



Our reference: DOC24/390300
SF24/65062

Pygmy Possum Lodge
Co/Jon Barber
1 Kosciuszko Road, Charlotte Pass
NSW 2624
By email: jon.barber@eloueraskiclub.asn.au

Dear Jon,

Asset Protection Zone Plan – Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass

I refer to your application to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to undertake vegetation management and asset improvement works for the ongoing management of an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) for Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass, as per the attached APZ plan.

I understand that the proposed works are required to provide a defensible space around the sites' infrastructure, and to remove any potential hazards which may impact asset safety.

The works proposed include:

- removal of all fine fuels such as leaves, twigs, bark etc surrounding the building;
- removal of any branches that are overhanging the building whether live or dead;
- trimming of any heath to <500mm in height; and
- mowing grasses to <100mm in height.

In undertaking the works, the minimum amount of removal is to be conducted to achieve compliance with the guidance issued by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). In this regard, I note the following provisions of the *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019* guide adopted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* (NSW) which may be relevant to the works:

- native tree canopies will not exceed 15% of the APZ area;
- understorey vegetation will not exceed 10% of the APZ area;
- tree canopies will not be continuous from hazard to asset/building;
- tree canopies will not overhang the asset/building; and
- no understorey vegetation to be located below trees

A full copy of the guide is available online at the following URL:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/building-in-a-bush-fire-area/planning-for-bush-fire-protection>.

Based on the information provided to NPWS, the proposed works are considered likely to have minimal environmental impact and are required to provide an APZ for Pygmy Possum Lodge.

Approval is hereby given under clause 21(2) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019* (NSW) for the proposed works.

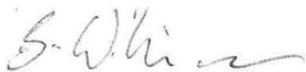
This approval is granted subject to conditions which are set out below:

- 1) If works beyond the scope of those described above and detailed in the attached APZ plan are required, then further consultation with, or application to, NPWS is required.
- 2) All vegetation must be checked to ensure there are no fauna or fauna habitats present prior to trimming. If fauna or evidence of fauna is found, then further consultation with NPWS is required.
- 3) All works must be conducted by handheld equipment (e.g., chainsaw, brush cutter, push mower) by experienced and appropriately licenced persons.
- 4) All cut vegetation should be moved away from the building so that it does not add to the fuel load around the building.
- 5) All works must be in accordance with RFS guidance and standards, and otherwise performed according to law.

This approval is granted for the current term of the lease, and any extension exercised under that lease, for Pygmy Possum Lodge for vegetation management required to maintain the APZ.

