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SLOPES: MSU and EMS meetings with NPWS - Report

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Dear SLOPES Members

Every 6 months NPWS convenes consultative meetings of stakeholders relevant to the operation of the Perisher Range Resorts (PRR) and the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP).

The meetings are referred to by the acronyms MSU (municipal services) and EMS (environmental management).

SLOPES attends each of these meetings.

The latest meetings took place on Tuesday 14 June in Perisher.

Attached for your information is a copy of the Perisher Range Projects report as at June 2016 discussed at that meeting.

This report sets out in some detail the various project initiatives being undertaken by NPWS and is worth reading.

A few additional points to note from the meeting:

1. Club leases - dealings with NPWS

The key NPWS contact for leasing matters is Karen Field:

Karen Field

Team Leader – Mountains

Property Team

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Ph: 02 6450 5502 Mob: 0421 275 955

2. Village meetings

A reminder these meetings are on Saturday 25 June.

Details are as follows:

Guthega	Saturday 25 June 2016 - 10:00 to 12:00	Guthega Alpine Hotel - Guthega Village
Perisher & Smiggin Holes	Saturday 25 June 2016 - 14:00 to 16:00	Smiggins Hotel – Smiggin Holes

Clubs are encouraged to send their own representatives to the meetings.

As usual SLOPES will attend also and report to Clubs.

3. Guthega Link Road

SLOPES, Perisher and the Chamber have agitated for some time that this road should be kept open over the June long weekend and thereafter whenever it can be operated for safe vehicle access.

As a result, NPWS and the RMS have been in contact regarding management of this road during the winter season.

The RMS has responded saying it *"is happy to provide continued support in the proactive management of Links Road. Links Road may remain open after the June long weekend and prior to the October long weekend, when conditions allow safe travel"*.

The issue of safe access *"is continuously assessed and determined by RMS"*.

The Links Road was open over the June long weekend.

4. Capacity Review

Fifteen submissions have been received so far.

A second round of consultation will occur *"in the next few months"* and *"an options paper will be produced"*.

SLOPES will closely monitor this review, keep Clubs informed and make a submission at the appropriate time.

5. Planning approvals

The Department of Planning reported on its inter departmental initiative with RFS and others.

This is to try and introduce a schedule of *"exempt and complying developments"* in the legislation so as to streamline the approval process in certain cases.

SLOPES in particular but others as well have been agitating for this now for some time as it should assist Clubs with the more routine or straight forward works to their lodges.

While the initiative is underway, it appears now to be part of a broad scale review of the planning legislation in the KNP.

Accordingly, we do not expect substantial progress any time soon.

We will keep Clubs informed.

In the meantime, the best advice on planning matters is to make early contact with the Department in Jindabyne to gauge your particular lodge situation.

The contact is:

Daniel James
Team Leader
Alpine Resorts Team
Department of Planning and Environment

PO Box 36
Jindabyne NSW 2627
Ph: (02) 6456 1733
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Regards

—
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President
SLOPES

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Office of
Environment
& Heritage



PERISHER RANGE PROJECTS 2015 - 2016

Project Summary Report for Consultative Committee Meeting

June 2016

Prepared by: Ryan Petrov
Senior Team Leader, Perisher



1 Introduction

The Perisher Team was tasked with delivering \$69k of capital works and utilising a \$3.932M operating budget for Perisher Range Resorts during the 2015/2016 financial year. Unless otherwise stated, and all dollar amounts referred to in this report are GST exclusive.

2 Outline of Works

Assets

- **Mt Perisher Communications Building**

Improvements were made to the electrical earthing at the Mount Perisher Communications Building. The current earthing grid was extended through the installation of earth rods drilled into the bedrock. This involved hand digging to expose the bedrock and drilling holes with which to place the rods. A ground enhancement material was placed around the rods which were joined to the existing earth grid with welded copper connections.

The works have significantly enhanced the earthing of the site but it is clear that the poor conductivity of the geology underlying the site will prevent attainment of the Australian Standard.

Whilst staff were located on site the building stone work was repointed and some areas of deteriorated rockwork removed and replaced.

- **Sewerage Pump Stations**

The sewerage pump stations were targeted this year for building maintenance works. The majority of the pump stations had the old warped timber doors replaced with metal doors and improved rubber seals. At several of the buildings cladding and stonework repairs were undertaken and timber facias repainted.

With the completion of the underpinning works at Perisher Sewage Pump Station No. 1 two years ago, sufficient time has passed to allow for settlement so the concrete floor of the electrical room was re-levelled and sealed with a waterproof paint. This work combined with a new door and seals have addressed previous water ingress and internal drainage issues at this site.

Sewerage

- **Sewer Investigation Program**

Veolia Water Network Services were contracted to undertake cleaning and CCTV inspections of 3.8 km of the sewer reticulation network. This year the investigation focused on the Central and South Perisher areas, with a preliminary review of results indicating that similar to North Perisher, the sewer lines are in a generally good condition.

- **STP Sludge \ Biosolids Reuse**

South East Waste Recovery undertook the Perisher STP sludge removal. This was as a one year extension to the original three year contract. As per previous years the biosolids were transported to a property near Berridale and direct injected into the ground to improve soil condition. The cost of this work was \$107k and was completed by mid December. The contractor was engaged again in May 2016 to remove the sludge accumulated over the summer period so full tank storage is available for the winter. This additional sludge removal cost \$16.5k. Again this sludge was land applied in Berridale.



- **Perisher Sewage Treatment Plant**

There was a heavy focus on STP maintenance works this financial year. These included improvements to the stormwater drainage around the building and repairs to the roof in several locations to prevent water ingress into equipment control areas.

