



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Saturday, 8 June 2013

#### **ENVIRONMENT IN FOCUS AS THE SNOW SEASON BEGINS**

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today celebrated the start of the ski season in Kosciuszko National Park and congratulated the community on their strong environmental focus.

Ms Parker said that opening weekend is always an exciting time in Kosciuszko and this year I am pleased to see so many opportunities for children and adults to learn more about protecting their environments.

"When they are ready for a break from the snow, children will have a chance to use WilderQuest ([wilderquest.nsw.gov.au](http://wilderquest.nsw.gov.au)) - a website created to help build a lifelong fascination with nature," Ms Parker said.

"Perisher, Thredbo and Selwyn resorts officially open today and staff at each of these resorts, together with visitors and the local community, showed a commitment to protecting the state's unique alpine environment.

"Today I have the privilege of helping award the Perisher Range Resorts environmental awards, which are given to business operators who demonstrate environmental leadership.

"Tomorrow at Thredbo, we will officially launch this year's *Don't Waste the Snow* campaign aimed at reducing littering around the resorts, including the thoughtless discarding of cigarette butts.

"Last year, visitors told national parks staff that tackling excessive litter should be the highest priority."

Member for Monaro John Barilaro said it was an exciting weekend in the Snowy Mountains and he anticipated a strong season ahead.

"Many local families and workers in the Snowy Mountains will be watching weather forecasts intently in the coming weeks and months," Mr Barilaro said.

"Businesses in our region have taken important steps to weatherproof their winter trade and two examples are this weekend's *Snowy Mountains of Music Festival* and the impressive investment in snow making infrastructure across the resorts.

"Also, the development of year-round tourism in Kosciuszko, particularly mountain-biking and cycling opportunities, is fantastic, and I commend the NSW Government for supporting this."

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