



Frank Zipfinger <frank.zipfinger@gmail.com>

SLOPES: Trial of Snowclearing - Winter 2013 Corroboree Rd - Smiggin Holes - Update

SLOPES <slopes.au@gmail.com>

4 July 2013 at 18:22

Bcc: frank.zipfinger@gmail.com

Dear SLOPES Members

See below our email of 17 June 2013 on this issue.

This topic was discussed at the recent Village meetings, attracting opposition from a number of attendees.

NPWS has now updated the position, proposing a "trial on a limited basis".

A copy of the text from NPWS is set out below.

We will continue to monitor this trial and we encourage input to SLOPES from Clubs on how it is operating so that we can present a comprehensive and co-ordinated response at the end of the trial.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

NPWS UPDATE ON TRIAL OF SNOW CLEARING AT CORROBOREE ROADFrom: **Andrew Logan** <Andrew.Logan@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Date: 28 June 2013 09:15

Subject: Decision on Snowclearing Trial of Corroboree Road for Winter 2013

Hi All,

Following the recent feedback on the NPWS proposal for a snowclearing trial of the remainder of Corroboree Road at Smiggin Holes, NPWS has decided to proceed with the trial on a limited basis.

The main objections surrounding the proposed trial were related to:

1. Noise associated with snowclearing.
2. Loss of amenity to the area.
3. Loss of ski in / out access to lodges.
4. Ice formation on the concrete road corner.

We believe we have reached a compromise which meets our objectives to:

1. Improves access to Spruce, Apex & Numbananga for LPG bottle re-filling.
2. Reduce the ice formation on the concrete road corner.
3. Improve access for freight deliveries and garbage pickup.

And deals with the main objections from the community.

Corroboree Road will be cleared to the Apex parking area. Beyond the Apex parking area, the road will not be cleared of snow.

Corroboree Road will be managed in the same manner as other snow covered roads in Perisher Valley, in accordance with the road status conditions detailed in the NPWS Winter Access Arrangements booklet - <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/alpineresorts/130391KNPWinter.pdf>.

In summary these arrangements will be:

1. The road will typically be closed to all traffic at the Smigs Chalet, except gas delivery trucks, garbage pick up & freight deliveries. A ROAD CLOSED barrier just above the Smigs Chalet will indicate when the road is closed.
2. If the road is open, drop off & pick up at lodges is permitted.
3. Beyond the Smiggins Hotel, overnight parking is only permitted for Apex (2 vehicles) & Southern Cross (2 vehicles) & only when the road is open.
4. When snow is forecast, parked vehicles at Apex and Southern Cross will be asked to leave Corroboree Road.
5. NPWS will actively manage snow & ice around the tight corner on Corroboree Road to reduce the risk of ice formation.

These arrangements will be effective immediately. Please communicate these arrangements to your managers, members and guests.

NPWS will monitor the snow conditions on the road this winter, including photographs, with a view to presenting this information to the community prior to the 2014 winter.

Regards,

Andrew Logan | Manager - Municipal Services Unit | National Parks & Wildlife Service | Office of Environment & Heritage | Department of Premier & Cabinet | PO Box 41 Perisher Valley NSW 2624 | Tel 02 6457 4410 | Fax 02 6457 4455 | Mobile 0428 241 692 | Web <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts>

I am not in the office on Tuesdays.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **SLOPES** <slopes.au@gmail.com>

Date: 17 June 2013 17:15

Subject: SLOPES: Trial of Snowclearing - Winter 2013 Corroboree Rd - Smiggin Holes

To:

Dear SLOPES Members

Attached for your information is a letter from NPWS re a trial of snowclearing to take place on Corroboree Road at Smiggin Holes this winter.

Also attached is a plan showing the area affected and the lodges that will be directly impacted.

We understand copies of these materials have been sent directly by NPWS to these Clubs.

This trial proposal was discussed at the MSU meeting with NPWS held in Jindabyne on 21 May attended, among others, by representatives from SLOPES and the Chamber of Commerce (Belinda Shore).

