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**SLOPES: Village meetings 20 June 2015 - Reports on meetings**

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**SLOPES** <slopes.au@gmail.com>  
Bcc: frank.zipfinger@gmail.com

24 June 2015 at 15:16

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

These Village Meetings were notified in our email of 18 June (see below).

Attached now are 2 reports prepared by SLOPES on the discussions at those meetings.

The Perisher/Smiggins report covers matters of general interest to Clubs in Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega.

The Guthega report contains some matters of specific interest to Guthega Clubs.

But it also contains a few sections (eg on the community fire protection zone) which will be of interest to Clubs from all 3 resorts.

The reports are each only several pages long and Clubs are encouraged to read both in full.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger  
President  
SLOPES

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From: **SLOPES** <slopes.au@gmail.com>  
Date: 18 June 2015 at 11:25  
Subject: SLOPES: Village meetings 20 June 2015 - Reminder and Agenda  
To:

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

Attached are the Agendas for the Village Meetings this Saturday:

- 10am at the Guthega Inn

- 2pm at the Man from Snowy River

In addition, at the request of SLOPES, Dave Woods will speak to fire zones under his item and Ryan Petrov will touch on the governance review under village operations.

Clubs are encouraged to send representatives to these meetings as they are an important opportunity to receive updates from and ask questions of stakeholders such as NPWS, NSWFR and Perisher in relation to the upcoming winter season.

For Clubs unable to attend, SLOPES representatives will attend the meetings.

And we will issue an update email to all Clubs following the meetings.

Any questions ahead of the meeting should be referred to Ryan Petrov of NPWS - see contact details below for Ryan.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger  
President  
SLOPES

**Ryan Petrov**

*Senior Team Leader, Perisher*

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**2 attachments**



**Village meetings 20-6-15 Perisher and Smiggins.pdf**

194K



**Village meetings 20-6-15 Guthega.pdf**

158K

## Perisher Range Resorts Village Meeting: Perisher and Smiggins

20<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

1. Ryan Petrov from NPWS welcomed.
2. Greg Bathurst from NSW Fire and Rescue reported that:
  - they will be checking hydrants over the next couple of weeks;
  - advised that most fires start in the laundry, the kitchen, overloaded power boards and in chimneys;
  - This year the Service is supporting "Stay a metre from the heater", advising that nobody put their clothes over heaters. A source of fires;
  - Also "Watch what you cook" and know where fire blankets and fire extinguishers are situated;
  - You will be allowed 2 callouts within 60 days without attracting a call-out fine. If you have exceeded, and have had to pay, then you could make representations at the end of the season and the local Service will assist in seeking that the payment be waived;
3. Peter Brulisauer from Perisher Blue reported:
  - The Vail acquisition is fantastic news for the resort in providing best value possible in the market;
  - Sales of Epic passes is very pleasing and it looks like being a busy winter;
  - The 2011 introduction of the Freedom Pass lifted the resort, and the Vail acquisition will also. Seeking to be world's best practice;
  - The sale to Vail is not yet completed, but is imminent;
  - There were no major capital works conducted in the last off-season;
  - 2014 was a very successful season;
  - Beware of winch cables on the mountain at night. Skidoos are prohibited from the mountain at night;
  - Vail will look at development options, and this will include community consultation, including consultation with SLOPES and Chamber of Commerce;

Richard Phillips, Perisher Blue:

- There has been an increase in Freedom Pass sales as a result of the Vail acquisition;
- Optimising all Perisher functions for the smart phone so it is all at your finger tips, including accommodation, conditions, etc;
- There will be a weekly email, each Thursday, "What's coming up this week in Perisher". If you're not receiving it go to [pr@perisher.com.au](mailto:pr@perisher.com.au) and enrol for it. Lodges should ask staff to

register for the email so that they are up to date to answer guests' questions;

- Development Applications are in for snowmaking in Smiggins, and also to replace the Leichhardt T bar with a quad chairlift. Awaiting approval from Planning;
- A chair lift from Smiggins to Perisher is in the Ski Slope Master Plan, although construction not envisaged at this stage.

