

Applicability:  PWS wide	PWS Policy and Procedures	Issue Date: 7 May 2004
	Document Title and Reference No: PWS Track Classification Scheme PWS P- 036	Revision Date: 30th July 2013
Status: Approved		Revision No: 3

PWS Tasmanian track classification scheme details

The following table list specifications for the various elements of the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service track classification scheme. The scheme is prescriptive, ie. it specifies track standards as guidelines for management.

	W1	W2	T1	T2	T3	T4	Route
Overview	Wheelchair standard nature trail	Standard nature trail	Bushwalking track, may be extensively hardened.	Rough bushwalking track, limited surfacing.	Rough bushwalking track, mostly unimproved.	Often indistinct tracks.	Largely free of tracks.
Length	750m return / 1.5k loop	1.5k return / 3k loop	No limit.	No limit.	No limit.	No limit.	N/A
Width	1.2-2.5m, preferably 1.5-2.0m. Wheelchair passing bays. Ramps 1020 mm with handrails both sides.	0.6-2.5m, preferably 1-2m over most of track.	>500 mm, generally >750 mm. <1.2m. Width variable.	>500 mm but short sections < 500 mm acceptable. Max 1m.	<750 mm.	< 500 mm.	< 500 mm. Pads or tracks to be kept to an absolute minimum.
Surface & drainage	Shoe' standard. Firm, even, well drained. Edges clearly defined.	Well drained, "shoe" standard. Reasonably firm.	"Boot" standard. May be rocky and uneven in places. Some mud and water acceptable. Extensive hardening acceptable.	"Wet boot" standard. Stabilisation & drainage mainly for environmental purposes but some concessions to user comfort. May be rough over extended sections. Mud up to 200 mm deep acceptable in places.	Improved surfacing/drainage minimal - for environmental purposes only.	Improved surfacing/drainage minimal - for environmental purposes only.	Improved surfacing/drainage minimal - for environmental purposes only.
Gradient	Max 5° (1:11); mostly <2°.	Mostly <8° (or 1:7 or 14%), max 15° (or 1:3.7 or 27%) over short (30 m) sections.	Mostly < 15° (or 1:3.7 or 27%) but may be steeper in places.	Mostly < 20° (or 1:2.8 or 36%) but may be steeper in places.	Limited by environmental considerations only.	Limited by environmental considerations only.	No restrictions.
Steps	No steps; ramps < 1:14	Steps and stairs may be included.					
Vegetation clearance	300 mm at ground, 500 mm at shoulder level, 2.2m height. No obstacles.	300 mm at ground, 500 mm at shoulder level, 2.2m height. No obstacles.	Clear across width and to above head height. Obstacles rare.	Mostly clear across width. Occasional obstacles.	Fairly easy navigation under normal conditions. Some obstacles.	Minimal; sufficient for navigation.	None.

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Infra-structure	Bridges to full width, signposts, interpretation facilities, viewing platforms. Shelters and benches are acceptable but not picnic tables. Track markers are unnecessary.	Bridges to full width, signposts, interpretation facilities, viewing platforms. Shelters and benches are acceptable, but not picnic tables. Track markers are unnecessary.	Bridges over all major creeks and rivers. Stepping-stones acceptable; fords acceptable where water generally less than 100 mm deep.	Bridges over major creeks and rivers not normally safely fordable <500 mm deep. Bridges OK to minimise erosion. Log crossings, cable bridges, flying foxes & swing bridges acceptable. Some fords may be flood-prone.	Bridges or other constructed crossings generally not required if major creeks and rivers are normally safely fordable, except for environmental purposes. Rough log bridges acceptable but not necessary. Flying foxes acceptable over rivers which cannot normally be forded, but some fords may be flood-prone. Delays may be expected under abnormal conditions.	Bridges or other constructed crossings generally not provided, except for essential environmental purposes. Natural crossings preferred. Flood delays acceptable.	None except for essential environmental purposes. Natural crossings preferred.
Safety barriers (refer to policy section 4.3.2 for details)	Safety barrier generally required for fall heights >1m.	Safety barrier generally required for fall heights >1m.	Safety barrier generally required for fall heights >1.5m.	Safety barrier generally required for fall heights >3m.	Safety barrier may be required for fall heights >5m.	Safety barrier may be required for fall heights >10m.	None required.
Signs	Directional & interpretive signs provided.	Directional & interpretive signs provided.	Directional signposts at start of track and junctions with tracks of grade T3 or higher; otherwise signs should refer to main (T1) track only (junctions with T4 tracks generally unsigned). Interpretive signs in existing structures only. Other signs may be installed for management and safety purposes.	Directional signposts at start of track and junctions with tracks of grade T3 or higher; otherwise signs should refer to main (T2) track only (junctions with T4 tracks generally unsigned). Interpretive signs in existing structures only. Other signs may be installed for management and safety purposes.	Directional signposts at start of track and junctions with tracks of grade T3 or higher; otherwise signs should refer to main (T3) track only (junctions with T4 tracks generally unsigned). Other signs may be installed for management and safety purposes.	Limited signs and only for management purposes.	Signs generally not provided.

