

C A N B E R R A A L P I N E C L U B I N C .

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7 April 2008

Ms Nicola Derigo
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Derigo,

Inquiry into the Namadgi National Park Draft Plan of Management

Thank you for the call for submissions on the Draft Management Plan for Namadgi National Park.

It is unclear as to precisely what the inquiry is inquiring on, and what stage the draft Plan of Management is at. The Canberra Alpine Club, which has a long and continuing association with the Namadgi National Park, lodged a submission on the draft Plan of Management in November 2005, and at that stage the Plan of Management was expected to be released in 2006.

Plan of Management Process

The process of consultation and engagement of community groups up to late 2005 was quite effective, although it was a rather long drawn out process. The workshop held jointly between Environment ACT and the Conservation Council of the SE Region and Canberra in June 2004 was particularly useful to be able to discuss a wide range of issues.

Since the call for comments on the Draft Plan of Management in 2005, there has been very little communication on progress of the Plan. It is unclear what version of the Draft Plan the Standing Committee is considering, as presumably comments from 2005 have by now been incorporated. I am unable to find any version of the Draft Plan of Management on the ACT Government (TAMS) website.

It is difficult to give a definitive opinion on the effectiveness of the consultative mechanisms and cooperative management arrangements without having the actual outcome of a finalised Plan of Management.

Namadgi National Park's value as a biodiversity conservation area

The Canberra Alpine Club's primary association with Namadgi National Park is through its recreational and heritage aspects, due to our interest in the Mt Franklin precinct in particular. The Club has a general interest in conservation, and supports Namadgi National Park's continuing value as a conservation area and corridor. The Club does not support increasing recreational and other activities in the Park at the expense of conservation values, but supports activities that can co-exist with these values.

Other relevant matters

The vague nature of the invitation for public submissions means that “relevant” is hard to define. However I reiterate that the Canberra Alpine Club has a continuing strong relationship with Namadgi National Park and with ACT Parks Conservation and Lands, which we look forward to continuing. The recent opening of the new Mt Franklin Shelter is a concrete example of this.

Yours faithfully

Jenny McLeod
Canberra Alpine Club

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