
- Green Army? What about us?
- Supporting volunteer groups e.g. FOTR not just Green Army.

Adjoining development

- No more development. The area is fragile and is already showing the signs of over use e.g. degradation of the zigzag track. Gorge perimeters need to be protected at all costs!
- A management group who are able to recognise and throw out environmental disasters e.g. Gondola proposal.
- Preventing inappropriate development that diminishes the current natural or built heritage and ambience.
- Preventing building of houses on skyline.
- No commercial intrusion.

Managing activities and behaviours

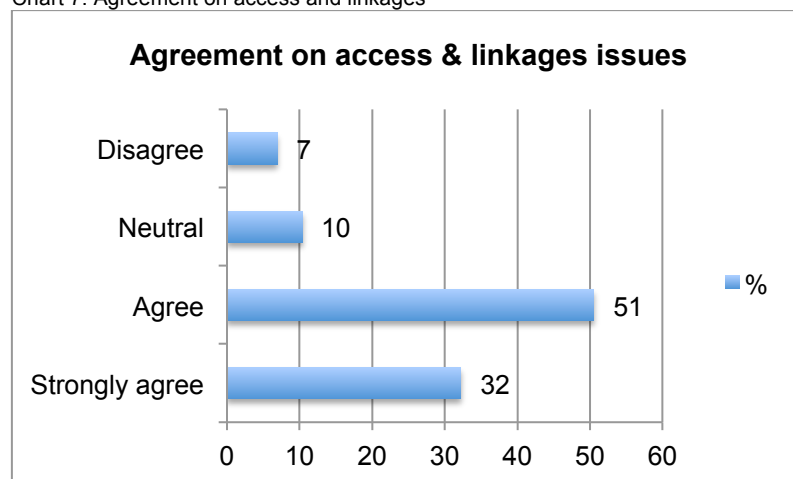
- No dogs in Gorge and on-leash only in the Reserve.
- Also large dogs that constantly (whenever anyone uses the fire trails) bark viciously at trail users is a concern that goes unaddressed.
- No dogs allowed into the area at all due to the wildlife.
- Allow dogs in some areas on leads.
- Ban abseiling along the banks by the zigzag track. This is causing serious erosion.
- STOP rock-climbing. It is causing VERY SERIOUS degradation of cliff-faces and approach areas.
- Monitoring bad behaviour and ensure people do not take their pets into this area (or ride bikes, skateboards, etc.)
- Introduce very high fines.
- Stopping people stealing rocks or pushing boulders on to the paths.

Other issues

- Upgrade lighting to LED efficient lighting. Improve water pumps with variable speed drives to reduce energy consumption.
- Conservation and interpretation of indigenous values.
- Retaining the geological features of the area
- Erosion control. Restoring rock climbs/steps along promenade walk.
- I believe an upper connection past duck reach is needed to link the gorge to TNRA used by cyclists and walkers. NOTE: look at making Kings Bridge Penny Royal pedestrianized create a new off ramp to Trevallyn from the highway opposite 3 Trevallyn Road.

Theme 3: Access & Linkages

Chart 7: Agreement on access and linkages



83% of survey participants agreed with the responses for access and linkages 7% disagreed.

Issues from access and linkages comments

- Mixed views about making Kings Bridge the major pedestrian access point mainly influenced by perceptions that vehicular access to Trevallyn could be compromised. There is recognition about the need to improve pedestrian safety at the Kings Bridge entrance.
- Opposition to giving cyclists access to the Gorge. Suspect the term Gorge means the Cliff Grounds and First Basin area, which is considered a pedestrian priority. No specific opposition to cycling in the TNRA just connecting the areas via the Cataract Gorge.
- Mixed views about the hop on hop off bus. Extending the route of the Tiger Bus Service was made. Proximity of the Cataract Gorge Reserve to the City enables visitors to walk to the area.
- The proposed JAC Group Sky Lift was advocated as an additional way to access the Cataract Gorge Reserve especially for visitors and those who have difficulty walking.
- Agreement with the need for improved way finding for cars and pedestrians.
- Improving access for less mobile people from the First Basin to the swinging bridge but not necessarily by building a boardwalk.

Access and linkages comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (3) Access & Linkages			
Providing a 'hop on hop off' bus for visitors, implementing a way finding system for cars, cyclists and pedestrians, exploring potential linkages for bike riders between the Gorge and the TNRA, making Kings Bridge the major pedestrian access point to the area.. These were the key access and linkages priorities (Responses 3.3, 3.1, 3.5, 3.2)			
Do you agree that these are the most important access & linkages issues?			
3.1, 3.2, 3.3 Strongly Agree	3.4, 3.5 Agree	Neutral	3.6 Disagree
Is there anything that you would like to see included as a higher Access & Linkages			

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response

priority?

- (3.2) Kings Bridge is current the major access point from the city. For this to serve its purpose a major project around safety and amenity needs to occur (to also be addressed in the way finding project).
- (3.3) Is seen as a private/government enterprise.
- (3.4) We understand this to be a metal track to be provided in the existing steps between Kings Bridge and South Esk Road.
- (3.6) For practical, environmental and cultural reasons to disagree.

Kings Bridge major pedestrian access point

- I do not agree with the Kings Bridge being the major access point that idea seems to suggest links to the Chromy redevelopment as it is unfeasible in current state, main accesses should remain as they are. I worry about bikes sharing path with little kids.
- Keep Kings Bridge open to vehicular traffic.
- The pedestrian access point on Kings Bridge needs careful consideration. The lack of parking provision at the 'Penny Royal' should not be addressed by 'stealing' amenity from Trevallyn residents.
- The current access is adequate and within walking distance of the city. Parking at the Basin adequate for vehicles.
- Should be a safe way for pedestrians to cross over from one side of Kings Bridge to another - VERY dangerous at the moment and I would think the Council would be liable if an accident were to occur. Also dangerous in the car park for pedestrians crossing.
- Pedestrian crossing needed to get across the road at Kings Bridge.
- Only if Kings Bridge can be a SAFE pedestrian access point.
- Create underpass from below Batman Bridge under King's Bridge to allow safe pedestrian access from west Tamar Road.
- A proper pedestrian crossing at Kings Bridge entrance.
- More distinct direction notices to the pathways to both tracks leading from Kings Bridge both at the starting points and further back, say near the Penny Royal.
- Kings Bridge bus is a good idea, car parking in Penny Royal and car park under Riverside Bridge with pedestrian access via walkway under Kings Bridge.
- Because the Kings Bridge access is historically and culturally important something must be done to correct the development eye sore in the quarry - how could this have happened?
- Kings Bridge is the main entrance, but there are multiple entry sites especially in West Launceston that tourists and residents access.
- Need more parking and pickup/drop-off areas close to Kings Bridge.
- Increase car parking near Tamar Marine. Show car parking outside Penny Royal (Gun Powder Mill).
- Kings Bridge has no car parking so it can't be main access point?
- Making Kings Bridge the primary access point could discriminate against disabled people. Path would require improved maintenance.
- Parking at Kings Bridge.
- Kings Bridge is a stupid major pedestrian access area.
- Due to limited parking at Kings Bridge not sure that this is the best entry point. We almost always use Basin Road.
- Main pedestrian access should stay where it is.

- What about key access points to the Reserve? At the moment is a little vague and disjointed.
- Why should rate payers be incredibly inconvenienced by losing access to the old bridge - the two bridge system only just caters for residents of Trevallyn and Riverside at the moment - why was Jo Chromy development passed if it was clearly insufficient?

Cyclist linkages

- The Gorge is a pedestrian area/zone - cyclist do not comfortably fit in this area.
- Bikes allowed to use path from First Basin to Kings Bridge at set times i.e. 7 - 9am and 3-5pm.
- No bike tracks in Gorge.
- No bikes.
- Bicycles - cycling should be restricted to the area - the Gorge walkways for walkers only.
- I'm sick of the incessant demands of bike riders. WALKERS are of much higher importance.
- More boardwalks and cycle stairways could only clutter the Gorge with more man-made eyesores.
- I don't think there should be priority for bike riders connecting to the Gorge, there is a huge area at TNRA for bike riding and the Gorge should be pedestrian only.
- Yes there is no bikeway to like this area and that also to the mountain bike trails with the Trevallyn Reserve area.
- Bike riders do not need to access TNRA via Gorge Reserve.
- Bike riders to be accountable - need their bikes to have certification.
- No bikes in Gorge.
- Mountain bikes: limit and regulate use. These are a major cause of erosion and damage to the area and allow "undesirables" quick and easy access.
- Linkages for cyclists are important.
- Bikes should stay out of the Gorge.
- Enforce 'no cyclists' on the Cataract Walk.
- This is no place for bike riders.
- Keep cars and bikes out of the Gorge.
- Sorting a simple way for cyclists to literally 'cut through' the Gorge to the TNRA.
- I am a bike rider but support a 'no bikes' policy for CGR.
- Blackstone Heights to TNRA walking/cycling bridge.
- Restoring original walking trails within the TNRA - many have been converted to bike tracks and have severely degraded since.
- Cyclists should be banned from the area; they damage vegetation and erode pathways. Keep them in the TNRA on separate paths from walkers/hikers.

Hop on Hop off bus

- Don't see why a bus is needed as the Gorge is in town.
- Its 10 minutes walk from the city centre. Leave it alone. A bus is ok, but if you can walk to the Gorge you don't need a bus!
- Provide public transport options to discourage cars and the need for car parking spaces.
- Access is limited. Buses will not be able to adequately service the requirements of tourists. A financial undertaking by LCC that is fraught with risk.

- Hop on hop off bus.
- Extend the Tiger Bus route to include a stop in the Gorge car park.
- Hop on hop off not only focusing on traffic snarl Kings Bridge but also west and Trevallyn access too to accommodate choice and abilities of pedestrians.
- Not enough visitors for a hop-on/off bus.
- Hop on/ hop off bus servicing key city attractions is urgently needed.
- The bus idea.
- Hop on /hop off bus going through West Launceston to Gorge is not a solution.
- Most visitors have own transport, rental cars or other organised transport prior to visit I think.

Access using a Sky Lift / Gondola

- My version of access most certainly doesn't include a gondola!!!
- The Gorge Sky lift is essential for Tourism and will be a world class attraction to the area.
- Proposed Sky Lift should be implemented
- No Gondolas!
- A cable car system like that over the rain forest in Cairns.
- Yes; The Gorge Chairlift or "Gondola" would make the Gorge area more accessible to older, less mobile people who probably make up the bulk of tourists. Everywhere else in the world we've travelled have these.
- The proposed Sky lift would be of great benefit to all, especially the elderly or people with disabilities or unable to access the gorge.
- Proposed Gondola would make an excellent access option, particularly for the elderly, disabled and those unable to walk the tracks. It would give these people access to the Gorge experience that they would otherwise miss out on.
- Strongly support the JAC Group proposal for a Gorge Sky Lift.
- Gorge Sky Lift would be a huge draw card for tourists.
- The Gorge Sky Lift is a wonderful idea. It can link up with the chairlift and would cut down on the need for road transport.
- Support the proposed Gondola
- The proposed Sky Lift is an important ingredient of the overall plan. My wife and I fully support this.
- Chairlift or other innovative modes of transport
- The chair lift from Penny Royal to the Gorge. Lets call on tourism as a way to keep our youth from travelling to the mainland for work.
- Sky Lift
- Chairlift
- Gondola from Penny Royal will make access from CBD much easier.
- A Sky Lift is not necessarily a higher access priority but one very worthy of consideration.
- The Gorge Sky lift is critical to achieving tourist access and numbers.
- A Gondola would be a fantastic link for people.
- Linking the City to the Gorge via the Sky Lift Gondola should be included to improve access for all to the best views.
- A major attraction, which would make access easier and quicker for older people and exciting for others, would be the installation of the proposed chairlift from the Penny Royal to the Basin.

- The Gorge Sky Lift would add another level of accessibility.
- The Gorge Sky Lift is a " must " project to add a huge benefit to the Gorge!!!! You only have to look at New Zealand, Cairns and along Rhine River in Germany where these projects have not impacted on the environment!!!! Work together please!!!!
- Not averse to having the chairlift as part of the plan.
- It's a natural resource and should be treated as so. It's not Disney world!
- Better car parking and access as proposed in Gondola concept.
- Chairlift from Penny Royal to inclinator
- ABSOLUTE NO WAY should gimmicky transport be allowed that is detrimental to the natural landscape i.e.; the Gorge Sky Lift or similar
- Gorge Sky lift
- Cable car from Penny Royal to Cataract Gorge area to improve access for all.
- Plus Gorge Sky Lift
- Sky Lift
- Gondola

Way finding system for cars cyclists and pedestrians

- This absolutely must be done in a way that leaves no visual impact (or very little). Use smartphone technology as a way finding system; use the services of recognised experts to develop linkages (i.e. Dr Stephen Fleming at UTAS). Don't just 'have a go'.
- Sequential signage from Paterson St. Kings Bridge to the Trevallyn access for the Cliff Grounds is poor; tourists are often confused and becoming lost in old Trevallyn.
- Way-finding for pedestrians.
- Display walking times to different places in whole area.
- So many international visitors avoid walking from city hotel to Gorge because of the lack of clear signs. Painted footprints are one way of making it easy to follow to a destination.
- Better road signage would help. Tourists want to go to the Gorge but have difficulty finding it.
- Improve signage from City to Gorge.
- Way finding is a great initiative that could be implemented from the city centre.
- More signage to access the area for cars.
- Better signage for pedestrians (many go up Trevallyn steps). "Follow me" line painted on the road for visitors in cars.
- Easier, better advertised parking and vehicle access.

Parking

- No massive, ugly car parks visible from the Gorge.
- Parking at West L'ton end could be improved.
- Avoid encouraging vehicle traffic to the Gorge if there is to be increased car parking (not desirable), it should be at Tamar Marine.
- I believe the Trevallyn side of the Gorge requires review to provide more parking.
- Avoid encouraging vehicle traffic (don't provide any further car parks or roads).

Other access issues

- A boardwalk is not needed at First Basin.

