

Please find enclosed our comments under the 3 headings, Capital works and operating expenditure, Pricing principles and Prices and charges.

We represent 150 members of Fellowship Ski Club Co-op Ltd which operates Moerlina Lodge at Smiggins.

Any questions, please feel free to call.

Winton Kurrle  
Deputy Chairman

## Capital works and operating expenditure – major issues

Table of accommodation levels

	Perisher	Smiggins	Guthega	Total
Current	2,448	866	236	3,550
Proposed	3,506	1,016	350	4,850
Increase	1,058	150	114	1,300
% Increase	43	17	48	37

### Comment on which capital works are necessary for the infrastructure services, with or without the planned expansion of Perisher capacity

Increase tube capacity to reduce parking requirements.

Reduce tube travel costs to ¼ of what they are now to make it attractive to visitors.

Run the tube all year round to promote

- Summer activities in Perisher
- Summer access to Blue Cow
- Reduce the operating cost of facilities and spread the capital load outside the 20/52 weeks of the ski season

### Comment on options for replacing the current car park and NPWS office/workshop which might minimize the cost to taxpayers

We disagree with the current proposal to relocate parking back to Smiggin Holes. Instead get NPWS to approve an extension to the Perisher carpark or an alternate nearby site for additional parking. The suggestion that customers park along the road and also at Smiggins is the sort of proposal to come from a third world underdeveloped country. NPWS needs to give a few more hectares to parking where it is needed. Imagine if parking for the Opera House was at Redfern and along the road all the way to Redfern. Sydney would be a laughing stock to the rest of the world.

## **Pricing principles – major issues**

### **Comment on appropriateness of level and structure of current infrastructure fees and charges at Perisher**

The main point we wish to make is that we have been paying money for 30 years into consolidated revenue in NSW by way of gate fees and lease charges that has not been used for infrastructure. This money is now in the order of \$5million per year. Not only should this stolen money be returned to Perisher to upgrade the existing infrastructure, future gate and lease charges should be used for their intended purpose.

Furthermore, the assets at Perisher are the gateway to the highest peak in the country. This is a public asset and public money should be used to build up the infrastructure.

Residents who live in Katoomba aren't obliged to pay for upgrades to their sewerage works or their water supply or their stormwater because they live near the Three Sisters. This is taken out of consolidated revenue and these improvements are made for the benefit of the nation as a whole, not just the residents who happen to live nearby. In the same way the clubs of Perisher should not have to pay for infrastructure which everyone can use.

All club owners and skiers who use Perisher pay taxes from their home addresses. It is robbing these people to expect them to pay twice for assets that are in the public domain and for the good of the nation as a whole.

For 30 years NPWS has been taking gate takings and rents from skiers and using them for other parks. This stolen money must be returned to Perisher.

Our club has no additional funds. It has taken many years just to maintain our lodge. We operate at break even.

Whilst we are prepared to pay running costs, the capital costs are for the benefit of the government who owns the land and the government should pay for them.

In Victoria, all income goes to the snow area, rents, MSU fees and access gate fees about \$4m a year.

Our members cannot sustain more costs. We have restricted bed numbers and operate near capacity to cover the existing costs. If our members get higher costs they will go elsewhere.

In summary, the State Government through NPWS must do three things:

1. return stolen money for the benefit of Perisher infrastructure
2. use \$6m per year gate takings, MSU and lease charges to upgrade and pay for running costs of infrastructure

3. use Government money to upgrade infrastructure as this is for the benefit of the public and in no way belongs to the residents of ski lodges in Perisher.

## Prices and charges – major issues

### **Comment on likely future visitor numbers at Perisher, and the factors which influence these visitor numbers**

We have all been paying rent for land that was supposedly fit for use with services provided. Now we have been targeted to pay for roads, water supply and sewerage which means the capital services were never actually provided.

If we have to pay increased costs our members see Victoria and New Zealand as more attractive and more economical.