



MEDIA RELEASE
Friday 4 December 2015

Council has re-opened the Request for Proposal for the management and operation of the Council-owned tourism assets in Waratah, including the Waratah Caravan and Camping Ground, Athenaeum Hall (Tarkine Interpretation Centre), and the Kenworthy Stamper Mill.

Do you have what it takes to re-write the history books and become the next great pioneer to make their fortune in the small town of Waratah, North West Tasmania?

Historically fortunes have come from mining, but according to the Mayor of Waratah-Wynyard Council Robby Walsh, today's riches will come from tourism and the untapped potential of the town sitting at the gateway to the Tarkine wilderness.

"Council believes there are unlimited future opportunities available to develop the town as a 'Gateway to the Tarkine' and that these opportunities are best pursued on a commercial basis," Mayor Walsh said.

"We would love to see someone with a passion for tourism – someone with vision who can see opportunities beyond what the Council can deliver."

Mayor Walsh said there were a number of other key properties in town that Council would consider including in a tourism proposal and that there are real possibilities for a re-invention of the town on a large scale.

In 1871, James "Philosopher" Smith, discovered tin at Waratah, bringing staggering wealth to the entire state of Tasmania, resurrecting an economy on the brink of

collapse, and creating communities and building economies with the riches to be found on the North-West and West coasts of Tasmania.

The search is on for someone with Philosopher's pioneering spirit - someone who will oversee the transformation of this former mining community into an iconic tourism destination. Council first began the search last year, and the process has generated a lot of interest in the potential of Waratah as a tourism mecca for Tasmania.

"Things are turning around for the town now, and if you are an investor or entrepreneur – now is the time to act," Mayor Walsh said.

"The town has petrol available at the roadhouse again, and several commercial properties in town have changed hands – with new business interest and positive outcomes for the local community.

"This process has shone a spotlight on Waratah – and the interest we have had from all over Australia has changed the way people view the town. There is a sense of optimism and enthusiasm for change."

Mayor Walsh said it was important to note that Council remains committed to ensuring Waratah develops as a key gateway to the Tarkine and will continue to have a presence in the town.

For more information please visit www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/pioneer or contact Tourism Development Coordinator, Rachael Hogge on 6443 8333.

Further media enquiries may be directed to:-

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**Authorised for general media distribution by Michael Stretton, General Manager,
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