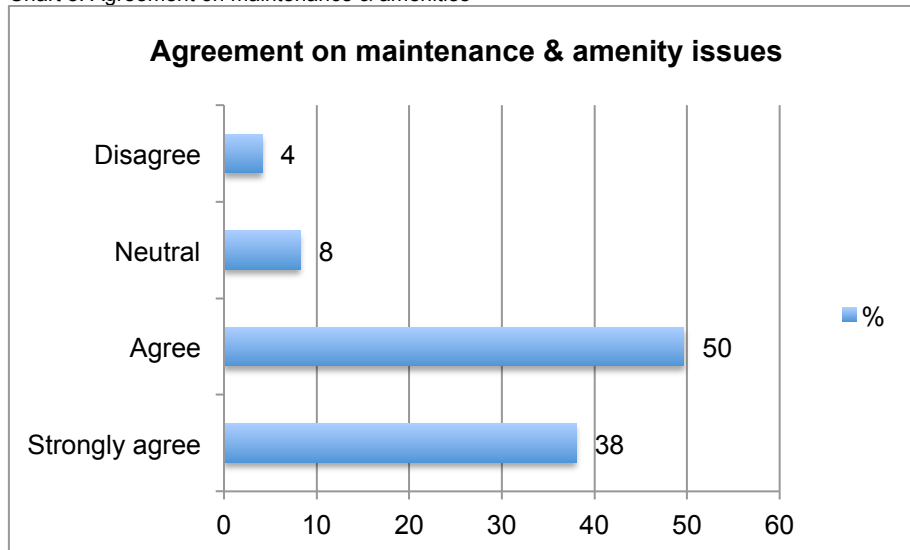
- Disagree with a boardwalk from the Swinging Bridge to First Basin
- Keep the inclinators. Not attractive, but the only way poor walkers can access the area.
- Continue bitumen from Cliff Grounds restaurant to Swinging Bridge to First Basin (as slippery when dry; improve access for elderly; wheel chairs)
- Access to segway vehicles & tours as happens in many cities around the world.
- Access between Gorge and TNRA a good concept, but in general, focus on maintaining and upgrading existing options.
- Separate track for runners so that children and adults are safe on the paths. The constant runners who seem to take priority access hamper a walk up the Gorge.
- West Tamar urban: develop suburb access via Forest and Cherry Roads ("widen roads"). Planned retention of endemic flora and fauna; include efforts to involve UniTas / similar.

Non-access issues

- Ball games for small children but not cricket, footy, basketball etc. - there are other places in the city for these games.
- Non-partisan management, the current process is tainted and has created division, mistrust and cynicism.
- Dogs: Large percentage of owners allow animals to 'off leash' (observed every week), deterring native fauna.

Theme 4: Maintenance & Amenities

Chart 8: Agreement on maintenance & amenities



88% of survey participants agreed with the Maintenance & Amenities responses.

Issues from maintenance and amenities comments

- Value the natural qualities and limit the amount of man-made development. Minimise environmental impacts.
- Remove weeds and dead trees. This is also an environmental management issue.
- A preference for trees to provide shade in the pool area rather than structures.
- Encourage people to carry water bottles instead of having water stations.

- Support for walkway improvements and directional signage in the TNRA. Encourage self-reliant walking.
- There are enough amenities.
- Improve lighting for security and CCTV monitoring to reduce vandalism.

Maintenance and amenities comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (4) Maintenance & Amenities			
Funding a maintenance program for the First Basin and Cliff Grounds that strengthens its role as a significant visitor experience for the State; developing an amenities program for the TNRA (power, toilets etc.) that will support future activities and events, establishing water stations throughout the area and providing shade to the pool area during summer. These were the key maintenance and amenity priorities (Responses 4.1, 4.4, 4.2 & 4.3)			
Do you agree that these are the most important maintenance and amenity issues?			
4.1, 4.4 Strongly Agree	4.2 Agree	4.3 Neutral	4.5 Disagree
Is there anything that you would like to see included as a higher Maintenance and Amenity priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (4.2) Access to water currently exists with the exception to Duck Reach (check that the water in TNRA is potable). • (4.3) Personal responsibility for hats and sunscreen preferred and flood resistant trees around perimeter. • (4.4) Consistent with TRNA Management Plan and will increase access to usable space. 			

Maintenance levels

- No further amenities required, continue to maintain current amenities please.
- Please don't lose sight of what this area means to a lot of locals and visitors. The area is unique and valued for its natural environment and proximity to the city, giving easy opportunities to escape the city and enjoy a natural experience. In particular the TNRA is special because you are surrounded by largely uninterrupted native bushland. To develop this area would ruin the very thing, which makes it special. My children and I and our interstate and overseas visitors love it and enjoy it just the way it is. Please maintain these natural and cultural values by keeping developments to a minimum.
- The balance at the moment seems OK. Too much permanent development would detract from the current values.
- The Council MUST maintain and service what they have first and address the long standing poorly managed elements in Theme 2 (environment).
- Any maintenance activities should take place with minimal disturbance of character of area.
- Maintenance of existing infrastructure and natural grounds. What about the Reserve e.g. fire hazards, trails, bush landscapes, water edges - what's the plan for this area? PWS mustn't be the sole decision maker - it requires a more complex and robust model.
- Yes there must be maintenance, but any development should have low environmental impact and low visual impact. If you 'develop' the area you will kill it.
- Limit the development of manmade structures.
- Stop spoiling it. Keep it natural.

- Maintaining an area with minimum human intervention, other than for safety.
- There is no need to develop artificial structures to enhance the outstanding natural features of the Gorge.
- Do not overdevelop the Gorge with too much infrastructure. Simplicity is a key theme that should be incorporated into Gorge management.
- The highest priority is to ensure that the Gorge and the Reserve remain as natural as possible. Limit the use of tarmac, car parks, concrete paths, hand rails, inclinators, shade structures and fences, mountain bike trails (there are enough now).
- Higher priority given to maintaining vegetation on Gorge banks between Kings Bridge and First Basin.
- Remove weeds and dead trees.
- Escaped weeds from the Trevallyn hillside properties are threatening to take over native plants. Similarly, onion weed on the Zigzag Track is rampant and needs to be removed.
- The funding of maintenance should be managed by a Greater Northern Council, which controls the whole catchment and has an interest in the use of the Gorge as a natural asset, recreational asset and a tourism asset. For example the ratepayers of the Council may demand that more water goes down the Gorge and fund the methods to achieve this outcome.
- Limit the development of major infrastructure.
- Ensure restriction on skyline building developments - no more mechanical people rides.

Shade to pool area during summer

- There are alternatives such as to the swimming centre if shade is needed. This is the First Basin where part of the attraction is the sun and grass not shade structures.
- If people want shade let them bring it or find it around the margins of the First Basin.
- Don't bother with shade, there are already enough trees to sit under, and people could always wear a hat. Ask the Cancer Council-most people don't bother with an approved hat in summer. If you want a display put up one from the Cancer Council with people missing ears due to skin cancer!
- Shade areas should be placed back near paths - pool area should be kept as is (shade areas there would spoil scenic value of the open area).
- More trees for shade for pool rather than shade cloths.
- Physical infrastructure like shading is unnecessary and clearly not called for - read your own consultation review; over and over (and over and over) again people explicitly and passionately called for an end to the physical development in the area, most particularly the Cataract Gorge.
- The pool area does not need shade (I'm assuming shade cloth). There are trees to sit under.
- The inclusion of shade areas is good, but not sure how to keep the natural effect of the area.
- It is difficult to decide about shade (for the pool without more detail of the design).
- Plant more trees around the pool for shade - no ugly, unnecessary shade 'structure' over the pool.

- Disagree with excessive shade around pool area. Maybe shade area on Alexander Bridge side of grassed area near steps from main walking track.
- Pool shade is a worry. I agree necessary, but take care to ensure it is aesthetically pleasing. Also encourage consideration of a more natural surround for the pool (rocks, shrubs, trees), Some shade giving trees here and there around the pool precinct (need to be able to survive the odd flood!) would be great addition.
- Shade near the pool area is a priority
- Remove the pool entirely. More infrastructure to wash away is silly
- Shade area to pool is a huge expense for little gain. People wear "rash vests"
- Shade could be provided but not over pool.
- Plant mature shade trees near the pool.
- I do not think that there was much support for a shade area for the pool from the comments in the Green Paper. It would certainly detract from the aesthetics but I guess the fence has ruined them already.
- Consider alternatives to manmade shade (suitable shady trees on pool lawns).
- More trees around pool area.

Water stations

- Don't spend ratepayer's money on more things people should do for themselves. It's not hard to carry a water bottle. There is a water fountain and two cafes already.
- Establishing water stations I can understand and may put an end to the number of drink bottles littered about. But please have respect for the views you sought in your own consultation process, which clearly called for no more physical infrastructure.
- Water and toilet stations are good, but keeping the natural status should be the priority over all.
- Water stations are also silly - encourage people to carry their own as water stations will be vandalised.
- Do you need to establish water stations throughout the area - how about people use some intelligence and carry a water bottle? Its not like people are going on multiday walks.
- You only need water stations around the Basin (and there are already some). No need for water stations in TNRA (which would require expensive and damaging pipeline construction).

Walkways

- Make path from Suspension Bridge to pool, wheelchair friendly.
- Properly maintaining - and in some cases widening - walking tracks so better access for wheelchairs/disabled.
- LED lighting on paths should be installed to improve lighting quality and reduce energy consumption.
- A better network of bushwalking trails. To tourists from many overseas countries the bush we have around the Gorge is "wilderness"
- Self-reliant walking.
- Ensure walkways and lighting are always first class.
- Track from Cataract Gorge to TNRA often overgrown and doesn't feel safe for single women walkers.

- Fix the walk along the Tamar. It's nice to see the Green Army trimming and poisoning willow but a couple more buckets of rocks along the path would be great.
- Continue bitumen from Cliff Grounds restaurant to Swinging Bridge to First Basin (as slippery when dry; improve access for elderly; wheel chairs).
- Improved signage for walking tracks in the Gorge and TNRA especially. Maintaining tracks around First Basin Gorge area so it is easier for wheel chairs and prams.
- Improve signs for ZigZag track (I have come across tourists who have found this difficult but their maps didn't reflect this).

Amenities and facilities

- There are already enough toilets.
- The toilets etc. are sufficient for everyday use; temporary amenities could be brought in for events.
- No public toilets between Royal Park bbq area until the rotunda. Maybe a public toilet on Penny Royal complex.
- Better playground facilities, perhaps more water play and nature inspired playground at First Basin because at the moment - it's a joke. More bbq facilities and tables for family bbqs and birthday parties.
- I think the kids play area is also in desperate need of an upgrade. For our biggest attraction from a visitor's perspective we need a wonderful play area, which reflects our culture and backs our accreditation of 'best family friendly city'.
- Recycling bins in the car park above the Fairy Dell are needed, and garbage bins with better lids so birds cannot pull out the rubbish. The skip bin located here is unsightly and encourages people to leave household waste from their campervans next to it.
- More picnic seating.
- Bench seating around Basin area urgently requires replacement. "Natural" is over-rated. This area needs to be attractive and comfortable - lawns, introduced trees, good amenities all set within natural bush setting is a winner.
- More bbq facilities and shade over these areas.
- Discrete facilities please.
- The swimming pool needs painting on a regular basis- (ready for this summer).
- Simply upgrade the kiosk to a better quality facility.
- Restore old steps to promote child activity and adventure.

Safety and security

- Install CCV cameras overlooking amenities in order to deter and/or catch vandals. Don't 'wait and see' if anything is going to happen. Get the cameras in - being proactive is better and cheaper in the long run than being reactive!
- Include CCTV system re vandalism especially at night and safety! (especially for females).
- Also include lighting for safety and security reasons in early morning/twilight for joggers and walkers - especially women.
- Lighting needed for access during the evening - safety in accessing the restaurant at night.
- Walkway (steps) from Gorge restaurant to car park is not well lit at night.
- It is important that vandalism and graffiti is eradicated.

- Safety of those using the area needs to be addressed around amenities.
- Security.
- Safety from rock falls.

TNRA specific

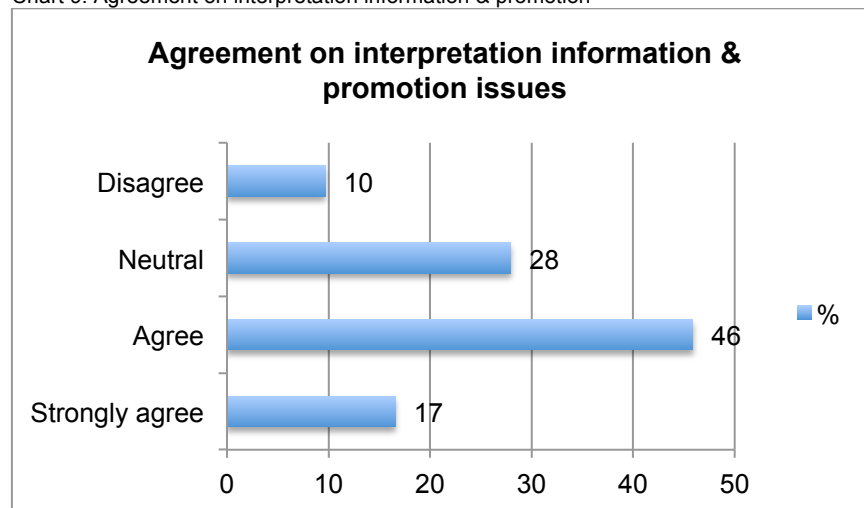
- There's no need for power / water facilities in the TNRA - its supposed to be a natural environment to enjoy, not a manufactured environment.
- The greater recreation area should certainly provide other adventure experiences. A fenced off dog exercise area, and camping for travellers.
- If power and water were more available in the TNRA it would only encourage more campervans / people sleeping in cars and using the area as a public toilet / rubbish dump.
- The mountain bike trails, which the majority were, upgraded two or so years ago have not been touched since apart from a handful of LMBC working bees. There is so much potential to have this area as the Queenstown NZ of Australia. There is rock climbing, canoe, walking, swimming and Mountain Bike opportunities that could be upgraded and introduced to this area.
- I think more publicity needs to be given to the TNRA to ensure it become more of a tourist feature.
- 1-night campervan sites, unpowered, no pets.
- More track signage and markers needed especially in TNRA.
- Improve signage on tracks in TNRA.
- Shade areas/trees on open space adjacent to 'beach' in TNRA.
- Produce a map of orienteering course.
- Retain the theme of the existing fencing along the Trevallyn side as it is part of the character.

Non-maintenance and amenities issues

- Let people play with balls again.
- Provide some coherent detail.
- Seeing higher recognition for current staff members.
- The Gorge Sky Lift should be a priority
- The Gorge Sky Lift Gondola would significantly improve amenity and access for young families, the elderly and less mobile as well as the disabled by allowing them to see the most spectacular views of the Gorge from a bird's eye view above the tree canopy.

