



**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



**PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO
KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

FEBRUARY 2014

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OEH 2013/0812

INVITATION TO COMMENT

A plan of management for Kosciuszko National Park was adopted in 2006.

Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) provides that the Minister may amend a plan of management. The procedure for the exhibition and adoption of an amendment is specified in the Act and involves:

- The proposed amendment is placed on public exhibition for at least 45 days and any person may comment on it;
- The amendment and submissions received on the amendment are referred to the Regional Advisory Committee for consideration;
- The amendment, submissions and any advice from the Regional Advisory Committee are referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for consideration;
- The amendment, submissions and the recommendations of the Advisory Council are referred to the Minister, and a copy referred to the Regional Advisory Committee;
- After considering the submissions, the recommendations of the Advisory Council and any advice from the Regional Advisory Committee, the Minister may adopt the amendment to the plan or may refer the amendment back to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Council for further consideration.

Members of the public are invited to comment on proposed amendments to the plan of management for Kosciuszko National Park.

Submissions should be in writing and be forwarded to:

- (i) NPWS Planner, Kosciuszko Mountain Biking
Kosciuszko POM Amendments
National Parks and Wildlife Service
PO Box 733,
Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- (ii) e-mailing your submission to: resorts@environment.nsw.gov.au
- (iii) submitting your comments on-line at www.environment.nsw.gov.au

The closing date for comments on these amendments is Friday 4 April 2014.

All submissions received by the National Parks and Wildlife Service are a matter of public record and are available for public inspection upon request. Your comments on these amendments may contain information that is defined as “personal information” under the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. The submission of personal information with your comments is voluntary.

BACKGROUND

OEH supports high quality mountain biking experiences provided in an ecologically and socially responsible manner in NSW national parks and reserves (*OEH Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy, 2011*).

The *OEH Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy* recognises Kosciuszko as one of the reserves where “single track” experiences exist. The strategy also provides a mechanism for proposing Plan of Management amendments to enable development of new mountain biking opportunities where the experience satisfies certain criteria.

Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd (KT) has been providing mountain bike trails at Thredbo since the early 1990s. Initially these trails were on the in resort management trail but over time they moved off the management trail network to “single track” trails. Thredbo resort is recognised as an Australian mountain bike destination providing a range of single track experiences in the lower parts of the valley for cross-country riding and the chairlift accessed signature downhill trail known as the Thredbo Downhill. The Thredbo trail network can be viewed at <http://www.thredbo.com.au/activities/summer-activities/biking/>.

KT are proposing to expand the trail network to provide more intermediate trails and to link the village network to the soon to be completed Thredbo Valley multi-use trail linking Thredbo to Bullocks Flat on the Alpine Way.

The Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006 (POM) recognised mountain biking as a legitimate and growing recreational activity in the park and required the development of a cycling strategy. The *OEH Cycling Strategy and Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy (2011)* has now provided a clear policy direction for assessing new developments across the park estate.

The POM currently only permits cycling on roads and management trails within the Visitor Services Zones (which includes the alpine resort areas), Major and Minor Road Corridors and Back Country Zone. The plan of management is a statutory instrument and all activities within the park must be consistent with the plan.

OEH recognises that the POM limitations on mountain bike opportunities by restricting them to existing management trails is not in step with the merit based assessment process provided for under the Sustainable Mountain Bike Strategy. It also does not reflect that the majority of the trail network in Thredbo has been in the main a “single trail” network largely off the management trail network since the late 1990s.

OEH recommend amendments to the PoM to allow appropriate consideration of sustainable mountain biking opportunities in Kosciuszko National Park consistent with the *OEH Sustainable Mountain Biking Strategy*, and subject to merit based statutory environmental assessment through Development Consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The assessment of applications for Department Consent will include formal

consideration of potential risks to visitor safety and impacts on threatened species, population or Endangered Ecological Communities.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The following amendments are proposed to the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management (2006).

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (1)

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.3

8.11.1.3. Permit cycling on all roads and trails within the Visitor Services Zone, Major and Minor Road Corridors and Back Country Zone with the exception of:

- Trails, or sections of trails, that traverse threatened species habitats or contain lengthy sections of wet ground; and
- Trails, or sections of trails, where cycling poses an unacceptable risk to the safety of other users.

Replace with new wording:

- 8.11.1.3. Permit cycling on all roads and approved purpose built or designated cycling tracks within the Visitor Services Zone, Major and Minor Road Corridors and Back Country Zone subject to appropriate risk and environmental assessments and approval.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (2)

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.6

8.11.1.6 Prohibit cycling that does not occur on roads and management trails and prohibit cycling on all designated walking tracks.

Replace with new wording:

8.11.1.6 Prohibit cycling that does not occur on roads, management trails or purpose built mountain bike or shared use trails and prohibit cycling on all designated walking tracks.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (3)

Current wording of Section 8.11.1.11

8.11.1.11 Permit downhill mountain bike riding on approved existing management trails only within the alpine resort areas. Monitor the environmental impact of this activity and manage it within the bounds of threshold limits.

Replace with new wording:

8.11.1.11 Permit mountain bike riding on approved purpose built cycling or shared use tracks only within the alpine resort areas. Monitor the environmental impact of this activity and manage it within the bounds of threshold limits.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (4)

Current wording of Schedule 4 Table S4.1

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	designated management trails only ⁴	management trails only	roads and management trails only	roads and management trails only	roads and management trails only

Replace with new wording:

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	designated management trails only ⁴	management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only	roads and management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only	roads and management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only	roads and management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only

PROPOSED AMENDMENT (5)

Current wording of Schedule 4 Table S4.2

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	group activities with consent on designated management trails only ⁴	with consent on management trails only	with consent on roads and management trails only	with consent on roads and management trails only	with consent on roads and management trails only

Replace with new wording:

Zone	Wilderness	Back Country	Minor Road Corridors	Major Road Corridors	Visitor Services
Cycling	group activities with consent on designated management trails only ⁴	with consent on management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only	with consent on roads and management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only	with consent on roads and management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only	with consent on roads and management trails and purpose built cycling or multiple use tracks only

