



Your entry fee at work

Kosciuszko National Park

Towards Centenary Project

Contributing to one of the world's great national parks



Upgrading key infrastructure, restoring alpine environments & visitor facilities



A NSW Government initiative

How your entry fee helps

Your entry fee contributes to new and upgraded facilities for skiers and boarders such as better roads to get you to the alpine resorts quickly and safely, improved waste and sewage facilities to make your stay more comfortable and sustainable, and an extensive cross country trail network to explore.

In the non-winter months, you'll find your entry fee being used to create new walking tracks to link the resort areas, as well as new toilets, camping grounds, picnic areas and lookouts. Your fee is also used to rebuild historic huts, restore historic buildings such as the Kiandra Courthouse, fund volunteer groups to look after our native wildlife, and rehabilitate degraded areas of the park.

Kosciuszko National Park

...is one of the world's great national parks. It protects the highest mountains in the country, unique glacial landscapes and unusual plants and animal communities, a number of which are found nowhere else. It also encompasses significant river catchments, Australia's best snow-fields and a rich Aboriginal and colonial history.

Kosciuszko is also one of the most popular national parks in Australia, drawing visitors for its sightseeing, bushwalking, fishing, canoeing, horse riding, cycling and caving. In winter the park is blanketed in snow and for many the alpine resorts become the focus of activity, while others venture further afield to experience the country beyond the ski runs.

Many of the park's features are globally or nationally significant and Kosciuszko is cherished as a special place of great beauty that must be protected.

Towards Centenary—new opportunities, new challenges

Following one of the most comprehensive consultation processes in Australia, the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has prepared a new plan to guide management of the park towards its centenary in 2044.

The plan includes a set of actions that aim to maintain or improve the condition of the park and the facilities and services offered to visitors.

This is why the NSW Government has announced the Towards Centenary program, an investment

A new plan for the park

The new Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management provides a specific suite of actions for DEC and other organisations to protect the natural, cultural and recreational values of the park.

Amongst other things, the plan establishes a new zoning scheme that allows for improved interpretation and education facilities, services and

Each year the NSW Government spends over \$15 million on protecting the park's values by controlling feral animals and weeds, managing fire and providing skiers and other visitors with the facilities they need to make their stay enjoyable.

But this is only part of the picture. Other recent government-funded programs include a major upgrade of the main road to Thredbo, the Alpine Way, at a cost of \$80 million. In the Perisher resorts, an upgrade of essential infrastructure to service winter visitors exceeded \$20 million.

The \$5 million raised from Kosciuszko National Park visitor entry fees each year is spent exclusively in the park, but there is still a lot to be done.

of more than \$250 million over the next 30 years, representing the most significant upgrade to infrastructure and tourism facilities since the park's creation in 1944.

On top of the \$15 million spent every year by the NSW Government, more than \$12 million will be made available between 2006 and 2009 for major park improvements and new visitor facilities in the alpine resorts and elsewhere in the park.

the continuation of established recreation activities. It requires more climate change research and education, greater recognition of Aboriginal people in park management, and improved environmental accountability.

The new plan of management is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Message from the NSW Minister for the Environment



Since its formation, Kosciuszko National Park has faced more significant pressures than any other national park in NSW. In the 1950s, the massive Snowy Hydro Scheme was largely constructed within the park boundary. This vast infrastructure project, vitally necessary though it was to our nation's economic future, significantly impacted the park's fragile alpine environment. Similarly, with the rapid development of the ski industry – especially since the 1970s – many hundreds of thousands of winter visitors have placed an enormous strain on park infrastructure.

The number of visitors skiing and snowboarding has grown substantially over the last 10 years with the average number climbing beyond one million each season. In the past five years alone the Government has spent over \$100 million maintaining the infrastructure supporting winter visitors.

All the money raised from the park entry fees is spent in Kosciuszko National Park, however each year this represents less than one third of the total amount required to maintain the park. Until now, the remainder of the bill has been met by the NSW taxpayer.

This is why the Government requested that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), which sets the price of gas, water and electricity in NSW, conduct a review of the costs of providing and managing municipal services and facilities within the NSW alpine resorts.

After a thorough investigation, IPART reported that the cost of running the resorts is greater than what skiers and snowboarders pay. IPART recommended that, in future, this cost should be predominantly borne by users of the ski fields, rather than continue to be paid for by all NSW taxpayers.