Theme 5: Interpretation Information & Promotion

Chart 9: Agreement on interpretation information & promotion



63% of survey participants agreed with the responses. Neutral responses were relatively high at 28%. 10% disagreed.

Issues from interpretation information and promotion comments

- Too much signage and information panels can detract from the natural experience.
- Built interpretation must be sensitive to the area and minimalist.
- Using technology is a non-intrusive way to provide information.
- The significant geological story needs to be included in the stories about the place.
- Agreement that the whole area needs improved marketing and promotion to maximise visitation.
- Mixed views about the value of a night time lighting experience. Concerns about the effect on nocturnal wild life. An event-based experience could be considered.
- Continue the development of the First Basin interpretation centre.

Interpretation information and promotion comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (5) Interpretation, Information & Promotion			
Establishing guided experiences for the area, providing technology based self-guided interpretation and information, telling all the stories of the area using either built interpretation or technology and creating a major night-time, light interpretation experience that tells all the stories of the area. These were the key Interpretation, Information & Promotion priorities (Responses 5.3, 5.2, 5.1 & 5.4)			
Do you agree that these are the most important Interpretation, Information & Promotion issues?			
5.1 Strongly Agree	5.2 Agree	5.3 Neutral	5.4 Disagree
Is there anything that you would like to see included as a higher Interpretation, Information & Promotion priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (5.1) High consideration to not visually pollute the space. • Strongly support digital applications for guided interpretation (including digital access to additional languages). 			

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response

- Strongly support physical signage noting Aboriginal place names
- (5.4) Event-based light experiences encouraged rather than permanent light installations.

Interpretation - not supportive comments

- People can enjoy the Gorge for what it is - a place of natural beauty within a city. It is a place to quietly enjoy.
- Before money is spent on this the management of current infrastructure needs to be prioritised. Even down to litter and graffiti.
- No more interpretive structures or sign panels within the Reserve.
- Too much information, signs, and installation type so called artwork already pollutes the Gorge. The Gorge does not need to be interpreted beyond that which is already in the visitors centre house area. All other interpretive signs should be removed, as they add nothing to the visitor experience. Visitors should be able to interpret the Gorge themselves, not have their experience filtered through someone else's views about the Gorge. The natural beauty speaks for itself.
- Our rates are already excessive; we don't need this stuff.
- Or, like was made clear so many times in the consultation process, leave the interpretation to the individual. Does a Japanese Zen garden require interpretation? Or is the whole point of such a thing to simply go, to be, to exist, to enjoy and make your own interpretation? The Gorge is a sanctuary, and such a thing does not need a story to explain it.
- Is this honestly necessary, sounds like a good way of spoiling a natural experience, if you want info Google it.

Use technology for self-guided interpretation and information

- Perhaps a Gorge app could avoid signage nuisance. An app that would place Aboriginal history prominently, flora, fauna, climate and geological facts and points of interest.
- If any interpretation is to happen it should be invisible: smart phone technology allows this (think MONA). An application could be designed to prompt people with visual cues as they walk past geospots in the Gorge.
- Let the Gorge speak for itself or provide a MONA type app for smart phones.
- You can easily support information, as deemed necessary, with the use of technology.
- Provide all the material you like on the LCC website to make it easy to find, you could also have an interactive display in the existing rotunda on the north bank.
- Appears to be a more sensible and thoughtful way forward. This would avoid the Gorge Reserve being made into a Joe Chromy - funded Theme park or Circus for the Chinese. I apologize to the polite and good people of China to unfortunately have to refer to them in such a way. This comment is made without prejudice. I think more intelligent Launceston residents will have had enough of the Joe Chromy - working 'Ant Hill' once it opens for tourists.
- It depends how they are done. An app could be created with no need for signage throughout the Gorge area (other than a small information sign on the gate).
- Yes - technology-based, self-guided interpretation

- A podcast experience would be good. Points along the walk would be connected so walker could listen to information as they went.
- Sensitivity self-guided audio including history, weather, geo, cultural.
- Lets make it more people centred rather than technology centred.
- Agree with this.

Guided experiences

- Guided or self-guided interpretation better than built interpretation which can be vandalized and create visual pollution - light interpretation may detract from sense of place.
- Agree with this.

Stories and history

- Not sure of the integration of the electronic history etc. and how it could be best utilised in the area maintaining the nature of the area and not being open to vandalism, though for visitors to have history and information around the tracks would be good.
- We need some detail on what constitutes these 'stories of the area' before I can give an informed opinion.
- I agree that promoting the Aboriginal heritage and stories is an important step but I think, with the 'European acclimatisation' that is a part of the history of the area that there is an important story is taking people through the area - the Aboriginal stories, the acclimatisation efforts (and subsequent impacts) and the natural areas that survived through to today.
- The history of how the Gorge was first used and enjoyed is paramount. The Aboriginal community may not wish to inform every one of their sacred sites and rituals. We need to be very respectful of this.
- If you don't recognise the geology and the unusual nature of how this place was formed you wouldn't have this place. So many people have asked me how? Your report doesn't do this on a world-scale. The amount of misinformation on how is laughable.

Promotion and marketing

- Higher profile needs to be given to the Gorge in tourism circles; this should include budgeted promotion as well.
- Wider promotion to potential visitors so they want to see the Cataract Gorge (and by extension the Greater Launceston Area) as part of their Tasmanian visit, prior to arriving. Market at the same level as Freycinet and Cradle Mountain - emphasising greater accessibility and more services nearby.
- Way finding for cars from city.
- As previously mentioned there needs to be better promotion of the TNRA.
- Brochure with map and info on natural and cultural values needed for both reserves. Walking and bike tracks need to be clearly marked.

Built interpretation

- Built interpretation should not detract from the natural asset of the Gorge Reserve - must be sensitively implemented and minimalist.
- An interpretation centre could be built in the First Basin Car Park.
- There are already lights along the Gorge walk, and despite the heavy metal surrounds they still get vandalized, so don't build any more targets!

- Make the existing information centre at the cottage at the Basin more visible, better signage as a first point of call when arriving or leaving the Gorge.
- Built interpretation to blend - there is a Perspex/resin block look that is easily read but has no offense in colour to the environment.
- The old interpretation that was in the Rotunda put back.
- Would like to see the links between Deadmans Hollow water intake and Duck Reach have some interpretation at the sites. Would be good to see a theme in signage to demonstrate links between various parts of TNRA and Cataract Gorge. At present all seems separate and disjointed to the visitor. There could be themed signage recognisable as a trail to explore the Greater Cataract Gorge.
- OK provided it is done in a non-intrusive way.
- Interpretation should be low key - not have a theme park look.
- Agree with more interpretive signs in the Gorge, particularly relating to Aboriginal heritage.
- All introduced interpretation and information panels must be conducive to the natural environment - be subtle and in no way jarring to the surrounding areas.
- As long as they are done tastefully and in keeping with the natural beauty of the Gorge.
- Keep it real.
- Need better access/signage to the recently completed (over 12 months) Duck Reach lookout.
- I think there needs to be more information on signs regarding the distance to be covered on various tracks and the level of fitness/footwear required for those tracks. As an example the ZigZag track catches out many older people with lower levels of fitness and knee problems and there are many overseas visitors that try to tackle the walk in sandals/thongs.
- Improve existing interpretation.
- Some present boards have ambiguous information.
- Ok if built interpretation/technology is appropriate and sensitive to the area.
- Yes but tasteful and 'artistic' (see MONA!)

Night-time light interpretation experience

- I don't support creating a major night-time light interpretation. This area is habitat for nocturnal wildlife, so let's be sensitive to their welfare.
- None of this was adequately explained in the survey and it is simply impossible for anyone to have an informed opinion on it. What do you mean by a 'major night-time light interpretation experience'? What stories will it tell? How will it work?
- I'm not sure what is meant by "major night-time light interpretation etc?" This could be very "theme park" like and tacky, detracting from the natural beauty of the area.
- The night-time experiences are not acceptable as major events.
- What is a major night-time light interpretation experience that tells stories? Are you seriously expecting an intelligent response to this?
- The green paper voiced a strong dislike of a sound and light show, which someone succinctly pointed are always tacky and cheapen the experience of anything they are associated with.
- Major lighting at night could be disturbing for nocturnal wild life.

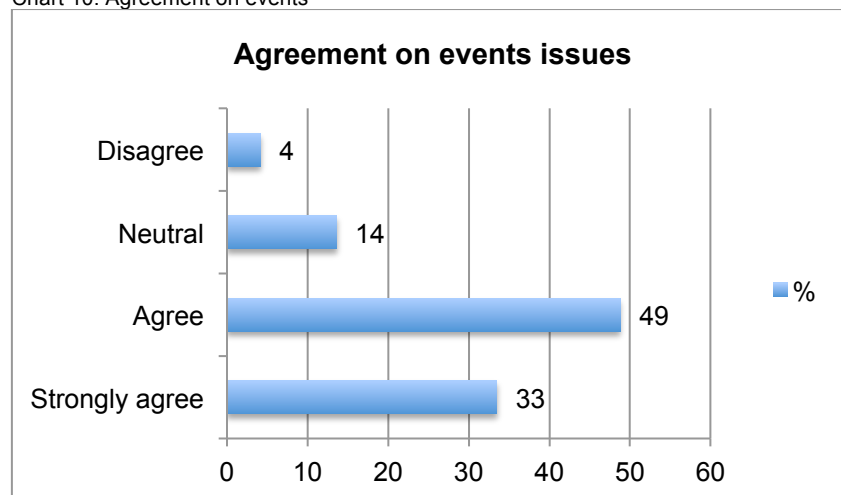
- 'A major night-time, light interpretation experience'. Is this simple floodlighting like we used to have or is it colours and flashes etc.? Detail needed before I can give an informed opinion!
- A beautiful, low environmental impact, light show. In 1895 Launceston became the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to be LIT by hydroelectric power - power generated at Duck Reach power station. Make the connection and celebrate it!!!
- Disagree with light shows / art installations. If people want this they can find it at the museum. The attraction of the Gorge and TNRA is that it is a unique natural place close to the city - not an area for gimmicky installations and tacky 'art' that will probably be vandalised by youth anyway.
- Night-time interpretation is not necessary at this stage. Just concentrate on day-time guiding experiences.
- Not keen on the night-time light experience.
- Night-time light interpretation would be completely uneconomic and a one day wonder.
- The night lighting theme is incredibly important as it creates mystique at night. Visiting in the dead of winter at night is a great experience.
- A professional light show would become a real tourist attraction.
- Strongly disagree with creating a major night-time, light interpretation experience.
- Any light experience should not disturb wildlife.
- A once-a-year light festival that is high quality, inviting national artists to be involved, would be much better than a daily, tacky and dominating light experience. Something special like Illuminations was (Tas Dance).
- Disagree with this.

Other comments

- I think the creation of an awesome children's playground that caters for younger children, similar to the "Train Park" in West Hobart would be a fantastic addition. Launceston really lacks in appropriate, imaginative playgrounds for younger children.
- A dedicated staff member/s permanently stationed at the Gorge to manage the above and expanding the services of the current facilities.
- The Sky Lift Gondola should be used to provide all visitors with a bird's eye view of the Gorge to aid in interpretation of the whole area and promotion of the reserve by attracting national and international attention.
- It's always nice to take my out of state relatives there.
- Incorporate this with Josef Chromy venture at Penny Royal.

Theme 6: Events

Chart 10: Agreement on events



82% of survey participants agreed with the responses for events.

Issues from events comments

- Comments were generally supportive of events in the study area. Smaller events seem to be preferred. Music events are positively mentioned.
- There is a view that the area should be left natural with no events. There is also some concern about the disruption to free public access caused by events.
- Potential for recreation based events, canoeing, orienteering, and mountain bikes.
- Increase the water flow below Trevallyn Dam to improve river health and provide recreational event opportunities.

Events comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (6) Events			
Gaining access to water for major events like kayaking, white water rafting, swimming and fishing and ensure these events bring a return to the city, publishing an annual calendar of events and using the First Basin and Cliff Grounds for smaller local and family oriented events only. These were the key Events priorities (Responses 6.3, 6.1 & 6.2)			
Do you agree that these are the most important Events issues?			
6.1, 6.2, 6.3	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral
Is there anything else that you would like to see included as a higher events priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (6.1) Be proactive and strategic in seeking relevant and respectful events for the GCG. • Any event within the GCG needs to be site respectful. • Support securing greater water flow for events. 			

Events in the First Basin & Cliff Grounds - supportive

- The Project Steering Committee agreed that the site is essentially events ready and evidenced by the successful Basin Concert held last summer and the other events that currently occur in the area including the TNRA. It was suggested that

consideration be given to including a calendar of events or securing suitable events as a concept for the White Paper. The recommendations could be then included in a wider events planning framework for the city.

- The Basin Concert was brilliant. More events like this and Cataract Challenge should be encouraged.
- Support using the natural amenities of the Gorge to their full potential.
- The Basin Concert should be supported.
- The provision of infrastructure to support one-off events Basin Concert etc. could be useful. Future events must only be small scale, intermittent and not disrupt the use of the area (free entry and access to swimming pool during peak usage times).
- A space for small, regular performances as well as the infrastructure to allow larger performances (and holding those performances) should be included.
- A place for regular small performances (including busking for performers who must audition to be approved) to be held. Enabling work to ensure the venue can hold larger performances. Limit events to chosen few more.
- Recreating the historic Illuminations that occurred in the late 1800s as a contemporary winter festival.
- Organised events at First Basin should be limited to evening events only e.g. concerts - daytime should be entirely for free informal public use.
- Keeping events small/quiet to respect nearby residents and not disturb wildlife.
- Agree as long as it is in keeping with, and respectful of, the environment.
- Small music concerts. Using the original bandstand in the gardens of the Gorge restaurant at weekends for concerts, similar to the Council's music program in City Park.
- Music events are very popular and work amazingly in the Basin area.
- More events the better as it brings more people in to this great location. The concerts run many years ago in First Basin were excellent.
- I think that smaller scale cultural events such as concerts should still be held in the First Basin occasionally private events (like weddings) need more options for private spaces like the Fairy Dell or similar.
- The Gorge is right in the city unlike Mount Wellington, use it!
- Support for Concerts needed.
- This is sensible, providing that no such event requires permanent physical infrastructure.
- Encouraging concerts/musical events and providing better infrastructure to enable these to take place.
- Annual concerts in the Basin grounds.
- Not sure why evening events couldn't be a priority.
- Great potential for major entertainment events like Night at the Gorge. These should be developed further.
- Use of Basin and Cliff Grounds occasionally for larger (appropriate) events is fine.
- Large events are also warranted.
- Maybe the main Gorge area place that people want to go in summer i.e. weekends - food stalls - outdoor movies – buskers.
- "Smaller local and family oriented" could be a bit restricting. I believe area not really suitable for huge events, but would not like to see them banned.
- Make these events more affordable to all people.