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Track markers	Unnecessary	Unnecessary	Where necessary to ensure that direction is obvious except under extreme conditions.	Where necessary to ensure that direction is obvious except under extreme conditions.	Where necessary to ensure that direction is obvious except under extreme conditions.	Low-key. Track may be difficult to follow in places.	For essential management purposes only.
Campsites	Not applicable	Not applicable	At major camping nodes, sites for up to 25 tents preferably dispersed in groups of up to five tents. Enclosed toilets to be provided at sites of more than 10 tents, or where necessary for environmental or health purposes.	Up to 12 tents, preferably dispersed in groups of up to four tents. Toilets to be provided at sites of more than 10 tents, or where necessary for environmental or health purposes.	Up to 8 tents, preferably dispersed in groups of two to four tents. Toilets of minimal design to be provided where necessary for environmental or health purposes.	Visibly impacted (long-term) sites for up to 4 tents. Toilets of minimal design to be provided only where necessary for environmental purposes.	Formation of campsites to be avoided where possible. Visibly impacted sites for up to four tents, preferably at least partially vegetated, are acceptable where unavoidable or desirable for environmental purposes. No toilets provided unless essential for environmental purposes.
Usage levels	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	To be defined where required for social, environmental and management purposes.	To be defined where required for social, environmental and management purposes.	To be defined where required for social, environmental and management purposes.	To be defined where required for social, environmental and management purposes.	To be defined where required for social, environmental and management purposes.
Max party size	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	Recommended max 13. While recognising circumstances for group sizes up to 13 persons, for environmental and crowding reasons, party sizes of 6 or fewer will be encouraged.	Recommended max 13. While recognising circumstances for group sizes up to 13 persons, for environmental and crowding reasons, party sizes of 6 or fewer will be encouraged.	Recommended max 8. Party sizes of less than 6 will be encouraged.	Recommended max 6. Party sizes of four will be encouraged. Up to 8 acceptable on some T4 tracks in robust areas, subject to environmental conditions.	Recommended max 6. Party sizes of four will be encouraged. Up to 8 acceptable in some demonstrably robust areas, subject to environmental conditions including pad and track formation.
Guided tours	Licences required.	Licences required.	Permitted but licences required and numbers of trips may be restricted.	Permitted but licences required and numbers of trips may be restricted.	Permitted but licences required and numbers of trips may be restricted.	May be permitted.	May be permitted under stringent conditions.

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Publicity	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	No restrictions - may be included in maps, tourist brochures etc	Generally no restrictions, but may be discouraged if (for eg) overall usage restrictions are necessary.	Low-key publicity preferred. T3 tracks may be included on maps.	Discouraged. Not included on maps except for PWS management purposes. Authors encouraged to keep route descriptions vague.	Discouraged. Not included on maps except for PWS management purposes. Authors encouraged to keep route descriptions vague.
Route guides	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	Acceptable but authors encouraged to consult with PWS. Published info to be compatible with management objectives.	Acceptable but authors encouraged to consult with PWS. Published info to be compatible with management objectives.	Acceptable if sparsely written. Consultation encouraged.	Discouraged.	Discouraged.