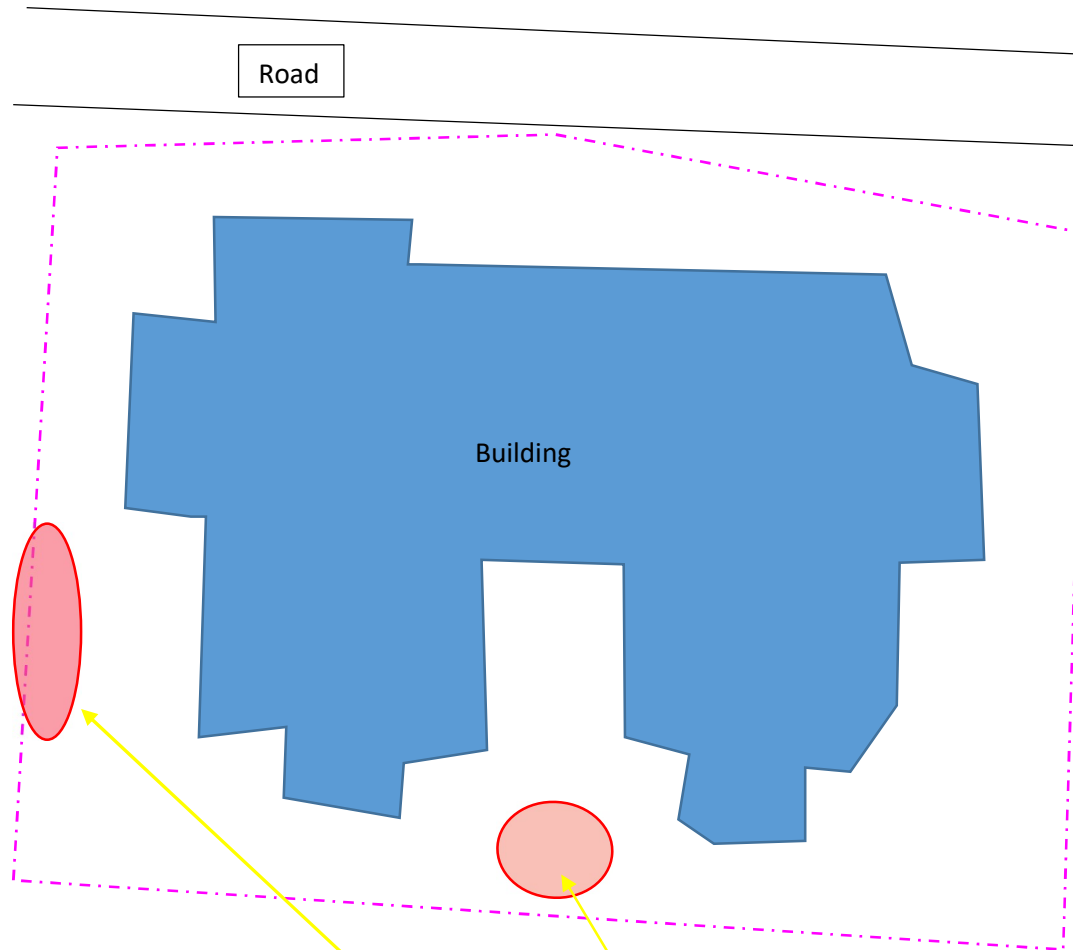
If you have any enquires regarding this matter, please contact Amy Slocombe, Resorts Liaison Officer, on 02 64505575.

Yours sincerely



Bryce Williams
A/Team Leader, REST
Southern Ranges Branch
20 May 2024


Pygmy Possum Lodge LEASE AREA APZ




Road

Building

Legend

 APZ & Lease area

 Native Vegetation Island to be retained

APZ Composition (within purple boundary)

- Maximum 15% of the APZ as canopy (trees at maturity)
- Maximum 10% of the APZ as understory (heath)
- Remainder APZ to have vegetation managed to a height of 100mm

** No shrubs beneath trees.

** Where APZ management works leads to bare ground then this area must be planted with native Poa and be maintained until an erosion resistant state is achieved.

APZ Management

- Removal of fine fuels.
- Regular maintenance of grass – to less than 100mm in height.
- Tree canopy should not overhang the building.
- Prune or remove trees so there is not a continuous tree canopy from hazard to asset. Separate tree crowns by 2-5 metres.
- Prune lower branches from trees up to 2m above ground.
- Removal of dead wood from trees.
- Native trees and shrubs can be retained as clumps or islands. (see photographs) Individuals of *Podocarpus lawrencii* (Mountain Plum Pine) must be retained (specifically the clump located on the Western side of the lease area.)
- Vegetation should not touch the building.
- Removal of weeds and more flammable species first.
- Remove saplings as they grow.

Native vegetation to be retained as islands. See photographs attached.

Plan Name: APZ Management Plan

Plan date: 21 Nov 2020

Who drew the plan: Jon Barber

Revised: 20 May 2024

Site address: Pygmy Possum Lodge,
1 Kosciuszko Road,
Lot 108, DP1242013,
Charlotte Pass Village

Other notes: Not to scale



Western side, a large Mountain plum pine (*Podocarpus lawrencii*) is located along this side amongst the boulders. Individuals of this species must not be cut or trimmed further due to its significance for Pygmy Possums food source and habitat.



This vegetation island should be retained at the rear of the lodge to assist with pygmy Possum migration habits.