



# Media Release

Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2009

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## **BAY OF FIRES COMMUNITY CONSULTATION STARTS MONDAY**

A community consultation phase for the Bay of Fires site planning project starts next week.

Hobart-based Landscape Architects, Inspiring Place Pty Ltd, will run a series of consultation sessions in St Helens on behalf of NRM North, Tourism Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

The groups secured a Federal Government grant to undertake site planning within the Bay of Fires Conservation area which aims to identify necessary infrastructure to protect the natural values and enhance visitor experiences.

The project will proceed with the balanced sustainable management approach that is an essential response to the area's continued popularity and future increases in visitation.

NRM North Chief Executive Officer, James McKee, said the consultation process would run from Monday to Wednesday.

"This will include site visits and scheduled meetings with key stakeholder groups and individuals.

"On Monday night, residents are able to just turn up at the Town Hall at St Helens between 7pm and 9pm and meet with the consultants. Fifteen minute consultation sessions are being offered and there is no need to make an appointment." Mr McKee said.

Phone link ups are being offered to those stakeholders who are unable to attend the scheduled sessions.

The Northern Regional Manager of the Parks and Wildlife Service, Chris Colley, said it was important residents had their say.

"We want to understand what those experiences are that people associate with the Bay of Fires area and the best way we can do this is by talking with the community.

"Through site planning, we will be able to provide facilities and services that will preserve the Bay of Fires experiences." Mr Colley said.

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