

# Kosciuszko Flow Trail World Cup Node, Thredbo

Development Application Assessment DA 23/14875

December 2023



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Cover image: Main Range, Kosciuszko National Park (Source: Alpine Resorts Team)

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## **Glossary**

Abbreviation	Definition	
BC Act	Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	
BC Regulation	Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017	
BDAR	Biodiversity Development Assessment Report	
BVM	Biodiversity Values Map	
Consent	Development Consent	
СРР	Community Participation Plan	
Department	Department of Planning and Environment	
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979	
EP&A Regulation 2021	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021	
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument	
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development	
KNP	Kosciuszko National Park	
Minister	Minister for Planning	
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service	
Planning Secretary	Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment	
SEE	Statement of Environmental Effects	
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy	

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## 1 Introduction

This report contains the Department's assessment of the Development Application (DA 23/14875) lodged by Kosciuszko Thredbo Pty Ltd (the Applicant) seeking approval for the development of the Kosciuszko Flow Trail World Cup Node within Thredbo Alpine Resort, Kosciuszko National Park (KNP).

The Applicant seeks approval for an addition to the existing Kosciuszko Flow Trail in the form of a 'node' which would provide a diversion for riders when the existing trail requires closure and to provide a new and interesting riding experience for users (**Figure 1**).

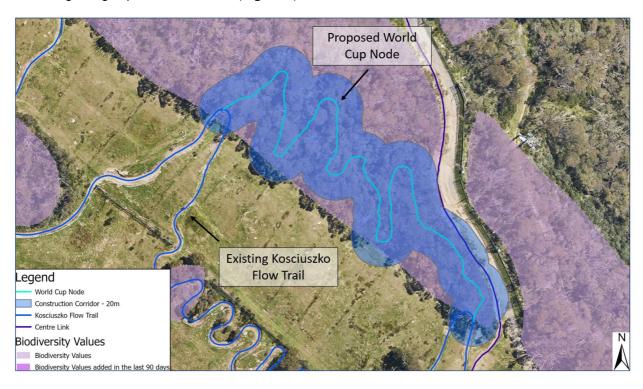


Figure 1 | Site map identifying the proposed node in conjunction with the existing Kosciuszko Flow Trail (Source: Applicant's Statement of Environmental Effects [SEE] 2023)

The Kosciuszko Flow Trail is an intermediate gravity trail of approximately 4.5 kilometres in length which runs between Black Sallees and the Valley Terminal (VT). The Flow Trail has been subject to five DA's relating to change of use, construction of an overpass, closure and rehabilitation of 240 metre of existing trail, additional trail construction, addition of a skills / jump park, trail diversion, and additional minor alterations.

The Applicant notes that the purpose of the development is to allow for an alternative section of trail that can be utilised when the main Kosciuszko Flow Trail needs to be closed for extended maintenance and during emergency events. Additionally, the node would be utilised to provide a new and interesting experience for riders visiting Thredbo Alpine Resort.

The proposed node would traverse land listed as having high biodiversity values, **Figure 1**. To facilitate the proposed trail, clearing of native vegetation would be required. A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) has been provided as part of the DA, with offsets proposed under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) for the 0.07ha of vegetation requiring clearing (**Figure 2**) and 0.07ha impact to native fauna. An assessment of biodiversity impacts is provided in **Section 4**.



**Figure 2** | Proposed trail alignment identifying the need for vegetation clearing (Source: Applicant's SEE 2023)

The estimated cost of works for the proposal is \$39,304.98.

Supporting documents to this assessment report can be found on the NSW Planning Portal website at:

 $\frac{https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/development-assessment/state-significant-applications/projects/state-development-applications}{}$ 

## 2 Matters for Consideration

#### 2.1 Strategic Context

#### South East and Tableland Regional Plan 2036

The proposal is consistent with the Regional Plan as it would provide a diversion to allow the existing trail to remain open during emergency or maintenance closure of the main flow trail, allowing the resort to continue to meet the demands of the growing mountain biking community within Thredbo Alpine Resort, which leads to continued visitation to the NSW ski resorts during the summer period.

#### **Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan**

The proposal is consistent with the Master Plan as the trail node limits its impacts upon sensitive vegetation and supports the continued visitor base for mountain biking within Thredbo Alpine Resort and KNP.

