

# Rob Stokes MP Minister for the Environment **Minister for Heritage**

Assistant Minister for Planning

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **INVESTMENT IN NEW ROUTE FOR POPULAR SNOWY MOUNTAINS** TRAIL

Walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers are invited to enjoy a new section of the Bicentennial National Trail in Kosciuszko National Park opened by the Member for Albury Greg Aplin and Monaro MP John Barilaro on Friday.

Environment Minister Rob Stokes said an investment of \$420,000 to re-route a section of trail will enhance visitor experiences and provide a spectacular all-season adventure in the Snowy Mountains.

"The 22 kilometre stretch between Tom Groggin and Geehi camp grounds now takes visitors through fern gullies and includes the most picturesque creek crossings," Mr Stokes said.

"Following the Bicentennial National Trail in part or in full is a superb way to connect with the environment, explore our heritage, and be active in an environmentally responsible manner."

Mr Aplin said local businesses would benefit from an improved Bicentennial National Trail.

"Previously this section of the trail went along the Alpine Way roadside, which was not as enjoyable, or safe for people and horses.

"Raising this section of the trail to a high standard gives people another reason to visit the region and will help our year-round economy.

"It also provides a new and impressive experience that will compel more visitors with diverse interests to come and enjoy Kosciuszko National Park."

Mr Barilaro said re-routing this section of the trail had been a cooperative effort between the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, park users and the community.

"This was a significant infrastructure project and many local groups assisted with this re-routing," Mr Barilaro said.

"In particular we thank Canberra businessman and horse riding enthusiast Terry Snow, who donated \$60,000 to the project.

"This new section in Kosciuszko National Park will whet people's appetites for a new adventure in the Snowy Mountains."

The Bicentennial National Trail stretches 5,330 kilometres through Queensland, NSW, the ACT and Victoria. It goes through many other national parks, including Guy Fawkes, Wollemi and Gardens of Stone in NSW.

### Read more about the Bicentennial National Trail:

http://www.bicentennialnationaltrail.com.au/about/history/

#### Read more about Kosciuszko National Park:

http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/kosciuszko-national-park