

**Subject:** SLOPES: NPWS update - environmental liaison services for this summer  
**Date:** Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 5:32:36 PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** SLOPES  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg, image004.jpg

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

This email is forwarded for your information.

SLOPES was very sorry to hear the news of Dave's retirement.

Dave has been a terrific supporter of SLOPES and has helped us on many SLOPES initiatives, especially the annual Back to Perisher events.

Dave has been tireless and ever cheerful in assisting Clubs and SLOPES with issues of the kind listed in his email below.

SLOPES separately has conveyed to Dave our thanks and best wishes for the future.

Regards

Frank Zipfinger  
President  
SLOPES

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From: **Dave Woods** <[Dave.Woods@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Dave.Woods@environment.nsw.gov.au)>  
Date: 13 October 2017 at 12:41  
Subject: NPWS update - environmental liaison services for this summer

Greetings Frank and Nick,

Could you please consider circulating this update to your members.

*After 17 years as the Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer (RELO) I will be leaving NPWS on Friday 13 October. I take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and collaboration on the broad range of issues and activities across the Perisher Range Resorts. The functions of the RELO will continue and this email is a timely reminder to clubs the services NPWS will continue to provide as we move out of the snowseason and into summer.*

*My replacement is Tim Scanlon although Tim will not commence in the position until Tuesday 7 November. Tim's email will be [tim.scanlon@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tim.scanlon@environment.nsw.gov.au) and his phone contact will be 64505616 and mobile: 0418 689 250*

*If your request can't wait until Tim commences, please contact Mark Feeney on 64505574 or [mark.feeney@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mark.feeney@environment.nsw.gov.au) for the following activities: animal issues, vegetation management including tree and bushfire risk, revegetation work, commercial 'drones', companion animals and student enquiries. All other requests and enquiries should be directed to Tania Ashworth - Team Leader, Resorts Environmental Services Team on 64505553 or [tania.ashworth@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tania.ashworth@environment.nsw.gov.au)*

**1/ Revegetation**

NPWS has again placed a large order for native plants as part of the restoration program across the Perisher Range Resorts. And like previous years additional stock has been ordered for clubs wishing to enhance or rehabilitate areas around their lodge. NPWS can also provide tree guards, stakes, weed matting and 'nutrient' starter. If you are considering planting this season please contact the Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer (RELO). The RELO can also assist with identifying sites, plant choice and site preparation in the context of improving lodge amenity without increasing bushfire risk.

## **2/ Tree and other Vegetation Management around Buildings**

For any vegetation removal including tree trimming or concerns pertaining to bushfire risk, please contact the RELO to discuss. This only pertains to 'house-keeping' matters or routine maintenance, not proposed developments (discussions pertaining to development applications should be made with the Department of Planning). NPWS would like to continue to process requests quickly so that clubs can plan and undertake the required work. However, some work may actually rest with NPWS. So a discussion will help identify responsibility as well as any environmental and cultural heritage issues that need to be considered. There's also the new Biodiversity reforms that commenced on 25 August 2017. NPWS is still interpreting how this will affect the resorts. So please contact the RELO.

## **3/ Wildlife in and around your building**

For any wildlife that has taken up residence in your building and which now challenges your tolerance levels, please contact the RELO. Common incursions include small ground mammals like native Dusky Antechinus, Southern Bush Rat and Broad-toothed Rat. Introduced House Mouse and occasionally Black Rat can also occur. NPWS has issued all clubs and commercial lodgings with an engraved Elliott Trap - a small treadle trap. However, if the issue is deemed to be too big for a single trap, then NPWS can assist with additional traps or if the issue pertains to House Mouse, facilitate or consent to a baiting program (yes, baiting can be considered but only after a NPWS appraisal of the situation).

Other fauna that NPWS can assist with includes wombats, rabbits, possums, micro-bats, birds and snakes. So please contact the RELO for assistance.

## **4/ Pest Management - update**

**Cats** – five cats were caught in the Perisher Range Resorts this winter. Thank you for reporting sightings as this helps NPWS position traps to maximise capture. As in previous years, a summer program is planned with the assistance of a detection dog. This will be part of a more expansive program to protect Mountain Pygmy-possums and Broad-toothed Rat from cats and foxes.

**Rabbits** – NPWS Research and Monitoring Officer, Mark Feeney, has been monitoring rabbits over winter although the weather until recently has not been too kind to allow rabbit baiting. However, the exceptional snow fall does limit the numbers that survive and breed in spring. Complimenting the shooting program prior to the 2016 snowseason, there was a late autumn account of rabbit deaths due to the Myxomatosis virus. It's uncertain whether this was due to infected rabbit carcasses being transferred from Thredbo to Perisher and Smiggin Holes, or whether the virus 'expressed' itself in the local population as it did in Thredbo in late spring last year...but we'll accept the contribution of Myxomatosis to controlling rabbits whatever its source.

The number of rabbits, the timing of snow melt and environmental conditions in October/November (e.g. green or cured grass) will determine what control methods are employed this season; preferably a combination of baiting and shooting. The new strain of Calici virus is also planned to be trialled in the Perisher Range Resorts and Thredbo. NPWS will keep stakeholders informed about the rabbit management program. Please inform the RELO about rabbits that have burrowed underneath buildings. For legal and safety reasons, different techniques may need to be employed to capture or control rabbits that are in close proximity to buildings.

## **5/ Remotely Piloted Aircraft - 'Drones'**

To reiterate there is no recreational flying of RPAs or 'Drones' in Kosciuszko National Park according to the way the Plan of Management is written. However, there is scope for commercial use with approval from NPWS, particularly photography or filming for marketing or management purposes. Most RPA use in the Perisher Range Resorts usually requires concurrence with Perisher Resort if flying over lease or licence areas. There are risks to people and property associated with RPAs so NPWS approval is based on ameliorating those risks as well as

*upholding commercial rights of other lessees and licensees in the area.*

*Please contact the RELO to discuss any plans to use or engage a RPA contractor for commercial purposes. Relevant CASA permits, certificates and exemptions are based upon the size of aircraft used. Public Liability Insurance and a satisfactory Risk Assessment Plan will also need to be provided before an Activity Consent is issued. The Information Sheet on 'Remotely Piloted Aircraft use in Kosciuszko National Park' is currently being updated.*

All the best...

Dave Woods



**David Woods**

Resorts Environmental Liaison Officer

Resorts Environmental Services Team

Southern Ranges Branch

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Kosciuszko Rd, Jindabyne

PO Box 2228, Jindabyne NSW 2627

T 02 64505616 F 02 64505630

W [nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

[environment.nsw.gov.au/alpinereso](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/alpinereso)

Note: I currently work part-time **Monday to Thursday**. On **Friday** if your enquiry is urgent you can contact

Tania Ashworth, Team Leader, on 64505553 or email: [tania.ashworth@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tania.ashworth@environment.nsw.gov.au)



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