



Frank Zipfingler <frank.zipfingler@gmail.com>

**SLOPES: Insurance webinar today - COVID-19 QR codes and general restrictions - NPWS new Environment Liaison Officer, Resorts and Asset Protection Zones (APZs)**

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

11 January 2021 at 15:38

Dear SLOPES Members and Associates

This email updates you regarding:

**1. Barrack Broking insurance scheme - Webinar**

A reminder the webinar is on today starting at 4pm. All are welcome.

To join see the details here: <https://slopes.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/1004-SLOPES-email-8-1-2021.pdf>

**2. COVID-19 - QR Codes - General restrictions**

A Club has asked the question whether Clubs need to introduce QR codes for current operations given these have rolled out more broadly in NSW by the government.

The short answer is no. See attached the Wotton+Kearney letter of todays date with the details.

Note also these important comments in the letter regarding the general restrictions which currently apply:

- 4. As with the previous Public Health Orders, members are only required to comply with the general restrictions which are imposed by the occupiers of premises outside of Greater Sydney. Currently an occupier must not permit more persons to be on the premises where that would not allow 2 square metres of a space per person (this was previously 4 square metres) or a total maximum of 25 persons.
- 5. The introduction of the maximum of 25 persons in the new restrictions that members will have to comply with while the current Public Health Order remains in effect. Previously, clubs were not subject to maximum numbers provided they complied with the 4 square metre rule.
- 6. In calculating the 25 person cap there is no exclusion for members of the same household or family unit and the 25 person cap applies on a head count basis.

**3. NPWS - New Environment Liaison Officer, Marion Battishall - Asset Protection Zones (APZs)**

See below the self explanatory email from Marion Battishall of NPWS on these topics.

SLOPES has received quite a bit of input from Clubs regarding APZs and will be taking this issue up with Marion.

Concerns include:

- a) the role of NPWS as the land and lodge owner in taking pro active steps regarding APZs
- b) preparation of a template and process to make it quick, inexpensive and simple for Clubs to get approval for and to implement an APZ
- c) better co-ordination of the roles of the various authorities including NPWS and RFS.

This discussion is timely both in the context of the catastrophic bush fire experience a year ago and the ongoing implications for the insurance program operated for our SLOPES Clubs.

SLOPES has mentioned several times recently that the ongoing success of the insurance scheme is likely to depend more and more in the future on a far more bespoke approach to managing the risk profile of all the lodges in the scheme and Clubs being pro active individually in this regard - to make the insurable risk package as attractive as possible to insurers.

An aspect of this is likely to be APZs - any Club that has a tick of approval from NPWS that it is managing it's APZ appropriately is likely to be in a better position to negotiate insurance terms.

If your Club has experience with an APZ in recent times please share it with us as it may assist in our discussions with NPWS.

Regards

Frank Zipfingler  
President  
SLOPES

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**NPWS - NEW ENVIRONMENT LIAISON OFFICER, RESORTS**

From: **Marion Battishall** <Marion.Battishall@environment.nsw.gov.au>  
Date: Mon, 4 Jan 2021 at 14:31  
Subject: Replacement for Tim Scanlon  
To: frank.zipfingler@gmail.com <frank.zipfingler@gmail.com>

Hello Frank,

I would like to introduce myself as I believe we will be communicating regularly over the next 6 months or more.

My name is Marion and I am filling in for Tim Scanlon, in the role of Environment Liaison Officer, Resorts, until he returns in Late June 2021.

I have managed lodges in Perisher and Smiggins and have also worked as a Discovery ranger for the past 4 years in Kosciuszko National Park. I have a passion for environmental education, and a (somewhat conflicting) love of Perisher resort.

In this role I see an opportunity to reconnect the Perisher lodge community with the unique environment in which their lodges are situated, instilling in the lodge members/managers a sense of pride and protection of their precious environment.

On that note, the Summer edition of Resort Round Up is currently being prepared and I was wondering if you had any input/Updates to add to this publication? Perhaps an insight from last winter, which was such an unusual one!!

On a different tack, it has come to my attention in this role that many lodges are having difficulty renewing their insurance, due to the unprecedented fire season last summer. The Perisher Fire and rescue also noted that very few lodges actively manage their Asset Protection Zones to a reasonable standard. Perhaps SLOPES could release a statement reminding lodges of their responsibility in APZ management. I would be happy to draft up a statement from NPWS inline with this. I have included an article which will be published in the Resort Roundup giving details of the process for obtaining an APZ from the RFS and an APZ plan from NPWS (remembering that all vegetation management works must first be approved by NPWS).

