



Frank Zipfinger <frank.zipfinger@gmail.com>

SLOPES - Review of environmental carrying capacity in the alpine resorts (capacity review)

SLOPES <slopes.au@gmail.com>

13 January 2016 at 16:24

Bcc: frank.zipfinger@gmail.com

Dear SLOPES Members

Attached is a copy of a letter from OEH dated 23/12/15 received after Christmas announcing "a review of environmental carrying capacity in the alpine resorts of Kosciuszko National Park".

This is in practice a review of bed number limits which, as Clubs know, is the mechanism under our leases by which occupancy in lodges has been managed to date.

The letter states that this review will "inform" the review of governance arrangements at the Perisher Range and Charlotte Pass resorts.

We have formally responded to the letter confirming SLOPES' role representing our 88 Clubs and, among other things, pointing out that:

1. this is the first we have heard of this capacity review, in contradistinction to the governance review which has been well flagged over several years with stakeholders, and
2. to the extent the governance review may be impacted by the capacity review, then SLOPES will be particularly concerned to ensure that there is full and transparent consultation in connection with the capacity review and that the 2 reviews are managed in a way which properly recognises the interests of stakeholders such as our Clubs.

We have also asked OEH various preliminary questions such as:

- A. why has the capacity review been initiated now and what are the drivers behind it?
- B. what is the relevance of the capacity review to the governance review - and how in practice will the capacity review "inform" the governance review?
- C. to what extent will this review refer back to and build on the findings of the Report dated November 1998 of the Commission of Enquiry re the Proposed Perisher Range Resort Area Village Centre Master Plan?

We have also suggested (as we did late last year to OEH re the governance review) that OEH set up a website where all materials relevant to the capacity review are posted and can be easily and freely accessed by stakeholders and members of the public to facilitate consideration of the issues and transparency of the information.

The OEH letter states "further information on the review and public consultation process will be available and will be provided ... in early 2016".

We will monitor very closely the position and keep Clubs informed.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

 OEH carrying capacity letter 23-12-15.pdf
70K



**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



23 December 2015

Mr Frank Zipfinger
President
Slopes Inc
1 Arthur Street
KILLARA NSW 2071

Dear Mr Zipfinger

Kosciuszko National Park plan of management - review of environmental carrying capacity in the alpine resorts

I am writing to advise that the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has commenced a review of environmental carrying capacity in the alpine resorts of Kosciuszko National Park. The review of carrying capacity is required by the current park plan of management (Action 10.2.1.6).

Public consultation on the review will commence in February 2016 and continue until mid-2016.

Carrying capacity in the alpine resorts is currently managed by bed number limits specified in the plan of management. The plan recognises that there may be other measures that would provide a more accurate means to measure and understand the environmental capacity of the resorts.

NPWS is keen to understand the views of the community and key stakeholders on an appropriate environmental carrying capacity framework for the resorts. The review will focus on achieving an environmental performance and outcomes based approach that supports improved protection of the natural, cultural and recreational values of the park. In achieving this, social and economic outcomes will also be considered.

The NSW Government has also recently announced a review of the governance arrangements at the Perisher and Charlotte Pass resorts. The review of environmental carrying capacity will inform this and any other future governance reviews, and support balanced environmental management and economic development in the alpine resort areas.

Further information on the review and the public consultation process will be available and provided to you in early 2016. NPWS looks forward to hearing your views at that time.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or would like more information please contact Wil Allen, Planning Officer, on (02) 6229-7148 or wil.allen@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Mick Pettitt
Regional Manager
Southern Ranges