

FALLS TO HOTHAM ALPINE CROSSING

Master Plan
Executive Summary

Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Master Plan – Executive Summary

The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing will be a world-class alpine walking experience that captures the essence of the Australian Alps – the solitude, the seasons, the breathtaking beauty and the stories of Victoria’s High Country.

The Crossing is one of four walks in the Walk Victoria’s Icons portfolio, that also includes the Great Ocean Walk, the Grampians Peaks Trail and the Coastal Wilderness Walk. The plan is developed in partnership with Tourism North East, Regional Development Victoria, Visit Victoria and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing has been designed as a five-day, four-night hiking experience that traverses the Great Dividing Range, from Falls Creek to Mount Hotham.

The 57-kilometre trek will connect people to Victoria’s most outstanding landscapes, wildlife and culture, expanding and developing the existing 37-kilometre trail.

The natural, cultural, and environmental values of the Victorian Alps will be protected through the use of best-practice design, planning, management and interpretation that result in greater community appreciation, stewardship and advocacy for the area and its values.

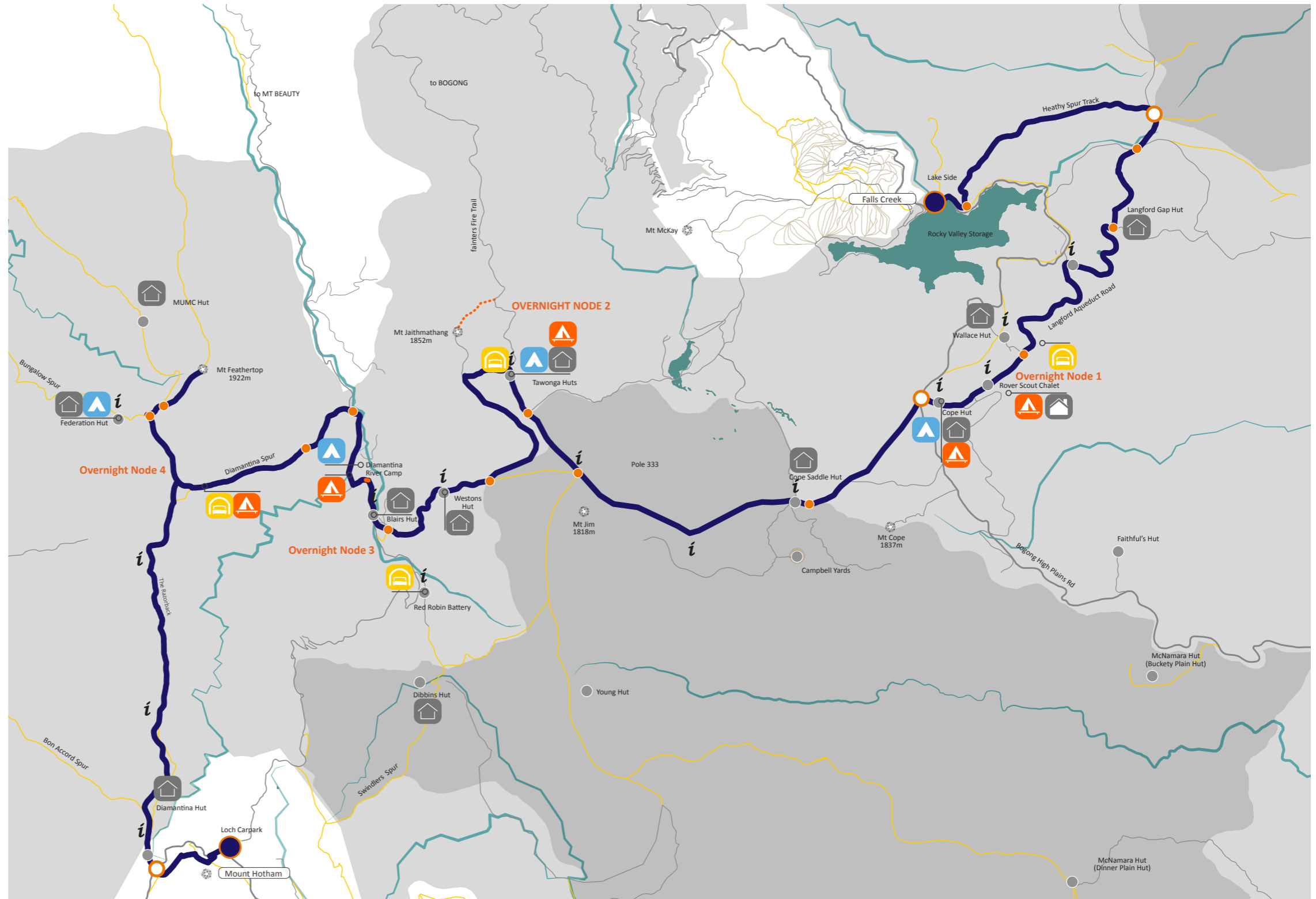
The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Master Plan will offer an array of opportunities for visitors to discover and learn about the natural and cultural values of the Alps. The master plan will deliver:

- New and environmentally friendly hiker camps
- Low-impact huts tailored for walkers who desire an added level of comfort
- Educational experiences through guided tours and interpretive signage
- World-class trail infrastructure constructed with environmentally sustainable materials and design
- Increased visitation into the region, boosting overall tourism activity and regional dispersal of visitors
- The creation of more than 200 jobs in construction, 99 of which will be regionally based, with another 130 full time jobs in the servicing sector.

When the trail is fully operational, an uplift in visitor spending is projected to reach \$23.4 million. The trail will boost economic activity, facilitate greater regional dispersal of visitors and create opportunities for continued investment.

This iconic trail will give visitors a diverse range of quality, nature-based tourism experiences, including access to sustainable accommodation and services along with dispersed camping and elevated hiker camps. Designed to best-practice environmental standards, the accommodation will provide amenities and comfort, while maintaining the integrity of the Alps’ natural landscape.

The diversity of accommodation available reflects the growing needs of walkers ranging from independent bushwalkers and educational groups to people who prefer the company of a guide and a roof over their head at the end of a long day’s walk.



| ON TRAIL | OFF TRAIL |
|--|--------------------------|
| Existing Buildings | Connecting track network |
| Existing Huts | Roads |
| Popular dispersed camping areas in vicinity to new overnight nodes | 4WD track |
| Hiker Camps | Ski Runs |
| Operated Huts | Watercourses |
| Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing [on existing track] | Heritage Hut |
| Trail head | Alpine National Park |
| Iconic Trail Marker & Rest Stop | Remote & Natural Areas |
| Trail Marker & Rest Stop | |
| Interpretation | |