Internally, elevated walkways were improved by replacing a section of ladder with more appropriate stairs and handrails. A process change was made by replacing the use of Alum (used for the chemical removal of phosphorus) with a product called Alchor. This involved the cleaning and rinsing of the four storage tanks prior to delivery of the new product. Alchor is two to three times more effective than Alum meaning less product is required which will provide ongoing efficiencies in delivery and storage. Unlike Alum, Alchor is pH neutral so less soda ash will be required at the STP which is used for pH correction.

The decant manifold in extended aeration tank (EAT) 3 was re-levelled to prevent a reoccurrence of the decant failure issues that occurred over the 2015 winter. EAT 3 also had all diffusers removed and replaced as part of the rolling aeration system maintenance program. With the replacement of the diffusers in the 600kL sludge tank scheduled for next summer and underspend in operating in other areas, the purchase of these diffusers was bought forward to ensure timely delivery from Germany. This will allow these maintenance works to commence as soon as the sludge removal is completed after winter.

The level sensors in the aeration tanks play a critical role in the plant process operations. All three level sensors were upgraded over the summer to radar sensors which are more accurate, robust and reliable.

Water

- **Wheatley Road Water Main Replacement**

With the passing of the defect liability period the final contract payment of \$5k was paid to the contractor in May 2016, formally ending these contract works.

- **Perisher-Smiggin Holes Link Main**

The capital budget had an allocation of \$20k for the design, purchase and installation of a pressure reducing valve on the Perisher to Smiggin Holes water supply link main. This project did not proceed as the funds were reallocated to modification works at Perisher No. 2 reservoir as detailed below. The Link Main works have been budgeted for 2016/17.

- **Perisher Reservoir No. 2 pipework modifications**

Over the 2015 winter Technology Lodge experienced water pressure issues. These have been investigated and appear to be related high demand periods that cause reduced flow to this lodge given its high elevation. Given the close proximity of this lodge to Perisher Reservoir No. 2 it is expected that having this reservoir online over winter will address the problem.

In the past the reservoir has not been operational over winter but rather reserved as an emergency storage. Pipework modifications were designed and constructed this summer which now allow the reservoir to be operational, but in the event of a major water break will maintain an emergency supply in the reservoir. The installation works involving confined space entry were completed in late May 2016 with the project cost being \$13k.



- **Perisher UV No. 1 Backup Generator**

The generator purchased in 2014/15 for Perisher UV Station No. 1 was installed over the summer. It was initially intended to purchase a small load bank for this site but a more detailed site analyses was undertaken and this demonstrated that a load bank would not be necessary and the capital outlay would outweigh the benefits. The \$12k set aside for this item was reallocated.

Roads

- **Roads Maintenance**

Gravel roads maintenance within the Perisher Range Resorts were completed in December 2015 and February 2016. The works were undertaken by McMahons Earthmoving (Adaminaby). McMahon's were further engaged in May 2016 to undertake some preparation work for the section of Porcupine Road that is proposed to be concreted in 2017.

Perisher Team staff also reinstated the gravel edge along the concrete section of Perisher Creek Road to address the drop off hazard that had developed as the previous gravel had been compacted and washed out over time.

Waste

- **Organics Composting**

The 65 tonnes of organic waste collected over the 2015 winter was composted along with sewage sludge that was removed from the Sawpit sludge storage pond and a large volume of woodchip provided from various works within the park. Once the composting process was complete the material was screened to remove any large contaminants and is currently stockpiled on site ready for reuse within Kosciuszko National Park. The material will not be



utilised until a second winter season of composting is complete to provide appropriate economies for the testing program required before the material can be moved off site.

A capital allocation of \$32k was proposed for the further development of the composting site at Sawpit Creek. Testing of the existing landfill capping determined that these previous works were not completed to current standards and additional works would be required. Fortunately appropriate capping material was located on site so additional costs were restricted to contractor labour and machinery hire. The final cost of the works were \$47.7k with the extra funds reallocated from the unspent water projects capital.

A large volume of material was placed over the existing landfill capping, levelled and compacted to ensure the required surface permeability was achieved. Concrete blocks were then used to form the walls of the composting bays and a concrete slab poured to provide a mixing bay with a crushed rock pad for machinery movements. During the works reticulated water and electricity were installed at the site. The water is required to maintain correct moisture content of the compost piles and electricity powers the blowers used for aeration. The site layout has sufficient capacity to cater for any future expansions of the composting operations.





Environment

- **Plants**

Over the summer approximately 4,500 plants were planted in February and March 2016. The planting was undertaken by both contractors and Perisher Team field officers. No new planting areas were established with all plants used to replace losses and thicken existing revegetation areas. These included road edges and turning circles across the three resort areas.



- **Weeds**

Weed spraying occurred in November 2015 and February 2016. This targeted Viper's Bugloss, Goats Beard, Great Mullein, Barbarea, St Johns Wort, and Yarrow. Focus areas were roadsides, revegetation areas and around lodge leases.

- **Pests**

Over the 2015 winter ten cats were caught in the resort area through cage trapping. The spring soft jaw trapping program saw 12 cats and 10 foxes removed from the park. No rabbit shooting program occurred over 2015/16 but baiting trials were undertaken.

3 Budget 2016/17

The operating budget for next financial year is almost identical to 2015/16 with \$3.962M allocated. There is an increase in the capital allocation with \$309k for 2016/17. The proposed capital projects are:

- installation of bypass pipework and valving to allow Perisher Reservoir No. 1 to be taken off line if necessary (\$29k)
- installation of the Perisher to Smiggin Holes water supply link main pressure reduction valve (\$25k)
- concreting and stormwater improvement works along a section of Porcupine Road (\$255k).