If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Kind Regards



**Marion Battishall**

Environment Liaison Officer  
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Service

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11 January 2021

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President  
Ski Lodges of Perisher, Smiggins and Guthega  
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Dear Frank

### **New South Wales QR Code System**

1. Thank you for your recent emails.
2. Recently the New South Wales government issued a Public Health Order which in certain circumstances mandates the use of QR Codes for signing in persons who attend the premises.
3. The requirement to have a QR Code for scanning only applies to certain types of premises and businesses. SLOPES' members would not fall within the category of premises or businesses within the current Public Health Order which compels them to scan in using a QR Code. Accordingly, there is no need for members to introduce QR Codes for their current operations.
4. As with the previous Public Health Orders, members are only required to comply with the general restrictions which are imposed by the occupiers of premises outside of Greater Sydney. Currently an occupier must not permit more persons to be on the premises where that would not allow 2 square metres of a space per person (this was previously 4 square metres) or a total maximum of 25 persons.
5. The introduction of the maximum of 25 persons in the new restrictions that members will have to comply with while the current Public Health Order remains in effect. Previously, clubs were not subject to maximum numbers provided they complied with the 4 square metre rule.
6. In calculating the 25 person cap there is no exclusion for members of the same household or family unit and the 25 person cap applies on a head count basis.
7. We understand that some members have been relying upon the information contained on the New South Wales government webpage [www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/regional-and-rural-nsw](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/regional-and-rural-nsw). While the information on that site is correct, the relevant parts only apply to "hospitality venues, events and musical activities" and "holiday homes and short term rentals". These are defined terms in the Public Health Order. Clubs would not fall within the relevant definitions.
8. Rather, it is the general occupier of premises provisions in the Public Health Order which apply to members. This webpage does not contain any reference or information relating to the general occupier of premises provisions in the Public Health Order. Accordingly, it would be an error for any member to rely upon this particular webpage as to their compliance with the current provisions of the Public Health Order.

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9. If any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Chris Mossman**

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### Asset Protection Zones

Last summer was an unprecedented bushfire season. Kosciuszko National Park, including all four Ski Resort areas, were under considerable threat for many weeks, with Selwyn resort being delivered a direct and devastating hit.

These devastating bushfires led to the RFS guidelines, Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP 2019), to be legislatively adopted in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations (EP&A Reg.) in March 2020.

The PBP 2019 focuses on ensuring developments are provided with appropriate bush fire protection measures. In the Resort areas this means ensuring all Asset Protection Zones are identified, implemented and maintained to the standard set out in an Asset Protection Zone Plan (APZ Plan).

Asset Protection Zones (APZs) are fuel reduced areas surrounding a built asset, such as a lodge.

An APZ provides:

- a buffer zone between a bushfire hazard and the asset.
- An area of reduced bushfire fuel that allows suppression of fire
- An area which allows emergency services access and provides a relatively safe area for firefighters to defend the property.

APZs aim to reduce the risk of:

- Direct flame contact on the asset
- Damage to the built asset from intense radiant heat; and
- Ember attack on the asset

In the example of Perisher resort all lodges **should** have an APZ which is regularly maintained. An overgrown and unmaintained APZ is an invitation for 'Old Man Fire' to come knocking at the door. This includes long grasses, leaf litter, bark, and overhanging trees.

In Feb 2020, Perisher Fire and rescue commented that very few lodges in the Perisher Range Resorts actively managed their APZ's which, had the fire approached any closer, could have lead to a similar result to Selwyn resort. 'Perisher Lodges were lucky this time, however we would like to see the implementation and maintenance of APZs for all commercial and club lodges in the resort area' (QUOTE)

APZ management within the Perisher Range Resorts area is wholly the responsibility of the Lodge owners **However any bushfire hazard reduction works must have the written consent of the landowner, in this case NPWS, and be consistent with any existing land management agreements, ie NPWS Act, BC Act, EP&A Act.**

An Asset protection Zone Plan can be created in consultation with RFS and NPWS. This plan

will outline the area of land encompassed by the APZ and will stipulate the conditions to which it should be managed.

The RFS is the deciding authority for the area of the APZ, which will depend primarily on slope, vegetation type and building material type.

Once you have the APZ defined by RFS, NPWS will specify conditions, applicable to the removal and management of vegetation within the APZ. NPWS assesses each APZ individually via a free on-site consultation with a lodge representative, with the aim of retaining important habitat areas and minimise unnecessary vegetation damage.

The APZ area, combined with the conditions set by NPWS will then become the APZ Plan. Once an APZ Plan is finalised and implemented, it can be maintained, to these stipulations, into perpetuity.

For further details contact:

RFS

Bradley Bourke

Development Assessment & Planning Officer, Planning & Environment Services (South)

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