



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development

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ALPINE RESORTS (MANAGEMENT) ACT 1997

FALLS CREEK ALPINE RESORT MANAGEMENT BOARD

MOUNT HOTHAM ALPINE RESORT MANAGEMENT BOARD

MOUNT BULLER AND MOUNT STIRLING ALPINE RESORT MANAGEMENT BOARD

SOUTHERN ALPINE RESORT MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

I, Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, in accordance with section 36(1A) of the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997*, hereby direct all alpine resort management boards as follows:

Functions and Responsibilities

The functions and responsibilities of alpine resort management boards are set out in Part 4 of the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997*. Following the reform of the alpine sector announced by the Victorian Government 2017, I committed to providing further guidance to alpine resort management boards on the performance and reporting expectations of the Victorian Government, and the role alpine resort management boards will have in supporting the alpine sector more broadly.

Improved sector engagement and performance:

The need to improve collaboration in the alpine resort sector was identified in the *Alpine Resorts Governance Reform Discussion Paper (2017)* and was reinforced by many of the stakeholder submissions to the consultation process.

The Victorian Auditor General's Office conducted a review of public participation by Victorian Government entities, resulting in the development of the "*Public Participation in Government Decision-Making: A Better Practice Guide*". I expect that all portfolio public entities will carry out stakeholder engagement in a manner consistent with the guide.

I have directed the Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council (ARCC) to undertake several investigations into improving alpine sector performance, including relating to:

- Improved collaboration within the alpine resorts sector
- Improved efficiency within the alpine resorts sector
- Improved transparency in decision making by resort management boards

- Options for the establishment of local stakeholder representative groups at each alpine resort

I have also directed the ARCC to develop the next Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan and to lead climate adaptation planning for the alpine resort sector.

Advice provided by the ARCC will inform future ministerial directions to effect change in these priority areas. I expect that all alpine resort management boards will collaborate with and support the ARCC to carry out its directions, and will subsequently implement any recommendations accepted by the Government that arise from these reviews.

Review of resort operations and transparency of decision making:

Stakeholder submissions to the governance reform consultation process indicated displeasure with service provision, rising costs, and expressed a view that Victoria's alpine resorts are not operating as efficiently as possible. All alpine resort management boards will support the ARCC as it carries out a review of alpine resort service provision, cost and efficiency and will provide all information necessary to allow the ARCC to complete the review by the end of 2018.

Climate Change

The Victorian Government has committed to taking significant action on climate change, including setting ambitious emission reduction targets and protecting and empowering communities to respond to the impacts of climate change.

The *Climate Change Act 2017* establishes obligations on Victorian Government entities, including alpine resort management boards, to have regard to the impact of climate change in decision making. Section 20 of the Act describes the requirements for government entities to take climate change into consideration, based on the policy objectives (s22) and guiding principles (s23-28) of the Act.

It is my expectation that all alpine resort management boards will comply with their obligations under the *Climate Change Act 2017*, and will assume a leadership role in supporting their communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. I encourage boards to familiarise themselves with the following Victorian Government climate change legislation, policies and strategies, and to demonstrate their leadership by signing up to the Take2 Climate Change pledge program.

- *Climate Change Act 2017*
- Victoria's Climate Change Framework
- Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017 – 2020

Reporting

All alpine resort management boards will make a copy of this direction available on their website and will report on progress in meeting these directions through their annual report.