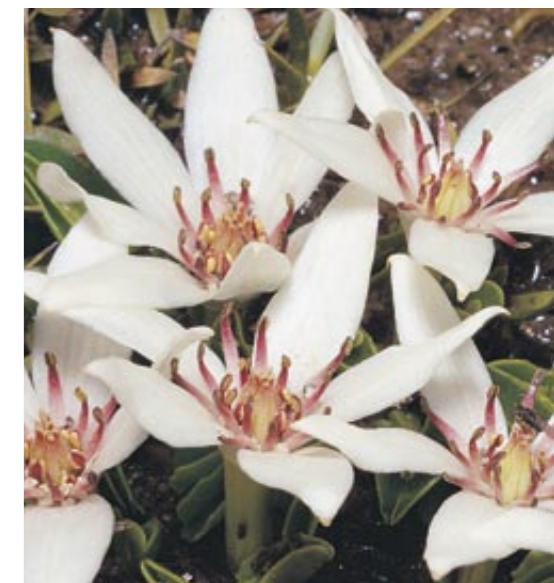
Following IPART's advice a new set of fees and charges will apply to lessees, developers, and visitors using the alpine resorts in winter. A winter surcharge will only apply from the June to the October long weekend, with no day entry surcharge for the other eight months of the year. The surcharge will be implemented in two stages bringing the cost of entering NSW ski fields in line with Victorian ski fields, which charge between \$25 and \$28 for entry during the ski season.

You will experience the benefits of the increased park entry fee every time you visit Kosciuszko. You'll find improved roads to get you to the skifields safely and on time, new trails to explore, better essential services such as sewerage, water and waste management, and when you want a break from the slopes, you will find new walking tracks, lookouts, camping areas and other facilities to enjoy. Behind the scenes, you will be contributing to protecting the park's precious flora and fauna and helping to restore this magnificent place.

The NSW Government's Towards Centenary project will provide first class essential services for skiers and overnight visitors to the park and make Kosciuszko National Park one of the world's best year-round tourism destinations. It will also ensure the park's fragile environment is better protected than ever before.

Thank you for contributing to the upgrade of one of the world's greatest natural wonders. You will experience the difference.

Bob Debus
Minister for the Environment





Kosciuszko National Park Towards Centenary Project

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How the

Towards Centenary Project

is enhancing tourism and recreation opportunities and restoring Kosciuszko's natural and cultural values

Heritage tourism



\$1 million over 5 years for:
Restoring Kiandra Courthouse and Yarrangobilly Caves Area

Aboriginal heritage management partnerships



\$500,000 over 5 years for:
Creating opportunities for Aboriginal people to connect with country and work together on initiatives

Walking tracks & camping areas



\$1 million over 5 years for:
New camping areas, lookouts, walking tracks, toilets in the northern part of the park
Improved walking track network such as a new track from Bullocks Flat to Thredbo Village

Protecting wildlife on access roads



\$200,000 over 5 years for:
Increasing funding to volunteer wildlife care groups
Working with the RTA to protect wildlife in road corridors through reduced speed zones, improved signage, barriers and crossings

Hut reconstruction



\$500,000 over 5 years for:
Rebuilding huts lost in the 2003 bushfires

Alpine resort areas



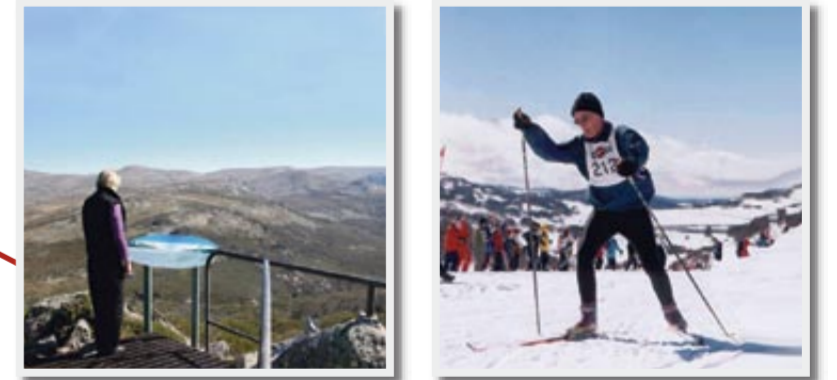
\$1.2 million over 5 years for:
Creating faster access to the ski resorts by upgrading the entry stations to reduce traffic congestion, improving shuttle services and other transport options

Repairing the roof of Australia



\$500,000 over 5 years for:
Stabilising and rehabilitating works on the Main Range
Ongoing rehabilitation of grazing and fire impacts
Improving the walking track network

Tourism promotion & visitor facilities



\$1 million over 5 years for:
Improved visitor information and education opportunities
Increased marketing and tourism promotion of the park
Improved cross country skiing facilities
Upgraded facilities for horse riders such as improved camping areas & relocation of the Bicentennial National Trail at Geehi/Tom Groggin

Park restoration



\$1.3 million over 5 years for:
Protecting the park through weed control, feral animal control, soil conservation and rehabilitation works

Perisher Range Resorts



\$40 million over 5 years for:
Rebuilding essential infrastructure for water, sewerage, roads and waste management



KEY

- Picnic only area
- Camping/picnic area/toilets
- NPWS Information
- Lookout
- Visitor Entry Station
- Historic building
- Walking track
- Horse camp
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Skitube
- 4WD trail
- Kosciuszko National Park
- Wilderness area