



Office of
Environment & Heritage
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



Kosciuszko National Park

Alpine Resorts Winter Access



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1 Introduction

The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) is responsible for the care, control and management of access, parking and oversnow vehicle use within Kosciuszko National Park.

The following procedures on the use of parking areas and oversnow vehicles have been adopted to assist with the smooth operation of the ski resorts.

2 Vehicle access to Kosciuszko National Park ski resorts

All vehicles entering the resort areas within Kosciuszko National Park must display a valid pass.

2.1 Road closures

The closure of the following roads from the beginning of the June long weekend to the close of the October long weekend ('the winter period'), will be subject to snow conditions and arrangements made between the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS), NPWS and ski resort operators.

- Kosciuszko Road (from Perisher Valley to Charlotte Pass)
- The Link Road (between Smiggin Holes and the Guthega Road).

Both road closures are put in place by RMS road occupancy licences, which prevent access by the general public but allow controlled access for key stakeholders.

The following roads will be closed to all vehicles other than oversnow vehicles as road conditions require:

- Kings Cross Road, between Mt Selwyn and Cabramurra
- Cabramurra Road (KNP 5), between Cabramurra and Khancoban turn-off.

Should snow conditions require, these closures may be extended or removed.

2.2 In-resort roads

Perisher Range resorts

Perisher Valley and Guthega in-resort roads will be regarded as closed to all traffic other than oversnow vehicles from the start of the June long weekend to the close of the October long weekend.

Roads will be cleared as required to allow Smiggin Holes in-resort conventional vehicle access.

Thredbo Village

Village roads will be cleared of snow as required. Public access to the resort and parking in designated lodge car parks is allowed, provided it is in accordance with all signage and/or instructions.

Charlotte Pass Village

As Charlotte Pass Village is snowbound in winter, only authorised oversnow vehicles will be permitted to access and park at Charlotte Pass Village. Access to this village for the general public using conventional wheeled vehicles (including 4WDs) during the winter period is at the discretion of Charlotte Pass Village Pty Ltd, in consultation with the RMS.

Public car parks

Ski resort staff direct the parking of vehicles within car parks in accordance with parking arrangements agreed between the ski resorts and NPWS. Vehicles found obstructing traffic or parked in any way contrary to instructions or signage may be issued with an infringement notice.

2.3 Overnight parking in the resorts

Vehicle overnight parking is not permitted in daytime public car parks at Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes, Thredbo, Guthega or Selwyn Snowfields during the winter period between midnight and 7am, unless authorised. This is to allow for unhindered snow clearing operations in the car parks and on roads, and to minimise vehicles being snowbound.

There are no overnight public car parks at Perisher Valley or Smiggin Holes.

Perisher Range resorts

The only vehicles permitted to park overnight will be authorised by NPWS according to the procedures set out in Section 3 of this guide. Authorised vehicles are permitted to park only in authorised overnight parking zones or in designated lodge parking areas.

Thredbo Village, Guthega and Selwyn Snowfields overnight car parks

Overnight parking is permitted in the designated overnight car parks in Thredbo, Guthega and Selwyn Snowfields. No vehicle-based camping is permitted in overnight car parks.

3 Resort Management Vehicles and Lodge Parking Permits

3.1 Resort Management Vehicles

During marginal snow conditions, when there is insufficient snow to operate an oversnow vehicle, seasonal authority may be given to lodge management providing guest services, for conventional vehicles to be used to access lodges, for business management purposes.

The issuing of Resort Management Vehicle permits recognises the needs of some lessees who do not have an authorised overnight parking space.

However, the issuing of resort management vehicle permits does not automatically allow for a long term winter overnight parking space. NPWS will authorise Resort Management Vehicles through the issue of a permit following approval of an application and payment of a fee. Allocation will be according to the criteria for long term overnight parking (listed below). Permits must be prominently displayed inside the vehicle.

Lodge Parking Permits

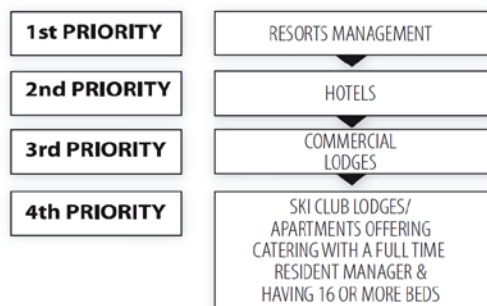
Parking Permits will be issued to lodge managers according to the number of car spaces available at the premise. These parking permits will be available to lodge guests for overnight parking when conditions allow and the **Road Status D** is in place. The number of parking spaces available (and Lodge Parking Permits issued) at each premise has been determined by NPWS based on the available hardstand area and the Australian Standard for car parking.