- I believe there is a place for music festivals.
- Agree with sporting and recreation event.
- Inclusion of musical events is more important than most of the above. There is precedent in previous events and there was a bandstand in the original design.
- Agree that smaller, local and family-oriented events should be the majority of the use of the Gorge, but it's good to have occasional larger, appropriate events.
- Yes, Basin and Cliff Grounds only suitable for small events. Nature is the main event. Don't spoil it.
- The area has massive potential for recreational events - I agree with the kayaking etc. but not so convinced about fishing (seriously, would you eat anything from the Tamar and what is going to survive a flood event out of the dam?). Supporting events like Icebreaker and the Cataract Challenge using the area provides a massive economic advantage to the city and its hotels, restaurants etc. as well as health benefits for our population as people begin to understand what they have on their doorstep. Imagine if a future running event included a lap up the ZigZag track and across the Suspension Bridge into the TRA? Great promotional opportunities for the City.
- NOTE: larger events could be held depending workplace health and safety. This would bring a larger audience to the area and therefore benefit the wider economy.

Events in the First Basin & Cliff Grounds - not supportive

- Leave it natural no events.
- Why does the Gorge have to 'bring a return to the city'? I find that a sickening and crass statement which is all too typical of the Council. The Windmill Hill pool aggrandizement SHOULD be a lesson learned, not a disaster repeated.
- Don't overcrowd the calendar with events that restrict the locals from their access and quiet enjoyment of the area. Sporting events should not seal off areas from the general public. Music concerts should be held in City Park.
- The value of the area is in its availability to people to experience it as it is. It does not need more organised events; these would intrude on individuals own events.
- Again limit number of events particularly in sensitive areas.
- Strongly disagree with music and entertainment shows. York Stadium for these.
- These should not attract large amounts of Council revenue. They must be done cost neutrally to Council funding.

Water based activity

- The flow of water is important at all times, not just for occasional sporting events.
- Some actual action in getting the water flowing. Not just for events - every day is an event.
- Increasing water flows is a necessity for the health of river system and could bring economic benefit to the community if white water rafting / kayaking were made possible.
- Swimmers need to be informed of water quality and strongly discouraged from swimming with signage.
- To provide these there is a need for a better water flow. Fishing is something that is not synonymous to the area, but has potential.
- I feel unfortunately the lower River Basin has been ignored in the considerations made. How the whole lower River Basin could be used more extensively lowering

the development pressure of this unique and targeted, natural heritage reserve. I believe this area is quite fragile and is rather being taken for granted and ways should be looked at urgently to reduce the human use and traffic NOT AN INCREASE. I am not saying lock it up, but gosh, you have a whole River Basin!

- Fishing?? In the Gorge for eels or fish loaded with bacteria due to slow/low water flow.
- This doesn't make sense - and the major issue should be to remove the dam and thus lose control of the water flow. Which should remove any issues with having events requiring controlled water.
- Water events that are commercial should pay a return to the city but non-commercial events should not.
- Water events that are not commercial (e.g. kayak races) should not have to pay money to the city - the public gains a lot of enjoyment from seeing these things, and there is no harm done to the Gorge. Commercial enterprises should bring a financial return, yes.

Events calendar

- Annual calendar of events? No thanks.
- A full time employee to manage the calendar of events.

Other event comments

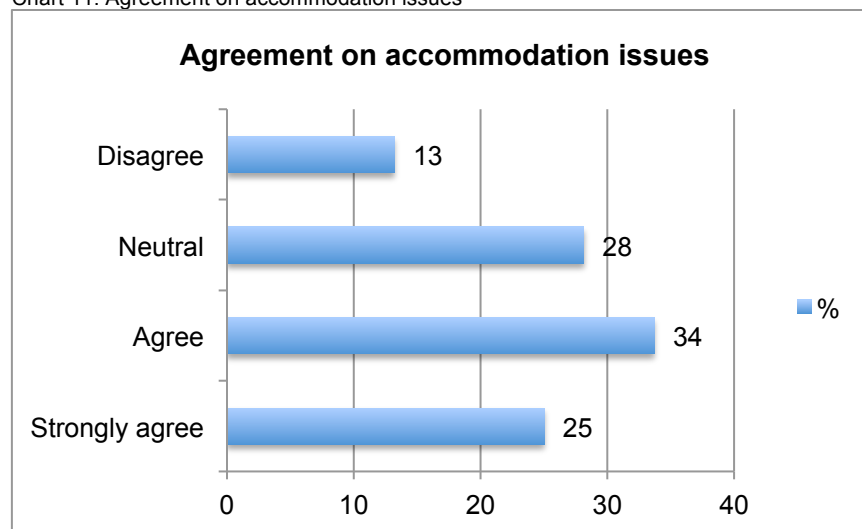
- A map of the Gorge with fixed checkpoints on Council website, downloadable as a colour pdf, to enable people to do some self-guided orienteering. There are several of these interstate e.g. Wattle Park in Melbourne. It is a good idea to encourage navigation and map reading.
- It is imperative that the First Basin and the walk into the Gorge from Kings Bridge be pedestrian and in no way motorised.
- Improve the mountain bike trails so a Northern Tasmanian tour / event could be run using Trevallyn, Hollybank and Derby. At the moment Trevallyn would not attract tourists in its own right to ride there. Canoeing and rock climbing.
- Promote the use of cliffs in Gorge for rock climbing - install belay rings in rock top of major climbs (I am not a rock climber).

Non-event related comments

- The Gorge Sky Lift great for tourism local and international to show off our natural wonders.
- BBQ's, outdoor tables and seating are a priority to bring families into the area.
- The poo leaks in to the river near the yacht club. I wish I had taken a photo as proof when the boat ramp was covered in human waste.
- Please allow ball games for children. This will support family use. Having security guards telling people off is not a good look for tourists.
- Recreate rock carvings to enhance understanding of first culture footprint.

Theme 7: Accommodation

Chart 11: Agreement on accommodation issues



59% of survey participants agreed with the responses for accommodation, 28% were neutral and 13% disagreed. There are mixed views on accommodation.

Issues from accommodation comments

- Near OK but not within.
- There is plenty of accommodation in the CBD close to the Gorge. People can walk, drive or catch a cab.
- This a place to visit not stay.
- Accommodation must be sensitive to the environment and low impact.
- Mixed views about RV's being allowed in the TNRA. Camping is outside the TRNA Management Plan.

Accommodation comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Theme (7) Accommodation			
Establishing accommodation options near or within the area was not strongly supported as a priority (Responses 7.1 & 7.2)			
Do you agree with this view on Accommodation?			
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	7.1, 7.2 Disagree
Is there anything you would like to see included about accommodation in the Area?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (7.1) Any development outside the boundary of the GCG must be assessed with consideration for the visual and cultural impact (including lighting) from within the GCG. • (7.2) Inconsistent with the TRNA Management Plan - not supported. 			

Supportive comments

- Camping at TRNA and boutique accommodation at Duck Reach is a great idea.
- I have no objection to accommodation provided it blends in with the environment.
- Accommodation outside the area should be considered.
- Any accommodation needs to be constructed on private land.

- I feel tourists are looking for a totally unique experience therefore if there was accommodation near the Cataract Gorge; this would help tourists get a totally unique experience that they seek.
- Existing homes could be developed/used as b&b's without a detrimental effect on the aesthetics of the area. Certainly not any hotels/large developments.
- Accommodation near to this area is ok. However promoting themselves and promoting the area that is near them is a non-event.
- Consider camping and RV sites in the TNRA.
- Near ok but not within.
- The grounds are massive use them!!!
- There is nothing wrong with having accommodation options near the area however I would not support any within the Gorge area itself.
- High-end accommodation near the Gorge could be a major attraction for tourists and compliment other venues across the state and ensure that this segment also visits Launceston.
- If there is the opportunity for a 6 star boutique operation that integrates with the area it should be an option, as it would add another layer to the product in Launceston. Saffire at the Gorge - what could be achieved?
- Having accommodation near or within the area in a sustainable manner, low impact would be good thing and would attract high end of tourism.
- Accommodation both residential and hotels can be done further up the Gorge. This project is about a wider catchment than just LCC and WTC. MVC are undergoing a strategic plan for Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights. This will see a major increase in population through infill development. This is a prime opportunity to expand connections into the Gorge and across to TNRA. A hotel run in conjunction with the local Aboriginal Community could be established on the MVC side overlooking the Gorge. The hotel could sit within the landscape offering magnificent views from this bush tucker trails and story walks and night-time animal walks could be run. Houses could also be built along the MVC section of the Gorge. Camping/RV could be established on the fringes enabling people to walk into the Gorge and TNRA.
- Accommodation on the fringes would be acceptable but not within the Reserve itself unless the Duck Reach power station cottages can be bought back by a developer over time and redeveloped as a sensitive accommodation option within existing buildings located in the reserve.
- Except for encouraging self-contained motorhomes. They really have no other place to go - our local caravan parks are hopelessly located. Even along the road to the aquatic area would be heaps nicer than beside the southern outlet.
- Purpose built and sensitive projects should be considered, if they enhance not detract, if they promote not destruct the areas. Some of the sensitive eco tourism accommodation is amazing and could be very beneficial, if planned and managed properly.
- There are plenty of opportunities for considered and well executed accommodation options that could further enhance the experience of the Gorge.

Non-supportive comments

- No accommodation in the Gorge please.
- No accommodation or camping in Gorge.

- There are plenty of accommodation options in Launceston. The CBD is close, there are buses and taxis, or it's a short walk.
- Not appropriate to have accommodation in the Gorge.
- I am opposed to the Reserve being opened up to camping and RV's as this would lead to the degradation of habitat for wildlife. Illegal camping in the Gorge occurs in summer and as a result, household rubbish is often left in the area. This needs to be better patrolled.
- No more built intrusions into the Gorge please.
- Accommodation is a private investment matter not public or Council. No accommodation, which is commercial, should impinge on the Gorge Reserve and this is where the 'spreading' Penny Royal development is unfortunately and disrespectfully pushing the private versus public investment boundaries.
- If there is a free bus, accommodation outside of Gorge will still have easy access.
- I think the Gorge should remain accommodation FREE. There are plenty of close accommodation businesses e.g. the Penny Royal is only "a stone's throw away" No accommodation in the Gorge!
- I see no objection to having good quality accommodation near the Reserve, but agree that it should not be in it. If provision is made for camping/caravans/RVs, then it should be in a highly restricted area that can be clearly separated from the rest of the Reserve.
- No accommodation at all within these areas. Plenty of places and options close by. Its natural beauty should be retained at all costs.
- This is a place to visit not to stay. There is plenty of accommodation in the city and it would be a travesty to have facilities built within the area.
- I do not support the development of accommodation/camping/RV sites within the area. Please don't lose sight of what this area means to a lot of locals and visitors. The area is unique and valued for its natural environment and proximity to the city, giving easy opportunities to escape the city and enjoy a natural experience. In particular the TNRA is special because you are surrounded by largely uninterrupted native bushland. To develop this area would ruin the very thing, which makes it special. My children and I and our interstate and overseas visitors love it and enjoy it just the way it is. Please maintain these natural and cultural values by keeping developments to a minimum.
- Keep accommodation OUT of the Gorge. It's not needed, as there are plenty of accommodation options nearby in the CBD.
- There are plenty of hotels in other parts of the City, including some new developments very nearby -Errol Stewart's grain silos and Chromy's redevelopment of the Penny Royal. A big hotel would totally spoil the ambience of the place. We don't want it!!! We don't even want to SEE developments from the Gorge. Remember the outcry over the intrusive house that was built a few years back? MAKE A BUFFER ZONE SO THIS KIND OF THING DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
- Launceston and surrounds can be well supplied with beds, without imposing a footprint within the Gorge Reserve that would detract from it. The Gorge is not a problem to have access to by any stretch of the imagination, including disability visitors.
- Accommodation nearby is fine - but no camping in the TNRA!!!!
- On private land with views is not a great idea. It is important that when one is in the Gorge area that houses/accommodation CANNOT be seen on the skyline or

nearby hills. It ruins the whole atmosphere. Interstate tourists always comment that this has unfortunately started happening. Unsure of the long-term effect of camping and RV's in the TNRA. Is it really necessary? Keep it just for physical recreation!

- Developments outside the Reserve boundaries must not be visible from within the Reserve including lighting.
- Counterproductive to the natural features of the area, which are the 'drawcard' in the first place.
- Surely this is outside the remit of LCC.
- Keep the accommodation in the city and the fringe - no need to plonk it into the area.
- Accommodation in or near will only cheapen the area and lessen its natural feel.
- Keep it natural. Accommodation outside the boundaries. Definitely no RV's or camping.
- Plenty of accommodation possibilities close enough in city and surrounding areas.
- Launceston is a small city and most sightseeing is within walking distance. I think the accommodation already at hand is sufficient.
- There isn't any need for this as there is plenty of accommodation in the nearby CBD.
- The strength of the Cataract Gorge is its environmental features and should not intrude any further than at present.
- Hells bells there's heaps of accommodation all over the city, typical waste of tax and rate payers money thinking up this subject, as per previous statement it's only a Gorge not the Grand Canyon (which I have been to).
- There should not be any accommodation within the area.
- Camping/RV area in TNRA is very undesirable. "Eco-developments" on private land do not need public promotion by a vision such as this. It is a matter for private developers if they wish and then they should be subject to strict controls to avoid impacts on the Gorge.
- A camping/RV area in TNRA is very undesirable, as it would require oversight by PWS (who have no time) as well as extensive provision of facilities and is likely to increase impacts on the bushland. Both camping and hotel accommodation in the area is likely to compete with existing operations around the city, so is unfair and also potentially impacts on values of the reserves.
- Do not want any accommodation in the Gorge
- No camping/RV in TNRA - explore private land adjacent to TNRA for these purposes.
- Absolutely NOT - no accommodation on site at all... this space is for quiet and beautiful retreat - LEAVE it as that - that is what attracts everyone to this wondrous space. Please DO NOT destroy this stunning asset to Launceston.