4. Virginia Logan NPWS, Environmental Reporting:

- Congratulated all lodges on the completion of the EMS reporting;
- Asked that all EMS reports be lodged on time, otherwise it slows up the reporting process.
- 2013/2014 – All of Resorts Report will be on-line in a week or so, an email will be coming to advise when it is available.
- 2015 Commitment Awards: Club Award for resource efficiency – Hon mention to the Guthega Lodges and Kunapipi at Perisher Valley; Winner was Gunuma at Smiggins. Commercial lodges – Honourable mentions to The Man from Snowy River, Corroboree, Smiggins Hotel and the Sundeck (for its solar panel installations); Winner was The Lodge at Smiggins; Prize was a certificate and a giant stuffed Wombat.

5. Environment and Community – Dave Woods NPWS:

- “Smoke Free Environment Act”, which has proximity boundaries from 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 for commercial operators;
- NPWS has smoking regulations, but they don't override the State Legislation;
- Pest management – will bait for foxes when the snow falls. Cat trapping continues. If you see a cat, report it and a trap will be put in place. There were shooting sessions for rabbits, but poisoning, etc., not really effective this last off-season due to weather conditions.
- There is one authorised dog in Perisher Valley, a companion animal;
- The 10/50 rule for removing trees, etc., when a fire danger does not remove the requirement for NPWS consent. If you have a problem with trees too close and they are a fire danger, go to NPWS which will investigate;
- A community Fire Protection Plan for Perisher Valley has not yet progressed;
- Danger to traffic from a growing number of deer, red, fallow and zambo. No funds to control them at this stage. Deer danger signs may be erected if there is public pressure and action against these feral animals needs public support to move it up the agenda;

6. Mark Nowlan, NPWS – Health & Safety:

- Wants to work with the Lodges. Any health problems or advice, approach him.
- Issued 19 penalty infringement notices for the whole of KNP in 2014, a record, but mainly for just a couple of lodges, and mainly for wilful non-compliance, ie deciding to do the wrong thing.
- Helen Smith and Paul Reynolds have been trained up and will be inspecting lodges this year to relieve the pressure on Mark Nowlan.

#### 7. Tony Cowcher, NPWS

##### Composting trial:

- Outlined how the composting is to take place in the lodges
- The last year's trial will be extended to the whole valley, only lodges that have waste huts can participate. Black bins, kitchen bins and composting bags will be issued.
- Aiming for 30% composting. All managed lodges have been provided with plastic bins and these will be emptied every 2 to 3 days. Unclear as how to handle unmanaged lodges. The composting site is at Sawpit Creek.
- All food waste can be put out including bones and lobster shells.
- NO sea shells, potato peelers or cutlery (they already have an abundance of those)

#### 8. Ryan PETROV, NPWS, village operations:

- No real changes from last year, apart from the composting;
- Governance – change of Minister who is currently being briefed. Any proposed changes in Governance will be consulted through SLOPES and/or the Chamber of Commerce.
- Had \$250K to spend this year. Replaced an asbestos water main in Wheatley Road in April/May; repaired off-take line for Perisher main and replaced asbestos line; sewer investigation works, minor repairs; repaired some gravel roads;
- At the end of winter will be large item waste collection, 'fridges, furniture, beds, etc., no mattresses;
- Police will be inspecting oversnow usage – obeying stop signs, speeding, drink driving, out of area use. Users must carry drivers licence as well as the NPWS licence.
- Planted 5000 new plants.
- NPWS have plenty of trail maps, posters, windscreen scrappers etc at the office free to any lodge.