3.2 Winter overnight parking allocation

Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes

A limited number of spaces for long term winter overnight parking are available to lessees and operators in the authorised parking bays at Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes. Parking allocations are reviewed each year.

Priority for allocation of winter overnight parking at Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes is based on each premises approved onsite parking and the following criteria below.



NPWS will lock each parking bay until the allocated occupier has completed the application process and paid all fees. Occupiers of authorised parking spaces are responsible for security of their allocations over the winter period.

3.3 Temporary vehicle parking

Authorised vehicle parking for temporary periods, including overnight, may be made available on an extremely limited basis. Applications will be assessed on merit and are subject to availability of space. These may include disabled vehicle parking, tradespersons undertaking emergency repairs and visiting performers. If an application is approved, a temporary vehicle parking permit will be issued and must be clearly displayed inside the nominated vehicle.

Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes & Guthega

For temporary parking requirements contact NPWS Perisher office on (02) 6457 4444

Selwyn Snowfields

For temporary parking requirements contact Selwyn Snowfields ski resort on (02) 6454 9488

Thredbo

For temporary parking requirements contact Thredbo ski resort on (02) 6459 4100

4 Oversnow vehicles

4.1 Definition of oversnow vehicle

An oversnow vehicle is defined as 'a vehicle specifically designed to be driven over snow and/or capable of driving over snow'. This includes snowmobiles, snowcats, all-terrain vehicles (Argos, quad bikes, vehicles fitted with rubber track system) and snow grooming machinery, defined below:

Conventional four-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles are not regarded as oversnow vehicles and will not be permitted on oversnow vehicle routes unless granted authorisation during marginal snow conditions.

The carrying of passengers must comply with machine specifications.

Snowmobiles

Oversnow vehicles driven by continuous single or double rubber drive track(s), with ski/s for steering or equivalent system.

Quad bikes

Multi-purpose four (4) or six (6) wheeled motor bikes capable of being driven over snow.

All-terrain vehicles

Oversnow vehicles driven by six (6) or eight (8) low-pressured tyred wheels, with steering by mechanical or hydraulic brake or equivalent system.

Snowcats / snow grooming machines

Oversnow vehicles driven by two separate full-length continuous tracks, with steering by mechanical brake, hydraulic drive or skis, or equivalent system.

Vehicles fitted with Rubber Track System

Conventional 4WD vehicles with all wheels fitted with a rubber track system, capable of being driven oversnow.

Trailers

Trailers pulled behind snowmobiles, quad bikes, snowcats or all-terrain vehicles may be either wheeled, tracked or skied, and must comply with RMS regulations and specifications. When trailers are being used to convey garbage, the load must be covered to prevent any loss from the trailer.

Under the Australian Road Rules it is an offence to transport passengers in trailers.

4.2 Use of oversnow vehicles

Within Kosciuszko National Park, the use of oversnow vehicles shall be limited to the safe and efficient functioning of ski resort business. Oversnow vehicles are registered to operate in strictly limited areas, as approved. Away from resort centres, oversnow vehicles may only be used for official park management, Snowy Hydro Limited and search and rescue operations.

Recreational use of oversnow vehicles is not permitted in Kosciuszko National Park

The registered owner of the oversnow vehicle is responsible for ensuring any operator of the oversnow vehicle is licensed and aware of all regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to oversnow vehicles.

4.3 Oversnow vehicle operator's licences

Each operator using an oversnow vehicle must hold a current motor vehicle driver's licence and the NPWS oversnow vehicle operator's licence. Provisional car licences are permitted but learner's licences are not acceptable.

The NPWS will issue an oversnow vehicle operator's licence to the operator following approval of a completed application form and payment of a fee.

The NPWS licence shall become invalid should the motor vehicle driver's licence expire or be cancelled.

A written authority from the operator's employer, stating the applicant's need to obtain a licence for business operations, and the type of vehicle(s) to be operated, must accompany the application.

Oversnow vehicle operator's licences must be carried at all times when operating an oversnow vehicle.

4.4 Oversnow vehicle safety

Oversnow vehicles such as snowmobiles and ATVs are hazardous to operator and pedestrians / skiers.

NPWS advise :

1. The use of Australian Standard motorcycle helmets for all occupants riding on open oversnow vehicles such as snowmobiles and ATVs.
2. That the number of passengers on a snowmobile and ATV is consistent with the manufacturer's requirements.
3. That the owner of the oversnow vehicle(s) satisfy themselves that operators of oversnow vehicles are competent in the use of the vehicle.