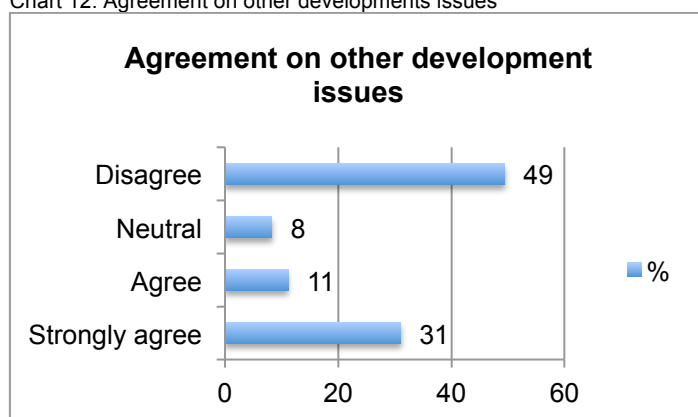
Other comments

- No gondola
- A succinct profile to existing accommodation industry regarding site and events, promotion of the greater area and visitors when booking do not always know location.

- If you are going to promote tourism, then you need to include a plan that incorporates accommodation, tourism venues such as the Mill and the Chromy cable car project and linkages from the city, parking hub at the 'science museum'
- I suggest a hotel/Gorge restaurant package to include the shuttle bus drop off/pick up especially for those who want to dine at the restaurant for dinner -. It would also be great for us locals too.

Theme 8: Other Developments

Chart 12: Agreement on other developments issues



42% of survey participants agreed that transformational projects in the Gorge or TNRA were not strongly supported as a priority. 8% were neutral and the majority 49% disagreed.

Issues from other developments comments

- Comments in this theme largely centred on the “Gondola”, “Sky Lift”, “Chair Lift” proposal being promoted by the JAC development group to link the Penny Royal with the First Basin.
- The number of comments for and against indicates this is a polarising and contentious issue. As for any development of this type planning approval will be needed for it to proceed.
- Arguments in favour of the proposal centre on increasing tourism and providing access for the less mobile. Launceston is seen as needing development and employment. There is a supportive sentiment toward the developer Josef Chromy.
- Arguments against the proposal centre on the visual impact and conflict with the natural values of the Gorge. There is also opposition to commercial development on public land and providing government financial assistance.
- There is a view that the Cataract Gorge is already over developed and does not need zip line experiences or sculptures. There may however be opportunities in the TNRA.

Other Developments comments

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response
Theme (8) Other developments
Transformational projects in the Gorge or TNRA were not strongly supported as a priority (Responses 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3)

Cataract Gorge Advisory Committee (CGAC) response			
Do you agree with this view on Other Developments?			
Strongly Agree	Agree	8.2, 8.3 Neutral	8.1, 8.4 Strongly Disagree
Is there anything you would like to see included about Other Developments in the Area?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (8.1) Temporary installations may be acceptable. • (8.3) It is considered that the GCG in its entirety inspires thinking and reflection. And any introduced elements may detract from this. • (8.4) Temporary event based experiences may be acceptable 			

EMRS Survey Summary

The JAC Group commissioned EMRS to conduct independent community research to gather feedback from residents and businesses in the Launceston municipality regarding their awareness of the Gorge Sky Lift proposal and their level of support for the development. The interviews were conducted by telephone from the 26th to the 28th of June 2015. The total of 600 participants in the survey included 400 adult residents and 200 businesses in the Launceston LGA. 293 respondents were male and 307 female.

76% of those interviewed were initially in support of the proposed Sky Lift development, one half of whom supported it “strongly” (50%). 12% were initially opposed to the development, while a further 12% were unsure or had no opinion.

Significantly more likely to “strongly support” the development were respondents from the business sector (60%), when compared to residents (45%).

Overall support was higher among respondents who had reported being aware of the development (80%), with those “definitely aware” also the most likely to “strongly support” it (59%).

Significantly less likely to support the proposal were respondents who had been “unaware” of the development (64%). These respondents were also far less likely to “strongly support” it (23%), and were more likely to be unable to provide an opinion (20%).

Older respondents aged 55 years and over were far more likely to be aware of the Sky Lift proposal than their younger counterparts aged 18 to 34 years. With stronger support for the development being associated with higher awareness of the proposal.

By far most commonly given as the main reason for supporting the Sky Lift development was that it would be a “good tourist attraction for Launceston”, mentioned by 43% of those in support - 46% of residents and 38% of businesses. 11% were in support primarily because “Launceston needs development/ lagging behind”. 9% because “Launceston needs more for tourism”.

By far most commonly given as the main reason for opposing the Sky Lift development was that it would “spoil the natural beauty/ historic value”, mentioned by 40% of those in opposition - 46% of residents and 25% of businesses. 10% were opposed primarily because of the “overall cost/cost to the ratepayer”.

8% in each case stated it would be “intrusive/ an invasion of privacy” and “aesthetically bad”.

Support for the proposed Gondola development

- A Gondola is an ideal development for the area. Progress or perish.
- Would like to see the Gorge Sky Lift go ahead. This would be a major draw card for not only tourists but locals alike, especially those who cannot walk into the Gorge. What a spectacular new view of a wonderful area.
- Gorge Sky Lift would be good.
- Having travelled the world, I believe people take advantage of things like the gondola e.g. not so fussed about the other components of this section.
- I believe the proposed Gorge Sky Lift should be given due consideration. With Launceston suffering economic setbacks from industry wind downs and no foreseeable replacements, we need to make sure that tourism is given every opportunity to fill the gap.
- The Gorge Sky Lift is an essential tourist attraction the area needs. As long as it meets all criteria I think it will be awesome for the whole city. It will blend in to the area but give us a world-class attraction.
- I think the gondola proposal should get priority. It would make access to the First Basin much better for all - disabled, older people, children. It would help reduce road traffic in West Launceston. It would be a great attraction for tourists.
- THE GORGE SKYLIFT PROJECT PROPOSED BY JOSEF CHROMY SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, INCLUDING FUNDING SUPPORT OR LOBBY SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES.
- I believe that the proposed chairlift is a feasible option as long as it is as unobtrusive as suggested. If we don't encourage these types of major development, Launceston risks becoming a further tourist backwater, with Hobart and Southern Tasmania becoming the primary visiting areas.
- I think that a chairlift as proposed by Josef Chromy is a great idea and should be pursued with a high priority.
- We need the Sky Lift to grow tourism and employment in Launceston.
- Build a Gondola.
- Consideration of the Gondola Chairlift from Penny Royal to First Basin is necessary. This would be an incredible boost to Launceston's tourist appeal as well as a breathtaking way to experience the natural beauty of Cataract Gorge. Similar developments such as the gondola chairlift to Kuranda from Cairns demonstrate that such developments have great tourist appeal and can be achieved with minimal impact on the natural environment. Launceston can only benefit from such a development.
- I think the gondola is a fantastic idea. We've been talking about getting people into the Gorge and Basin area to experience this spectacular place and learn its stories. Let's support development that's trying to achieve this. Launceston has so much potential and a lot of catching up to do with the vibrancy of Hobart. Let's take these steps toward progression and getting Launceston on the map. A gondola is a small component of the bigger picture.
- The proposed Gorge Sky Lift should be given top priority and fast-tracked.
- I love the gondola idea; I think it would be a great addition to the area.

- A chairlift as proposed by the JAC group is an excellent idea and would allow many more people to experience the wonders and natural beauty of the Gorge. Congratulations for this group for developing this proposal.
- We now have a developer of real substance proposing to establish a Sky Lift from the Penny Royal into the First Basin. Josef Chromy has a proven track record of quality developments. This is a wonderful opportunity for Launceston and with all the added tourists that an attraction of this magnitude would bring to our city we can only imagine the flow on effect. Please do not let this opportunity be knocked back by the people who say NO to every development. Launceston needs to be lifted out of its "Not open for business" mind set.
- I think access to the Gorge can be highly improved by building transportation systems like gondolas. This solution is cheap and environmentally friendly.
- Strongly support the Gorge Sky Lift proposal by Joe Chromy. This project will provide a major economic and community benefit to the city.
- A Sky Lift as proposed by the Chromy development.
- The Gorge is a spectacular place and we should encourage people to visit it and enjoy it in as many ways as possible. Seeing the views from the proposed gondola and chairlift and zip line are wonderful ideas. Having been on the Cairns-Kuranda Skyrail, I can appreciate how spectacular it would be to see the Gorge from a similar experience. While I have been on the Chairlift at the Gorge, like many other people, I am not comfortable if my feet are 'dangling'. The Sky rail was a very different experience, which I thoroughly enjoyed.
- Proposed sky rail would be an asset to the area. If it is similar to the Sky rail in Cairns, Qld then the impact on the area would be minimal.
- The Gondola Chairlift is a MUST in this theme, as a priority.
- Build the Gondola please, please, please!!!!!!!!!! Once it is built people will love it! The Cairns gondola is amazing.
- Hobart should put one on Mt Wellington, however they think it's a beautiful mountain.... it isn't! Switzerland has beautiful mountains and they have trains, cable cars, visible track all over them and people flock there! You need a drawcard to enhance the experience! People love to say no, so be bold and do it!!!!!!
- I am totally **in favour of** the proposed new Chair Lift to be installed by the Penny Royal Complex. It would not interfere with the environment to any degree and the advantages are many – a special experience for visitors to the region and locals equal to others around the world, access to the wonderful scenery for people unable to walk the ZigZag track, another perspective on the scenery, better viability for ALL tourist orientated businesses in the Launceston region, creating a two-way route for those who wish to walk the Gorge Pathway one way. Nowadays tourists are looking for new experiences and we are competing with so many other areas for interesting things to do.
- I have experienced two similar Chairlifts in Japan where the quality of the scenery was much less than our wonderful Gorge. Thousands of people rode them every day – for the experience! Queensland attracts so many visitors because there are so many man-made attractions to entertain, except for Cairns, most do not enhance the scenery as I believe the Gorge Chairlift would. There is no scenic problem with the existing Chairlift so I don't believe there would be with this proposal.

- I am wholeheartedly in favour of the proposed "Gorge Sky Lift" development. I think that it will have minimal negative impact on the visual appeal of the Gorge, and (after being built) next to no impact on the physical health of the Gorge. The benefits to residents, businesses and visitors alike will be substantial and to deny the chance at this development would be backwards thinking and flying in the face of Launceston's motto "progress and prudence" and the council's vision "Launceston, a thriving and sustainable municipality". Surely this development, if it goes ahead, will help increase visitor numbers to Launceston- something that can only benefit the community as a whole?
- Approval of the proposed "Sky Lift" project.
- The gondola would boost tourism, jobs and access to the Gorge and therefore should be supported.
- The chairlift is interesting idea for the future.
- The gondola idea was a great vision and should have been given more priority than buses to drive people around.
- I believe that gondola is great plan to improve access to the Gorge.
- Despite my interest in sports, sometime I want to simply relax and enjoy the view with friends. I think JAC's gondola is the best attraction to expand amount of tourists in the area.
- Please bring MORE TOURISM to this area!
- I can't imagine bringing my grandparents to Gorge now. Car park near First Basin is always full and other parking spots are too far. Gondola can enable many elderly people to experience this beautiful place.
- Chairlift is good idea to improve access and bring more tourists. I would be happy to see it, provided that it will not cost any government money.
- Banning gondola is very bad idea. This project should be supported! It will not cost us anything and a lot of people will find their travel to the Gorge easier.
- Building gondola is actually more environment-friendly than establishing many car parks all around the place. I don't understand why people disagree.
- New development in the Gorge is crucial for our tourism industry and that gondola project can connect First Basin with city, which will be beneficial for all of us.
- According to my opinion, chairlift will bring more tourists to our city. Many people enjoy current one and the new one will be even better.
- WOAH! I love this gondola idea. Did you ever tried to walk from the Kings Bridge to First Basin with high heels? Its painfully long trip.
- The gondola project seems to be good. It is private investment so no taxpayers money. In addition it increase employment in the area. Go for it!
- The gondola is good way to increase tourism and should be more promoted. We need more jobs and blocking private development will not help at all.
- I would really like to see more people visiting the Gorge. Many older people cannot simply walk that far. Building nice gondola would be much easier for us.
- This is great development plan for all families with kids. I hope it will become reality soon.
- We need to encourage access to the sight by tourists and the Gondolas would certainly provide another point of access.
- Shouldn't be discounted forever, should be a provision to revisit at some stage in the future.
- YES for gondola! It can increase tourism and bring more money to our region.

- First Basin is inaccessible for many people at the moment. Especially when the Penny Royal complex will be rebuilt, there will be demand for transport between these two attractive places. I believe chairlift is better than increasing road traffic in West Launceston.
- The Gorge is beautiful area, however, can be even better. The gondola will bring more tourists and we should support it.
- I say YES to the gondola. There are not many developers who invest their own money in order to improve tourism, which is important source of income for our city.
- Gondola should be supported because it can help with linking city to the Gorge and improving accessibility
- Future development of the Gorge should be carefully planned, but I support plan of Mr Chromy to build a transport from city to the Gorge. This chairlift is great for all disabled people.
- Strongly support the JAC Group proposal for a Gorge Sky Lift- a much-needed major tourist attraction.
- I think that project of gondola will improve employment and should be supported.
- I support the Gorge Sky Lift project from the Penny Royal to the Gorge and back. Having used a number of similar transports across Europe (including funiculars and cable cars up mountainsides) I can see the value of something like this for Launceston.
- I strongly support the gondola because in my opinion, it can greatly improve tourism in Launceston. More attraction = more money.
- Major private investments in this city are not very common and each time it happens, it brings more jobs and money to the city. Please support the Chair Lift.
- In the same way the chairlift and funicular do not impose themselves on the landscape, the Gorge Skylight would be a useful addition and create a new and novel way to access the Gorge itself.
- Gondola or enclosed chairlift needed from city to Gorge grounds
- Yes the Gorge Sky Lift.
- Gondola.
- Again cable car and safe access.
- My concern is that the minority that resist any form of progress will skew the debate and jeopardize an economic windfall for Northern Tasmania when it can least afford it.
- Chairlift seems to be another large investment in our city, which can provide jobs. We should support it.
- As a resident of Trevallyn and a frequent user of the precinct, I invite an activity that parents can share with their kids, share with their visitors and something to promote the north of Tasmania that will stimulate the local economy. I therefore fully support the gondola project that is sympathetic to its surrounds and have yet to hear a sensible argument otherwise.
- I would like to see the chair lift/ride proposed by Mr Chromy to become a reality. We need tourists from home and abroad to come to our city before it dies on its feet. We need some development that attracts visitors. We need a draw card.
- I agree with building of the gondola because it will improve employment. Why is everyone against? It will not cost council anything.
- I think the chairlift deserves consideration... with good design it would provide a more inspirational experience for people.