#### **Precincts - Regional SEPP**

The proposal is consistent with Chapter 4 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP as the development will be undertaken in an ecologically sustainable way to prevent adverse environmental, social or economic impacts on the natural or cultural environment, ensuring that KNP values are being protected and upheld.

Under the provisions of section 4.27 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have a commenting role as the land manager, which includes administering the Plan of Management framework for KNP that incorporates objectives, principles and policies to guide the long-term management of the KNP. NPWS have recommended conditions to prevent adverse environmental, social or economic impacts on the natural or cultural environment.

#### **Draft South East and Tableland Regional Plan 2041**

The draft plan was publicly exhibited from 8 August 2022 until 23 September 2022. The draft plan underwent extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders with feedback incorporated into an updated version of the draft plan that was re-exhibited from 9 December 2022 to 31 January 2023. The draft plan identifies the alpine areas as providing important biodiversity to the region and acknowledges the alpine area's contribution to the region's tourism economy.

The proposal is consistent with the draft Regional Plan as it will not result in adverse biodiversity impacts and would enhance mountain biking activity in the Thredbo Alpine Resort. This supports the maintenance of visitation to the resort, along with the local and regional economy.

#### 2.2 Permissibility

The proposal includes the construction of a node to an existing mountain bike trail is consistent with the definition of 'recreation infrastructure' as defined in the Precincts – Regional SEPP. Pursuant to section 4.7 of the Precincts – Regional SEPP, 'recreation infrastructure' is permissible with consent within Thredbo Alpine Resort.

### 2.3 Mandatory Matters for Consideration

### Objects of the EP&A Act

### Table 1 | Objects of the EP&A Act

Obj	ects of the EP&A Act	Consideration
(a)	to promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources,	The proposal supports the ongoing use of Thredbo Alpine Resort for tourism through providing a trail node to allow for the continued use of the Kosciuszko Flow Trail during periods of closure of the main trail.  The works to the site would have positive social and economic impacts and provide for continued mountain bike trail access.
(b)	to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment,	The proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the environment thus being ecologically sustainable development. Mitigation measures during construction have been included in the recommended conditions of consent and impacts on biodiversity limited.
(c)	to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land,	The Applicant comments that the development's impacts are expected to be positive as the development will allow for the trail to remain accessible while the sections of the main trail are required to be closed.  The Department raised no concerns with the proposal as the works improve facilities within Thredbo Alpine Resort.
(d)	to promote the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing,	Not applicable to this proposal.
(e)	to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats,	Impacts upon the environment have been limited to avoid sensitive areas where possible. Minor impacts to vegetation listed on the Biodiversity Values Map (BVM) have been identified, with mitigation measures being implemented to reduce impacts and offsets under the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS) proposed. An assessment of impacts is provided in <b>Section 4.</b>
(f)	to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage),	The proposed development is not anticipated to result in any impacts upon built and cultural heritage, including Aboriginal cultural heritage.

		NPWS commented that the potential for impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage has been addressed in the SEE. No additional assessment is required.
(g)	to promote good design and amenity of the built environment,	The Department considers that the proposal responds to its existing setting and minimises impacts upon natural environment. See discussion in <b>Section 4</b> .
(h)	to promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants,	The Department has recommended conditions of consent to ensure the proposal is undertaken in accordance with legislation, guidelines, policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of people and animals who may be present in the area of works (refer to <b>Appendix A</b> ).
(i)	to promote the sharing of the responsibility for environmental planning and assessment between the different levels of government in the State,	The Department consulted with relevant government agencies and considered their responses (refer to <b>Section 3</b> and <b>Section 4</b> ).
(j)	to provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment.	The proposal was made publicly available in accordance with the Department's Community Participation Plan (refer to <b>Section 3</b> ).

#### Considerations under section 4.15 of the EP&A Act

Table 2 | Section 4.15(1) Matters for Consideration

Section 4.15(1) Evaluation	Consideration
(a)(i) any environmental planning instrument (EPI)	The Precincts - Regional SEPP is the principal EPI which applies to the site for this type of development. An assessment against the requirements of Chapter 4 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP is provided below.
	The Department is satisfied that the Application is consistent with the requirements of Chapter 4 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP.
(a)(ii) any proposed instrument	Not applicable to the proposal.
(a)(iii) any development control plan	Not applicable to the proposal.
(a)(iiia) any planning agreement	Not applicable to the proposal.
(a)(iv) the regulations	The application satisfactorily meets the relevant requirements of the EP&A Regulation, particularly the

procedures relating to development applications (Part 3 and Part 4) and fees (Part 13 and Schedule 4).