Winch cat operations

Winch cat operations are undertaken in the ski resort in areas where oversnow vehicle use is restricted to official park management and authorised vehicles only. All oversnow vehicle and snowmobile operators need to be aware of the possibility of winch cat and winching operations occurring and the extreme dangers involved being in and around these operations.

Being in close proximity to a winch cat or the winch rope during winching operations could cause death.

4.5 Oversnow vehicle registration

All oversnow vehicles must be registered with both the NPWS and RMS. The RMS registration label and number plates must be correctly fitted to the vehicle. NPWS registration stickers must be fixed to the front of the vehicle.

Oversnow vehicles within Kosciuszko National Park that do not have current registration may be fined and/or removed by NPWS. The exception to this is vehicles that are stored within the appropriate premise lease.

Applications for the registration of an oversnow vehicle must be presented, with the appropriate fee, to the NPWS Perisher Office, accompanied by current RMS registration papers of the vehicle to be registered.

Oversnow vehicles must be registered in the names of the respective lessees and licensees, tradesperson or emergency services authorities. Their use will be restricted to business management purposes consistent with the legislation and any applicable lease/licence, and NPWS policy.

The number of oversnow vehicles registered for any one operation will be determined by:

- a) demonstrated genuine need (a need associated with the management/operation of a lease, licence, sub-lease or sub-licence, or trade or business conducted within the park. In this regard full written, detailed and accurate reasons are required to be provided to the NPWS on the need for oversnow vehicle use)
- b) satisfactory proof that existing licensed vehicles do not provide an adequate service
- c) lease conditions
- d) distance to the operational centre of Perisher Valley (for Perisher Valley only).

Only licensed commercial oversnow transport shall be permitted to charge a fee for the oversnow transport of persons, freight, garbage, and luggage.

All other persons and organisations who do not fall within the above categories will not be permitted to register oversnow vehicles for use in the park. Oversnow transport for these persons is available by:

- a) the licensed commercial oversnow transport operator
- b) the oversnow transport provided by appropriate commercial or ski club lodges.

4.6 Conditions of use of oversnow vehicles

- abide by the Australian Road Rules
- abide by the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2002
- park oversnow vehicles in designated zones only
- operate oversnow vehicles for business purposes only
- operate oversnow vehicle on designated routes only (refer appendices)


4.7 Approved areas of operation

Oversnow vehicles must only be operated in areas as approved, and indicated by the registration sticker, as follows:


 PR Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes


 CP Charlotte Pass Village

 G Guthega

 X Management Services

 PB Perisher Blue

 S Selwyn

 T Thredbo

 PRC Contractors

NPWS registration stickers MUST be prominently displayed, on the front cowling of the vehicle.

4.8 Acceptable routes and snowmobile parking

Oversnow vehicles must travel on designated oversnow routes, including between Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes.

Snowmobile parking and storage

Areas have been set aside for snowmobile parking in Perisher Valley and Smiggin Holes (refer to maps included in the appendices).

During the winter period all oversnow vehicles must be parked within these designated parking areas or within the appropriate premise lease.

Outside the winter period oversnow vehicles need to be removed from Kosciuszko National Park or stored within the appropriate premise lease.

Oversnow vehicles that do not comply with the above may be fined and/or removed by NPWS.

4.9 Speed limits

- the pedestrian and oversnow vehicle shared zone around the Ski Tube building and Perisher Valley car park has a maximum speed limit of 20 km/h
- all other oversnow routes and designated roads in Perisher Valley, Smiggin Holes and Charlotte Pass have a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h
- the oversnow route from Perisher Gap to Charlotte Pass has a maximum speed limit of 60 km/h

5 Fees

Annual vehicle registration and licensing fees are:

- oversnow vehicle operator licences - \$15 per person per season
- snowmobile registration - \$80 per machine per season
- larger oversnow machine registration (tracked, ATVs etc) - \$100 per machine per season
- resort management vehicles / overnight parking - \$50 per vehicle
- Lodge Parking Permits - \$15 per space
- replacement registration stickers - \$20
- re-registration of the same vehicle within the winter period - \$20 per registration.

6 Further information

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

Oversnow vehicle registrations - Cooma RMS Office, corner of Massie and Soho Streets, Cooma, NSW

PO Box 825, Cooma, NSW 2630

Phone: 132213

Web: www.rms.nsw.gov.au

For vehicle standards contact RMS Technical Enquiries on 1300 137 302

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

NPWS Office, Kosciuszko Road, Perisher Valley

PO Box 41, Perisher Valley NSW 2624

Phone: (02) 6457 4444 Fax: (02) 6457 4455

After Hours Emergency: 1800 629 104

Email: perisher@environment.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/alpineresorts/kosciuszkonpresortswinteraccess