In summary, on this specific proposal at Corroboree Road:

1. SLOPES and the Chamber said we would observe the trial to see how it goes and reserve comment until later.
2. That said, we have significant concerns about increased traffic in that narrow turning area.
3. And it also was noted that the road is dangerous for pedestrians (several injuries typically occur each year from falls in that area) - that situation may worsen with a cleared road due to the increased presence of ice.
4. NPWS was asked at the meeting to give more detail on the saving of cost which is a reason put forward in support of the proposal and which is as yet unsubstantiated.

This issue of maintaining a snowbound village has a long history in the Perisher Range Resorts.

The concept of a snowbound village has been supported by SLOPES and others for many years.

Apart from aesthetics, there are benefits like ski in/ski out capability and providing suitable areas to teach beginners.

But the huge variability in seasons and patchy snow cover are rendering the concept less achievable throughout a full snow season.

There is a view that a move to sealed, cleared roads in winter will result in significant cost savings and efficiencies.

Of course the impact on Clubs varies across the spectrum depending on their location, vista and distance from the transport terminals.

Generally, NPWS confirmed there is no budget money available to seal any more roads in the Perisher Range Resorts - apart from near Perisher Creek in the car park - so that project is on indefinite hold.

This email is circulated to all Clubs for their information and because, as users of Corroboree Road, they may be affected directly or indirectly.

SLOPES asks that you give us feedback if you can on the Corroboree Road snowclearing trial.

That way we can, in due course, submit a co-ordinated response to NPWS.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

2 attachments



DOC13-21208-Letter to Lodges regarding Trial_SLOPES.doc

178K



Corroboree Rd.pdf

389K



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



SLOPES
Mr Frank Zipfinger

BY EMAIL – slopes.au@gmail.com
frank.zipfinger@gmail.com

Our reference: DOC13/21208 FIL08/9674
Contact: Andrew Logan, 6457 4410

Dear Frank,

Trial of Snowclearing, Winter 2013 – Corroboree Road, Smiggin Holes

In recent years, the viability of maintaining a winter long snow covered road above Smiggins Chalet on Corroboree Road has been diminishing and its management has become problematic.

Above the Chalet, there are 10 occupied premises requiring access during the season for managers, guests, LPG delivery, waste collection, freight delivery and emergency services.

In 2012, the cost of snow grooming was \$4,500 for Corroboree Road. The estimated cost of snow clearing the road is \$3,000 per season, which is based on the costs to clear Plum Pine Road, Smiggin Holes.

NPWS proposes a trial of snowclearing of this section of Corroboree Road for the 2013 winter, with a view to making it permanent if successful.

The expected impact on managers and guests of premises on Corroboree Road is minimal and mostly positive, with only the 5 lodges above the road having to walk an extra 10m across the road before accessing snow for the traverse to the ski lifts below. The positive impacts for all premises include:

- Drop off & pick up at the premises for guests.
- Overnight parking for managers \ guests where already available in summer.
- Easier delivery of stores and goods to premises.
- No noisy oversnow vehicle movements along the road.
- Some lodges can sell unnecessary oversnow vehicles and reduce their operating costs.
- More reliable delivery of LPG for premises on bottles.
- Reduced cost to lessees through cessation of NPWS funded grooming of Perisher Valley – Smiggin Holes and lower costs to manage Corroboree Road.

In anticipation of the trial, NPWS has already carried out some minor slope grooming below Corroboree Road (as shown on attached plan), which will improve skier access down to the lifts in Smiggin Holes.

NPWS is aware of the increased potential for ice on the cleared roads and will monitor this closely with other cleared roads to reduce this risk.