The Department has undertaken its assessment in accordance with all relevant matters as prescribed by the regulations, the findings of which are contained within this report.

(a)(v) any coastal zone management plan

Not applicable to the proposal.

(b) the likely impacts of that development

The Department has considered the likely impacts of the development. Environmental impacts have been contained where possible and site works can be appropriately managed and mitigated through conditions of consent.

(c) the suitability of the site for the development,

The proposed trail utilises land close to the existing site to limit the amount of impact from the node. Further assessment can be observed in **Section 4**.

(d) any submissions made in accordance with this Act or the regulations,

Consideration has been given to submissions received from the NPWS. Refer to **Section 3** and **Section 4** of this report.

(e) the public interest.

The works are consistent with the aim and objectives of Chapter 4 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP, including the objective to encourage the carrying out a suitable range of development in the resort areas to support sustainable tourism in the Alpine Region. The development will be compatible with the ongoing operation of the resort.

Temporary impacts to the environment have been identified and will be appropriately managed, mitigated and contained. The development is considered to support the economic viability of the Resort while maintaining the health and diversity of the environment, thereby supporting the principles of ESD.

The approval of the proposal is considered to be consistent with the public interest.

#### **Environmental Planning Instruments**

State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts - Regional) 2021 (Precincts - Regional SEPP) is the principal EPI applicable to the development. Consideration of the relevant provisions to the proposal within Chapter 4 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP is provided in **Table 3**.

No contamination within the site and surrounding area has been identified. There are no further matters under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021* that need to be considered.

Table 3 | Precincts - Regional SEPP, Chapter 4 considerations

Chapter 4 - Precincts - Regional SEPP - I	Kosciusko Alpine Region
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Chapter 4 - Fredhicts - Regional OEFF - Rosciusko Alpine Region		
Section 4.9 Demolition		
The demolition of a building or work on land in the Alpine Region	No demolition of buildings is proposed under this DA.	
Section 4.21 Heritage conservation		
European heritage	The proposal would not impact on any European heritage items.	
Aboriginal heritage	NPWS raised no concerns with the proposal, with the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment following a suitable process.	
	NPWS recommended that should any Aboriginal objects be uncovered during construction, any works impacting the objects must cease immediately and the NPWS contacted for assessment of the site.	
Section 4.24 Flood planning		
Development on land in the flood planning area	The site is not located in a flood planning area and is not subject to flooding.	
Section 4.25 Earthworks		
Impact of earthworks	The trail construction would involve removal of the existing vegetation and creation of the trail within the soil beneath. The Department considers that the earthworks proposed are unlikely to cause the disruption to, or adversely impact on, drainage patterns or soil stability in the locality of the development. Works will be undertaken to avoid impacts on the environment or the	

amenity of any park users while supporting the current use of the land.

A condition of consent will require appropriate sedimentation and erosion control measures to be in place in accordance with the NPWS Guidelines.

#### Section 4.27 Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service

Consult with, and consider submissions from the NPWS

The proposal was referred to NPWS and comments were received. Refer to consideration of NPWS referral comments in **Section 3** of this report.

#### Section 4.28(1) - Consideration of master plans and other documents

(a) the aim and objectives of this policy, as set out in section 4.1

Refer to above comments.

(b) a draft development control plan that is intended to apply to the land and has been published on the NSW planning portal

(repealed in November 2023)

The Draft Alpine Precinct Development Control Plan is currently on exhibition between 17 November 2023 and 20 December 2023.

At the time of exhibition of the Draft DCP, the Department notes that Section 4.28(1)(b) was repealed.

No additional discussion is therefore required.

(c) a conservation agreement under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 of the Commonwealth that applies to the land.

Not applicable to the development.

(d) the Geotechnical Policy -Kosciuszko
Alpine Resorts published by the
Department in November 2003,

The site is within the G zone identified on the Department's Geotechnical Policy – Kosciusko Alpine Reports Thredbo Map.

The Applicant commented that the proposed trail does not require any structures or platforms to traverse watercourses and therefore, only comprises minor earthworks. Therefore, a Form 4 is not required.

