

Swiss engineers coming to Hobart on kunanyi/Mt Wellington cable car business

By [Alexandra Humphries](#)
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Photo: [The first choice of location for the cable car base at the Cascade Brewery is no longer an option. \(ABC News: Scott Ross\)](#)

The Mount Wellington Cableway Company (MWCC) is flying Swiss engineers into Hobart to re-examine potential cable car sites, as mystery surrounds an application made by the company to the Hobart City Council.

The company has declined to comment on the application, but suggested the planned base station **was not** the South Hobart tip, despite sources indicating that the site was being considered.

An MWCC representative said the engineers were due to arrive on Sunday before the Application was considered at a closed *Hobart City Council Parks and Recreation Committee* on Thursday.

It is not clear which sites they will examine and the MWCC declined to make further comment.

An agenda for the Parks Committee indicates the closed portion of the Meeting will consider the acquisition of land and will include information that was provided to the Council on the basis that it is kept confidential.

No further details have been released.

Land owned by the *Hobart City Council* near the *Cascade Brewery*, which was previously MWCC's preferred option for a base station, includes the South Hobart waste management centre at *McRobies Gully* and land at Old Farm Road.

MWCC previously said it was considering a [base terminal at Old Farm Road as an alternative to starting the cable car from the Cascade Brewery.](#)

However, there would be challenges with that site because the end of Old Farm Road is surrounded by land owned by CUB, which said it will not lease or sell to the company.

The Council has a licence to use the *McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre* for landfill until 2030, but the waste transfer station and resource shop would be required indefinitely.

Residents Opposed to the Cable Car representative, Ted Cutlan, said opposition to the cable car project would continue regardless of where a base station was located.

"It's not about where it starts from, it's all about the impact on the mountain," Mr. Cutlan said.

Mr. Cutlan said he was concerned about the secrecy surrounding the latest application to the *Hobart City Council*.

"I've got no idea what we're considering here. The tip site has always been an option, but it doesn't present much of an image to a tourism icon that it's supposed to be," he said.



[CUB refused the advances of the cable car company, considering public opinion was against it. \(Supplied: Rob Blakers\)](#)

'Discussions should be public'

Hobart Alderman, Jeff Briscoe, said all Council discussions surrounding the cable car project should be held in the open, rather than in a confidential closed council meeting.

Ald. Briscoe said he would move for the discussion to be held in an open session.

"This is important land, Hobart City Council land, where they have the intention of building a cable car," he said.

"It is the people's Mountain — so all discussions about that should be available to the public."

Fellow Alderman, Anna Reynolds, said she would ask the Council's General Manager, Nick Heath, for the item to be moved to open Council.

Legislation passed Tasmania's Parliament last year for the Government to [compulsorily acquire land from the Hobart City Council at the summit of kunanyi/ Mount Wellington](#) to facilitate the cable car project, after the Company said it had difficulties negotiating landowner consent with the Council.

The Tasmanian Government told MWCC it will need to apply for a new authority to conduct preliminary works at the Summit, after one issued in January was withdrawn due to changes to the route.

A Government spokesman said MWCC has not yet applied for a new authority to undertake preliminary works at the summit of kunanyi/ *Mount Wellington*, and that the Government would not consider compulsorily acquiring land from the Council to facilitate a base station for the cable car.

The MWCC declined to comment on what it had applied for with the *Hobart City Council*, or whether it was considering starting the cable car route from land at the *McRobies Waste Management Centre* when asked by the ABC on Thursday 9th August, 2018.