- I would like to see our city from gondola. At the moment, there is no lookout on city, docks and Gorge. Gondolas can bring new view for everyone!
- The chairlift is great opportunity to improve tourism in our city. Therefore, it should be supported by all of us.
- Gondola is important project for tourism in our city. It will connect the city with First Basin and should be approved.
- I support the gondola project due to improvement of access for disabled people into the Gorge.
- I see the Gorge Sky Lift as a spectacular world-class attraction that should be supported. The developer is a visionary that has already made wonderful improvements to our city and should be encouraged to continue to do so. I am so tired of great, tasteful ideas being squashed!
- I support every improvement of the city. Building gondola will improve employment as well as income from tourism.
- Fantastic idea! Building gondola should bring 50,000 tourists, which is worthy of support.
- Northern Tassie needs progressive ideas like the Chair Lift. Government will never invest same money like private developers. It's our own responsibility to develop our town therefore I strongly support this plan.
- I say YAY for the gondola! It is big boost for tourism and employment!
- Putting jobs and money into local economy is always good and we must support these projects like gondola.
- Maybe I am just old lady but Joe Chromy did for our country more than all these young politicians. All his projects were beneficial for local people and I bet this Gondola will be the same. GO GONDOLA GO.
- In past years we lost most of our manufacturing industry. Gondola and other projects can attract more tourists, lead to positive effect on local economy and we should support it.
- I believe the gondola proposal has merit, but only if it has minimal visual and noise impact. It would provide 'accessible' experience for those who are limited by disability, we need to be inclusive of all in our community - those who live here and those who visit here.
- These types of projects will bring in outside operators who will provide an alternative experience in the area and also potentially create jobs. They will provide their own advertising thus advertising the Gorge through a third party and saving council money.
- Strongly urge the acceptance of the Gorge Sky Lift proposal. Have recently visited Katoomba in the Blue Mountains and found that their similar sky lift and sky rail facilities were brilliant with tourists filling every ride. The worse thing that can happen to this whole development is to allow minority groups to override what the majority want in our city.
- As mentioned before the Sky Lift would be a fantastic link between the city and the Gorge giving many people access to the beautiful Gorge.
- I strongly agree with the sky lift development that Josef Chromy is proposing. We have travelled extensively overseas, and have seen many developments, which enhance their surroundings. I do not believe that this sky lift would spoil the wonderful natural environment that is the Cataract Gorge.
- Cataract Gorge needs to improve accessibility from multiple entry points. Not just from Basin St. Therefore plan for the Gondola should be supported.

- Gondola is lovely idea and I really look forward to see our city and the Gorge from above.
- I strongly support the plan of J Chromy to build the Chair Lift because this attraction can improve local tourism.
- Gondola is great idea for families with small kids! I am always afraid to take them to normal chairlift.
- Gondola chairlift - what a great experience that would bring many visitors in to the Gorge.
- Building the Chairlift will improve employment in the area and we should support it. Not to be against.
- I fully agree with the Gondola being built in the Gorge. Every significant investment brings more jobs, which are currently shortcoming.
- The Chair Lift will improve access for elderly and disabled people and therefore should be supported.
- JAC suggested Gondola project.
- The Gorge Sky Lift
- Sky Lift
- SAY YES TO THE GONDOLA!
- I think the cataract should be more utilized during different occasions. Having some festival together with gondola will boost tourism in our city.
- This city needs more income from tourism and building another attraction like Gondola will provide it. We must support it.
- We should support building the Chair Lift because it would create many workplaces for local people.
- I fully support the Gondola proposal, which has the potential to enhance the experience of visiting the Gorge for both locals and tourists, with little or no environmental impact. The Kuranda gondola near Cairns in Qld. is a good example of how it can be done. This is the type of experience visitors now regularly expect, both in Australia and overseas (Europe in particular) and a Gorge gondola would complement the existing chairlift across the First Basin (which doesn't appear to attract many detractors).
- Chairlift from Kings Bridge to Basin as a lot of visitors are elderly and would like to see the Gorge but having the walk prevents them doing so and some visitors have a limited time to see and find walking to the Basin either too far to walk or too hard to get to in a limited time.
- All wanted to contribute is that Gorge Chairlift is an excellent innovation. Registering eta for this survey is so awkward and having completed numerous surveys I must say that this is the most poorly designed I have yet encountered.
- I support anything what helps tourism and the Gondola definitely will help a lot.
- Building Gondola is another fantastic idea from JAC. We should make it priority.
- Simply said - that chairlift is terrific opportunity for Launceston tourism. We have to support it.
- Gondola is worth support due to its positive effect on employment and tourism.
- Great ideas must be supported! Gondola is one of them. Just imagine how many people it will attract!
- I support Gondola due to its ability to attract more tourists into our city.
- My husband and I would like to support the Gondola. We believe it can significantly help local economy.

- I can't agree with putting Gondola as low priority development. It will create jobs and we should support it.
- I would like to see more job opportunities in this area and that Chair Lift can provide it.
- I agree with the Chair Lift plan. It is great to see some development to cheer up local economy.
- Gondola proposal will open up Gorge to visitors and provide a world-class means of access and appreciation of features without adversely impacting the place.
- We believe the Gondola would be a great asset to the Gorge and would draw tourists and visitors to the Gorge to view, participate in and enjoy the other Gorge attributes.
- I would prefer to see environment friendly Gondola being build instead of many ugly car parks all around.
- I think support of Gondola is necessary as it is important development project in the city and will open many job opportunities.
- A chair lift would be a major, major development, which could greatly increase the image and use of the Gorge.
- I believe the Chairlift will be very appreciated by many families. There is not better way to spend time together than exploring new areas.
- I perceive the Chairlift as great chance to boost our local tourism and bring some money to our economy. We should support projects like this.
- I am sure that there will be created many new workplaces if we support building gondola in the Gorge
- I am unsure of what this question really wants but I believe that the approval of the proposal by the JAC group is vital if Launceston is to prosper and grow as a tourist destination, to have improved employment and offer a future for the children of the town. We cannot stop progress.
- I see including the Gondola in future plans as important decision leading to increased tourism, which we all appreciate.
- That Chairlift project looks good from both environmental and economical point of view. We should definitely support this.
- I think it is important to improve access to cataract in order to increase amount of visitors. Gondola sounds to me like good idea and should be supported.
- New development in our city is important for all young people. It is not just investment but also valuable source of jobs, which will be created.
- I agree with building the Gorge Sky Lift.
- I think we should support the Sky Lift. Similar transportations and tourist attractions are all around the world, even in the most preserved areas because it actually allows more people to visit the area without harming the nature.
- As previously explained I feel the Chairlift from Penny Royal to the Gorge is a must. It is our best asset. Lets help those who are happy to spend their money on our beautiful city to encourage visitors from all over the world to stay here and appreciate all we have to offer. We need strong visionaries to promote, develop and grow Tasmania's economy while protecting the environment.
- The Gorge Sky Lift Gondola is a transformational development that should proceed, because it will improve access, increase tourism and employment and provide a 'world class' entrance to the Cataract Gorge Reserve unlike cars winding through suburbia.

- If a Gondola is installed should start southern end of Penny Royal and terminate near Basin restaurant (not infringe on Gorge area).
- 8.1 Agree
- I think the Gondola / Zip Line ideas do need to be considered. These experiences will draw visitors to Launceston. They will spend money, helping the regions economy as well as specific income to the Council to fund the public infrastructure to be provided in the Gorge.
- After living in NZ for a few years I witnessed first hand how each venture attempted to be self funded. NZ still has a wonderful international reputation for "pure experiences". Natural beauty and developments can co-exist. Launceston is unlikely to ever attract the tax payer funded community amenities like we see in Hobart, therefore private investors need to be allowed to develop facilities / attractions which do not incur ongoing public funding to maintain into perpetuity. Come on Launceston, we need to provide job opportunities for our kids.
- There needs to be further discussion and consideration of the option for a Gondola type project as a transformational project within Launceston. Retaining the natural beauty of the area is important, however enabling people to enjoy the Gorge in a variety of ways is important.
- The Gorge precinct has for the last 100+ years been shaped by the community. From introduced flora and fauna, commercial activities in the form of cafes and a chairlift, disturbed environmental flows to the river, to the construction of footpaths, bbq areas and lookouts, it is far from natural wildness. Despite this, it is enjoyed by locals who like to wander in the gardens or swim in the pool on a sunny day and its beauty is still evident as you walk the man made footpath from Kings Bridge into the Basin.
Unfortunately for tourists it remains difficult to access and for those less able, near on impossible to appreciate or enjoy. I've lost count the amount of times I've driven past to see an elderly person take the ZigZag track by accident or witness tourists driving through suburbia wondering where the hell they are going and then still not have easy access to the Gorge. This doesn't represent a great experience or advertisement for the state. A gondola sympathetic to the environment would become an asset to the region and for the town of Launceston.
- This area needs more people being involved. All these projects (weddings, Gondola etc.) will create many job opportunities.

Not supporting the proposed Gondola development

- I have great doubts with developments such as the Gondola Chairlift. For though it has the minor advantage of some minimal excitement to some it totally nullifies the far more significant benefit of any visitor finding themselves in contact with nature. It also makes no sense as an alternative to a short, flat, walk close to nature that is within the capacity of most all.
- I would like to see the possibility for a Sky Lift gondola ride excluded completely. It is totally at odds with the area and would add nothing to the Gorge experience. In fact I firmly believe it would detract from the experience. The Gorge does not need gimmicks to enhance it.
- Whatever is included it must be for the public benefit and not a possibility for financial gain for a private company and in absolutely no way should public funds be accessed to provide such things as Gondolas or any other private venture.
- It does NOT need any other development, keep it as is.

- 8.1 Strongly disapprove of Gondola.
- I am totally opposed to any developments such as a gondola, sculpture park etc. Please concentrate your efforts on maintaining and preserving the beauty of nature.
- As I have made clear, the consultation process strongly opposed any more development in the Gorge. Please respect this.
- No further visual intrusions on the skyline, no further development in surrounding areas that impeded access e.g. access from Prospect has been restricted by new subdivisions there in recent years, preserving only one difficult to find access point. Access points from Trevallyn, apart from the road, are not obvious to pedestrians - a little signage would help.
- I believe the Gorge simply needs a little tweaking to enhance the visitor experience. I don't believe that further development of a private/for profit nature will enhance that experience.
- NO to all proposals - they are simply NOT needed - the Gorge is Launceston's key asset for its beauty, quiet and retreating nature - why do we have to change this - NO NO NO development - it is absolutely not necessary.
- I strongly disagree with the proposal for a gondola type chairlift for the Gorge.
- No body wants a gondola.
- Why is there nowhere in this survey to express my complete opposition to the Sky Lift proposal!!!
- We do NOT need a gondola or other such foreign structures.
- I am usually of "pro progress" mind however I think the proposed Gondola Sky Lift would be to the detriment of this beautiful and special area. We cannot let this proceed.
- Major developments such as the Sky Lift are totally inappropriate. The Sky Lift would turn the natural beauty of the Gorge into the backdrop for a private company making money from a community-owned asset. The Sky Lift would not be welcome by the large majority of the community. The Gorge already is suffering from over development and does not need to be turned into Disneyland.
- Treat this area with respect. I appreciate the intent to 'develop' this area but its natural and cultural values will be eroded. There is enough of those types of developments elsewhere. People aren't going to come to Launceston to ride a gondola up over a hill - too many places have those gimmicks and it reflects a 1960's thought process. They will come if ONE of the attractions is a green area right on the backdoor of the city - too few places have that.
- Please no gondola chairlift or cable car, nor commercial development inside the Reserve.
- Please NO 'gondola' and no zip line! Let's avoid turning the Gorge and the Trevallyn Reserve into a theme park. Sculptures can be intrusive and should not be placed in the natural bush. My son and I enjoy the bush, observing wildlife, swimming and walking in the area. It is peaceful and we love that!
- I don't want developments in the Gorge especially the proposed gondola - visual pollution! The ZigZag track is a gem don't spoil it. Visitors and locals appreciate the natural beauty.
- Hand off the Gorge - it is public space and a public amenity not a private space for speculators and people who lack vision. It is natural heritage and should be treated with respect not made into a "kitch" theme park.

- "Transformational projects" is just jargon for development. It appears private developments have been given significant weighting within this process.
- I strongly oppose any commercial overhead transport into the Gorge. The Gorge is of value only if it remains in its natural setting. It is an easy walking site with wheel chair access. It's a relatively small area.
- Specific development proposals have been linked to the Reimagining the Gorge project. This is totally unacceptable. Whilst this project may lead to identifying preferences for scale and type of developments, tabling specific developments at this time may prejudice other development options, create assumptions on the direction of the process, and give an implication that a specific development proposal has some status from being linked to the Gorge project. It is premature to discuss the merits of specific options, until this project has matured, and this is not the forum for it.
- The Gorge would struggle to cope with more visitors than it already does at peak season. It is essential that it maintain its naturalness and grandeur. The necessary fittings required for a cable car, a terminus in the Basin, the pylons to carry the cable car and the cable car itself will be very obvious intrusions. The cable car should not be given any consideration.
- NO Gondola - Cataract Gorge is a public asset and community space, not Josef Chromy's to ruin and turn into amusement park for him to make profits.
- The value of the Gorge for both locals and visitors lies in its undeveloped state - this is what is precious!
- NO GONDOLA RIDE.
- It was heartening to see the vast majority of people rejected the "Gondola" project as a huge negative for the CGR & TNRA in terms of destroying the natural beauty and inherent attractiveness of an 'unspoilt' native reserve.
- I assume this is a fudge for the Gondola. Please recant your support for that private project, publically, and fully. An apology for being a cat's paw for the developer is in order.
- I do not support commercial development within the area. Please don't lose sight of what this area means to a lot of locals and visitors. The area is unique and valued for its natural environment and proximity to the city, giving easy opportunities to escape the city and enjoy a natural experience. In particular the TNRA is special because you are surrounded by largely uninterrupted native bushland. To develop this area would ruin the very thing, which makes it special. My children and I and our interstate and overseas visitors love it and enjoy it just the way it is. Please maintain these natural and cultural values by keeping developments to a minimum.
- Do not want a gondola in the Gorge EVER!
- No gondola or commercial businesses - leave it natural get rid of everything except toilets and walking tracks.
- Please leave ZigZag track alone. While a gondola may be good for tourism, locals do not want to see a gondola when walking the ZigZag. We are blessed to have such a track so close to the city and I fear the gondola project will impact on the track. No visible houses in the Gorge area.
- No Gondola Chairlift No Gondola chairlift - Not necessary. The car park would be in the buffer zone of the ZigZag Reserve. What an eyesore with the pylons for the Gondola and 3 levels of car park when looking from CBD. What about the nearby houses, whose owners thought they lived next to a reserve - not a theme park!

