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SLOPES - Public exhibition of Kosciuszko National Park: Proposed Amendment to Plan of Management: Visitor Experience Improvements and the Kosciuszko Summit Precinct Walking Tracks Strategy

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

6 February 2019 at 10:39

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

This email from the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) is forwarded for your information.

In the email OEH announces:

1. proposed amendments to the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) Plan of Management for public exposure and comment, and releases supporting and background papers
2. a Kosciuszko summit precinct walking tracks strategy covering existing pathways and a proposed Snowies Iconic Walk linking the ski areas of Perisher, Thredbo, Charlottes pass and Guthega. Some existing tracks would be subsumed into the walk augmented by new formed tracks to comprise a staged multi-day trek or individual day hikes in either direction.

See: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Parks-management-other/kosciuszko-summit-precinct-walking-tracks-strategy-draft-180642.pdf>

And also see OEH media release April 2018: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/multi-million-dollar-boost-for-kosciuszko>

3. A range of visitor experience improvements (within the KNP) containing new, supporting and enabling provisions.

See: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/kosciuszko-national-park-visitor-experience-improvements>

4. The draft amendments to the existing KNP Plan of Management.

SLOPES supports and encourages these proposals in principle.

We have yet to take a position on all elements proposed and some are outside the SLOPES sphere of interest or in other parts of the Park.

We support the idea of an iconic walk and look forward to reviewing its proposed route when released.

For previous SLOPES emails on the iconic walk see our website here: <https://slopes.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SLOPES-email-539-230418-Iconic-Walk.pdf>

Walking or hiking is the major summer sporting activity within the KNP. Clubs and all Perisher Range Resorts stakeholders would benefit from new and improved pathways and alternative, expanded and upgraded local and over the hill hiking access. They are certain to encourage more summer visitors of Club members and friends. They will promote the sport for health and recreation and assist non profit sporting Clubs' in complying with income tax exemption rules.

SLOPES recognises that a walking trail linking the resorts would also be a springboard to access side trips to iconic panoramic mountains and valleys and special locations of interest.

In time the new and improved pathways will increase demand for hospitality services in our precinct and beyond from which all stakeholders and visitors will benefit as well as a greater opportunity to experience Australia's unique alpine country.

We encourage Clubs to distribute these papers to your members. They also explain how you and your members can have a say - note the submissions closing date is 11 March 2019.

The indicative location of the iconic walk is shown on the attached plan.

Investigation of suitable terrain for the pathway by OEH continues. Note:

- All new tracks to be predominantly constructed of elevated platforms and stone. This will minimise the environmental impact and will reduce the long-term maintenance costs
- Realignment of the existing Main Range Walk with an elevated platform of approximately 1.5km in length near Mt Lee. The track will be relocated slightly to the west to mitigate the existing impact to the critically endangered Windswept Feldmark plant community
- Construction of a permanent single toilet facility which will be positioned approximately 30m behind Seamans Hut. This will reduce the impacts of people camping near the hut. The toilet will be opened year-round
- It is expected the walk will use the following existing tracks (the exact location of the route is subject to environmental assessment and targeted species surveys):
 - Kosciuszko Walk (steel walkway) from Eagles Nest
 - Summit Walk to the top of Mt Kosciuszko
 - Main Range Walk from Kosciuszko to Charlotte Pass
 - The Illawong Walk from Illawong Hut to Guthega
 - The Porcupine Walk from Porcupine Rocks to Perisher Valley

Regards

Frank Zipfinger
President
SLOPES

OEH EMAIL

From: **OEH NPWS Park Planning Mailbox** <npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au>

Date: Fri, Jan 25, 2019 at 11:09 AM

Subject: Public exhibition of Kosciuszko National Park: Proposed Amendment to Plan of Management: Visitor Experience Improvements and the Kosciuszko Summit Precinct Walking Tracks Strategy

To:



Public exhibition of Kosciuszko National Park: Proposed Amendment to Plan of Management: Visitor Experience Improvements and the Kosciuszko Summit Precinct Walking Tracks Strategy

The *Kosciuszko National Park: Proposed Amendment to Plan of Management: Visitor Experience Improvements* has been prepared and is being exhibited in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The park is located in the NSW Snowy Region and is managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), part of Office of Environment and Heritage.

The current plan of management was adopted in 2006 and is being amended to enable construction of the Snowies Iconic Walk on the main range, construction of the final stages of the shared use Thredbo Valley Track, adaptive re-

use of the Thredbo Ranger Station, and some minor management and visitor improvements.

The Kosciuszko Summit Precinct Walking Tracks Strategy has also been prepared as a requirement of the plan of management, to enable the development of new walking trails in the summit area of the park. The strategy is also available for public comment.

The proposed plan of management amendment and the strategy can be viewed at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult> OR

- Cooma Visitor Information Centre (119 Sharp Street, Cooma, NSW)
- Tumut Visitor Information Centre, (5 Adelong Rd, Tumut, NSW)
- Snowy Region Visitor Centre (49 Kosciuszko Road, Jindabyne, NSW)
- Khancoban Visitor Information Centre (Corner of Alpine Way & Scammel St, Khancoban, NSW)
- NSW Government Offices, (11 Farrer Place, Queanbeyan, NSW)
- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) Customer Centre (Level 14, 59–61 Goulburn St, Sydney)

You are invited to make a written submission on the proposed plan of management amendment and/or the strategy.

Submissions need to be received by **11 March 2019**. You can provide your written submission in one of the following ways:

- use the online submission form at <https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult>
- email your submission to npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au
- post your submission Manager Planning Evaluation and Assessment, PO Box 95, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Your submission will be provided to a number of statutory advisory bodies (including the relevant regional advisory committee and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council). Your comments on the proposed plan amendment and the strategy may include 'personal information'. OEH complies with the NSW *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, which regulates the collection, storage, access, amendment, use and disclosure of personal information. See [OEH privacy webpage \(www.environment.nsw.gov.au/help/privacy.htm\)](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/help/privacy.htm) for details. Information that in some way identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us correspondence.

If an application to access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* requests access to your submission, your views about release will be sought if you have indicated that you object to your submission being made public.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Growcock

Manager Planning Evaluation and Assessment

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Contact person: Pam Obrien NPWS Area Manager Snowy River 0264505575

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