



Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc
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Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish

Kosciuszko National Park Draft Amendment to the Plan of Management Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct

The Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc (MAS) of NSW is a voluntary organisation primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of freshwater fisheries in the south-eastern sector of NSW. The MAS is a primary stakeholder with the NSW Department of Fisheries. The MAS has been in existence for over 70 years and participates with NSW Fisheries in: the stocking of freshwater lakes and rivers with trout and native fish, maintenance of habitat, and policy and legislation development that affects fishing in NSW. The MAS is the pre-eminent organization concerned with angler access to rivers and lakes for the Snowy Mountains / Monaro Region of NSW. The MAS has 19 Branches with over 600 members and is a foundation member of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc.

Each year members of the MAS stock over 300,000 trout into the waterways of the Snowy Mountains / Monaro Region. This is done on a purely voluntary basis with our members contributing their own time, vehicles and fuel to keep the waterways of this region adequately stocked for the public's benefit.

Having considered the Kosciuszko National Park (KNP) Draft Plan, the MAS would like to make the following comment.

While we understand the compulsion for the KNP to cash in on increased visitation, we are extremely worried that there will be significant impact on the freshwater ecology of the region from sewerage and runoff. The KNP does not have a good track record in maintaining river health. The current state of the Thredbo River leaves a lot to be desired. At each public area signage advises that the water should not be drunk, such is the potential for illness after ingestion. The Thredbo River is an iconic mountain river, yet the current level of development on it has degraded the river. We are fearful that expansion of development will make the Thredbo worse and see similar degradation on the Upper Snowy River and other waterways.

While the plan contains words such as "*environmental conditions will be maintained or improved*", Page 5, there is nothing in the past developments within the KNP that suggest this will be achieved.

Rather than focus on an ad hoc development regime throughout the Park we suggest that the KNP management focus on what a national park is designed to achieve and not on its development potential. We see merit on development expansion being confined to the

Jindabyne region and the park remaining a unique wilderness area with minimal development.

We could be convinced to give some support to the expansions if there was a guarantee that all sewerage and runoff from all developments would be contained on site and not, under any circumstance, be allowed to leak or be discharged into any waterway.

Sadly, we feel that the plan will progress under that guise that “everything will be OK, trust us”, but sadly we know that we will only see a further decline in river health due to these proposed development extensions.

Yours sincerely
Steve Samuels
President
Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc
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