The money would be better spent on health and education 'furphy': this would be visible from parts of the Reserve. This is not a circus arena. No wealthy exploiters should be able to buy their way into the Trevallyn/Gorge Reserve.

- We are very much opposed to any commercial development place within the Gorge area or visible to the skyline. Including the Gondola project. No zip line in or near Gorge area.
- Definitely no need for a Gondola chairlift
- No Gondola. Keep profiteers out of the Gorge. Retain the asset in community hands. Our children's children deserve the right to unfettered access to the Gorge without having to worry about price.
- Other developments such as Gondolas and zip lines are not needed in the two reserves and would reduce natural and cultural values.
- I would like to see the squashing of the idea of visually intrusive Sky Lift. It's not needed and not wanted.

Other comments

- The natural beauty and tranquility so near our city, must be preserved at all costs. This makes it unique and is the quality that visitors and locals alike treasure. This clearly says no to more man made structures, such as gondola, zip line, interpretive signage vulnerable to vandalism and coloured lighting.
- It is clear that the consultants and the Council have learned from their past willingness to preference the JAC's group ideas of development in the Gorge and I am glad that this no longer features.
- It is beautiful as it is. Also, there is nowhere to comment on security/safety. This area should be safe for people to walk around at night (it gets dark early in winter). There is an increasing number of drug users and homeless in this area. Is this going to be addressed?
- Put the zip line in the TNRA not the Gorge!
- Isn't the development of Penny Royal by JAC a transformational project?
- RV's and caravans should be able to 'overnight' in the upper car park near the boat-launching ramp as there are toilets nearby and the same in the car park near the horse riding where there are also toilets near a hut (Whoo Whoo?)
- 8.2 disagree and 8.3 strongly disagree
- Disagree 8.3 - Strongly disagree
- 8.2 Sculpture Park would be good elsewhere but no need in the Gorge - our own natural "sculpture". 8.3 No need for created "reflective spaces" as nature provided these. 8.4 Zip line could be supported if it involves minimal permanent infrastructure.
- These three proposals sound excellent. They will however get shouted down, as people will complain about the visual impact that these proposals will. Lets look at how the Gorge area has changed with the walking paths that have been built over the last 100 years as without previous vision would only have a scrub.
- NONE of the ideas should proceed. Keep the area and skyline as natural as possible. I support sculpture/art developments but not necessary in CGR or TBRA. Other parks in the city have this capacity.
- As a resident my house faces the ZigZag reserve. I am concerned about the impact of a car park and entry point to the Gondola chairlift being established on the ZigZag reserve above the cliff face. As the ZigZag is a very narrow two-way

road I would need to know more about how such an access could be achieved and a car park would be located.

- Better access to what we already have.
- Sorry, but I don't support 'thinking and reflective spaces' - the whole place is like that. Just pop in some seating to enable people to stop and enjoy the place. Sculptures could detract from some places.
- Please kill the weeds.
- The amateurish attempts to facilitate the 'Neighbours of the Gorge' meeting were disappointing. The inept and subjective delivery was patronising and disjointed.
- Only temporary artworks displayed in area of Gorge. Zipline needs to be exciting but using harness (must be supervised). If ball games allowed must be confined to designated area.
- You have made this question a double negative!
- The wording of this question is effectively 'push polling' because it prefaces the question with a negative statement. The question is also confusing because it is effectively expressed as a double negative where a person wanting to support the Sky Lift Gondola needs to select "Disagree" when intuitively they would expect to register support by selecting Agree. Furthermore, a person can "agree" that the statement is the result of the previous survey involving "stakeholders" but not all of the community, or they can "agree" with the sentiment expressed in the push polling preface, or they can "agree" that the Gorge Sky Lift should be supported but therefore confusingly have to "disagree" to express that support. The phrasing of the question shows poor judgement.
- In the final question ranking importance, what does the rank of the "other developments" mean? I agree with the idea that "other developments" are not appropriate. If I give "other developments" a high rank am I supporting other developments or supporting opposition to other developments??
- I do not agree with "transformational" projects.
- When I was invited to attend the first meeting was overseas for 4 months looking at Geological trails for Tasmania. I have conducted geological tours of the Gorge since 1982.... and now specifically for the information centre in the Gorge (Cottage) since 2009. I am about to do another one in September this year..... I now do not live in Launceston but in Richmond, Tasmania. See my book Created from Chaos.....p 12 to 14 all about the Gorge... Peter S Manchester
- The zip-line is not my scene, but I think it would be a wonderful addition to the Gorge... look at how popular the Hollybank Treetops Adventure is, though I know it is a little different. Come on, LET'S DO THIS!!
- The TNRA is grossly under utilised at present. This should be the main focus for car parking with better access across to the Gorge. It also has the space for larger sport-like activities, bike riding etc.
- The removal of the fallen trees in the Gorge Reserve, path kept clean of limbs.
- I wish the Fairy Dell had been left alone!!!!
- We don't need them, just maintain what we have!
- Private development should not be promoted or even considered as part of any future respectful utilisation of the Cataract Gorge.
- Disagree with light shows / art installations. If people want this they can find it at the museum. The attraction of the Gorge and TNRA is that it is a unique natural place close to the city - not an area for gimmicky installations and tacky 'art' that will probably be vandalised by youth anyway.

- Firstly I would like to congratulate Mr Chromy for his vision added to that process I think something like the shell at the Myer music smaller version should be built as a permanent structure as to have entertainment on a more regular basis.
- Please avoid adding further infrastructure than is entirely necessary to the Gorge and TNRA or allowing same on the borders. Every time something else man made is added there is a loss of the integrity of the area as a whole. This area is stunning for the fact that it sits as a place of great natural beauty and the bonus is that it so close to our urban environment. There must be a clear line between the natural environment and what is built so that the contrast remains intact and these areas remain as natural as possible. They are loved for the fact that the contrast has remained so by and large. We have seen some erosion of this integrity with threats on the borders in particular inappropriate housing but please no more additions of man made structures in or on the Gorges or TNRA borders. The Governance must have some teeth so that the integrity of Gorge and TNRA remains intact.
- Also believe the Zipline experience would be a great addition.
- This is the only theme where I disagree with the survey views.
I also believe we need to provide interesting, safe and exciting 'playgrounds' for our young people. This includes options for teenagers to take risks (as they do!), in a safe environment, so we are managing those risks. Would the zip line experience and abseiling provide this? Possibly. I feel a little uncomfortable about sculptures in the Fairy Dell. I have seen 'sculptures' installed in other places that detract from the natural beauty. Choosing appropriate sculptures would be very subjective, some would love them, some would hate them, so best leave alone. I agree with the survey result that we do not need art and design in the thinking and reflective spaces... defeats the purpose really.
- High end accommodation and F&B provision. Chinese tea house to acknowledge the early contribution of the Chinese community to the Gorge.
- I agree that most infrastructure developments are undesirable in the area, especially the Gondola. However, if a zipline involved only minimal permanent infrastructure (e.g. some bolts in the rock), it could be a great adventure for locals and visitors alike, while being easily removed if necessary. A sculpture park could be good if it were quality and interesting art, but could be located elsewhere (e.g. Royal Park) - the Gorge is a natural sculpture and should be appreciated. Similarly, nature provides "thinking and reflective spaces" perfectly well, thanks.
- A road could have been built through the Gorge, similar to that at Punchbowl Reserve. In the mid 1980's the Gorge and First Basin won a Royal Australian Institute of Architects design award for preserving the Victorian Park ambience of the 1890's intact, by not building such a road and undertaking more commercial development.
- The walk from Kings Bridge to the First Basin is of world-class quality. Full of change and interest, with cataracts, trees and long views into the First Basin as it slowly reveals itself. This very rewarding pathway, which culminates in the Suspension Bridge loop across the Gorge, is wonderful and free. This life enhancing experience is unique in that it is within walking distance of Launceston City Centre amenities and accommodation. In addition in the Tasmanian context, the gradients are modest and therefore also provide access for the disabled.
- Any development should be given the opportunity to present a case for why their project delivers something positive for the Gorge and/or the region.

Submissions to the Green Paper

A number of emails were received offering comments on the Green Paper. They have been included in the relevant themes.

Re-imagining the Cataract Gorge by Mark Bartkevicius was the only detailed submission received. It addresses most of the themes and has been included in full instead of cutting and pasting the many ideas it contains. The content has not been edited but layout changes have been made to fit this document.

Re-imagining the Cataract Gorge by Mark Bartkevicius

Introduction

This submission has been written following a briefing to ratepayers neighbouring the Cataract Gorge. Mr. Bob Campbell and Ms. Lynda Jones of the facilitation consultancy Groupwork conducted the briefing. It was organised following protestations that a significant stakeholder group had been excluded from deliberations up to that time.

From approximately 120 written invitations to the briefing, 35 people attended, which at a greater than 25% response rate, represents a highly committed stakeholder group.

It should be noted that this group of ratepayers represent a combined financial investment of \$20-\$40 Million dollars in the immediate environs of the Gorge. Those people whose properties abut the Gorge, have typically made a long-term investment which affirm their commitment to, and affinity with the existing values represented in the Gorge Reserve, and those properties are typically valued above those just across the street with no boundary abutting the Reserve, reflecting the perceived additional amenity offered by those properties.

Despite protestation from a Council staff member present, that this group should have no recognition separate to the average ratepayer, despite obvious precedent, the outcome seems to be that resident neighbours will be recognised as a significant stakeholder group in subsequent deliberations, although this respondent has seen no formal recognition to date.

- *It was quite apparent that the primary driver of attendance to this briefing was the inclusion of a cable car as a proposition for serious consideration. Those present unanimously rejected the cable car proposal, and questions were raised as to the integrity of the process thus far because of its inclusion. The consensus at the meeting was that a private developer's interests had hijacked the process.*

A Critique of the Vision Process so far

The lack of a philosophical basis

The vision process, as described at the briefing, indicated that previous work and management plans were considered in forming a guiding philosophy for future management. However, there did not seem to be any such framework apparent in the presentation, the lack of which made for the inclusion of at least one concept, for a cable car, which is seemingly at complete odds with the current management plans for the area. The terms of the original gift of the land to the people of Launceston would be a decent start, as well as a framework based upon the current Management plan as well as the Management Units immediately surrounding the area.

The lack of historical and cultural background

The building of a residence in the years prior to 2008 by Mr. Barry Larter, which, whilst complying with existing planning regulations, caused a considerable public outcry because of its visual impact, and led to the formation of the "Hands off the Gorge" lobby. As a result of this controversy, LCC formed the Gorge Advisory Committee. Their work included the formation of a management plan for the Gorge Reserve and surrounding private property, which was implemented in 2008, and is

still in force. To date, no reference to the lobby or the Advisory Committee and their works are given in the draft version of the vision document.

The lack of coherence

The work of the Gorge Advisory Committee has informed the creation of 13 separate “Gorge Management Units”, which apply to specific suburban areas abutting the Gorge. Importantly, these management units recognise that different areas require differing management, due to their relative positions around the Gorge, with those areas most visible from the Basin area, and those visible from “prime viewpoints” having the most development constraints placed upon them. These constraints relate primarily to density, i.e. lot size, and visual impact, with terms such as “inevident” used liberally. Yet the vision document entertains several points surrounding the cable car proposal, which are diametrically at odds with this regulatory environment.

The lack of area segmentation

The existing Gorge Management Units incorporated into the Master Planning scheme separate the abutting residential areas into discrete management units. This approach recognises the diversity of the areas as well as the variability in aspects that would need to be considered for development. For example, the Zigzag reserve is predominately cliff faces with very little terrain available for development, is extremely exposed to the prevailing winds, is so dry and has such sparse soil that only she-oaks can grow, and has an extreme fire risk attached. Only 200 metres to the North, the Trevallyn side of the Cataract is equally steep, but is substantially in shelter from the wind, in shade, and is consequently much wetter and supports a different flora altogether. Both sides of the cataract comprise vistas that are visible from prime viewpoints in the city. By contrast, the Trevallyn State Reserve is so large that much of it doesn't have any near neighbours; it is much flatter as it occupies an area on top of the hill surrounding the cliff areas. Constraints on use and development would therefore be different to those for the Basin area proper, and for the Zigzag reserve in particular, where any development would have more impact on neighbours and prime viewpoints e.g. Royal Park. Any management plan would need to address these vastly different conditions, pointing to a segmented model for planning purposes.

Currently, the draft plan attempts to lump in all the areas as a single unit, which will result in inadequate and insensitive management of what are truly distinct areas.

The accessibility myth

The draft vision goes on at length about the need for accessibility and connectedness between the City and the various parts of the combined Reserves. This part of the draft seems to be written solely in justification for a gondola, because it flies in the face of the facts. The suggestion in the survey to make Kings Bridge the “main pedestrian access”, seems likewise to be promoting a developer's commercial interest, as the main route by Basin Road is *prima facie* the main entrance. Considerable funds have been spent on upgrading the car park and providing disabled access. No justification was given for this question in the survey; frankly this suggestion diminishes the credibility of the document.

The facts are that one of the key points that make the Cataract Gorge the single most popular tourist attraction in Launceston every year for over a century is that it is easily accessible, with a range of pedestrian pathways connecting to the CBD, and has vehicle access within 5 minutes of the GPO. No other Australian city has a spectacular natural feature of this kind, so close and as readily accessible as the Cataract Gorge.

Why a gondola is incompatible with the Zigzag Reserve

One of the key tenets to be addressed in considering development in the Management Unit abutting the Zig Zag Reserve is that any development must not significantly impact on the existing views of the Cataract Gorge, as viewed from prime viewpoints e.g. Royal Park viewing platform. Maximum height for developments is approximately 6 metres. Regulatory control can even be exerted over the external colour, so as to make any development “inevident”. Yet, only the other side of the boundary of these properties, a few metres away, there is a proposal for a cable car, which would need to be suspended above the 7 metre high she oaks. The pylons and cables for such a project would need to be approximately **15 metres** high. All this is supposed to fit in a 200 metre –wide Gorge that has private properties on both sides.

