



NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

# Kosciuszko National Park Draft Amendment to the Plan of Management Snowy 2.0



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## Have your say

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) proposes to amend the *Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management* under Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

We want to know what you think about this draft plan amendment. To give us feedback, please send a written submission by either:



the online submission form at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say)



email to [npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.parkplanning@environment.nsw.gov.au)



post to Manager, Planning Evaluation and Assessment, Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by **22 March 2020**.

To help us make the best use of your feedback:

- Please tell us what issue or part of the amendment you are talking about. One way you can do this is to include the section heading and/or page number from the amendment in your submission.
- Tell us how we can make the amendment better. You may want to tell us what you know about the park or how you or other people use and value it.

We are happy to hear any ideas or comments and will consider them all, but please be aware that we can't always include all information or ideas in the final.

## What happens to your feedback?

- Step 1: At the close of the public exhibition period, we consider all submissions and prepare a submissions report. Multiple submissions received by the same author will be counted as a single submission.
- Step 2: We provide the relevant local advisory committee and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council with the draft amendment, all the submissions and the submissions report. They consider the documents, make comments on the amendment or suggest changes, and provide advice to the Minister for Energy and Environment.
- Step 3: The Minister considers the amendment, submissions and advice, makes any necessary changes and decides whether to adopt the amendment under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

## Your privacy

Your submission will be provided to two advisory bodies. Your comments on the draft amendment may include personal information. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment complies with the NSW *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, which regulates the collection, storage, quality, use and disclosure of personal information. For details see [Privacy and security](#).

Information that identifies you may be gathered when you use our website or send us an email.

If you indicate in your written submission that you object to your submission being made public, we will ask you before releasing your submission in response to any access applications under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

## Why amend the plan?

The Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management was adopted in 2006. Section 73B of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) enables the Minister to amend a plan of management.

The Snowy 2.0 project will increase the generating capacity of the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme by linking Tantangara and Talbingo Reservoirs through 27 kilometres of new tunnels and building a new underground power station. This will enable the generation of electricity when demand is high, and the pumping of water from Talbingo to Tantangara Reservoir during periods when generation of electricity is surplus to community needs.

A number of legislative changes have been enacted to enable the Snowy 2.0 project to be undertaken. These will lead to leases licences and easements being issued for the project under the NPW Act. An amendment of the plan is required to ensure that Snowy 2.0 construction and operations authorised under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and issuing of tenure under the NPW Act can be undertaken in accordance with the plan.

## Changes to the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997*

The *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997* (SHC Act) has been amended through the adoption of the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Amendment (Snowy 2.0) Act 2018*.

The amendments to the SHC Act enable the Minister for Energy and Environment to issue leases, licences, easements and rights of way under Part 12 of the NPW Act necessary for the undertaking of the Snowy 2.0 project. These changes enable the Minister to grant these permissions despite any inconsistency with:

- the objects of the NPW Act
- the management principles for national parks set out in section 30E of the NPW Act
- the criteria for the granting of permissions set out in section 151A and 151B of the NPW Act
- any other provisions of the NPW Act

The amendments also conditionally provide for the granting of instruments to Snowy Hydro and Transgrid, despite any of the provisions of the NPW Act.

The amendments serve to prevent section 81 (4) of the NPW Act from prohibiting Snowy 2.0 operations from being undertaken that are not in accordance with Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006, during the period of three years beginning on the first approval being granted under the EP&A Act for any part of the Snowy 2.0 project. The first Snowy 2.0 project approval issued under the EP&A Act was granted in February 2019.

## **Permissions issued for the Snowy 2.0 project under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974***

A number of leases and licences have been issued for the Snowy 2.0 project under Part 12 of the NPW Act as per the provisions of the SHC Act. These include permissions for exploratory works, main works and the operation of a substation at Ravine. Investigation is currently under way for the transmission line component of the project for assessment under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

## **Requirement to amend the plan**

The permissions issued under the NPW Act as per the provisions of the SHC Act authorise the undertaking of a number of operations in park which are not currently in accordance with the plan of management. The SHC Act serves to prevent the plan of management from prohibiting these activities until February 2022. An amendment to the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management is required to ensure that all Snowy 2.0 operations undertaken after February 2022 are consistent with the plan of management.

## **How to read the amendment**

The proposed amendment replaces some of the existing plan's text and provides new text. These changes should be read in conjunction with the online version of the [Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management 2006](#) which incorporates amendments undertaken in 2010 and 2014. Section numbers referred to in the amendment refer to the above plan of management.

# Amendments

The Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management was adopted in 2006. Below are the proposed amendments to the plan.

## Aligning the plan of management with the provisions of the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997*

### Preliminary (page iii)

**Add** an additional point to the end of the list on page iii:

#### 6. Snowy Hydro 2.0

Despite any other provisions of the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management, the management objectives of Kosciuszko National Park and all management units within Kosciuszko National Park include the undertaking of Snowy 2.0 project works as authorised under any Snowy 2.0 leases, licences and easements granted under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, as defined under the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997*.

### Section 12.5 Snowy Hydro Limited (page 216)

**Remove:**

The operation of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme is addressed in the Snowy Park Lease between the Minister for the Environment and Snowy Hydro Limited. The Scheme comprises an integrated network of dams and tunnels, aqueducts and power stations that collect, divert, store and release water for generating hydro-electricity. In 2002, the Scheme was corporatised and the assets and liabilities were transferred to Snowy Hydro Limited. The shareholders under the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997* are the governments of the Commonwealth of Australia, the State of New South Wales and the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.

**Replace with:**

The operation of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme is addressed in the Snowy Park Lease between the Minister for the Environment and Snowy Hydro Limited. The Scheme comprises an integrated network of dams and tunnels, aqueducts and power stations that collect, divert, store and release water for generating hydro-electricity. In 2002, the Scheme was corporatised and the assets and liabilities were transferred to Snowy Hydro Limited. The shareholder under the *Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997* is the Commonwealth of Australia.

**Add** a new paragraph between the first and second paragraphs:

In 2018 the Snowy Hydro 2.0 project commenced within Kosciuszko National Park. This project will increase the generating capacity of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme through linking of Tantangara and Talbingo Reservoirs and the construction of an additional underground power station.

**Add** a new dot point in the third paragraph after the second dot point:

- Snowy 2.0 leases;

**Section 12.6 Electricity Transmission Authorities and Telecommunication Carriers, Policies and Actions, number 6 (page 219)**

**Remove:**

Require all additional telecommunication and transmission lines to be located underground.

**Replace with:**

Require all additional telecommunication and transmission lines to be located underground, except those constructed as part of the Snowy 2.0 project.