The Department has considered the Applicants comments and the objectives of the Geotechnical Policy.

Construction of trails typically involve disturbance / excavation works within the top 500mm of the ground level. Stability issues associated with these works can be effectively addressed by trail builders. It is noted that

no platforms are proposed in this DA, which would have involved footings to be constructed.

No further assessment on geotechnical matters is considered necessary.

(e) for development in the Perisher Range Alpine Resort—

(i) the Perisher Range Resorts Master Plan, published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in November 2001 and

(ii) the Perisher Blue Ski Resort Ski Slope Master Plan adopted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in May 2002.

Not applicable, as site is located within Thredbo Alpine Resort.

#### Section 4.29 Consideration of environmental, geotechnical and other matters

Under section 4.29(1) - In deciding whether to grant development consent to development in the Alpine Region, the consent authority must consider the following -

 (a) measures proposed to address geotechnical issues relating to the development, Refer to comments above.

- (b) the extent to which the development will achieve an appropriate balance between -
  - (i) the conservation of the natural environment, and
  - (ii) taking measures to mitigate environmental hazards, including geotechnical hazards, bush fires and flooding,

The proposed works have been designed to avoid and mitigate impacts on the natural environment. The land is not subject to flooding and no measures to protect against bushfire are required.

Natural hazards have been adequately addressed.

(c) the visual impact of the proposed development, particularly when viewed from the land identified as the Main Range Management Unit in the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management, The construction of the mountain bike trail will not result in visual impact on the locality.

(d) the cumulative impacts of development and resource use on the

The works proposed relate to the creation of a mountain bike trail node through biodiversity values (BV) mapped environment of the Alpine Subregion in which the development is carried out, land. The development will not result in any changes to resource use or impact the facilities in place to support development and visitor patronage of facilities in the Alpine resorts.

 (e) the capacity of existing infrastructure and services for transport to and within the Alpine Region to deal with additional usage generated by the development, including in peak periods, No additional usage of the infrastructure and service network is predicted as a result of the project.

(f) the capacity of existing waste or resource management facilities to deal with additional waste generated by the development, including in peak periods. The project will not generate ongoing operational waste by the development. The capacity of existing waste facilities to deal with any waste from the project is considered adequate.

Under section 4.29(2) - For development involving earthworks or stormwater draining works, the consent authority must also consider -

Measures to mitigate adverse impacts associated with the works

No negative impacts to stormwater are anticipated.

Measures to mitigate impacts of the earthworks have been considered previously and are detailed further in **Section 4** of this report. The impacts are considered to be acceptable.

Under section 4.29(3) - For development the consent authority considers will significantly alter the character of an Alpine Subregion, the consent authority must also consider -

(a) the existing character of the site and immediate surroundings, and

The development will not significantly alter the character of an Alpine Subregion, or the character of the site and immediate surroundings.

(b) how the development will relate to the Alpine Subregion.

As above.

#### Section 4.30 Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management

Consistency between the development and the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management

The Department is satisfied that approval of the proposal would not be inconsistent with the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management.

#### **Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)**

The EP&A Act adopts the definition of ESD found in the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act* 1991. ESD initiatives and sustainability have been adequately considered by the Applicant and mitigation measures are proposed to be incorporated into the design.

The proposal is consistent with the ESD principles and the Department is satisfied the proposal works have been developed having regard to ESD principles, in accordance with the objects of the EP&A Act as follows:

- the works support the orderly and economic use of the site;
- the proposal is not expected to adversely impact upon the health, diversity, or productivity of the environment for future generations; and
- the proposal does not impact upon cultural heritage, including Aboriginal cultural heritage.

#### **Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016**

Section 1.7 of the EP&A Act requires the application of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) in connection with the terrestrial environment. The BC Act introduced a Biodiversity Offsets Scheme (BOS) that applies when:

- the amount of native vegetation being cleared exceeds a certain threshold area; or
- the impacts occur within an area mapped on the Biodiversity Values Map (BVM) published by the Minister for Environment; or
- the 'test of significance', in section 7.3 of the BC Act, identifies that the development or activity is likely to significantly effect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats; or
- the works are carried out in a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value.

The Applicant comments that the proposal is expected to impact upon 0.07ha of vegetation mapped on the BVM and 0.07ha of fauna impact, though noting that the impacts to native vegetation and associated fauna habitats would be minimal.

