

Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board ('the board')

1. Purpose

- To identify the key objectives to ensure stewardship of the environmental assets of the Falls Creek Alpine Resort; and,
- To identify roles in implementing the Policy statement

2. Strategic Vision

A vibrant and sustainable village offering memorable alpine experiences underpinned by environmental stewardship and leadership in best-practice environmental management.

Context;

Falls Creek Alpine Resort (resort) is situated on Crown Land surrounded by State Forest and National Park. The resort supports alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems contiguous with the broader alpine area and provides habitat for a number of rare and threatened flora and fauna species. The resort is situated at the top of the Upper Kiewa River catchment which provides a significant contribution to flows to the River Murray. The environment is characterised by low winter temperatures, highly erosive soils with low nutrient content and high precipitation falling as rain or snow. Topography consists largely of steep slopes interspersed with high plateaux, including areas of flats and bogs.

The resort is also a popular year-round recreation and holiday destination. There is a strong interest in a range of snow-based activities and clear indications of a growth in summer visitation and activities. Along with the other alpine resorts Falls Creek provides a key economic driver for Victoria. The provision of services and land use within the resort, along with future growth and development must consider the unique alpine environment in which the resort operates.

3. Responsibilities

The Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board (Board) will:

- Incorporate the Policy statement points into all decision making;
- Lead and promote environmental stewardship in the Falls Creek community; and,
- Ensure that the implementation of the Policy statement is implemented by Management in the corporate Plan and other strategic plans.

Falls Creek Resort Management (FCRM) will:

- Ensure that all operations and activities are in accordance with the Policy;
- Provide environmental leadership throughout the Falls Creek community; and,
- Annually report against Policy KPIs.

4. Policy Statement

The Board is responsible for the protection and enhancement of the resort's natural assets. The Board commits to sustainable management practices which achieve compatibility between the development, maintenance and use of the resort and its natural values with particular focus on the sensitive areas both within and adjacent to the resort. Protection and management of the environment are a primary concern and the Board will strive for continuous improvement in environmental practices.

In order to achieve this, the Board will:

- Assess, monitor, and work to minimise the environmental risks and impacts of FCRM activities, operations and infrastructure on the environment.
- Monitor compliance and annually report against the Key Performance Indicators in the Environmental Management System and continually strive to improve environmental performance outcomes;
- Ensure compliance with relevant environmental legislation and regulations e.g. Regulations for the Clearing of Native Vegetation;

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Environment



- Measure our environmental performance and ensure environmental management objectives and actions are reviewed annually, and updated as required;
- Ensure appropriate and ecologically sustainable development is implemented which recognises the need to conserve abiotic and biotic assets, with particular vigilance for endangered and/or rare alpine ecosystems and their components;
- Implement programs to protect and enhance our environmental values, and work with partner agencies such as Parks Victoria to support broad scale environmental priorities;
- Ensure the alpine environment is a primary consideration in the development and use of the resort;
- Strive to embrace and implement best-practice, low impact and environmentally sensitive technology and advancements in environmental knowledge in resort development, maintenance and management;
- Ensure resort operators and stakeholders understand their risks and impacts on the environment and encourage best-practice management options;
- Promote a greater understanding of the environmental significance of the resort through education, interpretation and support of research and,
- Ensure all Corporate Plans have actions to implement the objectives of *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*.

5. Key legislation, regulations and standards

- *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*
- Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation (DELWP 2017)
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Environment Protection for Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

6. Other references and related documents

- Falls Creek Environmental Management System

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