

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy
Minister for the Environment and Climate Action
Minister for Solar Homes



Wednesday, 31 August 2022

HAVE YOUR SAY ON FALLS TO HOTHAM ALPINE CROSSING

Hikers will soon have more options to cross from Mount Hotham to Falls Creek, with draft designs for the extended Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing track released for consultation.

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$15 million towards Stage One of the 57-kilometre multi-day walk. The designs include track upgrades and two campgrounds that will feature camping platforms, small basic huts and toilets.

The trail will be extended from its current 37km length to 57km by connecting a network of existing tracks and creating up to 3 kilometres of new track, which will also connect to the new overnight campground and protect sensitive environmental areas.

The facilities will form part of the five-day, four-night route, but will also be available for shorter overnight walks.

This new extended route will take in Diamantina Spur and Razorback with an optional to climb Mount Feathertop, Victoria's second-highest peak.

This project will encourage more people of varying hiking abilities to access one of Australia's best alpine walking experiences. It will stimulate local tourism and the regional economy, creating around 174 jobs during and after construction.

Designated walking tracks will make it easier for hikers to navigate the trail and help protect the sensitive Alpine eco-systems.

The huts and facilities are being designed in a way that will minimise the visual impact on the landscape, by locating them in carefully considered locations and using cladding and finishes that blend in with their surroundings.

A range of independent environmental, visual impact and cultural heritage assessments and a full Business Case have been undertaken. Further assessments will continue as the project progresses to ensure it is done in the most environmentally sensitive way.

Stage one is expected to be completed in 2024. To see the draft plans and have your say visit engage.vic.gov.au/falls-to-hotham.

Quote attributable to Minister for Environment and Climate Action Lily D'Ambrosio

"The Alpine landscape is truly unique – and by managing the impact of visitors and allowing a broader range of people to enjoy walking here, we encourage people to love and further protect this important landscape."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"This project will allow walkers to enjoy some of the most spectacular views in the Australian Alps, including the stunning Mount Feathertop, which will help to attract more visitors to the region."

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