The Applicant submitted a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) to meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Assessment Method 2020 as the site is mapped on the BVM. The BDAR determined that a total of two (2) ecosystem credit and four (4) species credit is required to be retired as a result of the proposal impact. Further consideration assessment of the BDAR is provided in **Section 4**.

The BDAR also determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) or Commonwealth land, and a referral to the Commonwealth Environment Minister is therefore not required.

The Department notes that there is currently no declared area of outstanding biodiversity value within KNP.

## 3 Submissions

#### 3.1 Department's engagement

The Department's Community Participation Plan, November 2019, prepared in accordance with Schedule 1 of the EP&A Act requires applications to be exhibited for a period of fourteen (14) days. However, applications under Chapter 4 of the Precincts - Regional SEPP are not required to be public exhibited if the proposal relates to works which are wholly internal to a building or where the site is located more than fifty (50) metres away from a tourist accommodation building.

Due to the works being more than 50 metres away from a tourist accommodation building, the Department did not exhibit the application. The application was however made available on the NSW Planning Portal.

The application was also forwarded to the NPWS pursuant to section 4.27 of Chapter 4 of the Precincts – Regional SEPP.

#### 3.2 Summary of submissions

#### **NPWS**

NPWS, while being supportive of the proposal, commented that:

- there is no evidence to support the assertions in the documentation that erosions impacts of trails on ski slopes are greater than for trails in vegetated areas
- even if there were evidence to support those assertions, relocation of trails into vegetated areas does
  not provide a better environmental outcome when impacts such as vegetation clearing, habitat
  fragmentation and edge effects are considered

NPWS identifies that the appended BDAR did not acknowledge the potential environmental impacts of sedimentation on native vegetation beyond a 12 month maximum period, and notes that future mountain bike trail BDAR's / Flora and Fauna Reports must consider the impact from ongoing sedimentation.

Additionally, NPWS have requested baseline trail condition monitoring data be collected on completion of trail construction, as well as ongoing monitoring of the trail condition to be performed annually, replicating the baseline monitoring data collection methodology used post-construction completion. A detailed rehabilitation plan is also required due to the impact to high biodiversity values mapped areas.

Additional NPWS recommended conditions for the management of impacts are identified in Section 4.

#### **Public Submissions**

No public submissions were received during the assessment of the application.

## 4 Assessment

The Department has considered the relevant matters for consideration under section 4.15 of the EP&A Act, the SEE and supporting information, and the submission from NPWS in its assessment of the proposal. The key issues in the Department's assessment of the proposal are:

- Impacts on biodiversity
- Construction impacts and access

#### 4.1 Impacts on biodiversity

The Department has carefully considered the potential biodiversity impacts associated with the proposal, given the location of the site and the sensitive nature of the flora and fauna within the alpine area. The Department's assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposal along with appropriate mitigation and management measures are considered below:

#### **Vegetation impacts**

As discussed in **Section 1**, the proposed site is predominantly undisturbed land listed as having high biodiversity values on the BVM (**Figure 1 - Figure 3**). The Applicant provided justification for locating the node in BVM land, noting that the occurrence of the development was to facilitate the potential closures of the main trail for emergencies and trail management, as well as providing a new and interesting trail for riders.



Figure 3 | Section of proposed track identifying undisturbed land (Source: Applicant's SEE 2023)

The location was determined to be suitable after a full assessment of alternatives due to the connection point with the existing Kosciuszko Flow Trail and experience grading of the proposed node.

The development would result in an impact to 0.07ha to native vegetation, triggering the BOS and requiring credit offsets of two (2) ecosystem credit of Alpine Snow Gum.

NPWS raised no overall concerns with the assessment of vegetation impacts identified in the SEE and BDAR, while maintaining concerns in relation to the justification provided for the relocation of the trail.

#### **Species impacts**

The Applicant's ecologist notes that impacts to species are limited, resulting in the offset of only four (4) species credit under the BOS. The impacted species were identified as the Broad-toothed Rat and the Eastern Pygmy Possum, which are listed as 'vulnerable' under the *BC Act 2016* (BC Act). The Broad-toothed Rat is also listed as 'vulnerable' under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The development would have an impact on the habitat of the species but would not significantly impact the Broad-toothed Rat or the Eastern Pygmy Possum.