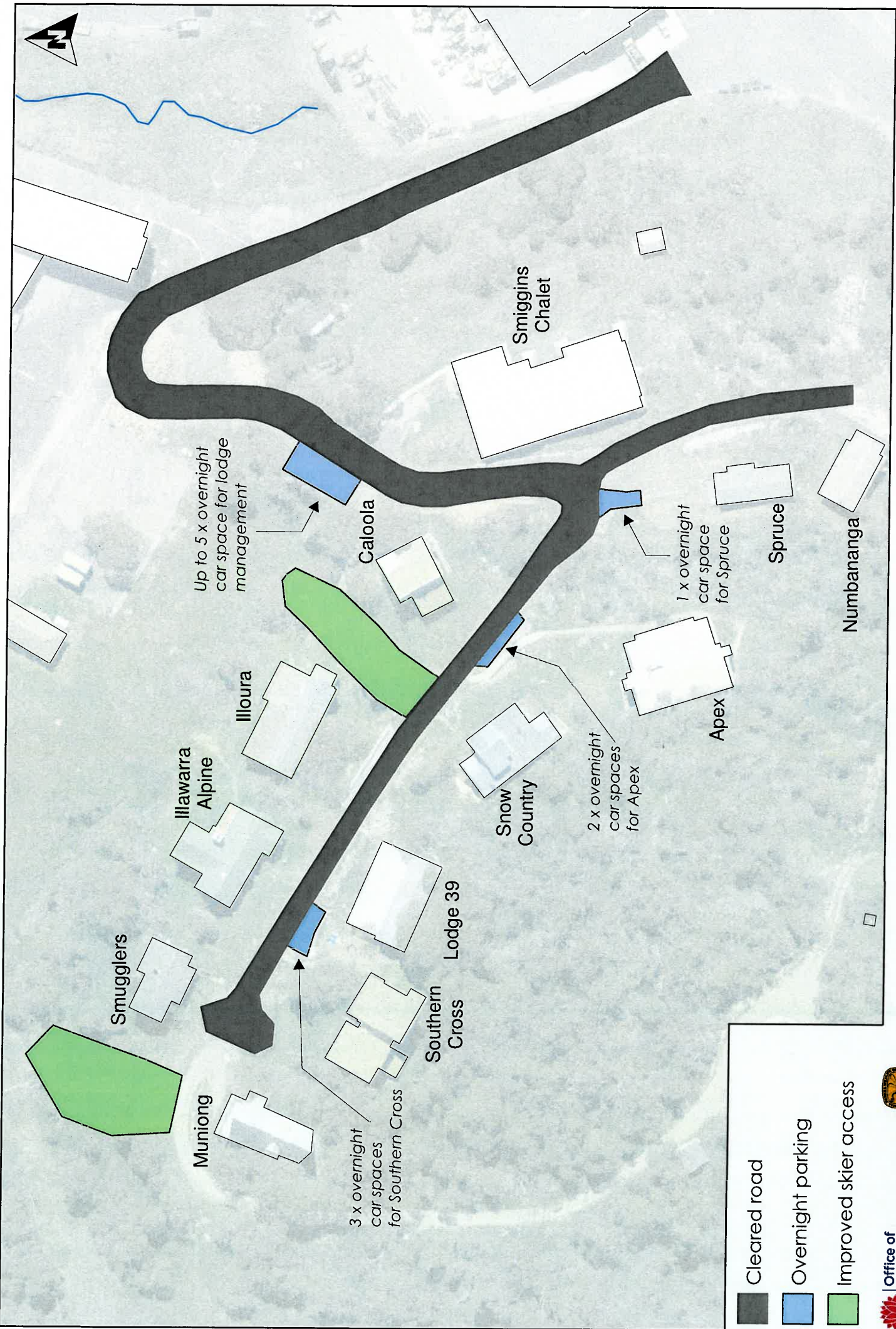
As a lessee of this section of Corroboree Road, NPWS would value your feedback on this proposal for 2013 and beyond. Please contact Andrew Logan on 6457 4444 or andrew.logan@environment.nsw.gov.au to discuss the proposal and provide your response by Monday 27th May 2013.

Feedback will be collated and assessed and based on this, a decision will be made in consultation with SLOPES and the Chamber of Commerce regarding the trial for 2013. This decision will be forwarded to each affected premise prior to the season commencing.

Yours sincerely,

ANDREW LOGAN, Manager MSU
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Date: 13 May 2013



Up to 5 x overnight car space for lodge management

3 x overnight car spaces for Southern Cross

2 x overnight car spaces for Apex

1 x overnight car space for Spruce

Smugglers

Illawarra Alpine

Illoura

Caloola

Snow Country

Lodge 39

Southern Cross

Smiggins Chalet

Spruce

Numbananga

Munionsg

-  Cleared road
-  Overnight parking
-  Improved skier access

Office of Environment & Heritage
 NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service




Corroboree Road - Smiggin Holes

May 2013