## SLOPES - NOTES - VILLAGE MEETING, GUTHEGA - 20 JUNE 2015

In attendance: about 20, most Guthega Clubs and Nick Kennedy, presenters as listed

Chair: Ryan Petrov, NPWS

### Presenters:

Greg Bathurst NSWFR (Shoalhaven), on rotation to Perisher FS).  
Ralph Wese, Guthega SC, Guthega Interclub coordinator  
Virginia Logan, NPWS, environment (EMS)  
Peter Brulisauer, CEO Perisher  
Dave Woods, NPWS  
Ryan Petrov, NPWS

Ralph Wese, Guthega Interclub

Sat 18 July 15

Captains meeting Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, 8pm

Emphasis on participation; races include open and handicap events

Helmets compulsory (vide a Perisher Race Department condition)

Register on Perisher website and complete waiver

Standard course charge (\$1700 approx) for up to 45 competitors, fee for each extra

Only perpetual trophies awarded

Alpine and cross country events (no snowboard)

Peter Brulisauer - Perisher CEO

The Freedom Chair has reduced (Guthega) lift lines, new riders to Guthega report the superb vista and quiet enjoyment.

In answer to questions

(a) car park lift hours are 9-3, but noted traffic was light (ie an overhead to get people on the hill).

(b) Mountain masters lessons are difficult for Guthega skiers to reach the Blue Cow terminal on time to join group - Guthega lifts don't open early enough, PB to ask if MM instructor can make Guthega the first destination

(c) agreed there are long lift lines on Ridge chair once several feeder runs are. Upgrading or replacing the chair to one of higher capacity is on the list, but there is no timeline.

Dave Woods, NPWS – Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer.

Community Fire protection zone (CFPZ) for the Perisher Range Resorts (PRR).

Dave worked on the Thredbo CFPZ zone, which was completed recently.

He will be able to kick off development of a CFPZ plan for the PRR, first mentioned as an option when SLOPES met with NPWS, RFS and NSW planning (in 2013), at an early forum the long running (SLOPES) initiative to reduce the regulatory burden of lodge maintenance.

A CFPZ gives some comfort by reducing the BAL (bushfire attack level assessment) – ie savings in the cost of building fire related compliance and regulation, but not eliminate the need for a DA.

Once a plan is implemented it needs to be kept up to date. For example, designated firebreaks maintained, including extant open spaces.

All applications for development are copied to the RFS for assessment of fire risks, based it is understood on the state wide definition of bushfire attack level. There can be alternative compliance solutions.

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In the KNP, NPWS consent (representing the Government as the land owner) is required for a leaseholder to remove a tree from its site– that is 10/50 does not give KNP lessees (unilateral) right to cut down as it does for land holders in urban or rural zones.

10/50 is now under review as it has been abused in some parts of the state, that is, for reasons other than fire risk.

5 applications for tree removal on PRR lessee sites (but not under the 10/50 rule) were approved and duly removed during the year.

NPWS advises it will cut down and remove any off-lease tree in danger to a building (or life), if drawn to its attention. (NPWS budget can usually meet the cost of removal).

Link Road

The Link Road (Perisher Creek to Smiggins) (LR), controlled by the RMS (formerly the RTA) for years has been closed for the winter between long weekends, irrespective of extant conditions. The LR is a minor unsealed road, of about 4km, built for construction access in the days of the Snowy. It is a rough but all weather road. When closed it takes about 30 minutes longer for a car to

drive between Perisher and Guthega via Island Bend, open all year. Transport direct to Guthega via the park entrance and Island Bend takes about 20 minutes longer via Island Bend than via Smiggins and the LR.

We understand the LR is closed in the interest of public safety, winter operational ease and to reduce summer maintenance. It is open to all normal summer traffic and mostly for those seeking quicker access to Guthega rather than diverting through Island Bend.

Arguments for keeping it open longer are similar to those for overnight parking in Smiggins and Perisher when conditions permit at season start and end.

Parties affected by winter closure by additional travelling time and cost

Guthega commercial, lodges, residents and guests when Guthega lifting and oversnow access is not open, and when otherwise forced to drive in and out Guthega via Island Bend

The Resort, contractors, utility services and employees  
Emergency services  
Music Festival participants (June long weekend)

Traffic Advisory Group and the LR

RMS convenes a meeting each year in October of the local TAG on regional roads.

SLOPES and Perisher Chamber of Commerce (PCC) are presently unrepresented.

Option being considered - SLOPES and PCC to attend TAG meetings?

Is this part of a broader debate on intra-resort transport services? It might also be a head lease/governance review issue.

SLOPES  
20 June 2015