The development would result in an impact to 0.07ha of Broad-toothed Rat habitat and Eastern Pygmy Possum, triggering the BOS and requiring the offset of four (4) species credit of Broad-toothed Rat.

NPWS raised no additional concerns with the assessment of species impacts identified in the SEE and BDAR.

#### Conclusion

The Department is satisfied the Applicant has taken the appropriate steps to avoid, minimise and mitigate the proposal's biodiversity impacts consistent with the principles of the BC Act and Regulation.

Conditions are recommended to ensure areas impacted by construction be rehabilitated in accordance with the "Rehabilitation Guidelines for the Resort Areas of Kosciuszko National Park (DECC 2007)". Appointment of an Environmental Officer, engaged by the Applicant, will be required to review the works prior and during construction to ensure that the proposal meets the identified outcomes.

Additionally, NPWS has requested the Applicant submit a detailed Rehabilitation Management Plan, as mentioned in the SEMP, to NPWS and the Department for endorsement prior to approval.

The Department considers that impacts to the environment have been sufficiently avoided and mitigated. Consequently, the impacts are considered to be acceptable.

#### 4.2 Construction impacts and access

Access to the site would be predominantly via the Mountain summer access road and existing track and ski slope.

Consistent with the previous trail construction within Thredbo Alpine Resort (i.e. Stage 1A, 1B, 1C and N4), the Applicant has based the proposed trail alignment on a corridor of 20 metres which is 10 metres either side of the ground-truthed alignment. The corridor allows for adjustments to the location of the final trail in response to any unforeseen circumstances that may occur, such as environmental constraints or objects that may be found in the corridor (such as rocks or tree roots).

The Department concludes that the proposed corridor width is satisfactory as it would enable the trail construction to review its alignment during construction, without the need for further assessment.

Construction management will be in accordance with the approved Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) and in consultation with NPWS.

The Department has recommended standard construction conditions applied in the Alpine area, along with recommended conditions from NPWS, including (but not limited to) baseline trail condition monitoring, and an update to the existing 'Thredbo Mountain Bike Trail Management Plan' (TMP) and 'Trail Inspection and Monitoring Plan' (TIMP) to encompass the new trail and incorporate its monitoring and reporting regime under both plans.

Subject to compliance with these conditions, the Department is of the view that the construction of the proposed works would not impact upon buildings located within proximity of the site or the environment.

## 5 Recommendation

The Department has assessed the merits of the proposal in accordance with the relevant requirements of the EP&A Act. The Department's assessment concludes the proposal is acceptable as:

- the proposal is permissible with consent under the Precincts Regional SEPP
- there will not be a significant impact on any threatened species, populations or ecological communities, and the natural environment and cultural values associated with KNP are protected
- construction of the node to the existing mountain bike trail minimises impacts to the environment while allowing for individuals of all skill levels to experience the natural environment within Thredbo Alpine Resort and KNP
- construction impacts are acceptable with impacts minimised, while acknowledging the works are consistent with the regional plan for the locality and supports visitation to the ski resorts
- the proposal is consistent with the requirements under the BC Act and EPBC Act.

Overall, the Department is satisfied that the proposal is suitable for the site and in the public interest.

The Department therefore recommends that the application be approved, subject to recommended conditions. In accordance with the Minister's delegation of 9 March 2022, the Principal Planning Officer, Alpine Resorts Team may determine the application as:

- no reportable political donation has been disclosed,
- there are less than fifteen (15) public submissions in which objection to the proposal has been raised,
- the application is in relation to land to which Chapter 4 of the Precincts Regional SEPP applies.

It is recommended that the Principal Planning Officer, Alpine Resorts Team, as delegate of the Minister for Planning:

- considers the findings and recommendations of this report
- accepts and adopts the findings and recommendations in this report as the reasons for making the decision to grant consent to the application
- agrees with the key reasons for approval listed in the notice of decision
- grants consent for the application in respect of DA 23/14875, subject to the recommended conditions
- signs the attached Development Consent (Appendix A).

Recommended by:

Z. Derbyshire

Adopted by:

Mark Brown.

19 December 2023

Zac Derbyshire

Planning Officer
Alpine Resorts Team

Mark Brown

Principal Planning Officer
Alpine Resorts Team
as delegate of the Minister for Planning

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A – Recommended Instrument of Consent**