In an effort to reduce the massive invasion of privacy that such a proposition represents, the developer has stated that the gondola would go “through the canopy” at the top of the Zig Zag hill. Because there are 2 cables, coming and going, the canopy would need to be removed over a distance of 400-600 metres long, by approximately 20 metres wide, in a straight line, across the hill. Given that the existing swathe of she oak growth on this hillside is already narrow, this would have a massive impact on the existing view of a natural wooded hillside, very much like the high-voltage corridors that can be seen leading to the Trevallyn Power Station. There would need to be several pylons built at the top of the hill, because, unlike most cable cars, such as the Basin chairlift, which pass over a concave landscape such that the span is the highest above ground at the middle of the traverse – or, ‘peak to peak’ - this proposal goes over the top of a convex hill. These extra pylons would require the clearing of a substantial part of the hill just to make erection possible, and for ongoing maintenance.

A prudent Council, as landowner, would need a very significant performance bond in order to assure compliance with the preservation of the natural environment. A significant decommissioning, removal and remediation bond of a similar amount (\$10 Million?) would also be required in the event of the operation failing as a commercial venture, as happened to the Penny Royal for example. These things have been known to happen, and the developer is claiming that 50,000 *additional* visitors to Launceston per annum will visit this attraction. This is a full A320 return flight every day of an 8-month tourism season, all of whom would be coming primarily for a cable car ride. *A courageous assumption!*

A statement of axiomatic principles for development and use of the Basin, the Cataract Gorge, and adjoining Reserves

The preservation and enhancement of the natural values of the Gorge are the single most important guides for future use and development.

The Cataract Gorge is an outstanding, naturally formed feature. It has been already been mostly developed where possible and desirable, for recreational use. The place retains most of its natural values, with a range of native flora and fauna, even though it is so close to the city Centre. Although it is hardly a pristine wilderness, it nevertheless offers a “soft” nature-based experience to those visitors and residents without the time or wherewithal to experience the more extreme conditions of the “real” wilderness, which is likely the overwhelming majority of visitors.

It is quite apparent that the various user groups are attracted by, and share an appreciation of, the natural values of the Gorge environment.

Any future developments should demonstrate compliance with this principle by being of limited scale and impact, and appropriate to the place. Any developments should, if possible, further enhance the existing natural environment.

Segmentation of the different Reserves for planning purposes

As outlined above, the differing Reserves have differing features, constraints, geography, and microclimates. It is therefore appropriate to segment the areas, as has already been done with surrounding residential areas. The Zig Zag Reserve for example, consists mostly of cliff faces and she oak forest, which are immediately visible from prime viewpoints. Maintenance of this “naturalness”, rather than skyline-dominating development will contribute greatly to the attraction of the Cataract Gorge.

On the other hand, buildings, trails, clearings for roads and car parks in the Trevallyn State Reserve, are commensurate with the uses to which it is now put, and possible further uses. This area is easily able to accommodate a wide range of “adventure” activities, because of the low impact visually, and the suitability of the much less steep terrain to those uses.

Using just the two principles, following are a few examples of a possible future for the Gorge and surrounding reserves.

An Alternative Vision for the Basin and the Cataract Gorge

Putting the Cataract back in the Gorge

The history of the Gorge is a fascinating topic, as it has within it stories ranging from the aspirations of a small but thriving colonial town, to bold visions executed with panache by the burghers who formed and operated the Launceston Corporation. They provided the first electric street lighting system for a city in the Southern hemisphere. The post-federation machinations by the State Government to first emasculate, and finally dismantle the hydro scheme based at Duck Reach was a divisive issue, and one which contributed greatly to the North/South divide we are still somewhat saddled with in this State.

One wonders if the Hydro, for all its power, would be able to construct the Trevallyn power scheme today. Would the citizens of Launceston stand by and allow an SOE to disappear the South Esk in the way that they did in the 50s-60s? I think not.

What is a puzzle is that, despite the ever worse environmental degradation, the leaders and elected members in our electorate have not so far been able to marshal the resources necessary to right some of the wrongs that have been perpetrated over past decades. It is a shame on us all that the waters in home reach are now so polluted that yacht clubs have disappeared, the regattas at Royal park have gone, and what was once the second-most popular tourist venue in Tasmania is now no longer fit to swim in (there is a large sign stating this.) even though the natural values are what tourists come there for.

The idea of putting the Cataract back in the Gorge is probably as old as the day it was first cut off. In fact, far from being just a Greenie hippy-dippy utopian dream, the details outlined below were in fact presented as a motion to the Liberal Party State Council held at the Albert hall in the early 2000's. The motion was carried, and so forms part of the Canon of that organization until today. Moreover, in the intervening years, advances in technology and issues surrounding Carbon reduction have made the possibilities much more achievable. The late Jeremy Ball was actively pursuing one of the key solutions to the problem, and one would hope that LCC will appoint

one of their members to take up the cudgels in his stead.

My proposition is this: starting from the Trevallyn dam, a small run of the river turbine could be installed at the base of the dam. Power generated would attract Carbon credits, as it would qualify as a new scheme, unlike the Trevallyn power station. An upgraded environmental flow would be immediately established.

It has been reported that the original penstocks supplying the Duck Reach power station are still in condition where reconditioning them to return to service is feasible. A working power station would add yet more power and Carbon Credits. In addition, it would become the centerpiece of the built heritage in the Gorge, and given that transportation and access issues can be resolved, would form a tourist destination in its own right. The outflow from the station would add to the water volume, so that the Cataract would be put back in the Gorge.

With sufficient water flow, and if absolutely necessary, some grooming of the riverbed, canoeing and rafting, even a jet boat could become activities attracting the more adventurous tourists, on an everyday basis. This flow can be turned off after dark, reducing risk and unnecessary water usage. It could also be used in conjunction with downstream rehabilitation such as silt raking activities in the Home Reach area.

The water doesn't stop flowing at the bottom of the Gorge. Home reach and the Yacht Basin could become a far more attractive and healthy place. A few years ago, the hydro released quite a bit of water down the Gorge as part of maintenance operations around the dam. Within a single 24-hour period, the water in the yacht Basin went from brown to blue. To achieve this on an ongoing basis would add infinite ecological, aesthetic, and financial value through tourism, and the increased desirability of adjoining properties.

If anything is going to link and enhance the various developments going on around the Gorge and the upper Tamar, this is it. Everything else is small potatoes in comparison.

There are those who will say that this plan is not within the remit of the Launceston City Council, that it is idealistic, unrealistic, and unachievable. I feel sure that these same objections were made to those far-sighted city fathers who built the Duck Reach power station in the first instance. I say to those who would dismiss this plan: If the Aldermen are not prepared to work towards this, who is? If not now, when?

A plan such as this would take quite a few years to fully realize, probably a greater time than a single term in office. If all the Aldermen were to unite behind this plan, then one by one, all other elected representatives at State and Federal levels could be variously cajoled, cornered, persuaded, buttonholed, shamed, flattered, whatever it takes to get them to sign the pledge to support this scheme, and then go out there and find ways and means to help achieve the vision. Our city fathers who first established the Duck Reach Scheme have left some big shoes to fill.

Observing the second of the proposed principles, this part deals only with the Zig Zag Reserve, and the First Basin.

A vision for the Zig Zag Reserve – another Zig, another Zag

The Zig Zag Reserve is aptly named, after the route that needs to be taken to navigate the steepest parts of the hill, which are close to the base of the hill, which meets the floodplain at Margaret St on the city side.

There is a possibility for a sensitive development that could be done over the small section of this reserve that is not sheer cliff face, which could offer enhanced access

to tourists and locals alike, and provide an opportunity for a tourism attraction commensurate with the Natural Values Philosophy for the Gorge.

There is already a maze of walkways from the city to the Gorge, quite a few of which converge on the Zig Zag track. Chinese tourists in particular, can be seen taking photos of the panoramic view available from the City side of Upper York St. They either walk over the hill and down to the main entrance via Basin Rd, or they walk along Hill St, which has a connecting track to the Zig Zag track, or via Argyle St which has a similar branch track, and even occasionally via Alfred St entrance to Gees Reserve, which connects to the Zig Zag at the top of the hill, or via Quarry Rd, similarly connected.

These tracks could be well documented and signposted discretely for the benefit of tourists (locals already know these routes.) Importantly, there needs to be an “app” so that these maps can be followed using the GPS functions of the average smartphone. The maps should be multi-lingual, dual English/Chinese at a minimum, and promoted in a way commensurate with Launceston’s premier attraction.

The fact that a walking tour such as this goes through inner suburban streets is a bonus, not a problem. Asian tourists in particular have an appreciation for the ability to observe the ordinary lives of residents, in much the same way that we, as tourists in an Asian country, frequent markets to see the local “colour”, even though to the locals it is as mundane as a supermarket trip is to us. Walking is a classic best method to see the sights, on a recent trip to Japan with my family, we averaged in excess of 12 km walking daily, in both city and countryside, although at home, I take a car to the corner store only 500 metres away. Chinese tourists can be regularly seen walking all over our city and environs over summer. Walking to the Gorge is not a hardship or a barrier – it is an “experience”.

Paterson St exists as a Road Reserve directly west of Margaret St. It has not been built due to the extreme slope above the West Tamar Highway, but exists as a firebreak and emergency access point above Hill St, with access from Argyle St and via Gees Reserve off Alfred St. There has been some terracing done in past years to facilitate the movement of four-wheel drive vehicles when necessary. It might prove possible to connect Bourke St with Hill and Argyle streets and up to the top of the hill, with a small, restricted access road, wide enough to accommodate local and tourist pedestrian and bike traffic, as well as electric golf-cart style vehicles, and small fire fighting vehicles. The path down the hill on the Basin side would need to be made across the ZigZag Reserve, as Paterson St terminates at the top of the hill.

This roadway could be connected to the Penny Royal via a walkway, or a traveller, or a funicular, or an Abt-style cog rail, to accommodate the short but very steep section downhill from Bourke St. This could provide the link between the Penny Royal and the Basin, which the developer obviously desires. He could be offered the concession to operate “powered transport” up and over the hill and down into the Basin, arriving at the same place as the current zigzag track. It could be built using low-impact, traditional methods, preserving as much as possible of the existing tree cover. Electric golf-cart style vehicles are ideal for this use, as they can cope with steep grades, and are inherently safe because of electric engine braking. In addition, they have low environmental impact, and are silent, - commensurate with the fundamental Natural Values principle.

The benefits of this development are vastly superior to the cable car proposal, in that the developer could be asked to contribute to the road building in and ongoing maintenance in exchange for the exclusive “powered transport” concession. The development would allow for much better and easier maintenance of the reserve in

regard to fire and weed management, and would enhance local and tourist pedestrian and bike access. The zigs and zags would provide additional panoramic viewpoints both back to the city, and into the Basin. All this could be done with minimal overall visual impact from prime viewpoints.

As an additional extra attraction, this access could be used at night, to take tourists from the Penny Royal restaurants up to animal feeding stations along the route. Locals regard possums and pademelons as a nuisance, but to an Asian tourist who lives in a crowded megacity, this is as close to nature as you can get. Best of all, because this activity is only available of a night, the chance of them staying overnight is significantly improved. This is the Holy Grail for tourism; success is measured in room-nights, not room-days. If guests stay overnight, a restaurant benefits too. A cable car cannot offer this benefit; it is merely an alternative way to get to the Gorge, which is already on the agenda for most bona-fide tourists.

Attracting wallabies and possums, blue tongue lizards, birds etc., can be easily achieved by the addition of water. A regular modest supply of drinking water would intensify the density and variety of species. Small areas could be groomed for establishing marsupial lawns, which if watered, will deliver a memorable night-time wildlife experience. This is a classic and proven tourist development that leverages off the existing values of the place. For example, Cradle Mountain lodge has been encouraging wildlife in this way for years.

If the Penny Royal developer does not wish to take up the concession, I feel sure that other entrepreneurs would snap up this opportunity.

For the people of Launceston, there would be permanent, low maintenance, low impact infrastructure developed, partially paid for by the developer, as is the case with all new subdivisions, where roading is the responsibility of the developer, not the ratepayer or the Federal or State taxpayer.

The First Basin: Encourage the fast – growing food van movement, to come right down into the first Basin, right onto the grass.

As things stand, there is a solitary food concession operating, which closes at 5 PM, even in summer, despite tourists and locals frequenting the place until much later in the evenings. Given that the sun does not set until eight or nine o'clock in summer, and that most people finish work between 5 and 6, closing such utilities this early is ridiculous. Allowing food vans to operate would create economic opportunity and much improved amenity to both locals and tourists. Further opportunities for buskers, street performers etc. may arise if this idea is successful.

A reading of the "illumination" theme in the vision process so far indicates that LCC is going to take advantage of the new LED lighting technology, with its low operating and maintenance costs. This idea will help establish the Gorge as an evening venue, commensurate with the lighting plan.

As well, this idea requires very little or no initial costs to be incurred by the LCC, it can be implemented almost immediately i.e. in time for the next summer season, and if it is successful, will require at most a small extra cost in staff, which could then be recovered by charging a modest fee to the concessionaires.

Nay-Sayers to this idea are most likely going to point to the existing café concession, which may have (?) a monopoly clause written into their lease. There are two points here: a) if there is a monopoly clause, it is more than likely invalid given Federal competition policy, and b) the operator could be encouraged to take their comparative advantage up-market. There are many people who would prefer an air-conditioned comfortable seat with good wines and professionally presented food on a

china plate, to the picnic style offerings available from food vans. In other words, there is room for both styles and markets, at the same venue, at the same time. An idea such as this, implemented with alacrity, would offer concrete, positive evidence of the intention of the LCC in bringing the Gorge alive, and show that the basic premise of the Gorge as “**the peoples palace**”, remains true now, as it was when the citizens of the town first built the walkway on the Trevallyn side with voluntary labour.

Other improvements to make the experience more pleasant and enhance the natural theme would be the provision of more shade trees in the grassed area, or (less desirably within the proposed philosophy), artificial shade. The City Park for example, works so well as a venue both for events and everyday use because of the shade tree cover.

The traveller, while a good investment in an egalitarian society, is beautiful only to the engineer who designed it. Frankly, its appearance mars the landscape, unlike the suspension bridge, which is as graceful as it is utilitarian. Perhaps a tender can be offered to the local artistic community, to camouflage the traveller. Planting of appropriate screens might help.

A final note:

The Launceston City Council could do well by having “shovel-ready” projects available off the shelf, for occasions such as the current one, with federal funds possibly being available consequent to Cadburys’ failure to proceed. A pro-active plan is better than being pressured.

A weed control and fire management plan for the Gorge could be made ready for such occasions, as well as a water purchase plan for environmental flow purposes, - even as a one-summer trial for the purposes of obtaining feedback and visitation statistics from both locals and tourists. Track building and maintenance could also be included.

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