

Waterfall walk left off the draft plan

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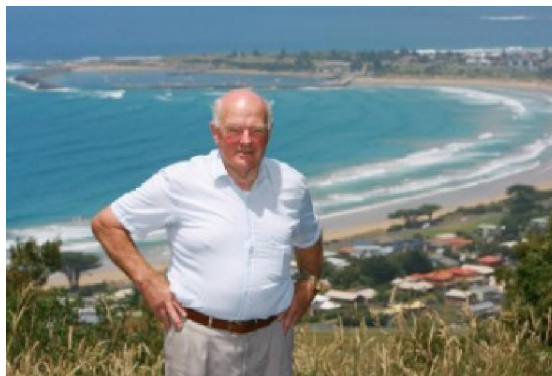
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Les Noseda above Apollo Bay.

A GROUP hoping to have a 65 kilometre Otways waterfall walk included in the Great Otway National Park fear they have been left off the map.

The Otway Ranges Walking Track Association lodged a submission asking for the proposed walk to be included in the national parks draft management plan, association president Les Noseda said.

But there isn't a word about it he said yesterday.

Mr Noseda said his group was hoping it was only an oversight.

"We are working on it and we have a meeting with Parks Victoria next week," he said.

Mr Noseda said the idea for a hinterland walk between Lorne and Apollo Bay was developed in the 1990s to take in many of the area's highlights, including up to 20 waterfalls, stands of old growth forest and historic sites.

He said the walk would require the construction of some kilometres of new walking track.

But about 75 per cent of it is along existing routes, he said.

Mr Noseda's group estimates the track could generate more than \$5 million a year in tourism business for the region and attract thousands of interstate and overseas visitors.

Otways Tourism executive officer Darren Chirgwin said it was important to get the walk on the draft plan.

"If it is included in the draft, they can do some serious work on developing the track," he said.

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