



MEDIA RELEASE – 23 February 2021

TRIBUNAL DECISION A WELCOME INDICTMENT ON CABLE CAR DEVELOPER

The rejection of a planning appeal by the kunanyi/Mt Wellington cable car developer that sought to minimise the assessment of the impact of its development on Aboriginal heritage values is a welcome confirmation that as part of a Development Application, the Wellington Park Management Plan applies and the requirement to conduct an on-site heritage assessment is to be enforced.

“This appeal demonstrates the cable car proponent still fails to understand the Aboriginal significance of kunanyi and is an indictment on its approach to achieve approval and a social license,” said Vica Bayley, spokesperson for Residents Opposed to the Cable Car (ROCC).

“This proponent wasted time and money on prosecuting an attempt to low-bar its Aboriginal heritage assessment. While the tribunal decision is welcome, it’s a sad day when a tribunal has to force a private developer to do a half-decent heritage assessment on a publicly-owned reserve, protected for Aboriginal heritage values and well-known to be a place of Aboriginal cultural significance.

ROCC acknowledges the work of staff at the Hobart City Council and thanks it for its persistence in maintaining the request for additional information on Aboriginal heritage, in the face of the proponent’s appeal.

The Wellington Park Management Plan is clear on the need for an on-site survey and acknowledges the ‘spiritual significance’ of kunanyi to Aboriginal people, initiating a project to investigate the broader cultural significance of the Mountain.

“Any credible heritage assessment needs to look beyond a limited archeological search and consider the impact of a 4000m2 pinnacle development, cable car over the Organ Pipes and base station complex on the broader Aboriginal cultural significance of kunanyi.

“This appeal will go down as another embarrassing failure for the cable car developer & should be forever remembered as a shameful low in the private sector's approach to understanding, protecting and respecting Aboriginal heritage in lutruwita/Tasmania.”

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